



# BACKCHAT

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## December 2014

# HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE DAY

## HIGH SCHOOL FOR A DAY ... WHAT A GREAT EXPERIENCE!

High School Experience Day at Asquith Boys High School last month saw over 190 local Year 5 boys attend a really great day of high school lessons and understanding.

We were really impressed in the high interest shown by the students and their parents attending the day. This was by far the largest turnout in many years and the quality of the lessons presented by the teachers at Asquith voluntarily was very impressive. Eight groups of over 25 students experienced a variety of subjects in TAS, English, Maths, Science, History, Languages, Creative Arts and PDHPE as well as having the all-important Sausage Sizzle for lunch.

Friends were made on the day and the boys learnt a great deal about how exciting High School would be in two years.

Feedback of the day was mostly very positive. Students really liked the active subjects and making ... and eating... Cookies!... was highly popular – as was Science “...because we did really cool experiments...” and PE. History, for a majority “...was fun and great...”

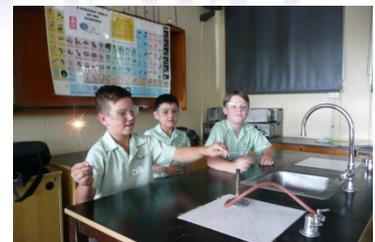
A very interesting parent comment:

*“I believe my son had a very enjoyable day. He stated: It was all pretty amazing! From a parent’s point of view, it took a little of the mystery out of High School which helps reduce the stress involved in the first day for many children.”*

Thanks must go to Mrs Beckerleg for her hard work, experience and understanding in putting this day together along with Miss Evans for her professional timetable and to all the staff who volunteered their time on the day. Thank you to Ms Bird and Ms Booth for providing an amazing spread of yummys for the parents to have with morning tea at the conclusion of their tour of the school. Last but not least thank you to our quality school leaders – the Prefects – who were outstanding role models as team leaders to their groups.

Well done to all.

Mr G. Moscos



# UNIFORM UPDATE

Below is the updated Uniform Policy flyer clearly listing the school uniform that the boys are expected to wear each day. Please be aware of the following:



- Shorts and trousers need to be belt loop style NOT elastic waist or cargo style. They are called "Deluxe College shorts/trousers".
- Sports socks are now available in long and short style – it will depend on what sport your son plays as to what type of sport socks he needs to wear.



## ASQUITH BOYS HIGH SCHOOL

Exceptional Learning Opportunities For Boys

### UNIFORM POLICY

effective from 2014

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 belt loop trousers/shorts (no elastic waist 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 belt loop trousers/shorts (no elastic waist 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, ABHS sports socks with two green bands.

**Seniors (summer)** Dark grey belt loop trousers/shorts (no elastic waist 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.

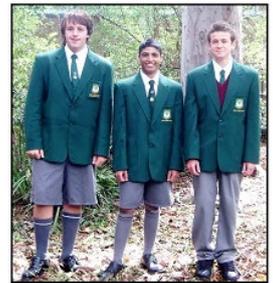


**Senior (winter)** Maroon blazer, dark grey belt loop trousers/shorts (no elastic waist cargo pants or cargo shorts are permitted), lace up (black laces only) black leather shoes with a black sole (as per picture), white shirt with crest. Ties must be worn with the top button of collar done up and the 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 the Deputy Principal.

Leadership and Citizenship, Technology, Community Participation, Creative Arts, Sporting Excellence

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Jersey Street  
 Asquith NSW 2077  
 P O Box 242  
 Hornsby NSW 1630

**AUSTRALIA DAY**  
 Monday 26 January  
 11am-3pm | HORNSBY PARK  
 next to Hornsby Aquatic and Leisure Centre

Face painting, Fire event, Picnic blanket, BBQ, Aussie sweet treats, and plenty of entertainment in Hornsby Park, Music on repetition.

Information for this event and others across the state visit [hornsby.nsw.gov.au/australiaday](http://hornsby.nsw.gov.au/australiaday)

**SCHOOLWEAR OFFER**  
**\$50 OFF**  
 NORMAL PRICE  
**SCHOOL BLAZERS**  
**NOTE:**  
**OFFER VALID FOR 4 WEEKS!**  
**12TH JANUARY TO 12TH FEBRUARY**  
**LOWES**  
 Exclusive stockists of premium quality Beare & Ley Schoolwear  
 A \$50 non-refundable deposit is required with order if size not available at time of purchase.  
**PS: EXTRA 5% DISCOUNT FOR EZY-WAY CUSTOMERS**

# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

## Leadership Opportunities at ABHS

Our recent formal assembly highlighted the numerous leadership roles that exist at ABHS for our students. This assembly saw the induction of the SRC members and executive, the induction of House Captains, and presentations to Peer Leaders. At an earlier assembly we saw the induction of Prefects and Sports Captains. Of course there are many other formal or informal leadership roles in the school, such as School Council Student Representatives, Transition Leaders and the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. In addition it was very pleasing to see the number of students receiving Principal's Awards and Medallions. **Asquith Boys High is an established leader in the promotion of student leadership. No other school I am aware of has such a high proportion of boys involved in leadership responsibilities.**

## End of Year/ Presentation Night

The last school day for all students is Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December. The last two days of the school calendar (Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> and Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December) will be Staff Development Days. Presentation Night is on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December. I look forward to celebrating the 2014 achievements of our students with you on this night. My thanks to Ms Holder and Mrs Beckerleg for co-ordinating this event.

## Grounds Upgrade

We have been successful in gaining a \$200,000 grant to totally replace our aging and unsafe quadrangle. Work has already commenced and we hope it will be completed by the beginning of the 2015 school year. We also have plans to use some programmed maintenance funds to complete some external painting and carpeting of some rooms. In addition, plans have been submitted for a major upgrade of the old basketball area adjacent to the Pacific Highway entrance. By mid 2015 the school grounds should have had a very significant makeover.

## Our Community

I would like to once again thank all members of the ABHS School Council led by President, Dr Kim Pinnock, and our hard working P&C, led by Mrs Linda Stanford, for their tremendous commitment to our school community. Thanks also to all staff for their continued dedication to boys' education. A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all and I look forward to 2015 with great anticipation.

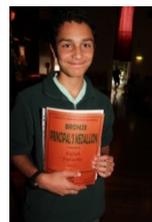


## Dignitary Visit from Vietnam

In December ABHS hosted a visiting delegation from the Vietnamese school system.

## *Terry Griffiths, Principal*

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***Bronze Principal Medallion recipients at 4 December Formal Assembly***

***Silver Principal Medallion recipient***

## DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

As we commence the final weeks of the 2014 school year it is essential that we take a moment to look back at the many great achievements of our students, staff and community in a diverse range of fields. This issue of Backchat will outline many of these.

Whilst the year is drawing to a close, it is still our firm expectation that students maintain outstanding conduct at all times and complete all class and home work right up until the end of the last day. There are some organised activities, involving both large and smaller groups, which students will have already brought notes home for. Other than these, the school timetable will proceed as normal.

Lastly, I would like to thank the students, staff and parents for another great year at Asquith Boys High School. I hope that the holiday season is an enjoyable and restful one for all.

I look forward to seeing everyone again in 2015.

**Andrew Skehan**  
*Deputy Principal*

### ARTEXPRESS SUCCESS

Chris Bissett's work was selected for inclusion in the 2015 ArtExpress exhibition. The work will be exhibited at the Hazelhurst Gallery in Gymea and Maitland Regional Gallery.

**A wonderful outcome - Congratulations Chris!**



### DUKE OF EDINBURGH

On the 31st October & 1st November, 25 Year 9 Bronze participants took part in their qualifying expedition. They walked the coastal path from Bundeena to Otford in the Royal National Park south of Sydney. They covered about 30km over 2 days and camped on the beach at North Era.

The photo shows the boys on the cliff top near the start.

Thank you to Mr Murphy and Mr Yates for accompanying the boys.



### HORTICULTURE NEWS ...



*Our first harvest of nectarines from the school orchard.*

*Year 8 Horticulture class have planted a vineyard in the school orchard. The first vintage made from Chambourcin grapes should be ready about the time they sit their HSC.*



# SRC ELECTIONS & PEER MEDIATORS

Theodore Roosevelt said: "Do what you can where you are with what you've got." I think many of the boys that are involved within the school and the Asquith community do just that - They see leadership as an opportunity to serve.

If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader. The School Representative Council, or SRC, and the Prefects are these kinds of leaders.

On the Monday the 24<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup> of November a group Asquith Leaders attended a 2 day leadership camp, at the Crusades in Galston. During these 2 days, the boys, from Year 7 through to Year 12, developed and demonstrated their leadership skills through organising games, event planning and running meetings.

The boys in the SRC have been selected by their year groups because they trust them, like them, respect them and think they have the initiative to get the job done. There are 5 representatives from each year who are the voice, who listen to their year groups' thoughts, ideas and opinions. They have been chosen by them to help serve the school - to listen, to inspire and to improve.

## The SRC Representative Members for 2015 are:

### Year 8 Representatives

Brody Camp  
Dylan Hopkins  
Aruto Isobe  
Matthew Jollie  
Luke Mueller-Byrnes

### Year 10 Representatives

Saber Atter Motlagh  
Jack Bridekirk  
Garrett Fitzgerald  
Konrad Morton-Stroud  
Benjamin Parnell

### Year 12 Representatives

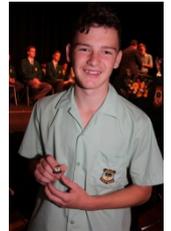
Max Darwin  
Matthew Evans  
Brandon Lukich-Yang  
Zachary Smith  
Harrison Tuynman

### Year 9 Representatives

Jack Cotton  
Benjamin Dallimore  
John Fordham  
Christopher Robinson  
Jackson Tuynman

### Year 11 Representatives

Matthew Fitzsimmons  
Fredrick Fordyce  
Charles Shepherd  
Joel Winch



## The SRC Representative Executive Positions for 2015 are:

**President** – Max Darwin

**Vice President** - Fredrick Fordyce

**Secretary** - Matthew Fitzsimmons

**Treasurer** - Brandon Lukich-Yang

**School Council Representatives** - Joel Winch and Garrett Fitzgerald

**Junior District Representatives** - Matthew Jollie and Jackson Tuynman

**Senior District Representatives** - Benjamin Parnell and Harrison Tuynman

On behalf of the school I would like to thank them and congratulate them, and I look forward to a great 2015!

## PEER MEDIATORS

Peer Mediation is a process that involves two senior school students who are there to help other students who may need facilitation or support in a disagreement. The students are there to provide support and an ear to listen and offer advice.

Mediation is a process that emphasizes the participants own responsibility for making decisions that affect their lives.

Eleven boys were selected by Ms Kelly, and trained by myself, in the last week of Term 4. We believe these boys to be a great addition and a confident mediator within the school.

## 2015 Peer Mediators

Benjamin Adams  
Matthew Fitzsimmons  
Fredrick Fordyce  
Jarrod Griffith

Camron Hanna  
Aden May  
Bryce Nielsen  
Charles Shepherd

Joshua Solinas  
Gregory Stanford  
Scott Williams

**Ms Mashman, SRC & Peer Mediator Coordinator**

# MESSAGES FROM ADMINISTRATION

**Did you know that you can make payments to your child's school online?**

## Make Online Payments

It is now possible for parents to make online payments to the school for amounts owing for students, via a secure payment page hosted by Westpac. Payments can be made using either a Visa or MasterCard credit or debit card. The payment page is accessed from the front page of the schools website [www.asquithboy-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.asquithboy-h.schools.nsw.edu.au) by selecting \$ Make a payment. Items that can be paid include voluntary school contributions, subject contributions, excursions, sport costs, creative and practical arts activities (these includes band) and sales to students. There is also a category called 'Other' - this is to cover items not covered in the previous heading. Other can be used to make a complete payment of a school invoice.

When you access the \$ Make a payment you must enter:

- the students name and class and reference number
- OR**
- the students name and date of birth

These details are entered each time you make a payment as student information is not held within the payment system. This is a secure payment system hosted by Westpac to ensure that your credit/debit card details are captured in a secure manner. These details are not passed back to the school. You have the ability to check and change any details of the payment before the payment is processed. Receipts can be emailed and/or printed.

Details of the payments are passed daily to the school where they will be receipted against your child's account. As a receipt has been issued from the payment page a further receipt will not be issued by the school.

For any enquiries regarding the Online Payment process please contact the School Administration Office.

## NOT RETURNING TO ABHS IN 2015?

If your son is not returning to ABHS in 2015 he will need to sign out before the 17<sup>th</sup> December. Please email or phone the school and speak with Ms Simms who will let you know of the sign out procedure.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> HAND SENIOR BLAZERS

By now all the current Year 10 boys have been measured up and fitted with their required size by Ms Cooke. In the Backchat is a flyer from LOWES advertising the \$50 discount they will offer for a 4 week period early in 2015. Senior Blazers are compulsory for the winter terms (term 2&3). As the P&C no longer offers the buy-back scheme for the blazers we have offered to the outgoing Year 12 parents to advertise if they have a blazer for sale. Please see the list below and contact them directly if you are interested.

Some parents have chosen to donate the senior blazer to the school. They are available for you to see/purchase from the clothing pool in the Print room. These range from \$30 - \$70.

Name	Size	Price	Contact Details		other information
Sharn Fraser-Bell	16	\$50	0411 595 103	<a href="mailto:fraserbell.sharn@gmail.com">fraserbell.sharn@gmail.com</a>	purchased 2014, as new condition
Leanne Woolsey	18	\$ 100	0409 318 372	<a href="mailto:ljol1@optusnet.com.au">ljol1@optusnet.com.au</a>	Woy Woy
Aaron O'Brien	16	\$65	9456 4992	<a href="mailto:dob014@bigpond.net.au">dob014@bigpond.net.au</a>	perfect condition
Lynda Featherston	18	\$100	9456 3856	0405 118 759	dry cleaned, excellent condition (only worn 2 terms)
Beth Wiercinski	18	\$50		<a href="mailto:beth.wiercinski88@gmail.com">beth.wiercinski88@gmail.com</a>	only worn for 3 terms
Sarah Fox	16	\$60	0414 715 847	<a href="mailto:sar.fox@bigpond.com">sar.fox@bigpond.com</a>	both in good condition
Sarah Fox	16	\$60	0 415 715 847	<a href="mailto:sar.fox@bigpond.com">sar.fox@bigpond.com</a>	both in good condition

## YEAR 12 FORMAL AT IMAX

There is no doubt that the Year 12 Formal is one of the social highlights of the year. After spending six years with our boys, it is wonderful to see them 'brush up' beautifully in their suits. Many of the boys brought gorgeous dates and it was evident that there had been some coordination with the colour of dresses and ties.

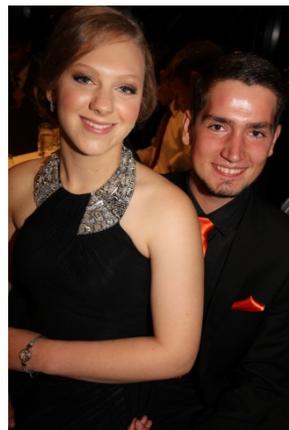
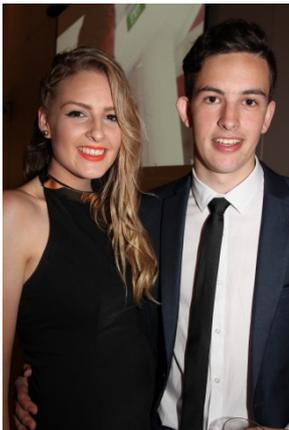
Imax is an excellent venue with vistas of Darling Harbour. Daylight savings provided both magnificent daylight views and a dazzling show of lights after dark. The menu was an extravaganza of meat, 'feed the man meat', the choice of our boys! Entrée was a chicken Caesar salad or a Thai Beef salad (Miss Mashman enjoyed her Greek Salad as the only vegetarian in the group). Mains comprised of Lamb Shanks or Beef Fillets. Hearty serves for the starving amongst us, half the guests I would suggest. The best was last with beautiful deserts of lemon meringue tarts and chocolate mud cake that were beautifully presented.

The boys proved themselves to be elegant young gentlemen, enjoying conversation at the dinner table throughout the meal. Afterwards School Captain Ben Cant and Vice-Captain Mark Wilson presented some humorous awards to some of the 'key players' of the year. The boys appreciated some of the 'in jokes' behind some of these awards. Unfortunately the microphone was not working but the training in public speaking provided both boys with the skills to 'go on with the show'.

A formal would not be a formal without Mrs Laffer and her side-kicks encouraging the boys onto the dance floor with the Macarena and Nutbush.

It was an elegant evening and everyone had a wonderful time. As usual, I worked the room with my camera and captured everyone at their glamorous best. Photos are for sale with proofs at the front office. Large prints \$5, Postcard size prints \$3. This is a part of our fundraising for Photo/Digital Media.

Ms Cooke, CAPA teacher





Photos are available for purchase of formal assemblies and school special events and functions. Proofs are available at Front Office. All proceeds go to the school for the future purchase of photographic equipment.

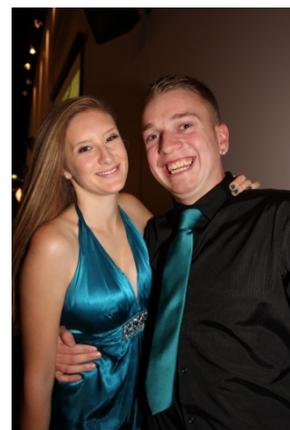
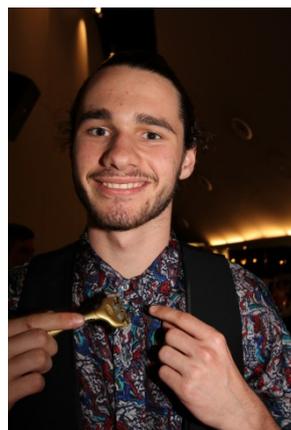
**Photos are \$5 each**

Get your orders in for beautiful memories of your son's achievements and experiences at Asquith Boys H.S.

**PHOTOS**

Tel: 9477 3508

For further information contact Ms Cooke.



## NEWS FROM TAS ....

### In the textiles room:

We have had another very successful term in Textiles Technology. 8DV1, already equipped with sewing skills, constructed brilliant boxer shorts complete with internal and external pockets, and a range of designs.



### In the kitchen:

Stage 5 Food Technology students have enjoyed designing and creating some fabulous cakes as part of their assessment criteria in the unit Food for Special Occasions. The students took the task quite seriously and they had a three hour period in which to complete their chosen design.

*Ms K Bird, TAS teacher*



# INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY & ENGINEERING STUDIES

## Time to Celebrate

...the talents of Year 9 and 10 Industrial Technology Timber students. They have been having the 'time of their lives' creating wall and mantelpiece clocks.



## Industrial Technology Students Grow in Wisdom

On Friday 14th November students from Years 9 and 11 studying Industrial Technology (Timber) spent a very hot day exploring Cumberland State Forest. From the ranger guiding our walk we learnt about the sustainability of forests as part of ecosystems, industries and for recreation. Along the way we identified many types of tree species that are harvested for our class materials.



## Bridging Sydney

Year 11 Engineering Studies students recently spent a day investigating the bridges spanning Sydney Harbour and Parramatta River. After catching the train to Milsons Point the students explored the Sydney Harbour Bridge northern abutment before walking across the bridge to the Pylon Museum. The history of this iconic structure left the students shocked by the lack of safety provisions as well as the cost of construction.

This was followed by a leisurely RiverCat trip up Parramatta River to Meadowbank viewing the many feats of engineering along the way. The students acted as knowledgeable tour guides; each sharing their classroom research on a particular structure.



# KITCHEN BATTLES 2014

Kitchen Battles has been hard fought and won by an Asquith Boy, Keegan Waters, who has regained the shield after being the inaugural winner two years ago. Also, winning a third place was Oliver Bidgood. An excellent effort by both students, with a Turramurra High student winning second place.

Big congratulations to all students who participated this year. The standard of dishes produced was of an extremely high standard and as the competition progressed the difficulty of the dishes increased.

**First round** was a Warm pan-fried chicken and orange salad in a fried pasta shell with a home-made orange mayonnaise.



Ingredients	Method
80g chicken Thigh ½ orange 40g mixed leaves 1/5 Red Onion 4 walnuts 1 T Greek yoghurt 1 t sweet chilli Sauce 100g flour 1egg Salt	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mix egg and flour together with a pinch of salt, add a drop of water if necessary. Knead mix and leave in refrigerator for 20 minutes to rest.</li> <li>Seal chicken and roast, allow cooling and slice thinly.</li> <li>Segment orange, wash leaves, julienne onion, roast and crush walnuts.</li> <li>Mix yoghurt and S.C. sauce</li> <li>Use pasta machine to roll out pasta till a thickness of 1-2mm, cut into square.</li> <li>Deep fry at 140°C, drain excess fat onto paper towel</li> <li>Set up plate and serve.</li> </ol>



All the boys performed extremely well!

**Second round** and the last of the qualifying rounds, was demonstrated by the Sous Chef of Blu Water Grill – Owen. He created a self saucing chocolate pudding. Once again the competition was very tight and the atmosphere in the kitchen was very tense.

Pastry	Method:
75g Butter unsalted 150g Dark Chocolate 90g Flour Plain 120g Castor Sugar 3 Egg Yolks 3 Whole eggs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Melt chocolate and butter</li> <li>Whisk yolks, whole eggs and sugar till a cold sabayon is formed</li> <li>Fold in flour</li> <li>Fold in chocolate mix</li> <li>Butter and lightly flour moulds</li> <li>Pour in mixture and leave in coolroom for 10minutes</li> <li>Bake in preheated oven at 180°C for 7-8 minutes</li> </ol>



Syrup	Method
1 orange 100ml Orange Juice 2 Cardamom Pods	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zest and juice orange, add to 1000ml orange juice and sugar.</li> <li>Crush cardamom pods and reduce to a syrup and strain.</li> </ol>



Basil Sugar	Method
¼ Bunch 60g Castor Sugar	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using a robot coupe, blend basil and sugar together and leave in a warm place to dry slightly</li> </ol>

After the first two qualifying rounds, the competition was reduced to eight competitors. The next dish became very complicated with three major components. Adam Foy from 'Adams Cakes and Chocolates' at Turramurra came in and demonstrated a 'Deconstructed Lemon meringue Pie'.

<b>Pastry</b> 250g plain flour 200g butter 1 t salt 100g icing sugar 1 egg yolks	<b>Method:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mix flour, salt and icing sugar together.</li> <li>Rub in butter, add 1 yolk</li> <li>Knead together on bench</li> <li>leave in cool room</li> </ol>
<b>Filling</b> 5 eggs 180g caster sugar 150ml double cream 2 lemon zest 2 juice of lemons	<b>Method</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>bring cream to the boil and allow to cool</li> <li>place lemon juice and zest on top of sugar in a mixing bowl</li> <li>mix eggs in, then whisk in cream</li> <li>pour into flan dishes and cook till firm in low oven</li> </ol>
<b>Meringue (Between 2)</b> 8 egg whites 500g Castor Sugar Vanilla essence	<b>Method</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>whisk sugar, vanilla and whites together over boiling water.</li> <li>When sugar dissolved place on machine and whisk till meringue has cooled</li> </ol>
<b>Strawberry Coulis</b> 1/3 punnet strawberries 80g castor sugar 1 t cornflour	<b>Method</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chop whole strawberry and place in small saucepan.</li> <li>Cover with water and add sugar and cornflour</li> <li>Bring to boil, blend and strain</li> </ol>



After the semi-final the two top competitors then went on to the **Grand-Final**. They went up against the best from Turrumurra High and Epping Boys High Schools. Steve Kasciski, the Assistant Food & Beverage Manager/ Executive Chef from the Shangri La Hotel Sydney came to Asquith to demonstrate an extremely complicated dish, with six major components.



A 'Scallop Tortellini with fresh Spanner crab, Citrus Lobster Bisque, Pea and garlic puree, Tomato confit and fresh pan-seared scallops'.

The techniques needed, and time management skills required were very necessary to get through this final. The dish was the most complicated in the Kitchen Battles short history.

#### Butter Emulsion

##### Ingredients:

- 20mls of chicken stock
- 40 grams whole butter
- Table spoon of peas
- 10 grams picked spanner crab
- Salt and pepper

##### Method:

- In a pan bring stock to boil
- Wisk in butter
- Add crab and peas
- When emulsion is warm, season with salt & pepper.
- Dress plate

#### Confit Tomato

##### Ingredients:

- 1 tomato

##### Method:

- Bring water to the boil
- Add tomato until skin shrivels (approx. 30 seconds)
- Refresh in ice water
- Peel tomato, cut into a circle
- place on oven tray, season with salt and sugar
- dress with olive oil and place in oven at 160
- Reserve rest of the tomato for shellfish jus

#### Pea puree

##### Ingredients:

- 200gm peas, shucked
- 65gm onions, chopped finely
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 20 grams butter
- 20ml cream
- 100ml chicken stock
- Salt and pepper to taste

##### Method:

- Sweat onions and garlic until translucent
- Add peas and cook until soft
- Add butter and cream
- Top with hot chicken stock and cook for 20 mins
- Blend and strain

#### Shellfish jus

##### Ingredients:

- 1 lobster head
- 10g tomato paste
- sliced onions
- 30g sliced fennel
- garlic
- Two whole and chopped ripe tomatoes
- Fish stock or water
- Lemon and orange peel

##### Method:

- crush shells and mix with tomato paste and chopped tomatoes
- add vegetables to the shells and just cover with fish stock
- Bring to the boil uncovered, let simmer for 20 minutes
- Pass and reduce to consistency
- Finish with drop of lemon and orange juice to finish

#### Pasta

##### Ingredients:

- 150g plain flour
- 1 egg
- 2 egg yolks
- Splash of olive oil
- Pinch of salt

##### Method:

- mix the flour and salt together
- Mix eggs and olive oil together
- Mix the two together using hands or kitchen machine

#### Scallop mousse

##### Ingredients:

- 80g scallops( for mousse)
- 1 scallop small dice for garnish
- 40 ml cream
- ½ egg
- Chopped tarragon
- Salt
- Pepper
- 35 grams picked spanner crab

##### Method:

- Blitz 80g of scallops until smooth consistency
- Add egg, continue to blend
- Add cream, seasoning
- Fold in the diced scallops, spanner crab and the tarragon



**1st Prize** - \$150 dinner voucher at the Shangri La Hotel Sydney & chefs book package from Hospitality Training Network (HTN)

**2nd Prize** - \$100 dinner voucher at the Four Season Hotel Sydney

**3rd Prize** - \$50 dinner voucher Blu Water Grill

Plus all competitors in the Grand Final received a chef's jacket and a complimentary days training at the prestigious 'Kenvale Hospitality Training College' in Randwick.

Congratulations to all competitors. I would also like to thank all our sponsors and supporters for all their assistance, and encourage our local community who support Asquith Boys High school.

- Shangri La Hotel Sydney
- Four Season Hotel Sydney
- Blu Water Grill - Hornsby
- Adam's Cake and Chocolates – Turramurra
- Kenvale College –Randwick
- Hospitality Training Network
- Asquith golf Club – Asquith



**Mr T. Josephs, Kitchen Battles organiser**

## YEAR 8 FOOD TECHNOLOGY

It was another fantastic year in Food Technology for Year 8. The students certainly performed at their best showing great skills and ability. I would like to thank personally all the parents, uncles, aunties, grandparents and family friends for their assistance and support during the year.

The students needed to research old family secret recipes or recipes that are or have become a tradition in their family homes. The students took to this assignment like ducks to water. Over the year they have created some marvellous dishes that have always impressed me. All the students should be very proud of their efforts this year and I look forward to working with a lot of them next year.

I wish them all a very safe and Merry Christmas.



## YEAR 9 FOOD TECHNOLOGY

This year the Year 9 students studied four units of work including Food in Australia, Food Equity and Sustainability, Foods for Special Needs and finally Foods for Special Occasions. They performed extremely well and have really engaged in the final task assessment of designing and producing a children's birthday cake. Their designs and creations show much creativity and thought. A great effort by all.

I wish them all a very safe and merry Christmas.

*Mr T. Josephs, TAS teacher*



## FRIGHT DAY



Year 9 and 10 Commerce participated in the Halloween 'Fright Day' event on Friday 31 October.

Two classes collaborated in hosting the event in raising money for EBOLA to be donated to **Medecins Sans Frontieres**, Australia (Doctors Without Borders). This was the first time Asquith Boys High School has held this event.

As part of the 'Running a Business' topic, the boys worked in small groups to operate small market stalls at lunch in the school's quad under the shade of the trees. Sausage sizzle BBQ and cold drinks raised the most money followed by mufti gold coin donations, then the takings from the assorted stalls such as fizzy drinks, gingerbread men, lollies, water balloons, popcorn and a movie.



**Altogether, over \$1000 was raised.**

All in all it was a successful day of trading and a great entrepreneurial experience for the boys.

*Ms L Stopford & Ms M Fulbrook, Commerce Teachers*



## ABHS @ the Botanic Gardens

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December a group of Year 7 & 8 students went on an excursion to the Botanic Gardens in Sydney to study plant classification and adaptation.

The photo shows some of the boys luring the eels in the pond with crumbs from their lunch.

# HSIE EXCURSIONS IN NOVEMBER

## YEAR 7



On the 28<sup>th</sup> of November Year 7 went on an excursion to Taronga Zoo. We learnt a lot about how the aboriginals lived and dream time stories about some of the animals. After learning about the dreamtime, we got to go around and look at all the animals. We saw lots of gorillas; one of them had a baby. We also saw an Andean Condor which is the largest bird of prey, with a wing span stretching about 3 meters. My favourite animal that we saw would have to be the Asian elephant but it was very disturbing to see it do it's business right in front of me - but I guess that's just nature!

While we looked at the animals we had a little worksheet on endangered animals. It was actually pretty funny and I learnt a lot.

I had a great time seeing all the animals that I love and learning a tonne at the same time.

*By Hamish Perring (7B)*



## YEAR 8

Year 8 was very fortunate to be able to attend the "Aztecs" exhibition at the Australian Museum in College St in the city. Beautifully behaved and a credit to our school the boys were thoroughly entertained and learnt a great deal about dinosaurs , indigenous Australians and of course the Aztecs. Below is proof that pictures speak louder than words.

Thank you to all the staff who attended and to the boys who behaved so impeccably.

*Ms A Cufre-Sadnick, HT- HSIE*



# Our Amazing Art Mentors at HNPS!

On Wednesday 3 December, Ms Holder had the pleasure of being invited to Hornsby North Public School to teach Kindergarten. Sharon Gates, teacher of KG, and wonderful ex-ABHS parent, also asked if she could bring some lovely big boys to work with Kindy.

So Ms Holder selected four of the most wonderful year 10 Visual Arts students: Aran Dennis, Ben Adams, Ben Herden and Greg Stanford to accompany her.

Ms Holder introduced the idea of environmental installation to Kindergarten (which our year 10 boys were very excited about since they had loved that unit of work when they were in Year 8.) After learning metalanguage to do with environmental installation, the Kindy kids organised themselves into groups of four (two boys and two girls). Each group were given a bucket, an artwork to inspire them and the job to collect materials and find a suitable site for their work.

Ben Herden was the event photographer, roving with his DSLR camera to capture the action. Ben Adams, Greg and Aran, all roved around with the groups, assisting Kindy to construct their appropriated environmental installations in the landscape of the bush corridor at HNPS.

Both Aran and Ben H enjoyed reminiscing with Mrs Moyes and Mrs Gates about their time at Hornsby North. All four of our wonderful students were fantastic leaders and mentors as they worked with the five and six year olds at Hornsby North.

It was a delightful and exciting morning's artmaking with KG and KA and Mrs Gates and Mrs Moyes have asked that we return next year to make installations with Kindergarten 2015.





# CAREERS INFORMATION

## Ryde TAFE Excursion - Horticulture Department

A group of interested students from Years 9, 10 and 11 visited the Horticulture section of Ryde TAFE to learn about the TVET Horticulture courses they can do as part of their HSC program. The students were given a tour of the facilities including the one hole golf course, tennis court and bowling green to see the different turf studied as part of the green-keeping course. They saw the glass houses and propagation of plants and took part in a potting on exercise. Of particular interest was the lesson in how to lay pavers and students did very well creating a variety of patterns.

It was a very informative day which ended well with each student given a plant of their choice.



## Year 10 Work Experience

This has been the first year of the flexible approach to work experience with students doing work experience at different times during the year. It has been very successful with almost all year 10 students completing their week of work experience. Reports from employers have been encouraging and several students have gained fulltime apprenticeships or part-time and casual work. Some of the interesting placements were with NSW Fire and Rescue, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Reptile Park, Taronga Zoo, Brisbane Waters Private Hospital and the Ensemble Theatre. Year 10 student Jarrod Griffith went to Jacobs Engineering Firm. He has written *"From 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> October I went to Jacobs Engineering where I experienced a day in the life of an engineer. I was able to experience the practices and requirements of being an engineer and this has helped me choose my future career path"*.

The current Years 9 students have been issued with a letter for parents outlining work experience in 2015. Early in February 2015 all Year 10 students will be issued in class with the student placement record, Employers Guide to Workplace Learning, Workplace Learning Guide for Parents and Carers and a Work Experience Information Guide.

A White Card is compulsory for all construction type work experience placements. A White Card course is being held at school on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014.



## Important Information

A Free Careers Advisory is available for Year 12 leavers from 18<sup>th</sup> December to 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2014 from 9am to 5pm. Get online at [www.cas.det.nsw.edu.au](http://www.cas.det.nsw.edu.au) or phone 1300 300 687 for free advice. The website also contains helpful information in clarifying course choices, employment opportunities, career pathways and training options.

Most of the universities are holding information Days on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2015 before the close of preferences on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

Please remember to log in to [mhscareers.com](http://mhscareers.com) (password "14cairns") to keep abreast of all important career news and events.

Mrs J. Fry  
Careers Adviser

**tsfx** HSC Summer School 2015  
Year 11 & 12 Head Start Lectures

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## HSC Summer School Head Start Lectures



### Year 11 – A Critical Year

Although Year 11 subjects do not directly contribute to the ATAR score issued to students upon completion of their secondary studies, academic performance across Year 11 is used to determine which subjects each student is allowed to study in Year 12.

In addition, Year 11 coursework materials form the **building blocks** for Year 12 studies, meaning that students must possess a solid understanding of Year 11 concepts if they are aiming for **higher marks** in their final school year. Students who neglect their Year 11 studies are not only **compromising** their performance in Year 11 assessments; they are also affecting how well they will perform the following year.

Many Year 11 students, however, dedicate the minimum amount of time and effort to study, believing there will be sufficient opportunities to do so in Year 12. These students typically enter their final school year **lacking strong foundations** in Year 11 concepts, finding it **difficult to cope** with HSC course materials, **underperforming** in assessments and examinations.

### Timetable – Preliminary HSC (Year 11) Lectures

Mon 19 Jan 2015	Tue 20 Jan 2015	Wed 21 Jan 2015	Thu 22 Jan 2015
9:30am – 12:30pm Maths 2 Unit (Part 1)	9:30am – 12:30pm Maths 2 Unit (Part 2)	9:30am – 12:30pm Biology (Part 1)	9:30am – 12:30pm Biology (Part 2)
1:30pm – 4:30pm English (Part 1)	1:30pm – 4:30pm English (Part 2)	1:30pm – 4:30pm Chemistry (Part 1)	1:30pm – 4:30pm Chemistry (Part 2)

**"These lectures were definitely worth the money (and two hour train trip!) Everything was covered in detail and the teachers were great. Attending TSFX has given me confidence and motivation for the HSC."**

Student, St Columba's Catholic College

### Year 12 – Get Ahead. Reduce Stress. Maximise Marks

Our "Summer School" program offers students the opportunity to get ahead in their studies, reducing stress levels and workloads in 2015. Having a solid knowledge of course content in advance of covering materials at school will enable students to absorb more information in the classroom, resulting in a stronger understanding of curriculum materials, increased confidence and motivation, less time being spent on homework and higher HSC marks!

Students attending our "Summer School" lectures will cover the first half of the HSC course to an A+ standard, gain exposure to a comprehensive collection of examination-style questions and begin developing the problem-solving skills that are required to secure those higher HSC marks. Students will also receive comprehensive notes that include all of the relevant theory, fully worked examples and take home questions. To ensure that students are afforded every possible advantage in the HSC, our "Summer School" lectures are being prepared and delivered by qualified, currently practicing HSC teachers and exam markers (not university students); individuals who possess the knowledge and experience to demonstrate the means by which students can achieve the higher ATAR scores.

### Timetable – HSC (Year 12) Lectures

Mon 5 Jan 2015	Tue 6 Jan 2015	Wed 7 Jan 2015	Thur 8 Jan 2015	Fri 9 Jan 2015	Mon 12 Jan 2015	Tue 13 Jan 2015	Wed 14 Jan 2015
9:30am – 12:30pm Chemistry (Part 1)	9:30am – 12:30pm Chemistry (Part 2)	9:30am – 12:30pm Chemistry (Part 2)	9:30am – 11:00am Part 1: Reading Task	English Lectures 9:00am – 10:30am Part 4: Module A	English Lectures 9:30am – 12:30pm Essay Writing Skills (Session 1)	9:30am – 12:30pm Physics (Part 1)	9:30am – 12:30pm Biology (Part 2)
1:30pm – 4:30pm Maths 2 Unit (Part 1)	1:30pm – 4:30pm Maths 2 Unit (Part 2)	1:30pm – 4:30pm Maths 2 Unit (Part 2)	11:30am – 1:30pm Part 2: Creative Writing	11:00am – 12:30pm Part 5: Module C	1:30pm – 4:30pm General Maths (Part 1)	1:30pm – 4:30pm General Maths (Part 2)	1:30pm – 4:30pm Maths Ext 1 (Part 1)
		2:30pm – 4:30pm Part 5: Discovery	2:30pm – 4:30pm Part 5: Discovery	3:30pm – 5:00pm Part 7: Module B			
Thur 15 Jan 2015	Fri 16 Jan 2015	Sat 17 Jan 2015	Sun 18 Jan 2015	Mon 19 Jan 2015	Tue 20 Jan 2015	Wed 21 Jan 2015	Thur 22 Jan 2015
9:30am – 12:30pm Biology (Part 1)	9:30am – 12:30pm Economics (Part 1)	9:30am – 12:30pm Economics (Part 2)	9:30am – 11:00am REPEAT English Lectures Part 1: Reading Task	9:30am – 12:30pm Chemistry (Part 1)	9:30am – 12:30pm Chemistry (Part 2)	9:30am – 12:30pm Physics (Part 2)	9:30am – 12:30pm Biology (Part 2)
1:30pm – 4:30pm Business Studies (Part 1)	1:30pm – 4:30pm Business Studies (Part 2)	1:30pm – 3:00pm REPEAT English Lectures Part 4: Module A	11:30am – 1:30pm Part 2: Creative Writing	1:30pm – 4:30pm Maths 2 Unit (Part 2)	1:30pm – 4:30pm Maths 2 Unit (Part 2)	1:30pm – 4:30pm Chemistry (Part 2)	1:30pm – 4:30pm Maths Ext 1 (Part 2)
		3:00pm – 5:00pm Part 5: Module C	2:30pm – 4:30pm Part 5: Discovery				

Note: Repeat sessions of a particular subject are IDENTICAL. For example, the Chemistry lectures on 5 – 7 January are identical to the Chemistry lectures on 19 – 21 January 2015.

## Welcome the world to your home

Why not host an overseas exchange student with AFS Intercultural Programs? We have participants due to arrive in February and they require volunteer host families for their stay in New South Wales.

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# P&C Association

Parents and Citizens working together for our School

**Hello ABHS community,**

Christopher Bissett (Year 12) has been nominated for ArtExpress and Daniel Adam and Daniel Griffin has been nominated for Industrial Technology Display. Congratulations and well done boys.

Four year 7 boys have put together a youtube clip of 'Best Day of My Life' - highly recommended viewing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJ23VCZuZD0>.

Also congratulations to Jackson Besley who was a featured artist at the recent 2014 Schools Spectacular. This talented musician has entertained us at many ABHS functions. Well done Jackson!

The School Representative Council (SRC) 2 day Leadership camp was held recently, with the leaders of our school learning how to be leaders and bonding together, as well as electing their 2015 office bearers.

We are coming to the end of a very productive and eventful year. The school Presentation Night is on the 15th December and I would like to congratulate all the students receiving awards.

On behalf of the P&C we would like to wish everyone a safe holiday and look forward to seeing everyone again next year.

Next year will be another busy one with several fundraising events already planned. There will be a trivia night, the annual community day as well as another father's day breakfast.

Thanks,

**Linda Stanford**  
P&C President

The first P&C meeting for 2015 will be on Tuesday 24 February. This will be the AGM following the annual Parent Teacher BBQ.

## 2015 DATES

**Term 1** – Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January till Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

Years 7, 11 & 12 start Wed 28<sup>th</sup> January, Years 8, 9 & 10 start Thu 29<sup>th</sup> January

**Term 2** – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April till Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June

**Term 3** – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July till Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September

**Term 4** – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October till Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December

### Staff Development Days

Tue 27<sup>th</sup> Jan, Mon 20<sup>th</sup> April, Mon 13<sup>th</sup> July, Thu 17<sup>th</sup> & Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Dec

## ABHS CALENDAR OF EVENTS TERM 1 2015

	Monday	Tues	Wed	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
<b>Week 1A</b>	January 26 <b>Australia Day</b>	January 27 <b>SDD</b>	January 28 <b>Years 7, 11 &amp; 12 return</b>	January 29 <b>Years 8, 9 &amp; 10 return</b>	January 30	January 31/ Feb 1
<b>Week 2B</b>	February 2	February 3	February 4	February 5 <b>Formal Assembly</b> (High Achievers)	February 6	Feb 7/8
<b>Week 3A</b>	February 9	February 10	February 11	February 12 <b>Yr 7 vaccinations</b>	February 13 <b>ID Photos</b>	Feb 14/15
<b>Week 4B</b>	February 16 <b>Year 7 Camp</b>	February 17 <b>Year 7 Camp</b>	February 18 <b>Year 7 Camp</b>	February 19	February 20 <b>Swimming Carnival</b>	Feb 21/22
<b>Week 5A</b>	February 23	February 24 <b>Parent/Teacher BBQ</b> <b>P&amp;C AGM</b>	February 25	February 26	February 27	February 28 March 1
<b>Week 6B</b>	March 2	March 3 <b>OPEN NIGHT</b>	March 4	March 5	March 6 <b>Zone Swimming</b>	Mar 7/8 <b>Enrichment Class Test</b>
<b>Week 7A</b>	March 9	March 10	March 11	March 12	March 13	Mar 14/15
<b>Week 8B</b>	March 16 <b>Yr12 Half Yearly Exams</b>	March 17 <b>Yr12 Half Yearly Exams</b>	March 18 <b>Yr12 Half Yearly Exams</b>	March 19 <b>Yr12 Half Yearly Exams</b>	March 20 <b>Yr12 Half Yearly Exams</b>	Mar 21/22
<b>ERFL UPGRADE - COMPUTERS OUT ALL WEEK</b>						
					Reptile Incursion Yr8	
<b>Week 9A</b>	March 23 <b>Yr12 Half Yearly Exams</b>	March 24 <b>School Council AGM</b> <b>P&amp;C Meeting</b>	March 25	March 26 <b>Formal Assembly</b> (Summer Grade Sport)	March 27	Mar 28/29
<b>Week 10B</b>	March 30	March 31	April 1	April 2 <b>Last Day Term 1</b>	April 3 <b>Good Friday</b>	April 4/5

*This information is correct as of 11 December 2014*



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### Art & Cartooning Program

**Monday Dec 29<sup>th</sup>**

- Theme: **Wear a colourful Hat**. Prizes for best dressed.
- Draw: Cartooning for beginners part 1.
- Kingdom Games: including 'Charge!'
- Drawing competition: Create a food-animal.
- Make: Loom bands.
- Draw: 3D dinosaurs.
- Draw: Slugs, snails & a worm.
- Draw: A dancing cow, panda & a penguin.
- Mocktail workshop: Make & taste fruit drinks.
- Draw: Friendly Box Trolls™.
- Draw: Some of the Minions™.

**Tuesday Dec 30<sup>th</sup>**

- Theme: **Backwards clothes**. Prizes for best dressed.
- Science workshop: Professor Kuffebliah is back for crazy experiments!
- Draw: A detailed castle & a dragon.
- Draw: A 3D waterfall & tropical rainforests.
- Enjoy: Tropical fruit platters.
- Crazy: Have your hair styled.
- Draw: Anime characters.
- Play: The Smurfs™ & their village.
- Play: Marco Polo Kingdom style.
- Scooters: Bring your scooter to ride.
- Minecraft™: Draw Steve™ & a space city Minecraft™ style.

**Tuesday Night Camp Part 1 (6pm - 9pm)**

- Draw: Scooby™ & Scooby Doo™.
- Draw: 3D model clay food making.
- Play: Mario & Yoshi™.
- Play: Junk food baseball.
- Play: Sock wrestling.
- Enjoy: Home made cookies.
- Play: **Murder in the dark!** (Bring a torch & wear dark clothes).

**Wednesday Dec 31<sup>st</sup>**

- Theme: **Pyjama Party**. Prizes for best dressed. Bring a pillow for the fun pillow fight!
- Draw: Beginners cartooning part 2.
- Draw: Monkeys, mice & meerkats.
- Draw: Cute cats manga style.
- Draw: Cute puppies manga style.
- Draw: A shark, whale & a dolphin.
- Play: Kingdom balloon skirmish.
- Rainbaw biscuits: Decorate & eat them.
- Kingdom Idol: Perform in the show if you want to.
- Play: In the waterlights. Bring a water gun & change of clothes.
- Make-over: Face painting, tattooing & coloured hair spray.

**Thursday Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

- Theme: **Colourful rainbow clothes**. Prizes for best dressed.
- Draw: A dingo, kangaroo & a koala.
- Enjoy: Chocolate Canadian s'mores.
- Draw: A cute cuddly gremlin.
- Make: 3D model tower.
- Draw: Olaf™ & friends.
- Draw: An emu, giraffe.
- Draw: A volcano erupt.
- Draw: Pokemon™. Bring your Pokemon™.
- Treasure hunt: Find the treasure.
- Crowning ceremony: Royals & Rebels will be selected.

**NEW YEARS DAY**  
We are not open  
**Thursday January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

**Friday Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> - This is the best day!**

- Theme: **Messy old clothes**. Prizes for worst dressed!
- Draw: Beginners cartooning part 3.
- Adventure Time cartoons: Jake™, Finn™ & Beemo™.
- Draw: Some of the Angry Birds™.
- Party Food: Enjoy a buffet of party food!
- Fun flour skirmish: Battle if you want to.
- Play: In the waterlight. Bring a water gun & extra clothes.
- Market day: Everyone prepares a stall. Make cookies, etc... We'll give you \$1000 Kingdom Dollars to spend.

**Friday Night Camp Part 2 (6pm - 9pm)**

- Draw: Sonic™ & Luigi™.
- Baseball cap design: Draw on a baseball cap. We will provide the cap for free.
- Play: Junk food baseball.
- Draw: The Egyptian pyramids.
- Play: The Egyptian mummy game.
- Play: **Murder in the dark!** (Bring a torch & wear dark clothes).

**Bookings: [www.illustrating-man.com.au](http://www.illustrating-man.com.au)**



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# BACK PAGE GALLERY

Stage 4 Visual Arts students have been very busy learning about landscape painting and impasto surfaces. Year 8 students went to the Blue Mountains earlier in the year and were able to gain inspiration from the magnificent vista.

