From the Principal

On behalf of Bonnyrigg High school I wish to congratulate Mr Tom McBride, Principal of St Johns Park Primary School, on achieving a most significant milestone.

Mr McBride, on 3rd March reached 60 years as a teacher in the Department. He is the first person ever, I understand, to achieve this milestone. Tom is a critical friend of Bonnyrigg High and a very well respected educator of note. A gathering of Departmental officials, Principals and friends was held at the school to celebrate the achievement. He was presented with a ‘unique’ Service Certificate, one that had to be especially created, as he is the first to achieve 60 years in teaching. Bonnyrigg High congratulates Mr Tom McBride on achieving 60 years in teaching and thanks him for his support of our school.

The Parent Forum held last Wednesday 26th February was extremely well attended by over 50 people. Issues covered included a school tour for new parents, the ‘School A to Z’ website which is designed for parents by the DEC. The site has a myriad of information on all aspects of helping your school-aged child. Topics range from homework help through to dealing with teenagers. It is well worth the visit by all parents. This year-by-year guide will help you navigate the challenges and decisions your child will face as they commence Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. Year-by-year tips: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/planning-for-the-future/tips-for-starting-years-7-12

We discussed the introduction of a Bonnyrigg High phone App to complement our website and Facebook pages. The App will be introduced in second term. It will be a direct communication tool, allowing us to send information to parents directly to their phone or tablet. It will be free to download. Once in place the school newsletter will be sent via the App replacing the need to print copies. The App will save over 100,000 pieces of paper, 200,000 print pages and the associated printing costs. This alone will pay for the cost of the Bonnyrigg High App. In addition the SMS messages concerning absenteeism will be sent via the App and parents will be able to respond with virtual notes to the school as part of the system.

Rotary Club of Cabramatta held its annual Student Night last Monday 3rd March. The guest speaker this year was Professor John Fletcher from the UNSW, Electrical Engineer specialising in Nuclear Energy. The presentation was very interesting and covered the advantages and disadvantages of Australia moving to a nuclear future. Mr Foti, Head Teacher Science, together with Michael Mansor and Jenny Nguyen attended.

Reminder about school uniform is important and while, most students are able to meet the requirements, some students deliberately choose not to wear the correct uniform. We will be vigilant again this year pushing full school uniform and that includes Sports/PE uniform. All students must be in the correct sports uniform when playing Sport or PE. The SRC has been, for a while, investigating the reintroduction of a Bonnyrigg High School Blazer for all students, available through the uniform shop. The school has a small number of blazers which we lend to students when

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representing the school in the wider community. However, the SRC believes it is time to move the school further forward in presenting a more formal aspect to the uniform. Many students are already wearing the school tie and the overall look of the school is well above other local schools wearing polo shirts as uniform.

Attending non-core educational activities such as school camp. Bonnyrigg High, like most schools has a policy of requiring parents to pay subject fees and contributions prior to students attending these activities. The fees are spent on your child in their activities at school. Parents are asked to please pay all school fees and contributions before sending in money for camp, for example.

Until next time,

MN Bryce
Principal

Student Work

CAPA - Creative and Performing Arts

BHS Dance Party
Fri 21st March
7.00pm till 9.30pm
$8 prepay at Front Office
$10 Pay at the door
In The Hall
Heaps of Prizes!!
BONNYRIGG HIGH SCHOOL
I Shall Strive for the Best

Curriculum

Science

2013 was a year when Bonnyrigg High continued to shine with great results! The Rio Tinto Big Science Competition not only had an increase of participants by more than 330% but it also provided some excellent results. Year 7-10 students’ achieved 8 High Distinctions, 16 Distinctions, 44 Credits and 132 Participation awards. That is 12% of participants achieved a Distinction or higher and 34% of the participants achieved a Credit or higher. The Rio Tinto Big Science Competition is providing some good results for many students who participate or, at the least, valuable exam practice.

The HSC stand out performances includes: Chemistry - over 70% of students achieved a band 4, 5 or 6. All the Chemistry students passed (got a mark over 50) with the lowest mark being 58. Physics achieved some very similar results with 65% of the students achieving a band 4, 5 or 6. All the Physics students passed (got a mark over 50) with the lowest mark being 50. In Biology, over 56% achieved a band 4, 5, or 6. Out of 32 students, only 2 students just fell below the HSC mark of 50. So out of all the students who studied a science subject, only 2 got a mark of less than 50. These are great results for students, who at times did struggle, but put in the hard work necessary, along with their teachers, to achieve their best possible result.

The latest accelerated students (including our first selective students) are currently in year 11 doing the Year 12 HSC 2 Unit Chemistry Course. In 2012, 31 accelerated students (from year 10) completed the Preliminary 2 Unit Chemistry Course, of these 12 have moved on to the HSC 2 Unit Course and hence will sit the HSC Chemistry exam whilst still in Year 11; 10 have chosen to repeat Year 11 Preliminary Chemistry once more; 7 have chosen other Year 11 Preliminary subjects and 1 has moved on to a fully selective school (as a result of being accelerated while at BHS). In 2012, the two accelerated Chemistry students who that completed their Chemistry subject in 2011 sat for the rest of their HSC subjects. Branden Lim received an ATAR of 97.65 and Trang Trinh received an ATAR of 95.6. These results show that the Science accelerated program has achieved one of its primary goals. Not only does it help the students involved to perform well in Science, but it also frees up time so they can spend it on their other subjects and perform well in them too. Well done Ms Arkins, you are a genius!!!

The increasing number of students at BHS has resulted in Ms Hernandez filling in until it is establish that a new position is available in Science. She continues to do so with the professionalism she has become well known for! We continue our Bonnyrigg gratitude to her for her hard work.

I would like to take this opportunity to “welcome the students and their parents of year 7 to BHS”. Remember, if you have any questions or issues regarding Science, feel free to contact your child’s Science teacher or myself (Mr Foti). Their diary is an excellent point of contact. Remember we are very talented in the areas of Science but we have not mastered the art of mind reading!

Very soon your child’s Science teacher will be giving them details regarding the Science Competition for 2014. This is an excellent opportunity for your child to practise and develop the skills necessary to perform well in Science examinations. I strongly advise non-selective students to take on the challenge, while it is compulsory for all selective students from years 7 to 10. $7.70 is a small price to pay for valuable experience. This is, for the first time, covered in the School Science Fees. Students must wait to receive a note from their Science teacher and then return it signed to their Science teacher.

Unfortunately, we have been receiving some crazy weather to start the year. This has led to a number of students not wearing the correct uniform. You might ask, why is the Head Teacher of Science talking about uniform? Well, the uniform has been carefully designed, if worn properly, to be safe in all practical subjects, including Science. This includes proper lace up leather shoes that protect the complete foot, long hair tied back and the correct clothing which is the correct size (ie: not too big or small/short). Jewellery should be of the minimum amount and tucked away inside all clothing. Failure to comply with these and the entire uniform requirements may result in your child missing out on valuable learning experiences.

Hopefully, Year 11 students are settling into senior school and adopting measures to stay focused on their studies at school and home. Senior course Science students need to ensure that they are completing all homework and experimental tasks, as they are vital aspects of the course. Year 12 Science students should also be asking questions of their teacher on how to best prepare for their exams. Make sure you hand in all assessment tasks on time to avoid any problems.

Have a great year!
See you around G block!

Mr Foti
Head Teacher - Science and the Science Staff
The term has begun with plenty of activity and the return of a familiar face. Mrs Magoutas is back from a year of maternity leave and teaching three days a week (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday). She’s quickly jumped back into the swing of things and feels as though she’s never been away. She has already organised a compulsory fieldwork excursion for Year 10 Geography students to Garie Beach for early April. This coastal environment is located in the Royal National Park and students will conduct various fieldwork activities to identify the physical and human processes that affect it. Students should return their notes and pay their money to the front office ASAP.

Mrs Gersbach and the Year 12 Geography class have recently returned from a three day camp at Port Stephens. The class is studying tourism as an economic activity and spent a few days sand boarding, dolphin cruising and visiting The Anchorage, a major resort in the region. Lots of fun was had by all. Mrs Gersbach and I would like to thank Mrs Borg for being bus driver.

Another excursion already organised for the end of term is for Year 9 and 10 Commerce (with Food Technology students and staff) to the Royal Easter Show. This excursion has been organised to supplement the first topic of study in Year 9 Consumer Choice. Mrs Narvaiza’s and Ms Hurney’s Year 10 classes had so much fun on this same excursion last year that they begged to come along this year too. This should be a great day for all.

To supplement the topic of The Law and Society, Year 10 Commerce students will venture to Liverpool Local Court before visiting the District Court in the city. The Police and Justice Museum is another exciting place that our students will visit. This excursion will allow students to take part in a mock trial in a real courtroom, overseen by actual legal personnel.

The Geography Competition will also be conducted in week 9. If students are interested in taking part in this competition they should see their Geography teacher or myself in the Social Sciences staffroom. The cost is $3.

The first assessment task for junior students has also been issued. All tasks this semester have been altered to incorporate a writing focus, with Year 7 writing an information report about a chosen environment, Year 8 writing a diary entry about working in a sweatshop, Year 9 designing a travel brochure about Australia and Year 10 writing a letter to the editor in response to a contemporary geographical issue.

Year 12 students are encouraged to start their revision and study notes for their half yearly exams and Year 11 students will have their first preliminary assessment task due soon. Prepare well and seek teacher assistance if needed.

Happy learning!

Ms Poulos  
Head Teacher - Social Sciences

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**STUDENT ATTENDANCE**

**IT’S NOT OKAY TO BE AWAY**

*What is my responsibility as a Parent/Caregiver?*

**Make sure your child:**

- attends school on ALL school days and is on time every day

**Make sure you:**

- Provide the school with an explanation if your child is away and contact the school if your child does not want to go to school
- Arrange doctor and dentist appointments out of school hours
- Arrange personal shopping trips with your son/daughter or birthday celebrations out of school hours
- Do not allow your child to stay at home for minor reasons.

*Is regular attendance at school important?*

Yes – from the first day.

- If your child misses school they can experience difficulties with their learning
- Regular attendance is essential to make sure learning is not disrupted. Regular learning
- Provides building blocks for the future
- Schools help children to develop important social skills, such as friendship building, teamwork, communication skills and a healthy self-esteem.