## COMING EVENTS

### Term 1
- **8 March**
  - International Women’s Day
- **11 March**
  - P & C Meeting 7.30pm
- **12 March**
  - Regional Swimming Carnival
- **13 March**
  - Selective High Schools Test
- **14 March**
  - School Cross Country
- **19 March**
  - Harmony Day
- **21 March**
  - Year 7 and 8 World of Maths
- **27–31 March**
  - Year 7 & 8 Half Yearly Examinations

### Term 2
- **28 - 30 April**
  - Staff Development Days
- **1 May**
  - Students return Term 2
- **1 – 8 May**
  - Year 11 Half Yearly Examinations
- **3 May**
  - Years 7 – 9 World of Maths
- **6 May**
  - Zone Cross Country
- **7 – 13 May**
  - Year 10 Half Yearly Examinations
- **15 May**
  - NAPLAN - Language Conventions & Writing
- **16 May**
  - NAPLAN - Numeracy
- **17 May**
  - School Athletics Carnival
- **20 - 24 May**
  - Year 9 Half Yearly Examinations
- **21 May**
  - ICAS Computer Skills Competition
- **22 May**
  - Try a Trade - Years 10 & 11
- **27 – 31 May**
  - Year 7 & 8 Half Yearly Examinations
- **30 May**
  - Public Education Day

---

**GIVE BULLIES THE FLICK**

Parramatta Eels say to speak up

Parramatta Eels players were out in full force visiting local schools to promote the Tackle Bullying campaign as part of NRL’s annual Community Carnival. Second-rowers, Ken Edwards and Matthew Ryan visited Holroyd High School on Monday 25th February 2013.

Some Year 7 and 8 students were not only involved in a workshop that provided tips on how to tackle bullying, but they also had an opportunity for a meet and greet at the end.

With the help of Eels’ educator Ry James, students learned the importance of saying positive things to their peers, rather than negative things.

Representatives from the String Movement also spoke to the students, encouraging them to tie a string around their wrists to symbolise their support to tackle bullying. Ayden Jorgenson, 13, learned some good tips at the workshop.

"Don’t be a bystander, don’t be afraid to speak up," he said.

Robbie Carter, 13, and Rhiannon Skene, 14, thought it was good the Eels were promoting anti-bullying in the community.

"It was really good," Robbie said.

Rhiannon agreed: It’s like we are one of them," she said.
Principal’s Report

This time last year, I wrote about the publication of the long-awaited Review of Funding for Schools, better known as the Gonski Report, and commented on the importance of this report for the equitable funding of Australian schools.

The Gonski Report was the result of almost two years of investigation and consultation into the funding of school education, both government and non-government. The panel, led by prominent businessman, David Gonski AC, received more than 7000 submissions, as well as visiting schools, holding consultations, carrying out research and publishing discussion papers. Holroyd High was one of the schools visited during this period.

The report said that to achieve the best possible outcomes for every student, regardless of family background or social class or wealth or where they live, every school would have to be resourced to an appropriate level. Gonski estimated there would need to be a $5 billion increase in school funding to achieve that end. The Gonski $5 billion quickly expanded to $6.5 billion when the Prime Minister asserted that no school would receive less funding than currently received, in response to lobbying from the non-government school sector, this despite some non-government schools exceeding their entitlement under the current funding arrangements.

Gonski argued that to achieve equitable outcomes, increased support for public schools would be necessary, particularly for those schools serving less advantaged communities. Of the proposed $5 billion additional funding, $3.8 billion would need to be allocated to public education, the cost to be shared between Federal and State governments.

The report said that properly resourcing every school was a necessary investment to strengthen and secure Australia’s future. The money, however, would not be sufficient in itself. There would also have to be high expectations and positive outcomes for all students.

The ripples from the Gonski report are still reverberating through government and the education sector, but although the Federal Government has moved in the last year to accept in principle the recommendations of the report, implementation is reliant upon the States’ agreeing to co-fund those recommendations.

That agreement has not taken place, which is a great pity, because while governments squabble over who will pay for what, and how much each sector should get, the big questions asked by Gonski remain unanswered and the performance of our students continues to decline compared to the performance of students in other developed nations.

We should be asking: Do we want our society to be an equitable one? Do we want it to be inclusive? Do we want every child, regardless of background or wealth, to achieve his or her potential?

What are the consequences, social and economic, of continuing the status quo? Can we afford to do nothing?

You might ask why such a massive financial intervention is necessary, given an increase of 41.5% in total expenditure on education by Australian governments over the last ten years. In the words of the report, apart from the capacity of education to enhance and extend individual lives, “Australia cannot continue to be a globally competitive, high skill, high wage economy without a world leading education system.”

The report identified a significant and worrying decline in the performance of Australian education, compared to other advanced nations, and particularly Asian nations, such as Singapore, Korea, Japan, and Shanghai. Shanghai is not, of course, a nation, but a huge city, with a population roughly the same size as Australia’s population. The decline in Australian performance is substantial when you look at Shanghai: Year 9 students in Shanghai perform on average two years ahead of their Australian counterparts in mathematics.

Although Australian students still perform above the OECD average, and above nations such as the UK and the US, that is no source of comfort. We declined from 4th in the reading performance of Year 9 students, as measured by the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) in 2000, to 7th in 2009. A similar decline took place in mathematics and science, also measured by PISA, and most alarmingly, there has been a decline in the overall performance of more able students. We now know, as well, that relatively few students are undertaking the more demanding mathematics courses at HSC, only about 10% of the candidate, and that many more students are not taking either mathematics or science to Year 12.

This in turn has implications for post-secondary study. A great many areas of study and all trades need mathematics. Primary teachers need to know mathematics if they are to teach young children the skills they need for secondary school. This is one of the underlying factors in the announcement by the state government this week of proposed higher entry requirements for generalist teaching degrees.

Research also shows that the equity gap in Australia is widening far faster than in many other OECD countries. I have written about this many times before in relation to the need to increase tertiary participation rates, particularly the participation of low socio-economic status students, who currently represent a little over 15% of all university enrolments, although they constitute 25% of the population. Holroyd does comparatively well in this regard, with an average of between 30-40% university enrolments directly from school, but there is no room for complacency. We also have under-performing students.

The gap forms early for far too many children, especially low SES children. By Year 4, nearly one in four children is not meeting minimum international literacy benchmarks. Those children may never make up the ground. An implication of the residualisation of young people from low SES backgrounds is that many will have lost the capacity to benefit from their education long before they reach school leaving age. The gap only gets greater as the students get older.
It would seem from the PISA data, however, that it is not only low SES children disengaging from learning. The Bradley review of tertiary education indicated that far too few of our young people overall achieve an undergraduate degree, just over 30% at the time of the review in 2007, which is simply not good enough for a developed nation. In response to the Bradley recommendations, the Federal Government put in place measures to increase participation to 20% of low SES students and 40% overall by 2020, recognising that our low tertiary participation rate means that we will increasingly become uncompetitive globally. We will not have enough highly educated young people to carry the nation forward if things continue as they are.

“She’ll be right” doesn’t work in the 21st century.

I said before that Gonski had noted that simply spending more money would not be sufficient to improve Australian education. There is a vigorous public debate on this issue at the moment. It is a debate that concerns us all because it is about the future of this country and the future of our young people. Ben Jensen from the Grattan Institute in Melbourne in an article in *The Australian* on 23 February, argued that the proposed Gonski expenditure would be justified only if the money were well spent, with a focus on improving children’s learning. Now that is an interesting slant. What does “well spent” mean?

Ben Jensen, who has visited Holroyd, argues that the way to improve learning is through improving teaching, and suggests that the Gonski funding be directed to those areas which have been shown internationally to make the difference in improving educational outcomes for students: school principal training; teacher mentoring; teacher research groups; effective teacher appraisal and feedback; and the appointment of specialist literacy and numeracy teachers in every primary school. I would add disadvantaged secondary schools to the last area!

The choice for government, he says, is do nothing, which will continue the decline in student performance; implement the Gonski recommendations but not change the way the money is spent, just spend more of it, which will not arrest the decline, either; or to use Gonski to transform (his word) school education.

At a time of political flux, it is not clear what will happen in relation to the Gonski reform proposals. The Gonski report has identified major issues in education: increasing inequity in Australian educational provision; a lack of equity for young people from low SES, also identified in the Bradley report; declining standards in literacy and numeracy; and the impact of these and other issues on Australia’s competitiveness in a very competitive world. It would take courage to go down the path of transformation, but what is needed is a genuine circuit breaker to stop the decline in standards, improve learning and teaching, and eliminate inequity. Watch this space!

Dorothy Hoddinott AO FACE
Principal

**Deputy Principal's Report**

“Friday 8 March is International Women’s Day and our students celebrated by attending the International Women’s Day breakfast at Darling Harbour”

Friday 8 March is International Women’s Day and our students celebrated by attending the International Women’s Day breakfast at Darling Harbour. All the students enjoyed the keynote speakers at each of the functions and the chance to share an experience together as part of international Women’s Day.

The Year 6 Open Day is on Tuesday 12 March 2013 and we are expecting around 300 Year 6 students from our local primary schools who receive a small snapshot of what high school is all about with workshops in science, mathematics, visual arts, drama and information technology.

On Wednesday 27 February students from Years 8 -12 participated in workshop presentation by Parramatta Legal Aid. Years 8 – 10 completed a workshop on “Cyberbullying and Sexting” which was extremely informative in the terms of use of and legal implications and responsibilities relating to social media. Years 11 and 12 completed a workshop called “Burn” looking at issues such as dangerous driving, crime in company and group responsibility.

**LATENESS – A BARRIER TO SUCCESSFUL LEARNERS**

A small group of students are coming late to school without explanation from their families. This chronic lateness is becoming a barrier to their learning. If you are late more than three times in a term, you will receive an after school detention for lateness.

Students who are often 30 – 60 minutes late are missing most of period 1 and not maximizing their learning time. If you are late and arrive at school at 9.30am every morning, you are missing 50 minutes a day – over a week this adds up to nearly a day’s learning that the student has missed.

Our other concern is the number of request for early departures from school. It would be appreciated if normal dentist and doctor’s appointments could be scheduled outside school hours. Visits to Centrelink and driving tests should be completed outside of normal school hours. Early leaves will not be allowed for driving tests. Notes requesting early leave times should also include a contact phone number, the student’s full name, parent’s signature and date.

**ATTENDANCE – REQUESTS FOR EXTENDED LEAVE DURING TERM TIME**

The Department of Education and Training has a number of requirements for the granting of extended leave.

Applications for student leave in excess of fifteen days in a twelve month period must be considered as exemptions from school attendance. An application form requesting this leave must be completed before the leave is taken and time needs to be allowed for approval by either, the School Principal, the School Education Director and the South Western Sydney Regional Director. Exemptions may be granted for:

- Family holidays during term time;
- Health of the student where sick leave or alternative enrolment is appropriate;
- Employment other than in the entertainment industry;
• Employment in the entertainment industry.

Acceptable reasons for absences from school
The following reasons are accepted as justified reasons for absences as part of the Department’s attendance policy and may include the student:
• having an unavoidable medical or dental appointment (preferably, these should be made after school or during holidays)
• being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
• being required to attend an exceptional or urgent family circumstance (such as attending a funeral)
• being sick, or having an infectious disease.

Absences for reasons such as some of the following may not be justified:
• Shopping
• Sleeping in
• Working around the house
• Minding younger siblings and other children
• Minor family events such as birthdays
• Haircuts

It is important to realise that parents (including carers) may be prosecuted if children have recurring unjustified absences from school.

If your child has to be absent from school, it is important to tell the school and provide a reason for the absence. To explain an absence parents and carers may:
• send a note, sms text, fax or email to the school
• telephone the school, or
• visit the school.

CYBERSAFETY
There have been a number of issues this term between students as a result of incorrect “netiquette” usage of social networking sites. Students are unable to access these sites at school and need to use them responsibly at home. Students are reminded that they need to make smart and safe choices when using social networking sites, such as, Facebook. Some useful tips:
• Be careful – only add friends that you really know to your contact list.
• Remember, that you can block strangers from seeing when you are online.
• Check the privacy settings on your account – don’t include too much personal information about yourself.
• Treat others online in the same way you would in real life. It is against the law to post offensive comments about others on the internet or via any form of electronic communication.
• Use the internet as an effective research tool – there are useful study links for students from the school’s website under the student button.

PREPARING FOR EXAMS
All of our senior students will soon be required to sit for their half yearly examinations. It is essential that students prepare for these examinations. Preparation allows students to familiarise themselves with course content, identify areas of weakness and have time to discuss with their teachers’ how to improve on previous performances.

Students should also prepare for their examinations by answering examination style questions under examination conditions. This means that they initially attempt to answer these questions without support from textbooks or family members and in a specified period of time. This will give them an indication of how they are likely to perform under exam conditions and areas to address prior to the half yearly exam.

Remember that teachers are there to support you, so, discuss any issues you have with them.

SPORTS UNIFORM
Students are reminded that they are allowed to wear Holroyd High School sports uniform only to school on Tuesdays when they have sport. On other days or if they do not have the correct uniform, they must bring their uniform with them and change for PE lessons or PASS lessons.

A reminder to students that for all PD/H/PE lessons and sport, you are expected to wear the school’s sports uniform – PE shirt, black shorts/tracksuit pants, school cap, white socks and sports shoes.

The following items are not allowed singlet tops, leggings, jeans, non-uniform caps, football boots, canvas slip-on shoes, high heels and bare feet.

COMING EVENTS
In March and April, the following activities may be of interest:
• School Cross Country on Tuesday 19 March 2013.
• Year 9 Fast Forward Awards Ceremony @ UWS Parramatta on Monday 18 March 2013.
• Years 8/9 Endanger Ranger excursion to Western Plains Zoo at Dubbo on 21st and 22nd March.
• UNSW ASPIRE Year 11 Step Up Program on 3rd, 4th and 5th April.
• WotOpera performance on Tuesday 26 March at the Seymour Centre.
• Debating Gala Day on Thursday 28 March.
• Year 11 Work ready Day on Thursday 28 March 2013.
• Year 12 Half Yearly examinations from Monday 8th April until Friday 12th April inclusive.
• Term 1 ends on Thursday 5 April 2012.
• Term 2 begins for students on Wednesday 1st May as there will be two school development days at the beginning of Term 2 to assist with the implementation for the National Curriculum.
• Year 11 Half Yearly examinations from Wednesday 1 May – 8 May 2013.
• Zone Cross Country on Monday 6 May
• Year 10 Half Yearly examinations from 7 May until 13 May
• Years 7 & 9 NAPLAN tests are Tuesday 14 May, Wednesday 15 May and Thursday 16 May 2013.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns about your child’s progress.

Denise Carrick
Deputy Principal
SPORT REPORT

Year 8 Swim School

Year 8 has just completed their final swim school program at The Royal Lifesaving Academy, Seven Hills. Students participated in swim school lessons for a consecutive two weeks during period 5 and 6. This was a continuation of their swim school program in Year 7 during term 4 last year. It has been such a wonderful experience to see the tremendous improvement all students have made.

Thank you to all students for representing Holroyd High School in such a respectful manner.

The Zone Swimming Carnival was Held on Thursday 29th February at Parramatta Pool.

Congratulations to Robert Carter who will represent the Zone at the Regional Swimming carnival.

Thank you to Ms. White and to all students who attended the carnival

Volleyball:
Holroyd High School hosted the round 1 knockout competition for our Open Boys Volleyball team. The team members were: Mohammad Ali Ahmadi, Yassin Afzali, Hassan Jafari, Ali Mohammadi, Mohammad Nazari, Mansoor Gayumi, Muqdad Alghalebi, Nima Afshar, Juma Rahimi and Adisu Feyisa. Holroyd played extremely well, winning the match 2-0 in under 30 minutes against Northmead High School. Congratulations, boys.

On Monday 11th February, Mr. Moussa and the Volleyball team attended the Regional Boys’ Volleyball Trials held at Kevin Betts Stadium, Mt Druitt. The trials had roughly had 60 students and only 10 students were selected to be in the Regional Volleyball team. Congratulations to Mohammad Ali Ahmadi and Yasin Afzali who made the Regional Volleyball Team. These boys will now travel to The Combined High School Sports Association Competition.

Thank you to Mr. Moussa who has been coaching the team.

Boys’ Open Basketball

After spending each Thursday afternoon involved in the basketball development program, Holroyd displayed a wealth of talent in trials for the opens knockout team. This made it incredibly hard to choose only 10 to make the final team. Thanks again to all the boys who came to the trials - it’s very clear that basketball will be a force at Holroyd for years to come.

When the boys arrived at Arthur Phillip High School for our knockout game we were immediately met with the electric atmosphere of a large and vocal home team crowd. The boys warmed up well and were focused heading into the game, by the
time we came together in a huddle before tip-off I knew the boys were ready to play!

The game started at a frenetic pace and this played straight into our hands as we controlled the game with our high octane fast break. We filled the lanes well and supported the man on the break - all that “3 on 2” fast break drills at training were paying off! Once the game settled we adapted into a half-court game protecting a 10-4 lead. The boys stayed aggressive on offence and took the ball hard to the basket, resulting in some easy buckets and trips to the foul line. It was a very even game and the boys went toe to toe with the opposition for the majority of the game. The only thing that let us down was our inability to consistently rebound at both ends of the floor, and our poor ball movement, resulting in some easy turnovers.

In the end the boys went down by the narrowest of margins, but we should all be very proud of their efforts. I am extremely proud of how the boys conducted themselves on the court and the intensity and sportsmanship that they showed until the final whistle! In particular I want to congratulate Yuan Li of the IEC who was phenomenal on both ends of the court. Yuan was fired up from the start and proved to be a one man highlight reel as he delighted the crowd with his solid ball handling and dynamic drives to the basket. Well done!

Anti-Bullying workshop
On Monday 25th February, Holroyd High School was one of the fortunate schools to be selected and have Parramatta Eels come in and talk to our Year 7 and 8 students about bullying, hearing the message that bullying isn’t cool.

Ken Edwards and Matthew Ryan from Parramatta Eels provided students with tips on how to ‘tackle bullying’ through three simple messages - Tie It, Tell It, Yell It. These messages are simple and showed the students easy ways to confront bullying head-on, and hopefully wipe it out.

Students also had the opportunity at the end of talk to ask the NRL players questions and for autographs.

Sport ‘House System’
Holroyd has introduced the house system back into sporting activities. Students and staff have been notified of what house colour they are in. Each student from the main school and IEC has received a colour card, which indicates what colour house they are in. Currently we have house colours (Red, Green, Blue and Yellow).

On Wednesday 13th of March our first ‘House’ meeting will be held. Students from year 11 will be encouraged to nominate themselves as house captain and vice-captain. Students will also have the opportunity to choose their house name, based on an inspirational leader.

Our main goal in having the house system is to build team ‘spirit’ and motivate students to participate in school, extracurricular events, Tuesday sport and sports carnivals.
Who will be the winning house for 2013? Stay tuned for regular updates on House point’s updates!

After school extracurricular sport:

Basketball
After school basketball program: SPORTING LINX
We have an exciting new sporting opportunity starting in Term 1 run by STARTTS Sporting Linx. Students are able to participate in a FREE after school basketball program. Students will develop skills and knowledge essential for promoting healthy lifestyle and community connectedness with an emphasis on respect, trust and co-operation.

A six week basketball clinic utilizing both professional and community volunteers to both coach and mentor students in game play, healthy lifestyle and sportsmanship. Sessions will run every Wednesday from 3:15 to 4.30pm.

Students will then have the opportunity to attend a free leadership camp, a school holiday camp that draws together students in the program who have been identified as showing leadership potential and community spirit. These individuals will be provided the opportunity to gain coaching and refereeing skills, understand and develop leadership ability and participate in organizing a Gala day drawing together and celebrating the achievements of all individuals in the program.

Please see Miss Tohmeh for permission notes and further information.

Our first session will kick-start next Wednesday 20th March from 3:30pm until 4:30pm in the school gym until the end of term.

Paula Tohmeh
Sports Co-ordinator

YEAR 7 REPORT

It has been a busy start to the Term for our new Year 7 group as we have made a successful transition into high school. It is pleasing to see that after only a few weeks there are some strong friendships being formed and students are looking to achieve success in all of their subjects. So what has been happening so far this year?

Students have been actively engaged in the Peer Support program and the Year 11 leaders have spoken very highly of their participation and teamwork. All Year 7 students have completed an anti-bullying program with their Year Advisors and the School Counsellor Ms Dilek.

Francisco Mori, Alizheh Jamal and Jessica Hazell were lucky enough to be selected into the Wot Opera program after some excellent auditions.

Many of our girls have been involved in the Active Girls Badminton program on Tuesday afternoons. We also encourage all of Year 7 to get involved in the Sporting Linx Basketball Program each Wednesday (see Ms Tohmeh for details).

Finally we would like to congratulate some of our cohort who have been elected to the Student Representative Council. It was fantastic to see so many students nominating and the voting was very close. On behalf of the school we would like to congratulate the following students: Emen Allouche, Mujda Akbar, Aniwaka Crawford and Carmon Skene.

We know that these students will be excellent representatives of Year 7 and will strive to uphold the schools’ values of respect and responsibility as they set an example for their peers!

Matt Fields & Lisa Fajou
Year 7 Adviser and Assistant Adviser

YEAR 8 REPORT

Students have settled well into Year 8. Well done to Year 8 for completing swim school. Swim school was very successful and all students had fun. On the 21st and 22nd of March, selected Year 8 students will be going on an excursion to Taronga Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo. Thank you to the parents for returning the permission notes so promptly. If you have any questions or concerns about the excursion please contact Miss Chetty in Science.
Rhiannon Skene had a great opportunity to meet our Prime Minister. This is what she had to say about her experience. “On Sunday the 3rd of March I had the honour to meet the Prime Minister Julia Gillard. She was very warm and welcoming, and I was glad to be the first person to meet her when she came into Rooty Hill. She asked me questions like how I was, and what school I went to.”

Our schools’ Cross Country carnival is on the 19th of March. All students are encouraged to participate. Students have been given a sponsorship book. Please encourage students to complete this sponsorship book and help them to raise funds for our school.

Shakti Chetty and Nes Atmali
Year 8 Adviser and Assistant Adviser

YEAR 9 REPORT

Year 9 have had a very busy start to the term. Students have now settled into their electives and are enjoying doing the subjects they have chosen to do. We are happy to report that students have started the year with a great attitude towards their learning and their friends.

Below are some great photos from our Rewards Excursion to ABC studios at the end of last year.

There are various opportunities that will be offered to Year 9 this year. The Fast Forward program will commencing soon with selected students attending an Awards Night on the 18th of March. Fast Forward is a partnership between schools in the Greater Western Sydney region and the University of Western Sydney. The program encourages high school students and their families to see tertiary study as a realistic and viable post school option and raises participants’ aspirations for the future. For parents who would like more information please go to the site below:

http://www.uws.edu.au/fastforward/fast_forward/information_for_parents
Endanger Ranger Program – Taonga Western Plains Zoo

Selected students from Years 8 and 9 are looking forward to the overnight excursion to Taonga Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo on Thursday the 21st of March 2013. The overnight excursion is a fully catered overnight program. Learning opportunities and exciting program elements include a night zoo walk, animal encounters, behind the scenes tours and free time on bikes on the second day. Students will be participating in a learning program that will have pre- and post-exursion learning opportunities. The students will participate in an Endanger Ranger program, focusing on endangered species and the actions needed to assist these animals long-term survival.

Remember to follow the school rules of Respect, Responsibility and Leadership. If you need advice or assistance don’t forget that you can come and see myself or Mr Moussa.

Louise Cian and Mohammed Moussa
Year 9 Adviser & Assistant Adviser

YEAR 10 REPORT

We welcome two new students in Year 10, Munadi Kadiwala and Sheree Delamere. This week the Year 10 Music Group is preparing a band performance for the Holroyd High School Open Day on Tuesday, the 12th of March. Students will be performing the hit song, “Somebody That I Used to Know” by Goyte. The Performers are Taniela Moala, Yelena Nam, Connor Fielding and Katie Dowley.

Last month, four Year 10 students attended the Beacon Ambassador training day. I wish to congratulate these students and encourage them to apply what they have learned from this training.

Sally Flores
Year 10 Adviser

SRC REPORT

Student Representative Council
On Wednesday 27th February, the 2013 School Captains, Vice Captains and Student Representative Team got together for a SRC planning day for 2013, with our main focus in organizing functions for students, fund raising and school service. The SRC has agreed to support two charities per term such as the Leukaemia Foundation, Pink Ribbon Day, Bandana Day, SIDS Kids, Cancer Council. Student representatives were then split into their year groups and were asked to present two ideas of what they would like to bring to Holroyd. Ideas were all about involving student interest, including Student vs. Teacher Soccer match, Jersey day, Movie night, Halloween Dance, Iron Man and Women challenge, Holroyd first fete.

Some wonderful and exciting initiatives to look forward to for 2013!

Valentine’s Day
On February 14th Holroyd High School was spreading love through roses delivered to students. The SRC took pre orders with messages 2 weeks prior to Valentine’s Day. Thank you to Rahana Rahimi and Rayema Shams who gave up their recess and lunch every day for two weeks to take these orders. In total we sold 200 roses and made $500.

World’s Greatest Shave
The SRC this month has been focusing on raising funds for the ‘World’s Greatest Shave’. SRC students have been keeping busy collecting funds for the Leukaemia Foundation during lunchtime.

The SRC will be walking around recess and lunchtime everyday with buckets. Staff and parents/guardians can also make a donation at A block office. Thank you to those who have already contributed. Last year we raised $500, this year our aim is to raise $700.

Congratulations to our four New Year 7 representatives for 2013 who were selected to be a part of the SRC team.

WELFARE REPORT

Immunisations
All students in Year 7 started their school-based immunisation program on Wednesday 20th February, 2013. Students had their first round of vaccinations against Hepatitis B and HPV. Boys in Year 9 also started their HPV immunisation program. Being immunised against diseases is very important and our school has an excellent
rate of student involvement. Congratulations to all students who performed very bravely on the day.

A reminder to that our second immunisation day is on Wednesday, 1st May, 2013. All students in Years 7 and boys in Year 9 will be receiving the 2nd dose of the HPV vaccine. Year 7 students will also receive the dTpa (tetanus) vaccine. If your child was away for the first round or did not return the consent form on time, they will need to catch up on the immunisations that they missed. Please make sure that students have returned all signed consent forms. If parents do not want their child to receive any of the vaccinations, a letter detailing their request needs to be given to me prior to the immunisation day.

I have included some information from the Ministry of Health regarding the school-based immunisation program, as well as a media release about the HPV vaccine.

- Free vaccine is only available to students who have a signed consent form and who commence the vaccine course while they’re in Year 7 and Year 9.
- Students who miss vaccine doses due to absence on the day of the nurses’ visit will be offered catch-up vaccination at subsequent school clinics. Where this is not possible, parents will be advised that free catch-up vaccination is available at their local GP during the school year only.
- Parents who choose to wait for their child to be older before consenting to vaccination will be required to pay for the vaccines privately.

Sylvia Petreski
Welfare Co-ordinator

Media Release:

HPV vaccination for boys to commence in NSW

From next year, NSW school boys will have access to the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine which will protect them against developing infections that can lead to cancer.

From 2013, boys in Year 7 in all NSW high schools will be offered the HPV vaccine annually. In addition, boys in Year 9 will be offered the vaccine as part of the national ‘catch up’ program in 2013 and 2014.

The NSW Chief Health Officer, Dr Kerry Chant, said the highly successful vaccine has already seen a drop in the infections that lead to cervical cancer in females. However, as the vaccine only protects against two of several high-risk types of HPV associated with cancer it is vital that women continue to have regular Pap tests.

“The vaccine, which has been available to girls since 2007, is highly effective in preventing the main types of HPV infection and should be given to adolescents before they become sexually active”, said Dr Chant.

“Extending the vaccination program to boys will help protect them against some of the most common types of HPV infection and against developing a range of cancers.”

Associate Professor Kristine McCartney of the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance said that “as well as protecting males from HPV infections, immunising young men will also help protect women from infection”.

“The HPV vaccine is a strong weapon in preventing this common virus that is easily spread during intimate contact with another person,” Associate Professor Kristine McCartney added.

In 2011, 81% of Year 7 girls received at least one dose of the three-dose course of HPV vaccine.

HPV is the name given to a group of viruses that affect both females and males. Most people who are sexually active will have a genital HPV infection at some time in their lives. HPV infection usually causes no symptoms and goes away by itself. However, in rare cases infection can cause life-threatening cancers.

Almost all cases of cervical cancer and genital warts are due to HPV infection. HPV also causes cancers in other parts of the body.

Information kits will be sent to the parents of all NSW schoolboys eligible to receive the vaccine in early 2013. Students in Year 7 will also be offered vaccination against other diseases, including diphtheria-tetanus whooping cough (dTpa), hepatitis B and varicella (chicken pox).


TRANSITION ADVISER REPORT

Holroyd High School has embraced social entrepreneurship with the Beacon Foundation. The main objective of this program is to ensure that all students pursue further education, training or employment upon leaving school. The program also provides avenues for business in the communities, to build partnerships and work together with the school, to improve employment outcomes for our students. The Beacon program will be targeting Year 10 students at Holroyd High school.

Student Ambassadors were selected from Year 10 to provide a link between Beacon, the school and the community. Beacon Student Ambassadors are involved in organising, preparing and hosting events, and have many opportunities for self-development.

Congratulations to the following students: Chelsea Wallace, Serkan Aydin, Sami Mohieldin and Afaf El-Yassih

More updates on this in the next Spotlights issue… on more information about our next Beacon Event… A Holroyd High School business breakfast!!!! More Information on this will be in the next Spotlight issue.

Lilian Joseph
Transition Advisor
Below is a report on the Beacon Ambassador Training Day by Chelsea Wallace:

On Tuesday 19th February the Beacon Ambassadors attended their first meeting for the Beacon Foundation, which was held at Ashcroft High School.

As a Beacon ambassador for my year group, I would like to say that the training day was a success and it was a brilliant opportunity for me and the rest of the Beacon Ambassadors. I learnt how to express myself to be a leader and I learnt the responsibilities of being a Beacon Ambassador. The Beacon program has so far helped me in many ways such as, being confident, inspiring and to learn the aspects of different things from a different angle in life.

At the Beacon Ambassador Training Day we learnt things such as group work, responsibilities, motivation and communication. We were combined with a group of students from different schools throughout Sydney. We worked together as a group and learnt new ways to improve our confidence. We also spoke about what it is like to be a leader and the things we would do to be a responsible leader. Sami Mohieldin, Serkan Aydin, Afaf El-Yassih and I are honoured to have this opportunity to represent our school as Ambassadors for the Beacon Program. I would like to thank Miss Joseph for taking us and organising such an amazing day for us, we are thankful and we hope to represent our school again for the Beacon program.

Chelsea Wallace
Year 10 student

SUPPORT UNIT REPORT

The Support unit consist of 2 classes 7I and 7M. Both classes have settled in very well. The classrooms are taking shape with the recent arrival of our furniture which we assembled. Both classes are integrating with Year 7 for Sport, Peer Support and weekly assembly.

The students are becoming more confident in their new surroundings, including visiting the library and now happily venturing out into the playground at lunchtime. We have planted out the vegetable garden, which is thriving with the recent weather. We are participating in Art and Technology (wood) lessons as well as having Health lessons with Mr Moussa and Music lessons with Miss Fajou.

Congratulations to Jian Jie Ooi and Eric Bui, who are successfully integrating into 7.1 for Maths with Mrs Flores.

Warren Monaghan
Support Unit Teacher
UMAT REMINDERS FOR YEAR 12
This is a reminder for all year 12 students who are thinking of applying for courses in medicine, medical science, physiotherapy, dentistry or any other medical course, the applications for UMAT close on June 4th. For more information please go to www.umat.acer.edu.au.

Scholarships/Cadetships:

Youth Off The Streets 2013 Scholarship Program
Provides financial support for young people who need help to pursue their talents. The scholarship is valued at $5,000 and can be used in any education or training course. Contact: (02) 9330 3500 or scholarship@youthoffthestreets.com.au

Sydney Careers and Employment Expo
Fri 10th & Sat 11th May,
Sydney Convention Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour

Australian College of Applied Psychology Information Session
Wed 20th March, 6pm
Level 5, Wynyard Green, 11 York Street
Contact: info.acap@navitas.com or 1800 061 199.

Student Programs/Workshops:

Engineers Australia Autumn School of Engineering
Mon 15th to Fri 19th April
The Autumn School of Engineering is for Year 11 & 12 Students from the Sydney Metropolitan Area who want to meet professional engineers and get more information about future careers in Engineering.

Kiama Youth Centre Event Management Course
This course is offered to young people aged 12-18 and will culminate in the creation of a new under 18’s music venue in Kiama. The course starts on March 7th and runs each Thursday from 4 – 6pm. Registration is free but places are limited.
Contact: 4233 1276 or kiayouth@internode.net.au

Casula Powerhouse Women in Sport Forum
Fri 15th & Sat 16th March
A two-day series of forums about the thoughts, beliefs and perceptions about women in sports in Australia.
Contact: 9824 1121.
Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School Career Focus Days

Career Focus Days are 3-4 day residential programs for students aged 16 and over who are considering the hospitality industry. Dates for 2013: Mon 22nd – Wed 24th April, Tue 16th – Fri 19th July, Tue 3rd – Fri 6th September, Tue 8th – Fri 11th October, and Tue 26th – Fri 29th November. http://www.bluemountains.edu.au/programs/career-focus-days/

Metro Screen Short Courses

All dates listed are the starting dates for courses.

Craft of Directing – Tue 5th March
From FCB to AVID in 2 Days – Sat 23rd March
Production Management – Mon 25th March
Fundamentals of VFX – Wed 3rd April
Multiplatform Filmmaking – Thu 11th April
Editing in AVID – Sat 13th April
Film Producing – Tue 16th April
Camera Essentials – Sat 20th April
Young Filmmakers Workshop – Mon 22nd April
Directing Actors – Sat 4th May
Sound Design and Editing – Sun 12th May
Camera and Lighting Techniques – Sat 18th May

http://metroscreen.nsw.edu.au/courses/Courses/Short+Courses

YAPA Shift This: HSC Edition

Mon 8th April, 9am to 3pm
Sydney Town Hall
A one-day forum about HSC stress and anxiety for student leaders in NSW.
RSVP to Emily at operations@yapa.org.au

The School for Excellence HSC Programs

TSFX offers a range of free and paid programs designed to help students excel at their HSC exams. Mastering the Exams (Series 1)

Cost: $10 donation to charity on the day
When: Sat 9th, Sun 10th & Sat 16th March
Where: UNSW Kensington Campus and University of Sydney Camperdown Campus

Mid-Year Exam Revision Lectures

Cost: $40 to $65 per session
When: Sat 9th March to Sun 24th March
Where: University of Sydney Camperdown Campus

CSIRO Work Experience Placements

Work experience placements are available for high schools students around Australia interested in science in years 10, 11 and 12.
Applications open March Fri 1st and close Sun 31st March
http://www.csiro.au/org/Work-Experience-Overview

Employment:

Young Actors & Actresses Sought for Short Film

The film will be shot in South West Sydney later in 2013 and is a coming-of-age story set in multicultural Sydney. Females should be aged 15-18 and be of Pacific Islander, Vietnamese, or African backgrounds. Males should be aged 16-18 and be of Vietnamese or Pacific Islander background.

Gap Year/Student Exchange:

2014 UK Gap Year Program

UK Gap Year places students graduating Year 12 in 2013 in work placements in private schools throughout the UK in 2014. Applications close Tue 30th April.

Ellie Apostolopoulos
Careers Adviser

Introducing ProtectaChild

ProtectaChild is an automated search tool that replaces the need for parents or guardians to manually monitor their children's activity on MySpace, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. ProtectaChild is a gateway to hold open discussions with your children about appropriate online behaviour. It also provides parents with peace of mind about their children's online activities.

It is important to know that not everyone uses social media in the way it was intentionally created. Our goal with ProtectaChild is to assist in eradicating the harmful behaviour that frequently occurs on social media sites.

ProtectaChild provides awareness for parents while safeguarding the privacy of their children who use Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, YouTube and bebo. Parents will be alerted if explicit or damaging content has been posted to or from their child's page. Your email or sms alert will advise you as to what word(s) were used in the post, in what context the word(s) were used in, who sent the post and when the post was sent.

ProtectaChild does not hack into or violate the privacy of the people who use it. It is a search tool that analyses posts on their children's pages to provide parents with awareness of the existence of content that can be harmful to their children's safety, reputation or standing in the community.


The Acer Education Team
MultiLit Literacy Centre Family Information Session
Saturday 23rd March 2013 at 12pm

The MultiLit Literacy Centre works with low progress readers from kindergarten through to high school.

We now also offer a preschool program that teaches prerequisite reading skills to give children the best start when they transition to formal schooling.

MultiLit, a research-based initiative of Macquarie University, addresses the literacy needs of low progress readers with proven programs that improve reading accuracy, fluency, comprehension, spelling and vocabulary.

Our family information session will provide parents and carers with information about the range of programs available at our Literacy Centre as well as the opportunity to see our Reading Tutor Program in action.

The MultiLit Literacy Centre is located in the Macquarie University Research Park next to Macquarie University Hospital:

Suite 2, Level 3
75 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park

Parking is available on Talavera Rd, at Macquarie University Hospital and at Macquarie Shopping Centre.

Register your interest now (or feel free to just drop in on the day)!
Email reading_centre@multilit.com or call 1300 55 99 19.

Kind regards,
Vanessa Black
Multilit Pty Ltd
vanessa.black@multilit.com
SUPPORT UNIT
Art Gallery

Year 12 Visual Art students

Year 12 Visual Arts student Fatemeh Sharifi

Year 7 art

Mary Saliba - Year 10

Year 8 landscape drawing

Syed Mosawi — Year 12

Year 8 students with their landscape drawings

Year 8 landscape drawing

Year 8 students with their landscape drawings

Year 8 landscape drawing

Year 8 students with their landscape drawings

Year 8 landscape drawing