Principal’s Message

Teacher Award for Mr Peter Kerrigan

On Wednesday March 19, I will attend Castle Hill Rotary’s annual teaching awards. Mr Peter Kerrigan is being honoured with a Rotary Excellence in Teaching Award. He, his wife Michelle, together with some colleagues including Mr Ross Warren and I will attend a dinner to celebrate this wonderful achievement.
Peter Kerrigan
Nomination for Rotary Excellence in Teaching Award

Mr Peter Kerrigan is an outstanding educator who is widely recognised as a teacher who makes a difference to the lives and learning of students. So significant are his skills and so widely regarded is he that he is often called upon by other schools and educational institutions to mentor and guide teachers in alternative ways to engage students in learning, in particular with reference to a new program he has developed for senior boys.

Currently, as Head Teacher Teaching and Learning at Castle Hill High School, Peter’s prime role is to mentor boys in the senior years so that their HSC grades are maximised and that boys who have been underperforming reach their potential, and beyond. Peter has developed a unique program that has been part of the school’s landscape for four years. The significant improvements in HSC performance for boys have been startling. For example, in 2009 prior to the commencement of Peter’s mentoring program, only 15% of students who received an ATAR over 90 were boys. After the introduction of the program, for four years, boys have consistently performed very well at the higher levels as the following data shows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage of boys compared with girls over 90 ATAR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These figures show significant improvement at the HSC but what is even more important is that the program builds skills that last for life for boys. Peter’s program focuses on organisation, goal setting, resilience, rising to a challenge and working in teams. Peter’s program is a very personalised one. Each of the boys is interviewed fortnightly to monitor progress, assess achievement in terms of goals, discuss solutions to problems and determine options for future progress. Teamwork is built through teams of four working together over the course of the HSC. Boys in each team “look out for one another”, share assessment strategies, monitor the health and well-being of their members and help one another when the “going gets tough”. It’s also a program that uses competition between the teams to inject fun but also to appeal to another way that boys learn and grow.

The program is highly evaluated by students, parents and teachers and is unique to Castle Hill High School.

It is because of Peter Kerrigan’s vision, passion and work ethic that the program is so successful. It truly makes a difference.
Lions Youth of the Year

Congratulations go to Dakota Harkins, our 2014 entrant in the Lions Youth of the Year, who recently participated in the second round of competition having successfully won the first round some weeks ago where, along with other candidates, she gave a prepared and impromptu speech and was interviewed on general knowledge issues by three Lions members. This is quite a gruelling process. As always, Dakota performed confidently, speaking with conviction and purpose on the issues around the disposable era in which we live.

Adieu and bon voyage

One of the great advantages of having a vibrant Languages Faculty in a school is the opportunity for students to travel and study overseas. Annually, our languages staff coordinate overseas study tours, alternating between France and Japan. Coordinating such events includes, as you would expect, enormous risk management, planning and detail. Imagine the logistics in organising an overseas trip for around 30 for three weeks. It takes skill and patience. Our staff are to be commended on these attributes - that they have in bucket loads!

In two weeks’ time, Ms Donna Wood, Head Teacher Languages, and Mr John Wright, Head Teacher Secondary Studies, will farewell us to take some very excited students to Paris and then to Nice, in the south of France, for three weeks. Students will have homestay accommodation for a number of days, staying with families in our sister school just outside Nice and while in Paris will stay in a hotel very close to the Louvre.

What an opportunity to take in the sights, the culture and language of one of the most beautiful countries in the world. This will be one of the memorable school activities, if not lifetime activities, for all participants.

Vicki Brewer
On 19, 20 and 21 February, Year 7 along with some amazing teachers from our school went on Year 7 Camp. We were very excited about going. We arrived at school very early on the Wednesday morning and got on the buses for our three hour travel to The Great Aussie Bush Camp. When we arrived we unpacked the bus, went to our cabins and met our group leaders. We played games and then had lunch. It was extremely hot and muggy but this didn’t stop us being excited about what was to come.

Some of the activities we did on camp included The Giant Swing, Team Challenge, raft building, leap of faith, canoeing and vertical challenge but the best of all was mud world. Kiara Costello was really scared of heights but still gave everything a go. Nicholas Stinson had a great attitude all camp and was the first in the group to do the nine meter leap of faith. Jinug Kim was so enthusiastic and hilarious on the giant swing when he screamed the whole ride.

Mr Jephtha and Mr Watson had a little too much fun in mud world. Their job was to splash all Year 7 as they completed the activities. Everyone that wore white ended up with brown clothes to take home. We showered after but still found mud everywhere in the following days. Night time activities included Commando and games night. During the commando activity, the teachers hid in the bushes and we had to find hostages without being caught. They were extremely good at scaring us and even pulled a prank on us about a missing student.

Games night was also great fun. We played lots of team games and at the end, one of the camp leaders, Jay, treated us to a fire twirling show which was amazing.

Overall we had a great time at camp. We would like to thank the amazing teachers and Miss Kenworthy for being there to support us and for making our camp experience memorable.

By Reece McCahon, Matias Medina, Alicia McGarry, Tahlia Milton and Rohan Mathew.
**Canteen News**

A reminder to everyone in the school – students, staff and support staff – that you are welcome to purchase from the canteen. We do try to cater for everyone, even those with special dietary requirements.

A big thank you to the parent, who called last week with feedback on our gluten free foods. (For those of you who don’t know, we do provide gluten free foods, on an order only basis, for those who require it).

We are now, once again fully stocked with delicious gluten free pies and breads etc from “Choices Bakery” so come along and place your orders!!

The Canteen also has a big selection of vegetarian foods. Sandwiches, wraps, sushi, rice paper rolls, hot spinach and ricotta rolls, vegie burgers, lots of vegetarian choices!!!!

If any parents are interested in suggesting any other foods for the canteen, please don’t hesitate to call (9634 1188) between 8am and 2pm or call the co-ordinator directly on 0434 892 807. We are always keen to get new ideas and discuss any suggestions you any have.

Joanna Sutherland
Canteen
Co-ordinator
JUNIOR GIRLS WINTER UNIFORM
All stock is available.

Royal Blue Skirt  Sizes 1-22 $65.00
Girls Blouses  Sizes 8G- 14G $40.00
Regular Blouses  Sizes 6-22 $40.00
Tab Tie  $  5.00

JUNIOR BOYS UNIFORM

Grey Shorts  Sizes 12-XXL $30.00
Grey Long Trousers Sizes 12-XXL $35.00

Poly Wool Jumpers  All Sizes $70.00-$75.00
Poly Cotton Jumpers  All Sizes $70.00

OPENING HOURS TERM 1
Monday and Friday  8.15am – 11.30am

OPENING HOURS TERM 2

Week 1
Monday 28 April 8am—11.30am
Tuesday 29 April 8.15am—11.30am
Friday 2 May 8.15am—11.30am

Weeks 2-9
Monday and Friday 8.15am—11.30am
# FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

Published and distributed by email to parents each Friday fortnight during school term

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>CALENDAR EVENT TERM 1 WEEK 9B</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>CALENDAR EVENT TERM 1 WEEK 10A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Monday 24 March 2014 | • ENCORE-Sydney Opera House  
• Sydney Dance Workshop                                                                 | Monday 31 March 2014 | • Year 12 Half Yearly Examinations  
• Macquarie Uni Careers Lunchtime Visit  
• School Cross Country                                                                       |
| Tuesday 25 March 2014 | • Year 10 Work Experience Workshop                                                                 | Tuesday 1 April 2014 | • Year 12 Half Yearly Examinations  
• Year 10 Work Experience Workshop                                                                 |
| Wednesday 26 March 2014 | • P C House Meetings  
• Assembly Years 7, 8 &10– Hall  
• Year 9 Year Meeting –Gym  
• Year 11 Ancient History  
• Open Girls Basketball 1am Gym                                                                  | Wednesday 2 April 2014 | • Year 12 Half Yearly Examinations  
• French Tour Departs  
• Celebration Assembly Years 7-12                                                                     |
| Thursday 27 March 2014 | • School Athletics Carnival—Blacktown International Arena                                                                 | Thursday 3 April 2014 | • Year 12 Half Yearly Examinations  
• Year 9 PASS Bronze Medallion Testing—all day                                                     |
| Friday 28 March 2014 | • Year 10 Scripture Seminar  
• Year 7 Vaccinations  
• Year 9 Boys Vaccinations                                                                            | Friday 4 April 2014 | • Year 12 Half Yearly Examinations  
• Year 8 Geography Excursion  
• Peer Support Session—Sess 2                                                                         |

## Upcoming Examinations

- **Year 12 Half Yearly Continued**  

- **Year 11 Half Yearly -Optional**  

- **Year 8 Half Yearly**  

Next P & C Meeting 21 May 2014 – 7.30pm Common Room
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.

Are you a musician or dancer who would like to try something a bit different? Would you like to march in the ANZAC Day march in the city?

The Golden Kangaroos are looking to increase their membership in the marching band and are looking for people interested in joining the Auxiliary Corps (Dancers and flag bearers), Drum Corps or as wind musicians. Now is a great time to join the band as the focus is on the basics of marching in preparation for the big ANZAC Day March in the city. Once the thrill of marching in such a special event in front of tens of thousands of spectators has subsided the band then focuses on more complex routines in preparation for Spring, when most engagements requiring routines occur.

The Golden Kangaroos Hornsby Concert Band consists of a beginner band, intermediate and senior concert bands, a marching band, a stage (jazz) band and a number of smaller ensembles and welcome musicians of all levels and ages.

For more information visit www.gks.org.au or contact the band at membership@goldenkangaroos.org.au or on 9868 3289

BRENNAN DRIVING SCHOOL
CLASS C
Lic. 006937
0418 465 932

17 Mulheron Ave Baulkham Hills 2153
For discount prices see
www.brennandrivingschool.net.au
Wednesday, 16 April 2014 | 6pm

REBELLION ROOM, CASTLE GRAND COMMUNITY CENTRE
[Limited parking – Underneath the community centre]

COST $12 per group (up four) RSVP www.streetwise2014.eventbrite.com.au

Julianne Bridges, Surviving Driving, explains – WHAT IS THE ISSUE WITH YOUNG DRIVERS?

NSW POLICE look at local motor vehicle statistics, local black spots and local pubs.
– Senior Const. Jason Roughley

Claudia and Robert McEwen, family of recent ONE PUNCH victim Michael McEwen speak – How it changed their lives and The WAKE UP Foundation.

Emergency services perspective from SURVIVAL FIRST RESPONSE
– Steven Johnson