

Bulletin

Issue 1 Term 4, 2013



TOURING QUEENSLAND

GRANVILLE BOYS HIGH SCHOOL

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“A GREAT PLACE TO
LEARN”



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VICTOR CHANG



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Ms L O'Brien

Firstly I would like to thank Mr James Mallios who relieved as Principal in my absence. I have recovered well from my knee replacement. Mr Mallios did a great job "holding the fort" and as his usual practice he was careful, thoughtful and meticulous in his management of all affairs. Thank you too to Mr Mandarakas and Mr Bellavia who stepped up to fill the positions of relieving Deputy Principal and Head Teacher HSIE respectively. Their commitment and support of the students and teachers at the school is greatly appreciated.

We have had a fantastic year at GBHS. It seems that I begin each of my final reports in this way but there have been such a variety of programs and projects for students both inside the classroom and in the community.

The Band Tour to the Gold Coast will hopefully become an annual event. The students represented their school with great honour. The friendliness, charm and genuine interest the boys demonstrated in the schools they visited was greatly appreciated. I have been the proud recipient of the praise heaped upon the school as a result of the tour. The Queensland bus driver who drove the boys from site to site rang after he dropped the boys at the airport to tell me how much he enjoyed their company and how impressed he was with their musical prowess. The Deputy Principal of Woodridge State High School (WSHS) said the students from her school were sad to see their visitors go. The Anti-Racism Workshops, facilitated by our students and attended by refugee students from WSHS gave our students an opportunity to discuss very sensitive issues about the prevention of racism in our country. The visits to Runaway Bay Kindyland and Southport Special School were received by screaming fans with standing ovations. The boys returned to school on Friday afternoon with their "Movie World" souvenirs and big smiles. As one of them told me, "It was the best time of my life."

Enormous thanks to Mr Dixon, Ms Su, Ahmad Dennaoui and Kehe Luitai and also to Ms Kim for her organisation. The tour was funded in part by a grant from the Department of Immigration as part of the "RACISM IT STOPS WITH ME" Campaign.

Robotics and Study with Macquarie University has been facilitated by Mr Marciniak throughout this year and we are very pleased with the outcome for boys in Year 7 Enrichment and our Year 11 students. Details of the program are covered more fully in Mr Marciniak's report later in the Bulletin. As well, the **Transition Programs** for our feeder Primary Schools have been led and managed by a very busy Mr Marciniak. Our anticipated enrolment for year 7 2014 is very promising with a 30 % improvement on 2013. We will be welcoming our first class of students who have gained entry in to our academically selective class.

Our University Links and the WOW (World of Work) are immensely valuable programs that assist our students plan pathways for their future. This term students have visited Wollongong and Sydney Universities as well as Universities Western Sydney and Technology Sydney (UTS). Seniors and juniors have enjoyed history workshops, or engaged in science or electronics or engineering activities. Teachers have liaised with university personnel to make these programs possible for our students. WOW was organised in association with the Foundation For Young Australians and gave students firsthand experience of different work sites in the Sydney CBD. They met with students from a wide variety of schools and not only gained great insights but made new friends. I am again very proud of the students who represented us with distinction.

The Resource Allocation Model (RAM) has been distributed to the 229 schools that are at the front of the changes that are being implemented through the Department of Education and Communities. GBHS as one of these 229 schools has been given our allocation for 2014. The table below outlines the amounts that have be allocated to different areas of our school. A major cost is salaries for all staff and this has been factored into these amounts. As you can the total funding for the school is \$7, 339,176.00

RAM Funding by RAM Funding Component and Funding Purpose

	Base	Equity	Targeted	Other	Total
Education Location	5,113,400.00				5,218,752
Aboriginal		825.00		105,352.	
Socio-economic	1,080,968	99,194			
Language		328,337	611,099		
Disability					
	5,113,400.00	1,509,324	611,099	105,352	7,339,176

All budgets for the school are presented to the finance committee where staff, students and parents are represented. We hope to encourage greater community participation in school governance and thereby serve the needs of the community better.

As this is the last Bulletin for the year I look forward to receiving outstanding results from our Year 12 **HSC students. Farewell to this cohort of students who have been a credit to their school.** As I write Year 10 are completing their work experience. On behalf of the staff I would like to wish all our families a safe and happy festive season and a wonderful new year.



DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr M Marciniak

Year 7 Enrichment

It's been a busy term with the Year 7 Enrichment Robotics program coming to an end. After two terms of learning about how to design, build and program the Lego robots with the assistance from the Macquarie University tutors, it was now time for our students to test their skills in the arena. The date was Wednesday 20th of November and by 8am students from other schools were already arriving to partake in the ferocious challenge. Students from Auburn Girls, Auburn Public, East Hills Girls, were getting ready for battle, some two hundred students and thirty judges were ready for the day that lay ahead. Macquarie University had set up the practice tables, the competition tables, the judges rooms and a real time, online score board. There was going to be some tough competition for our boys. The morning started with a brief introduction from our vice-captain Wassim Nablousi and then they were off, students making final adjustments to their Lego robots and scoping out their opposition on the practice tables. Our students might have lacked some of the experience of the other students but what they lacked in experience they made up for in enthusiasm and tenacity. Whilst the fierce competition erupted on the floor our other students worked silently and seamlessly, running the CAFÉ and taking orders. Our student volunteers worked the floor, reading time tables to ferry student groups to the judging rooms and serving light refreshments to our guests and stoking the BBQ to satisfy the hunger of the competitors'.

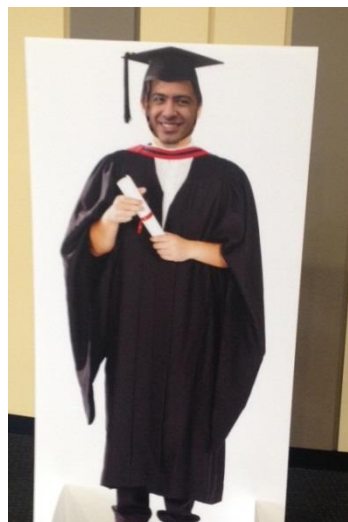
Over all the day was a great success for Granville Boys and although our best outcome was a fifth place, the students thoroughly enjoy the competition and the opportunity that Macquarie University had provided our students. We look forward to being a part of next year's competition and if we are lucky enough we might even get the privilege of hosting the event again.

Year 6 to 7 community of schools transition project

This is the third consecutive year that Granville Boys High School, Granville South Creative and Performing Arts H.S. and Auburn Girls H.S. have coordinated the year 6-7 transition skills days with our local primary schools. This year as previously the focus was to provide students with the opportunity to develop their learning and social skills to further improve the student's ability for making a successful transition between year 6 to year 7. Collectively the high schools provided the students with learning experiences in Drama/English, Science, PDHPE, Food Technology and the Arts. Primary students from Auburn North, Blaxcell Street, Granville South Public and Guildford Public attended their respective high schools to participate in the three day workshops. Unfortunately the unpredictable weather put a dampener on our third

day which was organised to be held at Campbell Hill reserve at Chester Hill. Despite the poor weather conditions on day three the program was once again a great success. We greatly appreciate the time and cooperation offered by our primary schools and look forward to working with them again next year.

Year 11/12 students are "off to a good start" working with Ms Donna Hemmi from Macquarie University. The "Off to a Good Start" program has been running all year, however this term we have been focusing on ensuring that students have effective study timetables and assessment study time tables to prepare them for the stresses and strains of this term and next year. Ms Hemmi had been attending year 12 classes to assist students with their assessment tasks and then we had students stay back after school on Tuesday afternoons to ensure they had effective plans and to provide them with assistance to manage and work on their tasks. Tutors from the University of Technology have also been available to assist our students and all their teachers have been extremely encouraging and supportive to ensure all our students complete their assessment tasks to a high standard and appreciate the value of learning that occurs through this process. As part of program students from the cohort had the opportunity to attend Macquarie University to hear some of the university lecturers talk about some of the courses that are on offer and for the students to experience what it's like to be on a university campus. The day provided students with a first-hand experience to see and feel what it was like.



DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr F Abas

The National Partnership Evaluation was completed early this term and looked at the changes in the schools' systems and practices, which are a consequence of the partnership in 2013. The following were highlighted as significantly impacting school operation, which led to improve learning outcomes for students.

At the end of 2012, the Literacy Team recognised the need for a broad range of reading and writing professional learning programs. The team coordinated the 2013 whole school professional learning program 'Reading to Learn'. After an experimentation phase with the model methodology and suggested pedagogy, staff began to identify common skills that were successfully used across all learning areas.

The discussion during the fortnightly faculty professional learning period also highlighted these common skills and areas for reflection. The majority of teachers have indicated that group/individual reading, highlighting of words and terms, writing words and finding alternative meaning, and answering knowledge and comprehension questions were the most meaningful and useful to students.

Some staff spoke about success with rewriting of text and reading material.

The focus of faculties during term 4 has been on developing reading and writing activities using elements of the R2L process and Mnemonic devices. The Mathematics, English, HSIE, TAS, CAPA and Science faculties have completed new learning material for Stage 4, whilst PDHPE completed learning material for stage 5. These resources have been trialed with the assistance of Ms Bendeich from the Literacy Team.

Using the expert demonstration model, Ms Bendeich supported student and teacher learning, by scaffolding the writing and reading activities to a deeper level. Combining this process with the use of school specific standardised learning processes, such mnemonic devices and some elements of the R2L method, improved student engagement and understanding of the learning content knowledge and reading and writing process. Teachers from all learning areas participated in the expert demonstration classes to build student ability to use the devices and teacher confidence with the process.

The educational focus at the school on project based learning in the form of integrated learning projects provided students with more meaningful learning experiences. The expansion of the educational methodology to a variety of learning modes including in-faculty collaboration, faculty-to-faculty and multi-faculty learning provided teachers with further opportunities to improve student-learning experiences. The structures used to transform student-learning experiences using a multimodal approach has enhanced

student potential to engage in learning by helping them feel more positive about themselves as learners.

The engagement of students through student voice in a conversation on teaching and learning and what constitutes good learners, has formed the basis for a greater awareness of the effect of listening, working together, engaging in active learning and revising on performance in class and assessments. Constructing meaningful curriculum and a significant site of learning has been a major goal of the school leadership team, and together with community and student discourse on learning, has enriched the community understanding of how school can contribute to better choices and opportunities.

The transformation of student learning and engagement and performance in assessments can be significantly attributed to the changes in learning that has come from the coordinated efforts of all teachers. Students' attitude to school can be attributed to the very successful music and dance program and the ongoing relationships with all universities and leadership programs. The conversation with students and parents on good learning has transformed how students and parents perceive school and schooling, and affected significantly their opinion of what value school can provide to their children.

The school has been continually reviewing NAPLAN preparation and the planning process for a number of years. In the last three years, there has been a significant increase in the number of students achieving their expected minimum growth target in all areas of NAPLAN. The significance of this achievement was evident in the 2012 year 9 results where the school achieved the highest rank in the SEG for the student value-add score in all areas of NAPLAN. The school again achieved first place ranking in 2013 for year 9 writing and spelling.

As the 'Granville Platform for Collaborative Education' encourages continual reflection and analysis of student performance and achievement, cross-faculty learning teams have reviewed the SMART data and the NAPLAN preparation process. Staff highlighted the need to continue to develop and embed literacy and numeracy learning in faculty specific and whole school learning programs and resources. Currently, the teams are in the process of developing writing tools for stage 6 and reading and writing strategies and resources for the year 7-orientation program. The team members have commenced this process with consultation meetings to ensure alignment with school priorities of student performance and engagement.

The staff conversation in 2014 will again centre of the development of learning over the stages and in particular on the progression of learning modes and cognitive domains over the stages. The learning environment will also be negotiated with conversations

through student voice and parent discussion. We look forward to this collaboration.

Over the summer holiday, the Literacy and Numeracy Teams will be providing students with a learning booklet and material to encourage reading. In term 1 2014, we will conduct interviews with year 9 parents and students. The interviews will provide parents with information on student performance in Literacy and Numeracy and options for improving student learning outcomes.

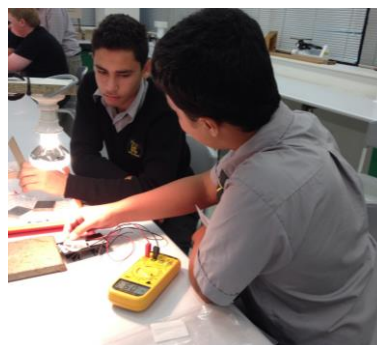
Year 10 students have completed the subject selection process for 2014. The process was a great opportunity to hear what students felt about school and career options. Students were given the opportunity to discuss various career options and subject choices regardless of whether they want to go to university, or to pursue a trade or apprenticeship. The subject selection process is about targeting subjects that will allow the student to succeed. Students have received a letter outlining their final choices in the coming weeks. Parents are expected to sign and return the subject selection confirmation letter to confirm the student entry into year 11 in 2013. Please contact me if you have any questions about this process.

Year 10 students completed the All My Own Work program, which was designed to help Higher School Certificate students to follow the principles and practices of good scholarship and they listened to presentations from the School Chaplain, Representatives from the AFL and NSW Police on the dangers of fireworks and recreational drug use. They also participated in the Crossroads program, which reflects some of the contemporary health issues facing young people like drink driving and spiking and sexual health.

Year 11 has been participating in the HSC support program with Mr Marciniak and Macquarie University. The program provides students with the support for planning and organising assessment tasks and study schedules. Monitoring of learning and completion of higher quality assessment tasks has been a priority of the senior executive. Although some students are in need of extra support to complete tasks on time and to an acceptable level, most students are highly motivated and keen achieve to their potential.

The Sydney Alliance held the Leaders Assembly at Granville Boys High School and I was privileged to be the school representative. The school band played some music and our Captains welcomed the Alliance members to the school. The areas discussed included the groups' vision for employment and apprenticeships across Sydney, housing affordability, public transport and Westmead Hospital. After hearing the discussion on all these important community issues, I supported the issues of apprenticeships and employment and public transport.

With the coming summer holidays approaching, I would like to wish all students and their families a happy and safe holiday.



HEAD TEACHER WELFARE

Ms Libdy

Welcome to Term 4. This Term is very busy in the sense that many of the programs that we had running throughout the year are nearing completion.

The Goals program is coming to an end for this year. The students have had their last session on November the 6th at KPMG. The closing ceremony will be held at Auburn Girls High School on Thursday the 28th of November. Our boys, The Mentors and Auburn Girls will celebrate the end of another Goals season. The students will also have an opportunity to thank their Mentors. The students gained invaluable confidence and skills that can be used throughout their lives.

Links to Learning has completed for this year. This program ran every Tuesday with Year 16 Year 10 students.

On Wednesday the 6th of November Ms. O'Brien and I took 20 Year 11 students to the Sydney Town Hall to listen to **Dr Cynthia Maung** who is the 2013 recipient of the **Sydney Peace Prize**. Dr Cynthia Maung is a Humanitarian Doctor and founder of the Mae Tao Clinic on the Thai Burmese Border. The boys listened to Dr Maung's story as she talked about health, healing and dignity of those dispossessed by war.

The same boys also attended **Cabramatta High** school peace day on the 8th of November. Dr Maung also spoke at that event. We also watched performances held by Cabramatta High school students.

I am very proud of our boys and the way they represent themselves in the wider community. They are a credit to their parents. They represent our school with pride and respect. I am always honoured to be in their company and I am also honoured when people from the community comment on how wonderfully behaved and respectful our boys are.

A group of Year 10 students and I went to **Inaburra School** on Monday the 18th of November. This initiative was designed to develop deep and lasting peer relationships between students from diverse cultural and religious communities. The focus of the initiative is to

promote tolerance and a sense of belonging to a shared peer group with shared concerns for social harmony. The boys really enjoyed their visit as they got to see a school that is very much different to ours. They were treated to musical, dancing and drama performances and they were given a tour of the school. Many friendships were formed on that day. 17 boys from Inaburra high visited our school on Tuesday the 19th of November. The boys were welcomed by our Islander dance boys. They were also treated to Arabic Music. They along with our boys had a workshop run by Zohab Khan who is a spoken poet. They were privy to Zohab's fabulous poetry and they were able to write and perform some of their poetry. We ended the visit with the boys playing Soccer and Basket Ball. We are hoping that our relationship with Inaburra will continue for many years to come.

Together for Humanity organised for 20 Year 9 boys to cook for the homeless. They along with Engadine High School students went to Bondi kitchen. The boys had a wonderful time working as a team cooking many meals for the homeless. It was an experience that the boys will treasure and appreciate for many years to come. Hopefully this experience will also lead our boys to wanting to volunteer in their local and wider community.

Some of our **singers and the Islander Dance group were invited to perform at the ABCN** (Australian Business and Community Network) end of year celebration and the presentation of the 2013 ABCN Scholarship Foundation Winners on Wednesday the 20th of November.

The Australian Business and Community Network is a partnership of highly committed national business leaders and companies working on mentoring programs for students from high needs schools. Since 2005, 10,000 mentors have participated in ABCN programs with schools in areas of high need to broaden the horizons of students and support.

The performances were fantastic and were enjoyed by all that were present.

The students are to be congratulated on their behaviour and their eagerness to participate in all the activities presented to them at this school

This is a reflection of the quality of the school. Many Community and Government organisations are actively providing our school and the students with leadership opportunities which raise expectations.

Students participating in past events have commented on how valuable and exciting these opportunities have been and how they have made them much more confident and willing to participate in extracurricular activities.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish our families and the students a safe and happy holiday.



MATHS REPORT

Ms Ram

Term 4 in the Mathematics faculty is always extremely busy. This is the time when the junior students have their final assessments and teachers write their yearly reports giving an overview of the students' performance for the year. For year 8 students, these cumulative assessments determine their placement into the year 9 classes for 2013. In year 9 next year, there will be three pathways. Students who qualify for Pathway 5.3 and maintain their effort in year 10, would be able to do Mathematics and/or Mathematics Extension 1 in year 11. Students who are chosen for Pathway 5.2 would be capable of doing Mathematics and/or General Mathematics in year 11. Those students who enter the Pathway 5.1 course would be able to do either General Mathematics 1 and/or General Mathematics 2 in year 11.

This is also a planning time for the next year. In 2014, the year 7's and 9's will follow the New Australian Curriculum. The teachers in the Maths faculty spent substantial amount of time writing and refining the new year 7 and 9 programs.

For students who aspire to go to university for tertiary education, particularly to do Engineering, Medicine and Aviation, to mention a few, need to do Pathway 5.3 in years 9 and 10, to be able to do Mathematics Extension 1 in years 11 and 12 and Extension 2 in year 12. Parents can support and encourage their son's educational endeavours to achieve to his potential. They can help by setting high expectations for success, monitoring homework, assignments and course work, or by just being there to talk to their children about learning.

In weeks 6 and 7 of this term, the year 11's who are now in the first term of their HSC coursework, will sit for their first HSC assessment task. It is thus imperative that the students prepare themselves thoroughly for these tasks as it will contribute towards the quality of their HSC grade. Students can access help with their school work and homework by attending the homework centre in the library on Mondays and Wednesdays. If students need specific help with Mathematics, they need arrange a time with their teacher for further help.

Australian Mathematics Competition

In August this year a group of 31 students participated in the Australian Mathematics Competition which is a prestigious National competition in which our boys usually perform quite well. Four students achieved credits, nine achieved proficiency while the others were awarded participation certificates. Those students who missed out this year would get another opportunity to participate in the AMC in 2013. Registration dates will be advertised early in term 1 next year.

The Mathematics faculty and the Numeracy team have looked at the NAPLAN test data for 2013. The data indicates a positive outcome for Granville Boys. In Numeracy, there is a significant improvement and growth in the quality of achievement across the school. Parents can utilize the NAPLAN result given to their son to help and guide with their son's revision and remedial work.

Mathletics

In 2014, the school will no longer buy a license for Mathletics. However, parents who would like their children to have access to Mathletics will be required to purchase their licenses individually. It will help to provide extra support and resources for developing the mathematical potential in their children.

Back to School in 2014

A very important part of the back to school preparation is purchasing stationery and other equipment before the school begins. Parents must take advantage of the reduced prices during The "Back to School" sales and stock up on their son's stationery needs. Mathematics faculty requires every student to have the following equipment on their first day of school in the 2014 school year.

- A grid book (128/198 pages)
- A Scientific calculator Model: fx 82 Plus (This can also be purchased at school for \$25)
- Ruler, rubber, pencils,
- Pens (Blue, Red, and Black)
- A Geometry set
- A Spare book
- All Books must be covered/contacted

The school will be hosting its annual Presentation day on the 13th of December at the school this year to celebrate student successes with parents and the community. I would like to congratulate all students who would receive an award that day for showing diligence and thank their parents for their effort in their son's achievement

The Mathematics faculty wishes all students an exciting and enjoyable school holiday.

CAPA REPORT

Mr Dixon

Term4 is always a busy time for all creative Arts subjects.

Year 10 Visual Arts class recently had an excursion to "Sculptures by the Sea" where the class walked from Bondi beach to Bronte and observing sculptures on display. Ms Guzman said the boys really enjoyed the excursion.

Congrats to all the Year 11 students who successfully completed their **work placements in Information and Digital Technology**. Miss Holland received excellent feedback from all employers involved.

On 12th of October Concert band students enjoyed a performance of **Dvorak's 9th Symphony by The Sydney Symphony Orchestra at the Sydney Opera House**. The following Thursday afternoon the Musica Viva African Drumming group performed in our school library.

On Thursday 7th November our Concert band performed at Granville public school then at Auburn central.

On Tuesday the 12th of November our Concert band travelled to the **Gold Coast** for four days for a series of workshops and performances. These included performances at Woodridge State High, Southport Special School and even a great performance at Runaway bay kinder garden. The boys also got to record at the Woodridge recording studio as well as completing workshops on Anti-racism. Not only did the boys perform well, but their behaviour was such that they received many compliments for their good manners. They really did represent their school with distinction.

After all the performances, they also had a great day at Movie world. All band members are really keen to return and perform again on the Gold Coast.



ENGLISH REPORT

Mr Hardcastle

As the end of year nears, both teachers and students are still hard at work, with students from 7-10 students revising for their yearly examination, ensuring they perform to their utmost potential.

For many of our Year 7 students, this term has opened a new doorway to learning with **two Integrated Learning Projects**, spanning across multiples subject areas, kicking off with a bang. Delving into topics that range from **Outer Space to School Learning Spaces**, these innovative learning opportunities enable students to see connections between subject areas and understand the real world application.

Our Year 8 cohort has examined **William Shakespeare's** Macbeth, calling on their creative capacities to develop character puppets and perform key scenes from the text with a modern twist. For Year 9 students, Term 4 has been all about Survival, literally! With a survival based novel study and thematic based activities, students have been encouraged to learn more independently, choosing from an array of tasks that demonstrate their capability.

Whilst we often watch films purely for entertainment, Year 10 has delved further into the world of cinema examining the notions of **Truth and Perspective**. With a focus on films that are 'based on a true story', students have sought to gain greater understanding of how creative licence is employed by directors to generate a film for the masses.

The transition for our Year 11 students from their Preliminary HSC into their final year of secondary education is well underway; as students knuckle down we've seen improvement in the quality of student work, with the increasing diligence and attention to detail paying dividends in the final stretch before 2013 wraps up.

In Drama, Mr Budnik and Mr Egan have once again gone above and beyond the call of duty, organizing fantastic learning experiences for our students. Year 10 once again showed off their film making talents becoming Finalist in the **Silent Film Competition** held in **Melbourne** this month, whilst Yr 9 students performed exceptionally at a **Verbatim Theatre** workshop hosted in Parramatta, courtesy of ABCN.

For LOTE this term, Mr Soliman has once again seen great success with his Yr11 Arabic class, as they move into their HSC Course. For junior French and Arabic classes both Ms Gandouin & Mr Soliman, respectively, have seen ongoing improvement in students linguistic skills with students beginning to converse with varying levels of fluency.

Finally, I would like to thank all staff for their mammoth efforts this year to develop engaging, innovative and creative learning opportunities for

students. Your passion and hard work do not go unnoticed, with your persistence, care and attention to detail behind the scenes, enabling students to truly reach their potential.

HSIE REPORT

Mr Bellavia

Once again, it has been a very busy term for the HSIE Faculty. Mr. Bellavia's Year 11 Modern History class have been working very hard to complete their major piece of work for their Preliminary Assessment and individual research task, bringing to an end, their Year 11 work. This culminated with a wonderful day of presentations at the University of Sydney, where associate Professor Michael McDonnell listened to our students and offered them very insightful and useful feedback. He was very impressed with our boys and commented on their dedication and commitment to their studies in Modern History. Great work boys!

The HSIE Faculty were privileged to take part in the **Sydney University Middle Ages Day**, where thirty high performing Year 7 students were given the opportunity to journey into the Dark Ages and learn about all things medieval. Our students were given a tour of the grounds, before being greeted in the *Great Hall* for a gauntlet of presentations from the Medieval Society, which included live shows of medieval fighting. The boys cheered on their favourites and were able to hold the armour, which was made to scale to replicate the exact size and weight of the original items. A big thank you to all the boys who attended, you represented our school in a very positive manner and were well behaved.

Mrs. Ghosh has again been very busy running the **Together for Humanity** Program which occurred on the 18th of November, Week 7. GBHS students have been working with a number of other schools, discussing and working on linking communities with differing cultures and beliefs, celebrating multiculturalism. One of the most challenging aspects of being a parent or teacher is being responsible for the healthy development of your child's internal moral compass. This program, facilitated by Mrs. Ghosh, enables students to see that developing strong community values, morals and ethics form the key to success in any society. Our students were heavily involved in the program and were required to speak about our schools many faiths, as well as, preparing a prayer to be said to all members present. One of the major parts of this program was the discussion about the different aspects of faith and their experiences within their respective schools.

Mrs. Kiran has been busy preparing her Retail Services students for their work placements for next year. Her students have been learning about minimising loss and theft prevention, including security equipment used by major retailers. The boys have done a wonderful job

this year and have represented our school in a very positive manner in all their work placements.

As the year draws to a close, the HSIE faculty would like to thank all students for their hard work and efforts throughout the year. We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday. All the best for Christmas and the New Year; have a relaxing and a joyful break and be ready to tackle school in 2014.



SCIENCE REPORT

Ms Kotelawela



The Science Headquarters Year 9 UTS Hands on Day

The University of Technology Sydney (UTS) offered year 9 students the opportunity to participate in the UTS Science Hands on Day. This activity encouraged students to explore and extend their practical understanding of Science through a day of hands-on experiments and interactive activities. On Thursday 7th November 2013, 10 students and Mrs. Ioannidis visited the UTS city campus and the new Science laboratories in the Faculty of Science. The boys attended 4 workshops focusing on Forensics, Physics, Microbiology and the Environment. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

All Yr. 9 students are completing a guided research project in preparation for an assessment task to be followed in Yr. 10 next year. They are investigating the heights a tennis ball would bounce on different surfaces.

Year 6 transition day was yet another success at GBHS

The year 6 boys conducted a series of investigations with Miss Vitetta in the Science faculty. They examined hair samples, footprints and fingerprints as evidence for conducting a crime scene investigation and many more.

Assessment

Students in all years, 7 to 12 are well into their assessment programs. A guide to the assessment components has been given to all students.

Yr7 Enrichment class is completing an integrated learning task to develop an innovative learning space. As science students, they are investigating the effect of human impact on the ecosystem as a result of clearing land for the learning space and how to minimise this impact in order to sustain a stable ecosystem. All year 7 students have enjoyed completing a model of the solar system this semester.

Yr. 8 students have just completed an assignment on the Australian ecosystems and year 10 students have finished their yearly examination.

Year 11/12 students are completing a research task on Production of Materials and they will be attending a Chemistry workshop at the University of Western Sydney Parramatta Campus on Monday 25th November.



PDHPE REPORT

Mr Abraham

The end of semester 2 is almost here. We have had a busy term with Semester 2 examinations and many sporting activities.

On 21st and 22nd November, all year 10 students will be engaged in Crossroad Educational Program, the program will engage students in leadership activities, respectful relationships, acceptance, power, Sexual health, methods of contraception, the dangers of various drugs, drink spiking, identifying mental health, risk taking behaviors and road safety.

I'm pleased to announce that our boys participated in the Premier sport challenge which started in July. The Premier sport challenge allows the boys to engage in physical activity and carry out a healthy lifestyle. Over 150 students participated in this challenge and performed well.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday

SUPPORT REPORT

Mrs Rudek

This term the Get Ready Boys have participated in number of workshops at Parramatta stadium with Mel who is the new education coordinator with the Parramatta Eels. The boys have watched the A grade Eels rugby players practise at Parramatta stadium. They have also watched the soccer players The Wanderers.

The theory workshop that had recently been covered was Communication skills. This workshop also included discussing appropriate speech towards mates in the classroom and talking and respecting others.

What are social skills? Social skills can be defined as the set of skills people use to interact and communicate with one another. They are based on the social norms of our society and they tell us what attitudes and behaviours are considered to be normal, acceptable and expected in a particular social situation.

Social skills are important because they allow us to interact with each other with predictability, so that we can more readily understand each other and be understood. Without an agreed-upon social way of interacting, it is very hard to prevent misunderstandings. It is important for us to be able to interact with clarity.

Examples of social skills include: how to greet someone, turn-taking in conversation, skills involved in maintaining conversation, and engaging in eye contact, to name a few.

Communication Skills

Communication is key to improving social skills. Communication includes verbal and non-verbal components.

Verbal Communication

- Greetings
- Conversations
- Participating in class
- Talking to your instructors

Non-Verbal Communication

- Eye contact
- Handshake
- Body posture
- Hand gestures
- Tone of voice



TAS REPORT

Mr Odei

It is never a dull moment here in the TAS faculty. However, we are pleased to see the winding down to the end of the year. This year has seen TAS celebrate some wonderful moments including the grand opening of our new commercial grade hospitality kitchen, the pulse café filming experience, the excellent achievement at the SWSR VET awards ceremony, the outstanding performance of our solar car challenge team, numerous excursions to universities and industry visits by our VET students. All staff and students have demonstrated great commitment and dedication to ensure this year was a successful one.

Pulse café students participate in Unleashed and Propeller programs

A huge thank you to Ahmed El Sayah, Nedir Elsamad and Ehab El Moubayed who recently showed commitment by spending their Saturday and Sunday connecting with a national cohort of young social changemakers from around Australia at the Unleashed summit. They participated in workshops, and a “PitchUp” session to share fresh ideas to make social change. The summit also recognised Australia’s top changemakers and performers on stage at the Sydney Opera House.

Propeller

Pulse café, the Foundation for Young Australians (FYA) and Samsung are excited to be a part of PROPELLER. Propeller is Australia’s first online platform dedicated to supercharging youth-led innovations. Propeller is in the process of creating videos to tell the stories of innovative youth-led community projects. Ahmed El Sayah, Nedir Elsamad and Ehab El Moubayed are 3 young students doing great work in our local community and will feature their story to inspire other young people to create positive change in their local communities.

They have also been working with a creative film agency to create a short video featuring the Pulse café. The video will be featured on the Propeller online platform, due to be launched March 2014.

World of Work

Our students were lucky to participate in Worlds of Work (WOW) recently. WOW is a national FYA initiative that builds the skills and beliefs that young people need to make successful transitions into life beyond school. Over one intensive week, WOW took students on a journey that broadened their view on what it means to be successful in the changing world of work. Thanks to Ms. Rodriguez and Mr. Hryce for their dedication and commitment to our students.

As we celebrate this year’s achievements and successes, we refuse to rest on our laurels and have started

planning feverishly for 2014. We have commenced work on literacy and numeracy strategies that would continue to help meet our targets as in our faculty and school management plans. As of next year, our VET construction courses would be delivered here myself and it promises to be exciting as we look forward to partnering with the community.

Have a well-deserved break and stay safe.

CAREERS

Mrs Bailey-Marsman

Employment contacts:

Parramatta Smash Repairs

Apprenticeship opportunities in Panel beating, Spray painting and Mechanics. Visit www.parramattasmashrepairs.com.au

Defence Jobs

defencejobs.gov.au

Retail

Colescareers.com.au

Apprenticeships in various careers

www.aapathways.com.au

Year 12

Students will soon be getting their ATAR results. Please don't forget that the Careers and Transition Team is available to work with you if you haven't been offered your first choice.

Year 10

Students have been busy completing All My Own Work, School to Work Survey and Work Experience. These programs have given the students information about HSC expectations and post-school opportunities. We have 5 students participating in pre-apprenticeship programs this term and it will be exciting for them to be working and learning within their chosen career field.

Students have also been completing their Resumes. I have had Resume Workshops occurring in the library this term and it has been great seeing the number of students attending. Even those these workshops were planned for year 10 students it was good to see there were a lot of year 9 students participating as well.

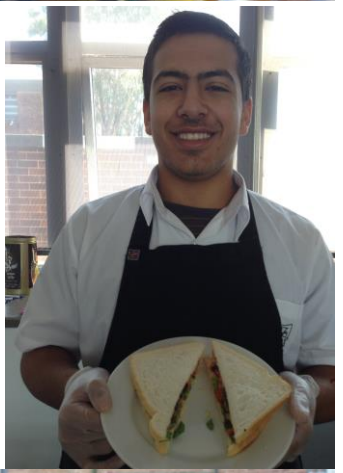


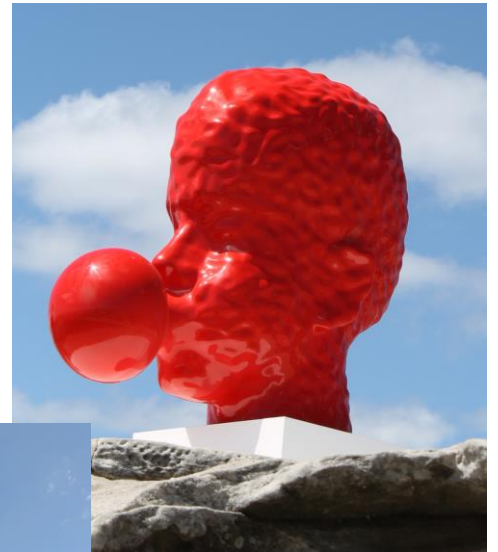
ADAPPT Program

On the 23rd and 24th of November, four extremely talented students took part in the ADAPPT program, in which they were required to come up with an idea for an application, that can solve social and ethical issues in our society. Osama Chaar, Omar Elrich, Hamza Taha and Mouhamed Ibrahim attended the program which was hosted by Australian Broadcasting Channel (ABC) in order to allow the youth to participate in making technology useful for future generations. The multi skilled and highly capable students originated with the idea of a crime detecting app called, 'Crime Watch'TM. This app was simply designed for the use of the EDS (Emergency Distress Signal) which immediately sends a message to selected contacts and to the local police department in the area.

The students comfortably and respectably came in fourth position out of six teams, and for their amazing outcomes, they all received, 'Samsung Galaxy Notes 8.0', and went through to the national finals which will be held in Melbourne City on the 5th till the 8th of December. If they win the National finals, they will receive an internship with Square weave which is an app developing company situated in Melbourne, and also many major prizes that are affiliated with Samsung.







2013 IN REVIEW

