PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Welcome to the 2016 academic year. I trust all students, their friends and family had a very relaxing and enjoyable holiday period.

We once again have a full school with 1033 students enrolled at the start of the year. Our student numbers are a testament to the amazing quality of education provided at Picnic Point High School due to hardworking and committed staff and a very supportive community.

Welcome back to Mr Northall, Mr Lee and Mr Baczynskyj. Congratulations to Mrs Sherry who has been appointed to the permanent position of Deputy Principal at our school. Welcome also to the following new members of staff:

- Ms Thomas: English
- Ms Raheja: Science
- Ms Strbac: PE
- Ms Bonus: Visual Art
- Ms Wu: Japanese
- Ms Sevdalis: Office staff
- Ms Rajcevski: Science
- Ms Emma Jenkins: Counsellor

Our Year 12 class of 2015 did very well in the HSC last year. Congratulations to the dux of the year, Issac Heslop with an ATAR of 93.6 and further congratulations to Jayden Zangari with an ATAR of 92.9, Kristen Dick with an ATAR of 92.5, Sarah Little with an ATAR of 92.5 and Isabella Bull with an ATAR score of 92.25.

Our Year 11 camp last week was an outstanding success with high accolades for students for their positive behaviour, attitude and preparedness to take on new challenges. Many thanks to the supervising staff that attended and Mrs Morris and Ms Kourouche for their outstanding planning. A comprehensive report is published in this edition of Pic News.

Our Year 6 open night for Year 7 2017 will be held on Tuesday 1 March starting at 6.30pm. It is recommended that all families who are considering PPHS as an option for their children should attend. All non-local families should attend to understand the out of area criteria and learn to address it correctly if applying for a position at the school.

Other 2015 HSC highlights include

- Daniel Kotsapas had his Industrial Technology project selected for inclusion in InTech 2016, the annual exhibition of outstanding Major Design Projects developed by 2015 HSC Industrial Technology students
- 18 student results (10 different students were published on The NSW Board of Studies Distinguished Achievers List)
- 11 students achieved an ATAR of 80 and over
- 6 students achieved an ATAR of 90 and over

The student tutorial lesson is held in the library on Wednesday afternoon and has teachers allocated to it to support any student with their learning. Please encourage your children to attend for some extra assistance and a learning space conducive to working independently and or with their peers.
**DEPUTY’S REPORT – MRS SHERRY**

**Year 12 2015 - High Achiever's Assembly**

On Friday 12 February we celebrated the excellent successes of our Year 12 2015 students. 57 students who achieved a Band 5 or 6 in at least one subject were invited to attend the assembly with their families. In total there were 18 student results published on the Distinguished Achievers List and Nathan Arfanis on the Top Achievers List having come seventh in the Construction Examination. During the assembly, the current Year 11 and Year 12 students heard three of our highest ATAR students talk about their own personal journeys through their HSC. Isaac Heslop, Jayden Zangari and Isabella Bull all spoke so personally and gave amazing insight for our current students as they make their way through their own HSC.

**Isaac and Jayden**

**Year 7**

On Tuesday 8 March the school will be holding a Year 7 Information Night for parents to find out important information in assisting our students be successful in their studies at Picnic Point High at School. The P&C will be beginning the evening at 6.00 with a light dinner in the hall. We will then be having small workshop groups covering issues like assessment and reporting, effective study and homework, student welfare and supporting student learning. Parents will have opportunities to talk to the presenters and other parents.

**Year 9**

Students have had a successful start to the year with very different class organization in comparison to Year 8. Students are now in varied classes for each subject and are studying two elective subjects. There were some minor changes made at the beginning of the year, but now all students have settled into their classes.

**Year 11**

This week students have received their Preliminary Assessment Books that contains the school’s Assessment Policy, calendar and course grids. Students are encouraged to look at each of their subjects and plan their year for each assessment task that will be due. The school diary has a year planner where students can organise themselves to ensure that all assessment tasks are handed in on time. Last week I had the pleasure of attending camp with the Year 11 students at The Great Aussie Bush camp at Kincumber. It was great to see this year group working together and supporting each other throughout challenges that each activity presented.

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**DEPUTY’S REPORT – MR BACZYNSKYJ**

Obviously I have now returned to Picnic Point HS after two years working in the Department’s State Office at Oxford St. During this time I worked with many secondary principals right across NSW. Many of these experiences confirmed to me what I already knew – Picnic Point HS is an outstanding example of public education.

These schools were thrilled to get my advice on school structures and procedures, staff development, student expectations and a host of other ways to improve the quality of teaching and school culture – all of which came from my experiences as a Deputy at this school.

I have been overwhelmed by the warm greetings I have received from parents, staff and students on my return. The wonderful nature of the students has been immediately apparent and a reminder of the sense of maturity, responsibility and humanity already developed in these teenagers by their families and school experiences.

The amazing community support of this school is worth noting. Picnic Point HS continues to enjoy a wonderful reputation not only through student results but in how the students present themselves. A key aspect of this includes the basic things such as school uniform. It is great to see that parents and students support the image of the school and only a handful of students out of over a thousand have not been in full correct uniform. This includes Tuesdays, where even though students wear sports shoes, the shoes need to be predominantly white, leather and without mesh. Please check the school uniform policy before purchasing any new shoes to ensure that they meet the criteria.

If you are a Year 12 parent – hang on, you're almost there. Believe it or not there are only two and half terms of school left for your child! If they do not already have a study timetable of some form, now is the time for them to start developing good habits.

Time at school is precious as they need to gain as much from their teachers as possible. Completing all tasks helps not only in demonstrating their skills but enabling teachers to give crucial feedback as the HSC draws near.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of your child’s progress or ways in which he/she can be supported, please do not hesitate to call the Year Adviser, Ms Elwell, or myself directly.
DEPUTY’S REPORT – MS STAVROS

Literacy at PPHS is a major whole school project which addresses Strategic Direction One of the School Plan 2015-2017.

The purpose of this strategic direction is to develop learners who are responsive to, and have developed the intellectual quality required to engage with and learn through the delivery of a challenging curriculum. It will also develop the capacity of teachers to enhance the skills of the 21st century learner by designing and delivering a curriculum that is relevant, meaningful, and rich in quality teaching and explicit literacy.

Our focus is to improve literacy outcomes of all students through:

- explicit literacy strategies in all teaching and learning programs;
- embedded literacy in assessment and reporting;
- targeted literacy programs; and
- increased staff capacity in implementing strategies to increase student literacy capability.

In 2015 we conducted professional development with a small group of teachers who became the Literacy Team and were able to assist and guide their faculty to incorporate some of the explicit reading comprehension strategies into their teaching practice. The collaborative strategy of Reciprocal Teaching was also implemented with some Stage 4 classes in Science and some classes in Stages 4, 5 and 6 in English.

Stage 4 students were benchmarked on the Literacy continuum and received a Semester 2 Literacy Report at the end of 2015. Assessment tasks in some faculty areas were modified to include assessment against the Literacy continuum.

We have had a successful start to our 2016 milestones with the professional development of all teachers during staff meetings to increase teacher capacity in implementing 8 reading comprehension strategies. This will increase student literacy capability and engagement in the classroom.

Comprehension is an active process between the reader and text. When we comprehend (ie make meaning and sense of something) we think about our thinking. The explicit teaching of the 8 comprehension strategies explain how our brain makes sense of the world around us. It is about thinking skills!

The 8 Reading Comprehension Strategies we will focus on at PPHS are:

- Previewing
- Making Predictions
- Making Connections
- Questioning
- Monitoring
- Click and Clunks
- Visualising
- Summarising

As parents/carers, be mindful of these strategies. If you would like further information please look at pages 16 and 17 of the School Diary. More information will follow in future PicNews articles.
## What’s On – Term 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>25 February</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>1 March</td>
<td>Year 6-7 2017 Open Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>7 March</td>
<td>Formal Assembly Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>8 March</td>
<td>Year 7 Information Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>16 March</td>
<td>Harmony Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>21 March</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>22 March – 1 April</td>
<td>Year 12 Exams</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>30 March</td>
<td>Year 7 Immunisation (Day 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>6&amp;7 April</td>
<td>School Photo Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>8 April</td>
<td>ANZAC Day Ceremony</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Last Day Term 1**

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### Picnic Point High School

**Knowledge is Life**

**YEAR 5 and 6 STUDENTS and PARENTS OPEN NIGHT**

61 Kennedy Street, Picnic Point

**Tuesday 1 March, 6.30pm to 8.30pm – Principal’s Address 6.30pm**

Picnic Point High School inspires lifelong learners to set high expectations in order to achieve continual improvement in their learning. Through innovative, engaging and relevant learning experiences we will challenge students in a safe, inclusive and supportive community to become self-confident, productive and respectful members of society.

This is achieved through:

- Proven outstanding academic success
- A diverse, challenging and full curriculum catering for all student needs
- Success at the highest levels in the Performing Arts and Sport
- Establishing a co-operative and supportive learning environment

Meet our staff and students

Inspect all the school's facilities including the school gymnasium, dance room, drama room, commercial cookery room, fitness centre and science laboratories

Experience learning workshops in curricular areas

View a variety of learning, creative, performing arts and sports activities

Discover the school's outstanding academic, student leadership, sporting and performing arts successes

For further details please contact the Principal, Wolly Negroh on 9772 1700

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### SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPH DAY

School Photo Day this year will be on the 6th and 7th of April. Your child will receive an envelope with instructions at least one week before this date.

More details will follow closer to the date.
MESSAGE FROM THE P&C

The P&C would like to welcome new and returning families to Picnic Point High School.

The P&C plays a key role to bring together the community, teaching staff and parents to promote the best interest of the school and welfare of the children, by enhancing the learning environment.

Our P&C provides you with the opportunity to be informed and contribute to educational matters and financial decisions, as they relate to the school including school policies and guidelines, technology implementation and more.

Through the P&C operated Canteen and the support of parent volunteers we raise most of the P&C funds. In 2015 the P&C approved over $100,000 in sponsorship funds for the following initiatives:

- $5,000 towards Mathletics subscription fees for Year 7 through to Year 10
- $60,000 investment to enhance the Library to build a creative learning environment which support the schools 3 year plan towards 21st century learning.
- $35,000 investment to renovate the Canteen to improve and streamline the time it takes to serve the students.

Being part of this school’s community we ask parents to get involved, whether it is volunteering in the canteen or being part of some of the workshops, every bit of help goes a long way in making a difference.

I hope this information has enlightened you about the P&C role and activities, and has inspired you to be involved. We welcome your input at our P&C meetings. Come and join us at our next meeting on Monday, 22 February at 7pm.

Elizabeth Grueninger
P&C President

PARENT ONLINE PAYMENTS (POP)

If you have not yet used the new Parent Online Payments system (POP), you are able to make online payments to the school with Visa or MasterCard credit or debit cards.

On the Picnic Point High School website there is a “Make a payment” tab.

By selecting this link you will be taken to a secure Westpac payment page. From the initial Westpac QuickWeb page payers will complete the necessary details, some of which are mandatory (marked with an *), before confirming the payment details and completing the payment. A receipt can be printed from the payment page and/or be emailed to the payer.
NEWS

THE TELL THEM FROM ME STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. This is the second year this school has participated in the survey.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Friday 26 February. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

PREFECT REPORT

With the departure of our 2015 Prefects, it was time for the new Prefect group of 2016 to take over. They did so with such wonderful enthusiasm, embracing their new roles and positions within the school. Captains, Antonia Mangos and Alex Jackson, along with Vice Captains, Annie Zhai and Peter Markantonatos, led the Year 12 Graduation and School Presentation ceremonies with ease and professionalism. They were assisted by the Prefects, who presided over the awards and were exemplary ushers on those two occasions.

The Prefects also embarked on their first fund raising activity, selling Christmas cupcakes to raise money for charity. They all stayed back after school to decorate 200 cupcakes, which were sold the next day at recess and lunch. The money raised was used to purchase gift cards as Christmas gifts for homeless young people in Father Chris O'Reilly’s Youth off the Streets program.

The first Prefect fund raiser of the year was selling roses for Valentine’s Day, which proved a very popular event with students, with almost 300 roses ordered. A very big THANK YOU to Maria, of Maria’s Fresh Flowers in Padstow, for providing us with such great quality roses and wonderful service.

The Prefects of 2016 are wonderful representatives of Picnic Point High School and they are inspiring other potential student leaders to follow in their footsteps. Look forward to more news next term!

Ms Davila
Prefect Co-ordinator
International Women’s Day is celebrated on March 8 in many countries around the world. It is a day to celebrate the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future. The theme for the 2016 International Women’s Day is ‘Pledge for Parity’. If you would like more information about International Women’s Day please visit https://unwomen.org.au/ or http://www.internationalwomensday.com/About

For the past 5 years at Picnic Point High School, we have celebrated International Women’s Day in a variety of ways. This year, Year 9 and 10 female students will attend an in-school ‘Free Spirit Girl’ workshop run by motivational speaker Katie Pitsis on Friday 26 February 2016.

The workshop will focus on a variety of female teenage issues such as confidence building, self-esteem and the media as well as bullying, cyber bullying, relationship building and skills to diffuse disagreements before they turn into major conflicts. Katie travels around Australia, delivering these workshops to primary and high school students and has achieved success in developing the social and emotional skills of young people. Katie has presented this workshop at Picnic Point High School in 2013/2014 and was very successful in inspiring our female students.

Ms Karavias
Supervisor of girls

International Women's Day (March 8) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity.

Commit to take action to accelerate gender parity.
#PledgeForParity

I pledge to ...

- help women and girls achieve their ambitions
- challenge conscious and unconscious bias
- call for gender-balanced leadership
- value women and men’s contributions equally
- create inclusive, flexible cultures
NSW SCHOOL VACCINATION PROGRAM 2016

NSW Health offers all school students free vaccinations recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council [NHMRC]. These vaccines are important and protect students through to adulthood.

Year 7

All Year 7 students will be offered the following vaccines:

- **Diptheria, Tetanus and Pertussis [whooping cough]** – 1 booster dose for all students.
- **Human Papillomavirus** – 3 dose course. This vaccine provides protection for girls and boys against a virus which could lead to a range of cancers later in life. HPV is a common virus that affects both males and females.
- **Varicella [Chickenpox]** – 1 dose. A catch up for students who have **not** had the Chickenpox or the vaccination.

All Year 7 families have been mailed information regarding the School Vaccination Program for 2016. Please ensure you have read the information provided with the consent form to understand the facts about the vaccines that will be offered and the diseases that these vaccines protect against. Please note, ALL completed consent forms should have been returned by **Friday, February 19, 2016**.

If you have not yet received a letter and consent forms, please contact Ms Karavias on 9772 1700 during school hours. Any student who does not return a completed consent form will NOT be included in the program.

Nurses from NSW Health will be visiting the school on Wednesday, March 30, 2016 for the first round of vaccinations - dTpa and HPV. A Record of Vaccination will be provided to each student on the day. The Year 7 vaccination program will continue in Term 2. Any student who misses a vaccine will be vaccinated at the next school visit and parents will be sent a letter from NSW Health advising them of this organisation. Please refer to the schedule below for further information about this program.

**Vaccination Schedule for Year 7**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Immunisation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 March 2016</td>
<td>HPV and dTpa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 June 2016</td>
<td>HPV and Varicella</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 November 2016</td>
<td>HPV</td>
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</table>
STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The aim of the Student Leadership Program is to offer all Picnic Point High School students the opportunity to develop their leadership skills. This is done by actively participating in a variety of workshops, projects and activities organised by staff and students. The teachers who coordinate the program are Ms Marquis and Ms Davila, who is also the Prefect Coordinator. Mr Burgess and the SRC Coordinator, Mrs Kaur, also assist with organising components of the program.

All students are encouraged to apply to participate in the program. Students do not have to be accomplished leaders to participate in the program – many students join to simply learn what it means to be a good leader! There are approximately 150-180 students who take part in the program each year, from Year 7 students to Year 11 students. In 2016, the Student Leadership Program will consist of two workshops and a 3 day camp.

How to Apply for the Student Leadership Program

1. During Formal Assemblies in Week 3, Ms Marquis announced that applications for the Student Leadership Program were open. All interested students received a letter about the program. Included in this letter was a section for parents and students to sign, acknowledging their application for the program. The slip was due on Friday, February 19.

2. Millennium data is checked.

3. Successful students will receive an invitation to participate in the program for 2016. This invitation will include details about the first workshop of the year.

4. Students can withdraw from the program at any time, after discussing the matter with one of the teacher coordinators.

5. Students will be asked to leave the program if their behaviour at school is deemed inappropriate. This can occur at any time throughout the year.

6. All leadership students are expected to participate in the two all day leadership workshops. If a student has a reasonable explanation for an inability to attend one of the workshops, they must discuss this with Ms Marquis. Workshop One will be held on Friday, March 18 [Term 1, Week 8]. Workshop 2 will be held on Wednesday, September 7 [Term 3, Week 8]. Workshops are an all-day event and are held in the school hall.

How to Apply for the SRC and Prefect

1. In Semester 2, all leadership students are invited to nominate students in Year 7 to 10 to become SRC representatives.

2. Once nominations close, the nominees present a speech to the student leaders. The student leaders then vote. Generally, there are two male and two female SRC representatives, although there are instances where this may differ.

3. The SRC representatives participate in an induction workshop at the end of Term 2, where they learn about the role of the SRC at Picnic Point High School.

4. In Semester 2, all Year 11 leadership students are given the opportunity to nominate for the role of Prefect. During a year meeting, the nominees present a speech to their year group, who then vote for six male and six female prefects. Picnic Point High School teachers and the Year 12 Prefects are also invited to vote.

How to Apply for the Student Leadership Camp

1. All students in the leadership program for 2016 are invited to apply for Leadership Camp.

2. Students who attend Workshop One will be given further details about applying for Leadership Camp.

3. Students will email a submission titled ‘The reasons why I want to go to Leadership Camp and my leadership goals’ by a due date to the teacher coordinators. Students who do not complete this email by the due date will not be considered for leadership camp.

4. The teacher coordinators read each submission. When deciding which students will attend leadership camp, the teacher coordinators also consider whether the student has attended camp in the past, their efforts and enthusiasm during the first workshop of 2016 and their leadership skills.

5. Successful students are invited early in Term 2. The cost is approximately $300.00. The Student Leadership Camp will be held on Wednesday August 10, Thursday August 11 and Friday August 12 [Term 3, Week 4]. From the approximately 150-180 students in the leadership program, 60 students are invited to attend camp each year.

If you have any questions about the Student Leadership Program, please contact Ms Marquis during school hours.

Ms Marquis
Head Teacher Welfare
FACULTY REPORTS

ENGLISH

Welcome to the 2016 school year. We look forward to another productive and successful year and are excited for the opportunities that we are offering to all students.

We would also like to welcome Ms Talia Thomas who has joined the English team this year.

Year 12 Standard and Advanced students will be attending an HSC Study Day on the Area of Study: Discovery, at Sydney University on the 26th of February, 2016. The students will have the opportunity to attend a series of lectures and presentations directly relevant to texts they are studying in class. The Study Day will also provide students with a realistic depiction of the effort, discipline and knowledge needed to achieve in the HSC English Examination.

Picnic Point High School has a proud tradition of debating success and we are calling for students who would like to join our debating teams this year. Ms MacDonald will be leading the senior team with Mr Wright co-ordinating Years 9/10 and Ms Ashton co-ordinating the 7/8 teams. The Premiere’s Debating Challenge will commence shortly for students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10.

All students are invited to enter a number of competitions this year, including the ICAS English Competition and a faculty based Public Speaking Competition. Learning to engage in debates and public speaking is an excellent opportunity to improve communication skills and confidence in speaking tasks. Students who are interested in Debating or Public Speaking should see Mrs Minos or our Debating Co-ordinators in the English staffroom this week.

Classes are currently undertaking an Area of Study that focuses on a particular concept. Year 7 are studying: My Place, Our Community, Year 8: Challenge, Year 9: Justice, Year 10: Belonging, Year 11: The Journey and Year 12: Discovery. Students will be receiving their notification for the first assessment tasks of 2016 and should start preparation early to ensure that they produce their best work.

Our students have been working extremely hard and have already produced impressive work. We look forward to displaying our work during Year 7 Information Night.

Some of the many wonderful examples of student work are from 9G, from Amelia Stewart and Lachlan Bogar, who have produced collages conveying aspects of Justice:

It has been a busy start to the academic year in the English Faculty and we look forward to continuing to provide opportunities that will enrich the learning experiences of our students.

English Faculty

MATHEMATICS

MATHLETICS

The Mathematics Faculty will continue to use MATHLETICS for all students in in the junior years. All students will have one lesson per cycle in a computer room using MATHLETICS. Students should use MATHLETICS at home to consolidate skills learnt and as revision. Class teachers will also assign task in MATHLETICS as homework and for assessment.
Letters about MATHLETICS and student’s passwords are being sent home for parents to access and monitor their child’s use of MATHLETICS.

Visit www.mathletics.com.au for more detail on MATHLETICS.

Scientific Calculators

Every student studying a Mathematics course must have a scientific calculator. You can buy the model CASIO fx82 AU plus at the school front office at $22.50 each. If you have two or more children, each child should have his/her own calculator. This is because calculators may be required in other subjects and it is important that your child gets used to the particular model he/she is using. Ask the class teacher if your child has a different model.

Textbooks

All students will be issued with a textbook or an electronic version of the textbook or both to use for Maths. Students should take good care of textbooks. All textbooks need to be protected with a plastic book box and these can be purchased from the front office if required. Textbooks will not be issued to students with outstanding textbooks from the previous year. The replacement fee for damaged or lost textbooks is $60, payable to the front office.

Year 7

The topics for Year 7 classes in term 1 are Integers, Algebraic Techniques and Indices. Each student will need a scientific calculator. It is not possible for brothers and sisters to share calculators. (See section on calculators above). The formal assessment tasks for year 7 are four common tests, one given each term. The term 1 common test is scheduled in week 8 and more detail will be given to students in Week 6. All students should ensure that they attempt the issued revision practice papers in preparation for the assessment task.

Year 8

The topics for Year 8 classes in term 1 are Algebraic Techniques, Pythagoras’ Theorem and Fractions, Decimals and Percentages. The formal assessment tasks for Year 8 are four common tests, one given each term.

The term 1 common test is scheduled in week 7 and details were issued during week 6. All students should ensure that they attempt the issued revision practice papers in preparation for the assessment task.

Year 9 and 10

There are 3 different pathways for year 9 and 10 Mathematics

- Stage 5.3 Advanced Mathematics, students who complete this course satisfactorily are equipped for Maths Advanced in year 11.
- Stage 5.2 Intermediate Mathematics, students who complete this course satisfactorily are equipped for General Maths 2 in year 11.
- Stage 5.1 Standard Mathematics, students who complete this course satisfactorily are equipped for General Maths 1 in year 11.

Classes are allocated according to students’ results in 2015. Because the pathway taken will impact on the choice of Maths course a student can study in year 11 and 12, it is very important for parents to note that the pathway taken by their children is appropriate for their ability, need and expectation.

Year 9 Stage 5.1 classes will start with Algebraic Techniques, Computation with Integers, Time and Fractions & Decimals. The term 1 assessment task is scheduled in week 8 and details were issued during week 8.

Year 9 Stage 5.2 classes will start with Algebraic Techniques, Numbers of any magnitude and Equations. The term 1 assessment task is scheduled in week 8 and details were issued during week 6.

Year 9 Stage 5.3 class will start with Numbers of Any Magnitude, Algebraic Techniques 1, Equations and Financial Maths. The term 1 assessment task is scheduled in week 8 and details were issued during week 6.

Year 10 Stage 5.1 classes will start with Volume, Area and Surface Area, Equations and Financial maths. The term 1 assessment task is scheduled in week 7 and details were issued during week 5.

Year 10 Stage 5.2 classes will start with Volume, Area and Surface Area, Equations and Financial maths. The term 1 assessment task is scheduled in week 7 and details were issued during week 5.
Year 10 Stage 5.3 class will start with Volume, Area and Surface Area, Equations and Financial Maths. The term 1 assessment task is scheduled in week 7 and details were issued during week 8.

**Year 11**

The Mathematics Faculty offers 4 courses, General Mathematics 1, General Mathematics 2, Advanced Mathematics (2 Unit Maths) and Mathematics Extension (3 Unit Maths). If your child is not coping with the selected course, please ask your child to see the class teacher or the Head Teacher for support and advice. The first formal Assessment Task is scheduled in Term 1, Week 8.

**Year 11**

The Mathematics Faculty offers 4 courses, General Mathematics 1, General Mathematics 2, Advanced Mathematics (2 Unit Maths), Mathematics and Extension 1 (3 Unit Maths). The Half-Yearly Examination is scheduled at end of Term 1. Students are encouraged to buy a HSC revision book for revision and consolidation. Please ask the class teacher for detail.

**Mathematics Competition**

The Mathematics Faculty will also continue to conduct the Australian Mathematics Competition and the ICAS Mathematics Competition. These competitions are open to all students and selective students are expected to enter both, especially the ICAS Mathematics Competition. The competitions are designed to develop students’ mathematical thinking and problem solving skills. Please refer to the finance office for the cost of each competition.

**Mathematic Quiz Edition 1 2016**

For every newsletter, there will be a math quiz for readers of all ages. Entries can be submitted to trie.u.le@det.nsw.edu.au

A stamp dealer bought a rare stamp for $70, sold it for $80, bought it back for $90 and sold it again for $100. How much money did he make from all this trading?

Mr Le
Head Teacher
Mathematics

**SCIENCE**

It has been a great start to the 2016 year with all students engaged and eager to learn. We are happy to welcome Ms Ng into the role as relieving Science head teacher. We also extend a warm welcome to two Science teachers- Ms Rajcevski and Ms Raheja.

**Year 7**

Students have settled well into high school and seem to love the first science topic - Dangerous Creatures. In this unit of work, the students are learning about dangerous organisms, classification and cells. Literacy strategies have also been implemented across all classes and students have used visualisation techniques to compare and contrast various animals. Year 7 students have just been given their first Science assessment task. The task involves researching an Australian dangerous creature to develop a book or brochure.

**Year 8**

Students have been studying the topic Circle of Life and have been learning about the ecosystems and the interaction between various life forms and their environments. Students studied various ecosystems around the school by completing fieldwork. It was so fun examining the diversity of microscopic organisms. Students have also completed various literacy strategies including making real world connections and completing an eco-tourism brochure.

Spider under a microscope

**Year 8 Leaf Litter**

A stamp dealer bought a rare stamp for $70, sold it for $80, bought it back for $90 and sold it again for $100. How much money did he make from all this trading?

Mr Le
Head Teacher
Mathematics
**Year 9**
The topic being studied this term is Fire Science. In class students have been learning about combustion reactions and the movement of heat. They have completed many experiments on conduction, convection and radiation. Other exciting experiments include flame tests which involve using various metal compounds to create different coloured flames similar to what is used in fireworks. In the next few lessons students will start to look at bushfires and their impact on ecosystems and the environment.

![Using the microscope to look at small organisms](image)

**Year 10**
Students are currently engaged in discovering concepts related to Biotechnology. They have explored the structure of DNA and have made 3D models to consolidate their understanding. 10G made their models from lollies and the best part was they got to eat them. Students have also extracted DNA from various fruits and vegetables such as bananas and strawberries.

![Year 10 modelling DNA activity](image)

**HISTORY**
The above photograph is of Year 11 Society and Culture working with their teacher Mr Poolman.

These students were engaged in discussing what makes a person a functioning member of society. Students were highly interested in this aspect of the topic The Social and Cultural World. To support the ongoing development of a deep understanding of the curriculum and the promotion of teaching excellence, Mr Goman, Head Teacher of History and Society and Culture, has recently enrolled at the University of Notre Dame to study philosophy under visiting British academic professor John Haldane. The course covers aspects of what makes for a good society.

This year the History Faculty is pleased to announce the continuation of the participation of our students in the National History Challenge. This year students from Year 8 and Year 10 will participate in the nationally recognised challenge. In 2015 Picnic Point High School students performed above the national average with several students receiving Distinctions and High Distinctions.

Again in 2016 our Year 10 students will be given the opportunity to participate in the Sydney Jewish Museums targeted education program. This excursion was highly successful last year and after close evaluation of the program offered by the museum and the excursion experience the History Faculty has decided to make this excursion an integral part of the Year 10 program.

With ANZAC Day approaching the History staff will be developing a deeper understanding of the significance of ANZAC for all our Year 9 students via the teaching of Australia’s role in World War 1.

Currently the History faculty is supporting and encouraging our Year 12 students to strive for personal excellence in their study of their chosen History course.

**Mr Poolman**
History Teacher
LOTE

Welcome back to all our language students – we are looking forward to an exciting, fun and rewarding year in the LOTE faculty. A special welcome to all Year 7 students, many of whom are studying another language for the first time. We’re confident you'll enjoy learning Japanese! We’d also like to wish our Year 12 Japanese Continuers students all the best with their studies this year as they work towards their Higher School Certificate.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Ms Nickey Wu who has joined the LOTE faculty this year to teach Year 7 and 8 Japanese classes and work with the support classes to develop their language skills.

Currently, our Year 7 classes are continuing to work through the Obento Deluxe Japanese language books. The students are learning new grammar, vocabulary and the three Japanese scripts, whilst building on their listening, reading, speaking and writing skills. Our Year 8, 9 and 10 students are developing their language skills through the Hai! language books and our senior students are diligently applying themselves as they work through their Preliminary and HSC Wakatta! Course. We remind our students of the importance of regular revision and homework.

2016 School Fees
Below are the school fees for Japanese, 2016. Please check if you have paid these fees. All fees must be paid by Friday, 4 March 2016.

- Year 12 Continuers $25.00  Wakatta! 2 W/book
- Year 11 Continuers $25.00  Wakatta! 1 W/book
- Year 9 $50.00  Hai! 4 & Hai! 5/6 W/book

HSC Results 2015
Congratulations to our four HSC Japanese Continuers students on their fantastic results in 2015. We are very proud of your efforts to always develop your language skills and achieve your best throughout the last six years.

Did you know that Australia is one of the most multilingual societies in the world – more than 350 languages are used in Australia? There are so many benefits to learning a language: we can communicate with people from different countries, learn about other cultures and become more proficient in our own language.

We are excited to work with all our students on this interesting and fun journey of language learning and aim to develop their language skills and cultural knowledge in every class.

これからも、楽しんでください。
Ms Marquis, Mrs Morris and Ms Wu

SOCIAL SCIENCES

At the end of 2015, the Social Sciences Faculty farewelled Mr Sassine who has accepted a position at Colyton High School, we wish him well. In 2016, Mr Stayte and Mr Kuenzle have joined the faculty, with Mr Habak on long service leave this year and will resume teaching duties in 2017.

Our junior and senior classes are well underway. Students are already venturing outside the class room to conduct practical classes, such as Mrs O’Brien’s Year 10 Geography class examining waste management around school. Year 7 Geography classes will be practising their geographical skills inside and outside of the classroom. The faculty will be conducting Year 10 & 12 Geography fieldwork and Commerce/Legal Studies classes will be looking to visit court.

This year is an exciting year with the development of new Geography courses for Year 7 and Year 9 in 2017 and planning has begun. The courses will enable students to study global landscapes, landforms, places, liveability and biomes.

Social Science Faculty

LIBRARY

PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE

The Premier’s Reading Challenge is on again for 2016. The 2016 challenge will open on the 7 March and closes on the 19 August.

To be successful in the challenge, you must read AT LEAST 20 books of which 15 must come from the PRC list which is available in the school library.

Each book read needs to be added to the student’s online reading record which is available by logging into the student portal.

As usual, we have a number of staff members who are keen to win the challenge this year.

If you have any questions or want to find out more, please see Ms Myles in the Library.

Happy Reading and Good Luck!
PDHPE

We have had a busy start to the year in PDHPE particularly in the senior courses. Our Sports Coaching classes have already become involved in assisting the coaching and operating of school sporting teams on Tuesday afternoons as well as junior classes they are timetabled on with. The students have displayed a motivated and dedicated approach to their work is very pleasing to see.

Our Year 12 PDHPE classes have just completed their first assessment task for the HSC. They were given 8 weeks to learn a new skill from scratch and had to perform it in front of their peers. Some of the skills included golf, juggling 3 balls, walking handstands, opposite arm serving in tennis and opposite foot drop goals. Student performances were generally extremely good and most students had taken to the challenge of learning a new skill in a very positive fashion. They had to provide a written description of their progression through the stages of learning which also contributes to their overall mark.

I look forward to letting everyone know how they went once all the marking has been completed.

Mr Millican
Head Teacher PDHPE

GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

Below is a sample of the letter that will be sent out to families with children in Years 7-10, relating to the Growth & Development syllabus.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As part of the PDHPE syllabus provided by the Board Of Studies of NSW we are required to teach students in Years 7-10 about a variety of issues related to Growth and Development as well as Challenges We Face In Life. Topics we are required to cover include:

- Heredity
- Puberty, Pregnancy and childbirth
- Managing the changes that occur during puberty
- Physical, Emotional and Social changes during Adolescence
- Sexual Awareness & Sexual Harassment
- Developing positive physical relationships
- Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Homophobia & Date violence
- Sexual health & Sexual Choices
- Suicide
- Loss & Grieving
- Empathy & Understanding
- Resilience

We feel it is important that parents are informed of the syllabus that we are required to provide to students. If you do NOT wish your son/daughter to attend the classes when these topics are taught please fill in the slip below. If you are happy for your son/daughter to follow the program set by the Board of Studies you do not need to respond to this letter. Thank you for your co-operation and should you require further information or clarification please do not hesitate to call me on 9772 1700.

A. Millican
Head Teacher PDHPE

I do NOT wish my son/daughter_____________________ to attend classes on Growth and Development and require separate work to be set for them.

Signed_________________________________ Date: __/__/2016
Let me start by welcoming you all back to 2016 and I look forward to working with you in what is going to be a very productive year.

Year 10 Textiles Technology students, with Mrs Thompson, have started working on their WOOL4SKOOL projects.

Wool4School is a real-life fashion design experience, with big rewards available for students. Wool4School sets the challenge to design an original outfit made from one of the world’s most innovative and natural fibres – Australian Merino wool, students go in the running to win part of $10 000 worth of prizes.

This year Wool4School is asking students to design an innovative and creative male or female sports outfit that conveys the Aussie team spirit.

For more information, visit the website http://www.wool4school.com/

I would like to congratulate the following Year 12 students from 2015 for receiving some excellent results in the following subjects. I would also like to pay tribute to the effort and dedication displayed from the classroom teachers that allowed these students to achieve their potential.

**Community and Family Studies Mrs Angelone**
- Toni Cooper Band 5
- Michelle Harradine Band 5
- Tayla Kelly Band 5
- Kyla King Band 5
- Sarah Lord Band 5

**Engineering Studies Mr Stubbs**
- Daniel Black Band 5
- Angus Munro Band 5

**Food Technology Mrs Angelone**
- Danica Anderson Band 5
- Teaghan Bartley Band 5
- Toni Cooper Band 5
- Tahnya Haddad Band 5
- Kyla King Band 5

**Industrial Technology Mr Dass**
- Daniel Kotsapas Band 6
- Timothy Mavropodis Band 5

**Textiles & Design Mrs Thompson/Mrs Wardrop**
- Lauren Cogo Band 5
- Sara Lepre Band 5
- Kirra Vanags Band 5
- Maddison Zanoni Band 5

**Construction Examination Mr Burgess**
- Nathan Arfanis Band 6
- Danny Derbas Band 5
- Aaron Gilbert Band 5
- Daniel Kotsapas Band 6
- Timothy Mavropodis Band 5
- James Reynolds Band 5

Students that undertake practical subjects will produce a series of projects, food items out of their chosen medium. The materials and food used for these projects incur a cost payable by the student. Please ensure that this payment is made in a timely manner.

If you have any further inquiries regarding student learning please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to an exciting and productive year.

Mr Burgess
Head Teacher
Technological and Applied Studies
A number of students represented the Creative and Performing Arts through their exceptional performances at Presentation Day last year. We would like to congratulate all students involved for their effort and application in preparing for their performances and their contributions to CAPA throughout the year.

Tara Stimpson & Cameron Blight performing the National Anthem

Imogen Wallace performing “Runaway”

Dakota Smith, Hamish McGeoch & Matthew Blight performing “Plain Gold Ring”

Jazz Showgroup performing “Americano”
CALL BACK EXCURSION

On Thursday 11 February, 20 Elective Dance students attended the “Callback 2015” performance at the Seymour Centre. The performance showcased exemplary works from the practical components of the 2015 Dance HSC. The students were inspired by the performances that they watched in the areas of Dance performance, composition and technology. Thank you to all students who attended for their excellent behaviour throughout.
YEAR 7 ADVISER REPORTS

YEAR 7
I can’t believe that we are almost half way through Term 1 already! It only feels like yesterday Year 7 students were here for their first day of high school. Year 7 are to be commended on their excellent, settled start to the year. As year adviser I have been happy to hear about the numerous positive things Year 7 students have been doing. We had our first ever formal assembly and considering we hadn’t had any previous practice, the feedback from all suggests outstanding entry to the hall, behaviour and listening skills.

Camp
Year 7 camp will take place from Wednesday 4 May to Friday the 6 May which is during Week 2 of term Two. Please note that students will be required to be at school at 7:00am for a 7:30am departure time.

Thank you to the parents for getting payment and permission notes in on time. I really urge you to encourage your child(s) to attend the camp as this will be a moment in their schooling life that they will never forget. Please be advised all permission notes must be handed in and medical information completed for students to be able to attend the camp. All outstanding payments are required by Monday March 14, (week 8, unless other arrangements have been made).

Payments can be made online as well, please refer to the student’s camp permission note and/or log on to our Facebook page for further information.

An equipment list will be issued to students. Please look at the list carefully and ensure students have ALL items before coming to camp.

Year 7 Information Night
Year 7 Information Night is a fantastic initiative run by our wonderful, supportive Parents and Citizens association. All parents and students are welcome to attend an informative night that concerns all aspects of schooling and a chance to meet with some of the teachers of Year 7.

Peer Support
Year 7 is to be commended on their participation during their Peer Support sessions. I have received a lot of positive feedback about the maturity of students during these sessions which are run by our fantastic Year 10 Peer Support teams.

Merits
Year 7 students have been active in collecting merit points stickers and merit awards. This has resulted in a number of Year 7 students being invited to the rewards Day barbecue where they enjoyed a sausage sizzle and can of drink. All Year 7 students are encouraged to keep collecting merit stickers and awards to raise their points totals!

Mr Dannaoui
Year 7 Adviser

YEAR 11
Welcome back to Year 11! I hope that all students enjoyed their holidays and are ready for another exciting year at Picnic Point High School. This year will provide Year 11 students with many new opportunities and learning experiences. Last week, Year 11 participated in the Crossroads Camp at the Great Aussie Bush Camp in Kincumber. Apart from the many activities that encouraged students to move beyond their comfort zone, they also completed mandatory Stage 6 PDHPE workshops, focusing on the components of ‘Working at Relationships’ and ‘Issues in Drug Use.’ The students had a great time at camp and their conduct over the three days was exemplary.

Mrs Morris
Year 11 Adviser

YEAR 12
Year 12 students have had an excellent start to their last school year. They continue to look sharp in the jackets they designed themselves and are settling in to their learning for 2016.

The HSC and end of year events are ever approaching and so accordingly, a student committee has been brainstorming a number of ideas to raise money for these events. To kick start the fundraising, Year 12 will be running a BBQ at the swimming carnival to raise money from the sausages sold on the day. Stays tuned for future fundraisers this year and communicate any ideas about how you think we can raise money and have a positive impact in the community.

Academically, Year 12 has just completed a seminar on study skills presented by Elevate Education, designed to give them specific strategies during their study for their examinations in Weeks 9 and 10. Students have given positive feedback on the seminar and will undoubtedly benefit from the skills communicated. Don’t forget to ensure students are consulting their blue assessment booklets regularly and that they have a study schedule in place to fully prepare themselves for the academic demands of their HSC year.

Ms Elwell
Year 12 Adviser
SPORT REPORT

It has been a great start to 2016 in sport. Bankstown Zone is again using the three season year, and we have filled teams in nearly all the sports available. An app has been developed for your phone or ipad, and you are able to keep track of where your child is playing, who their opposition is, and where their team is coming in the competition. Simply download the “Fox Sports Pulse” app, or go to the website of the same name and follow the links to Bankstown Secondary Schools Sports Association and you will find all the information that you need each week.

Zone trials began in earnest on February 9, and the second day of trials will be on February 23. We had a number of students attend these trials, many successfully gaining selection into a Bankstown Zone team. We will follow the progress of these students as the teams compete.

The beginning of the year always brings cricket. A number of Picnic Point students were selected to represent Sydney South West in the Regional teams. Congratulations to Hayden Probert and Joshua Sullivan who are in the Boys SSW team, and Angie Genford, Hayley Elliott and Henne Sorenson in the Girls SSW team.

Congratulations also to Leon Duryea for his selection in the Sydney South West Baseball team.

We look forward to following the progress of all our athletes and teams during 2016.

Ms Worthington and Mr Northall
Sport Organisers

SPORTS CARNIVALS 2016

Picnic Point High School has three Sports Carnivals in 2016; Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics. School Sports Carnivals are compulsory for all students to attend and will be on the following dates in 2016:

**SWIMMING**  Thursday 25 February 2016

**CROSS COUNTRY**  Tuesday 5 April 2016

**ATHLETICS**  Wednesday 22 June 2016

Students will receive a permission note for each carnival weeks prior the event and are asked to return this note and payment to the school office as promptly as possible. At the Swimming and Athletics carnival students are encouraged to wear their sports house colours and to see their house captains if they would like to join the junior or senior relay teams. Congratulations to the following students who are the 2016 Sports House Captains.

**DOOHAN**
(A – D) Blue
Tahlia Burke & Madeline Carroll
Brad Cousins & Liam Bow

(E – K) Green
Emily King & Emma Gilbert
Daniel Koliopoulos & Tristan Evan-Soi

**HANKIN**

**MURPHY**
(L – R) Red
Shaylie McWilliams & Taylah Probert
Peter Markantonatos & Aidan Murphy

(S – Z) Yellow
Maddi Sana & Heidi Seeto
Jack Stevenson & Joshua Sullivan

In the event the carnival has to be cancelled students will be notified via email by 8:15am on the day of the carnival. If the carnival is cancelled students are to attend school as per usual in full school uniform.

Students will receive a Bankstown Zone carnival note once they have qualified for the particular carnival.

Mrs Wolstencroft
Sports Carnivals Organiser
ORDER OF EVENTS FOR PPHS SWIMMING CARNIVAL 2016

8:45 am   Students to arrive at Max Parker Aquatic Centre (Revesby Pool)
9 am      Roll Call (Behind the Grandstand)

1. Girls  200m  Freestyle   12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17+ years  FINALS
2. Boys   200m  Freestyle   12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17+ years  FINALS
3. Girls  50m   Freestyle   12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17+ years  TIME TRIALS
4. Boys   50m   Freestyle   12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17+ years  TIME TRIALS
5. Girls  25m   Freestyle   Year 7, 8, 9 & 10
6. Boys   25m   Freestyle   Year 7, 8, 9 & 10
7. Girls  50m   Breaststroke 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17+ years  TIME TRIALS
8. Boys   50m   Breaststroke 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17+ years  TIME TRIALS
9. Girls  50m   Backstroke  12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17+ years  TIME TRIALS
10. Boys  50m   Backstroke  12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17+ years  TIME TRIALS
11. Girls 50m   Butterfly  12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17+ years  TIME TRIALS
12. Boys  50m   Butterfly  12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17+ years  TIME TRIALS
13. Girls 100m  Freestyle   12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17+ years  TIME TRIALS
14. Boys  100m  Freestyle   12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17+ years  TIME TRIALS
15. Girls  Individual Medley
16. Boys  Individual Medley
17. Girls  4 x 50m House Relay Junior Year 7 - 9
18. Boys   4 x 50m House Relay Junior Year 7 - 9
19. Girls  4 x 50m House Relay Junior Year 10 - 12
20. Boys   4 x 50m House Relay Junior Year 10 - 12
21. Swim for house points    Yr 7&8, 9&10, 11& 12 (time permitting)

2:05 pm   Roll Call (Behind the Grandstand)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race Age Group</th>
<th>Year of Birth</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 years</td>
<td>2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 years</td>
<td>2003</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 years</td>
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<td>15 years</td>
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<td>16 years</td>
<td>2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>17+ years</td>
<td>1999 or earlier</td>
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EXTRA CURRICULAR

NRL YOUTH SUMMIT 2016

On Tuesday, February 9, 60 other Indigenous students from Australia and New Zealand and I travelled to Brisbane to attend the NRL Youth Summit 2016.

This summit was an elite leadership camp run by Mirrimirri and the NRL. We all represented our local footy teams, mine being the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs. We did many workshops, including workshops about the traditions and customs of Aboriginal and Maori culture, art, leadership and job skills. We met our idols, including Greg Inglis, Cameron Smith, Sam Thaiday, the Fafita Twins and Lelani Latu, just to name a few from the NRL.

We shared our meals together as we shared our stories and bonded as one. We also had the honour of meeting Jessica Mauboy. She shared her powerful story and told us ‘it’s ok to be yourself, you’re not an outsider.’ All of us were able to attend the games played during the All Stars week.

All youth summit participants are now campaigning to ensure this initiative remains an annual event. It was such an amazing experience that we want to share with as many people as possible.

Courtney Baxter
Year 11
On Wednesday, February 17, all Year 11 students gathered on the basketball courts at 7am to head off to The Great Aussie Bush Camp in Kincumber. When we arrived, we were assigned our cabins and then headed off to lunch. After lunch, we were split into five groups, with whom we would complete all of the activities. The activities included the Giant Swing, Leap of Faith, Abseiling, Lost Island Mud Run, Canoeing, High Ropes and the Crossroads Program about safe relationships and drug use. On the first day, all groups did two activities and then gathered again for dinner. When it got dark, we went into the bush for a game called Commando. The aim of the game was to work in teams to find the hostages that the teachers had captured. But it wasn’t that simple! The teachers were permitted to walk around in the bush with torches. If they spotted you, you had to return to the base camp and entertain the leaders by either singing, dancing or telling a joke, before you could receive another life and re-join the game. Unfortunately, the students were not very sneaky and were unable to rescue any hostages. Even though we lost and gave the teachers bragging rights, this game taught us the importance of teamwork and we really enjoyed trying to outsmart the teachers. When we returned to camp, we had supper and sat around the campfire for some bonding time with friends and people that we may not usually talk to. By then everyone was exhausted and went off to bed.

Year 11 started early on day two, eating breakfast at around 7:15am. After breakfast, we changed into the appropriate clothing for the day. Day two was filled with four exhilarating activities. No matter the activity, elements of teamwork could be seen as Year 11 united to encourage each other and make the activities more fun. The atmosphere continued into the night, as Year 11 took part in the dress-up disco. The majority of Year 11 got into the spirit, switching clothes with each other before heading down to the disco where everyone danced and had fun. The best dressed awards went to Liam Binnington and Emily Reynolds. After the disco, we enjoyed a light snack, while some students continued to sit around the bonfire and mix with others. It was clear that Year 11 Camp was a time where new friendships were formed. At 10:30pm, we went to bed, so we could rest up and prepare for the exciting final day ahead.

On the final day of camp, there were many sleep deprived faces. We were woken at 6am to finish packing and clean out our rooms. We ate a quick breakfast and then completed two final two activities before the bus trip back to school. All of the activities were great and allowed us to encourage others to tackle their fears and support each other when they seemed to be struggling. Most students thought the Giant Swing was the best activity. However, if you ask anyone, they will most likely to tell you it was very painful! One courageous person had to pull the rope, which sent the three harnessed students hurtling through the air. Many screams of the students and a few brave teachers could be heard from the other side of the campsite. Bystanders stood hysterically laughing at funny remarks made by those swinging through the air.

Overall camp was a fantastic experience and gave students the opportunity to move outside their comfort zones. It was really encouraging to see people making new friends, trying new activities, even if they were scared and encouraging each other to try their best. Sometimes you forget how comfortable you become in your routines and friendship circles. Camp was a really good opportunity to strive to be the best. The next couple of years are going to be really hard and challenging but the Crossroads Camp has shown us that everyone can achieve the goals. Thank you to Mrs Morris and Ms Kourouche for organising the camp and to Ms Stavros, Ms Garrett-Meade, Mr Bleyerveen, Mr McManus, Mr Clay and Mrs Sherry for also attending.

By Naomi Tall, Nikki Kayatz-Monahan and Georgia Anderson