COMING EVENTS

Term 4
3 – 7 November Year 10 Examinations
7 November Parent Meeting 2pm – 3pm
10 – 14 November Years 7 & 8 Examinations
Abbotsleigh Swim School
10 November Year 12 Formal
12 November Parents and Communities Open Day
12pm-2pm
3 December Year 6 into Year 7 Orientation Day
11 December Presentation Day
Parent/Teacher Afternoon 3.30pm-5pm
17 December HSC results released
Year 12 Morning Tea
Last day for all students
A Country Too Far Forum 12pm-2pm
18 – 19 December School Development Day

Term 1
27 January Staff Development Day
28 January Years 7, 11 & 12 & IEC return to school
29 January Years 8, 9 & 10 return to school

Spotlights
Excellence, Opportunity, Success
Find us at: 7 Cumberland Road, Greystanes
P: 9631 9410  F: 9896 3074
www.holroyd-h.schools.nsw.edu.au
Attendance SMS: 0429 456 348

Issue 7 – Term 4 – Week 5
7 November 2014

BEACON FOUNDATION PATRON,
GOVERNOR-GENERAL SIR PETER
COSGROVE VISITS HOLROYD HIGH TO
SPEAK TO STUDENTS ABOUT THEIR
EXPERIENCE OF THE CAREER
INSPIRATION PROGRAM.

Holroyd High School joined the Beacon Foundation in 2013. At
Holroyd High School, the Beacon Foundation connects the school
with our local businesses to help students in the future by making
path ways into the work force or give students opportunities for
further work experience in different industries.

On Monday 13th October, 2014 Holroyd High School was delighted
to host an event to have His Excellency General the Honourable Sir
Peter Cosgrove, and Lady Cosgrove visit our school.

Accompanied by Lieutenant Laura Ball, Mr Bill Lawson AM
Chairman and Founder of the Beacon Foundation, Mrs Lea
Lawson, wife of the Chairman of the Beacon Foundation, and our
Beacon Foundation representatives; Ms Andrean Clarkson, Ms
Jane Artup and Mrs Michelle Mitchell.

Masters of Ceremonies where Helalah Jamshidi and Sami
Mohieldin who were our Beacon Student Ambassadors for 2013,
assisted by our Beacon Student Ambassadors 2014; Yousif
Mashallah, Hilal Dannawi, Scott Hong, Shams Al-Taiff, Parissa
Masoomi, Taylah Howell. I am proud to say all their students
represented there school to the best of their ability.

Our students were delighted to have been selected out of all the
Beacon schools in all of Australia to host this event. Our
distinguished guests had the pleasure of learning more about
Holroyd High School, our students, our stories and about their
experience of the career inspiration program Beacon.

PRESENTATION DAY
THURSDAY 11TH DECEMBER
COMMENCING AT 9AM
IN THE GYMNASIUM
ALL WELCOME
HELP US CELEBRATE OUR STUDENTS’
ACHIEVEMENT IN 2014

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS
YEARS 7 - 11
THURSDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2014
3.30PM – 5PM
SEMESTER 2 REPORTS WILL BE AVAILABLE
FOR COLLECTION
"I have hosted, assisted in the preparation of this event, which has allowed me to experience being a Beacon Ambassador which I look forward to being a leader in the future."

Helalah Jamshidi, Year 11

"When you are a Beacon Ambassador you have more responsibilities. When I first came into Beacon I didn’t know it was going to provide me with this many possible doors. I’ve become more of a leader."

Hilal Dannawi, Year 10

"Being a Beacon Ambassador, it has been such a rewarding opportunity."

Scott Hong, Year 10

Lilian Joseph
Holroyd High School Beacon Foundation Co-ordinator

Principal’s Report

“The Governor General is patron of the Beacon Foundation and his visit to Holroyd High was his first function in that role”

Every term is a busy term at Holroyd High, but Term 4 is perhaps the busiest of them all, with the Higher School Certificate examinations, Years 7-10 examinations, reports, references for Year 12, the Year 12 Formal, the Annual Financial Report, planning for the following year and Presentation Day. Weaving in and out of all of this are parent meetings, excursions, camps, the end of year clean up, performances and so on.

The term started quietly enough, but that did not last very long at all. Right at the beginning of the second week of term, the school was visited by the Governor-General of Australia, General Sir Peter Cosgrove and Lady Cosgrove, on the afternoon of Monday 13th October. The Governor General is patron of the Beacon Foundation and his visit to Holroyd High was his first function in that role. We are honoured that Holroyd High was chosen to be his first Beacon event.

Holroyd High has been a Beacon Foundation school since 2013, which has enabled us to make connections with a wide range of local and city-based businesses to advance the work understandings of our students. Beacon has brought these businesses into the school and our students have gone to the businesses, substantially increasing their understanding of the vocational possibilities available to them.

The founder of the Beacon Foundation, Mr Bill Lawson, and Mrs Lawson also attended the school with the Governor General. They told us how impressed they were by the young people they met on the day, and the calm atmosphere of the school. The Governor General was also very impressed by our students and has extended an invitation to a number of students to join him at Admiralty House in Kirribilli for the New Year’s Eve fireworks. Miss Joseph, our Beacon co-ordinator, will be making arrangements for this very special excursion.

That Monday was a busy day, for in addition to the Governor General’s visit, we had a parent meeting in the morning, and there was an all-day vocational education and training audit taking place! The parents who attended the meeting in the morning had a tour of the school’s newly refurbished science laboratories, which were completed only during the last school holidays. We showed the labs to the Governor General in the afternoon, as well, this time with a Year 11 biology class in situ looking at cell structures under the microscope.

The laboratories are a wonderful enhancement of the curriculum facilities at the school and create a science hub in the centre of the school. The refurbishment was funded from the proceeds of the sale of the block of land at the back of the school. We are using the funds from the sale to improve the amenity of the school for the students. Our science labs were out-dated and shabby, and much in need of refurbishment. Unfortunately, we did not have sufficient funds to refurbish all six labs, but the three that are now 21st century are a great boost for students and teachers alike.

Holroyd High does very well in science, thanks to excellent teaching in the faculty and Mrs Kumar’s leadership. In just seven years, she has transformed the teaching of science in the school and lifted student results above the state mean at HSC level in all four of the science subjects taught at the school: biology, chemistry, physics and senior science.

Mrs Kumar’s leadership in science teaching at Holroyd High is evident also in the outstanding results she has achieved over the last three years in the national chemistry titration competition. This year our titration team, Alex Luong, Gursimran Cheema and Salman Ali Kamali, were ranked fourth in NSW and 23rd in Australia from the hundreds of school teams entered in the competition. We will publish the national ranking on the website, so that you can get an idea of the level of the competition. Holroyd High is among the top schools in the nation in chemistry, and Mrs Kumar is one of the highest achieving science teachers in Australia, following her short-listing for the Prime Minister’s Prizes for Science this year.

On Wednesday, 29th October, Mrs Kumar and I drove to Canberra to attend the formal dinner and awards ceremony in the Great Hall at Parliament House for the 2014 Prime Minister’s Prizes for Science. Mrs Kumar was short-listed for one of only five prizes awarded each year, the Prime Minister’s Prize for Excellence in Science Teaching in Secondary Schools, a very great honour indeed to be a finalist for this prestigious national award.

The five prizes were won by six scientists: the prize for Excellence in Science Teaching in Secondary Schools by Geoff McNamara,
from Melrose High School in Canberra; the prize for excellence in Science Teaching in Primary Schools by Brian Schiller, from Seacliff Primary School in Adelaide; the Malcolm McIntosh Prize for Physical Scientist of the Year by Dr Matthew Hill from the CSIRO; and the Frank Fenner Prize for Life Scientist of the Year by Professor Ryan Lister from the University of Western Australia. These prizes are each worth $50,000. The Prime Minister’s Prize for Science, worth $250,000, was won jointly by Dr Sam Berkovic AC and Dr Ingrid Scheffer AO, for their work on the genetics of epilepsy.

It was an exciting evening, in the company of Australia’s top scientists, and Mrs Kumar’s placing as a finalist received recognition from the science community for the great achievement it is. Holroyd and science are now well and truly on the map! Congratulations, Mrs Kumar.

Although the science laboratories are completed, the school is still a building site, with modifications going on for improving access for disabled students, including the installation of a new lift in D Block, a ramp between B Block and the canteen, and a covered walkway from A Block to the library, which we all can use. At the same time, we are replacing the old cabling to enable and upgrade WiFi throughout the school. WiFi is, of course, another Australian scientific invention, in this case from the CSIRO.

The modifications to the school to improve disabled access reflect the growing enrolment of children with physical disabilities in mainstream schools. We currently have four children in wheelchairs and will be enrolling more students with limited mobility in 2015. Holroyd is one of the few schools in this part of Sydney which could be adapted for physically disabled students. All new schools incorporate provision for disabled access, but in the 1960s, when Holroyd was built, there were very few disabled students in mainstream schooling. An interesting feature of the new science laboratories is the inclusion of an adjustable bench in the wet areas to enable children in wheelchairs the same opportunities for practical work as the other students. These benches are now a standard fixture but were once unheard of.

There was a time when children with disabilities were excluded from mainstream education and were educated separately in institutions such as the Spastic Centre or the Royal Blind School, often to a lower standard than other children. The lifelong consequence of this well-meaning but essentially wrong policy was the exclusion of many disabled people as adults from full participation in society. This exclusion is now seen as discriminatory, and the great majority of children with disabilities are now educated in mainstream classes, or in the case of children with intellectual disabilities, in support classes in mainstream schools or in special school settings, where mainstream education is inappropriate for their needs. In the last two years, we have established three highly successful support classes at Holroyd, the first two in 2013 and the third this year.

Holroyd is a very inclusive school. The integration of the children in the support unit into the life of the school has been natural and positive for everyone in the school, students and staff alike. The students take part in all the activities other Years 7 and 8 students do: sport, PE, gala days, excursions, peer support and so on. Some of the students are integrated into mainstream classes, where appropriate.

Meanwhile, Elsewhere in Spotlights, Year 10 students, Shams Al-Taiff and Hilal Dannawi report on their participation in Global Dignity Day at Parliament House in Sydney, where they heard an inspiring address by Professor Ron McCallum AO, the first blind person to hold a full professorship in an Australian university, in Law at the University of Sydney. “Everyone,” he said, “can make a difference by treating people with dignity.”

No-one in public life exemplified that more than the late, great Gough Whitlam. Prime Minister of Australia, whose memorial service was held this week at the Sydney Town Hall. What you may not know is that Gough Whitlam was the Federal Member of Parliament for this part of Sydney for many years and lived much of his life until he became Prime Minister in Cabramatta. He was our local member.

Although he was Prime Minister for only a few short years, Whitlam’s vision transformed Australia forever, and paved the way for a more equitable society. Among the many reforms he initiated were the Racial Discrimination Act; free tertiary study; access for all to medical treatment through the establishment of the precursor of Medicare, Medibank; the disadvantaged schools program; Aboriginal land rights; the Australian Honours system and an Australian national anthem, and so it goes. He was the first Western politician to open diplomatic arrangements with China, and withdrew Australian troops from Vietnam, thus ending our involvement in that sad war.

Vale Gough and thank you.

There are a number of events over the next few weeks, which I would like to bring to your attention: on Wednesday 12th November, there is a Parents and Communities Open Day in the library from 11.30am to 2pm. There will a number of community organisations present to answer parents’ questions, including Holroyd City Council, STARTTS, TAFE, South West Connect, Parramatta Migrant Resource Centre, Auburn Diversity Services, Auburn Youth Centre, MTC Work Solutions and Ability Options. There will be something for everyone on the day, including a light lunch, free transport from Merrylands Station and interpreters for Arabic, Dari, Persian, Chinese and Turkish. There is even a lucky door prize!

On 17th November, from 12 noon until 2pm, we are fortunate to have a visit from the famous Australian writer, Tom Keneally. He will be taking part in a forum with writers Rosie Scott and Mark Isaacs, and our own Bashir Yousufi. Students from Years 10 and 11 from Holroyd and a number of other schools will be at the forum, which will discuss the anthology Tom Keneally and Rosie Scott have published recently, A Country Too Far, a collection of short writings on asylum seekers. Some of the writers represented in the book are among our most famous: Judith Wright, Les Murray, Christos Tsiolkas, Anna Funder, Geraldine Brooks and Raymond Gaita, to name a few. Copies of the book will be on sale. If you would like to attend the forum, you will need to register your attendance with Mrs Carrick beforehand, as seats are limited.

The final event of the year, our Presentation Day, takes place on Thursday 11th December, commencing promptly at 9am. Parents and family members are invited to attend to celebrate the achievements of our students over the course of the year. Presentation Day is a very special day in the school’s calendar and a good way to end the school year, on the high note of success.
Dorothy Hoddinott AO FACE  
Principal

Relieving Deputy Principal's Report

"Congratulations to all our Higher School Certificate students who have now finally completed their examinations"

Congratulations to all our Higher School Certificate students who have now finally completed their examinations. We are incredibly fortunate to have wonderful teachers and year advisors to support our Year 12 students and they have repaid that support in their own efforts, with a high level of commitment to their studies. We wish them every success as they breathe a sigh of relief and now wait for their results.

It has been a very eventful first half of Term 4, with many important visitors and events and our students have presented themselves with professionalism and sophistication.

The Governor General’s visit to Holroyd High School
On Monday 13th October the success of our affiliation with the Beacon Foundation attracted the interest of His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove, who attended our school and visited classrooms to see the outstanding work being performed around the school. Our Beacon Ambassadors, led by Sami Mohielden and Helalah Jamshidi, as well as our new school captains, welcomed the Governor General and Lady Cosgrove for an experience they will never forget.

Jim Wilson from Channel 7
On Friday 17th October, Channel Seven sports presenter Jim Wilson came to give an inspiring talk to our Year 11 students. Jim discussed his journey from high school and the kinds of people, challenges and successes he has encountered as a journalist. Year 11 students engaged excellently and asked insightful questions. They particularly enjoyed probing Jim for photo opportunities, for which he was greatly obliging, and even gave us a momentary spot in his sport report that evening.

Subject Selection for Year 11
Students in Year 10 should have submitted subject selection forms for Year 11 2015. Those students are currently being given advice and support to ensure they make decisions that are the best thing for their future. While students may have an opportunity to change their mind next year, it is tremendous opportunity right now for students to ask questions about courses they may wish to undertake, and look into the kind of work they would be completing if they follow a particular path.

Students vs Police
Ms Tohmeh and the PDHPE faculty organised a friendly match between the students of Holroyd High school and the local police. The boys from Holroyd put in an excellent display in preparation for next year’s knockout rounds, and all students participated well and respectfully, including spectators, who enjoyed an SRC run fundraising barbecue.

Exam Weeks
Congratulations to years 9 and 10 students who have now finished their exam weeks. We wish the best of luck to years 7 and 8 whose examinations will be run in the Gymnasium (unless stated otherwise) in week 6. Students from all grades who miss exams should ensure they see a doctor for a doctors certificate and see the relevant head teacher, their classroom teacher or year advisor immediately upon their return to be sure of not being disadvantaged for their absence.

Upcoming events
- Year 7 + 8 exams – 10th-14th November
- Year 12 Formal – Mon 10th November
- Year 10 Abbotsleigh Swim program – 10th-14th November
- Year 10 Abbotsleigh Exchange Program – 10th-14th November
- Year 6/7 Orientation Day – 3rd December
- Presentation Day – 11th December
- Parent Teacher Afternoon (and report hand out) – 11th December 3:30-5:30pm.

David Watson  
Relieving Deputy Principal

HOLROYD HIGH SCHOOL

Like us on Facebook
Almost half way through Term 4 and as usual students and staff are enjoying a busy and eventful term, as we approach the end of the academic year. Enrolments are already over the two hundred mark with a record thirty five international students enrolled this term.

This term we have a very large number of exiting students. A meeting is held each term for the parents of students exiting the IEC where very important information about the schooling system in NSW is disseminated and parents are given an opportunity to choose the school they would like their children to attend. The Centre will try to get your child into one the schools of your choice but this is not always possible.

Our students are currently participating in two programs that are designed to give our students an appreciation of the possibilities available to them in the broader community. We have twenty senior students participating in the InterAct program which focuses on supporting students in gaining the cultural and vocational literacy they will need to participate in the workforce. The emphasis is on developing communication skills and building relationships in the workplace. Students attend the workplace of UBS, an investment bank, to see first-hand how people interact with each other professionally. The last session of this program takes place next week.

The second program is a collaboration with Granville TAFE which allows our students an opportunity to do 'taster' courses at TAFE. There are currently 15 students enrolled in the program which has students attending TAFE one day a week for eight weeks, where they are doing courses in painting, plumbing and motor mechanics. We are very excited to be able to offer this very popular program again.

This term saw the introduction of an on-site nurse who comes to school every Friday, courtesy of the NSW Refugee Health Service. She will initially look after the health needs of our refugee and refugee-like students but the program will, in time, roll out to all the other students in the Centre.

Congratulations to the two students, Amy Zhang and Achel Twarabishimye who have been selected to represent the Centre at the inter IE C oratory showcase to be held in week 7 at the Chester Hill IEC. Getting up to speak in front of an audience can be a daunting experience. Giving a speech in a foreign language must be even more difficult, so I applaud these 2 students.

In the last week of term our students will participate in an inter IEC sports competition to be held at Olympic Park. They will participate in indoor soccer, volleyball and table tennis.

In weeks 9 and 10 the PE department has organised a swim school. I would encourage all students who are unable to swim to register for this invaluable course. There are a limited number of places so you need to be quick to ensure you get a place.

The parent-teacher meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 17th December starting at 3:15pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to speak to the teachers about their child’s progress and I would urge all parents to attend this meeting.

Seelan Nair
Relieving Deputy Principal
Intensive English Centre

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Parents and Communities Open Day
Holroyd High School

Meet other parents
and find out about help for parents!

Learn about your local school and community organisations
Meet the people who can provide assistance and answer your questions
Win prizes

Contact
- Ilana or Sayed at Holroyd High School on 9631 9610 or
- Arrive at CMRC on 9687 9901

 interpreters available for:
Arabic • Dari • Farsi • Persian • Chinese • Turkish

Proudly supported by:

Lunch provided

ENERGY DRINKS BANNED AT HOLROYD HIGH SCHOOL

Teachers concerned over the health risk for teenagers.

Major health concerns regarding energy drinks is their high caffeine content. Adverse effects of caffeine when consumed in the quantities present in most energy drinks include:
- Insomnia
- Nervousness
- Headache
- Rapid heart rate
- Hypertension
- Anxiety
- Diarrhoea
- Physical dependence to caffeine
- Discourages class behaviour and poor concentration
- High fructose content can lead to excessive weight gain
On Friday 24th October, a selected number of Year 11 students during period 3 participated in the Beacon Foundation and TOLL Bridge Mentoring Program.

Beacon partners with TOLL Bridge Partnership for the purpose of enabling Beacon schools to access opportunities for students to gain experience with people in the world of work, and learn about different possibilities for their careers and their future. As part of the program 16 - 20 TOLL leaders visited Holroyd High school and the selected students were mentored by these employees from TOLL Bridge and gave them an insight into their chosen career paths.

**WORK READINESS SERIES**

On Thursday 23rd October, Year 10 students were selected to take part in The Beacon Foundation’s Work Readiness Program funded by Stocklands Merrylands.

The Beacon Foundation’s High Impact Program provides students the unique opportunity to prepare for successful transition from school into the workforce and the attributes they require to be successful in this transition.

Through programs such as this, we are working to ensure that each and every one of our students leave the school gates to a positive pathway in further education, employment or training in years to come.

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**LIBRARY NEWS**

**The Winner is…..?**

**Man Booker Prize**

Our very own Richard Flanagan took out the UK’s top literary award with his moving story, “The Narrow Road to the Deep North”.

**Nobel Prize**

Malala Yousafzai shared the Nobel Prize. Read her moving story, “I am Malala” available in our library now.

**K.O.A.L.A. (Kids Own Australian Literature Awards) Shortlist 2014**

Voting has closed. We are awaiting the announcement of the winners.

For more information head to http://www.koalansw.org.au/

In Week 6, four students will represent Holroyd High School at the annual K.O.A.L.A. ceremony to be held at Newington College, Stanmore in which the winning authors and illustrators are announced. Students then get to meet and talk with all the invited authors and illustrators.

**Celebrations**

Each month we display books based on a theme. In October, ‘terrifying tales’ corresponds with Halloween. November will celebrate Picture Book Month, promoting the value and enjoyment of Picture Books.

Until next time, Happy Reading!

**Lilian Joseph**
Holroyd High School Beacon Foundation Co-ordinator

**Jason Darlington**
Teacher Librarian
MATHEMATICS FACULTY REPORT

In Term 3, students from Years 7 to 11 participated in two mathematics competitions. They were the ICAS (International Competitions and Assessments for Schools) and AMC (Australian Maths Competition). The results were impressive, considering the level of difficulty in some of the questions. Some of the most successful participants achieved the following results:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>ICAS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Justin Do</td>
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<td>Lucy Tran</td>
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We look forward to encouraging more students to participate in these competitions next year and have fun challenging their minds.

Raj Sekhon
Relieving Head Teacher Mathematics

SCIENCE FACULTY REPORT

WELCOME TO THE NEW SCIENCE BLOCK
Ms Kumar, Mrs Atmali, Miss Chetty and Mr Gill are overjoyed and very appreciative to Mrs Hoddinott for funding the new science laboratories and science staff room. We now have a 21st century Teaching and Learning area. Students and teachers likewise are very inspired.

The new laboratories consist of wet and dry areas. Students will be performing first-hand investigations in the wet area and theory lessons will take place in the dry area. Safety of the students is paramount, so special eye wash equipment and safety showers have been installed.

The atmosphere looks nice, neat, bright and roomy. The only thing that is needed now are the Comm Boxes, which should be installed soon. All students now look forward to attending their science lessons in such a fantastic environment.

Last week we had parents visit the labs and they were very impressed and made many positive comments.

On Monday 13th October, the Governor-General, Sir Peter Cosgrove, visited the school and observed the Preliminary HSC biology class studying cells under the microscope in the new laboratories. After questioning the students about cells, he commented that he was very happy with the teaching and learning we do here at Holroyd High School.

I would like to thank the D Block teachers for being so forgiving about the noise they had to put up with whilst the new laboratories were being refurbished. It is so inspiring and exciting to teach in a fully resourced laboratory.

HOLROYD HIGH HOSTING FOUR TEACHERS FROM CHINA
Holroyd High school is hosting four teachers from China on Mondays and Tuesdays of this term. Ms Kumar, the school’s coordinator, has engaged them in a variety of school experiences. Yu and Fang are chemistry teachers, Mark teaches physics and Tracey English. They are all very keen and interested in learning about Australian schools and how teaching and learning are done here.

Their main focus is on Inquiry Based Learning, Quality Teaching Framework and Assessments in Schools. They are very interested in how the Higher School Certificate is examined and assessed.

A lot of discussions regarding the school activities and programs have taken place. They have had a tour of the school facilities. Regular classroom observations, teacher shadowing and mentoring, assistance in class with group work, lesson preparation, etc are some of the things they have taken part in.

They have said that the Australian system of teaching is very interesting and hope to adapt some of it to their teaching.

LATEST ON THE NATIONAL TITRATION COMPETITION
Congratulations to Anh Vi Luong, Gursimran Cheema and Salman Ali Kamali for achieving 23rd place in Australia in the NSW Titration Competition. They will all be receiving a plaque and a Certificate of Excellence for their extremely outstanding performance. Holroyd High school was in 2nd place when we consider the participation of Public Schools in the competition at national level. Well done, Anh Vi, Gursimran and Salman. You have done us proud.

Niru Kumar
Head Teacher Science
The Support Unit has had an enjoyable start to Term 4. Support unit students have been participating in a variety of life skills programs including maths, English, science, HSIE, PDHPE, music, visual arts and TAS. All students have been working hard and improving in all Key Learning Areas.

Year 8 support students were fortunate to be invited on an excursion to the Youth ECO Summit with the HSIE faculty. Students that attended enjoyed the day thoroughly and learnt valuable information about rainforest conservation, which they had studied in HSIE during Term 3. Year 7 students went on a community access activity to Darling Harbour, which enhanced learning for the support unit students and gave students an opportunity to continue their learning experience beyond the classroom and follow on from programs that were being taught in class.

Plans for the remainder of the term include a continuation of high quality learning and community access programs to continue engaging students in learning and encouraging them to continue to be lifelong learners.

I would like to thank all staff and students for their hard work and continued effort during Term 3 and the start of Term 4. I look forward to the rest of the term.

Inga Kilby
Head Teacher Support

Year 8 dreams & fantasy work

Animation & Film Workshop

Every Tuesday afternoon, selected Year 8 students from Year 11 are participating in an animation documentary workshop led by Dr Alejandra Canales, documentary director-producer and lecturer at The Australian Film School. Students are enjoying learning about video camera skills, animation and how to produce a documentary.

Dianne Meilak
Visual Arts Teacher
SCULPTURE BY THE SEA EXCURSION
On Wednesday 29th October, our Year 11 visual arts class went to see the Sculpture by the Sea exhibition along with Year 10 and IEC art students. The Brennan Foundation kindly provided us with free bus to Bondi beach. We had morning tea there. We also took pictures with the beautiful beach. Then we started walking, on the sides there were creative and amazing sculptures made by many different artists. We had a workshop with one of the artists, Tasmin. We got to make our own sculpture of houses. This excursion gave us many ideas about art making, art practice and artists. On behalf of Year 11 art class, we would like to thank Ms Meilak for organising this helpful excursion.

Thank’s a lot!

Yuping He and Anuradha Pingle
Support Unit and Year 11 student

ENGLISH FACULTY REPORT

“A Country Too Far”
Inter-Schools Forum
Wednesday 17th of November, 2014
12.00pm-2.00pm

The English faculty are delighted to be hosting an inter-schools forum with one of Australia’s most revered authors, Mr Thomas Keneally. Merrylands High School, Mitchell High School, Mary Mackillop College and Wenona Girls’ School, will be joining students of Holroyd High to debate and discuss the issues explored in the anthology ‘No Country Too Far’, - a collection of writings on asylum seekers edited by Thomas Keneally and Rosie Scott. Ms Scott, Mr Mark Isaacs, author of ‘The Undesirables’, and renowned freelance journalist, Ngareta Russell, will join Mr Keneally in conducting the forum. Our present Vice Captain Bashir Yousufi will also be speaking on the day, and we look forward to hearing from him fresh from finishing his Higher School Certificate Examinations.

This is a great opportunity for students from a range of backgrounds to openly and honestly reflect on Australia’s current attitudes to asylum seekers and refugees explored in ‘No Country Too Far’. This anthology is a moving collection of poems, short stories and essays, written by some of Australia’s leading authors like Anna Funder, Christos Tsiolkas, Alex Miller and Geraldine Brooks. It is hoped that students will come away from this forum with not only new friendships, but also a broader and more informed understanding of the world in which they live.

Thomas Keneally is one of Australia’s most popular and prolific writers, having published more than thirty novels, dramas, screenplays and books of non-fiction. He is also one of its most distinguished, winning numerous prizes including the Booker Prize for ‘Schindler’s Ark’, later made into an Academy Award winning film.

Rebecca Franklin
Relieving Head Teacher English

YEAR 7 REPORT

Year 7 have had a successful year, with a number of students achieving merits and participating in a range of whole school events.

Last term, students travelled to Sydney University to participate in a Compass program, where they met with a number of university students, took a tour around the university, and explored some of their possible tertiary pathways. Year 7 representatives on the Student Representative Council assisted in the organisation of Multicultural Day and met with members of our local community, including Mayor Kafrouni and Merrylands’ LAC police officers.

This term students successfully completed their immunisations, and attended swim school.

“Swim school was good – I was in the highest group”
Raffi Kelly

“Swim school was pretty cool”
Estelle Togiatomai
The year is ending in a Years 7, 8 & 9 camp! So, if you are still interested in attending, don’t forget to bring back your permission notes and pay at A Block Office!

Amy Ly
Year 7 adviser

**YEAR 8 REPORT**

This is a very busy term for our year group with a range of exciting things happening across the school. Mr Fields and Ms Bailey are looking forward to continuing the positive start to the term and have the following reminders/announcements:

- Year 8 exams begin on Monday of Week 6! Please make sure that you are studying for all of your subjects and see your teachers if you need any help.
- The standard of uniform for our year group has been fantastic. Please make sure that you continue to wear your full school uniform each day. Please be reminded that you are NOT permitted to wear your sports uniform to school on any day other than Tuesday.
- Congratulations to the students who were selected to be a part of the Year 8 Enrichment program - your submissions were excellent and we are excited to do some challenging and fun activities this term! Our first excursion was a great success.
- All of the Year 8 students who attended the geography excursion to the Youth Eco Summit are to be congratulated on being excellent ambassadors for the school. In hot and humid conditions you showed an excellent level of maturity and fantastic behaviour!
- Please return your camp notes if you have not already done so - it's not too late to be a part of camp for this year. Please pay a $50 deposit to A Block Office and give your permission note to Mr Fields. Please see your year advisers if you wish to do some fundraising to help pay for camp!

Matt Fields and Kate Bailey
Year 8 Adviser and Assistant Adviser

**JUNIOR CAMP 2014**

Students from Years 7, 8 and 9 are invited to attend an excursion to the YMCA camp located at Yarramundi. This is a reward excursion and is based on the continued good behaviour of students throughout the year. This year we are heading to the YMCA camp facilities on the banks of the Hawkesbury River and will be participating in a range of exciting activities.

"Yarramundi is a natural bush site, with cabins nestled in between the landscape and an abundance of wildlife and beautiful natural features." (YMCA, NSW)

Feel free to visit their website for more information: [http://camping.ymcansw.org.au/camp-yarramundi](http://camping.ymcansw.org.au/camp-yarramundi)

**When:** Monday 8th- Tuesday 9th of December 2014
**Transport:** Bus - picking students up from school, students will return to school the following day and can be collected from school or make their own travel arrangements. Students will depart school at 8am.
**Where:** YMCA camp - Yarramundi
**Cost:** $179.50 (This fee includes; activities, accommodation, meals and coach transport)

Please see Mr. Fields if you wish to do some fundraising to help pay for camp!!!

Matt Fields
Camp Co-ordinator

**YEAR 8 ENRICHMENT PROGRAM**

**TERM 4 2014**

For the remainder of the term a lucky group of Year 8 students will be participating in the Year 8 Enrichment Program. This program is an exciting opportunity for our gifted and talented students to extend themselves beyond the classroom. The selection process for the program looked at students’ academic records, participation in class, and required all applicants to compose a written submission.

For the reminder of the term, this group of students will participate in a number of excursions, incursions and workshops that will aim to extend them beyond the normal syllabus outcomes. We also aim to create a student devised social justice project that will aim to make a positive impact on the school community.

The group have already participated in their first enrichment excursion where they were treated to a day at Sydney Aquarium.
and Madame Tussauds! Students had a great day whilst challenging themselves creatively and learning about the conservation issues faced by marine life around the world. Watch this space to find out what exciting activity the Year 8 Enrichment program is doing next!

Matt Fields and Kate Bailey
Program Co-ordinator

YEAR 10 REPORT

Year 10 is currently working very hard undertaking their final exams for the year. They are also attending subject selection interviews with the acting Deputy Principal Mr Watson, and me, in order to ensure that they choose the most suitable courses for Preliminary and HSC study.

On 10th October, Year 10 students participated in a Mind Blank interactive performance aimed at increasing mental health awareness. Mind Blank is a not-for-profit organisation that generates awareness and innovative education of mental health topics in youth across Australia. Students enjoyed the performance and some had the opportunity to step in to the performance and act out different scenarios.

Feedback from the students:

“I really enjoyed judging the 3 Minute Thesis Competition. We met students from other schools including Birrong Boys’ High School and Birrong Girls’ High School. It was my first time visiting UNSW and it was an honour to be included”
Moudar Omar

“I really loved attending the ASPIRE 3 Minute Thesis Competition. It was amazing listening to the competitors speeches and meeting the other judges. It was a great opportunity. Thanks ASPIRE”
Vinny Mbula Ekamba

UNSW ASPIRE Student Judging Panel
The UNSW Graduate Research School invited students from ASPIRE Partner Schools to form a judging panel for the 3 Minute Thesis Competition on Thursday 18th September at the University of NSW. The 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) is an academic competition for PhD and Research Masters candidates in which they have just three minutes to explain what, how and why they want to embark on research.

Holroyd High School were lucky enough to be invited to send six Year 10 students to be part of the ASPIRE student judging panel. The students selected were: Taylah Howell, Vinny Mbula Ekamba, Scott Hong, Rayeema Shams, Moudar Omar and Shams Al-Taiff. The ASPIRE student judging panel were tasked with listening to all candidate presentations and deciding on a winner of the ASPIRE prize, an award of $500. Other judges included media personalities, high profile business professionals and academics.

Feedback from the students:

“I put my blindness in a cupboard and succeeded despite it”
Emeritus Professor Ron McCallum AO is the first totally blind person to be appointed to a full professorship in any subject at an Australian University. He delivered an inspiring keynote address about human dignity and equality. He spoke about his experience as a person with vision impairment and the importance of treating people with disabilities fairly and equally in society. He gave valuable advice to the students in the audience, “Everyone can make a difference by treating people with dignity”.

Louise Ciano and Mohammad Moussa
Year 10 Adviser and Assistant Adviser

ABCN Interview Skills Workshop
On Wednesday 15th October, twenty one Year 10 students travelled to the city for an ABCN Interview Skills Workshop. Students had the opportunity to participate in activities and role-plays, which helped them understand how to succeed in an interview.

Mentors volunteered their time from their busy professional roles in accounting, finance, law and human resources at the Commonwealth Bank to provide students with valuable advice and tips on improving body language, responses and confidence during an interview. Students also enjoyed a delicious lunch, chatting to mentors and looking out to the sweeping views of Darling Harbour and beyond.

Global Dignity Day
On Friday 24th October, Year 10 students, Shams Al-Taiff and Hilal Dannawi, had the honour of attending Global Dignity Day at the Parliament of New South Wales. Global Dignity Day was founded in 2006 by a group of Young Global Leaders of the World Economic Forum, and is an annual event in fifty countries. Last year, over 350,000 secondary students around the world took part.

“Everyone can make a difference by treating people with dignity”
YEAR 11 REPORT

Yearly exams have finished and Year 11 students are starting the HSC course. Congratulations to those who completed all requirements of their courses. In week 2 of this term, everyone was given the HSC assessment policy booklet which outlines all assessments and schedules that will be followed up to the end of Term 3 in 2015. We advised students to keep a record of their assessment schedules in all their subjects.

Orders for the Year 12 jersey were finalised with fifty three students ordering the jersey. Deposits were made and the remaining amount is due middle of this term. They will get their jersey in Term 1 next year, ready to be worn before the cold season.

Last Thursday, Year 11 students participated in the RYDA (Road and Safety) excursion at The Tennis Centre in Sydney Olympic Park. This gave them the opportunity to learn safe driving skills. RYDA is mandatory and is a part of the Crossroad Program for Year 11.

We expect everyone to be diligent and focused. Remember, time will go quickly, so start being serious and organised.

Sally Flores and Raj Sekhon
Year 11 Adviser & Assistant Adviser

STUDENT ASSISTANCE SCHEME

Families wishing to apply for assistance for 2014 are invited to submit an application to the Principal as soon as possible. Application forms are available from A Block office. The Student Assistance Scheme is designed to help parents who have ongoing or emergency needs for their children’s education. Assistance may be given with uniform, excursions, subject contributions and other costs. Please telephone the school to arrange a confidential interview with the Principal.

If you need an interpreter, please let the school know in advance so that an interpreter service can be arranged.

ERNST & YOUNG CARE DAY

Volunteers from ERNST & YOUNG came to Holroyd High on Thursday 30th October to complete volunteer work around our gardens. Holroyd High would like to thank ERNST & YOUNG for coming to the school & volunteering their services to keep our gardens looking great!

CONGRATULATIONS TO LABINOT HALITI, FORMER HOLROYD HIGH STUDENT & HIS TEAM THE WESTERN SYDNEY WANDERERS, FOR WINNING THE ASIAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE.

The Western Sydney Wanderers have won the Asian Champions League after securing a nil all draw against Al-Hilal at King Fahd Stadium in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia last Sunday morning. The scoreless result was enough for the Wanderers to secure a win after they won the first game 1-0 in Parramatta last Saturday. The Western Sydney Wanderers are the first Australian team to win the Asian Champions League.

Well done Labinot. You have done the school proud!!
BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD) AT HOLROYD HIGH SCHOOL

BYOD is a solution where students bring their own device (smartphone, tablet, laptop or other device) to school in order to access the school’s internet for the purpose of learning.

In 2009, the Australian federal government launched the Digital Education Revolution. Under this reform, students in NSW DEC schools were issued with a laptop for use in their education. This reform ended in 2013 and from 2014, laptops have no longer been provided to students. This has meant that schools have had to come up with their own solution to enabling students to access technology for the purpose of learning. BYOD is a solution that is being adopted by a wide range of schools in New South Wales and around the world.

Holroyd High School is currently trialling BYOD with year 11 in term 4, 2014. We are planning that from term 1 2015, students in years 7, 11 and 12 will be required to bring their own device to school that can be connected to the school’s internet for the purpose of learning. We have formed a BYOD Committee comprising executive teachers and representatives from each faculty. We are also providing professional development to all staff on the use of a range of applications on laptops and tablets to support them in providing rich learning experiences for students that incorporate the technology they bring to school.

A big concern for parents is the cost involved in purchasing a device for their child where they do not already own one. Students who currently have a laptop that was issued to them by the school are still permitted to bring this as their device. We are in the process of establishing a partnership with Learning With Technologies (www.lwt.com.au) to offer a range of affordable and suitable devices with finance options available. We will be sending more information out to parents as it becomes available.

We have decided to adopt a multi-device platform for delivering BYOD. There will be minimum requirements for the device but beyond that, parents will have the option of purchasing either a laptop, tablet or other device from the full range of brands available.

We would request that no parent purchase a device for their child to bring to school until those minimum requirements have been finalised and a letter sent to parents. We have chosen this model as research suggests that students are more engaged with technology in their lessons when they are using a device that they have chosen and they are confident in using.

Students will only be able to bring their device to school and have it connected to the school’s internet when they have signed and a parent has witnessed the Student User Agreement. This outlines guidelines for appropriate use of devices within the school and consequences for inappropriate use. Students are liable for the device that they have chosen and they bear no responsibility for damage or theft of the device.

We are excited about the opportunities that BYOD will bring to students at Holroyd High School and look forward to sharing more with you about how BYOD will be implemented at Holroyd High School in 2015 and beyond.

The BYOD Committee

CSU Year 10 Subject Information
Charles Sturt University has a webpage on their website dedicated to assisting students to choose their year 11 and 12 subjects.
http://www.csu.edu.au/ontcampus/getting-to-university/10th-year-information

UTS 2015 Information Day
Tue 6th January, 9.00am – 4.00pm, UTS City Campus
Provides information and advice regarding courses, scholarships, entry schemes and pathways.
http://www.uts.edu.au/future-students/info-day

UOW College Launches Suite of New Diploma Programs

Open Universities Australia Undergraduate Courses
Most Open Universities undergraduate first level units have no entry requirements, students can start in any one of their four study periods, and graduates are awarded the same degree as their on-campus counterparts.
Open Universities offers undergraduate courses in Arts & Humanities, Business, Education, Health, IT, Law & Justice, Science & Engineering

The UWS Advantage Key Dates
Fri 5th December: Ensure you have a UAC preference for UWS
Thu 18th December:ATAR release, choose UWS course from their email and make it first preference
Fri 19th December: Receive early offer from UWS or UWS college and enrol online
Mon 22nd December: UWS students can pick up their student card and iPad from Parramatta campus
The UWS Advantage is designed to provide prospective students with more opportunities to study at UWS, as well as assist these students to achieve their own degree of success.
http://www.uws.edu.au/uwsadvantage

TAFE & APPRENTICESHIPS
South Western Sydney Institute 2015 Career and Study Guide
http://swsi.tafensw.edu.au/Students/Future-Students/TAFE-to-higher-education

South Western Sydney Institute 2015 Course Information Sessions
Wed 5th November, Thu 13th November, Tue 25th November
To view which courses will be covered in each information session, view the following webpage:
http://swsi.tafensw.edu.au/infosessions

WIT: TAFE Course Fees are Changing in 2015

Private Colleges
Metro Screen: How I Got My Career in Screen and Media
Thu 6th November, 6.30pm – 7.30pm, Cnr of Oxford Street and Oatley Road, Paddington
Metro Screen has put together an inspiring panel of professional screen industry practitioners to talk about how they started out and what was helpful to them along the way.
Contact: metro@metroscreen.org.au
http://metroscreen.org.au/events/
Academy of Interactive Entertainment: 2015 Work Experience Program
This program is for students in Years 10 to 12 and includes a range of activities, including 3D animation, programming, product testing, and much more.
http://www.aie.edu.au/StudentInformation/workexp

Endeavour College of Natural Health Scholarships
Applications for 2015 Endeavour College of Natural Health Scholarships are now open to academically outstanding school leavers commencing full time study in 2015.
For application guidelines, visit:
http://www.endeavour.edu.au/scholarships

OTHER NEWS

Disability Career Planner and Capability Framework Workshops
Sydney: Mon 3rd November
Parramatta: Mon 10th November
Orange: Wed 12th November

NDS NSW’s The Career Planner is a visual and interactive tool that clearly illustrates the variety of career options across the disability sector. The planner will assist people who are interested in joining the sector, or are already working there, to identify career opportunities and pathways.

The School for Excellence: Mastering the HSC Program
Sat 15th November (University of Sydney) & Sun 23rd November (University of NSW), 9am to 5pm
This program is designed to teach students the skills and information needed to maximise their HSC marks. This program is for students studying Year 11 or 12 in 2015, and is available at the cost of a $10 donation to charity on the day.
Contact: 1300 364 173

Ellie Apostolopoulos
Careers Adviser
Accidents happen. Crime Stoppers and (000) Triple Zero Emergency Services support this important FREE community service.

Duty of Care: To increase every possible measure in your Duty of Care for all students and teachers, whether they be travelling to and from the school, on the campus, at a sports carnival, day excursion, school camp or perhaps they have an allergic reaction to something whilst in the playground – accidents happen. Ensure information about your students and teachers is available to Emergency Personnel – fast.

Emergency Personnel often find themselves in a difficult position when they are presented with patients who may be young and unable to communicate effectively, in a state of shock or unconscious. Emergency Personnel need to know their name, their preferred contacts and if they have any medical conditions or allergies which may effect the treatment administered.

This FREE service offers a solution to this predicament. MyPD.com is an Emergency Identification service with unique ID’s printed on cards, stickers for phones/wallets/bags etc, screen saver for smart phones, stickers for bike helmets, prams etc

Kathleen Kenny, Director
MyPD.com, is available on mobile 0418 655 848 to assist with any questions.
SWIMMING LESSONS
ROYAL ACADEMY SWIM SCHOOL

Royal Life Saving's Swim and Survive teaches children a range of skills to encourage a lifetime of safe participation in recreational activities in, on, or around the water.

Qualified and experienced instructors
Indoor pool heated to 30°C
Friendly staff
Safety and survival focused programs

Enrol your child into the Swim and Survive program and see their confidence in and around water grow. Start your swimming lessons today!

Lessons are available seven days a week for children and adults, and are conducted on a Term basis.

Further Information & bookings:
Aquatic Safety Training Academy
76 Best Road, Seven Hills
Call: 8814 8637
Visit: aquaticacademy.com.au

WEP Student Exchange Information Evening
Do you want to see the world? Are you keen to push your boundaries and grow as a person? Could you see yourself living overseas as an exchange student in 2017? With over 20 different English and non-English speaking countries to choose from, the hardest part is choosing where you want to go!

WEP Australia is holding its final information evening in Sydney on the 10th of November, and we’re inviting interested students and parents to come along! It is a fantastic opportunity to find out everything there is to know about WEP’s not-for-profit student exchange programs to more than 20 countries around the world!

With returned students attending the session, you can hear first-hand what it is like to go on exchange.

When and Where?
Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre
Level 1, 405 Crown Street
SURRY HILLS NSW 2010
10 November | 7:30-9pm

Why Go On Exchange?
Becoming an exchange student will break you out of your shell. You are given the opportunity to not only learn and discover things about another culture, but also become aware of, discover and appreciate your own. By living overseas as an exchange student, you will be challenged, educated and undoubtedly rewarded. Aside from language acquisition (for non-English speaking countries) and knowledge of another culture, student will gain transferable skills that future employers will look favourably on. So get on board! Join the 1000s of other students who have joined the WEP community, and ventured overseas as an international exchange student.

Can’t Make It?
Visit www.wep.org.au to request a FREE information pack for you and your parents. Our brochure contains everything you need to know about WEP’s not-for-profit student exchange programs to help you and your parents make this important decision.

See you there! – The WEP Team
SCULPTURE BY THE SEA

Students from Holroyd High School elective art classes and IEC attended Sculpture by the Sea at Bondi on Wednesday 29th October 2014. A fun time was had by all.