



PICNIC POINT HIGH SCHOOL

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Principal
Mr WollyNegroh
B Ed, Dip Teach

November 2013

51 years of Quality Education

PIC-NEWS

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Year 12 have just completed their HSC examinations and we wish them all the very best whilst they anxiously wait for their results on Wednesday 18 December.

A huge and sincere thank you to our Year 12 teachers that selflessly gave up their time for our students before, during and after the recent school holidays to improve student preparation for the HSC examinations. Teachers at PPHS make their students and their learning a number one priority. This is one of the school's greatest successes.

2013 Naplan results are now available and all Year 7 and Year 9 parents should have received their child's results in the mail. From the school analysis some of the summary points are reproduced as follows:

Highlights

- Year 9 (Boys-82 students) have improved by 24 scale scores from the 2012 data in the test aspect of Reading.
- Year 9 (Boys-84 students) are 15 scale scores above the state average in the test aspect of Writing.
- Year 9 (Girls-88 students) are 11 scale scores above the state average growth in the test aspect of Numeracy.

Areas for investigation

- Year 9 (Girls-88 students) have shown a decrease of 17 scale scores from the 2012 data in the test aspect of Writing.
- Year 9 (All-171 students) are 15 scale scores below the state average in the test aspect of Numeracy.
- Year 9 (Boys-84 students) are 12 scale scores below the state average growth in the test aspect of Writing.

Recent school success includes:

- Chris Mangos was awarded a distinction in the International English Competition.
- Nicole Thornton recently performed in Hong Kong for the 'Voice of McDonalds' Semi-Final and was selected as the Australian representative in the Asia-Pacific/Middle East/African Region. Nicole now proceeds to the Final which will be held in Orlando Florida.
- Former Picnic Point High students Belinda Anderson and Lenore Gurney were presented with The Queens' Award by The Governor of NSW at a ceremony in Government House.

- Emily Frazer received the Bankstown City Youth Award. Emily was nominated with 70 other contenders and was one of the remaining 24 awarded a certificate. Her award was in the category of inspiration.
- Katelyn Middlemiss -Year 11 for representing Picnic Point High School at the NSW Public School's Choral Festival. Katelyn has successfully auditioned to be a part of the NSW Senior Singers.
- The U/15's Girls Water Polo and U/15's Boys Water Polo teams were crowned Regional Water Polo champions.

Our year 7-10 dancers had outstanding performances at the Bankstown and East Hills Dance Festival. Well done to all students and Ms Shlom who continues to work tirelessly with students in the school dance programs.



Presentation day this year will be held on Thursday 12 December 2013. It will be held at Revesby Workers Club and will start at 10.30am.

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Deputy's Report – Mr Baczynskyj

Year 12, 2013 have now completed their sign out from Picnic Point High School. It was certainly a privilege to work with these students and their families over their high school years. Ultimately, they represent the essence of public education and the high quality of learning in all of its forms at PPHS. Amongst the group were sportsmen and women who compete at State and National level, artists who have won Australian competitions and elite academics (one of whom has come first in an Australasian Mathematics competition). However, far beyond this, it is fair to say that each of these students has developed into a well-rounded, confident, sincere and productive young man or woman. They possess the skills and abilities to go and be successful in all matter of fields and makes me comfortable that these individuals will be the leaders in the world in which I will grow old (older?).

Year 9 are towards the end of their yearly assessments and the halfway mark of their two year studies of elective subjects. The last few weeks are a good time for them to reflect on their learning in 2013. A comparison with their Year 8 performance will often highlight whether there has been a change in attitude towards their learning (either for better or worse). As they embark on the course to obtaining their Record of School Achievement (RoSA) – the ongoing assessment that replaced the old School Certificate – they should prepare for the additional workload, study and organisation that is necessary for their success in 2014.

Year 8 students will receive their elective subjects for 2014-2015 during their Formal Assembly next week. As you are aware the extreme popularity of PPHS as a result of our high standards, extra-curricular programs and academic success ensures that each of our year groups operates at near capacity. Therefore, the majority of elective subjects are full and changes are unlikely to be possible. Of course not all students could get their first and second choice and this is why the process of ensuring that students had their priority of subjects correct was crucial and both parents and students signed the form to confirm it had been discussed.

One of strongest aspects of PPHS in relation to our success is the strong school culture and the supportive bond between parents and the school. As our teenagers seek to push the boundaries of any school rules or expectations, the support of the parents has always been a key to ensuring the standards of co-operation, school pride and presentation which set the foundation for the broad range of high achievement across the school. I would like to thank the school community for their ongoing support in relation to any concerns the school has raised about uniform or presentation and if a Year Adviser, Mr Negroh, Mr Schomberg or myself can help in these areas in any way please make contact.

As always I encourage all parents who may have a concern in relation to any aspect of their child's schooling experiences (irrespective of how small) to make contact with the school and ensure that someone knows. Working with teenage children represents our professional careers and we will have a process or the perfect personnel to resolve any school-based situation.

Mr Baczynskyj

Deputy's Report – Mr S. Schomberg

Year 11 / 12

Our Year 11 students have made the transition into Year 12 without a great deal of angst. The assessment tasks are now being completed with most subjects requiring their first assessment task to be submitted in the next few weeks. I have emphasized before but will emphasize again that family holidays should not be organized during school terms. A family holiday is not an acceptable reason for a misadventure appeal in a HSC Assessment Task. Students have been told that there will no variations to their curriculum pattern until next year and only after all assessment tasks have been completed.

Year10

Year 10 students will be completing two weeks of work experience from Monday 25th November until Friday 6th December. The Year 10 clearance day will be Thursday 21st November. All students continuing their education in Year 11 next year must attend school after the conclusion of the work experience. A compulsory program of study must be completed before any student can commence studies in Year 11. Students and families will be given more detail about this before the clearance day.

School Uniform

At this time of the year as children have grown and worn out different parts of their uniform, especially shoes, parents are often looking at purchasing new items like school shoes and sports shoes. I would just like to draw everyone's attention to the school web site where the uniform requirements are clearly outlined with colour photographs showing the acceptable uniform. **If you are unsure of what shoes to purchase, I encourage you to view the images below, this information is also found on the school's web site.**

ACCEPTABLE SHOES



UNACCEPTABLE SHOES



ACCEPTABLE SPORTS SHOES



UNACCEPTABLE SPORTS SHOES



S.Schomberg

What's On - Term 3

Thurs 10/11	Peer Support Yr9 Training
Mon 18/11	P&C Meeting
Wed 20/11	Day 3 Immunisation Years 7 & 9
Mon 25/11	Year 10 Work Experience Commences



P & C News

Our last meeting for term three was held on 16th September and again was well attended by our regular P & C members. A highlight of this meeting was the drawing of the raffle which we conducted over Term two and Term three selling tickets at both Parent –Teacher interview nights. The following people were winners and the prizes ranged from electrical items to kitchen accessories and sporting goods.

Maria Georgiou took out first prize followed by Tracy Romke, Nick, Laura Stace, Virginia Morris, Mr. Le, Kylie Myers, Mrs. Gangadharan, Leigh Trindall, Steve King, Caroline, Adele Wardrop, Mel Favorito and Jenny. The support shown by everyone was wonderful but a special mention must go to Mr Le who purchased a whole book of tickets, and to Belinda Peters (son Brandon in Year 9) who sold a book and a half of tickets at her workplace. Also to Adele Wardrop, who manned the stall on both nights and was instrumental in selling many tickets. All up we raised more than \$800 for the P & C.

As mentioned in my last report we are still hopeful of having an electronic sign installed at the front of the school. We have now progressed in this regard and at the October P & C meeting we approved the cost of having an electronic sign installed. It is anticipated that the sign will be installed and operational by the beginning of Term 1 2014.

I was delighted to attend the final assembly and Presentation Day for Year 12 on the last day of term three and even more so as I was asked to present a Community Service Award to Louise Smith, one of our hardworking volunteers who has held the position of Canteen Treasurer for the past five years. Louise has been a quiet, hardworking P & C member for the nine years her daughters have been at the school and was a most deserving recipient of this award.

As term four rolls toward the end of the year we are all going to be extremely busy and P & C members will be making up the Year 7 book packs. We will then be distributing them at the Orientation Day in early December.

We are also looking at whether we have enough preloved uniform stock to hold another uniform sale before the end of the year. We will let families know the date if this is to occur.

The October P & C meeting was held on a very warm evening in mid-October and was well attended. Mr. Negroh presented us with a "wish-list" from the Science, English and Mathematics Faculties. We had previously asked for this in order for us to make a decision to assist the funding of much needed texts and resources to support the new curriculums. I was delighted that the P & C members present agreed to fund the entire list a total amount of \$30,000. This brings our total

financial funding to the school to a sum of \$60,000 for this year! We also agreed to provide \$2000.00 to be spent on Presentation Day awards.

An item of discussion at the October meeting was the noticeable increase in students with visible body tattooing. While the school currently has no specific policy in this regard those present all agreed that we support the school in the wearing of uniform and the presentation of students while wearing the uniform and that visible tattoos detract from this presentation and should be discouraged.

As I write this our Year 12 students will have finished their HSC exams and on behalf of the P & C I wish them all the best with their final results.

The final meetings for 2013 of both School Council and P & C will occur on 25th November and we will enjoy a Christmas supper following this meeting.

It is never too late to attend and I welcome any interested parents to come along and share ideas and information with us.

Christine Butters- P&C President

Email: bjcmbutters@yahoo.com.au



Michel's (Revesby)

Student of the Month

September 2013

	Name	REASON FOR THE AWARD
7	Madison Rae	Outstanding contribution to extra-curricular sport.
8	Chad Macklin	Consistent effort in English and hard work in the Environment Group.
9	Georgia Gale	Diligent application throughout the term in all her subjects.
10	Katrina Mihalopoulos	An excellent all-rounder and high achiever
11	Brad Forster	Diligence and effort in each of his subjects.
12	Brendan Marshall	Excellent work in all subjects.



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IF YOUR CHILD HAS ANAPHYLAXIS SHOULD HE OR SHE CARRY THEIR OWN EPIPEN® OR ANAPEN® TO AND AT SCHOOL?

What is this article about?

If you have told the school that your child is diagnosed a risk of anaphylaxis you will have received a letter from Mr Negroh. If you haven't received a letter please ring Lorraine Moore on 97721700 Ext 125.

This article below provides more information about anaphylaxis.

What is an EpiPen® and an Anapen®?

EpiPen® and Anapens® are the emergency treatment for children who are having an anaphylactic reaction.

What is anaphylaxis?

Anaphylaxis is a severe and sometimes sudden allergic reaction. If your child has been diagnosed by a doctor as being at risk of anaphylaxis there are some important things to remember that will help the school to support your child's health care needs.

Why you need to keep us informed if your child is diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis or if his or her condition changes. This includes if they have an anaphylactic reaction while not at school.

The school can only respond to risks it knows about. Please keep the school informed so that we can plan to support your child at school.

Why you need to provide the school with your child's current ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis and an EpiPen® or Anapen® signed by their doctor

The plan sets out the steps the school needs to follow in an emergency. It is essential for us to have this to keep your child safe.

We will keep a copy of your child's ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis stored with your child's EpiPen® or Anapen®.

Why it is important to talk regularly with your child about some simple steps to help keep them safe

It is important to regularly talk with your child about when and where they are at risk of contact with the things they are allergic to and how to avoid this. If you have told them not to take part in sharing food at school, regularly remind them of this.

Reassure them that if they do come into contact with something they are allergic to or they feel unwell at school they won't get into trouble. **They need to tell a teacher immediately.**

Your child should carry their own EpiPen® or Anapen®

If your child has been diagnosed with anaphylaxis they must carry their own EpiPen® or Anapen® to school and at school. A request form has been sent home and is also available from the front office.

You will also need to provide the school with at least one additional EpiPen® or Anapen® for storage in the front office with current action plan for access by staff in an emergency.

Why does the school need to know if your son or daughter is carrying their own EpiPen® or Anapen®?

Staff need to know your child carries an EpiPen® or Anapen® in an emergency. For this reason this information will be included in your child's individual health care plan.

They also need to be able to find it quickly so it is important that it be in an easily identifiable and accessible spot (eg. not a locker).

To find out more go to the Department's public schools website:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/studentsupport/studenthealth/conditions/anaphylaxis/index.php>

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Social Inc. Camp

Our Social Inc. group at PPHS attended the first ever Social Inc. Camp at Stanwell Tops in week 9, last term. We had a fantastic three days filled with fun activities and plenty of social interactions. This event was organised in conjunction with Balmain and Leichhardt Secondary College. The aim of the camp was to facilitate developing and strengthening friendships and to give everyone the opportunity to participate fully in all camp activities. Once again we showed that everyone could feel included and a valued member of our school.





I would like to take this opportunity to thank all people who were involved in organising this important event, in particular to Mrs Sue Clayton and Mr John Sassine. Your support and contribution has been much appreciated.

Monika Bray

Great News for Social Inc. at PPHS

As we were warming up for our Social Inc. Camp last term, our school received some great news - our program was given a Community Grant of \$3000 from Bankstown Council.



Special thanks to Mrs Christine Butters, the school P&C President, for assisting me in obtaining this grant. This much needed funding will assist our Social Inc. group with the operation and running of an 'I Say 'Hi!' campaign in November this year. This event is designed to promote social inclusion among members of our community, students, teachers and school staff.

Monika Bray

Say 'Hi!' to people you see around you - make a difference ☺.

Reminder

To Parents - Pic News

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

To assist in the distribution of the electronic copy of PICNEWS 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.

Student Leadership Workshop

On the 5th of September, years 7-11 participated in their second Student Leader Workshop! This was held in the school hall and was run by Ms Peterson, Ms Marquis, Ms Stavros and Mr Burgess. We started the day off with fun games involving balloons which everyone had their own balloon until we all started popping them... ☺



We then completed an activity called, 'I am the Change!' During this activity we learnt and discussed how YOU can make positive changes in yourself, your personal world and your public world. This was a great activity where everyone got motivated to make a positive change in their life and even did a little bit of public speaking as well.



We also had a session involving our project groups where everyone met up to discuss what they were going to improve

on and set goals to work on. Every group did an excellent job discussing important work they had to do. The final part of the day was a challenge about decision making, which we all enjoyed.



Overall, all leadership students enjoyed the workshop and are working hard to complete their group projects by the end of the year.

Tommy Lang – Year 8

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Congratulations to Nicole Thornton – Year 12

A big congratulations to Nicole Thornton who recently performed in Hong Kong for the 'Voice of McDonalds' Semi-Final. She was selected as the Australian representative in the Asia-Pacific/Middle East/African Region.



I am delighted to announce that Nicole has been selected to proceed to the Grand Final which will be held in Orlando Florida. The Grand Final will be held in April 2014.

This is an outstanding achievement as only 4 of 14 performers were chosen to proceed to the Grand Final which will consist of 16 performers from around the world.

Nicole will spend 3 weeks in Orlando attending masterclasses and preparing for the Grand Final. At the conclusion of the Grand Final, Nicole will travel to Texas where she will record her performances in a recording studio.

This is an amazing opportunity and her involvement in this competition is already providing Nicole with many performance opportunities at corporate events.

I wish Nicole all the very best and know that she will be an outstanding ambassador for Picnic Point High School and the East Hill/Bankstown Region.

Ms Suzy Tarasenko Head Teacher CAPA



The Queens' Award

On Saturday, 21st September former Picnic Point High students Belinda Anderson and Lenore Gurney were presented with The Queens' Award by The Governor of NSW at a ceremony in Government House. To attain this award the girls had to first complete many tasks over the past two years, including community service, hosting charity events, complete an exam and two interviews.



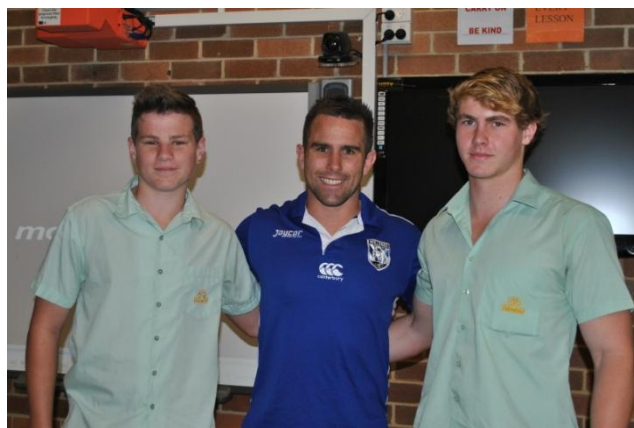
The Queens' Award is the highest international award in The Girls' Brigade and we at Picnic Point High School extend our congratulations to them both.



Bulldogs with the 'Party Safe' program and Year 10 students

This program aims to empower young adults to make the right decision when faced with tough moral choices in common party situations.

Bulldogs Social Worker Athina Shelston and recently retired Bulldogs player Steve Turner facilitated the program.





Both presenters used a range of visual aids to demonstrate to students common problems that may arise during a party.



Students were asked to consider how they would act in certain situations and what the consequences of their choice might be. 'Party Safe' addressed key problems such as peer pressure, drugs, alcohol, sexual and physical assault, and the role that parents play in shaping the behaviours of young people.

Mrs Bray – Year 10 Adviser

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### What is the Santa Fun Run?

The Variety Santa Fun Run is a 5KM fun run with a difference.

You can run it, walk it, skip it, hop it – finish it however you like, but just make sure you do it in your official five piece Variety Santa suit. The suit is included in your registration fee so there can be no excuses for not getting into the Christmas spirit on the day! You can enter as an individual, or as a family, corporate team or with your friends.

<http://www.varietysantafunrun.com.au/NSW/The-Santa-Fun-Run/Run-Details/>

### Bankstown City Youth Award

**Emily Frazer** received the Bankstown City Youth Award. Emily was nominated with 70 other contenders, she was one of the remaining 24 awarded a certificate. Her award was in the category of inspiration.

Emily has been dedicated to coaching a young soccer team for 2 years; she began coaching them as under 6's and has just completed another season as under 7's. Emily instils the boys with good sportsmanship, and displays that herself, she encourages all children in the team to have a go and do their best.



Emily is dedicated to each and every game and has gotten to know each and every family well. Emily works hard to help the children grow into their sport. She is always fair and always has encouragement for any situation. Even our struggling players feel welcomed for their skills, our kids love going to training each week and look forward to weekend games. They are quite disappointed if they need to miss out a training session.

**Lyndall Butler**

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NSW School Immunisation Program 2013

The final day of vaccinations for Year 7 and Year 9 boys will be held on **Wednesday, November 20** [Week 7].

Year 7 Vaccination Information ONLY

On November 20, Year 7 students will complete the HPV vaccination course and the Hepatitis B vaccination course. Following is a reminder of the vaccines that NSW Health offers to Year 7 students.

Year 7

All Year 7 students will be offered the following vaccines:

- **Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis [whooping cough]** 1 booster dose for all students. COMPLETED MARCH 14
- **Human Papillomavirus** – 3 dose course. This vaccine provides protection for girls and boys against a virus which could lead to a range of cancers later in life. HPV is a common virus that affects both males and females.
- **Hepatitis B** – 2 dose course. A catch up for students **not** vaccinated for Hepatitis B as babies.
- **Varicella [chickenpox]**– 1 dose. A catch up for students who have **not** had the Chickenpox or the vaccination. COMPLETED JULY 19

Year 9 Boys

On November 20, Year 9 boys will complete the HPV vaccination course.

Vaccination Schedule for 2013

Dates	Year 7 Immunisation	Year 9 Boys Immunisation
March 14, 2013	dTpa and HPV	HPV
July 19, 2013	Hepatitis B, Varicella and HPV	HPV
November 20, 2013	Hepatitis B and HPV	HPV

On each immunisation day, it is important that your child eats a healthy breakfast and brings a bottle of water to school. If you have any questions about the immunisation program, please contact Ms Marquis on 9772 1700 during school hours or the Immunisation Unit, Public Health on 9515 9420.

Ms K Marquis - Immunisation Co-ordinator



Prefects

On Wednesday, October 23, the Prefects held the first Spring Daze event of the year. Lots of extremely delicious gelato was sold on the day to raise money for the Student Leadership Program.

There were also some live performances by some of our very talented CAPA students. A phenomenal **\$860** was raised on the day and the Prefects decided to **donate \$150** of this profit to the **Salvation Army Bushfire Relief Appeal**.

A big thank you to everyone who supported the Prefects and enjoyed some gelato – there will be another Spring Daze this term, so make sure you come along and support our student leaders!

Kirsty Marquis

IO1 Registered for Music: Count Us In



Thursday, 31st October 2013

MCUI is Australia's biggest school initiative. With support from The Australian Government, it has run since 2007 and is all about celebrating the value of music education to students' development, whoever they are, wherever they are. It involves more than 600,000 students, teachers - and often parents - from schools all over Australia who sign up to learn, rehearse, and then perform the same song, on the same day, at the same time.

Music: Count Us In is for all schools - primary and secondary, State and independent, nationwide. It doesn't cost anything for schools to participate and all the support materials, including song charts and arrangements and classroom activity kits are freely available and downloadable.



Singing along with the 600,000 other students across Australia.

Our class registered and participated, singing along with the rest of Australia on 31st October. It was a great program to be involved in with, the students enjoying the rehearsals and the performance on the big day.

Heather Goovan



Interested in completing a TAFE course?

Padstow College is taking enrolments in Business Administrations Certificate II, Certificate III Book Keeping, Computers and Customer Service, Certificate IV in Business Administrations and Diploma!

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Can you help us?



We need volunteers

to assist us in a range of activities.

Can you-

- Drive a Mini Bus
- Offer work experience placements

Can you spare some time to -

- Demonstrate trade skills at PPHS to small groups of students?
- Host a small group of students at your work to demonstrate work- related skills?
- Talk to small groups of students about your experiences in your job, job preparation or in your life experiences?

If you can offer some time or expertise, please contact **Michelle Harding** on 97721700 or by email on michelle.harding5@det.nsw.edu.au or contact the PPHS Community Partnerships Team.



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Blue Light Disco

Once again I.O1 attended the Blue Light Disco at Caroline Chisholm School. The students had lots of fun chatting to the local Police and inspecting the cars, trampolining, meeting up with old friends and teachers, eating and drinking, having a look at the fire engines and of course plenty of dancing.



It was a great day and we would like to thank Caroline Chisholm School for hosting the Blue Light, and the Blue Light Committee volunteers who organised and attended the disco and Wayne for driving us in the bus.

Bree Wolstencroft and Heather Goovan

LOTE Faculty

Year 12

We would like to congratulate our two Year 12 students who completed their HSC Continuers Japanese Examination on October 31. Well done to Belinda and Tayla for all your hard work during the past two years!

Year 7, 9 and 10

Year 7, 9 and 10 have now completed their Yearly Examinations for Japanese. Results have been very encouraging and students should be congratulated on their efforts to achieve their best during this important examination time.

Year 8

Year 8 have now completed their final assessments – a persuasive writing task, reflecting on the bombing of Hiroshima during World War 2 and a PowerPoint Presentation about a Japanese festival. For the rest of the term, students will complete work based around the culture of Japan, including a study of Japanese 'manga' comic books and Japanese 'anime' movies.

Japanese Excursion – Year 9: Nihongo Tanken Centre

On Wednesday, November 27, the Year 9 Japanese class and Ms Mitchell will attend the Nihongo Tanken Centre. All students are looking forward to the excursion and are excited about completing many activities to assist with their language learning. Please ensure that payment for the excursion and permission slip for this excursion is forwarded to the front office.

Japan Trip

A reminder to all Japan Trip families that the next instalment is due **November 20**. If there are any questions regarding this instalment, please email us as soon as possible! A reminder to all Japan Trip students to keep in contact with your Seibi High School email buddy – it's a great way to learn about the Japanese culture and practise your language skills!

Ms Marquis and Ms Mitchell

じゃまたね！バイバイ！



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Year 8 Report

All Year 8 students should have now completed their Yearly Examinations. It is pleasing to see so many students trying their best in these assessment tasks. Reports will soon be finalised by Classroom Teachers and Head Teachers. I look forward to reading these reports before they are issued to students in the final week of Term 4.

Congratulations to the Year 8 students who are attending the Jamberoo Rewards Day on Friday, December 6, 2013. This day recognises your achievements this year. I trust this will be a fun and well-deserved day for you all!

The next formal assembly will take place during Week 7 of Term Four. Any students wishing to be a chairperson or perform at a Formal Assembly are encouraged to see Ms Mitchell or Ms Kourouche for more details.

Please remember that a 'Notification of Absence' buff form must be returned school if students are away from school for any reason. If a student is sick for more than two days – a medical certificate is also required. All absent days must be accompanied by an explanation.

Ms S Mitchell – Year 8 Adviser



English News

Congratulations to our students who participated in the International English Competition which is run by the University of New South Wales. The competition is open to all year groups and focuses on comprehension skills. The following students received awards:

Year 7

Chris Mangos- Distinction
Rachel Stace- Credit
Isabel De Araujo- Credit

Year 8

Wing Pang –Credit
Madeline Rowe- Credit

Year 9

Emma Peake-Credit
Nicholas Morris-Credit
Daniel Morris- Credit
Serena Lloyd-Credit



The Debating Teams have finished their respective competitions and we would like to thank Mrs L. McGrath and Mr A. Wright for organising the debates and coaching the groups. Congratulations to the Year 10 team who became Zone Champions.

We are in the process of planning for the National Curriculum. We were successful in receiving extra funding from the Telstra Kids Fund. These funds will go towards the purchase of new texts which will meet the requirements of the new curriculum.

Finally we would like to welcome Mrs S. Fenej who joins our faculty.

Mrs Kapaniris – English Faculty



Term 3 Rewards Day Excursion

As you may all know, Picnic Point High School offers a Rewards Day excursion at the end of each term for students who have reached a high level of merit or passport points. This term we were lucky to have gone to Cronulla beach, mall and cinemas to watch the new Pixar film 'Planes'.

The weather was absolutely beautiful in the morning so we were set for a great day!

We left school at 9.00 am and made our way to Cronulla. Once we reached our venue, we walked across to the beach where we enjoyed our morning tea. We sat and walked around admiring the beautiful view. Then we made our way back across the road to Cronulla Cinemas.

Everyone had a chance to purchase popcorn, drinks and sweets from the Candy Bar before we went in to watch the film. We were extremely lucky to have a cinema room all to ourselves where we sat with our friends and watched the movie 'Planes'.



After the movie finished we made our way to the mall to purchase our lunch. We had one hour to sit, eat and chat with our friends and teachers. Some students even had the opportunity to go and do some shopping in the amazing clothing stores.



We left Cronulla at 2.30 pm and made our way back to school. We all enjoyed our trip to Cronulla very much, and now we have the Term 4 Rewards Day excursion to Jamberoo to look forward to!

Sara Allouche, - Year 7



Girls Baseball

The Picnic Point High School Girls baseball team faced off in the state semi-final against Woolooware High School in a rain interrupted game, behind some great team play the game was abandoned and postponed to Blacktown to be played prior to the final. In a close tussle, the girls won in the bottom of the last to move onto the State Final.



Unfortunately the excitement was short lived as a Powerful Hills Sports High school defeated our Gallant girls. The girls won the silver medal which is a great achievement. Notable mention goes to Moesha Potter and Jasmine Potter for their pitching and catching efforts along with all of the girls for some who had not played very much baseball at all and put their hands up and were rewarded with a second place in the state.

Thanks also to Shane Keen for helping coach the girls.

Mr Smith – P E Faculty

Bankstown East Hills Festival

Congratulations to the dancers in Years 7 - 10 on their outstanding performances at the Bankstown East Hills Dance Festival. This Festival showcases the talents of both Primary and High School dance groups in the East Hill District.



Picnic Point High School dancers performed over two weeks at the Bankstown Sports Club in weeks 3 & 4. They not only danced on the nights but also volunteered their time to usher audience members to their seats and represented the school to a high standard with distinction.

Well done to all the Dancers.

Justine Shlom



Year 7 Report

Last week the year 7s had a police officer come to PPHS to talk to them about cyber safety. The policeman explained how to keep your personal details off the internet to keep us safe from anyone or anything and what to do if you find yourself in a bad situation. We also saw a slide show on the bad effects and the rights and wrongs of cyber issues.

I think the police officer made a very good presentation and I hope that the year 7s opened their eyes and listened to what the police officer said and took their details off the internet.

I believe Year 7 and I enjoyed the presentation. Thank you to the policeman for his time and information.

Amy Hanslow

In week 7 term 3, Year 7 was given the opportunity to have an incursion in our school hall and watch and play "verbal Combat" performed by BrainStorm Productions.

Verbal Combat is a play about bullying, rumours and isolation. The play featured three characters Gabriel, Rocky and Daniel and how their high school life changed when the new girl Emily arrived. Verbal Combat gave a clear moral to all Year 7 on how quickly rumours can spread, the effects of cyber bullying on social media networks and intimidation from bullies. We were all very motivated to watch the play, to see what would happen next and how the issues would be solved.

After the play, the actors from BrainStorm talked to us about cyber bullying and rumours. We were informed of the dangers of bullying online and how to stop bullying if you know its happening. Year 7 had a great time watching Verbal Combat, and would enjoy seeing BrainStorm Productions plays again.

Rachel Stace

15 Girls Basketball

The U15 girls' basketball team recently competed in the Sydney South West Knockout Competition. The first round was early August against Airds High School. We won this game very convincingly 73 – 8 with a very accurate shooting display. We won our second round against Canley Vale High School 49 – 11 which put us through to the Sydney South West Finals day. A special mention goes to Samantha Jones who was the leading point scorer in both matches with a total of 35 points and Georgia Gale for her tireless defence.

The quarter final against Macquarie Fields High School was neck and neck for the majority of the game. However the girls never gave up and pulled away to win comfortably 29 – 18. In the semi final we met Sefton High School, where it looked like we were going to be vertically challenged. However the girl's played their best game of the competition. Their teamwork and goal scoring accuracy was a pleasure to watch and we ended up with a convincing 43 – 15 win.



The regional final was against arch rival East Hills Girls Technology High. Unfortunately we were not successful against a very tall and talented team. The girls all tried their hardest and should be very proud of their achievements considering the team consisted of 6 netball players. I would personally like to thank the girls for their efforts on the court and at training.

Lauren Martin



Disability Services Australia 2013 Employee Achievement Awards

Disability Services Australia 2013 Employee Achievement Awards were recently held at Bankstown Sports Club. The awards are divided into several sections and **Kieran Honey**, a past student of PPHS, was nominated in the Transition to Work Job Seeker of the Year Award. There were only 5 nominations for this award across Sydney. Unfortunately Kieran was unsuccessful but this was a remarkable achievement for Kieran to be nominated.

Heather Goovan



Our Talented Students

The CAPA faculty would like to congratulate **Katelyn Middlemiss** of Year 11 for representing Picnic Point High School at the NSW Public School's Choral Festival, held at the Sydney Opera House on Tuesday 15 October. Katelyn has successfully auditioned to be a part of the NSW Senior Singers.



Katelyn has had an unforgettable experience; *"I found State Choir to be an amazing and unforgettable experience. I got the chance to meet some really great students as well as some incredibly talented conductors and performers and am really glad I was given this opportunity to represent the school at such an astounding venue."*

A big well done Katelyn!



Year 10 Debating Report

A successful season for the Year 10 debaters winning three rounds and becoming zone champions. We had a strong team consisting of Ellie Croft, Tayla Kelly, Brittany Durrant and Kathryn Ricciardone.

In the first round the team debated Ashcroft High on the topic of education. With preparation and guidance from Mrs McGrath, the team was victorious.

From that round onwards, our team continued to improve and form stronger arguments, as well as enjoying the debates. It was a great experience and opportunity and we look forward to being a part of the team next year.

Kathryn Ricciardone

Year 11 Debating Report

The Year 11 debating team, consisting of Matthew Bennett, Emily Rotziokos, Katelyn Middlemiss and Jamie Romcke, debated a total of three challenging debates. The team argued successfully and won a total of two out of three debates against tenacious opponents.

These debates comprised of subjects that were able to be discussed in depth and were relevant to society's changing psychological factors in the 21st century. Despite not proceeding to the next round, we conveyed a series of strong arguments and wish the best of luck to next year's Year 11 debaters.

Matthew Bennett

U/15's Water Polo Knockout Report

On the 6th November both U/15's Girls Water Polo and U/15's Boys Water Polo teams from Picnic Point High School were involved in the Regional Water Polo Knockout Gala Day held at Bradbury Pool on a beautiful 30 plus degree day.



Picnic Point High once again proved that we are a force to be reckoned with in the South Western region for Water Polo. Both boys and girls teams performed exceptionally well on the day with both boys and girls teams winning all 3 games convincingly to qualify for the next stage. As an excited coach, a special mention to the girls who managed to knock out our main competition East Hills Girls. EHGTHS have just closed us out of the competition over the last few years. Indeed, exciting moments for the girls with many of the girls who have played in past KO's never beating EHGTHS.



Both teams' performances can be attributed to the committed work ethic displayed at training on both Tuesday afternoons and Thursday and Friday mornings before school. This year we have seen a record number of students turn up to training bright and early before school to hone their skills and gain a better understanding of the game. As the saying goes, hard work gets results!

As regional winners both boys and girls teams now move on to play the best team of South Coast region, this places both boys and girls teams in the top 9 of the state, a fantastic accomplishment for so many students new to the game!

We will be fighting it out with South Coast for the qualification and top 8 spot at the NSW Water Polo KO in the upcoming weeks. Stay tuned for more news in the coming weeks!

J.Eaton – U/15's Girls Water Polo Coach

R. Sparks – U/15's Boys Water Polo Coach



A Letter from School Captain Year 12 - 2013

Year twelve is easily the best and scariest year of our lives. Many of the best memories were created in our final week of school. The Monday created a sense of great surreal end, that it had come to the end, 13 years of schooling at this was the last school Monday that we had to endure.

We had completed the first of our golden boot matches the week before in which the students unfortunately lost. The golden boot involved three tournaments in which the teachers and students battle to the death in the winning of the mighty golden boot. With the previous loss, Monday brought the whole year together to watch the teachers regain their pride through the victory of basketball.

The following day was our time to create our final memories with our classroom teachers, understanding it could be our last classes with them.

Wednesday was a day most would not forget. The year wore pigtails in their hair and relived their last official day of schooling like it was their first. The emotions, the happiness and the stupid idea to lock the whole year in the tennis courts created one of the greatest days to date.

Thursday was our big day out excursion. It took us away from the books to the beautiful riverside park where we spent one of our final days as a year group drenching each other in water fights and playing mass games of rugby league. It was a day where we realised how close our year group was.

Graduation was one of the hardest and greatest days of my life personally. The amount of laughs, joy and excessive tears made the experience that much more real. We watched our year group graduate one by one from our 13 years of schooling and watched presentations of our lives at Picnic Point High. The final year of our schooling was the most amazing time anyone had ever had.

We would like to give an extra special thanks to our teachers, Mr Negroh, Mr Baczynskyj, our parents and our wonderful year advisor and assistant Ms McManus and Ms Worthington.

Thank you and congratulations to the graduating class of Picnic Point High School 2013!!

Stephanie Deering.