

YEAR 11 NEWSLETTER, TERM 1 2009

Term 1 has been productive! We have come together several times already to facilitate the learning of our students, to celebrate the diverse community of our school and to promote their sporting achievements. Our Year 11 students have made a wonderful start this year, as they entered senior high. I have noticed a real difference in the girls. They suddenly seem so much more grown up and mature. It could be that they are all dressed so smartly in their senior uniform or it could be that a lot of them appear ready to take on the challenges of senior study. Some students have felt the pressure more than others, having had to manage multiple assessments in short periods of time. They are becoming more experienced at that however as they learn to manage their time more effectively. Moreover, I have been receiving some very positive feedback about our Year 11s from staff. I am very pleased with the way they have conducted themselves thus far in the year.

The year began with our annual swimming carnival, Year 11 Information Evening, Crossroads (day 1), International Day, Parent Teacher Night and is ending with the second day of the Crossroads program.

We welcomed 26 new students in Year 11, bringing us up to 194 students in total. They have made a pleasing transition into senior school at Burwood Girls and they are wonderful to work with. Well done to all of Year 11 for a successful start to their senior studies.



SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The swimming carnival was held on Monday 9th February at Ashfield Pools. Once again the Kurrajong (green) House was the winner with Eliza Davey and Freya Hickey as House Captains. Eliza received the Under 17s Age Championship. Well done *Eliza!*

I would also like to mention the following girls for their support in time-keeping during Zone Swimming: *Genevieve Carey, Anna Errington, Laura O'Brien and Kathryn Pearce.* *Eliza Davey* and *Sarah Hewitt* have both progressed to Regional Swimming. Well done to all the girls for their achievements and contributions!



YEAR 11 INFORMATION EVENING

Kim Owens from the Board of Studies has joined us once again on 18th February to speak to the girls about requirements for the Higher School Certificate preliminary courses. This was a successful evening as we had 83% or 110 families attend the night to receive information from speakers, the Year 11 Assessment Booklet and to use this forum as an opportunity to meet staff and have their queries clarified.

CROSSROADS (1)

Crossroads is a PDHPE department initiative and is divided into two days. This is a very valuable experience for the girls as they learn about safe driving, safe partying, relationships drugs and other health issues

related to teenagers in our modern society. The first day has had a huge impact on our girls. Some of the personal experiences shared on the day through real footage and guest speakers have left them all speechless and some of them in tears.

Vasilija Mitsopoulos and Freya Hickey sum up the group's experiences on the day:

On Thursday 19th March, Year 11 went to Sydney Olympic Park to take part in the Crossroads program. RYDA was run by the Breakfast Point Rotary Club and it stands for Rotary Youth Driver Awareness. Our day consisted of six sessions.

The first session was "Your Choice" This was conducted by two policemen who showed us a graphic video of the consequences of partying hard, drinking and then driving. This clip was made up of real footage from a girl's 18th birthday party. The girl and her friends were celebrating and drinking until they suddenly decided to go for a drive. This resulted in a fatal car accident that left the 18 year old dead.

The second session was "Accidents to Happen". Two men voluntarily came to tell us about their story. They both suffered Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) as a result of a motorcycle and car accident. Associated injuries were speech impairment, poor hand and eye coordination, the shakes, severe weight loss, over 150 broken bones in the body, broken pelvis and loss of memory. One of the two guest speakers needs to have a carer with him six out of the seven days in the week. He was a great athlete but now is no longer able to play his favourite sports.

Other sessions included "Finance and Insurance", "Safe Celebrating and Fatigue", "Hazard Prevention" and last, a driving test to check braking distances and the impact that each one can have on pedestrians crossing the road. A licensed driving instructor drove the car while some of us had the opportunity to be in the passenger's seat
Overall, this was an enjoyable day for all and we cannot wait for the next Crossroads day at the end of this term!

INTERNATIONAL DAY

International Day was celebrated on Friday 20th March. On this day students were asked to wear orange for Harmony Day or national colours or costumes.

Pascale Esber has written about the day:

Burwood Girls High is renowned for its multicultural nature and every year holds an International Day Festival. The purpose of the day is to celebrate the individuality, acceptance and appreciation of our different cultures. The 2009 celebration has proved to be another successful day filled with delicious food, cultural beauty and unity.

International Day is also intertwined with Harmony Day and both occasions are vital in sustaining our school's integrity in embracing multicultural awareness and appreciation. The day encircled Indian, Chinese,

Polynesian (Tongan and Samoan), French, Greek, Scottish and Aboriginal dances, which were performed during the school concert in the hall. Students and parents were asked to wear cultural clothing and donate towards the school's Hands Across the Ocean initiative. For those who preferred to participate in other ways, they were given the opportunity to paint a mural depicting the charity, where students could also stamp their handprint to signify the charity's symbolism.

Food stalls were set up selling food from all nations such as Asian, English Café, Italian, Greek, Lebanese, Turkish, Spanish, French, Indonesian, Aussie BBQ and more.

Overall, International Day was another success. Everyone had a wonderful time!



SRC REPRESENTATIVES 2009

During formal assembly on Monday 30th March the names of Year 11 Prefects for 2009 were announced by SRC coordinators Ms Simpson and Miss Coleman.

These students include:

Mim Akunyare – SRC President, Lena Chen – Vice President, Indigo Elliott-Phibbs – Vice President, Nawal Abdi, Eliza Davey, Pascale Esber, Stephania Gerassis, Jacqueline Law, Michelle Long, Jessina Oakes, Shalaka Parekh, Vinita Raj, Geena Shin, Paula Sorrenti and Julie Woo.

Congratulations to these girls!

Mim explains the role of the SRC and that of President: The SRC are the bridge between the students and teachers at the school. The SRC tries to make sure that student voices are heard. This term, our main focus has been International Day. International Day

was a fantastic day and also very successful as we raised \$5000 which will be going towards our "Hands Across the Oceans" project. Next term, the SRC will be having formal meetings every two weeks. During these meetings we will be discussing issues that are raised, allowing for school community input and working out solutions to problems. As the President of the SRC and together with Indigo and Lena, the Vice Presidents, we will try our best to ensure that action is taken to combat problems and to provide the school with whatever is needed to make the learning and experience of students here at Burwood Girls a fulfilling one.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Term 2 resumes Wednesday 29th April
- Distribution of Year 11 reports... Thursday 28th May
- Athletics Carnival Monday 1st June
- Long Weekend Monday 8th June
- Field Study Day 2 Thursday 18th June
- Blue & Gold Assembly Monday 6th July
- Last day of Term 2..... Friday 10th July

Hope that you all have a nice and restful break. C. Maiorana, Year 11 Adviser