Next Parent Meeting:
Friday 4 March 2016 9:30am
in the School Library. All Welcome!

Principal’s Message

Improvements at Birrong Boys

Welcome back to 2016.

This year promises to be a most positive one at Birrong Boys High School, there are many improvements to all aspects of our school in support of maximising educational outcomes for all our students. Some of the improvements include; a technology upgrade including interactive whiteboards and internet access in all learning areas, class sets of iPads in many KLA’s, a library refurbishment and upgrade, TAS and Music upgrade to equipment and resources as well as a complete overhaul of our main PDHPE learning area, the school multi-purpose courts.

The main improvement to our school has been the acquisition of a number of key staff new members. In our Learning Support Team we now have five full time Learning Support Officers; this means that our students are provided with the best possible in-class support. This means that each of our Year 7 classes now has the fulltime support, in every lesson, of a qualified, hard-working and extremely dedicated Learning Support Officer. We have also, in striving for continual improvement, been able to employ two extra Learning Support Teachers who will focus on the key areas of literacy and numeracy in support of our classroom teachers.

Enrolments

It is pleasing to see enrolments at Birrong Boys High School continue to improve, over the past few years we have witnessed a steady improvement in our Year 7 enrolments which shows a great deal of confidence in us from our local community of schools with whom we will continue to work throughout 2016 and beyond. We have also had a steady stream of new students come to us from neighbouring schools both public and private as well as from overseas. We welcome our new students and their families to our school. I look forward to meeting all of you.

Mr D Stevens
Principal
Deputy Principal

Welcome back to another exciting year at Birrong Boys High. I would like to especially welcome all Year 7 students and parents and hope your time at the school is both fulfilling and rewarding. I am relieving in the Deputy Principal position while Ms Ramadan has attained a Principal position at another school. I oversee Years 7, 9 and 11. The Year Advisers are Mr Hill (Year 7), Mr Ewen (Year 9) and Ms Good (Year 11).

All students have settled in well after the holiday break and are now working in class. It is important for all parents to take an interest in their son’s progress at school. The greater the interest that you show in your son’s work the more they will achieve. This will also help to identify any issues or problems early that can be attended to.

Uniform

I would like to remind parents and students that the wearing of school uniforms is compulsory. T-shirts, coloured tops and sports shoes should not be worn. Unfortunately, the school needed to send some students home during 2015 to change or parents were asked to bring correct uniform to the school. The majority of the school do wear correct uniform and overall the school looks great.

HSC High Achiever’s Morning Tea

The annual morning tea to acknowledge the efforts of the 2015 Year12 cohort was held this term. Our boys’ achievements in the HSC were celebrated with an exemplary morning tea catered by Ms Harris, our dedicated Community Liaison Officer.

Year 11 Preliminary Assessment Schedules

Year 11 have received their Preliminary Assessment Schedules. All assessment tasks and due dates are clearly outlined within. It is essential that all students read the requirements and submit all work as they cannot proceed to their HSC without all preliminary work complete.

Meet the Parents 8 March

A Year 7 Meet the Parents evening will be held on Tuesday 8th March. This will provide parents with the chance to meet staff in an informal capacity, receive an interim report on their son’s progress and discuss any issues they have or simply ask questions.

Open Night 8 March

The school will hold an Open Night on Tuesday 8th March. It is hoped that we have as many visitors as possible in order to highlight the wonderful facilities that Birrong BHS has. I ask that you pass on to any friends or relatives who are looking to enrol their son in high school in 2017 to come and have a look at our school on that afternoon.

I look forward to a productive year where parents, students and teachers can work together to improve the educational outcomes and life chances for our students. I encourage all students to work hard, get involved and do their best.

Ms G. Tsopanos
Relieving Deputy Principal
Years 7, 9 & 11
Deputy Principal

Welcome Back

Welcome back to our parents/guardians, students and community members, and a special welcome to our new students and their parents/guardians enrolled in 2016. I would like to congratulate our HSC students who gained some pleasing results. We had a High Achievers Morning Tea for the 2015 HSC students on Wednesday 17 February, inviting our high achievers who have enrolled in University in the following courses - Psychology, Biomedical Engineering, Pharmacy, Civil Engineering, Business, Policing and Electrical Engineering. I would like to thank our CLO Ms Harris for organising the morning tea.

Electronic Sign

The school has been fortunate in purchasing new resources and school equipment to make our school a better learning environment. We have installed an electronic sign that will provide our school community regular and updated information about our school. Also near the front of our school we have erected two flag poles flying our Australian and Aboriginal flags. The basketball courts have also had a makeover with new a higher fence and resurfaced ground, included will be a new soccer area on the court. Ms Harris has also redesigned our school foyer with some new furniture and brighter, modern wall paint.
Welcome Ms Tsopanos

Ms Tsopanos takes on the role of Relieving Deputy Principal as Ms Ramadan has taken a new role as Principal at Belmore Boys High School. We welcome Ms Tsopanos and the skills she brings to the role, Ms Tsopanos looks after the wellbeing, academic and any school matters related to Years 7, 9 and 11, while I look after Years 8, 10 and 12.

Some year 11 and 12 may not have timetabled classes in the morning, during the day or afternoon. These periods are referred to as study periods by the school. Year 11 and 12 students are permitted to arrive at school by 9.45am when they have an allocated study period. They are required to sign in at the front office before 9:45am. They may utilise the library during this time for studying purposes. On rare occasions a class may not be covered due to staff absence. Year 11 and 12 students who do not have any further classes will be required to sign out at the front office before leaving.

If you grant permission for your son to drive to school, they are not allowed to carry other students as passengers without the permission from their parents. Could you please ensure that your son is aware of this important information.

Year 7 has settled in well into school and we have established common routines and procedures to assist them to transition into the life of high school.

Parents can assist the school by ensuring that if your son:

- Is late to school - please provide a note outlining the reason, date and time.

- Needs to leave school early for an emergency (eg specialist doctor) - he must see the Deputy in the morning with a note from home, indicating reason, time of appointment and home contact number.

- Attends school with the incorrect school uniform - he must also have a note from home with a reason. He presents this note to his roll call teacher to obtain a uniform pass. Please note that students are no longer permitted to wear yellow shirts. The yellow sport tops are only to be worn during PE or sport time.

- Arrives early to school - they are to remain within school grounds - preferably in the Quad and they are not to be hanging around the front of the school or train station.

- is absent from school - he needs to present his roll call teacher with a note from home indicating date/s absent, reason, parent/career’s signature and date.

- Attends school with the right equipment/stationery which includes books, pens etc.

Attendance is compulsory until the age of 17 by state law. In New South Wales, all children from six years of age are legally required to attend school or be registered for home schooling. After they complete year 10 and until 17 years of age, students then have the following options. They must also be in:-

- full-time further education and training e.g. TAFE.

- full-time, paid employment of an average of 25 hours per week or

- a combination of the above.

If you need to make medical appointments, they need to be made outside school hours wherever possible. If you are planning a family holiday during school periods this is to be discussed with the Principal. An “application for exemption form” is a requirement when students are expecting to be absent for more than 15 days during school time. This is to be arranged with the Principal.
Below are our school bell times: please be aware of starting times and finishing times.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Our Bell Times</th>
<th>Start</th>
<th>Finish</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday/Tuesday/Friday A &amp; B</td>
<td>8:50am</td>
<td>3:10pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday A</td>
<td>8:50am</td>
<td>3:05pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday B</td>
<td>8:50am</td>
<td>2:10pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday A &amp; B</td>
<td>8:50am</td>
<td>2:10pm</td>
</tr>
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The school Welfare Team members consists of Mr Mohamed - Wellbeing Coordinator, Erin Daniel- School Counsellor, Ms Tsanidis – Teaching and Learning Coordinator, the Careers Adviser Ms Krnjaic, Year Advisers (listed below) and the Deputy Principals and Principal.

Year 7 Adviser- Mr Hill
Year 8 Adviser- Mr Karam
Year 9 Adviser- Mr Ewen
Year 10 Adviser- Mr Mohamed
Year 11 Adviser- Ms Good
Year 12 Adviser- Ms Khelladi

Could you please update any changes to your son’s home contact details, ensuring that the school has the correct address and home and mobile numbers? These details are crucial in an event that the school needs to contact home in emergencies. This can be done at the front office by a note from home or visiting the school in person.

The school offers a free homework centre to our students on Mondays and Tuesdays from 3.10pm-4.10pm, please encourage your son to attend, for further information please contact me.

Mr M Derbas
Deputy Principal
Years 8, 10 & 12

Community Liaison Officer

Welcome to 2016 Birrong Boys High School

I extend a particular warm welcome to parents of all our new students and especially our new 2016 Year 7 students and parents. I look forward to working with all Year 7 parents to help the school to ensure that your son’s transition into the Birrong Boys High School community is as smooth and successful as possible.

As Community Liaison Officer, I will be available to provide information and support for families and students to develop their understanding of Australian education systems and curriculum policies to parents/caregivers, encouraging parent/caregiver partnerships and participation in schools eg. organising parent meetings and forums as well as parenting skills and understanding the importance of parental involvement into their child’s learning.

7 Tips for Preparing for High School

Entering high school is an exciting time for students. They are moving into what is often a larger school environment. This can lead to anxiety or periods of unease. Here are some steps parents and caregivers can take to help students start high school on a positive note.

1. Be interested and enthusiastic about their move to high school. Your encouragement will help your child to make a successful transition to High School. Listen to their experiences and expectations. Don’t dwell on your own experiences of school.

2. Attend Orientation Day/Parent Meetings. These days are designed to help parents and their children prepare for starting high school and parent meetings are a great avenue for you to actively become
involved in school activities and voice concerns or positives comments. Some children, because of pressure from their peers, will try to discourage their parents from attending orientation days.

3. Learn about school routines and your child’s timetable. Talking to your child about routines and what subjects he has on each day will ensure your child will be organised and prepared for each lesson.

4. Help your child to develop good study habits. Try to provide them with somewhere private and quiet to study. Help your child to set aside a particular time to study. Work out a daily timetable that incorporates all your child's needs and interests.

5. Practise organisational skills. In the first few weeks of high school you might want to check with your child that they have the right books for the following day. You will quickly encourage a good habit.

6. Discuss emergency and safety issues. Talk about these issues - including crossing roads or taking essential medication.

7. Finally, let your child know that you trust them and that they can trust you. Keep communication open about all your child’s experiences, and make sure they know you’re available if things go wrong.

Parent Meeting

I encourage all parents to join us for our first parent meeting for this year which will be held in the school library on Friday 4 March 2016 @ 9.30 am. The school holds parent meetings twice a term usually in weeks 5 and 9. This will be a great opportunity for you to meet with me one on one and to introduce yourself. I will be discussing ways we can work together to ensure your child is successful in is education and does well throughout the year. I do hope you attend, however if you are unable to do so or need any further information, please feel free to contact me on 9644 5200 (ext. 245). I will be available three days a week every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am to 3pm.

Future Parent Meeting dates – 9.30am in the School Library on Fridays

1 April
27 May
24 June
19 August
16 September
11 November
9 December

Cert IV in Education Support (Teachers Aid)

I am happy to advise that BCA National Training Group who are currently running our Cert IV in Education Support (Teachers Aid) have offered a second round of training which should start in term 2. If you are interested in participating in this program please contact me ASAP to register as spaces are limited. Initial part of the program is (partial qualification) then followed by full course is available.

Wishing all a successful year ahead

I am proud to be part of an amazing dynamic school. Birrong Boys High School is an inclusive school which values every student equally. The entire school community is committed to the school's motto: "From each his best", and the belief that students have a right to learn in a supportive and mutually-respectful environment. I wish you and your child a productive year and all the success.

Ms S Afiouny-Harris
Community Liaison Officer (CLO)
Welcome back to school for 2016. We have some changes in the English Faculty with the addition of three new teachers. We welcome Ms Malla, Mr Glover and Ms Brogan. Students have started the year positively and have been working hard in the classroom. Year 7 have started their 'Me and my World' unit where they are able to share stories about their lives. Year 8 have been introduced to the world of William Shakespeare and his work. Year 9 are in the process of reading a novel and Year 10 are busy working on their Writing Portfolio. Our Year 11 have begun their Preliminary course and Year 12 continue their HSC course.

We also have exciting competitions that we will be running throughout the year. We have our annual Spelling Bee Competition that will be opened to all of Year 7 and 8 English students as well as various Writing Competitions for all students to enter.

It is going to be a busy year for our students and we look forward to the year ahead.

Ms A Tsanidis
Relieving Head Teacher

Project Based Learning

Year 7B have started their Project Based Learning unit. Project Based Learning is a teaching method in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to an engaging and complex question, problem, or challenge. This term, the project students are working on is Digital Storybook. As part of their 'Me and my World' unit, students are creating an iMovie about their lives using the iPads. I have included a copy of the PBL Assessment Task so you can see what the students will be marked on at the end of the term. If you have any questions regarding PBL, please feel free to contact me in the English staffroom.

Ms A Tsanidis
Teaching and Learning Co-ordinator

Literacy

This year we have started our Literacy Lessons with Year 7 and Year 9. At the end of last year Ms Tsopanos, Ms Creighton and I analysed NAPLAN data and created specific literacy lessons that focused on the target areas that were identified. Year 7 and Year 9 are completing Literacy Lessons in English and Science. These lessons are specifically designed to improve student’s literacy levels and are taught with the assistance of our Support and SLSO teachers.

Ms A Tsanidis
Literacy Co-ordinator
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STANDARD</th>
<th>NARRATIVE</th>
<th>SCRIPT</th>
<th>MUSICAL PIECE/SFX</th>
<th>IMAGES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| BRONZE   | - Attempts to compose a piece of writing suitable for the digital storybook collection.  
- Explores aspects of personal events.  
- Demonstrates limited control of language and structure; including punctuation/spelling/grammar/use of language specific to narrative. | - Attempts to compose a script.  
- Demonstrates a limited control of language and structure of a script. | - Creates a piece of music with little sense of musical expression.  
- Attempts to create effect using limited SFX and voice overs. | - Incorporates some images relating to personal events. |
| SILVER   | - Composes suitable piece of writing for the digital storybook collection.  
- Explores significant events that occurred in their life.  
- Demonstrates adequate control of language and structure; including punctuation/spelling/grammar/use of language specific to narrative. | - Composes a suitable script.  
- Demonstrates adequate control of language and structure of a script. | - Creates a piece of music with a sense of musical expression, with an attempt to incorporate expressive techniques appropriate to the chosen style.  
- Incorporates some SFX and voice overs. | - Incorporates suitable images/photographs that relate to personal events. |
| GOLD     | - Composes an effectively engaging piece of writing suitable for the digital storybook collection.  
- Effectively explores four (4) significant events that occurred in their life.  
- Demonstrates effective control of language and structure; including punctuation/spelling/grammar/use of language specific to narrative. | - Composes an effectively engaging script.  
- Demonstrates effective control of language and structure of a script. | - Creates a piece of music with a sense of personal expression, demonstrated by the use of expressive techniques and sensitivity to the chosen style.  
- Effectively incorporates SFX, music and voice overs. | - Incorporates effective images/photographs/diagrams that relate to personal events. |
| PLATINUM | - Composes skilfully an engaging piece of writing suitable for the digital storybook collection.  
- Skilfully draws upon and explores four (4) significant events that occurred in their life.  
- Demonstrates skilful control of language and structure; including punctuation/spelling/grammar/use of language specific to narrative. | - Composes skilfully an engaging script.  
- Demonstrates skilful control of language and structure of a script; dialogue/voice over/stage directions/special effects. | - Creates a well-developed piece of music with a sense of personal expression, demonstrated by the use of appropriate expressive techniques and sensitivity to the chosen style.  
- Skilfully incorporates SFX, music and voice overs. | - Incorporates appropriate images/photographs/diagrams/drawings that relate to personal events. |
11 English ESL
Think Pair Post It
Notes Activity
In a small country side town that was bright with colour, laughter of children was heard throughout the streets. It was a peaceful town but there was one part of the town which didn’t match with the rest of it. On the outskirts there lay a forest no one ventured to. In fact people were banned from entering it. The forest looked normal, if one were to get closer one could see the birds chirping, the squirrels running up and down the trees and the trees swaying as the wind blew. As the sun set, the whole scenery changed; the birds started crying, the squirrels vanished, the winds started to howl and the trees almost seemed dead. It was as if the forest itself became a dark area telling one not to venture further.

After hearing the tales of the forest, a private detective was called to investigate the forest as many people had gone missing after entering it. People in the town were in a dire situation as more and more people were missing without a trace. The private detective was known far and wide for never leaving a case unsolved. He was tall, smart, brave, and courageous and had brown hair that were almost like the autumn leaves, well built and most importantly selfless. His name was Marcus. Marcus had just arrived at the town. It did not look like the tavern owner had described, everyone walking appeared to be gloomy and depressed. “Probably because of the family members and friends going missing without a word”, he thought. The tavern owner was awaiting his arrival with the same gloomy face the rest of the townspeople had.

“Hello, my name is Marcus. Pleasure to meet you,” he exclaimed.

“Welcome. My name’s Bob. The pleasure’s all mine. Really you don’t know how much this means to me and the rest of the town’s people”, he replied. At that moment Marcus felt an enormous amount of pressure build up within him.

“Is it okay if I ask you a few questions?” Marcus asked. “Sure”, Bob replied.

After hours of questioning it was nightfall. Bob ended up drunk after retelling the story at how his daughter went missing. Marcus put his coat over Bob so he wouldn’t catch a cold after which he decided to go to the forest to continue his investigation and search for the missing people.

Marcus was at the forest preparing to enter. A terrible feeling was swelling up inside his chest. He didn’t know whether it was fear or the alcohol. He braced himself and entered. The moon was already out. Marcus pulled out his flashlight thinking that the moonlight wouldn’t be enough. Wandering through the forest when he was searching for the signs of life he heard a cry for help. Suddenly his flashlight started flickering and turned off. The fear was coming back to him as he heard the cry again.

“Help!”

Marcus threw away his flashlight and ran to where the cry was coming from, running through the forest. The branches of the smaller trees on the forest floor were entangling him and leaving scratches on him as they were trying to stop him. He kept running until he reached an opening. There was a girl sitting in the middle holding her ankle, her face in pain, the moonlight illuminating her pure white dress. Her blonde hair was almost like silk and her blue eyes were like diamonds. Marcus stared in awe wondering whether this was real or not. She looked up at him and said, “Well, aren’t you going to help?” she asked trying to hide the pain with a smile.

“Oh, Yeah,” he whispered. He approached her cautiously not knowing real from fake. When he reached her he looked at her ankle and spotted a black spot. It was alive, moving as if
it wanted to consume her. He looked up at her: her silk like hair turned white, her diamond eyes turned black, her smile went ear to ear with black lips that were bearing fang like teeth. Her skin went completely black and she vanished with a faint laughter in the wind. Marcus was overwhelmed and what began as a walk turned into a sprint. He started taking notice of his surroundings; the trees and the leaves were dead. He could hear the crying and laughter of children, the wind howling. He stopped looking around for the exit and gasping for air.

He couldn’t see anything but dead trees. He heard the rustling of the leaves as the dark entity approached him. He started running through the forest blindly again. The laughter, howling and crying was getting louder and louder. Then he ended up in the same clearing but this time it wasn’t the dead leaves covering the forest floor. It was bones, human bones. He could also see the remains of torn up clothes. At that moment, his fear was getting the better of him, he fell to the floor and screamed and cried for help. The sounds stopped, the forest went silent. Still no will left in him he leaned up against the tree for some rest; exhausted from everything that had happened Marcus fell asleep. When he woke up he found himself in a flower patch. He looked around the forest was nowhere to be seen. All there was, was a field of flowers as far as the eye could see.

In the distance, he saw something, something that was glowing. He approached it and stopped in his tracks. It was the girl from the forest. She was kneeling and examining the flowers and arose when Marcus was close. When she turned around Marcus realised that she was the beautiful girl he had met earlier. She said, “Don’t worry. I’m not here to hurt you, but help you”.

“How?” asked Marcus.

“I’ll give some of my powers,” she said proudly.

Marcus wasn’t the type to believe in the supernatural but after the experience in the forest he had changed. He accepted it. A brighter light started to emit from the girl. Marcus could feel something coursing through his veins. He felt reborn and was much stronger. He was ready to leave the forest. Before he could wake up the girl said, “Wait, before you go I need to tell you something. I’m the tavern owner’s daughter. If you make it out tell him I’m in a better place.” Marcus nodded his head and when he woke up he found himself in the same place. The forest scenery hadn’t changed but the crying, howling and laughter was back. Marcus’ fear was gone he was still strong until he looked up. The skeletons and bones were gone but living, possessed versions of the people who died were staring down on him with their crooked smiles. His heart had sunk. The dark entity came through. What looked like a group of trapped souls picked him up from his place saying, “Do not worry. I’ll set you free from here.” Marcus had lost everything; his eyes were fading, no words were coming out of his mouth. Then with a loud crack the dark entity snapped his neck. Marcus died but his soul remained dark and twisted and he too haunted the forest like the other trapped souls.

The tavern owner woke up with a hangover, saw Marcus’ coat and realised that like the others he wouldn’t be returning. He thought to himself that was Marcus’s first case unsolved.

**Mansfield Park by Aseel Khalaf**

A happy cheerful park filled to the brim with energetic children is the centre of a friendly suburb. Or at least it was. The main attraction of the park is a very old crippled tree known as the ‘grey tree’. It was called that because there was not a single leaf left on it due to its age.

There has been a myth going on for decades that the planter of the tree was a very cruel king of a very old kingdom. The story gets interesting because it is said that the king had
died while taking a nap under the shade of the tree. Although the cause of death is unknown, most believe that in the tree inhabits the spirit of the dead king until this day.

Of course all this continued to remain a story or merely a rumour until one day when everything went south. That day many families were having a barbeque in Mansfield Park. This was a norm and everyone followed one simple rule – “Stay away from the tree!”.

That day was an abnormally hot day and the only shade available was that of the grey tree. One family decided to venture beyond the limit and set camp near the grey tree’s massive old roots. When they tried to light the barbecue, the fire spread very quickly and caught on to the dry old roots. In a matter of seconds, the whole tree was ablaze. It was put out by the locals just as quick as possible but not before irreparable damage was done. It could no longer be called a grey tree. It was more a burnt down black tree.

Since that day the rumours associated with the dead king rose again. This was backed with cold hard evidence. Since that day anything that got closer to the tree died. This, of course, destroyed the whole friendly nature of the park. Since there were countless birds and mammals lying dead around the tree, no one visited the park anymore mainly because of the fear of dying and the disgusting smell of rotten dead animal flesh.

No one knows the cause of this supernatural phenomenon. Is it actually the spirit of the dead king? Or is it the toxic chemicals that have saved up inside the old tree for all those years? Nothing is for sure and certainly no one dares to investigate.

**Ghost Story by Jeremy Wong**

Walking down the dark and gloomy street that night was John Risant. The tall, quiet boy had black hair and a big frown on his face. Deep thoughts about life and debt have been troubling poor John all day; he thought that a short walk out in the dark woods would allow him to relax and forget his problems.

It was very cold out that night, however, John kept walking nonetheless. As strong cold winds blew by, trees started to sway and lights began to flicker. It was nearly impossible to see what was ahead, however, still nothing changed John’s mind. He kept walking and walking down the road … in the dark by himself.

As the sun completely set, it was well and truly impossible to see anything. Along with the dark, all he could hear was the strong breeze continually blowing. However, suddenly out of nowhere, John heard a soft whisper in the air calling, “Come home John.” John turned his head back swiftly but he could see nothing. He was afraid and decided to turn back home.

Walking back home, gradually increasing his pace John began running his way back home. “Thud!” All of a sudden, as John falls to the ground. John woke up and found himself lying down on a mattress full of blood and roses. He panicked and jumped out of the bed. “Where am I?” he said to himself panting. He was in a room, dark and dreary with wooden walls with blood all over. He quickly runs out of the door and sees a dark hallway ahead.

Quickly making his way out of the room, he runs into the hallway when suddenly, an array of candles lit up revealing a beautiful room with magnificent paintings and such a beautiful chandelier hanging from the ceiling. John was left astonished but still in fear.

“John …” a familiar voice whispered, “I’m here,” as a beautiful young woman approached. Clothed in shining white, with long beautiful hair … It was such a majestic creature. However, John was shivering in fear pondering, “Where am I?”

“Come. I’ll show you.” Said the woman as she led the way. They walked up to a huge door and she opened it wide. Past that door was a large bright room filled with men and women,
all clothed in white ... However, unlike the woman, they all had no faces and could not speak.

John gulped and asked, “Spirits? Are these people dead?”

“Yes! And soon you will be too!” replied the woman pushing John into the room and quickly closing the door.

He panicked in fear. Knocking hard and trying to force the door open. However, nothing happened. The spirits started to slowly approach him and surround him. John was afraid and yelled, “Help! The spirits came closer and closer.

Suddenly the door opened and John quickly ran out. Running as fast as he could, he tried to find the exit door. As spirits chased him, he started to break down. “Thud!” again as he fell to the ground.

John woke up finding himself in his small apartment block and lying down on his own mattress all wet. He had wet himself overnight and realised that everything was just a dream ... or was it?

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**HSIE Faculty**

The subjects taught in the faculty this year are :-

**Year 7/8** Geography, History, Civics and Citizenship

**Year 9/10** Geography, History, Elective History (year 10 ), Commerce

**Year 11** Modern History, Business Studies, Legal Studies, Retail Services

**Year 12** Modern History, Business Studies, Legal Studies, Retail Services

The staff consists of:-

Ms S Sharma  Head Teacher
Ms K Khelladi Year 12 Adviser/Transition Adviser
Ms U Ramani
Ms S Read
Mr J Cassar
Mr J Glover Junior History, Geography

We look forward to meeting the Year 7 parents next month to discuss their sons' progress and their transition into high school, as well as continuing to build and strengthen our positive relationships with students across all years and the school community.

Ms S Sharma
Head Teacher - HSIE
Sports Report

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all students in 2016. It promises to be another exciting year for Birrong as we strive to achieve success on the sporting field.

In 2016, we welcome Mr Matar to the PD/H/PE faculty. He brings with him a great deal of enthusiasm and skill to the faculty. I am sure he will be an asset to the school.

A number of students have already been given the opportunity to represent the Bankstown Zone in a variety of sports. Andre Andrade (12) made the opens volleyball team which finished second at the recent area championships. Kam Paseka (12) and Ali Kolka (11) were selected in the opens touch squad whilst Kendrix Falematagi (10) and Omar Darwiche (10) were successful in gaining selection. On Tuesday 23 February 2016, students had the opportunity to trial for the Zone Soccer and Rugby League sides. Good luck to all those students attending those trials.

Birrong Boys has again entered a number of school knockout competitions in SSW area. Students need to embrace this as a chance to develop their team work, leadership skills and sportsmanship. They are encouraged to represent their school with pride.

The school recently held the annual swimming carnival. I would like to commend all students for their behaviour on the day. I would like to encourage all students to continue to work on and develop their swimming skills which will further enable them to compete in events.

On Monday 22 February 2016 a visit by players from the Bulldogs NRL squad to discuss health and wellbeing was well received by our Year 7 students.

Mr G Roukanas
Sports Coordinator
Community News

School Website
Visit our school’s website where you’ll find useful information about our school including upcoming events, school holidays, school bell times, public holidays etc. on the calendar section.

New Prices
White school shirts $18.00
Maths grid books $0.80
Student report copy $5.00

Payments
Payments for school fees, uniform, equipment and excursions can be made at the front office. Cash (correct money please), cheques and EFTpos may be used. No cash out available.

HOMEWORK CENTRE
When: Mondays & Tuesdays
3.10pm to 4.10pm
Where: Term 1 F8
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.

Join our team – we’re hiring!
August 9 is Census night and the Australian Bureau of Statistics is looking for 2,500 motivated and community minded Area Supervisors to join our team across Australia.

Area Supervisors:
• Are temporary casual jobs, with flexible working hours
• Will recruit, train and lead a small team of field staff to help deliver the 2016 Census
• Will earn $36.76 per hour (inclusive of 25% loading).

Applications open 1 February 2016. Apply online at abs.gov.au/careers
Make a difference in your community and help shape its future.
Student Profiles

Nabiul ABID
Year 7
Favourite Sport
Soccer
Favourite Food
Rice and meat
Favourite Subject
Maths
What I like about BBHS
Students and staff
When I leave school I want to be
A Doctor

Niloy BAL
Year 11
Favourite Sport
Cricket
Favourite Food
Rump steak
Favourite Subject
IPT
What I like about BBHS
Being a part of SRC and the staff
When I leave school I want to be
IT Project Manager