Welcome to 2011 – The Diamond Jubilee Year

Staff Changes:

Please allow me to introduce new and returning staff. Ms Leisa Willis and Mr Prakash Innasi have joined the Social Science staff. Ms Uhlen has continued to live in the USA. Ms Nancy Khadem is replacing Ms Anton who is on leave. Ms Ginette Ball has returned 3 days per week to the English staff replacing Ms Dumaine. Mr Daniel Carrozza is teaching PE for Ms Chapman who is on Maternity Leave. Ms June Su has joined the Languages staff whilst Ms Lay is on Maternity Leave.

Some staff are familiar to the school, but their roles have changed. Mr Roger Doenau has taken charge of the library whilst Ms Perry is on leave. Mr Tom Pinkey continues as Careers Adviser whilst the school has advertised to replace this important position. Ms Jane King has agreed to fill the difficult role of Music and Art teacher whilst the merit selection process is underway.

Returning from well deserved leave is Ms Joanna Chan and Ms Barbara Gobel on the Maths staff and also returning from leave is Mr Mark Standen in Science. The school is truly fortunate to have staff of this high calibre return from leave to bolster the depth of talent on this very dedicated staff.

Growing Pains – Building

The school continues to grow in total numbers with the student population growing from 1260 to nearly 1300. The DET has recognised this steady growth by allocating a new demountable (Room 68a) which was installed during the holidays.

The Administration area was remodelled in an attempt to improve the work space for the office staff and access for the community. To this end a new Enquiries counter was built with the cash register relocated and a secure shutter improving safety. Student Services will still be accessed for timetables and travel via the window near the trophy cabinet.

New building signage has been ordered and the foyer is undergoing an upgrade with a staff directory, an enlarged message monitor and a revamp for the historic commemorative plaques.

The growth in staff numbers has created a need for an upgrade of the Science staff study with a second room installed opposite the existing room.

There are plans in place for an upgrade to the facilities for Music, Drama and Sport coaching with a refit and renovation to the ‘old’ PE staff and change room area.

We hope that all these changes improve the learning, safety and access for the school community.

Diamond Jubilee – 2011

Interest is growing in this commemorative event and we will keep the community informed. Please ensure that all ex-students “Old Bushies” and former staff are aware of this historic year.

Year 7 Camp – Coolendell

You will read in this bulletin about the excellent camp attended by 152 of our Year 7 students. Many of these boys had never been to an overnight camp before and life in tents was an enlightening experience.

My sincere thanks to the staff who supervised the students for 3 days in oppressive heat and impressive storms. They included Mr Stefan Madyski, Ms Gyan Sahay, Ms Cassie McGuinness, Mr Andrew Fairley, Ms Judith Edwards, Mr Abdelrahim Abbou and Year Adviser Mr Paul Koff. This great team of staff were brilliantly led by Mr Bill Hilliard. The behaviour and enthusiasm of the students was faultless.

Thanks to all the parents who waited until after 6pm on Friday afternoon for the buses to arrive back to school.
Students in all years are being given study skills workshops starting with Year 12 on Tuesday 8 February. These workshops give students explicit training in the planning and organisational skills required to maximise their learning during 2011. Students will be given a study skills booklet and an assessment policy and planning guide. The assessment booklets are already available on the school website. The study skills program is organised by the Head Teacher (Teaching & Learning), Ms Suzana Milovanovic.

The Year 12 workshops were a great success with 23 students from the high achieving class of 2010 giving their time to run workshops and sharing their study tips with the current Year 12.

**HSC Analysis 2010**

The school is extremely pleased with the performance of the class of 2010 at the HSC. Their results individually and collectively, were superb. The HSC results will be reported on in more detail in the 2010 Annual School Report but here are some of the highlights.

- On 16 December 2010 the Sydney Morning Herald published an article “Literacy push sends results through roof” praising our students. HSC results along with a picture showing some of the high achievers. This wonderful publicity has been a valuable reward for the hard work of the students and staff and in particular our former principal, Dr Ian Patterson. The article is reprinted on our website.
- Satyajeet Marar earned 1st in the State in English ESL. Of the top 10 places in the State, four were Homebush students. The English ESL results were exceptional and are a credit to the talented, hard working staff.
- In English Advanced all students earned Band 5 or 6! These remarkable results demonstrate the exceptional standard of the classes and the quality education offered by the staff.
- Ashwin Shanmugalingam of Yr 10 gained 1st place in Tamil Continuers with an outside tutor.
- Of the 33 courses attempted by our students, the averages in 20 were above the State average. Legal Studies candidates achieved results with an average nearly 10% above the NSW average.

Overall the results in the Humanities were very pleasing indicating the hard work on Literacy is beginning to be rewarded.

**Welcome to New Counsellor – Ms Kalle Egan**

Our counsellor team of Ms Gina Sorenson and Ms Faye Conte-Hirst has changed slightly with Ms Conte-Hirst being promoted to the relieving District Guidance Officer position. We are fortunate in having an excellent replacement in Ms Kalle Egan who is available on Wednesdays and Fridays with Ms Sorenson assisting the students Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

**Library Opening Hours Extended**

Mr Doenau as an experienced Head Teacher realised the value of quality research and facilities. As teacher librarian Mr Doenau has extended library hours so that students are welcome from 8.00am to 4.00pm (except Wednesdays 8.30am – 12.00noon and Friday closes at 3.10pm)

Please enjoy these new flexible hours to complete research and homework at the library.

Remember the Independent Learning Centre will be open to students lunchtimes except on sports day.

**Sporting Excellence**

I had the pleasure of being in attendance at the Sydney North “Blues” dinner when 2 of our students were awarded for their sporting achievements.

Jack Codd-Miller of Year 11 received a “Blue” for his excellence in Australian Football. Paul Carter, who just completed his HSC received a “Blue” for his excellence in Rugby League. Both citations will be printed elsewhere in this bulletin.

Paul Carter’s extraordinary achievements were recognised even further when he was presented with the coveted “President’s Award” for Sydney North Sportsperson of the Year. Paul is doing extremely well with the Canterbury Bulldogs and has started studying to be a PE teacher at ACPE.

In athletics Dylan Fuller of Year 9 continues to break records. In 2010 he set the CHS U13 100m at 11.99 seconds and U13 200m at 24.42 seconds. Dylan also set a personal best at Pole Vault at the Australian All School Championships in U14 at 3.1m.

Our Excellence Fund is set aside to assist boys with their representative endeavours and last week we gave $50 to Soumil Chhillber and Suffan Hassan who were selected to play cricket for Sydney North at the State Championships.

**Congratulations to our House Captains and Vice-Captains**

The following men were elected the lead their houses at swimming (25/2) and Athletics (6/5) Carnivals.

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<th>House</th>
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<td>Hayes</td>
<td>Imran Abdul-Rahman</td>
<td>Ali El-Kheir</td>
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<td>Vaughan</td>
<td>Scott Bunch</td>
<td>Mohammed El-Helou</td>
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<td>Greening</td>
<td>Victor Le</td>
<td>Michael Parker</td>
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<td>Howe</td>
<td>Nick Taylor</td>
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**Student ICT Design Challenge 2010**

Congratulations to Agron Cela (1st) and Steven Rosen (3rd) who won valuable technology prizes for themselves and the school in this inaugural competition. Their supervising teacher, Mr Sheath, said both boys showed incredible talent and he wished them both well in their Senior Studies. Steven has moved on
“The Shire” and Menai HS. He will be missed.

2011 Instrumental Music Ensembles

Once again the very talented Daniel Parkee Yr 11 has been selected to participate in the DET Symphony Orchestra. Daniel is an exceptional violin player and his contribution to the school band and music camp is commendable.

Welfare Team

If you need to contact staff to discuss your son’s progress one person who will be extremely valuable is the Year Adviser. The Year Advisers are Mr Paul Koff (Yr 7), Mr Stefan Madyski (Yr 8), Ms Joanna Chan (Yr 9), Mr Andrew Fairley (Yr 10), Ms Amanda Middleton (Yr 11) and Ms Edan Caramancion (Yr 12).

Uniform

Just a quick congratulations to the school community for their excellent uniform. To clarify the uniform requirements are:

- School Uniform – White Business Shirt (logo), grey pants, black (leather) shoes, tie (compulsory in terms 2 & 3)
- Sports Uniform – Junior students may wear sports uniform (sports shirt, shorts, tracksuit) on sports days and days when they have practical PE classes
- Senior students may wear sports uniform on Wednesday only

Hats

It is important to wear a hat on hot days but only Homebush caps are acceptable.

Traffic Outside the School

Please take care in dropping off and picking up students in Bridge Road and Mackenzie Street before and after school. Take care near the School Special buses by not blocking access. Local member Honourable Virginia Judge received the good news that RTA will install flashing school zone lights near the school this year.

Tim Jurd

Principal

School counsellor, Ms Egan with Deputy Principal Ms Dwyer.

Mr Jurd with some of our high achievers from the HSC.

The Year 7 camp was a great success.
The senior students at Homebush Boys High School have made literacy the cornerstone of their academic success. A significant number of boys are from Sri Lankan and Chinese background and study a compulsory English course called “English as a Second Language”.

Approximately three thousand students study the ESL course across New South Wales. Satajeet Marar was placed first in the course and was joined by three classmates in the top ten rankings. Oliver Kang was placed fourth, Zhi Ma had fifth ranking and Manh Tu Truong gained eighth position.

Class teacher Jenelle Horiatopoulos said “The boys worked extremely hard and deserved these results. The senior group was a strong academic cohort who will continue to develop as they pursue tertiary studies”.

Raising The Reading Army- Premier’s Reading Challenge

The Premier’s Reading Challenge has already begun this year as you can start reading the books before March. The students who participate in the Premier’s Reading Challenge are not only given certificates as in other schools but they are rewarded with excursions, trivia/sports afternoons, video conferences with writers and competitions against other schools which usually involves a free lunch. Last year about 70 students signed up for the challenge but only 38 completed it. This year we would like more students to participate and actually complete the challenge.

Last year as a part of a treat for those students who completed the Premiers Reading Challenge, they were invited to a Trivia/ Sports Afternoon. The afternoon went smoothly as most students co-operated well with the circumstances we had.

Most students enjoyed the game of indoor soccer as the rules were changed slightly to make the game more interesting to play. The trivia part also went well as most students knew the answers to the questions as they were most commonly about novels which are found in the 7-9 Premiers Reading Challenge.

The students were also rewarded with a special lunch before the Trivia/ Sports Afternoon began. There are many people who should be thanked for organising this significant event. Firstly I would like to thank Mrs Kumaralingam for her countless efforts in organising events for the students who completed the Premier’s Reading Challenge.

Secondly I would like to thank Miss Chapman for giving up her free periods for refereeing the indoor soccer match. Lastly I would like to thank Mr Hilliard for organising the lunch. Without the help of these teachers this significant event wouldn’t have gone ahead as planned. It was a fantastic day!

As you can see that your peers had a lot of fun with their special reward afternoons. This year why not participate in the challenge and share in their rewards?

Sarankan Suresh-Kumar
BB Writing Team

THE HEAT IS ON!

The start of the 2011 school year saw record temperatures in Sydney while one hundred and seventy one year 7 students headed to the Shoalhaven River for a three day orientation camp.

The boys were split into ten smaller groups called ‘Tribes’. Their tasks were to pitch their tents, prepare their meals, establish a camp fire and keep a lookout for goannas, wombats, wallabies and kookaburras. The boys slept in two-man tents, canoed on the river, mountain biked the slopes, rode the ‘flying fox’ and manipulated aerial wires twenty metres high in the tree tops.

Problem solving, friendship development and fun times were the order of the day. The weather ranged between storms, sunshine and high winds, with each providing the opportunity for excitement.

The words of the students’ best explain their introduction to high school.

Mertcan said: “One of the scariest, breathtaking and most thrilling moments of camp was when I jumped off the ledge on the flying fox.”

Justin added: “At camp the most favourite things I did were archery, the possum, the flying fox and the mountain biking. The most coolest and scariest thing was when lightning hit the tree and it was loud. The lightning strike was 100 metres away from us and it rained really heavily. The thunder sounded like a gunshot and it made the tree shatter in bits, like a lion ripping a deer apart. The storm caused ten gum trees to block the road. The activities were very fun and helped me to learn more experience. Camp was lots of fun, and was tiring, but we still learnt a lot”.

While William concluded: “At camp I went mountain biking and it was awesome. The roads were bumpy which made it fun. We went swimming in the river. It was a scorching day so when I saw the water I jumped in. We went canoeing and it was amazing. We saw fish and turtles in the water. I asked if there were crocodiles and they said yes, but then I knew they were joking”.

More happy campers.
PUBLIC SPEAKING

A huge welcome to all parents whose children are interested in Public Speaking.

Upcoming events:

John Symond All Boys Public Speaking Competition
  When: Thursday, 17th February
  Where: School Hall
  There are two sections – Junior (years 7-9), Senior (years 10-12)

Rostrum
A community competition in which 4 students from Junior and 4 students from Senior section are selected based on Merit. Entries to this comp need to be submitted before the 25th February.

I am still waiting for an information pack from Burwood Lions Club for Youth of the Year Award.

Watch this space for further highlights!

Ms Sahay
Public Speaking Coordinator
English Faculty

THE EXCELLENCE FUND

The Excellence Fund was established in 1987 to assist financially, Gifted and Talented students at Homebush Boys’ High.

The Excellence Fund was first set up as a result of a grant of $1,000 from the Homebush/Strathfield RSL Sub-branch and the first recipient Jason Watson was assisted to represent the Australian U/18s Volleyball Tour of Korea. Since then literally hundreds of students have been assisted to participate in a wide range of cultural, sporting and academic endeavours on a regional, state, interstate and international basis.

The Homebush/Strathfield RSL Sub-branch has supported every year since 1987 with a $1,000 grant and Wests, Ashfield have made the same contribution of $1,000 since 2002. To maintain the fund the school has held fund raising activities and received further sponsorship from The Rotary Club of Silverwater.

This is an excellent platform for our Gifted and Talented students. Should organisations or individuals wish to contribute to this fund you can contact the Excellence Fund Coordinator at the school – Scott Belgre, Deputy Principal – Bill Hilliard or Principal Tim Jurd.

If you wish to order an entertainment book please contact Scott Belgre on 97643611. To find out more about the Excellence Fund go to the following link on the schools website:


$12 from every book sold contributes to your schools fundraising.

Sydney and Sydney North Entertainment Books will also be available for just $65

The new 2011/2012 Entertainment Books are coming soon!!

Still only $60 with many exciting new businesses in your local area!!

Books will be available from early April, but if you order your book before March 28th you will receive bonus offers worth over $120 for new businesses in the book. These bonus offers for early orders will be available from the end of February.

Due to the overwhelming demand for the 2010/2011 books last year we suggest you get your orders ready so you don’t miss out.
FIRST RECIPIENTS FOR EXCELLENCE FUND 2011

Soumil Chhibber and Suffan Hassan have become the first students to receive funding from the Excellence Fund in 2011. Both students were chosen by North Sydney Region Sports Association to represent them at the New South Wales Combined High School Cricket Championships at Bathurst from 14th – 17th February. These championships also act as selection trials for the New South Wales Combined High Schools team. This is the second year that Suffan Hassan has been selected to represent North Sydney. The school wishes both students well, and hope they follow in the footsteps of former students Mitchell Starc and Phillip Hughes who represented NSWCHS and then went on to represent New South Wales Cricket at the senior level.

The Excellence Fund Coordinator Scott Belgre congratulated the boys on a full school assembly and presented them with a cheque to assist them in their costs of attending the championships. Mr. Belgre reminded students that the Excellence Fund was there to assist gifted and talented students in areas of sport, academics and cultural activities. Parents and students can apply for funding by contacting Mr. Belgre, Deputy Principal Bill Hilliard or Principal Tim Jurd. Major corporate sponsors of the Excellence Fund have been Wests Ashfield and the Homebush-Strathfield RSL Sub-branch and a major individual sponsor has been past student and Wallaby Geoff Vaughan. To see past recipients and find out more about the Excellence Fund click here.

Links to cricket will also assist the Year 12 Ugandan Project. Year 12 will be fundraising by organizing all Homebush students to sell raffle tickets over three weeks in May. Funds raised will be used to assist young people from families suffering from AIDS/Tuberculosis in Ugandan to attend school. To supplement the funds raised Homebush Boys will be auctioning a signed cricket bat donated by Australian Cricket Vice-captain Michael Clarke.
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<th>Week 5</th>
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<td>Sport v round 14</td>
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<th>Week 6</th>
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<td>B</td>
<td>Yr 8 Study skills</td>
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<td>Sport v semi-finals</td>
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<td>Zone Swimming, SOPAC 9.00 am</td>
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<td>Yr 10 History/Geography field trips (I)– All day</td>
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<th>Week 7</th>
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<th>Mid-course assessments (in class 7/3 – 18/3)</th>
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<td>Yr 7 Parent/Teacher interviews</td>
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<td>Yr 10 History/Geography field trips (II) – All day</td>
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<td>‘What About Me’ PDHPE</td>
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<td>Sport - Grand finals</td>
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<td>EOI forms issued to yr 6</td>
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<td>Parent tour of school - Yr 7 2012</td>
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<th>Week 8</th>
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<th>Yr 10 History Drama – Vietnam - P. 1 – 2 - Hall</th>
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<td>Yr 8 Verbal Combat P 7 – 8, Yr 11 RYDA – Olympic Park (possible)</td>
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<td>School Council Meeting, P &amp; C Meeting</td>
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<td>Yr 10 Commerce excursion to State Parliament/Police &amp; Justice Museum</td>
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<td>Yr 7 French to La Perouse</td>
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<td>Yr 10 Commerce excursion to State Parliament/Police &amp; Justice Museum</td>
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Happy New Year! Welcome to 2011.

It is a very busy time of the year for sports organisers what with 200 new Year 7 students plus 50 new students to accommodate into our system.

Year 7 are offered 5 sports choices. They are “learn to play” hockey, lawn bowls, rugby union & volleyball. The 5th choice is leisure swimming. These activities will continue until March 9th.

The rest of the student population is nearing the completion of the 2010-2011 North West Metropolitan Zone Summer Competition. When you receive this report there will only be 2 rounds left. The semi-finals will take place on March 2nd and the finals on March 9th.

Winter sports trials will commence on March 16. The entire school will make the transition into winter sport with 3 – 4 weeks of try-outs. More will be said about winter sport in the next Bush Bulletin.

Elections for house captains & vice-captains were held during the second week of the term. The results are as follows: Hayes House – Captain Imran Abdul-Rahman / Vice Captain Ali El-Kheir; Vaughan House – Captain Scott Bunch / Vice Captain Mohammed El-Helou; Greening House – Captain Victor Le / Vice Captain Michael Parker; Howe House – Captain Nick Taylor / Vice Captain Bilal Taha. Congratulations to these boys.

The 66th annual swimming carnival will be held on Friday February 25th at the Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre. Attendance for all students is compulsory. Parents are invited to attend and their admission is free.

Assistance is desperately needed to help with the upcoming rugby season. We are in need of 3 rugby coaches. If there any parents, former students, etc who can help us out please contact me.

A teacher will be assigned to each coach. If we are unable to acquire coaching assistance we will only be able to field 3 teams and will result in approximately 60 students that will be lost to the sport of rugby.

R Tedford  Sports Organiser

Regional Winners

The First XI Cricket team from Homebush Boys High School stormed into the final eight of the Statewide ‘Alan Davidson Shield’ knock-out competition. The convincing victory over Normanhurst Boys High School continued the impressive record of Homebush as the Sydney North Champions.

In 2010 Homebush reached the semi-finals of the competition along with Westfields Sports High, Endeavour Sports High and Hunter Sports High. The semi-finals were unfortunately washed out and the competition abandoned.

In 2007 Homebush reached the final to be eclipsed by Westfield Sports High. In recent times 2006 team member, Phillip Hughes, has played Test cricket against South Africa, England and Pakistan, scoring several centuries. Fast bowler Mitchell Starc has played One Day Internationals for Australia against India and Sri Lanka.

Overcast skies made batting difficult with Homebush batting first. The Homebush total of 149 appeared an achievable target for Normanhurst. The star performer for Homesh had been Suffan Hassan, who was run out for 95 runs. The bowling and fielding needed to be first class to restrict the confident opposition.

Normanhurst were bundled out for 52. Medium pacer, Peter Maxwell, took one wicket for 4 runs of five overs. Fast bowler, Tim Barrett, was equally impressive with two wickets for eight runs off six overs. Spinner, Matthew Kuruvilla took 3 for 11. The fielding team chipped in with three run outs.

The team now travels to Cessnock for their quarter final match with team coach, Dr Balan, confident of a strong showing.
English Report

A warm welcome, from all the English staff, to all students for another conducive year at Homebush Boys. And a special welcome to our Year 7 students and all new enrolments.

I would also like to take the opportunity to welcome back Ms Ginette Ball to the faculty. Ms Ball is returning to us 3 days a week from maternity leave.

I can’t let this opportunity pass without recognising the outstanding achievements the faculty had in both the Higher School Certificate and the School Certificate in 2010. All the courses were well above the state average. In the Advanced course all 46 candidates achieved bands 5 and 6, meaning their marks were 80% or better. Even better, we had 19 students achieve a band 6 (90% or better). These are the faculty’s best results.

The Standard course average was more than 8% more than the state average. 64 students (66% of all the candidates) attained a mark of 70% or better. This translated into more than 31% above the state average. A phenomenal achievement. Well done to all the students for their outstanding efforts and to the teachers involved for their dedication and persistence.

It is a busy time of the year for all students, particularly the senior students. The Standard and Advanced students have assessment tasks coming up soon as they begin work on the new modules. The students need to communicate with their teachers about the requirements, continue to read as much as possible and draft their written responses. Continuous effort and application will be rewarded in the end.

There are ample opportunities for students to be involved in extra-curricular activities which are both rewarding and stimulating. Ms Sahay is currently organising the John Symonds Public Speaking competition at school. This is open to all students. More competitions will be help during the year. Debating teams are being formed as well. There is a team from each year group contesting the Premier’s Debating competitions.

As well, the first Great Book Sale for the year will be held mid-term. This is a great opportunity for students to purchase novels cheaply and in the process help a worthwhile charity – The Indigenous Literacy Project. Last year the school raised over $500 for the ILP via two book sales. Also, the Premier’s Reading Challenge will begin again very soon. All students from year 7, 8 and 9 are encouraged to enter this fantastic initiative to help improve their reading and literacy skills. Last year Ms Kumaralingam did an outstanding job in promoting the PRC which resulted in the largest number of participants we have ever had.

I can’t emphasise enough the importance of students of all ages maintaining a consistent reading programme at home. This could only mean reading something that interests them for 30 minutes each afternoon or evening. Reading is crucial for improving all aspects of English literacy and communication. Students have ample opportunities to engage in reading at school. Years 7 have a specific reading programme one period a week for the whole year with Ms Lacek.

Years 8 and 9 students are involved in a wide reading programme in their English classes, the school has the DEAR programme 4 mornings a week and students from Years 7, 8 and 9 are encouraged to enter the Premier’s Reading Challenge. Support at home will help consolidate the students’ development through these initiatives.

Mr Cheiban Elaro,
Head of Department

Science Report

Welcome to a new and exciting year at Homebush.

Welcome back Mr Standen from his year of teaching abroad and a big thankyou to Ms Digges for working so hard in replacing him over last year.

Field studies are a big part of Science and this term we have two: year 7 to Taronga Zoo during week 10 and year 11 Biology to Longreef during week 8. All field studies are assessment tasks and students are expected to attend and enjoy them or else perform an alternative task. Students need to be ready as these activities fill very quickly.

A Everett
Head of Department
CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS REPORT

A warm welcome to all students for another new and exciting year at Homebush Boys, especially our new Year 7 students and all new enrolments. This year, students will be again challenged to reach their personal best in both Visual Arts and Music with a range of visiting workshops and performances to inspire the students.

There will also be different excursions on offer so that students are exposed to performances, workshops and exhibitions to gain a greater experience in Music and Visual Arts. Images from these events will be published both in the Bush Bulletin and also on the school website where parents and carers will be able to see photos and video footage of student’s musical performances and student artworks on the CAPA website page.

The CAPA faculty would like to congratulate last year’s Yr 12 Music and Visual Arts students on their fantastic results in the HSC, with 5 band six results in Music and 4 in Visual Arts along with all students achieving their personal best.

There is also a special mention to David Wang who had his Body of Work selected for the prestigious Artexpress exhibition which is a major achievement. This is by far and away the best results achieved by our senior students and reflect the outstanding quality teaching and learning that takes place within the Music and Visual Arts faculties.

Hopefully 2011 will again produce a wonderful learning experience with some outstanding achievements by all students in the Creative and Performing Arts.

Kim Attwood / Head of Department

PERFORMING ARTS CAMP 2011

The eighth annual Performing Arts Camp will be held between Monday evening, 28 March and Thursday afternoon, 31 March. The venue will be the Naamaroo Conference Centre, Lady Game Drive, Lane Cove. Facilities at the campsite include large hall, dining room, small rehearsal rooms, grassed playing field, swimming pool, basketball court and recreation hut (billiard table, table tennis). The food prepared by Naamaroo staff is of a high standard and there is plenty of it. Students are accommodated in cabins.

Intensive Masterclasses will be held during the camp for various vocal and instrumental groups. We again have the pleasure of having multi Mo Award winner Mr Stephen Fisher-King directing the Voice Masterclasses. He is one of Australia’s finest entertainers and has an amazing baritone voice. This is a very popular Workshop and will fill quickly. There will also be workshops for String Ensemble, Guitar and Jazz Ensemble. Whether you are a singer, guitarist, pianist or play an orchestral instrument there is a spot for you in one of these groups. It may be possible to take part in more than one group activity whilst at Camp.

An information Sheet and Application Form is available from Mr Albertson in the Creative and Performing Arts staffroom. Completed Application Forms need to be submitted to Mr Albertson by Monday, 28 February. Fees need not be paid to the Front Office until Friday, 4 March.

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to learn from Australia’s leading musicians.

Ian Albertson / Bandmaster

Two of David Wang’s artworks that were selected for Artexpress

Jazz Ensemble in rehearsal at camp

Stephen Fisher-King directing the students
TAS FACULTY REPORT

Welcome to 2011 academic year and a special welcome to incoming year 7. I believe this is going to be a challenging, yet rewarding year for everyone. I suggest that this year is going to be challenging, not because it is our diamond jubilee year but to compete against the high standards that have been accomplished by our HSC students last year.

The results from last year reflect outstanding quality teaching and learning that takes place across all the faculties and the fact that our students are always enthusiastic to perform their best. Congratulations to all the students who have done us proud in HSC and School Certificate in 2010 with exceptionally good results.

Students are reminded to closely check their assessment task schedules and they can access the documents through schools Moodle. There are specific requirements for practical subjects and external marking of HSC courses. Make every effort to liaise with your class teachers to ensure that you know the process and timeframe to maximize your potential in the subject.

This year we are fortunate to have stable staffing in the faculty and extend our appreciation to Ms. A. Houvardas for replacing Mr. Tserpes, who will be on leave till week 5 of this term.

Best wishes for 2011 hope you all have a wonderful learning experience this year.

Satendra Prasad
Head of Department

YR 7 WORLD OF MATHS 2011

COMING SOON!

The exciting and engaging maths workshops will be held at school for all year 7 students. The workshops provide students with an opportunity to participate in hands-on maths activities and apply their problem solving skills.

The workshops are fun, interesting and promote positive attitudes towards mathematics. It is an invaluable experience for all students. Permission notes with further details will be given to students in the coming weeks. We are looking forward to seeing the students have fun and learning.

The Mathematics Faculty

PDHPE faculty

Welcome back to school for 2011. For our new parents, it is important to note that your sons will be participating in a double lesson of PE each week and a single session of health.

For the PE double, each student is to wear their sports uniform, along with a hat and suitable running shoes. They are also encouraged to bring a water bottle and if they have Asthma, their medication. If students do not wear the correct uniform, they will not participate and a letter will be sent home if it continues.

For their health lessons, students require a 64 page exercise book, pens and pencils. Students in years 10 and 11 also need their computers, fully charged and ready for action at each theory lesson.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Mr Daniel Carrozza to the faculty who is replacing Ms Annabel Chapman for the year as she is on maternity leave. We wish Ms Chapman all the best with her future motherhood.

Mr Jon Sculthorpe
Head of Department

Daniel Carrozza who will be replacing Ms Annabel Chapman this year.
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Did your son complain of feeling sluggish before he returned to school? Perhaps he can relate to the following story…

“If you have a car and you leave it sitting outside for two years, it won’t work when you try to start it. You can push it and bang it, but nothing works. Then you have to tow it to a garage and pay a mechanic a fortune to fix it. Otherwise you have to send it to the scrapheap, and it’s wasted. If we don’t use the capacity of our minds, that’s what we can expect.”

The school year has started with a flurry of activity: debating, public speaking and sporting knockouts, not to mention the Year 7 camp, have all gotten underway in the first two weeks of school. It’s wonderful to see the boys back at school with their new haircuts and neatly presented uniforms.

Our study skills season has also begun. All students experience a series of workshops aimed at developing a set of important skills – organisational, goal setting, writing, self-awareness – which will help them make the most of the opportunities offered to them. Students also receive their assessment schedule for both semesters and are required to draw up a yearly planner so that they know what tasks are due when. An absolute highlight is the Year 12 session in which current students had the opportunity to discuss with some of 2010’s students their experiences of the HSC.

Among the questions about the best way to study and how to stay motivated, were questions about Facebook. Parents know very well how much time can be absorbed by computers and social networking sites, in particular. The common response from our former students was “set a time limit and stick to it”. Some ex-Year 12 boys avoided Facebook altogether, but most found a way to minimise how much time was spent on the computer and balanced a whole range of demands. The assured confidence of these fine young men reflects positively on their families and their teachers.

Parents, thank you for your patience and thoughtfulness in the morning and afternoon traffic around the school. Ensure your son uses the pedestrian crossing rather than walk across the road “wherever” along Bridge Road. Of course, strict adherence to traffic rules will help ensure safety. Along Mackenzie Street, double parking and pulling up in the bus zone pose considerable safety risks.

Some reminders to start the year on track:

- The school diary outlines students’ full uniform requirements. Avoid ‘mixing and matching’ sport and regular uniforms. Years 11 and 12 can only wear their sport uniform on Wednesday.

- Good attendance is vital. The diary has information about absence notes. Going to the airport or family birthdays are not valid reasons for absence.

Best wishes for a productive and enjoyable year,

Caitlin Dwyer
Deputy Principal
Harmony Day is celebrated around Australia on the 21st March. It is a day where all Australians celebrate our Cultural diversity. The day is also the United Nation’s International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Homebush Boys High School will be running a writing competition to celebrate this day. The instructions are as follows.

The topic is: “Everyone Belongs” and there are two categories:

Senior 10 to 12

Junior 7 to 9

INSTRUCTIONS

Students may write in any form they wish.

There is no limit to the length.

Entries must be printed from a computer.

Your name, Year, Roll Call must be written clearly on each entry.

Entries to be given to Ms McGuinness in the Social Science Dept. by the 18th March.

Winning entries will be published in the school magazine.

Harmony Day Poster Competition 2011

The poster competition is an annual initiative open to all secondary and primary students across NSW. Students are encouraged to visually articulate their interpretation of the 2011 theme - “MAKING OUR WORLD A BETTER PLACE”

ENTRY FORMS

Entry form can be obtained from Ms McGuinness at the Social Science Staff room and are required to be mailed to the competition office by 8th April 2011.

www.harmony.gov.au

To celebrate the schools Diamond Jubilee (75 years), two thousand one hundred key rings have been struck. All key rings are individually numbered and have been distributed to all current students.

The cost of the key rings was included in their school fees. The key rings are made of top quality pewter and carry the school logo on one side. The reverse is the updated version of the Golden Jubilee (50 years) emblem designed by a student.

The logo includes “The Owl”, “The Figtree” and a variety of sports in which the school participates. Numbers 1 to 75 and numbers 1936 to 2011 will be auctioned during the year to raise funds for the school.

Further information on how to bid for the key rings will be published on the 75th Anniversary Webpage on the schools website.
THE SCIENCE EXPERIENCE

On the 12-14th of January, Henry Liang, David Ho and Vindesh Nadan went to the University of Sydney for three days to the Science Experience. The Science Experience is a program designed to provide students from years 9-10 with an interest in science with a variety of science related activities.

The theme of the Science Experience was how forensic scientists solve crimes by using their knowledge of science. During the three days at TSE, we were introduced to all kinds of techniques used by the police to obtain, preserve and analyse evidences found at the crime scene.

With the help of the stuff of University of Sydney and volunteers from Young Scientists Australia, we were taught how to detect blood using luminal, extract and analyse DNA, detect cyanide poisoning, determine soil texture, analyse remnants of radiation poisoning in victim's hair and measuring focal length of spectacle lenses.

In addition to these practical lessons, theory lessons were held by professional lecturers on the subjects of pathology, forensic psychology and mathematics. But the TSE was not all about learning.

Activities like the surprise group challenge, question relay and a mock trial were unbelievably fun. During these activities, we worked with people from all over Australia, many of which we have never met before.

Yet at the end of the program, many phone numbers and facebook addresses were exchanged as we made new friends. TSE has got to be the best program we have been to in years, and we would love to go to another one just like it.

We were sponsored by the Rotary Club of Burwood, who we are extremely grateful to, to help us pay for these amazing activities. If you would like to find out more about the Science Experience, you can find out more at their website.  http://www.scienceexperience.com.au/

Mathematics Report

Welcome to another year at Homebush, particularly to our Year 7 students and new parents. The mathematics faculty also welcomes back Ms Gobel and Ms Chan back to the fold after their year long leave in 2010. The classes have begun to settle, changes to course selections are slowly tapering off and most students are involving themselves in class activities.

The mathematics faculty is opening a Maths Clinic on Tuesdays and Fridays in room 50. We hope to be able to help students with difficulties in a less formal format. Ms Gobel and Mr Halkidis initiated this endeavour and will be assisted by the rest of the mathematics staff.

The Australian Mathematics Competition will be held on Thursday the 4th of August and we are encouraging all of our better mathematicians to participate in this annual event. Over the next few weeks a fee of $5 will be collected by the maths staff to cover costs of entering.

I would also like to mention that all year 7 students must have a scientific calculator. The school sells the Sharp EL-W531HAB for $18.60. If students already have a calculator and are not sure of its suitability for high school, show it to their teacher.

Wise message for all students: Mathematics is not a spectator sport.

G. Carrozza

Head Teacher Mathematics

Manjeet Kaur, Homebush Rotary Coordinator with Henry Liang, Vindesh Nadan and Alan Everett

Students holding their Diamond Jubilee key rings

Vet students getting on the job training