PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Year 12 have now completed their HSC examinations and we wish them all the very best whilst they anxiously wait for their results on the 17 December 2014. A huge and sincere thank you to our Year 12 teachers that selflessly gave up their time for our students before, during and after the recent school holidays to improve student preparation for the HSC examinations. Teachers at PPHS make their students and their learning a number one priority. This is one of the school’s greatest successes.

Congratulations to Wayne Clay our General assistant on his selection to receive a School Administration and Support Staff/ Education Office Administration and Support Staff award for contributions to Public Education.

The following is an extract from the citation that accompanies his award;

Wayne Clay is employed as the school’s General Assistant and his commitment to a safe, WHS compliant and well maintained is outstanding. He selflessly provides assistance and support (quite often outside his normal working hours) to students, staff and parents unquestionably. Wayne is also the school bus driver (again volunteering much of his time to do this) and he accompanies many sporting teams to and from their games. He coaches our rugby league teams and offers encouragement, support and guidance for our sporting teams. He often drives the school bus on overnight educational, student leadership, social and cultural excursions and sporting events and ably assists the teachers in the supervision and support of our students.

Wayne is also a mentor for many of our students. He encourages and supports all students with their learning, social development and sport and promotes and teaches respect, responsibility and fair play amongst our students. He is highly respected in our school community.

Wayne supports all aspects of our school’s creative and performing arts faculty in setting up the auditorium, assisting staff in rehearsals and managing the student performances and display of artworks. He always attends the shows (usually held after hours) put on at the school to support and encourage the students and staff.

Wayne also supports the SRC, student leadership program and welfare teams in the school in many ways, by setting up and manning the school BBQ for events such as SRC fundraisers and the school’s breakfast club. Wayne also assists and promotes the local primary schools by transporting their students to and from our school during orientation days.

His most important contribution to the wellbeing of the students at our school has been his support of the students with special needs at Picnic Point High School. To these students Wayne is seen as their hero. He supports some of the older special needs children by providing them with valuable work experience on a regular basis.

Wayne’s impact on assisting and encouraging students at risk of not engaging in their learning has been immeasurable and students, staff and parents have openly acknowledged the difference he has made to children in public schools. Wayne Clay has made a huge impact on the learning and social outcomes of our children and is an extremely valuable staff member who works above and beyond the expectations of his main role and is a thoroughly deserved nominee for this award.

Our school presentation day is on Thursday 11 December and will commence at 12.15 at Revesby Workers Club. There will be more details (including permission notes for students to travel to and from the venue) to follow.
Relieving Deputy’s Report – Mr P Burgess - Year 11 / 12

Our Year 11 students have made the transition into Year 12 with a minimum of fuss. Most Year 12 subjects require the first assessment task to be submitted during Term 4, so it is important that all students understand the school’s assessment policy, especially the requirements for submitting HSC assessment tasks. With this in mind, the school hosted a very important information night to distribute official documentation and advise parents and students of crucial information relating to completing HSC studies. At the meeting all students received:

- The 2014/2015 HSC School Assessment Booklet (students signed for this booklet);
- Important information regarding HSC assessment rules (including appeals, misadventure and special examination provisions);
- An explanation about patterns of study until the end of Term 4, 2014 and rules associated with the Year 12 study pattern;
- An explanation of how the Board of Studies calculates the students’ final HSC mark. This presentation explained how the School Assessment mark is combined with the HSC Examination mark to form the final HSC mark; and
- Information about useful resources on the Board of Studies website.

Organisation and time management play a vital role in the students’ success. This is a perfect time for me to remind all students, but especially the new Year 12 students, of the importance of planning out assessment tasks and mapping their due dates, to be able to keep on top of their increasing work load and minimise the stress that comes with lack of organisation. Also, I have emphasised before that family holidays should not be organised during school terms. A family holiday is not an acceptable reason for a misadventure appeal in a HSC Assessment Task. Finally, Year 12 students have been told that there will be no variations to their curriculum pattern until next year and only after all assessment tasks have been completed.

Recently I had the pleasure to teach a Year 6 into Year 7 transition lesson. The students were given the scenario of being stranded on a desert island and, using only things that could be found on the island, were asked to brainstorm ideas of what a shelter would look like. Then, in groups, the students had to construct a model of their shelter. It was fantastic to watch the students all working together in their groups and seeing some of their ideas turn into model shelters.

Deputy’s Report – Mr S.Schomberg - Year 12

I take this opportunity to thank all our wonderful Year 12 students on the way they conducted themselves and truly enjoyed their last weeks of formal education at PPHS. The number of staff who have commented on the fact that it was the best end of Year 12 they can ever remember at this school was very encouraging and a testament to our exiting Year 12 setting the benchmark for future years. The students are well and truly into their final exams now… On behalf of all of the staff we wish them every success in their future. The Year 12 signout day is scheduled for Friday 7th November at 9am. All Year 12 students will need to return all school equipment and texts and pay all outstanding fees on this day.

Year 10

Year 10 have now completed their subject selections for Year 11 next year. All students have been informed of what subjects they will be studying in 2015. Most of our students who applied for TVET subjects were successful and I thank Mr Eaton for his hard work in making these opportunities possible for our students. Next year, we will have the biggest Year 11 cohort for many years. This has resulted in very full classes and no room for movement. Changes from one subject to another will not be possible now and the timetabling process for next year is well underway.

Replacing Absent Staff – Supervision for students at PPHS.

I would just like to explain our process for covering classes when teaching staff are absent from school. Hopefully I can clarify some misconceptions.

At PPHS students are never left unsupervised in the playground or in a class room during a teaching period. This has been the case for the last 12 years that I have been at this school. At our school, all classes are covered by casual teachers or substantive teachers taking extra periods. Even senior classes are covered, unlike many other high schools where seniors are left unsupervised. Other schools do not cover senior classes in an effort to save money. We believe that this type of saving is a false economy and our students are used to a replacement teacher taking the class when their normal teacher is absent. Work is always left for the replacement teacher to deliver to the class. The rolls are marked every lesson and all students are expected to comply with the teacher and complete ALL of the work that has been left. In most cases, the absent teacher will have left work that may also need to be completed for homework. Head Teachers and the senior executive are often there to support the replacement teacher. We employ a very good group of casual staff at PPHS and we endeavour to cover all subject areas. Wherever possible, a casual teacher experienced in the subject area of the teacher they are replacing, is employed. If absences go over several days, we try as hard as possible to cover classes using the same teacher so that

Regards - Paul Burgess
there is some continuity in the learning process. All students work harder and are more productive when they are supervised by staff in the completion of their work. The replacement teachers are always expected to provide a report for the replaced teacher about the work completed and the behaviour of students so that the correct followup can occur on that teacher’s return to duty.


A very big thank you to all the parents who responded to the Parent Survey that we conducted recently to get a parent’s perspective on our school plans for the next three years. The parents who responded represented a good cross section of the year groups from Year 7 through to Year 12. I would like to report on the findings.

The top 5 things that our parents rated as being strengths of our school were:

- The offering of a broad curriculum (ie. offering many different subjects for students to choose)
- Learning support programs and assistance for students experiencing difficulties with their learning
- A high level of learning expectations and a learning culture in the school
- The provision of VET (Vocational Education & Training – studied at school) and TVET (TAFE delivered Vocational Education & Training – delivered externally at TAFE colleges) alternative programs of study
- Student Welfare & Support Programs.

Other aspects that parents added as strengths of our school included:

- International exchange programs and overseas excursions
- The strong support that staff show towards students especially in their HSC year
- The positive attitude shown by staff towards students.
- The excellent reputation of the school and its caring and well disciplined environment
- The visibility of the executive staff and their engagement with students
- Open communication between parents and the school.
- Parents and teachers working together for the benefit of the students
- Creative & Performing Arts encouraging more students to be involved in the MADD night.

Parents were asked to list what they considered were areas that needed to be addressed as a focus over the next three years. The top 5 things that parents felt needed to be part of the 3 year plan included:

- An increase in online learning opportunities for students
- Increased opportunities for our Gifted & Talented students

Parents were asked if there were any extra initiatives that they would like to see included in our plans for the next three years. The parent responses:

- An emphasis on the student as a whole person
- Inclusion of Asian Studies in the curriculum
- More focus on social inclusion, community involvement and being good members of our society
- Ability for students to purchase breakfast at school and the provision of healthy food options in the canteen menu
- Increased focus on average and middle ranked students
- The incorporation of different learning styles in the classroom to cater for all types of learners
- Notification of assessment tasks to be accessed electronically by parents.

15 parents have indicated that they would like to be involved in the writing of our 3 year school plan. I thank those parents for their commitment and willingness to participate and I will be in touch shortly to arrange our first meeting.

S. Schomberg

Michel's (Revesby)
Student of the Month
September 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>REASON FOR THE AWARD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7  Amelia Stewart</td>
<td>For showing outstanding student citizenship and a capacity to help others in need.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8  Imogen Wallace</td>
<td>Excellent contribution in school Dance and consistent work in all classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9  James Lambert</td>
<td>For consistent effort and excellence in Drama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Moesha Potter</td>
<td>For her positive change in attitude towards her studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Ronja Blixt</td>
<td>For consistent effort in her senior studies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What’s On - Term 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 30/10</td>
<td>HSC Day 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ROSA Literacy/Numeracy tests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 7/11</td>
<td>Year 12 Sign Out day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 12/11</td>
<td>Year 9 Peer Support Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 14/11</td>
<td>Year 9 Peer Support Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 19/11</td>
<td>Immunisation Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 24/11</td>
<td>Year 10 Work Experience</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

P & C News

Since the last edition of the PicNews both the September and October meetings of the P & C have been held. At the September meeting Mr. Schomberg discussed a proposed survey to be sent to parents looking at the School Planning for the next 3 years. The October meeting commenced with a very interesting presentation by Mr. Schomberg on the results of this Parent Input Survey regarding School Planning. The results and comments are being analysed in the process of the next stage of the School planning. Currently students are being surveyed for their opinions.

It was with great pleasure that Mrs Fiona Gray was presented with a School Community Service Award at the Year 12 Graduation Assembly at the end of Term 3. Fiona has given a 9 year contribution to the school P & C, and for 5 of those years she was the Treasurer of the P & C overseeing the raising and spending of several hundred thousand dollars during this time. As well as this role, Fiona was integral in the organizing and running of the school’s 50th anniversary celebrations in 2012. Fiona was a very deserving recipient of the award and it was fitting that she was presented at the Year 12 Graduation when her youngest daughter Samantha was completing year 12.

The P & C are currently very financial and are looking to co-fund a major project next year with the school. Further discussion will take place in this regard in early 2015. We did approve a donation to the school for Presentation Day awards and also to fund the buses for the Year 12 formal.

In November P & C members will be involved in Practice job interviews for Year 10 students, book packing for the incoming Year 7 students and handing out book packs at the Year 7 2015 orientation day in early December. The Uniform Co-ordinator is also planning a sale of preloved uniforms prior to the end of the school year. An SMS or email will be sent out advising the day and time.

Final meeting of P & C for 2014 is Monday 24.11.14 at 7pm. A Christmas supper will be held following the meeting. All welcome.

Christine Butters - on behalf of Kelly Macdonald.
P & C Vice –President

Michel's (Revesby)
Student of the Month
October 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>REASON FOR THE AWARD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7   Molly Miller</td>
<td>Conducting herself with honesty and integrity in the school environment and for applying herself in all subjects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8   Joshua Williams</td>
<td>For excellent application and effort in all areas of the school curriculum and involvement in extracurricular performance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9   Mark Pitchford</td>
<td>For continued dedication and hard work in his Japanese studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10  Kaitlin Macdonald</td>
<td>Mature attitude and excellent work ethic in Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11  Madeleine Buckley</td>
<td>For being a great role model and improving her results across all subjects.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Michel's (Revesby) are proud sponsors of the PPHS 'student of the month' award.

Why not visit your local community club
28 Childs Street Panania
Proud sponsors of the Leonard W. Eickenloff Scholarship to Students of Picnic Point High School

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Sport Report
Under 15 Girls’ Basketball
Well done to the under 15 girls’ basketball team who progressed to the central venue competition on the final Monday of term three.

All girls played extremely well both individually and as a team and displayed their great skill improvements that have been made throughout the season. Congratulations girls on finishing in the top 6 of the region!

Junior AFL
Picnic Point Junior AFL Boys make State Quarter Finals.
How do you measure success? Well if you measure it through sheer courage and determination, the Picnic Point Pandas AFL team have it in spades.


The Pandas were pumped to have an away game and due to inclement weather travelled all the way down to beautiful Ulladulla. The trip down was scenic, the boys very observant, especially pointing out the golden arches (JJ led the way).

We arrived to a waterlogged park. It was going to be a challenge. We were slow to adjust to the wet and muddy conditions and questionable decisions, falling slightly behind by half time.

A new game plan was implemented and the boys to their credit responded. Hayden Probert (best on ground) was excellent mopping up at the back. Dalai Maniti and Izaak Moses were outstanding on the right side, winning many contested balls. Peter Coote showed his soccer prowess, adjusting well to the conditions and the ever reliable John Herlihy and Ethan Higgin repelled most Ulladulla charges forward. Eventually, the muddy and sore Pandas prevailed 42-40 in bruising contest.

On to the champs Albury. The boys were pumped to challenge themselves against a class outfit such as Albury at Kelso Park. Big man Stuart Higham was a surprise inclusion overcoming injury. ‘Spike’ Millican was in charge of the biggest game. The coin toss was lost and the Pandas began into the wind. A fairly even quarter saw the Pandas behind but not too far. Centre-half-back big man Hayden Kennedy and fullback John Herlihy stood strong in a torrent of Albury attacks.

The second quarter saw young gun Liam Sansom spark the Pandas with a goal worthy of Buddy Franklin. He picked the ball up in the middle, had six bounces and slotted it from 45 metres. Another goal from the Pandas and they were only 2 goals back at the half. The second half began and a 5 minute period saw Albury kick out to an eight goal lead by ¾ time. The last quarter was all the Pandas. Blake Gardner, Jaiden Arfanis and Ethan Bowmaker outstanding, winning numerous contested possessions and propelling the Pandas into attack.

A resounding performance from the Pandas, eventually going down by 33 points, 61-28; a gallant effort.

Congratulations to all team members and big thanks to Liam Bow, Tristan Evans-Tsoi, Lachlan Bateman, Jayden Okunbor, Jaydn McGregor, Mr Millican, Mr Clay, Mrs Pele and Max Lightfoot for their fantastic support.

Coach Ismail
Programs
Premiers Reading Challenge 2014
Congratulations to the following students who have been reading all year to finish their PRC:

Year 7
Nathan Anton
Phillip Au
Jack Dinsdale
Cameron Driver
Sean Eagle
Jake Farr
Joshua Farr
Hana Herlihy
Kristen Jones
Zahir Khodragha
Leomel Orogan

Year 8
Sara Allouche
Matthew Blight
Thomas Bush
James Butler
Patricia Eata
Tim Gray
Nathan Linabury

Year 9
Daniel Papagianopoulos

Rotary Youth Awards
The Rotary Club of Padstow has sent a letter of appreciation to Picnic Point High School for our school’s participation in the Rotary Youth Vocational Awards.

The Rotary Youth Vocational Awards are highly valued by all participants, as these awards assist students in gaining further training and/or employment.

Well done!
Work experience

Students from all three Support Unit classes have started work experience at DSA in Condell Park. They will attend work experience every Friday for 10 weeks during term 4.

Work experience enables students to observe and experience the world of work. It also helps them to settle into a workplace and gradually increase their skills to work independently and learn about workplace safety.

They should all be congratulated on their behaviour, work ethic and effort at work experience.
Miss Negroh
The funds raised will go directly to facilitate activities that have been planned for our Social Inc. ‘Say Hi’ Day.

This special day that promotes social inclusion, is going to be hosted by our school’s Social Inc. group on Friday, the 14th November. We have invited other local schools such as Sir Joseph Banks, Broderick Gillawarna and Caroline Chisholm. Students from these schools are encouraged to participate in a showcase where any talent or skill will be appreciated and a prize awarded for the most entertaining performance.

The idea of having students performing and sharing their talents/achievements was born last year when Emma, a Year 12 student from Broderick, asked to perform in front of all participants. She sang a cappella beautifully and her performance moved us greatly making the moment very memorable.

We hope that our 3rd annual ‘Say Hi’ Day this year is going to send an even stronger message out to the community emphasising the importance of social inclusion and caring for each other. Social Inc. actively includes youth with disability.

Mrs Bray
Support Unit – Community Access Program for Junior Students from Support Unit
This term our junior students from Support Unit have started their Community Access Program. For 10 weeks every Friday they go to Bass Hill Shopping Plaza and learn how to find products from their own shopping lists and pay for them.

Time to Harvest
Gardening is a healthy and fun activity for our students who develop new skills and learn about science and nature from growing their own food. Look at the pictures below to see what we grow in the school garden and how much enjoyment our students gain by harvesting the produce.

This regular practice allows students to grow in confidence and improve their understanding about food and fresh produce available in a variety of shops. At the same time our students become more independent and respected members of our community.
SRC: Update
On Thursday 11th September 2014, the SRC held a sausage sizzle fundraiser for kids cancer research on the front oval. This coincided with the international children cancer awareness month. We sold cans at the cost of $1.50, and sausages at the cost of $2.50, and a combo of both items for $3.50. All of the SRC were involved in a variety of jobs to make this fundraiser possible; we had to give up a lot of our free time to make sure this fundraiser received the best results. A lot of effort went into this, not only from the SRC students and co-ordinator Ms Kaur but also from the cooking staff for giving us all the right utensils needed and helping us throughout the fundraiser. The SRC also came up with a creative idea to put a sticker on a can and whoever gets the sticker gets a free sausage sizzle. By the end of the day the SRC raised a $250 for the children’s cancer council and sold out completely. Thank you to everyone that helped out on the day.

This term the SRC were again approached to help raise funds for the Ronald McDonald House Charities. We were not given much notice and were asked to organise a sausage sizzle as soon as possible. The SRC being extremely organised took this within their stride and held a second event on the 24th October 2014, within a week of being asked to hold the event. This was a huge success and once again we were sold out completely. Thank you to everyone that helped out on the day.

Sami Croft & Emaison Beck - Year 7 SRC

Leadership Workshop
On Wednesday, October 8, 90 student leaders complete the second leadership workshop for 2014. The day was full of interesting leadership activities and all the students enjoyed developing their leadership skills.
Thank you to Ms Peterson, Ms Marquis, Ms Latty and Mrs Kaur who organised the workshop and made sure we had a fun day!

Mrs Kaur
Year Adviser reports

Year 12 Advisor Report
Welcome to Year 12, the class of 2015. You have just started a new journey and Ms Shlom and I hope you will work very hard to achieve your full potential. I would also like to welcome our new school leaders for 2015 and congratulate them for their achievement. The school captains for 2015 are Isabella Bull and Nathan Anderson. The Vice Captains are Madeleine Buckley and Joshua Kleckin. The quality of the candidates was extremely high and I thank all candidates for their courage to challenge themselves by standing for office.

Term 4 for Year 12 students (the class of 2015) has been highlighted by students collecting and wearing their new jackets. This was made possible through Ms Shlom’s efforts in ordering and delivering them on time. A big thank you to Ms Shlom for such a great job. Our students look fantastic and it is a pleasure to see them wearing their school uniform with so much pride.

Lastly, I would like to wish our Year 12 students all the best in their studies and hope they will dedicate some time to reflect on their final Year 11 school reports.
Monika Bray, Year 12 Advisor.

Year 9 Report

Year 9 students have recently completed their Yearly Examinations. It is fantastic to see so many students reaching their potential in all subjects.

Our next formal assembly will take place in Week 7. Any students wishing to be chairperson at this Formal Assembly or perform are encouraged to see myself or Ms Kourouche. Congratulations to James Lambert – Student of the Month: September.

In the September/October school holidays, along with Ms Marquis, Ms Stavros and Mr Mackinder, I had the privilege of traveling on the Picnic Point High School Japan Trip. Of the twenty six students involved, twelve of those students were from Year 9. All students were wonderful ambassadors for their family, Picnic Point High School, the Year 9 cohort and Australia. For two weeks, we laughed, experienced the best of Japanese culture, cuisine and tradition and took thousands of photos. Thank you for sharing your holidays with me!

Please remember to bring a ‘Notification of Absence’ cream form to school if you are away from school for any reason. If you are sick for more than two days, a medical certificate if required. All absent days must be accompanied by an explanation.
Mrs S Morris – Year 9 Adviser
Extra-curricular
Japan Trip - September 21 – October 4, 2014
On Sunday the 21st of September, twenty six students and four teachers left Sydney Airport to fly to Japan. We arrived in Kyoto around 7:30pm and we were soon transported to the Matsubaya Ryokan where we would stay for the next three nights.

On our first full day in Japan we visited the Ginkakuji and Heian Shrines as well as the Kiyomizudera Temple. After some souvenir shopping we arrived back at Kyoto Station for dinner.

Day three was quite an enjoyable one for most. We visited Nara Park and the Todaji Shrine [with the Big Buddha]. In Nara Park there were many native deer walking around. Some of the students got a bit too close for comfort with one student even being rammed from behind. In the evening we visited the Fushimi Inari shrine [which had many tori gates] before again returning to Kyoto Station.

By day four it was beginning to become apparent how difficult it was to fit 30 people on a public bus along with the general public. At least 10 buses were taken between the Kinkakuji and Ryonaji Shrines as well as getting to Nijo Castle. At Kinkakuji we visited the Golden Pavillion and at Ryonaji it is said that if you can see all 15 stones at once in the zen garden you have reached enlightenment.

Afterwards we collected our suitcases from the ryokan and we were each given a gift from the owners. We were then on our way to Kyoto station to catch our first ever Shinkansen to Hiroshima.

In Hiroshima we were greeted by some wet weather and had to lug our suitcases from the station to our new hotel.
The next morning, after being woken up by no less than 15 of Sam Mourad’s alarms, we headed to Hiroshima Peace Park. For those who don’t know, Hiroshima was the first city to be bombed with an atomic weapon during World War Two. We viewed the Genbaku Dome [one of the very few buildings left standing after the bombing] and then headed to the Children’s Peace Monument to pay our respects and donate some paper cranes on behalf of our school.

After this, we entered the Hiroshima Peace Museum and were further educated on a very tragic world event and heard emotional stories of survivors and deceased.

In the afternoon, we headed off to Miyajima Island. There were some more deer as well as a giant red tori gate in the ocean. A small group of students purchased some deer hats and began running around taking photos with unsuspecting members of the public - much to their own amusement.

On Friday, we swapped Hiroshima for the Fukichiyama countryside.
We arrived at Seibi High School in the afternoon and were introduced to some teachers and students of the school. Soon after, some of the Picnic Point students observed some baseball training before we were all paired up with our host families. Some host families [including my own] had up to eight family members living under one roof. For the next two days we enjoyed time with our host families.

We started the second week traveling to Seibi High School where we met our host families. We then participated in some club activities with them such as beach volleyball, badminton, tea ceremony and flower arranging. We then went home with our new families and spent the rest of the weekend with them. Some of us visited Fukuchiyama Castle and a Kimono Museum, where we were able to try on kimono and made some Japanese tapestry.

On Monday we returned to Seibi High School with our host brothers and sisters and participated in their morning lessons. For most of us, homestay was definitely the highlight of the trip where we learnt Japanese culture and made new friends. We then said our final goodbyes to our host families and headed off to Tokyo on the shinkansen [bullet train].

In Tokyo we did lots of shopping, walked a lot, visited shrines, went to the top of the Metropolitan Government office where we could see the whole of Tokyo, went to Akihabara the electric town which sold a variety of anime goods and spent a whole day at the happiest place on earth, in Tokyo Disneyland [with some of us spending hundreds of dollars!]. We also took a tour of Mount Fuji, going up to the 5th station, where the mountain was visible. Afterward we went on a cruise to see Mt Fuji from different angles, but unfortunately the fog took over and we weren’t able to see anything.

We finished up our trip with a visit to the Earthquake Museum where we experienced a level 7 earthquake and learnt how to survive in an earthquake and a fire. Unfortunately after this we had to get on a long flight back to Australia. Overall everyone had a great trip and had the best two weeks of their lives.

By Nathan Anderson, Year 12 and Georgia Anderson, Year 9
Belonging Workshops
On Thursday the 20th of September, Aboriginal students from Picnic Point High School and other schools in the region attended a Belonging Workshop hosted by Panania Public School. Aboriginal artist and performer Darren Dunn worked with our students to create artworks that represented Aboriginal totems. This was followed up with another Workshop Day on Monday the 20th of October, so that students could finish their paintings to present on the Belonging Presentation day scheduled for Wednesday the 19th of October.

Once again, Picnic Point High School students displayed good leadership skills, helping the primary school students perfect their painting techniques and helping them learn about culture. Our students were polite, well behaved and a credit to our school.

Ms MacDonald
Year 12 Touch Football Game
During the second last week of school for our Year 12 students, we were witness to an amazing game of touch football between our Year 12 students and our special needs students. This was the brain child of Jayden Okunbor, Jayden McGregor and Wayne Clay. The lead up to the game was great with several of our special needs children being introduced and given an opportunity to speak on assembly.

Mr Clay, with the assistance of the teachers of the special needs children embarked on a rigorous training program to get them fit for the game. The SRC put on a BBQ for lunch and the scene was set for a titanic struggle between the best of Year 12 and the special needs students. The game was witnessed by more than 500 students who lined the field and cheered the players on while consuming their sausage sandwiches.

It was a terrific spectacle and full credit must go to the students involved and Mr Clay.

The joy on the faces of the students at the conclusion of the game was something very special and the whole concept has gone a long way to enhancing our social inclusion program at the school.

Jayden Okunbor manufactured a wooden goblet that he painted gold and named the Wayne Clay Cup in recognition for his services in so many areas to our school community. The trophy was presented to Baily Kemp.

S. Schomberg
Faculty Reports

Year 9 Textiles
Students constructed cushions last term. A range of techniques were applied including applique, patchwork and pleating. The girls are currently participating in a series of decorating workshops which include block printing, stencilling, marbling and batik. These samples will be used to create a textile item chosen by the students.

Year 10 Textiles
Last term year 10 constructed a reversible carry bag. The bag had to be decorated on each side and students got very creative with their designs. This term they are participating in a program called "Dress a girl". The program involves students making simple dresses that will be distributed to places including India, Vietnam, Uganda, Kenya and the Philippines. For many children this will be their first dress ever. For more information please visit http://www.dressagirlaustralia.com.au/. Any donations of fabric (1 metre) would be greatly appreciated, we need cotton or cotton blend fabric that is clean and in new or like new condition. It must not be see through. If you have fabric to donate please organise delivery to the TAS faculty.
Mrs Thompson - Technological and Applied Studies Teacher
Ph. 9772 1700     Fax 9792 3960
Social Sciences Corner
Year 10
Students in Year 10 have been looking at future challenges associated with Australia’s Growing Population. In particular, they have been learning how to use the Australian Bureau of Statistics Website more effectively. When looking at the challenges confronting Australia’s population.

Year 9
Students have started to explore a chosen community with their teacher. Students have been exploring factors causing change within Darwin as well as Yagoona being the local community. Students have been exposed to the Bankstown City Council Website when looking at factors causing change within neighbouring communities.

Year 8
Students will start looking at the issue of Tourism with their classroom teacher. They will make use of the smart traveller website when looking at Tourism. Students will closely examine the impacts of Tourism on developing nations.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Social Sciences Faculty.

Year 11 Business Studies
Well done to Year 11 who submitted their Business Plans at the end of last term. Most pleasingly, they were completed to a very high standard. Students were able to come up with innovative and inventive ideas when constructing their Business Plans. Their logos can be seen on this page for their businesses.

As the students have started the Year 12 course they have been asked to purchase the Apple Case study via I-Books. This will help them structure their notes and prepare more effectively for assessment tasks. Students will complete their first Assessment Task in Week 9 on Marketing. Students should be making use of the syllabus when preparing for their assessment task in week 9.

Mr Sassine
LOTE Faculty
Year 12
We would like to congratulate our Year 12 students who completed their HSC Continuers Japanese Examination on Thursday, October 16. Well done to Sara, Tammy and Katelyn for all your hard work over the past two years!

Year 7, 9 and 10
Year 7, 9 and 10 have now completed their Yearly Examinations for Japanese. Results have been very encouraging and students should be congratulated on their efforts to achieve their best during this important examination time.

Year 8
Year 8 have now completed their final assessment, a persuasive writing task, reflecting on the bombing of Hiroshima during World War 2. For the rest of the term, students will complete activities based around the culture of Japan, including a study of Japanese ‘manga’ comic books and Japanese ‘anime’ movies.

Japanese Excursion – Year 9: Nihongo Tanken Centre
On Tuesday, December 2, the Year 9 Japanese class and Mrs Morris will attend the Nihongo Tanken Centre. All students are looking forward to the excursion and are excited about completing many activities to assist with their language learning.

Japan Trip
We would like to thank the twenty six students who participated in our recent trip to Japan – you were all fantastic ambassadors for your family, school and community! We hope the friendships you made during this trip will continue well into the future. We would also like to thank the school community for their support of our trip, in particular Bankstown Council, Mr Brookes, Member for East Hills and Mr Coleman, Member for Banks, who made generous financial and Australian souvenir donations to assist our students.

Ms Marquis and Mrs Morris
あつくなってよかった！またね！

Science Report
Who Dunnit?
Who took a bite out of the chocolate cake? Sticky fingers have been found on the broken crystal vase. Wet footprints lead to the open window. What is that powdery substance next to the opened, empty jewellery case?

Answering these questions is what forensic science is all about.

This term Students in Year 9 and 10 will be learning how to be a crime solver by exploring the world of the forensic scientist.
**7Y Force mass and acceleration**

**Year 8** - have been studying the topic The Human Body and have been learning about the importance of systems in working together to make the human body function healthily. Students have completed various experiments on lung capacity, the effects of exercise on heart rate and observed various body cells using microscopes.

**Year 9** – As mentioned earlier Year 9 have been learning about the exciting topic of forensics. They will be attending an incursion called “A case of conspiracy” in Week 4. In class they have been learning how to collect and dust for fingerprints. At the end of the term the students will be confronted with a mock crime scene where they will be able to use the forensic and problem solving skills they have learnt throughout the unit to solve a murder mystery.

**Year 10** – are currently engaged in discovering concepts related to Motion and the Universe. Students have completed experiments on car safety and crash test dummies

**Year 12** – Biology students completed an eye dissection which forms part of the chosen option Communication.

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**English Faculty**

The English Faculty moves into Term Four at full pace, with our Year 12s commencing their HSC at the start of Week Two. Paper One, although it introduced a six mark question for the first time, was a fair paper that our students were well prepared for, as they were for paper two in both courses. We wish all of the students well in their future endeavours.

The Junior School does not miss out, however, with Years 7 to 10 involved in their Yearly Exams. Preparation has been an important element of student work at the conclusion of Term Three and the start of this Term, ensuring that students feel ready for this important final formal assessment of the year. We remind students that education is more than just exams and that meaningful work will continue until the year’s conclusion.

Certificates were distributed to students who participated in the 2014 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools – English, coordinated by Mrs El Darwiche and Mrs Kapaniris. This competition is conducted in over twenty countries worldwide. Congratulations to all who participated, as the ICAS is an engaging part of extending students with either an enthusiasm or aptitude for English. The following students achieved Credits: Caleb Earl, Joseph Ollino, Cameron Pinios, Tim Warren, Ryan Zangari, Liam Campbell, Isabella Rennie-Surma and Rachel Stace. Special congratulations to Emma Peake, who received a Distinction.

Finally, the English Faculty extends its warmest wishes to Mrs El Darwiche and Ms Fenej on the births of their happy and healthy baby girls. We look forward to their return in the future. Additionally, we congratulate Ms Hespe-Poulos on her marriage in the holidays.

Mr Wright

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**Special Education and Learning & Support Report**

Term 4 has begun in earnest and I would like to thank everyone for the warm welcome I have received in my first few weeks as Head Teacher Special Education/Learning & Support.

In the short time I have been here I have not only been impressed with the dedication, commitment and enthusiasm of the Learning & Support and Support Class teachers and assistants but also the range of programs and support that is offered to the students to help them reach their learning goals.

**Learning and Support**

Term 4 is a busy assessment period for most years and the Learning and Support Team would like to remind both parents and students that we are available to assist students with any learning or study issues that they may have. Some students find this time overwhelming and the Learning and Support team are happy to help students plan and/or organise their time to ensure work is completed by due dates or support them in the completion of tasks.

A reminder to both senior and junior students that the library is open on Wednesday afternoons for tutoring and assistance
with work in any subject area. Teachers from a broad range of faculties are always on hand to assist or advise. It is also a good time just to stay back and complete private study or homework in a quiet environment and have some nice snacks to keep you going!!

Vikki Garrett - HT Special Education/Learning & Support

History Report
This year at PPHS a very rare and possibly unique situation in NSW Public schools has occurred in the History Faculty. Four past students that were taught by Mr Goman have returned to the school as History Teachers. Tom Bleyerveen, Ryan Mackinder, Jake Poolman and Daniel Reid (Not Pictured) are all ex-student of PPHS.

Mr Goman said "That it is very inspiring to see young men taking up the profession, especially in history. It is amazing and exciting to see these students return as professional colleagues and humbling that their past teachers here at PPHS had a significant influence on their chosen careers"

Stay tuned for the next issue of PIC News where exciting National History Competition results will be published.

Mr Mackinder

Maths Report
It has been a busy term for students in Year 7 to 10 preparing for their final assessment tasks which have been taking place this term. They are to be commended on their efforts.

Year 7 students are currently studying Area and will then investigate the geometrical properties of figures and Linear Relationships. Parents of Year 7 students can support their child by ensuring that all activities on Mathletics in the topics of Area, Geometry and Linear Relationships are completed by Term 4 week 6.

Year 8 students are currently studying Area and Perimeter of Circles and composite shapes. By Term 4 week 6 students are expected to have completed activities involving Data Analysis and Circles on Mathletics. Could parents and caregivers please assist by ensuring that your child completes all of these activities at the relevant check points. If there are any technical difficulties please inform your child’s classroom teacher as soon as possible.

Students having problems with or accessing Mathletics from home are strongly encouraged to attend the Wednesday afternoon tutorials.

PDHPE Faculty report
The PDHPE faculty have been working hard on completing the Year 9 & 10 PASS elective coaching assessment tasks during Term 4. Students have been required to create and design their own sports and then coach them to the rest of the class.

Students have gained an insight into what it is like to be a teacher/coach as they have to teach the skills, organise the set up of the games/competitions and then officiate these games whilst providing feedback to their peers on their performance and the quality of their play.

A number of students have expressed their feelings about how difficult it is to organise 20-30 students and have them all listening, behaving and following instructions. My reply was “Welcome to our world”.

Some of the games that were designed were outstanding and students have requested that they be added to our wet weather program or used when we have completed aspects of our units of work.

Mr Millican - Head Teacher PDHPE
Thomas Grozdanovski, Lochie Cole, Maddison Pike and Lilly Hassett using Clinometers and their Trigonometric skills to calculate the height of buildings and trees around the school.

Staffing has changed this term with Mr Le on leave for the next year. Miss Yang is replacing Mr Le’s classes and Mrs Richards will be relieving Head Teacher this term.

For any parents wanting more information on how to assist your child in revising mathematics, please do not hesitate to contact the Mathematics Faculty.

Mathematics Quiz:
Solution to last month’s quiz: He starts with 7 flowers and places 8 flowers at each grave.

This month’s question
The amount of water flowing into a tank doubles every minute. The tank is full in an hour. When is the tank half full?

Entries can be submitted to nancy.truong1@det.nsw.edu.au
Mrs Richards – Relieving Head Teacher Maths

CAPA Report
Featured Artist at Public Schools NSW Music Festival 2014
On Monday the 25th of August I had the privilege of being a featured artist at the PSNSW Music Festival which was held at the Sydney Opera House. To perform on the Opera House stage was an amazing experience, one I will always remember. I performed one of my HSC pieces titled “Drifting” originally composed by Andy McKee.

My day consisted of a rehearsal in the afternoon where I was able to sound check my item. As a featured artist I had my own dressing room in the Green Room of the Opera House. I look forward to more opportunities to perform my repertoire in my final year of school next year.

Josh Kleckin - Year 12 Music

VET Entertainment Work Placement at the Sydney Opera House
On Monday the 25th of August I undertook my Work Placement at the PSNSW Music festival held at the Sydney Opera House. The fourteen hour day was filled with fun, but was an educational learning experience. I enhanced my communication skills by speaking to VIP guests and the Director of Education. I was able to speak more formally to the Director of Education and was able to immerse myself into a professional work environment.

Whilst working with the lighting technician, I was able to become more educated about the various lighting aspects and the coordination of lighting big events such as the PSNSW Music Festival.

Overall the day was great, I learnt so much and met many people involved within the industry who broadened my horizons on the Entertainment Industry
Laura Cuddy - Yr12 VET Entertainment
VET Entertainment Work Placement at Belvoir St Theatre
As a part of the VET Entertainment course for Year 11, students have the fortunate opportunity to undertake Work Placement at a venue of their choice.

Daniella and I were lucky enough to have our week long Work Placement at Belvoir St Theatre in Surry Hills. At Belvoir, we have the opportunity to work with their Production Department during busy rehearsal periods. We assisted the Production team to ‘Bump in’ their popular production ‘Nora’, which was then to be in theatres for roughly six weeks.

During the week we attended Belvoir, we witnessed the intense procedures it takes to build, create and rehearse a major production, such as ‘Nora’. We supported the crew in bump in components such as staging, lighting and audio, over the course of the week. We learnt many important key factors contributing towards the Entertainment Industry throughout this week.

The Belvoir St Theatre staff was approachable and knowledgeable in all expert areas and provided us with sustained information which we then incorporated when returning to school and into our Preliminary Examinations.

Daniella and I both thoroughly recommend that VET Entertainment students should seek Work Placements at venues such as Belvoir St Theatre. Doing so will ensure that your week will consist of hands on experience of the Entertainment Industry.

By Daniella Tesoriero & Lenae Zmoda, Year 11 Entertainment.

Our Talented Students

Tahlia Brackley in 8Y competed in the NSW State Gymnastics Junior Championship on Sunday 26th October.

Tahlia placed 4th overall in level 5 (WAG) Women’s Artistic Gymnastics. Tahlia placed 2nd on floor and 4th on vault. This placed her 4th in the State in her age group and amazing achievement.

Well done Tahlia!

Our Hope for This Christmas

It is the hope of members of staff here at PPHS to continue a tradition of instead of gift giving at Christmas we pool our generosity and make a real difference in the lives of many underprivileged people. This year we hope to give enough to sink a well to provide fresh water so a community can look forward to a healthier future, who needs another box of chocolate?

Likeminded people can click on the link below to see what is possible.

https://gifts.worldvision.com.au/?lpos=giftsfy15_hp_CTA_browsegifts#!/home