

Ashfield Boys High School Community News

Time for you and your child

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

June 30th, 2010



The challenge of raising boys in today's world

Parents of boys face interesting challenges, says Michael Grose, the author of seven books on parenting.

Boys are around 2 years behind girls in development until they reach young adulthood and they have different needs.

In a recent article in the Daily Telegraph, Mr. Grose outlined some thoughts that might help parents who are struggling to come to terms with these issues. The following comments are reproduced from that article with grateful appreciation.

"Sometimes mothers I meet in parenting seminars are flummoxed by the in-your-face, direct nature of their sons. Loveable yes, but they can be hard work. It helps to appreciate what makes boys tick.

They are wired for activity. Boys are wired to be active, boisterous and territorial, which is one reason why parents are kept busy.

They are slower to mature. The gap in development between girls and boys is around 12 months to 2 years and remains that way till after they have entered University or the workforce. Remembering this scientifically proven fact may avoid the sense of loss that some experience.

They want approval. Most boys ache for approval from their parents - fathers in particular. As a father it is better to foster a strong relationship than drive them too hard. Some like to talk, others like to share an activity and others love to be hugged. Try to be on the same wavelength.

They want to blend in. Boys are group-oriented by nature and tend to be very loyal to friends. They don't like to stand out from the crowd, so respond best to private praise. They don't like to be embarrassed in front of their friends.

They need a disciplined approach. Boys like limits and boundaries. They make them feel safe and help them to learn to behave well. The old authoritarian ways of the past may not work. Firmness, fairness and consistency are the keys.

They are pragmatic learners. Boys need a reason to learn. If you are having difficulty motivating your son, point out the benefits of learning tasks. They may play a musical instrument when they know it means they can play in a band or practise kicking if they can see it will help them to score more goals. Link their interests to learning, particularly as a lever to motivate them if reading is a problem.

And finally,

They are single-minded. Boys have a specialist brain, which tends to be logical and rational. This can be a hindrance particularly when careful communication is needed, or multiple viewpoints need to be considered. Better communication skills help them to focus on tasks, make quick decisions and get to the point when needed."

Michael is happy to answer any questions you may have.

You can email questions to michaelgrose@news1td.com.au

OR visit the website www.parentingideas.com.au for more information.

ASHFIELD BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL
OUR CORE VALUES

Respect
Treat others with considerations and regard, respect another person's point of view.

Doing Your Best
Seek to accomplish something worthy and admirable, try hard, pursue excellence.

Care and Compassion
Care for self and others.

Honesty and Trustworthiness
Be honest, sincere and seek the truth

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



It has been a very busy Term 2. A lot has been achieved and in particular our Drama students, combined with Canterbury Girls High students, have had three very successful performances of the theatre production "100" in the School Hall. Congratulations to the students and

their teacher Ms Museth for their tremendous efforts in putting on a great production.

Our teachers have now completed the Semester 1 student reports. Year 8 students had their Parent/Teacher evening on Tuesday 22nd June. The Parent/Teacher evening for Year 9 & 10 students was held on Tuesday 29th June. The Year 7 Parent/Teacher Teams evening will be held early Term 3 on Tuesday 27th July.

A Year 12 Study Skills morning has been organised for Friday 2nd July. We hope that Year 12 will gain some important skills to help them prepare for the upcoming Trial HSC Examinations starting on August 2nd (Week 3)

Year 11 students will have their final examinations next Term starting Week 8 (9th September). We wish them all the best for their Yearly Examinations.

We have some very important subject selection

Receive the Newsletter electronically

Last Newsletter, some parents took up the invitation to receive the Newsletter by email.

The electronic version is in pdf.

There are many benefits to this option, among which are:

- you get all the photographs in colour;
- you are being environmentally responsible by saving paper;
- The school saves on the cost of printing, money which can then be used for other things in the school;
- You are also able to highlight, cut and paste and save the pieces important to you.

To take up the option, simply complete the form which is included with the Newsletter and return it to the school.



MAGPIE SPORTS CLUB
40 HAMPTON ST
CROYDON PARK

JEWELLERY, CUSTOMISED
SHOE, CANDLES, SOAPS,
CAKES, BISCUITS, PLANTS,
COLLECTABLES AND LOTS
MORE

LAST SUNDAY OF EACH
MONTH

ROCHELLE POLLEY 0402009758
ARETI KAROUNIS 0403289999

processes for 2011 to be completed in the first half of next Term. For some parents this may seem to be a bit early but if we are to adequately plan for 2011 we need to know well in advance how many teachers we will need. Year 8 & Year 10 students will have a Subject Selection evening on Tuesday 27th July to start the process towards their final subject selection.

Finally, the Annual Year 12 Presentation Ceremony will be held on Thursday 23rd September starting at 6.30pm. This is a very important ceremony for students and their parents/guardians as it marks the end of 12 years of schooling

G. Latty

School Community Directory

Parents and Old Boys are very important to us all for ongoing support.

To reward that support back, we are proposing a School Community Directory.

It will take a form similar to a mini Yellow Pages.

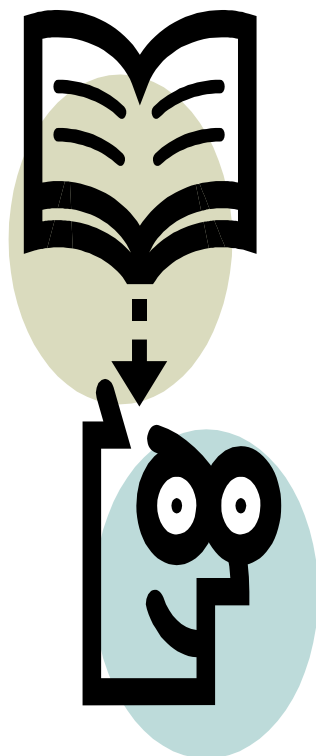
Parents who wish to make use of this will be able to advertise their business or service in alphabetical categories.

To take advantage of this opportunity, complete the form which accompanies this Newsletter with the relevant details.

We are not suggesting that you don't use your regular businesses, BUT if you are looking for an Electrician, or Motor Mechanic, or Accountant, or Solicitor, consider using one of the existing parents of the School.

There will be no charge for this.

Homework assistance available



HOMEWORK CENTRE IN THE LIBRARY

**MONDAY TO FRIDAY
7:30 TO 8:30 (Mornings)
MISS BROWN**

**MONDAY AND TUESDAY
3:10 UNTIL 4:10
(Afternoons)
MISS GORTON**

**COME ALONG AND GET SOME HELP WITH
AN ASSIGNMENT OR JUST A PLACE TO
WORK AND ACCESS INFORMATION**

PICKLES
SCHOOLWEAR SPECIALISTS SINCE 1976. MANUFACTURING & RETAIL



**Your
Uniform shop**

PICKLES NEWS WHAT'S NEW?

"New" jackets have arrived.

Size 10-16 \$65.00

Size 18-30 \$68.00

"New" Track pants have arrived sizes 10-XXXL \$39.50

Clearance of Last Season's Stock until sold out

Track pants all sizes \$25.00

Track tops all sizes \$35.00

Baseball Jackets \$45.00 all sizes

**OPEN EVERY MONDAY 8.00AM – 9.00AM & EVERY TUESDAY 10.00AM – 11.00AM
DURING TERM**

OR PLACE YOUR ORDER ONLINE AT www.youruniformshop.com.au

OR PHONE US ON: (02) 9905 2711 to place your order over the phone.

Welfare Report



Through our Merit Rewards System our school places importance on achievement and being recognised and rewarded for good practice. Students are reminded to take their award certificates to their Year Advisor, Team Leader or Ms Fitzgibbon if they have gained a higher award.

Students achieving Certificates of Excellence this term are:

Ricky Kim-Year 7

Steven Huynh-Year 7

Congratulations to these students!

Peer Support Update

The end of Term One saw end of the Peer Support Program. During the program Year 7 students were guided by Year 10 students about the systems of the school, core values such as groupwork, anti-bullying concepts and problem-solving. Students had this to say about their experiences:

‘I learnt leadership and also patience.’ (Year 10 student)

“I noticed that a lot of the kids learnt how to meet different people and make friendships”. (Year 10 student)

I gained.... ‘leadership, friendship, enjoyment, organisation”. (Year 10 student)

Students gained... “respect for others.” (Year 10 student)

“I gained knowledge of how to communi-

cate with younger students and how to help people solve their problems.” (Year 10 student)

“The year 10’s were respectful, kind and helpful to me.” (Year 7 student)

My favourite part was “Talking about bullying and sharing ideas.” (Year 7 student)

My favourite part was “The game ‘Bang’.” (Year 7 student)

Immunisations-these occurred on Tuesday 15th June for Year 7 and Year 10 students, with Hepatitis B injections for both years and further vaccinations for Year 7 in October.

First Light Care-This is an organisation which provides professional counselling and family education for the Australian and Chinese communities. This organisation was founded by a group of Australian-Chinese Christian community leaders and has been approved by the Federal Government as a registered institution. It can provide educational services such as family life and mental health education programs, parenting skills courses, programs for youth and counselling services. If you would like more information or a brochure about this, please feel free to call Ms Fitzgibbon.

Attendance and lateness

A big reminder to students and parents that students must be punctual to school and must bring in notes for any absence or lateness. Some students have not been following the correct procedures in bringing in notes of explanation. Please help them to get their notes in straight away.

Margot Fitzgibbon

Head Teacher Welfare

SCHOOL RESUMES FOR TERM 3 2010

FOR STAFF - Monday July 19th, 2010

ALL STUDENTS - Tuesday July 20th, 2010



History 2010 *From Mummies to Spitfires*

Elective History has it all!

Elective History has emerged as a popular elective choice for students going from Year 8 to Year 9 over the past few years at Ashfield Boys' High School.

The course studies an extensive range of topics from the pyramids of Ancient Egypt, the gladiators of Ancient Rome through to mysteries such as "Who was Jack the Ripper?" and even the weapons of World War Two. It is an activity based course with a focus on developing detective skills, model making, excursions and also cooking some of the culinary delights from past civilizations.

With the issuing of laptops in Year 9 the course will pilot the making of podcasts and vodcasts in 2011. Excursions will be tailored to offer stimulus for these initiatives and students will be encouraged to display their creations on the school website.

Some comments from boys currently studying Elective History at Ashfield Boys' High School include;

- 'Elective History is great because of the excursions. I enjoy it because we get to learn about the past' Ko-Ye OO Year 10
- 'Elective History is great because we have lots of awesome excursions, great discussions, great topics from the past and good teachers' Simon Darwall Year 10
- 'Elective History is great because I like to study the wars and weapons but hopefully also find ways to make a more peaceful world' Chris Gao Year 10

- 'Elective History is great because you get to study past times. It trains you to be a detective of the past' Anonymous Year 10

'Elective History is a blast. Every lesson is an excursion into the past' Anonymous Year 10
World War Two Spitfire and Messerschmitt planes. Constructed by students as part of their study of 'The Battle of Britain'.



Mr Radojevic
Head Teacher—History

Learning the art of being a millionaire

by Gazi, Nedim, Dar, Jack

On the 20th of May, both Year 10 Commerce classes participated in an activity called Start Smart presented by workshop facilitator David Carter from the Commonwealth bank. He presented an informative power point presentation to help us deal with our future finances.

The presentation was very enjoyable as he taught us about real estate, risk and return, shares, savings accounts, interest rates, super-annuation, investment strategies and fund managers.

This experience was beneficial to all of us as we plan our future finances and become millionaires!!!





familiesnsw
supporting families to raise children

At Parent Line we are dedicated to helping families develop richer, more rewarding relationships and create safer more nurturing environments for children to grow and develop into happy, healthy, confident, contributing young adults.

Changing problems into opportunities for skills development

As adults we often forget what it was really like to be a child. We might have memories about events but we often forget that all the wisdom and knowledge that has been learnt along the way and that it did not come easily. We often expect our children to be able to manage all kinds of situations without difficulties and then become frustrated when they have problems.

The most common reason parents seek help from Parent Line is in managing their child's behaviour. Parents often feel embarrassed to tell other people that they are struggling with their child's behaviour. They feel it could be seen as a reflection on their parenting capabilities.

Parents sometimes blame it on others "It's the teacher that's causing my child to behave like that" or "She's bored at school so she misbehaves" etc. We as parents have all done that!

At Parent Line we suggest to parents that a very effective way of working with the problem is to view the problem as an opportunity for the child to learn skills. It might be a process of self discovery or it might be about learning relationship skills, problem solving skills or even help seeking skills.

This approach is about understanding that children can't know how to manage every situation. It is acknowledging that we all continue to learn and develop throughout life and that mistakes are just opportunities to learn. If the mistakes continue to happen then the learning isn't happening.

It helps eliminate some of the frustration and gives parents a different mindset that has an outcome. Instead of being just the disciplinarian, parents take on roles such as coach, mentor, limit setters and the child's cheer squad all in one.

This method creates opportunities for relationship building and closeness between the parent and child. It helps parents to break down the issue into parts that they feel that they can influence. There are many steps along the way that help parents put this into practise.
(adapted from Ben Furman, "Kids Skills", 2007, St Luke's Innovative Resources, Bendigo, Vic)

If you are interested in averting the negative spiral of being frustrated with your child's behaviour, stopping the nagging and the blaming, call us at Parent Line **1300 1300 52**, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week or log onto our website for more parenting information on www.parentline.org.au

Creative Arts report

The Art Department has been at work during the past year, with students working on creating a more visually pleasing environment, within the classroom and across the rest of the school. The most significant of these is due to the hard work of our mural painters, who have brought Art to the rest of the School. It began with a large wall mural in the classroom and has quickly progressed. Currently, the mural group is working on creating artworks for the public toilet doors to combat the Graffiti and vandalism issues of the past.

It has been another busy term for Music. The Stage Band are doing a lot of work with Matt on Jazz improvisation, busying themselves for upcoming performances at The Sydney Opera House as part of the Sydney Music Festival and performances in Term 3 at the Sydney Eisteddfod.



The String Ensemble is back rehearsing every Tuesday after school with George Cayas and the Intermediate Band has begun with Cathy Chan, every Friday morning 9.30am to 10.30am.

The Concert Band are learning new pieces for upcoming performances including Concert evening to farewell this year 12 band students and Sydney Eisteddfod.

The Combined Band will begin rehearsals in term 3 during sport for our tour of Shanghai in September this year.

The Vocal Group begins rehearsal this week for the School's Spectacular Boys Choral Workshops, continuing our fine tradition of choral excellence.

The Whole School Singing Group will begin in Week 4 and will be every Friday at lunchtime in the downstairs music room. Bring your lunch and sing. Everyone is welcome.

If you are interested in joining any of the groups, see Mr Dixon or Ms Tzodouris.

The Drama Department was at full steam ahead this term, as ABHS, in conjunction with students from Canterbury Girls' High School, put on their first major play production. The play "100" written by Heinmann, Monaghan and Petherle, was devised by 'theimaginarybody' UK in 2003 and performed to critical acclaim at The Edinburgh Festival that year. It is a challenging, mature and thought-provoking play requiring a great deal of professionalism. The three performances held last week in the School Hall attracted very appreciative audiences each night.

In mid June, the Regional Shakespeare Festival celebrated the many plays of William Shakespeare, and students were able to enter into a range of different categories, from solo and group performances to music and dance pieces. Beau Barter of Yr 10 was busy preparing his costume design for 'A Midsummers Night's Dream', with other Drama students preparing monologues.

Margot Fitzgibbon

Head Teacher Creative and Performing Arts

Indigenous students exploring Sydney University

Recently the Year 7 and 8 Indigenous students, accompanied by Mr. Whitton, spent a day at Sydney University exploring the courses and facilities. The day was organized by Mrs. Solaire and the Koori Centre at the University to give more than 200 students from all parts of NSW a taste of what it is like to study in a larger environment. Tours included the new Law facility, the Nicholson and Macleay Museum collections, a talk about Commerce and



Business, and a hands on approach to forensic science. At lunchtime the students were fed, entertained and got a chance to mix it up with some of the SU Rugby Club players. Despite the very overcast sky and occasional storm the day was a big success. The boys are still talking about it looking forward to next year.





ASHFIELD BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL

BANNED ITEMS

The following items are NOT to be brought to school:

- Large textas
- Spray cans, particularly spray deodorants (allergy risk)
- Mobile phones
- CD players, Discmans, Electronic games, MP3 players, iPods or any other personal sound systems
- Large sums of money

If any Mobile phones, CD players, Discmans, electronic games are brought to school and used inappropriately and disrupt learning they will be confiscated and returned at a later date.

DANGEROUS ITEMS

- Fireworks
- Knives, including craft knives and toys as well as actual knives
- Weapons of any kind, including toy guns, pellets, replica weapons
- Drugs – legal and illegal; substances passed off as drugs
- Sharp objects; laser pointers
- Inappropriate readings, writings or drawings, downloading of inappropriate or censored material from the internet

Students found in possession of dangerous items may be suspended.

The items will be confiscated and will be referred to the police.

The Department of School Education expects schools to take very seriously any situation where students or staff feel they are unsafe or where the learning of other students is disrupted. Schools must involve the Police if a student brings a knife or other weapon to school (including toys and replicas) or an illegal substance (this includes passing a substance off as an illegal substance).



Ashfield Boys High School

Voicemail/Extension Number

As of Tuesday, 29 June 2010

If you wish to discuss a matter or make a comment in regard to your son/ward's learning please contact the school and ask to speak to the relevant subject head teacher or his Year Adviser.

Or, if you wish to leave a **message** for the relevant *subject* head teacher or his Year Adviser, you can do so by phoning the school number and selecting the teacher's voicemail extension.

Subject	Head Teacher	Voicemail Extension Number only for the purposes of leaving a message
Absences (eg: sick, late)	School Assistant	106
Administration/Languages	Terry McCusker(Rel)	214
Careers Adviser	Les Carrington	108
Counsellor	David Payne	107
English /ESL	Louise Finigan	201
History/Teaching & Learning	Marcel Radojevic	217
Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE)	Chris Zaczek	248
Mathematics/Computing	Maria Thomas	227
Science	Rod Conder	240
Sport Organiser	Les Carrington	108
TAS, PD/H/PE, Hospitality & IA	Bruce Johnston	255
Welfare & Creative Arts	Margot Fitzgibbon	132

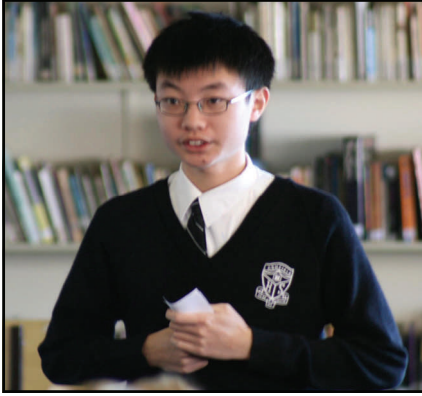
Year Advisers

Year	Teacher	Voicemail Extension Number – only for the purposes of leaving a message
7	Roland Tenefrancia	234
8	Nicole Pool (Rel)	204
9	Shirley Prescott	205
10	James Chatwin	218
11	John Longhurst	219
12	Mitza Zimaras	252

Instructions for leaving a message on voicemail:

1. Dial the whole school number either 9798 6620 or 9798 5520.
2. Wait until you hear the message "You have reached ..." then dial the relevant voicemail extension number.
3. Leave your message after the tone.
4. Hang up when finished.

Around the school



Davy Guan speaking at the Zone Finals of the Plain English Speaking Awards, hosted by ABHS



It wasn't an April Fool's Day joke!
There really was a V8 Supercar in the front carpark.



Year 12 organized and managed a successful Disco in the School hall for Year 7 & 8 students. The boys were joined by a number of girls from Burwood Girls and Canterbury Girls. In fact so successful they are now talking about one for Years 9 & 10 in Term 3.



Year 7 Archimedes English have been reading the classic tale *Wind in the Willows*.

As part of their appreciation of the story they created a puppet show to tell the tale of Ratty and Mole and Mr. Toad in a more dramatic way.

The conditions were that the "stage" had to be a cardboard box, similar to a Punch & Judy production.

A lot of thought went into these creations and some sets were very elaborate. Pictured is a set with interchangeable backdrops for scene changes.



The choir performed at the launch of White Ribbon day



Year 7 received their immunization shots. They didn't really hurt.



Year 12 attended the Annual Inner West Careers Expo with more than 3,000 other students at MLC Burwood.



Local Member, Virginia Judge was given a tour of the upgraded Science labs funded by the Federal Government BER grants to Schools.



Recess and Lunch breaks have been filled with the sounds of drums, whistles, cheering and parochial crowds as the boys have battled it out for the Ashfield World Cup of Futsal.



Student profiles



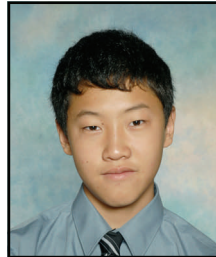
Jordan ROBERTS
7 Bernoulli
Primary School: *Ashfield PS*
Favourite subject: *Geography*
Favourite Sport: *Rugby League*
Best thing about school: *Being able to make friends and learn new stuff.*



Maxi JANISZEWSKI
7 Fibonacci
Primary School: *Annandale PS*
Favourite subject: *Woodwork and maths*
Favourite Sport: *Soccer*
Best thing about school: *Lunch time and doing practical classes*



Shaheen MUJEEB
7 Archimedes
Primary School: *Banksia Road PS*
Favourite subject: *Maths, Science and Design & Tech*
Favourite Sport: *Soccer, cricket and Tennis*
Best thing about school: *You get a lot of opportunities and you get to learn more new things*



John JANG
7 Euclid
Primary School: *Burwood PS*
Favourite subject: *Sport*
Favourite Sport: *Hockey*
Best thing about school: *The best thing about this school is that we do fun work*



Emmitt JARJOURA
7 Archimedes
Primary School: *Stanmore PS*
Favourite subject: *Geography, Sport*
Favourite Sport: *Soccer*
Best thing about school: *Talking to friends*



Valandis HATZILERIS
7 Bernoulli
Primary School: *Croydon PS*
Favourite subject: *Science*
Favourite Sport: *Soccer*
Best thing about school: *When we do good work we get rewards*



Gabriel DAOUD
7 Euclid
Primary School: *Croydon Park PS*
Favourite subject: *Sport*
Favourite Sport: *Soccer*
Best thing about school: *Getting to do a lot of active things*



SPORTS UPDATE

A happy group travelled to the **Zone Cross Country Championships** last month at Macquarie University, with four gaining selection for the Regional Championships in Gosford.

Meanwhile, we have Winter Grade teams in contention for the **semi-finals** in Rugby, Soccer, Badminton, and Table Tennis.

The Open Rugby boys were unfortunately bundled out of the statewide All Schools, Waratah Shield in the fourth Round by Sydney Boys High School. A pretty fair achievement making it to there.

The Under 15 Basketballers have advanced through to the second Round of their Knockout and are drawn to play their next game in Week 1.

Unfortunately, the Balmain Knockout Rugby League competition had to be postponed due to the rain and unplayable grounds. The new date will be the first Friday next Term.

As Sydney deals with its coldest overnight temperatures in 15 years we show how resilient we are.

The Winter Grade season is at the semi-final stage and we will begin preparing for Summer from Week 3 of next Term.

August will be devoted to **Trials for the Summer sports** with the competition set to begin on September 1st. Students will be making their Summer Sport selections when they return for Term 3. The boys have been given a list of the sports on offer with the weekly costs for those sports. Parents should discuss this with them before the selection is made to avoid the problem of changing sports once the season commences.

This winter we have debuted a few new sports.

- Around 30 students went Ice-skating each week at the Canterbury Ice Rink.
- Karate was taught to a dedicated group.
- But the most popular of all the sports, with over 50 students, was Softball. It is interesting to note that the reason many students gave for selecting Softball was the fact that it was at School with no cost involved.

This last fact highlighted several things for me:

- There are few facilities at the School. The Gym, while a great facility, is needed for the Grade Badminton competition in Winter and Basketball in the Summer. The Hall was unavailable due to Drama rehearsals. The non-Grade Table Tennis players had to travel to Olympic Park, the nearest viable facility. The Grade Table Tennis teams had to play away



each week. The non-Grade Badminton boys were fortunate in securing the use of the courts at Netball NSW, Lidcombe. The Karate boys had to use the Library.

- The overwhelming majority of Sports offered, incurred a weekly cost around \$10 for each student to pay for both venue and Bus travel.
- A number of students made financially bad choices, leading to a constant stream of changes to sports and difficulties tracking them.

While these may be seen in the light of “nothing comes for free”, that sentiment needs to be tempered by the reality that boys need to be engaged in activity and they genuinely enjoy doing things.

Coupled with that is the new proposed development for Wests Ashfield Conference and Function Centre to be built on the site of the existing Car-park next to the ‘School Oval’. This will effectively block the sun from this area till around mid-day, meaning that the grass will get insufficient growth assistance.

So, I am currently exploring some ideas for the summer and next winter that may address these issues.

Any parent who would like to comment or offer suggestions will be warmly welcomed.

Les Carrington
Sports Coordinator

2010 Zone Cross Country Chamionships

May 14th at Macquarie University



Cain Simon showed great stamina around the gruelling course



New student, Juan Pablo Guevara-Morales was very focused.



Nolan Barlow in hot pursuit of the leaders.



Jack Pye was the best performer with a 2nd in the U/15's



Mohamad Zeidan



Khaled Zeidan and Luke Stait battled each other around the Macquarie Uni course.



Dar Kordy put in a strong effort to finish just out of the ten.



Adam Elkholy lifted his personal best to record his first top ten finish in 5 years earning him a trip to Gosford

Action from the Pratten Park Soccer - 3rd's and 15's



Abbie's babble

It has certainly been a busy Term at ABHS with a number of visitors to the School and activities all the time. Here are a few highlights.

- ☺ Some of the Open Rugby boys went to Armidale for the CHS Championships. **Saila Saipele, Connor Drummond and Jonathon Palmer** (Yr11) represented Met NW, with Jonathon selected in the CHS Under 16 squad. Congratulations!
- ☺ **Luke Stait** (Yr10) had a successful season rowing,
- ☺ The **Open Rugby** boys reputation for playing hard Rugby obviously went ahead of them. With a Bye in the first Round of the Waratah Shield, they were to play Marsden HS, but received a forfeit. In the third Round, Galston HS were likewise "spooked" and forfeited.
- ☺ With the World Cup in full swing, the boys have entered into the spirit with an **Ashfield World Cup of Indoor Soccer**. Each Recess and Lunch for the past three weeks has seen two national teams contesting the Cup in three Groups - 7/8, 9/10 and seniors. Details of the Final results in next Newsletter. Who needs vuvuzela horns, the sound of drums and whistles, chants and cheering have brought their own sense of excitement. And for added authenticity, Referee Calic handed out red cards to the Australian team for very minor infringements. Maybe it was his way to avenge the Serbian loss.
- ☺ Learning Support teacher **Ms. Regan** and husband, Manoa have welcomed their third child, a healthy baby boy, Julius.
- ☺ Not to be outdone, our IT technician, **Mr. Muthiah** and wife Rebecca are enjoying their new addition, a lovely little girl, Rachel. Congratulations to both families.
- ☺ It was a "red-letter" day at Pratten Park when the **Under 14 Tennis** had their first win in three years recently. It was a long time coming. Well done!
- ☺ While the Year 12 **Junior Disco** was a huge success, the organisers need to consult their calendars better. Staging the event the same night as State of Origin One was a bit frustrating. Fortunately, Mr. Collins kept me informed of the score via SMS. Here's hoping the next one isn't the same night as the Australia/England Test match. Pay attention gentlemen!
- ☺ While on the upcoming Tests, keep an eye out for Steve Smith making his **Test debut for Australia**. Somewhere in the crowd will be Mrs. Smith, our Library Assistant, who flies out to England this weekend to see her son. We wish him and the rest of the team all the best.
- ☺ Last week the **International students** had a very enjoyable Morning Tea. Organised by Year 12 SRC Rep, Bing Wang, their next gathering is a planned **PICNIC DAY IN ASHFIELD PARK** for the **first Monday of the holidays, July 5th at 11 am**. A good chance to just meet socially, it is hoped all the International students will be able to attend. I really feel

for these guys. Many are here at Ashfield by themselves living away from family for the two and a half years it takes to get their HSC. That certainly takes some courage.

- ☺ **"100"** scored 100% for the audiences that attended. The play was a thought provoking piece centred around the idea that when you die you can take one memory from your life with you, BUT ONLY 1. All other memories are erased and you live that memory for eternity. I still haven't been able to decide which memory I would take. With catering by the Hospital-ity students and all staging, lights, sound etc by the boys and girls from Canterbury Girls' HS it was a great showcase of what is good about Public Education. Among many good performances the standout for me was that of CGHS Gemi Nguyen. Her monologue was delivered so powerfully that you actually felt her pain and almost brought tears to the eyes. Almost! I mean I am a guy, we don't cry over girlie things. Much!!
- ☺ If you want to see dedication you need look no further than the **3rds Soccer** team. Despite recurring defeats the boys have happily travelled all over Sydney. Their recent game against Asquith is a perfect example. 90 minutes in the train to get to Mt. Kuring-gai. 20 minutes walk to the ground. Defeat 2 nil and then return journey. They didn't get back to Ashfield till 6 pm and all that was in the rain. Commitment: outstanding!
- ☺ Last week the Rugby 1sts played a Round 4 Waratah Shield match against **Sydney Boys HS**. The Sydney boys extended their hospitality, hosting our Junior Rugby teams at the same time for "friendlies" at Centennial Park. Despite the losses, all came back having enjoyed the experience.
- ☺ A group of 12 **Year 10** students have been getting a taste of what it is like to study and learn at **TAFE**. Organised by Ms. Gorton and under the loving supervision of parent, Mr. Kupu, the boys have been gaining skills in Construction at Ryde TAFE each Thursday. Next Term they will move into another field and some are now talking of continuing the experience by taking up opportunities for further study in Years 11 and 12

So much more in Guest Speakers, Study Days, excursions, fun days and just plain outstanding classwork has made this a great Term at ABHS.

Enjoy the holidays, stay healthy and safe, and come back refreshed for what promises to be yet another enjoyable ride in education.

Always on the lookout for a good story!

Bye for now,

Abbie

