About our school

Blakehurst High School, a coeducational, comprehensive school of 1100 students was awarded the title of Specialist Languages High School in the Outstanding Schools Program 2000. Our guiding principles have been developed by a collaborative process involving all in our community from initial values development process in 1997. These values are revisited biannually to ensure relevance and coherence in a rapidly changing educational environment.

SCHOOL VALUES

We value a Learning Environment which:

1. ensures quality learning with the skills and attitudes of lifelong learning for all students;
2. empowers students to take responsibility for their learning and behaviour;
3. supports a valued, professional staff committed to continuing learning;
4. encourages active and informed parent and community involvement in all areas of their school.

Students

Total enrolment for 2008 was 1110 students. Sixty eight percent of students had a non-English speaking background (NESB) with 45 language backgrounds represented. Chinese families are the largest NESB group and represent thirty percent of our school population. Greek is our next largest group with 12% of NESB families, the majority of these families are second and third generation. Our enrolment profile is 40% Anglo-Celtic, 30% Chinese and 30% all other language backgrounds.

The school is at full capacity with an increasing demand for places. As at the end of 2008 there were waiting lists in each of Years 7-11.

Staff

All teachers at Blakehurst High School are university graduates with at least four years training and all meet the professional requirements for teaching in NSW public schools. Once again the many successes of our school community in 2008 can be attributed to the depth of talent, shared leadership and commitment of both teaching and non-teaching staff at Blakehurst High School. Our Support and Administration staff of 12 fulltime and several part-time members contribute enormously to the ongoing, collaborative quality teaching and learning culture that is a feature of the school.

At least 50% of teachers from all Key Learning Areas are regularly called upon by the NSW Board of Studies and by the NSW Department of Education curriculum planners to develop curriculum, assess examinations, set papers and lead teachers from other schools. The combined experience, energy, enthusiasm, initiative and commitment to quality, is certainly a large contributor to the school’s success and as such must be acknowledged in this report.

Messages

Principal’s Message: 2008 A year of Achievement and Consolidation

In 2008, as in the previous years, Blakehurst High School was once again the top public comprehensive school in the St George District at the NSW Higher School Certificate and this is symbolic of the many successes of our school community during the year. This report outlines the school’s achievements in 2008 and has been collaboratively developed by team leaders in the school community. Once again, we are extremely proud of our coeducational, comprehensive, specialist languages school which caters for the needs of a diverse range of students. Visitors to the school throughout the year endorsed the formal report from the review team of the NSW Department of Education and Training (DET), March 2001, which commented positively on the school’s strong culture, sense of purpose and harmonious, welcoming atmosphere. In addition, a Sydney region team conducting research at the school into the most effective strategies to ensure school engagement for 15-19 year olds published their findings in 2008. Their findings noted that Blakehurst High School has an outstanding set of support programs, engaging classroom pedagogy and strong and supportive leadership which leads to excellent retention and continuing engagement in learning for students aged 15-19. This research will assist other schools to examine their practice and develop strong pedagogy and support for all students in the post compulsory school years.

As in previous years, our commitment was to continuous improvement in student learning outcomes and all school planning and actions proceeded from this commitment to excellence. Achieving quality learning underpinned all school programs and was the basis for all evaluative work by the school’s executive team. Enhancing ICT in the classroom and effective middle schooling were the driving priorities.

We were delighted when, in March 2008, the NSW Director General, Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter presented the school community with the NSW Director General’s Award for School Excellence at a special assembly to celebrate this outstanding achievement.

This award is an acknowledgement of the many fine programs in the school which lead to
excellent outcomes for all students regardless of ability. One of the hallmarks of the award is the sustainability of quality programs. This, of course, is a tribute to the high quality teaching of our dedicated staff.

From the first school development day in January, through to the ongoing, thoroughly planned 2008 professional development program, teachers worked together to analyse practice, share their learning and improve teaching with the ultimate aim of improving student learning outcomes. Teachers worked collaboratively on developing their ICT skills for 21st century teaching and learning. The announcement, early in the year, that all Year 9-12 students were eventually to receive a laptop for learning shaped the teacher professional learning program for most of the year and will certainly be the basis of planning for 2009.

As in previous years, the teaching and non teaching staff of the school remained stable and this too accounts for our continuing excellence. Staff at Blakehurst High School generally leave only when retiring or for promotion. Such stability is not accompanied however by complacency or cynicism. All personnel at Blakehurst High School believe in the crucial role that they play in student success and realise that it is their learning which makes the difference to student learning. We believe that it is the ongoing commitment to our own learning that distinguishes the staff at Blakehurst High School and which accounts for our continuing excellence.

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In addition, it is commitment to the analysis and implementation of practice consistent with the NSW DET Quality Teaching framework which continues to ensure that student learning outcomes are of the highest quality. Students who are taught in socially supportive, intellectually challenging, culturally aware and democratic classrooms, by professionally knowledgeable, committed and well organised teachers, will certainly achieve excellence. In 2008, ten teachers from across the school worked in a team with an academic partner from the University of Wollongong to develop specific ICT skills for teaching and learning in the junior years. This ongoing project was funded by a grant from the Federal Government under the Australian Government Quality Teaching Program (AGQTP). Parent support for and commitment to the school’s work, and the school’s commitment to well informed and involved parents once again resulted in a mutually productive year. Without the support of our parent body we would not have been able to achieve the results we do with our children.

I thank all our parents for their continued support.

I certify that the information in this report is the result of a rigorous school self-evaluation process and is a balanced and genuine account of the school’s achievements and areas for development.

Mrs Judy Thompson
Principal

Year 7 Archaeology students engaged in quality learning

P&C President’s Annual Report

We started the year with a great first attendance with quite a few new parents attending with some of them continuing on through the year.

During the year we had several of the school’s teachers attend to share what is going on with student learning in their faculties. We heard how the Year 7 students were settling in and some ideas for study habits for students.

The Farmers Market was initiated here once a month and we were planning on this to be our fundraiser for the year. Unfortunately, it wasn’t to be and the markets found they did not get the amount of people attending they were hoping for and it only ran for five months.

The school installed Smart Board technology and Judy Thompson, Principal, showed us how they worked and some of the activities the students would be able to do which would not be possible otherwise, e.g. virtual trips to other countries, opportunities to hook into classrooms in other schools in other countries. In addition the boards offer opportunities to share curriculum and change teaching and learning practice for our students and teachers.

From the Teachers Wish List this year we voted on paying for the first year of Mathletics, 2009 and the CNC Mill for the Industrial Arts faculty.
The P&C has funded next year’s Mathletics for $6,700 (2009). It will be part of the school budget the following year should it prove successful. The initial response from students and teachers has been positive. Some concerns were raised that some students may not have access to computers at home or the internet so a poll was done and 98% of students were found to have computers at home. In bringing this up with the Regional P&C we talked about the availability of cheap computers but when I asked about the cost of internet they had no solution to this. The few students that did not have access at home have access to the school library computers and the public library. All students at Blakehurst High School have access to computers and associated technology at school.

The P&C purchased a CNC Mill at $4,663 for the Industrial Arts Faculty. This is a tool that allows the students to use a computer to design and then when sending the data through the CNC program, the mill cuts out the design.

We listed our name with Xtol Shoes and they pay us 10% of all orders placed as long as the applicants remember to select their child goes to Blakehurst High School. The shoes are purchased from xtol.com.au and the school has backed them as fully approved for school uniform.

The year finished with our 9th Annual P&C Dinner where we had a prior successful student, Peta Horley HSC 1996, speak on her life after Blakehurst High School. Each year, the Year 11 Hospitality students have an opportunity to put into practice what they have been learning throughout the year. They put on an amazing dinner and this year was no different. A lot of the parents requested the recipe for the lamb couscous and the vanilla bean dessert.

I would encourage anyone wanting to know more about what goes on in the school to attend the P&C meetings. I have learnt so much more about how the school is run and the huge variety of issues the school faces during the year. It has been very informative and relevant in regards to the education that my children are receiving.

We would like to give a big thank you to Judy Thompson, Principal, Peter Sheehy and Mary Leslie, Deputy Principals for their attendance at our meetings. The information they have passed on to the P&C has been invaluable to all parents.

Margaret Thompson
P&C President.

The SRC strives to make thoughtful decisions on behalf of the students that will meet the students’ needs at school and will positively impact on the school and our community.

In 2008, the SRC achieved several key goals. We raised money for Genes for Jeans day, the Heart Foundation, Help Asia Week and several other local charities. We also raised money through sausage sizzles and pizza days to purchase equipment for various departments such as the PDHPE department.

The SRC has also attended several meetings where representatives discussed our contributions and future plans. These meetings also give our members the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills.

The SRC grew in 2008, with the new influx of eager Year 7 students who are already contributing fresh ideas about fundraising activities and projects.

In the future, we plan to hold motivational programs for students and other activities that will help in school life. We also plan to continue supporting our local community.

We were able to achieve all of those things through the support of parents, students, staff and teachers. We thank you all.

Bahia Malas
President 2008-2009

**Significant programs and initiatives**

**Australian Business Week**

185 Year 11 students again participated in this week of intensive learning in October. This learning involves all students in teams engaged in running a simulated business for one week. We are fortunate to have the services of business mentors from Kogarah Rotary Club who assist us to conduct the program and mentor students so successfully each year.

Students gain skills in decision making, problem solving, teamwork and cooperation, and leadership which we believe transfers positively to all their learning as they move into their HSC year.

In 2008, Blakehurst High School was awarded second place in the National ABW awards for BEST SCHOOL PROGRAM, second place for BEST TRADE DISPLAY and third place for BEST COMPANY REPORT. Blakehurst High School is renowned as one of the best schools nationally in this prestigious program. Our sustained success is due to the enthusiasm and commitment of the...
program’s coordinator, Ms Raquel Spratt Business Services teacher, and the support from Head Teacher, Peter Slater, as well as the ongoing support from all school staff, parents and Kogarah Rotary Club.

**Homework and Tutorial Centre**

This school funded initiative continues to be well supported. Students attend at no cost and are supervised by two teachers and a number of senior student mentors and tutors two afternoons per week. In 2008, the centre was again managed by one of the Year 11 Business Services classes.

The school’s P&C funded the afternoon tea of fruit given to all students at each session. Average number of students attending was 40 per session.

**International Students and the HSC Preparation Program**

In 2008 our school community was again fortunate to be enriched by 70 International students studying across Years 8 -12. The school designed intensive HSC Preparation program was again conducted for all International Students in Year 10 and those students in Year 11 who had joined the school late in the year. In 2008, this program was extended to commence early in Term 3 and conducted for fifteen weeks across Terms 3 and 4. Students attended specific school designed classes – English for Business, English for Science and Mathematics and English for Healthy Living. Each of these courses was designed by teachers at Blakehurst High School in consultation with specialist ESL staff. The course is designed to prepare students for Year 11 study and introduces students to the language demands of HSC subjects. The first group to experience this program in Year 10/11 completed the HSC very successfully in 2006. In 2008, our 25 Year 12 International students achieved excellent HSC outcomes. 8 of the 25 achieved UAI’s above 90. That is, 32% of all International students were placed in the top 10% of all students in the state. 17 of 25 International students were offered places at University, mainly University of Sydney, University of NSW, University of Technology Sydney, or Macquarie University and all remaining students gained TAFE places.

**YEAR 10 Community Service Program**

Again in 2008, the majority of Year 10 students completed at least twenty hours of community service. In late November 2007, all Year 9 students were introduced to the concept of community service and service learning at a Community Involvement Expo at which they learned from volunteer organisations’ representatives. During the following year, students then learned and served in local primary schools, nursing homes, preschools, St George Hospital, service organisations and sporting clubs. This program is a significant part of our Respect and Responsibility program. The program was once again co-ordinated by Ms Michelle Maricic, the initiator of the program in 1998, who each year works to improve outcomes in citizenship and service learning for our students.

**Languages Study Tours Program**

Students of Japanese were able to undertake a study tour to Japan in the October holidays under the leadership of Ms Knowles.

Again in 2008, we are extremely grateful to Ms Loizos for her dynamic support of a scholarship for travel to Greece for the top Modern Greek HSC student. Ms Loizos worked to gather sponsorship and the award this year was presented to Melina Atsas who will travel to Greece in 2009 for further study. We are appreciative of the contribution of $1,000 from the Panarkadian Association and to all who supported Ms Loizos in her fundraising for this scholarship award. Classroom activities and excursions for all years have connected students with the culture of their language of study. Students visited The Forum, Leichhardt, Tanken Centre, Authentic Japanese House and Melbourne for Greek Heritage Tours as well as restaurant and film excursions. Students also participated in various language activities such as LOTE day.
School Tours Program

Blakehurst High School has a proud history of being sought out by visiting delegations of students and staff. In February 2008, we hosted a four day visit by a delegation of students and teachers from Thailand’s southern provinces. They wrote to thank us for “….your kind assistance made them (students) return home with a valuable experience and fond memory of Australia….The friendly multicultural and multinational environment at Blakehurst High has broadened the youth’s perspective and will be instrumental in fostering peace and harmony in their communities”.

In addition, there were several school visits by teachers and agents from China and Japan. Each of these groups was impressed by the quality of teaching they observed. The year concluded with a study tour group of officials from Korea on the 10th December. The leader of the group commented “….we gained very important information about the teaching process which will inform our practice in Korea. Thank you for your intellectual discussion and assistance…”

Student achievement in 2008

Literacy

Literacy across the curriculum remained a focus for 2008 and this, combined with excellent support staff assistance in Year 7 and 8 classes, has resulted in continued improvement for Year 9 students at the NAPLAN tests (see later in report for details) and for Year 10 students at the School Certificate. We had one of the state’s highest participation rates in the Premier’s Reading Challenge. Similarly, the school’s literacy programs and especially targeting NESB students in the junior years has resulted in continuing success for students at the HSC. This is particularly evident in the value added data from Year 10 to Year 12.

Numeracy

Specifically targeting numeracy across the curriculum once again resulted in improved results for Year 9 in NAPLAN testing and particularly in the growth data for Year 10 at the School Certificate where the school was 10% above the Like Schools Group. Numbers of students in the highest two bands were well above Like Schools and State numbers. Numbers in the lowest bands were further reduced.

School Certificate

163 students sat for the NSW School Certificate examinations. The improvement trend, of numbers of students in the top two bands continued. In English 6.8% students gained a Band 6 result and 28.4% were in Bands 5 and 6. This compares with 2.7% school average Band 6 over the years 2004-2008 and in the Like Schools Group (LSG) which was 3%. The numbers of students in the lower bands has continued to decrease. Mathematics results were particularly pleasing with performances significantly above state average in the top three bands and well above in the top band. 7.4% of students were placed in the top band for Maths as compared with 3.8% for LSG. 27.9% were placed in the top two bands as compared with 17.9% in the LSG. Continuing improvement was achieved in the Computing Skills assessment where student achievement in all three performance groups improved significantly in 2008. This was due to a targeted computing skills program introduced in 2007 by Ms Sue Gerrey, our IT teacher.

The average trend over the past four years has been significantly above State and Like School Group averages in all areas. It is trend data which is the most informative for our school planning.

Higher School Certificate

150 students sat for the NSW Higher School Certificate in 37 courses. This included 7 extension courses in English, History, Japanese, Modern Greek, Mathematics (Ext 1 and 2) and Music as well as 4 Vocational Education (VET) courses in Business Services, Construction, Hospitality and Information Technology.

Students received 68 honour roll credits (marks in Band 6, 90-100) across all subject areas. These outstanding results have been sustained for each of the past six years, the only comprehensive school in the district, to achieve this. Blakehurst High School was once again one of the top comprehensive coeducational schools in NSW based on HSC results.

Our Mathematics results placed the school as the top comprehensive school in the St George and Sutherland districts and one of the top 10 in the state for Mathematics.

The school Dux, Charles LAM, attained a UAI of 99.85 and this gained him entry to the prestigious Combined Law degree at the University of NSW. 20% of all students gained UAI’s above 90 which is double the state average. Melina Atsas gained 2nd place in the State in Modern Greek Continuers and 3rd place in Modern Greek Extension. All students of languages placed in the top three bands.

These results are outstanding for a comprehensive high school which is totally inclusive in its enrolment policy.

Overall, the 2008 results showed continuing improvement and were a testament to the continuing expertise and focus on quality teaching by our teachers. University entrance was sought by 107 students and of these, 87 were offered places. Once again, that means a success rate to University of close to 82%. One of the most
pleasing results of our HSC performance in 2008 was again the value added for students from Year 10 to Year 12. In the table below, it is clear that Blakehurst High School adds significantly more value for students than other schools like ours (Like Schools Group).

Low, middle and high achievers gain great benefit from studying for their HSC at Blakehurst High School. This is due to the quality teaching practices and quality student support offered by teachers and programs in these final two years particularly. The apparent anomaly of lower value added for those students identified as lower achievers at the School Certificate in 2006 is explainable by the performance of a small number of students whose results have affected the 2008 average. The school's average over 2004-2008, however, demonstrates the effect of the school's support structures and high expectations for success for all students. In particular, the success of targeting our higher achievers through such strategies as our selective class in Year 7 has been demonstrated. The 2008 HSC cohort was the initial year of the selective class (2003 Year 7) and their success at the HSC is exceptional when compared both with the school’s average 2004-2008 and the Like Schools Group (LSG) average.

School context

Student information

It is a requirement that the reporting of information for all students must be consistent with privacy and personal information policies.
The proportion of students staying on from Year 10 to Year 12 is consistently above state average. All students who leave the school do so to pursue further training in TAFE or gain apprenticeships and traineeships because of the school’s excellent careers and transition programs. In the past three years, we have been very successful in finding career paths with further learning for all who have left the school before completing their HSC.

**Post-school destinations**

Of 150 students who sat for the HSC, 87 gained University places (107 applied), 10 have gone on to apprenticeships or traineeships, 37 TAFE places and the remainder unknown.

**Staff information**

It is a requirement that the reporting of information for all staff must be consistent with privacy and personal information policies.

The staff team at Blakehurst High School is stable, experienced and highly qualified. The school employed a number of extra part time staff to work in specialist areas such as Support with Learning and ESL support.

**Staff establishment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Principal(s)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Teachers</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Teachers</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Teacher Learning</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Librarian</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers of ESL</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counsellor</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Staff retention**

Blakehurst High School has a very experienced and stable staff with staff changes due mainly to retirement and the addition of two new staff members in 2008.

**Staff attendance**

Staff have access to leave entitlements such as sick leave and long service leave. In 2008, the average daily attendance rate for staff, as determined by the Department of Education was 96.6%.

**Teacher qualifications**

All teachers meet the professional requirements for teaching in NSW public schools.

Teachers with postgraduate qualifications have gained these in areas related to education. Ms C Curry continued Doctoral study in Education in 2008. Mr T Yan studied with CISCO systems for post graduate IT qualifications.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>% of staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree or Diploma</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Financial summary**

This summary covers funds for operating costs and does not involve expenditure areas such as permanent salaries, building and major maintenance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
<td>564,287.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>196,005.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
<td>718,009.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>33,476.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
<td>88,150.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income</td>
<td>2,000,596.70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Expenditure**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching &amp; learning</td>
<td>180,339.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key learning areas</td>
<td>239,807.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excursions</td>
<td>158,236.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extracurricular dissections</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>13,852.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Learning</td>
<td>24,642.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>283,789.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual relief teachers</td>
<td>119,259.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; office</td>
<td>209,934.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School-operated canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>80,621.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>43,410.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust accounts</td>
<td>82,643.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital programs</td>
<td>177,662.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenditure</td>
<td>1,614,210.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance carried forward</td>
<td>386,385.31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The apparently small amount in Professional Learning is a result of the majority of Professional Learning funds being paid from tied funds. The actual amount spent on staff professional learning, close to $80,000, is reflective of our school’s values - a staff committed to continuing learning. The balance carried forward allows us to start the year in a strong financial position and allows for future demands in technology and setting up a new gym. A full copy of the school's 2008 financial statement is tabled at the first P&C meeting of the new school year. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.
School performance 2008
Many significant achievements have already been mentioned earlier in this report. Culminating in outstanding HSC results yet again and the presentation of the NSW Director General’s Award for School Excellence, 2008 was certainly another year of excellence for the Blakehurst High School Learning community.

Achievements

Arts
Blakehurst High School has a thriving Creative and Performing Arts faculty and other teachers committed to the arts in its various forms.

Music and Performance Evenings
Over 140 students performed for an appreciative audience in August and again in December. The concert band, string ensemble and many other individual and group performers displayed the depth of talent in our school community. These evenings were organised by a student led team supported by Ms Verelle Bellato, music teacher. Ms Bellato is to be congratulated for her enthusiastic support of these showcase evenings.

Several students performed at the Sydney Region Opening of the School Year in February and at the Schools Spectacular in November.

Hayley Grosvenor was nominated for inclusion in the ENCORE concerts for her outstanding HSC Music performance in singing.

Hayley Grosvenor entertains at the Year 12 2008 Graduation

String Ensemble
The school’s string ensemble was invited to play at a number of functions both in and outside the school. Ms Helene Rosse tutored a new group of young string performers mainly from Years 7 - 9. Ms Rosse was herself a member of the NSW Symphony Orchestra so she brings great expertise to the school. Steven Teng of Year 12, one of the talented ensemble members, also performed several violin solos throughout the year and was selected for the NSW Schools Symphony Orchestra. Steven was also selected to perform at the Opening Ceremony of the Australian Youth Olympic Festival in January 2009. In addition Steven was awarded a prestigious scholarship for his music studies at the University of Sydney for 2009.

Steven Teng performing in the school hall

Concert Band
The Blakehurst High School Concert Band played at a number of venues and two of its members – Tara Aftanas and Harry Alexiadis were selected for the Sydney Region Band.

The band’s Education Week performances at Westfield Hurstville were highly praised.

Two previous members of the band, Sean Cameron Year 12 - 2007 and Kate Wiktorowicz Year 12 - 2006, were selected for the 2000 piece band to perform in Beijing at the 2008 Olympic Games Opening Ceremony. The members of this band were selected from across the globe!

Sport
2008 has seen many outstanding performances by Blakehurst High School students. Our students have attained representative status at Australian, NSW Combined High Schools, Sydney East Region and St. George Zone Levels. A number of our students are also St. George Zone Age Champions, Zone Sport Premiers and Knock-out winners.

However, the most outstanding aspect of sport in 2008 has been the large number of students who have represented their school with determination, enthusiasm and sportsmanship in Grade Sport Competitions. This has culminated with our Girls Sports Teams being recognised as Summer and Winter Grade Sport Champion School.

Such successes have been due to the many staff members who give their time, effort and expertise to the students so that they are well prepared to participate competitively in our various sporting competitions.
The major sporting achievements of 2008 include:

- Courtenay Cooper awarded the Pierre De Coubertine Award, selected in the NSWCHS tennis team and crowned Australian Doubles Grass court champion - what an achievement!
- Tegan Heap awarded the Robert McClelland Commonwealth Sports Award and placing 1st in 15 years Springboard, 1st 17+ Yrs Platform, Champion of Champions and 3rd in platform & springboard at Australian Championships. Tegan was also awarded a CHS Sporting Blue.
- Holly Tatum attained Gold in Level 10 Gymnastics and awarded a CHS Sporting Blue.
- Paige Tatum attained Silver in Level 7 Gymnastics
- Shoji Isomoto achieved 2nd place at CHS Gymnastics in Division C.
- William Wei & Aaron Xu Bronze medallists at NSW Table Tennis Championships
- William Wood 7th place NSW surfing titles.
- St George Zone Age Champions - Danil Goloubev (13 years Swimming), Mark Langley (14 years Swimming), Naoyuki Isomoto (15 years Swimming), Andrew Edenborough (16 years Cross Country), Brooke Anderson (12 years Athletics).
- Jeremy Miller, Jake Ribarovski and Luke Noblett - Sydney East Open Hockey
- Corey Fogarty and Andrew Walsh - Sydney East Open Cricket representatives.
- Corey Fogarty NSWCHS Under 16 Cricket.
- 16 Winter Grade Sport Premier teams
- 14 Summer Grade Sport Premier teams
- Overall our school entered 62 Summer Sport Grade teams and 49 Winter Sport Grade teams in 2008.

Other

National Mathematics Summer School

Tiffany Li of Year 11 was selected to attend the prestigious 41st National Mathematics Summer School at the Australian National University in Canberra in January 2009. Tiffany was also the recipient of the University of Western Sydney Academic Prize for the highest achiever in Year 11 - 2008.

Director General for a day

Bahia Malas of Year 10 was selected for this program. Bahia shadowed our Georges River School Education Director, Ms Dianne Barry, for a day during Education Week. Bahia learnt about the management of schools and enjoyed her experience in student leadership.

NSW Government Summit on raising the minimum school leaving age

Two student leaders, Leena Mourad and Vincent Farrell of Year 11 were selected to attend this prestigious summit and add student voice to the government consultation process. Both students gained a great deal from this unique experience.


Seven student leaders from Years 10-12, Haris Kruskic, Joanne Klados, Jeremy Miller, Leena Mourad, Nick Papadopoulos, Sophie Spanos and Stephanie Yong represented the school admirably at this roundtable and shared their ideas, concerns and questions with students from around the Greater Sydney Region.

In Tech Exhibition 2009

The 2008 HSC Industrial Technology Major Project of David Choe was chosen for the 2009 INTECH Exhibition to be held at the Sydney Timber Working With Wood Show at Fox Studios in June 2009.

Energy Australia Traineeship in Electrical Engineering

Alex Apostolovski was awarded an Electrical Engineering Traineeship with Energy Australia following a rigorous selection process.

Year 7 students enjoying their History learning
NSW Department of Education Director General’s Award for School Excellence

This award is presented annually to several schools across the state for meritorious and ongoing outstanding achievement. The award citation stated: ‘Blakehurst High School has made significant and sustainable improvements in learning outcomes over the past ten years and, in particular, the past four years. Most notably, improvements in academic outcomes have followed sustained changes in school culture evidenced by such indicators as students and staff attendance rates, participation in staff professional learning, enrolment trends, student services and student involvement in the wider community. Blakehurst High School is one of the most highly sought after in the Sydney Region.’

This award is just recognition for the outstanding commitment of all staff and the support of our parent community.

NSW Director General’s presentation of Award for School Excellence May 2008

Academic

For reporting purposes all government schools in NSW have been divided into Like School Groups based on socioeconomic and other data. Information contained in the following graphs includes our students’ performance in 2008, our students’ average performance over the last five years, our students’ performance as compared to students in our Like Schools Group and to the state average.

In the School Certificate and the Higher School Certificate, the performance of students is reported in performance bands ranging from Performance Band 1 (lowest) to Performance Band 6 (highest).

In the National testing program (NAPLAN), student performance is reported in Bands from 4-9 for Year 7 and Bands 5-10 for Year 9. 2008 was the first year of National testing and gives a benchmark for future testing.

Higher School Certificate

Of the 25 subjects where numbers were large enough to make valid school/state and school/like school group (LSG) comparisons, 14 subjects were above LSG average and 11 above state average. Those not above were either on the average or slightly below. When compared with the school average over the past four years 16 of the 25 subjects showed significant continuing improvement.

In the HSC 2008 Blakehurst High School once again achieved outstanding results both when value added and other results are considered

Mathematics

Results for all mathematics courses in the 2008 HSC were positively placed in the ‘Within School Comparison’. In all courses, there were more students placed in the higher bands and fewer in the lower bands. The exam means for all courses were similar to those in 2007.

- **Extension 1 and Extension 2** students achieved well above the state. All 25 Extension 1 students were placed in the two highest bands; all Extension 2 students achieved a notional band 6. For many of these students it was the subject in which they performed highest.

- **Mathematics 2 unit**: 42% of Mathematics students achieved bands 5 & 6. This is an improvement on 2007. The average value added was about 50% higher than in 2007.

- **General Mathematics**: 20% of General Mathematics students achieved the top two bands. The average value added almost doubled that of 2007.

![](image-url)
School Certificate 2008

The School Certificate results, including both external and internal assessments, indicate that students achieved above the state and Like Schools averages in all areas with particularly pleasing results in Mathematics, English, Science and Computer Skills and the internally assessed Creative Arts, Languages Other Than English and PD/H/PE.
In all externally examined School certificate subjects reported in the above graphs both the average marks and the percentage of students in the top two bands was above both Like Schools averages and state averages.
A summary of School Certificate results follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>School Av mark</th>
<th>LSG Av mark</th>
<th>School% in Bands 5&amp;6</th>
<th>LSG % Bands 5&amp;6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>74.3</td>
<td>74.2</td>
<td>28.4</td>
<td>28.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>71.9</td>
<td>67.9</td>
<td>27.9</td>
<td>17.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>72.7</td>
<td>71.0</td>
<td>33.0</td>
<td>23.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aus History</td>
<td>68.7</td>
<td>67.5</td>
<td>17.7</td>
<td>15.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aus Geog</td>
<td>72.7</td>
<td>70.7</td>
<td>24.6</td>
<td>19.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comp’g</td>
<td>79.3</td>
<td>78.7</td>
<td>52.9</td>
<td>49.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NAPLAN Literacy and Numeracy Year 7

All students in Year 7 were tested in May 2008 on the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). From the following graphs it is evident that students entering Year 7 at Blakehurst High School in 2008 are generally above the state and like schools averages in all areas but reading where the average mark is slightly below that of state and LSG averages. This will be an area for targeting as these students move through the school. In Numeracy Year 7 students were generally above state and LSG averages.
Naplan Numeracy
% in top 2 Bands
Yr 7
School 2008 33.8
LSG 2008 25.4
State 2008 33.5

Note: These are entry level performances of students as at May 2008.

NAPLAN Literacy and Numeracy Year 9
All students in Year 9 were tested in the National testing program in May 2008. As the graphs below attest, our curriculum, class organisation and programs have generally led to improvement for the vast majority of students. Results in ALL areas are significantly above Like School Group's averages.
National benchmarks

The Commonwealth Government sets minimum desirable standards for reading, writing and numeracy at particular ages. These are referred to as national benchmarks.

### Percentage of Year 7 students achieving at and above minimum standard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>95.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>88.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>97.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punctuation and grammar</td>
<td>92.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
<td>98.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Percentage of Year 9 students achieving at and above minimum standard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>95.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>84.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>89.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punctuation and grammar</td>
<td>89.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
<td>96.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

National Competitions

Science Competition 2007

90 Blakehurst High School students participated. Blakehurst High School students performed well above the average for all schools in NSW gaining 2 High Distinctions, 7 Distinctions and 16 Credits from 35 entrants.

Maths Competition 2008

136 students in Years 7 to 12 sat the Australian Mathematics Competition (Westpac Awards) in 2008. Tian Shu Liu (Year 11) was awarded the Prudence Award for outstanding achievement. 5 students, all in Year 11, were awarded High Distinctions. 30 students achieved Distinctions, 47 students achieved a Credit and 40 students achieved Proficiency.

Languages Competitions 2008

Once again students at Blakehurst High School participated in the Assessment of Language Competence Certificates. Although our candidatures were very small, our results were extremely pleasing. In both French Level 1 and Level 2 two students attained credits in the Reading and Listening Components. Similarly, in Italian Level 1 and Level 2 five students attained credits and one student attained a distinction and another a high distinction in the Reading and Listening Components.

In Japanese Level 1 five students attained a distinction and 1 student a high distinction in both components while in Level 2 one student attained a high distinction, four students a distinction and one student a credit in both components of the certificates.

Our results were well above state average in all languages for these exams.

Significant programs and initiatives

The following is a selection from the many programs which support student learning at Blakehurst High School.

Aboriginal Education

Aboriginal education at Blakehurst High School has been integrated into many programs across the school. Whilst the recognition of the traditional owners at meetings and assemblies is common practice, it is in the teaching of aboriginal history and issues in classrooms that the most significant learning occurs. In Stage 5 History for example, students examine issues such as land rights, reconciliation and the stolen generation. The aboriginality of our students and indigenous peoples was also celebrated during Naidoc Week.

Multicultural Education

Our diverse multicultural community is regularly celebrated, along with all that unites us as Australians and members of the Blakehurst High School Learning Community. In 2008, overseas tours, international visitors and the celebration of the significant national days of many of the cultures represented in our community all contributed to the education of our students and staff. Greek Day was celebrated with students from other local schools attending. Year 10 English participated in the University of NSW Mosaic program and produced writing on the theme of harmony and unity. Students were also involved in Harmony Day celebrations. At weekly assemblies school leaders draw attention to the various multicultural observances by using the Multicultural calendar. In this way, students’ backgrounds are recognised and valued and awareness of respect for difference is raised regularly.

Four senior students competed with distinction at the NSW Arabic Youth Quiz in July gaining second place.

Students from the school’s SRC represented the school at various local Youth Week activities and on Anti-racism committees at Kogarah Council.
Overseas Schools Visits are another means by which our students gain multicultural perspectives. Throughout the year Blakehurst High School hosted several tours by Japanese students and teachers as well as a Thai school visit. These were an excellent opportunity for our students to practise their Japanese and to expand cultural understandings and mutual respect.

**Environmental Program**

A team of ten students regularly monitored water quality in the Kogarah catchment, submitting their findings to Sydney Water each week. These students worked with the SRC to plan for a sustainable environment. In addition, Year 9 Geography conducted water and power audits to add to their plans for 2009. Students developed the school’s Environmental Education Plan for 2009-2012.

**Respect and Responsibility**

Respect and Responsibility remains the cornerstone of school values and consequent student services programs. The school’s Student Services Team is integral to the success of these programs. In 2008, the team consisted of the Deputy Principal Learning/Welfare, two Head Teachers Teaching and Learning, School Counsellors, Support Teaching Learning Assistance (STLA), Year Advisers, Boys and Girls Mentors, the Senior Student Support Co-ordinator (SSSSP), Transition Co-ordinator and Junior School Welfare Co-ordinator. The latter is a new position created in 2008 as one of our school priorities to address the needs of middle school students. The Junior School Welfare Co-ordinator Role is an expansion of the roles of Girls’ and Boys’ Supervisor. Responsibilities included liaising with Year Advisers to develop specific pastoral care programs, managing sick students, vaccinations and working with the Student Leadership Team to train and supervise Senior and Junior Prefects, Peer Support Leaders, SRC and Peer Mentors and Mediators.

These teams met fortnightly and used school data and referral data to target student needs.

A selection of the many targeted programs follows:

- Peer Support and Peer Mediation.
- Jump Start for Girls and Boys.
- FLICK and SEAT programs run through the St George PCYC.
- Camping program for Year 7, 9 and 10.
- Wilderness Challenge program for junior boys.
- Fund raising for numerous charities. Money was donated to Legacy, Heart Foundation, Salvation Army, Red Cross, Cancer research and Leukaemia research. All student leaders co-ordinated a week long Help Asia Week in June which raised over $6,000 for victims of China Earthquakes.
- Interact – Junior Rotary program.
- Learning on Track program, a proactive, intensive program in Literacy, Numeracy and Learning Skills in Term 3 - 4 for students in Year 7 and 8 who are identified for support prior to the School Certificate years.
- Senior Student Peer Mentor program.
- All students in Years 7 - 10 participated in student led discussion of the Core Rules for NSW Govt Schools.
- The Chill Out program was led by Transition Co-ordinator, Shaun Howard. Year 9 peer Mentors were trained to assist junior peers to address issues of anger management and develop positive social interactions.

In a joint project with Blakehurst Public School, teachers underwent training in Restorative Practices which was conducted by Terry O’Connell from the Real Justice organisation. All students from Years 7 to 10 participated in the training. In addition there was a follow-up session for staff and interested parents.

Terry O’Connell working with parents and staff from Blakehurst High School and Blakehurst Public School in February 2008

All teachers new to Blakehurst High School participated in Choice Theory and Reality Therapy training which is based on the work of William Glasser and which underpins our Respect and Responsibility programs.

Our respect and responsibility programs assist in producing the well disciplined, secure and harmonious learning environment which is a feature of Blakehurst High School. Our very low suspension rates attest to the effectiveness of our student services team and programs. Other indicators include attendance rates well above state and district averages and a reduction in RISC referrals for unsatisfactory behaviour, particularly for students in years 7 - 9.
Transition programs
The transition from Year 6 to 7 is a critical time for young people. At Blakehurst High School in 2008 a number of initiatives made this transition an outstanding success. When surveyed in Term 2, 98% of Year 7 students indicated that they felt very settled and enjoyed their new school. 97% of parents surveyed strongly agreed or agreed that ‘my child’s transition has been successful’. Programs included:

**PALS –Partners And Learners**
Students identified by primary schools as possibly needing extra support with the transition from primary to high school were involved in a five day program of high school induction during term 4 with ongoing mentoring in Year 7.

**Breakfast Club**
Mrs A Mangraviti, Junior School Welfare Co-ordinator, in 2008 conducted the Breakfast Club as a pastoral care program. Year 7 students and their year advisers met for breakfast with their peer support leaders over the first two terms. This provided opportunities for developing strong and supportive student/student and student/teacher relationships.

**Peer Support**
Year 10 students conducted an ongoing program of support for Year 7 students in which issues such as bullying and peer pressure were addressed.

**Peer Mentoring**
Year 7 students were tutored in literacy and numeracy throughout the year during our DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) period each day, as well as having access to senior student mentors in the Homework Centre.

**Peer Mediation**
Trained senior student mediators assisted Year 7 students to resolve minor peer conflicts.

**Vocational Education – School to Work Programs**
Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses which have dual accreditation (both industry accredited as Certificate 2 VETAB, and HSC) were offered in Hospitality, Business Services, Construction and Information Technology. The Construction classes have been particularly active in improvements to the school grounds and facilities as part of their training, while the Year 11 Business Services Classes effectively administered the school Homework Centre and Australian Business Week as virtual businesses. The Year 11 Hospitality class gained valuable experience through the presentation of the Annual P & C Dinner.

In addition, eighty students accessed TAFE delivered courses at four campuses in such areas as Accounting, IT, Music, Tourism, Automotive, Electrical, Health, Child Care, Animal Care, Nursing and Beauty Therapy industries. Several students pursued school based traineeships with companies such as Big W, St George Private Hospital, McDonalds and Sizzlers. Three students, Cameron Finn, Lewis Little and Dean Borghuis, gained VET Excellence Awards for 2008 in Business Services, Construction and Sports Coaching.

Kevin Castillo, Year 11 2008 at work at St George Private Hospital as part of his School Based Traineeship in Nursing.

**Progress on 2008 targets**

**Targets for 2008**
Targets for 2008 were drawn from 2007 data on the school’s performance and are closely aligned with the school management plan 2006-2009. Each faculty has a plan of action based directly on these targets and evaluate their progress on the achievement of targets.

**Target 1 - Increased use of ICT for 21st century learning and working.**

As in 2007 a planned strategic approach to ICT was a priority. Change in this area is so rapid and wide reaching that it must remain an ongoing target.

Strategies to achieve this target included:
- apply for Federal government funding for laptops for all students in Years 9-12;
- continuing professional learning for all staff;
• purchase 10 more Smartboards and associated technology;
• new representative technology team develop two year strategic plan for technology implementation;
• Australian Government Quality Teaching Program (AGQTP) funding used to increase Year 7 teams teachers' knowledge and use of technology to improve engagement of middle school students;
• Pre and post testing of Year 7 students;
• Specialist Year 10 Computing Skills program.

Our success will be measured by:
• Continued improvement in year 10 Computing skills results at School Certificate;
• Staff and student survey Term 4 2008 reveals increased use of ICT;
• Staff professional learning survey reveals effectiveness of ICT learning for teaching;
• Improved levels of engagement in Year 7 teams classes in particular.

Progress on 2008 Target 1

Our achievements include:
• Continued improvement in Year 10 School Certificate results in Computing Skills - % in top band improved from 48.6 to 52.9 well above state and LSG averages;
• 75% of students reported an increase in the use of technology for learning in their classes and at home when compared with 2007;
• All staff reported increasing confidence with and use of ICT in their classrooms;
• 90% of staff reported satisfaction with the school designed professional learning program in ICT compared with 76% in 2007;
• Ten teachers involved in AGQTP program in Slow Animation with Uni of Wollongong academic partner;
• School Certificate Value added data shows improvement;
• Year 7 2008 discipline interventions significantly reduced.

Target 2 - Improved engagement in learning by middle school students

Data from the school education review team in 2007 as well as the school’s assessment data reveal that the highest level of disengagement from learning occurs in the middle school years, Years 7 - 9. This is partly a function of the great many changes taking place for young people at puberty and in society in general and can lead to reduced outcomes by Year 10. Successful transition from primary school, effective support programs, positive student/teacher and student/student relationships and a relevant curriculum during the early high school years are the keys to improved engagement.

Strategies to achieve this target include:
• improved middle school teaching strategies through continued professional learning;
• increased access to ICT for teaching/learning;
• involvement in AGQTP for a year 7 teams group of teachers- project with academic partner from University of Wollongong;
• improved professional feedback for all staff;
• use of diaries as a learning tool;
• focussed study skills program with year 7 and 8;
• appoint Transition coordinator and Junior School coordinator to monitor, mentor all junior students and implement targeted programs for students at risk.

Our success will be measured by:
• Reduced welfare and discipline interventions for middle school students;
• improved School certificate value adding data;
• increased school satisfaction reported by year 7-9 students and their parents;
• Successful implementation of Junior School Coordinator role.

Our Achievements include:
• School data shows a 20% decrease in disciplinary interventions Years 7-9 in 2008 when compared with 2007;
• Improved School Certificate value added results from Year 5-10 -- in English, Maths, Geography and Computing Skills;
• 98% Students in Years 7 reported I have enjoyed my first year at BHS and would tell others to come here;

• 83% Students in years 8 and 9 reported I enjoy coming to school and feel that I am learning things important to me, compared with 69% in 2007.
• Of 43 parent surveys returned 97% agreed or strongly agreed that their child’s transition to high school had been successful and positive.
• Junior School Coordinator appointed- Ms Anne Mangraviti and successful in coordinating wide range of support programs to complement improved teaching and learning.
TARGETS FOR 2009

Target 1

Continue to develop an excellent performance and development culture

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- Executive team professional development in feedback strategies and quality teaching as well as designing quality professional learning plans;
- Quality teaching teams provide opportunities for peer observation and sharing of expertise in quality teaching;
- Successful redesign and delivery of Blakehurst High School Induction Program for teachers new to the school and one for those new to teaching;
- Faculty planning to incorporate regular feedback strategies;
- Whole school professional learning program coordinated by Professional Learning Team.

Our success will be measured by:

- Increased teacher engagement with professional learning program as measured by staff survey Nov 2009;
- Staff satisfaction levels with professional feedback;
- Continuing successful outcomes for students.

Target 2

Continue improvements in ICT in the classroom

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- Continuing staff professional learning program in ICT – school designed and implemented, using staff expertise;
- Continued development of Technology Committee;
- Introduction of MOODLE operating system for interactive learning;
- Provision of well maintained and quality technology to support teaching and learning;
- Provide relief time for teachers to work collaboratively and share expertise in their classrooms.

Our success will be measured by:

- Increased levels of staff expertise and confidence with ICT in the classroom;
- Increased levels of student and parent satisfaction with home/school communication and access to on line learning especially with use of MOODLE;
- Increased levels of student engagement especially in Years 7 - 9;
- Continuing improvements in computing skills at School Certificate.

Target 3

Continuing improvement in middle school outcomes

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- Enhance role of Junior School Co-ordinator;
- Continued professional learning in middle school strategies;
- Continued growth of teacher expertise in ICT;
- Faculty reviews of middle school programs and assessments;
- Use of MOODLE to enhance learning and communication between home and school;
- Continued refinement of successful transition programs from Years 5 - 7;
- Apply for funding to develop transition programs in Languages with feeder primary schools.

Our success will be measured by:

- Continuing reduction in discipline interventions in Years 7 - 9 as measured by school data;
- Successful value added in NAPLAN assessments Years 7 and 9;
- Student survey data;
- Parent survey data;
- Continued improvement in learning outcomes Years 7 - 9.
Key Evaluations
It is a requirement for all NSW public schools to conduct at least two annual evaluations – one related to educational and management practice and the other related to curriculum. In 2008 we carried out evaluations in the following areas: The school’s management plan 2006-2009 was evaluated in preparation for the development of the new 2009-2012 plan in 2009, and a comprehensive evaluation of ICT curriculum implementation was undertaken.

Educational and management practice
Into the Future 2006-2009
Background
The school’s management plan was collaboratively developed in 2006 by all stakeholders in the Blakehurst High School community. Base line data was gathered as was the means by which progress could be measured. The school’s four guiding values determined the planning in all four areas.

Findings and conclusions
Value 1 - Successful students
Achieved through quality teaching and learning, especially middle school. Data from RISC and academic data from all faculties indicated planned outcomes achieved particularly in ICT program design for Year 10 and in integration across curriculum, success for boys program successful in engaging boys in Years 7 - 9 and retaining boys in Years 10 - 11, improved numeracy as determined by NAPLAN and SC results;

- All staff were members of a Quality Teaching team 2005-2008 led by Teacher Leaders, and 83% reported engagement with Quality Teaching Framework and support from team;
- Gifted and Talented program developed and one teacher supported to train with GERIC UNSW 2006-2007. Extension class in year 7 successful initiative;

Value 2 – Responsible students
Merit assemblies established, Junior School Support program established, SRC action planning training, criteria for success incorporated in 90% of faculty assessments in Years 7 - 9;

- Goal setting promoted through pastoral care program for Years 7 - 9, 2006-2008;
- All new staff trained in Choice Theory and Reality Therapy 2006-2008, Restorative Practices program and training introduced February 2008;
- Student leadership evaluated 2007, changes to Prefect selection procedures and Junior Prefect system established;

- Junior School Co-ordinator position established 2008.

Value 3- Professional, committed Staff

- All new staff trained in Choice Theory each year;
- Professional Learning Team established and planned in school professional learning program every second Tuesday 3-4pm;
- Blakehurst High School Induction course for all new staff;
- Performance feedback measures implemented by most faculties, 40% of staff report having Professional Learning Plans 2006 - 70% 2008;
- Blakehurst High School Teacher Leaders program developed- 24 staff involved across 2007-2008;
- CPR updated every two years for all staff.

Findings and conclusions
Value 4- A well informed and involved community

- Regular newsletters home;
- Website developed;
- Success for Boys initiative involved parents and students from Blakehurst High School and two feeder primaries 2006-2007;
- Chinese language communications;
- Regular meetings held for guardians of International students;
- Year 10 Community service takes a service learning approach;

Ms Jeanette Walsh retired in December 2008 after 35 years outstanding service to students and to Public Education. Over 30 of those years were dedicated to service to Blakehurst High School students and colleagues. We shall miss her extraordinary teaching talent. She is pictured above receiving a school award from school leaders 2008.
• Parent surveys reveal ongoing high level of support for school.

Future Directions
• Use first two terms 2009 to plan for quality teaching and learning and develop Blakehurst High School Management Plan Into the Future 2009 - 2012 involving all stakeholders;
• Ensure processes to have 100% of staff involved in developing their own Professional Learning Plan;
• Ongoing evaluation of Professional Learning Team;
• Ensure current innovative teaching practices, especially in area of ICT, are extended to all staff as laptops are introduced for all students Years 9 - 12.

Curriculum
Evaluation of implementation of ICT
Background
The three years 2006-2008 saw rapidly increasing Information and communication technologies for teaching and learning. The school purchased 11 Smartboards, Interactive Whiteboards and computers available to staff and students increased by 100%. A Technology team was established in 2006 and extensive cabling was installed throughout school. The library became a well resourced whole school resource and by the end of 2007 most classrooms had at least one computer installed and many also had data projectors. This evaluation was to ascertain the impact of this improved access to ICT on teaching and learning before extensive planning was undertaken in 2009 for the following three years.

Findings and Conclusions
• Survey results of Year 8 2006 and Year 10 2006 (base data) and Year 10 2008 were compared. 85% of Year 10 students in 2008 reported teachers’ use of ICT in the classroom compared with 55% of Year 8 in 2006.
• 75% of Year 10 in 2008 reported that their teachers’ use of ICT had increased when compared with year 8.
• 90% of teachers reported that their use of ICT in the classroom had increased substantially 2006-2008;
• 95% reported feeling more confident in using technology;
• 87% reported that the school designed professional learning program had been helpful and relevant to their needs;
• 60% of parents found the website helpful in communication;
• All ten teachers involved in AGQTP training in ICT with University of Wollongong reported significant learning which resulted in changed pedagogy using ICT;
• Technology team more directed and purposeful in 2008 when compared with 2006; DET management of server begun;
• Increased engagement of Years 7 - 9 with learning reflected in decreasing numbers of disciplinary interventions, 95% of Year 8 students reported that school learning was often fun and relevant to their needs.

Future Directions
• Continue to develop autonomy of technology team;
• Management of server and technical maintenance work handed to DET;
• Continue work with AGQTP and academic mentor from University of Wollongong;
• Continue school planned Professional Learning in ICT by school based ‘experts’;
• Introduce MOODLE system for interactive learning/teaching;
• Increase home/school communication and engagement via Moodle;
  • Redesign website for easier access;
• Develop plan for introduction and ongoing management of laptops for learning years 9-12 and for staff learning;

Year 8 students at LOTE day 2008
About this report
In preparing this report, the self-evaluation committee has gathered information from evaluations conducted during the year and analysed other information about the school’s practices and student learning outcomes.

Mrs Judy Thompson - Principal
Ms Mary Leslie Deputy – Principal
Mr Peter Sheehy Deputy - Principal
Ms Maria Attwells - Head Teacher Teaching and Learning
Ms Michelle Maricic – classroom teacher HSIE
Mrs Julie Morley – School Administration Staff Member
Ms Margaret Thompson - President P&C Association
Steven Teng - Student representative and School Captain 2008

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