

PICNIC POINT HIGH SCHOOL

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Principal
Mr Wolly Negroh
B Ed, Dip Teach



December 2013

PIC-NEWS

51 years of Quality Education

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

The Year 6 into 7 orientation day was a tremendous success and the school once again hosted a very large Year 7 intake. Congratulations to the school's welfare team and the Year 9 peer support leaders for making it a great success.

Presentation day at the Revesby Workers Club this year was an amazing success with over 900 in attendance. This event showcased and celebrated the wonderful talents of students, staff and parents. We introduced the Dux of the Year awards for all years, in 2013 and congratulations to the following outstanding academic achievers presented at our presentation day ceremony;

DUX of Year 7	Thomas Bush (2013)
DUX of Year 8	Audrey Hoang (2013)
DUX of Year 9	Stella Lee (2013)
DUX of Year 10	Stacey Hayward (2013)
Dux of Year 11	Emily Rotziokos (2013)
Dux of Year 12	Jueun Na (2012)



From a staffing perspective we farewell this year the following members of staff and wish them the very best in the next chapter of their life;

- Mrs Irmgard Heap-is retiring after 38 years of teaching service and with 26 years at PPHS.
- Mr Baczynskyj – will leave us for 12 months to work in the Head office for DEC.
- Mrs Audrey Hunt (one of our school counsellors) will be working in a different school in 2014.
- Mr Niklovski after 5 years teaching service at PPHS was appointed to a new school.
- Ms Goovan- 4 years as laboratory assistant and 9 years as a student learning support officer at PPHS is appointed to a new school.

- Ms James- taught in 2013 on the TAS faculty and will be travelling overseas in 2014.

Some successes in our school year include:

- Kevin Lim received the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute School Science Award. He is currently placed first in Physics in his class.
- This year in the Premier's Reading Challenge, 9 students will be receiving a Gold certificate (for completing the Challenge for 4 consecutive years) and 9 will be receiving a Platinum certificate (for completing the Challenge for 7 consecutive years).

I remind all families that if a student will not be attending on the first day of school in 2014, I will need a letter to confirm the official first day of attendance at school in 2014, to ensure that a position remains available.

At PPHS we continue to support an environment that brings together diverse social, learning and cultural backgrounds into a school whereby we all learn together, accept each other and embrace all that is special and unique about Public Education.

I extend a very warm and sincere best wishes to all students, staff and parents and thank them for their commitment to learning at Picnic Point High School. We all look forward to the successes and opportunities that 2014 will bring to all members of our school community.

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Deputy's Report – Mr Baczynskyj

2013 has been a busy year of wonderful academic, sporting, cultural and artistic successes. I continue to feel extremely privileged to share the growth and development of your children during their 6 years at PPHS. During 2014, I will be spending the year working in at the DEC's State office in Sydney. My primary role will be working in the area of Quality Teaching and ensuring that the high standards of teaching are maintained in NSW. I will expect to return to PPHS in 2015.

The Deputy Principal morning teas have been conducted for Semester 2. Once again the highest achievers and biggest improvers of each year group were represented at this event. It is pleasing to see some students being acknowledged for the first time, whilst others have achieved highly enough to have been invited to every Deputy Principal morning tea since they were started.

As end of year reports are issued, parents and students should reflect on the year of learning. All teachers will have provided an indication of how a student would be able to improve their performance in each subject next year. A consideration of these suggestions and a plan to put them into place next year will make a significant contribution to improved learning outcomes.

The results of this year's Year 8 students will directly inform some of the class placements in each subject next year. In Year 9, the classes are no longer set as the same for all core subjects. Head Teachers work with their faculty teachers to construct classes for each subject, meaning that students are likely to have a different combination of peers in each class. As always, improved levels of performance may make it possible for students to move to a higher class in subjects that choose to grade their students.

This week, I was fortunate enough to join parents and attend a dinner presented by Year 9 Food Technology classes. It is fair to say that the food was delicious and a testament to the level of skills these students have developed. Food presentation and taste ensured that these students would have received high plaudits from any food critic - and they certainly did from this one. Parents were impressed with these culinary talents and are looking forward to putting their feet up whilst restaurant style food is cooked for home dinners.

Throughout second semester it was necessary for me to have some leave for personal reasons. I would like to acknowledge the wonderful job Miss Stavros did in filling my role for two days week - maintaining the high expectations and standards we expect of our students. Next year, I will certainly miss the high quality of professionalism the PPHS staff demonstrates on a daily basis. Also, as I have mentioned on a number of occasions, the incredible sense of community enjoyed at this school. The parents working with us to create a positive learning environment is a key factor in the success of PPHS. I am sure that in 2015 I will be incredibly eager to return to this school community and maintain a leadership role in the development of these wonderful young students.



Deputy's Report – Mr S. Schomberg

Year 12

Year 12 has just about all completed their first assessment task in their HSC studies. While the great majority of students are really focused on their performance, some students have not met the relevant deadline and this has impacted already on their HSC performance with a zero mark being awarded for a non-submitted task. I encourage all Year 12 students to stay focused on their work next year so that each individual student performs at their best.

As the senior students in the school, it is also extremely important that each student sets the standard with uniform and their behavior. I am looking forward to working with Year 12 next year to help them all achieve to their potential.

Year 10

Year 10 have just completed two weeks of work experience and a 3 day program of workshops. The feedback from work experience has been very positive with students having their eyes opened to the world of work. The reports from the employers have also been very positive and some students have actually been offered employment as a result of their efforts during the two weeks. This year for the first time we have organised Year 10 to complete an alternate program of study for the three days following their return from work experience.

The feedback from students has been very positive. The program is a combination of workshops including "All My Own Work – 5 Modules", Tagged – a unit of work dealing with cyber bullying, Smart Saving and Smart Earning – presented by representatives from the Commonwealth Bank, Digital Thumbprint – dealing with on line safety presented by representatives from Optus, workshops presented by Legal Aide dealing with the law around criminal activities that young people sometimes get involved in and a presentation about Social Inclusion. Next year, Year 10 will return as senior students at PPHS and with it the expectations of how senior students approach their schooling.

Year 7

Year 7 have now completed their first year at high school and for the great majority of students it has been a really enjoyable and rewarding year. Many students have climbed up the merit list through being rewarded for their excellent effort and performance in a great variety of opportunities available to them at our school.

Classes are being finalised for next year and even though we are keeping the basic structure the same as in Year 7, there will be some students who will be in different classes next year. Teachers have spent a lot of time in looking at the class structure for next year and where students will be best placed to maximise their learning in Year 8.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday and I am looking forward to working with everyone again next year in 2014.

P & C News

As I write the last P & C news for 2013 we have entered December and weeks left until Christmas, I am sure you all, like me, wonder where the years go and as we get older they only go faster!

The P & C and School Council both met for their final meetings for the year on 25th November. Unfortunately 2 long serving members of the School Council are leaving the school at the end of the year and neither were able to attend their last council meeting. We did however pay tribute to both Mrs. Goovan and Mrs. Heap and wish them well in their future endeavors, Mrs. Goovan to a new school and Mrs. Heap to retirement.

The school council discussed a number of issues around the collection of school contributions and ways in which outstanding contributions can be recouped. The P & C and school council both support the school in the collection of contributions and especially subject fees, as, without these being paid by students undertaking fee paying subjects, the school is out of pocket and using monies designated for other projects. I urge all parents to make a positive contribution to their child's learning by way of paying any outstanding fees and ensuring these are kept up to date in future years. We also discussed the Local Schools, Local Decisions initiative being introduced at schools in 2014 and look forward to hearing more about how the school will implement this.

At the conclusion of the Council meeting the P & C met and had a very informal general discussion about some of the issues raised at School Council. The matter of Naplan results and the areas for investigation (published in the November PicNews) was raised by one of the parents and discussion arose around this. There will be a presentation from Mr. Negroh on the Naplan results, early in 2014.

Several weeks ago the following parents spent the morning packing and shrink-wrapping the Year 7 Book packs. My thanks to Terri Forster, Adele Wardrop, Melinda Favorito, Kate Hallows, Deborah Driver, Rebecca Batta and Lynette Anderson for their help that day. On the Year 7 orientation day a number of P & C volunteers will also be assisting with the distribution of the book packs.

A decision was made to delay the next Uniform sale until 2014 due to limited items of pre-loved clothing being available for sale. Parents, if you have a child moving from junior into senior uniform, one that is finishing or one who has grown out of their current uniform we accept all donations of uniform items in good condition. Please leave at the office for us to collect.

The Canteen recently held its thank you dinner for staff and volunteers and a very pleasant evening was spent wining, dining and chatting with 30 ladies. At this evening we said farewell to four volunteers, Louise Smith, Tracey Farrell, Leanne Hawke and Lynne Easterbrook who between them had given 38 years of voluntary service to the Canteen. We also paid tribute to one of our volunteers Michal Hopa, whose children have left school but she continues to do canteen duty. A big thank you was extended to our hardworking

supervisors Corinne and Margaret and to Leigh who is our on-call casual. Without the Canteen the P & C would be hard-pressed to support the school financially.

Finally at the P & C meeting it was my pleasure to make a presentation to two very hardworking members of the P & C committee. Mrs. Lynne Easterbrook has served on the P & C and school canteen for 11 years while her boys have been students at PPHS and she has been a very proactive member of the Finance Committee in this time also. She served on this committee for at least three terms (six years). Mrs. Louise Smith served on the P & C for 9 years and spent a good five years as the treasurer of the School Canteen Committee, one of the most time consuming of all roles. She also contributed to many activities of the P & C throughout that time. We wish both these ladies well as they move on to life without a school aged child!

On this note I wish all our families a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year. The P & C will be looking for new volunteers next year and I urge parents to come along to our meetings and participate in the discussion and decision making. The first meeting for 2014 will be 17th February in A Block.

Christine Butters - P & C President

Email: bjcmbutters@yahoo.com.au



Michel's (Revesby)

Student of the Month

2013 October

	Name	REASON FOR THE AWARD
7	Jackson Smith	Consistent effort and positive approach in all subjects
8	Ben Armytage	Consistent and positive application to his studies.
9	Sarah Luscombe	Committed efforts and improvement in all her subjects
10	Brooke Habony	Conscientious application in all subjects and achieving excellent results in Commerce and Geography.
11	Arin Cockle	Most improved student in Year 11.



Michel's (Revesby)



Student of the Month

2013 November

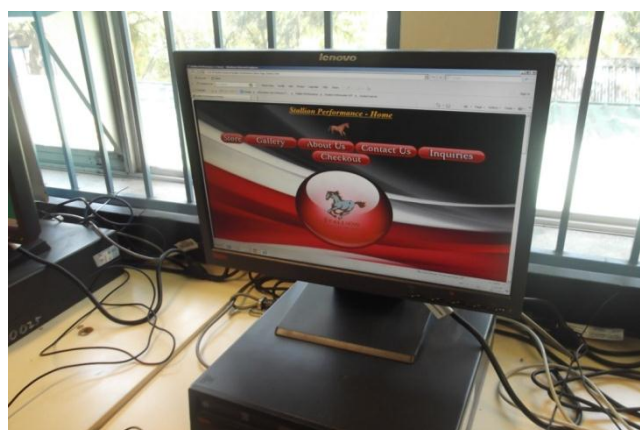
	Name	REASON FOR THE AWARD
7	Tahlia Brackley	Outstanding contribution to extra-curricular sport and great effort in all subjects.
8	Wing Pang	Committed efforts in all subjects and an excellent report for Semester Two.
9	Sam Mourad	Significant improvement overall in all subjects
10	Marah Grice	Fantastic contribution to school assemblies and extra-curricular activities
11	Emily Rotziokis	Committed efforts in all subjects and an excellent report for Semester Two.



Computing Studies Report

Year 9 students have been busy producing a website this term. They are learning how to produce webpages via Hyertext Markup Language (HTML) coding and adding various elements including sound, image, animation and in some cases video.

Here is an example of some of the student's work in class this term.



Mr O'Mullane - TAS Faculty

Victor Chang Awards 2013

The Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute School Science Awards have been developed to encourage an interest in Science among secondary school students and promote Science as a rewarding career choice.



This year Kevin Lim received his Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute School Science Award on The 19th November. This award is given to the highest achiever in scientific studies throughout the year. He was nominated for this award because he is an industrious and dedicated student who has achieved excellent results this year in both Preliminary Physics and Chemistry. Kevin is currently ranked first in Physics. He is a student of exceptional calibre who has shown raw ability in understanding complex scientific theories. Kevin thrives in challenging himself and enjoys working through complex scientific problems. His enthusiasm towards his learning is impressive and he is a role model to his peers. Congratulations to Kevin on achieving this award.



The awards ceremony was held at the Campbelltown campus of UWS. It was a very moving and wonderful ceremony. Award recipients from 62 schools from the South Western Sydney Region gathered together along with their proud parents and teachers. The highlights of the ceremony were the DVD presentation on the work of Victor Chang, inspirational lecture by the Dean and Prof of Medicine, Dr Annemarie Hennessy and the presentation of awards by Ann Chang.

Lisa Ng & Simran Kaur



Year 12 Chemistry Polymer Lecture

On Monday, 25th November, Year 12 Chemistry students visited UWS South Parramatta for a Polymer Lecture presented by Associate Professor Gary Dennis. This supplemented the learning that students had completed in the classroom and was presented by a practicing research polymer chemist.

The best part about the lecture was watching a polymer similar to silk being made in front of our eyes, with just the mixing of two chemicals. As the Professor pulled the strands out of the mixture, more was made as the two liquids touched.



It was like watching a magician pull a tissue out of his hat. All students made their own polymer of slime to take home.

Mrs N Sherry - Head Teacher Science Faculty

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### Library News

We are well into our busiest time of the year in the library, stocktaking our entire collection and encouraging all students to return the books they have borrowed before the end of the year. We ask that parents and students have a good hunt around their homes and return all library books (they have a barcode on the front cover that states "Picnic Point High School"). Books can be left at the office in A Block.

Certificates for our successful Premier's Reading Challenge students will be arriving in December. This year 9 students will be receiving a Gold certificate (for completing the Challenge for 4 consecutive years) and 9 will be receiving a Platinum certificate (for completing the Challenge for 7 consecutive years). 70 students will receive a certificate for completing the 2013 Challenge.



Our exciting news is that we have launched a renovation of the library. Mr Colbert and some of his students have cut

down the old shelves to create a more inviting, open and user-friendly environment.



**Brandon Cook is reassembling the shelves that have been cut down in height to 150cm.**

Students and staff have commented that it is easier to find books. Mr Monger is converting old book ends into stands so that we can display our books. We have overhauled our collection, making the library more competitive with the information available through computers.



**Lunchtime in the new-look, open library**

Enjoy reading over the holidays – hopefully Santa will leave you a book or two!

**Marion Aranjo - Teacher Librarian**

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Reminder

To Parents - Pic News

Picnic Point High School would like all Parents and Carers to have regular access to PIC NEWS.

To assist in the distribution of the electronic copy of PIC NEWS we ask that Parent and Carers please provide the school with an updated email address(es) so the school can include you in our PICNEWS distribution list.

The **school calendar** can also be **accessed** from the school website.

You can update the school with your details via the school e-mail address of picnicpth.school@det.nsw.edu.au 02 9772 1700 or via letter.



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award.**



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Peer Support Training

On Wednesday, November 13 and Thursday, November 14, 2013, 57 Year 9 students participated in two days of Peer Support Training. Over these two days we learnt many new skills and participated in many games and activities to help us become peer support leaders.

On Wednesday morning we were split into three different groups. Thank you to Ms Mitchell, Mr Blayerveen, Mr Wright and Ms Latty for mentoring these 3 groups.



We were escorted to different classrooms to commence our training for the next two days. During this training, we learnt about leadership, interaction styles, communication elements, decision making, problem solving, facilitation and more skills needed to become a peer support leader.



We also participated in many games, a few being teamwork orientated. All the games helped us to develop our communication and leadership skills. A few examples of these include:

- Working in a group to make codes for the numbers 0-9 and then using these codes to figure out a 3 digit number that had been issued to one person in the group.
- Working in a group and playing 'taboo.' This is a game where each person was issued with a series of words that the group has to guess without the person saying the word.
- Working in a group to design a machine with our bodies from a particular room in the house.

On Thursday the three groups came together in the hall to talk about our experiences over the two days and the impact of this training. We then had a wonderful sausage sizzle to celebrate our efforts in training to be new peer support leaders!



I would like to say a big thank you to Ms Stavros, Ms Marquis, Ms Mitchell, Mr Blayerveen, Mr Wright and Ms Latty for all their help over the two days. I am sure all of the Year 9 students that participated in the peer support training program would agree they did a fantastic job and everything ran smoothly.

Kirsty Marquis



Cast of Picnic Point Has Talent Show
Renee Hewson – Year 7 – performing “Fever”



Renee

Christos Mangos – Year 7 – performing “Counting Stars”



Christos

Batton Twirling Year 10



Emma Jackson
Kira Vanags
Stacey Hayward
Danica Anderson
Sarah Lord
Emily Taylor



The Outlawz Dance Crew



**Jake Carter – Year 9, Kane Carter – Year 12
Drew Fitisemanu – Year 8**

Dancing

Imogen Wallace - Year 7
Alana Cox – Year 9



Imogen & Alana

Year 7 Punk Rock Band



Zac Borkowski , Mathew Blight, Andrew Ahern & George Bakopoulous



Ned

Year 10 Band performing Angus and Julia Stone medley



Mara Grice, Josh Kleckin & Matthew Roberts



Bankstown City Council is providing free buses to Cronulla Beach for young people and their parents/guardians on the following days:

- Tuesday 14 January 2014
- Thursday 16 January 2014
- Tuesday 21 January 2014
- Thursday 23 January 2014



BUS 1 and 2 will depart from the following pick up points

- 9am - The Roundabout Youth Centre, Helen Street corner Carlingford Road, Sefton
- 9.15am - Greenacre Area Community Centre, 171a Waterloo Road, Greenacre
- 9.30am - 69 The Mall, Bankstown (on Paul Keating Park side, opposite Lincraft)

BUS 3 and 4 will depart from the following pick up points

- 9am - Panania Railway Station, Panania on Weston Street side
- 9.15am - Revesby Railway Station, Revesby on Blamey Street side
- 9.30am - Padstow Railway Station, Padstow on Howard Road side

All buses depart Cronulla Beach at 3pm SHARP and return to the pick-up points as above.

Bookings are not required; the program operates on a 'first come, first served' basis.

For details visit www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au or Contact 9707 9605.



Year 9 PASS class report

This Semester in Year 9 PASS we have learnt fitness components and the different types of training. In groups we created a sport, over about 6 weeks, which we then showed and explained to the rest of the class. Each group had the opportunity to teach and participate in the different games each group came up with. This was an enjoyable task because we learnt new games and activities while working in small groups and discussing ideas with our friends.

Earlier in the semester we were lucky enough to have a class fitness training course ran by Nathan (Optimal Personal Training) in the gym provided by the school. Over the term we participated in many different activities created by Nathan such as boxing, TRX training, circuit training, body weight exercises and many more fitness related activities.

Overall this semester Year 9 PASS has been a lot of fun but also very informative. We have learnt a lot about fitness and the variety of ways to keep fit.

Hayley Riley, Aly Larkin & Brooke Balmer



Motivational Speaker for Boys

High school holds many great memories for everyone; whether it is excursions, camps, formals, academic achievements, friends or just anything and everything! Everyone has many great, fun and amazing times at high school. For me one of the most memorable, awesome and inspiring things I'll remember about high school was the motivational boys speaker that spoke to us on Tuesday, November 26 - Nathan Hulls.



The event started at 9:00am in the Hall and went for 2 hours up until 11:00am. From the very start right down the very last minute, Nathan made the session enjoyable, informative, fun and quite inspirational. After introducing himself he started talking about something I've never really thought about before: not only does taking negative thoughts you have about something and trying to change them into positive ones help how you react and feel towards something, but also just merely changing how you look at a task or object can dramatically change your whole attitude towards something. This alone was mind blowing, but Nathan then shared with us something I never would have guessed.



He has a rare disease in which two bones that are normally in the elbow that are separated and allow us to turn our arms so that our palms face flat and upwards are not separated but rather infused into the elbow making that simple actions we do every day impossible for him. He explained to us how he was picked on a lot during school for this disease. He also explained how at one point he just felt like giving up on

actually trying to accomplish anything in life because he felt he would always be looked down upon for having this disease he couldn't help having, the disease his simply couldn't get rid of no matter how much he wanted to.



I really felt sorry for him, to think one small thing stopped him from being what society states is normal. However the next thing he said made me even more inspired than ever. He said that he woke up one day and was just sick of being picked on by something he knew he couldn't control. He said from that day on he wanted to prove to everyone that he could do anything he wanted to even with this disease. He said the disease was something he was proud of because it made him who he was and now he wouldn't have it any other way.



For the next 50 minutes or so we spoke about how we should always try to think positive and always stay true to ourselves. We played some games and did some fun activities teaching us that because something is bigger, it does not mean it's better.

Overall the whole experience will be one I'll personally always remember. It was fun and a real learning experience. It opened my mind - Nathan was a great speaker and made the experience amazing. I hope to participate in more of these workshops in the future and I think Nathan deserves a lot of praise for becoming so successful despite all the obstacles that stood in his path.

Kirsty Marquis



Year 12 Hospitality

Year 12 Hospitality students were involved in a practical assessment task that required them to research and present an appetiser of their choice.



As you can see there were some wonderful creations and proud owners. Well done to everybody!

Alison Buller - Technological and Applied Studies

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### Touch Football Report

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of November Year 7&8 Girls Touch Football team travelled to Bathurst to compete in the Final 20 of the state NSW touch finals.

Throughout the day we had to play 5 games with an early start of 9.00am. We lost the first game by one with all the girls still waking up. We then got warmed up to play some great touch to win the second game. We lost convincingly to Hills Sports High School and with fatigue setting in had a close game 4 to lose by 1 again.



In the last game of the day we played very well to have a draw in a hard fought game. We improved so much through the day and enjoyed the experience of playing at that level of competition. Unfortunately we missed out on the quarters by 1 point to finish 10<sup>th</sup> in the state.



I'd like to thank our coaches Stacey, Tahlia and Shaylie for all the time they spent helping us out including on the day and our early morning Tuesday trainings.

**Georgia Anderson**

### Cricket Report

The Open Girls Cricket team have started the defence of their State Title in very convincing fashion. Having won very easily against Bass High they played East Hills Girls and again had a very comfortable victory. After dismissing them for 29 with Ash Miller, Ash Gardner and Mary Molloy sharing the wickets we scored the runs for the loss of 2 wickets with Moesha Potter cracking a great shot to the boundary in her first bat in cricket.



***Ashlee Miller pictured bowling in last season's knockout final win. Kristen Dick looks on.***

We then played the Regional Final against Mt Annan High. After being sent in to bat in a 30 over split match we finished our first 15 overs at 1 for 135 with Ash Gardner on 70no and Mary Molloy 43no. They showed what quality players they are by playing shots to every part of the ground. We then bowled and Ash Miller again got things rolling with a great spell of 3 for 5 off her first 4 overs. Rachel Iveli bowled well at the other end followed by wickets to Ash Gardner and Mary Molloy. With 3 wickets left we brought on Maddie Rae and Sarah Betelilis and they both bowled superbly. Sarah took 2 wickets and Maddie the last one as we dismissed Mt Annan for 49. This puts us through to the last 16 in NSW for the 11th or 12th time in a row which is an outstanding effort.

The U/14 Mark Waugh Shield team has also had a very successful competition. Dominant wins against Holsworthy, Fairfield and John Edmondson High put us in the Qualifying Final against a very solid side from Leumeah High. After losing the toss we were asked to bat first. Hayden Probert set about dominating the innings and scored a superb 88 before being caught on the fence. He was well supported by Nathan Simmons (29) and Mitchell Edmunds and John Rorison. After a dose of heat stroke from batting we had to start with only 10 men as Hayden had some time off the field. Tommy Lang and Jacob Hill bowled very tight and had them well behind the run rate early before Jayden Contreras and Mitchell Edmunds came on and continued to build pressure through quality bowling.

A super catch from Jacob Hill removed one of their key players and this was followed by a sensational catch by Mitchell Edmunds in the deep to remove their captain and dangerman. Mitchell's fielding was an absolute standout and he finished with 3 catches. John Rorison then came on and took 4 late wickets to dismiss Leumeah for 119. This puts the boys into the final of the competition against Westfields Sports. If the boys play as well as they can and hold their catches I have no doubt they can defeat Westfields and win the Mark Waugh trophy for the second time. Good luck boys!

**Mr Millican**





## LOTE Report

### Preparing for 2014

The Japanese teaching and learning programmes for 2014 are now being finalised. All students in Year 8 next year will complete their mandatory 100 hours of Japanese through a single period of Japanese per week. Students who have elected to study Japanese in Years 9 and 10 should keep all of their Japanese Workbooks as we will continue to use them throughout the Stage 5 course. Students in Year 11 and 12 will purchase new workbooks at the beginning of 2014, but should keep all of their previously used workbooks as materials for revision.

### Japan Trip 2014

Only 9 months until we fly out to Japan! Many Japan Trip families are interested in organising some fundraising activities in 2014 to raise money for our trip and we would love the support of the whole Picnic Point High School community! Further details to come next year!

### Presentation Day

Presentation Day was on Thursday, December 12 and we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the Japanese award winners. All students are to be commended on their fine achievements in 2013!

### Year 9 Japanese Excursion to the Nihongo Tanken Centre

On Wednesday, November 27, our Year 9 Japanese class visited the Nihongo Tanken Centre at Kirrawee High School. This is such a valuable excursion for our elective students as it provides the opportunity for complete immersion into a 'real life' Japanese cultural experience. Below is a report of the excursion from Kiarne Bitz and Shontelle Swinfield.

### The Nihongo Tanken Centre

On Wednesday, November 27, the Year 9 elective Japanese class went to the Nihongo Tanken Centre at Kirrawee High School. The 2 hosts, Yoshi and Mieko, welcomed us with open arms and they were very excited to work with us.



The day was filled with nothing but Japanese. No English at all! We participated in many different activities that helped us with our Japanese. All the activities were so much fun and we could all have a laugh. We also learnt new things at the Tanken Centre which was great. The Year 9 class had such a blast and were sad that we had to leave such a great place.











Thanks so much to our two wonderful teachers Ms Mitchell for taking us and to Ms Marquis for organising such a wonderful day that we will always remember.

ありがとうございます!



#### Japan Day and Student Fair

On Saturday, November 30, 2013, Katelyn Middlemiss and Tammy Lucas [Year 11] and Madeleine Buckley [Year 10] attended the Japan Day and Student Fair, held at Books Kinokuniya. This event was hosted by the Institute for the Liberal Arts, Doshisha University, Japan. This event was a great opportunity for students to experience Japanese culture, arts and education. Students participated in tea ceremony, conversation with native Japanese speakers, manga drawing, Ikebana and wearing a yukata [Japanese summer kimono].



Finally, we would like to thank all our students for their hard work during 2013 – we have enjoyed watching you make fantastic progress in developing your knowledge of the Japanese language and culture! We wish all students and their families a safe and happy holiday, and look forward to working with everyone in 2014.

メリークリスマス!

Ms Marquis and Ms Mitchell



あけましておめでとうございます  
(Happy New Year!)



## Schools Spectacular 2013

The Schools Spectacular celebrated its 30th Anniversary. Since 1984 this event has grown to become more than just a showcase highlighting the talents of the students of New South Wales public schools. It is an iconic cultural event incorporating students from diverse backgrounds and communities from the length and breadth of the state.



The cast of the Schools Spectacular is comprised of 3,600 of the state's most talented singers, dancers and musicians. An extensive audition process is carried out across the state to bring together the 1,300 voice choir, 80 piece orchestra, 2,000 dancers and talented soloists.



Students from more than 400 public schools across NSW rehearse for months in preparation for four fantastic shows over two days and nights. Audiences witness the wealth of talent in our public schools and the impressive results of the teamwork and camaraderie that develop during the months of preparation.

The Schools Spectacular brings together students of all ages, cultures, skill sets and performance backgrounds and offers them the opportunity for further growth through a rich and rewarding program. It is a unique opportunity for students who

attend NSW public schools and highlights the talent, commitment and optimism of our youth who create a memorable experience.



Congratulations to all the students from Picnic Point High School who performed with excellence. All their hard work, long hours and dedication really paid off. All dancers exceeded expectation as the show was a spectacle of bright colours, fun and excitement.

**Justine Shlom**



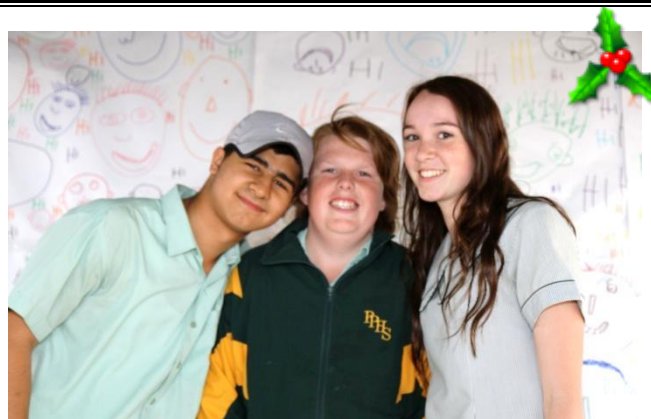


## 'I say Hi!' Campaign Day

On Friday the 22nd November, Social Inc. at Picnic Point High organised an 'I say Hi!' campaign day to celebrate social inclusion. The main objective was to promote an increase in the awareness of the school community about students with a disability and to enhance a culture of social inclusion. Bankstown Council and the whole school community supported this event. Our invited guests from Broderick Gillawarna School and Sir Joseph Banks High School enjoyed many opportunities to experience social interaction in a very friendly atmosphere.

The day was filled with many interesting activities such as a magic show, singing performance, dance session and touch footy game. We were very happy that Tony Williams from the Canterbury Bulldogs was able to participate in the day and that Carlos Biggemann was present to show his amazing collection of photographs – their presence made the day even more special.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported and contributed to the Social Inc. 'I Say Hi!' Campaign. It has been an extraordinary experience to learn that there are so many of you ready to assist and support our Social inc. event. My big 'THANK YOU' goes to all the students involved in different activities on the day. They are the most amazing, open, warm and embracing young people who have demonstrated admirable qualities of inclusion that mainstream society may not see as important. Those students are the true advocates for social inclusion and we are very proud of them and their great contribution.







'The ultimate goal is to raise awareness of how easy it is to include by just saying 'Hi' to someone and starting a conversation. It takes bravery...it takes guts to put yourself out on a limb and smile at a stranger, but it can make ALL the difference to someone's day. Teeny-tiny steps can make ALL the difference.

**Natalie Bishop - Social Inc.**



#### And the Winners Are

The 'Say Hi!' Photo Competition Winners: Jayden Okunbor 11, Joshua Hawa 7, Samantha Micheletto-Harte 10, Genevieve Webber 7, Jasmine Roche 7, Jacinta Black 7, Sarah Hatton 7, Emily Rotziokos 11, Nicholas Sim 12, Sarah Luscombe 9, Maddison Dimovski 9, Paul Dilonardo 11, Katerina Mihalopoulos 10 and Jake Rowland 11. Congratulations to the winning students !





### Year 9 Motivational Speaker Workshop

In high school, the most memorable experiences come from Year 7 Camp, where canoes are tipped over and spiders invaded cabins; the Year 12 formal & finally, graduation where everyone says goodbye. But one of my favourite memories will definitely be when the lively Katie Pitsis visited Picnic Point for the girls Year 9 Motivational Speaker Workshop.



As soon as all of the girls from Year 9 had taken their seats, we knew we were in for an amazing experience. I can honestly say that I've never met an adult who has so much bounciness and energy before lunchtime. She was incredibly funny, emotional, inspirational and taught us many unforgettable life lessons.



Within two hours, she spoke to us about heaps of different topics, from bullying to what not to do when approaching the world's hottest guy (with a twelve-pack!). She proved to us that beauty is imperfect, the images in magazines aren't always real and there is so much more to us than make-up and straight teeth.



I speak for all of our grade when I say how grateful we are to have had such an amazing experience, and we are so thankful to Katie. We are all Free Spirit Girls!

**Kirsty Marquis**



### Vocational Education and Training

Picnic Point High School Students continuing to achieve success in areas of Vocational Education and Training.



Congratulations to Aaron McAndrew (Construction) and Sarah Wardrop (Entertainment) – Winners of Vocational Education and Training Excellence Awards at the 2013 Rotary Awards Evening.



### TAS Report

As I sit here writing this article for PIC NEWS, I can't believe that it is already December; where has the year gone. Well what a busy year it has been in the TAS faculty and an extremely productive one with lots of excellent projects produced.

At this time of year we reflect and look back at the year that has just past and we celebrate all the student successes. I congratulate not only those students that have achieved 1<sup>st</sup> place in a course but for all those students that have constantly strived to achieve their own personal best.

I would like to take this opportunity to farewell a member of the TAS faculty Catherine James and wish her well in her around the world adventure, I hope she enjoyed her time at PPHS and I know that students have greatly appreciated all of her hard work and dedication.

For their last assessment task, the Year 10 Textiles girls needed to design and produce a costume suitable for a fancy



dress party. The costume needed to include a recycled item so that the girls address the sustainability issues that the textile industry is currently facing.



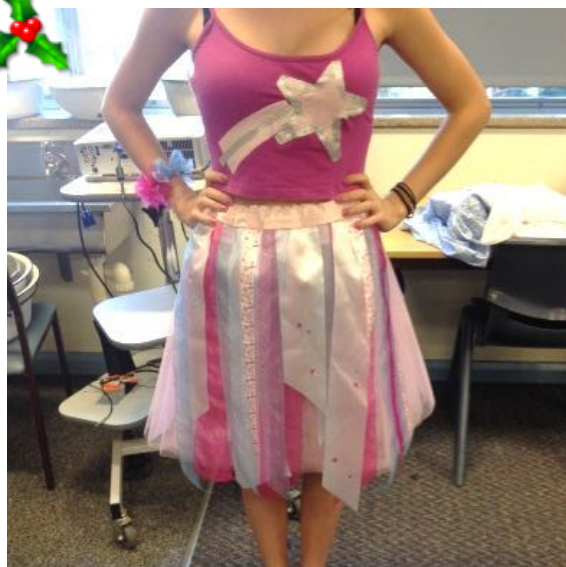
**Kira Vanags** - Wonder woman



**Sarah Lepre** - Pocahontas



**Taylor Dawson** - Dorothy



**CassFavorite** - Fairy



**Kathleen Nguyen** - Sailor



### Year 9 Food Technology

The practical component of the Year 9 Food Technology's assessment task "Food Photography"



**Emily Kannedy** intently working on the decoration of her Angle cake





*The finished Angel Cake*



*Angela Humphry's cake*



*Chelsea Cook's Thai Beef Salad*



*Eryn Dimopoulos's chicken pie with pear salad.*

**Year 9 Industrial Technology** Timber & Metal classes last project the Jewellery box





## Year 9 Tool Box's



As part of the Year 7 program, student are to undertake their own individual practical to create a simply meal that would be suitable to serve in their mock Café. Year 7 thoroughly enjoyed this task, as it allows for their individual skills to be showcased.



**Hayden Sherry**



**Gemma Bell**



**Joel Williams**





**Patrick Christodoulou**

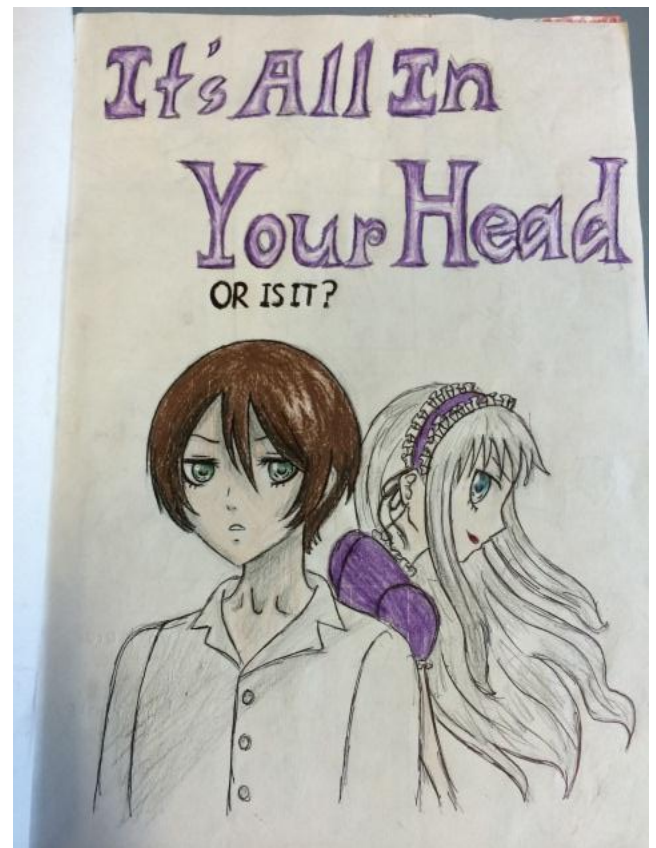
**Year 11 Construction** class completing the Concreting module construction making an additional learning space for the future construction classes to utilise.



**Year 11 Food Technology** classes latest assessment task.



**Year 7 Graphics Task**





In Week 9 we welcomed our new year 7 students for 2014 into the TAS faculty. This was an opportunity for them to be introduced to our department and receive a little taster of the type of skills and experiences they will have at PPHS.

I would like pass on a huge thank you to everyone that has supported the TAS faculty throughout the year and look forward to your continued support.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and safe holiday.

Looking forward to a productive and fun filled 2014.

**Paul Burgess - Head Teacher TAS**



### **Year 10 Adviser Report**

At the end of Week 9 our Year 10 students will conclude their two-week work experience and I believe they all have enjoyed their chosen work related opportunities.

In Week 10 all students will be engaged in a Financial Education Program organised by Mr Schomberg, the School Deputy and provided by presenters from the Commonwealth Bank Group. This interesting workshop aims at promoting financial literacy in order to lay strong foundations for financial wellbeing through every stage of our lives.

As the year comes to a close we would like to thank our students and their parents for their support during 2013. Without your support and ongoing reinforcement of the school's values, we would not be able to maintain a safe and productive environment where students are able to achieve their personal best. On this note, I would like to congratulate all those students who have improved their results significantly and have been invited to the Deputy's Morning Tea on Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup> December. Congratulations to: Joshua Bryant, Ellie Croft, Jacob Farrow, Cassandra Favorito, Julia Frazer-Nolan, Bianca Howard, Samantha Jones, Alexandra Lippis, Jasmine Lloyd, Samantha Micheletto-Harte, Luke Parmaxidis, Courtney Peterson, Jamie Reynolds, Hayley Soban, Liam Stokehill, Duncan Thompson and Marissa Venditti.

Mr Richard Nikolovski has been successful in a merit selection process and will be taking up a new position as a Social Science teacher at Hurlstone Agricultural High School. He will be greatly missed as a hard working, caring and supportive member of our Welfare team, by both students and his colleagues. I would like to thank Mr Nikolovski for all his efforts and wish him well in his new school. Ms Justine Shlom will take over as Year 11 Assistant Year Adviser from the beginning of next year. I congratulate her on securing this position and look forward to working together in the near future.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and I look forward to 2014 when Year 11 students will continue to pursue their goals and aspirations.

Best wishes and Merry Christmas,

**Monika Bray - Year 10 Adviser**



### **Year 8 Report**

As we quickly approach the end of the year, I would like to congratulate Year 8 students on the positive way they have continued their studies at high school.

Year 8 students have been given the opportunity to learn new subjects and participate in many whole school events. They have also selected their elective classes for Stage 5.

In particular, I would like to congratulate the following students on their outstanding achievements this year. It is wonderful to see so many Year 8 students participating in extra-curricular activities. Keep it up!

- Georgia Korch and Olivia Webster – String Movement Presentation at Formal Assembly
- Thomas Alexakis, Clarice Mok, Daniel Papagianopoulos and Hayden Probert – Bankstown Youth Awards Nominees
- Georgia Anderson – Swimming Age Champion; Zone Cross Country Age Champion; State Cross Country
- Madeline Carroll, Ethan Bowmaker and Hayden Probert – Athletics Age Champions
- Riley Butler – State Athletics
- Hannah Eirth – Talent Advancement Program: Singing
- Annalise Summers and Daniel Papagianopoulos – Master of Ceremonies at the East Hills Choral Festival
- Drew Fitisemanu – Member of 'The Royal Knights' Hip Hop Crew: Placed 25th at the World Hip Hop Championships in Las Vegas
- Annalise Summers and Madeline Carroll – Organisers and Master of Ceremonies for the School Talent Show
- Emily Reynolds and Emma Atkins – School Spectacular

It has been my pleasure to support Year 8 through their second year at Picnic Point High School. Ms Kourouche and I look forward to working with our students again next year. Merry Christmas! Happy Holidays!

**Ms S Mitchell**



## Year 7 Final Report

It has been a very successful year for 7 students. Although it can be a daunting experience walking into a big school for the first time, Year 7 has risen to the challenges and the expectations of being in High School.



Ms Martin and I have been very impressed by the enthusiasm and determination with which most Year 7 students have approached their school experiences throughout the year.



Year 7 camp was a great experience and we witnessed the unbelievable talents and strengths of so many of the year group.



The school has been overwhelmed by the enthusiasm with which year 7 has performed at our Year Assemblies: the singing, dancing and band performances have been outstanding. We have had a variety of different chairpersons

and I encourage all students next year to keep volunteering to perform and chair as it's an excellent chance to increase confidence and leadership skills.



A large number of students participated in the Leadership program. Year 7's attendance and participation at all carnivals was largest of all the year groups. We had many students go on to represent at Regional, State and CHS Carnivals in Athletics, Cross Country and Swimming.

Furthermore, our students have been a part of the winning State Cricket team and Runners up in the Open Baseball Competitions. We have had regional champions in Touch Football, Soccer, Cricket and Water Polo and participants in state finals in various sports.

Our Year 7 dancers have performed at regional dance festivals and School Spectacular. Also, our singers and performers have performed both at school concerts and at a regional level.



Academically, our students have performed very well and have been challenged in a wide range of subjects. Students should now look forward to meeting the demands of Year 8 and developing new skills and friendships in their new classes next year. For some students Year 8 will be an opportunity to start fresh and focus more fully on developing academic skills. For those who have achieved great results we look forward to your continuing success as you take on the challenges of a new year.

Ms Martin and I have thoroughly enjoyed our duties as Year Advisers this year and we would like to congratulate the cohort on their application and efforts. We look forward to another great year in 2014.

**Mr S Smith**



## Essential Secondary Science Assessment (ESSA)-2013

ESSA online is an interactive test containing video, audio, animations, graphics, text and a variety of test item types. All year 8 students in NSW government school and participating non-government schools completed this test from 11<sup>th</sup> November to 15<sup>th</sup> November this year.



ESSA online assesses science in local and global real world situations in which students can recall and apply their Science knowledge, understanding and skills. It is a 90 minute online test where the online format of the assessment assists to better engage students by being interactive and using multimedia.

Prior to sitting for the ESSA test year 8 students sat for a "readiness test" from 9<sup>th</sup> September to the 17<sup>th</sup> October. This was to familiarise students with the navigation tools, types of multimedia used and the variety of test items that occur in ESSA online through a set of practise items.



At PPHS, Year 8 students sat the ESSA online test on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> November in their normal Science classes.

The students' behaviour was exemplary during the test reflecting their commitment to learning. Year 8 students are commended on their excellent attitude and approach towards this test.

The results will be made available to parents and schools during Term 1, 2014. The report will provide parents and schools with valuable information about the performance of individuals and groups of students.

**Simran Kaur**



## Our talented Students



**Gordon opener, Mary Molloy.**

This article was on the front page of Cricket NSW: NSW U/18 representative Mary Molloy scored her second First Grade century for the summer during Gordon's 161 run victory over Sydney during Round Nine action (December 1).

Molloy made 111 out of Gordon's total of 5-234. She hit 12 boundaries during her innings and shared in a 140 run opening stand with her captain, Hannah Trollip (66). Molloy has been one of the form batters in First Grade this season, scoring 374 runs in seven matches at an average of 93.5.

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## Academic Merit List

The following students were ranked in the top 50 in their year group at the end of year reports. This is based on their performance over all of their subjects. Students with an \* after their name were ranked in the top twenty. Of particular note are those students who have made significant academic improvement in their rank compared to semester 1.

### Year 7

Top 50 students - Andrew Ahern\*, Andrew Alexakis\*, Sara Allouche\*, George Bakopoulos\*, Gemma Bell, Jacinta Black, Matthew Blight, Zac Borkowski, Tahlia Brackley, Emma Bray, Thomas Bush\*, James Butler, Patrick Christodoulou\*, Isabel De Araujo\*, Matthew Fartek, Emma Forster\*, Adam Gibson\*, Tim Gray\*, Sarah Hatton\*, Luke Knebusch, Abbey Leedow\*, Brianna Levar\*, Nathan Linabury\*, Jessica Luth, Hayley Macdonald\*, Christos Mangos\*, Adrienne Mihalopoulos, Simone Myers, Martin Nguyen, Nancy Nguyen, Tiffany Nguyen\*, Teisha Okunowski, Ali Oreibi, Keely-Shaye Parnell, Andrew Pham\*, Hayden Sherry\*, Ally Shumak, Ryan Solo, Rachel Stace\*, Nicky Ta, Scott Thompson, Katie Vernon\*, Cameron Walsh\*, Harrison Walther, Genevieve Webber, Jade Weston, Bradley Wheeler, Connor Whitley, Rhea Yan, Brian Yue-Lap-Wan

**Significant academic improvement** - Lori Atherton, Jacinta Black, Matthew Blight, James Butler, Peter Coote, Jake Cvijanovic, Tara Duryea, Kurt Godbier, Samantha Lecce, Logan McBride, Huy Pham, Debesh Regmi, Ally Shumak, Joshua Williams, John Wood

### Year 8

Top 50 students - Thomas Alexakis\*, Georgia Anderson\*, Sage Anderson, Tess Anderson, Maria Argiropoulos, Ben Armytage, Emma Atkins, Jackson Bell, Lauren Brutovska\*, Madeline Carroll, Mitchell Edmunds, Nathan Eirth, Dale Elliott, Olga Gasteratos, Madison Harvey\*, Jacob Hill, Audrey Hoang\*, Jack Hughes\*, Nikki Kayatz-Monahan\*, Emily King, Sean Klimczak\*, Tommy Lang,

Maggie Loizou, Jaimie Loy\*, Konaugh McBride, Sarah McCauley, Joel McNamara\*, Clarice Mok\*, Christine Nguyen\*, Vincent Orogan, Wing Pang\*, Daniel Papagianopoulos\*, Billy Petsalis, Anthony Pham\*, Hayden Probert, Emily Reynolds, Ellen Rotziokos, Bianca Semsarian\*, Victoria Spanos,

Courtney Stamos, Annalise Summers\*, Naomi Tall, Jessica Tan, Bronte Tonks, Mitchell Tran\*, Robin Tran\*, Jade Vong\*, Jonathon Vrtkovski, Aliah Walton, Ryan Williams

**Significant Academic Improvement** - Petar Aladin, Lachlan Barbagallo, Selina Chhor, Hannah Eirth, Dale Elliott, Nathan Elliott, Stephen Howard, James Lambert, Jake McMahon, Emma Roberts, Cameron Scott, Courtney Stamos, Dian Sumanggita, Paulene Taganesia, Connor Urquhart, John Venditti

### Year 9

Top 50 students - Kiarne Bitz\*, Lachlan Bligh, Cameron Blight\*, Elle Bogar\*, Anna Bui\*, Chloe Burgess, Tahlia Burke, Chelsea Cook\*, Alana Cox\*, Cooper Dallimore, Luke Dilonardo, Eryn Dimopoulos, Mitchell Driver, Daniel Eata, Christopher Fartek, Georgia Gale\*, Elly Georgiou\*, Thomas Grozdanovski, Felicity Hassett, Lilly Hassett\*, Angela Humphrys\*, Alex Jackson, Emily Kannedy, Monique

Larkin, Stella Lee\*, Serena Lloyd\*, Antonia Mangos\*, Peter Markantonatos, Alison Martyn\*, Hamish McGeoch, Hayley Millar\*, Daniel Morris\*, Nicholas Morris, Sam Mourad, Lauren O'shea\*, Eric Panayi, Kayla Paterson-Barrie, Emma Peake\*, Ellie Pieters\*, Maddison Pike, Christopher Poulos, Taylah Probert, Heidi Seeto, Caitlyn Smith\*, Louise Stace, Shontelle Swinfield, Theodore Totsis, Zoe Ward Brown, Jeffrey Yung, Annie Zhai\*

**Significant Academic Improvement** - Chloe Arkey, Emma-Lee Borg, Ella Cooper, Cooper Dallimore, James Grozdanovski, Wil Hallows, Jessica Heal Stevenson, Alex Jackson, Sarah Luscombe, Ashlee Miller, Erin Riley, Hayley Riley, Lachlan Ryder, Jessica Sumner

### Year 10

Top 50 students - Nathan Anderson, Nathan Arfanis, Holly Atherton\*, Manisha Banga, Teaghan Bartley, Daniel Black\*, Ronja Blixt, Madeleine Buckley, Jarod Bui, Isabella Bull\*, Timothy Carroll\*, Lauren Cogo, Toni Cooper, Kate Cremasco\*, Ellie Croft, Naryna Dawes, Taylor Dawson, Kristen Dick\*, Andriana Dimoska, Tara Edmiston\*, Liam Greenwood, Marah Grice\*, Tahnya Haddad, Stacey Hayward\*, Isaac Heslop\*, Sean Hill, Vincent Host, Michael Howe, Samantha Jones, Mathew Kahla-Dunn, Kyla King, Joshua Kleckin\*, Sarah Knebusch, Daniel Kotsapas, Sarah Lepre\*, Sarah Little\*, Ilhana Ljukovac\*, Siahn Locklee, Sarah Lord\*, Katrina Mihalopoulos\*, Brayden Miller, Angus Munro, Ryan Nagle, Kathleen Nguyen, Angalene Pavlovic, Kathryn Ricciardone, Matthew Roberts\*, Daniella Tesoriero, Kira Vanags\*, Jayden Zangari\*, Lenae Zmoda\*

**Significant Academic Improvement** - Joshua Bryant, Ellie Croft, Jacob Farrow, Julia Fraser-Nolan, Bianca Howard, Samantha Jones, Alexandra Lippis, Jasmine Lloyd, Samantha Micheletto-Harte, Luke Parmaxidis, Courtney Peterson, Jamie Reynolds, Hayley Soban, Liam Stokehill, Duncan Thompson, Marissa Venditti

### Year 11

Top 50 students - Alexander Adams, Amy Ahern, Saskia Anderson, Matthew Bennett\*, Helen Bui\*, Samantha Carmichael, Marie Christofides\*, Arin Cockle, Anna Droulias\*, Cayley Endicott, Emily Frazer, Simone Giannoulas, Tayla Hall, Juanita Halls\*, Zachary Hatzis\*, Kendall Hull, Jack Ismay, Christina Karageorgis, Marianna Konidaris\*, Chloe Larcombe\*, Dai Le, Michelle Lee\*, Kevin Lim\*, Amanda Lloyd, Shannon Macdonald, Ryan Mackey\*, Sara Matsui-Carroll\*, Jessica Maude\*, Stacey McDonald, Allison McKay, Dean McKinnon, Ellie McWilliams, Katelyn Middlemiss\*, Mary Molloy\*, Tiffany Nguyen, Angel Oreibi, Amalia Pieters\*, Joshua Pratt\*, Jamie Romcke, Emily Rotziokos\*, Joel Ryder, Stacey Savidis\*, Ellie Semsarian\*, Nicole Strickland, Jessica Tomasetta, Phillip Truong, Akshay Veerappa, Lachlan Whelan, Michael Yue-Lap-Wan, Jasmine Ziher

**Significant Academic Improvement** - Tara Adamo, Denise Aviles, Charlie-Anne Bailey, Jenahya Chew, Arin Cockle, Daniel Curran, Nicola Idio, Jack Ismay, Shannon Macdonald, Stacey McDonald, Jake Rowland, Jessica Tomasetta, Zacharia Zaatiti, Jasmine Ziher.

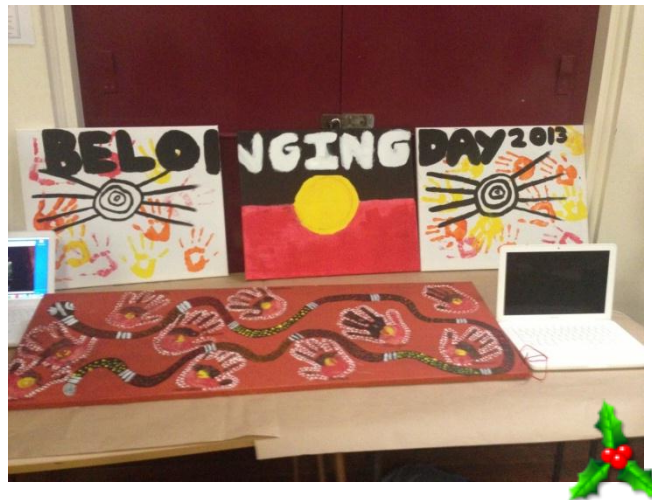


### Belonging Program Presentation Day

On Wednesday the 20th of November, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from primary and secondary schools in the East Hills region attended their final Belonging Day of 2013 at Sir Joseph Banks High School.



Earlier this year, the schools were split into three groups to go on different excursions. One group went to explore Kurnell National Park, one to watch 'My Girragundji' and one to explore Bundeena beach. And exhibition was held at Sir Joseph Banks High School to showcase all that students have learnt from these excursions. Videos, artworks and reports were displayed.



An amazing performance from the Deadly Didjz, which included boys from East Hills Boys Technology High School and Picnic Point High School's Cory Brown and Caleb Trindall using only their didgeridoos, was incredible to watch. It was a very fun and educational day for everyone.



A special thank you to Cristy Hoffmeister from Panania Public School and Gabriella Hespe-Poulos from Picnic Point High School for helping to organise the fantastic day.

By Courtney Baxter, Jessie Bailey and Ryan Selby from Year 8.



## Wooglemai Camp

On Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December Ms Todd-McInerney's class travelled to Oakdale to The Wooglemai Environmental Education Centre accompanied by Ms Wolstencroft, Mr Clay and Ms Goovan. We always have a great time at this camp with fantastic activities to participate in. The students enjoyed archery, bike riding and a long bushwalk searching for Francis Barrallier's journal (an early French explorer who attempted to penetrate the Blue Mountains barrier). The camp took its name from Wooglemai a local Aboriginal who assisted Barrallier when he became lost without water and food.



At night we ate lasagne that the students had made themselves at school and enjoyed stories around the camp fire and star gazing on the oval.



Wednesday was a very challenging day where many students conquered their fears on the high ropes course. All students completed the seven station course and were very proud of themselves.



The students and staff had a great time, with the students displaying great teamwork, encouraging their peers and strengthening their relationships. Building independence is a very important aspect of the camp, being responsible for your own belonging, helping in food preparation and cleaning up.

Ms Todd-McInerney and Ms Goovan would like to thank Ms Wolstencroft and Mr Clay for coming to camp with us, their assistance and sense of fun was greatly appreciated.

**Ms Goovan**



## It Is With a Heavy Heart We Say Farewell to Mrs Heap

It was with some mixed feelings that staff at Picnic Point High School gathered together recently to celebrate the amazing career of Irmgard Heap and farewell her as she moves into retirement. Irmgard's career spans 38 years.

Irmgard was first appointed as an English / History teacher to Blakehurst High School in 1975 where she taught for several years. She was appointed as the mistress in charge of girls and attained List 2 for promotion in the early 80s. After that, Irmgard furthered her qualifications in the area Special Education, being awarded a Diploma in Special Education. She then transferred to Picnic Point High School in 1987 being appointed as a learning support teacher, although she also taught English and German in her early years at Picnic Point. During her time at Picnic Point High School, Irmgard has assisted so many students with all sorts of learning, behaviour and emotional needs. She has been like a mum to everyone but always with that drive and determination to get the best possible learning outcome for every child. Irmgard has helped so many students in her career; it is a true testament to her. She has touched so many lives and always in a positive way.

Irmgard was also the driving force behind the introduction of Special Needs classes in our school with Mr Northall's IM and Mrs Todd-McInerney's and more recently Mrs Bray's IO classes being established, assisting these children with their integration into the main stream wherever possible. It has been 14 years since the Support Unit was established and the impact that Irmgard has made is held in the highest esteem in the local community. Irmgard has always been the biggest advocate for these children who often have the biggest problems in life to overcome.

Irmgard has introduced and trained us all in the best way to support our most needy kids with ILPs, accommodations and modifications becoming a part of what we do and discuss on a day to day basis. She has built a very strong team to support her in this her life's passion. We all wish Irmgard a great retirement, because she absolutely deserves it. I know there are many more overseas adventures ahead of her. Irmgard you will be missed, but your enduring legacy of supporting the learning of children will live on forever. On behalf of the school and the community we thank you for 38 years of dedication to the learning needs of children.

