Principal’s Message

A busy term!
Term 4 is an extremely busy time of year for students and staff, much time and effort is devoted to studying and preparing for exams that require our boys to display an understanding of the content and concepts of the courses they have studied throughout the whole year. Teachers are busy with ensuring the content required by BOSTES (formerly the Board of Studies) is taught in the most appropriate manner, preparing and marking exams then writing Yearly Reports.

This term also sees many events that are extra to the demands of the school curriculum. On Saturday 8 November 2014, a number of our boys joined members of the Campsie Rotary Club at Bunnings, Greenacre to work at the BBQ and raise money for some key projects within our school. Thanks to Ms Tawadros (Prefect Coordinator) for arranging for student leaders Ibrahim Aslam and Nathan Blas to assist with this endeavour. Similarly, I must thank Ms V Sharma for organising Errol Blas and Mouhamed Hawa from within our SRC Team to also volunteer at the BBQ for the day. One of the key projects involves us purchasing some new flagpoles and flags to fly proudly at the front of our school. The Campsie Rotary Club is to be thanked for their selfless efforts with us.

Remembrance Day
On Tuesday 11 November 2014, Remembrance Day, I was privileged to be invited, along with Ms Tawadros (Prefect Coordinator) and our School Captains, Taufiq Arahman and Ibrahim Aslam to take part in the Remembrance Day Commemorative Ceremony at Auburn RSL. This date used to be known as Armistice Day and commemorates the signing of the document that officially brought World War I to an end. Although ANZAC Day is our main day to commemorate those who served our country, Remembrance Day is of great significance when one understands the context for a young nation such as Australia. At the start of World War I the population of the whole of Australia was 5 000 000, our young men flocked to sign up for the opportunity to fight in the ‘Great War’. Throughout the duration of the war on average 41 Australians were killed each day making a total of 60 000 lives lost during the war. Never has our nation made such a sacrifice and this day marks the end of the loss of lives and was symbolic in that families were able to mourn the loss of young lives who were never brought back to our country.
Welcome Ms Harris
We have been fortunate to have secured the services of a new CLO, Ms Harris. Ms Harris brings a depth of experience to our school and we look forward to a long and rewarding partnership. Our new CLO will be with us each Friday and her core business will be strengthening our links with our community via her considerable experience in this field. On other occasions, such as Multicultural Day, Orientation Day etc, Ms Harris will also provide her assistance in ensuring the event caters to the needs of our community. Please make her welcome to Birrong Boys’ High School, I have no doubt she will prove to be an invaluable asset.

Happy and Safe Holidays
As I write this article there are still a few weeks remaining in what has been a successful year for the students and staff of Birrong Boys’ High School. We anxiously await the HSC results with a great sense of anticipation as we expect some very high ATARs. We are proud of the achievements of our students and the expert teaching of our experienced and dedicated staff.

I’d like to wish all members of the Birrong Boys’ High School community a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. My message also includes the hope that everyone has a safe holiday and that all students return on Day 1 of 2015 having had a relaxing break ready to tackle the challenges of a new school year.

Deputy Principal

BBHS Celebrates Cultural Diversity
On Tuesday 25 November 2014, our school hosted a Multicultural Day celebration, our first in many years. Our school enjoys the richness of a student population with over 40 language backgrounds.

The day consisted of performances, food from a variety of cultural backgrounds in addition to fun activities. The highlight of the day was not only celebrating our multicultural aspect, but our school harmony as well. It was an opportunity to bring our diverse and rich community together in a peaceful, relaxed and inviting environment.

Staff, students, parents and a number of local principals joined us on the day for a performance assembly from students from BBHS as well as neighbouring primary and high schools.

Overall, the day went smoothly and staff, students and visitors all commented on how successful it was. Special thanks need to go to the organization committee led by Mr Hobbs and all the staff and students of the Birrong community for making the day a great success. This is hopefully one of many coming up!

Year 11 Students Embarking on the HSC Journey
Our Year 11 students have already started their HSC curriculum and are about to embark on the HSC assessment journey. Over the next two weeks, students will be submitting assessments and sitting for exams. By the end of this term, students would have completed a quarter of their HSC course. I would like to encourage our students to continue to strive for excellence and do their school and their families proud.
Wishing our Community a Safe Break
I would like to take this opportunity to wish our local and extended Birrong community a very happy and safe break. It has been a busy term but I am sure that our staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that students continue to be prepared and upskilled for the future with a tailored learning experience catering for their needs.

Have a safe holiday!

Ms H Ramadan
Deputy Principal Administration

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>BBHS Upcoming Events to Remember</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2014</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 7 Orientation Day</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>Parent Meeting 9:30am</td>
<td>Friday</td>
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<td>Presentation Day</td>
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<td>Last day of school 2014</td>
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<td><strong>2015</strong></td>
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<td>Years 7, 11 &amp; 12 only</td>
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<td>Years 8, 9 &amp; 10 only</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent Meeting 9:30am</td>
<td>Friday</td>
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**Deputy Principal**

Busy Term 4
Term four is rapidly drawing to an end with many activities happening. We held our Multicultural Day on the 25 November 2014; it was a very successful day where the school showcased our proud community of many cultures.

Activities week will take place on the three last days of school, where students are given the opportunity to participate in a wide range of activities which will assist in their development of social and educational skills.

Students have completed their assessments and teachers are busy compiling their yearly reports. School reports will be posted to all families at the end of the term, please ensure that if there has been a change in address that you let the school know as soon as possible.

Welcome to Our New Students and their Parents
Year 7 Orientation Day will be on Wednesday 3 December 2014 and we look forward to meeting our new Year 7 2015 students and their parents. The day will start at 9.15am in our school hall and conclude at 2.30pm.

Best of Luck to our Class of 2014
Our Year 12 have finished their HSC exams and results will be published on Thursday 11 December 2014. It should be kept in mind that there are many ways to a goal and so students who have not achieved according to their expectations need to investigate the many other avenues. The school will be very happy to help with advice in this area.

We Celebrate our Achievements
Our annual school presentation day is scheduled for Thursday 11 December 2014, on this day students will be recognised for their academic, sporting and community effort. Congratulations must go to all those students who will receive awards. Parents are asked to attend this special event.

School Lessons Continue
Attendance is compulsory for all students until Wednesday 17 December 2014. Should a student not be able to attend school, a letter must be given to the roll call teacher indicating a valid reason.

Mr Derbas
Deputy Principal Curriculum

Community Liaison Officer (CLO)

My name is Ms Souhair Harris and it gives me great pleasure to introduce myself to you as BBHS newly appointed Community Liaison Officer. Although I have only been involved with our school since the beginning of term 4 this year as a parent, I have for the past 25 years been involved in working with the local community as a social worker and community development project manager. I am based at the school one day a week (Fridays).
My Role as CLO will develop accordingly as needs arise, however I plan to focus on:

1. Establishing and maintaining effective communication links by liaising with teachers and parents about the needs and issues relating to students. This may include:
   - mentoring students and parents
   - conveying information and concerns between parents and students
   - attending interview and parent meetings
   - liaise with families to help them better understand student learning.

2. Running beneficial workshops and information sessions for parents by different Government and non-government organisations, such as:
   - Police ie safety at home & outside, cyberbullying etc
   - Community Health ie parenting skills, mental health
   - Centrelink
   - NAPLAN workshops for parents
   - provide opportunities to involve parents in school activities
   - Computer classes for parents, etc (TAFE Outreach)

3. Other activities – participate in and support:
   - Presentation Days
   - Parents and Teachers nights
   - Selection panels
   - Yr 7 Orientation days

The school’s success and students’ excellence is very important to me and I hope to work closely with you and the school to reach this important goal. Please come and introduce yourself to me at the next Parents’ meeting which is on Friday 5 December 9.30am or at the Year 7 Orientation Day on Wednesday 3 December 9.15am. I look forward to meeting you all then.

Warmest regards,
Ms Souhair Afiouny Harris JP

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VET Construction Certificate II in Construction Pathways

This course allows students to develop a broad range of skills and knowledge appropriate for workers to enter the construction industry at the first level. Assessment tasks in this subject involve small timber projects, a school based concreting and formwork project, wall framing and wall and floor tiling. These projects allow students to demonstrate their level of competency in concrete placing and finishing, erection of formwork, basic levelling procedures, measurements and calculations, erection of timber wall frames and the cutting and placing of wall and floor tiles.

Mr Livermore
Head Teacher TAS

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Yr 12 VET Construction students demonstrate their level of competency on a range of construction tasks for class teacher/assessor, Mr Livermore.
WorkCover Health & Safety

Rami Jaber and Ali Al Hashimi with their WorkCover Work Health and Safety General Construction Induction Certificates. They also received their WorkCover General Construction Induction "White Card" qualification which allows them to enter building and construction sites (with supervision) to work or seek employment.

Mr B Livermore
Head Teacher - TAS
Remembrance Day
On the 11 November 2014, School Captain, Taufiq Arahman and Vice-Captain, Ibrahim Aslam, attended the 2014 Remembrance Day ceremony held at Auburn War memorial to represent Birrong Boys High School. The boys took part in a very significant date in Australia’s history as they commemorated and shared the traditions and spirit of ANZAC with Australian veterans. Poems and speeches were shared and a traditional wreath laying ceremony was done by all the invited students. Following the ceremony, the boys were invited to the ANZAC room for refreshments and morning tea whilst viewing the ANZAC artefacts.
By Taufiq Arahman & Ibrahim Aslam

R U OK?
On the 14 November 2014, a group of Year 11 students were invited to attend the R U OK program in Auburn in awareness of mental illnesses where they learnt about the different types of mental illnesses, what can relate to stress and how they can prevent it from happening. The boys participated in icebreaker challenges, role playing acts and group work. “It was great fun, we met new friends and learnt a lot about what to do when someone is suffering from depression.” Said Shariq. To end the day, the facilitators provided the boys with refreshments, lunch and a mental illness starter pack.
By Taufiq Arahman & Shariq Qureshi

Article from Auburn Review 18 November 2014

Young people joined a Mad Hatter’s Tea Party to discuss mental health issues on Friday.

Mad Hatters focus on mental health

COMMING together to discuss a range of mental health issues, about 80 young people joined a Mad Hatter’s Tea Party organised by the Auburn Youth Advisory Collective (AYAC) on Friday.

Students took part from Auburn Girls, Granville South CHA and Birrong Boys high School, as well as from local youth organisations. Youth leader Reena Sivakumar and Reesha Rahman said the aim of the event was to provide a platform for young people to talk about mental health.

“We hope to provide a comfortable space where young people can talk openly about things they or their friends may be experiencing or have experienced.” Miss Sivakumar said.

Council’s youth development officer Lucie Bourdieux says the AYAC is a group of young people aged 14 to 21, passionate about addressing local issues and organised the event themselves, including proposing for a grant through “Youth Action, DIY reality grants.”

Year 10 Links to Learning Program
On Thursday 27 November 2014 the Links to Learning students participated in two workshops.

The first session was presented by Turkan Aksoy who is the Community Development Officer at Bankstown City Council. This session focused on Communication Skills, Resume Writing, Interview Skills, Cultural Awareness, Presentation Skills and Work Culture, Cycle of Employment and the Labour Market.
The second session was presented by Georgina Zaineddine who is the Multicultural Community Liaison Officer (MCLO) at NSW Police Bankstown.

Georgina and her colleague, Huwen discussed healthy relationships and awareness of domestic violence as well as the role of MCLO.

The students who attended the sessions were engaged and actively participated in the workshops.

Ms S Sharma
HT Welfare/Social Science

Aspire
On Wednesday 26 November 2014, a group of Year 9 students went to the University of NSW to see what it is like to be in University. There were eight other schools there, including Granville Boys’ High, Birrong Girls’ High, and Chester Hill High School. We were grouped with Granville Boys to do the activities that were set out for the day. We learnt many things during the activities. We learnt about psychology, law, and business. It was a fun day and all of the Year 9 students learnt a lot.

Thomas Tohi-Hiku
Year 9 Student
Birrong Boys’ High School

Careers Faculty Report

On Friday 7 November 2014 Year 11 boys went to an open day at the University of Western Sydney, Bankstown campus. Together with other schools, we attended different courses of sessions, had lunch and finally went home.

It was a great opportunity to speak to university students about the many pathways of entering university. I personally would like to thank Ms Krnjaic for her organisation.

Nathan Blas
Prefect/Careers President Leadership Team

SRC Report

Footy colours day is a day in which thousands of Australians wear their favourite footy colours to raise money for children and teens living with cancer. Birrong boys participated in the event on the 30 October 2014. On this day, the SRC hosted fun sporting events for the Years 7 through 9, which included football, soccer and basketball. At recess we sold Zooper Doopers, spider drinks and even sprayed students’ with their team colours. At lunch we sold sausages and drinks to the students. As they patiently waited we served them one by one. At the end of the day it was back to classes and the SRC stayed back to clean up. The students enjoyed the food and the Year 7 through 9 enjoyed having fun in the sun, because of this we would like to create more fun events for the students in the future. We raised a lot of money in hope we can give children living with cancer a better life.

Zakaria Hannouf
SRC Member
**Poem – “Tree of Life”**
Along with the “tree of life” still standing, breathing, and living life will exist: Birds sings in harmony, branches sways as like they are dancing and life will still remain. Once the “tree of life” dies, everyone will cry.

In a small village of Tahiti, there is a tree standing in the middle of the farm and this the “tree of life”. The tree is so tall and its branches are sprouting in a different wide spread. Many birds call this home. The tree is their life. Without it, their lives are incomplete.

As time passes by, the village is getting more civilized. Buildings, houses, malls, leisure facilities are built around the village.

There comes a time that the “tree of life” has to be cut. The farm will now be a mall.

As the workers chops off the tree bit by bit, birds are flying around it continuously chirping like they are protesting, birds are in pain, they are crying and people won’t care.

People want their happiness – to build a mall – not the happiness of the birds –to peacefully live there. People are so inconsiderate. They do not care about what other creatures will feel.

Birds flew away as they cry in agony trying to find a new “tree of life” to be called home.

Years had passed and the mall was built. But little did they know across 3 villages there is a little plant sprouting in the middle of the park. A new “tree of life” is born.

_by Andrei Arnade_  
_year 10 ESL Student_

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**Georges River Excursion**
The Year 10 Geography students went on a field study excursion to Georges River on Thursday 6 November 2014 accompanied by Ms Sharma, Ms Khelladi, Ms Ramani, Ms Krinjac and Mr Aboucham. The aim was to study the stormwater impacts at the Georges River.

The day started with meeting the educational officers Sharon and John who took us on a day of investigation and discovery. We investigated the environmental sustainability of the Georges River and the damage caused by growth and pollution. We enjoyed the day of activities and singing together on the bus trip home.

Going to Georges River was going to be a typical excursion for me but that changed when I got to know more about the planned activities. The issue of how the Georges River is polluted made me realise that going on that excursion was not just about having fun or completing field work for our ROSA but also to make us students realize the importance of caring for our environment and not to take our natural resources for granted. People now as well as in the future must get to experience and enjoy the river.

It was so fascinating to learn about Australia’s diverse plant and animal life. We saw the water from the sea going into the Georges River and merging with the water that is coming from the bushland. Learning new skills like how to test the turbidity of the water, doing the PH test and measuring the amount of phosphate in the water together with learning how to identify the names of different trees and animals, using a inclinometer to measure the slope of the land and measuring the impact of erosion were all interesting and fun learning activities we undertook on the day.

If we are going to have that excursion again, I will definitely go!

_by Andrei Arnade_  
_year 10 ESL Student_
Georges River Excursion – Year 10 Geography
Sports Report
On Monday 10 November 2014, Year 7 students from Birrong Boys’ High School attended the Bankstown Zone Gala Day. Birrong entered 3 teams in Oztag and 3 teams in Futsal soccer.

The Oztag Boys were outstanding as the Birrong Bulls surged through to the Grand Final. Here they came up against some stiff opposition in Moorebank HS. The boys lost the grand final 4-2 but they covered themselves in glory for the way they represented themselves and their school.

In the Futsal arena, the Birrong Buffalos went one step further in winning their Grand Final against Moorebank. The boys won a hard fought contest 2-1 and walked away with the glory. Well done to all boys involved.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Year 11 Sports Coaching students who assisted in coaching the boys on the day as they did an outstanding job.

Mr G Roukanas
Sport Organiser

Multicultural Day 2014
For Parents

Future Leaders Program
An ideal development opportunity for school Student Representative Council (SRC) or any student who shows leadership potential. To make a booking or find out more, contact Sport and Recreation on 13 13 02 or visit http://dsr.nsw.gov.au/futureleadersprimary/ or http://dsr.nsw.gov.au/futureleaderssecondary/

Understanding Climate Change
Is your child learning about climate change at school? CSIRO's scientists are learning how the earth's climate system works through observation, measurement and modelling. Find out more visit: http://www.csiro.au/Outcomes/Climate/Understanding.aspx

Word Clouds
Has your child made a word cloud yet? It's a great idea for adding to book reports, assignments and even for revision. Cut and paste a big slab of the text into a Wordle for a visual summary of the major themes. Create a Wordle: http://www.wordle.net/

Natural Disasters
Is your child studying the science behind natural disasters? The science assignment starter gives interesting links and resources that explain the causes of disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanoes. Science assignment starters: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/other-subjects-and-projects/science/natural-disasters-project

Comprehension Help for Teens

Planning for the Future
Maths Tips for Tweens
Kids who find maths easy in the early years of school can be turned off quickly if they get confused and can't work it out. Here are 10 ways to get your tween through the more challenging times. Maths tips:

Time to Party
While most parties go off without a hitch, celebrations can go wrong and get out of hand – particularly if the party is unplanned. Here are tips to help ensure your teen and their friends have fun but stay safe. Time to party:
http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au//wellbeing/development/time-to-party

Different Types of Writing
You child may be asked to present an assignment in a particular text type. Text types mean writing according to a purpose or an audience. For example, factual texts inform and literary texts entertain. This fact sheet gives several examples and the purpose of different types of writing. Find out more:

Guide to Technology Tools
The holidays are traditionally the time for the big gifts that kids have been begging for all year. Here’s what to watch out for when choosing technology toys for your kids. Find out more:

New Website Gives Easy Access to Vocational Courses
Students can explore the range of subsidised courses available to them in 2015 by visiting

The website features an Eligibility Checker and a Course Finder, which enable students to find approved training provider that meets their needs, as well as calculate their estimated fee. It also contains comprehensive information on apprenticeships and traineeships. Visit: enquiries@smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au.

Summer Holiday Fun
Book your children into one of our fun-filled camp next school holidays. Your children will be kept busy and active while learning new skills and making new friends. You'll have peace of mind knowing your children are safe and well looked after. Visit:- www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/kidscamps

Avoiding Homework Drama
Bell Shakespeare’s artistic director, John Bell, discusses Shakespeare and how to make it accessible. He says to tell your teen not to worry about the language; to concentrate on the characters, the dilemmas, and the problems they face, and find out how to identify with the protagonists in the story. Visit:- http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/english/english-tips/helping-kids-cope-with-shakespeare

Succeed in Science

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
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.

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.
Mehmet ASLAM
Year 7
Favourite Sport
Soccer
Favourite Food
Fish and chips
Favourite Subject
Geography
What I like about BBHS
Helpful teachers
When I leave school I want to be
A builder

Ibrahim ASLAM
Year 11
Favourite Sport
Soccer
Favourite Food
Junk food
Favourite Subject
English & Business Studies
What I like about BBHS
Teachers & students
When I leave school I want to be
A pilot or doctor