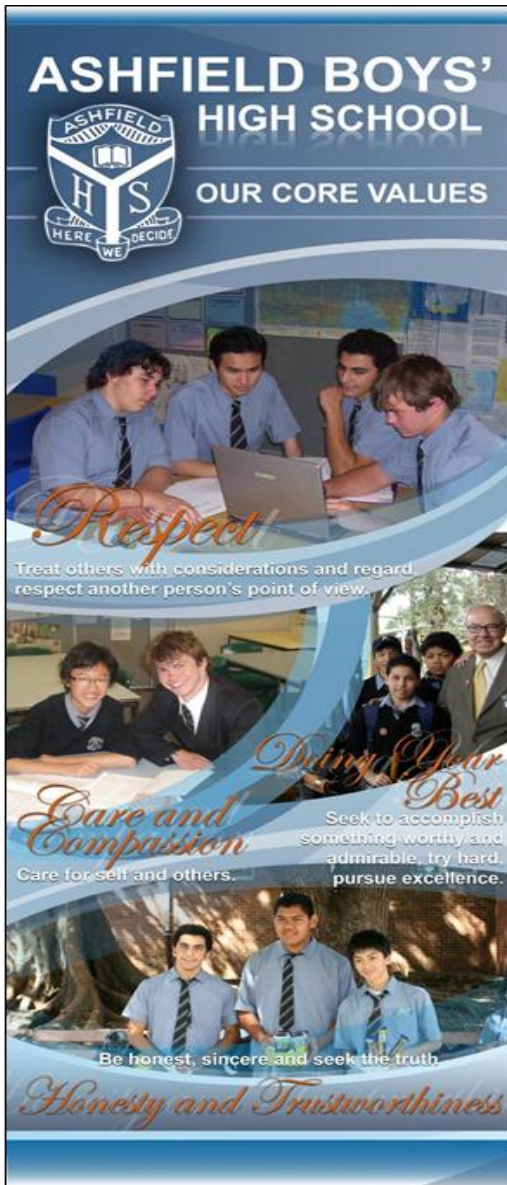


# Ashfield Boys High School Community News

*Time for you and your child*

Find us at: 117 Liverpool Rd, Ashfield 2131  
Tel: 9798 6620 Fax: 9716 8004  
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Parent Newsletter – November 2014 Issue 4

## Principal's Report

It is such an honour and a pleasure to write my first column as Principal for the Ashfield Boys HS newsletter. It is also a wonderful opportunity to share my initial impressions of the school as I have been on board for a little over a month now. I have spent as much time as possible in this month talking with everyone; the boys, the teachers, parents and other members of the wider school community. I must say how impressed I am with the school! It is not possible for a new Principal to receive a welcome more warmly than I have been offered at ABHS. Thank you.

The school has such an inclusive, supportive and productive atmosphere to it that it is a credit to the boys, their teachers and your support as parents. One of the questions that I posed every member of staff in our conversations was, "What things do you like most about the school?". For virtually everyone their first response was that they loved working with the boys. I think that it is this caring and productive relationship that forms the core of quality learning, engagement and energy that I see in classes.

I also think that it is this relationship which underpins the way that the whole school works together to make major events and projects such a success and valuable learning experience. I was lucky enough to arrive just before the visit of HRH Prince Edward and watch how perfectly the school staged such a major event. This same sense of purpose has

made Culture Fest and the Year 10 Passion Projects such valuable experiences for the boys. ABHS is the sixth school in which I have worked over the course of my career. I can quite honestly say, without any hint of exaggeration, that I have never seen a school community work with such a sense of purpose and cooperation. ABHS is a school of which we can all be very proud.

As we are reaching the end of the year we are in the midst of our planning for 2015 and beyond. The teaching staff have been working together to consider our goals for the next three years and how we

can improve the learning of the boys. I have also started talking to the boys about their opinions for improvement and have consulted with the P&C and SRC about their thoughts. Over the coming weeks you will receive a survey asking you about your thoughts about the school. We will also be contacting parents and offering you the opportunity to come to the school and give us your thoughts about our strengths and the areas that we could improve. We really value your ideas and will use this information to inform our planning over the next three years. I urge you to participate in this process so that we can deliver the best possible education for your son.

I look forward to getting to know the wider school community over the coming year. I wish everyone a restful and safe holiday period.

Dwayne Hopwood

Principal







## Here we decide

Here we stand just as one  
Learning at Ashfield is more than fun  
Here we stand as solid as a rock  
It doesn't matter if we're in B, E or in G block

We support each other in everything we do  
We love Music, TAS and Languages too  
History, Geography and practical Science  
Maths, Drama and Art we absorb on reliance

Commerce and Business support Legal Studies  
Physics and Chemistry are two best buddies  
It may be Autumn, Summer, Winter or Spring  
Sport at our school is the most beautiful thing

Our vintage buildings symbolise our past  
The time we live in is moving so fast  
Every brick of every room would proudly acknowledge  
All our students have been enriched with knowledge

Our evergreen trees have thousands of ears  
They've listened to our young hearts for so many years  
They embrace countless innocent stories  
And whisper them to the universe as eternal glories

Here we stand here we decide  
Here we stand full of pride  
Here we stand honoured and united  
Our lives have been enriched and enlightened

Sasha Calic  
PD/H/PE Teacher / Sports Coordinator

## Deputy Principal's Report – Linda Henry



**If you are a Zombie all you want is a brain, but you need intelligence to survive the Zombie Apocalypse...**

Year 10 teams are currently engaged in surviving a Zombie Apocalyptic scenario at ABHS.

A virus under development in government laboratories in an undisclosed country has been released by a disgruntled Scientist. As the Zombie virus spreads, our teams find themselves trapped in a variety of different locations and environments around the world and will need to devise a strategic plan in order to survive the brain-eating Zombies.

Teams are composed of students from across the Year 10 classes and are working collaboratively to develop an initial survival plan, a two month thrive guide and design a dwelling that is both sustainable and zombie-proof.

This project is developing a range of skill sets from across the curriculum areas including: engineering, design, planning, maths, science/sustainability, research, numeracy and literacy. Teams are focussing on collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, problem solving and communication. A wide variety of both PC and iPad technology is being used with some students designing their dwellings in Minecraft.

Teams are required to include a community link within their project to connect with authentic organisations who deal with survival and emergency situations. Community teams from the Police, Scouts and Rural Fire Service have visited the school to share their expert knowledge. Teams are also researching and accessing community blogs and sites to gain a further insight. Some teams are Skyping our Australian Antarctic Scientists and NASA scientists to better understand how they survive and live sustainably in a harsh environment.

An invitation will be forthcoming to our Year 10 parents for the Zombie teams exhibition on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December.

## Year 7 – iMovie Festival

Year 7 students have been working on the iMovie project developing their skills in the dramatic arts, narrative writing, iPad technology and film making. The students worked in groups within their teams to create a short film based on one of the following topics:

- It's a dog's life
- 1853
- Stuck
- Falling

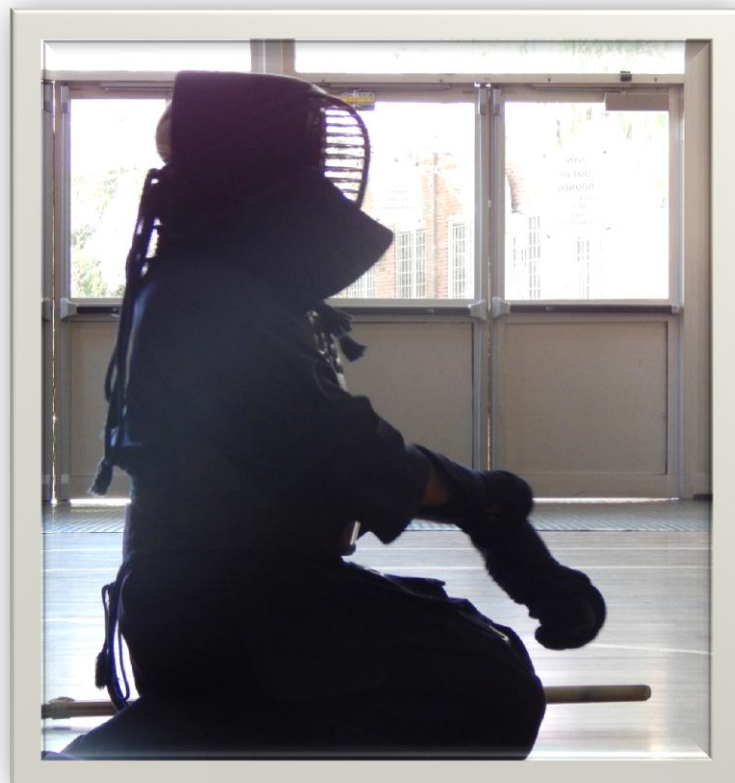
Their innovative work was screened at our iMovie festival evening which was a great success! Year 7 students also designed and published the DVD cover. The DVD is available for sale for \$2. Many thanks to Event Cinemas Burwood for donating the popcorn and prizes.



## High Resolves Culture Fest – 2014

The 2014 Culture Fest was organised by our Year 10 High Resolves team. These students participated in a Leadership program and devised the Culture Fest idea to promote Social Inclusion. The team worked hard throughout the Year to organise all the fun and fantastic events of the day.

This included a morning assembly, a great range of activities such as Tai Chi, Chinese drumming, Indigenous art, Islander dancing and many more exciting cultural activities. This was followed up by a Food Festival and finally a concert, showcasing the amazing talent and cultural backgrounds of our students. The day was enjoyed by all and proved to be a fun, creative and educational experience for all those involved.



## Welfare News

**Vaccinations** have been completed for this year, with Years 7 and 9 both having the new HPV immunisation and Year 7 having had dPta and Varicella. All students were also offered the MMR vaccination. Students who did not have the vaccinations can also arrange to have them at their local doctors. Next year, it will only be Year 7 receiving vaccinations.

**Eyecare** - Many students have taken the opportunity to have their eyes tested via the Eyecare program which has been running in Term 4. All students receive a report at the end of their appointment with the optometrist recommending further treatment for those who show need.

**Peer Support** - Year 9 students who are interested in being a Peer Support leader next year will be invited to a training day towards the end of term. This will be geared towards providing them with the insight and the practical skills to become a leader of others, in this case Year 7 of 2015.

**Rewards Excursion** - Many students have been working hard all year in order to qualify for the Rewards Excursion being held in December. 24 small Merit Awards across a good cross-section of areas earns students the right to go to either the cinema or *Wet 'n' Wild* for an enjoyable day out.

## Where have we been? What have we been doing?

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November students in the Year 10 Bridging Course travelled to Bondi to the *Sculptures by the Sea* exhibition. Many of the students were very excited, as this was the first time they were visiting an Australian Beach. It was a beautiful, sunny day and there were hundreds of sculptures to see.

An ESL guide gave the class a tour and explained the ideas and motivations for a dozen of the sculptures. Students were fascinated by the complexity of ideas and meanings. They found many of the sculptures interesting and were delighted to be able to touch and experience the sculptures.

Each of the students had a favourite sculpture.

*"My favourite sculpture was 'The Last Resort' by Frank Veldze and Suzanne Donisthrope. This sculpture had a shape like a palace; it was made from bed springs and painted in yellow. We were able to sit in the dome and it was comfortable". Jason Vo*

*"My favourite sculpture was David Cerny's 'Babies Three Piece'. The bodies were made of copper and were bigger than a car. They did not have faces. I thought the artist wanted to show us that children do not have an identity". Roy Lee*

*"My favourite sculpture was the whale that was made of wood. The detail of the skin and the view behind the whale was impressive to me. This artwork was called 'Breaching' and was site-specific, which means the background is needed for it to make sense." Tony Kim*

The students enjoyed the sculptures and spending the day at the beach.

*"I feel really happy about this excursion. Seeing the sculptures has helped increase my knowledge about visual arts". Jason Vo*







## **UNSW ICAS Mathematics and Computing Competitions 2014**

In Term 3, 21 students across Years 7 to 12 from Ashfield Boys High School entered this year's ICAS Mathematics Competition conducted by the UNSW. Every student is provided with an individual performance report.

Despite the lower than usual number of entrants, our success in the Mathematics competition is as follows: three Participation, ten Credits, seven Distinctions and one High Distinction. The High Distinction award was received by Garfield Qiu in Year 12.

Similarly and unfortunately, only seven students across Years 7 to 9 entered the Computing competition which was held in May this year. For this competition, one student, Xavier Broe of Yr 7 received a Credit and all other students were awarded a certificate of participation.

In addition, for both competitions, students received a merit certificate for their participation in the extra-curricular activities that our school offers.

On behalf of the Mathematics and Computing Faculty, congratulations to all participants and we hope that more students take up the challenge in 2015.

## English

Congratulations to the Year 8 Debating Team on reaching the Zone Final of the Premier's Debating Competition.

Jordan Nicolopoulos, as first speaker, repeatedly established our case lines with calm, confident assurance.

Zi Yu Zhang, our able second speaker, emerged over the competition as a most effective renderer of rebuttals and a dogged deliverer of our developing case lines.

Kishan Kharka, our incisive, insightful third speaker, consistently exposed the opposing team's case lines with his ruthless rhetoric.

This engine room of ideas was ably engineered by the brains trust of Kevin Lin and Galen Banfield who worked the team up into a lather of intellectual sweat as they raised issues, organised ideas and pinpointed rebuttal opportunities in the heat of debates.

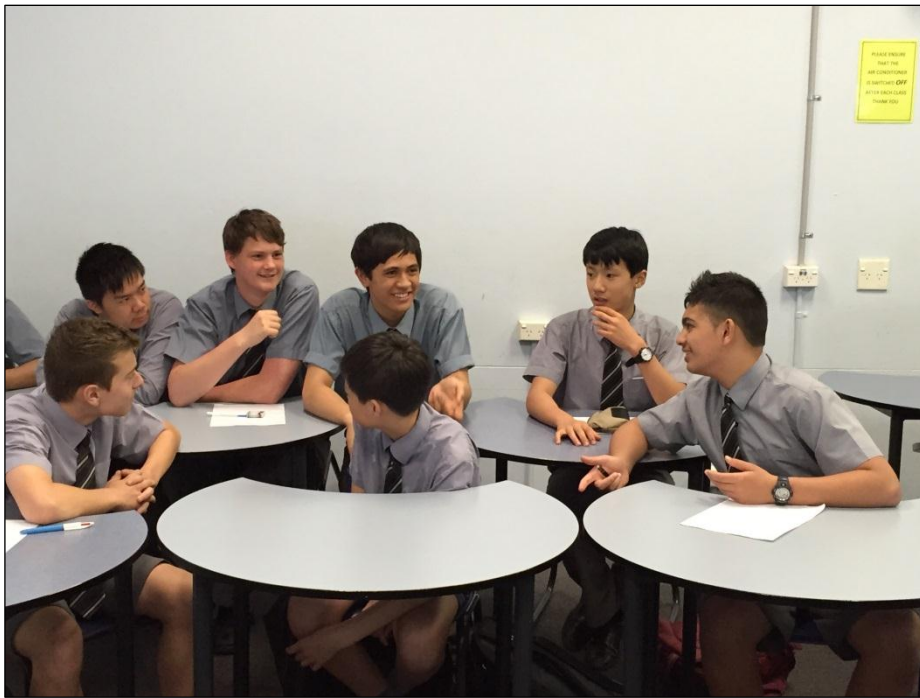
We won our two debates against Belmore Boys and then in a closely fought encounter just pipped G.R.C. Penshurst. This resulted in us meeting Sydney Boys in the Zone Final.

Although confident, as we had defeated this very team in the same competition last year, victory was snapped from our reach by the dreaded narrowing of the scope of the model of the affirmative. Ah yes, many a debating team has succumbed to the temptation of accepting the model rather than taking exception to it. Sadly we went down, but ultimately, we left the competition heads held high with a new respect for the power of the model.

## NSW Premier's Debating Challenge

This year, Ashfield Boys High School entered four teams into the NSW Premier's Debating Challenge. Our Year 8, 9 and 10 teams reunited once again to finely hone their debating skills and take on new challenges. The enthusiasm of the newly formed Year 7 team could not be underestimated as they challenged, questioned and argued their way to Round 3 of the competition. The Year 9 and 10 teams were tested on topics such as banning horse racing and legalising euthanasia, as well as challenging each other, with a result that Year 9 narrowly beat Year 10 in Round 3.

Ashfield's Debating Program has seen our keen debaters participate in the University of NSW's debating workshops in which students competed against various private and public schools. Usually debaters have one hour of preparation, but at the UNSW workshop, they were only given 30 minutes so this was a great opportunity for them to really refine their ideas, communication and preparation skills. Ashfield boys were also invited to participate in the inaugural virtual Grand Final of the NSW Premier's Debating Challenge. Through video link-up, students were able to see the debate, hear the adjudicator's summaries and make their own comments through an online portal.



## **Creative and Performing Arts News**

### **VET Entertainment**

On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November, three of our Year 11 Entertainment students attended a long, full day of Work Placement at the annual Public Schools NSW “Come Together” Festival at Town Hall. The boys were successful in being selected for placement and worked as stage crew for the event which showcased musical, dramatic and dance performances from artists from various public schools in NSW. Their working day began at 9am and they finished their final bump out at 10.30pm.

The students returned to school full of excellent reports about the experience, as they felt they gained a lot of new knowledge and insight into the Entertainment industry and the world of work. They also had a lot of fun and made some new friends!

Michelle Murphy, Arts Co-Ordination Officer at Public Schools NSW, sent an email to Ms Museth a few days after the Work Placement Experience, praising our boys for their performance and positive attitude. Her email states that....

“The boys were fantastic! All staff were very impressed with the way they conducted themselves and their solid work ethic. The boys worked mainly in the stage area and staff couldn't praise them highly enough. The boys were also willing to give a hand wherever they could. They were terrific ambassadors for your school.”

The organisers of the event have invited the students back to work at future events next year.

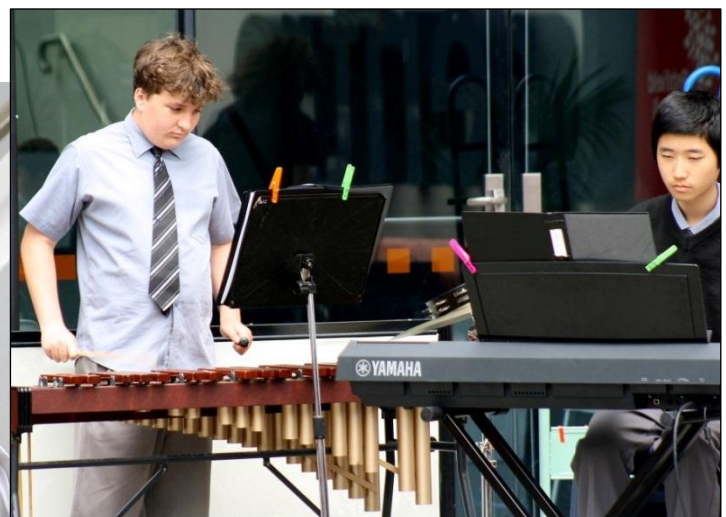
S. Museth

## **Creative Arts Night**

Congratulations to all the students who participated in Creative Arts Night 2014. This year we had a record number of acts from Years 7 to 11 and it was great to show parents and friends the wealth of talent present at Ashfield Boys' High School. Year 9 Elective Drama performed, compered and fulfilled the backstage duties and I would like to thank them for the smooth and professional running of the show. We also had acts from Year 7 and 10 Drama, Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 Elective Music, the Concert and Stage Bands and an exhibition of works from Visual Arts students. The Year 11 Entertainment class planned, organised and implemented the lighting and sound which was commended by a number of audience members. Thanks to the Year 11 Hospitality students who provided the most delicious cupcakes for the evening. I would also like to show my appreciation to the Creative and Performing Arts staff members who rehearsed and prepared their students for the event. A number of other staff were involved or were members of the audience; thank you. Lastly, we very much appreciate the support of family and friends and those that attended on the evening. We wouldn't have a show without you.

Tracy Small

Head Teacher Creative and Performing Arts







## Social Science News

Market Day; the annual event when the students are given the opportunity to let their inner-entrepreneur shine. The rules are simple. You think of an idea. You sell that idea. You make as much turnover as possible. Easy. That's what I thought when our Year 10 Commerce class was notified that it was our year to partake in the hugely successful event. The buzz of excitement filled the air as groups quickly assembled and as strategies were cunningly devised to attain that competitive edge. We all knew the drive in the gears behind the sudden and unusual display of

work ethic across the class.

### MONEY...

The prospect of earning cool, hard cash was one that appealed to us all, and how hungry we were for it!

So all was well. We had our ideas planned out and we were ready to get to work. What we weren't ready for, however, were the arduous number of hours to be spent contacting local businesses for resource supplies, the stress that would come with the constant revisiting of the drawing board after a failed idea, and, finally, the \*gasp\* hard work involved with the realisation that there was a lot to do in very little time.

My own small partnership, comprising of Geonwoo Lee, Jaejung Sim, Haneol Mun, and myself, made the decision to sell Asian food. Fortunately, the majority of my group's members had an Asian background, the food we were selling was easily accessible. The stress that came with ensuring that we were well-prepared for the day of selling was overwhelming, and although we did make minute mistakes along the way, it was all in the name of learning and we were grateful that we had such great teachers and helpers to guide us along the way. (Special thanks to Ms. Smit, Ms. Zimaras, Ms. Gorton and Ms. Bell-Paige!)

As expected, the day of selling was strenuous. Observing the other groups around me, I could tell that they were as scared out of their wits as I was (to my secret satisfaction). What I was glad to see, however, was that our group was the quickest to sell out! The relief we experienced could not be described with words. It also turned out that we had made a profit margin far greater than we had initially hoped for. Indeed it was a good day!

Overall, Market Day was phenomenal. As I look back on it now, I realise that the stress and frustration was all part of the experience. I would not trade it in for any other! I look forward to seeing the future Market Days to come and I recommend you to participate in it should you ever encounter the opportunity.

Logan Tuara (Year 10 Commerce Student)



## Youth Eco Summit

At the beginning of Term 4, Year 7 attended an excursion to the Youth Eco Summit at the Sydney Olympic Park. Despite the hot weather it turned out to be a wonderful day out.

At approximately 9 am, we all boarded the bus that would take us to our destination - Sydney Olympic Park. We first attended the Aboriginal Bush Tent where we learnt how to create a Didgeridoo. The Year Sevens walked around the Summit where we got to view students from other schools running their own store. We also learnt about solar cars and the Parramatta River. The highlight of the excursion for me was when we got to go in front of a green screen and got to be a weather man. On behalf of the Year 7 group we would like to thank Ms Smit, Ms Burns, Mr Chatwin, Mr Phillips, Ms Sarroff and Ms Zhang.

Daniel Lahood 7B





## A Mural for the Prince

On 17<sup>th</sup> October, myself and the rest of the Sustainability Team plus the teachers were given the task of coming up with a mural for the wall next to the uniform shop in the G Block.

The mural had to be “simple yet attractive”.

Ms Boshell came up with the idea of the abstract composition of triangles, which fulfilled the criteria of simple yet attractive, and makes sense when looking at it from any angle. Ms Jovicic and some other teachers set about preparing the wall for our painting days. Ms Quach employed her precision taping techniques and was there for each painting session all along the way.

I am really grateful to Ms Quach, Ms Cao, Ms Boshell, Ms Jovicic and Mrs El-Rakshy for starting the painting during their free periods. Then the students, including myself, Gordon Luong, Joseph Demasi, Daniel Arango, Joshua Fendy, George Fernandez, Jordan Nicolopoulos, Vincent Sham, Christian Triulzi-McNee and Kishan Kharka joined the working of the mural as school finished.

The painting sessions were quite enjoyable. They were well organized by Mrs El-Rakshy who kept us on a tight rotation of either painting or gardening, ensuring we all were able to contribute to the mural as well as our regular maintenance of the G Block garden.

On behalf of everyone who helped paint, we would like to give a big thanks to Ms Jovicic who was behind the scenes in the planning of this mural; organizing all the paints and materials which we would need. Also, thanks to Peter Zhou who painted the wall white to prepare it for the mural. Another big thanks to Ms Boshell, Ms Quach, Ms Cao, Mrs El-Rakshy for supporting us (the students) whilst we painted the wall, and finally, thanks to all of my fellow students who helped out and made it really fun.

In future we feel positive and enthusiastic about a project to paint the rest of the G Block ground floor. Also, I personally feel quite glad and happy when we have been given recognition for what we've done and produced as a team. It's actually a really worthwhile time to spend after school as it was really enjoyable and I'd recommend it to any other student who wants to help us out or just to have some fun...

-Pranujan Pathmendra (Year 9)





## UNSW Zombie Hunt Excursion

On the last day of Term 3, selected Year 9 students participated in a Zombie Apocalypse excursion to the Museum of Human Diseases, at the University of New South Wales with Ms Tahan.

All the students were on time nice and early at 8.30am; all excited for the trip ahead. First aid kits all packed up, rolls marked and off we went on a bus to the University of New South Wales.

Upon arrival, the staff at the Museum welcomed all of us. The students were then escorted to a lecture hall. Students were motivated and ready to take on whatever task was ahead of them.

UNSW staff presented a power point on some pathological conditions that can lead to zombie-like symptoms. Our students also observed human pathological specimens and were educated about common diseases affecting Australians.

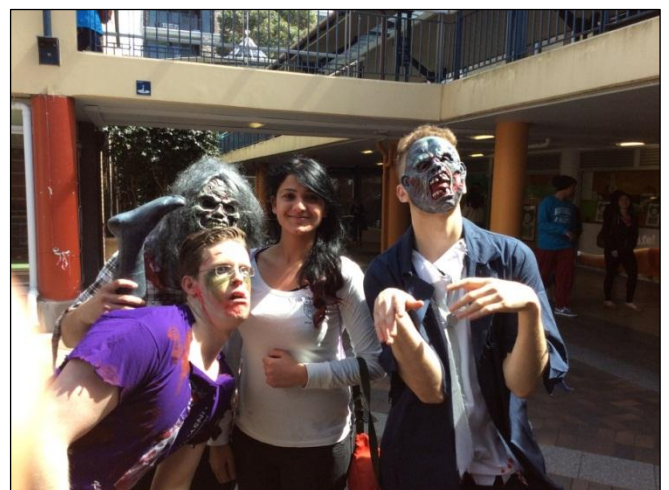
After this briefing, the students then received an activity booklet. In this activity booklet was a map that the students could use so that they could locate certain information from one block of the UNSW campus.

The most exciting part of the day was the hunt for zombies and information in the campus. Students used a variety of skills, including geography skills so that they could locate information needed to complete their booklet.

Students had a lot of fun taking photos with zombies and locating them. Our students proved to be the most successful for locating information, since our students were competing with students from other schools.

Finally, after lunchtime, students went inside to the Museum and completed work on many different pathological specimens. Unfortunately, photos were not allowed in this area, as many of the specimens were delicate and sacred to the museum.

Ms Tahan- Science/Mathematics teacher





## Do you have a spare bed?

Can you welcome an exchange student into your home as a volunteer host family with AFS?



### Can you host Airl from Japan?

**Age:** 16  
**English:** Fair  
**Interests:** Tennis, Playing the piano, skiing and playing the flute

"I decided to study abroad in Australia because living in different cultures makes me broaden my horizon. I will be able to solve a lot of problems from various perspectives by myself."



### Can you host Rafael from Brazil?

**Age:** 15  
**English:** Good  
**Interests:** Traveling, photography, trekking, swimming, walking

"I'm very curious. I enjoy making new friends and learning about different cultures. I really admire the potential and the life quality of the developed countries, and want to be a part of it."



### Can you host Hanna from Germany?

**Age:** 17  
**English:** Good  
**Interests:** Music, dragon boating, swimming, Zumba and cooking

"I applied because I want to learn about different cultures, meet people from all around the world, make experiences that will stay with me forever, and of course get much better with my English."



Somewhere in another country a young person has the opportunity of a lifetime to come to Australia. Imagine that student becoming part of your family.

Each year hundreds of Australian families volunteer to open their home and hearts to an AFS participant. They are rewarded with precious long-lasting friendships.

On February 6 2015 AFS will be welcoming over 70 students and volunteers from across the globe to experience the Australian way of life and either attend a local high school or volunteer at a local community organisation.

Can your family host one of the above students? If so, we'd love to hear from you!

**For more information on how you can become an AFS Volunteer Host Family please contact the AFS Hosting Team:**

**Phone:** 1800 023 982 **Email:** [aus.hosting@afs.org](mailto:aus.hosting@afs.org)

**Website:** [www.afs.org.au/host](http://www.afs.org.au/host)