



BLACKWATTLE BAY CAMPUS

Bay Side

December 2018

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Key Dates for Term 1 2019

30 January	Year 11 Students return
31 January	Year 12 Students return
5 February	White card training
6 February	Photo catch up day
8 February	College Presentation Day - Sydney Town Hall
14 February	Valentine's Day assembly
18 February	Year 12 Music to Encore
20 February	Year 11 Elevate Study Day
25 February	P & C meeting 6 pm
28 February	Welcome to Year 11 parents

Principal's Report

Relieving Principal – Jan Cuke

Term 4 has been a very busy term for Blackwattle Bay. For our new Year 12 students it is the beginning of their HSC studies and I have been so impressed with their overall commitment. As I walk around the school on a regular basis it is wonderful to see our students in all the breakout areas and the library working collaboratively on assessment tasks and course work. Teachers have reported to me how committed they are and believe they have made an excellent start. Attendance data suggests a very positive improvement in overall attendance and punctuality.

In week 7 we welcomed our new Year 11 cohort from our Balmain and Leichhardt campuses. It was an impressive week and the staff thoroughly enjoyed meeting their classes and certainly went out of their way to create exciting lessons for them throughout the week. School Leaders, Ambassadors and SRC members were actively involved in activities such as “The Way@the Bay” presentation, the East Timor presentation, leadership information and introducing new students to the Senior Enrichment Program.

Thank you to all students who assisted in welcoming our new students as well as running all the fun activities such as “Gelato Day” and “Picnic on the Oval”. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the visiting staff from Balmain and Leichhardt campuses who joined us for the week and a special thanks to Denise Nicola for her coordination of the whole week. We are expecting over 430 students and with our 400 Year 12 students we will be a school in excess of 830 students. We will receive two new portable classrooms for the start of the school year. They will be fully equipped with air conditioning and electronic whiteboards.

The Parents and Citizens Association has been a very active group in 2018 and I would personally like to thank our outgoing President Ian Balcombe for his great leadership over the past year. Thank you also to our departing parents who have played a very active role over the past two years. The school is vibrant and bright with all our new furniture in the Glasshouse Café, Hospitality Area and the breakout areas. The furniture is well used and the students are very fortunate to have such an active group of parents assisting us to be a great public school.

Our last official event for the year was our SRC “Respect Assembly” organised by the SRC representatives and our two devoted SRC teachers, Ms Ma and Mr Wong. Our three executive members of the SRC, who were also inducted at this event, spoke about the importance of young adults discussing and talking about respect. Karen Willis, the Executive Director of Rape and Domestic Violence Services Australia, delivered a speech about her advocacy for women’s rights and her role in assisting victims of domestic violence to recover and become able to live happy and safe lives.

On Monday 3 December, I had the pleasure of attending the Japanese Consul General’s Residence to accompany our recently graduated Year 12 student Natasha Dalima to receive her highly commended award for her essay on scientific research developments and innovations in both Japan and Australia. It was a lovely occasion for Natasha, her teacher, Ms McEwan and her mother.

Another of our recently graduated students has received an award from the Teachers’ Federation for her commitment to Social Justice and the Environment. Zofia Francis was presented with her award this week and we thank her for her energy and commitment to making our school a little greener! She has left the Environment Group in good shape for a very successful 2019.

Students are invited to drop in to the school to share their results with the staff at an informal morning tea at 11am in the Glasshouse Café on Friday 14.

Students who need advice about future options after receiving their results are encouraged to contact the Careers Advisor Service Hotline on 1300 300 687. Ms Letsios will also be available for student on this day.

In 2019 Bell times will change slightly to align all subject lines. A copy of the changed bell times is included in this edition.

At the end of this term we farewell a number of temporary staff who have contributed to our campus in many ways. It is always sad for both staff and students to lose teachers they have worked with throughout the year. In the HSIE we have Ms Ma and Ms Szymanski who have been successful in gaining full time permanent positions at other schools. Mr Eric Wong in the Science faculty has also been successful in gaining a permanent teaching position. We are very proud of our young beginning teachers and we hope that we have contributed to their formative years of teaching and that they have long and promising careers in this wonderful profession. We also say farewell to Elly Kate McEwan who will be joining our Balmain Campus on a full-time basis in 2019.

Year 12 parents in 2019 will receive a final “Commitment to Learning” report based on the students’ work and commitment during Term 4. These will be available in the Parent Portal from Monday 17 December onwards.

We will have the opportunity to gather as a college community on 8 February 2019 at Sydney Town Hall to recognise our HSC graduates and all students in years 7 to 11.

On a final note, on behalf of all staff at Blackwattle Bay Campus, I extend warm wishes for a happy and safe holiday and look forward to seeing you for a very bright and successful 2019.



Julian Zhu, Aidan Flanagan, Frances Smith & Christopher Karavotas

VET Entertainment @ Schools Spectacular

Staff and students of SSC Blackwattle Bay were proud to have two Year 12 students represent the school as part of the VET Entertainment crew at the recent NSW Schools Spectacular arena event. Cassie Mildwater and Amelie White Tear were selected from over 200 students state wide to be part of the backstage and audio crew at the large scale televised event. Students were responsible for the bump in, bump out, set movement and audio setup that supported over 5000 NSW Public Schools students at Qudos Bank Arena – this included a 2400 person choir, 80 piece orchestra and 3000 plus dancers.

Our school is proud of the girls' achievements as part of this highly competitive program. Students in Year 11 VET Entertainment have the opportunity each year to apply for the Schools Spectacular crew to support their knowledge of audio, lighting, staging, vision, safety and customer service.

Jessica Thompson, Teacher VET Entertainment, CAPA Faculty



News from the CAPA Faculty

It is our pleasure to announce that four students from Sydney Secondary College Blackwattle Bay have been chosen to perform in the 2019 NSW Public Schools Drama Company – production of Macbeth to be performed at NIDA in May (14th – 17th). Eighty students auditioned and only 15 were chosen to perform in this production. This means that over a quarter of the performers in the production will be from Sydney Secondary College Blackwattle Bay. This is a remarkable achievement and congratulations to these keen Drama students!

The students representing our school are:

- Jolie Adcock
- Martha Bruer
- Mallory Greenslade Silva
- Thomas Will

We wish them well in their rehearsals and performances.

Leo Sorbello, Teacher – Drama, CAPA Faculty



Martha Bruer. Mallory Greenslade Silva and Jolie Adcock

A message from the School Leaders

November was an extremely busy and active month for the leadership team and as we launched into December there was no sign of things slowing down. As Week 5 began the Year 11 cohort collectively mourned and remembered the members of the armed forces who lost their lives during World War I. Two of our school leaders, Maddie Fox and Lia Perkins, hosted this assembly in conjunction with Mr. Morris to deliver a truly heartfelt Remembrance Day. Working with the ambassadors, students and teachers were also able to put together a beautiful poppy garden to represent some of the first flowers on the battlefields of World War I.

Continuing with the tradition of important assemblies which bring our school community together, our Recognition Assembly was a momentous occasion to celebrate and honour the 120 students receiving awards. From awards for academic achievement to those for attendance and sporting achievement, this day, without doubt, gave us the opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the achievement of many students in our cohort. As leaders, we worked closely with the executive team and teachers in charge to ensure that this assembly ran smoothly and truly represented the values of our school. As significant as the awards, for us, was the Blackwattle School Leader induction, during which our proud parents pinned badges on our blazers and embraced us in moments of sheer joy. The official document which recorded our promises of dedication to the school and its community on this day, truly enabled us to sense the beginning of our “giving back” to our school.

During week 7 we welcomed an array of students from our junior campuses, Balmain and Leichhardt, and students from surrounding schools. Monday came and saw a large range of new students from outside the college. We were given the task of welcoming these students and accompanying them throughout the day to ensure no questions were left unanswered, ensuring that they would soon feel welcome and a part of our school community. By Tuesday over 450 students flooded into the grounds of Blackwattle, overwhelming just about everyone.

**Maddie
Fox, Simon
Peyrachon,
Lia Perkins
& Dylan
Godwin**



Morning assemblies were held from Tuesday to Thursday and we, as school leaders, shared the role of chairperson to deliver to the audience important information regarding life at Blackwattle Bay. Tuesday's assembly focused on the leadership opportunities available at our school. We were able to emphasise the importance of working beyond the classroom and stepping up to new roles around our school. We organized various representatives of interest groups in our school, including the SRC and the Environmental Group, to deliver presentations, highlighting the great variety of opportunities to be involved in school life at our campus.

In other assemblies, other opportunities available to students at our campus, such as the East Timor visit, sporting teams and VET subjects were outlined, again highlighting the range of opportunities available to students on their arrival early next year. Topped off by a fashion show showcasing our school uniform, Taster Week was truly a success and a great feeling of accomplishment flowed throughout the school, especially among the teachers and students who had been involved in its organisation. Taster Week concluded with a picnic on the oval and a closing assembly. We would like to thank members of the Ambassador program, the SRC and several other groups who worked countless hours to organise programs, sessions and lessons to ease the transition of students to their new campus next year. As leaders, this busy week really brought us together as we worked and communicated effectively as a team.

Finally this week, the 8th week of our first Year 12 term has come to an end. Among the sea of various assessments, the Respect assembly on Friday was an opportunity for the members of the SRC to step forward and deliver a presentation about respect, gender equality and consent, crucial topics relevant to our young community at Blackwattle Bay campus. This assembly included a guest speaker invited by one of our ambassadors. Also, at this assembly, the SRC president, vice presidents and communications officer were inducted and officially introduced to the school as representatives of the voice of students.

As school year reaches its last full week before the summer break members of our leadership team look forward to the future, preparing ourselves for next year as well as focusing on completing our assessments successfully.

**Simon Peyrachon &
Dylan Godwin, School Leaders**



Remembrance Day 2018

On Monday 12 November our school community commemorated Remembrance Day. Sunday 11 November 2018 marked the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice which ended the First World War (1914-18).

One hundred year ago, the guns of the Western Front fell silent after four years of continuous warfare. With their armies retreating and close to collapse, German leaders signed an Armistice, bringing the war to an end. From the summer of 1918, the five divisions of the Australian Corps had been at the forefront of the Allied advance to victory. Beginning with their stunning success at the Battle of Hamel in July, they helped to turn the tide of the war at Amiens in August, followed by the capture of Mont St Quentin and Peronne and the breaching of German defences at the Hindenburg Line in September. By early October, the exhausted Australians were withdrawn from battle. They had achieved a fighting reputation out of proportion to their numbers. However, victory came at a heavy cost. They suffered almost 48,000 casualties during 1918, including more than 12,000 dead.



Ms Jan Cuke, Relieving Principal, addressing assembly



Martha Chess-Phelps performing at the assembly.



School leaders with poppies at the Remembrance garden.



Students and staff in front of the Remembrance garden after the assembly.

At our ceremony our school leaders, Lia Perkins and Maddie Fox, led the proceedings and outlined the importance of this occasion as a time of remembrance, a time to commemorate war dead from all conflicts. Our Acknowledgement of Country was given by Lachlan Barker-Kennedy and was followed by Martha Chess-Phelps who performed a moving song which set the tone for the ceremony. Daniel McKay-Smith read a beautiful poem "In Flanders fields" by John McCrae. The Ode was followed by the Last Post performed by Oliver Chaves. It was at this point we observed a Minute's silence. At the end of the ceremony, our Relieving Principal, Jan Cuke, acknowledged the solemnity of the occasion with a personal reflection about "the war to end all wars."

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the official party and many of our students were invited to place poppies in the Blackwattle Bay Remembrance Garden which was planted in 2010.

Lest We Forget.

Mr Peter Morris, History Coordinator, HSIE Faculty

A Message from the Environmental Group

Term 4 gave a fresh start to our Environmental Group as we took the reins from the graduating year 12 Environmental Group, allowing us to take a more active role in the school's environmental movement. We welcomed a new teacher, Mr Roberts, to lead and facilitate the group. We have already achieved some of our goals and have begun the planning process for 2018-19.

Earlier this term we introduced paper and cardboard recycling bins to our school and began using a new recycling bin for bottles and cans. The bins encourage good recycling habits and will help improve our ecological footprint. Students and staff have quickly begun using the bins which are now filling up weekly thereby reducing the amount of recyclable goods that would unnecessarily go to landfill.

During our "Taste of Blackwattle" week, at a leadership assembly, we advertised the Environmental Group to incoming students for 2019. We also ran "leadership" stalls to provide further information about our group. At our stall we offered a "Guess the amount of plastic bags" interactive game, fliers and a suggestion box for next term. A range of future year 11 students are now interested in joining the group, which will increase our school's positive impact on the environment.

In terms of future goals, we hope to reduce the waste produced from our school canteen, which includes the usage of non-recyclable coffee cups, containers, utensils and packing to more sustainable options. We are planning to begin these actions early next term.

Lia Perkins and Maddie Fox, the Environmental Group.



Blooming Arts

Last week was an exciting time for our Visual Arts students in our Support Unit. All year our students have been working very hard to create a collection of original and distinctive artworks, most of which have been on display around our unit in A Block, and last week they had the opportunity to enter some of their best artwork for the Blooming Arts Exhibition.

This exhibition showcases the work of artists with disabilities who live in or have a connection with the Inner West area. Opening night was on November 29 at the Chrissie Cotter Gallery in Camperdown and several of our students attended with their parents and friends.

We were restricted to submitting only two works per student and all of the works submitted were hung. It was great to see the artworks displayed in professionally made frames funded by our school. They looked really impressive and received excellent feedback from the organisers, teachers and other attendees.



Kaitlyn Shroder with her work "Colourful shapy abstract" in soft pastels.



Former student Georgia Carnevale with Abby Matthews and her "Self Portrait" combining monoprinting and drawing in soft pastels.

Former students Georgia Carnevale and Steven Katsantonis enjoying the Blooming Arts Exhibition.



“Abstract in warm and cool colours” in oil pastels by Sufia Khan.



“Planets” in oil pastels and ink by Abby Matthews.

“Laughing Face” in charcoal by Sufia Khan.



Opening night also gave us an opportunity to catch up with former students of Blackwattle Bay Campus, who also contributed artworks to the exhibition, as well as art teachers working in the Inner West area and many other people interested in art and its ability to enhance the lives of people both with and without disabilities.

We had a lovely time at the opening night but our students were happy to receive their artworks back. They were not for sale! Many of these will continue to be displayed in A Block and when our students graduate next year they will take them home so that they can continue to be appreciated by their families and friends.

Maria FitzPatrick, Teacher, Special Education Faculty

Excursion Report: Visit to ARCADIS

Background: Symes Group, in conjunction with Arcadis, invited students in Year 11 to attend a project management in practice leadership program held at Arcadis. Ten Year 11 students attended from SSC.

Symes Group (Leading the Imagination Era) is a leadership and coaching practice. Arcadis Design Consultancy is a recognised international engineering firm. Working together, they run leadership programs for students to expose them to a state of the art workplace and reveal the myriad of career opportunities available in the design, engineering and construction industry. The event focused on collaborative activities to understand and build the core skills of a Project Manager (PM) in this industry, the opportunity to give fresh perspectives into real industry challenges and gain some career guidance from experienced professionals.

Program: Following a welcome and introduction to the key personnel in Symes Group and Arcadis, and an explanation of the ethos and philosophy of both organisations, the day was divided into three sessions. Students from five high schools were involved on the day.

1. Project Management

Task: working in groups use 400 jigsaw pieces and taking only 30 minutes, put a globe together and place it on a stand. First group to finish wins a prize.

Following the task, students were asked to explain their key learnings from the process.

- Communication is the key: being open to all ideas
- Strategic thinking: deciding and assigning roles
- Thinking mindfully i.e. being aware of including each person and ensuring the group is cohesive and focused on achieving the set goal
- Re-assessing as go along to ensure strategies are working. If not, rethink and reset steps.
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2. Creative Design

Task: Thinking creatively to answer the question What if ...? Being open to reframing the question and testing till you get it right.

Game: Destructus

- Create: new object/idea
- Improve: make it better
- Transform: use it for a different purpose
- Disrupt: think of a different way to achieve the same purpose.

SCAMPER – steps in the game

- Substitute
- Combine
- Adapt
- Modify
- Eliminate
- Reverse

From this game, identify the new skills you have learned in project management:

- Creative thinking
- Communication/collaboration
- Problem solving/planning.

1. Project Management Challenge

Students were given a “real life” brief of how to move people from A (Circular Quay) to B (Central Station) differently.

Their task was to

- Define the challenge
- Generate ideas and choose a potential solution
- What are the factors needed to make it happen (PESTEL: political, economic, social, legal, environmental, technological)
- How might you address those factors?

Each group then reported back.



Review: At the end of the day, students were given the opportunity to question the panel about the pathways they chose to get into Arcadis, a typical day in the life of an engineer, the qualifications required and the opportunities available. Students then completed a survey to provide feedback on their learning.

Conclusion: Throughout the day our students participated enthusiastically in each activity. When it came to reporting back on the findings of each group, our students stepped up to the challenge and presented on behalf of their group. I was proud of the way they so enthusiastically embraced the challenges and got the most out of the opportunities provided.



Ms L. Mitton, Relieving Careers Adviser

What's so good about film photography?

It has been a creative and productive year for students in our Year 11 and 12 Photography classes. With the resurgence in popularity for wet photography using darkroom processes including the enlarger, developer, stop bath and fixer to make black and white photographs, our students have reignited their passion for this process. The enthusiasm displayed by our Year 11 Photography students for darkroom work has resulted in many successful lessons involving correct exposure times as well as special effects, made completely in analogue (film) form.



Students appreciated the care and time it took to make their special photographs with no mobile phones in sight! They also came to understand the origins of digital photography in a much deeper and holistic way.

This term, in Year 12, many students continued with the course as well as pursuing their ATAR subjects. They are keen to develop their portfolios which can be shown to great advantage at interviews for employment or to gain entry to particular tertiary courses.

It has been a very rewarding experience for myself, as a teacher, to see the strong engagement in learning on the part of my students. Below are some student comments reflecting their love of film photography.

ISLA CRAWFORD: I've always been interested in photography and was very excited to be continuing with it in Year 12. My enjoyment was enhanced by learning how to produce and develop film. I found watching and doing the whole process very thrilling and exciting as you never know what the exact outcome will be. I enjoyed learning the new processes and being able to experiment with different techniques to create my images.

Taj d'Aquila: The best thing about the darkroom is how it slows life down, it makes you appreciate things more. It's a mesmerising process and it's nice to be "in the moment" while at school. Doing the darkroom stuff really makes you appreciate your photos more because you went through a complete process from start to finish and I really like that!

Kiarra Croke: I really like photography because I get to learn how the modern camera in my phone now came to be.

Aiden Harrison: Taking photographs on a film camera creates magic when you get to see the images in the darkroom.

Luka Steadman: Taking photographs, paying attention to exposure controls and composition frees my spirit.

Sam Harris: The thing that I enjoy about analogue photography is how it's nice and slow, you don't have to rush it, taking your time to get the shot that you desire and the setting of that shot to make it something beautiful.

Shaun Sharma: Analogue photography is a platform where you can express many creative sides of yourself. It's a great mix of art and science, making you value the importance of process and discovery. It allows visual communication like no other kind of medium because it is an intimate and hands on process. I feel lucky exploring what feels like a brand new art form although its beginnings go back to the 1800's.

Luca Milet: In photography you appreciate the newer technology more because you learn the traditional methods first and you learn to be patient. The majority of the time is practical work which makes it more enjoyable. At the beginning we learnt about the history of photography and then started photograms and now we are able to develop our own film negatives. I recommend this subject to anyone who has an interest in photography.

Marissa Zaknich, Teacher Visual Arts, Design and Photography, CAPA Faculty

Year 12 Construction Photos



University of Sydney Girls workshop

'The University of Sydney Business School – Friday 7th December

22 female students from Blackwattle were selected to attend the University of Sydney Girls workshop @ 'The USYD Business School'. It was a two hour workshop focusing on "Women in the workplace". Students had the opportunity to learn about the importance of networking and how and where to apply for industry/internship placement scholarships.

One of the fantastic parts of the day was getting students to develop their one minute "elevator pitch". An elevator pitch is a concise, carefully planned and well-practiced description of yourself that you can use to explain who you are and what you do from a professional perspective. It needs to be succinct and unique and convey important information, leaving no doubt what you're looking for and what you can offer. Most importantly, it should take you the time that it takes to ride an elevator.

After each student planned their elevator pitch each team was asked to select a representative to stand and present their pitch to the group. Several girls presented their elevator pitch with courage and confidence sending a very clear message about what they could offer in the workplace.

I would like to thank Nadia McDonagh (Careers and Employment Office) from the University of Sydney Business School for her continued support for this program. I would also like to thank Heather Robson (Student and Programs Support Service) for giving a two hour presentation to students on the day. This is our second year working on this project in partnership with The University of Sydney Business School. It is a wonderful program and we hope to continue this in 2019.

Jodie Young, Teacher PDHPE Faculty and Girls Advisor

