Welcome back to the 2010 academic year and I hope everyone had a very restful and enjoyable holiday. A warm welcome also to all our new students (including all of Year 7) and our new teachers.

Welcome to the following new staff members;
Mr Monger   IA teacher
Mr Le   HT mathematics
Mr Galea   Mathematics teacher
Mr Burgess  HT IA
Ms Hespe-Poulos  English teacher
Ms Shlom  Dance teacher
Ms Succar  School counsellor
and welcome back to;
Ms Pallister  History teacher
Mr Hunt   PD/H/PE teacher

The staff, students and parents of Picnic Point High School congratulate both the School Certificate and the HSC class of 2009 on their outstanding achievements. Once again (for the 4th year in a row) the SC and HSC results at PPHS have improved.

In the 2009 School Certificate;
- In science there were 27 more bands 5 and 6 than last year (the best ever for our school) and less low bands 3, 2 and 1 than ever before.
- In the English literacy exam – 5 more bands 5 and 6 than last year (and best ever for our school) and less low bands 3, 2, and 1 than ever before.
- There were more Highly Commended results in the Computer Skills test than ever before
- Stephanie Panovski scored 96% in English and a perfect score of 100% in Geography.

In the 2009 HSC, nine students scored an ATAR over 90 and overall students achieved;
- 34 band 6’s
- 163 band 5’s
- 4 band 6’s in the subjects of IPT, Visual Arts and General Mathematics.
- Sherie Ashton was selected for Callback (a showcase of exemplary performances and compositions by HSC students of Dance).
- In HSC Visual Arts, Thomas Guest and Jay Tidswell were nominated for Art Express an annual exhibition of artworks of exceptional quality created by students for the Higher School Certificate Examination in Visual Arts.
- In HSC Industrial Technology, Joel Forster and Daniel Marsh were nominated by InTECH. Their projects were considered exemplars of major projects submitted by students for the HSC Industrial Technology examination.

MySchool Website
The launch of the MySchool website has attracted considerable media coverage and public interest. It appears that schools were compared using the NAPLAN tests that were designed as diagnostic tools to assist teachers and parents improve the learning of individual students. At PPHS we use the diagnostic information provided by NAPLAN with our school assessment information to ensure our teaching and learning programs best suit the Literacy and Numeracy needs of our students. Obviously there are many issues and anomalies when schools are rated on only Year 7 and 9 NAPLAN results as schools such as PPHS offer so much more to the curriculum in and outside of the classroom that all contributes to successfully educating our children. At PPHS we continue to be increasingly proud of our students’ achievements both academically including in the SC and HSC and in all other extra-curricular areas. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time if you require further information about the MySchool website or any other matters.
Deputy’s Report – Mr Baczynskyj

Welcome back to 2010 and another exciting school year. We are of course extremely happy for our Year 12 HSC and Year 10 School Certificate students from 2009 who achieved outstanding results in their examinations and vindicated their study efforts in their courses. As we add incredible new educational facilities across the school this year, we will strive to facilitate the further and continued success of all of our students.

As usual the first week has been very busy with students getting organised into classes and getting their equipment in order. I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that each student receives a school diary in which they are expected to record their homework, assignments and other matters to assist in the organisation of their learning. We inform students that their diary is to be with them every day and it would be useful for you to also encourage its use – it certainly helps in the later years of schooling to have a student who is well organised and structured for their studies.

Also in their diaries, students carry a ‘passport’ on which they record their homework, assignments and other contributions. Full passports are handed in (as are other merit awards) and go onto the student’s record as points. Throughout the year ‘reward’ excursions and activities occur to acknowledge these students. This merit program exists for all students 7-12 and the student’s current level in the system appears on their reports. Happily, we have had so much success with this program that we often have more candidates for reward activities than there are places available. Please encourage your child to earn one of these places.

As usual the uniform at Picnic Point High School is immaculate. We acknowledge the support the community provides in assisting with the pride in, and presentation of, our school. Students have their own copy of the uniform in their diaries which carries the expectation of our school community. In particular, we have appreciated the support in relation to appropriate shoes for school. This is driven primarily by OH&S requirements to ensure that students are safe and do not put themselves at risk. In this issue of PICNEWS we have included the current appropriate and inappropriate footwear from the school handbook.

I am definitely looking forward to yet another great year working with the Picnic Point High School community.

Deputy’s Report – Mr Schomberg

I am very pleased to have been given the opportunity to work in the substantive role as Deputy Principal at Picnic Point High School from 2010 onwards. I have certainly enjoyed the role and its many challenges in my experiences as relieving Deputy Principal over the last few years. I have already begun working closely with students from Years 8, 10 and 12 and their parents and I look forward to continuing in this role for many years to come.

Year 12 and their HSC Year

It has been a very busy start to the year and my main focus with Yr12 has been in mentally preparing these students for their HSC year. The big emphasis has been on their curriculum and in preparing them to best manage their many assessment tasks this term. It was a bit surprising and a little concerning that quite a few Yr12 students have decided to alter their pattern of studies and reduce the number of subjects they are preparing for in this year’s HSC. Mr Negroh and I both spoke to the students at length about the benefits of maintaining their Preliminary pattern of studies into their HSC year and Mr Negroh provided statistical evidence, based on the last 4 years’ results at PPHS that demonstrated the higher achieving students carried 11 or more units into their HSC year. However, in consultation with their parents, some Yr12 students have altered their pattern of studies and this has resulted in the following structural changes.

Where a student has “dropped” a subject from the curriculum, the periods where that subject used to occur on the timetable have now been designated “study periods”. During the school day the students are required to sign into the library, where they will be supervised completing private study during this time. I will be visiting the library as much as possible to ensure students remain focused and on task. The expectation is that this time will be used wisely. During week 3, students will be issued with a “flexi pass”. If the student has a study period as the first period of the day or a study period as the last period of the day, they will have permission to complete that study AT HOME. I emphasise the words “AT HOME”, because if the student is not at school studying during the school day, then the only other place they will be is at home. This message will be clearly given to the students at school and I seek the assistance of parents to also give the same message at home. If we can work together to help all Year 12 students make the most use of their time then we will be another step closer to producing the best results for each individual. All senior students are required to sign in when they arrive late to school and sign out if they are using the “flexi pass” to leave school early.

Exercise Books for All Students

The executive at the school have discussed the use of exercise books by junior students at school. With the roll out of laptop computers to Yr9 last year and the impending roll out of laptops to this Year’s Yr9, both staff and parents were not sure where this would leave the use of exercise books in a student’s day to day learning activities. I wish to make it very clear, that ALL students from Yrs 7 to 10 are expected to have a book for every subject they do EVERY DAY. Computers are deemed as additional tools to assist in learning and should not be brought to school on the Tuesday sport day. They DO NOT REPLACE books that students traditionally use. Yes there will be some learning activities best performed using computers, but there are also other learning experiences best recorded in their work books. All examinations including external exams are still conducted as pen and paper exams and we wish to foster this skill in all students. Senior students may still use a folder system with books or paper they can use for each subject studied. For Yrs 7 & 8, there will be a
comment in their reports about the completeness of their bookwork. Bookwork will be periodically checked and assessed by all teachers using a proforma that will be attached to the student’s book. Areas being assessed will include completeness, use of appropriate headings and presentation of their work in a clear, logical and thoughtful manner. I encourage all parents to assist by making sure your child has all the necessary equipment and books for each day’s lessons. Look at the work going into their books, encourage them to focus on the learning each day in each lesson and even when you ask the question, “What did you learn in school today?” – I can assure you that learning has taken place and some of that learning should be recorded in their books.

WHAT’S ON TERM 1 – 2010

Thurs 11/2  School Photo Day
Mon 15/2   P&C Meeting
Wed 17-19/2 Yr 11 Crossroads Camp
Mon 22/2   Yr 7 Art Excursion
Fri 26/2   Yr 7 Art Excursion
Thurs 25/2 Zone Swimming Carnival
Fri 5/3    Year 7 Immunisation (Day 1)
Tues 2/3  2011 Yr 7 Information Evening
Mon 1 & 8/3 Yr 10 Geography Excursion

Sport Report

Another busy sport year has begun. Year 7 are taking part in the EzySwim swimming course. Roll call classes 1, 2 and 3 have commenced their swimming program, with roll call classes 4, 5 and 6 beginning later in the term. This course is valuable for the development of skills for safety in and around the water. Payment is now due, to be paid at the office.

Tuesday afternoon sport is also underway for years 8, 9, 10 and 11. There have been a wide range of sports made available to the students this term. Payments for Grade sport will be altered as a trial this term, with students paying $5 when they travel on a bus for competition. Payment for recreational sports will still be one payment. Our junior teams have been filled, and we wish all our competing teams the best of luck. Places are still available in senior teams.

Congratulations to Brooke Weatherill who was chosen to represent New South Wales in the Under 15’s Metropolitan basketball team. Brooke travelled to Port Macquarie to compete against teams from New Zealand, Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and country New South Wales, with the team finishing 5th out of 12 teams. A great effort!

Knockout competitions and Zone and Regional trials will be starting over the next few weeks, and the Zone swimming carnival will be held on February 25 at Birrong Pool. We have had great success in these competitions in previous years and we look forward once again to following the successes of the students and teams of Picnic Point High School throughout 2010.

T. Northall and C. Worthington
Sport Organisers

Bankstown Sports Club
are proud sponsors of the school’s Talented Sports Program.
Year 7:
A record of vaccination will be provided to each student.

Year 10:
Students will be offered a combined booster vaccination (dTpa) for Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (whooping cough) to complete their adolescent program.

Further information for parents
A parent information kit will be sent home to all parents/guardians of eligible students. It is advisable that you read all the information provided, complete the consent form/s and return them to school if you wish for your children to be vaccinated. A course of HPV vaccine (for Year 7 girls) requires 3 doses and parents/guardians will be asked to sign for a full course. The Hepatitis B vaccination (for Year 7 students) requires 2 doses and separate consent forms will be issued for each dose.

A record of vaccination will be provided to each student vaccinated at the clinic. Parents/guardians should ensure that this record is kept for future reference.

The dates for these vaccination programs are as follows:

**Year 7:**
- 1st visit: 05/03/2010
- 2nd visit: 31/05/2010
- 3rd visit: 18/10/2010

**Year 10:**
- dTpa (Diphtheria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough)

Please note that the program is NOT compulsory. Students may receive these vaccinations from their local Doctor as an alternative. In addition, parents who wish to withdraw their consent for any reason can do so by writing to the school Principal.

Parent information kits will be sent home in the coming weeks. If you have any questions about this vaccination program please do not hesitate to contact me on 9772-1700 during school hours.

Mrs T Irons
Immunisation Co-ordinator

P & C News

Welcome back to the new school year. The first P & C meeting for 2010 will be held on Monday 15th February at 7 pm in A Block. This meeting will be very informal, an opportunity to see what happens in the school and for new parents to meet current members of the P & C and find out what we do. It has been great to have a few new names added to our Canteen roster and I welcome all those volunteers. The Canteen Supervisor will be in contact regarding your first rostered day.

I have also had some return slips for assistance in the library and as reader/writers and I have passed those on to the Librarian and Head Teacher Support to contact individual parents for these roles. A few parents have submitted forms for taste-testing and I will be in contact when we have our next session scheduled. If you still have your volunteer forms at home it is not too late to complete and return them as we are always looking for more assistance.

Upcoming events for the P & C are as follows:
- The Year 7 2011 Orientation Night on Tuesday 2nd March during which we provide cold drinks and friendly faces to all those families visiting our school for prospective enrolment next year.
- A Bunnings Fundraising BBQ on Saturday 13th March at Bunnings Bankstown Airport. We will be seeking willing helpers for this day. (If you can't make the meeting but would like to assist for a couple of hours please email me on the address below.)
- 2010 Annual General Meeting of the P & C will be held on Monday 15th March. This is the meeting where all positions on the P & C are vacated and nominations open to all to stand for a position. The cost of membership of the P & C is $1.00 per person and members must be financial to be able to vote. This amount will be collected at the March meeting.

I hope to see some new faces along with the regulars at our first meeting on the 15th February and remember children are welcome if you have no-one to mind them.

Christine Butters
P & C President
Email: bjcmbutters@yahoo.com.au
40km/h school zones

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The 40km/h school zone slows traffic in the vicinity of the school. Most 40km/h school zones operate between 8am and 9:30am and from 2:30pm till 4pm. The 40km/h school zone speed limit must be observed even if school children cannot be seen. A 40km/h school zone operates on all gazetted school days including staff development days (pupil free days).

While some schools may operate on different term dates, school zone speed limits MUST be adhered to during NSW Government determined school terms. Gazetted school term dates for 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 are listed below. Gazetted school term dates can be found on the RTA website and the websites of the NSW Board of Studies and the NSW Department of Education and Training.

Western Division
A small number of schools in the Western Division of NSW commence the school year one week later than schools in the remainder of the state.

Non-standard 40km/h school zone times
There are a small number of non-standard school zone times in NSW. Red signs at these schools display the non-standard times which apply.

The minimum penalty for speeding in an operating 40km/h school zone is a $141 fine and the loss of 2* demerit points.

Dragon’s teeth road markings
To increase motorists’ awareness of 40km/h school zones, triangular dragon’s teeth road markings will indicate that the vehicle is entering a school zone.

Gazetted School Term Dates

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<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
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<tr>
<td>TERM 1</td>
<td>27 January to 9 April</td>
<td>27 January to 1 April</td>
<td>28 January to 8 April</td>
<td>27 January to 5 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>TERM 2</td>
<td>28 April to 10 July</td>
<td>19 April to 2 July</td>
<td>26 April to 1 July</td>
<td>23 April to 29 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>TERM 3</td>
<td>27 July to 2 October</td>
<td>19 July to 24 September</td>
<td>18 July to 23 September</td>
<td>16 July to 21 September</td>
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<tr>
<td>TERM 4</td>
<td>19 October to 18 December</td>
<td>11 October to 17 December</td>
<td>10 October to 20 December</td>
<td>8 October to 21 December</td>
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Minimum fines and loss of demerit points for exceeding the 40km/h speed limit in an operating school zone

If you exceed 40km/h in an operating school zone in a light vehicle by:

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<tr>
<th>Speed Exceeded</th>
<th>Minimum fine</th>
<th>Minimum loss of demerit points</th>
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<tr>
<td>10 km/h and under</td>
<td>$141</td>
<td>2*</td>
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<tr>
<td>More than 10km/h but less than 20 km/h</td>
<td>$253</td>
<td>4*</td>
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<tr>
<td>More than 20km/h but less than 30 km/h</td>
<td>$422</td>
<td>5*</td>
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<tr>
<td>More than 30km/h but less than 45 km/h</td>
<td>$816</td>
<td>6*</td>
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<tr>
<td>More than 45 km/h</td>
<td>$1,859</td>
<td>7*</td>
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*These values are higher for provisional drivers and are doubled during designated holiday/long weekend periods.

For further enquiries www.rta.nsw.gov.au | 13 22 13

Move Ahead with Street Sense is a road safety education program delivered as part of the PDHPE program in all NSW primary schools.

July 2009 RTA/Pub 09/308C Stock No 4509 4516

5.
Michel's (Revesby) are proud sponsors of the PPHS 'student of the month' award.

Oatley Rugby Club under 18’s and 21’s
Training for 2010 season has started for 18’s and 21’s!!
Tuesday and Thursday Nights
@ HV Evatt Park, Lugarno at 6.30pm
If you are interested contact Mark on 0401 050 337
We have junior teams from under 6’s to 18’s and 4 senior teams and a 21’s side.
Check out our website for more information
www.oatleyrugby.com

Rugby League – Come and play for The Mighty Saints
St Christopher’s JRLFC
Sign on day Sunday, 7 February 2010
St Christopher’s Clubhouse, Bill Delauney Reserve
(end of River Road just before Henry Lawson Drive)
For details visit the Saints website:
www.stchristophers.com.au
or call Craig Jordan – 0413 120 667

ST CHRISTOPHER’S SOCCER CLUB ‘2010’ REGISTRATION DAYS:
Saturday 13th February videezy Panania - 10.00am to 2.00pm
Sunday 20th February videezy Panania - 10.00am to 2.00pm
We have teams from kindies, under 6s to 35s for all boys and girls.
Regards
Peter Garbellini
Jr Vice President
St Christophers Football club

Why not visit your local community club
28 Childs Street Panania
Proud sponsors of the Leonard W. Eickenloff Scholarship to Students of Picnic Point High School
Dear Parent/Guardian,

As part of the PD/H/PE syllabus provided by the Board of Studies of NSW we are required to teach students in Years 7-10 about a variety of issues related to Growth and Development as well as Challenges We Face In Life. Topics we are required to cover include:

- Heredity
- Puberty, Pregnancy and childbirth
- Managing the changes that occur during puberty
- Physical, Emotional and Social Changes during Adolescence
- Sexual Awareness & Sexual Harassment
- Developing positive physical relationships
- Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Homophobia & Date violence
- Sexual Health & Sexual Choices
- Suicide
- Loss & Grieving
- Empathy & Understanding
- Resilience

We feel it is important that parents are informed of the syllabus that we are required to provide to students. If you **DO NOT** wish your son/daughter to attend the classes when these topics are taught please fill in the slip below and return it to the school. If you are happy for your son/daughter to follow the program set by the Board of Studies you do not need to respond to this letter.

Thank you for your cooperation and should you require further information or clarification please do not hesitate to call me on 9772 1700.

A. Millican
Head Teacher PD/H/PE

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**I DO NOT** wish my son/daughter ___________________________ to attend classes on Growth and Development and require separate work to be set for them.

Signed _____________________________________ Date: ________________________
G’Day USA Tour

Over the holidays, a group of students travelled to the United States with the G’day USA Cultural Exchange. The group departed Sydney on January 7, flying into Los Angeles and then making the two hour trip by bus to San Diego. It was there that we met the people who were to be our host families for the next 11 days.

On the first day we went into school with our host. West Hills High School has a student population of 2500. The school contained great facilities, including its own theatre and gymnasium. The students attended lessons in English, Maths and Spanish.

The weekends were free to spend with our host families, and during the week we toured San Diego, going to the zoo, Sea World (where we saw the killer whale show), Mission Beach, the Mexican border, and did LOTS of shopping.

After farewelling our host families, we flew to San Francisco. Even a 6 hour delay and soaked luggage did not dampen our spirits. We toured Alcatraz and caught the famous cable cars to Union Square, and had a tour of the city.

It was then on to Los Angeles. California was having its worst weather in many years, but it didn’t stop us from seeing the sights of Santa Monica and Hollywood, where we did a walking tour. Disneyland was what most of the group were looking forward to, and it didn’t disappoint. The whole day was spent on the rides and attractions. More daredevil thrills were in store for the next day, with a visit to the rollercoasters of Knotts Berry Farm. Our final day was spent at Universal Studios, getting a behind the scenes look at how movies are made. From here, it was off to the airport for the flight home.

We arrived home on Australia Day, weary, happy to be home, but having had a great time.

Industrial Arts

2010 sees the introduction of two new members on the Industrial Arts staff at Picnic Point Mr P. Burgess Head Teacher and Mr B. Monger.

The end of 2009 saw the retirement of long standing Head Teacher Mr R Lockhart. All at the school wish him well in his retirement and safe and happy travels.

2010 is shaping up to be a very exiting year with in the Industrial Arts department with many excellent programs and projects being run. We have 3 HSC classes this year Industrial Technology, Engineering and VET Construction and we look forward to seeing excellent results from these students.

NSW Occupational Heath and Safety regulations state that students are not permitted into a workshop area unless they have closed toe leather shoes. This is a reminder for all students undertaking any Industrial Arts subject that they are required to wear the correct footwear.

I am looking forward to an exciting and productive year.

P. Burgess
HT Industrial Arts

VET

VET subjects continue to grow at Picnic Point High School. This year Construction, Hospitality and Entertainment all have increased numbers with classes being taught in both Years 11 and 12

Mr Topping’s Construction class has completed the work in helping convert under the hall into a new fitness lab, I know the hard work shown by him and these students is appreciated.

All VET students are required to undertake 70 hours of mandatory work place learning. Year 11 students will be attending work placement early next term. A reminder to any Year 12 student that has not completed the 70 hours of work placement they need to see Mr Burgess as soon as possible.

P. Burgess (HT VET)
Note from your Year 7 Advisor

Year 7 2010
Well, the first week at Picnic Point High ran smoothly for our Year 7 students who in these first few days show plenty of promise...

For those parents who could not attend the orientation day this note is a reminder of my role at PPH and how your child can contact me should the need arise.

My name is Mrs Andrzejewska and I am the Year Advisor for Year 7. My classroom is situated in the main administration block (room 5A) and my staffroom is directly above near the Social Science Staffroom.

Students should feel free to contact me for issues including personal matters, curriculum and questions relating to general school routines.

Also please remember that the school camp is scheduled for Term 2, week 2 at Myuna Bay and this is expected to cost approximately $250 per child. We are looking forward to this camp as it always turns out to be lots of fun! Not only do the children enjoy this experience immensely but the camp helps them forge new friendships and build school spirit.

Best wishes
Mrs Andrzejewska

LOTE REPORT

Welcome back to all our language students - we are looking forward to an exciting, fun and rewarding year in the LOTE faculty. A special welcome to all Year 7 students, many of whom are studying another language for the first time - we're confident you'll enjoy learning Japanese! We'd also like to wish our Year 12 students all the best with their studies this year as they work towards their Higher School Certificate.

2010 will be full of interesting and fun events for all language students. Year 7 will gain a comprehensive introduction to the Japanese language and culture, through a variety of classroom activities. The cost for studying Japanese in Year 7 is $24. This money should be paid as part of the total school fees. We have been distributing the Hai 1 workbooks and grid books that are used as part of the Year 7 course in class. If this money is still outstanding, we would appreciate it being paid as soon as possible.

SRC REPORT

The SRC would like to welcome all students back to school and hope that everyone has an enjoyable year. The SRC meetings are held Week B, every Monday lunchtime in Room B21, so if any student has an issue, please inform your SRC rep so it can be discussed at the meeting. SRC reps keep their year group updated with all SRC developments through the Formal Assemblies that are held each Term. Year 7 SRC reps will be elected during Term 2 this year, along with all other Year elections. If you have any questions regarding the SRC, please contact me during school hours.

Miss K Marquis

REMINDER TO PARENTS-RE THE INTERNET

The Department of Education provides students with access to the DET Portal which includes access to E-Mail and the Internet. If you do not give consent for your child to have access to these facilities could you please advise the school?
ENGLISH REPORT

Following are some poems and stories written by the 2009 Year 8 students for their Gothic Unit.

A. Twigg

Senses by Steven Skintzis

I feel my heart pumping through my chest
I smell a horrible stench from the drain, like bodies rotting
I taste cold blood dripping from the ceiling
I hear scratching in the walls, like ghosts trying to escape
I see dead people all around me as the world prepares to die.

Encounter in the Cathedral by John Georgiou

Robert was running through the storm as a massive flock of ravens passed over his head. This was the worst storm he had ever been in. The only shelter he could see was a massive, terrifying and unwelcoming cathedral. Frightened, he ran inside. It was eerie and empty and not a sound was heard in the discouraging emptiness.

All of a sudden, a loud, continuous banging reverberated off the walls of the great cathedral. Just then, as if on cue, a cold wind rushed through the room and extinguished all of the candles that were minding their own business and burning ever so brightly. Robert’s curly, black hair fluttered about, like the ravens he had seen earlier. He thought that one of the cathedral doors had opened and let the wind run through. But he was horribly mistaken. The truth was far worse. Robert soon discovered that the wind had come not from the outside world, but from the lower depths of the cathedral.

Robert’s skin was now wracked with goosebumps and his mind was as scared as a child left alone in the dark, all by himself. He gingerly made his way to the stairs that led down to the lower level and peered into the darkness. He couldn’t distinguish anything in the gloom, but then he looked deeper. The only thing he could now see was a pair of very evil, glowing, yellow eyes, piercing the darkness.

Several chills ran up Robert’s spine and his feet seemed nailed to the floor. The owner of the eyes crept closer and Robert started to make out the mysterious figure. It was definitely not humanoid. It was about three metres tall and had huge, sharp claws that emanated from a hand-like extremity. Its face was elongated and had razor sharp horns on its muscular head. It snarled at Robert, barring its massive, dagger-like teeth. And then it roared. It was louder than the thunder crashing outside. It almost made Robert’s ears explode.

Finally, Robert regained control of his feet and scurried out of the cathedral, with the creature in dangerously close pursuit. He decided to flee to the nearest general store and hopefully hide in there. As he ran, he could feel the creature’s breath down the back of his neck. He could feel it nipping at his heels. Whatever it was, it wanted meat. And Robert was what it wanted right now.

Robert cautiously stood up from his crouching position and stood over the body of his fallen opponent. “Victory is not yours today, our creature.” Exclaimed Robert triumphantly. He very proudly strutted out of the store and faced the misery of the cold and dreary night.

“You cannot defeat me!” he shouted into the dark sky. “I am invincible!!” Just as he said this, he spotted a white dove that stood out like a shining star in the night sky. It fluttered its wings so majestically, like it had won a battle. Robert then stared at a tattoo he had on his arm. It too was a white dove.

LEGEND by Deena Odeh

It was a dark, gloomy night in the year 1959. Nothing could be seen or heard. The silence is very frightening, 15-year-old Monica Dais thought. She had just finished watching a movie with her friends and had decided to take a short cut home, going through the much deserted Rockdale Park. She was an extremely reckless child and decided to disregard all of her father’s warning about walking through this park at night. The moon had just come up and a ray of moonlight illuminated the now pitch black park. It was a very quiet night so Monica was startled when she heard a loud bone-crushing snap from the bridge 50 metres in front of her. She didn’t think much of it and continued on getting closer to the bridge. All of a sudden the wind started howling and shaking as though possessed and Monica heard a sadistic and manic laugh. She finally realised something was desperately wrong and sprinted under the bridge. There was a sudden movement and Monica was never seen again. And so began the legend that would last for 50 years.

“It happened 50 years ago. A girl named Monica was walking home, taking a short cut through this very park, when something unexplainable happened and she disappeared forever. Some say it was a vampire, others say it was a troll. “All I know is that this park is haunted for eternity,” 14 year old Holly Stevenson explained to her sceptical best friend, Tony.
“Oh please Holly. Trust me that is a all a bunch of baloney. There is no such thing as haunted”. Holly scoffed but didn’t say anything further as they passed this very park.

“I know you don’t believe me so to prove it to you I’m going to go home through this park. ‘See you tomorrow,” Tony exclaimed and with a quick hug he was off, walking towards the creepy bridge.

“No wait. Are you crazy?” Holly yelled but Tony just waved and kept on walking. Holly’s sense of unease and foreboding only intensified when she heard a mysterious evil ring of laughter. She didn’t sleep one wink that night, too worried about Tony. The next day Tony wasn’t at school. Or the next, or the next. On the fourth day since walking home, Tony was announced missing. Once over the initial shock Holly cried and cried, to the point of near hysteria. But by the end of the day, she had come to a resolution. She was going to find what had taken Tony and kill it. Even if it was her last act on this Earth.

Straight after school that day, Holly ran over to old Mr Dais’s house. He was well known across town as the ‘crazy, superstitious old man’ because of his theories about the bridge in Rockdale Park. Until this moment Holly believed these stories, but now she knew he really did know what he was talking about and would be the only person now to be able to help her. She went up to the small, decrepit house and knocked for about 5 minutes. When there was no reply, Holly let herself in. The first thing that Holly noticed was the horrible stench of garlic. It was burning her nose. The house was also full of stakes and crosses, giving Holly the impression that maybe what ‘some’ say about the legend was right. A frail and ancient looking Mr. Dais was standing in the living room in a defensive position with a cross in one hand and garlic in the other, giving Holly a near heart attack. Holly noted how paranoid he looked, his eyes darting between her and the door.

“GET OUT”, he roared.

“Please Mr Dais you have to help me –”. But Holly was cut off by an insanely loud, “I DON’T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING FOR YOU! NOW LEAVE!”

Holly wasn’t about to give up so easily though. She toughened up her backbone and said politely but fiercely “I’m not leaving until you help me. My best friend, Tony, is missing and he went under Rockdale Bridge like Monica did”.

At the mention of Monica’s name Mr Dais’s hard eyes softened. “I told her not to pass that park, that it wasn’t safe, but she never believed me”, his voice cracked and he was quiet for a long moment. Holly saw him wipe his eyes. “Okay, this is what you have to do to save your friend if he is still alive. Take every single stake, cross and garlic clove in this house. Then go to Rockdale Bridge. You’ll know what to do when you get there. I know you will.” Holly did as she was told, then turned around and gave Mr. Dais an enormous hug, thanking him before leaving.

Holly was trembling as she ran, fast as a wolf, towards Rockdale Park. She was as scared as a mouse, at the possible fact that Tony might not be alive. Eons of time seemed to go past before she reached the Park. It was dark when she eventually did. There was a slightly chilly mist in the air, which added to Holly’s panic. It was silent when Holly reached the Bridge, so she shrieked. There was an abrupt movement as the ground seemed to open up, causing Holly to fall into a dungeon-like room. She groaned in pain, her back feeling like hell. She stood up quickly and looked around, regrettting it immediately when she saw what looked to be at least 200 shattered skeletons on the ground. With a terrible sob, Holly realised she was too late. As if a monster like this would keep Tony alive for this long. Out of the corner of her eye Holly saw someone, a man, standing. She turned towards him with an awful vengeance, a scowl on her face. He returned it with an amused expression and despite her hatred Holly couldn’t help but notice that this man was a Greek Adonis, there was no other way to describe him physically. But this thought didn’t perturb Holly as she lunged at him with the stake. The vampire obviously didn’t view her as a threat so was unprepared for the attack until it was too late.

“This is for Tony”, Holly bellowed as she shoved the stake into the non-existent heart of the vampire, while placing the garlic into his mouth. The vampire let out a terrible, screeching sound and a very foul odour came from him, like onions and dead flesh mixed together. But he was dead. He would never kill again. The legend was over. But even though Holly knew she ought to be happy, she wasn’t. She honestly could not fathom a life without Tony, and with that thought she drove the sharp cross through her own heart.

CAPA REPORT

2010 is going to be another exciting and busy year for the CAPA faculty. Some of our successes in 2009 included: Evening of Dance, The East Hills Choral Festival, Wonderland! The adventures of Alice and Music Performance Evenings. Two of our Year 12 Visual Arts students, Thomas Guest and Jay Tidswell, were selected to have their works displayed in Art Express. Art Express showcases the best artistic talent in New South Wales. Congratulations to the students and staff that helped to make 2009 such a success.

This year I would like to introduce you to Ms Justine Shlom who is the school’s new Dance teacher. Ms Shlom brings a wealth of experience and her passion for Dance is very obvious. We look forward to working with her.

Choir, Vocal Ensemble, Dance and Drama auditions are all under way. The ‘Instrumental Loan and Tutoring Program’ is ready to begin. If your child would like to learn the Clarinet,
Saxophone, Trumpet or Flute please send them to Mr Andrews to collect a note. Instruments are hired for a fee of $120 for the entire year. Tutoring is absolutely free, that’s an offer that is too good to miss!

Students who are selected to be members of school ensembles must pay their contributions as quickly as possible. All contributions will be outlined on the information that your child receives. This money helps our ensembles to run that the high standard that you have come to know and expect.

The school band welcomes a number of new members. We are aiming to hold a small concert towards the end of this term to showcase the hard work that the school ensembles have been doing in Term One.

This year we will be putting on a MADD (Music, Art, Dance & Drama) night. This showcase of the Creative Arts will be held in Term Two. Keep your eye out for further information; this will be an evening not to be missed.

Mr Andrews
HT CAPA

Laptops for Learning
Last year every student in Year 9 was issued with their own laptop and the roll out for the current Year 10 students will take place towards the end of this term. Paul Mach was appointed to the school last year as the school’s Technical Support Officer and any enquires regarding laptops can be forwarded to him.

REMINDER
to Parents-Publishing
Student Work, Photographs
and Other Media

The school occasionally uses student photos, videos and work samples in teaching and learning materials developed for the school and in promotional materials distributed to a wider audience. This material may be distributed through the school newsletter, books, CDs, video/audio cassettes on the intranet or on the internet. In the event that you do not give consent for inclusion of student work and photographs, videos in such publications could you please advise the school?