



Asquith Boys High School Community Newsletter

BACKCHAT

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**December
2012**

ABHS Annual High School Experience Day

WHAT A GREAT EXPERIENCE!



Over 170 Year 5 students from surrounding Feeder Primary Schools took the opportunity on Thursday 1st November to experience, firsthand, a Day in High School. With excellent weather and guides resplendent in their uniforms, the boys arrived eager to enjoy the day.

After a brief formal welcome and an enjoyable musical moment, the boys were divided into eight groups and taken by their Year 10 Prefects to period one, where they tried out a variety of subjects; Science, Maths, English, Geography, History, Visual Arts, Metal Work, Woodwork, PE to name just a few. All boys did Food Tech – and by the evaluation sheets handed in, it was clearly the most enjoyed of the practical lessons; could it have something to do with consuming the finished lesson product?



The parents were taken on a guided tour of the school – warts and all – and were impressed by what Asquith Boys High School has to offer. What impressed most was the welcoming and sincere approach to learning that was evident everywhere and the excellent rapport between teachers and students. Questions were answered honestly and even a tour of the remodelled toilets was a highlight!

Morning Tea and lunchtime saw the boys refreshed and relaxed and the Sausage Sizzle, can of drink and chips were certainly well and politely received.

All in all, an excellent showpiece for ABHS.

I would like to personally thank Inez Beckerleg who did so much administration work, the Primary School Liaison teachers, all teachers who gave up valuable time to teach the boys – especially Matt Murphy, Tim Josephs and Karen Bird who taught all day – and our excellent Year 10 Leaders, hall crew and our GA Steve Sontor (...the best ever...) for their dedication to the task.

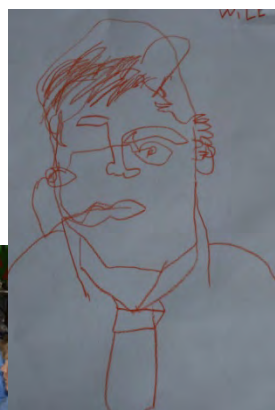
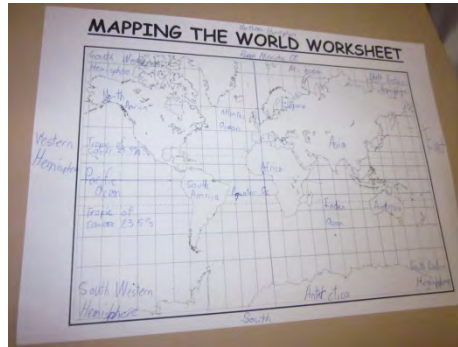
Well done all!

George Moscos

High School Experience Day Coordinator



HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE DAY 2012



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

2012

This has been a tremendous year for extra-curricula involvement by students at ABHS. Consider the following activities in which our boys have participated just in Term 4: - senior boys assisting with Year 7 Swim School; High School Experience day ; Leadership camp – prefects and SRC; training for Peer Mediators and Peer Tutors: participation in School Council; Remembrance Day representation by some prefects; Year 10 Work Experience; Premier's Sporting Challenge (involving 40 boys); Barista Boys hosted another morning tea for elderly people from 2 local nursing homes; Reach Foundation workshops for all Year 9 and Bully-busters for Years 7 and 8; Youth Eco Summit (18 boys from different years); Anti-racism conference (3 students represented the school); Transition program for 2013 Year 7 involved a number of Year 9 boys; the Kitchen Battles contest; many students receiving Principal's medallions for the first time; Year 9 boys helping with Orientation Day; another successful Duke of Edinburgh (bronze and silver major expedition); and the Soccer gala day (involving primary schools and our boys).

There is no other high school that offers boys so many leadership experiences. Congratulations to all those boys involved in these activities.

Presentation Night

The annual Presentation Night will be held on Monday 17th 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.

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, Wednesday 19th December. 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.

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 second annual 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 2012. Thanks also to our many parents who gave their time as voluntary workers in the school canteen. A Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to everyone in the wider Asquith Boys High School community.

Terry Griffiths, Principal

2013 Terms

Term 1 – Tuesday 29th January till Friday 12th April

Years 7, 11 & 12 start Wednesday 30th January

Years 8, 9, 10 start Thursday 31st January

Term 2 – Monday 29th April till Friday 28th June

Term 3 – Monday 15th July till Friday 20th September

Term 4 – Tuesday 8th October till Friday 20th December

Staff Development Days: Tue 29th Jan, Mon 29th April, Mon 15th July, Thu 19 & Fri 20 Dec
Community of Schools Day: Tue 2nd April

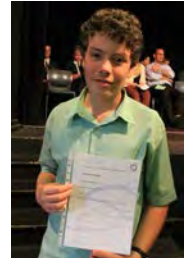
FORMAL ASSEMBLY NOVEMBER 2012



Duke of Edinburgh Awards



Principal Awards, Bronze & Silver Medallions



'Kitchen Battles' Awards



P&C Association

Parents and Citizens working together for our School

Hello ABHS community,

Your P&C met for the final time for 2012 on Tuesday 23rd November, with another good attendance.

We have enjoyed another successful year with increased attendance at the regular meetings and wonderful support for our community day and bus tour. There is a cooperative and enthusiastic working relationship with the teaching and support staff.

Thank you to Mr Griffiths, the School Executive, all staff, the Student Leaders, and all students for their support over the year in all P&C initiatives.

Our monthly meetings are a great venue for questions and concerns to be raised by the parents. Mr Griffiths keeps us in touch with the school activities, achievements and discusses any issues of concern. We have enjoyed several presentations from teachers about NAPLAN, MySchool Website, QuickSmart programs, plans for the Hospitality faculty, new Physics software, Boys Learning Styles, and Boys & Technology.

The two P&C working bees were well attended and the improvements in the grounds have been appreciated by the boys, teachers and the wider community. With the purchase of the new ride on mower (partly funded by the P&C) the grass is in great shape. Our regular commitment to funding the oval maintenance has kept the playing field in top shape. The cricket nets are currently being resurfaced and the grounds committee continues to work with Stephen Sonter and our new grounds assistant, Gabe Bell, who is funded by the P&C for 1-2 day's work each week. The technology fund has been a specific focus of financial support by the P&C for 2012.

We continue to financially support special requests including the QuickSmart literacy and numeracy programs. Funds have been provided towards the cost of the new grand piano and more interactive whiteboards used in the classrooms. Sewing machines have been purchased allowing a broader D&T curriculum for years 7 & 8. The Year 7 PIP prizes have been funded. An extra 20 tables were bought to help with the community day and are now available for general use in the school.

The Student Welfare Officer is employed by the P&C with federal government funding and is a highly regarded member of the school welfare team. The new breakfast club has been well received by the boys and supported by the teaching staff. Our treasurer, Jenny Williams, has shown great commitment in meeting all the demands required by the system.

A new program of purchasing blazers from Year 12 students, and selling them second hand, is continuing with the blazers available during term 1 next year. Details will be forwarded to Year 11. It is anticipated the cost will be approx. \$70.

We look forward to new members in 2013 starting with the first meeting on 26th February 2013, at a new earlier time of 7:30pm. We will be scheduling 2 working bees for the year, planning another community day in September, holding the fun bus shopping tour in November and continuing our support for the dedicated staff of ABHS. If anyone has extra skills in fundraising and organising an email list, your help would be greatly appreciated.

I hope that our P&C Committee continues to be supported well both in responding to requests for assistance and in the financial contributions it makes to our school. As outlined above the whole school body benefits from our activities.

The entire P&C group wishes you all a safe and happy holiday period, and looks forward to a prosperous and rewarding 2013.

Thanks,


John Koellner

P&C President

The next P&C meeting
7.30pm
Tuesday 26 February 2013
in the Library.

All welcome.

ASQUITH BOYS HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR TERM 4 2012

Week	December 17	December 18	December 19	December 20	December 21	
11A	 PRESENTATION NIGHT		End of Term 4 <i>Years 7, 8, 9, 11</i>	Staff Development Day	Staff Development Day	

ABHS CALENDAR OF EVENTS TERM 1 2013

	Monday	Tues	Wed	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
Week 1A	January 28 Australia Day Holiday	January 29 Staff Development Day	January 30 Years 7, 11 and 12 return	January 31 Years 8, 9 and 10 return	February 1	Feb 2/3
Week 2B	February 4	February 5	February 6	February 7 Formal Assembly (HSC High Achievers)	February 8	Feb 9/10
Week 3A	February 11	February 12	February 13	February 14	February 15 ID Photos	Feb 16/17
Week 4B	February 18 Year 7 Camp	February 19 Year 7 Camp	February 20 Year 7 Camp	February 21	February 22 ABHS SWIMMING CARNIVAL	Feb 23/24

P&C BUS SHOPPING TOUR

Twenty four cheerful mums, aunties, nanna's and friends of Asquith Boys High met outside the school at 7.45am on Saturday 27 October, 2012, to secure their seat for the day on a luxury 46 seater coach. There was plenty of room for all and their excess shopping!

We had a lovely day visiting shops that offered great bargains in giftware, manchester, clothing, shoes, jewellery, kitchenware, knick Knacks and of course ending our day with an assortment of flavoured nuts, lollies and chocolates.

A friendly picnic was had in a lovely park close to the shopping outlets. We enjoyed generous lucky door prizes galore throughout the day that were donated from each venue and we have many ladies keen to rebook for next year.

A tentative booking has been made for Saturday 26 October 2013, should anyone wish to put their name down please contact Marg Gibson c/- gibbohome@bigpond.com. It really is a great social day out with opportunities to start your Christmas shopping.

Thank you to all that joined us on the day and for supporting Asquith Boys P&C. A percentage of the combined sales will be donated back to the school and I believe we may have broken the record from the previous two years - well done ladies!

Marg Gibson, Shopping Tour Organiser



Inaugural Kitchen Battles Competition

The inaugural Kitchen Battles competition of 2012 has been tightly fought and won. The competition consisted of two qualifying rounds with nineteen competitors ranging from year 8 to year 11 students, with the top eight point scorers going through to the semi-final and then the top four going through to the grand-final.

In the **first round** they were to cook eggs benedict from scratch, including a very difficult sauce of hollandaise, as well as poaching eggs to medium, toasting muffins till golden brown and grilling ham. All students completed this activity exceeding all my expectations. Mr Philip, Mr Lappas and Mr Moscos had the incredibly challenging job as taste testers and judges. This was based on time management, organisation, presentation, taste, and the ability to clean up.



The **second round** was "Designer Cupcakes" constructed by Ms Bird who has great ability in cake design. The cupcakes were baked from scratch, then decorated using special fondant and wafers creating a master piece. Once again all the students who competed exceeded all our expectations; judging this was Ms Roscarel & Ms Limbert from our P&C Association Committee and Mr Buckley.

Then there were eight; with Kobe Blonner-Sullivan, Keegan Waters, Oliver Bidgood, Jack Gammie, William Van Egmond Jones, Ben Felettigh, Andrew Sloggett and Zach Hughes all progressing through to the semi-final. Adam Foy and his apprentice Luke from *Adams Cakes and Chocolates* in Turramurra came in and demonstrated a Croque En Bouche for the students. The students once again surpassed our expectations, with perfect profiteroles and fabulous sugar work, with our youngest competitor demonstrating flair in this area with his sugar work winning the semi-final. This was judged by Adam Foy, Nick Berman (Hornsby Shire Councillor) and our relieving deputy Mr Robertson.



Going through to the **final** with Kobe were Zach Hughes, Andrew Sloggett and Keegan Waters. Finally the pressure was very telling on some of their faces and their concentration was at an optimum.

They cooked from scratch:

- Homemade pan-fried smoke salmon ravioli with a baby caper, tomato concasse, rocket and parmesan salad; with a warm lemon, tomato and extra virgin olive oil dressing and
- New York baked lemon infused cheesecake with a cinnamon tuille, Chantilly cream and mixed berry coulis.

We were very lucky to have the Executive Chef Steve Krasicki from the Shangri La hotel Sydney to come in and Judge with his Human Resources manager Vanessa Falzon, as well as Mr Crewe formerly Executive chef of City Extra at Circular Quay, and John Koellner the President of our P&C Association.

The point scoring was out of 240 with each judge scoring each dish out of 30. With only 1.5 points separating first and second it was a very tightly fought battle, with a fantastic display of creativity, organisational skills and taste sensations by all.

The **final winner Keegan Waters** just edged out Zach Hughes, and only 3 points separated Kobe Blonner-Sullivan and Andrew Sloggett who finished 3rd and 4th respectively. All students who competed should be very proud of themselves as it was a fantastic display by all competitors.

Kitchen Battles 2012 has been such a success that other schools in the area have expressed interest, with a final being organised between 4 local high schools in 2013.

I have thoroughly enjoyed running 'Kitchen Battles 2012'. It has been a very satisfying experience to see students demonstrate such creativity and ability. Well done to all, I am very proud of you all.

At this stage I would like to thank the following for their support:

Shangri la Hotel Sydney

Adam Foy-Adams Cakes and Chocolates, Turramurra

Nick Salerno – Stella Blu, Dee Why

Stuart Cosgrove – Asquith Golf Club Restaurant

Brett Byron – Café 3 David Jones, Hornsby

ABHS P&C Association

Mr T Josephs

Hospitality/Food Technology Teacher





DEBATING REPORT

On November 3rd the Year 7-10 Debating Teams went to the Art Gallery of NSW to watch the premiers Debating Final between Sydney Boys High and Inverell High. The topic was that Asian languages should be compulsory in Years 7-10.

It was a thrilling debate that would have been quite interesting even for someone not interested in debating. Inverell High is a co-ed school; however their debating team was made entirely of girls, which brought out a strong "girl versus boy" theme during the debate.

Throughout the debate there was a vast array of sophisticated points made by both sides, Inverell stating that it would improve our relations with our Asian neighbours, while Sydney Boys opposed by saying that it would exclude every other country. But after 6 incredible speeches, with one coming from arguably a future Prime Minister, the adjudicators gave the State title to Inverell.

After seeing such an amazing debate, the boys could now reflect on the year that had gone past, take in all of the valuable lessons they had learned from the State Champions and look forward to next year's exciting competition.

By Joel Winch and Griffin Sleigh (8E)



WHITE RIBBON DAY

The White Ribbon Campaign is the largest global male-led movement to stop men's violence against women. According to the International violence against women survey, 29% of Australian women (aged 18-69) have experienced physical assault of some kind; 17% of women have experienced sexual assault; and perhaps most worrying of all: 40% of all women have experienced violence from the age of 15.

These statistics are certainly cause for alarm, which is why on 30th of November a group of five prefects and SRC members (including our most esteemed Head Prefect) embarked upon a breakfast of immense importance at Asquith Golf Club to view a presentation by the NSW police force on violence against women.

Not only was our school (by far) the best dressed there, but this ceremonial breakfast allowed our school leaders to mingle with the general public in regard to this serious issue. The ABHS attendees (Austin Carey, Tim Buwalda, Brett Riley, Mitchell Koellner and James Sheridan) all took a solemn oath to never commit excuse or stay silent about violence against women. (To take the oath yourself visit www.myoath.com.au). The rest of the event passed, in itself, fairly uneventfully, and ended with a delightful speech from local Member of Parliament and former ABHS student Mr Matt Kean who went on to say the oath that I will now use to end this article.

I swear
Never to commit, excuse
Or remain silent about
Violence against women
This is my oath

Austin Carey, Head Prefect (11)



Blazing In The Green

Asquith Boys Prefects

ABHS Leadership Camp November 2012

SRC and Prefects

It's that time of year again when the ABHS Student Representative Council and Prefect Body, get together and go on a journey to Galston Gorge, Crusaders Camp. This camp aims to develop and build leadership skills in our leaders of the school. The camp is designed also to give time to discuss the future of the school for the following year, for both SRC and Prefects, with the help from Mrs Amy Liiband, Mr Moscos, Mr Laing and Miss Mashman. The Year 12 Prefects ran a very successful trial run of leadership activities for the following Year 7 Leadership Day; these activities are put in place to develop an understanding of what is leadership. Leadership at Asquith Boys High is important. We encourage all our boys to get involved when it comes to leadership in the school. The boys are truly grateful for the voluntary services of Mrs Aime Liiband, who takes a huge amount of time out of her busy schedule to help Asquith Boys leaders gain the skills that are required to fulfil our roles.

Nicholas Bepper (Year 12 Prefect)



This year's Leadership Camp was enjoyable in terms of the valuable team-bonding and teaching exercises. Over the two days, I learnt essential lessons of how to illustrate leadership and to develop skills in team-building and communication with others. This was when I, with Nick Bepper, was organising an activity that encouraged people to think analytically of a situation and be involved in it physically and also co-operate with each other to achieve a goal. I discovered that I needed to give out more hints about how to solve the problem but I also discovered that I should be listening carefully when the people were discussing how to solve the problem. I would like to give thanks to Mrs Aime Liiband who offered great advice over how to co-operate with other team mates to achieve a common goal.



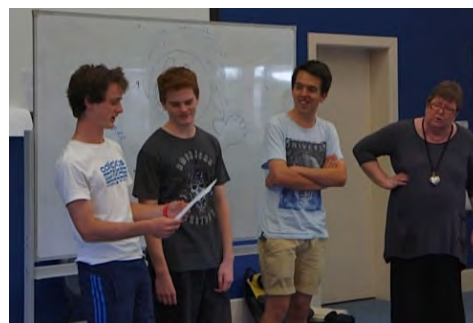
Also, I really appreciate how Mr Laing, Miss Mashman and Mr Moscos had given up their time to enable next year's Prefects and SRC members to become prepared for our Leadership Position in 2013 and the challenges it may bring. I really had a good time at Crusader's Camp as it gave me the necessary skills to lead and also become a team-mate with other students from all years.

Marcus Limbert (Year 12 Prefect)

The Prefect Body and S.R.C. would like to acknowledge the great help and support that has been generously given by Mrs Aime Liiband in our preparations for Leadership in 2013.

Mrs Liiband is a Leadership Consultant and mother of an ex-student Tonu. Her advice and expertise in Leadership training has been a vital part of what is Leadership at Asquith Boys. We would like to thank Aime for her ongoing support, guidance, training and all of the time she offers in helping to develop the skills of leaders here at Asquith Boys.

The boys would like to thank Mr Laing, Mr Moscos, Miss Mashman and Mrs Aime Liiband for helping to develop our skills as leaders. We thank you for giving up your time to help support and improve our skills in Leadership and become the ABHS Leaders of tomorrow.



SRC REPRESENTATIVES FOR 2013

Congratulations to the boys who have been elected!

Year 12

Mitchell Koellner – Secretary
Stuart Armstrong
Brett Riley – Senior District Rep

Austin Carey
James Sheridan



Year 11

Lachlan Miles - Senior District Rep
James Furzer – Vice President
Harry Gibbons
Jeffrey Williams
Liam Szabo – Treasurer
William van Egmond-Jones - President



Year 10

Max Darwin – Junior District Rep
Matthew Evans
Harry Tuynman
Ben Gibson
Cooper Fitzgerald – Junior District Rep



Year 9

Sam Bird - P&C Rep
Harry Clarke – P&C Rep
Joel Winch - P&C Rep

Callum Fenech
Bryn Lom



Year 8

Wilford Zhang
Ben Albace
Konrad Morton-Stroud

Bilal Belkadi
Bradley Schoenmaker



MUSIC NEWS

Jazz Connection - one to savour

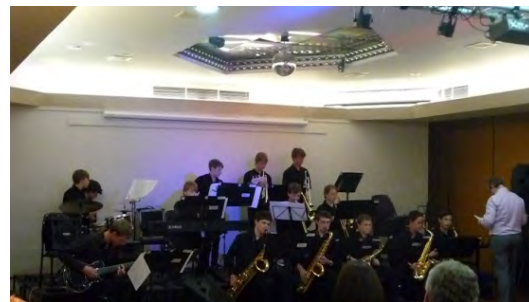
The ABHS Stage band had the honour to be invited to perform at the Chatswood Club on Sunday 25th November. They were the support band for the "Judy Bailey Jazz Connection" who are made up predominantly of students in the Jazz Studies program at Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

Our boys performed in an outstanding manner and impressed the audience with their repertoire and style of playing. They played a program of swing, latin & modern jazz standards as well as some contemporary showstoppers (eg: Blues Brothers Medley).

Many thanks to the parents & friends who supported the band and a huge thank you to Mr Iain Howick (Musical Director) for his tireless work in getting the boys to such a professional level.

The boys acquitted themselves in an exemplary manner - many staying on to listen to the Jazz Connection perform some highly polished arrangements of modern big band tunes. The importance cannot be underestimated of seeing & hearing performances by outstanding musicians to further one's own musical development.

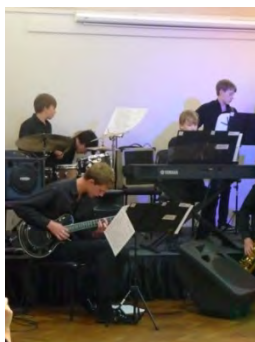
Well done Stageband!



ABHS Stage Band



Judy Bailey Jazz Connection



Jackson Besley - a Spectacular Talent

Jackson Besley is a star on the rise. He has made it through to the next phase of TDP (Talent Development Project) & has starred as a featured artist in the recent Schools Spectacular which will be aired on national TV on Boxing Day (highlights) & New Years Eve (full show).

If you are interested to know more about the project follow this link: www.talentdevelopmentproject.org.au/

Jackson has been working exceptionally hard in music developing his own talent & abilities with the help of seasoned professionals from TDP in the areas of performance, singing & stagecraft. He is also a frontman & working member of the band 'Usual Suspects' which is into the final of the Emergenza band competition which will be held **Saturday 15th December** in the **Metro** in George St Sydney. If they are successful in this competition they have the chance to win a trip to Germany to record their music and play some gigs. An astounding opportunity! Students, staff & anyone into contemporary music is more than welcome to support them at the Metro as they play against some tough competition (tickets available at the Metro about 6 pm). Come along & have a hand in sending them packing by showing your support!

Michael Williamson, Music Teacher



GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION

A review into Gifted and Talented Education was recently undertaken by Northern Sydney Region. I will outline a number of the findings and recommendations from the review but I can say ABHS is already doing many things the review has outlined and we are in the middle of putting in place structures to address most of the other issues.

Some Findings and Recommendations

- Teaching experience, academic qualities and mainstream professional learning does not necessarily make a difference to successfully teaching gifted and talented students. What makes a difference is having credentials in gifted teaching, experience in differentiating learning programs and professional learning in teaching higher order concepts.

At ABHS we specifically train all enrichment class teachers in gifted and talented education models and have in place differentiated programs for all enrichment classes in all subjects.

- Gifted students should be accelerated. They benefit from working at a higher level and research suggests there are not social problems when younger students are mixed with older students.

At ABHS there have been a number of students in recent years who have been accelerated in various subjects, especially the creative arts.

- There needs to be a school wide approach to Gifted and Talented education, not just individual teachers or faculties.

At ABHS we have a Gifted and Talented Strategic Focus Group that meets regularly to discuss and review strategies, programs and put in new targets for future years. This group is made up of enrichment class teachers but all teachers are welcome to contribute to this important whole school focus.

Mr S Robertson

Gifted and Talented Coordinator

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Many of our international students have just completed their HSC. Their results will be known soon but we wish them the best for the future whether it be here or overseas. They have given us an experience of their culture that is valued at ABHS.

We have a number of new International boys starting next year. These boys are from Korea and China and will be going into Year 7, 8 and 11. Coming from a country which does not speak English and has very different cultures can be very challenging and I would ask all boys to be respectful of the boys and immerse themselves into another culture sometime in their young lives as it can lead to a more insightful and appreciative knowledge of world affairs and society in general.

I would like to thank Ms Lee and Ms Evans for their hard work throughout the year and hope our international students have a safe holiday as many of them will be returning home for Christmas.

Mr S Robertson

International Student Manager

TAS

Success with Sewing

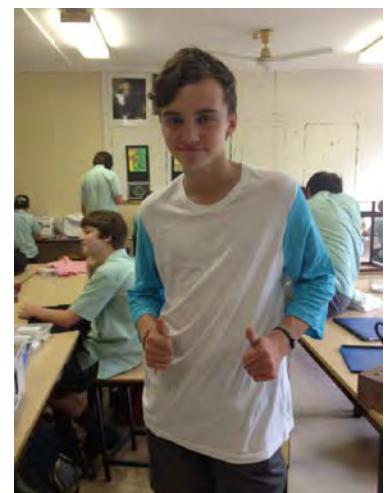
It has been a successful year after introducing Textiles Technology to year 8 in term one.

Each class has been given the opportunity to choose their project. This term 8DV3 chose to either make their shirt from scratch or alter an existing shirt.

Harry Vaughan (pictured) chose to alter an existing shirt by removing the short sleeves, cutting and dyeing new sleeves then sewing them to the shirt.

Congratulations 8DV3 for creating some great designs.

Mrs Bird, TAS Teacher



PRIMARY SCHOOL FOOTBALL GALA DAY

Hornsby North Collect Fourth Straight Trophy!

The Sixth Annual Gala Day was held this week attended by Hornsby North, Wideview, Mt Colah and Berowra Public School; culminating in a fourth straight victory for Hornsby North. The weather threatened in the morning but by 'sausage sizzle' lunch time, it was perfect football conditions for the final. Although they tried hard, Wideview were outplayed by a very polished Hornsby North who took out the final comfortably.

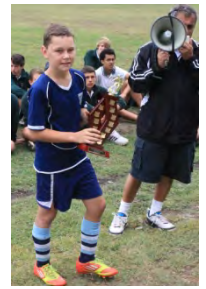
In saying this, it is important to note the excellence of players throughout the teams, with all schools participating sharing in the "Select Seven" - an annual selection of players chosen by the Day's Management Committee of boys.

As usual, the boys who run the event, those who are selected to tour in the following year's International Football Tour, did themselves and the school proud with a very polished display of Leadership.

The day went without a hitch and everyone enjoyed the football, the food and the celebrations.

Well done once again!

George Moscos, Gala Day Organiser



SPORT NEWS

Asquith Boys win regional final to make it into the last 16 in the State for Davison Shield

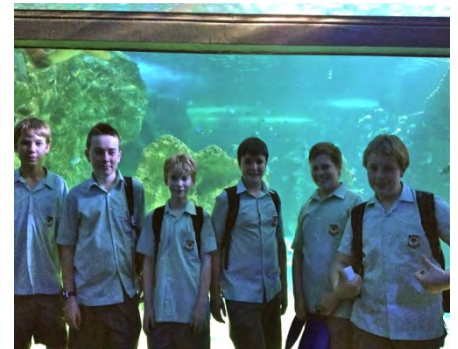
Asquith Boys High School first grade cricketers won the final of the Sydney North Regional Davison Shield State School cricket knockout competition on Wednesday 5/12 at Berowra Oval to highlight an exciting time for cricket at the school.

On a beautiful day for cricket after losing the toss they had Tuggerah Lakes High School in trouble at 5/2 but an obstinate and very good innings from Vinn going in at 7 took Tuggerah to 7/123 off 40 overs. The Asquith bowlers bowled a great line and they also fielded well on a good batting pitch but Tuggerah felt that they had set a competitive total.

After a solid start Asquith batted in a sensible yet commanding fashion and never looked uncomfortable against bowlers who at times struggled against some classic off side drives and ruthless pull shots. Edward Hollis the Captain never looked in any difficulty and in partnership with Mitch Easy led the team home for an 8 wicket win in the 26th over. The highlights of the bowling were N.Miller 1/21 and a runout,, G. Blackwood 2/23, C Marfleet 1/16 ,E. Hollis 1/20, L.Kissick 1/8, Z.Smith 0/10. Mark Wilson took a brilliant catch and Aaron Fulwood only conceded 3 byes- an excellent effort. Excellent fielding by Sinnico, Verduin, Norman and Raymond restricted the runs. After a good start by G. Blackwood in opening the innings, Edward played majestically for his 64 n.o and in partnership with Mitch Easy who played very sensibly, sealed an emphatic 8 wicket win with 14 overs left.

Well done to all the boys and it is great to see cricket is alive and kicking at Asquith Boys High School in 2012. Congratulations!

YEAR 7 IMAX & AQUARIUM EXCURSION



93 year 7 students piled onto the train in the sticky heat at 8.20am on Friday 30th November. Their excitement was evident as Mr Laing, Mr Buckley, Miss Woolley, Ms Kenny, Ms Tapner and Ms Robinson looked on. The group departed the train at Town Hall and walked to Darling Harbour.

The IMAX film focused on underwater habitats. The students enjoyed reaching out and trying to grab the 3D creatures swimming towards them. The students have been studying Coral Reefs in Geography and the film gave information and examples of species that live on reefs and the dangers to reefs.

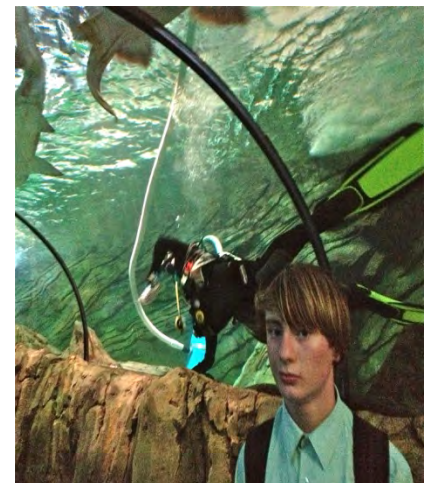
The film finished with a round of applause from the students.

It was lunchtime and the boys feasted from a variety of food vendors at the Harbourside food court.

Once fed and energised the students and teachers explored the Aquarium. The students completed a fieldwork study that focused on creating fact files on species of underwater creatures. The students particularly enjoyed the touch pool where they were able to touch creatures such as sea urchins and starfish.

Once we had finished exploring the aquarium, we were back outside in the heat of a 35degree day. We made our way back to Town Hall, piled on to a train and headed for home.

Ms Woolley, HSIE Teacher



ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

Friday File Fling

Not all the photocopy paper at school gets recycled. Much of it ends up 'stored' in files kept well beyond its useful or legal time. Of course some files need to be shredded first. There are also many text books collecting dust in storerooms which have not been read in years. A lot of the resources that students access are now available electronically.

On 16th November, during National Recycling Week, our environment group organised a Friday File Fling, to get as much reusable paper as possible back into circulation.

Schools are moving towards making many of its administration and education paperless: by offering documents online, using scanners instead of copiers, sending emails instead of faxes, storing information electronically instead of in filing cabinets, giving information as attachments instead of bound folders and using laptops in the classroom.

Make sure that, this Christmas, you recycle your wrapping paper and cards.

Mr Yates, Ms Woolley and Asquith Boys Environment Council

Youth Eco Summit

On Thursday 18th October 2012, the ABHS Environment Team, selected year 8 students and Miss Woolley attended a Youth Environment Summit at the Newington Armory.

Our method of transport to the Armory was by train to Sydney Olympic Park. The 16 of us walked from the station to the armory. On the way there we went past a giant hill, where some of the boys enjoyed a nice roll down from the top of the hill. Due to the closure of roads from the car racing, the walk took one hour.

Although the walk was a hike, it was the environmental way, as we did not use any fossil fuel by walking.

At the Newington Armory we attended a "Climate Change" workshop with two other schools. We discussed and shared new ideas about how we can fundraise and improve awareness about the Environment. We brainstormed a few ideas for a fundraiser. One of the ideas we discussed was having a School Mini Fete, or having a teacher wear our school uniform for a week.

After the workshop we had a stroll and browsed through the environmental stalls that were run by various groups like TAFE, Hornsby Council, NRMA & Galston High School. We got some environmental tattoos and did a few quizzes.

We made our long & environmentally friendly walk towards Olympic Park. We stopped off at Mc Donald's, where courtesy of Ms Woolley; we were all treated to a soft serve as we waited for our train home.

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The ABHS Environment Team and the selected year 8 students had a great day out. We gained some new information and gained fundraising ideas on how to make learning about the Environment Fun.



Our Message to everyone at ABHS
"Go Green to help the Asquith Boys Environment Team"

Nicholas Bepper – Year 11



THE WORD FROM ENGLISH

As the school year draws to a close it is an appropriate time to look back and reflect on the year that was.

Firstly, I would like to comment on what a fantastic year the students have had in English. We unofficially dubbed 2012 'The Year of the Excursion', and made a concerted effort for most year groups to experience the joys of English both inside and outside of the classroom. Just to name a few: **Year 8** enjoyed the classic Roald Dahl story 'James and the Giant Peach' brought to life on stage. **Year 9** saw a powerful version of Shakespeare's 'Romeo & Juliet' at the Opera House. **Year 11** experienced an insightful dramatic reading of David Williamson's 'The Removalists' and **Year 12** saw Mary Shelly's terrifying 'Frankenstein' brought to life. Judging from the participation and engagement of the students involved it has proven to be a successful endeavour.

Throughout 2012 we have also continued to see the development of a number of 'English Clubs' which have allowed students to enjoy many different aspects of our subject, from the ever growing 'Creative Writing Club' to the largest number of 'Debating teams' we have had representing the school. This term we have also had the exciting development of the formation of the 'Asquith Boys Philosophy Club' run by university lecturer Robert Anderson, which has proved so popular that boys have needed to race to get a seat.

I would also like to thank the English team of teachers who have been led so positively by our Head Teacher and fearless leader, Jessica Schadel. I would also like to congratulate and thank all the new members of our faculty who have contributed so impressively in making English such an enjoyable subject for the students; Ms Nabavieh, Mr Kennedy, Mr Roberts and Mr Kitto. Finally, I wish to thank Ms Kelly who has made Creative Writing cool at Asquith Boys.

We hope you have all enjoyed English this year as much as we have.

Merry Christmas and just remember books make great Christmas presents.

*Ms K Chapman
Acting Head of English*



SCIENCE

HSC Science

Our HSC boys have nearly finished their first core topic and have assessments due before the end of the year. Just a reminder to students and parents that every school assessment counts towards the boys HSC results. Everyone should be putting in 100% effort into their courses now. All teachers in the Science Faculty are more than willing to help any boys who want extra help. Please come to the Science Staffroom before or after school. Any parents who want to discuss their son's progress are welcome to contact the Science staff, at anytime. I would like all parties to be proactive rather than reactive in solving any problems.

Year 10

This is the first year that the school certificate is not being handed out. It is being replaced by the RoSA (Recognition of School Achievement). The RoSA will only be given to boys who complete mandatory requirements and leave school before they have completed their HSC. This means that most boys will not receive any external acknowledgement of completing Year 10. On saying that, I believe Year 10 is a valuable year for the boys to ready themselves for the important years ahead and it allows us to give the boys a more interesting and varied taste of science without the need to focus on a formal external assessment that limits creativity.

Science Awards

Congratulations to all the boys who achieved first or second place in each year in science. This was achieved through hard work and commitment to "doing your best". These boys will be rewarded on Presentation night but on behalf of all the Science Staff, Well Done.

Year 8 Horticulture

A new green house is being constructed in the horticulture area. A large slab of cement is being laid to put the green house on. When this is complete we hope to be growing more plants through winter and having more success with propagating seedlings. Many of the horticulture boys took home some vegetables from the garden in recent weeks so I would like thank Ms Rui for all the effort she put into making this elective a success in 2012.

*Mr S. Robertson
Head Teacher Science*



Greetings from HSIE!

Hi to all students, parents and to all other members of the school community!

Firstly a Merry Christmas to all and a very happy holiday season. 2012 has proved to be a very satisfying year that has been full of change.

A Gallipoli Tour including the ancient sites of Greece, and input into the ANZAC Centenary Commemorations have been personally satisfying and brought great credit both nationally and internationally to the Asquith Boys High School name.

Academically, we have now moved forward with the National Curriculum and the introduction of the **RoSA – The Record of School Achievement** – which Mr Griffiths has discussed on numerous occasions this year. In so doing, there is no longer a School Certificate external examination but rather a more intense internal assessment at the end of Stage 5, i.e. the end of Year 10 and a new leaving age of 17 across the country.

The Stage 6 Curriculum will stay as is with a Higher School Certificate and an ATAR for those pursuing Tertiary studies.

What does this mean to HSIE?

We see the move as a positive step. We have embraced the change as one which gives us scope to teach rather than be confined to an external examination which in the last few years had lost purpose and limited our potential to work more independently with students and develop their talents in individual areas of thought, interest and imagination. Now we are able to challenge students more with studies, although applied by the Programmes developed by the scope of the National Curricula, that suit their interests and help them learn skills more enthusiastically.

At the same time our top priority is still to educate and prepare our students for the world beyond – be it further academic achievement or the work place.

Rest assured our faculty will still be transparent to all parents and strive further to celebrate the wonderful talents of the boys who select our subjects.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our staff – Cameron Laing, Trish Byrnes, Letticia Foster, Rachel Woolley, Amy Robinson, Kelly Kenney, Jody Lorrae and David Roberts a great holiday and to thank them for their professional approach and personal support throughout this year.

Cheers to all,

Mr G. Moscos

Head Teacher HSIE



MATHS

Final Year Assembly

Congratulations to all who received a certificate in recognition of their efforts in the Australian Mathematics competition. There were many who performed to a very high standard but a special mention must go to the 11 boys who achieved a distinction and Michael Sheldon Yr 9, who was the only one to receive a High distinction. Thank you to all who participated and a special thanks to Ms Laffer for organising the whole event.

Year 10 Exams

Year 10 have finally finished all exams for the year. For their RoSA the students embarked on a series of Assessments which included 3 strand specific internal exams and 2 external homework Assignments. This would allow the students and staff to gauge their progress and determine readiness for the next stage in their education. It appears so far that there will a substantial number of students choosing to embark on Stage 6 Mathematics. We wish them all the best.

Problem of the month

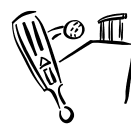
On December 12th 2012 the date will read 12/12/12. When is the next time we will be able to write the date using the same 3 numbers?

Answer in the February Backchat 2013!

Hope you all have a great Christmas and New Year break from the Faculty of Mathematics

Mr J French

Teacher Maths



SPORT

Asquith 1st Grade Cricket Team

The 1st Grade Cricketers have continued to get some good results before they face Tuggerah Lakes High School in the Regional Final of the Davison Shield. In the School Grade Comp they chased down Epping High School in a solid win and then having bowled William Clark out for 110 in the Northern District Cup they got home in an 8 wicket win.

Throughout the season it has been good team performances that have helped our success with notable contributions from all in the team. I would like to recognise the likes of Liam Kissick, Oliver Parry, Aaron Fulwood and Bryce Sinnico who continue to do their best for the team particularly in the field (and welcome back Zane!).

Well done to all.

Mr M. Blackwood



CAREERS

Recent Highlights

Northern Sydney Regional Vocational Education and Training Award

Richard Johnson (Year 12) was one of 6 students chosen from over 120 school based apprentices to receive a Northern Sydney Regional Vocational and Training Award. This was presented by Ms Jane Simmons, Regional Director Northern Sydney Region at a gala function held at Taronga Zoo on 13th November 2012.

In years 11 & 12 Richard undertook a School-based Apprenticeship in Horticulture in Sports Turf Management with Asquith Golf Club. Richard learnt about turf establishment and maintenance, irrigation systems, as well as the operation of specialized plant and machinery.

Congratulations to Richard who now continues his apprenticeship with the Greenkeeping team at Asquith Golf Club.

Year 10 Work Experience

This was held for Year 10 students from 15th - 19th October and was a huge success. Students experienced a variety of occupations such as Fleet Air Arm at HMAS Albatross , Sport & Recreation at Broken Bay Sport & Recreation Centre, Fire and Rescue NSW, Taronga Zoo, Australian Reptile Park, Building, Physiotherapy, Legal firms , Automotive, etc.

Employers' feedback has been glowing and several boys have been offered part-time employment. An example of a comment is "Of all the work experience lads, in all the years we have hosted them, Billy is the 'stand out', co-operative, diligent & showing plenty of common sense".

Students also benefitted from their week and learnt new skills. An example is a comment from a student who worked in the telecommunications industry. "There was an aspect of the job that involves connecting the fibres together with a machine. This is called 'splicing'. I learnt how to do this, but it is a very delicate process and I needed guidance. "

Parents also reported positively on the work experience program. This is a comment from a parent whose son worked in the physiotherapy area. " On Will's first day he came home 'top of the world', he really enjoyed his work experience and it solidified his choice in future career prospects "

Barista Boys Cafe News

On Monday 19th November members of the Barista Boys Café again hosted morning tea for the residents of **Christophorus House and Woodlands Retirement Village**. Students used their skills to make delicious cappuccinos and flat white coffees and then wait, professionally, on their guests.

Junior hospitality classes under the guidance of their teacher Ms Bird provided the guests with specially cooked scones, gluten free brownies and chocolate chip cookies.

Mr Williamson from the Music Department organized for music students to provide a backdrop of relaxing music with their keyboarding skills.

This is an event which not only provides an enjoyable outing for the elderly residents but provides an opportunity for students to enhance their work skills and broaden their experience of community service.



Coming Events

Information Sessions on Traineeships and Apprenticeships-Australian Training Company

The Australian Training Company will be holding information sessions concluding with one-on-one interviews on the following dates.

Traineeships- Wednesday 23rd January 2013 All from 9.30am to 12 noon
Monday 18th February 2013

Apprenticeships- Monday 21st January 2013 from 9.30 am to 12 noon

Venue is 30-32 Pomeroy Street, Homebush www.austrg.com.au

Mrs J. Fry
Careers Adviser

WORK EXPERIENCE 2012



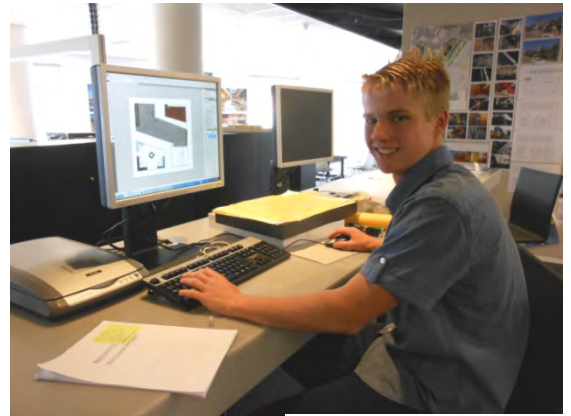
Aaron O'Brien



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Hosting is Fun! Become a WEP Family!

Bring a piece of the world into your home by becoming a volunteer host family to an exchange student from Italy, Canada, Finland or Brazil in January.

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Hosting a student encourages families to see Australia through the eyes of an exchange student. Invite a motivated teenage student into your home for a semester or year and gain a new family member and friend for life.



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World Education Program (WEP) Australia is an Australian, not-for-profit student exchange organisation, determined to make a difference by helping young people of different cultures gain insight and understanding about other ways of life and world views.

**school's out this summer:
Vision Valley holiday
camps are on!**



**Adventure day camps
Horse riding camps
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**Climb a rock face, fly through the valley,
ride a horse along a rugged trail, or try
to stay dry in a canoe.**

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adventure, and are designed to promote
confidence and give every individual the
chance to grow.**

**Camps are for kids aged eight and up,
and are on these Summer school holidays.**

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DENTISURE™ Free Tooth Insurance

Asquith Dental has partnered with DENTISURE™ to provide complimentary tooth insurance for students between the ages of 5-19*.

DENTISURE™ offers free cover for dental injuries for any school related activities.

DENTISURE™ can be used in conjunction with any existing health cover plans.



**It is essential to maintain regular 6
monthly appointments with Asquith
Dental to receive your or your children's
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website for more details.**

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*Please refer to our website for further information and eligibility requirements
Terms and Conditions: Prices are subject to change.
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