

## Principal's Report

At The Forest High School we have had a really positive start to the 2015 school year. I extend a warm welcome to everyone, particularly new staff and students. I hope you all had a restful and productive holiday.

### Staffing update

A number of new staff have commenced at The Forest this year. Ms. Denise Wright has been appointed Deputy Principal, as Mrs. Jane Dean retired at the end of last year. We were sad to farewell Mrs. Dean, but very excited to have such an experienced Deputy appointed to the school. Ms. Wright brings a wealth of curriculum knowledge and skill to the position, having six years' experience as a Deputy in regional schools and four years' experience with the Board of Studies.

Two new Head Teachers have joined to staff; Mrs. Karen Gourlay was appointed Head Teacher Mathematics, replacing Mr. David Sizeland who retired this year after almost six years at the school and Ms. Sue Warnes was appointed as Head Teacher Support. Three new classroom teachers have been permanently appointed; Mr. John Brennan in HSIE, Mr. Leslie Pitt in PD/H/PE and Miss Dorothy Lee, Support Teacher. Additionally we welcomed Mrs. Leah Barry, Mathematics and Mr. Peter Hamilton, HSIE back from leave and four temporary teachers have joined us, Mr. James Moore and Mrs. Roz Beaver in Music, Mrs. Judy Spicer in Languages and Mr. Graeme Smith in TAS. All these teachers add a depth of skill and knowledge to our school.

### Properties update

Our 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning room, that was completed at the end of 2014, is successfully up and running and is proving to be a very popular teaching and learning space. In addition to being spacious, bright and colourful, the space provides access to innovative technology in a flexible environment that allows for collaborative as well as individual learning. The room will be showcased for new parents at our next P&C meeting.



Refurbishment of the Hall change rooms and toilets is underway and will provide new amenities for students and the community. Two new outdoor learning and leisure areas are under construction for the students behind D Block and near the basketball courts. The court fencing is also being replaced and new landscaping has been added to several areas of the

school. Additionally eight classrooms will be repainted and carpeted in the next holidays.

### **Hospital and roads update**

Discussions with Health Infrastructure and RMS are continuing and I hope to have diagrams and photographs ready to display this term. RMS will be undertaking remediation work to the school car parks and making improvements and enhancements to our grounds. These works will significantly improve the infrastructure of the school.

We continue to have an excellent relationship with Health Infrastructure with opportunities for regular, ongoing consultation. We hope to form some strong curricular and extra-curricular links with the hospital, which will significantly enhance opportunities for our students.

### **Upcoming events**

There will be a Year 11 and 12 Motivational Evening on Wednesday 11 February from 6:00 pm to 7:30. I strongly encourage all seniors to attend. Important motivational and Board of Studies information will be provided and students will have an opportunity to meet Year 12 graduates who have commenced their university and TAFE studies.

“Meet the Principal” is scheduled for 9:00 am 23 February and our Open Night will be held 4 March at 6:00 pm. GATS testing for the 2016 Year 7 class is scheduled for Saturday 14 March from 9 am to 11:30 am and 16 March from 4 – 6:15 pm in the school hall. Please call the school for further information.

Also coming up this term are:

- Swimming Carnival 27 February
- School photographs, 12 March
- Visit from our sister school in Japan, Chiba Keiai High School, 20- 27 March.
- Parent/Teacher interviews for 3+3, 25 February and Parent/Teacher for Years 7 – 10, 24 March 3:30 – 6:00 pm.
- Year 7 Camp 25 – 27 March.
- 3+3 Preliminary Examinations 26 March – 2 April
- Cross Country 2 April

Rosemary McDowall  
Principal

## **Deputy Principal’s Report**

It is good to be back at school with the students straight back into their studies. I would like to welcome Year 7 students and their families to The Forest High community and really hope that you make the most of all the wonderful offerings at the school.

Mrs Hawling, the Year 7 coordinator for 2015 has done a wonderful job in making sure that Year 7 students settle into high school life with the minimum of fuss. Thank you also to Ms Walsh, the new Peer Support Leader, who with Year 10 Peer Support leaders have commenced the Peer Support program for Year 7 students. This program assists in the settling in process and gives Year 7 students information about the school as well as how to have productive relationships at school.

This week the Year 7 welcome dance was held in the school hall. The Hawaiian theme night was organized by the SRC assisted by Ms Murray. Students appeared to be having a great time and the teachers who attended to supervise on the night also got into the spirit wearing Hawaiian themed dress.

Congratulations to students who have commenced the year wearing their school uniform with pride. The school uniform identifies students in the community and we appreciate the positive feedback about our students being responsible community members. A reminder that school shoes need to be black leather with no white or coloured soles or markings. Also as the weather starts to cool down, school jumpers and jackets are the correct items of school uniform to be worn and may be purchased through our clothing pool. Please note that hooded jackets are definitely not part of the school uniform at any time of the year.

Next Wednesday evening, 11<sup>th</sup> February, senior students have been invited to attend a 3 + 3 Motivation evening. This evening is designed to present strategies to students that will assist them in balancing their home, school, work commitments, as well as giving valuable information on planning and goal setting, important BOSTES information and discussion with past Year 12 students who may be able to pass on wisdom from their experience. We strongly advise that students come along as every strategy for wellbeing and learning assists in students achieving their personal best.

Coming up before the end of the month is 3 + 3 VET Work Placement and also the annual school swimming carnival.

Cathy Thompson  
Deputy Principal

## **PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS**

Appointments for the 2015 Parent and Teacher interviews may be booked online. They will be held as follows:

### **3+3 Preliminary Course students – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> Feb from 3.30pm – 6.00 pm**

Bookings will be open from Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 9.00am

Bookings will close on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February at 9.00am

**EVENT CODE: WA956**

### **Years 7 & 10 – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March from 3.30pm – 6.00 pm**

Bookings will be open from Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 9.00am

Bookings will close on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 9.00am

**EVENT CODE: AQD7W**

### **3+3 HSC Course students – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June from 3.30pm – 6.00pm**

Bookings will open from Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June at 9.00am

Bookings will close on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June at 9.00am

**EVENT CODE: 9K9KV**

### **Years 8 & 9 – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July from 3.30pm – 6.00 pm**

Bookings will be open from Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June at 9.00am

Bookings will close on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July at 9.00am

**EVENT CODE: VHKZ**

### **To book your Parent and Teacher Interview online, please follow these instructions:**

Go to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and follow the instructions.

Enter the relevant school event code.

1. Enter your details
2. Choose teachers
3. Choose times

When you click *finish*, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically – **check your** junk email immediately.

You can return to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) at any time, and change your interviews – until the bookings close.

Ed Louey  
Head Teacher Administration

## SCHOOL DANCE

The 4<sup>th</sup> February saw the Welcome Back Dance host a colourful crowd as we danced in the new school year. Everyone took on board the Hawaiian theme – even our wonderful DJ Elliot. Proceeds from the evening will go towards future SRC initiatives for the school. The SRC would like to thank those who supported the dance, and thank the teachers who volunteered their time to help them.







## NSW SCHOOL VACCINATION PROGRAM - 2015

Each year NSW Health works in partnership with schools to offer the vaccines recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) for adolescents as part of the school vaccination program.

In 2015 the following vaccines will be offered:

### **Year 7 students\***

- dTpa vaccine (Diphtheria, Tetanus & Pertussis (whooping cough) as a single dose
- Varicella vaccine (chickenpox) as a single dose; and
- Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine in a 3-dose schedule at 0, 2 and 6 months (***students who commence HPV vaccination in Year 7 but do not complete the course may be offered catch-up doses at school in Year 8***)

### **Year 11-12 students\***

- Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) vaccine as a single dose as part of a catch-up vaccination program for students who are not fully protected.

*\* The Parent Information Kits contain a consent form, information sheet and privacy statement that details how personal information will be collected, stored and utilised. Parent Information Kits will be sent home to parents/guardians. To consent to the vaccination of their child, parents/guardians are advised to:*

- read all the information provided
- complete the consent form, including signing their name next to the vaccine/s they would like their child to receive
- return the completed consent form to their child's school
- ensure that their child eats breakfast on the day of the school vaccination clinic.

Parents/guardians who wish to withdraw their consent for any reason may do so by writing to the school Principal or phoning the school. The Procedure for Withdrawal of Consent is available on the NSW Health website at [www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation).

**Students who miss being vaccinated due to absence, will be offered any doses they have missed as the opportunity arises during the year.**

Please note that for HPV vaccine only, parents/guardians must record their Medicare Number (all 10 digits and the 11th number beside the child's name) on the consent form, as this is required to record the student's information on the National HPV Vaccination Register and (for female students only) link to the National or State Cervical Screening Program.

**A Record of Vaccination will be provided to each student vaccinated at each clinic. Parents/guardians should ensure that this record is kept for future reference and should not assume that their child has been vaccinated if they do not receive this Record of Vaccination**

## **School Buses 2015**

To search for possible school services which may be available to your child, please follow the steps to access timetables and maps of all school services for The Forest High School.

Enter the Sydney Buses website – [www.sydneybuses.info](http://www.sydneybuses.info)

Click on the School Routes link

Select the school (The Forest High School) and then click on the Show school routes tab

Review map and list of School services and click on School Service route for timetable information. Details of the trip can be found here including timetable, map, days of operation and additional info such as trip restrictions, where applicable.

A new school pass application is required when a student changes name, school and/or address.

### **COMMUNITY NEWS**

The Lions Youth Exchange Program gives Australian youth aged 16-21 years the opportunity to live with Lions families overseas during their end-of-year summer holidays. Click [here](#) for further details.

### **AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CADETS NO. 305 SQUADRON RECRUITING NOW**

Click [here](#) for further information

Forestville Ferrets Rugby League - click [here](#) for registration dates.

ADHD Support Group

Click [here](#) for 2015 meeting dates

NSW Health Parenting courses. Click [here](#) for further information.

Forest Fun Run - 22 March

Click [here](#) for further details

School road signs. Please observe the road signs around the school as the traffic inspectors are around at this time of the year. Do not drop your student off outside the school at the bus stop - drop them off in the turning circle. Click [here](#) for further information.