**From the Principal**

Welcome back to the final term for 2014. The Higher School Certificate has begun in earnest and we wish all the candidates all the very best for the exams and their future, whatever that may be.

I wish to congratulate Mr Brown and all the staff who put in a magnificent effort to ensure the Year 12 Graduation went without a hitch and to the highest possible standards. The evening was a great success and I’m sure the students and parents will remember the night as a very positive experience. It will be the last one held at school, as student numbers in each year require a much bigger venue than our hall.

**Selective High School applications for 2016:** A reminder to parents with children in Year 5 at primary school that Selective High School applications are now open until 17th November. Students must apply in Year 5 and sit the test in Year 6 to enter a Selective or Partially Selective High School in Year 7, 2016. From this year, all applications are online only, no paper applications are available. If you or family friends would like the information concerning this process, it is available from Bonnyrigg High or your child’s primary school. Please contact us if you need assistance.

The National Curriculum Review is out and just 270 pages in length!!! A better and much shorter way to find out what the future holds is by going to and getting the Executive point summary, page version, see: The Conversation [http://theconversation.com/national-curriculum-review-experts-respond-26913](http://theconversation.com/national-curriculum-review-experts-respond-26913)

It will soon be ‘End of Year’ exam time. In preparation for Years 7 to 10 exams, it’s important to help your child stay healthy, well rested and calm as they concentrate on studying for end of year exams. This short video features teachers and parents talking about HSC preparation, but the tips are good for all high school students preparing for exams. [http://bit.ly/oTovND](http://bit.ly/oTovND)

Sometimes students are very ‘laid-back’ and require motivation. Why do some children prefer to lead a lazybones life, while others love to tear around the sports field? Is it a hereditary trait? And what can parents do to encourage those children to get up off the sofa, or switch off the computer, and get a little physical? Find out more: [http://bit.ly/ls5TN5Z](http://bit.ly/ls5TN5Z)

Lastly, I would like to congratulate Year 8 student - Makala Bergan who has been nominated and a recipient of the 2014 Aboriginal Student Achievement Awards for Creative and Performing Arts. Parents, Family, Community Members and School Staff are invited to attend the Awards ceremony on Friday 7th November. K-6 Awards will commence at 4.30pm and conclude at approximately 5.30pm. The 7-12 Awards will commence at 6.00pm and conclude at approximately 7.00pm. Light refreshments will be served between 5.30pm and 6.00pm.

Until next time,

MN Bryce
Principal
Staff Profile

Mr S Kurtz - History / Languages Other Than English (LOTE) Head Teacher

One of the things I love about Bonnyrigg High School is the talent, enthusiasm and generosity of our students. So congratulations to all our wonderful and unique group of young Australians.

So many students talk to me about the ways they learn. Lessons in life occur not just within the four walls of the classroom, but outside as well. Indeed, we are all learning everyday – even teachers. I learn new things each day, not just from teachers – but from the students here.

The strong ethics and values we have at school, the strength of individual convictions, the great sense of community, the overwhelming willingness to assist each other are just a few examples of the strength of our community. So in this staff profile, my message is short and simple. Thank you to the students of Bonnyrigg High School for your positive energy, kindness and optimism.

You guys have such a great sense of humour. You bring so much happiness and laughter to school, and so much happiness to your teachers. You adapt to change so quickly, learn readily, share so willingly and constantly praise and encourage one another.

You are quick to forgive and forget disagreements easily. You are slow to criticise, for you have an innate understanding that criticism breeds negativity. You spread hope, a quality that we, and indeed the world, need.

As people age and grow old some worry about the future. Some are pessimistic and even scared of what the world will look like in 25 years. Many fret over the pace of change in society.

Not I, thanks in large part to the students at our school. You young people will be the future politicians and leaders in Australia; the next generation building upon the great traditions of democracy and freedom we all enjoy. I have great hope for our school, our community and our nation in the future. You, the students of BHS, are the future.

“Glory Glory 2014”

Library News

Premier’s Reading Challenge

Bonnyrigg High School is proud of the record number of students in Years 7 and 8 who participated in the 2014 Premier’s Reading Challenge…..


The Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, read more and read more widely. To complete the challenge, our students read a minimum of twenty novels between March and August this year. That was quite an achievement!

This year saw a significant improvement in our NAPLAN reading results. Programs such as the PRC are an integral part of improving student outcomes in areas such reading.

To celebrate, the library hosted a ‘Grand Finale’ party attended by 40 students, members of the Executive and English faculty.

Thank you to all involved.

Mrs Sander Burns
Librarian

Mrs Vlasic
SAO

Mrs Sander
Teacher
Curriculum

Industrial Arts

Students are reaching the stage of the year where three terms have passed us by; only one more term to go and everyone needs to put in a maximum effort to achieve a great final report. Students in Years 7 and 8 have been working hard on computers, designing CAD-based products such as their apartment or small house designs, while other students have completed small wooden and metal projects that expand their understanding of practical experiences.

Most students have demonstrated their ability to work safely and responsibly with machines, hand tools and one another. They have observed safety signs, teacher demonstrations and OnGuard safety questions. We have continually emphasised the importance of completing all assigned safety tests, before students carry out any practical. It is possible for students to access this website at home and complete the tasks, by placing the following http address in their browser …

http://www.1300acepro.com/OnGuardACEPro2014/content/login.asp?schoolKey=bonnyrigg-h.schools.nsw

We need to give families a gentle reminder that Years 9 to 12 students, who have chosen to complete one or more of our elective courses, have a service fee to help buy the required materials. Students are expected to make arrangements to pay all fees within a reasonable time frame.

Year 12 Software Development & Design, and Industrial Technology Furniture students, are about to embark on the final phase of their school life – HSC examinations. We wish them well in their studies, answers to questions and final results, which include assessment of all course components. We wish to remind them that in their preparations, they can come and seek help in their studies here at school after the holidays.

We wish to remind parents that student work of a practical nature should be coming home after their completion. This includes projects from the HSC, Stage 5 timber and metals courses and, naturally, Technology activities set in Years 7 and 8 courses.

Our work in setting up better spaces in the classrooms has really begun to show. Students and staff are able to carry out work faster, more safely and be more organised in the routines of practical work. Much of the praise for developing better classroom spaces falls mainly to Mr Allen, our highly specialised Industrial Arts teacher.

Throughout Term 4, Year 11 students should be going through the development cycle of creating and budgeting for a major project in the HSC Industrial Technology course. It is important that students cost their ideas and work out a budget that allows them to start practical work in the first couple of weeks back after the summer holidays. A good starting point is to have somewhere near $100 to begin purchasing materials for large size projects and less for smaller projects. It is important that students understand that the nature of work needs to show a real growth in technical skills. We will do our best to show students what needs to be done and help them to develop quality drawings as a part of their planning. We recommend that students download a free copy of Google Sketch Up and, if they want a better package, Mr McTighe will show them how to use CREO and they can receive a free copy of the program on a DVD.

It is important that Year 11 and 12 students recognize that their competition is not just within the school; it includes local public and private schools; in fact all school students in NSW schools.

Here are some interesting images for 2015 industrial arts activities …

Bonnyrigg High students can do every bit as well, if students put their minds to it!!

Mr G McTighe
Industrial Arts - Head Teacher
Curriculum

PDHPE

Welcome back to term 4 and the business end of the year. Firstly, the PDHPE staff would like to wish all students the best of luck as they are currently sitting their HSC exams. Students have worked hard in PDHPE, CAFS, Dance and SLR over the past 2 years and we hope they all achieve a pleasing result.

Year 11 have now started their HSC courses. It will be a short 12 months before you are sitting in the same place as the current Year 12 cohort, so now is the time to ensure good habits are adopted so you are able to achieve the best possible marks.

During last term, the U15s Girls basketball and netball team had some outstanding success. The basketball team made it to the semi-final of the Sydney South West section of the Combined High Schools Knockout. They were narrowly beaten in the semi-final and just missed out on being one of two teams to go through and represent SSW in the round of 16. The netball team made it through to day 2 of the regional knockout after placing second in their pool. Day 2 will be held early term 4 and the girls will need to be on their game if they are to progress further in the competition.

Fitness group is back for term 4. Mondays and Thursdays see a committed group of students sweat it out in various circuits and fitness sessions, all in the name of improving their own personal level of fitness. New members are always welcome and are encouraged to see a member of the PDHPE staff to sign up.

Lastly, the various school dance groups continue to demonstrate some outstanding skills in a range of performances. In term 3 students performed in the Southern Stars Arena spectacular and at the end of term 4, BHS will again be represented in the annual School Spectacular.

Mr D Avery
PDHPE - Head Teacher

Mathematics

Welcome back, Bonnyrigg!! It is nice to see you once again, and having the resolve to make a positive difference to the lives we touch through the practice of our CHEER values.

The Maths Faculty is proud to put on a record number of outstanding achievements:

Commonwealth Bank Mathematics Competition 2014: This year’s Mathematics competition again has received much enthusiasm from our students. We proudly recorded a High Distinction (congratulations to Daniel Dang Intermediate Division Year 10), 26 Distinctions, 108 Credits, 83 Proficiency and 24 Participation certificates. The competition has grown to new heights. This is a significant achievement for Bonnyrigg High. Congratulations to all who participated as there are too many names to name. Mr Ta, the competition organizer, will be issuing the certificates shortly. If you have missed out this year for some reason, and do want to share the accolades of the competition with others, you are welcome to join in next year and do Bonnyrigg proud. This engagement is highly recommended to acquire newer strategies in problem solving; working mathematically at every stage of our Mathematics curriculum is significantly emphasized.

Year 7 and Year 9 Numeracy: This is another enormous 2014 achievement of which we are particularly proud. Our numeracy results have been improving from strength to strength every year and this is no accident. Credit goes to the Maths faculty and support staff for a job well done; the growth in numeracy well surpasses the state achievements and a healthy improvement over the years as well. Year 7 results were particularly pleasing with 41.6% (97) of our students in the top 2 bands: 24.4% (57) in the top band (Band 9). The story at the lower end is good as well. There has been a substantial reduction in numbers in Band 4 (2.2% cf 4% for NSW state) and Band 5 (12.9% cf 19.2% for NSW state). There were 10 questions or criteria where the school percentage choosing the correct response had 10% or more above the state population percentage. And might I add, nil were below state average Year 7. Year 9 results were impressive as well: 40.1% (84) students were in the top 2 bands compared with 27% for the state average. Band 10 results have gone from 9% to 24.4% in 3 years. The lower bands have similarly declined: Band 6 has declined more than 13 basis points from 27.6% to 14.4% in three years. There were 7 questions or criteria where the school percentage choosing the correct response had 10% or more above the state population percentage. Again, nil were below state average (like Year 7). To finish off, our growth levels this year were extremely pleasing for both Year 9 and Year 7. I hasten to add that competency in numeracy is only possible when taught in conjunction with literacy. Improvements in literacy skills directly support increased chances of a better performance in numeracy.

Tutorial Support: Mr Munari, Mr Howard, and Mr Lin were very generous with their time during Term 3 break. They offered additional support and encouragement to our HSC students: 4 special three hour sessions in week 1 provided for Extension 2,
Extension 1, Advanced Mathematics and General Mathematics. An extra session in week 2 was devoted to Advanced Mathematics, concentrating primarily on support for our accelerants doing their Advanced Mathematics HSC with the normal Year 12 cohort. It is hoped that all the effort and hard work by both sides does help produce some good results for our students.

**Years 7-10:** I know we will all work hard to give our Year 12 students the space and courtesy they require to prepare for their HSC. As your Yearly Examinations are very soon, we expect you to be focused on your own personal study plans to achieve your full potential. We are always approachable and eager to help. Year 10 ROSA is in week 5; lookout for the schedule. Good luck!

Whilst we are on the subject of hard work and achievements, we would like to take this opportunity to put in a word of advice to our new Year 12 General Mathematics students. If you have chosen to pursue the ATAR option as opposed to the non ATAR option, whilst we respect your choice and have no arguments either way, it is strongly recommended that you take cue on your ability to handle the Year 12 General ATAR course based on your preliminary final performance. If you were not impressed by your results, and past statistics have amplified this many times, there is a very high chance that your Year 12 assessments will turn out to be similar. This is not a judgment call but an educated observation. For those students who have put in a lot of time and effort to present quality assignments, we applaud your perseverance.

**Textbooks:** The faculty advises all students in Years 7 to 10 that the Maths faculty needs to recall all textbooks loaned for stocktake purposes in week 7. We need to plan for 2015 and accurate numbers on existing resources would help greatly. We would appreciate it very much if you can bring in any other Mathematics textbook sitting idle and in good useable condition at home used by your siblings. Just return to Mr. Munari and no questions will be asked.

**Yoga at Bonnyrigg:**

We are fortunate that Mr Pacha has continued to share his personal time and significant experiences in Yoga. He has been a very resourceful facilitator and promoter of the benefits of Yoga. Mr Pacha regularly travels abroad in search of different experiences offered by this ancient art of self-healing and maintaining correct body posture and shares them with his group. Furthermore, you will enjoy and appreciate the peace and harmony experienced by your body and mind in conjunction. Get on board; it is never too late. The cost is a yoga mat and your enthusiasm. All are welcome.

**Goodbye Class of 2014:** We would have loved you to stay, but life must go on!! We hope that, as part of our values here at Bonnyrigg, we have taught you compassion and the realisation that hard work produces dividends for tomorrow. Finally, wherever your destiny takes you, we would like you to stay in touch. Best of luck (a bit belated though) in your HSC!

Keep smiling!!

Mr R Singh
Mathematics Faculty
Bonnyrigg High School, like many schools in the local area, has agreed to form a partnership with the University of New South Wales, the Black Dog Institute, Australian National University, Flinders University and the University of Melbourne, to participate in a study that aims to strengthen student resilience and prevent the development of mental health difficulties that can emerge during the final year of high school, namely the Higher School Certificate.

Year 11 Students and their Parents are invited to attend the next Parent Forum on Wednesday 5th November at 6.00pm

Be involved in discussions regarding expectations of your child’s academic performance during the HSC, improving academic performance, mental health and wellbeing within the family.

Trial for the Prevention of Depression: TriPoD