Our school at a glance

Blakehurst High School (enrolment 1076, 79% students from a non-English speaking background), is a successful co-educational comprehensive school recognised for exemplary welfare and learning support programs. The school has an excellent reputation within Sydney Region and the local community for academic, sporting and multicultural achievements. Students enjoy a broad curriculum including a wide vocational education and training program. Priorities include quality professional learning for all staff which supports quality teaching/learning and the development of student responsibility for learning. The school enjoys strong support from parents and the community.

The Blakehurst High School community values students who:

- Show respect to - other students, teachers, property, themselves, the general public and parents.
- Take responsibility to - attend school every day, work to the best of their ability, complete all work, allow others to learn and help stop bullying.

Messages

Principal’s message

Looking back on the year, we have had a number of highlights.

We began the year celebrating our outstanding 2011 HSC results which included a top ATAR of 99.55 achieved by Chelsea Yi Qing Zhang; five students named in the top ten of the State in their respective subjects; two students named in the HSC All-round Achievers List (Evanglia Haralabopoulos and Chelsea Yi Qing Zhang); 111 students named on the Honour roll (i.e. achieved a band 6 in a subject) in 32 subjects (a 54% increase on the 2010 number i.e. 72 in 24 subjects).

The NAPLAN results for Years 7 and 9 – particularly in Numeracy were satisfactory. We recognise some aspects of Literacy are still a concern – and this has been earmarked as a focus of our School Plan, 2012-14.

The school received a grant from the Government ($200,000) to level and returf the grass area near Forster St, as well as repair damaged concrete paths and driveways.

We were selected as a trial school for the EmpoweringLocal School Partnership with the Federal Government. As a part of this we received a $50000 grant which we are using to implement literacy improvement programs for both the junior and senior school, this year and next.

We continue to strengthen links with our feeder primary schools – we visited them early in the year and they came to us for taster courses throughout Term 3.

We continued to improve Year 8 and Year 10 subject selection processes, including information evenings that fully inform parents and students of the subject choices available to them. As part of this process every student in Year 10 was individually counselled as to their subject selection.
We continued to improve the physical aspects of the school – the sound and light system in the hall have been significantly improved and upgraded – this was funded by the P&C; the Library was recarpeted; the hall ceiling was painted; the outside of the school has been painted single handedly by our wonderful General Assistants – John Lopez and Tony Bonica; and two more of our basketball courts were refurbished.

In April, I was fortunate enough to be selected as the representative for the Department of Education and Communities to travel to China to market all NSW Government schools – especially Blakehurst High School - at a number of educational expos and agent events in 5 major cities. Blakehurst High School is well known in China and it is a popular choice for International Students when deciding to study overseas despite enormous competition from nearly every country in the world.

I would like to thank the P&C for their ongoing support, both financially as well as in representation on the Finance Committee and merit selection panels for staff.

The P&C, led by Leo Andreone, has committed over $54000 to school programs and projects this year including –

- Hall lighting and sound upgrade
- Assisting with the funding of the school bus
- School Awards
- Sewing machines
- Data Logger
- Funding of Mathletics software for the whole school
- Continued support of the online study skills program and the SMS absence notification system.

I would like to thank the staff at BHS. I have said many times that I believe they are the best staff I have worked with in 35 years of teaching. This is because they are so concerned about achieving the best outcomes for students and most are keen to “go the extra mile” to assist their students. The staff undertakes considerable Professional Learning in their own time to increase their skills.

My perception of staff is reinforced by students also, because in conversations I have with students, 80% of them say that what they like best about BHS is “the teachers” and they “are nice/helpful/friendly”.

I believe therefore, it is this that makes BHS the comprehensive school of choice in the area – nearly 1100 students, with more knocking on the door

I would like to thank the parents and students of BHS for their unwavering support of the school throughout 2012.

I am very proud of the fact that I am the Principal of a school that is fully inclusive. We are able to provide a quality education for ALL students regardless of their background, academic ability, or socio economic status.

I am also proud that we are able to help develop our students into responsible citizens. To this end, the school places a great emphasis on our Respect and Responsibility Charter.

As an educator, I see our role as not only to prepare students for the HSC or to teach them basic literacy and numeracy skills, but also to educate the whole person. In this way so they leave school as law abiding, caring and responsible citizens who possess the skills to exist and thrive in our rapidly changing world.

2012 has been a year of consolidation in which we were able to further advance what I believe we do very well, that is providing high quality education for students.
We will continue to pursue this goal in 2013, in an endeavour to keep Blakehurst High School as the best comprehensive school in the Sydney Region.

Brad Lester
Principal

P & C message
Blakehurst High School Parents and Citizens Association is an active part of the Blakehurst school community. It comprises a proud and dedicated group of people who meet on a regular basis to discuss ways of enhancing the education of students in the school. It is also well-supported by the general school community, shown by the high percentage of parents who make the financial contribution to the P&C.

2012 has been a highly successful year for the P&C. We are proud to say for every dollar that has been donated to the P&C, we have funded the equal, if not in excess of this amount directly back into educational and enhancement programs in the school.

We have been able to continue to build on the valuable information available on the school website as well as providing keynote speakers at scheduled P&C meetings. The website contains background information about the P&C, information regarding meetings, minutes of all meetings, media releases from the NSW P&C Federation and tips to help families support their children to be successful learners at Blakehurst High School. The P&C are committed to this form of communication and will continue to add current and relevant information to the website on an ongoing basis.

A number of parents have been involved in Merit Selection Panels to employ new staff members at the school. Staff members joining the school in 2012 are lucky to be part of such a dedicated and capable group of teachers. The P&C feel privileged to have such talented teachers leading education for their children. Thank you to all staff.

The P&C is primarily financed by the P&C Student Enhancement Fee. This allows us to focus attention on programs and resources for the school. In 2012, the P&C funded the following resources/programs: Enhanced Learning Education Services (Study Skills Online), Mathletics yearly subscription, SMS System, $26,000 towards the sound and lighting system for school hall, blinds for a demountable classroom, 4 new sewing machines for TAS, the ongoing costs associated with the Ecomist system in the student toilets and what seemed an exciting purchase of a new electronic data logger for the Science Faculty. This amounts to over $45,000 invested in the school in 2012. This is where your P&C Student Enhancement Fee goes. Thank you to all parents who have contributed.

The P&C hold monthly meetings. These meetings are an opportunity to listen to guest speakers and discuss information relating directly to the education and welfare of students in the school. All dates and times are available on the school’s website.

Finally, I would like to express how proud I am being P&C President at Blakehurst High School. I have had the opportunity to work alongside a wonderful group of parents and teachers throughout the year and thank them for all the support they have given me and the school. The P&C at Blakehurst is fit and healthy and ready to better any achievement in the years to come.

Leo Andreone
P&C President

Student representative’s message
The Student Representative Council is a key leadership body run by students, for students.

In 2012, the SRC agreed to embrace a mutual theme; to enhance school spirit and community spirit through our service. Throughout the year, the SRC initiated various projects around the school and its community. These included a whole school mufti day; the running of the annual Trivia Night for staff, ex-students and parents; many awareness campaigns on issues affecting some students such as anti-smoking, violence against women and multiculturalism; and the running of an electronic noticeboard updated daily with reminders and events.

The main focus of the SRC this year was to raise awareness. By raising awareness on issues affecting the students and staff of the school, we have provided ways to combat and eradicate them. Raising awareness is an effective strategy to inform people about lesser known issues and
promote thought into how they can be combated.

We achieved our goals around the school and its community making this year extremely successful. To benefit next year’s group of SRC members, we organised a way of connecting with the other student bodies around the school so each group knows what projects the others are working on. This extra communication will help think of new ways and projects to benefit the school by working together rather than separately.

2012 marked a significant year in the history of the SRC at Blakehurst High School with many firsts. Nonetheless, it can be guaranteed that 2013 will bring nothing less, with a new executive team and collection of innovative thinkers representing students on the council.

Mario Andreone - 2012 SRC President

School context

Student information

Total enrolment for 2012 was 1076 students. Seventy-nine percent of students had a non-English speaking background (NESB) with 51 language backgrounds represented. Chinese families are the largest NESB group and represent twenty-five percent of our school population. Students with a Greek background are our next largest group with ten percent of NESB families. The majority of these families are second and third generation. Our enrolment profile is 25% Anglo-Celtic, 25% Chinese and 50% all other language backgrounds. The school is near full capacity in many Year cohorts with an increasing demand for places.

Student enrolment profile

Student enrolments dipped in 2012 to less than 1100, for the first time in three years.

This was mainly due to a lower than expected Year 7 intake as well as a number of senior students taking up apprenticeships/traineeships or attending TAFE when they turned 17 and did not return in Year 12.

In 2012 there were a total of 1076 students, 600 being male and 476 female.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>633</td>
<td>640</td>
<td>616</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>488</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>487</td>
<td>476</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student attendance profile

Student attendance rates in all Year groups at Blakehurst High School remain pleasingly above State and regional averages.

In 2012, the average attendance rate for the whole school improved by 0.5% (i.e. 93.0% in 2011 to 93.5% in 2012).
Management of non-attendance

An emphasis on quality learning and attendance monitoring of all classes supports our excellent attendance record.

A trial SMS Attendance notification system was introduced in Term 4, 2011. This system was fully implemented in 2012. This notification process is another way we believe student attendance and punctuality can be further improved, with parents/guardians notified the day of the student’s absence. This program has been fully funded by the P&C again for 2013.

Post-school destinations

The post school destination survey, which was conducted in March 2013, showed that of the 151 Year 12 students who could be contacted:

- 62% were undertaking degree courses at a number of universities and private institutions (which now offer degree courses).
- 12% were studying at TAFE.
- 6% were studying at a private college.
- 4.6% were working full time or part time, (mostly during a Gap Year).
- 2% had commenced an apprenticeship.
- 3% were actively seeking employment.

Year 12 students undertaking vocational or trade training

In 2012, 20 students (12%) completed TVET (TAFE delivered Vocational Education and Training) courses.

The total enrolment in the Vocational Education (VET) courses offered at school was 48 students with 47 students (98%) studying one VET course and 1 (2%) studying two VET course.

Two students completed School-Based Apprenticeships as well as also completing Industry Based Learning.

Year 12 students attaining HSC or equivalent vocational educational qualification

In 2012, 166 students completed Year 12 and attained a HSC or equivalent.

Staff information

Once again the many successes of our school community 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 Administrative staff of 13 fulltime and several part-time members contribute enormously to the ongoing, collaborative quality teaching and
learning culture that is a feature of the school. The combined experience, energy, enthusiasm, initiative and dedication of staff to quality, is certainly a large contributor to the school’s success, and as such, must be acknowledged in this report. 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>Assistant Principal(s)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Teachers</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Teachers</td>
<td>51.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of Emotional Disabilities</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of Mild Intellectual Disabilities</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of Reading Recovery</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Teacher Learning Assistance</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Librarian</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of ESL</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counsellor</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Administrative &amp; Support Staff</td>
<td>11.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>84.2</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The National Education Agreement requires schools to report on Indigenous composition of their workforce.

At Blakehurst High School one teacher has identified themselves as indigenous.

**Staff retention**

Historically, the staff roster at Blakehurst High School has been quite stable, with many teachers being at the school for more than thirty years. This trend however, has started to change with the ageing of the teacher population. Due mainly to staff retirements, there was a ten percent changeover in personnel at Blakehurst High School between 2009 and 2010 and again between 2010 and 2011 – this included both teaching and ancillary staff.

However, this percentage dropped between 2011 and 2012 with the staff remaining more stable than it had in the previous two years of staff turnover.

**Teacher qualifications**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>% of staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree or Diploma</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
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</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>Date of financial summary</th>
<th>30/11/2012</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>359788.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global funds</td>
<td>525163.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>289555.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School &amp; community sources</td>
<td>676780.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>25357.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust receipts</td>
<td>280851.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td>2157496.73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Expenditure</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching &amp; learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key learning areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excursions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extracurricular dissections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training &amp; development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual relief teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School-operated canteen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust accounts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditure</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance carried forward</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A full copy of the school’s 2012 financial statement is tabled at the annual general meetings of the P&C. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.

School performance 2012

Achievements

Creative and Performing Arts 2012

Culminating in successful HSC results yet again, 2012 was certainly another year of commendable achievement for the Blakehurst High School Learning Community in Creative and Performing Arts. Blakehurst High School has a thriving Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) faculty, with teachers committed to the arts in its various forms.

Performances

Music Night 2012, was an outstanding success with a full program of performances from our talented students. The concert was directed and coordinated by the Year 11 Music 1 students.

String Ensemble

The string ensemble continued to rehearse and learn new repertoire in 2012. The ensemble performed with distinction for Education Week activities at Westfield Hurstville and for a variety of other school functions, including the Merit Award Assembly and Music Night 2012.

Concert Band

Ms Lauren Moule was engaged once again to tutor and direct the BHS Concert Band. Lauren tutors a number of local primary school bands and we will endeavour to maintain continuity of the band programs with the transition of primary students to high school. We look forward to developing and expanding our band program for next year.

Choir

The Blakehurst High School Choral group performed at the Sydney Town Hall for the Voices in Performance Concert in May 2012 and Music Night 2012.

Drama

Year 12 Drama students successfully performed in their HSC Practical and Written Exams, bringing credit to their teacher, Mrs. Sophia Shaw and to the Blakehurst Learning Community.

Visual Arts

A variety of outstanding student works from all years, including Year 12 Visual Arts students Major Works, were displayed at the CAPA Showcase in December 2012.

Claudia Luhur, Year 12 2012, had her major work selected for display at The Hazelhurst Gallery at Gymea.

Sport

Congratulations to each and every student and staff member who contributed to the outstanding results that were attained in Sport during 2012. It is deeply satisfying to see the positive relationships that develop through sport on Wednesday afternoons between students and staff members. Special mention must be made of the parents, who are always supportive and assist in their child’s sporting endeavours and lead a healthy and active lifestyle.

Once again, Blakehurst was the most highly represented school in the St George Zone Grade Sport competitions, entering 58 summer teams (33 teams into Semi Finals) and 57 winter teams (42 teams into Semi Finals) culminating with 15 winter and 10 summer Premierships. Blakehurst High school was crowned Champion Girls’ School in both the summer and winter sports seasons in the St George Zone for the fifth consecutive year. A wonderful achievement.

Many students represented the school with distinction in the three major carnivals – Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country. The most outstanding competitors at these carnivals include:

- Sheridan Smith - 13 Years Zone and Sydney East Swimming Champion, NSWCHS and NSW All Schools Swimming representative.
- Julia Glavincevski - 14 years Zone Cross Country Champion, NSWCHS Swimming and Cross Country Representative, NSW All Schools Triathlon Representative.
- Martha Spilioti – 16 years Zone Swimming Champion, NSWCHS and NSW All Schools Swimming Representative.
- Tamara Milacic – 13 years NSWCHS and NSW All Schools Athletics Representative.
- Dylan McCuaig-Walton – 16 years Zone Cross Country Champion and NSWCHS Athletics and Cross Country Representative, and NSW All Schools Athletics Representative.

Many other students represented the school with distinction in a range of sports. The following students display the talent and diversity that exists within the student body of Blakehurst High School.

- Brooke Anderson - NSW and Australian Rugby Union Representative.
- Daisy Kennedy-Holtz – NSW Netball Squad.
- Shoji Isomoto - NSWCHS Gymnastics representative.
- Rebecca Luhur - NSWCHS Gymnastics Rhythmic representative.
- Aubrey Young and Nicholas Chen - NSW Secondary Schoolboy Table Tennis Open Doubles Champions.
- Tiffany Wong and Tamika Kosasih - NSW Secondary Schoolboy Table Tennis Intermediate Doubles Champions.
- Natasha Fong and Rachel Huang – NSW Secondary Schoolboy Table Tennis Junior Doubles Champions.
- Matthew Fong – Australian Champion and Representative in Martial Arts.

Blakehurst High competed in numerous CHS knock out competitions with varying success. Most teams made the second or third round of competition. The standout performances belonged to our 1st Grade Girls Oz Tag team who became St George District and Cronulla Sutherland District champions and undefeated Zone Champions for the fifth consecutive year; Blakehurst High School being the best performing school at the St George Oz Tag Competition; the Blakehurst High School Cheerleaders for their success at the NSW and Australian Championships and the Table Tennis Teams previously mentioned representing Blakehurst High school at the highest level and enhancing our school’s reputation within the wider community at Sydney East and NSW Championships.

Academic

In the National Assessment Program, the results across the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 literacy and numeracy assessments are reported on a scale from Band 1 to Band 10.

The achievement scale represents increasing levels of skills and understandings demonstrated in these assessments.

Yr 7: from Band 4 (lowest) to Band 9 (highest for Year 7)
Yr 9: from Band 5 (lowest) to Band 10 (highest for Year 9)

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

The My School website provides detailed information and data for national literacy and numeracy testing (NAPLAN).

Click on the link [http://www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au) and enter the school name in the Find a school and select GO.

Higher School Certificate

In the 2012 Higher School Certificate (HSC) examinations, of the 24 subjects where numbers were large enough for to make valid comparisons, 19 were at or above state average.
Of particular note were subjects including Ancient History, Business Studies, Business Services, Biology, Chemistry, Chinese background Speakers, Geography, English Advanced, English Standard, Japanese Beginners, Legal Studies, Mathematics, Mathematics Extension 1, PDHPE and Physics, in which the 2012 results were above, not only the state average, but also the school average for the last four years.
The 2012 HSC value added data shows outstanding improvement in the performance of middle and high performing students. Figures in these two categories were well above other schools statistically similar to Blakehurst High School (SSG). Of particular note was the very high value added to our high performing students (i.e. 6% - double the school average over the past four years and six times that achieved by schools statistically similar to BHS). This is an outstanding outcome - something the whole school community should be proud of achieving.

**Significant programs and initiatives**

**Aboriginal education**

As a Darug woman of the Eora Nation I am delighted to report that Aboriginal Education at Blakehurst High School continues to be a part of our school Management Plan 2012-2014.

The Norta Norta Tutoring Program, accessed for the first time in 2012, has been an asset to our senior (Years 11 and 12) Aboriginal students. Seniors have each been provided with one on one tutoring in Maths and English throughout the year. This has led to an improvement in both literacy and numeracy skills for these students.

Personal Learning Plans (PLPs), have been developed for each student, and they have assisted in targeting the individual learning needs of each Aboriginal student.

The junior students (Years 7-9) have all consulted with Ms. Alchin (Librarian) to ensure they are reading consistently. Three of our junior students attended a Literacy Day with Ms. Alchin they spent the day making their own personalised DVDs.

Danea Roubekas was nominated for and won a ‘Deadly Kids Doing Well Award’. Danea, her parents and Daniel Ovens (Deputy Principal) attended the Deadly Kids Awards.

Reconciliation Week was a busy week for all Year 9 English students, as it is part of the teaching program in English. Students made posters; wrote poetry and many students and teachers wrote comments in a Recognition Book and a Sorry Book. Both of these books were given to Aunty Fay and the Aboriginal support team at Regional Office.
At the end of the year, the junior students had the opportunity to take part in a three day Aboriginal Art based workshop.

Kirsty Everett

Multicultural education

Mosaic Fusion Forum 2012

A group of Blakehurst High School Year 10 students participated in the 2012 Mosaic Fusion Forum. This event is an annual project organised by the Sydney Region Equity Program Team in conjunction with ARC, the University of NSW Student Group.

This project provides an opportunity for the culturally diverse youth in the Sydney Region to share their thoughts and feelings on issues such as multiculturalism, culture and identity, freedom and global conflicts, racism, leadership and role models with their peers and the wider community.

The students attended the university campus for a day and the mentors from the ARC Student Group led them through various activities and discussions on the above issues. Individually, or in groups they used their talents and skills to compose written and visual texts that represented their thoughts and feelings.

Through this participation in Mosaic Fusion, the students gained valuable skills in the areas of teamwork, communication and organisation. In addition, they met deadlines, published work for the wider community and associated with various members of the educational community.

At the presentation night at the University of NSW the students showcased their compositions and received certificates. Participating students’ compositions will be published on the following website http://www.arc.unsw.edu.au/mosaic.

National partnership programs

Empowering Local Schools

Blakehurst High School was selected in 2012 as one of the 229 NSW schools to participate in the Empowering Local Schools National Partnership. This followed an application that was discussed and approved by the whole school community.

As a result, the school received a one off grant of $50000. We are presently using this money to fund strategies to enhance the Literacy outcomes of both junior and senior students.

Other programs

Australian Business Week

2012 saw the fourteenth Australian Business Week Program run at Blakehurst High School.

This year, for the first time, we ran the Program in Year 10. In all, 140 students participated in this week of intensive learning. The Program engages all students operating in teams, which run a simulated business for one week. The school is fortunate to have the services of business mentors from Kogarah Rotary Club who assist in
conducting the program and to mentor students so successfully each year.

Students gain skills in decision making, problem solving, teamwork, cooperation, and leadership, which we believe transfer positively to their learning as they move into the senior school. Blakehurst High School is recognised nationally as one of the best schools in this prestigious program.

Our sustained success is due to the enthusiasm and commitment of the Program’s coordinator, Ms. Venny Wiryakusuma, the support from HSIE Head Teacher, Peter Slater, as well as the ongoing support from all school staff, parents and Kogarah Rotary Club.

**Human Society and its Environment (HSIE) Competitions**

Over the course of 2012, HSIE students have been given the opportunity to participate in national competitions in Business Studies, Economics, History and Geography. In each of these competitions students performed very well with a greater than average number achieving credits and distinctions.

**U Turn the Wheel**

In March 2012, the U Turn the Wheel Program prepared all Year 11 students for driving on the road. The program is organised through Kogarah Rotary and involves students attending six different workshops presented by:

- St George Highway Patrol,
- Trent Driving School,
- Paramedics from the NSW Ambulance Service,
- Youthsafe,
- NSW Community Health, and,
- NRMA Motoring and services.

These presentations have proven highly informative for students and cover topics such as driving lessons and purchasing a car, through to the consequences of poor, or reckless driving.

**Year 10 Community Service Program**

2012 saw Blakehurst High School once again embrace the spirit of volunteering, through the NSW Premier’s Student Volunteering Awards Program. Five of our students received the prestigious Black Opal Award for the completion of over 150 hours of volunteering. Approximately 80% of Year 10 students participated in the volunteering program, with the majority of the group achieving 60 hours or more, receiving Gold and Diamond awards.

Further, in June 2012, all Year 9 students were introduced to the volunteering program at a Community Involvement Expo held within the school. Representatives from 4 volunteer organisations, as well as current Year 10 students, spoke of the many opportunities available for community service within our community.

The great effort of our students is commendable. They display great enthusiasm, and with their positive attitude, they build positive relationships with various community groups.

**Premier’s Reading Challenge 2012**

All students in Years 7, 8 and 9 participated in the 2012 Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC) as part of their normal English course work and their ongoing daily homework reading routine. One hundred and twenty one students completed the PRC. While the total number of students completing the Challenge was down from 2011 (164), there was a significant increase in the
number of students completing their PRC for the first time.

Even more pleasing was the high number of students from Years 7 and 8 (20%) who entered for the first time this year and then completed the Challenge. There will be no medals awarded this year, but a Platinum Certificate has been introduced for students who complete the Challenge for 7 consecutive years. I anticipate ten students will qualify for this award in 2012. A further ten students will have qualified for the Gold Certificate (4 consecutive years.)

The PRC provides a structured opportunity for students to extend their reading skills and enrich their writing. Time was set aside every fortnight for students to borrow and read PRC books in the library. This time was highly valued by the majority of students and, regardless of their varying abilities; they were genuinely engaged in their reading. Students have been encouraged to select and read books that are challenging. Students are also encouraged to write responses to their reading in a variety of ways.

Progress on 2012 targets

School priority 1

Outcome for 2012–2014

Literacy & Numeracy

2012 Targets to achieve this outcome include:

- 1% increase of Year 9 students in the top two bands of the Literacy components in NAPLAN (reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation).
- 1% decrease of Year 9 students in the bottom two bands of both the Literacy and Numeracy components in NAPLAN.

Our achievements include:

- Literacy, Numeracy, and Gifted and Talented (GaT) Teams have been formed within the school, in order to develop an action plan and design strategies to improve the Literacy and Numeracy outcomes for all our students.
- Professional Learning has had, as one aspect, a focus on improving the Literacy of our students.

- In Year 9, the percentage of students achieving band 10 (top band) in Spelling increased in 2012 (0.1%).
- In Year 9, the percentage of students in Band 5 (lowest band) in Grammar and Punctuation decreased (0.4%).
- Unfortunately, in all other areas of 2012 NAPLAN, our improvement target was not reached. Following discussion with the School Education Director and our school community we have revised our targets for 2013 and beyond. Literacy and numeracy remain high priority areas for 2013 in all school planning.

School priority 2

Outcome for 2012–2014

Engagement & Attainment

2012 Targets to achieve this outcome include:

- Improved HSC results.
- Students successfully transitioned to work or alternate educational setting.
- Reduction in student lateness.
- Increase in student attendance.

Our achievements include:

- Excellent 2012 HSC results. The percentage of the cohort named on the State Merit list (i.e. achieved a Band 6 in a subject) increased in 2012 to 64% (up from 58% in 2011) across 25 subjects.
- Approximately 20% of the total cohort achieved an ATAR of 90 and above.
- A number of students (particularly those at risk) were successfully transitioned into employment and/or TAFE.
- Full implementation of the SMS Absentee Notification system has resulted in a reduction in unexplained absences.

School priority 3

Outcome for 2012–2014

Leadership & Management

2012 Targets to achieve this outcome include:
• Educational leaders who have the expertise to lead the introduction of the National Curriculum.
• A comprehensive leadership strategy to ensure sustainable improvement and succession planning.
• BHS supports all staff to create a positive learning culture.

Our achievements include:
• A number of Head Teachers and Senior Executive attended Regional Professional Learning activities relating to the implementation of the National Curriculum throughout 2012.
• An audit of whole school roles and responsibilities was conducted by the Head Teacher, Teaching and Learning. Subsequently a ‘Shadow an Executive’ program has been developed in order to increase leadership density within the school.
• Two young teachers were involved in targeted regional Professional Learning in order to develop their identified leadership potential.
• Successful school based Professional Learning around leadership was conducted throughout 2012.

School evaluation

NSW public schools conduct evaluation to support the effective implementation of the School Plan. In 2012 our school carried out evaluation of the school’s student wellbeing program

One of the key goals of the 2012 - 2014 Strategic Management Plan is to conduct a review of student wellbeing processes. The aim of this is to provide a clear and current, overarching framework for Student Wellbeing. The review comprises the four areas of Student Welfare, Learning Support, Behaviour Management and Student Leadership.

In the area of Student Welfare, there has been a reallocation of staff roles and responsibilities; three members of the Executive team now each oversee lateness, truancy or attendance. There is a common after school detention operating for follow up in these areas. Welfare meetings now include more active decision making as well as strategic planning. The electronic SMS absence notification system is now fully implemented and parents are reporting faster and better interaction with the school. There has been a change in staff personnel coordinating the Peer Support Program. Targeted welfare meetings have been organised for teaching teams to meet and discuss support options for individual students and gather information for the implementation of Individual Learning Plans. The Welfare Coordinator convenes both the Junior and Senior welfare meetings as well as attends Learning Support Team meetings.

The structure of Learning Support Team meetings has changed to include communication from, and access to, external providers such as Time Out, Youth Connections and the HSLO. This has helped strengthen relationships with these outside bodies. The agenda of Learning Support Team meetings is circulated in advance, enabling data to be collected before meetings and increased participation in decision making. There is now an item on the Learning Support Team Meeting agenda allowing for open lines of communication to both the Transition Coordinator and Welfare Team. The time and day of the week for meetings has also been changed.

The Discipline Policy has been reviewed, including consultation with staff and students. Parents are to be consulted in the near future. One of the proposed changes is a name change from Discipline Policy to Behaviour Management Procedures. Staff have embraced the draft policy.

Whilst performance data (i.e. attendance, lateness and truancy) indicate that student wellbeing is improving overall, changes have only recently commenced (early 2013) and it is thus too early to determine the effectiveness of these programs on student wellbeing.

Parent, student, and teacher satisfaction

In 2012, the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about Teaching Best Practice. This was achieved by surveying each group using SchoolMap. There were 132 parent responses, 562 student responses and 62 staff responses.
Generally, all of the group’s responses demonstrated a favourable view of the curriculum offerings, assessment and reporting at Blakehurst High School.

Some examples of responses to various questions/statements about the school included;

1. **Students are provided with a relevant curriculum.**

![Survey Results: Almost always, Usually, Sometimes, Rarely](image1)

2. **Assessment strategies are understood by students and parents/caregivers and are aligned with the school’s policy on assessment.**

![Survey Results: Almost always, Usually, Sometimes, Rarely](image2)

3. **Reporting clearly communicates information about student achievement and development.**

![Survey Results: Almost always, Usually, Sometimes, Rarely](image3)

**Professional learning**

Professional Learning undertaken by teachers in 2012 was in line with priorities in the School Management Plan 2012-2014. The three main areas were Quality Teaching, ICT in the classroom, Respectful Relationships and Leadership.

Activities conducted during the 2012 Staff Development Days included ‘Child Protection’ and ‘Code of Conduct’ updates, Quality Teaching, Workplace Health & Safety, and Asthma Awareness & Anaphylaxis.

In addition to the School Development Days, the school’s mandatory, choice-driven professional learning program consisted of a series of fortnightly workshops presented by staff leaders on a range of topics which reflected school priorities and identified staff needs. Topics covered included the online Classroom Teacher Program; Grammar in context; School applications; the Intranet & the Portal; Adobe Captivate; Differentiating the Curriculum; Career Development; Creative ICT Alternatives; One Note; Moodle; Interactive Whiteboard, Persuasive Writing Techniques; Stop Motion Animation; Accidental Counsellor and Analysing Naplan Data.

The total Teacher Professional Learning Budget in 2012 was $43,980. The average expenditure per teacher was $511.

**School planning 2012—2014**

The school planning policy provides direction for the preparation and implementation of school plans including the identification of priority areas, intended outcomes and targets that are consistent with the NSW State Plan and the Department’s planning documents.

**School priority 1**

**Outcome for 2012–2014**

**Literacy & Numeracy**

2013 Targets to achieve this outcome include:

- 1% increase of Year 9 students in the top two bands of the Literacy components in NAPLAN over the next two years (reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation).
- 1% decrease of Year 9 students in the bottom two bands of both the Literacy and Numeracy components in NAPLAN over the next two years.
Strategies to achieve these targets include:

- Head Teachers identify professional learning needs for literacy and numeracy in their faculties.
- Integration of literacy and numeracy strategies within KLA programs.
- Expansion of programs such as Upwords, DEAR, Peer Tutoring, PALs, to improve literacy and numeracy.
- Developing the role of the Gifted and Talented (GaT) Team.
- Develop a range of enrichment, extension and talent development programs, focusing on creating ways of improving growth amongst the more able learners.
- One assessment task in stage 4 and 5 to contain a Persuasive Writing activity in all KLAs.
- Developing the role of the Literacy & Numeracy Teams.

School priority 2

Outcome for 2012–2014

Engagement & Attainment

2013 Targets to achieve this outcome include:

- Improved HSC results.
- Students successfully transitioned to work or alternate educational setting.
- Reduction in student lateness.
- Increase in student attendance.

Strategies to achieve these targets include:

- Review of welfare, discipline and learning support practices - incorporating the development, implementation and evaluation of whole school processes relating to student welfare and learning.
- Professional learning focuses on Quality Teaching practices.
- Teachers and leaders to engage all students in Quality Teaching practices.
- Continuation of the SMS attendance notification system.
- Development of Personal Learning Plans for all Aboriginal students.
- Embedding ICT strategies in all KLA programs.
- Intervention at key transition points.
- Implementation of ALARM (A Learning and Response Matrix) in Year 11 in order to assist improvement in HSC results.

School priority 3

Outcome for 2012–2014

Leadership & Management

2013 Targets to achieve this outcome include:

- Educational leaders who have the expertise to lead the introduction of the National Curriculum.
- A comprehensive leadership strategy to ensure sustainable improvement and succession planning.
- BHS supports all staff to create a positive learning culture.

Strategies to achieve these targets include:

- Provision of appropriate professional learning opportunities as well as relieving experience in order to support aspiring leaders.
- Develop a program which supports New Scheme Teachers Professional Competence Accreditation and maintenance.
- Encourage, enhance and promote the importance of the role of Teacher mentor.
- Investigate ways to strengthen the role of the Prefect body and the SRC in school decision making.
• Provide resources, support and training for staff to introduce the National Curriculum.

• Provide Professional Learning opportunities to enhance the delivery of Quality Teaching strategies by all staff.

• Foster external support to improve the physical learning environment.

• Develop leadership density by ‘buddying’ new or inexperienced teachers with more experienced members of staff.

• Professional Learning plans developed for all staff that shapes the Professional Learning policy/directions.

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. The self-evaluation committee and school planning committee have determined targets for the school’s future development.

Mr. Brad Lester – Principal.

Mrs. Lynette Paton – Deputy Principal.

Mr. Dan Ovens – Deputy Principal.

Ms. Sylvia Sklavounos – Head Teacher Teaching and Learning.

Ms. Linda O’Brien – Head Teacher Science.

Mr. Peter Slater – Head Teacher HSIE.

Ms. Judy Jacobsen – Head Teacher CAPA.

Mr. Tony Yelavich – Head Teacher PDHPE.

Mr. Nathan Smith – Sports Organiser.

Ms. Angela Centorrino – Careers Adviser.

Ms. Kim Morris – School Administration Manager.

Mr. Leo Andreone – President P&C Association.

Mr. Mario Andreone – President SRC.

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Parents can find out more information about Annual School Reports, how to interpret information in the reports and have the opportunity to provide feedback about these reports at: