PIC NEWS



Picnic Point High School Newsletter

August 2016 Edition Term 3 Week 5

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Year 12 trial examinations are underway and running very smoothly. This gives our students the vital experience of completing their trial exams in a similar manner in which the HSC will be conducted. This can be a very demanding and stressful time for Year 12 students as many have had to complete their major works and perform their practical tasks for their actual HSC during this time.

The school hosted a very successful and very well attended Year 10 into Year 11 subject selection night this term. Year 10 will finalise their subject choices for next year on Thursday 18 August.



It is important that any decision about their future study pattern is based on accurate and up to date information. Year 10 parents that attended the information evening were given details about the process and further information has been placed on the school's website. Students will be given more information from different faculties at school during the time leading up to final selections. Mr Eaton, our careers adviser, will also be completing individual interviews with every Year 10 student.

To assist Year 10 students and families in making informed choices the following link has many good suggestions and tips.

http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-andstudy/planning-for-the-future/year-10-subjectselection The process for Year 8 students, selecting their elective subjects for study in Year 9 2017, has also begun. Students will be given all of the relevant information over the next few weeks. Parents will be required to sign their selection forms to indicate they have had discussion with their children.

As curriculum planning for 2017 has commenced it is very important that families advise the school immediately if their child will not be returning to PPHS next year.

The Parent/Teacher night data this year is presented for the information of students, families and staff. Thank you to staff and our parents for making it a great success. The online booking system has been very successful. The other useful aspect of our online access is that parents can view at any time their child's attendance, punctuality, assessment marks and their merits and demerits recorded on the electronic system, Millennium. If any parents are having trouble accessing this information, please contact the school. Parent/Teacher night data for the last 6 years is shown below.

Grand Total	Years 7/11/12	Years 8/9/10
2016	1055	1152
2015	1207	1144
2014	1363	1159
2013	1125	1043
2012	933	955
2011	891	847

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B Ed Dip Teach

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Email: picnicpt-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au Web: www.picnicpt-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

DEPUTY'S REPORT MRS SHERRY

Year 11 students are nearing the end of their Preliminary Year with Yearly Examinations at the end of term.

Students should be establishing solid study habits and routines and be regularly summarising and reviewing their work each week. All students need to be making a committed effort towards their schooling and the foundation to their HSC studies.

In Term 4 this year, students will begin the HSC component of their courses. At this beginning of the term there will be a HSC information night where students and parents will receive the HSC Assessment Booklets and the HSC Assessment will begin. Mr Negroh will describe in detail, with examples, how a student's school assessment result is used towards their final HSC result.

Some students and parents have already begun asking about dropping a subject and studying only the 10 required units in the HSC. Students cannot change their pattern of study at Picnic Point until at least February of next year.

This is a school decision to make sure that if a student needs to alter their pattern of study, then the correct decisions are made. The only consideration that will be given this year to a change of subject will involve a very small number of students who may be considering a change of level (e.g. Changing Maths 2 Unit to 2 Unit General, or English Advanced to English Standard).

There are also some students who have been studying more than 12 periods due to TAFE, or are picking up a TAFE course or Extension History or Extension 2 Maths that will be able to drop a subject due to the change to their pattern of study.

Staff recently attended an evening of professional learning at Picnic Point High School. This was the third of four evenings over the year that will replace the last two school development days that occur after students have finished for the year.

There were a variety of workshops for staff to attend, depending on their interest and professional development goals.

The Science faculty had a presenter for CSIRO talking about the student research projects that they organise, The Project Based Learning Team presented a workshop on STEM and the Boys Education Team presented on current issues facing adolescent boys just to name a few of the workshops that were provided.

ACADEMIC ORDER OF MERIT

YEAR 8 ORDER OF MERIT - SEMESTER 1 2016

Below are listed the names of Year 8 students who have finished in the top 50 of their year group at the end of semester 1, 2016 or who have made significant academic progress since their last semester report. Students with an * finished in the top 20 in their year group.

Jessica Atkins, Samantha Battams*, Dylan Bennett, Hristijan Lachlan Benson. Ricardo Bolivar*, Brdarovski, Jarrod Brown*, Sarah Butler, Mitchell Carroll, Kristen Cuskelly, James Davison*, Monique De Bruyn, Renae Edmunds, Joanna Edwin, Tayla Fartek, Marina Gazilas, Angie Genford*, Lily Genford, Imogen Green, Alice Haddon*, Mark Houllis, Harry Houllis, Charlotte Humphrys, Jaycob Isherwood, Austin Johnson, Martin Karaolis, Peter Koletti, Kristyn Locke, Andrew Lyall*, Riley Meredith*, Maddison Metselaar*, Tahlia Miller-Dietrich, Alyssa Mullinger, Hanan Narvel*, Bella Nash*, Nikki Paglialonga, Luke Papagianopoulos, Vincent Pham*, Georgia Piniros*, Tegan Rare*, Karen Rios*, Ellie Ristuccia, Lauren Setter, Jenna Sotiropoulos*, Kya Sparks, Felicity Steinfurth, Jessica Swibel, Justin Tran*, Sarah Tran Nguyen*, Damon Trieu*, Noah Vando, Keisha Waban*



DEPUTY'S REPORT – MS STAVROS LITERACY AT PPHS

Monitoring is another reading comprehension strategy teachers have been using in their classroom. Do you have a voice in your head? When you read, do you ever hear it? When reading something new, has your voice ever said something like this..."I'm not sure what the word...means-I can read to the end of the sentence and see if that helps. I'll put in the word I think it means. Did that make sense? If not, I'll look it up in the dictionary."

If so, you were MONITORING while reading. It's a great strategy.

Why should we monitor whilst we read?

- O By monitoring whilst reading, students are able to use a variety of strategies if they get stuck. This improves their comprehension of texts.
- O Students with slow reading rates are often not aware that good readers adjust their rate depending on the purpose of reading.
- Making these types of adjustments is particularly important for studying or completing assigned readings because a student with poor reading skills otherwise struggles to complete lengthy reading assignments.

Carver (1990) used the analogy of adjusting reading speed to the shifting of gears in a car.

- O First and second gears are the slowest, most powerful gears.
- O First gear is used to memorise materials.
- 0 Second gear is used to learn material.
- 0 Third gear is the typical reading rate.
- The fourth gear, skimming and the fifth gear, scanning, are the fastest but least powerful gears.

These gears are useful when you are trying to locate a specific piece of information or trying to get the general sense of a passage without reading every word.

The Monitoring Process

- O Before reading: Predict and preview. Why am I reading this? What is the topic?
- O During reading: If I don't understand a word or a sentence or a paragraph, I'll stop and think. How can I 'fix up' my understanding? (use strategies)
- O Post reading: Did I use my fix-up strategies? Do I understand the text now?

Adjust your reading rate

Follow the read speed signs and read at the right rate!



Read slowly when:

- · You don't know much about the topic.
- · The text is hard to understand.
- You are rereading a part to help you understand better.
- There are hard tables and charts etc that you need to think about.



Read at a medium pace when:

- · You know something about the topic.
- · The text is hard to understand.
- You are rereading a part to help you understand better.
- There are lots of tables and charts.



Read fast when:

- You know a lot about the topic.
- . The text is easy to understand.
- You are skimming or scanning.
- There are no tables and charts etc.

NSW Centre For Effective Reading

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Comprehension | Fix-up Strategies

Listed below are some helpful clips to further explain the strategy of Monitoring:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H4btc8xwGGg https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=77vtwvhZm-E#t=91

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cSQuAil-alc





Monitoring

Learners stop and think about the text and know what to do when meaning is disrupted.

Example Questions/Statements

"Is this making sense?"

"What have I learned?"

"Should I slow down/speed up?"

"Are there any words or parts of speech that are clunks?"

Example Teaching Idea

As they read students code with post it note flags or highlighters.

PARTNERS IN LEARNING PARENT FEEDBACK SURVEY

This Term, our school will be participating in the *Partners in Learning* parent survey, another part of the *Tell Them From Me* suite of surveys (student, teacher and parent surveys) on student engagement. The survey asks parents and carers questions about different factors that are known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement.

Running this survey will help our school understand parents' and carers' perspectives on their child's experience at school. These include: communication between parents/carers and staff, activities and practices at home and parent/carer views on the school's support of learning and behaviour. This valuable feedback will help our school make practical improvements.

The survey is conducted entirely online at home or on public computers. The survey will typically take 15 minutes or less to complete and is completely confidential. The parent survey will be conducted between 22 August and 21 October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary; however, your responses are very much appreciated.

More information about the survey is available at: http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents

STUDENT OF THE MONTH



MICHEL'S REVESBY

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

JUNE

	NAME	REASON FOR THE AWARD
7	Gemma Borkowski	For her excellent approach to her studies and consistent hard work across her subjects.
8	Josh Stanbury	For his excellent work ethic and dedication to completing class work.
9	Ashley Beitelis	For consistent effort, application and integrity in all areas across the school.
10	Jake Cvijanovic	For his excellent work ethic and dedication to completing class work.
11	Jamie Pollock	For her conscientious approach and excellent dedication in Business Studies.
12	Cameron Single	For his conscientious attitude in Biology and Chemistry.





MICHEL'S REVESBY

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

JULY

	NAME	REASON FOR THE AWARD
7	Danielle Zidan	For outstanding commitment to her learning, her peers and her school.
8	Vincent Pham	For outstanding academic achievement across all subject areas.
9	Shae Avery	For consistent application, effort and a positive attitude in all areas of her schooling.
10	Joseph Debes	For his consistent effort in all subject areas.
11	Ellen Rotziokos	For her conscientious approach and excellent dedication in Chemistry.
12	Feros Homaisi	For his solid effort in class and his overall positive attitude to his attendance, behaviour, work ethic.



WHAT'S ON - TERM 3		
Friday	19 August	Year 12 Trial HSC Ends
Tuesday	23 August	Year 7 Bully Busters
Wednesday	24 August	Year 11 RYDA
Thursday	25 August	Year 12 BStreetSmart
Monday	29 August	Formal Assembly Week
Tuesday	6 September	Year 12 Prefect Lunch
Wednesday	7 September	Student Leadership Workshop
Friday	9 September	Year 12 DP Morning Tea
Monday	12 September	Year 11 Exams Start
Monday	19 September	P & C Meeting
Wednesday	21 September	Year 12 Parent Teacher Dinner
Thursday	22 September	Year 12 Big Day Out
Friday	23 September	Year 12 Graduation
		Last Day Term 3

Revesby Vet Hospital

143 The River Rd Revesby



GRAND OPENING: 9-1pm SAT MAY 14TH

Phone: 02 8739 8842 revesbyvet@tpg.com.au Mon-Fri Consultation Fee - \$40 Sat+Sun Consultation Fee -\$45 *No consult fee for vaccinations

Dog Vaccinations:

C3 Vaccination - \$50 C5 Vaccination - \$65 C7 Vaccination - \$75

Cat Vaccination:

F3 Vaccination - \$45

Microchipping:

Dental incl. Scale & Polish:

S250

Cat/Rabbit Desex:

Male - \$70 Female - \$140

Male Dog Desex:

0-15kg - \$110 16-30kg - \$130 30-35Kg - \$200 40Kg+- \$360

Female Dog Desex:

0-15kg - \$150 16-30kg - \$200 30-35Kg -\$300 40Kg+-\$400

Opening Hours:

Mon - Fri 8:30am to 7:00pm Sat 9:00am to 4:00pm Sun 9am to 2:00pm

SPECIAL PRICES AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY!

*Feel free to contact us at our other locations:

Moorebank: (02) 8798 4859 Glenfield: (02) 9618 0177



How to use your Opal Card correctly



You only need to Tap On and Tap Off once for each Journey, then find a seat and sit down to travel safe on the bus, train or ferry.

Contact 131500 for all Timetable and Opal Enquiries

BANKSTOWN WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTRE INCORPORATED



A.B.N.: 74 181 873 702 Funded by N.S.W. Ministry of Health

Women's Health Matters!

As women, we are always busy taking care of things from the house to the children and other loved ones. But when did you last have your women's health check? Too busy! It is important to look after your health in order to look after others! Do you need it? Women's health issues are very common and important to deal with, for example, breast cancer and cervical cancer can occur at any age and is the most common cancer in women in Australia. If I have had my HPV vaccine- do I still need a pap smear? Yes, although the HPV vaccine against cervical cancer covers 70% of HPV types causing cervical cancers, there is still the risk of cervical cancer. Worried about getting a health check? Rest assured as at Bankstown Women's Health Centre we appreciate the sensitivity of certain health issues and have bulk-billing women doctors specialised in women health checks which are confidential.



At Bankstown Women's Health Centre, our health checks cover pap smears, breast checks, contraception, pregnancy, post-natal checks, STI screening, urinary tract infections, menstrual problems and treatment as well as menopause management for older women and managing depression and anxiety. For more information, visit our website at www.bwhc.org.au or for further enquiries and to book an appointment todayplease contact 9790 1378 or email bwhc@sswahs.nsw.gov.au



Fax: 9792 3960

PICNIC POINT HIGH SCHOOL

YOUR COMMUNITY SCHOOL PROMOTING EXCELLENCE

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Dear Parents/Carers

Our student's ongoing health is always paramount and can be at risk if they come into contact with infectious illnesses, in particular: chicken pox, measles or mumps. If your son or daughter is ever suspected of having one of these illnesses it is very important that he/she does not attend school. It is also important that while your child is unwell he/she remains at home until he/she is no longer contagious. Information on infectious conditions can be found on national health websites e.g.: www.health.gov.au or alternatively contact your local GP.

If your child has chicken pox, measles or mumps or is suspected of having an infectious illness please contact the school immediately. This will allow the school to assess the probable contact and therefore exposure to other students and staff to the disease. Notification can then be given to parents and medical specialists.

As a school community we value your support in relation to the well being of all of our students. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Wolly Negroh

Wolly Negroh Principal



HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE SHOWCASE 2016

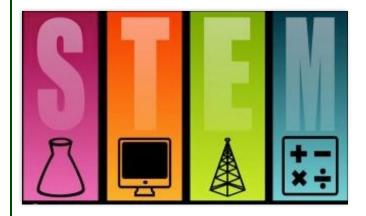
Exhibition 5.30pm
Industrial Technology Major Projects
Visual Arts
Photography and Digital Media

Recital 7.00pm Music



Thursday 1st September 2016
Picnic Point High School Auditorium

NEWS



In line with the 21st century teaching and learning strategic direction, a number of teachers participated in professional learning about STEM Education at our last **Twilight** Session. STEM Education integrates the subjects of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics to aid in developing deeper understanding and encourage critical thinking in subjects which many students find difficult. The aim of STEM education is to motivate outstanding levels of participation, enjoyment, engagement, and achievement in these four subject areas as they are fundamental to the future growth of our country.

Teachers were introduced to STEM Education and discussed implications and ways it could be implemented into future teaching practices for a wide variety of Key Learning Areas. They then completed a taster of a practical activity which incorporated STEM elements and will continue to work together to create authentic and challenging STEM learning experiences for our students.

For more information:

http://stem-nsw.com.au/stem-resources

http://www.edutopia.org/article/STEM-resources-downloads

http://splash.abc.net.au/home#!/stem



SRC REPORT

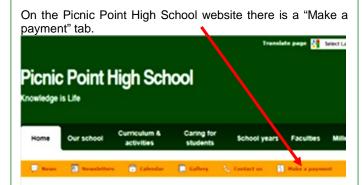
The SRC is having a fundraiser selling shoe laces and baked goods to raise money for the Youth off the Streets Foundation. The shoe laces have been ordered and will be sold from Monday 22 August, Week 6. We only have a limited number so make sure to bring your money. You can help support the Youth off the streets with your purchase. The Youth off the Streets is an organisation that raises awareness and funds for youth homelessness. The laces are a part of the lace it up program and symbolise the thousands of young people battling homelessness.

The SRC would like to thank everyone who made a purchase at our last fundraisers. With the money raised, the SRC was able to donate over \$550 towards Cancer research and a further \$650 for the Leukaemia foundation.

Jasmine Zande and Dang Pham Year 9 SRC

PARENT ONLINE PAYMENTS (POP)

If you have not yet used the new Parent Online Payments system (POP), you are able to make online payments to the school with Visa or MasterCard credit or debit cards.



By selecting this link you will be taken to a secure Westpac payment page. From the initial Westpac QuickWeb page payers will complete the necessary details, some of which are mandatory (marked with an *), before confirming the payment details and completing the payment. A receipt can be printed from the payment page and/or be emailed to the payer.



FACULTY REPORTS

ENGLISH

Term 3 is an opportune time for all students to consolidate their classroom learning in preparation for their final assessment tasks of 2016 in English. Revising their skills in Literacy and reading regularly is highly beneficial in facilitating more informed written work.

Year 12 have commenced their Trial HSC examinations and the English Faculty wish them well in their examinations. It is important that Year 12 students use the feedback from these examinations in their preparation for the HSC in Term 4. Focusing on areas of weakness and extending the length and quality of their responses should ensure a strong and positive outcome in the HSC.

It has been a very busy time for our Debating Teams this term with some strong performances and successes.

DEBATING UPDATES

YEAR 11 METRO DEBATING

Congratulations to the Year 11 Debating Team for taking their third and final debate for the win.

The team's confidence and skills swelled, as did our numbers, over the course of the term. Core debaters, Mazen, Sean, Daniel and Ben, stole the show every time. Our amazing support debaters, Hannah, Christine, Thomas, Drew and Pamela, observed, managed, and were excellent hosts.

It was evident that every participant took the advice and feedback from the previous debates each time and actively applied it to their next. Though faced with last minute surprises and changes, the team stood up boldly to the challenge and put on their most spectacular performance.

An enormous thank you to Miss Ashton for her support, management and assistance with the seniors in our first two rounds.

We did not move into the next round but the students are to be applauded for ending on a truly wonderful note.

YEAR 7 AND 8 DEBATE TEAM

The Year 7 and 8 Debate Team will be debating against Beverly Hills Girls High School on the 18 August in Round 3 of the Premier's Debating Challenge. The team have been working hard to refine their debating and public speaking skills. We wish the team good luck in their upcoming debate!

YEAR 9 AND 10 DEBATE TEAM

In a wonderful moment for the Year 9 and 10 Debating teams of Rachel Stace, Tim Warren, Jasmin Avramovski and Sami Croft, Picnic Point High School defeated Moorebank High School to progress to the Inter-Zone Finals of the NSW Premier's Debating Challenge. They successfully argued that "The Government should be able to read our emails to keep us safe." Picnic Point now moves into the knockout phase of the competition, joining the top 160 schools in the state. This is a deserved reward for the ability, enthusiasm and application of the students. I could not be prouder of or happier for them.

Special thanks also go to Ebony Cross and James Butler for their ongoing role in the team. Bankstown Girls awaits!

Miss MacDonald



SOME EXAMPLES OF STUDENT WORK IN ENGLISH:

YEAR 9 WAR POETRY

The students of 9B studied war poetry in Term 2. After weeks of critically analysing a wide variety of poems the students applied their knowledge of themes and poetic techniques to their own creative responses. As you can see 9B has some very creative minds and unique approaches to engaging their audience.

HAIKU-UKIAH

As I lay crying
The thought of my dad lying
In the dark dying.

As I am lying Thinking of my son crying Afraid of dying.

By Daniel

NO MORE WALTZING MATILDA

There was a man named Johnathan Macy, But his friends called him Johnathan Dance-y. Each night he danced with his beautiful wife, To the tune of Waltzing Matilda.

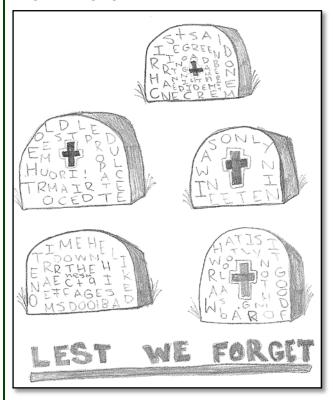
He danced all the way to the boats, His wife packed him some beautiful notes. Johnno was dancing off to war, Dreaming to the tune of Waltzing Matilda.

He was given a gun, an AK-47, Watched his brothers ascending to heaven. He danced his leg off with a mine, No more dancing to Waltzing Matilda.

There was a man named Johnathan Macy, Now his friends can't call him Johnathan Dance-y. He danced the hospital to the flat line, There'd be no more Waltzing Matilda.

By Stephan, Caleb, Brad & Mike

LEST WE FORGET



By Brodie

What we are reading...

The book, **The Case of the Missing Moonstone**, is a fictional novel that follows two young girls as they work together to solve crime. The author, Jordan Stratford, takes us on a journey through history as he writes this novel about two geniuses, the mathematician Ada Lovelace and the future writer of Frankenstein, Mary Shelley. The story follows Ada and Mary as they unite to establish a detective

agency, in hopes to apprehend the clever criminals of London.

Ada is eleven years old and Mary is fourteen. Through their work in the detective Agency their friendship grows stronger and stronger. At their first encounter, they did not really see eye to eye on anything, but then found a similarity. As they were both smart girls they were able to relate and connect to one another. I found this book interesting as it referred to real, significant women in history.

The book is full of suspense, action and makes you extremely curious as the story progresses. I recommend this book to anyone who enjoys mysteries and history.

Victoria Sakis 7E

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MATHS

Year 7 students are currently studying Length and Area and will finish off the term with Algebraic Techniques. Parents of year 7 students can support their child by ensuring that all activities on Mathletics in the topics Angle Relationships are completed by week 9. It is essential that all students complete these topics as part of their ongoing revision. Could parents and caregivers please assist by ensuring that your child completes all of these activities at the end of week 9? If there are any technical difficulties please inform your child's classroom teacher as soon as possible.

Year 8 students are currently studying Volume and will finish the term with Linear Relationships. By week 9 students are expected to have completed Rates and Ratios on Mathletics. Could parents and caregivers please assist by ensuring that your child completes all of these activities at the relevant check point. If there are any technical difficulties please inform your child's classroom teacher as soon as possible.

ICAS Math Competition

The ICAS Math Competition will take place on Tuesday 16th August and good luck to the 90 participating students with their quest to conquer the challenging questions presented on the day.

Year 12 - Practice HSC Examinations

All Mathematics students are encouraged to attempt the Practice HSC Examinations that will be conducted on the 1st week of the September school holidays. Permission notes and further information will be provided to Year 12 students once they return to class during week 6.

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Mathematic Quiz Edition 2016:

For every newsletter, there will be a math quiz for readers of all ages. The solution to Mathematic Quiz Edition 4 was:

The beggar can make and smoke 14 cigarettes. From the 72 cigarette butts the beggar can make 12 cigarettes and after smoking the 12 cigarettes the beggar still has 12 butts which he can make another 2 cigarettes.

Mathematics Quiz Edition 4 problem.

A moving company is hired to take 578 clay pots to a florist shop. The florist will pay the moving company a \$200 fee, plus \$1 for every pot that is delivered safely. The moving company must pay the florist \$4 each for any pots that are lost or broken.

Determine the maximum number of pots that can be lost or broken before the moving company starts to lose money on the delivery.

Entries can be submitted to trieu.le@det.nsw.edu.au

Mr Le Head Teacher of Mathematics

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SUPPORT UNIT BOWLING

Throughout the year, students from the two IO Support Unit classes have been participating in a bowling program at Revesby AMF. This has provided them with the opportunity to engage socially with each other as well as developing their motor skills and co-ordination in a fun environment. It's wonderful to witness our students improving with each session as well as helping and encouraging each other to overcome challenges to achieve a goal. These are skills that are vital to their social development.

We also catch the local bus to and from the venue. This provides students with the opportunity to learn an array of skills associated with catching public transport to become confident and independent members of the community in the future.

Miss Negroh & Miss Martin Special Education Teachers













SCIENCE

During Term 3, in Einstein's department, we have a lot to offer to all the students doing Science. As usual all Science teachers are busy engaging their students with interesting and meaningful learning experiences.

During this semester the Science department is committed to begin incorporating STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) activities into our curriculum by providing opportunities to our students on inquiry based learning.

Seniors

All Science students in year 11 are busy completing their syllabi as this is their final term for Year 11. At the end of this term all Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Senior Science students will sit for their yearly examination.

Year 12 are currently doing their Trial HSC Examination. It is a crucial examination and they are completely motivated to perform at their personal best.

Year 7

During Term 3, Year 7 students have been learning about *Earth's Treasures*. This topic aims at engaging students with learning experiences in the field of rocks and minerals. Student knowledge on renewable and non-renewable resources is further enhanced using interesting experiments. Students have been completing activities like solar cars, magnifying glass, dissecting microscopes, STELR kits, wind turbines and biomass.

Year 8

The students have started the topic *Artificial Intelligence*. During the course of this topic student will investigate the final frontier: Space. They have researched and learn about intelligent machines that have been built and have assisted us in space exploration like the Hubble telescope, International Space Station and other space probes. Students will be completing experiments on making simple telescopes, looking through telescopes, looking for meteorites at PPHS, tracing the Sun's movement and modelling solar & lunar eclipses.

Year 9

Year 9 are currently learning about the topic **Sport Science**. They will be studying about the body systems that assist with co-ordination & balance like the Nervous and Endocrine system. During the course of this term they will investigate and learn the Science behind sport. Experiments conducted are related to balance, recording reaction time, making a model neuron, brain dissection, eye dissection and temperature control.

Year 10

Year 10 are exploring the topic of *Time Traveller*. During the course of this term students will unravel mysteries relating to the birth of the universe, the big bang, evidence to support it, electromagnetic spectrum and evolution. To enhance their understanding of these topics students will be completing practical activities like looking through telescopes, spectroscopes, bio-viewers, as well as examine visible light using glass prisms, mirrors, lenses and ray boxes.

Mrs Kaur Science Teacher



SOCIAL SCIENCES

It has been a very productive start to the term in Social Sciences. The Social Sciences Faculty have been impressed with the willingness of students in trying to better understand current issues across the world and within Australia. The Faculty is currently designing engaging programs for Year 7 and Year 9 for the New Geography Syllabus for NSW.

Year 7 Geography

Year 7 have been studying Global Environments with an emphasis on Deserts. A common message that Year 7 have received is the need to protect Global Environments at risk. All students will be completing a Research task on a Global Environment. The task will provide the students with the opportunity to effectively develop their research skills.

Year 8 Geography

Year 8 have been looking at Global Geographical Issues with an emphasis on Threatened Habitats. Students have received their assessment task that provides them with the opportunity to present a geographical issue to their peers in groups of four. The faculty is looking forward to the presentations that Year 8 will be presenting on their Threatened Habitat. Stay tuned for the next edition of PICNEWS that will have photos of the students presenting their work!

Year 9 Geography

Year 9 have started to learn about the human characteristics that make Australia's population unique. Students have made use of the Australian Bureau of Statistics Website [ABS], which provides them with up-to-date information about the composition of Australia's population. Students will work on a Creative Writing task this term, which provides them with the opportunity to creatively present their ideas about unique features of Australia's population.

Year 10 Geography

Year 10 started looking at the ways in which Australia is connected with the other nations in the Asia Pacific Region and other countries around the world. Students have received their assessment task for the term. They will create a presentation on one of the following links: Migration, Defence, Sport or Aid.

Quick tips for Year 12: For their HSC Examinations

 Make use of BOSTES apps for Legal Studies, Geography, Business Studies and Economics. This app provides students with the opportunity to complete past HSC multiple choice questions.

- Make use of the Business Studies CRAM App that provides students with up-to-date information in relation to their case studies.
- Students have attended lecture days for Business Studies and Legal Studies. They should make use of the revision material provided on the day of the lectures.
- Complete the past papers provided. When completing the papers, complete the papers in examination conditions.
- Make use of the marking guidelines provided and mark the papers using the guidelines.
- Make sure your notes directly relate with the syllabus and make use of up-to-date contemporary information.

Finally, the Social Sciences Faculty wishes Year 12, the best of luck in their upcoming HSC exams. If you have any questions about your child's learning, please feel free to contact the school.

Team Social Sciences

CSCSCSCSCSCSCS

HISTORY

Last Term, students from Picnic Point High school participated in the Australian History Competition. Around 50 students from Year 10 and 30 students from Year 8 represented the school in the country's largest History competition. This year the competition attracted over 28, 000 participants, which was a growth of 24% from the previous year. The competition itself provides students with the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of History as well as their competency with source analysis skills.

This year all of our participants have exceeded our expectations with our Year 10 students scoring 7% above the national average, and our Year 8 students scoring 6% above the national average. This is an excellent achievement and is further evidence of the students and the schools commitment to the study of History.

We are also pleased to announce that this year we had a record number of high achievers who have received either a Distinction or a High Distinction:

- Thomas Bush High Distinction
- Phoebe Kleckin High Distinction
- Sally Lindberg High Distinction
- George Bakopoulos Distinction

- Gemma Bell Distinction
- Matthew Blight Distinction
- Zac Borkowski Distinction
- Patrick Christodoulou Distinction
- Emma Forster Distinction
- James Molloy Distinction
- Andrew Pham Distinction
- Rachel Stace Distinction
- Harrison Walther Distinction
- Bella Nash Distinction

The History faculty is incredibly proud of the achievements of all those who participated this year and intend to continue offering this opportunity to students in the years to come. We will report on the Year 10 excursion to the Sydney Jewish Museum in the next issue of the Pic News.

Jake Poolman History Teacher

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PDHPE

The senior students in PDHPE are having a busy time with assessment tasks at the moment. We wish Year 12 the best for their Trial HSC and are confident that they will achieve excellent results to complete their HSC assessment. When they return after the Trials there is still a good amount of Core 1 to complete before they have finished the entire course in preparation for the HSC examinations.

The Year 11 students are currently completing an assessment task on First Aid. Having submitted a written component they are now required to perform a First Aid demonstration based on 1 of 4 scenarios that they were given beforehand. I have included some photos of students doing their practical assessment and a number of students in both classes have excelled in both their understanding and application of First Aid procedures.

The VET Sport Coaching students have been busy performing duties at Revesby South Primary Athletics Carnival and also participating in an NRL coaching clinic held at school. The students all performed their roles extremely well and have helped build our partnership with the local primary schools. There are some photos included of the students in action performing their roles.

Most of our junior classes are currently doing their Fitness Testing unit in practical classes. This involves a series of tests to give an indication of different aspects of fitness such as leg power, flexibility, aerobic endurance, arm strength, abdominal endurance and speed. The students do these tests from Year 7-10 and maintain their own fitness card so that improvements can be noted across the course of the 4 years of testing.

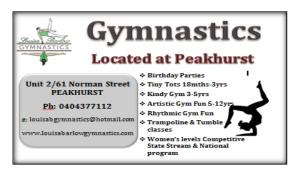
The school is currently in the process of subject selection for Year 10 into Year 11 in 2017. We encourage students to look at the subjects offered in PDHPE, SLR and VET Sport Coaching and seek advice from our staff as to which courses they are best suited to. The Senior PDHPE is an ATAR course that is all theory and contains a large amount of content which some students find difficult to comprehend. For those students the Sport Lifestyle and Recreation and VET Sport Coaching courses are much more suitable. They are non ATAR and involve a portion of practical classes similar to junior PDHPE. The VET course in Coaching also enables students to obtain a Certificate Level 3.

Mr Millican Head Teacher PDHPE





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LOTE

Stage 4

Year 7 students have continued to demonstrate enthusiasm and interest in developing their language skills. They have learnt to count to 100, say how old they are and ask for their friends' telephone numbers. Year 7 have also completed their second Assessment Task with pleasing results. They are now continuing with Unit 3, where they will learn how to say which country they come from, their nationality and where they live. Year 8 students are currently completing the final chapter of the Hai! 2 course and will shortly complete the Hai! 2 Chapter 4 Assessment Task. After this, they will begin an in-depth study of the Hiroshima Bombing in 1945. Students will view documentaries which put this devastating event into a historical context and learn about the significant effect this event had on the people of Japan and those around the world. Later this term, the 8E Japanese accompanied by Mrs Morris and Mr Macdonald, will participate in an excursion to the Nihongo Tanken Centre at Kirrawee High School. All students are looking forward to this excursion and the opportunity to extend their Japanese communication skills in an authentically Japanese environment!

Stage 5

The Year 9 Japanese class have now finished the Hai! 3 course and have excitedly begun work from Hai! 4. The students are actively engaged in reading, writing, listening and speaking Japanese and have completed a few tasks using the computers. The Year 9 class should be commended for their diligence towards improving their Japanese communication skills. All students are currently working on a differentiated assessment task. In this task, students can choose language tasks they wish to complete over the course of Term 3. Year 10 students have also been developing their Japanese grammatical knowledge and will soon begin preparation for their Speaking and Writing Assessment Task, due in Week 8 of this term.

Tyke-Oh! Drumming Incursion

On Tuesday, August 2, 2016, the Year 9 and 10 Japanese and Music classes attended a Tyke-Oh Drumming Incursion, in the school hall. We did some hands-on activities in pairs, rotating partners after four bars of drumming. We had to hold the drumsticks called *bachi* lightly, so they would bounce off the drum, creating a louder bang. Our Taiko *sensei* (teacher) changed the drumming pattern each time, adding pauses and even shouting, which is called *kiai* in Japanese. It was terrifying at first, but then she explained it and taught us how to chant properly. Thank you to Ms Marquis, Mrs Morris and Ms Taresenko for organising this opportunity for the students.

By Jacinta Black and Isabel De Araujo

Tyke-Oh! Drumming Incursion Photos



Year 11 Japanese Continuers have recently completed their fourth assessment task, a speaking task about themselves. They are also diligently completing their coursework in preparation for their Yearly Examination at the end of the term. We wish our students all the best as they prepare and complete these important examinations. The Year 12 Japanese Continuers students have completed their Trials HSC Examinations and are finalising their revision in preparation for the Japanese Continuers HSC Examination on October 25, 2016, we congratulate all students on their efforts so far. The Year 12 Japanese Continuers students, along with Alex Paglialonga [Italian Continuers] and Raja Asbati [Arabic Continuers and Arabic Extension] also completed their HSC Speaking Examinations recently, well done!

Japan Trip Update

6 weeks to go until we jet-set to Japan! The families have been busily fundraising for the trip, with a Pure Gelato Stall, a Cadbury's chocolate drive, running the canteen at the Athletics Carnival and organising a barbecue at Picnic Point High School for the Federal Elections. A final barbecue will be held in Week 6 of this term at school. Special thanks must also go to Woolworths, Revesby and Daystar Realty, Padstow, for their kind donations towards the trip. On Thursday, August 18, 2016 our travelling students will participate in afternoon of fun activities. The afternoon will ensure that all travellers get to know each other better and that they understand appropriate behaviours to follow whilst in Japan, at particular places of cultural significance. Students will also learn to make origami paper cranes so that we can take them to the Children's Peace Monument in the Hiroshima Peace Park. This will be followed by a sushi dinner with all families in the B-Block Kitchens. A pre-trip meeting will also be held on Thursday, September 2, 2016 to discuss the final aspects of the trip.

春に気をつけてね!

Ms Marquis, Mrs Morris and Ms Wu

CAPA

HSC DANCE RECITAL

On Thursday July 28, our HSC Dance students presented their practical works at the *HSC Dance Recital*. Throughout the night they presented excellent works in the areas of Core Performance, Core Composition, Major Study Performance and Major Study Composition. We would like to thank all those who came to support these students.

Thank you to the students from Years 7 to 11 that performed as composition dancers, giving up numerous hours throughout the year to learn the works. These students are Jessica Atkins, Kya Garvey, Tegan Rare, Isabella Rennie-Surra, Emily Reynolds and Imogen Wallace. A big congratulations to our Year 12 Dance students Chloe Burgess, Alana Cox, Georgia Gale, Corrie Garvey and Aly Larkin. We wish them luck in their HSC.



Year 12 Dance Students with Dance Teacher, Miss Mulley



Year 12 Dance Students with their Composition Dancers

DANCE FESTIVAL SERIES 2016 - ULTIMO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In June our Extra-Curricular Dance Ensembles performed at the *Dance Festival Series 2016 - Ultimo Public Schools*. This year both groups were selected to perform as part of Series 2 of the Festival at the prestigious Seymour Centre, Chippendale.

Our Junior Dance Ensemble gave a wonderful performance of their work "Cornered". Our Senior Dance Company performed their moving work "Tremor" on the exclusive VIP night of the festival. They gave a very strong performance and received compliments from various teachers and schools at the festival. We would like to thank and congratulate all students involved on their dedication to both rehearsals and performances.

If you would like to see more of our dancers, the annual Evening of Dance will be held in Week 10 of the term, on Tuesday 20th September in the school hall. The show will commence at 7pm with tickets available at the door. We hope to see you there.

Miss Mulley CAPA Teacher





JUNIOR DANCE ENSEMBLE - "Cornered"





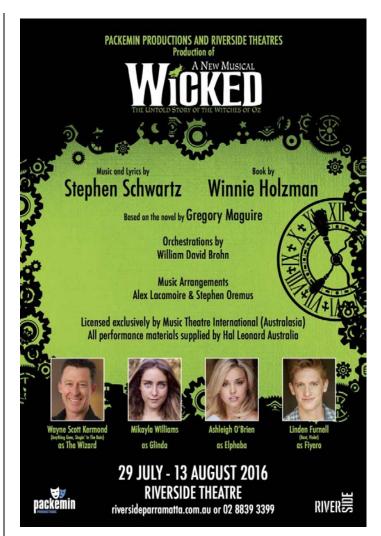
SENIOR DANCE COMPANY - "Tremor"

WICKED

On the evening of Wednesday 3 August, the Year 12 VET Entertainment Industry class had the pleasure of attending Packemin Production's fabulous production of 'Wicked' at the Riverside Theatre in Parramatta. 'Wicked' is a fabulous Broadway Musical which explores the 'untold' story of the Witches of Oz. Every part of this production was magical. The set design, costume, lighting, audio, choreography and of course the performers.

This was a wonderful way to celebrate the learning achievements and collegiality of the Year 12 VET Entertainment Industry class and also a great experience to provide stimulus for the HSC Examination.

A big thank you to the CAPA staff for attending this excursion and in particular for Mr Wayne Clay who drove the school bus.











This year many students from Picnic Point High School will be involved in the Schools Spectacular, which will take place on November 25 and 26. Congratulations to Alana Cox, Rachel Iveli, Isabella Rennie-Surra and Imogen Wallace who will perform in the show as part of the State Dance Ensemble. Extra congratulations to Imogen Wallace who also successfully auditioned to gain a place as a featured dancer in the Schools Spectacular Ballet Ensemble. Matthew Blight from Year 10 will perform with the State Drama Ensemble. Picnic Point has also secured positions in the show in a number of other areas:

- 14 Dance students will perform in the Combined Dance Segment
- 20 Music students will perform as part of the Combined Schools Choir
- 7 students from our Support Unit will perform in the D'Arts Ensemble
- 2 Music students will perform as part of the Millennium Marching Band
- 4 VET Entertainment Industry students will be in the stage crew

Congratulations to all students involved. We can't wait to hear about the rehearsals and performances to come!



TAS

TEXTILES TECHNOLOGY MANDATORY

The following are just a few of the pencil cases completed this term. Students have created their own design using a variety of fabric decoration methods. They have developed skills in using a sewing machine and can competently insert a zipper.

Watch out in the next Pic News for more pencil cases as some students projects are still under construction.

Mrs Thompson



COMPUTING STUDIES

Year 9 students are working on their Term 3 projects, part of which will be making use of Augmented Reality (AR) within their assessment task. Students will be able to make use of this App on their phone to produce an AR feature as one part of their next assessment in class.

Students in Year 10 are completing their Android App programs they are designing using the App Inventor 2 program from MIT. Students have been creating games of chance, quizzes and apps about facts. Once successfully completed, students will be able to install their Apps onto an Android compatible phone.

Year 12 Multimedia students have been busy finalising their Major Projects in order for them to be marked and contribute towards their HSC result. Student projects include websites, short movies, and animations as part of their project designs. The use of green screen effects has also been used to add to the creativity by the students in class.

Mr O'Mullane TAS Faculty

YEAR ADVISER REPORTS

YEAR 7

It's good to see lots of year 7 students are settling down at school and now functioning in a school routine. I am delighted to find out that lots of students are trying really hard in contributing to the school culture, from sports, dance, debating and other factors. Most of year 7 students have now had the experience of office duty which is essential to school support and function. Term 3 has lots of positive initiatives for Year 7. I am hoping that these will help our students implement some great ideas to enhance their social and learning skills.

Bully Busters

Bully busters will happen as an incursion for year 7 during week 6. This is compulsory for all students as part of the school's welfare program. Thank you to the majority of parents for getting payment and permission notes in on time

Study Skills

Part of being a successful high school student is being organised. Study skills will happen in week 8 for all year 7 students and hopefully it will help them with essential study tips for homework, assessments, exams and how to schedule time for study. A big thank you to the math staffroom for helping out in organising and running this program.

Merits

Year 7 students have been active in collecting merit points stickers and merit awards. This has resulted in a number of Year 7 students being invited to the rewards Day last term which involved laser skirmish and bowling. Year 7 students are encouraged to keep collecting merit stickers and awards to raise their point's totals!

Mr Dannaoui Year 7 Adviser

YEAR 10

Term Three has already been incredibly busy for Year 10 students and their teachers. Firstly, I have replaced Ms Gourlay as Year 10 Adviser. On behalf of the Year 10 cohort I would like to thank Ms Gourlay for all of her hard work and dedication as Year Adviser. I look forward to taking on the role and supporting all students through their final two terms in the junior school.

The Subject Selection process is now underway. Thank you to Mr Eaton and Mr Rawlings for delivering a very professional and informative presentation to Year 10 students and their families. A reminder to all students that they should now be talking to their teachers and gathering as much information as possible to ensure they are

personally selecting the right subjects for themselves. Mr Eaton will begin conducting interviews on the 10 August 2016 with students to hand in their completed forms on the 18 August 2016. The selection forms can be found on the Picnic Point High School website.

I had the privilege of watching 25 Year 10 students perform at the matinee of this year's MADD (Music, Art, Dance and Drama) event. Wow! Each student should be incredibly proud of their performances. Congratulations also to those students who recently competed at the Zone and Regional Athletics Carnival.

A reminder to all students and their families, that attendance at school is compulsory. Students must arrive to school on time every day and medical appointments should be made outside of school hours, wherever possible.

Year 10 are encouraged to keep handing in merits and passports in order to be acknowledged for their achievements in the classroom.

Miss Martin Year 10 Adviser

LOVE BITES

During week three, Year 10 students participated in the 'Love Bites' program. This program was delivered at school by external presenters with a focus on building 'respectful relationships'.

Love Bites addressed two major issues in today's society, Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse. A main priority throughout the day was for us, the students, to decipher where we draw the line with these issues. We were able to address our opinions and hear others. Love Bites taught us the different types of domestic abuse, other than physical, and what is defined as sexual abuse and the punishment of those offences.



In the last hour of the program we participated in an interactive and more "artsy" activity. They gave us a choice, painting or music. The music group were to write a song based on the two topics and the information we learnt throughout the day. Personally, I chose the art activity. We were instructed to design a motivational painting, again, based on what we discussed throughout the program. The paintings were then posted on the love bites website/Facebook page for the public. The songs that were written will be recorded and will be placed with the paintings that were done on the same day to create an informative, all student composed video.



Love Bites was very educational and addressed vital issues dealt with by teens, adults and even children every day. I definitely believe everything that was spoken about during the program was important and is vital for every teenager to learn. Thank you to the Love Bites team and our school for organising this day.

Jessica Luth Year 10

YEAR 11

Year 11 students have made a great start to Term Three, working busily in their classes and completing final assessment tasks before the Preliminary Examinations in Week 9 and 10. The recent Week 5 and upcoming Week 7 Year Meetings will also have a focus on study skills and how best to prepare for these examinations. I encourage all students to continue working to the best of their ability in the last five weeks of Year 11. Positive habits set during the Preliminary course will provide a solid foundation upon which to approach the HSC course.

Some of our students have also been on Work Placement for VET Entertainment, Hospitality and Construction, learning about industry standards and the world of work. I trust these placements were valuable learning experiences and a glimpse of possible future pathways for our students.

Congratulations to the Student of the Month – Jamie Pollock [June] and Ellen Rotziokos [July]. Keep up the great work!

Final payment for the Year 12, 2017 jacket is due by **Friday, August 26, 2016**. Full payment is required before jackets can be distributed by the manufacturer to our school.

A reminder to all students and their families that attendance at school is compulsory. Students must arrive to school on time every day and medical appointments should be made outside of school hours, wherever possible. All absences must be explained by providing a note and a medical certificate to the roll-call teacher. Students who miss an assessment task must provide a medical certificate to Mrs Sherry on the first they return to school in order to satisfy BOSTES requirements. Please refer to the Year 11 Assessment Booklet for further information. As another reminder, students who arrive after roll-call because of a flexible timetable arrangement must ensure they sign in at the front office at least ten minutes prior to the commencement of their class. Students who undertake Extension Mathematics or English classes must also ensure they arrive on time to all Period Zero classes, without exception.

Mrs Morris Year 11 Adviser



SPORT

SCHOOL ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Picnic Point High school held its annual school athletics carnival in week nine of term two. Students were encouraged to wear their house colours and participate in as many events at they could. It was an excellent day for all those who attended. The students of Picnic Point High School not only demonstrated excellent behavior but also outstanding sporting abilities as multiple records were broken on the day.

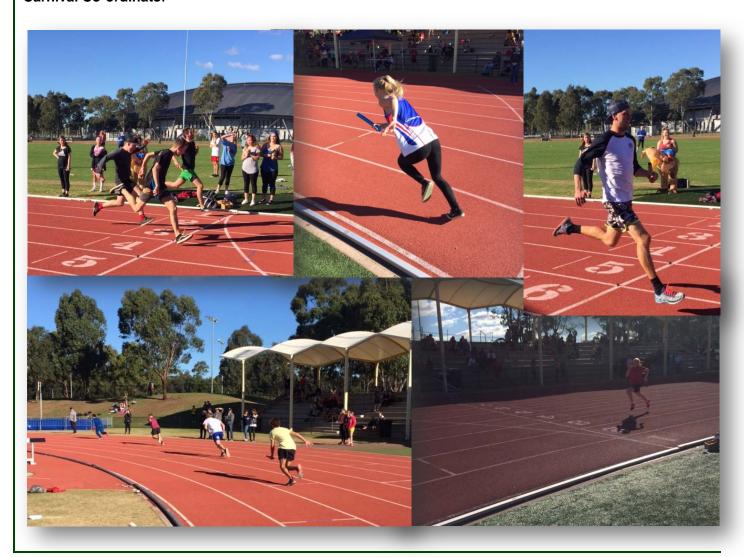
The talents of Picnic Point High School students didn't stop there as congratulations must be given to the following students who participated in many events throughout the carnival and have achieved the position of 2016 School Age champion.

AGE	FEMALE SCHOOL AGE CHAMPION	MALE SCHOOL AGE CHAMPION
12	Holly Wilmore & Danielle Zidan	Kevin Nguyen
13	Emily Parmaxidis	Jason Parmaxidis
14	Angelina Genford	Emanuele Serra
15	Hana Herlihy	Daniel Porter
16	Madeline Carroll	Harrison Walther & Ethan Bowmaker
17+	Taylah Probert	Daniel Koliopoulos

Well done to Doohan as the winning house for the 2016 Picnic Point High School Athletics carnival along with the teachers of the school who clearly out ran the students of year twelve in the staff v's students race.

Thank you to all involved on the day. The carnival would not be possible without the co-operation of the entire school community before, during and after the day.

Mrs Wolstencroft Carnival Co-ordinator



ZONE ATHLETICS



During the last week of Term Two various students represented Picnic Point High School at the two-day Bankstown Zone Athletics Carnival. Picnic Point High School had at least one student participating in all events. This amazing talent and versatility of Picnic Point High School students enabled the school to hold the highest point score compared to the other ten schools in the zone and be crowned the Zone Athletics Champion School for 2016. This amazing accomplishment was reinforced when the relay events began. From start to finish Picnic Point High School relay teams demonstrated speed, technique and support for one another, which resulted in all Picnic Point High School students that competed to place first or second in every race.

The following students also qualified as the 2016 Bankstown Zone Athletics Age Champions for 2016

Age group	Bankstown Zone Athletics Age Champions
12 Years Girls	Holly Wilmore
13 Years Girls	Emily Parmaxidis
13 Years Boys	Jason Parmaxidis
15 Years Girls	Hana Herlihy

Well done and thank you to all students and teachers who attended the carnival and in particular those students who progressed to the Sydney South West regional carnival.





REGIONAL CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to all 29 students who attended the Sydney South West Regional Cross Country Carnival during Term Two. There were many students from Picnic Point High School who represented Bankstown Zone at this carnival. Well done to all students who completed the tiring and very tough course and in particular congratulations to the four students who qualified to progress to the next level and represent Sydney South West Region.

- Samantha Battams Year 8
- Brayden Morris Year 7
- Emily Parmaxidis Year 7
- Mitchell Small Year 8

Mrs Wolstencroft Carnival Coordinator

PPHS STUDENT'S SUCCESS AT RECENT SURF LIFE SAVING AUSTRALIAN TITLES

Recently two students, namely Lillian and Felicity Hassett, both in year 12 competed at the recent Australian IRB (Inflatable Rescue Boat) Titles at Mollymook on the south coast from 22-24 July.

Both students are currently completing their HSC, and fall in the top 10% of the cohort and are both currently ranked first in individual subjects. Along with maintaining an outstanding academic effort, Lillian and Felicity complete voluntary patrols at North Cronulla SLSC and maintain a rigorous training regime to compete at the national level.

Lillian and Felicity between them made 6 out of 8 Australian finals at the recent Australian Titles. This places them in the top 8 IRB female "crews" out of 160 that competed at the Australian Titles. In the finals Lillian placed 5th in the Taplin and 4th in the Female Teams. Felicity placed 5th in the Taplin, 5th in the Mass Rescue, 4th in the Female Teams and 1st in the Women's Rescue. Felicity along with her other "crew" members were crowned the newest Australian Champions and an historic first female Australian Title for a Sydney based club and the North Cronulla Surf Club.

Well done Felicity and Lillian, best of luck for your HSC and future endeavours!



Lillian Hassett in action (closest to front)



Felicity Hassett in action (left of photo)



Felicity Hassett (centre group left) receiving Australian Gold

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SYDNEY SOUTH WEST - NETBALL KNOCKOUT

On Tuesday, June 21, 2016, some of our best netballers participated in the Sydney South West Netball Knockout Carnival. The girls finished the day with five convincing wins, placing them at the top of their pool. They played against St John's Park, James Busby, Leumeah, Bonnyrigg and Hurlstone Agricultural. They also qualified for the second day of competition on Monday, July 25, 2016, another round robin competition against the top teams from each pool. Unfortunately, the Picnic Point team was unsuccessful on Day Two. They secured a win against Picton, but narrowly lost to East Hills Girls, Elderslie and Casula. The girls played with great skill and determination, well done!

Congratulations to the team: Emaison Beck, Shayla Broughton, Jessica Cannon, Kristen Cuskelly, Kaisey Janda, Tahni McCaw, Lauren O'Shea, Taylah Probert, Elle Seeto, Deamma Taganesia and Paulene Taganesia. A very big thank you must also go to Emma Forster, who umpired for our school on the day.

Mrs Morris Netball Coach



EXTRA-CURRICULAR

REWARDS DAY EXCURSION TERM 2

At the end of Term 2 on Friday 1 July, over 50 Picnic Point High School students attended the Rewards Day excursion to Laser Tag and Bowling at Darling Harbour. This day is a reward for students who are leading the merit tally across the whole school. These students have attained this position because of their focus and effort, as well as their exceptional results.

The day started as we piled on the bus and travelled into the city, where we were set down at our destination in the glorious sunshine. We then travelled in a pack to the venue, providing tourists and city slickers with a positive perspective of the Australian education system. Once at the venue we quickly split off into teams and participated in some fiercely competitive (and not so competitive) games of Laser Tag and Bowling. Mr Mac and Ms Ng demonstrated their frighteningly good Laser Tag skills and helped their teams attain greatness.

We then sat in beautiful Darling Harbour to eat lunch and congratulate each other on our victories (or commiserate with each other on our losses). All the students were extremely well behaved, even after having to wait for Ms Hespe-Poulos to repeatedly count student numbers again and again (Maths is not her strong point). We then piled back on the bus and travelled back home, happy and ready for the holidays to start!

Mr Mac, Ms Ng and Ms Hespe-Poulos would like to thank the students for making the day so fun and enjoyable.



LIBRARY

The 2016 Premier's Reading challenge has come to a close and now is the time for all students to log the books they have been reading. This should be done through the student portal as soon as possible as the lists need to be verified and submitted by the librarian by mid-August. The Chess competition is up and running every Monday Lunch. We have had some tough victories and some games have gone on for several lunchtimes.

By now the sporting world is completely obsessed with the Rio 2016. Australia has had some great results and some performances have made history. The Library is getting into the Olympic spirit! We have set up and are live streaming the Olympics in our media room for students who wish to catch up with the action in their lunch break. We are also posting Olympic news on the library noticeboard. For those of you who are sad that it is almost coming to an end, don't worry, we start all over again for the Paralympics in just two weeks!!!

Ms Myles Librarian

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BIG MOMENTS MATTER

In case you were unsure, the Olympic Games are currently being held in Rio de Janeiro. I love the Olympics! The athleticism, the story lines, the inspiring moments, the preparation, the history and everything else that we get to experience once every four years. To me, sport has the ability to transcend barriers and differences. Sport can bring people together. We can also learn valuable lessons from Olympic athletes and apply them to our own lives.

Imagine your career coming down to one moment every four years. That is what is at stake for Olympic athletes. Witnessing these athletes experience that moment resonates with all of us because our lives are a collection of big moments. We can merely do our best and learn from the experiences.

Take this big moment for example. Kerri Strug participated in the 1996 Olympics as a member of the U.S. women's gymnastics team. Prior to '96, the then-Soviet Union team had won gold medal at every event they competed for. The Romanian team was also competing and was the current World Champions.

Going into the final rotation, the Russians were on floor exercise and the U.S. on vault. The U.S. held a commanding lead over the Russian team, though it was mathematically possible for the Russians to take the gold.

Strug anchored the vault. On her first attempt she under-rotated the landing and damaged her ankle. Retrospectively by this time the U.S. team had secured the gold medal due to a poor performance on the floor from the final Russian athlete. But the team and Strug did not know that and to mathematically clinch the gold, Strug needed to vault again.

Her coach Béla Károlyi kept shouting at her, "You can do it! You can do it! Listen to me!" Strug took off down the runway, executed her vault and after saluting the judges, collapsed to her knees in pain. That jump secured their first gold medal. What people don't mention when telling that story is that her coach, adamant that Strug not miss the medal ceremony, carried her back to the podium to receive her medal.

Where have you faced big moments in your life? How did you respond? Also, who do you have in your corner, believing in you, willing and urging you to face your big moment with chants of "Listen to me! You can do it!"

When researching for this article, it got me thinking, "What if Strug's coach DID know they had already secured the gold?" Would Strug have risen to her big moment, in front of a home crowd, winning the first ever US gold? I assure you that any great coach understands that big moments matter for their athletes.

Nathan Schomberg is the Head Coach at Optimal Health Personal Training, a communityfocused gym located at Picnic Point High.

When he's not lifting heavy things or drinking coffee, his mission is to bring joy and passion to people's lives by helping them achieve their unique version of optimal health.

He works with Picnic Point High in developing student-athletes through the Talented Athletes Program.



