

# BILLABONG HIGHLIGHTS

Monday 25 November 2019 Term 4 Week 7A



## Principal's Report

## School Spectacular

In last week's newsletter I discussed our focus on ensuring our school is a respectful and positive space for students, staff and visitors. This week we have included in this newsletter a copy of the 'Behaviour code for students' in NSW public schools. It is a one page document that clearly outlines expectations and actions surrounding behaviour. These expectations are derived directly from broader Australian and NSW community expectations about what is considered appropriate behaviour and the role of a school in supporting that. Some points are very clearly made in this document. Firstly, it states some fundamental principles about the position of NSW public schools, in that it is a "high priority" that we "are committed to providing safe, supportive and responsive learning environments for everyone". It also reinforces that NSW public schools "teach...the behaviours we value in our students", so it is expected that we as a school play a role in teaching and supporting our students to meet certain

behaviours and values. Of course parents have a primary role to play in teaching and modelling behaviours, and it makes sense that we work in partnership to achieve this, but a school aligns its expected behaviours with established societal norms, and with the 'behaviour code' document. On some occasions a parent may not agree with a school value, or even with an Australian state or federal law, but our mandate as a school is that we meet societal requirements – not always individual parent wishes. Parents and teachers alike share a common aim in supporting students in achieving expected behaviours. One of the key strategies in achieving this, whether a young person is 2 or 15 years old, is to encourage young people to "take personal responsibility for behaviour and actions". Taking responsibility and ownership of behaviour and actions teaches a very basic lesson – that of cause and effect: "If I do this, then THIS will (or may) happen". Learning that lesson as early (and as often) as possible allows young people to own



## Billabong Highlights



### Peer Support Camp

their actions, reflect on their actions, learn from their actions, and to modify behaviour for the future. This stands young people in good stead to be responsible adults.

An alternative to taking responsibility is for young people (or parents) to “blame shift”. This is where someone does not take responsibility for his/her actions, and instead diverts attention elsewhere. “My son would never do/say that”, “It wasn’t my fault”, “What about the others?”, “He started it!”, “That teacher has it in for my kid!” While for some people it may be a natural reaction to vigorously defend or “protect” a young person from consequences, if this is done over-zealously it can easily send the wrong message to a student. There is a real risk that by not taking responsibility, the young person will not go through the most valuable part of the process: owning, reflecting, and learning, in order to modify the behaviour.

For some students and parents it is tempting to try to become the “referee” in school matters. The last paragraph of the

behaviour code relates to this in that it clearly articulates that “the principal and school staff...are best placed to maintain discipline”. Within the context of established policies and frameworks, “the NSW Government and the Department of Education will back the authority and judgement of principals and school staff at the local level.” Please be assured that we administer this responsibility with a professional approach and with the best interests of our young people very firmly in mind. We thank our school community and parents for working in partnership with our school to raise our young people as responsible and accountable citizens. If parents have any questions about the behaviour code for students, please contact the school directly.

Kurt Wawzkowicz  
Principal

### Schools Spectacular

During week 6, Tine Read and I attended the Schools Spectacular at Olympic Park in Sydney.

On Tuesday we travelled to Sydney and got comfortable in our accommodation. On





### CHS Cricket

Wednesday, we had our first rehearsal at the Sports Hall at Qudos Bank Arena. Thursday we had our full dress rehearsal in the arena. Friday we had two performances, one day performance and one night performance and they were fantastic. On Saturday we also had two performances, a matinee and a night performance which were amazing. At the end of our time in Sydney we were both very tired. Both Tine and I are so very happy to have had an awesome experience that we will remember for the rest of our lives. We would like to thank Mr and Mrs Preston for all that they have done to get us to the Schools Spectacular this year, along with my Mum and Dad and Tine's Mum for supporting us while we were there.

Bianca Ulett

### CHS Cricket

Our Years 7 and 8 cricket team played at home against Murray High School in the first round of the Milliken Cup knockout. The team battled through 40 degree heat and strong winds to come out victors as they move onto the next round. Top performers

for the day were Jordan Klemke (31) and Mitchell Turner (15) with the bat and Brodie Lieschke (2 for 6), Mitchell Way and Angus White who both took 2 for 10 with the ball.

The game was played in great spirits and the team is to be commended for their attitude and sportsmanship in such difficult conditions.

### Peer Support Camp

On 20 and 21 November, 31 interested Year 10 students attended the Peer Support Camp at The Great Aussie Holiday Resort. Throughout the two days, students worked in small groups aimed at training them to be Peer Support leaders in 2020. A variety of activities ranging from communication, decision-making, problem solving, and assertiveness were conducted. Students also participated in some team building sessions like raft-building and trivia.

These students will now get a taste of being leaders at the upcoming transition day next week. A big thank you to their Year Advisors, Mr Eccleston and Mrs Terlich, for attending the camp and making it a lot of fun. Thank you also to Mrs Squire for her organisation of the camp and Peer Support Program



## Calendar

**Wednesday 27 - Friday 29 November 2019**

Year 9 Excursion

**Thursday 28 November 2019**

Year 10 Lovebites

**Tuesday 3 December 2019**

Year 6-7 Orientation Day

**Thursday 5 December 2019**

Year 10 Formal Dance

**Tuesday 17 December 2019**

Presentation Evening

**Wednesday 18 December 2019**

Final day of Term 4

## Peer Support Action



The SRC raised over \$500 to donate towards Rural Aid by cooking burgers. The students also dressed up in bright colours for a gold coin donation.

