

Ashfield Boys High School Community News

Time for you and your child

Find us at: 117 Liverpool Rd, Ashfield 2131
Tel: 9798 6620 Fax: 9716 8004
Email: ashfieldbo-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au



Strong performances at HSC for Class of 2010

The Class of 2010 may have been small in number, but they were mighty in performance.

WANG Bingquan (James) led the field gaining an ATAR score of 99.85, closely followed by classmates and friends, WANG Zihao (another James) with 99.45 and WANG Guining (Mike) who achieved 98.85.

A number of students achieved ATAR scores above 90, which assured them of selection into their choice of courses at University.

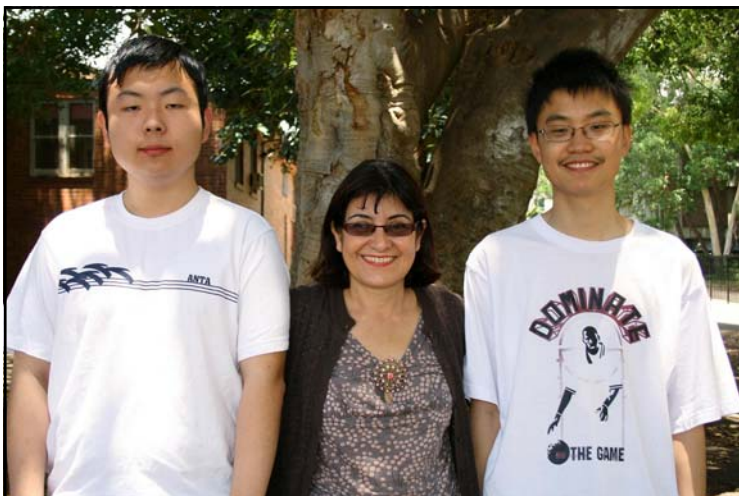
A group of them came back to the school at the end of the year for the traditional Year 12 BBQ. It gave them a chance to catch up with teachers and their mates and talk about their futures in a relaxed, friendly environment, free of the pressure of the HSC exams.

WANG Bingquan who achieved results above 90% in all his subjects (English, Extension II Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Chinese) has now entered into Sydney University where he is studying a combined degree in IT and Commerce.

"My aim is to go into Banking and eventually own my own company, doing something with software. Business is a family tradition, so this will give me a boost," he said.

WANG Guining studied the same subjects and with similar results has chosen to undertake a straight Commerce degree at Sydney University. His aim is to enter into actuary, but is also considering the general financial sector.

"My father is an Engineer, but doesn't mind that I am not following in his footsteps. He is happy with my choices."



Bingquan WANG and Guining WANG with Mrs. Kokkalis at the Year 12 BBQ to celebrate the successes of the Class of 2010

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



Welcome back to all our lovely boys and staff. The holidays unfortunately have become a dim memory but time is flying by and it is hard to believe that it is week 8 and soon Easter will be upon us.

The Year has started well our HSC students once again did us proud. Two students Bingquan (James)Wang and Zi Hao (James) Wang , gained five band 6 results and ATAR scores of 99.85 and 99.45, respectively. A number of students gained ATAR scores in the nineties and there were 42 individual course Band 6 results (Marks of 90 and above).

Due to the growth in student numbers, we have welcomed a number of new staff to our school. They include: Ms J. Byrne, appointed as second Deputy, Mr L. Alevizos, Head Teacher TAS, Ms M. Yoon, Mathematics teacher, Mr R. Scott, HSIE teacher, Ms R. Farooq, Science teacher and Ms S. Crust, English and Drama teacher.

Our Year 7 students have settled in well and currently are participating in a Peer Support program. The student leaders from year 10, mentor small groups of Year 7 students. They discuss topics such as self esteem, confidence, team building, making friends and managing conflict.

Year 12 are currently completing their half Yearly Exams. Remember, even though we are in Term 1, Year 12 studies officially began in Term 4 last year.

By now all Year 9 students have been issued with their DER laptops. This has been a wonderful initiative and I applaud the federal government for providing the funding. Currently all students across Years 9, 10 and 11 have a DER laptop. It gives students the opportunity to access resources and maintain currency on their technological skills. The students are keen to engage in their learning and use many programs which help to broaden their knowledge and skills for syllabus requirements.

Our thoughts are with the many children and families who have been caught up in the natural disasters around the world. We are living in fragile times and need to be aware of the impact these times maybe having on our children. If you require support please contact me. Together with my staff we will continue to provide time for you and your child.

D. Kokkalis

Principal

Pedestrian safety on Liverpool Road

Pedestrian safety on Liverpool Road in the heart of Ashfield's CBD has long been an issue for all road users. The combination of the mall, shops, schools and the train station make this a busy hub, particularly in peak travel times. Cars are delayed in traffic and pedestrians often cross mid block.

A recent crash analysis by the RTA confirmed this significant safety issue. In the five year period analysed (from January 2005 until December 2009), there were 69 crashes along this stretch of road, 19 involving pedestrians. Half of the affected pedestrians were crossing mid block away from the existing crossing facilities. Across the whole LGA during this same time, 135 pedestrians were injured or killed.

In response to these alarming numbers, the RTA and Ashfield Council teamed up to address the issue through engineering, environmental and educational perspectives.

Over the coming months, with the support of the DET, RTA and Ashfield Council, Ashfield Boys students and teachers will be involved in an integrated road safety program encompassing different curriculum areas such as Graphic Art, PDHPE and English. Students will have the opportunity to examine local road safety issues and consider ways graphic art and visual literacy can be used to spread an important message about pedestrian safety. As part of the project, teaching and learning programs will also be updated to include the latest pedestrian safety resources.

For more information on Ashfield Council road safety initiatives including this, email roadsafety@ashfield.nsw.gov.au.

Ashfield welcomes new addition to the Executive team

With the increase in enrolments, ABHS is pleased to welcome a new addition to the team.

Ms. Jennifer Byrne has been appointed as a second Deputy Principal and brings a wealth of varied experience with her.

Having won an Education scholarship, she studied at the University of Sydney before receiving her first appointment as an English teacher at Warrawong HS in the Wollongong area.

"It was a tough but rewarding experience and equipped me for my later career," she said. "I then went backpacking in Europe for 6 months before the money ran out and I returned to teach at Girraween and then Auburn Girls' High Schools."

It was at this point, after 10 years teaching that Ms. Byrne sought to broaden her experiences and took 3 years out of teaching to work as an Editor and Copywriter for an educational publishing company. Despite the interesting work, this only served to remind her that she really missed working each day with young people and that deciding to become a teacher had, in retrospect, been the right career choice.

And so, with a renewed commitment, she secured a position at Pendle Hill HS, being promoted to Head Teacher, a position she occupied for the next 12 years.

From there Ms. Byrne gained further promotion, in 2003, to the position of Deputy Principal at Hunters Hill HS where the next 8 years gave her the opportunity to learn so much that has equipped her for Ashfield Boys High School.

"In my short time here, I have been warmly welcomed and accepted by the staff, boys and the parents I have met. I have really appreciated these friendly gestures and kind words, as it is not always easy to begin in a new school. Having lived in the Inner West for the last thirty years, it is great to finally be in a school that is part of my community. I look forward to the new challenges and learning experiences that lie ahead and to really getting to know everyone within our learning community. From what I have already experienced, this new adventure is set to be one of the best so far!"



International students honoured for success and commitment

In what is becoming a tradition, Ashfield Boys International students were again honoured for their successes at the HSC.

Trung PHAM, Gerald LIANG and Kenny WU, all Year 12 students from 2010, received Academic Awards of Excellence from the International Student Centre recently.

Trung (ATAR 92.50) and Gerald (ATAR 90.50) were unfortunately unable to attend the ceremony as they had University lecture commitments. Kenny, who was the top International student in two of his subjects was pleased to be able to attend and was joined by current Year 12 student, Gary HUANG, who received a School Service Award. As an SRC Representative and a high achieving Mathematician, Gary is a wonderful role model for other students.



Gary Huang and Kenny Wu at the recent International Student Centre Awards ceremony recognizing excellence in achievement and commitment.

HOMEWORK CENTRE IN THE LIBRARY



COME ALONG AND GET SOME HELP WITH AN ASSIGNMENT OR JUST A PLACE TO WORK WITH:

- **ACCESS TO INFORMATION**
- **ABILITY TO PRINT YOUR ASSESSMENT TASKS**

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MONDAY TO FRIDAY
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**(Mornings)
MISS TZODOURIS (M,T,Th)
MISS YOON (W,F)**

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

**MISS GORTON (M,T)
MS MARKS (M)**

Parents if you have any questions regarding Homework Centre please leave a message on Miss Gorton's voicemail 9798 6620 extension 127 and your requests or concerns will be answered the next day.

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English Faculty news



Welcome to English 2011! Firstly I would like to welcome Samantha Crust to the English staff. She is teaching Years 7 to 10 and is a great addition to our staff bringing with her a great deal of English teaching experience.

Congratulations to our Year 12 2010 for their excellent results in English Extension 1 and 2, English Advanced and English ESL. All groups performed at a high level. Special mention must be given to Joshua Jun For his outstanding results across the three courses of English he undertook. The following boys appeared in the HSC merit list, in Advanced English Peter Drake and Ravi Sharma; in English ESL Zihao Wang, Bingquan Wang and Guining Wang. The performance of these students and many others who achieved a great result demonstrates what Ashfield boys are capable of achieving. In 2011 we look forward to another great year for Year 12.

There are several upcoming events. A reminder for parents of students in Year 7 and 9 that NAPLAN testing is in May. On a different note, as part of our NAIDOC week celebrations Boori Pryor will educate and entertain Year 7 with a presentation about Aboriginal culture. This is now an annual event and enjoyed by our students.

There are several competitions for the boys to enter. The English competition is now available for students. Notes will be given out in class or obtained from Ms Crust and payment is made at the roll desk to Miss Jane. Entries are open for the Sydney Morning Herald Young Writers Competition and the Dorethea McKellar Poetry Award which we won the schools category in 2010). Students will receive information about these competitions in class.

Finally, we have entered debating teams in Years 7, 8 and 9. Ms Crust is the Year 7 coach, Mr Chatwin Year 8 and Ms Finigan Year 9. Our boys are entered in the Junior Legacy speaking competition. These competitions provide opportunity for our boys to develop self-confidence and higher order thinking skills and team work. We look forward to their gradual development of skills and success.

Louise Finigan

Head Teacher English

SRC Report

This term the SRC members have had the opportunity to look into and change the existing constitution for Student Voice to ensure that all students in their year levels have a say and work towards common goals within our school.

This year's SRC team goal is to represent and advocate for the diverse needs and opinions of students.

QLD FLOOD RELIEF

The devastation of the Queensland floods during the recent summer period has seen many organisations and volunteers move quickly to help in the recovery. Here at Ashfield Boys, we contributed to this cause by joining other schools in the call from School Aid to 'Go Maroon for a Day'. As a result of our multi-day, the boys' efforts raised over \$500. The school and the SRC want to thank all who participated by making donations and commend you all for your efforts.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY is one of those many days that Australians all over the country participate in. Members register their name and set off cleaning the beaches, city and neighbourhood. Here at ABHS are proud to inform you that we participate in this event each year by cleaning up our school grounds.

I would like to give a special thanks to the students who supported this cause.

By Anant Goswami
(School Captain)



For the Diary

Term 2 Week 1	ANZAC Day
Term 2 Week 3	Crazy Hair day

Welfare Report



The new Year 7 students have settled in to the school well, having been to Broken Bay on their Year 7 Camp. They have also been participating in the Peer Support Program which has seen almost half of the Year 10 students who trained as peer support leaders last year, teaching the new students about the school, its culture and its systems. It also helps boy to make new friend within their groupings. Included in this year's program have been some of the excellent strategies and drama skills taught to the Year 10's by Ms Hobeck. This has added more roleplay and conflict resolution strategies into the program. Ms Fitzgibbon and Drama Teachers, Ms Museth and Ms Hobeck have also attended The 'Cooling Conflict' program, a program which focuses on using drama and roleplay to manage conflict. This is intended to be incorporated into core lessons and will add to the anti-bullying and conflict resolution strategies ABHS already has. Ms Heather Gorton again has the Breakfast Club up and running. This proved to be extremely popular last year with, at times, over 70 boys coming in early for breakfast. This runs on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings before school. Also beginning in Term 1 has been the Youth Connections program designed to provide support for selected students from Years 9-12 in thinking about alternative pathways in their education and providing support in other areas. Links to Learning, a skills based program for some Year 10 and 9 students and is run at Marrickville Youth Resource Centre, also starts this term.

Margot Fitzgibbon

Head Teacher Welfare

**SCHOOL RESUMES FOR
TERM 2 2011**

**FOR STAFF
Wednesday April 27th,**

**ALL STUDENTS
Thursday April 28th,**

Careers News

New Leaving Age Initiative

The NSW Dept of Education last year implemented a new rule which made it compulsory to remain in school until age 17. A few exceptions to that were if you had an Apprenticeship or were studying fulltime at TAFE.

In response to that TAFE have introduced some new courses to cater for the student who does not want to be at school but has yet to find employment. These courses are designed to provide an introduction to TAFE as well as providing valuable skills for the workplace. Unfortunately, as is often the case, the funding for the programs is limited, so the courses are limited. However, there are sufficient and varied courses to allow choice.

Any parent or student wishing to find out more can contact me for a full list.

Work Experience - Years 10/11/12

With the above change in mind, last year ABHS introduced a new policy with regards to Work Experience for Year 10.

Students are able to undertake up to 3 weeks in the workplace, if there is a perceived need.

This could be with one employer and used as a means of deciding on apprenticeships, or it could be with a few employers checking out different possibilities.

The agreed time for this to happen is after the School Certificate exams and before the end of the year.

Before a placement is approved the employer must be checked for OH&S compliance and that their workplace is a safe and appropriate environment for a student.

Work Experience is no longer compulsory, nor is it a time to simply make some pocket money or get part time employment, but should be seen as an integral part of the total learning experience. There are also opportunities in Years 11 and 12 for students to use the program to explore the world of work and research future directions.

As always, any parent who has a concern or question they would like answered, contact me on Extension 108. I'm often out of the Office, so leave a clear message with contact number and I'll get back to you when I can.

L. Carrington
Careers Adviser

SUCCESS in Mathematics

Ashfield Boys High school mathematics students achieved outstanding results in the 2010 HSC examinations. 17% of the students in General Mathematics scored Bands 5 and 6; in Mathematics 28% of students scored Bands 5 and 6; 100% of students in Extension 1 Mathematics scored E4 with one student gaining a mark of 100; and in Mathematics Extension 2 all students scored a Band 6.

Student engagement leads to success and so the mathematics staff look forward to another year of success.

Graphics Calculators for the General Course

We have a number of Casio Graphics Calculators that students in General Mathematics can purchase for \$100. (usual cost is \$150). Students who study General Mathematics will find the use of a graphics calculator useful - its use is applicable to 30% of the course.

It is also important to mention that students are not at all disadvantaged if they use their current scientific calculator.



MATHS HELP

The Mathematics Department of ABHS has continued to subscribe to the online maths learning facility sponsored by McDonalds (you may have seen it advertised on TV). This program allows students to review concepts and consolidate their skills. We have registered our students from Years 8 to 12 to use this learning/teaching resource at www.mathsonline.com.au. Each student will have their unique login ID and password and they will be able to access the online learning facility in school as directed by the teacher as well as at home. As soon as the current year 7's are registered we will inform the students of their login ID and password. Some of the features that this program offers are: full lessons for each concept with a voice over, and examples of varying difficulty. Every lesson has a pause and rewind facility to help students grasp concepts at their own pace. It also has an accompanying printable summary and worksheet to consolidate the concept.

It is suggested that parents have a look at the website and 'try it'. While parents can register their children themselves, we would prefer to do it through the school as it allows us to monitor your child's progress and set whole class / individual tasks accordingly. Please note the program is best used as a support supplement to the classroom teaching/learning experience.

Maria Thomas

Head Teacher - Mathematics

Ashfield Council young sportsperson of the year

On Australia Day, it has become traditional for Local Councils around the nation to welcome new Citizens. It has also become a time when local residents are recognized for their achievements.

The Ashfield Council celebrations this year took place at the Haberfield Library, with special guest, Opera Australia soprano, Amelia Farrugia present.

The Australia Day Committee selected ABHS Year 10 student, Adika Njemanzie as the recipient of the Young Sportsperson of the Year.

In 2010, Adika had a very successful Athletics campaign, culminating in the CHS U/15 crown for Long Jump with a Bronze in the High Jump.

Other nominees included a Captain of the NSW U/18 Basketball team and a member of the Australian U/17 Volleyball team.

Adika was supported at the ceremony by his parents and a number of family friends from the Sierra Leone community.

Accepting the Award from Ms. Farrugia, Adika, ever humble, thanked a number of people, including his Athletics Coach, Mr. Calic, for his encouragement and commitment.



Adika Njemanzie, with his proud parents, at the Australia Day Awards Ceremony.



Mosquito-borne diseases: information for school communities

I am writing to alert your school community about a range of health risks associated with mosquito bites. Recent heavy rainfall and flooding in NSW has led to high numbers of mosquitoes in some parts of the state.

Mosquitoes can transmit a number of viral infections including Ross River virus and Barmah Forest virus and there have been large numbers of these infections reported so far in 2011. More recently, a rarer but more serious mosquito-borne infection called Murray Valley Encephalitis (MVE) has been detected in western NSW. It is likely that the risk period may extend through until Easter.

I seek your assistance in promoting awareness about the prevention of mosquito bites among school students who live in western NSW and for any school groups planning to travel west of the Great Dividing Range on school camps or excursions.

Mosquitoes are most active around dusk and in the first few hours of the evening and again at dawn. Rivers, creeks, wetlands and recently-flooded land allows mosquitoes to breed and so people living near or visiting these areas need to be especially careful to prevent mosquito bites.

Recommended ways to prevent mosquito bites

Cover up when outside and mosquitoes are active (especially around dawn and around dusk). Wear light-coloured, loose-fitting long pants and sleeves and covered footwear.

Use an effective personal insect repellent on all exposed skin. The best mosquito repellents contain Diethyl Toluamide (DEET) or Picaridin.

Re-apply personal insect repellent according to directions as protection wears off. The stronger the concentration of an insect repellent, the less frequently it will need to be applied to stop mosquito bites. Repellents containing low concentrations of DEET or Picaridin provide shorter periods of protection and need to be reapplied more frequently.

Mosquito coils or plug-in vapourising mats are effective when used indoors. Devices that use light to attract and electrocute insects are not effective.

Ensure houses are fitted with flyscreens on the doors and windows to prevent entry of mosquitoes.

When camping, use flyscreens on caravans and tents or sleep under mosquito nets.

Yours sincerely

Dr Jeremy McAnulty

Director, Centre for Health

11 March 2011

Creative Arts

MUSIC

Music has begun strongly this year. Ms Galettis is back after a year away from the school, providing valuable experience. Matthew Parker is now leading up the Concert and Stage Band, being a strong Trumpeter himself and as Mr Dixon has moved to a position at Granville Boys HS, the strong music element of the school is set to continue.

Auditions have taken place for school ensembles and displayed many talented Year 7 musicians. Students who displayed talent have been invited to join an appropriate ensemble.

Welcome to the new members of the Concert Band, Stage Band and String Ensemble. These groups are strengthening musically and with the new members, the choice and level of repertoire is predicted to increase.

George Cayas, an ex-student of ABHS, who is training to become a Music Teacher, is running the string ensemble. The group is showing great improvement and is working well.

All Year 7 students have undergone an aptitude test for pitch and rhythm. Students who achieved well on this test were given a letter inviting them to become part of the Music Department or simply to notify parents/guardians that their son/ward has strong musical potential.

I do believe that with students of today being so dependant on listening to music for leisure, that they already have the required listening skills. Music can increase intelligence and is a good exercise in discipline. Also, if boys are channeling their sometimes over-exuberant energy into playing an instrument or participating in musical activities, this must be seen to add value to their learning.

Details of the available lessons in particular instruments are listed below.

Woodwind, including Flute, clarinet, saxophone	\$30 per half-hour lesson. \$15 shared lesson.
Brass, including trumpet and trombone	\$30 per half hour lesson \$15 shared lesson.
Drums	\$30 per half hour lesson \$15 shared lesson.
Piano and keyboard	\$30 per half hour lesson \$15 shared lesson.
Guitar, both electric and acoustic	\$30 per half hour lesson \$15 per shared lesson.
Strings, including violin and cello	\$30 per half hour lesson \$15 shared lesson.

DRAMA

Year 11 are already working hard on their production of Samuel Beckett's 'Waiting for Godot', a challenging absurdist play which they have transformed into a very contemporary setting. Performance dates are the 21st, 22nd and 24th of June.

Year 12's are currently working on their HSC Individual Projects (Design and Performance), and begin work on their HSC Group Performances next term. These will be showcased on a night in Term 3. Year 11 and 12 also went to ONSTAGE for an excursion at the Seymour Centre, which gave them valuable insights into other top student's work.

Year 7 Drama students are busy building their confidence and working in groups. They are exploring themselves through basic acting skills such as facial expression, gesture, movement, mime, voice and character.

Year 9 Drama students are also working hard on basic acting skills in order to explore verbal and non-verbal communication. They are having a lot of fun creating interesting characters through various drama activities and improvised scenes.

Given the premise 'central to all drama is conflict', Year 10 Drama students are exploring different forms of conflict such as verbal, physical, inner and symbolic through improvisation, script and monologue.

ART

Welcome to the full-time staff of ABHS to Danielle Jovicic. Previously a temporary teacher here, her skills and ability to work closely with the boys to increase their Art and Design and Technology skills have been recognized and have allowed her to become a valuable asset to the school. She has also taken on the role of Year 7 Advisor. The Year 7 Camp to Broken Bay, which was organised by her, was a success, with boys enjoying themselves thoroughly.

Margot Fitzgibbon

Head Teacher Creative and Performing Arts



SANCTIONED ITEMS

The following items are NOT to be brought to school:

- Large textas
- Spray cans, particularly spray deodorants (allergy risk)

If you bring the following items to school:

- Large sums of money - then hand into the front office in the morning and collect it at the end of the day. If you do not do so and money goes missing you will not be compensated.

These items must not be used in class time:

- Mobile phones
- CD players, Discmans, Electronic games, MP3 players, iPods or any other personal sound system.

It is your responsibility to look after your money and/or electronic devices, and if they are lost or taken the school will not compensate for their loss.

If any Mobile phones, CD players, Discmans, electronic games, MP3 players, iPods or any other personal sound systems are brought to school and used inappropriately and disrupt learning they will be confiscated and returned at a later date.

DANGEROUS / INAPPROPRIATE ITEMS:

At Ashfield Boys High School we pride ourselves on having a safe learning environment. Therefore, we do not allow the following items at school:

- 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, 5 April 2011

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	Diana Scandurra	132
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
PD/H/PE	Bruce Johnston	255
TAS, Hospitality & IA	Leo Alevizos	261
Welfare & Creative Arts	Margot Fitzgibbon	120
International Students Co-ordinator	Nicole Pool	204

Year Advisers

Year	Teacher	Voicemail Extension Number – only for the purposes of leaving a message
7	Danielle Jovicic	238
8	Roland Tenefrancia	234
9	Terry McCusker	214
10	Shirley Prescott	205
11	James Chatwin	218
12	John Longhurst	219

Instructions for leaving a message on voicemail:

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

History alive and ready for the future

We have another exciting year planned for all History classes. The success of History Day, both at a school level and winning the Minister's Award for History for the second year running will continue in 2011. This year Ashfield Boys' High will go 60's. There will also be a variety of special events and excursions directly involving the History Faculty. As well as commemorating ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day with moving student audio and visual tributes, the History Faculty is endeavouring to access 'real' history experiences for students with excursions to aboriginal rock carvings, archaeological digs, war memorial visits, cemetery visits, Historical displays and all-day history activity days.

Stage 4 History has started well and the boys are exploring 'What is History' and how it is studied. They are currently researching an internet site as part of their site study on the Great Pyramid of Giza and exploring its wonders and complexities. The boys will then move into looking at Ancient China and the many extraordinary inventions and innovations that were developed. Year 8 will also be a part of 'Living History' when they will be treated to a Medieval History Day on June 14th. The Living History Company are a professional company who specialise in bringing history to life with displays, a show and interactive activities. It is hoped we will be able to take Year 7 to Jibbon Beach to see the Aboriginal rock carvings and experience some Aboriginal Bush craft.

Year 9 History has started their study of Australian History 1901 to the end of World War 2. This is part of a two year mandatory course and during this period they will complete an internet site study on Gallipoli. Last year Year 9 went on an historical harbour cruise to complement the site study. It is hoped we will be able to go again this year.

Year 10 have begun their second year of the mandatory course which is examinable in the School Certificate. Along with their laptops and use of text books, the boys have been issued with a 'History Workbook'. They will get a new work book for each new topic. The boys will work from these workbooks and use their laptops for research, graphs, tables and draft work. It is important that the boys practise their writing skills for source questions and extended responses. These work books are designed to prepare them for content and writing expectations of the School Certificate. It is imperative that students complete all set tasks, catch up on missed work and preserve all work books for revision purposes. All the boys are working well at this stage and we need to continue this trend leading to the School Certificate.

Year 11 Modern History, Ancient History and Studies of Religion courses are up and running. There is a big step from Year 10 to 11 and the expectation of a senior approach to their learning. The preliminary course serves as a preparation for the HSC and it is imperative that all students adopt a senior approach and make full use of their flexible time table. The History faculty have a saying, 'If

you fail to plan, you plan to fail'. We urge all students to plan for success by being well organised, have a study and assessment timetable drawn up and ensure all work is completed in full to their best standard. This is the first step to success and being a lifelong learner.

Year 11 Ancient History will go to the Rocks area of Sydney to undertake an archaeological

site study. This is a great opportunity to apply knowledge, skills and techniques of archaeology

Year 12 Modern History, Ancient History and Studies of Religion have maintained their study program throughout the holidays into Term 1 2010 (we like to call holidays, senior study period). All students need to ensure they are well prepared for all lessons and assessments leading to the HSC. We are planning on taking Year 12 Modern History and Ancient an all day seminar in Term 2 and Studies of Religion students can also look forward to a variety of added features to enhance their experience and skills and knowledge.

The History Faculty would like to wish all students the best in their studies and the students' pursuit of excellence.

Marcel Radojevic

Head Teacher History



LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF !

As Marcel Proust, a late 19th century novelist, wrote: "the real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes". Host an international high school student in July through Southern Cross Cultural Exchange and prepare to be amazed at the way this unique opportunity helps your family to become closer, to understand themselves better and to see the world in a new light.

Carefully selected students will arrive in July for one or two semesters from Europe, Scandinavia and Japan. They will attend a local secondary school, are fully insured and have their own spending money.

Call S.C.C.E now on 1800 500 501, email scceaustr@scce.com.au or visit our website (www.scce.com.au) to be part of this rewarding experience.

SOUTHERN CROSS CULTURAL EXCHANGE

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What are we doing to our boys and their future?

Have you noticed that children seem to be growing up faster these days? How often have you heard it said, "He is much older than his age suggests,"? Well perhaps there is a very valid reason for that. Modern society.

This was the theme for the presentation by Maggie Hamilton, a keen observer and researcher of social trends.

On Tuesday evening, Ms. Hamilton outlined some of the issues she and others have been concerned with and in doing so offered some very insightful advice to parents and educators alike.

She spoke of the body image and self-esteem problems facing our youths. For example: Why do they feel worthless if they don't have the latest branded game or item of clothing? What is the attraction of reckless, often violent behaviour

on TV, in the movies or Computer games? How do these, and society's emphasis on money and success, impact on their lives as they grow from childhood through teenage years to young adulthood?

Researchers have noted an increasing rise in the number of young boys suffering serious anxiety attacks based on whether they have the 'right' lunchbox, or the 'right' clothes, or the 'right' game.

Boys have a desire to fit in, to be accepted by their peers, and will often undertake reckless and dangerous acts to achieve that goal. As they grow this may take the form of alcohol abuse, fast driving, or at its extreme, violent behaviour, all in the pursuit of a good emotional feeling.

Some of this comes as a result of clever marketing, which ensnares them, often for life in what Advertisers call "Cradle to Grave Marketing."

Seemingly innocuous cartoons such as Ben 10, and fun computer games like Grand Theft Auto, actually promote an image of the adventurous life and hero-worship. Beneath the surface, however, lies a more sinister side-effect. Pre-teens are more aggressive in their actual play with one another. Teens are shown that a life of crime with disregard for authority, murder, car theft and prostitution are the way to become successful.

There is also the issue of modern language. Any parent who has finished a conversation wondering what was just said or confused about what was meant, is not alone.

But marketers understand. "They use the language that young boys relate to. Their aim is to bring the boys to a point where they believe that the 'brand' or Corporation is their friend," she said. "This bears a lot of similarities to the way in which sexual predators operate on the internet. They prey on the boys' desire to be a hero and live the adventurous life."

Often the message to teens is conveyed by society. In Australia if you want to be a man, you need to drink. Doctors report an increase in the incidents of alcohol related illness among youths.

"Boys need to have strong, firm, stable adult males in their lives to provide the right role model so that they can develop as good adults," she advised.

"Young children are like sponges. They absorb anything presented to them. Babies at 6 months when they first sit up unaided, tend to look down a lot. They see images of "brands" such as Bob the Builder, Thomas the Tank engine etc. on their clothes and when they then see them in the supermarket, they automatically recognize them and want them."

But it is not all doom and gloom. There are ways to engage in conversation with your son, in a non-threatening way. For example, rather than direct questioning, use a side issue. When next you see a news item about drunk celebrities, instead of saying "See, that's what happens when you drink irresponsibly, try "I wonder if they thought it was going to end like that." These and other approaches are explained in her latest book: What's Happening to our Boys?



Social Researcher, Maggie Hamilton (third from right) with some of the parents and students who listened with great interest to her presentation

Further information can be obtained by checking www.maggiehamilton.org

ABHS Year 7 Camp 2011



The 2011 group of Year 7 recently attended their first School Camp at the NSW Broken Bay Sport and Recreation centre. The 3 day long camp allowed the students to build valuable skills in Team interactions and gain a sense of community and School as a shared experience, as well as experiencing a range of fun and enjoyable activities.

The response from students was fantastic, and this experience has helped them build friendships and confidence in social interactions.



Year 7 2011 Group Photo

The students participated in a range of different activities, including Archery, Ropes obstacle courses, Initiatives and team building games, raft building and Surf Skiing in the beautiful beach area and bushwalking in the stunning natural environment surrounding the campsite. The students also participated in various sporting activities like football, basketball and swimming, and night time activities like the Disco, theatre and team games.

ARCHERY, INITIATIVES AND BUSHWALKING



ARCHERY

The boys were given the opportunity to learn Archery as a new skill.

"I could have done Archery every day if I had the choice"

-Brett Anderson- Sharp



BUSHWALKING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ED.

Students were taught the value of our natural environment on the Environmental Education bushwalk to Echo Rock.

"I liked bushwalking because we stopped at a place called Echo rock and yelled out to the other class."

- Connor Colquohan



INITIATIVES

In the initiatives section of the camp, the students were asked to work together to solve a series of challenges. It helped to build teamwork and positive peer relationships.

"The most memorable moments at camp was making friends and working together in activities"

-Stuart Walsh

ROPES, RAFT BUILDING AND SURF SKIING



Students participated in an obstacle challenge course involving ropes. More advanced students climbed to the second sets of the challenge course. For many it was an opportunity to face their fears, while for others, the chance to have fun and participate in physical activity.

"The ropes were really fun because you were high in the air"

- Racheed Zeidan



Students had the chance to both build and use their own raft as well as enjoying surf skiing along the beautiful shores of the Broken Bay Beach. The weather was fantastic and students thoroughly enjoyed this portion of the camp.



NIGHT ACTIVITIES AND GAMES



Students were given the chance to participate in a variety of sports, such as football, basketball, soccer and swimming, as well as mentally challenging games like chess. At night, they played various team games and enjoyed the disco on the second night.

"The games night was the best, especially the tail game."
- Callum Roberts





FREE fun program for kids to become healthier, fitter and happier!

Do you have children 7 to 13 years old? Are you worried about them being overweight?

The Go4Fun Program is an established healthy lifestyle program to improve **health, fitness, self esteem and confidence** in children above their ideal weight.

What happens in the Go4Fun Program?

The program runs over one school term. There are 20 sessions (2 sessions/week, 2hrs/session). All sessions run after school. Sessions include:

- Games, activities and swimming for kids
- Easy, effective ways to improve your child's self esteem and confidence
- Demonstrations, games and tips on healthy foods, label reading and portion sizes
- A fun supermarket tour and a chance to try delicious new foods!

Thanks to funding from the NSW Department of Health, Sydney Local Health Network has **15 places** on the program in your local area, **completely FREE of charge**. There are currently places available for programs in **School Term 2, 2011**.



Photo courtesy of MEND Australia Pty Ltd

How can I join the program?

Places on the Program are being given away on a first come, first served basis. Children need to be **7-13 years old** and **above their ideal weight** to qualify for the program. Contact Marina Davis (Program Manager) on **(02) 9780 2811**. You can also visit www.mendprogramme.org and click on 'Join a MEND Program'.

Please note a parent or carer must accompany each child to every session

Sports News

The Winter Season is upon us and the Grade teams begin their competitions next week. This year we have re-entered the Junior Hockey competition and the team coached by Mr. Tintner will be using the Olympic Park Hockey Centre as their home base. We also have teams competing in Badminton, Rugby Union, Soccer, Table Tennis and Tennis.

Some of our teams are in need of interested and qualified coaches. These include the Under 15 Soccer team and the Open 2nds Soccer team, and the Under 15 Rugby team. If any parent has the spare time to train them, one afternoon a week, after school, please contact the school. Naturally, anyone applying will need to be checked to ensure that the boys are not placed in dangerous hands.

In Recreational Sports, we are continuing with the program offered by Fitness First Five Dock, as well as the usual pursuits. There is a trend, however, for a number of students to opt for a sport which does not cost. While this is quite understandable, parents need to recognize that there are limited facilities for these, so, often a student doing these will not get much time as they share facilities with so many others.

Parents should also note that Recreational Sport now concludes at 2:45, so don't expect your son to leave at 2:30 as previously.

Students still have the opportunity to leave sport from the venue, rather than traveling back to School.

However, to avoid unnecessary confrontations, if you wish for this to happen, you need to supply a Permission Note clearly stating your son's name and sport, and the arrangement you wish to happen. Failure to supply a note will result in your son having to return to Ashfield Railway Station before being dismissed, or a Sport Truancy notification will be issued.

Parents should also discuss with their son what is acceptable behaviour at sport. Respect for the game, peers and teachers supervising will result in everyone involved having an enjoyable time. While the Open

Basketballers and Open Soccer players have unfortunately ended their CHS Knockout competitions, the Open Rugby boys start their Waratah Shield campaign with an away game against The Kings School, early next Term. We wish them and Mr. Chatwin all the best for a successful game.

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.



Abbie's babble

While there have been many things happening around the school, these are a few of the highlights.

- ☺ There is an interesting group which meets in Mrs. Kokkalis' office after school to knit. The "**knitting circle**" is working towards the creation of a rug to be donated to charity before the onset of the winter chill. None of the boys had knitted before, so it is a sight to see them labouring away, concentration etched on their faces, trying not to drop stitches. They are getting better at it and are now chancing their arm by talking while they knit. Keep up the good work boys!
- ☺ Keep your fingers crossed, and everything else for that matter. The **School Athletics Carnival** is set down for **Friday May 6th**. Let's hope that this year we have chosen a date that does not come with rain attached, like the previous two years. The Carnival will be held at Campbell Athletic Field, Holden Street, Canterbury. The field is just up the hill from the Canterbury racecourse, so it is easy to find. Any parents who would like to join us on the day are most welcome. Further details will be distributed at the beginning of next Term.
- ☺ The **Annual Swimming Carnival** had no problems with weather and it was good to see so many boys getting in and having a go for their House. A small but dedicated squad made the trip to Zone Championships at Homebush a couple of weeks ago and from there, Reno Rustandi and



Keaon Koloamatangi were selected to represent at the Regionals.

- ☺ Welcome back to **Ms. Galettis**, in the Music Dept. And welcome to our "newest" member of Staff - Ms. Jovicic in Visual Arts. While she has been around for some years, the position has now been made permanent.
- ☺ **Welcome** also to **Ms. Yoon** in Mathematics, **Ms. Crust** in English, and **Ms. Farooq** in Science. We hope that you all enjoy the rich and varied life that we like to call the Ashfield experience.

- ☺ **Year 9** students have received their new laptops and parents have been advised of the ways that they can be used.
- ☺ **Year 12** have now completed their half-yearly exams. Seems a bit strange to be saying that so early in the year, but they have been hard at HSC studies since October last year. Parents will soon be receiving reports.
- ☺ **Year 11** Progress Reports will be sent out soon.
- ☺ **Year 9** parents will find included with this Newsletter, a copy of their Year 8 Reports.
- ☺ **Year 7** have settled into the routine of life at High School and the demands of studying in a new environment and making new friends.
- ☺ In sport, the **Open Basketballers** played their Shell Cup game against North Sydney Boys at Ashfield. Unfortunately going down to a team that has been their nemesis for some time.



- ☺ The **Open Soccer** players received a forfeit from Fort Street HS in the first round of the Errea Cup, before losing to a very fit Epping Boys team last week.
- ☺ Have you thought about what is an acceptable amount of time for your son to spend on the computer playing games or connecting with friends via Facebook or Twitter? Next Term some of these issues will be discussed.

Always on the lookout for stories,

Bye for now,

Abbie

