



PICNIC POINT HIGH SCHOOL

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Principal
Mr Wolly Negroh
B Ed, Dip Teach

December 2011

PIC-NEWS

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

The HSC is over for another year and the School Certificate exams are over forever. I was very pleased when the chief supervisor of exams complemented the behaviour of our students during the exams saying they may have been the best behaved students he has supervised at PPHS.

Congratulations to all students that have achieved success in their learning this year. Students ranked in the top 50 of each year and all the other students that have made improvements in their academic performance this year are to be congratulated.

Some recent successes include:

- Multi-cultural day was a fantastic success and the students showed excellent behaviour and outstanding leadership qualities. A big thank you to the leadership team teachers; Ms Peterson, Ms Stavros and Ms Marquis and our student leaders who spent many hours organising (with their teachers) this event.



- This year's winner of the prestigious Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute Award for outstanding performance in Science in Year 11 is Tayla McGregor.
- Congratulations to Kate Cremasco for winning the 2011 PPHS Kitchen Wizz competition.
- Congratulations to Ms Schlom and the Schools Spectacular performers that danced so well last week.
- Brandon Grochala and Daniel Stone will receive a 2011 SSW Regional Blues Sports award.



- Well done to all 5 students who received a special Gold Certificate in the 2011 Premier's Reading Challenge this year, for completing the Challenge for four consecutive years. They are Jake Carter, Liam Greenwood, Jack Leonard, Olivia Papoutsis and Rachel Taylor.
- Well done to the CAPA teachers and music students for the excellent evening of music on Wednesday night.
- Mary Molloy made the Under 18 NSW cricket team and Ashleigh Gardner made the Under 15s cricket team this year.

A reminder to all students and families that if a student will not be attending on the first day of school in 2012 I will need a letter to confirm the official first day of attendance at school in 2012 to ensure that a position is left open.

With the 2011 academic year ending soon it is time to reflect on a very successful year and thank and celebrate the enthusiasm, talent, hard work, and successes of our students, the teaching and support staff and our parents and families.

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.

In conclusion I extend a very warm and sincere best wishes to all students, staff and parents and thank you for your commitment to learning at Picnic Point High School. We all look forward to the successes and opportunities that 2012 will bring to all members of our school community.

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Deputy's Report – Mr Baczynskyj

The end of the school year is quickly coming to an end and once again it has been a year of fantastic achievements by our students in academic, sporting, extra-curricular, leadership and community service activities. Praise also needs to go to our talented and dedicated staff who continues to raise the quality of education provided at Picnic Point High School whilst also committing hours of additional time to extra opportunities for students.

Year 10 is on work experience after successfully completing their School Certificate year. They will receive their School Certificate, Yearly Report and achievement awards at a special graduation ceremony on Monday December 12 in the school hall. This event celebrates their achievements in the junior school and sees them as the last cohort to receive a NSW School Certificate.

Subject selections for Years 9 and 11 2012 have been completed and students have received confirmation of their elected subjects. If there are any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me. It is timely to give an early reminder that subjects requiring the purchase of additional resources have fees that should be paid as soon as possible in the new school year.

When the holiday season draws to an end and it is time to return to school many parents realise that their child needs new shoes. Please be reminded of the pride we have in the way our students all wear the expected school uniform for both their safety and our school image. In particular, we ensure that the correct footwear is worn as is stated in our school uniform policy. School shoes are to be all black (no white strips etc.) and made of leather. Sport shoes are to be predominately white. There are examples of the correct shoes on the website and you will also find appropriate pictures of the correct footwear in this edition of PicNews.

As always I thank you for the privilege of working with your children as they learn, grow and mature. I wish you all a very safe and happy holiday season.

Adam Baczynskyj

Deputy's Report – Mr Schomberg

I would like to inform parents that the final day for school students this year is Friday 16th December. I have had a couple of parents of Yr12 students contact me to inform me that they will be taking their children on family holidays and leaving early. At Picnic Point High School, we never encourage any activity that takes children away from their learning and assessment during school terms; however, school representation and similar activities do sometimes impede and arrangements can be made for students to catch up on missed work. Unfortunately, students preparing for their HSC do not have this luxury and a family decision to start holidays early may result in a child not completing an assessment task. Family holidays are not grounds for a misadventure appeal. This is why the assessment grids are put together as early as possible so that families can plan around compulsory school activities.

I would like to draw everyone's attention to the Merit Lists published in this edition of PICNEWS. Just to refresh your memories, we are now publishing merit lists that represent the top 50 students in each year group based on their performance at the end of semester reports. Students ranked in the top 20 will receive invitations to the Deputy's morning teas.

I am very pleased with the progress made by the majority of students at the school. It is especially pleasing to see that there are different students who will be receiving invitations to the Deputy's Morning Tea for the end of the year. The competition to improve individual performance has been very encouraging. What has really impressed Mr Negroh, Mr Baczynskyj and myself are the students who have made significant improvements in their overall ranking in their year compared to the half yearly assessment period. Of particular note are the following students who improved their overall ranking by the number in brackets – Patrick Lawrence Yr7 (46), Ashlee Miller Yr7 (38), Georgia Kapsimalis Yr7 (36), Samantha Jone Yr8 (36), Matthew Small Yr9 (31), Brendan Balogh Yr10 (30), Rhiannon Hanson Yr11 (44) and Jimi Mitrevski Yr11 (34).

Students who we deem have made a significant improvement in their performance will also receive invitations to the deputy's morning teas.

I once again congratulate all of the students mentioned in the Merit Lists and in particular, the students who have made significant improvement in their performance.

As the holidays draw near, I would like to wish all students and their families a very merry Christmas, and enjoyable but most importantly a safe holiday break and I look forward to working with everyone again at the start of next year.

School dates 2012

Staff commence on Friday 27th January, Year 7, 11 & 12 start on Monday 30th January and the whole school attend on Tuesday 31st January.

Steve Schomberg



WHAT'S ON

Thurs 5/12	Year 6 Orientation Day
Mon 12/12	Year 10 Presentation Day
	Big Day Out
Wed 14/12	Presentation Day
Fri 16/12	Term Ends for Students
Monday 30/1/2012	Years 7-11-12 Return to School
Tuesday 31/01/2012	Years 8,9,10 Return to School



P & C News Incorporating 50th Anniversary News

Almost at the year's end and it seems hard to believe that our Year 12 students have finished. On behalf of the P & C I wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

The October P & C meeting was held the week after school returned and so there had not been a great deal of activity for Mr Negroh to report to us on.

We did, however, have a lengthy discussion on the wish-list provided to us by Mr. Negroh on behalf of the Heads of each faculty and I am delighted to report that we spent \$30,000.00 on the night. There was only a small number of parents present so they got to make the decisions. Following is a list of the items we approved for purchase:

English Faculty	A class set of novels for Years 7-11
Science Faculty	1 interactive whiteboard and a Signal Generator Wave lab
Industrial Arts	Retooling Wood Workshops & Welding BPI upgrade
CAPA - Music	1 x Jam Hub (Silent rehearsal Studio) 1 x Electronic Drum Kit
CAPA - Dance	TV + wall mount + yoga mats + curtains + class set of books
Mathematics	Funding Mathletics for all students in Yrs 7,8, 9, 11M and 11O Maths Olympiad extension program for Yrs 7 & 8 top classes
Support unit /LST	Variety of items to the value of \$1500
Computing Studies	Robotics for Yrs 9-12 Computing Studies students
Social Science	Digital projector

Following this expenditure and paying for the buses for the Year 12 students formal we will be holding off any other major expenditure until after the 50th Anniversary celebrations in March 2012. We will however be providing upfront funding for some items related to the anniversary celebrations.

Another issue of note raised at this meeting was the number of teachers who will be retiring at the end of this year and the need therefore for Merit Selection panels to be formed in the New Year. These panels require a P & C member or parent representative to participate and currently we have very few who have undertaken the training for this. If you are interested in doing a short training session at the school in the New Year to enable you to participate on Merit Selection panels, please email me or contact Mr. Negroh via the school to indicate your interest so training can be arranged.

I did report in the last Pic-News that I was trying to hold a taste-testing fundraiser on the 7th November. Unfortunately I had to cancel this event yet again due to lack of support from parents at the school.

I had a database of 150 people and I appreciate those who contacted me to say they were not available, also those who volunteered and offered to bring a friend along as well. Sadly I still only managed to get 39 people and I needed 69. Can you all think about this as a very easy, painless way of raising money for the school as when we get a full session we raise upwards of \$1000!!

The October P & C meeting was preceded by the 50th Anniversary meeting and interest in this event is gathering pace. There Anniversary dinner to be held at Revesby Workers club on Saturday 31st March is for ex-students, and past and present staff and parents, so even if you did not attend the school but wish to have a night out with a group of parents from the school this is an ideal night to do it. Forms can be downloaded from the school's website.

Following on from the October meeting there have been two P & C organised activities On Monday 21st November packing of the year 7 packages took place in the school hall and I thank the following people for their assistance in packing and shrink wrapping 180 packages: Lynette Anderson, Terri Forster, Adele Wardrop, Leigh Trindall, Elizabeth Symonds and Deborah Driver. Deborah also sorted all the uniforms for our Pre-loved Uniform sale which was held in the hall on Tuesday. We sold over \$100 worth of goods but still have a lot of senior uniforms in stock if anyone is after some. Can I put out the call now for donations of any outgrown uniforms to be donated as we will have another sale early on next year. We urgently need smaller sizes in girls' tunics, shirts and skirts.

The final meeting of the P & C was held on Monday night 21st November and this meeting was followed by a Christmas supper. At this meeting Mr. Negroh sought P & C opinion on awards for Presentation Day and also discussed the changes to Year 10 for next year (following the abolition of the School Certificate) He will keep us informed next year as the Education Department formalizes the year 10 program. He also briefly discussed the NAPLAN results but will give a formal presentation on these at the February meeting in 2012. One item of concern which was discussed is the payment of school contributions and subject selection fees. School contributions are voluntary however the more that are paid the better resourced the school can be to provide all the subjects. These contributions are different to subject selection fees and as such if your child has chosen to undertake a subject in Years 9-12 which has a subject selection fee for materials used in the course of undertaking that subject then the onus is on you as a parent to pay that fee, some examples are Food Tech and Hospitality, Wood and Metal Tech, Music, Art, Drama and all the VET courses. Currently there are many thousands of dollars of outstanding subject selection fees accumulated over the years! The P & C, at its November meeting, supported Mr. Negroh in taking any action required to ensure that subject selection fees are paid by all students undertaking specific subjects so that the school can spend its budget on areas to benefit all students. There are avenues to receive assistance to pay these fees if required as no-one wants to see a student disadvantaged by the inability to pay the fee, but this is entirely different to someone who chooses not to and thinks the school should pay for everything.

Following on from this discussion we moved to the very pleasant matter of a thank you and farewell to Michelle McGregor from the P & C. Michelle has been actively involved in the P & c for the nine years her two sons have attended the school and has been present at most of our activities. She has been our mainstay as Parent representative on Staff selection panels and as the President of the School Council. While Michelle is leaving the P & C she is staying on the

School Council as our Community representative and is also involved in the 50th Anniversary Committee. A presentation was made to Michelle in recognition of her many hours of service to the school community and P & C.

On behalf of the P & C I extend Christmas greetings to you all and wish you a safe and happy holiday period.

The P & C and School Council will meet again on the 20th February 2012, School Council at 5 pm, 50th Anniversary Committee at 6 pm and P & C at 7 pm.

The 50th Anniversary Committee will also be meeting on Monday 6th February 2012 at 5pm.

Christine Butters - P & C President

Email: bjcmbutters@yahoo.com.au



Michel's (Revesby)

Student of the Month

November 2011

	Name	REASON FOR THE AWARD
7	Caitlyn Smith	Outstanding talent in Creative Writing.
8	Sophie Ventouris	For excellent participation and great aptitude in Industrial Arts and in English.
9	Henry Lim	Applied academic effort.
10	Blane Falconer	For being conscientious and a hard working all-rounder.
11	Brooke Reynolds	For excellent attitude and application in all subject areas.



ACCEPTABLE SPORTS SHOES

CORRECT SHOES



UNACCEPTABLE SPORTS SHOES

INCORRECT SHOES



Michel's (Revesby)

Student of the Month

December 2011

	Name	REASON FOR THE AWARD
7	Lauren O'Shea	Excellent participation and attitude at Kitchen Whiz excursion and great yearly report
8	Vinh Mac	For excellent improvement in social skills area
9	Joshua Thompson	For his hard work and effort in the second semester.
10	Tom Walther	Selected for a Multicultural Workshop; Great improvement in his second semester report.
11	Rhiannon Hanson	For 'Top Improver' in her yearly class results and rank



ACCEPTABLE SHOES

CORRECT SHOES:



UNACCEPTABLE SHOES

INCORRECT SHOES:



M cQ SMASH REPAIRS

179 River Road Revesby
(corner Uranus Rd)
24 Hour Towing - 9771 5826
Obligation Free Quotes - 9771 2335
Courtesy Cars Available
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GIO Recommended Repairer
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Spray Booth Baking Oven



Michel's (Revesby) are
proud sponsors
of the PPHS
'student of the
month' award.



Mondays - Milperra Public School, Pozieres Avenue, Milperra

5 & 6's - 4.30-5.30pm

7 & 8's - 5.30-6.30pm

9 & 10's, 11 & 12's 6.30-8.00pm

Ladies 8.00pm

Tuesdays - Endeavour Hall, River Road, Revesby

13,14,15 & 1st Year Seniors - 7.00-8.30pm

2nd Year & Open Seniors - 8.30 till lights out

Saturdays - Girls Guide Hall, Weston Street, Panania

Under 5's - 9.00-10.00am

Louise - Secretary - 0415 339 035

Debbie - President - 0404 465 439

Janet - Treasurer - 0405 706 179

Helen - Teacher - 0407 893 967

Kirsty - Associate Teacher - 0422 476 325

Email us - lscastellan@bigpond.com

SPORT A MONTH



Give Fly Casting a go in November

Bankstown City Council, in partnership with Lakeside Fly Fishing Club, is offering all residents aged over 10 years old the opportunity to have a go at fly casting (fishing) FREE of charge in the month of November 2011.

Sessions are available on:

Saturdays 5, 12 and 19 November 2011

From 10.00am to 12.00pm

At The Crest Complex - Soccer Field 4 (next to the Velodrome car park)

Enter off Carysfield Road, Bass Hill.

To make a booking Council's call Lakeside Fly Fishing Club on 0408 130 372.

For more information download the [Fly Casting Sport A Month brochure](#).



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TO STUDENTS OF PICNIC POINT HIGH SCHOOL



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 - braces at competitive prices, easy payment plan, latest technology, faster working & fewer appointments
 - expanders & early intervention appliances
- ☺ Laser technology for dental treatment & bleaching
- ☺ White fillings & white crowns
- ☺ Preventative care and early detection of decay
- ☺ Sedation, 'happy gas' & general anaesthesia available
- ☺ Emergencies and new patients welcome
- ☺ Ground level, parking at front
- ☺ Our patients enjoy DVD entertainment whilst being treated



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 E-Mail 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 picnicpt-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au, 02 9772 1700 or via letter.

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Dance in 2011

Congratulations to all the elective and extra-curricular dancers who performed this year at Evening of Dance, Regional Dance Festival, Bankstown East Hills Festival and Schools Spectacular.



All Festivals this year have been brilliantly choreographed full of colour, movement and energy.



All events have been coordinated by Miss Shlom with the assistance of Mrs Robinson.



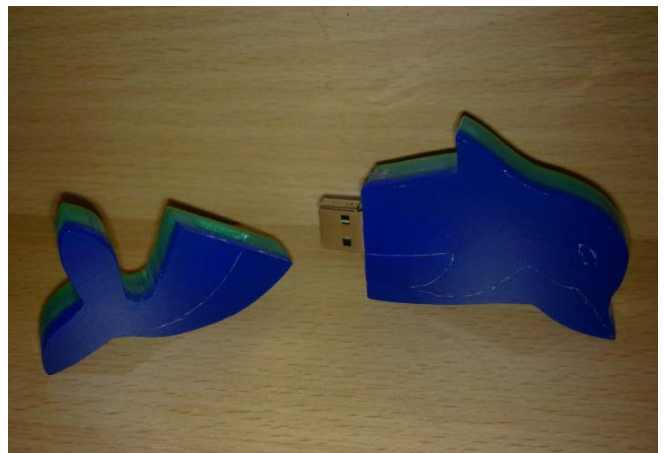
All the performance nights have showcased the talents and dedication of the dancers at Picnic Point High School.
Justine Shlom – CAPA

Industrial Arts

WOW what a year it has been. I cannot believe that 2011 is already nearing an end; it feels like only yesterday that I sat down and wrote the first 2011 PIC news article.

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 1st place in a course but for all those students that have constantly strived to achieve their own personal best.

There has been many excellent projects constructed throughout the year and below are some examples of just a few of the high quality projects that are being produced.



Year 8 USB Holders



Year 7 Storage container

In Week 8 we welcomed our new year 7 students for 2012 into the Industrial Arts department. This was an opportunity of them to be introduced to our department and receive a little taster of the type of skills and experiences they will have at PPHS.

It is always nice when past students drop by and say hello and show off some pictures of projects that have made being used. In 2011 for Industrial Technology Timber Joshua Marshall constructed a small boat here are some pictures of it in use.



The launch



It sails like a dream

I would like to thank everyone that has supported the Industrial Arts 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 jam packed 2012.

Mr P Burgess - Head Teacher Industrial Arts.

Home Economics Faculty Report.

Well another year is coming to a close and it certainly has been a busy term in Home Economics.

We experienced a wonderful opportunity earlier this month when we were approached by the producers of Channel Nine "Kitchen Wizz" (4pm weekdays) to be guest contestants for the upcoming series to be aired in 2012, our 50th Anniversary year. Sixteen of our Year 7 students left PPHS very early for filming at Fox Studios driven by our wonderful bus driver, Mr Negroh with Ms Elwell and myself. The bus was very excited with anticipation of what our roles would be in the show.

On arrival, we were greeted by staff and whisked away quickly for "makeup and hair" before a quick run through of the show, and then filming commenced for 3 shows in the series. The students were a credit to themselves and thoroughly enjoyed the "star experience". All students will receive their prizes once the show has aired. We will notify the school community when our episodes will be aired.

Mastercook

Last week saw the Grand Final of Mastercook. We received many entries and the judges decided to audition 13 budding chefs who created their "Signature Dishes" to tempt the taste buds of the judges. From this, the judges had the difficult decision of selecting the final 5 contestants.



The final 5 prepared a range of dishes using mystery ingredients.





The dishes were amazing and thank you to the judges, Ms Stavros and Ms Marquis and the senior judge, Mr Baczynskyj for their judging (eating) skills in this competition.



Kate Cremasco

Congratulations to Kate Cremasco for winning this competition.

Kitchen Whiz

Everyone was so excited about Kitchen Whiz which is a cooking/quiz show on Channel 9. We couldn't wait to get to Fox studios. We met at school for an early 6am start.



Mr Negroh drove the school bus. Mrs Wardrop and Miss Elwell came too. We arrived at the studios and we were put into our teams, we even had our hair and makeup done! The first pairs to be filmed were Felicity and I versus Thomas and Athan.

The show included 2 quizzes, 2 cooking rounds, an experiment and a bonus round. In the cooking rounds we had to make a cucumber dip and a salad. In the experiment round we made 4 pack lunches in 60 seconds. The winners got to play a bonus round called Alphabetti Soup where you get clues to a 6 letter word and then you must find the letters as the kitchen ninja is throwing them at you. However many letter you find is how many prizes you get. The first show took about 2 hours to film as they were having technical difficulties. It was funny because we had to keep repeating answers and getting screen shots re-taken.



The next 2 teams up were Mere and Elle versus Amber and Zoe. The score was very close at the end and it was very exciting to be in the audience to watch. The last teams filmed were Alison and Eryn versus Phillip and Sam. You could see that everyone was having a lot of fun on the set.



All this filming will make 3 afternoon shows which will be aired sometime next year. If you want to find out the scores and who won you will have to watch the show!



It was a great day and a great experience. Thank you to the teachers that took us and to Channel 9 for inviting us.

By Hayley Millar

Textiles and Design

Recently, Year 12 Textiles and Design (2012) spent the day at Whitehouse Institute of Design developing and designing ideas for the Major Textiles Project for the HSC. It was a wonderful day to have a one-on-one experience with a current fashion designer. The students gained valuable input into their initial design ideas and I look forward to their creations for the HSC next year.

The Home Economics staff are creating a 50th Anniversary cookbook to commemorate this important school event of our history. If you have a favourite "tried and true" recipe you would like included, please forward to: cheryl.wardrop@det.nsw.edu.au by the end of this year. The cookbook will be on sale at our open day in March 2012.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of the school community a Merry Christmas and a peaceful and relaxing new year from the Home Economics staff and we look forward to all the celebrations that next year will bring.

Mrs Cheryl Wardrop - Head Teacher – Home Economics

Christmas comes to Industrial Arts

Ms Buller has been busy in woodwork with Mrs Todd-McInerney's students. We have just completed another project; this time it is mug trees.

The students are shown here in the final stages of completing their work.



Ms Buller presented everyone with a Christmas mug and Santa chocolates to celebrate!

The Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute Awards 2011

This year's winner of the prestigious Victor Chang Award for outstanding performance in Science in Year 11 is Tayla McGregor.



Tayla McGregor with Mrs Anne Chang

Tayla McGregor is a passionate and dedicated Science student. She endeavours to find answers to problems and applies a methodical approach to all her subjects. She has earned first place in both the Years 9 and 10 Science courses and is currently studying Preliminary Biology and Chemistry where she is also ranked first in both these courses. This year she also earned a credit in the ICAS Science competition. Her enthusiasm towards her learning is impressive and she is a role model to her peers. She thrives on completing set tasks and involving herself in extra curricular activities including the Picnic Point High School Environment group.

Nicole Sherry – Head Teacher Science

Multicultural Day WOW what a great day!!!

On Monday 21st of November Picnic Point High School celebrated their first ever Multicultural Day. Since August, when the idea was formulated at Leadership Camp, the Leadership Group, SRC, Prefects and teachers have been working to organise the event.

Our day started at 8:00am with the rush of food to the cooking rooms. For some of us our morning was spent sorting, pricing and preparing food. For others it was the moving and decorating of the variety of stalls on the day. Most of us thought that we might not be able to pull this off or whether the weather will be kind to us. It was and all the stress went away.



The aim of Multicultural Day was to unite the school through the recognition and celebration of the many cultures of the students. We wanted to support and include the whole school by having food stalls selling items from all over the world. These stalls included Greek, Lebanese, Arabic, European, Americas, Australia and Asia.

The official running of the day began at the start of recess. We began with an opening assembly. The school captains, Ruby-Leigh and Patrick, as well as Mr Negroh presented a speech. The welcome to country was performed and then Koreena Leverett sang the Australian National Anthem in the local Aboriginal dialect and then in English.



Throughout the day there were many performances, including: Gatka martial arts, Lion dancing, Polynesian singing and dancing, the Zorba, Bollywood dancing and drumming from Mr Graf and Ms Kourouche. Students could buy food and watch performances as well as participate in some great activities, such as the Sushi Making stall, run by Ms Myles, Ms Mitchell and Ms Marquis, and Henna Painting by Ms Camus.



A highlight we would like to mention was the involvement of everyone in some dances that most people wouldn't dare be caught doing by their friends, however students were getting involved in the hokey pokey, nutbush and the famous YMCA.



We would like to thank all the leadership students that participated in the organisation and setup not only on the day but throughout the term. Also to all the students who brought in the wonderful food, which was the highlight of the day.

The performers we thank for their interesting and mesmerising dances and songs. We would like to thank the teachers and most importantly **Mrs Peterson**, our fabulous SRC coordinator, for without her we would not have pulled this day off. Finally we thank everyone who got involved on the day, your help is greatly appreciated.

Ruby-Leigh Tonks and Patrick O'Reilly
School Captains









LOTE Report

Preparing for 2012

The Japanese teaching and learning programmes for 2012 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 2011, but should keep all of their previously used workbooks as materials for revision.

Presentation Day

Presentation Day is on December 14 and we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the LOTE award winners. All students are to be commended on their fine achievements in 2011!

AFS Host Families

Would you like to host a Japanese exchange student? AFS Intercultural Programs is looking for host families to volunteer to host their AFS exchange students from Japan [aged 15-18 years], who will arrive to Australia on February 10, 2012 to start their 11 month exchanges. As a host family you will benefit from hosting an overseas student in many ways. You will see the world through the eyes of another culture, learn about other parts of the world and experience the fun of sharing your lives with lives of another culture. If you are interested in hosting a Japanese exchange student please contact: **Gabriela Sauero** - AFS National Office on (02) 9215 0045/gabriela.sauero@afs.org

メリークリスマス!

We would like to thank our students for their hard work during 2011 – we have enjoyed watching you make progress in Japanese! We wish all students and their families a safe and happy holiday, and look forward to working with everyone in 2012.



あけましておめでとうございます
(Happy New Year!)

Ms Marquis and Ms Mitchell

Library News

Well done to all sixty nine students who finished the 2011 Premier's Reading Challenge. Special congratulations to the five students who received a special Gold Certificate from the Premier this year, for completing the Challenge for four consecutive years. They are Jake Carter, Liam Greenwood, Jack Leonard, Olivia Papoutsis and Rachel Taylor.

Reading for the 2012 Challenge is underway, so start reading now and join in. The PRC online reading record will open in March, so until then students are advised to keep a written record of the books they read. We keep a record of the library books students read, but need to know the details of books sourced from other places.

We are preparing to stock take the library's resources, so please return all books by December 5. Have a good hunt around your house for any stray library books and bring them back.

For some really exciting news, 2012 has been declared as the National Year of Reading, to encourage children learning to read and inspire keen readers to find new sources of inspiration. I've been thrilled every time a student comes in to borrow a book for his or her brother or sister, and even for their Mum or Dad. It's so fantastic to see such a variety of people enjoying our books.

Hope Santa brings you lots of great books to read!

Marion Aranjo - Teacher Librarian

Music-November 2011

This month, Year 11 and Year 10 elective music classes, were visited by a professional guitarist, Bob Stamper. Bob, having made it in the music industry, writing and playing music with John McLaughlin, has toured the United States and is currently in Australia working in television.



We were lucky enough to have Bob with us for a lesson, courtesy of Miss Elasi. An hour well spent, Bob taught us all about bluegrass music. A couple of us even got to perform and improvise with him.

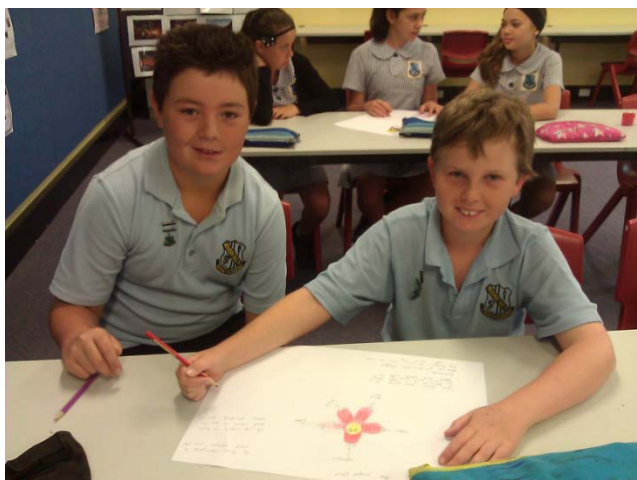
Jack Little - Year 11

Helping Hand Program - 6-7 Transition program

During Term 3-4 Year 6 students from Revesby South Public School, Panania Public School, Picnic Point Public School, Padstow Heights and Tower St Public School were given the opportunity to experience what it would be like as a Year 7 student at Picnic Point High School, in English, Maths and Science.



During their Science lessons they participated in DNA experiments, in Maths they worked on their problem solving skills, and in English they had a taste of Media and Poetry. They were able to create their own product and advertise it to the class. Students worked profoundly well and were extremely keen to get involved. After the completion of the program students felt they were better prepared for High School life.



I would like to thank teachers from Picnic Point High School who dedicated their own time to prepare lessons and make the students feel welcome. In addition to this thank you to all the teachers and students who visited from our local primary schools.

Iman El Darwiche – English Faculty



Science Faculty

On Tuesday 22nd November, all Year 8 students completed the first online version of the ESSA examination. This test is designed to examine student knowledge and understanding of the Stage 4 Science Syllabus that students have been

studying since the beginning of Year 7. Results will be received in March next year with parents receiving a report in the mail from the school shortly after.

As this is the final Pic News for 2011, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mr Graf for the wonderful job he has done taking Mrs Taleski's classes during her maternity leave. He has become an invaluable member of the faculty and will be greatly missed by the teachers and his students. We wish him all the best for his future endeavors.

Year 9 students will be busy until the end of the semester completing their mandatory independent research project in class. Over the next four weeks students will revise Scientific Method and the process of planning, performing and reporting on an investigation of their own choice. The theme for this year is "Consumer Science", with students testing manufacturers' claims for their products. Students will need to submit their proposal to their teacher at the end of week 8 and will perform their experiments in week 9. Parents are asked to discuss this topic with their child and come up with an investigation that interests them and sparks their curiosity. The final report will be due on Tuesday, 13th December (week 10).

In the next couple of weeks, another three Science laboratories will have an interactive whiteboard installed for teacher and student use. Staff have been utilising the boards into every lesson, with students eager to participate and access the board with their answers and responses.

Nicole Sherry - Head Teacher Science



Talented Sport Report

Our talented squads are well underway in Term 4 with Water Polo, Cricket and basketball leading the way.

Our U/15 Boys and Girls Water Polo teams recently contested the Sydney South West Carnival where the boys went through undefeated to be Regional Champions defeating Prairiewood 8-0 in the final. It was an excellent team effort with Arin Cockle, Ben Fletcher, Kieran Ralph, Joel Ryder all exceptional. The boys now progress to the State Finals in Raymond Terrace.

The girls lost their first 2 games then defeated John Edmondson High 4-3 and East Hills Girls 3-2. Unfortunately, they missed out on the final but they all enjoyed the experience and for many of them it was their first proper competition so they will only improve from here.

In cricket, our Open Boys came up against a strong East Hills Boys who exacted revenge after we have beaten them the previous 3 years. Bowling first, we had trouble restricting their scoring and they ended up with 192 off 40 overs. A good cameo by James Leedow (42) had us going quite well but some quick wickets saw us well behind the required run rate and we finished all out for 134.

The Mark Waugh Shield U/14 team has progressed to the semi finals against Moorebank High. We had solid wins against East Hills Boys and Bass High where Mitchell Gray, Ben Le Bas, Josh Sullivan and Jared Robson all excelled. The winner of the semi final plays Westfields in the final and we are hoping to get through and have another opportunity to defeat them and win the Shield for the second time.

A Millican - Talented Sport Co-ordinator



U15 girls' basketball

The U15 girls' basketball team recently competed in the NSW CHS Knockout Competition. The first round was late August against Fairvale High School. We won this game very convincingly 75-6 and from this very skilful performance it was evident that I had a very talented team! This win put us straight through to the Sydney South West central venue tournament. We achieved a first round victory 90-10, with Chloe Larcombe (Year 9) top scoring with 32 points. Round 2 saw us defeat our local high school Bass High 40-16 which put us through to the regional final against arch rival East Hills Girls Technology High. This game was in the balance for the majority of the match which was very nerve racking for their coach. However a goal surge sparked by Samantha Jones (Year 8) and excellent defence lead by Stacey McDonald (Year 9) inspired the girls to an 11 point victory.



Team: Georgia Gale, Monique Larkin, Samantha Jones, Tayla Hall, Chloe Larcombe, Stacey McDonald, Stacey Savidis, Jasmin Williams, Brooke Weatherill and a special mention to Kaylea Trees who refereed, scored, and supported the girls in all rounds of the competition.

Picnic Point High now represented Sydney South West B (Westfield Sports High represented SSW A) for the remainder of the competition.

The next round (last 24 of the state) was against Cherrybrook High School. This school had a number of representative players in the squad as well as HEIGHT. In the opening stages of the game it was neck and neck but it was soon evident that our girls turned up to play. It was a superb team effort from the girl's in particular precise long range shooting from Samantha Jones and Georgia Gale (Year 7) and fantastic leadership and free throw shooting from Brooke Weatherill (Year 10). We won the game comfortably 48-33 and were now into the final 16 of the state against Lambton High from Newcastle.



Unfortunately we were outplayed in the first half by another very talented side. In the second half the girl's really stood up and displayed what they were capable of however it was all a little too late. We ended up losing by 13 points which was an admirable come back considering Lambton went on to make the State Final.



I would like to congratulate all the girls on giving 110% in every match played and look forward to going one step further next year!

Lauren Martin

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The Bankstown City Christmas Carols is one of the most anticipated events of the year, bringing together members of the community during the festive season. The 2011 event is scheduled for **Saturday 3 December, 6.30pm-9.00pm** at Paul Keating Park, and will feature a fantastic line-up of everyone's favourite Christmas carols, Santa Claus and a fireworks spectacular.

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Order of Merit – Semester 2 2011

This the order of merit list for the second semester of the year. Students with an * preceding their name were ranked in the top 20 of the year. We have also included the names of students who made **significant improvements** in their academic performance this year. Students ranked in the top 20 and those who have made significant improvement in their academic performance will be rewarded with an invitation to the Deputy Principal's morning tea.

Year 7

Lachlan Bligh, * Cameron Blight, Elle Bogar, * Anna Bui, Tahlia Burke, Lachlan Cole, Chelsea Cook, Alana Cox, Tayla Dasios, * Luke Dilonardo, * Eryn Dimopoulos, * Mitchell Driver, Brittany Ebbs, Christopher Fartek, * Georgia Gale, * Eleftheria Georgiou, Thomas Grozdanovski, * William Hallows, Felicity Hassett, Lillian Hassett, * Angela Humphrys, * Emily Kannedy, Amber Langdon, * Stella Lee, * Antonia Mangos, * Alison Martyn, Shaylie McWilliams, * Hayley Millar, * Daniel Morris, * Nicholas Morris, Courtney Oldfield, * Lauren O'Shea, Eric Panayi, Kayla Paterson-Barrie, Emma Peake, Melissa Petrovski, * Ellienoor Pieters, Maddison Pike, Taylah Probert, Erin Riley, * Heidi Seeto, Caitlyn Smith, Louise Stace, Joshua Sullivan, Mere Thompson, Vanessa Tia, Jessica Walmsley, Zoe Ward Brown, Reece Weston, * Annie Zhai,

Most Improved Year 7 - Patrick Lawrence, Ashlee Miller, Georgia Kapsimalis, Mitchell King, Samantha Wong, Bill Gasteratos,

Year 8

Danica Anderson, * Nathan Anderson, Nathan Arfanis, * Holly Atherton, Manisha Banga, Teaghan Bartley, Daniel Black, Elvira Blixt, * Madeleine Buckley, Jarod Bui, * Isabella Bull, * Timothy Carroll, * Toni Cooper, Kate Cremasco, * Naryna Dawes, * Kristen Dick, * Tara Edmiston, Alturo Fa'amausili, Rory Fenton, Lachlan Gandy, Emma Godbier, Maceon Goder, Mitchell Gray, * Marah Grice, Tahnya Haddad, * Stacey Hayward, * Isaac Heslop, Vincent Host, * Michael Howe, Emma Jackson, * Riley Karssemeyer, Tayla Kelly, Kyla King, * Joshua Kleckin, Sarah Knebusch, * Sarah Lepre, * Sarah Little, Ilhana Ljukovac, Sarah Lord, Shelby McCaw, Nicola Mihaljek, * Angus Munro, Kathleen Nguyen, James Reynolds, * Kathryn Ricciardone, Matthew Roberts, Josie Strachan, Zachary Trifon, * Kira Vanags, * Jayden Zangari, Lenae Zmoda,

Most Improved Year 8 - Samantha Jones, Christoffer Kostoglou, Vinh Mac, Jarod Bui,

Year 9

Alexander Adams, * Amy Ahern, Saskia Anderson, Matthew Bennett, Helen Bui, * Eric Bull, Russell Butters, Samantha-Lee Carmichael, * Vanessa Cheng, Marie Christofides, Anna Droulias, Cayley Endicott, Emily Frazer, Aaron Haddon, Tayla Hall, * Juanita Halls, Alexander Hassett, * Zachary Hatzis, Kendall Hull, * Jack Ismay, Christina Karageorgis, Marianna Konidaris, * Chloe Larcombe,

Joshua Lauth, * Dai Le, * Jacqueline Le, * Michelle Lee, * Kevin Lim, * Ryan Mackey, * Sara Matsui-Carroll, * Jessica Maude, * Ian McBay, Stacey McDonald, Dean McKinnon, * Katelyn Middlemiss, * Mary-Elisabeth Molloy, Tiffany Nguyen, Angel Oreibi, Amalia Pieters, Joshua Pratt, Jamie Romcke,

* Emily Rotziokos, Joel Ryder, Stacey Savidis, * Ellie Semsarian, Samuel Tall, * Joshua Thompson, Akshay Veerappa, Michael Yue-Lap-Wan, Jasmine Ziher,

Most Improved Year 9 - Matthew Small, Daniel Curran, Amanda Lloyd, Simone Giannoulas, Lourance Haddad, Mitchell Greenwood, Holly Deane,

Year 10


* Samantha Abbott, George Alam, *Justine Alcade, Tayla Allison, Belinda Anderson, Ahmad Barakat, * Georgina Brady, Kaylee Bunyan, Christopher Bush, * Matthew Cash, * Alexander Christodoulou, David Cochrane, * James Cremasco, Stephanie Deering, Karissa Dunn, Timothy Easterbrook, Blane Falconer, Misa George, * John Georgiou, Aaron Greening, Jack Guthrie, Brodie Gwilliam, Jack Hallows, Kacey Hanna, Analise Imperato, Peter Kallas, * Shane Keen, Brendon Lambert, * Dean Lloyd, Joshua Mazloun, Ashleigh Meredith, * Glynn Meredith, Victoria Moggs, * Joel Moseley, * Christopher Nguyen, * Van Nguyen, * Deena Odeh, * Julia Panovski, Maddie Pirie, William Poulos, Lisa Rugg, * Brianna Russell, David Scognamiglio, * Nicholas Sim, Krishneel Singh, * Jimmy Sitthichai, Steven Skintzis, * Tara Smith, * Nicole Thompson, * Natalie Westren, Daniel Wilson,

Most Improved Year 10 - Brendan Balogh, Toufic Haddad, Isa Soylu, Brandon Grochala, Emma Katsilis,

Year 11

Vanessa Albrecht, Elise Atkinson, Christopher Bale, Nathan Bennett, Kate Breakspear, Tony Bui, Shannen Caffrey, Jordan Chavez, * Mitchell Cowell, Lara Dakhouli, * Abbie Dawson, * Lauren Elasad, Jake Enevoldsen, Christopher Gavrielatos, * Lauren Goldsmith, * Kodi Graham, * Samuel Host, * Joshua Hudson, * Alison Humphrys, Ashleigh Judge, Hazel Klimczak, * Rebecca Kotsapas, James Leedow, Lauren Leiataua, Jack Little, * Hannah Mantle, Kate McBay, Amy McCann, * Tayla-Rae McGregor, * Jueun Na, Patrick O'Reilly, * Savanna Peake, Jacinda Perrin, * Kieran Pirie, * Jenny Quah, Brooke Reynolds, Jyles Reynolds, Kate Rowland, * Apurva Shahapurkar, Jordan Singh, * Ashlee Smith, Nicholas Taktikos, * Benjamin Taylor, Joseph Tesoriero, * Ruby-Leigh Tonks, Jacob Vella, Corey Walsh, Lara Wilson, Tracey Wright, * Jingya Yan,

Most Improved Year 11 - Erin Barnes, Rhiannon Hanson, Jared Deane, Jimi Mitrevski, Harley Munro, Jacinda Perrin,



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IT News

Exciting news in Home Computing in 2012 with the introduction of new topics and components in the Information & Software Technology subject. Robotics and Building Apps for Mobile Phones will be introduced.

With robotics students will build and program robots that do what you want! With the contents in the set you get everything you need to build and program your very own intelligent LEGO robot, and make it perform loads of different operations. The robot can be fitted, for example, with sensors which control motors and react to light, sound, touch, etc.



With Building Apps for Mobile Phones, students will as part of the software topic get the opportunity to design and build functional Apps for mobile phones.

Mark O'Mullane

Ms Todd-McInerney Class I.01

We have had a very busy term! As part of our Fresh Food Friday our class, and 2 students from I.02, have been attending Curves, Bankstown. The students exercise on machines providing a very gentle exercise program. After our workout the students walk to Bankstown Square to purchase their lunch. We are looking at fresh healthy bought lunch options, and we are hoping that students, when not with us, will opt for these healthy options. This has been a great experience for the students and it is providing them with exercise, road safety issues, social skills, money management skills and investigating healthy foods.



Our vegetable garden is doing well at the moment with corn, lettuce, spinach, tomatoes and lots of herbs. The students are very aware of the tasks that need doing in the garden and are enjoying being outside and working as a team.



Our class is about to head to camp at Wooglemai Environmental Education Centre for an overnight camp. Our camp last year was at the same venue and the students really enjoy the pleasant surroundings and the variety of activities both educational and recreational. The camp gives the students the opportunity to develop their independence, taking care of their own belongings and personal care, taking part in food preparation and cleaning up afterwards. This is also an excellent opportunity for the students to socialise and spend recreational time together. Once again Wayne Clay is accompanying us as our bus driver and to help with supervision of the boys, we love having Wayne along and the students really enjoy spending time with him.

We about to lose one of our senior students to the 'the next step'. Peter Stephens has been a very important part of our class; he has always been an excellent role model to the junior students and a very reliable and honest member of our class. Peter will be very missed by us both staff and students. Peter has worked with Wayne Clay over many years and I know Wayne has found him invaluable. We wish Peter well and we know he has a very bright future!

We wish all of our students and their families a Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year, enjoy the holidays and we look forward to seeing you next year with our three new students for 2012.

Ms Deanna Todd-McInerney and Heather Goovan

Our talented Cricketing Girls

Mary Molloy has made the Under 18 NSW team. Mary is the only under 16 player, in fact only 2 months short of being under 15 still (born June 1996). Most in team have just done HSC and turned 18 after 1 September cut off. Even last years Under 16 player was born in September 1994 so she will be the baby of the team by nearly 2 years.

Ashleigh Gardner is getting her second turn in Under 15s this year, being still eligible for this.

<http://www.cricketnsw.com.au/news/news-archive/2011/11/16/nsw-u18-female>

Report for the City Country match is found here:

<http://www.cricketnsw.com.au/news/news-archive/2011/11/15/city-retain-maree-lee-shield>

Well done girls!



Morning tea at Picnic Point High School

The IM Home Economics class put their culinary skills to the test as they whipped up tasty treats for the teaching staff. The students prepared the dishes, which more than lived up to the delicious descriptions on the menu, fully meriting their "Chef Extraordinaire" certificates.



The event was organised to celebrate the success the students have achieved at Picnic Point, and also as a "thank you" to their teachers. Congratulations to the students on their commendable efforts, and we also took the opportunity to bid farewell to Year 12 students Rachael Gadd, Christopher Smith, and Nicholas Teasdale.

Kerry Richardson – Home Economics Faculty

A taste of Brazil at Picnic Point

An unusual and dynamic sport was offered this term at Picnic Point. Capoeira is the national sport of Brazil which blends non-contact martial arts, dance and acrobatics into a seamless and graceful art form.



Like most dances, Capoeira is played in pairs to music, but incorporates spinning kicks, cartwheels and acrobatic dodging which transforms it into a martial art.



It was developed by the African slaves in colonial Brazil who wanted to create a fighting art but because of their enslavement were forbidden to do so. They cleverly disguised their martial art as a dance, and they would play traditional instruments and sing together about their desire for freedom.



So far our sixteen students have learned all the fundamental skills including how to play the most significant instruments of Capoeira: the berimbau, pandeiro and atabaque. We will not be learning any of the traditional songs as they are all in Portuguese, however I hope that the spirit of the music infuses our game and leads us to a deeper understanding of freedom. "No one is free when others are oppressed."

Michael Graf - Science Faculty

Stage 4 Visual Arts

Year 8 has been enjoying the printmaking process by creating lino prints based on plant life.



Joshua Bull



Joshua Wiseman



Andriana Dimoska



Justine Childs

Students have also created a Shoe-real ceramic artwork based on the concept of Surrealism and animal parts.



Joshua Bryant



Matthew Leitch



Jasmine Lloyd putting on the final touches to her leopard mouse

Year 7 Cow Chicken

Year 7 students have been introduced to the Post Modern Frame and concept of appropriation through the unit of work "Cow or Chicken"/ Students choose an artwork to re-create in a humorous way incorporating a cow or chicken.



Zoe Ward Brown



Louise Stace

Our Talented Students

Michael Hagan – State Marathon Kayaking Champion

Over the last 10 months Michael Hagan of Year 9 has competed in a series of marathon kayak races known as the "Paddle NSW Marathon 9 series". His last race was at Wagga Wagga back in October.



Each race is a gruelling event which tests fitness and endurance. Often the rivers where these events occur have very strong currents making the task extremely difficult. Michael finished first in his division for the last race of the series which placed him in 1st resulting in him being crowned State Champion. Michael was awarded with 1st place overall point score for the series, 1st place for his division and 1st place Junior paddler. This was a great result for his first full season of kayaking and is congratulated on this outstanding achievement



The editor and staff of P.P.H.S. would like to wish everyone a very merry and a happy and safe holiday.