Calendar events for term 2

- 10th-11th May NAPLAN
- 17th May P&C Meeting 7pm
- 20th May Zone Cross Country
- 24th May Photo Day - whole school
- 24th May Yr 11 & 12 Parent Teacher Night
- 28th May Red Shield Appeal
- 31st May Yr 7 Vaccination Second Visit
- 3rd June Multicultural Day
- 7th June School Council Meeting 6pm
- 9th June Strathfield Council Citizenship Ceremony 6pm
- 13th June Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday
- 17th June High Achievers Luncheon
- 21st June P&C Meeting 7pm
- 23rd June CAPA Night Visual Arts and Music
- 24th June Regional Cross Country

* General information about week to week activities can be accessed from the school website calendar.

Yr7 Camp [A New Chapter of Bushy Boys]

The beginning of the year started like previous years with our new Yr 7 students experiencing their camp that leads to many students making lifelong bonding friendships. They were blessed with fantastic weather with lots of fun and challenges that didn’t include any technology.

The year 7 camp was one of the most amazing experiences in my life. We played sooo many fun activities and games but most importantly, we made a lot of friends. The teachers, the camp instructors and the senior leaders helped us out and made it an awesome experience.

A detailed report from David Kadamani can be viewed on page 6 of this edition.
Welcome back Dr Balan

I would like to welcome back to school Dr Balan. As many of you would be aware Dr Balan had some serious and urgent surgery at the end of last year.

After a considerable period of time off work he returned to us at the beginning of March fighting fit and ready to get back into the classroom. He has been a very welcome face back at school.

The Year So Far

I was thrilled to start the year by reviewing our post school destinations for year 12 students from last year. I am pleased to report that 80% of our cohort from 2015 has had university offers. This is an outstanding result for a comprehensive school.

Now is good time to reflect on how the year is panning out thus far. During Term 1 the school’s Executive team and I have spent a lot of time analysing all sorts of school data, and we also place huge importance on the conversations and feedback we get from everyone. We believe that when you merge the two, you get a good idea of how things are going.

Our data thus far is improving in many areas of the school curriculum. We also continue to try to keep the pressure on in terms of attending school every day, bringing all necessary equipment every day, wearing school uniform every day and giving “personal best” every day. We’ve had great support from almost all parents in each of these areas.

We’ve also had many, many parents and students openly expressing their thanks and gratitude for the efforts made by the school and individual staff. Such gratitude is highly motivating for everyone and far more effective than the occasional whinge.

There have been some major events during Term 1. We have had a very successful Year 7 Meet the Teacher Evening where more than one hundred staff, students and parents attended. Our staff, parents and students were entertained with tales and photographs from the camp and most importantly parents had the opportunity to meet with our staff.

The Annual Music Camp occurred in March and Mr Alexander our relieving Music teacher travelled with our boys to Lane Cove National Park. It was my great pleasure to attend the finale concert and I was amazed to see the work and performances by our students. Well done Mr Alexander and CAPA Faculty.

As is always the case our boys have begun the year with a clear focus on supporting members of our community. Our lads put together a brilliant Shave for a Cure Fundraiser and many lost their hair and gave generously to the cause.

Well done!
Assets Report

I would like to report that the P &C and I have been successful in gaining a community grant of $30,000 to go towards returfing one of our ovals. We have budgeted to contribute another $30,000 also and we are busily getting quotes at this point in time.

An extension to our fence has occurred on the Southern perimeter which makes our grounds more secure and also ensures that our games don’t extend into our next door neighbours yards!

During the April school holidays our quadrangle toilets were refurbished which is certainly a long awaited renovation.

I recently did a joint submission with our local Strathfield Cricket Club to see if we might be able to gain a grant from NSW sport to improve our cricket nets. I would ask that you all keep your fingers crossed for success with this submission.

Confucius Classroom

I would like to congratulate Ms June Su and the Language Faculty for their continued efforts with the development of our school’s Confucius Classroom Centre. Our launch was held on the 5th of April and I look forward to reporting about it to you in the next bulletin.

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 Mr Madyski, Ms Shadwick, Ms Yu, 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.
**Art Express and Operation Art**

I would like to report on the success of our Visual Arts students. Please see below some wonderful photos of Keshavan Kiritharan from Year 12 last year. These shots were taken at Art Express held at Hazlehurst Gallery, Gymea. His work is on display for another month along with other Art Express pieces.

I also had the great pleasure of attending the Art Express launch at The Armoury in Silverwater. It was great to catch up with our two boys Hung Bin and Dion. They were incredibly chuffed to have their work displayed. Their parents were also suitably proud. Thank you to Mr Attwood and Mr Letsios for their attendance too…I know it meant a lot to the boys. Their work is on display for another month at the gallery, I hope you get the opportunity to visit and see theirs and other fine art.

Mr Letsios, Mr Attwood and I attended the Premier Art Express Event at the AGNSW. It was exciting to catch up with Raghav Rampal and to see his work take pride of place in the gallery. Can I encourage you to visit the gallery to see the myriad of brilliant HSC works?

Recently I had the pleasure of travelling to the AGNSW with James Smith and Leon Burfield. Both boys had work selected for this auspicious art exhibition, Operation Art. As it turned our James’ work was selected as the best senior entrant and he had the great pleasure of presenting a copy of his work to Jessica Rowe who was the special guest on the day. Both boys were kitted out in their blazers and Mr Attwood and I were very proud Principal and Head Teacher on the day!

I wish you all a safe Term 2 2016 and as always please don’t hesitate to contact me if you feel the need.

Yours in Education

Mr John Kennedy
Principal
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 for research and the other is for Leukaemia.

This term we have $1000.00 for the Leukaemia Foundation, and $1000.00 for the ANZAC Research Institute, 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.
The year 7 camp was one of the most amazing experiences in my life. We played sooo... many fun activities and games but most importantly, we made a lot of friends. The teachers, the camp instructors and the senior leaders helped us out and made it happen. The campsite itself had no mobile reception which made things interesting. I think that the year 7 camp was especially made for us to create friendships which are absolutely essential in the high-school life, and to get involved in social activities instead of sitting on a couch with a bowl of popcorn playing video games. The teachers expected us to take responsibility for ourselves which I think we did very well.

The activities that we took part in were rock climbing, canoeing, flying fox, flying possum, bushwalking, archery and all the small trust games. In rock climbing, we had to climb up a natural rock with a harness attached to us. There were 4 parts of the rock which we were climbing on to and we supported our friends to push on further and for some, it was all about conquering their fear of heights.

Another interesting activity was canoeing, but just before we got in to the canoes we wore a helmet and a lifejacket and swam halfway down the freezing lake and back. We had to canoe in the lake with a partner and we played games like capsizing our canoes and flipping them over again. We also learnt how to paddle.

The list of fun activities flying fox was something almost every Yr. 7 enjoyed, we were attached by a harness and we had to jump of a 3 meter high platform. Whereas in the flying possum, we were attached by a harness which was attached to our friends' and they had to run backwards while the ‘flyer’ went soaring about 20m in the air. We also did stunts in the air. Both these activities raised our adrenaline levels I couldn't chose between the two and say one was better than the other.

Personally bushwalking was a nerve-racking experience for me because we didn't know what was going to come out of the nearest bush.

On the contrary Archery was my favourite activity we knew what we were up against. We had to aim the bow at the bullseye. In addition another interesting activity was the small trust games. In the small trust games, we had to fall backwards and land in our friend’s arms trusting them to catch us.

Camp was a wonderful place where we made heaps of friends where we earnt each other’s trust and respect. They are the most important traits that you could ask for out of a friend and I trust all of us have shown that. We were very supportive when we were doing the activities, especially the games where people had fears. I could hear people yelling out encouragement when we were doing rock climbing in particular. Our friend finally touched the top because of the encouragement and the support.

I would like to conclude by giving my thanks to the teachers, camp instructors and senior leaders as the gave up their time to help us out and support us throughout our wonderful camp experience and it will be one that we will never forget.

By: David Kadami
First Formal Year Seven Assembly

Our first formal Year Seven Assembly took place on the 22 March 2016. James Wark was given the responsibility to be the Master of Ceremony and he did a fantastic job with his special knack for Public Speaking. This was followed by Mr Sculthorpe's speech and Ms Juska's speech. The students were reminded of their Year Group Catch Phrase CUBS meaning Be connected, Be United, Belong to your School as a Year Group. This was followed by a song video. We went through the need for being organised by watching a cartoon. Followed by many students received their Silver and Head teacher's awards. In addition to receiving their awards they were informed about the up events such as the Vaccinations, Tough Guise and Premiers Reading Challenge.
John Coutis Gives Inspirational Talk to Senior Students

Earlier this year John Coutis, a motivational speaker, presented two fascinating talks to Years 11 and 12. John Coutis’ unique life experiences, due to a severe disability, put into perspective the challenges our boys were facing. His life story is one of defying the odds and rising above adversity. The talks encompassed respect for diversity, anti-bullying, inclusion, goal setting, self-determination and courage.

His words made an impact on the boys and his use of self-deprecating humour set an example of how we can overcome the challenges that life throws at us.

Ms A Juska

HT Student Wellbeing

Mr John Coutis holds up a small plastic bottle in comparison to the size of him at birth

Head Teacher Wellbeing Ms Audrey Juska with Mr John Coutis

Appreciative Senior students with the inspirational John Coutis
Welcome back to Homebush Boys High school for 2016. I trust that you all had some time to rest and catch up with family and friends over the holiday period. I would like to especially welcome our new Year 7 students and their families, as well as all new Year 8 to 12 students and their families to our Homebush school community.

As Relieving Deputy Principal for Term 1, I am thrilled with the positive start made by our students. My emphasis has been on transitioning our boys into the demands of a new school year and working through the complexities of a new timetable, new staff members, new faces in senior executive roles, and new assessment schedules. In all this, some things do NOT change, namely our Safety, Learning and Respect framework which underlines all our behaviours. Homebush Boys High school prides itself on being a SLR school. What does this mean?

S is for SAFETY

- Move sensibly around the School.
- Use all items and equipment appropriately.
- Behave in a safe manner in the wider community.

L is for LEARNING

- Be prepared to learn and do your best in all endeavours.
- Follow teacher instructions in and out of the classroom.
- Take responsibility for your own actions.

R is for RESPECT

- Treat others the way you wish to be treated.
- Treat school property with pride and respect the property of others.
- Always use appropriate behaviours, language and manners.

As teachers we want the best for the students in our class and as educators we want to provide opportunities that allow our students to grow, develop, lead and prosper beyond school in their chosen fields and the community. As a parent of a 14 year old, naturally I want what is best for my son. As parents, how do we guide our kids through their schooling experiences? The older they get, the more anxious we become about their academic progress, especially as they approach the HSC. This also coincides with their growing independence and desire to keep parents at arm’s length. As parents we need to tread that fine line between interest, involvement and letting them grow in maturity by learning from their own mistakes or lack of organisation.

As we start the year let’s each take stock of how much we do for our children and allow them to face their own challenges and learn from them rather than seeking to be the white knight who fixes everything for them. Do we want to be their parent who gives advice in a timely fashion but leaves them to reap the rewards and consequences or their action/inaction or their friend who goes in to ‘bat’ for them at every turn? I think we need to be the former and not the latter! It is in their best interests (and ours) that they become the independent learners we all know they should be.

A colleague of mine recently asked me to sum up what HBHS is all about. I chose to answer this question by reciting what I believe my school is all about. Below is the motto I use to describe what I believe sums up all our practices.

“Through quality teaching and learning programs and initiatives HBHS strives to inspire our students to become life long learners, upright and strong citizens of our community and future leaders.”

The next question presented to me was, “What makes a great school?” This one made me think for a while. In teaching terms, this question is an excellent one because there is not necessarily one right answer. This question evokes other questions such as ‘what do you mean by great?’, ‘Is there such a thing as a great school?’, ‘Is great for me the same as great for you?’ and so on. From a teaching perspective the question has the potential to stimulate rich discussions and debate. It is certainly a question that explores peoples’ values and beliefs. Schools are places that respond to the educational needs of children and young people, and as such this question can stir great passion and emotion. In exploring what makes a great school, I envisage responses such as great teachers, strong academic results, pastoral care support, co-curricular opportunities and a caring community. Certainly these features are all trumpeted on websites of many independent and private schools and are important components of schooling.

However, in considering these as criteria for answering our question, they seem somewhat sterile and limited in their scope for the lives of our young people. Yes we could broaden the statement to include references to preparing students for life after school and what that means in the 21st Century. However, HBHS has a strong and proud history of producing fine young men that pursue many different goals either while at school or after they leave our gates. Our purpose extends far beyond this scope. As a school we are committed to engaging our students with a much broader curriculum that seeks to challenge students to think deeply about the world and their place in it.

Let me wish you well for the coming year as we seek to build partnerships between home and school for the benefits of the young adults in our care. Please feel free to contact me at any time to discuss any matters pertaining to the wellbeing of any Year 8, 10 and 12 students. Alternatively, you can contact Mr Sculthorpe for all Year 7, 9, and 11 student matters.

Have a great Term 1.

Matina Shadwick / Relieving Deputy Principal
On Tuesday 1st March period 1, Year 7 watched an action packed, humorous and engaging anti-bullying program called “The Hurting Game” in the new gym. The program involves Samantha’s group spreading rumours and alienating her. She becomes obsessed with body image and constantly compares herself with other girls in the media, the playground and on social media. Desperate to fit in, Jimmy succumbs to peer pressure and becomes the tough guy harassing and bullying other students with homophobic remarks, deliberately failing maths, binge drinking and playing the fool. They slowly begin to realise how their interactions on social media could have lifelong implications.

The Hurting game is aimed at year 7 and is designed to cover bullying, cyber safety, peer pressure, resilience, self-esteem, harassment, binge drinking, rumours, social websites, body image and positive relationships.

Characters Samantha and Jimmy act out a strong message about anti-bullying in a performance to Yr7 students.
It has been a privilege to be asked to and be in the role of relieving Deputy Principal Teaching and Learning for the first 6 months of 2016. Ms Dwyer is currently working Department of Education in a non-school based position and will hopefully return in 2017.

As usual, the beginning of a school year is fast and furious. No sooner than we come into a new year that we send our yr 7 cohort on a school camp. Coolendel, west of Nowra, has been hosting our yr 7 students for much more than a decade. This year saw another successful camp. It resulted in new friendships being formed and increased independence for our new students. The camp also gave the families of the boys 2 nights of peace and quiet. The year 7 students were mentored by our school’s finest leaders in the form of year 11 and 12 students. They ably assisted the dedicated teachers and group leaders in ensuring that the year 7 students enjoyed the camp and that they went away with a few life lessons.

Our school is based on the 3 cornerstones of Safety, Learning and Respect. These points encompass every part of school life and give positive direction for our students. In this vein, we have the expectation that our students will not just attend school and take away the strong values and education offered, but also to give back and be proud of being part of an institution that has lasted nearly 80 years. This sense of pride can be seen in students representing our school. Whether it is public speaking, debating, academic competitions, music, sport or simply walking down the street, we are to commend our students on showing the respect for the tradition of our school. Something as simple as wearing the correct uniform says to fellow students that they are proud to be a Bushy Boy and to be part of something bigger than one student, one class or one grade; counting themselves alongside those successful students from years gone by.

We have welcomed many new families, not just in year 7, but in all year groups. We look forward to having further involvement in the Homebush Boys Community. The P and C offers a great chance to become engaged with the HBHS community (Next meeting is Tuesday 18th March) and gives an opportunity for your voice to be heard regarding the happenings of the school.

The SRC and Prefect bodies continue to work tirelessly throughout the school. They are seen helping with school functions, assisting in the canteen and holding high expectations for the rest of the school in terms of behaviour and conduct. The leadership team at HBHS is an integral part of the school’s culture and they see the leadership role as both a privilege and a responsibility that they are keen to uphold.

Our school continues to excel in and out of the school grounds. Our volunteer group led by Ms Sahay, Ms Anton and Mr Albertson have contributed significantly to the local community. Breakfast club every Thursday morning, assisting in primary school carnivals and visiting Chalmers Road School are all examples of many activities the group has been involved in so far in 2016.

Sport has left off in 2016 where it finished in 2015. We have had success in several grand finals and the schools swimming carnival evoked a sense of community whilst producing the champions of the future. Winter sport is in its infancy for 2016 and we look forward to the season ahead, led capably by Mr Carrozza (the PDHPE one, not the other bloke that continues to hang around the Maths staffroom). We have welcomed students involved in the Australian Youth Football Institute (AYFI) and again look forward to a strong and positive relationship.

As the dust begins to settle on the start of Term 1, we can see clearly that our future is looking pretty good in the hands of our Bushy Boys.

Thanks again and enjoy 2016.

Jon Sculthorpe
(Relieving DP T and L)
Yr7 Meet the Teacher Afternoon

Our term 1 meet the teacher event was again well received by parents and carers where it is an opportunity for them to talk about what Homebush BHS can offer their sons in a well rounded education across all key learning areas. Below is a letter that best sums up this event that will put a smile on every teachers face in our school.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to everyone at Homebush Boys High School for such a welcoming and warm Meet The Teachers session yesterday.

I would love very much to express my appreciation and gratitude for all the teachers and academic staff who so very kindly set up their tables and so graciously explained to us, parents, about what their faculties have been doing and will do with our boys this year. It was very special to see the warmth, the enthusiasms and such positive energy from the teachers. Your willingness to invest this time to meet us, the parents, is so very appreciated.

I would love to also thank the management and administrative staff, parents, students, as well as many others who helped make the day possible and so warm. Thank you to those who helped preparing the drinks, cooking and serving the sausages and cleaning up after the session was completed. THANK YOU.

Warm Regards,
Teranun Charoensri
Let the Speeches begin!

Homebush BHS has a proud tradition in Public speaking over many years and this has continued again this year. The students are guided and mentored by Ms Sahay who has been able to hone their skills in this area which also assists them both academically and socially in developing their confidence and self esteem.

On the 24th of March, a handful of Homebush Boys students took part in the All Boys John Symonds Public Speaking competition. This annual event encourages students to put forward their skills of engaging with an audience, presenting ideas and personal insights based on nominated topics.

Students ranged from year seven to twelve, with all sharing an interest in taking up the stage to have a say. It was truly astounding to see the quality and originality of each presentation with many putting their own imaginative spin on the given topics.

Although it was my last year being a part of this competition, I was delighted to see the enthusiasm of the year sevens taking up the challenge, hopefully the first of many competitions they take part in.

And whilst awards had to be given, all participants on the day have to be commended for their efforts in participating in this event. A huge thank you has to be given out to Mrs Sahay for organising and continuing this annual competition.

And to the students, who are reading this and considering, do sign up next year. Give it a shot because you never know what could happen and you may very well surprise yourself in what you accomplish.

Adam Yoon Yr 12
“There is only one race and that is the Human race.

The central message for Harmony Day is that ‘everyone belongs’, reinforcing the importance of inclusiveness for all Australians. This day also coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

For a more harmonious society we need to focus on ourselves, our own inner world and nurture it, so that we can be the best person we can possibly be and contribute in best possible manner to this world of ours.

We are not separate from each other, wellbeing comes from being connected and engaged, we move in a web of relationships and interests. We are totally interrelated and our actions have consequences.

So if we are in peace and harmony, our surroundings will be in peace and harmony and gradually our society will become more congenial and harmonious.

So how do we achieve the goal of inclusiveness and harmony on a personal level? I have listed a few things for you to consider.

- Practise kindness
- Practise forgiveness. Holding negative emotions occupies internal space and this not healthy.
- The power of words: when we speak to our peers choose wisely words can nurture or injure.
- Be a part of the solution on the problem.
- Listen to people as they speak, people feel valued when they are heard.
- Don’t focus on the past, be in the present.
- Meditate, contemplate and set aside time for real reflection letting go of negative emotions that actually work against your physical and emotional wellbeing.
- Have positive interaction between people as this creates a warm exchange and people feel good
- Showing Goodwill can be contagious: it’s like throwing a stone in a pond and watching the ripples spread.
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

International Women’s Day celebrates the social, economic, cultural and political achievement of women. Yet progress has slowed in many places across the world, so global action is needed to accelerate gender parity. Ms Gin Ball and Ms Dounya Fattouh gave passionate speeches about the significance of this day.

A number of students from various year groups each made a pledge in regard to respect, appreciation, harmony and equality for women of all ages, and to finish off the whole school repeated a pledge to recognise the importance of not just one day of the year but every day of the year.

Mr Chabes Elaro spoke about the meaning of parity – ‘Parity’ means equality, equal status or pay. Women make up 51% of the population; 70% of the poor; 11% of pay and 1% of land. Privilege is invisible to those who have it. It is important to have respect for others and love for humans.
CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS REPORT

OUTSTANDING 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 Keshavan Kiritharan, Raghav Rampal, Dion Lin and Hyungbin Ju who have been rewarded for their dedication and hard work. Special mention should also go to Andy Lu and Kevin Qin who had their Body of Work nominated for consideration for Artexpress but unfortunately wasn’t included in the exhibition. And also a big thankyou to their Visual Arts teacher Mr Tony Letsios who guided and mentored the students in them achieving this fantastic result.

OPERATION ART

It was with great pleasure that Mr Kennedy, James Smith, Leon Burfield and myself attended the official opening of Operation Art at the Art Gallery of NSW. Both James and Leon had their artworks included in the exhibition and James’ artwork was also selected for the Secondary Schools ANSTO award, which is a fantastic achievement. Our school continues to be successful in this exhibition where student work has been selected for the exhibition at the Art Gallery of NSW and also for the permanent collections at hospitals across NSW.

A proud James Smith with the official party at the opening of Operation Art
DRUMBEAT

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 up 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.
Ms Dounya Fattouh Bids Farewell

When Ms Fattouh applied for this job at Punchbowl BHS, I was one of her referees for the position. Firstly I want to tell you all a little bit about Ms Fattouh and “what makes her tick”. You can summarise the type of person Ms Fattouh is by the motto of Punchbowl BHS, “Deeds not words”. She is a hardworking, dedicated teacher who would take on anything even if she had no experience, just so that the boys would not miss out on any opportunities. For example she took on grade football and at a senior level. She has a reputation of being strict but also fair.

She is innovative in the classroom making her lessons interesting and relevant to each student’s needs and that is why the boys were always asking to be in her class. She will be missed greatly for her contribution here at Homebush BHS, her first home in teaching. I’d like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Maths staff and the whole school to wish her well in the next stage of her teaching journey.

Mr Chris Halkidis
Head Teacher Mathematics

Ms Fattouh receives a gift from Mr Kennedy. 

Last day selfie at the school assembly.

The popular Ms Fattouh, gone but not forgotten.
Languages Report

A busy start to the year has seen the Languages department mobilise and deal with some big challenges, that resulted in Mrs S. Shadwick taking on the role of relieving Deputy Principal and the appointment of Mr S. Madyski to the position of relieving Head Teacher languages creating some new dynamics in the way the faculty was run.

During February we started with a Korean infusion. We welcomed Gapyeong HS on a two week visit from the 8th to 22nd of February. Six exchange students immersing themselves in the Australian culture and schooling practices.

On the 13th of February we welcomed 17 students from Cheong JU HS and with the much appreciated help from 11 of our students we were able to give them a place to stay on their 7 day visit and cultural experience. These students went to class with their billets and were able to go on outings with their families to get the real feeling for an Australian way of life. On the Friday the students from both schools visited the Blue Mountains and Feather Dale Wildlife Park where the students were able to see some of Australia’s beautiful flora and fauna.

Kong Ju National University visited the school on Monday 22nd of February and attended lesson observations and toured HBHS as part of an experience into the educational practices of the Australian teaching system.

A big two weeks to start the year was wonderfully orchestrated by Ms K. Yu. With the three big visits by our Korean Sister schools over the faculty was able to focus on the Year 7 Meet the parents night held at the school on Tuesday 1st of March. A hugely successful night allowed parents to find out a treasure trove of information from our experienced staff of Mrs R. Zammit, Mrs J. Su and Ms C. Tang. This night was a wonderful opportunity for parents to gain an insight into the workings of each of their son’s classroom teachers.

A major project that the Chinese branch of the Language department at HBHS has been focussing on with support from the Chinese government is the creation of the Confucius Classroom program which aims to produce a purpose built classroom for Chinese education to improve the bonds between the Chinese and Australian cultures to build a strong relationship for the future.

Mrs J. Su and Ms C. Tang have worked tirelessly to transform room 33 into a cultural hub of Chinese education and on Tuesday 5th of April the grand opening of the Confucius classroom at home bush boys was officially opened by Mr J. Kennedy and Dr S. Shi. Students from years 7 to 12 performed singing numbers, calligraphy demonstrations and some of our talented students lead by William Wong performed dragon dancing in costume to impress the guests at the opening. Before Mr J. Kennedy and Dr S. Shi cut the ribbon to officially open and unveiled the plaque of its grand opening.

We would also like to welcome Ms S. You to the faculty as an intern as part of the Confucius classroom program.

Mr Stefan Madyski

Relieving Head Teacher Languages

Dr Shi leads one of the Chinese dragon dancers before the opening

Mr Madyski and Ms Yu with Gapyeong HS students and their Homebush buddies
Students from Kong Ju National University were welcomed during their visit to Homebush BHS

A unique experience was had by all but it is time to say goodbye.
Chinese teachers in readiness with two of our Chinese dragon dancers

Mr Kennedy cuts the ribbon to open our Confucius classroom

Dr Shi and Mr Kennedy unveil the plaque for the Confucius classroom

Teachers and students get ready for the dragon dance accompanied with traditional Chinese drums

Cheong Ju HS students enjoy some light refreshments
Assembly Presentations

Emily Pettit speaks to students about a street art program
Ms Yvone Yun from Strathfield Council
Mr Kennedy presents Isaac Noh with his golf trophy and certificate

1st Water Polo Grand Final Winners
Junior A Oztag Grand Final Winners

2nd Volley Ball Grand Final Winners

15s Volley Ball Grand Final Winners

Ms Juska speaks to the assembly about the affects of cyber bullying

Zaki Ousmand raises awareness about cyber bullying

Zac Foster raises awareness about how students can support cancer research
Certificates were presented to students for excellence in Gifted and Talented in Science

All students to recite the pledge against bullying
Students proudly show their UN Youth Conference certificates

Ms Anton speaks about student involvement at the UN Youth Conference

Mr Kennedy addresses the school assembly on the subject and damaging affects of cyber bullying at school and in the community
Students receive their school service certificates of appreciation
Photos from our Swimming Carnival
These are the serious competitors ready for their events.

Yr12 students in their traditional non serious attire as competitors ready for something??
Thumbs up from Amir, I got a ribbon.

Adam and Josh show their delight with first and second place.

Staff record student places after an event.