Principal’s Message

Last month we received exciting news from the Board of Studies regarding our talented departing Year 12 students and their major works in practical subjects. Oscar Velicks’s music performance was nominated to be included in Encore, a showcase of exemplary Music 1 and Music 2 performances. In Visual Arts, Tango Conway and Stana Arsenic received nominations to have their work included in Art Express and Tony Feraira and Jed Finnan received nominations for InTech, an exhibition of Design and Technology exemplary work. Congratulations to their wonderful teachers: Jeff Chung, Chantell Waycott, Marissa Zaknich, Donna Beekwilder and Steve Goldsmith who gave up many extra hours to mentor our students through their projects.

Recognition Assembly

This week I had the pleasure of attending our annual Recognition Ceremony along with some very proud parents and friends. Our Campus Principals, Ms. Melinda Bright from Leichhardt and Mr. Lee Wright from Balmain, joined us to celebrate the occasion and to present academic, vocational education and sport awards. The assembly was hosted by our newly elected school leaders: Austin Le, Jasmine Jaffar, Shive Prema and Zoe Knight who received their leadership badges and best wishes from our staff, Year Advisers, our students and parents. Already this team is showing signs of being impressive school leaders. They have led the school in the introduction of ‘Daisy’ the new student electronic diary, they have raised money for the recent bushfire appeal and they assisted staff with the organisation of “A Taste of Blackwattle”, a week long Year 10 orientation program to be held at school this week.

Congratulations also to our newly elected Sports-Captains: Miwa Blumer, Max Petrovic, Mitchell Miles and Emotion Kea. Blackwattle has a reputation for fine sporting results in a range of fields such as football, hockey and soccer. I am confident that this team of highly committed students will assist Blackwattle retain its excellent sporting reputation. Recently, our staff evaluated our Sports Program and overwhelmingly endorsed

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the value of sport as a compulsory activity in Year 11 to promote a healthy lifestyle and relieve stress. We are very fortunate to have three passionate PDHPE/sport teachers at our Campus: Ms. Kay Atherton, Mr. Peter George and Ms. Jodie Young.

**Reports**
I continue to be impressed with the growing confidence and maturity of our new Year 12 cohort. The recent Yearly Reports indicate that the vast majority of our students are working diligently in class, using their Study Periods productively and are on track to excel in Year 12. However there are some students who have not achieved to their potential this year. Of particular concern is the amount of valuable teaching time that is lost when students are consistently late or frequently absent from school. Student unexplained absence is included on the front cover of the Report. The Board of Studies advises that a minimum 85% attendance is required for a student to satisfy the huge demands of the HSC. Parents are asked to support the school’s focus on improving lateness by encouraging your son or daughter to make every effort to come to school every day on time and ready to learn. Parents are asked not to book overseas holidays during school time as this disrupts the continuity of course delivery and can affect a student’s performance in assessment tasks and examinations. Parents who are concerned about their child’s progress are able to seek advice from the Year 12 Advisers Mr. Chung or Ms. Waycott, the Careers Adviser Ms. Cleaver or our Counsellor Ms. Kathy Hooper.

**Playing It Safe**
The end of school and the HSC is a cause for much celebration. ‘Schoolies Week’ parties, school formals and other casual “gatherings” seem to take over the lives of our young people as they await their HSC results and contemplate their life beyond school. Understandably, many parents feel anxious and worried about their children’s safety and wellbeing at this critical time and in some cases feel powerless to influence their children to steer a safe course.

Parenting expert, Dr. Michael Grose, believes that parents can have a profound effect on teenage attitudes to drinking and that parents need to step up to the challenge.

Dr. Grose has three pieces of advice for parents:

1. **Model**
   Young people are influenced by their peers but their drinking habits are also influenced by what they see and live at home. Have a grog-free night each week. Celebrate without alcohol. Let young people see that you can function well, enjoy yourself or relieve stress without alcohol.

2. **Monitor**
   Know where your kids are at night. Parent disapproval and parent monitoring are two strategies known to lower drinking levels among young people. Teens won’t always be upfront about their activities with their parents but that doesn’t mean that we don’t try like crazy to make sure they are where they say they are when they go out. Put the onus on them to contact you if their plans change at night.

3. **Make it Hard**
   Don’t make drinking easy for young people. That means, don’t buy under age kids alcohol when they go to a party in the hope they will just drink a little. Kids will take yours, and then drink more when that’s finished. Put up as many fences as you possibly can to make it difficult for kids to drink. There is little doubt that binge drinking is a massive issue amongst young people. But that doesn’t mean we throw our hands up in the air and do nothing. Adults aren’t powerless.

**P & C Fundraiser At Gleebooks**
Please join us for this terrific event on Thursday 28 November, 6-9pm. Do your Christmas shopping and help us to stock the school library.

Hope to see you on the night.

Sharon Roberts
Principal
Excursion to Callan Park

On Wednesday 6 November, the Year 12 Aboriginal Studies class along with a number of Aboriginal students from Leichhardt campus went to Callan Park for a guided tour with Deb Lennis, Aboriginal Programs Officer from Leichhardt council.

During our morning there, we gained a valuable insight into the rich Aboriginal history that exists in Callan Park. We started our tour at the War Memorial designed by Douglas Grant, an Australian Aboriginal soldier who fought in WWI. Grant, after the death of his adoptive parents in the 1930’s returned to Sydney and became a clerk at the Callan Park Mental Asylum where he designed a replica model of the Harbour Bridge. The pillars on the model display the dates of both WWI and WWII. It is hoped that this memorial and its historical and cultural significance will be restored to its former glory and given the profile within the park that it rightly deserves.

During our excursion we were also given a detailed insight into the bush fruits that exist within the park and how the Aboriginal people who once lived there used them. We were all interested to learn about the shell middens which also exist in the park and how they also provide an insight into Aboriginal history. The history behind the many rock carvings which can be found were also of great interest particularly as many residents of the area have no idea about the wealth of Aboriginal history and heritage that is embedded within the grounds of Callan Park. A lovely morning was had by all!

Oonagh McGarrity
Year 12 Aboriginal Studies Teacher

Sydney Secondary College’s Blackwattle Bay P&C invites you to its annual

Gleebooks Fundraiser for Blackwattle Bay

Thursday, 28 November, 6-9pm at Gleebooks
49 Glebe Point Road, Glebe

This is a great social evening for all current and future Blackwattle parents. Enjoy the refreshments and entertainment while doing your Christmas shopping and purchasing books for the Blackwattle Bay Campus library.

Drinks and supper provided for a gold coin donation. If you are able to bring a plate of food on the night, please contact Tracey Cameron on 0448 338 543 or email tracey.cameron@bigpond.com
HSC Society and Culture PIP Conference

On Friday November 1, Year 12 Society and Culture attended the annual PIP Conference Day at the Wesley Conference Centre in Pitt St Sydney CBD. It was a successful and informative experience with schools from all over NSW merged together to share their ideas and obtain valuable knowledge from skilled lecturers. With a combination of students and teachers working together, the venue was swarming with a range of beneficial advice that will no doubt help the class of 2014 to shape an excellent and academic Personal Interest Project.

Dunja Karagic

HSC Studies of Religion Excursion to the Great Synagogue

On Thursday November 9, the students of Studies of Religion II visited the Great Synagogue, Elizabeth Street, Sydney CBD. After the boys had donned their yarmulkes we were shown a presentation about the history of Judaism in Australia and given an explanation of the architectural features of this beautiful 19th century building. At the completion of a very informative question time we were given a tour of the Jewish museum beneath. This room contained historical artifacts, which detailed the importance of Jewish beliefs and practices. It was an interesting and enlightening experience.

Brittany Thew

Leagan Teumungariki and Dean Reid with Ms. Goodman

Oh the time passed by so quickly! Leagan and Dean you certainly entertained our Japanese classes and I will miss your infectious smiles! Try not to forget all of your Japanese but importantly pursue your future careers with passion and dedication. Thank you Leagan for the Rugby League shirt, I will wear it and remember our enjoyable classes at Blackwattle Bay! Keep in touch Year 12! Ms. Goodman

TAKE THE NEXT STEP INTO...
Digital cameras and photography
Facebook and social media
Writing and Communication skills

If any or all of this interests you then apply for ‘Skills for Career Pathways’ Certificate IV course at Ultimo TAFE. This 18-week course will develop your technology and writing skills in an enjoyable, supportive environment. The course allows you to improve your skills in a wide range of areas for work, further study, or just for enjoyment. Childcare may be available on campus. Close to Central train station. Student discounted parking nearby. Course commences: 4th February 2014. Course fees apply; concessions available for eligible recipients.

Information session:
10:00am Thursday 23rd January 2014
Building D, 7th Floor, Room D7.06
Ultimo TAFE College
Corner Thomas St & Harris St, Ultimo
Enquiries: phone Michael on 9217 3724 or 9217 4939 or email: michael.j.clarke@tafensw.edu.au
**Tips from the Information Services Centre**

The Information Services Centre is located in the Library to provide information services and a place to study for students.

**Google – searching by picture:** Google currently has a feature whereby you can drag a picture from your files. Google will then search using optical recognition technology.

**Magazine Holder:** There are a series of magazine stands throughout the Library displaying both curriculum and recreational. We currently have subscriptions to *Time, New Scientist* and *National*. On the student hard drive in the Information Service Centre folder there is a sub file *Current Journals* that lists the major articles from recent and current issues of your subscription journals.

**Finding a book in a Library:** In the digital world the skill to find and locate a book is known to fewer and fewer Library users. The Library collection and the digital world can help each other. Most libraries in Australia have their information (Non Fiction) books arranged in an order devised by Melville Dewey in the 1880’s. Dewey’s system is decimal, that is, it is based on units of ten:

- 000’s  Generalities
- 100’s  Philosophy and psychology
- 200’s  Religion
- 300’s  Social Sciences
- 400’s  Languages
- 500’s  Natural Sciences & Mathematics
- 600’s  Technology (Applied Sciences)
- 700’s  The Arts
- 800’s  Literature
- 900’s  Geography and History

Understand the basics of the Dewey system and you can find a book in most libraries.

In the digital age most library catalogues are online. The Department of Education and Communities provides an on-line catalogue for each Public Education School Library. The default setting is to search for all records. There are specific options for author, title, and series. Most searches of title use the *Key Word* approach - the computer will search the databases for wherever the search term is, no matter where it is in a title. To start a search, select the *New Search* option in the left top corner.

**Study Periods:** Most students are granted the privilege of **STUDY PERIODS**. They are not FREE periods. There must be a purpose to achieve in every one of them. Here are some suggestions on how best to use your Study Periods:

- Explore resources available in the Information Service Centre.
- Explore resources available on the Internet; adds depth to your information and knowledge.
- Consult your course teachers for clarification and explanation.
- Make an appointment to see the Careers Advisor, Ms. Cleaver.
- Work with and help classmates.
- Avoid spending time talking to friends and **NOT ENGAGING IN WORK**.
- Seek counselling for problems that have arisen; don’t labour in negative moods; it will affect your efforts.

**Year 12 Japanese Class with Ms. Yurika Sato**

We truly had lots of fun in our Japanese classes! Thank you to Yurika who helped us all so much to prepare for our final HSC exams.
Year 12 PDHPE Care About the Health Inequities Faced by our Indigenous People

Have you heard about the Wall of Hands in initiative? Did you know that for every five Indigenous kids living in very remote NT communities, only one will be able to read at the minimum NAPLAN standard?

That's only one child in five who is gaining one of the most important keys to a satisfying and successful life - the ability to read. This shocking statistic is why our school is taking part in the Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation's Wall of Hands Indigenous Literacy Appeal.

View our wall of hands by visiting the link below and please sponsor us to help more kids read: http://wallofhands.com.au/Wall/View/1396

So far we have raised $245 and this has contributed towards the $325,301 raised so far in 2013.

By sponsoring our school's wall, you'll be helping the ALNF extend the reach of their award-winning literacy programs. If we reach the appeal target of $400,000 they'll be able to continue current literacy programs in Tennant Creek, Mungkarta, Elliott and Ali-Curung and expand their work with the children of Groote Eylandt.

Special Education at Blackwattle 2013

This has been a year in which we have seen extraordinary gains made in our students' learning.

Research clearly states that there are 3 areas, which, if successful for the student, will guarantee success in the post school environment. These areas are: literacy, numeracy and work readiness. As Special Educators we have endeavoured to ensure that gains are made in these areas. We have introduced a researched Reading/Comprehension program (visit the website for more information: www.tenminutedailyreaders.com.au) and our dedicated team of Learning Support Officers has ensured that each of our students, no matter their initial reading/comprehension level, has been placed on this program on a daily basis.

Together with our in-class literacy program, ICanRule, we have ensured that our students have well-developed and improved literacy skills. This is an online program and you can read all about it at www.icanrule.com.au. The major gains for our students are phenomenal. We have students in Year 11 and Year 12 who began the year as non-readers and are now able to read at a competent level to access information as required.

Our numeracy program has also begun in earnest. At the beginning of each lesson our students spend time working on self-improvement in fluency of basic facts knowledge using another well-researched numeracy development program. Some of the rates of improvement in the knowledge of number and times tables is extraordinary. This knowledge is able to be combined with their improvement in literacy and enables our students to better comprehend the problems they face in real life mathematical skills, especially related to money and budgeting. The success in this area is on going.

The third area of achievement is in work readiness. Our program here is progressing well and we hope to have our 2014 Year 12 students out in the paid workforce as a result. We analyse individual ability and develop a program for each student that addresses the particular needs. Our Work Experience Coordinator works with our Job Coach on assessing and developing the necessary skills.

As we address each of the three areas for post school success, our students and staff have a sense of real achievement and look forward to the on-going lifelong learning that the students will embrace in life after school.

Barbara Calder, HT Special Education.
IMP Report

There are only a few more opportunities left to hear our fantastic music students perform this year and we’d love to have you in the audience at one of our upcoming events.

Our fabulous Jazz Orchestra will get the audience in the mood for the Schools Spectacular when they play in the foyer for this huge event on Saturday 30 November. They will be performing at 1.15pm and 3pm in the foyer of the Entertainment Centre and you can listen to them even if you don’t have tickets to the show. If you’re going to see the show, make sure you come and hear the band before and during the interval! Tickets to the inside show are available now from Ticketmaster.

Jazz on the Bay is a new outdoor concert held by the SSC IMP on the waterfront at Blackwattle Bay Campus featuring our Jazz Orchestra and Jazz Ensemble. They will play alongside the Sydney Region Jazz Camp ensembles by the water on a sunny afternoon on Sunday 8 December from 3pm-

4.30pm. Bring a yummy picnic and a rug to sit on and listen to some cool jazz.

If you want to learn how to improvise, you should come along to the Sydney Region Jazz Camp, which is being held at Blackwattle Bay Campus on Thursday 5 and Friday 6 December. All school musicians welcome. For more information please email sscimp@det.nsw.edu.au.

Finally, we urgently need more parent volunteers to support the running of the IMP. The IMP is a parent-run organisation, but it can only provide the current standard of music for your child with more assistance from IMP parents. There is one committee meeting per term where we plan for upcoming events. Please support this great program by donating your time to this very rewarding program. It’s a chance to meet parents from all campuses, plus the Music Director and Principals and contribute to continuing this successful program. To volunteer please email sscimp@det.nsw.edu.au.

Sydney TAFE

WOMEN’S COURSE

Refresh your skills and build the confidence to apply for the job you want...to pursue further study...to make a change!

Certificate II Skills for Work & Training for Women includes a Work Experience program, Computing, Communication, Workplace Writing, Interview Skills and more.

Classes are within school hours for 18 weeks in a friendly, supportive environment. This course is fee exempt - $30 materials fee only.

Childcare may be available on campus.

Close to Central train station. Student discounted parking nearby.

Course commences: 3rd February 2014.

Information session:
11:00am Wednesday 29th January 2014
Building D, 5th Floor, Room D5.10
Ultimo TAFE College
Corner Thomas St & Harris St, Ultimo
Enquiries: phone 9217 3724 or 9217 3718 or email: anna.petrou@tafensw.edu.au