



BLACKWATTLE BAY CAMPUS

Bay Side

February 2017 Issue

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Upcoming Events

Term 1

14 March 7:30am	International Womens Day Breakfast
20 March	Diversity Day
5-6 April	Year 11 Crossroads
6 April	Year 11 Academic Statement released
27 March – 7 April	Year 12 Mid Course Exams
7 April	Year 11 Bio, Senior Science Excursion

Principal's Report

Principal's Report

A very warm welcome to all our Year 11 parents and welcome back to parents of Year 12 – the end is in sight! Last Thursday I had the privilege of meeting many new parents at our Welcome Evening hosted by the P&C. It was lovely to have an opportunity to chat about the school and to introduce some of the key staff members who are responsible for the curriculum and for student wellbeing and engagement.

I was delighted to hear so many positive comments about how settled and happy our Year 11 students are, some parents expressed surprise at their children's new work ethic they are observing at home –hopefully this will continue as the novelty of the senior campus wears off towards the end of term!

From my perspective, I am delighted with the way our new cohort has adapted to the increased demands and expectations of the senior school. I will follow Year 11 progress with interest this year.

I would like to thank P&C President Vanessa Palfreeman and all members of the P&C and our hard working staff for a lovely, relaxed evening.

College Presentation Day

Our annual College Presentation Day at Sydney Town Hall was, as usual, a spectacular occasion.

It is always a thrill to see the entire college of over 2,000 students, staff, parents and members of our community gather together to celebrate student achievement in its many forms; academic, sporting, cultural and citizenship. What makes this occasion so memorable is the involvement of student leaders from all three campuses in the running of the program.

I continue to be in awe of these assured young adults who are able to direct the formal proceedings and to address such a vast audience.

Congratulations to the student leaders from the junior campuses and to our senior leaders; Isobel Barry, Imogen Biggins, Deaglan Godwin and Lucas Knight for hosting such a significant event.

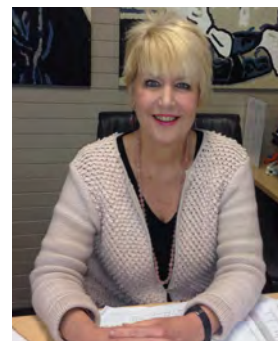
Fantastic HSC Results 2016

Last year's HSC cohort did us proud again with an impressive 170 results or 13% in the top Band 6, a slight increase on the previous year. 43% of all our results were in the top two achievement bands, Band 5 & Band 6 and an impressive 75% of all results were in the top 3 Bands - a very fine result!

In English Advanced we achieved our best result ever with 23% of the cohort achieving a Band 6 result compared to 15% of the state and 57% of students achieved a Band 5 compared to 47% of the State. In total 80% of students were placed in the top two Bands, another fantastic result.

Our Maths and Science results continue to be significantly above the State average with 87% of Maths Extension 1 students achieving a result in the top 2 Bands.

In Earth and Environmental Science our Band 6 results were almost three times that of the State followed closely by Biology where the number of Band 6 awarded were nearly double those of the State.



Our academic achievements were outstanding: our Dux, Minasa Kasai achieved an ATAR of 98.85. Three students Mia Bridle, Jan Broodryk and Athanasios Kallos gained Band 6 in all subjects and 28 students achieved above 90 in their ATAR score.

As always our students continue to excel in the Visual and Performing Arts. We are so proud of Anna Tago, Jesse James Caldwell, Jack Combe, and Jackson Hastie whose artworks were exhibited in ART Express –a showcase of exemplary Year 12 Visual Arts. At Blackwattle we have many accomplished musicians as evidenced by the support for the College Instrumental Music Program. This strength was reflected in the HSC Music results, where an astonishing 92% of the results were in the top two Bands –our best result ever!

Congratulations to Edwin Taranto whose music performance was nominated for ENCORE.

These fine results have placed SSC Blackwattle Bay Campus first in the State rankings of all Senior Colleges.

We are very proud of the achievement of our 2016 HSC students gained through expert teaching and student effort and wish our students every success in their future careers.

Blackwattle Welcomes New Staff

It is my pleasure to welcome a number of new staff to our campus this year. They are:

Andrew Calvert in English, Jess Thompson in Music/Entertainment, Rachael Alonso in Science, Natalie Szymanski, Kylie Ma and Jess Hawken in HSIE, Johnny Glover in English/HSIE, Deb O'Mahoney and Kathy Dive in Special Ed, and two new tutors Anne Marie Jeffrey (English) and Con Tsekanes (Maths).

School Fees

The prompt payment of subject fees and other contributions helps us to create the very best learning environment for all students. Income collected by the school is used to support six key areas; subject specific materials, administration, technology, textbooks, the P&C and the Library. Many parents are taking advantage of Blackwattle's easy way to pay school fees via the schools website or by downloading the Skoolbag app. It is also possible to arrange to pay fees term by term in instalments. Parents experiencing financial difficulty are able to apply in writing to the Principal for fees assistance. Please contact the office for an application form.

P&C News

On behalf of the Blackwattle Bay community I would like to thank our hard working P&C members for their generosity in giving up their precious time to support our school. Last year the P&C donated funds to the library, purchased water stations, supported the Year 12 Student Learning Conference and contributed substantially to hire of the Town Hall for Year 12 Graduation. This year the P&C will provide funds for an upgrade of the Glasshouse Café.

I would like to thank outgoing secretary David Eckstein and Emma Snowden for their invaluable work on the committee for the last two years. Your support and advice has been much appreciated.

Wishing you all a wonderful term.

Sharon Roberts
Principal

High School Chinese Debating Championship in NSW for the first time? We're in!

An enthusiastic group of eleven students doing the Chinese and Literacy Preliminary course put their names down for a seven-week debate league match in their very first week at Blackwattle Bay. The training and debate league will take place during school days as well as weekends in between April-May 2017.

The Australian Chinese Debating Association has been running nation-wide Chinese debating competitions across universities annually at Sydney and Melbourne Town Hall in the past five years and has successfully held a Victorian high schools debating competition in Melbourne last year. The Debating Association will send coaches to our students and hold two seminars to all participating candidates. The coaches are experienced debaters from NSW Universities and the seminars will be held by famous debaters from debating shows on Chinese television!

Though this year is the very first High Schools Chinese Debating Championship in New South Wales, twenty-four schools including our school were eager and will be divided into 8 groups. We as a group are really looking forward to meet our coach, the famous debaters and other students doing the same course in the state!

Chang Liu Teacher of Chinese/ International Student Support Team

Japanese Teacher



FROM THE LEADER'S DESK

Hi I'm Deaglan and I'm one of the four School Leaders at Blackwattle Bay. We'd like to keep you up to date with some of the new, exciting stuff we're doing around the school as well as "behind the scenes".

February was an exciting month for us. As soon as the term kicked off, planning began for the College Presentation Day at Sydney Town Hall. This involved a cross-campus meeting between all the leadership teams, allowing us to get to know each other better. Spending a whole day in Ms Cuke's office, we ironed out the script. We also had three former leaders, Chiara Lam from last year, Myles Holbrook-Walk and Natasha Ricardo helping with organisation and giving us amazing tips on speaking to a large audience. Their involvement also demonstrates the leadership and work opportunities the school offers post-HSC. As those who attended the day in the amazing Town Hall can attest, the event went off near perfectly.



On Tuesday morning, we had an opportunity to meet with our state member for Balmain, Jamie Parker to discuss possibilities for students to advocate for change in our community. We had great discussions about the creation of a Glebe Ferry and I think I speak on behalf of all of the school leaders when I say I'm very excited for the chance to work further on campaigning for something that should ease traffic congestion around the Inner West and City. A ferry service for Glebe will present another mode of transport that students will be able to catch to and from school as well as providing different means of reaching Circular Quay for Inner West residents and our students. If you'd like to find out more, please visit Mr Parker's website and if you'd like to show your support, there is petition on his website to the Minister for Transport that you can sign.

Deaglan Godwin
Student Leader 2017

Bonjour et bienvenue Monsieur l'Ambassadeur!

Last Friday, the Year 12 French Continuers class had the unique and incredible opportunity to interview Son Excellence Monsieur Christophe Lecourtier, The French ambassador to Australia, based in Canberra, via videoconference. The Blackwattle Bay students of French had prepared interesting and insightful questions about his job and his career such as: *“quelles qualités faut-il avoir pour être ambassadeur?”* (which qualities must an ambassador have?), *“qu'est-ce qui vous passionne le plus dans votre métier?”* (what do you like the most about your job?) *“dans un contexte mondial où certains dirigeants ne sont pas très diplomates, pensez-vous que la diplomatie sera plus pénible, plus complexe, voire obsolète à l'avenir?”* (in a global context where certain world leaders are not diplomatic, do you think that diplomacy will be harder, more complex, if not obsolete in the future?).



The students are currently studying a syllabus unit on “the world of work/ careers and occupations” and this initiative came about after surveying their career interests, and was aimed at making the study of the French language more practically relevant, at opening up career prospects in the French-speaking world, as well as to train the students for their HSC listening and speaking examinations.



The ambassador and his assistant were most welcoming and warm, and answered the students' questions with genuine interest for about 20 minutes. The students quickly got over their stress and nerves, which was also very good preparation before the upcoming HSC examination! Bravo les Terminales et merci aux Premières! Thank you also to the Year 11 students of French who came to support their peers. **Et ...Vive le français à Blackwattle Bay!**

The Year 12 French class and Mme Laurent.

ENGLISH NEWS

2017 has commenced in earnest with all students engaged in their studies. Our year 11 students have commenced a study of a play in Standard and Advanced whilst our HSC students are focused on Module A. Our Extension 1 students in Preliminary are focusing on the elective *The Anti-Hero* whilst our Year 12 students continue their study of *After the Bomb*. Our English Studies classes are addressing interesting electives, including Australian identity and the language of song. The HSC Extension 2 students have been busy in the holidays researching and drafting their major work projects. Our Preliminary ESL students are engaged in their study of language whilst the Year 12 continues to focus on the Area of Study *Discovery*. It has been pleasing to see the engagement in all classes.

This year we welcome Mr Andrew Calvert from the Leichhardt campus who is joining the English Faculty for 2017 to replace Ms Gabby Senteleky who is on leave. We also welcome Mr Jonathon Glover as an additional teacher in English and HSIE. We welcome back Ms Sarah Wood who has returned from twelve months leave. We also welcome Mr Hafil Santoro who has been permanently appointed as ESL teacher to the Blackwattle campus. Additionally all students are supported by a senior English tutor, Ms Anne-Marie Jeffery, who can assist year 12 in their study periods on a Monday and Tuesday in the EDGE study centre. She is also available to assist year 11 students on each Wednesday in the library. At the moment this support includes group study sessions and individual support. We urge students to use the expertise of Mr Shane Pascoe, the school librarian to assist the planning of related texts. He has also worked hard to ensure the library is stocked with a diverse selection of novels and short stories for your reading pleasure.

The English Faculty

Welcoming our new Year 11 International Students

Blackwattle Bay Campus is proud to welcome 21 Year 11 International Students this year who are undertaking their final two years of schooling here in Australia. The students are from China, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar, Italy, and Slovakia.

Some of these students have been studying in Australia for as long as three years, whilst others have only just arrived in Australia. All our International Students are studying a broad range of courses across all the different faculties offered at the campus. The students have settled comfortably within the school and are confidently socialising and making friends across different cultures whether it be productively in class, while shooting hoops on the basketball courts at lunch time, or whilst unwinding over gorgeous home-cooked meals in the Glasshouse Cafe.

Some of our students studying Chinese are taking part in the school's High School Chinese Debating team and will be competing against students from other schools in New South Wales. Along with their regular studies, the International Students will also be taking part in a range of cross-cultural activities to enrich their Australian study experience. These include excursions along Sydney's iconic Bondi Beach and the Blue Mountains. Additionally, they will be treated to special lunches once per term with the first taking place on Wednesday, 1st of March.

The achievement of our International Students in 2016 has been recognised by the Department of Education. Grace Zhu was nominated for School Service and Odelia Yang was nominated for Academic Achievement. We congratulate all our Year 12 International Students on their HSC results and wish them all the best in their fields of study this year.

Hafil Santoro ESL Teacher/ International Student Support Team

Chang Liu Teacher of Chinese/ International Student Support Team



SCIENCE NEWS

HSC results for the 2016 Science student cohort were excellent as per usual! Earth and Environmental Science achieved our most outstanding result with the number of Band 6 awarded to our students nearly three times that of the State. Biology followed closely behind with the number of Band 6 nearly double that of the state. Many of the students who studied Science courses have gone on to enroll in Science or Science related courses this year. We even have some students doing double degrees in the Sciences. We wish them well.

We welcome a new staff member to the Science Faculty this year, Ms Rachael Alonso who has moved over from Leichhardt Campus for a stint here in the senior school. Rachael is teaching Biology and Chemistry and has the students working hard.

Assessment tasks have already commenced for our Year 11 cohort. Earth and Environmental Science was the first to complete their task in Week 5 and Biology, Physics and Senior Science are all coming up in Week 7 with Chemistry just around the corner in week 6. Most of our assessment tasks are practical assessments and require a lot of set up and preparation. Please try to ensure that your child is not absent when these tasks are scheduled, as they are difficult to recreate after the event. Of course things do happen and we understand and can reschedule if needed.

The Year 12 assessment task for this term is the mid-course exam scheduled during the exam period at the end of Term 1. Year 12 should be revising the first module covered in Term 4 last year and the module being covered this term.

This term we have our first excursion in Science for Year 11 Biology students and Senior Science students. We are all off to Longreef Rock platform to undertake practical experiences and observations as required by the syllabus. This excursion is also directly linked to the second assessment task for both of these courses so is a mandatory excursion. Notes will be coming home soon and prompt payment to the front office is encouraged. If there is any reason why the cost of the excursion cannot be paid, please contact Traci Lewis, Head Teacher Science to arrange another plan. We do not want any student disadvantaged due to financial constraints and understand that the excursion is expensive to fund for some families.

Many opportunities arise from universities that are brought to the attention of the Science Faculty. When information is received it is placed on the Science news board in the Science foyer. Please ask your child to check the board on a regular basis as new experiences are offered on a regular basis.

And finally..... Big news in the world of science. NASA has discovered 7 exoplanets orbiting around their own star much like the sun and at least 3 of those planets have conditions similar to the Earth which could support life. Exciting stuff!! Attached is a link to read more about this development in science.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/2017/02/22/nasa-announcement-live/>

Please encourage your children to read broadly if undertaking a science subject and scientific journals like COSMOS, National Geographic and New Scientist are all available in the school library.

Yours in Science

The Blackwattle Science Team

FREE WORKSHOP FOR SUPERVISORS OF LEARNER DRIVERS

Ensure your learner driver has the best possible introduction to driving; their life could depend on it!

The City of Sydney aims to improve road safety with a workshop for supervisors of learner drivers.

Tuesday 4 April 2017
6pm -8pm
Customs House
Alfred Street, Circular Quay

The two hour workshop will provide pertinent practical advice regarding:

- Laws for learner and P-plate drivers.
- How to use the Learner Driver Log Book
- How to plan on-road driving sessions and supervise learner drivers
- Understanding the benefits of supervised on road driving experience

Bookings are essential, please phone The City of Sydney on 02 9265 9333 or email lmcconnell@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au to reserve your seat.

Student Representative Council (SRC)

During an SRC meeting our wonderful SRC voted to raise money for Zarni Tun in year 12. Zarni was born with cerebral palsy and is wheelchair bound for most of the day. Zarni then set-up his own fundraising page to raise money for the cerebral palsy foundation as he was going to hike (without his wheelchair) and with the assistance of a guide – he hiked on crutches for over 5 hours and 9 kilometres to make the summit.

The SRC thought this was very courageous and thought it would be a great idea to support Zarni with some fund raising. Well done to the SRC who raised \$188.80 for Zarni in 12 minutes; they sold 30 pizzas in 12 minutes, which equates to one slice every 3 seconds!

Ms Phair and I are so proud of our SRC and Zarni!

James Mansfield

SRC Coordinator



Blackwattle Bay Ambassador Program

There has been a great response from our new Year 11 students with more than 25 students applying to be part of this program. Year 12 students continue to be very active and are playing a mentor role with Year 11 students. Applications close in Week 7.

About the program

The Ambassador Program offers a range of opportunities to gain valuable leadership skills, which will enhance social and career development. The program is an excellent opportunity for students to develop confidence and attributes, which will enhance their career prospects in the future. Student ambassadors represent and promote the Campus at a variety of student, Campus and DoE events. The ambassador program sits within the Campus leadership model. Students who may wish to become **school leaders need to be active members of either the Ambassador program and/or the SRC.**

Ambassador Program Activities

- Leadership skills training sessions
- Presentations by successful leaders/ Business Leaders
- Forums and advice to students
- Mentoring
- College events
- DEC events

Ambassador Responsibilities

As a student ambassador students are called upon to:

- Assist with the Year 10 transition program including linkages with 7-10 Campuses, Subject Information Night and Taster Week.
- Participate in events such as Blackwattle VIP events, College Forums, Learning Conference and Junior Campus Open days.
- Positively promote the Campus with international delegations, DoE delegations and other visitors
- Liaise with school leaders and the SRC as well as to mentor new students in leadership
- Undertake volunteering and other community participation with DoE events

Time Commitments

Activities are conducted during school hours, of an evening and some weekends. Student ambassadors are expected to attend 75% of events where possible.

Application forms

Available from Ms Cuke

Advice to Year 12 From Deputy Principal

Welcome to your final year of schooling. In the past few weeks we have met as a year group and a number of members of the Wellbeing Team have delivered some important information in regards to what you need to do to get ready for your life beyond school.

The first step is for you to start to organise your **STORAGE VESSEL**. What should be in this?

- Birth certificate, passport - if their parents/caregivers look after these, maybe they could take a photo of them, print and save.
- Licence, photo ID
- Medicare card (number would do, but they need this number)
- School reports
- Awards and certificates
- Tax File Number - if they don't have one, get one! Go to the ATO website and complete on line. This number stays with them forever.
- Bank account - do they have a student account?
- Resume - is it up to date?

You also need to think about how you will store these documents. The key message is to choose the method that works best for you- concertina file, filing cabinet, plastic filing folder. Many of you will turn 18 this year and you need to ensure you enroll to vote though the Electoral Commission.

The Mid Course exams are in less than 4 weeks and you need to start preparing for the exam block. In the next few weeks start to gather all the materials you need for each subject. Sort through your notes and get them in good order so when it comes to the serious study sessions you are well organised and prepared. Make sure you seek help and support if you feel overwhelmed. The Year 11 Well-Being team is here to assist and support you through this year.

Mr Condon

Ms Zaknich

Ms Cleaver

Mr Mason

Ms Hooper

It is a pleasure to see so many students in your cohort willing to get involved in organisation related to your year. You managed to get your jerseys organised and delivered at the start of the year. This is a RECORD! Many students are involved in the other two big projects of Formal Organisation and Yearbook. Make sure you play a role and help where you can.

Maintaining high attendance levels is important if you are to achieve your best at the HSC. You need to be in class and actively engaged in class discussions and coursework. There is support in The Edge in study lessons so use the time wisely and make sure you have a study buddy for each course – one you can discuss, analyse and even argue... about course content. Make your final year at school one that is enjoyable and also one where your strong friendships grow and prosper.

Jan Cuke - Year 12 Deputy Principal

Japan Exchange Program 2016-17

During the summer of 2016, I was fortunate enough to travel to Japan. During my trip I got to experience a homestay with a Japanese family in Osaka under the LABO program. Over 3 weeks I was able to experience a culturally different way of life and appreciate the opportunity given to me.



Staying in another family's home isn't easy but my host family made all the possible accommodations to make me feel at home. Unlike a usual room, I stayed in a traditional Japanese room sleeping in a 'futon', a comfortable mattress that is laid on the floor. Compared to western culture it may seem strange and even I was hesitant at the start, but trying new experiences was what the trip was all about and in the end I loved it. My interactions with my host brother and other host siblings were very enjoyable. We spent most of our time talking about our own lives, past as well as our present lifestyle. It was an eye opener to learn about the cultural differences in our upbringing. Spending time and bonding with my host family was done through what you would expect, watching comedy shows. Apart from that, riding bikes outside on the road and visiting local sights brought us together. However, being with my host family wasn't what the trip was all about...

I also went to a local Japanese school in which I brushed up my Japanese as it is one of my subjects at school. Although classes weren't exactly 100% understandable, making friends and talking to them in my broken Japanese made the trip all the more worth it. The school also provided programs such as a tour of the area including the local castle. The teachers, being locals, knew a lot of other locals who were very friendly and welcoming to me when I introduced myself. They also took me to hidden places that I wouldn't notice if I was just a regular tourist. The food in those 'hidden places' was amazing!

I also went on a 4 day camp, during which I learnt traditional Japanese dances. The family I stayed with taught me a lot, and showed me different perspectives on life in which I'll never forget. Overall I am very grateful to have had this experience, and I would recommend the Australia-Japan LABO program to anyone.



Eric CHEN Year 12 2017

Study Skills Handbook

Advice to Students for the Start of the Year

What would you like to achieve this year both academically and in your personal life? The start of the year is the perfect time to reflect and reassess. It is a great time to look back and decide what worked, what didn't and what new approaches you will try.

A great way to do this is through taking a few minutes to do a SWOT analysis. You can either write your answers down or discuss with someone or just think about your responses.

STRENGTHS:

1. What went well for you at school last year?
2. What study and time management techniques worked for you?
3. What skills do you have that help you to do your best at school?

WEAKNESSES:

- What were your greatest challenges in achieving your personal best at school?
- What do you struggle with most as a student?
- What do you need the most help with?

OPPORTUNITIES:

- What one thing could you do differently this year that would most help you to improve your results?
- What skills do you most need to focus on improving this year?
- Who in your life would be able to help you to be a better student?

THREATS:

1. What are the biggest obstacles to you making changes in your approach?
2. Are there other students you sit with who make learning difficult?
3. What is stopping you from achieving the best results you can at school?

After you have worked through the SWOT analysis, choose the top 5 changes you want to make this year and write these down. Put these goals somewhere where you will see them every day before you go to school. If possible also write down some specific actions or steps you could take to achieve these goals. A good way to do this is at the start of each week write down the steps you want to take for that week.

You can learn the skills you need about how to be a more effective student at www.studyskillshandbook.com.au by logging in with these details:

Username:sscblackwattlebay Password:56achieve

If you go to the THINGS TO PRINT page after you log in you will find lots of useful grids and planners for this year like a weekly calendar or term planner.