



Principal: Terry Griffiths
Deputy Principal: Bruce Collins

NOVEMBER 2011

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HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE DAY

3rd November 2011

Chocolate Chip Cookies...!

If I had to highlight any of the experiences on the day, this would have to be it!

174 eager Year 5 Boys from 19 surrounding schools, and some as far afield as the Central Coast, came to Asquith Boys on a bleak day, weatherwise, but shone through the darkness and dampness- performing, producing, attending, listening, participating and of course... eating!

Boys and parents arrived and were ushered to the hall by our Prefects where they were entertained by our Stage band. After a welcome in the hall by Mr Griffiths (Principal) and our school captain Max Sharkey, the boys were allotted groups and taken to their first lesson by their carers for the day, our Year 10 Prefects.

All four lessons were well received and the lunch and evaluation session that followed were just as enthusiastically 'consumed'!

Making sherbet, discovering Archaeology, creating jewellery, participating in PE and of course...baking cookies were the highlights.

Our Year 10 Prefects were excellent big brothers and a credit to our school.

Parental feedbacks – over thirty – were overwhelmingly positive with comments such as "...my son can't stop talking about the great day he had..." and "...this day has greatly removed any fears my son had about moving on to High School.."

This great experience, which has become an annual event, has helped to break down barriers and remove misconceptions about High School transition and adjusted students to the movement to High School.

As our numbers continue to grow, it is rewarding to think that the day does a lot to acclimatise students to High School.

I would like to thank the SRC and Prefect Body for their great participation on the day and Mrs Beckerleg for her hard work in putting this day together.



Mr Moscos, Primary Schools' Coordinator.



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Presentation Night

The annual Presentation Night will be held on Monday 12th December in the school hall starting at 7:30pm. This is when we recognise and celebrate the achievements of our students for this year. I urge all parents to come along and join us for what is always a great occasion.



School Contributions

As I write this article, only about 70% of parents have paid school contributions (what used to be known as "fees") for 2011. This figure is considerably less than the amount that is usually paid at this time of the year. This is very disappointing. While school contributions were long ago declared voluntary, the school's finances, like all schools, are heavily dependent on the vast majority of parents making this vital financial contribution to the school's resources. Especially necessary are elective course contributions, i.e., money used to buy resources for practical subjects such as visual arts, food technology and industrial technology. I can assure all parents that every dollar that is contributed goes directly to the educational needs of their sons. Asquith Boys High will eventually fall behind other schools in our area in the quality of our educational resources if this trend continues. I would like to thank the majority of parents who have already paid their contributions. It is frustrating to notice the number of students who possess the latest iphones yet some of their parents apparently are unable to make any contribution to their son's education. (Please note: we still have a small amount of funds left in the Student Assistance Scheme for those parents in genuine financial hardship).

The last weeks of the year

As we approach the last weeks of the school year, I have been urging all students to maintain their academic focus right until the last day of term, Friday December 16th. This the last day of the year for all Years, including Year 10. There are still exams, assessments and reports to be concluded for all Years. Year 11 have, of course begun their HSC courses. I urge all parents to ensure that their sons maintain their attendance and academic focus right up until the last days.

Uniform Policy 2012

This edition of the Backchat contains a page on the Uniform Policy update. Please note the inclusion of pictures of shoes, making it clear what type of shoe is acceptable under our uniform policy.

School Council and P & C

This year both the School Council and the P& C have been very active in supporting the needs of our students in a variety of ways. The inaugural ABHS Community Day is only one example of the tremendous support we have had this year from our community. I would like to thank all members of the School Council, led by Dr Kim Pinnock, and everyone who has participated in the P & C, led by Mr John Koellner, for their exceptional effort in 2011. Thanks also to our many parents who lent their time as voluntary workers in the school canteen.

Terry Griffiths, Principal

OUR 2010 ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT is now available on the school website



2010 Annual School Report ASQUITH BOYS HIGH SCHOOL



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School Code 8245



ASQUITH BOYS HIGH SCHOOL

Exceptional Learning Opportunities For Boys

UNIFORM POLICY

effective from 2012

Please note that the only official supplier of the correct uniform is Lowes at Westfield, Hornsby.

Every boy enrolled at Asquith Boys High School must wear correct school uniform. Our school uniform requirements were established in 1989 and subsequently revised by a committee of the School Council in 2003, 2006, 2008, 2009 and 2011. The committee consists of parents, teachers and students. The School Council endorses the school's uniform policy. Students and parents are reminded that only the School Council can change the school's uniform policy. There are consequences if boys do not wear correct school uniform (refer to the school's Code of Conduct).



Normal school uniform days are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.



Juniors (summer) Dark grey trousers/shorts (no cargo pants or cargo shorts are permitted), lace up (black laces only) black leather shoes with a black sole (as per picture), green shirt with crest. Shirts may be worn outside the pants. (Ties are only required in Terms 2 and 3.) Grey long socks with school colours **must be worn pulled up to the knee.** If a belt is worn, it must be black.

Juniors (winter) Dark grey trousers/shorts (no cargo pants or cargo shorts are permitted), lace up (black laces only) black leather shoes with a black sole (as per picture), green shirt with crest. Ties must be worn, with the top button of collar done up and the shirt must be tucked in. Grey socks with school colours, **must be worn pulled up to the knee.** If a belt is worn, it must be black. A green pullover with crest or polar fleece with crest may be worn.



Wednesday sports uniform

Students are required to wear either full sports uniform or full school uniform (if not participating in sport). The sports uniform consists of bottle green shorts, and/or school tracksuit, ABHS sports polo top, sports shoes, long white sports socks with two green bands.

Seniors (summer) Dark grey trousers/shorts (no cargo pants or cargo shorts are permitted), lace up (black laces only) black leather shoes with a black sole (as per picture), white shirt with crest. Shirts may be worn outside the pants. Grey socks with school colours, **must be worn pulled up to the knee.** If a belt is worn, it must be black.



Senior (winter) Maroon blazer, dark grey trousers/shorts (no cargo pants or cargo shorts are permitted), lace up (black laces only) black leather shoes with a black sole (as per picture), white shirt with crest. Ties must be worn with the top button of collar done up and the shirt must be tucked in. A maroon pullover with crest may be worn. Grey socks with school colours, **must be worn pulled up to the knee.** If a belt is worn, it must be black.

Prefects (summer/winter) Uniform must be worn as above, with a tie and shirts tucked in. The green blazer is compulsory for formal occasions and must be worn to and from school all year round. Ties must also be worn with the top button of collar done up.



Please note

- Boys may wear a white "T" shirt under their shirt on normal school days as long as it has no logos and the sleeves are not visible below the school shirt sleeves.
- Rugby or any other form of football tops are not to be worn on sports days. Team jerseys are not to be worn in place of the sports uniform.
- They are only to be worn when playing sport.
- Any boy who has a variation to uniform on any school day must have a note from a parent/caregiver noting reasons.
- All items of school uniform are available from Lowes Westfield Shopping Centre, Hornsby.

If you have any enquiries please contact
Mr Bruce Collins, Deputy Principal

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UNIFORM POLICY 2012

YEAR 7 SWIMMING AND LIFESAVING PROGRAM



The Year 7 Swimming and Lifesaving Program was held for the first time at Peninsular Leisure Centre, Woy Woy, during week 3 of this term. The week was one of the most successful in memory with the behaviour, level of cooperation and enthusiasm of the boys being really outstanding. The boys showed a genuine interest in learning the skills and the improvement shown by the boys was really fantastic, especially in some of the weaker swimmers.

Having a new venue with an indoor pool turned out to be a blessing in disguise as the first day was very hot and the rest of the week was cold and being indoor the weather conditions didn't matter. There was also no complaining from the students even though most had to travel a long way to get to the venue. The boys seemed to have a very enjoyable and productive week.

There was a mix of swimming abilities from complete non-swimmers right through to representative squad swimmers and there are Swim and Survive levels that are designed to challenge all abilities.



Deserving special mention were the 8 students who completed the highest award on offer the 'Swim and Survive 7' award.

These students are:

Joshua Chapman

David Mays

Scott Williams

Callum Fenech

Charles Shepherd

Cameron Yeates

Bryn Lom

Warren Spencer-Scarr



Each day was divided into a number of different activities including swimming lessons with Aust Swim Qualified instructors, Lifesaving skills, resuscitation, first aid, and theory.

I would also like to thank the teachers involved in the program and the year 11 SLR students who gave up their time to help instruct the year 7's. The SLR students had previously completed their Bronze Star and Bronze Awards during their Aquatics unit in class.

The Year 11 helpers were:

Harley Jackson

Reece O'Sullivan

Vincent Campbell

Sam Every

Rhys Tattersall

Robert Rintala

Luke Smith

Sam Miller

Lachlan Parkinson

Once again congratulations to Year 7 on your outstanding behaviour and level of effort and enthusiasm during the week.

**Mark Millett,
Swim School
Co-ordinator**



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Royal National Park Expedition – Bundeena to Otford (Year 9 & Year 10)

On Thursday 13th of October 2011 a keen group of year 10 students, accompanied by Mr Millett departed on their second expedition which would be completed at Otford station.

The expedition began at Hornsby station at 1:00pm.

The first day of the journey was relatively easy, involving two train trips (three for some people), a ferry trip and a miniscule amount of walking. Upon arrival at Bundeena (a small secluded area not too far from Cronulla and Lilli Pilli) students set up camp and enjoyed a magnificent meal consisting of two minute noodles and rice or packet pasta dishes for most, but of course some people like Tom had family serving size curry dishes and teased the rest of the camp with the aromas.



The following morning we all awoke with the understanding of the arduous journey ahead. Everyone was restocking with water as we were all aware that water would be scarce for a long time to come. The day consisted of generally flat, yet tiring bush tracks that definitely tested the group, although the morale was still good partially due to the fact that Austin had brought his kazoo along on the trip. As the journey continued conditions were looking good, no one was injured, the weather had been favorable and we were ahead of schedule. Along the way we saw



some fantastic wildlife including a school of dolphins, a pod of whales including the baby white whale, a sea eagle and a number of wallabies. The highlight was the whales that were only about 50m from the shore.

That night, shortly after assembling our tents at North Era and while we were cooking dinner, along came the Year 9 students and Mr. Yates. The Yr 9's had begun their journey that morning from Hornsby as they were competing at Bronze level award. After dinner a number of the students who still had energy left

played a game of beach touch football.

After everyone fell asleep to the soothing melodies of Sam and Nick singing songs, we were suddenly awoken to the sound of pelting rain and the distant sound of Mr Millett's voice shouting for us to reach higher ground. We had been hit by a flash flood that was literally surrounding the tents. I still recall Max saying that the floor of his tent felt like a water bed.

We all climbed out of our tents to find we were surrounded by water up to our knees and higher in some spots. We (ironically) had been camped on the peaks of hills at the camp site and had been advised to move to a greater depression behind trees and surrounded by a river to avoid possible winds during the night.

The Year 9 Bronze group was hit hardest by the thunderstorm and torrential rain with one tent being blown over and a couple of tents inundated with floodwater. The Year 10 Silver group was cut off from the teachers and the Year 9's and it wasn't until first light that the water level dropped sufficiently to allow us to be reunited.

The final day of walking was quite a trek with everyone's packs weighing at least 3kgs more due to the rain and almost everybody with leeches in their shoes.



When we arrived at Otford the group was soaked from head to toe and ready for a warm shower and dry clothes. We caught the train - eagerly anticipating home.

Finally, although the trip was difficult with the adverse effects of the weather, it was indeed good to see how well everybody worked together in the rain and collaborated at 4o'clock in the morning to share equipment and help each other out. Big thanks to Mr Millett and Mr Yates for taking us on the trip and we are looking forward to the Six Foot Track trip in the Blue Mountains, 24-26 November.



Brett Riley (Year 10)





QUESTIONS FOR MR THOMSETT

What is your full name?

Peter James Thomsett

What high school did you attend?

Ku-ring-gai High

Are you still friends with any classmates?

Yes a few! There is one particular friend who I played in a school rock band with. He was the drummer and we sometimes play together even now.

When did you start teaching at Asquith Boys?

1988! I taught fathers of students at the school now and a couple of students that are now teachers at the school.

What made you want to teach Christian Studies?

I love telling and teaching people about God, Jesus, the Bible and the Christian life.

What are your thoughts on the teaching of Christian Studies in schools?

There are two extremes! One is that it is very rewarding when you are able to impart truth and life into students and see their lives changed and they become men of character and integrity. It also can be so discouraging that when students do not want to learn or listen and are negative to the class and myself.

Is your job paid or is it voluntary?

Eighteen churches of all denominations from Hornsby to Berowra have formed an organisation called HADCEA – Hornsby Asquith District Christian Education Association. They employ me on behalf of the churches to come and teach Christian Studies. They also employ a lady to teach at Asquith Girls.

What other duties to you perform around the school?

Wow! When I think about it quite a lot which I really enjoy! I work for the P&C one day a week as the groundsman. That is why the lawns look so good! I am the chaplain of the school and I am involved in student welfare. I play in the Stage Band and I have formed a number of rock bands over the years, the current band is called "Nine". I have coached and been involved with Football (soccer), Futsal, cricket, volleyball, touch, baseball and basketball and have won a few premierships as well. I organised football games against students which has always been fun. I have been the starter at our sports carnivals and I am the convenor of Kurrajong! Go the Green machine! We have been the champion house twice! I have been a part of the Year Seven PIP and have attended many camps and excursions. I run the staff footy tipping comp and most important job I have is flying the Chelsea flag! Go the Blues.

Why are you leaving Asquith Boys?

The reason is I just feel tired and jaded with the teaching and I feel I need to step down for my benefit and also for the subject's benefit. I feel Christian Studies needs a new, fresh and dare I say it, young face.

Do you know who will be replacing you and if not, how do Christian studies teachers get selected?

I don't know who the person will be as yet. HADCEA does the interviews and selection and that is still happening at the moment.

What are you planning to do as a job when you leave?

My aim is to teach in a Bible School or start one myself, perhaps an on-line Bible school and also be involved in training chaplains.



What church do you attend and what denomination is it?

I attend and I am one of the pastors at Cornerstone Church at Epping which belongs to the Assemblies of God denomination.

What instruments do you play?

I play guitar, both acoustic and lead. I also play bass and have been known to hit drums. I am learning the mandolin at the moment.

What is your favourite music?

Without a doubt the 70's Rock. Including Pink Floyd, Deep Purple, Led Zeppelin, Uriah Heep, Jethro Tull, Yes, Humble Pie, Yes, Free and many more!

You have been helping and inspiring so many Asquith Boys students to develop their musical interests for some time now; can you tell me what inspires you to teach these students?

Thank you for the compliment. I just simply love playing music and being able to play with others with the same passion is always a blast! I love seeing boys enjoy the experience of playing and enjoying the high of performing. I will never forget performing with the band Sixes and Sevens, "Comfortably Numb" at the Year 12 graduation in 2009 and then playing "My Generation" as the Year 12 marched out the hall. To see so many people enjoying our music was a real buzz and I know it was for the boys in the band as well.

Besides music, what are your hobbies and why?

Football is my passion and I have been playing, coaching and refereeing for 43 years. I simply love playing the game! I think that the whole school knows that I am a devout Chelsea fan as well and have been for 42 years.

If you could leave us with one inspiring phrase what would it be?

Life is the most precious gift that we possess. Live it to the full by knowing the creator and sharing it with everybody around you.

Thank you for answering the questions. We are sad to see you leave our school and hope that you will be able to come back to visit us soon!!

I want to say a big heartfelt thank you to all students, staff and parents that I have been associated with over all the years at Asquith Boys and making my time here an unforgettable experience. God bless!

Article and photo by Luke Alexander, Year 8 Journalism

BANDANA DAY

On Friday October 28, **\$ 646** was raised in a little under two hours at Hornsby Railway station for young people with Cancer under the banner of Canteen and BANDANA Day.

A group of boys from next year's Football Tour to Turkey sold over 150 different coloured bandanas to commuters of all ages. The boys were Jacob Hamilton, Ben Gibson, Sam Hanley, Jamie Warren and Brad Green from Year 8 and James Thompson and Nick Gibson from Year 10. The boys did a great job, but in particular, Sam Hanley and Jacob Hamilton excelled and showed great potential as future used car salesman.

Well done to all the boys for getting up early and doing such a fine job in raising a lot of money for a worthwhile cause.

Mr Blackwood

ASQUITH ROCKS AIM

On Friday 18 November fifty one (51) students from our school attended a concert entitled '**AIM ROCKS THE NAVY**'. The Australian Institute of Music (AIM) holds regular FREE concerts to showcase the talents of their many tertiary level students and guest performers. So far this year elective music students have also seen 'THE BEST OF AUSSIE ROCK' and 'THE WOODSTOCK EXPERIENCE' all of which directly relate to the syllabus in music for years 7-12. The last show featured the AIM Big Band and the NAVY Big Band playing a selection of jazz, swing and popular tunes with amazing dexterity and professionalism. Our students were treated to some virtuosic playing, incredible solos and rhythm sections that really 'cooked'. Students chosen for this excursion (the only cost being the return train fare to the city) were drawn from our own ABHS Stage band, 7E, Years 8, 9/10 and 11/12.



students and staff from AIM.

The AIM Big Band came on first and played a blistering set of tunes that left no doubt this was going to be a memorable concert. Next the NAVY Big Band came out and played like the seasoned professionals they are with a set of showstopper tunes that were timeless. Several AIM students joined with the Navy ensemble and performed 'admirably' well!

The show over, we all walked through Chinatown to Darling Harbour to partake of some lunch and test out the new Play Area which just happened to be near a McDonald's franchise. After a brief time playing on the monkey bars and slippery dips it was time for roll call, a walk up the hill and to board the train at Town Hall for the return journey. We all arrived safely back at Hornsby, our appetite for live big band music completely satisfied.

In this age of technology and music on demand it is still hard to beat real music played in real time by a real person on a real instrument (which includes the voice) rather than something generated by a machine somewhere.

Many thanks to Ms Crouch and Mr Thomsett for coming along for the ride and helping out greatly. The weather was particularly fine and our boys as usual enjoyed themselves immensely and behaved, on the whole, in an exemplary manner.

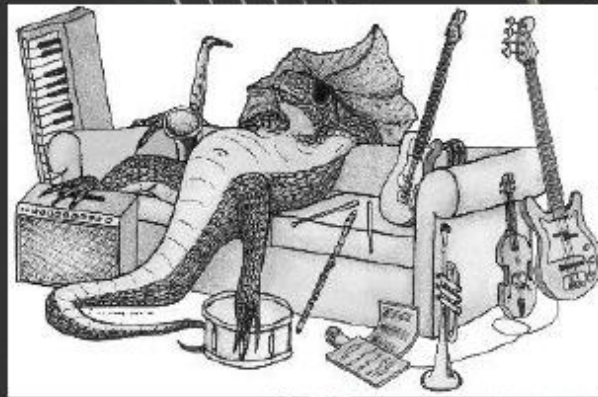
Mr M Williamson (CAPA)



½ hr

Guitar and Bass Lessons

*Mike Gordon from
The Learning Lounge*



*will be teaching here next year-
Sign up NOW!*

**Professional individual lessons @\$30 per ½ hr,
during school hours in the Music block.**

**All styles and competencies taught – impress
and amaze your parents & friends!**

Contact: Mr Williamson 9477 3508.

CANTEEN NEWS

Bookpacks for Year 7 and Year 8 2012

Bookpacks are expected to arrive at Canteen in the first week of December. The price of the Year 7 Bookpack is \$125 this year and includes a calculator, and aprons for hospitality and TAS, as well as sunblock and protective glasses for TAS.

The price of the Year 8 Bookpack is \$30 and includes a book for the elective subject you have chosen, as well as the standard exercise books and stationery requested by the Head Teachers.

Books and stationery are available all year in the Canteen, including your coloured Visual Arts Diaries for each year.

Canteen Menu for 2011/2012

An updated price list is included in this Backchat. With current price rises taken into account, this will take us into the beginning of next year, and prices will be reviewed in Term One.

New Items In Canteen

Frozen Mango to Go \$2.20 and Tropico Frozen Pineapple Stix \$2.00 are now available. All fruit with no preservatives, and very refreshing on a hot day!

Volunteers in Canteen

Thank you all for your invaluable help this year.

Without the time that you donate, we would not be able to provide such a variety of food to our boys.

As this is the last Backchat for the year, Melissa and I wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and look forward to seeing you again in 2012.

Maryanne Miller, Canteen Manager

Thank you to our Volunteers



Caroline Campbell
Catherine Pedersen
Chris Newby
Cindy Younan
Doug Leverett
Evelyn Drummond
Fayne Bennett
Gaye Heap
Heather Cant
In A Kim
Jacqui Taylor
Janine Dudfield

Joanne Parsons
Judi Williams
Karen Waters
Katrina Bulmer
Kirsty Berryman
Lindy Holland
Lisa Yeates
Lynda Fitzsimmons
Maree Webster
Melissa Burne
Melissa Thornhill
Michelle Watson

Michelle Wilkes
Nicole Cunningham
Philly Smith
Robyn Adam
Ros Bird
Ros Virtue
Ruth Swadling
Sharon North
Sue Doherty
Tracey Buwalda
Vivien Harrison

ASQUITH BOYS HIGH SCHOOL CANTEEN MENU 2011

ROLLS & LAVASH

(available daily)

Chicken/lett/Mayo.....	\$3.00
Lavash ½:	
Beef & Salad.....	\$2.00
Chicken & Salad.....	\$2.00

ROLLS & LAVASH

(available by order)

Buttered.....	\$0.60
Cheese.....	\$1.80
Chicken.....	\$2.80
Chicken & Salad.....	\$3.80
Egg & Lettuce.....	\$1.80
Ham.....	\$2.80
Ham & Salad.....	\$3.80
Peanut Butter.....	\$1.50
Salad.....	\$3.00
Shredded Beef.....	\$2.80
Vegemite.....	\$1.50

Lavash:

Chicken/Lett/Carrot/Cheese/Mayo..	\$4.00
Beef/Lett/Carrot/Cheese/Mayo.....	\$4.00

SALADS

(available by order)

Plate/Tub.....	\$4.00
With Meat.....	\$4.50

SUSHI

(Tuesday & Thursday)

Tuna/Beef/Chicken.....	\$2.80
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FRUIT

Seasonal Fruit available daily.....Price varies

YOGHURT.....\$2.00

CAKES & SNACKS

Cheese & Bacon Rolls.....	\$1.00
Pikelets.....	\$0.60
Banana Bread.....	\$2.20
Muffins (Low Fat-when available).....	\$1.80
Fun Buns (“).....	\$1.80
Chips.....	\$1.00

HOT FOOD (available daily)

Beef Roll - with Tom/Cheese/Tom Sauce...	\$3.60
Chicken Burger - with Lett/Mayo.....	\$3.20
Chicken & Corn Roll.....	\$1.50
Chicken Chips.....	\$1.50
Chicken Wraps:	
Chilli Chicken Tenders/Lett/ Carrot/Cheese/Mayo... ..	\$4.00
Egg & Bacon Roll.....	\$3.50
Garlic Bread.....	\$1.00
Hot Dogs.....	\$2.20
Lamb Roll:	
With Tom/Cheese/BBQ Sauce.....	\$3.80
Meatball Roll:	
With Tom/Cheese/Tom Sauce.....	\$3.50
Meat Pie.....	\$3.00
Pizza Pie.....	\$3.00
Potato Pie.....	\$3.00
Potato Wedges.....	\$1.50
Pizza.....	\$2.80
Pizza Rounda.....	\$2.40
Noodles.....	\$2.20
Sausage Roll.....	\$2.00
Sweet Chilli Tenders(2).....	\$2.40

HOT FOOD (available by order)

Beef Spring Roll.....	\$1.60
Chicken Burger:	
On Buttered Roll.....	\$2.20
With Lett/Mayo/Pineapple.....	\$3.40
With Salad.....	\$3.80
Chicken Crunchy Royale Roll:	
With Tom/Lett/Mayo.....	\$3.40
Corn Cobettes.....	\$0.70
Dim Sims (3).....	\$1.80
Vegetable Burgers.....	\$3.20

HOT MEALS (One available daily)

Butter Chicken & Rice.....	\$3.40
Ravioli.....	\$2.20
Spaghetti Bolognaise.....	\$2.20
Vegetarian Hokkien Noodles.....	\$2.20

DRINKS

Milk:	Plain 600ml.....	\$2.10
Flavoured:	300ml.....	\$2.20
	600ml.....	\$3.30
Juice:	375ml.....	\$2.00
	500ml.....	\$2.60
Up & Go.....		\$2.20
Fruit Box Poppers.....		\$1.20
Quencher Flavoured Spring Water.....		\$3.00
Water 600ml.....		\$2.00
Pump Flavoured Water.....		\$2.50
Cans.....		\$2.00
Bottles of Diet Drink.....		\$3.20
Hot Chocolate:		
(Before School/Winter Only).....		\$1.50



THE WORD FROM ENGLISH

Recent Highlights: The English staff would like to give our warmest thanks to Mrs Tapner for all the work and enthusiasm she has given this Semester. She has been an invaluable asset to our staff and will be sadly missed. Thank you!

On another note, I would personally like to thank the support of all the staff, students and parents over my last 10 years at Asquith Boys. My time here has been instrumental to the moulding of resilience, excellence and perseverance in my character. I have learnt so much from you all. I thank the boys for all the great laughs we've enjoyed together and hope that I've imparted some pearls of wisdom they can carry into the future. I will miss you all.

Thank you. Mrs Nathalie Bodley

Students of the Month:

Congratulations on the consistent effort of Charles Shepherd and Cameron Hanna of 7A, Joshua Chapman of 7C whose positive work ethic and class contributions have put them in good stead for Year 8. Well done to Jack Veness for his well designed newspaper article on the death of *Romeo and Juliet*.

What's Happening Around the Classes:

Year 7: Each class has finished their Poetry Assessment Tasks in which they had to compose their own poem. 7E has finished studying the poets of the Romantic era; they have been challenged to compose their own sonnet. Class teachers were absolutely thrilled with the high quality, creative and innovative work that so many of our students produced! Year 7 has now embarked upon their first journey into the world of Shakespeare, exploring his life and times and studying a graphic novel version of *Macbeth*.

Year 8: Students are completing a Unit on how Picture Books change attitudes. Within this Unit students have focused on improving their sentence structure, elaborating on their ideas and better engaging audiences. The assessment will culminate in the writing of an article for a magazine in which they meet the above criteria. The skills explicitly taught in this Unit will further develop a clear understanding of a variety of structures needed for good writing.

Year 9: Students are re-contextualising a chosen section of the play, *Romeo and Juliet* by rewriting a script within a new setting. They are realising the universal relevance of Shakespeare's infamous play as it can be adapted to so many

different contexts, even within the Hornsby and Woy Woy area!

Year 10: With the completion of the School Certificate Test, Year 10s are getting a taste of the Senior courses. They have been broken up into their chosen courses for 2012 and are engaged in an Area of Study that imitates the skills needed for Years 11 and 12.

Year 11/12: The boys in the new **English Studies Course** have collaborated to organise an excursion for an assessment to sell their city to other teenagers. This will be an exciting adventure and photos will be in next year's Backchat. **Standard and Advanced English Courses** are well on the way to finishing the Area of Study. The Standard course is focusing on the play *Rainbow End*, by Jane Harrison, while Advanced students engage with the autobiographical work '*Romulus, My Father*'. They have already been issued with assessment tasks with the final essay due end of Week 9, on the 9th of December. These assessment tasks account for 25% of their overall English result. Therefore, it is vital that all boys do their very best to submit work that will put them in good stead for their HSC.

Ms Bodley

Head Teacher English



SCIENCE

Year 12

HSC Physics students are trialling a new interactive learning platform called InspirEd. This program includes a video explanation for each dot point in the syllabus as well as quizzes, practice questions and note taking area. The program is accessed via the web so students can use it at school, home or mobile devices.

Year 10

All year 10 students have now finished the formal part of their School Certificate. In Science the boys have been split from their normal classes into groups based upon what Science they are doing next year. Ms Tharmarajah is taking the Physics and Chemistry students, Ms Rui is taking the Biology students and Mr Yates is looking after the Senior Science and Environmental boys. Mr Robertson has the boys who have not chosen any Science for their HSC and they will be working through a Marine Studies Unit.

Year 7, 8 and 9

A reminder that yearly tests will be conducted in Week 8. All students should be reviewing their work from the start of the year to maximise their marks. Results from these tests will help determine the make up of Science classes for next year.

Mr S. Robertson
Head Teacher Science



Greetings from HSIE!

Student of the Month – Michael Fuary
Year 10 for excellence –Mandatory History and Geography – well done, Michael!

This has been a very busy month – Assessments, Examinations and Excursions all taking priority. Big excursion this Friday for all Year 8 to the Zoo. Should be a great day.

Firstly, **Year 11 Ancient History** were impressively represented at the Lecture Day in the city on Cities of Vesuvius, Pompeii and Herculaneum last Monday – a feast of information and I am very confident the boys absorbed a lot of information that will help them in the HSC.

I have asked all staff to express their efforts for your consideration. Needless to say, they have put in some really long days and I am most grateful for their efforts.

Year 11 Business Studies had a very rewarding and enjoyable day recently at Luna Park, looking at the Entertainment Industry and from all accounts, Miss Woolley expressed her satisfaction with their participation on the day, as did Miss Byrnes with the Legal Studies visit to the Supreme Court. Year 11 Business Studies students are very busy at the moment. They are working hard on their Business Research task. The task allows the students to create a hypothetical business – this is commonly referred to as the BRT – Business Research Task. Many of their Businesses could be very successful.

Lessons and experiences such as these are invaluable in the learning process and it is great to see the boys' enthusiasm when they return to school.

Year 10 Mandatory History and Geography classes will be beginning the "All My Own Work" Mandatory unit next week and must attend all classes to complete this Compulsory Course.

Year 9 and 10 Elective Commerce Classes are learning skills in running a Business and personal and financial management.

Year 7 and 8 Geography classes are working well and practising a number of new geographical skills. 7H are doing Coral Reefs, whereas 7A are about to begin World Heritage Sites. 8C have just completed Threatened Habitats and had pleasing results in their topic test. 8H are 'Globalising'! Year 7 will be attending the IMAX and Darling Harbour next week as part of their Site Study on Sydney. It should be a great and well organised day.

And finally...As this is our last Backchat for the term, thanks to all boys who have worked hard in our courses and to all parents for their support

Mr G. Moscos
Head Teacher HSIE



Examinations – "A celebration of learning."

Have you ever thought of exams in that way? Perhaps it is not the usual way we think of them, however exams do bring the learning done over the past term or semester to a focal point. If the preparation has been done thoroughly beforehand it is extremely satisfying to achieve to the best of your ability, even if that doesn't mean getting all the questions right. It is all about personal best. This year the main examinations for Years 7-9 will take place around weeks 9 and 10. While the results will not be included in reports, they will be used to assist in determining class placements for next year. Year 10 will also complete tests then which we will use to check appropriateness of subject selections for Year 11. This year's Year 11 students will complete their first HSC assessment task in Weeks 9/10. This will be in the form of a class test for Advanced and General Mathematics. The Applied Mathematics class will be doing an ICT task requiring knowledge of spreadsheets, reflecting the work they have been doing in class recently.

Mathematics Transition Program

We have taken on a very exciting initiative this term which will have significant long term benefits for students. Having seen some students struggle with the change from Year 6 Mathematics to Year 7 Mathematics, Mrs Anthonisz, the STLA, Mrs Batey, teacher's aide, and the Mathematics staff decided to engage with the local feeder primary schools to give them a taste of "high school Mathematics".

In Term 3 we met with Year 6 teachers from the area and swapped information about how we teach Mathematics in high school and primary school.

We looked at some of the challenges for the new Year 7 students such as using a textbook, copying notes and setting out an exercise book. Teachers from ABHS then visited a number of primary schools, taught a high school style Mathematics lesson and left additional teaching materials for the class teacher to continue with. The project has in no way been one sided. At ABHS, we are looking at how we might be able to change some of our practices so that the transition to high school is smoother. There has been a very positive response to this initiative and we hope to continue next year. The schools who have been involved are Asquith Public School, Berowra Public School, Berowra Christian School, Hornsby Heights Public School, Hornsby North Public School and Hornsby South Public School.

Next year we hope to enlist other primary schools as well because we think the benefits are there for all students, whether they come to us or to another high school in Year 7.

Numeracy Project

Another exciting initiative involving the Mathematics faculty as well as staff across the whole school involves numeracy.

A numeracy team has been created comprised of representatives from all faculties. This team has surveyed teachers of all subjects to find out firstly the numeracy skills used in their Year 7 to 10 subjects and secondly whether they need teaching resources to help them to teach these skills. Mathematics teachers Mr Razzaghi, Mrs Sharma, Ms Julie Dupuche (Mathematics Consultant Northern Sydney Region) and myself have been creating and compiling resources which teachers in other faculties will be able to use to explicitly teach numeracy skills as they relate to their subjects. An example of this from History might be where students are reading a table on population growth in different countries. They may be given the raw population figures and need to find out the growth rate as a percentage. The history teacher could give them a quick reminder, using provided lesson material, of how to calculate a percentage before going on with the history lesson.

By early next year it is expected that teachers will have access to a wide range of numeracy resources for their use in each subject area.

*Mr D. Arblaster
Head Teacher Maths*



CAREERS

Coming Events

Year 10 Mock Interviews

These will be held on **Friday 2nd December** for all Year 10 students at designated times during the day. At this stage, Atel Group Training, BWAC Apprenticeship Centre, Mission Australia, MG MyGateway Group Training, Australian Training Company, MEGT, Woolwoths Hornsby, Master Builders Association, Choice Employment Solutions and Coles Asquith have all kindly agreed to send representatives to conduct interviews with the students. Students are expected to bring their resumes and job portfolios and to dress appropriately.

Important Information

Year 12 Careers Advisory Service Thursday 15 December 2011 to Friday 6 January 2012

This free service is available by phone on 1300 300 687 or through our website www.cas.det.nsw.edu.au. The Careers Advisory Service website contains helpful information to assist you in clarifying course choices, employment opportunities, career pathways and training options.

Job Opportunities

1. MYfreightcareer is offering traineeships in International logistics, Import, Export, Shipping, Customs Brokering and Aviation. Visit www.myfreightcareer.com.au or phone 93139777

Mrs J Fry, Careers Adviser

P & C Association

Hello ABHS community,

The P&C met on Tuesday 22nd November with several parents in attendance. Thank you to those who came along to the meeting. Another school year comes to a close. It certainly has been a great one for ABHS and the P&C. Together we have achieved a great deal.

- The laying of the 50th Anniversary pavers, and the opening of the path, has started a great tradition and showcase for our school.
- The P&C Shopping Tour was another good time, with over twenty shoppers enjoying the day.
- The Oval and the grounds are constant work for the school, but the efforts of many staff and parents have ensured that we try to keep the school looking good. We have two working bee days set aside for next year.
- The ABHS Open Day was a great success in September, with the MOSCOS Cup and many other events.
- Your P&C have supported our school financially with several initiatives, in staffing, software, grounds maintenance, to name a few.

While we are a small group, we are becoming more and more active, and see that we can make a great contribution to ABHS.

I would like to make special mention to several of our P&C that are the “unsung” heroes of our school. These people have made great contribution to ABHS this year:

- Marg Gibson – for her great support in organising the Open Day, the P&C Shopping Tour, and her enthusiasm and passion at our P&C meetings
- Nicole Cunningham – for her two years as Treasurer of our P&C, and her overall involvement in P&C
- Jenny Williams – for her support in organising the stalls at the Open Day, and for taking on the role of Treasurer replacing Nicole
- Jacqui Taylor, Kerry Limbert and Leanne Dalziel – for their involvement and passion in our P&C.

Thanks very much to you all.

Finally the P&C can only be effective with an equally effective and passionate School Executive. I would like to thank, Mr Griffiths, Mr Collins, Mr Moscos, Mr Arblaster, and Mrs Ronald for their continuing support of the P&C.

Thank you all for your support.

I hope to see you all at our First meeting for 2012, which is our AGM, on Tuesday 14th February, 2012.


Thanks for a great year,

John Koellner

ABHS P&C President

Parents and Citizens working together for our School

ASQUITH BOYS HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR TERM 4 2011

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
Week 8B	November 28	November 29	November 30 Disco	December 1 Formal Assembly Leadership Induction <i>SRC, Peer Support, Peer Mediation, House Captains</i>	December 2 Mock Interview Day Yr 10	Dec 3 4
Week 9A	December 5 <i>Year 12 VET Work Placement</i> Orientation Day	December 6 <i>Year 12 VET Work Placement</i> Primary Schools Football Gala Day School Council Finance Meeting	December 7 <i>Year 12 VET Work Placement</i>	December 8 <i>Year 12 VET Work Placement</i> Winning House Beach Party	December 9 <i>Year 12 VET Work Placement</i> School Certificate Assembly	Dec 10 11
Week 10B	December 12  PRESENTATION NIGHT	December 13	December 14 HSC Results Out	December 15	December 16 End of Term 4 Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11	Dec 17 18
Week 11A	December 19 Staff Development Day	December 20 Staff Development Day				

2012 DATES

Term 1 Friday 27th January till Thursday 5th April

Term 2 Monday 23rd April till Friday 29th June

Term 3 Monday 16th July till Friday 21st September

Term 4 Monday 8th October till Friday 21st December

ASQUITH BOYS HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR TERM 1 2012

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	Sat/Sun
Week 1B				January 26 Australia Day	January 27 Staff Development Day	Jan 28/ 29
Week 2A	January 30 Years 7, 11 & 12 start	January 31 Years 8, 9 & 10 start	February 1 ABHS SWIMMING CARNIVAL Woy Woy	February 2	February 3	February 4 / 5
Week 3B	February 6	February 7	February 8	February 9 HSC & SC High Achievers Formal Assembly	February 10 ID Card Photos	February 11 / 12
Week 4A	February 13	February 14 Parent Teacher BBQ P&C AGM Meeting	February 15	February 16	February 17	February 18 19
Week 5B	February 20 Year 7 Camp	February 21 Year 7 Camp	February 22 Year 7 Camp	February 23	February 24	February 25 26 Sunday 26 P&C Working Bee
Week 6A	February 27	February 28	February 29	March 1	March 2 ZONE SWIMMING CARNIVAL	Mar 3 4
Week 7B	March 5	March 6 OPEN Night	March 7	March 8	March 9	Mar 10 11 Yr 7 2012 Enrichment Class Test
Week 8A	March 12 Parent Teacher Interviews (Yr7,11&12)	March 13	March 14	March 15	March 16	Mar 17 18
Week 9B	March 19	March 20	March 21	March 22	March 23 X Country Carnival	March 24 25
Week 10A	March 26	March 27 School Council AGM P&C Meeting	March 28	March 29	March 30	March 31 April 1
Week 11B	April 2	April 3	April 4	April 5 Last Day Term 1	April 6 GOOD FRIDAY	April 7 8

Please note dates of events may change and you should check with Reception if in doubt. Updated calendars will be printed in ABHS Newsletter (Backchat) each Term.

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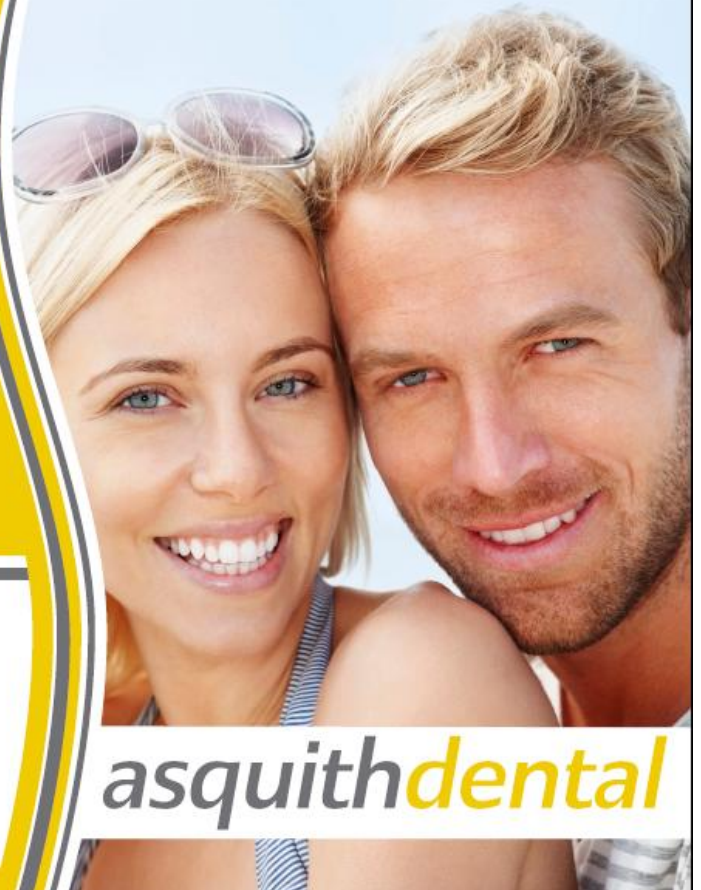
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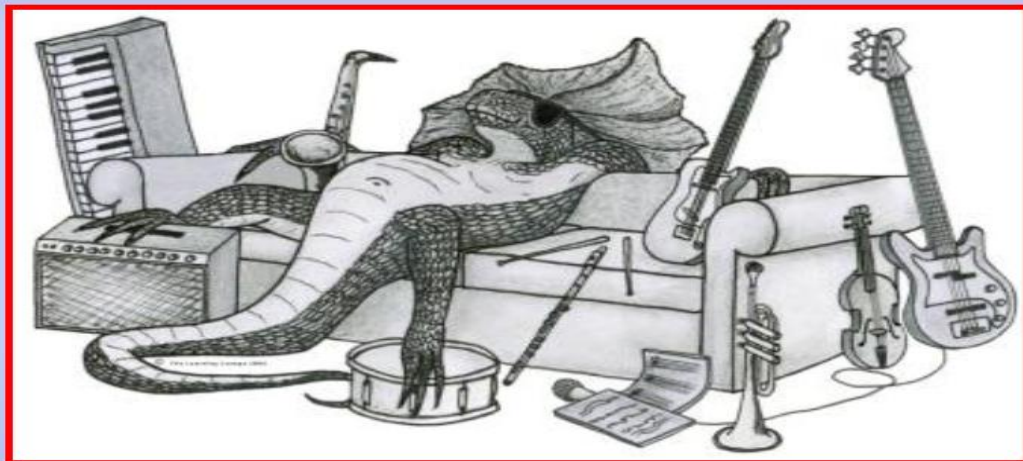
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9477 1418, 0430303393 / office.hcec@gmail.com

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What is the LandLearn NSW Speech Spectacular?

In its third year, the Speech Spectacular is the flagship public speaking event for LandLearn NSW, the education portal for primary industries in NSW. The Spectacular is free to enter and encourages students in stages 3, 4 and 5 to voice their opinions on some important primary industry issues!

How does it work?

There are two public speaking rounds. Round one calls on students to prepare a two minute response to one of these topics, entered as an MP3 recording, due last day of term 2011:

1. Social media is good for farmers
2. Farmers can't help climate change
3. The environment is what we eat

Round two, top speakers from each category are invited to give another speech on a new topic LIVE at the Dubbo Beef Spectacular in March 2012.

Prizes

The judging panel will consist of representatives from LandLearn NSW, NSW Primary Industries and The Land Newspaper. First prize in each category will receive \$500, runner-up \$250 and Rising Stars \$100.

How to enter?

If you think this might be a great opportunity for your students, visit www.landlearnnsw.org.au to listen to last year's entries, find out more and enter online. Brought to you by: LandLearn NSW, NSW Primary Industries and The Land Newspaper

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