



BLACKWATTLE BAY CAMPUS

Bay Side

June 2019

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Key Dates for Term 2

6 June	IMP End of Camp Concert
14 June	Sydney East Cross Country Championships
18 June	Subject Information Night
19 June	Year 11 Drama Performance
21 June	Year 11 Semester 1 Reports in Parent Portal
21 June	Bligh Zone Athletics Championships
25 June	Year 12 Music 1 Evening
28 June	IMP Concert Evening 5.30 pm in BWB school hall
2 July	Year 11 Semester 1 Parent Teacher Interviews
3 July	NAIDOC Assembly
4 July	Year 11 Semester 1 Parent Teacher Interviews

Principal's Report



I would like to thank teachers, parents, students and the college leadership team for the warm welcome to Sydney Secondary College, Blackwattle Bay Campus. It has been a busy, yet smooth, transition in school leadership and I would like to thank Ms Jan Cuke who acted as principal during the recruitment process, and for the ongoing sharing of knowledge of the school during my first few weeks. I feel very privileged to lead such an outstanding school.

I have been impressed with the quality of teaching and the commitment to learning shown by our students as I familiarise myself with the school. I have enjoyed listening to the musical talents of our Year 11 music students during their evening performances, the art lessons in the support unit and the Year 11 drama performances.

ANZAC Day Ceremony

Congratulations to our student leaders and Mr Morris on an exceptional and moving ceremony to mark the importance of ANZAC Day. This was my first official function in the role of Principal, and I was impressed with the musical performances, student leaders and the precision of the wreath laying ceremony.

Splendour @ the Bay

One of the important considerations at the Senior Campus is getting the balance of academic studies and individual health and wellbeing in the right proportions. *Splendour @ the Bay* highlights the need to take time out for enjoyment with fellow students. It was wonderful to see so many students participating in the kayak races, bubble soccer, tug of war, crafty hive, chess competitions and all the other wellbeing opportunities on offer during the day.

Blackwattle Bay Careers Expo

The inaugural *Blackwattle Bay Careers Expo* was a huge success with eighteen exhibitors from a variety of universities and post school institutes present in the school hall. Students and parents took advantage of the opportunity to seek out a range of information from the exhibitors which will support the transition process as they prepare to move on from Sydney Secondary College. Congratulations to Ms Anna Lestios for her vision and implementation of such a great event.

Responsibilities of students

Mr Corbett and I spoke at a recent assembly reminding students of the responsibilities of being a student at our senior campus. Although we do not have serious consequences in place for uniform breeches, mobile phone use, littering, truancy and non-completion of work, students are expected to be responsible for their own actions and wear uniform, turn their mobile phones off during class time, keep the school environment litter free, attend all classes and complete all work. We appreciate the support of parents in maintaining these high standards across all areas of the school.

Ms Leiza Lewis, Principal

Deputy Principal's Report

It certainly has been a busy term for Year 12 students and we are only four weeks into term. This term has been an opportunity for our students to set up structures for their future pathways. They have received their Mid-Course reports and after interviews with parents and teachers should be able to put into place some revision techniques required to consolidate results as well as to improve in certain areas. I hope that most Year 12 students have attended their Career Interviews and listened carefully to our guest speaker from UAC so that they are fully informed on how to do the necessary applications for TAFE, university or other pathways.

The Careers Expo was another opportunity for our students to gather information on courses available at tertiary institutions. They must also read the Careers Newsletter emailed once a fortnight to ensure that they are aware of scholarships and other opportunities that they may be eligible to apply for. If students need written recommendations, they are encouraged to send me an email as soon as they can with details of their application.

The large number of students completing Major Projects for their HSC should be using time management skills and logbooks to ensure they are on track to complete these projects by the due date. Extensions will not be given for these projects. They are due at a specific time and date for all students across NSW. Year 12 students also have access to their personalised HSC timetable which should be displayed in their homes and on their devices.

Some students have a clash of exams on the same day and time. By now, they should have received a letter from NESA informing them of the details and the procedures associated with sitting these exams. Students can see me for more details.

Term 2 has also been an opportunity for students to get involved in college life. Our IMP members are about to attend the IMP camp in early June and as the senior members of the program they will take on an important leadership role with our junior members. The School Ambassadors, led by Arlia Ardon, organised a fantastic Splendour@Bay. I have been most impressed by the input of both Year 11 and 12 students in this leadership program and how readily they have taken on new roles and responsibilities. Thank you to all the students who have been part of many, many bake sales in the past four weeks, raising much needed funds for our sister school in Timor Leste and the Year 12 formal. It was also great to see many of our talented Year 12 athletes honoured at the Elite Sportsperson's assembly this week. Our School Leaders attended a "Prefect afternoon tea" at St Scholastica's last week and I received a wonderful email from the school thanking them for being there. I am happy to share this email: *"Just wanted to say that the four School Leaders who attended our Leaders gathering at St Scholastica's after school yesterday were great ambassadors for Blackwattle Bay. They were clever, interesting, polite and very engaged with everything that took place. It was a pleasure to be able to host our neighbours and have these fine young adults as our guests for the afternoon."*

Ms Jan Cuke, Year 12 Deputy Principal

ANZAC Day Assembly Speech

"When our travel group was in France we attended a ceremony held in a community called Villers-Bretonneux where a battle was fought 102 years ago between the British, Australians and the Germans. This place is of great importance as it marks a major defeat for Germany when Australian troops had to retake this vital holding point in the dark with only hours of prior notice, and they emerged successfully but with the loss of over 1,500 troops.

A ceremony is now being held at Villers-Bretonneux every year to remember those who have fallen and to display great pride among Australians. The people living there love the Australians as without their efforts and sacrifice it is possible they would have been under German occupation if it was not recaptured.

To go to the Villers-Bretonneux ceremony we had to wake up at two in the morning and take a bus in the freezing cold. Once we arrived, we had to go through airport style security screenings before entering the complex. When we found our seats it was raining and freezing cold. I found the entire experience surreal, uncomfortable, saddening and uplifting all at the same time. Being in the same area where thousands of dead lay and where a major battle of war had happened felt very strange. We watched the Prime Ministers of France and Australia shake hands to show gratitude. It took me a while to come to terms with and realise the full capacity of death and pain that people had gone through there. And once I had thought about it, I found it very moving and sad but with all of these people



these people praising the Australians, I felt a strong sense of patriotism and I was proud that my country had helped the lives of so many in a country very different and very far away from our own.

If I, for some reason, happen to be in the area during the time of the ceremony I would definitely attend again and maybe visit one of the special Australian restaurant/pop up shops set up in the town during the time of the ceremony, just to revisit what the Australian people had done for France and to feel such a national pride for my country that I don't feel very often as I am not one to attend many ceremonies similar to this.

I believe it would be an exceptional effort and would mean so much to many people if people would involve themselves in this ceremony to remember, reflect and commemorate not just the Australians, but the New Zealanders, British and every other country involved".

Henry Tidswell

Music News

Year 11 Music Evenings

Year 11 Music 1 and 2 evenings have been a wonderful opportunity for students to perform in front of their friends and family. Year 11 Music 2 students presented some polished performances on Tuesday, 14th May and Year 11 Music 1 students performed Tuesday on 21st May as part of an assessment task. Special thanks to Ms Jessica Thompson, Music 1 and VET Entertainment teacher, and the Year 12 VET Entertainment team for running both Music evenings.

Year 12 Music Evenings

Year 12 Music 1, 2 and Extension students will also have the opportunity to showcase their performance pieces. Year 12 Music 2 and Extension students are looking forward to performing at the Music evening on Thursday 30th May at 6:30pm. Their performances will count toward an assessment task. Year 12 Music 1 students will also be performing on Tuesday 25th June. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Ms Gabrielle Hiu

Teacher, Music, CAPA Faculty



Report from our School Leaders

Term two began quickly when we met our new principal, Ms Lewis, and gathered together as a school to commemorate those who served our nation in WWI at our annual ANZAC day assembly. A big “thank you” to Mr Morris for coordinating the touching assembly and year 12 students Laura Grubisa and Henry Tidswell for their contributions. We were honoured to be a part of it.

More recently, Ms Letsios organised a careers market in the school hall that had countless universities, TAFEs and apprenticeship groups delivering valuable information on post-school options for our year 11s and year 12 students. A special “thank you” to Ms Letsios for her dedication to and organisation of the evening. The event was a huge success.

On Thursday 23 May we took our minds off school work and celebrated “Splendour @ the Bay”, Blackwattle’s own version of a school athletics carnival. The day began with the elite sportsperson assembly, celebrating the incredible achievements of sportspeople at our school. We recognised the incredible sporting accomplishments of James Olsen Keating, Luca Pearce, Maxine Franz, Namkhair Stylianou, Zoe Reid, Marco Cirjak, Oscar Tierney, Oliver Ryan, Gus Tierney, Finn McKendry, David Lee, Iredale, Frances Smith and Sean Comer.

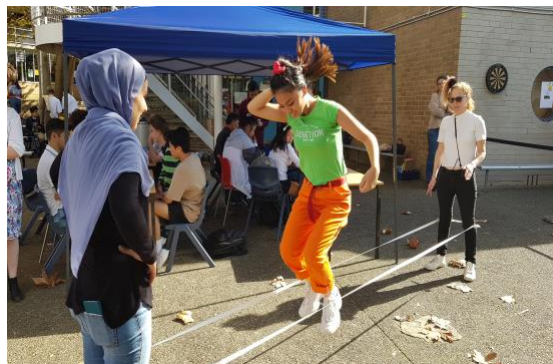


After the assembly, members of the school community flocked to the waterfront to watch the “Head of the Bay” race. Maxine Franz and Frances Smith won the girls’ race and Harry Sage won the boys’ race. Watching the race really showed us how lucky we are to be at a school located on the waterfront. For the rest of the day we participated in the sporting and recreational activities on offer.

Since the theme was “Back to the 80s”, students and teachers went all out with double denim, fluoro jackets, high ponytails, jumpsuits and shoulder pads whilst listening to 80s hits on repeat. As always, the bubble soccer was a highlight, with nonstop bouncing all day long. Other sporting activities included table tennis, basketball, netball, futsal, darts and kicks for Timor. For the less sporty among us there were still countless activities to enjoy such as giant chess, “have a rant” and the photobooth. In line with the 80s theme, the Crafty Hive group ran a very popular scrunchie making stall, whilst the 80s teacher fashion booth glammed us up by adding colour to our hair. We remained well fed by the HSIE faculty’s barbeque and the SRC gelato and fairy bread stalls. The proceeds from these stalls are being donated to our sister school in East Timor.

We ended the day with a year 11 versus year 12 tug of war. Unfortunately, as much as we hate to admit it, the year 11s won the event. A massive “thank you” to Ms Cuke, Mr George and the teachers involved in the organisation of stalls and the SRC and ambassadors for their coordination of this super fun day.

Dylan, Maddie, Lia and Simon



Science News

On the 7th and 8th of May Year 11 Biology students got their hands dirty during a field study excursion to the Field of Mars Environmental Education Centre. Students spent the day collecting first-hand data on biotic and abiotic features within two locations at the Sugarloaf Point Reserve. They also investigated the effects of human impact on the flora and fauna that occupy the reserve and identified management strategies that are being employed to restore these damaged habitats in order to maintain biodiversity in ecosystems at risk.

This data will be used to assist students in completing their first depth study assessment which they will submit as a multimodal presentation. It was a great learning experience for all and a great opportunity for students to work collaboratively and gain insight into the workings of real scientists in the field.

Ms Nada Khodragha

Teacher, Science Faculty



News from the LOTE Faculty

Chinese and Literature students' adventure across 5000 years of Chinese history

Year 11 and 12 students studying the Chinese and Literature course went on an excursion to the Heaven and Earth in Chinese Art Exhibition at the Art Gallery NSW on the 9th of April. Students enjoyed their afternoon in the gallery exploring the Chinese artwork, treasures from the National Palace Museum Taipei.

Students all gathered around the painting *Along the River During the Qingming Festival* (*Qing Ming Shang He Tu*) and discussed the history and culture of China and the traditional values reflected in the artwork.

Chang Liu

Teacher, LOTE Faculty



News from the Special Education Faculty

Students in our support unit have been enthusiastic about exploring the local area as part of their studies for Work and the Community. Every second Friday, our combined class of seven students use different modes of transport to visit various locations within the Glebe area. Walking along the Blackwattle Bay foreshore our students have looked at landmarks that they have learned about in class including the ANZAC Bridge, the Sydney Fish Markets and the Centrepont Tower identifying trip, slip and fall hazards along the way.

Last week we walked to The Sydney Fish Markets and looked at fish mongers wearing their personal protective clothing and following correct safety procedures when handling fresh produce. The students enjoyed watching how oysters were shucked and cooked over an open flame. The students really enjoyed eating fresh fish and chips and looking out over the beautiful harbour.

Ms Olivia Rothwell
Teacher, Special Education Faculty



A taste of Ramadan

As the sun set on the 9th May students from Years 11 and 12 Studies of Religion classes experienced “A Taste of Ramadan”. Students from across Sydney gathered at Amity College, Auburn to experience and understand more about one of the five pillars of Islam.

Students from Blackwattle were able to mix with students of the Islamic faith and witness congregational prayer and passages from the Qur'an. Students of the Islamic faith were able to enlighten us all about the importance of this time of year for them. Everyone shared amazing food to break the fast, with some students from Blackwattle fasting for the day to enrich their experience.

Mr Matthew Condon

Teacher, HSIE Faculty

Year Advisor, Year 12



Sit Down and Write – Using Peer Pressure to Our Benefit!

New to 2019, the *Sit Down and Write* enrichment program is becoming increasingly popular among Year 12 students. Meeting during lunch and Period 4 every Tuesday at the top of B Block, we beat procrastination and together suffer through assessment tasks, major works and homework to meet deadlines and reduce our stress levels. *Sit Down and Write* participants have indicated that they are most productive during these sessions – why not see what the hype is all about?

Social Justice – Trying to make work a fairer place

Social Justice continues to meet during Friday lunch in Week B. At our last meeting at the end of Term 1, we discussed how we'd like to promote issues including the low rates of youth voting ("Be Heard" then spoke to our Year 12s about this in Week 1 of Term 2), attempts to build a cruise terminal at Yarra Bay, Brunei's plan to impose the death penalty for homosexuality (that has since been redacted) and NDIS funding.

We also spoke about our desire to reinstate a Social Inc. program at Blackwattle Bay and the success of the petitions proposing a range of initiatives distributed at Diversity Day which attracted over 200 signatures from staff and students in less than an hour. In coming meetings, we are looking forward to determining how to best progress with our current issues, and to begin our plans for the upcoming NAIDOC assembly.

All students are welcome to attend our meetings, located in B7.

Jessica Hawken.

Teacher HSIE Faculty

Sport Report

Congratulations to the following two students who represented Sydney East School Sports Association at recent NSWCHS State Championships:

Cameron Jones Boys Hockey in Albury 20-24 May.

Ruby Mahinya Girls Basketball Minto 20-24 May.

Congratulations to the following students who achieved outstanding results at the Bligh Zone Cross Country Championships on 13 May at Sydney Park.

B17

James Olson-Keating 1st, Lucas Lam 2nd, Rio Agustino 5th, Tate Van Heemst 6th, Izaak Raaijmakers 8th.

G17

Miku Johnson 3rd, Holly Roberts 5th.

G18 Maxine Franz 1st.

B16 Dexter Todd 7th.

These 9 students will be competing at the Sydney East Secondary Schools Cross Country Championships on 14 June at Miranda Park.

Mr Peter George,

Teacher, PDHPE Faculty

Careers Expo

