COMING EVENTS

10 - 21 August  Year 12 Trial Examinations
17 - 21 August  Year 10 Work experience
17 August     Parent Meeting
31 August – Year 11 Preliminary Examinations
11 September  Year 11 Preliminary Examinations
17 September  Year 12 Graduation Ceremony
18 September  Last day Term 3
5 October     Labour Day Public Holiday
6 October     First day Term 4
12 October    HSC Examinations begin

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL AND LEADERSHIP
ABCN ‘FUTURE INFLUENCE-HER SUMMIT’
Museum of Contemporary Art Gallery

ABCN invited selected Year 11 female students to take part in the ABCN Future Influence – Her Summit at the Museum of Contemporary Art Gallery on Tuesday 12th July, 2015.

The ABCN ‘Future Influence-Her Summit had invited representation at senior level from a great range of companies from MCI, Ernst & Young, Navitas, TATA Consultancy Services, Department of Defence, Microsoft, Genworth and Norton Rose Fulbright Lawyers, who mentored over 60 students from various schools on the day, including our selected Year 11 students: Rayeema Shams, Riya George, Dalya Mohammed, Tahira Abdul Ali, Rosina Kpahn, Zeinab Imanienejad, Zahra Kamali, and Shalvi Amin. “It was a very useful excursion where we learnt so many new skills, we also made new friends and we enjoyed learning from our mentors.” Dalya Mohammed Year 11 Student. This amazing opportunity was due to our involvement with the ABCN Focus program that our Year 11 students have had the pleasure of being a part of in Term 3. Our next ABCN Focus 2 program starts Thursday 6th August. This term our female Year 11 students will be mentored by Ernst & Young female senior executives.

COMING UP SRC EVENTS!
ABCN focus 2 program Ernst & Young, Sydney – Year 11 female students on Thursday 13th August and Thursday 20th August, 2015

YEAR 11 NOMINATIONS FOR SRC CAPTAINS AND VICE-CAPTAINS 2016
Lilian Joseph & Paula Tohmeh
SRC Co-ordinators

Welfare Performances at Holroyd High School

On Thursday 23rd July, Brainstorm Productions theatre performance, Verbal Combat, for Years 9 and 10 was held in the school gymnasium during periods 1 and 2.

The Verbal Combat theatre performance educated students on:
WHO’S responsible for cyberbullying,
WHAT drives cyber bullies to send that nasty message, post that hurtful comment or embarrassing photo on Facebook or Snapchat?
WHY are some people more likely to be a target and why is it hard for victims to be assertive or resilient?
WHERE can they go if or when they are being cyber bullied?
HOW can we stop cyber bullying from happening?

A cleverly crafted narrative allows students to examine these questions AND their own behaviour.

Sylvia Petreski & Lilian Joseph
Welfare Co-ordinator & Assistant Welfare Co-ordinator

PARENT MEETING
Monday 17th August 2015
10am-12pm
“A” Block Common Room
This is a NEW style parents and friends’ body for the school.
All Welcome!

Spotlights
Excellence, Opportunity, Success
Find us at: 7 Cumberland Road, Greystanes www.holroyd-h.schools.nsw.edu.au
P: 9631 9410 F: 9896 3074
Attendance SMS: 0429 456 348
Issue 5 – Term 3 – Week 4 7 August 2015
In the last few days, there has been a media flurry around the 2015 NAPLAN test results, with the news that there has been little progress overall in the last year, primary students making only slight gains and secondary students falling behind, particularly in writing skills.

NAPLAN is the national assessment program for literacy and numeracy, and tests all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 each year on a range of literacy and numeracy skills. Like all tests, NAPLAN is selective, that is, the tests assess those skills that can most readily be tested and marked, not knowledge or creativity or the development of the moral compass so important to full participation in society, and not spoken communication. We test literacy and numeracy because they are the basis of learning in school and because we can.

There is a great deal more that children learn at school that is vital for their growth and development, but is not tested, not because we value it less perhaps, but because it is harder to test.

The NAPLAN tests are now in their seventh year, so there is sufficient data for genuine comparison of marks to be made, but it is important to be careful in making such comparisons. Some of the comparisons are between the states. For example, what the results have shown clearly from the beginning is that NSW, Victoria and the ACT have the highest performance overall, as they also do in the international Pisa tests in Year 9. Were the HSC results more directly comparable across the country, we would probably see the same ranking of states at that level, as well.

When you look at the NAPLAN results, however, there is a great deal of variation within the states as well as between the states, largely in terms of socio-economic status and where students live. Children from more advantaged backgrounds do better in standard tests than children from less advantaged backgrounds, and children who live in metropolitan areas do better than children who live in the country. Not all children, of course, but in general.

This is true of all the testing and examination regimens throughout Australia. It is certainly true at HSC, as I have noted many times, and has a significant impact on who goes to university, although at Holroyd, we are achieving university entry rates significantly above the average for all Australian school leavers, despite the challenges many of our students face educationally and socially.

None of this should come as a surprise (except, perhaps the achievements of our students, which exceeds expectations) and is why the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), which manages the national testing program, compares schools’ performance with similar or like schools, not with all schools, as that would be unfair.

Nonetheless, the opportunity does exist for the creation by the media of so-called “league tables”, to show who is best and who is worst, and some schools use their NAPLAN results for publicity, which can lead to malpractice, such as where schools discourage children who may do poorly in the tests from attending school on the test days. This shows a huge lack of understanding of the nature and usefulness of the tests, apart from any ethical lapse.

The NAPLAN tests are not there to allow schools to boast or to make meaningless comparisons with other schools. They are properly diagnostic tests, which help schools identify the gaps in student literacy and numeracy for individual students, or numbers of children in a school group. The tests are very useful in enabling schools to intervene to address those gaps. They also show whether students are making progress in the range of literacy and numeracy skills tested.

Some of the most useful information from the tests is the progression rates, and that is what parents should focus on, rather than the marks themselves. The question parents need to ask is: has my child made any progress since the last test? If the child has not made progress or has gone backwards, then we need to ask why and do something constructive about it.

At Holroyd, we use the tests diagnostically. Two thirds of the children who sit the test in Years 7 and 9 at our school have not sat a previous test, so there is no comparison with previous learning. In the high school, almost forty per cent of students have been in Australia less than three years, as you will have read in the Annual School Report, so many of our students are still very much beginners in learning English and beginners in learning about Australian culture and life. The tests are not simply tests of literacy and numeracy: they contain a lot of assumed shared cultural understandings. Many of our students do not have those understandings, as they have not been in Australia long enough.

The tests are the line in the sand for those students. It is where they start, not where they will finish, as we have seen magnificently this year, with 58% of last year’s HSC class gaining university entry.

For the children who have sat previous tests, the progression rates are well above both state and national averages. It can be a little hard at times with adolescents to work out whether they are learning anything at all. NAPLAN enables us to see their progress.

I can’t comment on Holroyd’s results, as schools have not yet received that information. The media is reporting on press releases from ACARA and the Federal Government, and schools know only what has been in the media. Parents will have their children’s results posted to them as quickly as possible after we receive the information, and we will hold a meeting to help parents interpret their children’s results, and to let parents know what we will be doing to help our students improve.

Our daytime parent meetings are proving to be much more popular with parents than the previous evening meetings, particularly in winter. At our July meeting, almost thirty parents attended, and a number of parents have volunteered to join school committees and take part in merit selection processes for the appointment of new teachers to the school. The parent voice is an important one in our school, and we value that voice. Finding new ways to have the parent voice heard in our school is one of our goals this year.

Our next parent meeting will be on 17th August, with a focus on helping parents complete the Tell them from me parent survey online. This will give parents an opportunity to speak candidly and anonymously about the school, and will feed into our annual evaluation of our progress as a school.
Now, some very good news: our Head Teacher Science, Mrs Kumar, has again been short-listed for the prestigious Prime Minister’s Prize for Science, in the category of Excellence in Science Teaching in Secondary Schools. This is one of six national awards in science, with a prize of $50,000, shared between the school and the prize winner. Mrs Kumar was a finalist in 2014, and we attended the black tie dinner in Parliament House in Canberra for the awards. Fingers crossed for success in 2015!

The six awards are the most important awards for science in Australia. It is an extraordinary honour to be short-listed – it means that Mrs Kumar is considered one of the most outstanding science teachers in Australia, as our science results demonstrate. I have recently been reading scholarship applications from Holroyd students and am impressed by how many of our students wish to study science-related subjects at university. It has become one of our great strengths and says a great deal about the quality of teaching at the school, particularly in what are now called the STEM subjects: science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Year 12 students have their Trial HSC examinations in the next few weeks, and then the term will race towards its end and the Year 12 graduation on 17th September. The HSC examinations start a week after we return from school holidays.

I would like to wish all our Year 12 students every success in their trial examinations and in the HSC. This is an important time for our final year students and they will need to retain their focus for the next few months to ensure success in the HSC. The HSC is like a key that opens doors into the future for our young people. The majority of our students now continue with their education at a tertiary level after leaving school, a wonderful achievement given the challenges so many have had in their short lives.

What they have learned here at school really does serve them well, not only now but into the future. At the beginning of my report, I talked about those things that NAPLAN does not test. When I shake hands with our Year 12 students each year at their graduation, I am very conscious of how far they have come and what an exciting journey it has been for all of us.

Finally, I would like to thank the Jessie Street Library and the Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group for their generous donations to the school to assist our young refugees and asylum seekers in their education. We have been able to use those funds to purchase laptop computers for our Year 11 and 12 refugee students. The Federal Government’s provision of notebook computers for all students in Years 7-12 ended three years ago, so students do not receive a computer of their own any more. Many of our students, particularly the refugee and asylum seeker students cannot afford to purchase a computer, yet computers are becoming an essential item.

We have explored the affordable leasing of laptops and will advise parents of the arrangements we conclude later this year. In the meantime, thank you Jessie Street Library and BMRSG for your kindness. I like to think that Jessie Street, who was one of Australia’s early feminists, fighting for women’s rights at the beginning of the last century, would have had a smile on her face to see our students’ gratitude for this gift.

Dorothy Hoddinott AO FACE
Principal

This term is very important for our senior students – Year 12 has their final term of formal schooling and for Year 11 it is the final term of the preliminary year. This term should be used to consolidate the work covered earlier in the year for both groups.

Year 12 students commence their Trial HSC examinations on Monday 10th August 2015 for nine school days. As well, visual arts major works must be completed by Monday 25th August. HSC performances for drama will be on Monday 17th August. Best wishes to all our Year 12 students as they complete their art works and their HSC performances for drama and music.

Year 12 students who are planning to apply for university entry in 2016 will need to complete their Universities Admission forms before the end of this term. Students at Holroyd High School also need to complete the Educational Access Scheme (EAS) forms which may entitle them to bonus ATAR points depending on the course and university. As well as the EAS forms, some universities have early entrance schemes based on Principal’s recommendations – these include University of Sydney, University of Technology, Sydney and the University of Western Sydney. Ms Flores and Ms Apostolopoulos have information on these schemes and Year 12 students are encouraged to consult the school to find out the details. Workshops sessions for Year 12 students to assist with the completion of the EAS forms have been organised for Tuesdays 25th August and 1st September in the school library from 1pm – 3pm. There will be school staff and staff from UNSW’s ASPIRE program to assist.

Year 11 Preliminary examinations are in Week 9 of this term from the 7th – 11th September 2015. Our Year 11 girls have continued their involvement in the ABCN’s FOCUS program with a “Future Influence - Her Summit” on Tuesday 14th July and three more ongoing mentoring sessions starting on 6th August.

Year 10 students have started their subject selection process for next year. Each student in Year 10 will receive individual subject counselling this term to ensure that the appropriate subjects have been selected for future career pathways.
Year 10 students have been involved in the Beacon program’s mock interviews morning on Thursday 24th July which involved one on one interviews with people from industry. Year 10 will be undertaking work experience in Week 6 (17/8 – 21/8 inclusive) this term.

Year 9 students started the GOALS program on the 20th June with the second session on Wednesday 22nd July 2015. This program offers students having individual mentoring with members of the business community and exposes them to the workplace and future career options. In parallel with this program, the rest of Year 9 students are involved in a structured school to work program.

Year 8 subject forums for elective choices for 2015 were held in the library during periods 3 & 4 on Tuesday 4 August. The final subject selection form will be distributed during week 6.

**GOOD ATTENDANCE – THE KEY TO SUCCESSFUL LEARNERS**

There are still a number of students who are arriving late to school every morning. Students are reminded that if they are late more than 3 times in a term without a note; students will be issued with an after school detention for lateness. A small number of students are constantly late to school.

Students are reminded that if they arrive late to school, then they must sign in at E Block Office so that their attendance that day is officially recorded. This eliminates problems that arise when school policy is not followed.

It is important that students are in class at all times. Absences will impact on student’s progress and continuity of learning.

Parents are reminded that they can notify the school of student absence by:

- telephone,
- SMS text message (0429456348), or
- Letter.

Remember, that you can notify the school on the day of absence on the above number rather than awaiting the return of your child to school.

Parents are reminded that we use a SMS messaging system to advise of:

- Absences
- Lateness to school
- Early departures from school
- Truancy
- Notification of forthcoming events, including parent teacher afternoons and graduation ceremonies.

Please ensure that all contact information is current – it is important that the school is advised immediately of changes to phone numbers, including mobile phone numbers and any change of address.

**COMING EVENTS**

In August and September, the following activities may be of interest:

- Year 12 Trial Examinations commence Monday 10th August until Thursday 20th August inclusive.
- Parent Meeting at school at 10am on Monday 17th August.
- HSC Drama performances on Monday 17th August.
- Year 10 work experience during Week 6 from 17th August until 21st August
- Subject counsellings for all Year 10 students for Year 11, 2016 or employment options from Monday 14th August.
- Holroyd High School’s Invitational Chess Day on Wednesday 26th August.
- Year 11 Preliminary Final Exams from Monday 7th September until Friday 11th September inclusive.
- Year 12 Graduation Ceremony on Thursday 17th September at 9am.

Denise Carrick
Deputy Principal

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Intensive English Centre
Deputy Principals’ Report

All students and staff are now back into the rhythm of school after the winter break. At the end of Term 2, the IEC bid farewell to 54 exiting students. The IEC staff wish these students all the best in the next part of their educational journey. The great majority of our exiting students move on to high schools, with only a few who transition to TAFE or work.

This term we have welcomed many new enrolments in to the IEC, including thirty seven International Students. 2015 marks twenty five years of the International Student program in NSW government schools. Currently there are three thousand four hundred International students in NSW government schools. These students are enrolled into regular school programs and will be living either with parents, guardians or in homestays while they are studying. Holroyd IEC enrols International students who need intensive English language tuition in preparation for high school studies. We have two staff members in the IEC whose role is to support International students in the IEC and in the high school. These staff members are Ms Naidoo and Ms Camps.

Holroyd has been fortunate to have the services of a Refugee Nurse at our school over the last few terms. This is a service provided by NSW Refugee Health. A highly qualified and experienced nurse sees students at school, gives a free health check-up and can assist in making referrals to other health professionals. Usually the Nurse comes to Holroyd every Friday. From time to time the Refugee Nurse may be called back to the head office to assist with seeing newly arrived refugee families. During June the nurse was called to assist with a large number of refugee families recently arrived from Syria and Iraq. Teachers and counsellors may refer students to see the Refugee Nurse. Students can also request to see the nurse for health issues. For more information please speak to the staff in the IEC office. There is also information on their website including information sheets available in many languages about this Refugee Nurse service: [https://www.swslhd.nsw.gov.au/refugee/gpinfo_rhnp.html](https://www.swslhd.nsw.gov.au/refugee/gpinfo_rhnp.html)
During Term 3, the IEC is also running an NRL Skills program every Monday afternoon. This is an opportunity for a group of IEC students to learn about NRL and increase their fitness.

There are many interesting events being planned by IEC staff for Term 3, including a Musica Viva concert, the IEC Speech Competition, a workshop run by the Commonwealth bank, the Holroyd High Invitational Chess Tournament, and the annual IEC Wooglemai Camp. These are excellent learning opportunities which the teachers organise for students.

IEC teachers will also be organising class excursions for their students during the term. Students are expected to participate in these as they form an important part of the IEC curriculum.

A reminder to students that attendance and punctuality to school and class are very important. Absences from school can impact on students’ learning. If students are sick, they must bring a signed note from home the first day they return after their absence. Families/guardians are encouraged to make medical or other appointments after 3pm on school days so that students do not miss out on valuable learning time.

Sonia Durney
Deputy Principal
Intensive English Centre

DEBATING

Congratulations to the Holroyd High School Stage 5 debating team who defeated one of James Ruse Agricultural School’s Stage 5 teams. Jessica Hazell, William Adams, Richu George and team adviser, Baraa Omar, successfully argued that we should abolish school uniforms. Students travelled to James Ruse Agricultural High School to participate in two debates. After suffering a narrow defeat in their round, arguing the affirmative in the topic: that we should force players to wear helmets in sports where concussion is the danger. Students rose to the challenge and defeated James Ruse in a hard fought victory.

We wish Stage 4 and Stage 5 teams all the best for their remaining debates in the Premier’s Debating Challenge.

Frishta Shirzai
English Teacher and Debating Co-ordinator

THE BEACON FOUNDATION

On Friday 24th July during period one and two, our Year 10 students had the opportunity to participate in the Beacon Foundation’s Mock Interviews event.

The Beacon Mock Interviews assisted the students in learning what is expected in a job interview, improved students’ self-presentation, and how to answer difficult questions, develop interview strategies, improve communication skills and reduce stress before an actual job interview.

Congratulations to Year 10 for their outstanding presentation and commitment to the Beacon Mock Interviews.

Job network agencies and the local businesses were invited to attend our event and we had quite a successful turnout. The mock interview coaches also provided the students with constructive feedback on all aspects of their interview process.

Holroyd High School would like to thank all our special guests from various local agencies, businesses and community volunteers for attending our Beacon Foundation Mock Interviews 2015.

Frishta Shirzai
English Teacher and Debating Co-ordinator

Lilian Joseph
Beacon Co-ordinator

‘Hour of code’ at Salesforce

On Thursday 25th June Year 8 students with a passion for IT and multimedia attended a BEACON foundation excursion to a company ranked one of the Top 10 Best Places to Work in Australia (for the past 3 years) and the World’s Most Innovative Company (4
Students were given a site tour of the Salesforce offices and after discovering the abundant selection of food and drink on offer, the students agreed that the company deserved an award for being one of the Top 10 places to work.

The students participated in the ‘Hour of code’ where they partnered with a Salesforces employee and learnt how to make games, whilst playing games and basic coding.

This engaging and hands-on excursion demonstrated the diversity of roles available in technology companies and gave students a taste of possible digital career paths they could follow in the future.

Joanne Menezes
TAS Teacher

LIBRARY NEWS

The biggest publishing event since Harry Potter occurred on Tuesday 14th July with the release of Harper Lee’s Go Set a Watchman, sequel to her classic To Kill a Mockingbird. Controversy surrounds the book’s release as Harper Lee is 89 years old, living in an assisted care residence, suffers from paralysis caused by a stroke in 2007, along with deafness and blindness. The content pages of Watchman controversy sparks. To find out more grab your copy and start reading.

Miles Franklin Literary Awards Winner 2015
Sophie Laguna has taken out this year’s Miles Franklin Award worth $60,000 prize money “for the novel judged as being ‘of the highest literary merit’ and which presents ‘Australian life in any of its phases’”.

K.O.A.L.A. (Kids Own Australian Literature Awards) Shortlist. VOTE NOW! Open to Years 7 – 12
Read one or ALL of these titles then get online and Vote.

Voting for this year’s shortlist can be done now online. Check out http://www.koalansw.org.au/

Premier’s Reading Challenge
The Premier’s Reading challenge continues. Students in Year 7, 8 and 9 are required to read 20 P.R.C. titles by 21st August 2015 and record them online in order to receive their certificate.

P.R.C. books are easily found in our library as they are shelved in a separate location and marked with red dot stickers.

For further information check out the website at https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html

Until next time, happy reading.

Jason Darlington
Teacher Librarian
NUMERACY NEWS

DO YOU KNOW THIS ONE? - 5

Maths riddle:
1. The term alphametic is used when the letters form words and each letter represents a number.

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{SEND} \\
\text{MORE} \\
\text{MONEY}
\end{array}
\begin{array}{c}
+ \\
+ \\
=
\end{array}
\begin{array}{c}
9567 \\
1085 \\
10652
\end{array}
\]

Solve the following alphametics puzzle. Write the numbers representing these words.

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{CLOCK} \\
\text{+ TICK} \\
\text{TOCK}
\end{array}
\begin{array}{c}
\text{PLANET}
\end{array}
\]

2. Create a magic square with each side adding to 15. Choose numbers from 1 to 9.

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
& & \\
& & \\
& & \\
\end{array}
\]

3. Two fathers and two sons sat down to eat eggs for breakfast. They ate exactly three eggs, each person had an egg. Explain how?

Write your response and be the first one to bring it to Maths staffroom to win a MOVIE TICKET.

Winner for Numeracy Corner 4: Sina Karimi, Year 12

Kanchan Saxena
Numeracy Co-ordinator

SPORT REPORT

State Athletics team:
On the 23rd and 24th July, we had Nathan Allan and Clara Aiello attend the Regional Athletics Carnival at Blacktown Athletics track. Congratulations to Clara Aiello who has made it to State athletics for 15 years javelin! Such an outstanding achievement!

Clara will be competing in the State Athletics Carnival at Sydney Olympic Park on Friday 4th September, 2015.

Year 8 and 9 sport:
Last term we held an inschool round robin soccer competition amongst Year 8 and 9 students. Congratulations to team NWA, who were our grand finalist. It was a very close game which ended in a penalty shoot-out! Well done. Thank you to all teams that participated.

After school girls and boys boot camp!
This term the sports department is running a separate after school boys’ and girls’ training program. The girls’ exercise program will be run with Ms Tohmeh in the gym every Thursday afternoon from 3:00pm to 4:00pm. This is open to any female student.

The boys’ after school training program will be run also every Thursday afternoon from 3:00pm to 4:00pm with Mr Jasmin. This is run in A1 gym and is open only to Year 10, 11 & 12 students.

Parents and family are also welcome to participate in the program. Please email me, Ms Tohmeh, for further details pauline.tohmeh2@det.nsw.edu.au

We have has a fantastic turnout from both groups! If you are interested please see Mr Jasmin or Ms Tohmeh for more information and a permission note.

Soccer dance workshop:
On Tuesday 28th July, selected students from Year 9 and were fortunate enough to attend a workshop run by Ahilan Ratnamohan. For the last six years, Ahilan Ratnamohan has been developing a unique style of football-dance-theatre, working with footballers to create live performances. Ahil introduced players to new methods of working with the ball and eventually working on choreographies based around these new moves and the players’ existing ball skills. The students loved it and enjoyed learning creative dance and the skill of soccer in one.

Paula Tohmeh
Sports Co-ordinator
ENGLISH FACULTY REPORT

New Members
This term we welcome two new members into our faculty. Ms Rayan Taleb and Ms Jane Marquez. Ms Taleb and Ms Marquez are working hard, teaching numerous English, ESL and LOTE classes, and assisting students and teachers with ESL support across the school. We are very privileged to have such wonderful young teachers join our team.

Poetry
‘Poetry is taking life by the throat’ (Robert Frost) and that’s what we are currently doing in English seizing the day, taking risks, writing from the heart. As part of our focus on poetry, Years 8 and 9 have been entered into the national Object Poetry Competition run by Red Room Poetry. To prepare for this competition, students participated in a poetry workshop with visual artist and poet, Lily Blue. The poems produced in this session are soon to be published by Red Room Poetry - very exciting!

ICAS English Competition
On Tuesday the 28th July, thirty one students across Years 7-10 sat the International ICAS English Competition. Holroyd is proud to have a great record in this competition and we look forward to seeing how our students perform.

Our Holroyd Hound ‘Horse’
Animals have a wonderful way of breaking down barriers and have been proven to have a positive effect on students and learning. With this in mind; we would like to welcome our very own Holroyd High dog, called ‘Horse’. Horse has been joining some classes in English and he will continue to be a part of our faculty throughout the year. If you see Horse around the school, come up and say hello. He'd love to have a scratch behind the ear.

Rebecca Franklin
Head Teacher English, ESL and Languages

SCIENCE FACULTY REPORT

Richu George of Year 9 and Sina Karimi of Year 12 are congratulated for receiving Merit Awards in the ICAS Science Competition. In the Big Science Competition, Christian Saad, Elisa El-Masri, Richu George, and William Adams achieved credits at the Intermediate Level, while, Manjot Kaur and Meshari Algethami achieved credits at the Senior Level.

We congratulate these students on their achievements. HSC students doing Chemistry, Physics, Biology and Senior Science attended HSC Exam Preparation Workshops at the University of Sydney in July to enhance their examination writing skills in July. Ali Reza Ramezani together Ms Kumar, visited UWS Campbelltown Campus for round two of the Australian Neuroscience Brain Bee Competition on the 16th July. Although we did not make it to the top, this experience motivated Ali and is challenging him to do his very best in school. He has learnt that it is very competitive out there and students need to push themselves to succeed.

Year 12 Chemistry students attended a hands on workshop at UWS Parramatta Campus in June. The students were able to use the sophisticated and highly advanced Atomic Absorption Spectrometer (scientific equipment that is not available at school), to do problem solving.

Leading up to SCIENCE WEEK 15th-23rd August, this is going to be a very busy term for the Science Faculty.

Upcoming events:
10th August - Snaketails Incursion
12th August - Bridges to Higher Education, make your mark!
14th August - Science and Maths Exposed

Niru Kumar
Head Teacher Science

YEAR 8 REPORT

Welcome back to all new and returning students in Year 8. We should all be looking forward to a busy and exciting second semester. In the first few weeks of
this term, students have participated in an excellent poetry development workshop at the Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre and selected students in 8.1 have just completed the English ICAS competition.

In the following weeks students will be finalising their subject selections for Year 9 courses for 2016, so this will be an exciting time for everyone. Students of Year 8 are encouraged to be responsible in their choices and select subjects that they are interested in.

As this is the beginning of the second semester, students are reminded to be mindful of their uniform and behaviour. Also, students should remember that we are always trying to maintain a safe and supportive school environment, any issues regarding bullying and teasing should be reported to a supervising teacher and they will be dealt with swiftly.

It has been excellent to see students participating in a wide range of extracurricular school activities such as the girls’ netball team and Thursday boot camps. I would strongly encourage students to take advantage of Wednesday afternoon Homework Help sessions, which is an excellent program that provides students with a space to do their homework, teacher support, and tutoring.

This term students can look forward to competing in the Poetry Slam which is happening on August 7th. I would strongly encourage students to have a go and practise their speaking skills; this is also a good opportunity for students who are considering choosing Drama as an elective in Year 9, as they will have the chance to present in front of a live audience. Students will also be participating in the Compass Innov8 program in September, which gives them the opportunity to spend a day on the Sydney University campus.

Amy Ly and Joel Jasmine
Year 8 Adviser and Assistant Adviser

Day two was ultra-exciting. Students were taken for a tour of Google Headquarters and then later to Sydney Town Hall. Students had the opportunity to talk to the employees about what their job entailed, and how they became to work at their respective companies, including their education levels and previous experiences.

This was a once in a lifetime opportunity for all that attended… We even bumped into Andy Luong, our Dux of 2013, who is also now an inspirational Aspire Ambassador. He mentored and spoke to our students about his journey and experiences so far!

Shakti Chetty and Nes Atmali
Year 10 Adviser and Assistant Adviser

YEAR 10 REPORT

Holroyd High School was privileged enough to participate in the University of NSW Aspire program once again this year. Lucy Tran, Abdul Habeeb, Mitchell Wright, and Khatija Hammoud along with over one hundred and twenty students from thirty different metro and regional high schools were invited to the program that ran over three days at a variety of venues and locations.

The Aspire program aims to connect students to the opportunities that are available to them during the secondary studies and for life after high school.

Numerous inspirational talks, ice breaker activities and networking took place on the first day to allow students to become comfortable working with students from other schools.

YEAR 12 REPORT

This term is a very busy term for Year 12 students with their Trials fast approaching in Weeks 5 and 6. Teachers have been busy preparing them for the task and providing advice on how to deal
with anxiety and stress as well as managing their time so that the
greater amount of revision is being done by them. We would like to
use this opportunity to remind students that the final payment of
$45 for the formal is due by the end of Week 8. If parents and
caregivers could please support them in making these payments
promptly, that would be greatly appreciated.

Furthermore, the UAC Application for university entrance and most
university scholarships applications will open on the 5th August.
Students are advised to log onto the website and apply online.
Students have been given a letter with all the instruction and should
refer to those instructions in completing their applications.

We wish Year 12 all the best of luck in their Trials! Just don’t forget
to have a good night’s sleep the night before and a good breakfast.

Sally Flores, Haider Al-Khalidy and Raj Sekhon
Year 12 Adviser and Assistant Advisers

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YEAR 12

- UAC Application for undergraduate study at
  a university in 2016 – Applications open 5th August. Apply through UAC –
  www.uac.edu.au
- Educational Access Scheme (EAS) - Helps students who have experienced long-term
  educational disadvantage gain admission to tertiary study – Applications open 5th August
  Application forms available from UAC – www.uac.edu.au/eas/
- Schools Recommendation Scheme (SRS) - Uses a range of
  selection criteria to determine suitability for tertiary study. Students can receive early offers before ATARS are released –
  Applications open 5th August. Apply through UAC –
  www.uac.edu.au/srs/
- Equity Scholarships (ES) Allows students to access
  scholarship programs funded by individual universities. Apply through UAC -
  www.uac.edu.au/equity/
- Early Offer Year 12 (E12) - Allows students to receive early offers for study at The University of Sydney – applications open 5th August.
  Apply through http://sydney.edu.au/future-students/domestic/undergraduate/e12/

Universities
UNE: Direct Early Entry Program Now Open
Applications close Fri 11th September
http://www.une.edu.au/study/study-on-campus/get-early-entry

ACU Early Achievers’ Program
Applications Open: Monday 10 August 2015, Applications
Close: Monday 19 October 2015
The Early Achievers’ Program considers the contribution you have
made to your community through your school or workplace, local
community organisation, cultural and/or religious group.
http://www.acu.edu.au/study_at_acu/alternative_entry/early_entry

UNSW Open Day Program
UNSW Explorer Award
A $10,000 award, recognises the achievements of exceptional
students who are finishing high school and starting university. The
Explorer Award is given to students with outstanding academic
results and proven experience as social leaders.
To learn more and apply, visit:
https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/future-students/undergraduate/scholarships/explorer-award/

ACU Elite Athlete Program
Elite athletes who apply to ACU may be eligible to receive up to five
bonus entry points. Elite Athletes who successfully gain entry to
ACU will be given greater support and flexibility for study and
assessments.
http://www.acu.edu.au/study_at_acu/alternative_entry/elite_athlete

Teach.NSW Scholarships
Applications close Fri 18th September
$5000 per year of full time study, $3000 appointment allowance
and a permanent teaching job upon graduation.
https://www.teach.nsw.edu.au/

Private Colleges
Martin College
Martin offers Diploma courses in Business, Management,
Marketing, Design, IT and Tourism. This includes three new
courses, Diploma of Advertising, Diploma of Business
Administration, Diploma of Interior Design and Decoration.
http://www.martin.edu.au/

NIDA courses
2016 full-time course applications close 30th September 2015
NIDA offers a courses - Drama, Acting on Screen, Music Theatre
and Public Speaking to the Young Actors Studio or Residencies for
Young People aged 15-18 years.
https://www.open.nida.edu.au/courses/Demographic/Young+People

AIE Information Evening
Thu 17th September, 6.00pm – 8.00pm, Sydney
Learn about a career in games, 3D animation, and Film FX

AIE Online Campus Experience Day
Sat 22nd August, 12.30pm – 4.00pm,
Online courses in 3D animation, game art, game programming and
game design offered by AIE. http://www.aie.edu.au/oeo

Malwa College: Open Day
Sat 1st August, Level 3, 136 Chalmers Street, Surry Hills
Learn about the courses available in Beauty Therapy, Aged Care,
Business, and view the new Surry Hills campus.

Alphacrucis College: Open Day
Sat 19th September, 12.00pm – 3.00pm, 30 Cowper Street,
Parramatta

View the times and locations of various talks and workshops that
will be held at UNSW Open Day.
NSW_Open_Day_Program_2015.pdf
View the facilities and learn about the business, chaplaincy, counselling, music, and ministry courses available at Alphacrucis College.

http://openday.ac.edu.au/

International College of Management Sydney: Domestic Student Professional Scholarships Program
Applications close Fri 27th November
The International College of Management Sydney (ICMS) offers a number of scholarships. http://www.icms.edu.au/scholarship-type/new-domestic-students

Other News
Australian Defence Force: Information Sessions
Sydney – Air Force: Mon 27th July, 6.30pm, Level 4, 9 George Street, Parramatta
Sydney – Commando: Thu 30th July, 6.30pm, Level 4, 9 George Street, Parramatta
https://www.facebook.com/DefenceJobsAustralia/events

Study Assist
Study Assist is an Australian Government program that assists tertiary students with financing their education. This website contains information about the range of government assistance available to students participating in tertiary study. http://studyassist.gov.au/sites/StudyAssist/

TSFX HSC Study Tips: Biology, Economics, Legal Studies, Physics

Ellie Apostolopoulos
Careers Adviser

Congratulations to Mrs Nancy Schmitt, our Support Teachers’ Aide, on the safe arrival of Francesca, born on 30th July 2015.

We wish Mrs Schmitt all the best