

## Principal's Report

### Language Proficiency Scholarship

Our congratulations go to Samantha Combes, our German and Japanese language teacher who has been awarded a Language Proficiency Scholarship, which is offered to teachers of German world-wide. The scholarship, valued at almost 3000 Euros, is awarded by the German Government through the Goethe-Institut. It includes four weeks tuition, accommodation, two meals a day and a travel allowance. The classes will be entirely in German with teachers from all over the world, many of whom will not speak English. The Goethe-Institut language course scholarship program is supported by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Canberra.

### Met-North Regional Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG) Achievement Awards 2016

Lee Chaloner, PD/H/PE Teacher and Supervisor of Girls will receive a Teacher Award for Contribution to Aboriginal Education and senior student, Breallan Lack, will receive a Secondary Student Award at the AECG Awards Ceremony on the 7th November. Our congratulations go to both these recipients.

### 2015 World Teachers Day Recognition Awards - Australian College of Educators (ACE) North Harbour Ku-rin-gai Region

Seven teachers from The Forest High School were nominated for the 2015 World Teacher Day Recognition Awards, which they received at a ceremony at Mosman High School on 29th October. Congratulations go to Cathy Thompson, Ben Goldsmith, Clare Diggins, Hannah Wiltshire, Janet Richards, Joel Wood and Michelle Garnett for their contributions to The Forest High School community.



## **2015 Executive Conference**

Executive and teachers, who attended The Forest High School 2015 Executive Conference in October, undertook six modules of a course, *Growth Coaching for Leadership*, which counts toward maintaining Australian Professional Standards for Lead Accreditation. Growth Coaching International, who delivered the course, cover every state and territory in Australia, New Zealand the United Kingdom. The presenters are experienced, passionate people with experience in coaching and facilitation that is complemented by their educational background and desire to enhance the quality of conversations in schools. Everyone who attended found the course to be of great value. I thank Cathy Thompson, Joel Wood and the Professional Learning Team for their organisation of the conference.

## **Year 7 2016 Orientation Day**

Thursday 3rd December is Orientation Day for all students commencing high school in 2016. We look forward to welcoming Year 6 students from across a number of primary schools in the Northern Beaches. Orientation will commence at 8:45am and finish at 12:15pm

## **Year 12 Graduation and Formal**

The final celebration and farewell of Year 12 2015 will occur at the Year 12 Graduation on 18th November at 4:30pm. Year 12 will depart for their formal after the ceremony. It has been a huge pleasure working with Year 12 over the last six years. They are an outstanding group of young people and we will miss them. I thank Alex Castle for her strong leadership and organisation of the graduation and formal arrangements.

## **Presentation Night**

Presentation Night is scheduled for 8th December at 7:00pm. Please join us in celebrating the achievements of our students in 2015.

## **School Development Days**

The last two days of this term, 17th and 18th December, are designated pupil free, school development days. The focus of the two days will be differentiation including: assessing creativity and gifted and talented through sharing current practices. Parents interested in attending one or both days should notify the office for catering purposes.

## **Band Tour**

Photographs and reports are coming in from The Forest High School Band, which is currently touring Tasmania. I congratulate Ben Goldsmith, the teachers, directors and the students for the success of this outstanding tour. We look forward to a full report in the next newsletter.

**Rosemary McDowall, Principal**



The Forest High School Concert Band in Cataract George, Launceston, Tasmania

## Deputy Principal's Report

In this newsletter item I want to concentrate on just a few of these things, hopefully to emphasise how students, teachers, SASS staff, parents and other members of the wider community work together to achieve our vision of Respect, Responsibility and Personal Best.

The Forest the school community prides itself on being active and involved in all aspects of school life – academic, leadership, cultural, sporting, community, and the list goes on. So far this term here a few highlights.

- The School Concert Band is touring on its annual trip away, sharing the inspiring talent of our students with communities in Tasmania. Mr Goldsmith, Mr Juric and the band leader Ms Luu are accompanying 44 students from the band on this trip
- Year 9 Peer Support training was held for all Year 9 students, close to 200 students. Under the watchful eye of Ms Walsh students participated in the training over two days guided by 14 teachers who were trained in the process. Students have been asked to nominate if they wish to go further in this process and be considered for the role of Peer Support Leaders in 2016 to support Year 7 students who are enrolling in high school for the first time
- Year 10 students have had a full program over the last two weeks. Work Experience for the students was organised by the Career Adviser Mr Mansell and well over 100 Year 10 students participated in this program. Motivation Week is a week-long program for all Year 10 students and this program covers mandatory DoE curriculum units of *Crossroads* and *All My Own Work* as well as many other student-focused activities. Ms Power, Ms Chaloner, Ms Stubbs, Mr Mansell and Mr Wood have all been crucial to the organisation of this program along with PDHPE teachers and others who have provided teacher support for this program
- This week Mr Wood is delivering a special Gifted and Talented program to students in 7 White. The focus will be working collaboratively across curriculum areas on a project-based learning task

- Last Thursday, 29 October, was World Teachers Day and on Friday at our regular coffee morning, Senior Executive hosted a special morning tea to celebrate the fabulous work teachers at The Forest are involved in each and every day of the school year.

It goes without saying that the support students and teachers get from our SASS staff across the school is crucial to the school and we thank all of these wonderful people for their continued support.

**Cathy Thompson, Deputy Principal**



The Forest High School Concert Band performance, Tasmania Band Tour

## The new Forest High School Website

The new Forest High School website is now up and running with a brand new, updated format. The new website address is [www.theforest-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.theforest-h.schools.nsw.edu.au) so add this to your favourites, although you will still be redirected from the old website address for the time-being. If you search for The Forest High School in your search engine (google, bing etc) you will notice that the **old website address** appears at the top of the list. You will need to scroll down to the 6th or 7th listing for our new website.

The website has a wide range of information on and links to all aspects of school life including curriculum/activities; school calendar; newsletters; latest news & features; student & parent portal, online payments plus a gallery of photos of school events.

## Rollover and New Timetable

**Rollover** to the new academic year is on Monday 9th November. Rollover means all year groups progress to the next year eg: Year 7 becomes Year 8 on Monday 9th November. This change is to ensure that 3+3 students studying to their HSC in the compacted curriculum model meet the BOSTES requirements for senior study.

**New Timetable and Bell Times.** On 9th November The Forest High School is moving to a 5 period day. Each period will be 60 minutes and will replace the 4 period day of 75 minutes. This change has occurred after consultation with staff at the school and the SRC as well as with members of the

P&C. Students will be issued with their new timetable which will reflect these changes.

[Click here for new bell times from 9th November](#)

## 2015 Caltex Best All Rounder Award

Congratulations to Holly Mason in Year 12 who has been named as The Forest High School's recipient of the 2015 Caltex Best All Rounder Award, one of Australia's most prestigious secondary school prizes. Holly joins a select group of secondary students around Australia who have received a Caltex Best All Rounder Award for excellence in their studies, on the sportsfield and for their work in the community.

Now in its 30th year, the Caltex Best All Rounder Award is one of Australia's best-loved secondary education recognition programs. It has been presented to thousands of final-year students, acknowledging their all-round contributions to their schools and communities. Participation has grown steadily. Last year, around 75% of all secondary schools in Australia took part.

- **Academic** – achieves scholastically across a range of subjects
- **Attitude** – willing to help others; makes selfless contributions
- **Personal conduct** – exemplary at all times
- **Leadership** – a role model for other students
- **Service** – participates in school and community activities
- **Sport** – represents the school without necessarily being a champion



Holly Mason, Year 12

Caltex Australia Managing Director and CEO Julian Segal said Caltex said he was proud to have recognised generations of students like Holly since the awards began in 1985 and congratulated the award recipients and wished them well as they move into the next phase of their lives.

Holly joins an exclusive list of Caltex Best All Rounders to have been recognised over the past three decades. Past winners include children's show actor Emma Watkins (the current 'Yellow Wiggle') and Frisbee world-champion Adrian Gepp (PhD). For further information, please visit [www.caltexbestallrounder.com.au](http://www.caltexbestallrounder.com.au)

## **Changes to DEAR - Year 7**

During the last weeks of the year, starting the week of 9th November, Year 7 will be doing a common activity as part of their DEAR/Pastoral Care Program. This is part of the 'Turn the Page' Program we have been implementing this year in Year 8 and 9.

Three mornings a week the students will be involved in this program, centering around the book-poem titled 'To This Day', which deals with bullying in an original and entertaining way.

The author, Shane Koyczan, wrote the poem and then organised for a number of animators to make a video of the poem. The imagery in the poem and the message it gives is quite inspirational and thought provoking. I have listed the links to both the animated poem and also to a TED talk that Shane gave, where he explained the background to the poem and then recited it. I recommend both videos to all parents.

The links are listed below:

[https://www.ted.com/talks/shane\\_koyczan\\_to\\_this\\_day\\_for\\_the\\_bullied\\_and\\_beautiful?language=en#t-235353](https://www.ted.com/talks/shane_koyczan_to_this_day_for_the_bullied_and_beautiful?language=en#t-235353)

[http://www.slate.com/blogs/browbeat/2013/02/21/to\\_this\\_day\\_watch\\_video\\_about\\_bullying\\_based\\_on\\_shane\\_koyczan\\_poem\\_video.html](http://www.slate.com/blogs/browbeat/2013/02/21/to_this_day_watch_video_about_bullying_based_on_shane_koyczan_poem_video.html)

**Denise Wright, Deputy Principal**

## **Year 7 Report**

It has been a busy Term 4 for Year 7 as they finish off their subjects and begin to prepare for the rollover on Monday 9th November. I have had the pleasure of reading their reports and I am very impressed with the high level of achievement of all students. They have all worked very hard in the year and I hope they continue this into Year 8.

The rollover is a very important time at The Forest High School as it means Year 7 will move into a new academic year and become Year 8. This means a new timetable, new classes and new teachers. Students should be getting ready with new materials for their subjects and excited for the new challenges they are about to face.

Towards the end of the term, Year 7 will be participating in the Swim School Program, a fantastic way to learn about water safety. This is a worthwhile program that includes beach awareness and surf activities.

**Julian Floriano, Relieving Year 7 Adviser**

## **Year 8 Report**

Year 8 have been working hard over recent weeks to conclude the academic year and prepare for the start of Year 9. It is pleasing to see the majority of the year group striving for their personal best both academically and at Wednesday afternoon sports. This is an exciting time for Year 8 students as they will be starting elective classes for the first time when the rollover commences in Week 6. It can also be a challenging time as the workload and expectations steadily increase. We recommend all students take the time to note down important dates, such as assessment notifications, in their diaries. Similarly, getting into the habit of being attentive with note-taking in class will ensure that retention of acquired knowledge is being established early on in the academic year.

Year 8 students are also encouraged to start utilising the Sentral student portal and be regularly logging on to check for notifications. After the rollover teachers will be using Sentral to communicate homework requirements as well as posting assessment notifications. Students and parents can also use Sentral to communicate with teachers and are encouraged to do so.

Using web-based communication is an important part of life for our students and will continue to be an important aspect in their future education and work life. We encourage Year 8 to use the time they spend online in a positive way and have discussed issues relating to social media misuse at year meetings. The group has been reminded of the legal ramifications of misuse of social media as well as issues of privacy and ownership of images. We hope that having these discussions with our students will help them make important life choices in the future.

**Owen Carpenter, Relieving Year 8 Adviser**



## Year 9 Report

Last week Year 9 participated in Peer Support training. The training involved working together in small groups, leading each other through fun, team-building activities. Students learnt valuable leadership and communication skills that will be required to deliver the program to the Year 7 cohort in 2016. Year 9 students now have the opportunity to nominate themselves if they would like to be leaders and continue being involved in the program.

A big thank you to Mrs Walsh for running the Peer Support program and ensuring its success. I would also like to thank all the students who took part as they were very sensible and demonstrated outstanding leadership skills over the two days

**Michelle Garnett, Year 9 Adviser**



## Year 10 Report

The majority of Year 10 spent Week 4 experiencing life in the workforce. The feedback I have received from the Work Experience employers is that the students have had a good time and have conducted themselves with due propriety. Those students who were not able to organise Work Experience in time attended school for the week and were kept busy with work from each of the core subjects.

Week 5 is Motivation Week for Year 10. This will include the students' final involvement with the Reach Foundation. The workshop is designed to help them prepare for their senior studies and is called 'Goal Setting, Dreams and Motivation'. In addition, Year 10 will have a series of guest speakers and organisations coming to school to deliver a highly engaging program which will see them ready to start their Preliminary HSC courses in Week 6. One of the courses to be undertaken is: 'All My Own Work' which the students are required to complete by the Board of Studies before they start Year 11. On the last day of Motivation Week, the students will do their chosen wellbeing activity.



As previously mentioned, Year 10 will become Year 11 at the start of Week 6 (9<sup>th</sup> November). This means they should be wearing the senior uniform. Next term, they will choose the design of their senior jersey which should be ready for them to wear at the start of Term 2, 2016. Of course being seniors means that they will also start the last phase of their schooling at The Forest High School. Preliminary HSC courses start straight away and run to the end of Term 1, 2016. There will be assessment tasks due in most subjects before the end of the year. The HSC course will commence at the start of Term 2, 2016.

**Jason Millar, Year 10 Adviser**

## **Year 11 Report**

Congratulations to Year 11 who have now completed their first round of HSC examinations. We look forward to having you back in Week 6, Term 4, in your new positions as leaders of the school. We hope that you have been able to get some well-needed rest after your exams so that you can approach the start of your preliminary HSC courses with energy and enthusiasm.

Special thanks to the students who donated or participated in the Pub 2 Pub Charity Fun Run. The Forest High School was awarded 1st prize for the Schools Challenge. As a result, the Rotary Club of Brookvale are donating an extra \$2000 to our nominated charity, The Asylum Seeker Resrouce Centre.

**Chris Falkland, Year 11 Adviser**

## **Year 12 Report**

Congratulations The Year 12s have been busy sitting their HSC examinations over the past few weeks. They are to be congratulated on their hard work and their conduct during the examinations. Students are reminded that they must undertake the Clearance procedures on Monday 16th or Tuesday 17th November. A rehearsal for the Graduation is occurring on Tuesday 17th November at 12pm. This is a compulsory event that will prepare students for the ceremony. The Graduation starts at 4.30pm on Wednesday 18th November and I look forward to seeing everyone there to celebrate the end of high school and the achievements of students in the cohort.

**Alex Castle, Year 12 Adviser**

## **HSC Parent Information Night**

All Year 11 and 12 parents are invited to an HSC Information night on 24th November at 6.30pm. Students will have already had the information through an earlier meeting but they are more than welcome to come to the night as well. The aim of the night is to give parents valuable information regarding the HSC so that they can support their children as they go through the HSC year. There will be a number of presentations, including one on moderation, and there will be various handouts as well. Head teachers will be present if parents wish to ask questions. Design and Technology parents are especially asked to come as there will be specific information regarding the D&T project they need to know.

**Please contact Deputy Principal Denise Wright if you have any further questions.**

## **English Department**

### **Senior English Students**

Well done on your conduct in your final HSC English examinations! Those who are staying on with us for another year (Extension One and Two students) please touch base with your class teachers as soon as possible. Those students who have not yet returned their English text books, please do so immediately. The English Department must stocktake for the incoming Seniors in Week 6. Text books are expensive, and those students who do not return their books before rollover will find themselves (or their parents) receiving a bill to recoup the cost of the books borrowed.

### **Year 10 English for rollover**

Those students moving from Year 9 into Year 10 in Week 6 of this term need to be aware that there will be two Extension classes in Year 10. These classes will be split into single-sex arrangements. A letter will be sent to parents/carers to notify them of this if it is relevant to their child/ward. We look forward to preparing a majority of these targeted students for the Stage 6 *Advanced* English course in the future.

### **Farewell**

As this is the final English report for 2015, the English Department would like to farewell Mrs Alison Macdonald. Mrs Macdonald has only been with The Forest High School a short time in her long and successful career, but her presence across the English curriculum has been felt to a great extent. In particular, her work with the Stage 6 English Extension One students has been integral to our Faculty. We wish her a long, safe and exciting retirement. In other news, our Head Teacher English, Ms Levy, will be on maternity leave for Terms 1 and 2 of 2016.

### **English Writing Competitions Years 7-10**

Term Three's busy competitions schedule has proved to be successful for The Forest High School's diligent and capable English students. **Write 4 Fun!** announced that The Forest High School has 10 student entries who are progressing into the next round of their writing competition for 2015. **Write 4 Fun!** recognised The Forest High School with a Certificate of Excellence for outstanding writing. The competition received over 9000 entries, so this award is a real 'feather in the cap' for our students.



Write 4 Fun! participants L-R Megan Huston, Madelyn Shaw, Angela Brillantes

In addition, one staff entry, Mr Falkland, and 64 student entries have been recognised for their participation in the ***Red Room Poetry Competition*** for 2015.

Those who have progressed to the next stage are:

James B - for his poem *Kia Ora*

Ben C - for his poem *Pain and Gain*

Jacqui G - for her poem *The Black Upright*

Mr C Falkland (teacher category) - for his poem *Titanium*

This is the link to the library where you can search poems by school and see all the poems submitted by students (and Chris!) from The Forest High School. <http://redroomcompany.org/poetry-object/poems/?year=2015>

Such success and enthusiasm bodes well for the 2016 competition year, and we thank Mrs MacDonald (English Competitions Coordinator) and the English staff for working with students to submit entries for authentic learning and for creativity. Congratulations to all students who enter competitions!

### **7-10 CALLING ALL DEBATERS – EXPERIENCED AND FIRST TIMERS ARE ALL WELCOME!**

The Forest High School fielded two teams in ***The Premier's Debating Challenge*** during 2015. The school was represented by students from Years 7, 9 and 10. Students from Year 7 competed in the Year 7/8 competition and students from Years 9 and 10 in the 9/10 competition.

The Year 7 team, comprising Maddy S, Oscar H, Valdimir L, Jaz D and Naomi M, gained experience against strong teams from Normanhurst Boys High School and Asquith Girls High School. Debating students from Year 8 was a daunting task for our team and they maintained their composure, developing strong case lines and engaging with their opponents' arguments with skill and insight. The team coordinated their strategies and provided surprising and compelling reasoning on topics ranging from bullying to migration.

A combined group of Year 9 and Year 10 students faced some of the strongest teams in our region. The team members, Max T, Max D, Agata P, Lana H, Leeah B, Ariella O and Zali V, tackled topics that covered a range of important issues including animal welfare and the portrayal of women in the media. These students provided entertaining debates, drawing on their communication skills to explore ideas about social values. Facing teams from North Sydney Girl's High School and Turramurra High School, the students confronted these highly experienced teams with effective and challenging arguments.

The Forest High School have enjoyed the excitement of robust debate and established the school as a force to be reckoned with as debating develops in the school.

While the debating year has come to a close, Mr de Montfort is already working to gather a core debating group in preparation for our 2016 schedule, which includes a day trip to Sydney University for some lucky students. We encourage all students who are interested in learning the 'art of argument' to see Mr de Montfort now to register their interest.

### **YEAR 7-9 ROLLOVER**

Most nights, students have preparation for formal assessment work, class tasks and reading for English. There are four formal, across the year assessments in each junior cohort. There are also a number of class formative tasks to complete and submit, as set by individual English teachers. When students are up to date and organised, they may feel they do not "have any English homework". Parents can make positive contributions to their child's learning at these times – all junior students should be reading for at least 20 minutes per evening, beyond their class novel study. Parents are encouraged to purchase the *Successful English Grammar* books 1-3 at a discounted rate through our school office. These text books have graduated grammar activities that enhance the basic English skills of students in order for them to communicate effectively. For parents, the answers are accessible too! To order these books, or even just Book 1, please contact the front office. Setting up a study routine in reading and writing from roll over is strongly advised.

**Blae Levy, Head Teacher English**

## **Snapshot on Year 9 Visual Arts**

The Year 9 Visual Arts class has recently completed a unit of work – 'The Journey'.

Students worked in groups to brainstorm the topic and then collaborated to decide what their group 'Journey' would represent. Students then had to plan an individual work as a component of the group work, put their plans into action and at the end of the unit, display their work in a class exhibition and discuss their outcomes. The images of the works represented here tell about symbolic personal and spiritual journeys as well as a journey around aspects of a large urban community.

Well done Year 9 students.

**Cathy Thompson, Deputy Principal**



## Mathematics Department

### Australian Mathematics Competition

The Forest High School entered 60 students in the 38th annual Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC) sponsored by the Commonwealth Bank. Hundreds of thousands of students in primary and secondary schools from around 30 countries sat the AMC on 30th July. The AMC is a major school mathematics event encompassing an enrichment and problem-solving program. The AMC aims to promote the practical application of mathematics in an enjoyable way to the average student, often uncovering talent not seen in regular classroom tests. Students from Year 3 to Year 12 compete on the same day, making it one of the largest single events on the Australian education calendar and tests everything from basic numeracy skills through to advanced problem-solving.

Of the 60 students from The Forest High School:

- 1 received a Certificate of High Distinction
- 7 obtained a Distinction
- 26 achieved a Credit
- 23 received a Proficiency Certificate

All other students who competed received a Certificate of Participation and every entrant is provided with an individual performance report.

We would like to congratulate all these students on their participation and encouraging results.

**Kerry Wallace, Mathematics Competition Co-ordinator**

## Leadership Seminar

The Forest High School was excited to present a leadership seminar on Wednesday 14th October in our new learning centre. The event was run in conjunction with Health Infrastructure and Healthscope and the presenters were some of the senior executives in charge of the hospital project next to the school. The event was open to all students 7-12 and we had a great response from enthusiastic students who were more than happy to give up their afternoon to attend the valuable seminar. Feedback from students and the presenters was overwhelmingly positive and we look forward to offering more opportunities for rich and authentic learning as a result of our collaboration with Healthscope.

**Joel Wood, Head Teacher Teacher & Learning**





## U/15 Girls Netball

The U/15 girls Netball Knockout team travelled to Burwood Girls High School to start the competition. The girls won this game convincingly 35-15.

On Friday 23rd October they travelled to Gosford to continue their winning streak. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the team played one player down throughout the day. The first game, against Carlingford, was another big win, with the score coming to an impressive 59-21. As the day went on, the temperature continued to rise, as did their motivation to win their final game. It was a very close game against Brisbane Waters Secondary College (BWSC). During the first three quarters the score was extremely close, the girls still playing a player down. Unfortunately during the final quarter, BWSC came out on top.

This team displayed respect, responsibility and personal best throughout the entire competition and should be very proud of their efforts. Congratulations for making it so far!

**Hilary Page, Teacher**

## Online Payments

Our new Online Payments system is up and running. It is now possible for parents to make online payments to the school for amounts owing for students via a secure payment page hosted by Westpac. Payments can be made using either a Visa or MasterCard credit or debit card. The payment page is accessed from the front page of the school's website by selecting [\\$ Make a payment](#)

Items that can be paid include voluntary school contributions, subject contributions, excursions (excursions less than \$15 will not be available through this system) sales to students and creative and practical arts activities (these include Band, Drama and Dance). There is also a category called Other for payment of items not covered in the previous headings. Other can be used to make a complete payment of a school invoice.

When you access the [\\$ Make a payment](#) you must enter:

- the students name, and
- class and reference number OR
- the students name, and
- date of birth

These details are entered each time you make a payment as student information is not held within the payment system.

This is a secure payment system hosted by Westpac to ensure that your credit/debit card details are captured in a secure manner. These details are not passed back to the school. You have the ability to check and change any details of the payment before the payment is processed. Receipts can be emailed and/or printed.

Details of the payments are passed daily to the school where they will be receipted against your child's account. As a receipt has been issued from the payment page a further receipt will not be issued by the school. For any enquiries regarding the Online Payment process please contact the School Administration Office on 9451 5111.

## Term 4 2015 Events

Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> November	Year Rollover Whole School New timetable	
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> – Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> November	SRC Leadership Camp	
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> November	School Council 6pm P&C Meeting 7pm	
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> November	International Students Lunch	
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> November	SRC Candy Cane Drive	
Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Orientation Day	
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> December	SRC Candy Cane Drive	
Tues 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Presentation Night 7pm	
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Assembly End of Term 4 for students	
Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup> December	School Development Day Staff Only	
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> December	School Development Day Staff Only	
<b>Year 7</b>	Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> November, Tues 1 <sup>st</sup> & Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Swim School
<b>Year 9</b>	Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> & Tues 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 9 High Resolves
<b>Year 10</b>	Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> November – Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 10 Motivation Week
	Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 10 Fitness Leader – Museum of Human Disease, UNSW

	Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Year 10 High Resolves at UTS
<b>Year 11 &amp; 12</b>	Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> November	HSC Information Night 6.30pm
<b>Year 12</b>	Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> October – Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> November	HSC Exams
	Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> & Tues 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 12 Clearance
	Tues 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 12 Graduation Rehearsal 12pm
	Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 12 Graduation 4.30pm Year 12 Formal 7pm



The P&C had the pleasure of meeting in the Common Room that provides a second 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Space for students. It was great to see the funds that we provide to the school utilised so effectively. We also received presentations about NAPLAN results, High Resolves and the new Archaeological Pit.

Our next meeting will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December as the Year 12 Formal conflicts with our normal date of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. It will be a short meeting that then leads into Christmas Drinks to celebrate all the achievements for the year. All parents and teachers are welcome to come along and join in. Get to know other parents of the school and consider attending regularly next year to engage directly with the School Executive, have questions answered and hear about things students forget to mention.

The P&C wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday period if you are unable to come along on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December in the Library at 7pm.



## WHOOPING COUGH INFORMATION

There is an outbreak of whooping cough (pertussis) in NSW, mainly affecting school-aged children. Coughing spreads the infection to others nearby. Whooping cough can spread to anyone at home, including younger brothers and sisters. Whooping cough can be especially dangerous for babies. Whooping cough starts like a cold and progresses to bouts of coughing that can last for many weeks. The infection can occur even in fully-vaccinated children. Older children may just have a cough that is persistent and may be worse at night.

- Children with these symptoms should see a doctor
- If your doctor diagnoses whooping cough in your school-aged child, please let the school know and keep your child at home until they have taken 5 days of antibiotics. Keep coughing children away from babies.
- Whooping cough vaccines give good protection against infection but immunity fades with time. Check that all your children are up to date with their vaccines, due at 6 weeks, 4 months, 6 months, 4 years and 12 years of age (offered to all Year 7 students through the NSW school-based vaccination program). A booster is also recommended at 18 months of age.

A booster dose of vaccine is also recommended for adults that are in contact with young children, such as school staff and parents. Pregnant women are recommended to have a booster dose during each pregnancy and this is funded by NSW Health. Those who are new parents or carers of babies should consult their general practitioner about appropriate immunisation.

Your local public health unit can provide advice about whooping cough on **1300 066 055** or visit the NSW Health website: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/whoopingcough/pages/Information-for-childcare-and-schools.aspx>



## **SCHOOL OPAL CARD**

On Monday 2nd November Transport for NSW launched its new online application for relevant parents and students travelling in the Opal public transport region. Just like the current paper passes, the School Opal card gives eligible students free travel to and from school on school days. However, the School Opal card makes travel simpler as students will now not need multiple application forms and passes if they use different transport operators within the Opal network.

Students with school travel passes this year will not need to apply for a School Opal card unless they are changing schools, campus, their home address or moving from Year 2 to 3 or year 6 to 7.

Those students who do not need to apply will have a School Opal card sent to their school for the beginning of the first term in 2016.

The application can be found at [transportnsw.info/school-students](http://transportnsw.info/school-students)

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### ***Improving Dyslexic Children's Reading Abilities***

#### ***The Role of Video Games***

*The University of Sydney is running a study looking at improving reading ability in children with dyslexia using video games. The activities will be carried out at the University of Sydney for 11 days (90 minute sessions) during the summer holidays. Participation in the study is free and parking is provided. To participate in the study or for any questions you may have, please feel free to contact Dr Piergiorgio Trevisan at [piergiorgio.trevisan@sydney.edu.au](mailto:piergiorgio.trevisan@sydney.edu.au) or on*

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