On 21\textsuperscript{st} and 22\textsuperscript{nd} of October, Year 5 attended ‘High School For A Day’ and enjoyed lots of fun activities.
Principal’s Report

Annual Rotary VET Awards

Towards the end of last term I was privileged to attend the Annual Rotary Awards which are presented to students who are outstanding in a school based VET course. Isabelle Mun was awarded a Youth Vocational Award for her efforts in Hospitality. Both the work that Isabelle produces in class and her work ethic demonstrated during work placement are to be congratulated. Well done Isabelle and well done Miss Martinsons her VET Teacher.

Directors Choice Awards

Director’s Choice is the South Western Sydney celebration and recognition of student, staff and community achievements across all public schools in South Western Sydney. These awards are extremely prestigious and extremely competitive. This year it is with great pleasure that Deborah Dymond one of our Learning and Support Teachers will be recognised for her outstanding work and achievements in Literacy Education at Bankstown Girls High School. Ms Dymond has made an enormous contribution to the education of the girls at our school. Well done on a fantastic effort.

Vocational Education and Training Audit

On Tuesday 28th October 2013 the school was audited by an external audit team to determine our compliance with VET requirements. The school currently offers three VET frameworks: Business Services, Retail Services and Hospitality Multiskilling as well as a Health Services course through Bankstown Hospital. The audit consisted of a paper audit which looked at all our documentation related to VET as well as interviews with the Principal, VET Coordinator, VET staff and students. The audit team also observed a VET class in action and toured our VET spaces. The audit team highly commended our school for all the great work that we are doing in the area of VET. A big thank you to Ms Kyritsis and the VET team for all their dedication and hard work.

Australian Mathematics Trust Awards

On Thursday 7 November 2013 I had the great pleasure of attending an award ceremony where Debbie Ngo of Year 9 was given a prestigious award for her outstanding achievement in the Australian Mathematics Competition. Debbie was able to answer correctly 14 consecutive questions, a very difficult task indeed given the level of difficulty of the questions. Well done Debbie and congratulations on being such an outstanding representative of our school.

High School For A Day

On Monday 21st October 2013 our school had its annual High School For A Day followed by a Mini Olympics Day on Tuesday 21st October 2013. The school was alive with activities and excitement. It was really pleasing to see so many teachers and students give up their time to help support the school. All our Year 5 students, and their parents were amazed to see such a vibrant and exciting learning community and commented on the high quality of our current facilities. A big thank you to Ms Pistolis, all the staff and the Middle School Team who worked tirelessly to make both days a success.

Year 6 Orientation Day

Our Year 6 into 7 Orientation Day will be held on Wednesday 4th December 2013 and all parents and students are warmly invited to attend. The aim of the day is to give both students and parents an idea of what to expect as students at our school in 2014. Students will be taken on a guided tour of the school, hear about the various people and programs we have to offer and be able to purchase their uniform. I look forward to meeting as many students and parents as possible.

Mr C. Borg

Relieving Principal, Bankstown Girls High School
We are rapidly approaching the end of the year and there is a lot to complete before we reach that point. There are final exams and assessments that need to be completed, reports that need to be written and course work that needs to be completed before the end of the year. All of this should make the remaining weeks of the 2013 school year go very quickly.

The most significant thing going on at the moment involves the current year 12 cohort who are in the middle of completing their final HSC exams. They appear to be handling this very stressful period well and seem to be confident of obtaining the results they have worked hard to achieve. It will be a new world for them once they have completed their exams and plan for the next stage of their life. The school is always noticeably quieter after a year 12 group has gone and we wish them well in a new chapter of their lives.

In week 6 of this Term starting on Monday the 11th of November Year 10 will complete their End of Course Exams. I would encourage every student to prepare properly for these exams and achieve the best possible mark. Shortly after these exams teachers will be finalising grades for every year 10 student and these grades will be provided to the Board of Studies and form the start of their Record of School Achievement (ROSA) results. These grades are based on a student’s achievement in all of the assessment tasks set for a course. This makes it vitally important that students complete every assessment task to the best of their ability and submit it on the due date. There are set procedures for assessment and these are outlined in the assessment booklet that the girls get at the beginning of each year.

There are new challenges ahead for year 10 next year as well. They will be beginning their HSC years and experiencing what it is like as a senior student. There are lots of expectations and responsibilities as a senior student however in the past year 10 have shown themselves to be capable of living up to these expectations.

One area that can have a significant effect on a student’s performance is attendance. As a senior student you will be expected to be at school every day unless you are sick or there is a significant reason for your absence. Making sure that you are in every class is so important in ensuring you are prepared for your assessment tasks and providing you with the opportunity to work with your teacher to improve your knowledge and skills. There are big challenges ahead for you however I am confident that you will be able to overcome them. One thing to remember is that if you are experiencing any problems that you talk to someone about it, particularly your Year Advisor who can help you work through the issue or refer you to someone who can help. Don’t leave things to the last minute as this can often lead to bigger problems that are more complex to resolve. Getting help early is always the best option.

Year 8 will also see changes next year. They have the opportunity to study two electives that they have chosen. This is the first opportunity that the girls have had to choose subjects and I know that most are excited about the subjects they are undertaking next year. Now that they have been given the chance to undertake subjects they have chosen because they are interested in them we should see continued outstanding results. Apart from these elective subjects the girls will also be studying English, Mathematics, Science, HSE (History & Geography), PD/H/PE, Sport & ELP (Essential Learning Period).

I hope everyone has a productive end to the year and is successful in their final pieces of assessment. I know your teachers will be madly writing reports to show your parents how you have performed in each of your courses.

Mr Leary

Deputy Principal—Year 8, 10 and 12
Deputy Principal’s Report

Here we are mid-term and almost at the end of the year. This has been quite a busy year for staff and students alike.

Year 11 have completed their preliminary course and are now beginning their HSC studies. Some of the girls have experienced a lot of anxious moments, finally realising that the work load can be quite heavy and time management is of the utmost importance. The girls will soon receive their HSC timetable and I can’t stress enough the importance of attending school regularly and completing all assessment tasks on time. The girls have received their HSC assessment booklet and there should be no confusion about the expectations of completing all courses satisfactorily. I expect that all students will read this booklet carefully and follow all procedures as stated in the booklet.

Most of Year 9 has continued to work satisfactorily during this term. The girls who participated in the Helmsman Project (Salam Aboucham, Selena Jumaah, Nouha El Arja and Kimberly Lelei) will all attend their graduation at the Maritime Museum. We are very proud of their accomplishments. We are equally proud of Debbie Ngo who has won a prestigious award in the Australian Mathematics Competition.

Year 7 has been busy with vaccinations, excursions, field days and soon they will be off to swim school for three days. The girls have just completed their assessment week where they will have sat a number of yearly exams and tests. The results of these will be used, in conjunction with other assessment tasks, to determine the girls’ classes for 2014.

I wish to remind parents that girls are expected to attend school up to the end of the school year and need to be punctual to school every day. A further reminder that we expect girls to always be in full school uniform including black leather school shoes. I look forward to seeing parents at the School Presentation Day which will be held on the 10th of December.

Mrs Porecca

Relieving Deputy Principal—Year 7, 9 & 11
Debbie Ngo was the proud recipient of a highly commended certificate for her scholarship application to the Malala Yousafzai foundation. Debbie embodies all the ideas and qualities that Malala represents. She is an intelligent, sensitive and diligent student who values and loves learning. Debbie's application outlined her passion for learning and the value she places on education. Debbie most humbly received her certificate on assembly a few weeks ago, and proudly read the passage below that were the words of Malala delivered on her 16th Birthday at the assembly of the United Nations. Both Debbie and Malala are inspirational young women.

"I stand…. one girl among many. I speak - not for myself, but for all girls and boys. I raise up my voice - not so that I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard. They thought that the bullets would silence us. But they failed. And then, out of that silence came, thousands of voices. Weakness, fear and hopelessness died. Strength, power and courage was born.

Dear brothers and sisters, we must not forget that millions of people are suffering from poverty, injustice and ignorance. We must not forget that millions of children are out of schools. We must not forget that our sisters and brothers are waiting for a bright peaceful future. So let us wage a global struggle against illiteracy, poverty and terrorism and let us pick up our books and pens. They are our most powerful weapons. One child, one teacher, one pen and one book can change the world"
Every year Bankstown Girls’ High School gives the opportunity to year 5 students from different local schools to experience what it is like to be in high school for two days. The girls take part in classroom activities such as Drama, Maths, English, TAS, Art, HSIE and Science. This is what they had to say about Bankstown Girls’ High School...

Day 1 - Classroom Activities!
High School For A Day

Day 2-Sporting Activities!

The games are fun

I like the activities

The subjects are interesting
The Bankstown Girls High School ‘Performing Arts Extravaganza’ concert took place at Bankstown Sports Club on the Tuesday the 20th August, 2013 at 6:30pm. The concert showcased all the musical items, dances and drama performances that the students have been working on throughout the year. Some of the dances included:

- Year 7 Hip Hop dance group
- Year 11 and 12 musical performances
- Pacific Islander and African dances
- Year 9 & 10 PDHPE Dance Assessment Task
- Year 8 Social Dance
- Year 10 Ghost Busters Group
- Sarah Tran’s Monologue
- Year 8, 9 and Sally Le Ho Hand Jive

Students who performed and worked behind the scenes all did an outstanding job at the matinee and night performance and should be extremely proud. Furthermore, to all the teachers that supported and helped out on the night... the night would not have run without you.

Well done students and staff of Bankstown Girls High School!!

Mrs T Kalogeropoulos
Meet the Author

Will Kostakis

Have you ever dreamed about a tall, dark, handsome writer coming to your assistance when you are stuck in the middle of your English short story writing assignment and you are extremely stressed?

On Monday, 26th August, the dream came true. Will Kostakis, the young, good looking author came to the rescue. He visited the Library and led creative writing workshops showing students how to introduce a story and develop characters while taking them on a journey

Will was very witty and captured the hearts and minds of Years 8, 9, 10 and 11. He made them laugh out loud, telling them stories of his boyhood, his school days, his teachers, family and friends, his experiences in bookshops and with publishers.

Thank you Will for all the valuable writing hints and tips, as well as the excellent feedback. We are all fans of yours now and love you tons. Please come back next year!

Will’s second book “The First Third” is available in the Library. Reserve it today! Read and enjoy it!

Helen Hawkins
Teacher - Librarian
The Australian Government encourages students to enhance their learning about civics and citizenship. As part of this they offer the PACER program (Parliament and Civics Education Rebate) which subsidises student trips to Canberra. After applying for and receiving PACER funding HSIE students went on a journey of discovery to learn more about democracy and the power of the people.

It was on a cold and windy Friday morning that 64 students with their 3 teachers boarded a coach at 7.00am for the long drive to our nation’s capital – Canberra. After 4 hours on the road our first stop was The Australian War Memorial. Taken on a guided tour of the Memorial students learnt of the sacrifices Australian soldiers made in battles throughout Australia’s history with thousands having paid the ultimate sacrifice. After placing poppies on the honour roll and a few moments of contemplation at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier we were off to Old Parliament House.

At Old Parliament House budding actresses and aspiring politicians had the opportunity to role play the issue of conscription during the Vietnam War. In a heated debate between members of the Government and members of the Opposition shouts of ‘hear, hear’ could be heard over the calls of ‘rubbish’ while the Speaker called for order. While we all voted against conscription unfortunately the Prime Minister Robert Menzies was able to enforce it and so the young men of Australia were forced to fight in Vietnam under the name of a ‘tour of duty.’

Our last stop was Parliament House. Luckily we didn’t visit all 4,500 rooms nor did we walk the 25kms of corridor but we did marvel at the beautiful structure of the building. Even though the students were disappointed that neither Kevin Rudd nor Tony Abbott were at Parliament House they did learn a little more about the role of the Senate and the House of Representatives and with the Federal elections only a few weeks away many wished they could vote.
After a long day it was time for the journey home and with grumbling stomachs we just made it to McDonalds before the girls began fainting from starvation. Finally, after 13 hours on the road we made it back to Bankstown where 3 tired teachers were happy to hand over their charges to waiting parents and in the words of Vanessa when her parents finally picked her up “Hallelujah!”
YEAR 8 DEBATING TEAM

Congratulations to the Year 8 Debating Team who celebrated their win over Wiley Park Girls High School. Debating skills are extremely difficult to master. Good debaters need to have good public speaking skills, work well in a team and have a very good knowledge of current affairs. Perhaps the most difficult aspect is to speak confidently and think quickly. The Year 8 debaters are learning these skills and developing them as they learn more about the techniques.

Congratulations to Grace Sabine, Seepa Tulai-Taimani, Lindy Vi, Jessica Yu, Angelina Kosena for their wonderful effort this year.

Helen Hawkins
Teacher – Librarian

YEAR 11 DEBATING TEAM

ZONE WINNERS!

The feisty femme fatales in the Year 11 Debating Team celebrated a decisive victory over Sefton High School Year 11 Debating Team and went on to win the Zone Debating Competition. Congratulations to these clever young ladies:

- Rima Sadek (Team Advisor)
- Kathleen O'Reilly (1st Speaker)
- Seham Ajam (2nd Speaker)
- Amara Khan (3rd Speaker)

Helen Hawkins
Teacher—Librarian

KEEP CALM AND DEBATE ON
The Science task for 7A in the Term 2 Space Unit was to build a space station. Amazing models were produced and two exceptional models were displayed in the Library during Term 3. The models were set up so that humans could live and survive there over time.

Kristina Verma reported that her group designed a space station which contained apartments, solar panels for power, teleporters, animal enclosures, vegetable patches, a school, sport stadium and an entertainment area.

Jayda Noshie’s design featured a space station farm with animals to provide food and sheep to produce wool for clothing.

Well done and congratulations to all the girls and Science teachers involved. Thank you for displaying your work in the Library. Special thanks to Lan Vu, Anna Tran, Hadeel Salem, Aimee Pham, Aditi Kulkarni.

Helen Hawkins
Teacher – Librarian
Year 10 student Hillary Foya has participated in The National Art School Intensive studio practice course during the July and September school holidays. This is a very difficult course to get into and only a small percentage of students throughout NSW are accepted. Well done and a big congratulations to the very talented Hillary who has shown great commitment to Visual Arts. Here is a sample of some of the life drawings she completed.

Year 9 student Asha Karim's artwork has been selected for the 2014 Operation Art Touring Exhibition and will be exhibited at the Art Gallery of NSW from 19th November – 15th December. The artwork will then tour regional galleries in 2014 before returning to become part of the permanent collection at the Westmead Children's Hospital. Congratulations on this amazing achievement! What an honour to have your work hung on the same walls as great artists such as Picasso and Pollock. Make sure you get down to the Art Gallery to view this exhibition soon.
The amount of rubbish in our school has increased dramatically this term. We noticed a large amount of food scraps and packaging in the playground. This encourages more crows, ibises and rats to invade our school and bins and spread diseases among our students.

We ask everyone to be careful and bring less food to school and eat your food. Do not leave any food scraps to the birds as they are causing a big mess and contaminating our environment. Dispose all rubbish in the bins and minimise the food items and food packaging.

Return any spare food or fruits home so birds will not be tempted to visit our bins! And always remember the three R’S.

by Seereen Altamimi 7C

The myriad of life and structures of the coral reefs were studied in Term 4 by all Year 8 students. For their assessment, students were asked to research threats to the coral reef and make a speech before their class. Some students made models of creatures living on the Great Barrier Reef. Jessica Dardar designed and produced a beautiful 3D diorama of the coral reef as it looked before humans began to impact on it and cause damage to it. She also showed how it will look if people spill oil on it and kill the fish and coral.

Jessica is shown here proudly displaying her beautiful model of the coral reef.

Helen Hawkins
Teacher – Librarian
Crunchy chicken lettuce cups

Ingredients:

- 250ml (1 cup) olive oil
- 10 wonton wrappers (See note)
- 500g chicken thigh fillets, cut into 1cm pieces
- 2 shallots, (see note) finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1/2 bunch coriander, roots and stems chopped, leaves picked
- 1 1/2 tbs brown sugar
- 1 tbs light soy sauce
- 1 1/2 tbs fish sauce
- 1 1/2 tbs lime juice
- 12 iceberg lettuce leaves
- cashews (optional), to serve

Method:

1. Line a tray with paper towel. Heat oil in a wok over medium heat. Stack wrappers, cut into 4mm-wide strips, then separate strips. Fry, in 2 batches, stirring, for 1 minute or until golden. Using tongs, remove and drain on tray.

2. Drain oil from wok, reserving 2 tbs. Return wok to medium heat, add 1 tbs reserved oil, then add half the chicken and stir-fry for 2 minutes or until browned. Remove with a slotted spoon. Repeat with remaining oil and chicken.

3. Add shallots, garlic, and coriander roots and stems to wok. Stir-fry for 2 minutes Add sugar and stir for 2 minutes or until caramelised. Add soy sauce, fish sauce and any cooking juices from chicken. Simmer for 2 minutes or until reduced slightly. Add chicken and toss for 2 minutes or until warmed through.

4. Remove wok from heat and stir in lime juice. Place lettuce leaves on plates and fill with chicken mixture. Top with wonton crisps, coriander leaves and peanuts, if using, to serve.

Notes!

Wonton wrappers, also known as dumpling pastries, are from the refrigerated pasta section of supermarkets.

Trim lettuce leaves with scissors for a neat cup, if you prefer.
What is represented by this BrainBat?

**OF THE ROAD**

Which of the five black shapes is identical to the red one? There may be more than one which is exactly the same.

Using the BrainTracker grid below, how many words can you find? Each word must contain the central R and no letter can be used twice, however, the letters do not have to be connected. Proper nouns are not allowed, however, plurals are. Can you find the nine letter word?

Excellent: 100 words. Good: 80 words. Average: 60 words.
Read the clues below and guess which animal it is. Use the words in the word bank to help you.

1- I am a small mammal with large ears and a short tail. I am covered with fur. What am I? 
________________________________________________

2- I am a carnivorous mammal that was domesticated by humans thousands of years ago. I serve humans in a variety of ways—as a companion, hunter, herder, and protector. What am I? 
_______________________________________

3- I have a long striped body, a short neck, and a firm head with a short muzzle that contains a set of sharp teeth. What am I? 
______________________________________

4- I am a large powerful mammal with thick shaggy fur. The size of me varies a lot. What am I? 
__________________________________

Word Bank
Dog
Tiger
Rabbit
Bear
**Treasure Hunt!!!**

Follow the clues around the school and once you have completed the last clue write down on the line below what is in front of you; if you are correct you have a chance at winning a $20 iTunes card!!! Once you have completed the Treasure Hunt go to the TAS staffroom and submit your answer to Miss Martinsons. Quick!!! You only have 2 weeks to complete the Treasure Hunt.

**Clues:**

1- Begin in front of the CAPA Staffroom facing the quad.

2- Walk 43 steps, then turn right.

3- Walk another 20 steps, then turn left.

4- Once you have reached the top continue until you are in front of the closest staffroom, then continue to the stairs-walk up.

5- Once you are in front of a wall turn right, then right again and continue forward.

6- Once you have reached the stairs, turn to the right and continue down.

7- Turn left and continue down.

8- Turn right and right again.

9- Walk 10 steps. Turn right.

You are now done!

Please cut out and submit to Miss Martinsons in the TAS Staffroom. Thank You for your Participation.

**Full Name:** ____________________________ **Year:** ____________________________

**Answer—What is the Treasure?** ____________________________________________
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