Principal’s Message

UN delegation for Sarah O'Dowd

Sarah O'Dowd, vice-captain for 2015, has recently been awarded a “once-in-a-lifetime journey beyond my wildest dreams” to the Middle East, as part of a United Nations youth delegation.

Following a rigorous selection process, twelve students from around the nation were selected to visit Dubai, Amman, Petra and Jerusalem in January 2015 to foster greater understanding of a complex and tumultuous region, in a search for deeper knowledge and awareness.

An astute and passionate student, Sarah has a thirst for global and community issues. Her desire to learn more widely, to experience other cultures and to take on such difficult issues is inspiring.

Sarah has written an article about her dreams for this project and is included in this edition of Drawbridge.
Electro Magnetic Radiation (EMR) Committee
Following from the very successful EMR forum held earlier this month, the EMR Committee - comprised of some very insightful minds from the P and C and wider community - is embarking on an important next-phase: working with the school to find preventative strategies to maintain health and well-being, in an increasingly technological world.

The committee will be coordinating the development of some “short, sharp and punchy” posters to alert students and teachers to good practice in the use of technology. As well, I have given in-principle support for an investigation into the use of switches in each classroom and office, allowing wifi to be turned off if a room is not in use. Investigations into the viability, cost and logistics of such an undertaking are currently being explored.

It makes sense. Just as we turn off cooling and heating when a room is not in use, because we want to live in a sustainable world and save money on electricity, turning off wifi as a preventative strategy to live more cautiously and more sustainably (as well as, possibly, more safely) is a good idea.

P and C – what a year
We had our last P and C meeting this month, so it is timely to reflect on the work of this very focused and committed group. They have been doing some wonderful things. They run two businesses for the school – the uniform shop and canteen – and have done spectacularly well with both this year. Under the leadership of Jo Sutherland (very funny and very accommodating), the canteen is brimming with new and enthusiastic staff (many of whom are volunteers, doing a terrific job), a revised healthy and delicious menu, a new herb and vegetable garden, a lot of homemade cooking (the Thursday mini-quiches are sensational) and the new on-line ordering system. These innovations show us that community spirit, good leadership and dedication are essential for positive change.

Can I thank all of the canteen staff for their wonderful work.

The uniform shop at Castle Hill High School is an institution with the wonderful Margaret Pritchard at the helm. Margaret and her team of volunteers run a very successful shop, where service and organisation are priorities so that parents can be accommodated at all times. With the introduction of a new jacket next year for the winter months, in response to requests for warmer clothing items, they continue to find solutions to a complex process of clothing over 1400 students.

Anne-Maree Kinley, President of the P and C, is the driving force behind all of this. She is to be congratulated, again, for her enormous efforts. The P and C executive, too, are a terrific group who always want to accommodate the school’s wishes in finding solutions to better meet the needs of students.

Can I thank all of them for their outstanding work.

Kokoda – the journey begins
Callum Oldfield and Chandla Serret, Year 12 students who have just completed their HSC, will depart for the Kokoda Track in the coming days for a landmark leadership program involving a gruelling ten day trek. Chandla and Callum will be joined by twelve other local school-leavers who have been mentored by community and business leaders including former Prime Minister John Howard, Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove and former Westpac CEO Gail Kelly. This has been an initiative of our previous local member, Mr Dominic Perrotet, and one that the school has been very happy to support.

We wish both of these fine students the very best.
Library – some big changes
Students have now been using the new furniture recently purchased for the library as part of our plan to renovate, lighten and open up this important facility. The new furniture reflects changing needs, fashions and a desire for more flexibility in public spaces. The installation of portable booths, “snake seats”, high tables with accompanying bar stools for laptops and seats all decorated in textured, colourful fabric bring new life to the library. Student response has been very positive with one senior saying: “Studying is now so much more enjoyable”. High praise, indeed.
Can I thank Ms Kathryn Davis, our librarian, for taking the lead with this.

Resilience – a timely requirement
Recently, no doubt, you have become aware of tragic incidents involving school students who took their own lives. Such tragedies are unthinkable, inexplicable and traumatic. Is it any wonder we don’t speak about them.
Our thoughts certainly go out to the bereaved in our local community.

All we can do is to learn more, help more and find solutions to prevent suicide.
Activities to promote happiness, well-being and resilience are at the forefront of our new program to begin next year. Ms Helen Preketes has been appointed as Head Teacher Resilience in 2015 to undertake a fresh approach to building resilient and happy students. I will keep you posted on this important initiative.
What’s better than Art Express?
We are very pleased to announce that Sharon Chun’s HSC visual arts major work has been accepted into Art Express, the highly prestigious program where selected and excellent art pieces are displayed at a number of galleries, for public viewing. Sharon continues the long tradition of students from this school who are selected into this program.

But, this year for the first time, Sharon’s work has been purchased by the Department of Education to hang in The Wilkins Gallery at Bridge St, Sydney. This is where only exceptional pieces are kept for perpetuity. The collection at Bridge Street is inspiring. Sharon joins a very elite group who have contributed so much to public education.
Library Refurbishment
CHHS Canteen
Online Ordering is here!

Castle Hill High School has now introduced a great new online ordering system for the canteen called FlexiSchools. This system allows parents, students and staff to place orders from home, work or school at any time. The payment is also done online, so there are no paper bags and cash to deal with. As well as being convenient for parents, the online orders are much faster and easier for the canteen to process — so it makes everyone’s life a little easier. The online menu price is the same price as the usual menu, however there is a small fee per order (25c) to help pay for labels, bags and the website system.

Getting online is easy and only takes a few minutes to register and FlexiSchools provide a great help desk on 1300 361 769, or you can contact them via their website.

The system operates via a pre-paid account, so you no longer have to worry about the manual process of sending payments into school, and you can easily budget your student’s spending. Top up will incur a small fee but there are a variety of payment options, including Visa, Mastercard (25c fee), Paypal (35c fee) and Bank Transfer (free).

If you have any questions about the online services we are introducing, please ask at the canteen for more information.
Tel: 9634 1188  email: chhspe.canteen@gmail.com

- Fresh, healthy, homemade food
- Fast, convenient and free to register
- Order before 9.30 am for that day
- Skip the queue at lunchtime
- Order exactly what you want
- Use your mobile device to place an order
- Removes need for paper ordering and cash
- Each student can have own access to parent account & parent can set spend limits
- Set flexischools as desktop icon for easier access

EASY, ONLINE REGISTRATION
- Go to www.flexischools.com.au
- Click REGISTER NOW
- Enter your email
- You will be emailed a link to an online form - follow the link
- Choose a username and password and complete the form
- Add each student and their class
- Top-up the account - VISA or Mastercard preferred.

Save time and order online with flexischools!

www.flexischools.com.au
UNIFORM SHOP TERM 4
OPENING HOURS:
8:15am — 11:30am
Mondays and Fridays

UNIFORM SHOP TERM 1 2015
SPECIAL OPEN HOURS 2015:
9:30am — 12:00pm
Wednesday 21 January, 2015
Thursday 22 January, 2015
Friday 23 January, 2015

WEEK 1, TERM 1 OPEN HOURS
Tuesday 27 January 8:00am—12:00pm
Wednesday 28 January 8:15am—11:30am
Thursday 29 January 8:15am 1—1:30am
Friday 30 January 8:15am—11:30am

TERM 1 2015 REGULAR OPENING HOURS WEEKS 2 — 10:
MONDAY & FRIDAY: 8:15 —1 1:30AM

Blue and Grey shorts are now available, and there are plenty of shirts in stock in all sizes!

Senior Uniform Price List
Girls:
Check skirts $65
Sizes 2-22
Boys:
Blue shorts $40
Sizes 76-107
Blue long trousers $50
Sizes 76—102

Junior Uniform Prices
Girls
Summer Dresses $65
Sizes 2—22
Boys
Shorts $30
Sizes 12—2XL

As a school we are very lucky to have a uniform shop run by the P&C and volunteers. By purchasing items from the uniform shop, parents and students ensure the profits go back into the school and its facilities.

SPECIAL REMINDER: Parents with children entering Year 7 in 2015, our lovely Uniform Shop Manager, Mrs Pritchard, and her team of volunteers will be happy to help with fitting your son or daughter in the correct clothing.
Earlier this year, I found out through the UN Youth website about the UN Youth Middle East Experience. This trip was like someone had put together all of my interests and passions into one, once-in-a-lifetime journey beyond my wildest dreams; as a premier, two week immersion trip that takes twelve students to Dubai, Amman, Petra and Jerusalem in January 2015. The Experience would foster a first-hand understanding of the work towards and realities of creating a contemporary peace in such a complex, controversial region. In doing so, the Experience would engage and confer with a variety of organizations, from community grassroots all the way up to government officials to provide an unparalleled, multilateral perspective of the Middle East.

Whilst I’d always had an interest in volunteering and organizations focused on international aid and development, I was never sure where to even start getting involved. The well known institutions were pretty intimidating in their prestige. I’d ‘like’ some relevant Facebook pages, scope out the news, but never really thought that I stood much of a chance at being accepted. However, with some encouragement from an incredible support system at school, I knew I couldn’t let this opportunity go by without giving it a shot.

As it turns out, getting involved was easy – all I had to do was just go for it. The written application was rigorous, involving questions about myself, my leadership qualities, my strengths and weaknesses, my opinions about what I saw as the critical issues in the Middle East today and how I believed peace could be achieved. As it happened, the combination of my Modern History coursework, boundless curiosity concerning the region (that would only be satisfied through learning more, and more, and more…) and genuine passion for the trip and what it meant to me, my community and the future paid off, and I was shortlisted with about forty other students for a Skype interview.

I didn't think it was possible to improve upon, but the support from school only multiplied. I had Mr Warren offering interview tips, Mr Wright loaning me the HSC Modern History textbook on the Arab Israeli conflict and staying after school with me to check that my knowledge of the region was sound and my classmates unwavering conviction that I could pull this interview off, to support me. The interview was daunting, but somehow I pulled it off, and on 24 August I got the call that I had been accepted on the trip. The feeling was phenomenal, and is probably one of the best moments of my life.

If I thought applying was intimidating, the other students accepted on the Experience were on another level entirely. We have champion debaters, published writers, poverty activists and even, eclectically enough, the fastest under eighteen male 100m sprinter in New South Wales amongst us. As both the youngest and most inexperienced of the group, I felt a bit out of my depth, but they proved to be incredible people – eloquent, knowledgeable and above all, truly passionate. They were extraordinarily welcoming, too. "UN Youth is kind of incestuous," a girl from the trip joked. "Once you get involved, you're involved in everything UN Youth offers."

That proved to be a prophetic sentiment; after being accepted on the Experience, I've already been involved in a UN Youth Diplomats Forum, and am looking forward to many more similar events. I strongly encourage anyone with a similar passion to pursue it – it might seem impossible (I still sometimes can't believe I was actually accepted), but it is achievable. This is especially true with the support network present at Castle Hill High School, who went above and beyond to help me and even pledged $1000 to sponsor me for the trip's cost, which I am grateful for beyond words. It's been close to three months since I received the good news, and I still struggle to articulate just how thrilled and fundamentally blown away I am by this huge opportunity. This trip is almost undoubtedly going to change my life, and I can't wait to experience it and bring what I learn back to share.

Sarah O'Dowd
Vice Captain
NSW Constitutional Convention

Annabelle Roux (Year 11) was selected to attend the NSW Constitutional Convention on 10 November to discuss the topic “Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous Australians”. This is her report on the Convention day.

Mr L Williams
Year 11 Advisor

Upon arrival at Parliament House we were given a tour and taken to the chambers where the members of state discuss and hold debates. This is where we were fortunate enough to have the opportunity to listen to two highly experienced, note-worthy and engaging guest speakers. The two speakers gave lectures about the origins of the constitution and how it has shaped our political and social history. They also emphasised the fact that we have the potential and the capabilities to ensure justice prevails in a strong and united Australian future.

We were then allowed time for questions and discussion with the students around us. It was an amazing experience to be in a room with one hundred kids who had come from all over NSW (some had even flown to the convention) who had a shared interest in the law and a common desire to be a part of the future reforms that will hopefully increase the sense of unity among Australians.

We were divided into groups of about ten to discuss the proposed changes and the pre-amble to the constitution. This was a fantastic opportunity to voice my ideas and opinions that were received both in agreement and respectful opposition. It was great to get some varied perspectives and also to brainstorm with likeminded peers.

The acknowledgement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders is an issue that has been debated and poorly handled for many years. It has only been recently that it has been recognised as the fundamental and historically over-looked subject that it is.

The NSW Constitutional Convention was an unforgettable experience that has inspired a sense of responsibility as a member of the next generation of active Australian citizens, to always maintain a keen interest and participation in the shaping of our nation’s justice system.

Annabelle Roux

Parliament House Sydney
Students in Year 12 English Studies are currently studying the mandatory module ‘We are Australian’. This course involves looking at diverse groups and communities within Australia as well as looking at various significant events in Australian history.

As part of this course, the students complete an assessment task that requires them to interview an elderly Australian about their life, their views on being an Australian citizen and how these may have changed during their lifetime based on their experiences.

To assist students with this assessment, they went on a visit to the Mowll Village Nursing Home at Castle Hill, where students were assigned a resident to interview and write a report about for this task. Questions and interview techniques were discussed and planned in class to assist students who were initially nervous about the day.

Students interviewed a range of residents. Nola, a 93 year old resident spoke to Jamie-Lee Allami and Kristen Glibo about how she worked for ‘Readers Digest’ for most of her life. Joan, another resident was a school teacher and told Monique Jones and Taylah-Belle Calvi about how different things were today to when she taught in schools. Farooq Ayub, Ben Taylor and Christian Lawson interviewed Pauline who was 96 and showed the boys her husband’s war medals. Jake Sullivan and Sharni Costello interviewed a 92 year old resident named Ken who told them they story of how he met his wife and how he was a navigator in the RAAF during the Second World War.

Overall, the students thoroughly enjoyed the excursion and felt that it was an invaluable experience that they would not likely have again. The residents enjoyed it so much they asked us to stay for lunch! I was so proud of their conduct on the day and they were outstanding representatives of our school. Well done English Studies students.

Miss A. Kenworthy.
On Monday 10 November we travelled up to Glenbrook to play in the 15 Years Girls Water Polo Gala Day.

We had a team of mixed experience, with one regional player, several school players from Term 1, and half a dozen who had never played before.

We played five games.

1. Defeated Kingswood 6 - 4
2. Defeated Nepean 13 -1
3. Defeated Blaxland 4 -3
4. Lost to Hills Sports 1 -7
5. Defeated Winmalee 2 -0

Each girl put in a great effort, even against some aggro opposition. The ball was shared around, and everyone had a chance to show their skills.

Rebekah and Maiya led by example, Shannon was superb in goals.

We won every game but one, against the team that were regional champions on the day. Hills Sports will go to the State Carnival in December.

Sydney West Regional Runners Up!

Well done, girls!!

T. Gainey - coach

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**OPEN GIRLS WATER POLO 2014**

**Final standings:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hills Sports</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Castle Hill</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Blaxland</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Winmalee</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Kingswood</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Nepean</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Our goal scorers were:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Goals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rebekah</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maiya</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breanna</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shannon</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ana</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Team:**

Maiya Arthur, Breanna Brock, Ana Bujak, Ciel Chang, Emily Clark, Jayme Cline, Kumiko Delaney, Shantelle Low, Taylor Pedler, Rebekah Sefton, Shannon Williams.
## CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 9 B</th>
<th>Monday 1 December</th>
<th>Year 10 History Excursion - Canberra</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tuesday 2 December</td>
<td>Year 10 History Excursion - Canberra</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|              | Wednesday 3 December| Orientation Day  
|              |                   | Celebration Assembly Years 7 -10 |
|              | Thursday 4 December| Scripture Seminar – Year 7 |
|              | Friday 5 December | Year 11 Yearly Examinations  
|              |                   | Year 10 PASS Surfing Z line |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 10A</th>
<th>Monday 8 December</th>
<th>Year 7 Sports Gala Day at CHHS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tuesday 9 December</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|              | Wednesday 10 December| Presentation Night – 7pm  
|              |                   | Castle Hill RSL Auditorium |
|              | Thursday 11 December| Drama Festival Rehearsal Day  
|              |                   | Year 11 Geography Excursion |
|              | Friday 12 December | Drama Festival |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 11B</th>
<th>Monday 15 December</th>
<th>Year 11 Modern History Excursion to Canberra</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|              | Tuesday 16 December| Year 11 Modern History Excursion to Canberra  
|              |                   | Year 10 PASS Surfing Excursion  
|              |                   | Concert band Carols at Towers 12 noon  
|              |                   | Science Olympiad Years 7-10 |
|              | Wednesday 17 December| HSC Exam results available on line  
|              |                   | Assembly Years 7-10  
|              |                   | Last day for students |
|              | Thursday 18 December| School Development day  
|              |                   | Year 12 BBQ 10.30am |
|              | Friday 19 December | School Development Day  
|              |                   | Last Day for Teachers & Staff |
CASTLE HILL COMMUNITY NEWS AND ADVERTISING

Disclaimer: Advertisements placed in the school’s Fortnightly Newsletter do not reflect an endorsement or otherwise by Castle Hill High School of that product or service.

BRENNAN DRIVING SCHOOL
CLASS C
006937
0418 465 932

17 Mulheron Ave Baulkham Hills 2153
For discount prices see www.brennandrivingschool.net.au

Twilight Markets
Kellyville High School
Friday 28th November 2014
6pm - 9pm Stalls, Food & Entertainment

SUMMER FEST
THURSDAY 4TH DECEMBER
4pm - 8pm

Rouse Hill Town Centre
Near Bus Bay Area (Market Lane, Rouse Hill)

RIDES
Gladiator Ring / Gladiator Gauntlet.

COMPS
Street dance comp (6.30-7.30pm)
Wil coms (5.30-6.30pm)
please register your interest for the street dance comp by sending an email to mangawexevents@outlook.com or 1845 on direct 303 751
Free workshop by the NRL

FREE FOOD & DRINKS
Free BBQ Sausage sizzle & drinks
GREAT PRIZES

THURSDAY 22 JANUARY | 4.30 to 5.30pm

FREE SESSIONS

TERM 1 STARTS THURSDAY 5 FEBRUARY

FOR MORE INFO & BOOKING
CALL 96549903 OR VISIT WWW.HILLSYOGA.NET.AU
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1 hr free Safety lesson. For a limited time we offer SPECIAL PRICE $40 Per hour Driving Lesson in the nominated suburbs mentioned in the AABEEDAR Website. Must book 2 hours each session. Please visit our website:

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