Principal’s Report

As Term 4 approaches the end of our school year, this will be my last communication with you via our newsletter this year. As I reflect on 2014 I am amazed as to how fast the year has gone by and I do this with pride and a strong sense of satisfaction for being part of a committed, hard working and vibrant learning community. I will share our achievements at the school’s Presentation Day on December 12 at Hornsby RSL Club and I hope to see you all there to celebrate our achievements.

Excellence in HSC major work
Each year the Board of Studies and the Department of Education and Communities jointly select HSC works that are worthy of public viewing. I’m delighted to inform you that Chelsea Lin has received an InTECH nomination for her IT Multimedia project and Chae Hyun(Maria) Lee has received an ARTEXPRESS nomination for her body of works.

Congratulations to:
AGHS students selected for the Schools Spectacular. I had the pleasure to attend the show last Friday 28 November and it was wonderful to see the Public Education in its best. Well done all.
Students Years 7-12 and staff for an outstanding Visual Arts display. It was an absolute pleasure to meet so many families who visit the Art Exhibition evening on Wednesday 26 November. It is worth noting that this year’s participation was the largest we have seen at an Art Exhibition evening. I would like to thank all our parents and caregivers for their continuous support and involvement.

Demonstrating our community spirit
Congratulations to the AGHS Multicultural Day Committee for their superb organisation. The Day was proven to be a fantastic experience for all. The stories told by students from other cultural background, songs and dances performed by our students were amazing. The students raised $1760 to support our sister school Panjshir Valley in Afghanistan through MAHBOBA’S PROMISE and $110 for the TREE PLANTING program. We would like to thank Alex Bellamy for her inspirational talk. Congratulations to all students and staff involved.

Clearance forms
Soon all students in Years 7-10 will be issued with their year clearance form. As part of this process all students are required to return all school resources issued to them for their current year. An email has been sent to all parents and caregivers outlining the clearance process.
I remind parents to finalise any outstanding school fee payments prior to the sign out day. If you wish to discuss your financial commitment for 2014 please do not hesitate to contact me during school hours.

Attendance of students in Term 4, 2014
All students are required to attend school until the last day of teaching, Wednesday 17 December 2014 and engage in learning activities based on the curriculum and syllabus requirements.

Presentation Day
The Hornsby RSL venue for this year’s Presentation Day will be held on Friday 12 December. All students and their families should have received information about the Presentation Day via email. Please check your email and if you have not received the information contact the school office.

I wish everyone a wonderful Christmas break and a prosperous 2015.

Elizabeth Amvrazis
P & C News

I had the pleasure of speaking to the Year 7 – 2015 parents on the 3rd of December, and it was great to see another group of primary school girls about to commence the final chapter of the school education, during which time they transition from girls to young adults, and all that that encompasses. As I look at the transition, I am both impressed, and grateful, for the great way our school nurtures our girls to become positive, optimistic and resilient young women, prepared to do anything they wish to achieve in adulthood.

Our last meeting of the year is Wednesday December 10th. We are starting early, at 7:00pm, and our meeting will be held “alfresco” in the outdoor learning area in the Ag plot. This is an annual event for the P&C having been held every year since the outdoor learning centre was completed. (OK, it’s only one year since the area was completed, but tradition has to start somewhere!). This is an opportunity to reflect on the year past, and plan for the next year of our support of Asquith Girls High School. We would love to have you come along for this.

There are only a couple of weeks till our summer break. I hope you have a restful, rewarding and enjoyable break over the Christmas New Year holiday, and I look forward to seeing you in the 2015 school year commencing in late January! We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday December 10th at our last meeting of the year. Please join us to see where you have contributed to your daughters’ education, and get involved in serving our school community to the benefit of all our daughters’ education.

Michael Ficker P&C President
Email: President@AGHSPandC.org.au
Web: www.AGHSPandC.org.au

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**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

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<td>P &amp; C Meeting 7.30pm</td>
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Year 12 End of Year Events

It was with many tears and fond memories that the Class of 2014 faced the end of their 13 years of school. Traditionally there are a number of events to celebrate this milestone and each event is a significant rite of passage as an 'Asquith Girl'.

On Wednesday 17th September Year 12 had their Graduation where each student was presented with a Certificate of Graduation and the successes of individual students and the Year group as a whole were acknowledged by the Asquith Girls High School Community.

Speeches reminisced about the journey of the year group through activities such as Year 7, 9 and 11 camps, Jenolan Caves, the Auburn Girls Student Exchange, Fundraising Market days, Jamberoo and Splashathon which contributed towards their development as a year group in unity, resilience, tolerance and empathy towards others, culminating in a distinct maturity throughout the year group that the school community is most proud of.

This was followed by a Year 12 Concert on Thursday 18th September where they were able to showcase their particular talent and love of performance. The skills of 'Year 12 Movie Making' were utilised to HSC level and each student contributed through dance, drama and music with some humorous portrayals reflecting on their years at AGHS.

The Final Assembly was flavoured with some heartfelt speeches by the Captains Emma Fenech, Xujie Gu and Kristine Gonzaga amidst a flood of tears and well wishes. Many students decided that leaving AGHS was not in reality what they had been dreaming about whilst stressing about assessment task deadlines for the past 2 HSC years. A colonnade to the back gate of the whole school from students in Years 7 – 11 and teachers highlighted to the students just how much they will be missed.

Finally celebrations kicked off again once HSC exams were over and on Tuesday 25th November Year 12 attended their Formal enjoying a beautiful view of the Harbour Bridge, delicious food and everlasting dancing from the beginning of the night to the last moment. A myriad of beautiful young women looking stunning in an array of evening gowns descended on Doltone House where together with their partners and 31 teachers celebrated once again their final achievements. It was an outstanding night and a fitting end to their schooling at Asquith Girls High School for the Class of 2014.

Congratulations to Year 12 and we look forward to hearing of their successes in the HSC as results are published on Wednesday 17th December. A special breakfast to acknowledge all their efforts is planned for Thursday 18th December at 7.30am in the Year 12 area. One final catch up before our fine young women of Asquith move on to the many exciting opportunities that are waiting for them.

Cheryl Key
Year 12 Year Adviser
Multicultural Day

Multicultural Day, our colourful annual celebration of the rich cultural diversity at AGHS, was celebrated on Thursday 20 November. The activities of the day encouraged harmony and raised funds for our sister school in the Panjshir Valley of Afghanistan.

Students and staff immersed themselves in the spirit of the day by wearing culturally inspired outfits, with the best outfits showcased at a fashion parade at the afternoon assembly.

International food stalls proved very popular. Other fun activities such as decoration with henna tattoos and bindis, calligraphy in languages such as Mandarin, Vietnamese, Korean and Persian, and an anime screening, were enjoyed.

Another annual tradition of the day, the ‘teachers versus students’ football match highlighted the universal appeal of ‘the beautiful game’. In the sunshine, the teachers claimed victory. A special addition to the match this year was a half time performance by our highly successful cheerleading team who recently won a national championship.

The multicultural assembly was hosted by Michelle Zhu and Helen Gu, International Students prefects and Erin Hitchcock, Social Justice Prefect. The audience was entertained with a variety of performances from students in all year groups, including a traditional Indian dance and a multi-language version of the song, ‘Let it Go’.

Three speakers represented different aspects of the school community and they enjoyed sharing their reflections on some of the ways their lives have been enriched by their experiences. Year 8 student Hope Pratt talked about her experiences in Afghanistan, where she lived for 6 years. Iida Mattila, a Year 11 exchange student from Finland, gave the audience insights into the Finnish school system and Finnish way of life. Alex Bellamy, a former student, reflected on her experiences while living overseas, particularly her awareness of girls without opportunities. Inspired by Multicultural Day events when she was a student, she is currently volunteering for Mahboba’s Promise.

Many staff and students worked very hard to make the day a resounding success. This includes Panis Parsfar and her mother, who prepared delicious Persian sweets. Marcia Hinggil and her mother also made lovely Indonesian cakes for the day.

There are over 50 languages in backgrounds of students and staff. For some, this even extends to having multiple cultures and languages in their heritage. Multicultural Day serves as a wonderful reminder to appreciate our differences and notice how differences can also be unifying.

Ms Valladares
Annual Visual Arts Exhibition

Parents and friends gathered for the 2014 annual Visual Arts exhibition to celebrate their daughters’ creative achievements in Visual Arts, Photography and Digital Media.

The school hall was transformed into a vibrant and sophisticated art gallery that housed the creative efforts from all students from Years 7 to 12, including the class of 2014’s HSC Visual Arts submissions.

Congratulations to Madeleine Hughes and Chae Hyun Lee for winning the Junior and Senior art prize respectively.
Leadership news

Over the last week, the prefect team has been involved in a number of interschool leadership opportunities, including the Asquith Girls afternoon tea and the National Youth Leaders Day conference.

On Thursday the 27th of November, Asquith Girls prefect team hosted an afternoon tea where the leaders of other schools could all come together and share and collaborate on leadership ideas. It was a great experience, and we were able to hear about successful initiatives in place in other schools which gave us some great ideas for our own future projects within our school. We were also able to share some of our own ideas with the other schools, including our Splashathon fundraising event and our annual gift donation to the Kmart Wishing Tree Drive.

On Friday the 28th of November, the Asquith Girls Leadership Team took part in the National Youth Leaders Day conference run by Halogen at Sydney Olympic Park. Here we had the opportunity to hear a range of motivational and encouraging guest speakers such as Alex Malley and Jeremy Rolleston. We were also encouraged to think about and record our thoughts on how we would change a problem in the world, inspiring us to stand up for what we believe in and take action as young leaders. There was a strong focus on moving past the concept stage of an idea and putting it in place, as well as finding motivation and drive to complete goals.

The entire leadership team would like to thank Ms Ebrahimi, Ms Fowler and Ms Gough for providing us with these excellent leadership opportunities.

Walk The Talk

Violence, abuse, domestic abuse- they’re ugly words, words that we often try to ignore. But, on Friday morning, a number of representatives from the Asquith Girl’s Social Justice Team partook in a four kilometre walk around Hornsby. The walk was a part of the initiative, ‘Walk the Talk’, raising awareness for domestic violence and violence against women. It attracted over a hundred members of the community.

A lot of negative statistics were raised during this walk, including the horrifying figure of 1.8 million people report domestic violence in Australia every year. Around 82% of these victims being women, but with a reporting rate of less than 50%, police estimate another 1.8 unheard victims at least. And even though this is a very sobering figure, the school’s Social Justice Team took away one dominating message—that violence is not tolerated in our local community in any form.

The day was a lot of fun, and it gave girls the chance to interact with members of the community including volunteers of Soroptimist International and members of the local police force. This experience was a reminder of Asquith Girls’ responsibility to the community and itself, to raise awareness for violence against women and domestic violence, and to be a place of comfort for those who have suffered from it. The morning was a great success with many more initiatives like this to come from Social Justice in the future.

By Natalie Rathswohl and Annika Reynolds
**Premier Sporting challenge**

On Friday 7th Nov The Premier sporting challenge was held at Pennant Hills High School. The programme is designed to teach girls how to coach various team sports. The girls from AGHS worked with students from Pennant Hills High, Galston High and Asquith Boys High School. The day was primarily attended by PASS students however some additional students were also able to experience the premiers sporting challenge. The girls will use their skills next year in PASS when undertaking the coaching unit. Some of the girls will also go on to coach at Hornsby Heights primary school next year. Well done girls it was a great day and the girls were a credit to the school. The PASS students would like to thank Ms Amor Smith for organising the challenge and the coaching sessions beyond the training day.
Louise has made the under 19s lawn bowls mixed team. Louise had to compete against both males and females and was able to secure herself a spot on the team.

Well done Louise.

NSWCHS- Wagga Wagga 2014

Louise Cronan

From Tuesday 5th - 7th of August, I was playing in a competition called NSW Combined High School Lawn Bowls State Championships. There were 8 people chosen from each region to play. Each region had 2 teams to play fours. This competition was played at “The Rules” Bowling Club, Wagga Wagga.

Day 1: Commenced with photos of each representing team at 8:00 am and play commenced at 9:45. We played two games before lunch and one game after lunch.

Day 2: We started at 9:30 and had two games before lunch. After lunch we went to play off for our position on the ladder. Reporters from “The Daily Advertiser”, Wagga Wagga, came to the tournament to take photos and to interview players about their interest in Lawn Bowls. Out of all of the girls, I was chosen to get interviewed. After the interview and a lot of photos were taken, it was published in the paper the next morning.

Day 3: On the last day, we played one game to finalize the positions on the ladder. After the game we had a sausage sandwich and they announced the winners.

Overall, the games were good and it was good experience for all of the players down at Wagga Wagga.

State Softball Trials

On Monday 17th December Taylor Webb, Tamara Dudfield, Melanie Bulmer and Lilly Jehn trialled for Sydney north soft ball team.

All the girls played really well and Taylor and Melanie were able to score a sport on the team to play in Lismore in Feb 2015. The team is generally made up of senior girls, so it is a credit to the softball ability of the of two junior girls who made the team. Well done to all the girls who trailed.
Attention All Years 10 and Below,

Hi all,

My name is Molly Beyer and I am a year twelve graduate from Asquith Girls High School- 2014. I’m writing this message to assist year 9 and 10 students with which subjects to choose for the HSC.

In year 10 I made the very wise decision of choosing to study Business Services, a HSC and Vocational Education and Training course, IN SCHOOL. This course further allowed me to obtain my Certificate II in Business after the two years. My two qualified teachers were a great support through this so a special thank you to Dr Ganeson and of course Mrs Clarkson.

Throughout the two years I completed seventy hours of work placement and had the time of my life! The first 35 hours were completed in one week in year eleven; the other 35 hours were completed in year twelve. During the Business Services classes we slowly but surely worked on completing all modules as theory work to achieve all necessary information and practical skills such as touch typing, teamwork, using spreadsheets and word processing.

I am writing this message while sitting in my new full time job which I started two days after I finished my HSC. I am participating in a twelve month business traineeship in which at the end I will receive a Certificate III in Business.

I applied through a recruitment agency, was accepted and informed them on all my preferences for example what kind of business environment, what hours I would like, where I would like to work, along the train line, in the city, etc. The recruitment agency found me interviews to match my preferences and on my second interview I got a job with a well-known electrical company, Stowe Australia, in their head office in the city!

To any student, no matter what year, if University isn’t a path you want to take or you don’t want an ATAR- I highly recommend applying for an interview with ARC Group (Australian Recruitment Company). Already three weeks into my job I am being provided with quality training and have a foot in the door to so many opportunities.

A special thank you to our careers advisor, Mr Sekula who encouraged me to make this happen.

Thank you,

Molly Beyer
Staff v Students sport matches

The 2015 house and Vice Captains have been organising this term staff versus student games. The staff won the first soccer game and the students then levelled the score in the next game of touch football. The teachers made a comeback in the third game to take it out 2-1. The soccer match was undertaken as part of the multicultural day festivities. The SRC held a BBQ and all money raised went to autism awareness. The students really enjoy the games as do the teachers. A massive highlight of the last staff versus student game was the cheer leading demonstration. The girls wowed the crowd with an amazing routine.

A big thank you to all the house captains and vice captains that organise the matches. The students and the staff for their athleticism.
**Year 9 French Cooking**

In Week 8 Year 9 French were lucky enough to learn how to make delicious pastries thanks to Ms Lowe in the TAS department. They were taught the technique of creating vol au vent, match sticks and palmiers from scratch. The students appreciated this experience very much and would like to thank Ms Lowe for her enthusiasm and dedication.

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**Naha Nishi High School Homestay**

Asquith Girls High School was host to fifteen girls from Naha Nishi High School, Okinawa, Japan. They stayed from Friday 14th to Wednesday 19th November. Other students were also hosted by families of Northern Beaches Secondary College. The students were mostly 16 years old and in second year of senior high school, equivalent to our Year 11.

Our AGHS families welcomed the Japanese students to their homes, which made a valuable experience. The hot Friday afternoon saw students introducing each other and beginning to communicate. Emails had already been exchanged beforehand.

The AGHS families enjoyed taking their visitors to different places, such as a Surf Lifesaving carnival, Taronga Zoo and various sporting activities. These are the types of activities that you can never experience as a tourist and become excellent language immersion activities.

From Monday to Wednesday, the Naha Nishi students had a variety of English lessons. They were taught how to ask questions, so they could take control of their English learning. They even had competition quizzes on Japan and Australia. Hopefully they can explain Japan using English and understand more about Australia.

The Naha Nishi Students also joined their host sisters in the classroom. It takes a lot of language to understand what is going on in the classroom and even more to understand the teacher.

There was a farewell barbecue lunch on Wednesday, for the students and host families. As usual there were more than just sausages and Aussie beef. The weather added to an enjoyable day.

The success of a homestay visit can be measured by the tears at the farewell. This was a very successful homestay.

Language learners are good risk takers. The hosts and the visitors are “taking risks” in a safe environment and prepared to make mistakes. It is a very rewarding experience and often leads to further travel in the future.

On a personal note, I enjoyed reliving my previous job in hospitality as a Japanese speaker and as an English teacher in Japan. A homestay visit strengthens the ties between countries. However, the local community is also brought closer together and enriched.

Tony Nicklin
Dr. Kathryn R. Hill
A.Mus.A., B. Mus (Syd. Con. of
Music), M.A. (Hons)(Syd), Ph.D. (Syd).
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