Dear Parents,

Excellent NAPLAN results
In May this year all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 across Australia were tested in a series of literacy and numeracy tests. The school’s NAPLAN results this year have again maintained our very high standards. Parents of girls in Year 7 and 9 have received the results of the NAPLAN tests for their daughter and should contact the school if they wish to discuss any aspects of their daughter’s progress.

The results for Year 7 indicate that since their test in Year 5 the girls have made excellent progress; however, further improvement in the areas of numeracy and reading, as well as punctuation and grammar, must be a priority over the next two years. Teachers will use the NAPLAN data to inform their teaching practice to support those students not yet at national standards in these critical areas.

I am delighted to congratulate our Year 9 girls on their excellent growth in literacy and numeracy. The results show that the growth in their literacy and numeracy since they were tested in Year 7 has far exceeded the average rate across the state; greatest gains were made in reading and grammar and punctuation.

I acknowledge the hard work of dedicated and talented teachers and supportive parents to ensure that these pleasing results have occurred.

HSC
On Thursday 18 September our Year 12 girls marked the end of their years at Birrong Girls at their Graduation Ceremony. Wearing formal graduation robes, the girls were presented with their final reports in front of an enthusiastic crowd of very supportive parents and guardians.

The girls commenced their HSC examinations on Monday 13 October with their first English paper and will sit their last examination on Wednesday 5 November. On Wednesday 19 November, they will return text books, sign-out and collect their school reference. I look forward to celebrating the end of high school with them at their Formal Evening on Thursday 20 November.

We will all be relieved and delighted when the HSC results are published on Wednesday 17 December.

I wish the 2014 Year 12 girls the best of luck in their examinations and joy and success in their further study and future endeavours.

Congratulations go to…
- The newly elected School Captain for 2015, Nour Salama, Vice Captain, Isabella Johnston Araujo and Sports Captain, Peta Moungatonga and the 2015 Prefects: Marium Al Khazaaly, Duha Al-Hassnawi, Vivian Chau, Cindy Chen, An Dinh, Aseel El Kurdi, Christine He, Thu Thu Htet and Manar Laalaa. These girls display excellent leadership qualities and are great role models for the rest of the student body.

- The Rotary Vocational Youth Award winners: Tynan Milligan (Retail Services); Douha Saleh-Moussa (Business Services); and Claire Capra (Hospitality) who received their awards at the presentation ceremony held at East Hills Boys High School on 15 September.
• The Year 11 Hospitality students and their teachers who catered for the Year 12 Graduation Ceremony. Their wonderful skills helped make the day a memorable and happy occasion for our departing Year 12 class and their parents.

P&C meeting
I extend a warm invitation to all our parents to attend the next P&C meeting which will be held on Wednesday 22 October at 5pm in the Common Room, following a presentation on our NAPLAN results. At this meeting we will be discussing the new School’s Plan for 2015-17, so come along and have your say.

I invite you to contact the school (Tel: 9644 5057) to make an appointment with me if you have any issues that you wish to discuss about your daughter’s education. I hope you enjoy reading about the achievements and activities of the school in the following pages.

Best wishes
Jenni Wilkins
Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPALS’ REPORT

Ad Astra Year 12 2014!

Back in 2009 our Year 12 students began as timid, eager, little girls entering Year 7. As we wished them a fond farewell at the end of last term it was clear that over the past six years these fresh faced Year 7s had transformed into confident, poised, mature, young women who were about to begin an important new phase of their lives. At our graduation ceremony, as each Year 12 student stepped onto the stage to receive her portfolio, it was a formal acknowledgment that an important chapter was closing for the 2014 Year 12 cohort. At the conclusion of the HSC examination period new thresholds, possibilities, challenges and ambitions will lie ahead for each of these young women. We trust that the values, skills and knowledge which they have learned at Birrong Girls High School will hold them in good stead for the future.

The PowerPoint presentation which began the graduation ceremony reflected the spectrum of activities undertaken by Year 12 during their six years at Birrong Girls High School. Parents and staff shared the students’ memories of participating in drama, choir, sport, art, technology, debating, public speaking, SRC, community projects, excursions and of course all the memories of classroom activities and opportunities which filled so many days over the last six years.

As these students leave us to take on new responsibilities, now as grown-ups, we would like to remind them that the HSC is only the first step towards their future lives.

Ad astra Year 12! Reach for the stars, be true to yourselves, strive to make your dreams come true and endeavour to make a positive contribution to the society in which we live. Aim to make the world a better place in some big or small way each day. Best wishes for your journey ahead and don’t forget to visit us and let us know about your successes.

Prefects 2014
Our new prefects follow in the footsteps of a remarkable and enthusiastic 2014 prefect body who worked cohesively to initiate entertaining activities to support fundraising. They chaired assemblies and represented the school with aplomb, attention to detail and with a great cooperative spirit.

2015 Prefect Body
Congratulations to our 2015 prefect body. Our new prefects have already shown themselves to be outstanding role models in terms of attitude, cooperative leadership, uniform, participation attendance and extra-curricular participation. As prefects for 2015 these students will represent the school community and the values of public education.

Yearly Examinations
For students in Years 7, 8 and 9 now is the time to work extra hard to ensure that your yearly report is one of which you can be proud. Set your final goals for the year, follow a study timetable, use Mathletics and the Homework Centre to help you to achieve your very best and to help you to ensure that your 2014 yearly report reflects how capable and diligent you truly are. Make yourself and your family proud of your achievements!

For Year 11 students beginning their first term of the HSC course, ensure that your assessment tasks this term are completed on time to the very best of your ability. Start this next twelve months by setting yourself goals and working hard to achieve them.
RoSA Certificate
Year 10 students are currently making their last serious preparations to complete work required to gain their Record of School Achievement (RoSA.) Year 10 yearly examinations will commence in Week 6 of this term, on 10 November. Each student in Year 10 should be completing a minimum of two hours of homework, assignment preparation, study and revision per night as well as extra work on weekends to prepare adequately for these examinations. Students who are not finishing this amount of homework/study can’t be achieving the outcomes of their courses to the best of their abilities. After the examination period ALL Year 10 students must complete the mandatory All My Own Work unit required by Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES.) In addition to this, other important activities such as the Year 10 Road Safety Day (Week 9) and the Year 10 Well Being Day (Week 10) will help students to make the significant transition which occurs at the end of Year 10.

The end of Term 4 is a time for a number of students in Year 10 to evaluate their goals, achievements, commitment to study and their aspirations. It is possible that the prospect of gaining a traineeship or apprenticeship (working and undergoing training whilst being paid) may be more appealing and appropriate for some students than going on to study in Years 11 and 12. Parents and Year 10 students are encouraged to make an appointment to discuss the best options and opportunities for success, post Year 10, with Ms Bolanca, Mrs Wailes, Ms Shinas or Ms Crossan to ensure that the best possible outcomes for success in 2015 can be planned for now.

Ad astral
Ms Crossan and Ms Fletcher
Deputy Principals

HEAD TEACHER ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Contact Details
Over the year many families have changed their personal and contact details because they have moved house, changed telephone companies or obtained a new mobile phone number. It is very important that you inform the school immediately of any changes you make. There have been several incidents at school where the school has needed to contact parents in an emergency and have not had the most up to date contact numbers.

Student Attendance
To assist in the effective management of student attendance across the school we request that you make contact with the school when your daughter is absent either by return text message or by phone. This ensures the school knows exactly what is happening and where your daughter is on that day.

Attendance Accountability
Your daughter is required to hand in any notes or medical certificates explaining her absence from school to me if you did not reply via text or phone call. If your daughter does not supply a note as the last resort to explain her absence it will be reflected as an “unexplained absence” on her school report at the end of this year.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs George
Head Teacher Administration

WELFARE REPORT

Student of the Month
Congratulations to Yasmine Kaballan of Year 12 who was awarded the Student of the Month Award for September 2014. She has demonstrated outstanding dedication and commitment to the school community and was a motivated and conscientious student.

Yasmine demonstrated both leadership and teamwork as a School Prefect. She carried out valuable school service through her commitment and active involvement as an enthusiastic member of the school Amnesty International Team and as a Peer Support Leader, a Peer Mediator and a Peer Reading Tutor.
**Vaccinations**

The vaccination program for 2014 was completed on 10 October. Students who were absent on any day during the vaccination program this year will have their final vaccination catch up in Term 1 2015.

**Mobile Blood Donation Program**

The school has arranged for a mobile blood donation unit to be at our school again on Friday 28 November. Students over the age of 16 years and staff members will be donating blood on the day which will save and support the lives of many people in the community.

Mrs Salvagio  
Head Teacher Welfare

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**CAREERS NEWS**

**Year 12**

The first round of UAC applications closed on 30 September, although you are still able to apply but at a higher cost. Please email me if you have any questions regarding applications, or careers in general. My door is always open so feel free to come in and see me. Best of luck for your HSC exams!

**Year 11**

Now is an important time to start thinking about your future plans once you complete your HSC. My weekly timetable is on my door, please write your name down to book a time with me to start discussing/researching your options and possible career paths. I’ve thoroughly enjoyed our Tuesday afternoon Careers introduction lessons and meeting you all. I look forward to the year ahead and working closely with you to ensure your smooth transition into life after Year 12.

**Year 10**

A reminder that your second work experience block is fast approaching in Week 7. Your forms are now overdue and need to be returned to me ASAP. Please see me if you have any difficulties or questions.

Last term in Week 8, 26 Year 10 students participated in a Meet A Keeper Day workshop at Taronga Zoo. This day was highly enjoyable for everyone involved and allowed our students to gain a great understanding of careers at Taronga Zoo. Not only did we attend a presentation with zoo keepers, we were also given access to tour the zoo and invited to a VIP behind the scenes show with the seals and reptiles, allowing us to get up close and personal with these lovable animals.

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**GALIYAAY CAREERS EXPO**

During Week 1 of this term some of our students attended the Galiyaay Careers Expo organised by Aboriginal Employment and Career Initiatives, People and Careers and DEC. The day was planned specifically for indigenous students in Years 8-12. Mrs Wailes reported that the students had an informative and enjoyable day. All the students commented that they really valued the opportunity to meet with experts and discuss employment and further education with many businesses, university and TAFE representatives.

Ms Crossan  
Deputy Principal

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The weather was very kind to us and emphasised this magical location and beautiful scenery of the harbour. This was a wonderful day out for the students and myself.

Mrs Wailes  
Careers Adviser

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Students at Meet a Keeper Day at Taronga Zoo  
Students at the Galiyaay Careers Expo
**TEAM PROJECT INSPIRES YEAR 10 STUDENTS**

From June to August a group of 20 Year 10 students participated in a leadership program, **TEAM**, where students were mentored by young leaders in the finance industry.

The students were required to complete a project in teams of 5 students. Their brief was to design a smart phone app, devise marketing strategies for the app and then mount a formal presentation to market the app. Mr McCredden accompanied the students to their meetings at the Commonwealth Bank Headquarters in Darling Harbour, where students had the experience of working with successful young executives to develop ideas and to formulate their persuasive presentations. Mr McCredden commented that the students were outstanding ambassadors for Birrong Girls High School and that the opportunity to work with real leaders had inspired the students to consider leadership positions in industry as possible career goals.

**By: Raihana Wazefadost, Year 10**

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**AMNESTY TEAM BIRTHING KIT ASSEMBLY WORKSHOP**

On Saturday 6 September, students from the Birrong Girls’ Amnesty Team and the SRC volunteered their time to assist the Zonta Club of Sydney West with the assembly of 1000 birthing kits. Zonta is an international organisation that is dedicated to improving the status of women all around the world politically, economically and educationally.

Zonta volunteers, teachers and students from Birrong Girls and others spent the morning assembling birthing kits that will help women in third world countries. All the students and teachers had a wonderful time working together. Students who participated on the day were awarded certificates in recognition of their contribution.

The Amnesty Team would like to thank Zonta and all the teachers for the brilliant day as it showed us that a little work can help a lot of people.

**By: Raihana Wazefadost on behalf of the Birrong Girls’ Amnesty Team**

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Volunteers assembling the birthing kits

Mr Mohan and Mr Sarna at the workshop
2014 AMNESTY SCHOOLS CONFERENCE

On Thursday 11 September, eight keen Amnesty students attended the 2014 Amnesty Schools Conference at Glebe Town Hall. Our girls met a number of very like-minded young people from across the Sydney region who were concerned about deteriorating human rights and increasing domestic violence. Students from a range of different schools participated in various role plays and group discussions to highlight the importance of being a responsible global citizen by helping people in need.

Mr Sarna
Social Sciences Faculty

YEAR 11 BUSINESS STUDIES EXCURSION TO IKEA, TEMPE

Year 11 Business Studies students visited IKEA at Tempe on 12 September to understand contemporary marketing practices and to complement their studies relating to human resource and operations management. They were accompanied by Ms Dally and Mr Sarna.

At the start of the day everyone fuelled-up at the IKEA Café so that they would survive their 2.5km walk through IKEA’s maze. Some students tried (with limited success) to follow EXIT signs to shorten their walk. They ended up adding 100s of metres to their walk.

Many students have now decided to have IKEA as their major case study for their HSC course. All the information they have gathered and everything they have learned on the day will help them prepare their major case study for the next year.

Mr Sarna
Social Sciences Faculty

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ICAS AWARD RECIPIENTS

2014 has proven to be a successful year for students in Years 7-10 who participated in the internationally renowned ICAS competitions. This year there were 37 students who participated in three competitions: English, Writing and Spelling (Year 7 only). These competitions support classroom learning but also provide the opportunity to stretch student’s intellectual capacities.

English Competition:

Credit
Justine Mai (Year 8)
Vivian Pham (Year 8)
Vanessa Tran (Year 8)
Jacqueline Huynh (Year 9)
Natasha Luu (Year 9)
Alexandra Viles (Year 9)
Alexandra Viles (Year 9)
Eda Dagli (Year 10)

Merit
Cindy Dang (Year 9)
Jennifer Nguyen (Year 9)
Jasmine Wong (Year 9)

Writing Competition:

Distinction
Natasha Luu (Year 9)
Amira Bahsa (Year 10)

Credit
Vivian Pham (Year 8)
Eda Dagli (Year 10)

Well done, girls.

Ms Andrews
Head Teacher English
CAPA REPORT

Congratulations to all of the 2014 Year 12 Visual Arts and Music students who worked extremely hard at the end of Term 3 to meet deadlines and achieve personal goals with their HSC practical examinations. We would like to take this opportunity to wish them every success in the upcoming HSC examinations.

The 2015 Year 12 Music and VA students already know that it will take hard work, perseverance and persistence to achieve their personal best and we wish them every success on their journey towards the HSC.

Last term Year 10 Visual Arts students attended a Master class at the Art Gallery of NSW after viewing the Archibald Prize Exhibition. They produced Pop art inspired collages which are currently on display in the CAPA exhibition space.

Works by Year 10 VA students

Year 7 Visual Arts students learnt about the printmaking process creating circus themed lino prints (currently on display) whilst Year 8 students have been producing large scale group paintings based on the landscape. The paintings will be displayed around the school to beautify the surroundings.

Year 9 Visual Arts students have been inspired by artist, Jenny Orchard, to create ceramic totem sculptures which will be on display later in the term.

Year 12 Music had a busy month in September completing their HSC practical performances. The girls worked really hard to give their best performance on the day. At the Graduation Ceremony, Year 12 Music also gave stirring performances of a medley of different songs that were meaningful to the girls during their school years. Joslin Setu led the group singing such songs as We are the Champions, The Theme from Arthur, and Started from the Bottom now We're Here. Year 9 gave an excellent performance of the National Anthem to complete the ceremony.

On 29 September our Ad Astra band was selected to perform in the Bankstown Battle for Talent. The girls did an outstanding job performing the song Animal by Neon Trees. The girls came fourth in the competition dominated by much older performers.

Upcoming Events
Sunday 19 October - The Ad Astra band will be performing at Greenacre Youth Festival at Roberts Park commencing at 1:30pm. Everyone is welcome.

By: CAPA Staff
Mr Colley
Ms Winchcombe
Ms Anthony
Mr Blair
Ms Caponas
Ms Weir

PARENT TIPS

Cyberbullying - prevention tips for parents
The statistics around cyberbullying are sketchy, mainly because it often goes unreported. What we do know is that the likelihood of children being bullied online or over the phone increases as they get older and use technology more frequently. Find out more: http://bit.ly/xHLLDH

Reduce, reuse, recycle
Australians throw away 3.3 million tonnes of food every year – up to a quarter of the country’s food supplies - mainly because we purchase too much. Consider planning your meals and only buy what you need. Reduce packaging in your child’s lunchbox and use re-usable containers rather than plastic wrap where possible. It also leaves our school grounds much cleaner!

Team sports – more than health benefits
As well as helping kids stay fit and healthy, team sports help them learn that things don’t go their way all the time and that they need to respect their peers. Sports also help children and teens with resilience, how to respond to setbacks and loads more benefits discussed here: http://bit.ly/HlqxVO

Tricks for encouraging kids to read
Is your child a reluctant reader? Why not try helping them find the book that goes with a movie or DVD they’ve enjoyed, or are about to see. Encouraging your child to read can help them to build their imagination as well as giving them a better vocabulary. Kids who read different types of books develop a wide range of language skills and are better placed to understand different types of texts as they progress into high school. School A to Z has lots of tips and ideas on encouraging your child to read, at http://bit.ly/HLpMB9
Online Ordering is Here!

Our school has now introduced a great new online ordering system for the Canteen called FlexiSchools. This system allows parents, students and staff to place orders from home, work or school at any time. The payment is also done online, so less paper bags, cash, cheques, and envelopes are sent via your child to school. As well as being convenient for parents, the online orders are much faster and easier for the school coordinator to process - so it makes everyone’s life a little easier. FlexiSchools is well established and tested, operating in hundreds of schools across Australia.

Getting online is easy and only takes a few minutes to register. Simply go to www.flexischools.com.au and click “Register Now”. You will be sent an email with further instructions on how to complete the registration. Once registered, you can start placing orders immediately. If you have any questions, FlexiSchools provide a great help desk on 1300 361 769, or you can contact them via their website.

There are a variety of payment options supported including Visa, Mastercard (credit and debit) and Bank Transfer. The system operates via a pre-paid account, so you no longer have to worry about the manual process of sending payments into school, and you can easily budget your child’s spending and expenses throughout the year.

The system is now available, so we look forward to seeing your next order online!

If you have any questions about the online services we are introducing, please ask the school office for more information.

CANTEEN NEWS

ONLINE ORDERING

- Available 24/7
- Convenient for parents
- Removes paper orders and cash
- FREE registration

Online ordering is more convenient, providing a 24/7 payment and ordering system that can be accessed from home, work or a mobile device.

No more fumbling around for coins in the morning or sending kids to school with excess cash, online orders are faster and more accurate giving parents peace of mind that their order and payment is received accurately at the school.

Registration is free and only takes a few minutes.

EASY, ONLINE REGISTRATION

- Go to www.flexischools.com.au
- Click REGISTER NOW
- Enter your email
- You will be emailed a link to an online form - follow the link
- Choose a username and password and complete the form
- Add each student and their class
- Top-up the account - VISA or Mastercard preferred.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

For your diary / noticeboard

October:
- Wednesday, 22nd
- ▪ P&C Meeting, Common Room, 5pm

November:
- Wednesday, 5th
- ▪ Year 7 Field Day
- Monday, 10th to Wednesday, 12th
- ▪ Year 10 Yearly Exams
- Friday, 14th
- ▪ Year 11 Crossroads Program
- Monday, 17th to Friday, 21st
- ▪ Year 10 Work Experience
- Wednesday, 19th
- ▪ Year 12 Sign out, 8:30am-10:30am
- Thursday, 20th
- ▪ Year 12 Formal
- Monday, 24th to Tuesday, 25th
- ▪ Year 7 Swim School +Year 9PASS
- Wednesday, 26th
- ▪ P&C Meeting, Common Room, 5pm
- Thursday, 27th to Friday, 28th
- ▪ Year 8 Swim School +Year 10PASS
2014-2015 Family Energy Rebate

Apply before Midnight
16 June 2015

WHAT IS THE FAMILY ENERGY REBATE?
The Family Energy Rebate helps to cover the cost of energy bills for NSW households with dependent children. In 2014-2015 the rebate gives:

- A $150 credit on electricity bills for eligible applicants who hold an account with an electricity retailer
- A $165 direct payment to nominated bank accounts for eligible applicants who live in a residential community (caravan or mobile home park) and receive electricity from the park operator.

AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE REBATE?
To be eligible you MUST:

- Be a NSW resident; and
- Have been assessed by the Federal Department of Human Services (DHS) as being eligible for the Family Tax Benefit (FTB) A or B at any time during the 2013-2014 financial year; and
- Be an account holder of an electricity retailer, or a long-term resident of a residential community (caravan or mobile home park), whose name appears on the electricity account for supply to her or his principal place of residence.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO BEFORE I APPLY?
Before you apply, here's a quick checklist. Have you:

- Lodged your tax return for 2013-14 with the Australian Taxation Office or informed the Department of Human Services (DHS) if you are not required to lodge a tax return?
- Received confirmation from DHS as to your eligibility for Family Tax Benefit A or B for 2013-2014?

HOW TO APPLY

- ONLINE – It takes just two minutes to submit an application. Processing starts immediately.
- PAPER – download a form from the website, complete and submit by email, fax or post. Use this form if you receive your electricity from the operator of the residential community where you live.

FOR MORE INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

PHONE Service NSW 13 77 88
EMAIL fer.program@trade.nsw.gov.au