This year Bonnyrigg High School had the privilege of celebrating literacy and numeracy week together with Mark Ferguson, the host of channel seven news. Mr Ferguson visited the school on Monday, 31st of August in order to speak to our students and celebrate the importance of literacy and numeracy which as we know are the foundations of our learning.

We had the honour of listening to the backstory of his journey and how he had become such a world renowned journalist, overcoming the most emotional and challenging parts of his career. He spoke of both highs and lows of his journey and how a simple Tamworth kid became so successful in the world of journalism. “If there was a motivational speaker that came to your school, would that have changed your career?” asked Jesse Nguyen of year ten. “Not necessarily. My motivational speakers were mostly my teachers. They helped me see my strengths and weaknesses and helped me finally accept myself.”, replied Mr Ferguson.

Mr Ferguson discussed the importance of identifying one’s strengths and weaknesses and explained that some of the key ingredients in becoming successful are staying motivated and always stepping forward regardless of the circumstances. “If you could give your past self-advice, what would it be?” asked Adriana Florea our school captain. Mr Ferguson responded by stating that if he were to give his past self-advice, he would say to be more motivated and to always work to his full potential, no matter the situation.

By Sonal Kapoor and Anita Tomic
Plant a Tree Day

Bonnyrigg high school has again participated in National Tree Day, an event held annually by an organisation of the name ‘Planet Ark’. The Environment Committee within the School’s Representative Council decided to continue the annual community event within the school grounds this term.

Last year, over 30 students participated in the event, with the number comprising of Mrs Narvaisa’s year seven class as well as eight members from the SRC. This year, students were able to nominate themselves for the cause, with the first two periods of the day dedicated to the environment.

Linda Mishaal of year 11 participated in the event, and says, “I really enjoyed the event as we got to connect with nature and give back to the environment and school. It was a great experience learning how to dig holes and plant the flora properly. I made new friends from across all grades and I’m proud to walk around the school knowing that I planted those trees!”

Plant a Tree Day was held on Bonnyrigg High School’s grounds, and trees were planted outside the classrooms between P4 and PScience. The day was delegated by the Planet Ark organisation on 24th of July, however, due to wet weather circumstances it was postponed until July 28th.

With help from Mrs Narvaisa and Jason (GA), Plant a Tree Day was held to help build the awareness of the benefits of gardening. Planting trees within the environment contributes to the process of clean respiration and contributes to the natural environment.

The purpose of Plant a Tree Day is to educate the students of the importance of gardening and sustaining the environment, as well as contributing to the school community. The SRC’s Environment Committee was happy to participate in the event this year, with prospects looking as though it will become an annual event for the school.

Fortunately, the day was a huge success and raised awareness of the importance of trees and gardening. We can’t wait to participate in the event next year!

By Madyson Baldassare

C.H.E.E.R For Bonnyrigg
Helping the less fortunate

The funds raised often go towards helping countries such as Cambodia, Laos and Ethiopia and this year the focus was helping people living in Bangladesh where a mere $40 can feed a family for an entire month.

Donations began since the 21st of July through online giving and to help with such, the SRC also held a ‘mufti day’ on 26th of August whereby the students in the school had the choice to come to school dressed in mufti and donate a gold coin to support the 40-Hour Famine initiative. As a result an extra $417 was raised making the mufti day a huge success. Overall the entire fund raising initiative turned out a roaring success and Bonnyrigg High school are proud to be helping those who are less fortunate.

By Sonal Kapoor and Anita Tomic

This year, Bonnyrigg High school has once again participated in the 40-hour famine to raise money for those who are less fortunate. This event, held on the 15th and 16th of August was run and organised by the school’s environment committee within the SRC and the SRC head teachers, Mrs Magoutas and Miss Kay. The 40-hour famine is an event where participants raise money and give up something which they consider to be of value, for 40 hours. The aim of the initiative is to empathise with the less fortunate and the Third World countries who do not have access to the things we see as everyday necessities.
On Wednesday 9th of September, Ms Gladovic together with four of our students from the Values Committee, attended an Ideation Day at the Powerhouse Museum. This multicultural initiative is aimed at communicating the themes of leadership and developing the abilities of the youth of Australia to make a difference within their world.

The annual youth leadership was attended by a diverse group of students from many schools in NSW who were given the opportunity to voice their opinions on what being multicultural means, as well as discovering key strategies to address racial challenges they face in their society today. The Year Ten Values members, Kellie Wen, Sharon Thai, Cynthia Ung and Jesse Nguyen were asked to complete the sentence “I choose to be...”, keeping in mind the importance of education and the role of being a diligent global citizen. “I choose to be an accepting, open friend, peer and citizen!” said Kellie Wen.

Throughout the day, students worked together on a variety of activities and with the assistance of music producers and ex-Hi5 star Fely Irvine, even had the opportunity to compose a song with a strong focus on connections and acceptance. “I liked how we were able to turn most of our thoughts into a song that calls out to people like us to really make a difference.” said Sharon Thai. Each group of students was allocated challenges that influenced them to develop mechanisms to control the existent racial issue and decrease stigmas attached to different races within our society.

For our students it was an empowering experience and one which they enjoyed a great deal and we look forward to attending Ideation Day again in the future years.

By Jesse Nguyen
Meet our new leaders

Every year, the School Representative Council endure long hours of nominations and voting. Years 10 into 11 and 11 into 12 stray from the usual nomination forms and immediate voting. With eight year 11 candidates, all nominees get marked on their application, voting and interviews, with an additional speech for year 12 electees. Next term, the Senior Executive team within the SRC will comprise of Stefan Duckic and Annie Pham as School Captains, Madasyn Baldassare and Brooke Carrier as Vice Captains and Senior Prefects Michael Mansor and Dragoljub Paunovic.

Earlier this term, nine year 11 students took the courageous step in nominating themselves for a role on the SRC. Nomination forms were due in two weeks before speeches, interviews and votes were held. "I'm not going to lie, I was quite nervous leading up to the election. Everything just happened so quickly, and I soon became aware of my position on the SRC. I'm honoured to be a part of this exquisite leadership team," says Senior Prefect Michael Mansor.

Over the course of the year, the newly elected year 12 leaders will aim to achieve their committee goals, working closely with SRC supervisors Mrs Magou- tas and Miss Kay. The team will also partake in a traditional fortnightly lunch meeting with Mr Bryce, and will endeavour to make Bonnyrigg High School a better place.

Former School Captain Sahil Kapoor, when asked to give a word of advice said: "Just do it! Literally. If you have a goal you wish to complete, aim to actually achieve it. Don't just come up with ideas and say some things to Mr. Bryce whereby you don't end up completing it." Congratulations to next term's executive council, and a big thanks on behalf of Bonnyrigg to our previous team. We extend our best wishes for your future endeavours, and good luck to all completing their HSC.

By Madasyn Baldassare