HOMEBUSH BHS WELCOMES NEW PRINCIPAL

Homebush BHS extends a warm welcome to Mr John Kennedy, who is our new Principal for the start of the 2015 school year. He joins our school community with a wealth of experience in teaching and leadership.

Mr Kennedy has taught at a range of schools, including country, comprehensive co-educational, girls and selective schools. He has also worked with the DEC Ultimo Local Schools Local Decisions team for a year.

Mr Kennedy spent three years as Principal at Kingsgrove North High School and has a strong welfare focus in his leadership style.

Mr John Kennedy addresses the whole school at the first assembly of 2015 as our new Principal.
Prinipal’s Report

Welcome Back and a very warm welcome to 2015

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Homebush Boys High School community for my very warm welcome to the school. So far I have met all the staff and kids on mass and I have met a few parents at the P & C meeting, School Council Meeting, at the buses and also at a few of our school sporting events. Homebush Boys High School is a diverse and exciting community and I look forward to a long association with it. Thank you all so much. I certainly feel at home here. I am incredibly impressed with the start to the year by staff and students. I must thank the many staff who have volunteered their spare time and services to support so many extra-curricular activities.

Semester One promises to be very busy at Homebush Boys High School. This term we have the Swimming Carnival, Cross Country Carnival, numerous Knockouts and our transition team will be planning our community of school activities with Year 5 and 6. I will be meeting with the all of our local Principals and their Executive teams in an attempt to continue the great camaraderie amongst our schools.

Confucius Classroom

I would like to congratulate Ms June Su and the LOTE Faculty for their efforts with our school’s application to become a Confucius Classroom Centre. We attended a launch recently at the DEC Bridge St Office which confirmed an increase in funding and tutoring of Mandarin at the school. Well done team!

Examinations

During this term Year 12 commenced the first stage of their exams for the HSC with their mid-year assessment exams. We hope all students did their “personal best” and perhaps for those who were somewhat disappointed with their results there is the hope they will undertake a more rigorous home study program so that they are better prepared come the trial HSC exams in Term 3. Remember the actual HSC is only two terms away.

Korean Visitors

Congratulations to Ms Dwyer, Ms Shadwick, Ms Meucci and team for all your work with our Korean visitors this term. They had a brilliant time and spoke highly to me of the care and effort our staff, students and community showed towards them.
P & C Meeting

Many parents attended our P & C meeting on Tuesday night. New parents and old parents spoke highly of the school and its’ transition processes.

Swimming Carnival

Congratulations Mr Belgre and all staff on a most successful carnival. What a tremendous atmosphere there was on the day. I was absolutely thrilled to a part of this great tradition.

Meet the Teacher Evening

I would like to thank you all for your support of these events. They are crucial and lynch pins in the school cycle. We were very lucky to have perfect weather for our annual Meet the Teacher evening. I thought the informal nature of the event was a draw card as well as the marvellous stands and resources that staff provided. Congratulations to Mr Khurshed and his team for this brilliant event and thank you to all staff who made the event such a success.

Artexpress

Can I end my bulletin by heartily recommending a visit to the Armoury Gallery at Newington to see two of our 2014 student’s major works on display? Mr Letsios and I attended the launch of Artexpress and our students Otis and Anuraj were so thrilled to be part of the exhibition. The quality of the works was astounding and I may be a little biased when I say that HBHS pieces were show stoppers! Entry is free! Congratulations Mr Letsios!

Yours in education

John G Kennedy
YEAR 7 STUDY SKILLS PROGRAM

Homebush Boys High School’s, 2015, Study Skills Program, commenced this week. The 7-12, Study Skills Program, is an essential part of the school’s curriculum. The Study Skills Program assists students with their educational endeavours.

Year 7 was the first year to commence with the program. Topics included assessment schedules, getting organised, goal setting and studying in high school.

One of the major concerns, of any Year 7 group, is balancing homework, changing classes and settling into high school. The year 7 program was structured and in detail. Through the set activities, we were able to build not only the practical know-how of students, but also their confidence in their new school setting. Prepared and positive students are resilient, and feel connected to their school. Any form of support and enthusiasm, is fundamental to ensuring our new students, are learning the skills necessary to enjoy and achieve.

Year 7 were also issued with a whole school assessment booklet. This booklet provides important details of assessments, when they are due, and how much they are worth. Each student will be required to produce an individual assessment planner that assists them in reaching their assessment goals for the year. We encourage both students and parents/caregivers to read this booklet, and be aware of the important information contained within. The assessment planning grid is also available on the school’s website under the heading of curriculum and then assessment. All assessment schedules are also located in this area.

As Head Teacher Teaching and Learning, I would like to thank all those involved in the implementation of the 2015, Study Skills Program. I personally welcome all year 7 students to our school.

If you have any queries, your teachers or Year Adviser, Mr Belgre, will be more than happy to help in any way they can.

Ms Suzi Milovanovic

HT Teaching & Learning
Music Band Camp

Last week students from Homebush BHS, Strathfield GHS and for the first time Concord HS attended a three-day music camp at Naamaroo convention centre at Lane Cove. All of the students embraced this opportunity to be fully immersed and engaged in fine-tuning their skills and passion in all aspects of music. The students were well directed by band camp coordinator Tracey Burjan, whose has a wealth of experience in this field. It also should be noted that the enormous success of this event was also due to Music teachers Andrew Smith and Patricia Fong from Homebush and Strathfield high schools, they were ably assisted by parent musicians Jeff Mallia, Noel Alley and Paul Burjan.

The camp concluded on Friday afternoon with an hour long concert that included brilliant original pieces, the choir, percussion, rock band, string ensembles and to finish off the concert, there was a rendition of a Stevie Wonder classic ‘Sir Duke’ where all the students participated with sax player Mr Paul Burjan leading the way that rocked the house. This was met with rapturous applause from the audience of parents and friends for these very talented students who had worked incredibly hard but also had enjoyed every minute of this amazing experience.
Hi, my name is Caleb Rinakama and I am in Year 7 for 2015. I am in class 7A and would like to share my experiences for the first few weeks at Homebush Boys High School. Being in year 7 is a big jump from primary school to high school because you’re in a new environment with new people to see and places to be, but the teachers and students help you settle in really quickly.

The teachers here are kind and welcoming so you’ll never feel lost or left out. The students here at Homebush Boys are really helpful and give you the right advice to getting to class right on time. So far I’ve had Maths, English, PE, Visual Arts, Technology, Science, Music lessons and I love them all! Soon we will begin our Winter Sports tryouts and I can’t wait!

In week 4 of term 1, year 7 and a few year 11 students went to camp at Shoalhaven on NSW’s south coast. I went to that camp and I had loads of fun. We went rock climbing, kayaking, swimming, bush walking and much more. We slept in tents for 2 and we even cooked our own breakfast, lunch and dinner.

We also met a man who lived in a cave named Slabface. He was hilarious and by the time he was done he had everyone in stitches. Overall everything was fun but what I loved the most was getting to know the boys in my year better.

To sum up I have absolutely loved the first few weeks of school and I can’t wait for the next few years that I will be spending at Homebush Boys High School.

Caleb Rinakama Yr7

Drum Beat again performed for all of year 8 in the school hall. The group Drumbeat features Mark Stewart and Tony Azzopardi who performed for one hour demonstrating around 100 percussion instruments. At the end of the performance a group of Year 8 students were invited on stage to perform with them. The students thoroughly enjoyed the hands on experience with all the different instruments that they had the opportunity to play. Drum Beat have been coming to Homebush BHS for over 10 years and say they enjoy coming to such a good school where the students behaved and join in with their performance.

ANDREW OH

Andrew Oh is another of our regular musical performers at Homebush BHS. Andrew who is an extremely accomplished musician took Yr8 students on a journey through the history of brass instruments especially the saxophone. At the end of the performance a group of Year 8 students were invited up on stage to play some of the different instruments, which they thoroughly enjoyed.

These performances by professional musicians give the students an insight into the life of musicians as well as provide an interesting historical context to music.
LOTE FACULTY REPORT—COME TRAVEL WITH US AND EXPLORE OUR WORLD

The ultimate goal of education should be to produce analytical citizens who help to shape the environment around them and are not afraid to ask questions or solve problems. I believe that educators should develop in learners, the abilities and skills to empower them to explore and solve problems in the world that they are confronted with. Only then will students come to see education and learning as lifelong processes made up of meaningful experiences. In 2015, the LOTE faculty is aiming to assist your son to reach his full potential. We believe that this applies as readily to solving problems and fostering positive social relationships as it does to academic learning.

LOTE students will be challenged to better themselves at every opportunity and to try new things. The LOTE staff recognise that each student is an individual and as such, support and extension that is offered will not be the same for each student. Our classrooms are filled with young men of different skills, capabilities and needs. The Languages Other Than English faculty has started off 2015 with the same wonderfully talented female staff. Ms Lay continues in her part time maternity position and can be found on the premises Tuesday and Wednesday. Ms Lay will focus on co-ordinating Stage 4 French studies at Homebush Boys High School. We are very pleased to have Ms Su continuing in her wonderful role as Stage 4–6 Chinese Co-ordinator on a full time basis. Ms Yu continues be with us 5 days a week and will be in command of Korean studies for Years 7 through to Years 12.

Enhancing the learning in all LOTE classes is the continued success of Ipad activities and YES…the students LOVE using Ipads. The LOTE Faculty is proud to announce improved student diligence, and engagement and higher academic performances of students in all years as a result of ICT based learning opportunities presented in 2014. These Ipads were bought for and will remain for the exclusive use of the LOTE students and the Apps downloaded on each Ipad adequately supplements classwork, provides extension work for the Gifted and Talented students or assists in the learning of low ability students. I would like to thank Ms Yu for her continued devotion towards the Ipad learning initiatives at Homebush Boys High School.

HSC Results 2014———Chinese Background Speakers (CBS)—Twelve students sat for this exam. Six students received a Band 5, six students received a Band 4. Comparing these results to their English (ESL) performance, eight students achieved higher marks in the Chinese Background Speakers course. For seven students, CBS was their best result in their HSC. There was a very strong correlation between school assessment and moderated assessment. This supports the LOTE faculty’s clear and explicit assessment practices as more than adequately preparing students for the HSC examination. The highest result was 85 – Lifu Peter PENG and Yip Chun WONG. The second highest result 83 – Lingbo YU and Zheng CHEN. Third Highest result 80 – Yike XI and Michael Bangyi ZUO

Heritage Korean (HK)—2014 marked the inaugural year for HK studies at HSC level. Five students sat for this exam. Two students received Band 6; one student received a Band 5. For three students out of five, Heritage Korean was the best result in their HSC. There was a very strong correlation between school assessment and moderated assessment. This supports the LOTE faculty’s clear and explicit assessment practices as more than adequately preparing students for the HSC examination. The highest result was 95 achieved by John Lee. The second highest result achieved by James Minyong Lee. Well done to the class of 2014!

For all LOTE parents -Please feel free to contact me at school, if you have any queries and/or questions regarding your son’s language studies at HBHS. I will try to assist you in any way possible. I am keen to have contact early in the year, to establish any concerns.

I look forward to a happy and productive 2015, a year full of growth for our LOTE students - growth both physically but also mentally as we endeavour to immerse them in the spoken and written language and the culture of our European and Asian languages.

Mrs Matina Shadwick
Head of LOTE Faculty

Ms Kathy Tu—our Korean preservice teacher.
Cheongju HS visits HBHS

Homebush Boys played host to 22 students and 2 staff from Cheongju HS in Korea from Saturday 14th February till Saturday 21st February. Maintaining our sister school exchange program with Cheongju HS since its introduction in 2003, has been an absolute delight and this year proved no different. As 22 smiley and somewhat reserved faces landed on our “front doorstep” to be greeted my Ms Dwyer on Valentine’s Day, the love was instantly felt. Meeting their homestay buddies and their families broke the shyness and thus marked the beginning of friendships.

Monday morning began with the official “welcome to our school “ceremony, an opportunity for our Cheong Ju HS visitors to meet key staff personnel at HBHS and for the two Principal’s to exchange gifts as a sign of gratitude for the week ahead. Our Principal, Mr John Kennedy, spoke of the opportunity for our visitors to practice their English and to experience the Homebush “way of life”. As always, Ms Dwyer was entertaining with her “welcome to our school” PowerPoint and reminded our visitors to enjoy the week and to enjoy the English lessons prepared by Ms Kumaralingham and Ms Altunday.

Such occasions would not be possible without the assistance of the HBHS homestays. On behalf of our school, I would like to thank to following boys who put up their hand to host our visitors, open up their homes and lives to strangers now friends, and to support our cultural exchange language programs.

Sam Beomsu KIM, Dominic YATES, James YATES, Martin HOSSAIN, Joshua ANDERSON, Zaki OUSMAND, Sean MIKLICH, Csant BHUSAL, Kaya BREMNER, Aydin BREMNER, Kyong Ju (Daniel) CHO, Hamin JEON, Ukjin AN, Seongyong (Terry) YOON, Darren HONG, Minwoo SEOK, James LIM, Mohammad ROBAT-MEILY, Jayanth KUMARALNGHAM.
Carnivale Fever hits Homebush

Students from the Year 8 Italian and Year 8 French classes celebrated the cultural festivities of Carnivale by making colourful individual masks in class, while learning about the significance of Carnivale and the parade activities in Italy and France. This activity highlighted student engagement and both groups were happy to parade their masks around our school. Even the inclement weather on Friday 27th February did NOT dampen their enthusiasm. Masks on and trays of sweets in hand, students walked around to all homerooms offering treats with a Bounjour or Buongiorno.

Confucius Classroom at Homebush Boys High School

The Languages Faculty is pleased to announce that we were one of 6 schools Australia wide, awarded a grant to implement a Chinese Confucius Classroom at Homebush Boys High School. This is the result of Ms June Su’s tireless efforts and vision to help support Mandarin studies and improve both resources and opportunities for all our Chinese Background Speakers and Heritage students. The project was begun in 2014, when under the guidance and support of our former Principal Mr Jurd, Ms Su diligently applied for this initiative.

As a joint project between the DEC and Hanban, a Confucius Classroom will

- Facilitate the sharing of information between all Confucius Classroom in Australia and worldwide.
- Provide professional learning opportunities for Chinese teachers in Australia and overseas to observe and share teaching and learning resources.
- Contribute to a resource bank of quality assured teaching and learning materials for Chinese, including multimedia, for use by schools.
- Establish a technology hub to facilitate communication between schools in Australia and worldwide.
- Provide students with a link to Chinese bridging competitions to measure competency.
- Provide opportunities for school community engagement with Chinese language and cultural events.

“The role of the Confucius Classroom is to deliver support at a local level for Chinese language and cultural education”. Such was the brief from Hanban!

Mrs Matina Shadwick
Head of LOTE Faculty
HBHS Mother’s Day Stall

Put some money aside over the up-coming weeks! HBHS annual Mother’s Day Stall will be held under the fig tree in the second week of Term 2, Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 30th April. The main stall will be open recess and lunch.

The stall, run by members of the P&C and HBHS staff members, raises money for various programs across the school. Prices for the items start at $5. The stall always provides lovely gifts at an affordable price.

Mrs Edwards will also be offering lovely jewellery made from sterling silver and genuine Swarovski crystals. All profits from the jewellery go to pay for the effective MULTILIT Tutoring Program materials used in the Out of Hours Literacy Program and MULTILIT peer-tutoring roll calls.

Always eager to provide quality at a good price, Mrs Edwards sources the crystals from only genuine dealers (the US Too Cute Beads and Jewellery Supply. com) when they are on special sale. The Swarovski bracelets, which feature a silver accent bead, are only $18. The sterling silver Swarovski earrings start at only $8!

The crystals come in a range of colours, from metallic and subtle shades to bold reds, yellows and blues. Find out the favourite colour of the significant woman in your life and be early to the stall!

Mrs Edwards

WHITE BAY DREAMING

Former Homebush Boys High School’s, highly inspirational and talented, Year 12 Visual Arts student, Leandros Pandoulis, has been acknowledged yet again. He has been successful in having his Body of Work, White Bay Dreaming, grace the cover of the BOSTES, Australian Professional Standards for Teachers, document.

This complements his painting, White Bay Dreaming, being selected for the 2014, ARTEXPRESS exhibition, and the winning of the S&S Creativity Unlimited Award.

Congratulations to Leandros Pandoulis. We are extremely proud of your achievements, both past and present. Homebush Boys High School thanks BOSTES, for acknowledging student talents publically.
UTS:INSEARCH HSC STUDY SKILLS WORKSHOP

Leading HSC motivational speaker and exam preparation coach Mr Rowan Kunz delivered a HSC Study Skills Workshop to all Year 12 students at Homebush Boys High School. Mr Rowan Kunz, CEO of Art Smart Education, believes a good study technique is the most important factor in achieving an outstanding Year 12 result.

“Students who achieve ATAR’s of more than 98 are the ones who have learnt to manage their time, study effectively and deal with stress in a very particular way,” said Rowan.

During the workshop Rowan shared techniques and skills that students could apply, in the lead up to their HSC to maximise ATAR outcomes.

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY WORKSHOP

The Year 11 student program included a study skills session presentation by guest speaker, Associate Professor, Joanne Lind, from the Faculty of Medicine – Molecular Biology & Genetics at the University of Western Sydney. This complemented sessions conducted by Homebush Boys High School personnel.

Associate Professor, Joanne Lind, believes that effective study techniques are the most important factor in achieving an outstanding HSC result. During the workshop, Associate Professor Lind, shared techniques and skills, that addressed areas of learning and memory. She also took out the time to answer questions with regards to her area of expertise, and university requirements.

As Head Teacher Teaching and Learning, I would like to thank UTS:INSEARCH and UWS, Ms Anton, Careers Adviser, and whole school personnel, with regards to the implementation of this HSC Study Skills Workshop. Most importantly, thank you to our wonderful guest speakers Mr Rowan Kunz. and Ms Joanne Lind.

Ms Suzi Milovanovic
HT Teaching & Learning
Year 7 Camp

Year 7 camp is a great experience where you make new friends and have a great time. There are heaps of great activities at camp. At this camp you make lots of new friends just like I did also you will be able to share great stories with them through the rest of your life at Homebush Boys. In the great activities at camp you might be the best or the worst at something but you always need to give everything a go because you will have a great time doing it and you may even find out that you are the best at something in the whole of Yr 7. I had a great time at the camp because it was fun, you make friends and you get share new experiences with other people.

Carl Arthur Year 7
OUSTANDING SUCCESS IN ARTEXPRESS FOR HOMEBUSH BHS STUDENTS

Four of our Yr12 Visual Arts students from 2014 were successful in having their Body of Works selected for the prestigious Artexpress exhibition. To have one student selected which we have had over the past four years is a great achievement but to have this many is exceptional and is a credit to the talented Akul Pandya, Zheng Chen, Otis Burian-Hodge and Anuraj Talati who have been rewarded for their dedication and hard work. Special mention should also go to their Visual Arts teacher Mr Tony Letsios who guided and mentored the students in them achieving this fantastic result.

Mr Kennedy with Anuraj Talati with his Body of Work at Artexpress
Otis Burian-Hodge with his Body of Work at Artexpress
Akul Pandya with his Body of Work at Artexpress
English Report

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

I can’t let this opportunity pass without recognising some excellent HSC achievements in 2014. All the courses were well above the state average. In the Advanced course 36 of the 40 candidates achieved bands 5 and 6, meaning their marks were 80% or better. 8 students achieved a band 6 – this equates to being 6% above the state average. In the Standard 35 students scored above 80%, this was three time above the state average. These achievements continued the trend of some remarkable results over the past 6 or 7 years in this course. 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 are four teams that will be contesting the Premier’s Debating competitions. As well, the first Great Book Sale for the year will be held during late this term. This is a great opportunity for students to purchase novels cheaply and in the process help a worthwhile charity – The Indigenous Literacy Project. We have raised over $2500 for the ILP over the past 4 years. Also, the Premier’s Reading Challenge had begun. 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 many participants who went on to complete the challenge.

Can I tell you of a wonderful initiative that the faculty has started this year – the online literacy programme called WordFlyers. All students in years 7, 8 and 9 were issued with information notes during week 3 this term. And now all the students in these years have been registered. They will receive an email from WordFlyers which will invite them to enrol online. Then the fun will begin. Each student is encouraged to use the programme for about 30 minutes each night. The programme will assess each student and the lessons in reading, grammar, spelling and writing will then be at the appropriate level for each student. We are also hoping to use it to incorporate assignments and other tasks from the classroom. Please ask your son how he is progressing through the course. As well, his classroom teacher will be able to track his progress over time. As well, please ask your son to pay $5.00 to the front office for this programme if he has not already done so. The cost has been subsidised by the school.

If you have any queries about anything related to English please contact me at school.

Mr Cheiban Elaro,
Head of Department

Ms Gina Ball actively engaging her Yr7 students in an English lesson
Science Report

An exciting time for Science as the National Curriculum applies to all junior Science classes.

Some things to note:

No junior textbooks will be issued as all students have access to on-line texts and the associated resources. There is enough for students to share in class but to get the best, use a laptop!

Students can expect to be given at least one piece of homework each week and parents will be informed if attempts are not made on three occasions.

Bookmark is still part of a student’s assessment. If laptops are being used, the teacher will need to sight the recorded material. All worksheets need to be completed and kept in a plastic folders for the term.

Alan Everett
Head Teacher/Science

Interschool Chess Challenge

Homebush Boys High School hosted the above Challenge organised by The Sydney Academy of Chess for the first time. Our students performed well on the day winning the overall challenge.

The opportunity to socialise with students from other schools while challenging their groups of pure chess talent is indeed something to prominently take pride in. This year we have put together four strong teams that represent the twenty chess geniuses from our school.

Under the supervision of Mr Sivasothy the chess club has been meeting up in room 52 three days of a week. The chess club is not only a meeting place to tailor your chess skills but also to have a blast at lunchtime. Chess rules!

Thinking about the next move

Mr Sivasothy with his chess prodigies

Some of our winning students

Students enjoy the practical side of Science

Yr7 Science students have fun experimenting with chemical changes
HT Administration Office Matters

Early Leave Passes

Early leave passes can be obtained from the HT Administration Office. Students must bring in a note from their parent or guardian to request a pass be issued.

- They must do this before Roll Call and NOT during class time, recess or lunch time.
- Parents are reminded that non urgent medical and leave for family reasons should not be scheduled during normal school hours.
- The School Homework Diary contains forms for early leave passes that can be filled out and signed by the parent or guardian.

Please note - Wednesday sport afternoon is still normal class time. Do not make appointments at this time. Students will need to see Mr Belgre before they can come and get a leave pass on this day.

There seems to be an increase in the number of students with early leave passes on Wednesday Sport Day. The Policy for Wednesday afternoon Early Leave passes is as follows

- Doctor’s appointments will need to have proof (a letter or appointment notice) when you apply for leave. If you do not have one you will not be allowed to go.
- Leave for family commitments will need to be fully explained and parent/guardian phone number provided.
- If you want to leave because you have a sore leg or feel unwell, etc., you will be asked to go to the sick room and NOT be given permission to go home.
- All grade sport players will need their early leave passes signed by Mr Belgre or their Grade sport coaches, before leave will be granted.
- If teams have a bye or have finished playing for the season, it is the student’s responsibility to see the coaches who will organize other activities such as training or friendly games. They are not allowed to go home during sport time.

These are some of the reasons why students may need to speak to the HTs Administration. When visiting the HT Administration Office, please observe the following courtesies:

- ID Card is already out of your wallet, ready to hand to Ms Vine or Mrs Shadwick;
- Students wait quietly at the door until invited to enter the office;
- Bags are left outside the office (not in the doorway);

Overseas Travel

Students wishing to travel overseas must see Mrs Shadwick and fill out an Exemption form. A letter from home and a copy of flight details or an itinerary must also be attached to the Exemption form. The Exemption form MUST be submitted to Mrs Shadwick at least two weeks prior to your departure. Students will be given a Certificate of Exemption signed by the Principal prior to their departure. Please note that all overseas exemptions are now recorded as LEAVE on the student’s attendance record.

Thank you for your co-operation with these matters.

Mrs M Shadwick

HT Administration/LOTE
HOMEBUSH BHS SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Our annual School Swimming Carnival was held on the 20th of February. All boys who attended wore their house colours proudly and put in a great effort, making the carnival a wonderful day. We had another record broken by Vincent Nguyen, who beat the time of former student Henry Lee in the 100m breaststroke. Vincent’s time was 1.16, almost two seconds quicker than the record. Congratulations to Greening House who were the eventual winners of the carnival, narrowly defeating Howe House and to the following boys who were age champions:

12 Years – Loklan Duong 13 Years – Adam Manna
14 Years – Ung Mang 15 Years – Liam Murray
16 Years – Mohammed Elakhras 17 Years – Michael So

Our summer grand-finals were played in Week 5. Congratulations to 2nd Grade Cricket, 14’s Cricket, Junior Futsal ‘B’, Junior Oztag ‘A’, 15’s Volleyball and 1st Grade Volleyball on being champions for the 2015 summer season. Well done to all the boys and coaches.

Winter sport will begin week 6 with trials for four weeks and the first round of competition in Week 10. For up to date information for sport please click the weekly sports arrangement tab quick link on our schools homepage. Here you can access the weekly sports arrangement sheet, the latest results for grade sport and a list of all the sportsperson of the week awards for Grade and House.

Mr S Belgre
WESTS TIGERS NRL STARS
TALK TO STUDENTS ABOUT TACKLING BULLYING

On Tuesday the 24th of February, players from the Wests Tigers visited Homebush to talk to Year 8 about bullying. The NRL campaign ‘Tackle Bullying’ looks at positive ways students can respond to bullying and outlines the types of bullying that they can face in and outside of school.
Wests Tigers players Chris Lawrence and Shannan McDonnell spoke about their experiences with bullying and how they coped with bullying in their lives. Homebush Boys has been involved in the program for six years now and would like to thank the NRL and Wests Tigers for promoting this important message.

Mr S. Belgre
SINGAPORE TEACHERS VISIT HOMEBUSH BHS

A delegation of senior teachers from Singapore visited our school to discuss our approaches to teaching and learning and also visit classrooms to experience lessons in progress. Resources from various faculty areas were shared with the teachers who were most appreciative of the generosity extended to them. The teaching delegation also shared their experience of what it is like to teach in Singapore schools, such as class sizes which can be up to 60 students! Below is a letter Mr Kennedy received from our visitors.

Dear John,

On behalf of the Singapore team of lead teachers and senior teachers in the Teacher Leaders’ Programme 2, I would like to thank you and your staff for the warm hospitality you have shown during our learning journey today. The Deputy Principals, Caitlin and Kamie, have also been exceedingly helpful and gracious hosts.

We are also glad to have the opportunity to interact with your head teachers and student leaders. We have indeed learned much about how the school has harnessed and developed the resources available towards improving teaching and learning opportunities for the students. We look forward to meeting you once again this Thursday at the Public Schools NSW Office for a time of reflection and synthesis of the learning gained by our teachers.

Thank You.

Best regards,

Puay Yin

Mdm Lim Puay Yin. Head/PD 1, Professional Development Branch, Academy of Singapore Teachers

Principal Mr John Kennedy with visiting Singapore teachers and Director of Public Schools Ms Veronica Kapsimali
WORLDS GREATEST SHAVE

Several of our brave students and one brave teacher volunteered to have their heads shaved to highlight issues of cancer especially leukemia. For the not so brave there was also hair colouring that had many student and teacher volunteers.

The event raised $600.00 along with an amount of $2080.00 that was raised by the ‘Interact Club’ from our school assembly. The money that the school community generously donated will be forwarded onto the Cancer Council which will go towards the continuing research for a cure for this terrible disease.

A special mention must go to Yr12 student Yunus Isik who was the main organizer of the event and also one of our leaders of the ‘interact Club’. Yunus was also one of those brave students that volunteered to have his hair shaved.
The shaved and the shavers, all to help find a cure for leukemia.

Mr Elaro with his free haircut!

Two satisfied customers!!
INTERACT CLUB

The Homebush ‘Interact Club’ was established in 2013 and is about student volunteering beyond the school and into the wider community. We have links through Rotary and to the business community who support the ‘Interact Club’.

The students go out and fundraise for two particular projects. One project is international and the other is for a local project. This term we have $2000.00 for the T10 Organisation, $2000.00 for ‘Caritas Australia’ and $1000.00 for the Salvation Army, which was raised through sausage sizzles, pizza days, The Worlds Greatest Shave and the school indoor competition.

This charity work wouldn’t be possible if not for the commitment and dedication of the members of the Interact Club who generously give up their time to help raise money for many worthy causes. If you are in years 9, 10, 11 or 12 and are interested in joining the group, please meet the boys on Mondays in room 4 at 1.30pm, lunchtime.

Yunus Isik
Homebush Boys High School is committed to ensuring that schools remain safe places for students to learn and teachers to teach. The school is also determined to prevent violent and bullying behaviour by any member of the school community. Countering bullying is consistent with the school's endeavours to ensure that Homebush Boys High School is a safe and harmonious environment and to enhance a school culture of co-operation, tolerance and acceptance. This term saw Homebush Boys High School students engage in anti-bullying curriculum activities across the school and engage in Harmony Day celebrations. Students were made aware of the nature of bullying and violence, how to decrease it, what to do if you are being bullied and how to maintain harmonious environments.

Bullying has a terrible effect on others. It can cause victims to feel anxious or depressed. Bullying often leaves effects for many years to come. We do not want anyone at Homebush Boys High School to be bullied or feel alone. If we see anyone being bullied, we must not stand around and let it happen. If there is a bullying incident happening, do not be a bystander. We must tell the bully to stop and tell the teacher. If you are the one who is being bullied, please tell the teacher, other adult or a prefect. You are not alone; there is always support for you here.

"We the students of Homebush Boys High School agree to join together to stop bullying and violence in our community. We believe that everybody should enjoy our school equally and feel safe, secure and accepted". By saying this pledge we all agree to treat others respectfully, try to include those who are left out, refuse to bully others, refuse to watch, laugh or join in when someone is being bullied, report bullying behaviour, help and support those who are being bullied.
GOODBYE AND FAREWELL TO HOMEBUSH BHS TEACHERS

Some of our staff will be leaving at the end of term 1. Ms Gilchrist from our Language staffroom will be going to Open High School from the start of term 2. Congratulations to Ms Gilchrist on her transfer and we sadly say goodbye to her this morning.

Ms Chan from Mathematics has been successful at gaining a Head Teacher Welfare position at Sydney Boys High School and she will also be starting there at the beginning of term 2. We will miss her greatly and wish her well in her promotion. Ms Yong in English will be moving to Ballina to teach History from the beginning of term 2. Ms Yong is currently on her way to Tasmania with the Duke of Ed students. She has taught all levels of English at our school and we wish her well.

MY EXPERIENCE AT PUBLIC SPEAKING

One of my friends at school told me about a public speaking competition that was organized by our English teacher Ms Sayer. I was interested in this as a few of my teachers had told me how good my speeches were, so I decided I wanted to see if I was as good as they said I was.

I chose a topic two days before the competition with the title ‘The Right Step’ as I thought it was a topic I could work with. After a concerted effort I completed it the night before the competition.

On the day of the competition I was blown away by the quality of the speeches by other students and thought how can I cope. When I stood before the other participants, so nervous, with my leg shaking, I decided I was going to give it my best shot.

As I was speaking I found it to be so exhilarating and before I knew it I had completed my speech, however my leg was still shaking. It was a great experience and made me believe in myself and I thoroughly enjoyed the experience nerves and all.

By Keerti Malladi.

Mr Kennedy and Ms Sahay with students and their public speaking certificates

Mr Kennedy with Ms Gilchrist

Mr Kennedy with Ms Chan
David Chen is congratulated as Australian junior champion in the long jump.

Daniel Slaminka receives his award for the Harmony competition.

Terry Yoon receives his trophy as the zone golf junior champion for 2014.

Mr. Kennedy with Mr. Peter Smith from Strathfield Rotary presented students with certificates of appreciation.

Mr. Kennedy with the newly elected house captains and vice-captains for 2015.