



BLACKWATTLE BAY CAMPUS

Bay Side

June 2017 Issue

Email: sscbwattle-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Phone: 02 9660 5688



Upcoming Events – Term 2

13 June	Parent Information Night European Tour 2018 6-7pm
14 June	Sydney East Cross Country Year 11 Vaccinations
22 June	Subject Information Night 4:30-8pm Zone Athletics
27 June	NAIDOC Assembly

Principal's Report

The Australian Education System is frequently under fire from politicians, sections of the media and other groups in our community who bemoan our declining academic performance when compared to other countries in the OECD. While it is true that countries such as Hong Kong, Japan, China and Finland consistently outrank Australia on International Tests such as PISA, it is interesting to note that new data also reveals that academic success in many of these countries comes at the expense of student physical, and psychological health and wellbeing.

It is reassuring to note that Australian students fare much better than students from many other countries when it comes to health and wellbeing. Australian students are largely optimistic about their future; they are twice as likely to say they expect to go to University as students in Finland, nearly 35 per cent more likely to say they want to be one of the best in their class and three times as likely to have a paid job while they're at school. What this means is that although academic achievement is an important measure, it is not the only measure of success. Our Education System with its broad and challenging curriculum aims to produce highly engaged and active citizens willing to be involved in an array of activities such as: part-time work, sporting competitions as well as cultural, artistic and community events. These experiences provide valuable lessons in leadership, co-operation, tolerance, empathy, compassion and resilience - attributes not measured in formal test scores. Students who develop these qualities deserve to be recognised and congratulated.

At Blackwattle Bay we strive to provide students with the widest possible choice of activities to balance the academic focus of a Senior School.



Throughout the year our students have opportunities to be involved in a range of activities including: sporting competitions, History, English and Chinese debating competitions, school camps, theatre sports, music programs, social justice programs, overseas trips and cultural exchanges. Our recent alternative sports carnival "Splendour at the Bay" provided opportunities for students to step out of their comfort zone and join in the fun and silliness for a day of bubble soccer, colour runs (involving dye and white clothes), noodle jousting, giant chess and plain old ranting (complete with soapbox) about anything and everything!

Of course all these special days and activities could not take place without wonderful staff to organise and run them. My sincere thanks to the very hardworking Blackwattle staff who take on all these extra duties with an abundance of joy and good humour.

Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews

It was lovely to see so many Year 12 students and parents at the Report Interviews a couple of weeks ago. Our new online reporting system enables parents to access reports more quickly, to read and discuss them at home prior to the teacher interview. If you have not done so and require help to access your child's report please contact the school so we can assist you.

Glebe Café Society Now At Blackwattle Bay

Our students returned from holidays this term to a revamped Glasshouse Café complete with high benches, brightly coloured chairs, sleek tables and a couple of new microwaves. This upgrade has contributed significantly to the young adult learning environment of the school. It's great that our students have a warm, inviting space to relax during their breaks, sip very good coffee courtesy of Michael and Mona and can enjoy the lunch specials each day.

Thank you to P&C President Vanessa Palfreeman and to Emma Snowden and all members of the Blackwattle P&C for their involvement in getting this project up and running. P&C donations which support the purchase of extra equipment and resources make such a difference to the school environment. P&C donations can be made via the school's website.

Student Travel Overseas

This year I have had an increasing number of requests from parents to approve leave for students to travel overseas outside of the school holiday period. While I understand that events such as family reunions, weddings, celebrations and other social activities are important, parents are reminded that consistent attendance at school is a core expectation and is essential to academic achievement and improved learning outcomes. Students who miss classes and/or assessment tasks including the Trial Examination create significant problems for staff who are required to provide work in advance, alternate assessment tasks and reschedule exams.

The guidelines for the granting of approved leave apply to:

- Exceptional circumstances
- Employment in the Entertainment Industry
- Participation in an elite sporting event
- Participation in an elite arts program

Please note that any absence from school is required to be explained in writing.

New School Plan 2018 -2020

This term we will begin the process of evaluating our current school plan and setting our future directions and those of the College for the next three years. This is a very consultative process involving parents, staff, students and members of the community. It is anticipated that parents will be surveyed next term and opinions sought on a wide variety of issues. It is very important for our future planning that the views of a wide cross section of parents are canvassed. It would be wonderful to hear from as many parents as possible and I encourage you to become involved in the coming months.

Sharon Roberts

Principal

College SRC Meeting and Student Leadership

On 29th May our SRC (school representative council) attended a combined college SRC meeting at Leichhardt Campus. 4-6 SRC members participated in a student leadership course, delivered by a UNSW leadership team. They furthered their skills in public speaking, establishing a “personal signature” by learning about self-imagery and emotional branding of oneself in the workplace.

This was followed by discussions about what each campus had been doing, including fundraising and future projects and examples of where they have demonstrated the true value of student voice as a result of their participation in the SRC.

Blackwattle Bay Campus currently has a women’s shelter drive and the SRC would love for you to bring in any toiletries. These will be packaged and delivered to local women’s’ refuges for women victims of domestic violence.

Blackwattle SRC will also be hosting a winter sleep-out in the school hall to raise money for homeless youth. Information letters will be sent out soon.

Members of the SRC also provided the College Principal Judy Kelly with some feedback and ideas on what they’d like to come out of the changing face of educational needs; and what each of the campuses could do to accommodate our changing school education system.

Thank you very much to all the members of the SRC who attended the day, your efforts and contributions were much appreciated.

Thank you,

James Mansfield

Science teacher and SRC



Above: SRC contributing towards a leadership conference, held by UNSW.

School Concreting Project

The year 12 VET Construction class used their new skills to level, and erect formwork so they could lay a small slab near the oval. This slab will be used for the new bicycle rack, soon to be installed for all students to use.



The Final Slab waiting to dry!



Teamwork: Mixing the concrete for pouring.



Laying the formwork, waterproofing and reinforcing bar for strength.

Thanks to Mr Goldsmith for giving up his time to oversee this work.

"For the things we have to learn before we can do them, we learn by doing them."

— Aristotle

Sports Update

Bligh Zone Cross Country Results

Sydney Park St Peters Friday 26 May.

Congratulations to

Sigrid Perry 1st Girls 16.

Max Chew, Angus Gould, Daniel Sun equal 1st Boys 16.

Ian Pedersen-Clarke 2nd B17, Ryan Gandiaga 10th Boys 17.

Daniel Cavanagh 1st Boys 18.

These athletes have been selected to compete at the Sydney East Secondary Cross Country Championships at Miranda on 14 June.

Lunchtime Sport

Badminton on Monday and Volleyball on Wednesday have proved very popular with students.

The opportunity exists for students to come and play and balance their academic work with some worthwhile physical activity at lunchtime.

Ski Trip

Students are now meeting on Friday at lunchtime in preparation for the Year 11 Ski Trip.

Perisher Blue 6-9 August- staying on the snow at Snowy Gums Chalet at Smiggins.

Opportunities exist for students to go on the waiting list.

SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE

Exciting events continue to happen in the world of Special Education!

First we need to say a very warm welcome to our new Special Educator, Ms Tunde Frisnyak, who is replacing Ms Smiles who retired at the end of last term. Across the school many students are reaping the rewards of the Literacy Extension Program with the dedicated tutors liaising with class teachers to extend literacy skills of the “chosen ones”.



Andrew, Georgia, Tyler and Harry enjoying the new furniture in the canteen.

Some students enjoy the stimulating conversations surrounding their reading instruction process, while others look forward to seeing the red ink on their Literacy Workbooks! This Literacy learning is both effective and enjoyable as the students keep appearing for more tutoring sessions!

In classes, the support for some students is also a welcome and refreshing experience. With our resident actor, Callum, appearing in classes as a mentor tutor, as well as our resident chef, Justin, offering his services to appreciative students (especially if he attends the Hospitality classes)!

Many students are busily preparing for their HSC examination and desperately seeking assistance in a formal manner via Disability Provisions. Ms Mroz is busily liaising with teachers, students and parents gaining the information to send into NESAs for applications to be considered. Mrs Calder is happily working with Ms Mroz giving many of these students a York Assessment for Reading Comprehension (YARC) test to ensure the applications are successful.



Jayden enjoying the Literacy Extension Program with Deb.



Many students across the school have been in contact with Ms Coyte, our Learning and Support Teacher, who has been steadily developing Personalised Learning Plans and ensuring that class teachers are aware of the accommodations and adjustments needed to promote effective instruction and learning for particular students.

At the recent Learning and Support Team meeting, discussions were held surrounding the need for students to be placed on the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) database. Many students are eligible for being included in this. They do not need to have a formal disability diagnosis and it can even include students who are gifted and talented but who are impacted by disability.



Students undertaking Life Skills subjects are also thriving. The Year 12 A group have recently completed a project on 'Living Independently' and presented this to an audience using PowerPoint. They chose to rent apartments in areas such as Bondi and Mosman and even worked out how much they will need to earn in order to support that lifestyle. Sadly, reality may set in as they exit school!

These students have enjoyed the new furniture in the canteen and regularly claim their 'spot' at the round table. So many thanks to the P & C for the hard work that culminated in supplying this furniture for students and staff to enjoy.

Our assessments for post school funding for all students in Year 12 with a diagnosed disability have just been completed by our Support Teacher Transition, Ms Susan Lake, who is based at Balmain Campus. This involved parents, caregivers and teachers over a 2 day period. Families will be notified of the results of these assessments later this year. Ms Lake is also involved in the organisation of an Expo of Disability Service Providers for post school options, due to be held this year in August at JJ Cahill High School in Mascot. Parents of students with disabilities are encouraged to attend.

Well, better stop writing a book on Special Education and sign off!

Yours in effective teaching and learning,

Barbara Calder, Head Teacher, Special Education Faculty.

THE SRC NEEDS YOU!

Dear warm and loving family members,

The Student Representative Council (SRC) is running a collection drive for women's shelters/refuges. Australian statistics say that shockingly 1 in every 3 women in Australia will suffer from some form of domestic abuse in their lives. With this alarming statistic the SRC are collecting any toiletries which will be packaged and delivered to women's refuges/shelters. Anything that your son/daughter/ward can bring in would be much appreciated, such as shampoo, make-up, nail polish, and/or anything that you would think women in shelters would appreciate.

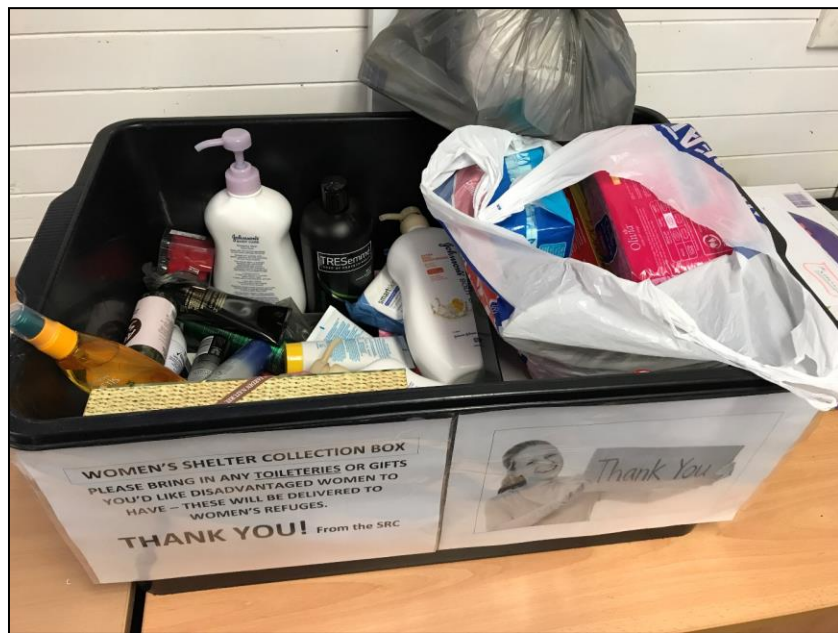
There is a large, black, labelled collection tub at the sign-on desk in the front office. Please place any of these donations in the box.

On behalf of the SRC I would like to personally say thank you so much – your warm spirit and generous giving nature to those that are going through a period of being disadvantaged in their lives is MUCH appreciated! Thank you to the staff who have contributed too!

Thank you,

James Mansfield (teacher) and the Year 11 and Year 12 SRC.

Right: the collection box at the roll's desk sign on area. Students have already donated sanitary pads, shampoos, gift packs, toothpaste, hand cream, shower gel, perfume, hand wash, facial cleansers.





WOMEN'S PACKAGES

What to DONATE:

- Women's sanitary items
- Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Shower gel/ Soap
- Facial cleansers
- Body/face lotion

**DONATIONS WELCOMED AT
THE FRONT OFFICE AND
DURING MENTORING**

SPLENDOUR AT THE BAY 2017

The golden era of the '90s and early 2000s is back! A blast from the past is what Blackwattle Bay Campus saw in 2017. On Thursday hundreds of students broke out the flannel shirts, frayed jeans, neon windbreakers, double – even triple – denim to represent the year they were born. Others played a part in embodying the icons of their birth year and, let me tell you, whilst our Splendour is the fun alternative to the athletics carnival, nothing gets more competitive than strolling through the school earning brownie points when a pop culture reference is recognised.



What a time to be alive now that The Backstreet Boys were reimaged and innovatively recreated by 5 groovy gals in their immaculately all-whites looking ready to cut an album as they cheered the rowers by the Bay. Where's Wally? One could spot a cluster of them lurking near the Giant Chess game. The cast of Arthur the aardvark (a childhood favourite!) took hold of our Instagram frame for social media fame and glory.



The quintessential backwards-cap wearing 'extras' to the old-school hip hop music video in their gaudy gold chain necklaces and fresh out the box Nikes posed self-inferentially by the Bubble Soccer arena (which, by the way, saw a heated game of teachers vs. students with a narrow 6-5 teacher victory).

Neo from *The Matrix* devoured a gelato cone. Others kept it classic and classy in animal onesies that made for entertaining visuals as they moved with relative ease, and perhaps sweaty discomfort, in an intense basketball game in the Hall.

The smartly dressed teachers nervously laughed and swiftly evaded the group of vibrantly colour dusted students for the Colour Run! Too much and hate large crowds? No judgment was made on those who evaded the bustling Oval and instead sat to listen to the rants at 'Have a Rant!' ('Our buses should not be privatised!' 'We are *all* conformists!', 'What is up with cooking shows these days?!') whilst making the frequent long trek to the Sausage Sizzle stand for a bite. Even better and more impressive was the Debating Team who scored 1 of 2 wins against Newtown Performing Arts up in the Library. Your quiet victory has not gone unnoticed, you intellectual arguers. The shining prize of pizza and the faces of the Newtown students at our splendorous annual get-up (one can only imagine) must have been priceless.

A big congratulations to the prize-winners of the array of sports, to the Best Dressed, and the many staff and students involved in creating some very valuable memories. As I say, what a time to be alive.

Clare Shiu



