

BILLABONG HIGHLIGHTS



Monday 27th November 2017 Term 4 Week 8A



Principal

Senior Biology Class

Next week will be the final P&C Meeting for the year, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all P&C members for their commitment and participation in 2017 – particularly Mark Leov for filling the role of president. The P&C meets eight times a year and meetings are open to all parents and citizens of our school community. Each meeting is a completely open forum where any issues can be raised and the Principal or Deputy Principal are always in attendance to help answer or clarify anything. The P&C does not make school decisions, but it is a very valuable forum in which to get an indication of parent and community feedback. Alternatively, parents can always contact the school directly, and have queries answered by school staff, including the Deputy Principal and Principal.

A recent question has been raised about school sport, and there has been a good deal of misinformation in some public forums within our community. I would like to reinforce that school sport has not been banned, nor has inter-school sport or sport for senior students been banned. The very idea of

these things being 'banned' is outrageous, and categorically incorrect. NSW Public Schools, including Billabong High School, actively promote participation in a range of sports, and the pursuit of a healthy lifestyle. As well as compulsory Wednesday afternoon sport; compulsory PDHPE; school cross country, athletics and swimming carnivals; each year the school decides which inter-school sports competitions to enter. In deciding this, the overall curriculum and school resources need to be considered, particularly the time and staff needed to support sports competitions, and all other initiatives.

For 2018 the BHS executive team decided that an appropriate balance of sport was to have a senior/opens team and a junior/U15s team in a knockout competition for each sport that had enough student and staff interest. We agreed to support all CHSSA (Combined High Schools Sporting Association) sports as a priority over locally run competitions, meaning that our teams have the chance to win a state championship if they are good enough. As there is only one CHS competition offered for Boys Australian Rules Football, we



Year 8 Japanese

have supplemented this in 2018 by entering a second boys team in a non-CHS competition, and entering junior and senior girls teams in non-CHS competitions. This means a total of two boys and two girls teams will be entered, rather than having four boys teams entered, as was done in the past. For boys cricket, CHS offers the Davidson Shield for seniors, so there was no reason to double-up and enter the locally run Rixon Cup for seniors. So for 2018 the options are Davidson Shield for senior boys and Milliken Cup for juniors.

For 2018 we are also structuring Wednesday afternoon sport so that representative teams can train during that time, allowing our teams to improve their skills and to participate more genuinely in inter-school sport competitions. Clearly, sport has not been 'banned' at Billabong High School – in fact, by increasing training we will have higher quality, safer sport, and could expect even better performance than in the past. If students, parents or community members would like further clarification, they are asked to please contact the school directly.

I will be on long service leave for the rest of the year and Ms Julie Bowen will be relieving

as Principal. Ms Jobe will be Deputy Principal and Mrs Fenwick will relieve as Head Teacher English. I look forward to returning in 2018 and continuing our journey towards improved student learning outcomes at Billabong High School.

Mr K. Wawzkowicz
Principal

Relieving Principal's Report The Compressed Model

We have completed a full cycle of the new timetable, I am happy to report we have had a successful transition to our new school year. I have been impressed with how quickly our students have adjusted to their promotion to the next grade and have embraced the new challenges that have been presented to them.

Billabong High School has delivered the curriculum using the compressed model for the past four years and it is time for an evaluation. Before the end of Term, a survey of parents will be conducted seeking feedback. Students and staff will also be surveyed and early next year an evening forum will be held to provide another opportunity for input from our school community. The evaluation will involve an analysis as to whether the compressed delivery



Year 9 Maths

model has achieved its purpose and whether it meets the needs of our school, and is aligned with the school's current vision. It is anticipated that the evaluation will be completed by Week 5 of Term 1. All members of our school community are welcome to contribute to the discussion.

Year 9 Excursion

Our Year 9 students leave on Wednesday for their Melbourne excursion for what should be a wonderful experience. They will be involved in many adventures including; visiting Melbourne Goal, The National Sports Museum and Melbourne Zoo to name a few. I wish to thank Mrs Ferguson for her ongoing organisation of our overnight excursions, her thoroughness and commitment to detail ensures our major excursions are conducted in a seamless manner. I also remind students that they are representing our school during this time.

Bring Your Own Device Policy

Throughout Term 3 and 4 significant time has been allocated to the development of the 2018-2020 School Plan. Technology has been identified as an area where we would like to allocate increased resources. You will notice that within this newsletter is a document outlining the specifications recommended if you are purchasing a computer for school use.

The implementation of the BYOD policy in 2018 will mean students are able to use their own devices in class. Much work needs to be done in preparation and we will keep parents informed as we work our way through the process.

Community Use Agreements

Most recently we have added two more Community Use Agreements to our list, and now have a variety of activities taking place on the grounds outside of school hours. These include cricket on the weekend, personal training/fitness classes in the school hall and a yoga class each Tuesday evening starting at 6pm in the AV Room. Our school is very much part of our local community and I am pleased that we can provide a venue to encourage and support community use.

Mr Wawzkowicz has taken Long Service Leave for the rest of the Term. I will relieve as Principal, Ms Jobe as Deputy Principal and Mrs Fenwick as Head Teacher English. I regard it as a privilege to lead our school and look forward to a productive and positive end to the school year. I value teamwork and believe the best outcomes for students are achieved when we work together.

Julie Bowen
Relieving Principal

Calendar

29th Nov - 1st Dec

Year 9 Melbourne Excursion

1st December

Come and Try Bocchia Day

5th December

Year 6 Orientation Day

12th December

Presentation Evening

15th December

Final day of school for students

Canteen Roster

Tuesday 28th November

Sandra Muller

Wednesday 29th November

Gemma Damschke

Thursday 30th November

Help needed

Friday 1st December

Christine Parker

Monday 4th December

Help needed

Schools Spectacular 2017

Schools Spectacular 2017, was an amazing, once in a lifetime experience and I encourage everyone to get involved at least once, even if singing or dancing isn't for you, it will be an experience you will never forget

During this trip, I have had the opportunity to represent Billabong High School at a State level and sing for many featured artists, along with 2,699 other voices that made up the choir.

This year the event took place at the Qudos Bank Arena. The cast consisted of 44 featured artists, a full orchestra, around 2,700 dancers, all trained and talented performers.

There were four shows each running for three hours, involving many props, lights and special effects.

Although exhausting, I have had the pleasure of working with other wonderful students who have turned into friends, and performing for more than 10,000 people.

If you wish to check out this years School Spectacular, the show will be broadcast nationally on 16 December on Channel 7 at 7pm.

I encourage all to watch.

Margaret Jamieson

Year 12 Textiles and Design



Year 12 Textiles & Design Major Works

Year 12 Textiles & Design Major Works are on display in the foyer this week for any parents or friends who would like to see them.

School Spectacular 2017

