



Week 5 Term 2, 2016

Principal's Report

Annual Report

The school's Annual Report has been published on the website. The purpose of the Annual Report has changed significantly from previous years. The document is no longer similar to a prospectus. It is very much focused on reporting on the progress of the school's plan and the impact of the projects and initiatives the school is undertaking to improve student learning outcomes. One new component of the report was the school's self-assessment using the School Excellence Framework. The School Executive completed the self-assessment survey and then reported on our progress in each of the domains and elements of the Framework. We have reported on each of our strategic directions and funds expended in order to achieve our improvement measures.

School Musical - Beauty and the Beast

I would like to congratulate all the students and staff who participated in the production of Beauty and the Beast. It was a stunning and extremely professional performance. I have had a number of complimentary letters from members of the community who viewed the performance.

Year 12 Half-Yearly Examinations

Year 12 students will commence their Half-Yearly Examinations on Monday 6th June. It is extremely important that they develop a focused study plan for the rest of the year so they can achieve the best possible results in the HSC. Doing their personal best will ensure they achieve success in the HSC. I ask parents to assist students to allocate their time wisely over the ensuing months so that sufficient time is given to study for these important examinations. Each student should be averaging 3 to 4 hours per night and at least 6 to 7 hours of study on the weekend. We have commenced a series of

lunch time seminars to support our seniors in their studies. Students will have an opportunity to meet with teachers who mark the HSC as well as being provided with vital study tips and resources. I encourage all seniors to take advantage of this opportunity to improve your results. A few marks can make the difference between students achieving a Band 5 or 6 or a Band 4 or 5 in the HSC and this can be a critical difference when you are applying for entry into university courses. Additionally seniors should take the opportunity to see Mr. Mansell, the Careers Adviser, about many incentives and programs being offered by various universities to ensure students gain entry into their chosen course.

2016 Kokoda Trek PNG Essay Competition

Eliza Jacobsen in Year 10 won the Manly Warringah War Memorial Park Remembrance Trust 2016 Kokoda Trek PNG Essay Competition. 11 schools submitted entries so the process was quite competitive. Eliza was successful and the Trust announced her as the winner at the Manly Dam ANZAC ceremony. Eliza will be accompanying students from Cherrybrook High School to PNG to complete the trek in the July school holidays. We congratulate Eliza and look forward to hearing about her experiences.

Staffing Update

Abraham Berakhi from Matrville Sports High School has been appointed to the position of Mathematics Teacher. He will be commencing in Term 3.

Lucy Sturley from Northern Beaches Secondary College, Mackellar Girls Campus has been merit selected for the science position. We are negotiating her starting date.

Julian Floriano from The Forest High School has been merit selected for the HSIE position as a permanent teacher. We are delighted to retain Mr. Floriano in the HSIE faculty.

We are waiting confirmation from Staffing on the appointment of a graduate to the English position.

Winter uniform

Firstly I would like to say that Year 11 and 12 look fantastic in their jerseys. However, I wish to remind junior students to ensure that they have the correct school jumpers or jackets for the cooler weather. Girls may wear black slacks (NOT black track pants or jeans) as an alternative to black stockings. Boys still have the option of grey slacks rather than shorts. Black leather shoes are required to comply with Government Work, Health and Safety requirements in practical lessons.

The Forest High School is a uniform school. The wearing of a uniform is dictated by the school community and is specified by the School Council and P&C Committee. In our experience wearing the correct uniform gives students a sense of pride and identity with the school community and

signifies a readiness to work. Wearing uniform also helps students develop habits that prepare them for work and the expectation that they will wear appropriate clothing or uniform in the work place as well. We ask that parents support the uniform policy if they elect to send their students to The Forest High School.

Rosemary McDowall, Principal

Photos from the School Musical - Beauty and the Beast







Deputy Principal's Report - C. Thompson

Last week I had the opportunity to travel to Bourke with students and staff from this school to continue the program known as Saltbush. Below is an account of the trip.

Saltbush

Saltbush is a program that has been running for the last three years at The Forest High School. It originally began at my previous school, Ryde Secondary College, and was built around the premise of students and staff from a city school and the remote school at Bourke, exchanging visits in very different communities and schools.

We left Sydney on Tuesday morning and returned on Saturday travelling by train to Dubbo and then coach to Bourke. Bourke is a long way from Sydney, almost to the North West corner of NSW, close to the Queensland border. The school has less than 160 students with a large proportion of these students being of Aboriginal background. Many of the city students attending have never been further west than the Blue Mountains, so experiencing a very different landscape is a new experience in itself.

When at Bourke High School, our students were allocated classes to attend, and this year the groups experienced smaller classes, different learning strategies and organisation, and got to know students from the school. They also attended sport and school assembly. We were taken on a trip to Mt Oxley to view a magnificent sunset, the best in Australia they say, and on Friday spent most of the day at Gundabooka National Park with Missy, a person of the stone country, who was able to engage us all in stories from the past and talk to us about how past cultures sustained themselves in this rugged environment. We also viewed ancient rock art said to be 40,000 years old. Teachers participated in all of these activities as well as being allocated to classes to work with the Bourke students and learn about a very different community and how it functions.

Bourke High School teachers and students will come on a return visit to our school in early August, where they will attend classes and be involved in a tour of Macquarie University. For these students it may be the first time they have experienced a large school community as well as a university campus. The students and teachers who attended this year were: Caitlyn Callaghan (Year 11) and Liam Beavan, Andrea Malm, Essie Luttrell, Callum Bowlden, Samantha O'Shannassy, Kenzo Ueda, Rebecca Truccolo, Kiara Church and Phoebe Lacey (all from Year 10). As well as myself, the teachers who attended were Natalie Huen from English and Les Pitt from PDHPE.

Cathy Thompson, Deputy Principal





Deputy Principal's Report - D Wright

I have been interviewing Year 12 students about their HSC results last year with a view to assisting them to improve their remaining results this year. Discussions have revolved particularly around school assessments and the effect of those ranks on final HSC marks. I have also discussed support for students, particularly from the BOSTES Students Online webpage. Some students admitted they did not fully understand the process of moderation and we have spent time examining that. Quite a lot of students have said they have learnt so much from doing part of their HSC last year and they expect to use that knowledge to improve on their results this year.

One site I would recommend for students and parents is titled "How Your HSC Works" which explains the whole HSC procedure from the setting of the exams to the final result. It is a complicated process and it is good to understand it. If parents or students would like to speak to me about the HSC process then feel free to contact the school.

Denise Wright, Deputy Principal

Exchange Student back for a visit

The Forest High School had a welcome visitor last month when one of our exchange students from 2009-10 came back to visit. Otavio Taube Toretta was at our school for a year and had such a great time he wanted to come back and say thank you. Otavio is now studying law and was in Sydney for a conference. He enjoyed having a look around the school and seeing all the changes. He met up with some teachers he remembered such as Ms Power and Ms Murray and thanked Ms McDowall for allowing him to visit.

Otavio said “Coming back to Forest High was an awesome moment to remember the time I had here back in 2009. I am grateful to all teachers for helping me and making my stay here more comfortable. They are great teachers and they worked very well with the different cultures. Thank you for the great year, Forest High.”



Year 7 Report

Term 2 has so far been a very busy term for us all at The Forest High School, especially for our Year 7 students. They have competed in their first high school athletics carnival, completed their NAPLAN testing, participated in the High Resolves program and completed their Peer Support Program. Congratulations to all students on the effort they have been putting in throughout the term.

Winter is now on its way, so please make sure you are aware of the winter uniform requirements. Girls are permitted to wear black trousers (no leggings), or black tights and skirt in the colder weather, and boys are able to wear grey trousers. The full uniform policy can be found on the school's website. A reminder that fully enclosed black leather shoes are required at school. These are particularly important in practical lessons.

Our technology classes have all 'rotated' this term, with each class moving onto their next technology focus. Ask your child which technology they are now studying! You may be seeing some food products coming home, or maybe a textiles item or their timber toy.

Mrs Nunura has begun a Games Club at lunchtimes in her room in A Block. Year 7 students are welcome there any lunchtime to join the group. The group is growing rapidly, and it is really lovely to see new friendships forming in this club. If you have any unused board games at home that are in good condition, donations are gratefully accepted. I am currently looking for ideas of other interest groups that we can run at lunchtime, so please bring me your thoughts if you have something in mind that you would like to pursue at lunchtimes.

Continue the great work Year 7!

Amanda Walsh, Year 7 Adviser

Year 8 Report

Year 8 are continuing to enjoy the challenges of high school. With the colder weather at last upon us please be vigilant and ensure that the students are in the right school uniform. We are noticing a lot of non-uniform jumpers. A definite highlight was the recent sleepover that we had on a Friday night. The students went home to collect their sleeping bags and pillows and returned to school with much excitement and endless energy!!!

A little like the movie "A Night at the Museum", The Forest High School is a much more exciting place at night! The students played games around the school, spotlight on the oval, basketball in the gym, enjoyed pizza for dinner, watched a movie and then had hot chocolate and brownies before bedtime.

The students were a delight to spend Friday night with – they were polite, respectful to each other and were a credit to themselves. Well done Year 8.

A huge thank you to the staff who helped make the night such a success - Denise Wright, Lee Chaloner, Owen Carpenter, Tara Claire and Peter Santamaria.

Sarah Hawling & Julian Floriano, Year 8 Advisers



Year 9 Report

Mid year assessment is near completion and teachers are in the process of writing reports. I extend my thanks to the many students who are working on and completing tasks to the best of their ability.

Camp is this week (Wednesday-Friday) and final preparation is being completed. Several medical forms required by the Department of Sport and Recreation have not been filled out. Could I ask all parents to make sure these have been completed prior to the camp. I remind all students who are not attending camp that they are expected to attend school as usual in full school uniform.

As the weather gets cooler, a reminder that school jumpers are a requirement of the school uniform and are available from the uniform shop at a reasonable price. I have noticed many students wearing incorrect jumpers and alternate apparel, particularly on Wednesdays. Wednesdays are sports days and many activities are off site - wearing school uniform correctly and with pride in the community is expected. Students should make sure their names are on all clothing so lost or

misplaced items can be returned. We also have a lost property box that seems to be forever overflowing. I ask all parents to ensure their child attends school dressed in correct school uniform or to provide a note when the uniform cannot be worn correctly.

Clare Diggins, Year 9 Adviser

Year 10 Report

It is hard to believe that our cohort is now preparing to embark on their HSC. This term will provide the students and their families with numerous opportunities to explore subject options in preparation for subject selection.

On Thursday 26th May the Information Evening was held at school discussing the structure of our senior years and subject selection.

On Friday 27th May Head Teacher Table Talks were held. Students attended a talk in the library for two periods where Head Teachers discussed subjects offered in their faculty and the different levels available in each course.

Wednesday 8th June: Online subject selection closes. Students must have submitted their subject choices by this date.

Monday 14th - Friday 17th June: Subject selection interviews. Students will be interviewed by a panel of teachers to ensure the suitability of subject choices.

Any concerns regarding subject choices please feel free to contact me via the schools number and then extension 131.

Michelle Nunura, Year 10 Adviser

Year 11 Report

Parents should by now have received the reports for the Preliminary course. Please take a moment to discuss the report with your child and in particular congratulate them on their hard work and encourage them to take on board any suggestions for improvement made in the report.

Included with the report was a flyer advertising free HSC seminars to be conducted during the upcoming holidays. I would encourage all Year 11 students to consider taking up this option to gain really helpful and relevant insights into how to achieve success in the HSC.

Half-yearly exams are just around the corner (week of 6th to 10th June) and Year 11 students should be preparing thoroughly for this important assessment task. This preparation can take many different forms, however, one thing all parents should be seeing is an increase in the amount of time devoted to study leading up to the exams.

Year 11 students are encouraged to attend the Monday lunchtime seminars, held fortnightly in 4 weeks, providing insights into how the Board of Studies operates and tips for successful study habits. It also provides an opportunity for students to ask questions and share information with each other.

The Year 11 senior jerseys have arrived and are being worn with pride by the vast majority of Year 11 students. I congratulate the design team for coming up with a very stylish look which has drawn positive comments from many different quarters. The year group looks very smart as a result.

Jason Millar, Year 11 Adviser

Year 12 Report

Year 12 students have a busy time ahead. Half yearly HSC exams will commence on Monday 6th June and run until Friday 10th June. Students should now be seriously revising subject notes and working with their teachers on exam techniques. Please check with your mentors this week and before your exams if you need extra assistance - and remember the pathway to success includes a study program that is daily and consistent - a recommended 3 hours per day.

Advance notice also that the 3+3 Parent Teacher interviews will be held in Week 10 on Tuesday 28th June.

Good luck in your exams!

Cathy Thompson, Deputy Principal for Karin Nixon (Relieving Year 12 Adviser)

Languages Report

This year the Languages Department has grown and we have Mr Ye (teaching Chinese and Japanese), Mrs Allum (teaching German and Japanese) and Mrs Watanabe (teaching Chinese and Japanese). The Languages Department was very excited to have our sister school Chiba Keiai visit us once again in March 2016. We were privileged to have the new principal of Chiba Keiai join us, Mr Masayuki Takaoka. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm from our students learning Japanese in Years 9 to 10 meeting and interacting with them. Many students practiced their Japanese with the Chiba Keiai visitors and exchanged cultural information and have vowed to stay in touch via social media so that they can continue learning from one another.

The visit to Taranga Zoo with the homestay families was a great success. The Japanese visitors had never seen a koala or emu before and were fascinated by the interactive lemur tour. They also

enjoyed the interactive Japanese classes whereby our students participated with one another in learning new grammar and taking part in group activities. Chiba Keiai students could not stop crying for a while on the bus on their way back to Japan after saying goodbye to our students.

I would like to thank all the homestay host families for their kindness and enthusiasm in allowing a Japanese student to stay with them for one week. Every Chiba Keiai student was delighted to spend their days with their host family.

We look forward to our sister school coming back next year!

Languages Department





Maths Report

Welcome to Term 2. All students should now be settled in their classes and be working hard. Some students may need new workbooks soon and I encourage parents to check books on a regular basis. Good setting out of both diagrams and working is very important for understanding in mathematics. Please also check calculators are still working and being packed for every maths lesson. Most students in Years 7 to 10 have a lesson in the computer room once a fortnight to use Mathletics and participate in other ICT activities such as Geogebra and spreadsheets. We encourage students to use Mathletics and Mathsonline on a regular basis at home as well to consolidate the skills taught in class. Please be reminded that the \$20 Technology Levy for Mathematics needs to be paid at the front office. If you are concerned about homework please check the Parent Portal as the Mathematics teachers are posting homework there and you can check if anything has been set. Any students needing extra assistance may attend the Maths Help Desk held every Friday at lunchtime.

Important Dates Term 2 –

Year 7 – Assessment Test 2- Week 9

Year 8 - Assessment Test 2 – Week 9

Year 9 - Assessment Test 2 – Week 8

Year 10 - Assessment Test 2 – Week 10

Senior Students – Assessment exams in Weeks 4 and 7

Some highlights from Term 1 include the General 1 Senior class working with Mr Somerville on statistics attending the Knockout Basketball match on the Central Coast to cheer on their classmates

but also do a statistical analysis of the game. Watching different players, recording information and analysing this back at school to find the strongest area of the team's performance.

The Mathematics staff enjoyed marking the Term 1 assignments and were overall impressed by the quality of the work. I was very interested to learn of the career interests of the Year 9 students and having them realise the importance of Mathematics in any future career paths. As a result we have made some slight changes in the Year 9 classes to cater for the students interests. I was very excited to hear that one of my students got a part time job from doing the research for the assignment.

With the senior students now studying the HSC content it is important they actively work towards achieving the HSC result they would be proud of. Students were given the opportunity to purchase past HSC books and it is recommended they sit relevant questions on a regular basis. We are also advertising HSC lectures at the University of Sydney in the next school holidays for all Mathematics courses. The best advice is that if you need help, then ask for it! See your teacher, come to the Maths Help desk or find a tutor. Make every minute count.

Mrs K. Gourlay, Head Teacher Mathematics

HSIE Report

Year 7

Year 7 students have started studying History this semester. The first assessment task will be due in Week 9 of Term 2 and will involve an analysis of historical sources.

Year 8

This semester, Year 8 students are studying Geography. The first assessment task is due in Week 10 of Term 2 and will be an extended response on Globalisation.

Year 9

Year 9 HSIE students changed subjects Week 5 of Semester 2. They commenced studying Geography or History.

Commerce

At the start of Term 2, Commerce students attended a hands-on workshop facilitated by the CBA. The workshop explored the sometimes overwhelming influences that affect their decisions as consumers and equipped students with practical spending strategies to help save money.

Year 10

Year 10 HSIE students changed subjects Week 5 of Semester 2. They commenced studying Geography or History.

Commerce

At the start of Term 2, Commerce students attended a hands-on workshop facilitated by the CBA. The workshop highlighted vital information such as rates of pay, taxation and workplace rights and responsibilities.

3+3

Geography students participated in a field work excursion to Careel Bay, to investigate an ecosystem at risk. The excursion was run by the Coastal Environment Centre and was funded by Warringah Council. The students will use this case study of an intertidal wetland in their HSC examination.

Science Report

API SOLAR CAR CHALLENGE

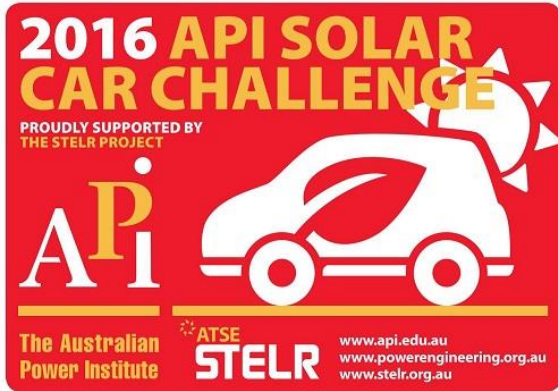
As one of only 10 schools chosen across Australia, The Forest High School will be participating in the 2016 API SOLAR CAR CHALLENGE during Science Week this August.

The event is sponsored by The Australian Power Institute and supported by STELR (Science and Technology Leveraging Relevance), which is a national initiative of the Academy of Technology and Engineering (ATSE). ATSE is an independent body of more than 800 Australian scientists and engineers seeking to enhance Australia's prosperity through technological innovation.

The primary aim of STELR is to address the problem of low participation rates in science and mathematics. With this in mind we have over 80 students across all year groups signed up to the Solar Car Challenge.

Over the next two months these students, supported by volunteer teachers, will design and build their own solar car in time to compete in a series of races and challenges during Science Week. This is an exciting challenge engaging students across multiple disciplines including science, maths, TAS and the creative arts.

The Forest High School also hopes to share our experiences with local primary schools thus supporting our STEM program.



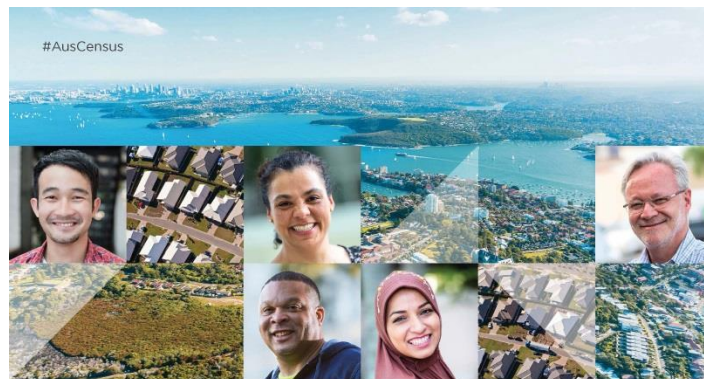
TAS Report

Below is a selection of the Year 10 Food Technology cakes that our talented students created.





The next P&C Meeting will be held at the school on Wednesday 15th June at 7.00pm.



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OUR MOMENT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

BINGARA STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM 2016

EXPERIENCE RURAL LIVING FOR A WEEKEND AND
LEARN ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF AUSTRALIA'S
FARMING AND AGRICULTURE.

STUDENTS WILL TRAVEL TO BINGARA IN
NORTHERN NSW FOR THE ORANGE FESTIVAL IN
JUNE AND THEN SHOW OFF WILLOUGHBY TO THEIR
NEW BINGARA FRIENDS IN SEPTEMBER.



This program is open to all students aged 14–17 years who live
or attend school within the Willoughby Local Government Area.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE FRIDAY 3 JUNE

To obtain an application form or for more information please email
youth@willoughby.nsw.gov.au





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Forest High School

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- Health Direct Australia (1800 022 222)
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