Principal’s Message

Goodbye and Good luck!

Our Year 12 students now only have the HSC Exams between them and an exit from Birrong Boys’ High School. It’s with mixed emotions that I encounter this event for the 25th time in my career; whilst it is great to witness students mature and progress, it is with some sadness that a school ‘loses’ a group of individual personalities that have been so much of the fabric of our school over the past six years. As our boys have grown these personalities have grown as well and it is difficult to imagine our school next year without them.

I have no doubt that the past six years at our school has provided our boys with the necessary skills to succeed once they leave our gates, I have no doubt that our teachers have developed them academically to achieve their potential in the HSC and ATAR and that we, as a school, have contributed to the personal growth of all these young men.

For the rest of their lives, this group of young men will be known as the graduating class of 2014. I hope that they will be proud of where they have come from for the rest of their lives, when I say ‘where they came from’; I am referring to all of the following; their culture, their family and their school. Goodbye and good luck to Year 12.

Parking Restrictions

A number of changes have occurred at the front of our school. A number of parking signs have changed and are now ‘No Stopping’ signs. I wasn’t made aware of these changes until I saw a ‘Ranger’ taking photos of the registration plates of vehicles who were ‘violating’ these restrictions a couple for days in a row. I am hopeful that anyone who was photographed only received a warning. Information that I have received from the Bankstown City Council includes; … drivers must not stop in an area to which a No Stopping sign applies. Minimum penalty $304 and two demerit points’. A parent representative has recently sent a letter to our local member requesting a change to this status so that parents are able to drop our students at school without the risk of a fine with the safety of our boys at the foremost of any change.

Until such time, I urge all parents to take caution when dropping off or picking up your sons and be mindful of the current parking restrictions to avoid a hefty fine.

New School Captain

Ms Tawadros leads our Prefect Team and coordinates the Prefect election process that recently took place at our school. The nomination and election of our Prefects is done in a democratic manner whereby student votes count just as much as my vote. Our Prefects were elected and have been recently announced. It gives me great pleasure to say that the following boys will lead our school for the duration of 2014 and for the first three terms of 2015.
Muhannad Abdel-Qader, Taufiq Arahman, Ibrahim Aslam, Nathan Blas, Mohammad Dabliz, Gregory Epov, Rabeeh Ghany, Harry Habib, Jesse Hutabarat, Musa Kan, Shariq Waseem, Moustafa Zreika.

On Wednesday 3 September our new Prefects worked together on a range of tasks including public speaking and the day finished with the election of our School Captain, Vice-Captain and Senior Prefect. The results are as follows;

School Captain: Taufiq Arahman
Vice-Captain: Ibrahim Aslam
Senior Prefect: Musa Kan

Happy holidays!

Mr D Stevens  
Principal

Deputy Principal

Practicum Teachers Learn From Our Staff Expertise

Student teachers from the Faculty of Education at The University of Sydney visited our school twice this term. BBHS has a strong partnership with Sydney University and teachers have been sharing their expertise with practicum teachers for years. The days offered enormous enjoyment and learning for the early careers teachers. It was an opportunity to learn about the realities and practicalities of teaching in schools, a learning opportunity that can only be gained by practical and hands on experience. Kate Keeley, a Lecturer and Curriculum Coordinator from Sydney University, expressed her gratitude to BBHS with the following comment: “Every year, all students, every one of them, say how great the unit was and that to a very large extent is due to the people at Birrong.”

Mr Hobbs and I were also invited to Sydney University to talk to pre-service teachers about planning effective learning experiences for students especially those with significant language needs. I was able to share the good practices we have at BBHS. Pre-service teachers also shared with the senior executive team reflection papers they wrote about the learning they gained while at Birrong about effective teaching in South West Sydney High Schools.

Students Reach Their Max Potential Goals

I had the pleasure of attending the graduation of Year 11 students, Nour Kadrah and Mohamed Zoobi, who participated in a leadership program called Max Potential. The project offered 22 weeks of personal leadership development, including coaching to young leaders from BBHS and the community, to help them maximise their potential during the final years at school and beyond. It also encouraged students to focus on the local community and ways that they can work to improve it.

As the projects were community based, young adults were connected with other leaders in their local community. This meant that students had the opportunity to work with people who genuinely cared about their future and were happy to invest in it. Nour’s project focussed on working with a local primary school. He spent time with Year 3 students on exploring the meaning of friendships and how they help shape young people’s lives. Mohamed set up a clothing collection initiative to support the poor and homeless.

Congratulations to Mohamed and Nour on the effort they put in to complete their projects. Special thanks go to Mr Hobbs and Ms Metcalfe who worked extensively with the boys.
The Deputies at Birrong Boys High School are “Great Leaders Inspiring Learning”
I attended the State Secondary Deputy Principals’ conference last week with Mr Derbas. The days were jam packed with sessions addressing issues faced by schools today such as teacher quality reform; issues involving mental health with young adults and their impact on schools; leading and managing staff; local schools local decisions; and a range of other issues affecting staff and students. The two days also offered a great opportunity to network with deputies from across the state.

The theme for this year’s conference was Great Leaders Inspiring Learning.

With all the internal and external changes schools are going through and will be going through over the next number of years, some key messages remain strong and are in the centre of what we do every day:

- Our educational philosophy at BBHS is about providing every student with relevant and tailored learning experiences where their needs are met.
- BBHS is an open and positive environment that fosters a sense of belonging, and values students and parents as members of the learning community.

I am looking forward to next year’s Deputy Principals’ conference.

BBHS Celebrates High Achievement
On Wednesday 20 August, the school hosted a high achievers’ morning tea for students showing significant academic achievement across subjects. The event was organized to acknowledge and celebrate Semester 1 achievements. The event started with an acknowledgement speech given by Mr Stevens followed by morning tea. The school is looking forward to even more improved achievements in Semester 2.

Congratulations to our boys!

BBHS New Leadership Body
Teachers at BBHS along with Year 11 students have just gone through the process of selecting the school’s new leadership team that will be taking over as of next term.
The students who have been elected to lead the school’s student body are highly skilled students with a great understanding of team leadership and a high commitment towards school service.

Congratulations to the following students on their achievement and I am looking forward to working with them on school service initiatives.

   Taufiq Arahman  
   Ibrahim Aslam  
   Musa Kan  
   Jesse Hutabarat  
   Wasim Shariq Qureshi  
   Mohammad Dabliz  
   Gregory Epov  
   Muhammad Abdul-Qader  
   Rabeeh Ghany  
   Mustafa Zreika  
   Nathan Blas  
   Harry Habib

Congratulations to the new SRC leaders.

   Adam El Cheikh - President  
   Erol Blas - Vice President  
   Kam Paseka - Secretary

Farewell Year 12!

It has been a pleasure having you at our school for the last six years. I have had the pleasure of working with you and getting to know so many of you. You are a special group of young men and I hope you guys go on to be successful and prosperous. You will be missed and BBHS will certainly be a different place without you. It will be much quieter!!!

Goodbye, good luck and come back and share with us your success stories.

Ms H Ramadan  
Deputy Principal Administration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BBHS Upcoming Events to Remember</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent Meeting 9:30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 12 Graduation Day (last day of school for Year 12 only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 3 ends</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 4 commences</td>
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<td>Parent Meeting 9:30am</td>
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Deputy Principal

Year 12 Farewell

This term will be a busy term for Year 12. They have completed their HSC Trial Exams and will continue to prepare for their Higher School Certificate Examinations which will commence on Monday 13 October 2014.

A few reminders/hints for Year 12 in preparation for their HSC:

- Ensure that their uniform is ready the day before the exam;
- A kit of the necessary equipment is packed such as pens; pencils; eraser, calculator and watch;
- Need to visit the bathroom before entering the exam room;
- Familiarise yourself with exam procedures, for example if you are genuinely sick or have an unexpected incident you or parents know what to do;
- Most exams allow reading time, use it wisely;
- Do not distract or disturb other students, show respect and
- Use time wisely, answer questions worth the most, and do not leave questions unanswered.

Important Information for HSC Students

Your Personal Examination Timetable

Your personal examination timetable is available for you via Students Online. Your personal timetable lists all your written examinations and states where you will sit for your examinations – usually at your school.
It also lists any other examinations that you have been entered for, including oral examinations for languages, performance examinations and submitted works.

Details of your performance examinations or projects (title of work, category etc) – as supplied to us by your school – are also available via Students Online. If you are undertaking oral or performance examinations, details about the venue and time for these examinations will be available at the same location later in the year.

If there are any errors or omissions in the examinations for which you are entered, you must contact your school as soon as possible so that they can supply the Board of Studies with the correct information. Take special care if you are entered for a VET course that has an HSC examination. If the examination does not appear on your personal timetable, you have not been entered for it. You must be entered separately for the examination if you expect to sit for it.

Information About the HSC Examinations
You must ensure that you have read and understood the information about the HSC examinations in the 2014 Higher School Certificate Rules and Procedures for HSC candidates. Copies of this booklet were sent to all schools for distribution to HSC students, and it is also available on the Board’s website: www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/yourhsc/hsc-rules-proceduresguide.html.

There will be serious consequences if you attempt to cheat in an examination, if you disobey the Board’s rules for the conduct of the examination, or if you do not make a serious attempt across a range of question types in each examination. Any of these offences may result in reduced marks, cancellation of the course or loss of the HSC. The starting time for the examinations shown in the timetable is when reading time begins. You should plan to arrive at your examination venue well before the time specified. Further information about the HSC examinations is available on Students Online and on the Board’s website.

Disability Provisions
If you have a disability that affects your reading examination questions, or responding to them under examination conditions, your school can submit an application for provisions that will allow you to undertake the examinations. If you have not already done so, you should speak to your school if you think this applies to you.

Celebrating the Last Day at School
The last school day for Year 12 is 19 September 2014. This will be the Graduation Day, which will celebrate the completion of schooling. Parents are invited to join us for this special event. Reminder for all Year 12 students to see the Careers Advisor before the end of this term:
• Complete their UAC applications (university applications);
• Complete their EAS forms;
• Hand in a completed resume to Ms Krnjaic
• Submit TAFE applications

We wish all HSC students the best in their HSC exams.

Year 10 Complete their Subject Choices for their HSC
Year 10 have had lessons, discussions and meetings regarding their subjects for the Higher School Certificate. This has involved parents, the Careers Advisor, Head Teachers, the Head Teacher Welfare and their teachers. This is a crucial time as they choose five new courses of their choice, we are very lucky in that we can offer most students the courses they choose.

Year 8 will Choose Three Elective Subjects
As the students’ progress in their schooling, Year 8 will need to choose three subjects as part of their stage 5 course. Students have been issued with a booklet (Year 9, 2015, elective subject information booklet). Parents need to discuss their son’s choices and return the form to Mr Mohamed - Year 8 Advisor by Wednesday 10 September 2014.

Valuable Items-It Matters
If students bring valuable items to school such as phones, they need to know that they have to look after them carefully. On occasions some items go missing or get damaged. It can take hours to retrieve them or find out the cause to the damage. It is advisable that they carry them on their body or leave them with the deputy if required.

Mr Derbas
Deputy Principal Curriculum
Annual Spelling Bee

As part of Literacy Week, the English Faculty ran the annual Year 7 Spelling Bee Competition. The finalists all received a participation certificate presented to them by the principal, Mr Stevens. The following students participated: Karl Mosmann, Ali ElSaj, David Tran, Sailosi Laiafi, Ieti Taga, Bilal Zanetti, Robert Tran, Bilal Saadi, Habeel Chakari, Khodr Ghantous, Bassiru Savage, Haider AlKhazaaly, Mehmet Aslam, Abdulkadir Alibekiroglu, Suliman Kolka, Zaid Alshanteer, Abdul Alkakouni, Maurice Lei, Angelus Tugeba, Khalil Wehbe, Marwan Laalaa (Year 10), Zak Hannouf, Adam El-Cheikh and Abdul Rahman Ghanem. Trophies and vouchers were awarded to the following boys:

First Place - Habeel Chakiri
Second Place - Suliman Kolka
Third Place - Sailosi Laiafi

Thank you to all boys in Year 7 who took part in the Spelling Bee this year and a big thank you to Ms Tsanidis for her organisation of the competition. Events like these are not possible without the preparation and commitment of teachers and it makes me very proud that we have showcased the boys' spelling prowess once again this year. Many thanks also to Zac Hannouf (timekeeper) and Adam El-Cheikh (chairperson). They were both exemplary role models as they undertook their duties on the day.

Ms Tsopanos
Head Teacher English/ESL/ Languages
Michael Bui Year 11
I have had the pleasure of teaching Michael since the start of this year when he joined our school. Not only is Michael an extremely hard working and self motivated student he is also very polite and cooperative.

Although Michael has not had many opportunities to pursue musical education prior to enrolling at Birrong, he now spends any spare time he seems to have making up for this. There are few students in any school that are willing to commit to teaching themselves how to play a new instrument once they are already in year 11.

One of our early lessons included listening to and analysing an excerpt from John Williams’ "Main Title" from the film "Out of Africa". I can remember Michael being extremely taken with all the new sounds that he was being exposed to. So much so that he went beyond the lesson and started to research aspects of the music and the score outside of class. Michael’s drive to learn as much as he can is commendable and very pleasing to witness as a teacher. I find myself spending many recess and lunch times discussing music and going over piano pieces with Michael. I only wish that Michael had a piano of his own at home and access to a piano tutor so that he could practise more and effectively as possible.

So far in just three terms Michael has tenaciously taught himself a handful of songs on piano as well participated in every opportunity I have been able to offer him as the music teacher. This has included an amazing excursion to see Disneys’ “Lion King: The Musical” at the Capitol Theatre earlier this term, after which Michael and I have spent many conversations discussing the amazing musical performances.

Mr Hill
Music Teacher

Birrong Boys at The Capitol Theatre
On the 13 August a group of students from Year 9 to 12 took a trip into the city to see Disneys’ "Lion King: The Musical", live at The Capitol Theatre. I was extremely lucky and proud to be taking such a lovely group of students who were well behaved, holding themselves to an extremely high standard of conduct.

Upon arriving at the theatre the boys made short work of some hot dogs at Harry’s Café de Wheels before we took our seats. All the boys were in awe of the elaborately decorated foyer and stage. Before the show had even began we all took some time to have a look at and discuss the two giant drum and percussion pits on either side of the stage. I challenged Ellice to name as many of the African drums as he could whilst the musicians were tuning and warming up.
From the first powerful note, sung by Rafiki opening the show with "The Circle of Life" the boys were hooked. It was very pleasing to look across their faces and see the enjoyment and the wonder at the amazing spectacle. During intermission all the boys were heavily involved in a discussion about every aspect of the show from the giant animal costumes and puppets like the elephants and giraffes to the lighting and sound rigs and the sheer amount of work that goes into making a production like this come to life. We also took some time to have a close look at the impressive orchestra pit from the conductor's point of view.

The boys and myself spent the whole train trip back to school discussing the production. It seems all the boys had an amazing time. As you would expect the performances were amazing, Timone and Pumba as well as Zazu were the favourites of many. I am very pleased to have been able to accompany the boys for such an experience that gave them insight to the musical as a medium, professional musical performances, and the many other aspects of the music industry.

Mr Hill
Music Teacher

University of NSW Shadowing Program

On Thursday 21 August 2014, four boys from Year 11 were invited to participate in the UNSW shadowing program. The main aim of the program is to give high school students an idea of what a university student’s life is like. We were able to visit real lectures so we were really excited. The fact that they were also giving us free lunch vouchers made us even more excited. The university provided us with a bus that transported us from the school to the university. When we arrived, a student escorted us to a building where we signed in, got our name tags and a folder that included notepads, food vouchers, pens and a timetable for the activities we were going to do throughout the day. They also provided us with breakfast.

As soon as everyone arrived, they separated us into groups with students from other schools and we got to know each other. After this, a dancer came and bravely showed us a style of dance called ‘popping’. He then offered us a lesson on how to do the wave. Everyone participated and had a good time. We then set out in our groups to our lectures that we chose beforehand. Jafar chose Genes and Genetics and Reda chose Neurophysiology.

After one hour of lecturing we were bored because we didn’t understand anything the lecturer was saying! After we finished the lecture, we went to the restaurant within the university and bought a meal using our lunch vouchers. Then Reda’s group went to the museum where there were real body parts that had been donated to the university when people died while Jafar’s group got to experience what extracted copper looked like as well as other minerals that had been extracted from different ores. Finally we went back to the evaluation centre where we concluded the day.

Reda Alkinany and Jafar Alkhazaaly

Sports Report

On Thursday 4 September, 28 students from Years 9 and 10 went to Bass Hill to participate in the league harmony day. The program has been running every Thursday for the whole term. NRL ambassadors Joe Gulavao and Hazem El-Masri have been instrumental in teaching the boys about cultural diversity in Australia and how cultural acceptance is promoted through the sport of rugby league.

The students have been sitting in on workshops aimed at improving goal setting, communication and leadership skills. I would like to commend all students who participated for their commitment and application.
Term 4 will see boys participate in a number of sporting events such as the annual Mark Waugh trophy for 14 year old boys and the Bankstown zone will also be holding a gala day for Years 7 and 8. I encourage all students to embrace these opportunities to participate as the benefits that sport provides young boys is integral in their development as young men.

Mr G Roukanas
Sport Organiser

SRC Report

On Friday 8 September 2014 11 students were involved in a Legacy charity program. The students that participated were:

- Bilal Saadi – Year 7
- Bilal Zanetti – Year 7
- Karl Mosmann – Year 7
- Ahmed Zreika – Year 8
- Omar Darwich – Year 8
- Omar Yousri – Year 9
- Haseeb Ahmed – Year 9
- Jaber Deeb – Year 9
- Mohamed Hawa – Year 10
- Harry Habib – Year 11
- Nathan Blas – Year 11

Legacy is a charity providing services to Australian families suffering financially and socially after the incapacitation or death of a spouse or parent after their defence force service. This charity is currently caring for around 90,000 widows and 1,900 children and disabled dependants throughout Australia.

During the day we were dropped off by the people that work with Legacy around local areas at Birrong. I have to say the boys were stunning and well behaved. Lots of people from the public were extremely impressed with their respectful manners. I would like to congratulate Ahmed Zreika in Year 8 who raised the highest amount of money which was $270. Well done Ahmed!

Finally, I would like to encourage students that want to join the Student Representative Council team to see Ms V Sharma and participate in the 2015 Legacy charity program and other future charity events.

Once again, well done boys!

Nathan Blas
SRC Member and Careers Leadership President

Farewell and Good Luck Year 12 Students of 2014!
Birrong Boys High School

Student Profiles

Bilal SAADI
Year 7

Favourite Sport
Soccer

Favourite Food
Lasagne

Favourite Subject
Sport

What I like about BBHS
The teachers are kind

When I leave school I want to be
Personal Trainer

Shariq WASEEM
Year 11

Favourite Sport
Cricket

Favourite Food
Kebab

Favourite Subject
Maths

What I like about BBHS
The staff

When I leave school I want to be
Dentist
HOME WORK CENTRE

When: Mondays and Tuesdays
3:10 to 4:10pm

Where: School Library

Who: All students welcome

Research and Reading
Help with assessments / assignments / Internet access
A quiet place to finish school tasks

IT’S FREE!

Afternoon tea provided
You cannot attend the Homework Centre without a signed permission note from your parent / carer.

UTS Summer School for Year 10 students
Any students interested in attending the UTS Summer School program 12 to 23 January 2015, please see Ms Sharma in the HSIE staffroom for further information.

5 Day High School Holiday Hangout
A 5-day high school holiday hangout program will be held during the 2nd week of the school holidays (Monday 29th September to Friday 3rd October) from 11am-3pm daily. It will be held in the Presbyterian Church Hall at the corner of James St & East St, Lidcombe which is a short walk from Lidcombe station.

As part of our local community, we are inviting the students of all the local high schools to come and join in the fun activities that will be running: craft, board games, console games, basketball and our special high tea/baking event on Friday where there will be a cupcake decorating demonstration.

Lunch will be included and the cost per day is $5 per student.

Looking for a fun and educational family activity in the holidays?

The 1000 Norms Project is investigating how physical ability changes across the lifespan and needs 1000 healthy volunteers from 3 to 100 years of age! Travel reimbursement is available.

Participation involves 2-3 hours once only at The University of Sydney Lidcombe campus.

During the assessment you will perform basic physical tests and complete several questionnaires. Children receive a certificate and some results to show their class mates.

To be part of this project or to know more about it, please:

Call: Marnee or Jen (02) 9036 7435 or
Email: 1000.norms@sydney.edu.au
Facebook: 1000 Norms Project

Website: http://sydney.edu.au/health-sciences/research/1000-norms.shtml