COMING EVENTS

**Term 4**
11 December  
Presentation Day  
Parent/Teacher Afternoon 3.30pm-5pm
12 December  
Holroyd’s Got Talent
17 December  
HSC results released  
Year 12 Morning Tea  
Last day for all students
18 – 19 December School Development Day

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

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**PRESENTATION DAY**

**THURSDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2014**
**COMMENCING AT 9AM**
**IN THE GYMNASIUM**
**ALL WELCOME**

HELP US CELEBRATE OUR STUDENTS’ ACHIEVEMENT IN 2014

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**PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS**

YEARS 7 - 11  
**THURSDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2014  
3.30PM – 5PM**
SEMESTER 2 REPORTS FOR YEARS 7-10  
WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION

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On Thursday 4th December, our school hosted the Beacon Foundation’s business breakfast in the school library. This event is held to give our students the opportunity to meet with local businesses and partnerships and more importantly provide avenues for business and education communities to build partnerships and work together to improve employment outcomes for our students. Various businesses and our local support agencies attended and supported this event.

Then, to sign off for the year our Year 10 students successfully participated in the Beacon Foundation’s Charter signing at Holroyd High School. The Beacon Foundation’s Charter Signing is a signature event where all Year 10 students publicly make a pledge that in the following year they will be in further education, employment or training.

On behalf of Holroyd High School Year 10 students, we would like to thank all the businesses, and the Beacon Foundation for all your support and ongoing commitment this year.

Lilian Joseph  
Transition Advisor and Beacon Co-ordinator

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The Beacon Foundation
Business Breakfast and Charter Signing

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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 8 – Term 4 – Week 10  
9 December 2014
This year has passed with amazing speed. It has been a big year for the school, with a great many outstanding achievements, some of which I will review for you in this report.

We celebrate the achievements of our students at our annual Presentation Day assembly in the gym this Wednesday, 10 December, starting promptly at 9am. Parents, caregivers and family members are all welcome to attend Presentation Day and the morning tea that follows the ceremony. We ask that guests be seated by 9am and remain in the gym for the entire ceremony as a mark of respect for the students receiving awards.

Presentation Day is one of the most important events of our school year. It celebrates both the academic and the civic achievements of the students of Holroyd High School and the Holroyd High School Intensive English Centre. It is a formal occasion, emphasising the seriousness with which we take education at Holroyd High.

Education is serious business. It should never be taken for granted, even in Australia, where school education has been compulsory for the last 134 years. Because we all go to school, we tend to be a little blasé about schooling; however, that would be considered a luxury in many countries, where not all children have the right or the opportunity to attend school. There are tens of millions of young people around the world who will never learn to read and write, and who are condemned as a result to a life of poverty on the margins of society.

Last year, I made the comment that when we celebrate achievement, we are also celebrating endeavour. You can’t have achievement without effort or commitment. It is not an entitlement that comes automatically as a result of your wealth or your social status or the school you attend or even your intelligence. You achieve your goals because you have done the hard work that gets you over the line. That is what Wednesday is all about.

In 2014, science has continued to be the stand-out academic success for the school. For the third year running, we entered a team in the national chemistry titration competition, and again achieved outstanding success in both the state and the national levels of the competition, with the Holroyd team coming fourth in NSW and 23rd overall in Australia.

We were the only comprehensive high school among the first thirty schools nationally and the only priority school. Congratulations to: Gursimran Cheema, Alex Luong and Salman Ali Kamal on their exceptional performance in this highly competitive and challenging competition. Congratulations also to Head Teacher Science, Mrs Nirupma Kumar, who has coached the school’s titration team for the last three years.

Mrs Kumar, who was recognised at regional level in 2013 by the NSW Department of Education, was short-listed this year for the very prestigious Prime Minister’s Prize for Science. Mrs Kumar and I attended the awards presentation dinner on 29 October in the Great Hall of Parliament House in Canberra. There are only five national science awards given each year: the awards for teaching and the physical and life sciences each carry $50,000 in prize money, and the major award, for scientific research, carries $250,000 in prize money.

It is a great honour for Mrs Kumar to have been shortlisted, recognition of the transformation she has wrought in the teaching of science at the school. Many of our most able students go on to study science and mathematics-based courses at a tertiary level: pure science, medical sciences, pharmacy, engineering and medicine. Eric Xu, who was Dux in 2013, is studying advanced science at the University of Sydney this year and was accepted into the University’s talented student program. He is the second Holroyd alumnus to enrol into the advanced science course at Sydney: the other is Nirukshan Shanmugan, who has just completed his second year in this most challenging of science degree courses.

It should be said that you do not need to go to a private school or a selective high school to achieve excellent results in the Higher School Certificate and entry to the most competitive courses at university. Our Holroyd students have been doing so for years now, a tribute to the high standard of teaching across the school.

That said, we seek to do more than simply maintain the standard of teaching in the school. To be truly effective, we need to raise that standard so that we can always be ahead of what is required in school education. This year, the school has collaborated with the Melbourne-based Grattan Institute to devise a comprehensive program for building on the teaching strength already so evident in the school. Holroyd was one of six Australian schools chosen as exemplars for the Grattan Institute’s report Making Time for Great Teaching, released in March 2014.

The Grattan Institute undertook what is called a “situational analysis” of teaching at the school in February and came up with a five year professional learning program for the school. This program involves intensive mentoring of teachers, observation of teachers and feedback on their work, active collaboration and school-based research. We have added strategic professional development to hone teacher skills and understandings, and extend the scope of the NSW Quality Teaching Framework, which has been influential in developing the school’s approach to pedagogy over the last few years.

We appointed two very experienced teacher mentors at the beginning of Term 2: Mr Arvind Maharaj in the high school and Mrs Catherine Smith in the IEC, and in Term 4, we appointed Mr Peter McBurney from the IEC to work as a teacher mentor across the school. The program has been funded using some of the additional funds provided to the school this year through the new equity funding model, the Gonski funds.

We have continued to work very productively with a number of university programs this year, and I would like to thank the universities for their support through the University of NSW’ Aspire program, the University of Sydney’s Compass program, and the University of Western Sydney’s Fast Forward program. These programs provide opportunities not only for mentoring, but for visits to the universities and participation in a range of activities to help
students orient themselves in a university context. We also take part in extension programs offered by the universities for gifted and talented students. These programs help our students get acquainted with the idea of going to university, very important if you are the first person in your family to do so.

Our relationship with universities is not confined to student experience and mentoring programs: the indefatigable Mrs Kumar is currently working with the University of Technology Sydney on a program to improve science teaching.

Holroyd High School is involved with an extensive range of other programs, which aim to develop students’ aspirations and give them the skills to reach their goals: we have long been involved for some years now with the Australian Business Community Network, particularly the Year 9 GOALS mentoring program and InterAct, which has started this year in the IEC; we are also involved with High Resolves, which is a leadership program for Year 8 students; and the Beacon Foundation, which connects our students powerfully to local business and career possibilities. This term, of course, we had the highly successful visit from the Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove, Beacon patron. Sir Peter was so impressed by our students that he has invited a group of them to a barbecue at Admiralty House on New Year’s Eve, to watch the fireworks display.

We also have long-standing relationships with Opera Australia and with STARTTS, the Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors, which now manages our student welfare support person through the national chaplaincy program.

Our senior students receive tutoring support from Mercy Connect volunteers and we have our TimeHelp volunteers assisting in the classroom. I would like to thank these organisations for their contribution to the school. It is no coincidence that in the time that we have been involved with these programs, our student participation and achievement rates have improved. These programs do more than fill in the gaps – they help give our young people a real focus for the future, and what they need to do to achieve success in that future.

Holroyd High has a community of supporters that I would like to thank. I hope I haven’t omitted anyone: this year Mr Andrew Kaldor and Mrs Renata Kaldor donated stationery packs to the school for our students; Mrs Marie Breen has funded a scholarship for senior girls; the Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group has made a substantial donation to our Friends of Zainab trust fund to help former students of the school with the costs of tertiary study; Mr and Mrs Baxter, from Greyestanes have made a generous donation of musical instruments and equipment to the school in memory of their son; and a number of other donors, some of whom wish to remain anonymous, have contributed to Friends of Zainab.

Friends of Zainab has another existence as the largest scholarship fund in the Public Education Foundation, and just this week, we have heard that twelve of our students have been awarded Public Education Foundation Friends of Zainab student scholarships for 2014-2016. These scholarships are for the final two years of school study or the first two years of university. Our congratulations to: Faduma Abdikadir, Zahra Afzaly, Tahir Ahmadi, Ali Gulzari, Ali Haidari, Tahereh Jafari, Ahmed Khaleel, Afifa Mousawi, Atika Mousawi, Mujibar Rahman, Rahan Uddin, Matin Wafa and Mahdia Zahidi.

2014 has been a growth year for Holroyd High: we established a third support class this year and welcomed a new Head teacher, Ms Inga Kilby for what is now a support unit in the school. We refurbished the old IEC library for support classrooms and amalgamated the high school and IEC libraries. 2014 also saw the refurbishment of the three science laboratories in D Block into a brand new, state-of-the-art science centre, and we have refurbished the computer rooms this year. These works have been funded through the proceeds of the sale of the land at the back of the school. All the proceeds of that sale are going into improvements to the school.

We have also had government funding to improve school facilities for disabled access: pathways, a covered walkway from A block to the library, a ramp connecting B Block with the playground and an additional lift in D Block. These works should be completed early in Term 1, and will make access much easier for the increasing number of students in wheelchairs. Holroyd is one of the few schools in this area which had the potential for modifications to enable the enrolment of children with physical disabilities. I must say, it is a great pleasure to watch these children and the children in the support classes growing and developing in such a supportive and inclusive school environment as we have.

Now, it is time for farewells and thanks. This year, we are farewelling our long-serving, highly respected and much-loved Deputy Principal IEC, Mr Javier Sampedro, who is retiring from teaching after a distinguished career as mathematics teacher, ESL teacher, Head Teacher IEC at Lurnea High School, and Head Teacher IEC and Deputy Principal IEC at Holroyd High School. He has overseen the growth of the IEC over the last eighteen years and has also been influential in developing state-wide policies for IECs.

Mr Sampedro has worked across the school in his role as Deputy Principal and will be sorely missed by the entire school community. He has made a substantial contribution to this school and its teaching and learning programs, and to the success of so many of our students. He has been a staunch colleague and friend. We wish him a long, happy, healthy retirement, and thank him for his dedication to the students and the school.

We are also farewelling mathematics teacher and numeracy coordinator, Dr Amy Birungi. Dr Birungi has been promoted and will be going to Robert Townsend High School in 2015 as Head Teacher Mathematics. Congratulations, Dr Birungi, our thanks for the wonderful contribution you have made to mathematics teaching at Holroyd and to numeracy education.

From the IEC, Ms Collette Francis is retiring and we wish her a happy and healthy retirement. Thank you for your care for our students over the last nine years. Also leaving from the IEC is Mrs Srilni Perera, who is taking up an appointment at Chatswood High School IEC. Mrs Perera has also been at Holroyd for nine years. Best wishes for the future, Mrs Perera, and our thanks.

I would like to thank our 2014 school captains and vice-captains: Ali Guzari, Winta Isaak, Mimi Ly and Bashirullah Yousufi for their leadership over the last year, and wish them every success in the future. I would also like to thank those parents who have given so much time to the school over the last year, particularly Mrs Kerryn Aiello and Mrs Tracey Hazell. In 2015, we will be...
establishing a new parent body, with the help of STARTTS, and urge all parents to become involved. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our School Director, Dr Mark Carter, for his support of the school this year.

On behalf of the school, I would like to thank Wentworthville Leagues Club and Guildford Leagues Club for their continuing support of the school through the Clubs Grants program; and Abbotsleigh School for Girls for their support through the older girls’ learn to swim program, and the cultural exchanges and forums we share. I would like to thank our other partner schools, as well. When we connect with schools where students come from very different backgrounds to our students, we are finding the common ground of humanity that we share, and building the understandings of a just, tolerant and open society, in which difference is a strength, not a threat.

Last but not least, a special thanks to our teachers and administration and support staff for their commitment, care, hard work and good cheer throughout the year. I wish them a happy and safe holiday and a well-deserved rest with their families.

My best wishes for Christmas and the the nEw Year to our entire school community.

Dorothy Hoddinott AO
Principal

Deputy Principal’s Report

The school year officially finishes on Wednesday 17th December. All students have now completed their yearly examinations and as the year draws to a close we would like to highlight the following:

Our Presentation Day will be held at 9am on Thursday 11th December in the gymnasium at Holroyd High School. This day recognizes outstanding achievement by students in the areas of academic, sporting, leadership and citizenship.

The Year 12 Formal was on Wednesday 10th November at the Italian Village in the Rocks in the city, with a breathtaking view across to the Opera House – a celebration of the end of twelve years of formal schooling. The school would like to thank Mr Gill and Ms Turkoz for their role as year advisors and the organization involved in the end of Year 12 activities.

During Week 6, girls in Years 9 and 10 attended the Acquatic Experience at Abbotsleigh School for Girls, including a swimming and water safety program. Holroyd High School would like to thank Abbotsleigh School for Girls and their students and staff for giving our students this wonderful experience. The Refugee Transition students also participated in a program with Year 10 students from Abbotsleigh for the week and undertook a number of activities.

The culmination of Beacon activities for Year 10 was the Beacon Charter signing ceremony that was held on Thursday 5th December. All Year 10 students signed a pledge to remain in fulltime education or training in the coming 12 months. This was preceded by the Business Breakfast. Michael Chan from Clayton Utz spoke at the Charter signing ceremony. Holroyd High School would like to thank our corporate partners, Clayton Utz, Stocklands and Staples and our local business community who support this program. Ms Joseph, who coordinates our Beacon program, is to be congratulated on our second successful year as a Beacon school. This is a high quality program for our students, which delivers excellent outcomes.

This is a time of decision for many students. The majority of our students will continue with further studies into Year 11, at TAFE or through apprenticeships or traineeships. For those students who will be leaving Holroyd High School at the end of Year 10, we wish them every success in the future.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES
Students have been involved in a number of additional activities this term:

- Year 11 have attended the Rotary Youth Driver Awareness program at Olympic Park at Homebush. This course contributes to the completion of the Crossroads program for their HSC.
- Year 7 completed Swim School in the first half of Term 4. We would like to acknowledge the support that Wentworthville Leagues Club provides for this initiative plus the hard work of Ms Tohmeh and Ms White and the other teachers who assist in this program.
- A very successful Writers’ Forum was held on Monday 17th November chaired by Professor Nina Burridge from UTS, and including Thomas Keneally, Rosie Scott and Mark Isaacs. This was an inter-school forum and students from Pendle Hill High School, Miller High School, Wenona and Mary Mackillop College, Wakeley joined our students.
- A Year 7, 8 and 9 Camp is currently being held at YMCA Camp at Yarramundi on Monday 8th December and Tuesday 9th December 2014.
- Year 6/7 Orientation Day was on Wednesday 3rd December for our 2015 Year 7 students and their families.
- Year 9 Taster Day as part of the UNSW’s ASPIRE program was held on Wednesday 26th November.

UNIFORM
As the school year draws to a close, we would like to remind parents of the importance of their child wearing full school uniform. To assist parents for planning for the 2015 school year we have printed the current school uniform policy in this edition of Spotlights.

Uniform is very important to our school community for many reasons:
- Students look well-presented and this gives the school a good name in the local community
- It is easier to identify Holroyd students, especially if we have trespassers who may wish to cause trouble
- Sometimes it can be a question of safety eg. enclosed leather shoes provide the protection required by WH&S legislation for practical work in classrooms

The school insists that students are in full school uniform. If you have any difficulty in providing all items of the uniform, please
contact Mrs Hoddinott on 96319410 to discuss how the school can assist you

Please Note:  
- Leggings are not to be worn.  
- Hooded jackets are not to be worn.  
- Jeans are not to be worn.  
- Girls and boys pants are to be plain school pants. They are not to be three-quarter length, have zips, stripes, pockets (eg cargo pants) or obvious brand names.  
- Track suit pants other than school track pants are not acceptable.  
- School shoes must be worn each day regardless of whether the student has PE or sport. Sports shoes are to be brought separately.  
- The Department of Education and Training has ruled that substantial lace-up leather enclosed shoes are to be worn in all practical classes such as Science, Technology, Home Economics, Art, etc.  
- Students are to wear the school’s sports shirt for PE.  
- Only the school jacket may be worn.  
- Jewellery to be kept to a minimum. Earrings are to be small sleepers or studs, one chain and a watch.  
- Socks are to be plain white.  

Families who have difficulty in providing uniform for their children may also apply for school assistance to the Principal.

UNIFORM PASSES  

If students need to be out of uniform for any reason, they need to bring a note from home and report to the Deputy Principal in E Block before ROLL CALL so they can be issued with a uniform pass.

Students who are out of uniform without a uniform pass will be issued with an after school detention. Students that are out of uniform twice in one week, without a note from their parents/guardians will have their parents/guardians contacted to provide an explanation.

Jumpers, sloppy joes, school shirts with embroidered school emblem, school spray jackets, PE shirts and shorts, school ties and school caps are available through the school (prices include GST).

These items must be paid for at A Block Office and the receipt taken to the Library where the student will be fitted out.

NB: Lowes, Merrylands has a discount card available with credit facilities for approved applicants. Ezy-Way entitles customers to a 5% discount on anything in the store - not just uniforms - even if the article is on special. Merrylands West School and Drapery at the Coolibah Shopping Centre, Merrylands West has the Senior Girls’ Uniform.

COMING EVENTS  
- Presentation Day on Thursday 11th December at 9am in the gymnasium.  
- Parent Teacher afternoon on Thursday 11th December from 3.30pm – 5pm. Junior reports will be available for collection.  
- Holroyd’s Got Talent on Friday 12th December.

- Tuesday 16th December the IEC Sports Gala day at Homebush Sports Centre.  
- Year 12 HSC Results Morning Tea on Wednesday 17th December in the Common Room.  
- Last day of school for students is Wednesday 17th December.

In conclusion we would like to wish our students and their families a safe, happy and healthy Christmas vacation. We look forward to working closely with our school community in 2015.

Don’t forget that classes resume for Years 7, 11 and 12 on Wednesday 28th January and on Thursday 29th January for students in Years 8, 9, 10 and the IEC.

Denise Carrick  
Deputy Principal

We are fast approaching the end of the academic year and it seems appropriate to reflect on what has been a very busy period in the Intensive English Centre. Teachers and students have been especially busy over the last few weeks. Students have been preparing for end of term tests and teachers have been busy writing exit reports and progress reports for all students. Progress reports will be available to parents at the parent/teacher meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 17th December, between 3:15 and 5pm. I would urge all parents/guardians to attend this meeting where you can discuss the progress of your children with their teachers.

As usual it has been a very busy year in the Intensive English Centre. Our enrolments have passed the two hundred mark, incorporating a mix of students that include a number of international students as well as refugee students. Fortunately our highly trained staff has made this a very successful year once again.

This year one hundred and nine students are exiting the IEC into local high schools and TAFE colleges. I would like to take this opportunity to wish them all the best in whatever endeavour they undertake.

The Centre organised a large number of extra-curricular activities for its students to complement work being done in class and to ensure our students receive a well-rounded education. This term our students have been on excursions to Bondi Beach to see the Sculptures by the Sea exhibition, Taronga Zoo and the Blue Mountains. Last term the HSIE faculty organised an overnight excursion to the Wooglemai Educational Environmental Centre where students participated in archery and high ropes climbing.

On the sports front our energetic PE department organised two
OUR SENIOR STUDENTS also participated in a program organised by the Australian Business and Community Network called InterAct. The focus of the program is to support students in gaining the cultural and vocational literacy they need to participate in the workforce. The emphasis is on developing skills such as communication and building relationships in the workplace. Students went to the workplace of a business enterprise to see first-hand how people interact with each other.

In closing, I would like to thank all the staff of the Intensive English Centre for the care and effort that they put into their work. I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, happy holidays and a happy and successful new year.

Seelan Nair
Relieving Deputy Principal
Intensive English Centre

On Friday 21st November, Year 10 students were selected to participate in the Work readiness program as part of The Beacon Foundation’s High Impact program.

The students attended The Clayton Utz Law Firm which was held at the Clayton Utz Law firm in the City. The work readiness programs assisted students to prepare for their careers through personal presentation and communication training, giving each student the skills to conduct themselves appropriately when entering the world of work and throughout their employment.

On the day of the programs students had a sit-down lunch that gave the students an opportunity to network with potential employees at Clayton Utz and use their newly found communication and culinary skills acquired in the morning tutorials. The students were delighted to have been selected to take part in these high impact programs as it was a great experience and the students gained an insight into various career pathways for their future.

On behalf of Holroyd High School Year 10 students, we would like to thank Clayton Utz, and the Beacon Foundation for giving us the opportunity to be a part of these high impact work readiness program.

THE SHOW MUST GO ON!!

This term the Support unit has been involved in creating class plays in English and rehearsed during drama lessons. Mr Fields has helped with his expertise in fine tuning.

The plays showcase the students’ abilities to perform in front of an audience, read from scripts and mime needed.

Costumes and props were made during art lessons. The class performances can be seen during school time Thursday 11th December at 1pm in E block hall.

Congratulations and well done to the students for their hard work and participation.

Talia Iaconis & Matt Fields
Support Teacher & Drama Teacher

CHESS REPORT

The chess club at Holroyd High School continues to be very strong. This has been a quieter term, after our successful Holroyd High Invitational Chess Tournament in Term 3, but many students continue to play in the school library at recess or lunch. More than one hundred and twenty different students have participated in chess club activities this semester.

Chess will continue next year with competition games against other schools. It would be great to field teams again in the NSW Junior Chess League competition in Term 2, so we will be looking for players to form teams during Term 1.

The holidays are a great time to enjoy some chess games with people at home and friends. Of course you can also play on-line with people all around the world. Chess is a very enjoyable and
also great for your thinking, planning and problem-solving skills. So, have a happy summer holiday playing chess and we’ll be delighted to see you again at the club next year!

Peter McBurney
Chess Club Co-ordinator

SPORTS REPORT

YEAR 7 SWIM SCHOOL
In Australia, drowning remains one of the leading causes of preventable death in children. Holroyd High School, in partnership with Royal Life Saving, wants to help change this statistic by teaching your children valuable swimming and water safety skills.

It is a tragic fact that two hundred and sixty six lives were lost to drowning in Australia between 1st July 2013 and 30th June 2014 according to figures from the Royal Life Saving Society - Australia. Children are particularly at risk with 30 drowning deaths among children aged 0-14 years. For several years now, Royal Life Saving has highlighted research showing that many children are leaving school without being able to swim 50 metres or float for 2 minutes; skills Royal Life Saving describes as mandatory if we are to halve drowning by 2020. Swimming and water safety education is an important strategy in preventing drowning in this age group and is a vital skill for life.

In the last two weeks, students in Year 7 from Holroyd High School attended the Aquatic Safety Training Academy to improve their swimming ability and learn how to be safe in, on and around water. Students participated in Royal Life Saving's Swim and Survive program in ASTA's state-of-the-art learn to swim facilities at Seven Hills.

The Swim and Survive program is an evidence-based program aimed at developing both swimming ability and teaching valuable personal aquatic survival skills to develop a strong and safety aware swimmer who has a healthy respect for the aquatic environment. In the course of 10 sessions students were provided with swim instruction and stroke correction as well as time dedicated to important water safety skills such as safe water entries, survival strokes, reach and throw rescue techniques and awareness of the dangers of various aquatic environments.

Lessons were undertaken at the Aquatic Safety Training Academy (ASTA) in Seven Hills. ASTA is the first aquatic safety academy anywhere in the world and has been purpose built to provide the ideal environment for water safety education. Programs are undertaken in two indoor heated pools of water depths that are ideal for the teaching of swimming and lifesaving skills. ASTA employs a team of experienced instructors holding the AUSTSWIM qualification – widely considered the industry standard for teachers of swimming and water safety.

Since its inception thirty years ago, over 15 million Australian children have participated in the Swim and Survive program. Swim and Survive has made a significant contribution in many families lives by reducing the rate of drowning in 5-14 year olds by over 75%.

SPORT TERM 4
This term we have had a number of students participating in various coaching clinics run by external providers. All of Year 10 students have participated in a soccer and cricket clinic for the entire term run by Sporting Linx.

During Year 8 and 9 sport, students participated in a consecutive coaching clinic run by Cricket Milo, Football United and Rugby by Parramatta 2 Blues. We have also introduced Netball for our Year 8 and 9 girls.

Our Year 7 students this term have been participating in the Rock and Water program facilitated by Holroyd City Council, Miss Joseph and Ms White for six weeks during Term 4. Rock and Water’s main focus is to build Year 7 students with skills such as self-awareness, self-control, anti-bullying, body awareness and emotional awareness implemented in a group setting through physical activity.

Knockout sport teams for the 2015 competition are already underway. We have entered various competitions for 2015 ranging from netball, rugby, touch football, basketball, volleyball, cricket, and soccer. It has been great to see the number of students who have registered their names for various sports. Our next process will be team trials which will be held in the next couple of weeks. Team trial dates will be announced in assembly and placed on the sports notice board in B block. Once team have been finalised students will commence training this term in preparation for term 1 competition.

Thank you to all staff that has assisted in coaching a team.
RIP
Phillip Hughes, cricketer
1988-2014
As part of our Year 10 PASS unit “Australian sporting identities”, students took part in a tribute to Phillip Hughes. He was the 408th player to play for Australia and 63 not out was the score he was on when he was felled on the field. Goodbye Phillip and lots of love to your family at this very tough time.

YEAR 9 AND 10 PASS
On Thursday 13th November, Year 9 and 10 PASS attended an excursion at Villawood rock climbing, bowling and laser skirmish as part of our recreational unit. Students were also given the opportunity to explore various recreational activities in the local area. Students were educated on the basis that living an active style can involve recreational and not just planned physical activity. It was wonderful to see so many of the students having a great time. On Thursday 23rd November students then ventured off to Sydney Wet and Wild for the first time. Braving the cold day students had a really enjoyable day. Thank you to Year 9 and 10 PASS for their fantastic behaviour on both excursions.

YEAR 8 STUDENTS
Year 8 have been given the wonderful and life changing experience to apply to participate in the Helmsman project.

What is the Helmsman project?
The Helmsman Project is a unique program that combines coaching and sailing-based adventure education experience to build life effectiveness skills in girls and boys with potential that is waiting to be unleashed.

What does this program involve:
The 12-week program, designed by the Helmsman team of passionate and experienced practitioners, includes a series of individual coaching, team coaching and experiential learning (i.e. two-day and five-day sailing adventures). Specifically, it aims to foster: hope, resilience and self-regulation.

What do I need to do if I am a Year 8 student and I am interested to being a part of the Helmsman project?
1) Attended the information night. If you did not attend and still wish to join the team please see Miss Tohmeh. Thank you to parents and students who have already attended the information evening.
2) Fill out the Application form and return to Miss Tohmeh
Spots are limited!

Ms Tohmeh
Sports Co-ordinator

SRC REPORT
The SRC got behind Bandanna Day on Friday 31st October. Thank you to all staff and students who purchased a bandana to help raise funds to help CanTeen support young people with cancer.

It has been a very busy term for the Student Representative Council with a number of activities that occurred at our school:

STUDENT VS POLICE SOCCER MATCH
On Thursday 6th November 2014, Holroyd High School participated in a POLICE VS STUDENTS soccer match. This game was held during lunch time. Police from the local area came into our school with a team of police officers and played a soccer match against our students. This soccer match was designed to build a rapport with the local community, police and our students. Of course our students won the match!

Thank you to all the local police officers that took the time out to
engage with our school community.

BANDANA DAY AND BREAST CANCER AWARENESS:
Two charities close to our heart. SRC students gave up many of their recess and lunch times selling merchandise to help raise funds and awareness for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE -TUESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER
On Tuesday 11th November, our school captains attended the Remembrance Day Service held at Treves Street Memorial in Merrylands to honour the memory of those who not only died in World War I but also all those who have died in all conflicts and peace keeping efforts.

2015 Student Representative Council nominations voting will take place during year assemblies on Monday 8th December for Years 10 and 11 and Monday 15th December for Years 7, 8 and 9.

Miss Tohmeh and Miss Joseph will like to say a huge thank you to all the current 2014 Student Representative Council members for all their hard work throughout the year! It has been such a pleasure working with such a passionate, enthusiastic and hardworking team.

Ms Tohmeh & Ms Joseph
SRC Co-ordinators

VISUAL ARTS REPORT
YEAR 8 ABORIGINAL ART

YEAR 7 REPORT

Year 7 have made it to the end of their first year of high school with varying success. I have had an exciting year, learning new names and seeing strong personalities emerge from each member of this group.

As we are about to go on a well-deserved break, it’s good to reflect on some highlights from the year. I want to congratulate students who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and behaviour. Well done to the boys who were part of the champion junior oz tag team.

I hope all of you have a restful and safe holiday and return next year with renewed vigour!

Amy Ly
Year 7 Adviser
Become a Timehelp volunteer

Timehelp is a community program that links retirees with local schools through volunteering. Our Timehelpers are invaluable members of our school, and we can always use more helping hands. You don’t need to be an expert, just have an open mind and a good attitude. Volunteer opportunities range from numeracy to gardening, literacy to maintenance and everything else in-between.

For more information contact your friendly volunteer coordinator - Brittney:
0401733626
www.timehelp.com.au
brittneyv.ihrig@gmail.com

Timehelp
‘The greatest resource is people’

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PARENTS

Re: Whooping Cough - Public Health alert

There has been an increase of whooping cough (pertussis) notifications in the Western Sydney area since June 2014, particularly in the Penrith area.

In order to prevent further cases of whooping cough Western Sydney Public Health Unit advises the following:

If your child or any member of your family has any of the symptoms of whooping cough, such as a dry or persistent cough, which may be especially bad at night, please see your doctor and take this notice with you. A nose and throat swab test can be performed to confirm the diagnosis.

If your child has whooping cough, your doctor will arrange a course of antibiotic treatment. Antibiotics given early in the illness are effective in stopping the cough and in preventing spread to other people. If your doctor diagnoses whooping cough please advise the school and keep your child at home until she has taken 5 days of antibiotics.

A whooping cough fact sheet is enclosed. More information on whooping cough is available on the NSW Health website at http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/diseases/infections/pertussis/Pages/default.aspx or please call Western Sydney Public health unit on 9680 5803 if you have any queries.

Thank you for your attention.
WEP Student Exchange – A Once-in-Lifetime Opportunity!

Ever wondered what it would be like to live in another country and to speak your own language for a whole year or even more? Applications for the WEP Student Exchange Program are now open for programs starting from July 2015 onwards. Choose from more than 100 short and long-term programs, designed for high school students from across Australia.

From Emily in France:

France has been amazing! So far I have been learning new things and even though there is still a huge language barrier I’ve slowly started to understand French and move. The French Orientation was beautiful and I was so shocked that we actually managed to cover a lot of places in such a short amount of time.

The Australian and French schooling systems are definitely different from each other. All of my teachers are incredibly nice and understanding. (Think of my 9th form who left a little note for me because I constantly date) I even went out and being able to instantly participate in math, English and Gym has definitely helped and reassured me. I’ve even done a few basics for different subjects and actually managed to answer part of it.

I’ve made quite a few friends, friends from host sister and friends of my own. They’ve all been incredibly nice and we’ve spoken French as well as French and I. Although I can’t understand what they say half of the time, it’s still nice to hear them talk.

I absolutely love my host family, they are nothing short of perfect. My host parents are absolutely amazing and my host sister are always trying to help me. The family has been very welcoming and they are trying to help me out all the time but they’ve also integrated me into their lives. We all cook together and I’m actually cooking.

Visit our website to find out more about the WEP Student Exchange Program.

The Magic Flute

Free entry tickets if you include The Magic Flute in your newsletter

It’s the start of the silly season and with school holidays just a few weeks away, we’ve got a special offer for school teachers and administrators who are advertising parents of school activities.

Our productions of Mozart’s The Magic Flute run during school holidays from 2 to 19 January at the Sydney Opera House.

Includes The Magic Flute in your parent newsletters and receive two free A reserve tickets to Verdi’s La Traviata in summer at the Sydney Opera House.

Please provide the attached photo and information below.

For more information, visit www.sydneyoperahouse.com.au or contact your local school newspaper.

CIRCUS FACTORY

Opens 20 December

FREE ENTRY FOR KIDS!

Up to three children enter for free per single adult entry.

Step into the ring of one of the most exciting and entertaining spectacles the world has ever seen with WEP Australia! Together with the exciting and energetic cast of WEP, you’ll be taken on a breathtaking journey through the ring of the world’s most celebrated circus in Sydney, NSW.

- A show like no other, where the performers make their own costumes and props.
- A high-energy show that will have you on the edge of your seat.
- A show that is truly a family-friendly experience.

During school holidays you can also visit with your children as they will receive two free tickets per adult ticket purchased! (Up to ten children per adult.)
Art Gallery

Alaa Abdelsadig - Year 11

Gada Abbas - Year 11

Gada Abbas - Year 11 Objects

Helalah Jamshidi - Year 11

Yuping He - Year 11 Objects

Yuping He - Year 11 Objects

Yuping He - Year 11 Objects