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BULLETIN



HOME BUSH BOYS HIGH SCHOOL

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DEPUTY PRINCIPAL REPORT

Ms Jennie Dalamagas

Years 9 & 12



Term 1 2023 has been a very exciting and extremely busy start to the new year. It was wonderful welcoming our students back to school this year, many expressing an appreciation to returning after their summer break.

As the Deputy Principal in charge of Year 9 and Year 12, I have been working closely with Mr Kisso and Ms Singh to program a number of initiatives that will assist all of our students in their educational journeys at Homebush Boys High School.

Open Night for Year 7 2024 parents and students has been scheduled for Thursday 2 March. The evening commences with the Principal's address in the hall at 5pm, followed by school tours of faculties and our learning environment. It poses to be a very exciting evening for all parties.



ZONTA SYDNEY WEST INVITES YOU TO INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY WEBINAR WED. 8 TH MARCH 2023 9.30-10.30am	GUEST SPEAKERS Hajeh Maha Abdo OAM Executive Officer Muslim women Australia
RAANI NARAYAN Strathfield Girls High School Zonta Sydney West Club Winner 'Young Women in Public Affairs Award' 2022-23	JAMES KNIGHT Homebush Boys High School Year 11 SRC Leader
UN WOMEN AUSTRALIA theme FOR IWD 2023 'CRACKING THE CODE: INNOVATION FOR A GENDER EQUAL FUTURE	
ZONTA SYDNEY WEST AWARDS. Zonta Club of Sydney West 'YOUNG MEN STANDING STRONG AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE' AWARDS will be presented to young men from our local High Schools.	
'ZSW YEAR 10 CITIZENSHIP' AWARDEES for 2022-23 also from our local High Schools will be announced on this occasion.	
To register for this Webinar. Email dwhumphress@gmail.com with your name and the address from which you will view the Webinar. A link will be sent to you on receipt of your email from 1 st March, 2023 until 7 th March, 2023	

International Women's Day has been scheduled for Wednesday 8 March 2023. This year I will be attending Bankstown Girls High School's breakfast followed by guest speakers addressing various elements of International Women's Day. This year one of our Year 11 SRC students, James Knight, has been invited to be a guest speaker. The theme of James' speech is 'Cracking the Code – Innovation for a gender equal future'. This is a great honour for both James and Homebush Boys High school.

Year 12

Year 12 have now commenced their second term of their Higher School Certificate year. This term they will be sitting their half yearly examinations, and many students have already commenced their preparations for them. It is important that Year 12 have some quality time where they can gather their thoughts and have some recreational time with their friends, peers and family.

Year 12 received their HSC Assessment Handbooks last term and need to refer to it in scheduling their study time and pacing themselves through their course requirements. Straight after their examinations I plan to interview all students

to determine how they feel with their own progress and how I can assist in moving them forward. I am hoping our Year 12 students will be fully prepared for their Trials and HSC.

This year Mr Elgood has given Year 12 and Year 11 permission to commence 10 minutes prior to their first lesson and to leave after their last timetabled period. The only exception is Tuesday, where all students are requested to be at our school assembly at the commencement of the day.

All students are required to wear their full school uniform to school. Year 12 should be our role models and it is my expectation they come to school respecting our uniform policy. The majority of our students greatly honour this policy, and this has been acknowledged by members of the public.

I am very confident that Year 12 will have a great year. Ms Singh and I are extremely proud of them.

Year 9

Year 9 have had a very good start in 2023 with many changes to their normal timetabled routine. This year, Year 9 commenced their electives they chose in 2022 and are following a more flexible timetable. It has been wonderful to see how they have progressed since their commencement in Year 7 in 2021.

All Year 9 were provided with their Assessment Handbooks during our Week 4 assembly. This Assessment Handbook is an extremely important resource and time should be taken to carefully read its content. All assessment tasks, for every course, can be found within its content, as well as policies for examinations, assessments and general information of school requirements.

Mr Kisso has worked tirelessly to ensure our Year 9 students are well informed and have a sound understanding of their school requirements. It is a great honour to be able to work with Mr Kisso again this year to ensure Year 9 attains the best education at Homebush Boys High School.

Homework Help

Homework Help is available to our students every Monday and Tuesday from 3:10pm to 4:10pm. Please ensure your sons take advantage of this valuable initiative. Please ensure son utilises this great resource.

Final Note

I plan 2023 to be a very special and productive year for all our students. Please don't hesitate to call me in regards to any concern you may have in regards to your son's educational requirements.

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL REPORT

Mr Cheiban Elaro

Years 8 & 11



Welcome parents and students to a new year at HBHS. The year has started off with a great deal of change in our school.

We have a brand new and reconfigured main entrance to the school and front office. But the biggest shock for the students has been the significant sections of the playground that are fenced off for one reason or another. The roof of the A Block was replaced and all the scaffolding has been removed by now. We should also see the completion of the basketball courts by the middle of March and the Futsal court on the Southern Grass is scheduled for completion a week or 2 later. As well, the work on the senior area should be completed by early March.

All these developments aim to make the school a better and more conducive setting for student interactions and learning. Mr Elgood needs to be recognised as the reason we are getting all these upgrades. It is his hard work and persistence over the past 3 years that have resulted in these and other upgrades around the school.

In the classrooms, we have a very settled Year 11 cohort. The photos that follow reflect the many outstanding achievements by Year 11 from late last year. Thanks to the work of Ms Coutinho and Ms Jang, the Year Adviser and assistant, these young men are focusing on their preliminary subjects in preparation for the HSC course, which begins in term 4. We also have students taking the opportunity to have some work experience and pursue alternative pathways. Speaking to the cohort on assembly in week 5, I stressed that whatever opportunities students see, we will support them. In saying that, the vast majority of students in Year 11 will go on to successfully complete the requirements for the HSC and seek tertiary education opportunities. Whatever each student's goals are, I know that the next 18 months will be an enthralling journey for all participants.



Staff are currently issuing more BBBs (Bushy Boys Behaviour awards) than they have ever done before. This is a wonderful way to recognise student achievement and the upholding of the school's values of Safety, Learning and Respect. The BBBs are issued in the classroom as the first step to reward effort and application. The other end of the awards-spectrum at HBHS we find the Principal's Medal. At our presentation day in 2022, we were able to award a handful of Principal's Medals to students. These were the first medals awarded in several years. As a reminder, 30 BBBs equate to a Silver Award (as do 5 Bronze Awards), in turn 5 Silver Awards make a Gold Award and 2 Gold Awards result in a Principal's Medal. I remind students every week on assembly to accumulate awards and to see me when they have enough to receive the next award.



The year has started off well and I look forward to many, many more achievements by both staff and students in 2023.

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL REPORT

Miss Catherine Player

Years 7 & 10



Welcome back to our new Academic year for 2023. Whilst the playground looks like a construction zone with all the exciting new projects under way, the student's enthusiasm for learning and being back at school is amazing. The start of a new school year always has so much positive energy and excitement, with anticipation for a great year.

Welcome Year 7!

I would like to officially welcome Year 7, 2023 and their families to the Homebush Boys High School community. It's great to meet all the new students and share in their enthusiasm as they discover their new school and life in high school. We have five classes, each named after a famous poet. We have 7 Lawson, 7 Burns, 7 Wright, 7 Frost and 7 Patterson. All the students seem to be having fun getting to know each other and getting used to travelling to different classes each lesson. Still some settling in issues as students get used to the new routines of high school but so far, they all seem to be enjoying themselves.



On Wednesday 15 February, we took 101 Year 7 students and 9 Year 10 mentors to Tea Gardens Great Aussie Bush Camp. It was a great chance for students to get to know one another and learn new skills in resilience and teamwork. Student were divided into 4 teams with 2 mentors and had fun challenging themselves with the activities. Everything from a High ropes course and giant swing to Kayaking, fencing and archery. All the students had so much fun and were so supportive of each other. We all came back exhausted but with smiles on our faces from a fun and action-packed three days. Thank you to Ms Deo and Mr Bhai for organising such a great experience and to Mr Platania and Ms DiBiasi for all their hard work on Camp. We all had a great time.



Year 10

Year 10 start their final year of Stage 5. This is the year for them to consolidate their learning and start thinking about their future pathway. They will be selecting their subjects for Year 11 and 12 and starting to take on different leadership roles offered to them. It's important that students focus on their studies and set goals for themselves. It's important that they keep up-to-date with their work and take the opportunity to be involved in extra-curricular activities in and beyond the classroom to diversify their skills.

Many students recently took part in the Peer Support training program to enhance their leadership and teamwork skills. They had great fun, and we are proud of the amazing young men and future leaders they have become. A highlight of the training is a design and fashion parade teamwork activity. Students dress each other in a newspaper costume, and we have a fashion parade at the end. Some of the entries are shown below. I look forward to working with Year 10 and their Year Advisors, Misbah Khan and Sathya Kumaralingum, this year to support your sons.



Nine of our Peer Support Leaders also went on Camp with Year 7. Abeer Shaikh, Ridhwan Sikder, Naveen Jegendran, Niraj Goonasekera, Emre Boz, Anthony Sumadiredja, Jayden Quan, Nathan Yang and Dhananjay Vijaayan were an amazing group of young men that truly showed themselves to be strong leaders. The Camp trainers commented that they had never had a better group of leaders than these young men. Congratulations gentlemen, you have done yourselves and your school proud.



ENGLISH

Welcome to the start of a positive new school year. We are thrilled to share some positive news about the English faculty at our school.

The English faculty warmly welcomes Mr McDonald to the faculty. He will be looking after Ms Sahay's classes as she takes leave.

We are proud to announce that the English faculty has achieved some remarkable accomplishments over the past year including gaining outstanding results in HSC English courses. Our dedicated and passionate teachers have gone above and beyond to provide a meaningful education to our students.

Furthermore, the English faculty has continued to be involved in the school's extracurricular activities. Our teachers have provided guidance and support to our students who participate in the debate team, and other English-related clubs such as public speaking. This has helped our students to develop their skills and interests beyond the classroom and has created a strong sense of community among our English students.

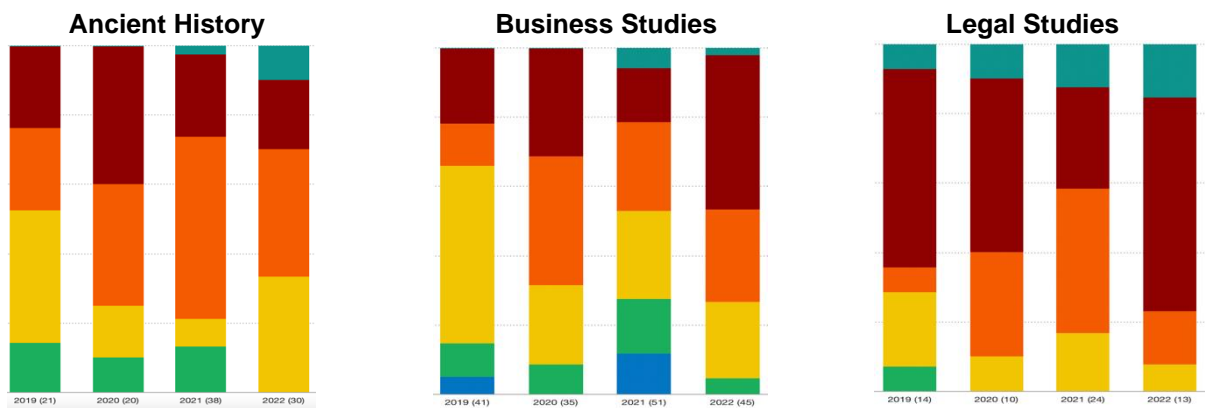
In conclusion, the English faculty at our school is a remarkable group of educators who are passionate about their subject and dedicated to their students. The English faculty will continue to include innovative learning approaches that allow students to engage with their learning. We are confident that this year will bring even more achievements and success, and we look forward to sharing these with our school community. Thank you for your continued support, and we wish you all the best for the year ahead!

HUMAN SOCIETY IN IT'S ENVIRONMENT

Term 1, 2023 the HSIE faculty has hit the ground running. I would like to welcome back the dedicated HSIE faculty who have been extremely busy preparing and programming for the new year. The faculty consists of Ms Lidia Budanovic, Ms Michelle Coutinho, Ms Phirum Duch, Mr Prakash Innasi, Mr Elie Kisso, Mr Pablo Morales and Ms Louise Symonds. I would also like to welcome two new staff members to our team this year Ms Melissa Gullifa and Mr Hamza Mahmood.

The year began with the HSIE faculty analysing the 2022 HSC results for our subjects: Ancient History, Business Studies, Economics, Extension History, Geography, Legal Studies, Modern History and Studies of Religion. The HSC results were outstanding for all our subjects and revealed strong value adding to the education of our students. Analysis of the results gives teachers the opportunity to evaluate current practices and discuss the implications for future practices.

Our subjects saw the highest growth in the top 3 bands 4-6 and a reduction in the lowest three bands 1-3. In Ancient History, the school achieved their highest results compared to the last three years, with three students receiving a Band 6 and 66% of the students achieving a band 4 or higher. Business Studies also achieve amazing results with 73% of the students receive a band 4 or higher. Economics results showed that over 76% of the students received a band 4 or higher. Geography has proven once again that dedication and a good work ethic can lead to enormous value adding with 100% of the students receiving a band 3 or higher. In Legal Studies, nine of the thirteen students achieved a personal best score, with 77% of students achieving a band 5 or higher. Modern History received two band 6's with 69% of the students achieving a band 4 or higher. Studies of Religion saw great growth in student learning with 100% of the students receiving a band 3 or higher.



Prefects

Krispy Kreme Donut Day

On top of the Christmas Hampers, our Prefect body also held its first fundraiser, Donut Day. Pre-orders began well before the main event and we managed to sell over 40 boxes in pre-sales. This was due to the diligent efforts of our Donut Team who tirelessly pre-sold donuts during recess and lunch. A special shout out to the HSIE staffroom who purchased the largest amount of pre-ordered donuts.

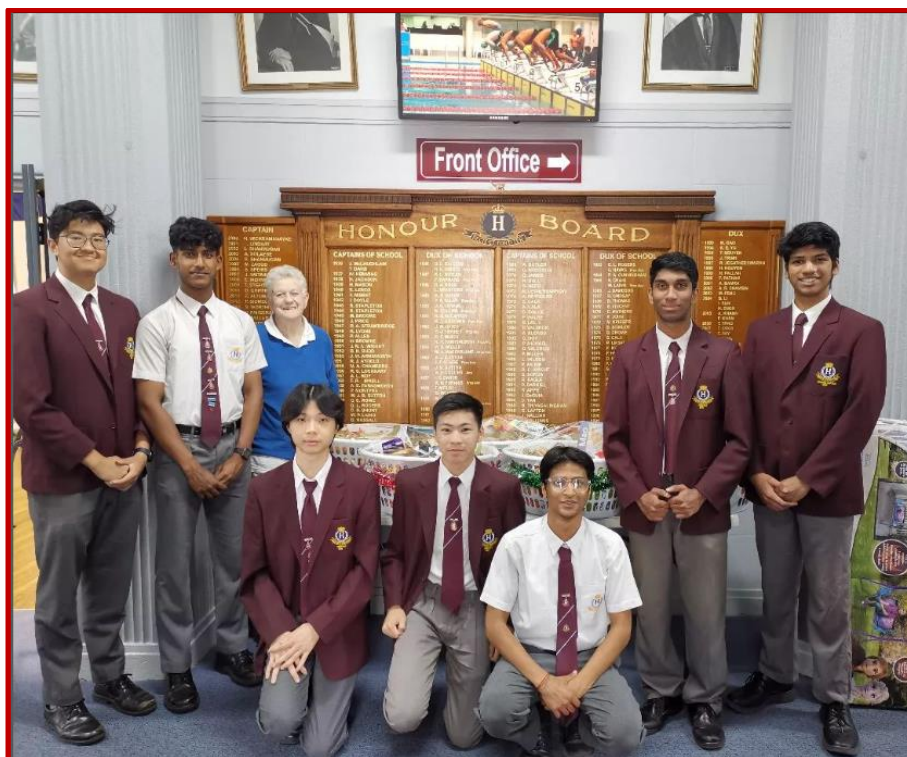
On the day, all our prefects worked together, in setting up, selling and distributing the donuts to all the students. Donut day proved to be a great success with all the boys coming out and helping our cause, leading to a \$600 profit,

and a great way to kickstart our tenure as the 2022/23 Prefect Body. Thank you to all the boys and staff who decided to open up their wallets and buy some donuts from us, and hopefully it is the start of many successful fundraisers for our prefect body.

Written by
Sameen Roka (Prefect)

Christmas Hamper [Term 4 2022]

After years of COVID disruptions, the Homebush Boys community was able to unite and celebrate the conclusion of another fantastic school year. In the essence of such celebrations, the Prefect Body envisioned the increased need to extend such festivities to those in need. As a result, a Christmas Hamper Drive was organised where students and teachers were encouraged to donate gifts and basic household items to struggling families in our community. Each cohort was designated a hamper basket in which they could donate any type of non-perishable gift. The Prefect Body as a whole demonstrated a high degree of excellence in their teamwork and collaboration to ensure the smooth operations of the Christmas Hamper Drive. It was a huge success with a large volume of donations collected for charity. However, the true success can be evidenced in the promotion of school spirit and the unity prevalent among all students during the drive. The Prefect Body would also like to extend their gratitude to the Prefect Coordinator Mrs Papas and Assistant Coordinator Miss Budanovic for their remarkable assistance and support during this event. All items were donated to the St Paul's Anglican Church which distributes to families in need.



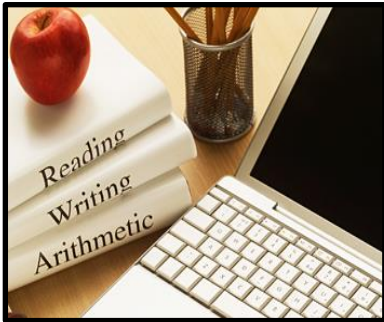
Written by
Venkat Mallemla (School Captain)

LITERACY

WELCOME BACK TO THE 2023 SCHOOL YEAR!



Year 7 Students



While still in primary school (in Year 6), most new Year 7 students were involved in the Best Start reading and numeracy on-line assessment. These results are now available to this school, and allow us to diagnose students' areas of strength and weakness.

These assessments do not generate reports to parents. However, any parents who would like to find out their son's results are invited to contact me, at the school (Tuesdays and Thursdays).

Year 7 & 9 Students

Year 7 & 9 students are preparing for the upcoming NAPLAN tests, which are earlier this year (15th – 27th March). This year, again, all NAPLAN tests will be on-line, so it is important that students be prepared for this. Information letters are being sent, to affected parents.

All Year 9 students are reminded to revise all literacy/numeracy homework quizzes which were completed in Semester 2 last year, and which are still available on the same Google Classroom platform. They are excellent preparation for the NAPLAN tests.

Year 10 Students

The NSW Educational Standards Authority (NESA) has stated that students need to achieve minimum literacy & numeracy standards in order to gain an HSC. This Term, in Week 7, **all Year 10 students will all need to sit for on-line tests (in reading, writing and numeracy), in order to demonstrate these standards.**

A letter has been sent, to provide more details to Year 10 parents.

All Students

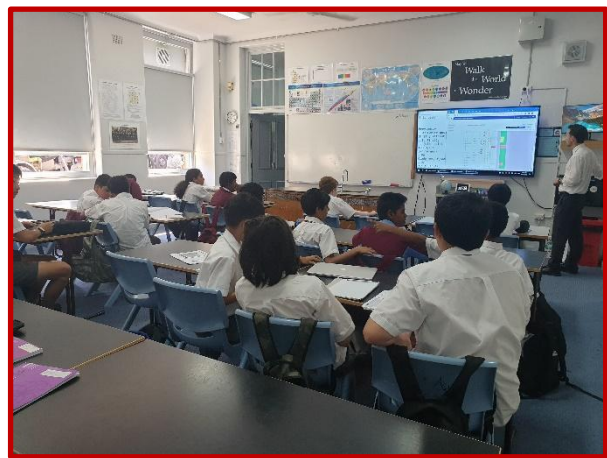


Homework Help has commenced, on Mondays and Tuesdays, after school for one hour in the library. Assistance, especially in literacy, is available at these times. Make use of this valuable time!

If there are further enquiries, please contact Mr Bawden (Literacy/numeracy Support) at the school (Tuesdays and Thursdays). Thank you to all parents for their support of their sons' literacy and numeracy skills!

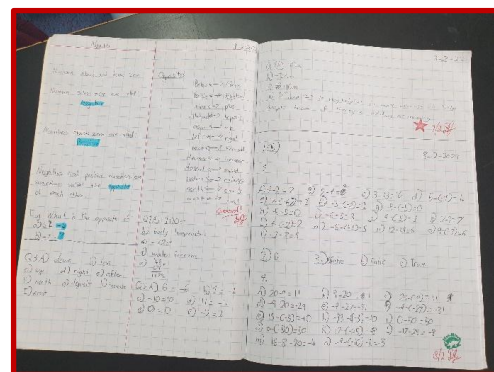
MATHEMATICS

The Mathematics faculty at Homebush Boys High School extends a warm welcome back to everyone as we return for another school year and a hearty greeting to the new Year 7 students joining us this year. We have no doubt it will be another year of continued excellence and growth. We look forward to another year filled with lots of learning, dotted with exciting and interesting events, such as the Australian Mathematics Competition, Inquisitive Minds, World of Maths Roadshow and so much more. We hope to continue to promote engagement and improvement in mathematical and logical thinking in all our students this year.



In the Mathematics classrooms, we maintain high expectations for our students' behaviour and standard of work, as consistent across the school. As we are halfway through Term 1, we wish to remind our students that consistent practice and being prepared for class with the necessary equipment are essential first steps for achieving excellence in Mathematics. They must dedicate themselves to completing their work in a timely manner and ensure that they are focused in class so they can maximise their progress in the classroom with the support of their teachers. Additionally, it will prove difficult for students to advance in their work if they lack the appropriate equipment. This includes their work book, their textbook (whether the online or hard copy), pens, pencils, rulers, a geometric set when required and, most importantly, their calculators. Therefore, they must remember to bring all their equipment to class. Their work books should also be kept in a neat and tidy condition with legible writing and clear diagrams, so they are able to refer back to it in the future.

We wish everyone a successful and enjoyable year ahead!



Mathematics Results

Mathematics students performed admirably in the 2022 Higher School Certificate. The breakdown was as follows:

- ❖ Band 6's
 - 1 in Mathematics Standard 2
 - 5 in Mathematics Advanced
- ❖ Band E4's
 - 6 in Mathematics Extension 1
 - 4 in Mathematics Extension 2

Moreover, each of the 14 students in Extension 2 Mathematics received a Notional Band 6. Congratulations to these boys on their excellent results!

Mathematics Puzzle

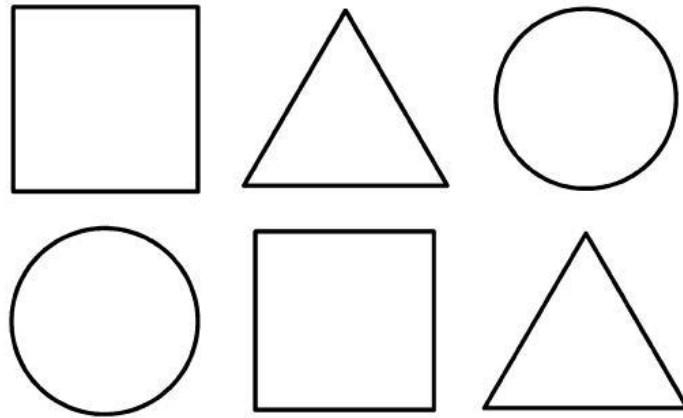
Mathematics is important because it strengthens our ability to think rationally. Numeracy equips us with the senses of quantity, calculation, estimation, space, statistics, and probability. We all use these senses every day to interact with the world around us.

One way to build numeracy is to attempt difficult problems. Allowing time to think deeply about a solution develops our numerical senses. Deep thought creates and strengthens connections within the brain, which improves cognitive function and mental health—so maths is good for you!

Try to strengthen your brain by attempting the following question! (The solution will be in the next edition of the Bush Bulletin.)

You are required to colour-in each shape below using red, yellow or blue, following the listed rules.

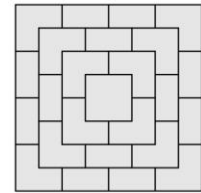
1. No triangles are red.
2. One of the squares is blue.
3. Each pair of similar shapes must be shaded different colours, so there cannot be 2 yellow triangles, or 2 blue squares.
4. There is one red shape in the middle column, and no red shapes in the left column.
5. There are no blue shapes next to each other.



(The answer to the question in the last Bush Bulletin is below.)

The surface area that can be seen by looking up from below the pyramid is that of $4 \times 4 = 16$ squares each measuring $1 \text{ m} \times 1 \text{ m}$. So the surface area of the base is 16 m^2 ,

The view looking down from above the pyramid is shown in the diagram. The surface area that can be seen is made up of a complete $1 \text{ m} \times 1 \text{ m}$ square, some three-quarter squares and some half squares. Without adding these up, we can see that the surface area is also 16 m^2 .



The view from each of the four sides is made up of a pyramid of 10 squares whose surface area is 10 m^2 .

Therefore, the total surface area is $2 \times 16 \text{ m}^2 + 4 \times 10 \text{ m}^2 = 72 \text{ m}^2$.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Students in our Support Unit have returned from the holidays eager to learn and have picked up from where they left off. With no new cohort this year (1 new student only), there was a strong sense of familiarity amongst everyone. This settled attitude has transferred into their learning in the classroom. The boys are enjoying their new classes and teachers in 2023.

Topics this term in English, Mathematics, Geography and Science include: Visual Literacy, Using Money, Sustainable Biomes and Energy. The boys have thoroughly enjoyed their cooking classes this term and have been practising Boccia in PDHPE, in readiness for the state knock-out competition next term. The practical lessons in the Science laboratories have continued this year, with a high level of student engagement. Thank you to Miss Stojanov, Mr Andrew and the Science faculty for ensuring students have high quality learning experiences at Homebush Boys High School. The boys love their Science lessons.

We have a new garden up and running this term thanks to the help from the amazing Environment Club and Bunnings Lidcombe. Miss Coutinho organised a group of students from the Environment Club to plant the vegetable and seeds from Bunnings. We have strawberries, eggplant, capsicum, onion, basil, thyme and tomatoes. Our aim is to use the fresh produce in cooking lessons across the school. Boys from the Support unit have been watering the plants during the week.

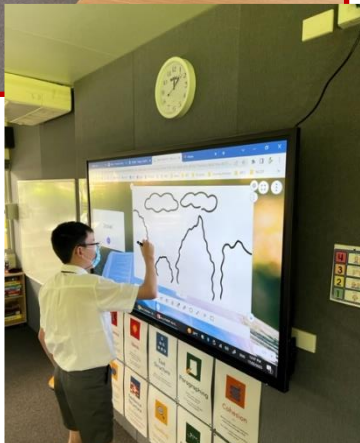
Last Friday we had our first Lego Club occur at lunchtime. A massive thank you to Miss Chapman, for volunteering her time every Friday and to Miss Abraham. We had 8 students participate and it was a success, according to staff and students. The boys worked on a STEAM kit, that allowed for multiple items to be built, with the instructions online and displayed on the board. Some students also enjoyed a creative free-play session. Students are looking forward to continuing their work this Friday.

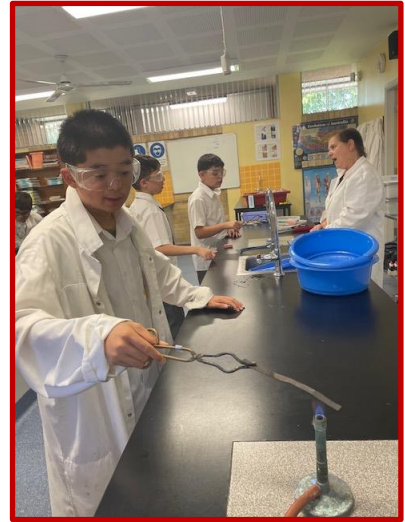
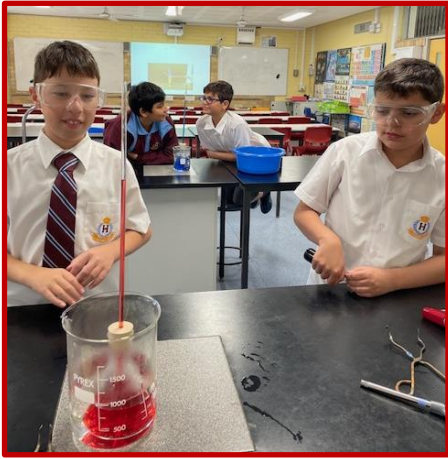
For Sport this term, we are continuing with tennis at Strathfield Sports Club every Wednesday. The boys have enjoyed the sessions and their travel via train to get there. It has been very hot each week so far! Next term, we may be trialling a new sport, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu. Thank you to Mr Thanabalasingam for your support in organising sport for the Support Unit!

Lastly, we continued our peer program with Strathfield South High School during Week 5. We went to Strathfield Park for a BBQ and games. We look forward to continuing our link between the students this year.

Thank you and bring on the Swimming and Athletics carnivals!







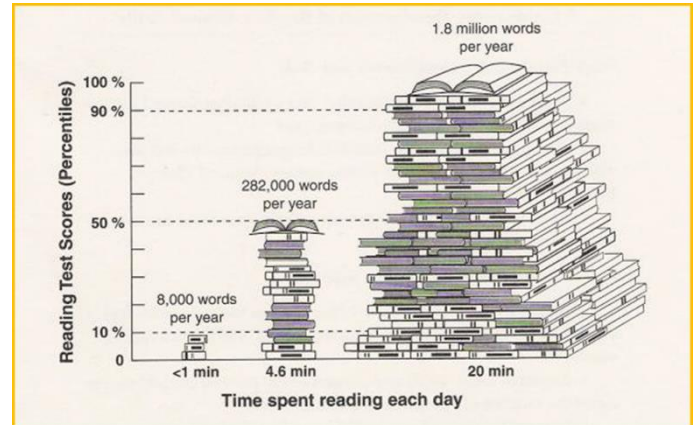
TEACHING & LEARNING

This term, our Years 7, 8 and 9 Literacy classes have been busily working on sentence structure, grammar, morphology and writing. Our Literacy teachers are Miss Jang, Miss Gullifa, Ms Abraham and Mrs Achmad.

Time spent reading each day is important for your son's reading growth. Regular exposure to reading improves academic background knowledge, vocabulary and spelling.

In Literacy periods once a fortnight, we are implementing a wide reading program called *Scholastic Literacy Pro* to motivate students to read regularly and support students to find the right book for their areas of interest. Students have been completing a reading level assessment to determine their Lexile reading level to allow their teachers to create personalised goals for their reading and comprehension. Our goal for each student is that for one

year of learning and application, there will be one year's growth in reading. Teachers and students will be able to track their progress throughout the year. It is very important that students read for at least 20 minutes each day. Research also shows there are academic and emotional benefits to reading aloud to your child and asking questions to gauge their understanding.



Students in 7LITP completing their Scholastic Literacy Pro reading assessment.

HOME BUSH BOYS HIGH SCHOOL

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NAPLAN 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is a point in time assessment of literacy and numeracy skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life. Each year students in Years 7 and 9 participate in tests for writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

From 2023, NAPLAN is moving to Term 1 and will take place from **Wednesday 15 March to Monday 27 March 2023**. The reason for this change is so that results can be returned to schools earlier in the year which will support teachers to understand the learning needs of their students and plan accordingly.

NAPLAN tests are just one part of our school learning assessment program and questions are primarily based on knowledge, understanding and skills gained from the prior year of schooling.

In preparation for NAPLAN 2023, our school will undertake activities to help students to become familiar with the format and functionality of the online tests. These activities are not an assessment of student ability and will not be marked.

Students and parents can access the [public demonstration site](#) to familiarise themselves with NAPLAN and the types of questions and tools available.

NAPLAN 2023 Information for parents and carers is attached. If you have any further questions about NAPLAN, please contact Leila Achmad on 9764 3611.

Resources include:

- [Public demonstration site](#)
- [NESA NAPLAN website](#)
- [NAP parent/carer support page](#)
- [Watch a video that explains tailored testing](#)

Yours sincerely

Kevin Elgood
Principal

L Achmad

Leila Achmad
Head Teacher Teaching & Learning



NSW Education Standards Authority

Information for parents and carers NAPLAN 2023



What is NAPLAN?

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) assesses the literacy and numeracy skills of students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Students participate in NAPLAN tests in writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

NAPLAN provides an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. The tests are just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process – it does not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance.

NAPLAN also provides schools and education authorities with information about how education programs are working and whether young Australians are achieving important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

The benefits of NAPLAN tests online

More precise results with an adaptive design: Tailored tests adapt to a student's performance and ask questions that match the student's achievement levels.

Better engagement: Research into online assessment indicates that students engage well with online tests as the questions are tailored to their achievement levels.

Tailored testing

Tailored testing provides a more precise assessment of a student's performance. Students at each year level start the tests with a similar set of questions. Depending on the number of questions they answer correctly, the next set of questions may be more, or less, difficult.

A student's NAPLAN result is based on both the amount and difficulty of questions the student answers correctly. A student who completes a more difficult set of questions is more likely to achieve a higher score.

Watch a video (3:06 length) to learn more about tailored testing: <https://youtu.be/oGFseJAM3Ew>

Supporting your child

The best approach for preparing your child for NAPLAN is to encourage your child to do the best they can on the day.

Excessive preparation or the use of coaching providers is not recommended.

Students can use the public demonstration site to practise the tools and type of questions they will experience in NAPLAN:

<https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site>

NAPLAN 2023 test window

From 2023, NAPLAN will be held in March. This change has been made so results can be returned to schools earlier in the year. This will support teachers to understand the learning needs of their students and allow them to plan accordingly.

NAPLAN test window: 15 – 27 March 2023.

The 9-day test window accommodates schools with fewer devices that require flexibility in scheduling.

What if my child was absent on the day of a scheduled NAPLAN test?

Where possible, schools may arrange catch-up tests for individual students who were absent on the day of a scheduled NAPLAN test.

All Year 3 writing catch-up tests must be completed by Friday 20 March 2023.

All other catch-up tests must be completed by Monday 27 March 2023.

COVID-19 advice

Parents should keep students at home if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

Your child's school will be required to conduct NAPLAN testing in accordance with the latest NSW Government COVID-19 advice.

Year 3 writing test

The Year 3 writing test is conducted on paper. All other Year 3 NAPLAN tests will be online.

Students' digital skills

The digital skills required to complete NAPLAN are skills that students use in everyday classroom activities.

Students do not need to be able to touch type to complete the test. The online test is not about keyboard skills (just as the paper test was not about handwriting skills).

Withdrawals and exemptions

You can withdraw your child from NAPLAN tests.

A student may be granted a formal exemption if they have:

- significant intellectual disability and/or students with significant comorbidity that severely limit their capacity to participate in the tests, or
- a language background other than English, arrived from overseas and have been attending school in Australia for less than a year before the test.

Contact your child's school for further information and to complete the parent/carer consent form.

Privacy

NESA is responsible for the collection of personal information from NSW schools to be used during NAPLAN testing and reporting.

All data collected for NAPLAN is managed in accordance with NSW and Federal privacy legislation described in NESA's privacy management plan, which can be found on the NESA website:

<https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/about/who-we-are/privacy/naplan-privacy>

Results

Parents/carers receive two reports showing their child's achievements in NAPLAN: the individual student report (ISR) and additional student report (ASR). The ISR and ASR should always be interpreted with care. Teachers will have the best insight into a child's educational progress.

Reports are dispatched to schools who then distribute the reports to parents/carers.

More information

For further NAPLAN information visit:
<https://nap.edu.au/naplan/for-parents-carers>

Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher in the first instance.

NSW Education Standards Authority NAPLAN team

Phone: 1300 119 556 or (02) 9367 8382

Email: naplan.nsw@nesa.nsw.edu.au

TECHNOLOGICAL AND APPLIED SCIENCE

I hope you enjoyed your summer holidays and started well in the new school year 2023.

We TAS staff are so delighted to welcome you to our amazing learning environment. We all welcome and value your positive energy and dedication to excellence in education, and we look forward to seeing all students engaged with their learning, working well in class and showing respect to all.

Our skilled and devoted staff are already planning and preparing for all students.

It is essential that students come equipped to ALL practical lessons, apply themselves and participate in the classroom learning.

To participate in practical lessons and attend the workshop, all students must wear a full school uniform with leather shoes.

Furthermore, we are expecting to see all students in class on time, prepared for your lessons, with your book, and / or practical equipment.

Treat students and teachers and your peers with respect and remember – you are responsible for your own actions.

All TAS subjects are having a very heavy practical component and they are incurring fees to cover the cost of consumables to be used in practical lessons. These fees, which are compulsory, need to be paid to the front office, as soon as possible.

Mr. Abbou
Rel. Head Teacher of TAS Faculty

My Experience with Electronics

In electronics this year, our teacher, Mr Madakasira introduced us to parallel and series circuits.

After explaining the difference between the circuits, he guided us on what we were building for this term and how to make it. But before we entered the workshop, we had to complete a booklet guiding us on operating the machines and being safe around them. The book explained the band saw and disk sander, just to name a few. To build the circuit, we had to use the saw to cut our boards in half, use the disk sander, hammer in nails, and of course, use the soldering iron.

To build the series and parallel circuit which was needed for the task we had to:

Using a scroll saw to cut the wood in half

Using a sander to sand the sides of the timber to keep it flat

Hammering nails into the timber (6 nails into the series circuit and 8 nails for the parallel circuit)

Installing the resistor, capacitor, dial, and lights into our two circuits

Using the soldering iron to melt the wires onto the nail to support the LEDS and ETWs.

Adding Electrical Transportation Wires (ETW) through the nails

Once we finished soldering and hammering, the last step was to test the finished products. If completed correctly, the lights on the circuit will light up with a bright light. Indicating the power is flowing through properly with the capacity of a 9 Volt battery. And the circuit worked just as how Mr Madakasira told us.

All in all, it was really fun and exciting, learning new skills and having fun in the workshop!

Linh Hoang
Year 9

Our class has been productive in IST. We have been doing various tasks which involve robots and coding. We have started coding with our Edison robot, which can do many different tasks that we ask it to. After that, we have continued coding with newer and better programs, such as EdScratch and EdPy. These can further push our limitations and really make our programs go beyond the more basic programs, such as moving forward. Not only have we been coding, but also doing thorough research on robots, and their different functions. Our class enjoys IST, and would love to do more in the future.

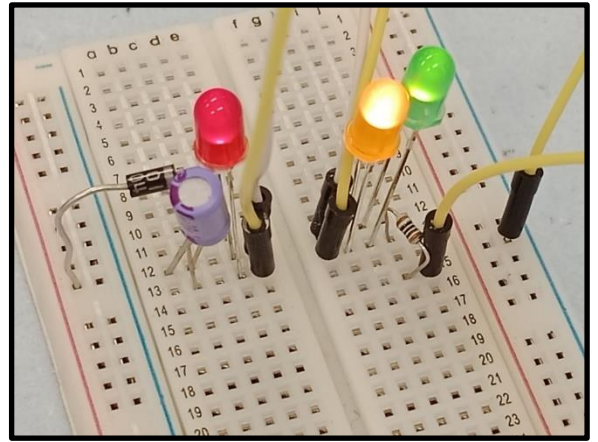
Aarush Chauhan
Year 9

The very first experience that I had in this year's electronics class was quite exciting because we had just finished doing the hee-haw siren with lights which I really liked and it was one of my favourite projects to do. I have been informed that I am doing a different type of project this year and when I started the project it was kind of different and I was happy to be learning new things from this term project. Where we will be doing railway crossing flashing lights. One of the things that I like about electronics is that even though I don't like being creative, it nevertheless helps me be creative and shows that being creative in many ways is a good thing. Sir, makes us, in every project, do the interior the same though he always tells you to make your own design on the outside which I like very much indeed. The best part of electronics is the practical though you have to do the theory where we have to always do it, where I don't like doing them, though I remind myself that by doing theory I can get a better understanding of what we are building and what are the components in it. This year so far has been going smoothly which I like and in electronics we are seeing more components and many other various things that are there. You can never stop in electronics when you think you have a grasp of the topic and the project. There will always be a more complicated and harder project to do next. These are the many reasons why I like doing electronics and my first experiences this year in electronics.

Jyothir Karamshetty
Year 10

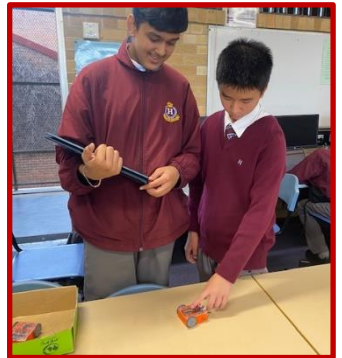
As of 2023, I have decided to select Industrial Technology Electronics as one of my subject selections for year 11 and potentially year 12. Electronics has piqued my interest with its electronic components, practical lessons and its relationship with computer technology in society. My expectations for electronics this year were to conduct several practical lessons on constructing electrical circuits and study about its components, properties and its role in commuting the digital world. The electronic experience so far has been a load of fun. Our electronics experience began with a revision on the safety in the electronics laboratory and the properties of machines, such as a disc sander, a band

saw, and a soldering iron. Additionally, we studied the two types of circuits, being series and parallel circuits, and constructed a mini model of these types of circuits on a breadboard. Shortly after, our first project was to assemble a 3-LED Chaser circuit which included the use of electrical components and workstations. So far, the practical lessons have been productive and appealing. I've been finding each session interesting and the content was understandable and straightforward. A planned excursion is also due to happen on the 1st March to Wavetronics where we're hoping to gain some insight to the electrical industry and note down some points for a later assignment due to happen. Overall, my electronics experience so far has been delightful and a great teaser for the year to come.



Christopher Khim
Year 11

Photos





WELFARE & LEARNING SUPPORT

Library

The library staff are excited to share the latest news about our school library and the resources available to our students.

The school library is an essential part of our school community, providing our students with access to a wide range of resources and opportunities to support their learning and personal growth.

We are pleased to announce that the school library has undergone some significant updates and improvements over the summer break. We have been expanding our collection of books, e-books, audiobooks, and other materials to include the latest and most relevant titles for our students. Our collection covers a wide range of genres and topics, from classic literature to contemporary fiction, and from science to history and social issues.

In addition to our expanded collection, we are continuing to advocate our digital platforms that allow our students to access and borrow e-books and audiobooks at anytime from anywhere. This platform has been specifically designed to cater to the needs of our busy high school students who may not have the time to visit the library during their busy schedules.

The library staff are always ready and available to provide support and guidance to our students. Our librarians are knowledgeable and experienced professionals who can help our students find the right resources and materials to support their learning and research needs.

Finally, we would like to remind our students of the importance of respecting and taking care of our school library. We kindly ask our students to return borrowed materials on time and in good condition, and to keep the library organized for the benefit of all students.

We hope that our students will take full advantage of the resources available at the school library and make it an integral part of their high school experience.

HOMEBUSH BOYS HIGH SCHOOL

PO Box 4159, HOMEBUSH SOUTH 2140
Telephone: 9764 3611 Fax: 9746 3614
Email: homebushbo-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
ABN: 18 246 198 266 CRICOS Provider 0058M



21 February 2023

Dear Parents & Caregivers

If your child is in **Year 7** or **Year 10** this year, you can now provide online consent for their routine school vaccinations. In Year 7, students are offered free vaccines for diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (dTpa) and human papillomavirus (HPV). In Year 10, students are offered the meningococcal ACWY vaccine.

Vaccination will only be provided at school if consent has been received.

How to provide consent:

1. To complete online consent for your child's school vaccinations, visit: <https://nswhealth.service-now.com/school>
2. Follow the steps to log in to your existing ServiceNSW account. This is the same account you may already use to renew your driver's licence. If you don't have a [ServiceNSW](#) account, refer to [ServiceNSW](#) to create one.
3. Update or confirm your personal details in ServiceNSW as required.
4. Complete the School Vaccination Consent Form for your child/ren. You will need to:
 - a) Enter your child's personal details
 - b) Provide the Medicare card details for you and your child
 - c) Read the [linked Parent Information Sheet and privacy statement](#)
 - d) Provide consent

If you or your child do not have a Medicare card, consent can still be provided by requesting a paper-based consent form directly from your child's school.

The benefits of providing consent online:

- easily update your child's details
- receive SMS and/or email notifications when vaccinations are given
- faster upload of vaccination records to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).

For more information on routine school vaccinations, please visit www.health.nsw.gov.au/schoolvaccination.

If you require information in your language, please visit www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/school_vaccination_language.aspx

Yours sincerely

Lisa Brien
Rel. HT Wellbeing/Learning Support

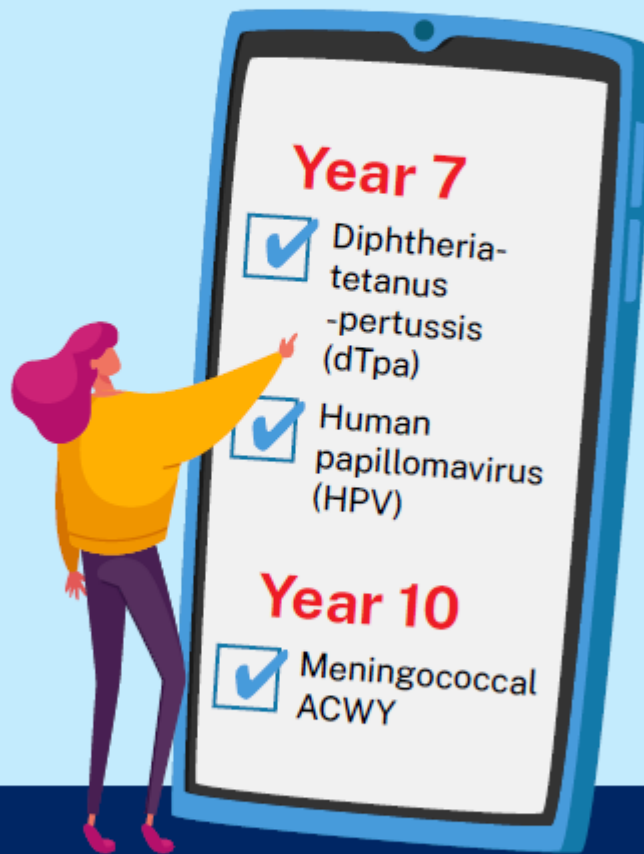
Kevin Elgood
Principal



Is your child in year 7 or year 10?



Provide your consent
for routine school
vaccinations online.



Scan the QR code to
give your consent now.



For more information visit
health.nsw.gov.au/schoolvaccination

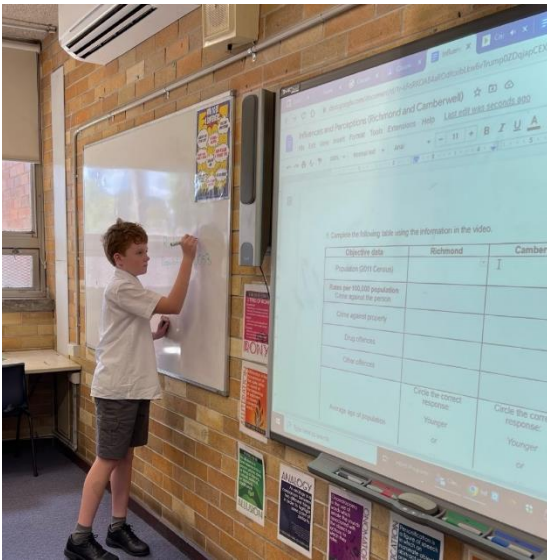
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SHPN (HP NSW) 220990.

NSW Health

YEAR ADVISOR REPORT

Ms Usha Deo

Year 7



2023 has been a great start for year 7's with the beginning three weeks as the transition phase. The transition phase enabled students to participate ensuring that all students get a taste of what it is to come for High school. This has given students a greater insight into the 21st century world of learning. Our hard-working staff developed lessons which focused on high levels of creativity and engagement. This has allowed relationship between students and staff to flourish. The eagerness was extremely evident and by the end of the week students had a fantastic experience transitioning into being a Bushy Boy. Based on the feedback received from Year 7 they thoroughly enjoyed the week and provided suggestions and improvements for future years. We would like to thank all those involved in making the week possible as without their hard work and dedication this would not be possible.

Students are supervised and provided with additional study support during lunch and recess. Liam Doyle during recess.

Year 7 Camp

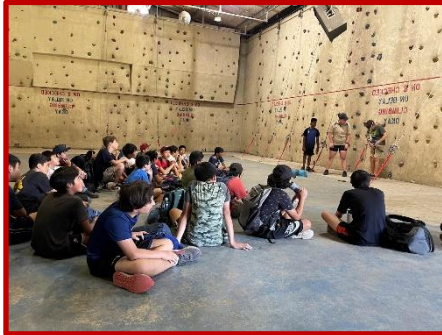
Year 7 students along with 9 Peer Support leaders and 5 staff members went for school camp at the Tea Gardens located at the Great Aussie Bush Camp. Students had an opportunity to learn independence and away-from-home skills. Students at the age of 12 -13 years often create a new sense of self-esteem and independence. Students acquired skills of problems-solving, collaboration, teamwork and leadership.



The three-day camp has allowed a holistic approach to learning with growth of positive relationship between peers', teachers, and instructors. There have many occasions in that time I have seen the students who excel at school actually find they are challenged and pushed into the stretch zone requiring resilience. Whilst on the flip side the student that has a hard time in the classroom thrives in the hands-on environment of camps and enabling them to earn a greater level of respect among their peers. School camps can help build self-esteem, especially for these students. Camps with a physical education component, such as bushwalking or kayaking, for example, can make students with 'hands-on' talents feel good about themselves and celebrate their own success. Plying their skills in a new environment contributed to twenty-first-century workforce skills such as planning, decision-making, communication, and teamwork.

I would to sincerely thank all parents/carers, teachers, peer support leaders and all year 7's students for your efforts towards this successful venture. Without all your teamwork this success would not be possible.

The pictures below validate more on different activities held during the camp.



Recte Et Fortiter - Upright and Strong
Safety | Learning | Respect

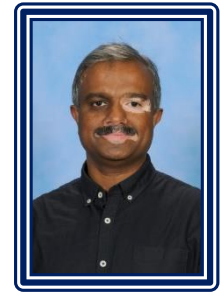




YEAR ADVISOR REPORT

Mr Sharon Jesu

Year 8



It seems like just yesterday when, back in February 2022 we welcomed our current cohort of Year 8 students to Year 7 at Homebush Boys High School. Fast forward to February 2023 and we find ourselves welcoming the same students to Year 8, a little bit taller and a little bit wiser. The students seemed rested, rejuvenated and ready to face another year of learning, friendships and fun. On the first day of school, a vast majority of students turned up at school proudly wearing their uniform which was pleasing to watch. By Weeks 2 and 3, classes were going 'full steam' as the Year 8s got stuck into their routines, attending classes, participating in sport, completing classwork and homework, having some fun during recess and lunch, and forming and establishing new friendships along the way.

There will be a whole-year assembly in Week 6 where all Year 8 students will get a chance to come together as a cohort to be introduced to the school counsellor, hear about the Year 8 writing strategy and other wellbeing programs that are being planned for them. Some students will also receive their Blue and Maroon awards which have been pending from 2022. Through the course of 2023, all Year 8 students are encouraged to actively participate in their lessons, engage enthusiastically in sport, and take part in whole-school activities and initiatives to contribute the rich culture of Homebush Boys High School.



YEAR ADVISOR REPORT

Mr Elie Kisso

Year 9



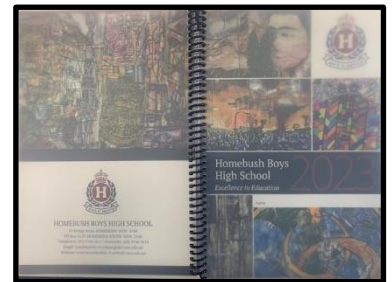
I would like to welcome you all back to a wonderful and exciting 2023 year ahead for our Year 9 cohort. It was fantastic to see so many of our Year 9 students come back to Homebush Boys High School with smiles on their faces ready for all the new challenges they will face this year.

Year 9 is a fantastic year as we look forward to all the wonderful opportunities planned ahead. It is also the first time for all our students to engage in TWO elective subjects of their choice. This is the first time where students get a taste of choosing subjects they have specific interests in. It is a fantastic opportunity for all our students to engage in subjects they have a particular interest in.

I hope all students enjoy the electives they have chosen as I am sure they have chosen them for reasons of interest and intrigue. Good luck for the year ahead as you will also be carrying these elective subjects with you into Year 10 2024.

School Diaries

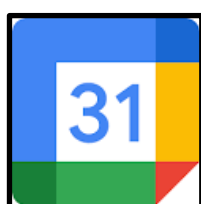
Each year our students receive a copy of their school diaries. It is a great opportunity to improve upon your organisational skills as a way to write down homework and assessment tasks so you are able to keep on top of all your work. If you are yet to receive a school diary please come and see Mr Kisso in the HSIE staffroom and I will be able to organise one for you.



Other Digital Organisation Tools

If for some reason you do not find the school diary as a helpful tool there are other organisers you could use such as:

- Google Calendar
- Microsoft To Do



Closing remark

To all Year 9's please keep your eyes open this year for all the opportunities available.

Raise your hand up and do not be shy to express your interest!

We will be organising a few leadership opportunities in Term 1 and 2.

- Sydney Thunder Leadership Workshop
- Rugby League in Harmony Workshop
- UTS - S.T.E.M Workshop
- MANY MORE!



YEAR ADVISOR REPORT

Miss Misbah Khan

Year 10



It has been an incredible start to 2023 for our fabulous Year 10 cohort. Students return on Wednesday the 1st of February with big smiles and were eager to step back into the classrooms for the first time this year. It has been pleasing to see that our boys have been displaying mature behaviour both inside and out of the classroom. This term we have already seen some exciting events happening for Year 10, so read on for more!

Peer Support

On the 9th and 10th of February (Thursday and Friday), our Year 10s were given the choice to participate in the Peer Support training program if they were interested in becoming Peer leaders for our 2023 Year 7s. We had roughly 60 volunteers partake in the two-day program, where students were given the opportunity to involve themselves in a variety of activities regarding the topics of leadership, interactions, communication styles, empathy, decision making and problem solving and much more.

The students enjoyed themselves thoroughly and even ended the training with a fashion parade! We hope they took away some valuable skills which they may then utilise in any leadership roles they take on.



Minimum Standards

During Week 7, all of Year 10 will be participating in the Year 10 minimum standards Literacy and Numeracy assessments. In preparation for their assessments Mr. Martyn Bawden spoke with the cohort about the requirements of all the examinations and shared some useful tips in preparation for the exams.



YEAR ADVISOR REPORT

Ms Michelle Coutinho

Year 11



Welcome back to all students! I hope everyone has a great holiday. The first few weeks of term have been quite exciting for Year 11 as they are now in their elective subjects which they chose at the end of last year. Final changes have been made this past week so all boys have settled and are enjoying their new electives.

Our first year assembly is on Thursday 23rd of February, where we will hear from the new school counsellor, Jessica De Bono-McClure and Student Support Officer, Lauren DiBiasi. They will both talk to the boys about transitioning into Year 11 and managing study as well as their mental health. At the assembly, we will also be handing out all Blue and Maroon Awards from 2022. This cohort has always held the record for the most Blue and Maroon awards in any year group and I can confidently say they didn't disappoint again this time around! I feel so proud to see so many boys putting in effort and just trying their best across all subjects.

BLACKDOG INSTITUTE

Future Proofing Study Results



**Black Dog
Institute**



As I have written about over the past few years, a group of boys in Year 11 have been participating in the Future Proofing Study by the Blackdog Institute. They have recently released some data on some of the findings which I thought I would share.

A little bit about the study - In 2019, the Black Dog Institute launched the Future Proofing Study, now one of Australia's largest and most comprehensive cohort studies of adolescent mental health. The Future Proofing Study advances knowledge about the risk and protective factors associated with the onset and development of adolescent depression, anxiety, and other mental health conditions.

The findings are shared widely to inform healthcare and education policies and shape how mental health programs are designed and delivered for young Australians. A total of 6,388 high school students from 134 Australian schools are participating, with cohort demographics representative of the Australian adolescent population. Participating students complete annual questionnaires covering various topics, including mental health, wellbeing, quality of life, resilience, sleep, schooling, peer relationships, bullying, technology use, early life experiences, and puberty. They commence the study in Year 8 (mean age 13.9 years) and continue to be followed up annually at school for 5 years.

Sleep and Mental Health

We know that quality sleep is crucial for optimal physical and mental functioning. Research suggests that teenagers should aim for 8-10 hours of sleep each night. In Year 8, our students fell short of this, sleeping on average 7 hours and 45 minutes each night, with 17% of students reporting less than 6 hours of sleep each night. The data also found

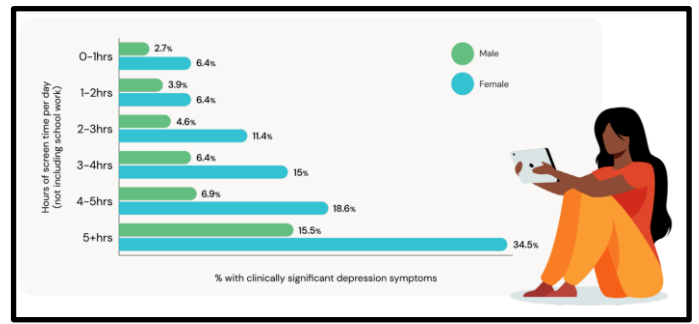
a clear link between sleep problems and mental health. Compared to students without sleep problems, students with insomnia were:

- 6 times more likely to have high depression symptoms
- 4 times more likely to have high anxiety symptoms

Screen Time and Depression

Screen time and symptoms of depression were closely linked, with more screen time being associated with higher rates of depression in adolescents. They tested a range of hypotheses to try and understand what explains the stronger link between screen time and depression in females, including:

- Increased cyberbullying
- Detrimental impacts on sleep
- Negative self-evaluation from using social media
- Displacement of in-person social support networks



Environment Club

The Environment Club is back in action and it was great to see so many boys attend our first meeting. We have changed our weekly meetings to Tuesday's at lunch time. We have over thirty Year 11 members in the club and we would love for some more junior students to get on board also. All students are welcome to come along and get involved in some great initiatives. The boys have already helped out in the Support Unit this term where they helped with create a garden and planted some herbs and flowers.



YEAR ADVISOR REPORT

Ms Rashmi Singh

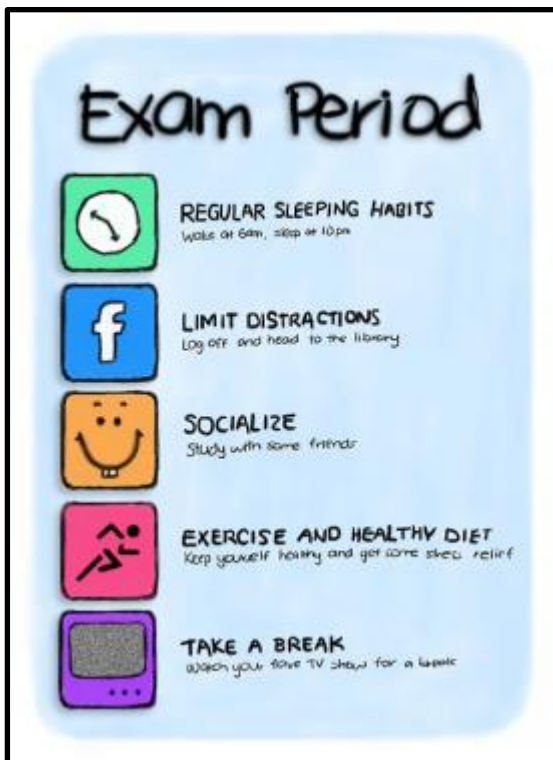
Year 12



The cohort of year 12 has settled well into their new, exciting, and equally challenging year of HSC. The students had received their assessment booklets with the schedules and the weightage the last year in term 4, so they are well aware of the expectations.

This year they received their Year 11 and 12 study package that contained a yearly term planner and simple strategies to keep stress at bay during the terms 1, 2 and 3. They are also very lucky to have Student Support Officer, Ms L DiBiasi, who has generously agreed to conduct mindful meditation program sessions during the roll call and the “Study HSC without stress” program, during the sport time on Wednesdays. The response from the students to enrol in the “Study HSC without stress” program has been positive indicating the dedication and self-determination of the cohort.

In week 7 and week 8, the cohort will be writing their half-yearly assessment tasks. On behalf of the Year deputy principal Ms J Dalamagas, Assistant Year adviser Ms Kaur and the teachers, I convey best wishes to everyone.



“We do not need magic to change the world. We carry all the powers inside ourselves already. We all have the power to imagine better and to do better.”

- JK Rowling

SPORTS REPORT

Mr Suthangan Thanabalasingam

With Ultimate Frisbee being a newly introduced sport, the overall season was a fun opportunity to close off our final summer season. This sport has not only allowed us to learn and develop new skills, but it has furthered our knowledge of teamwork and communication that is vital to the victories of this sport. We managed to finish 4th place which is a commendable achievement given that this sport was one that nobody had ever played before. We as a team would like to thank Ms Chapman and Mr Wilson for the brilliant coaching and hope to see Homebush partake in further competitions for this sport.



Abishek Karnan
First Grade Ultimate Frisbee



STUDENT SUPPORT OFFICER REPORT

Ms Lauren Di Biasi

YEAR 7 CAMP!! What an absolute blast I had being with the Year 7 camp last week. I saw some incredible bravery (braver than I), from students who went from "I'm not doing that" to jumping off a log in an attempt to grab a trapeze!



So many of the activities highlighted teamwork and companionship. I thoroughly enjoyed the three days and want to thank not only the staff who attended with me, but the amazing Peer Support Leaders I had in my group. They may have slightly burnt their Damper but their ability to lead and help the Year 7 students was spectacular.



In other news coffee club has re-opened! The Kitchen has had a fabulous renovation and Mr Burke was the lucky first customer of 2023. Coffee Club really is an excellent initiative for students to learn skills in customer service and business management. I encourage students interested in joining to come see myself and/or Mrs Anton.

There are many great Wellbeing initiatives on their way in 2023 and I look forward to supporting the students continue to be the best possible version of themselves.



Our school is transitioning all student financial operations to a new software package implemented by School Bytes. You should be already receiving statements and messages through School Bytes and now you will be able to make payments through a Parent Portal which should be more efficient and easier to use.

This transition will occur from Thursday 2 March 2023 and be completed on Monday 6 March 2023. During this transition period, the office will not be able to accept any payments online or in person until Tuesday 7 March 2023. We appreciate your patience during this transition period and will send additional correspondence with a step by step guide on how to set up your Parent Portal.

Symphonia Jubilate
in 2023!

Symphonia Jubilate runs orchestral and recorder ensembles for public school students in Years 3 - 12. Rehearsals are held three times a term on Saturday afternoons (4-6:15pm) at Homebush West Public School.

We welcome all interested students who are learning to play violin, viola, cello, double bass, flute, clarinet, saxophone, oboe, trumpet, trombone, french horn, tuba/euphonium/baritone, percussion and recorder. There are no auditions.

• Primo Orchestra High school orchestral players	• Secondo Orchestra Primary school orchestral players
• Flauto Dolce Recorder Ensemble 1	• Pizzicato Primary school beginner strings

Enrolment online at:
www.symphoniajubilate.com

All Enquiries
Margaret Coote | Orchestra Manager
mob: 0438 100 554

NSW Education

* All rehearsals and concerts will be in compliance with ongoing Department of Education COVID-19 health and safety advice, including use of appropriate physical distancing, enhanced cleaning and hygiene and any special conditions required for performing arts activities.