Homebush Boys High School Celebrates Student Achievements at the Annual Presentation Day

Students, staff and parents assembled at the Marie Bashir Primary School in week 10 to recognize student achievement across all areas of the school curriculum as well as extra curricular areas. The official party consisted of community members in all areas of society that were presenters on the day. Our wonderful Symphony Jubilate performed several pieces during the presentation that helped to make the day a special occasion.
It’s hard to believe that the year is already drawing to a close. It only seems like yesterday that I was writing the first report for the year. It has been quite a diverse and busy year for all of us incorporating the many changes that have occurred throughout the year. As always our teaching staff moved our students through another successful year of learning.

2016 has been another incredibly successful year for our school. The inclusion of the school as a finalist in the Premier’s Awards for improvements in NAPLAN was a real highlight for the school community. Plans and programs are well underway and will continue into 2017 to continue this success.

Homebush Boys High School proves every year with our results that your background does not pre determine your future. In fact we are one of the most successful boys schools in NSW. In both 2014 and 2015 80% of our year 12 boys were offered a university position.

However, HSC scores though, are not the sole point of what you have to achieve at school.

I am proud to report that our combined orchestra who perform regularly, the Symphonia Jubilate is the envy of many schools and I am pleased to say also embodies the links between us and our sister school, Strathfield Girls High School which I value so highly.

We continued our success in the field of the arts with once again 4 students being selected for Art Express 2015.

Our school under went three different forms of audit in 2016 and I am pleased to report that we were successful and complimented on our Schools Excellence Framework Validation, Our International Students program and our Vocational Education and Training Audit.

Our school budget has improved once again this year and we were able to improve our back oval with the aid of a Community Builders grant and the same will be occurring I hope over the holiday period with our Cricket Nets as well. Thank you to our local member Jodi McKay and the Community Builders Grants Team.

I would like to take this opportunity to announce the permanent appointment pending the ten day appeal period of Mrs Anna Paleothedoros to the role of Deputy Principal to the school. Ms Paleothedoros replaces Mr Khurshed as he retires at the end of this year. Mrs Paleothedoros is an experienced TAS Head Teacher who will join us from the start of next year from Strathfield Girls High School. I look forward to introducing her to the school community in 2017.

Since this is the last bulletin for the year I want to spend most of it thanking a range of people who make our school the success it is and who make my job so much easier. School is primarily about teaching in the classroom and I want to publicly thank our teachers, permanent, temporary and casual, for being such outstanding professionals, always having courage, and being prepared to dig deeper than at any other school I have ever seen.

I would like to thank Ms Juska and her adept team of Year Advisors that I had the honour of working closely with this year. We must congratulate Mrs Kumaralingam and Mr Lee for their support of Year 7 during their transitional year from primary school. Mr Burke and Ms Brown continue to do a sterling job with Year 8 and are moulding them into a cohort that is ready to begin Stage 5 next year. Mr Abbou and Ms Laksiniyapath have been tireless in their efforts in their role as Year 9 Advisors and we saw their year group produce some tremendous results in the Numeracy NAPLAN tests. They continue to strive to develop an academic and harmonious year group.

Ms Su and Mrs Zammit have worked closely with Year 10 during their year of introduction to the ROSA credential. I am pleased to say that 99% of our students were eligible for the Year 10 ROSA. Mrs Altundag and Mr Carrozza have crafted Year 11 into fine leaders in our school and Mr Koff and Mr Mady can finally put their feet up and look forward to the Year 12 results in their final year. Congratulations all on your fine efforts. To Mr Koff and Mr Mady, we farewell them as Year 12 Advisors 2016 and thank them for their six year commitment to this year group. They will leave a big gap of experience in our wellbeing team but their year group and the rest of the team have
benefited greatly from their wealth of knowledge. It was a fitting testament to them the way in which Year 12 paid their respects to them at the end of Term 3.

I am very lucky to have a terrific team of ancillary staff to work with as Principal. Mrs Reardon and her team provide me with excellent support every day of the year and they cope with extreme pressure on a daily basis. Without them we would not be able to achieve the things we have.

I would like to thank our ever supportive Head Teachers for their continued efforts during 2016. Without their support, this year would not have run so smoothly. To Mr Khurshed, Mr Sculthorpe and Mr Prasad I thank you for your guidance and counsel as part of the Senior Executive team.

At this point in the year it is appropriate for me to farewell members of staff who will leave us at the end of the year.

One of the sad things that occur at the end of the year is that, for a range of reasons, people move on from one school to another. Sometimes that’s the result of a well-deserved promotion, occasionally it’s a transfer related to family life or personal reasons. On other occasions though it’s to do with retirement. That always brings with it a sense of mixed feelings because we say farewell to people who have given so much to our school and our profession, but at the same time it’s a happy occasion as individuals move on to another exciting phase in their life.

This year we say farewell to five important people. They have all made a significant contribution to our school.

Mr Paul Koff has been a wonderful teacher in our English Faculty for over 20 years and has also been an incredibly dedicated Year Adviser for the past six years and I believe this is his second round as Year Adviser. Mr Koff will retire on Australia Day 2017. Paul, we wish you all the best.

Ms Pam Vine, our Teacher Librarian and Head Teacher Administration will also finish working with us at the end of this term. Pam will be taking some well-earned LSL in Term 1 next year and then retire at Easter. We thank Pam for her work in the Library and with all things of an administrative nature. She is a powerhouse and will be missed greatly.

Mr Alan Everett, our Head Teacher Science has also chosen to retire at the end of this year. Last month I formally farewelled Alan at his Retirement Dinner and issued him with his Service medal. I thanked Alan for over 30 years’ service with the department and much of it has been spent with us at HBHS guiding and leading one of our most popular and successful faculties. Congratulations Alan.

Mr Kim Attwood, our Head Teacher Creative Arts is also choosing the path of retirement. Kim has worked in a variety of inner city schools as Head Teacher and his contribution to HBHS will be remembered fondly. Kim has always been a tremendous promoter of the school through his tireless work with the Bush Bulletin. Thank you Kim and good luck with the next chapter of your life.

I have left one person to last. Its one thing to lose classroom teachers and support staff, but it’s something more to lose a member of the Senior Executive team.

Mr Kamie Khurshed has been the Deputy Principal at our school since 2000. He has been a teacher a leader, who has always brought a great deal of commitment, intellect, skill and common sense to the job. He has contributed to this school in too many ways to list here, within and beyond the Deputy role. We will miss his enthusiasm for his work and his passion for the well-being of every student, both of which have been the hallmarks of a wonderful career.

The contributions of these people to this school have been extensive and I have valued their professionalism, determination and sheer hard work for our school. The lives of many young people in the HBHS community have been touched by them and I thank them for their work and wish them the very best for the future.
Some staff members prefer me not to mention their departure and I respect their wishes. But please note I warmly and respectfully farewell you from our school.

I wish you all a safe and Happy New Year and I hope the Christmas period is significant to all of us one way or another and I look forward to seeing you all in 2017.

Yours in Education,
John G Kennedy
Principal
BA Dip Ed (UNSW)
MEd Lead (UWS)
Homebush BHS Promotes and Supports White Ribbon Day

White Ribbon Day is greater than just pinning on a nice white ribbon or enjoying a sausage sizzle. The message of White Ribbon Day must be taken to every heart and put into practice in our everyday life.

The message of White Ribbon Day goes out to all the men, women and children caught up in the horrors of violence, that WE stand together and make a personal and school community commitment to oppose all forms of violence, and to use our voice of compassion, empathy and justice to break the silence of so many.

Violence against women occurs anywhere. It destroys the wellbeing, dignity and self-worth of our women, our mothers, sisters, and our colleagues. This is a man’s problem. With 87% of domestic violence victims being women, this is clearly a man’s problem. There are so many statistics about domestic violence and they are staggering: one women is murdered every week; another is hospitalised every 3 hours. We have a lot to be proud of in this country, but these statistics highlight a deeply rooted problem in our society and they are nothing to be proud of.

This term, Homebush Boys held a successful White Ribbon Day event and I shared this message: Men who are violent to women aren’t just reacting because they are angry, but it is a tool used to have control and power over them. It makes them feel big and powerful. Humiliating women doesn’t make us big. Making rude jokes or being aggressive to a woman doesn’t make us men. A man is someone who upholds the dignity and rights of women, respecting and empowering them to live a happy and harmonious life.

Women play an important role in our lives. We all have women as role models whether it be our mothers, grandmothers, sisters, aunties. There is nothing more sickening than abusing someone you love. At Homebush Boys and here at this school, there are wonderful female teachers who educate and inspire us and they deserve the same respect that we would give to your mother, grandmother, sister or aunty.

Violence against women is a social epidemic eroding away our society. However, there is a cure and we are all part of this cure. Which is why I can say with confidence and a sense of optimism, that it was promising to see over 1000 young men at Homebush Boys, last week, take the oath and make a commitment to eradicate this evil. That is a strong and powerful message. It should not be underestimated.

Solving the issue of violence begins here at school, treating everyone with respect and dignity. No one at school should feel threatened or uncomfortable. Being aggressive and violent to another student is not acceptable. Regardless of gender, violence against anyone is devastating.

There is nothing tough about letting your anger and frustration overcome you. There is nothing strong about going after someone’s dignity and self-worth.

I shared this quote from a wise man who once said: “The strong man is not the one who wrestles others; the strong man is in fact the person who controls himself at the time of anger.” You all know the life lesson, written in all scriptures and taught in every faith: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you”

Basically, treat others the way you would like someone to treat you. If we all lived by this, I can assure you, the world would be a better and safer place. Our school would like to thank Mr Khurshed and Mr Achmed who courageously spoke at the assembly about their own experiences with violence against women, specifically against their mothers.
A brave Mr Khurshed speaks about his own personal experiences with domestic violence at the ‘White Ribbon Day’ assembly.

Mr Achmed speaks passionately about his experiences with domestic violence at the ‘White Ribbon Day’ assembly.

Yr8 student Bassam Maaliki who generously donated $200 towards the ‘White Ribbon Day’ collection.

Homebush students take the pledge for White Ribbon Day.

Mr Saber leads the pledge at our ‘White Ribbon Day’ assembly.
ABOVE 15,000 women across the nation are diagnosed with breast cancer each year.

Homebush Boys High School continued, with its strong tradition of supporting and donating to the Pink Ribbon fund-raiser and cancer awareness day. Pink Ribbon Day is an annual event run by the Cancer Council which aims to raise funds and awareness about breast and gynaecological cancers.

Individual staff and students dressed in something pink to support the Pink Ribbon Day initiative and raise funds for breast and gynaecological cancer. The fashion police were sent out to look for best dressed staff members on the day. Staff and students raised over $700.00 on the day.

Many shared stories of the need for early detection and support mechanisms that are available. Whole school personnel also engaged in practices of reflection, remembering loved ones who have lost their battle with cancer.

Homebush Boys High School raised funds through the selling of pink ribbons by our student leadership body, generous donations made by whole school community personnel. As a school, we reinforce that donating is part of the Australian culture. It is also not for individuals, but for much needed medical research.

Many around the world battle various forms of cancer. Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in women. Pink Ribbon Day is a great opportunity to remind women and/or others of the importance of detecting breast cancer in its early stages and that treatments are available to both fight and prevent the disease.

Homebush Boys High School thanks all staff and students involved in Pink Ribbon Day initiatives and for the generous donations that continue to be made by many. Our school would like to thank those who dig deep to help find a cure, and improve the lives and wellbeing of those currently battling this disease in our society.
Staff and students wear something pink to support 'Pink Ribbon Day'

Real men do wear pink as Mr Sculthorpe shows

Ms Donahue is a strong supporter of our 'Pink Ribbon Day' event

Interact member Ibrahim Taha presents a cheque to the ZONTA Foundation from money raised at our 'Pink Ribbon Day' assembly
Mr Kennedy presents Mr Doolan with his 40 year teaching certificate

Strathfield GHS Vice-Captain Rose Cox lends her support at the 'Pink Ribbon Day' assembly

Mr Spotswood’s mighty Under 15’s Rugby Champions proudly wear their winners caps
Mr Kennedy with Mr Attwood with students and their ‘Artsmart Workshop’ certificates

Mr Kennedy and Ms Su with students and their language certificates

Science students and their Distinction Certificates from the Australian National Chemistry Quiz

Mr Everett with students and their Distinction Certificates from the Australian National Chemistry Quiz

Mr Kennedy with and Skye Lim and Alex Campos with their school appreciation certificates
YEAR 9 ABORIGINAL STUDIES ART WORKSHOP

Year 9 Aboriginal Studies students had the opportunity to visually represent their Dream Time character, ‘The Rainbow Serpent’. Students had read the story of the Rainbow Serpent and then had to draw and paint their own interpretation of the serpent. Their paintings were completed after several lessons in the art room. They were all fully engaged in the process which led to a very successful outcome of paintings that were brightly coloured using Aboriginal techniques and symbols. Well Done boys!

Mrs M Altundag/Ms H Elestu

Ms Altundag’s students are focused on their Aboriginal paintings in the artroom
Student Artworks from the workshop
Prefect and SRC Induction Ceremony

On the 5th December parents and friends were invited to the school for the induction of the 2017 Prefects and SRC representatives. Ms De Michael, Ms Altundag and Ms Singh called out each group that were presented with their badges from a proud parent or at times a supportive Dr Balan who stepped in to do the honour.

At the conclusion of the ceremony students, parents and staff from the official party were treated to a delicious morning tea that was catered for by our TAS department and the Yr12 VET students along with some helpers.
Ms Singh with the elected SRC students for 2017

Mr Achmed and Mr Kennedy with Nithurshan and Dev and their Business certificates from Newcastle University
After 11 years as Head Teacher of the Creative and Performing Arts faculty I have decided to retire at the end of the year. It has been a real privilege to teach at Homebush BHS, and also to lead a group of dedicated and professional Visual Arts and Music teachers during this time. There have been many highlights, achievements and accolades from both students and teachers alike, such as students achieving Band 6 results (and their personal best), being selected for Artexpress, Operation Art, Silk Cut Awards, Pixel Prize, Doug Moran student photographic competition, along with Music students performing with the Symphony Jubilate ensemble at the Opera House and at many other special occasions.

I would also like to take this opportunity to especially thank Tony Letsios, Audrey Juska and Andrew Smith for their wonderful support in making my role as head teacher a much easier task. I look forward to returning and supporting future exhibitions and performances at the school involving Visual Arts and Music students and staff to see the continued student excellence in the Creative and Performing Arts.

**My Final Bush Bulletin**

As Head Teacher of the Creative and Performing Arts faculty it has also been my role as the editor and publisher of the Bush Bulletin publication at Homebush Boys High School, so this will also be the last edition of the Bush Bulletin I will be completing.

During this time there has never been a shortage of events and happenings occurring that highlight the many achievements and accolades that both students and teachers have been recognized for. There is a strong community spirit within the school that reaches out to the less privileged raising money or helping out with Meals on Wheels, Rotary, Interact Club or our School Breakfast Club. The school also embraces the many diverse cultures within the school that creates a sense of harmony and tolerance that the wider community strives to attain in general.

As the editor and photographer I have attended many events and presentations to see the pride in which students, staff and not forgetting the fantastic front office staff make this school such a welcoming and accepting institution. Whether that be events such as, The Biggest Morning Tea, White Ribbon Day & Pink Ribbon Day, ANZAC Day, Swimming & Athletics Carnivals, Yr7 Camp, Music Camp, Visual Arts Exhibitions, Prefect & SRC Inductions, Multicultural Day, Yr12 Graduations the list goes on, and there is always presentations at our weekly assembly that recognize student and teacher achievements across every KLA in the school.

I will be keen to see who takes up the role of Bush Bulletin editor next year and look forward to logging onto the school website to view what’s happening at Homebush Boys High School in the future.

So as the year comes to a close it’s goodbye and farewell to all, I’ve thoroughly enjoyed the journey.

**Mr Kim Attwood**

Head Teacher Creative and Performing Arts
Goodbye and Farewell

Mr Paul Koff

Ms Pam Vine

Mr Alan Everett

Mr Kamie Khurshed
Ex-staff and a few rings attend Paul Koff’s farewell dinner in the school hall.

Stephan with his sports Life Member award.

Kim with his Artsmart award.

Even Santa ‘Vine’ made an appearance at our last day lunch.

All smiles from Jono, Woddy and the Kamster on the last day of the year.