Presentation Day 2014. A snapshot of our pride and success.

Asquith Girls High School held their presentation day ceremony at Hornsby RSL at the end of 2014 to celebrate the broad range of achievements of the students. Students were recognised for their contributions to leadership, sport, creative and performing arts and their academic prowess.

These awards would not be possible without the strong support of our sponsors, local community, parents and caregivers, students and teachers.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge Ms Ebrahimi, Mr Fulwood, the Presentation Day Team and all staff behind the scenes for the huge organisation that goes into making such an event a success.
Welcome to 2015 School Year

I extend my warm ‘welcome back’ and best wishes to all our students and their families for this new academic year 2015. A special welcome to our Year 7 students, their families, and to those students who are joining our Asquith Girls High School learning community for the first time in 2015. I trust 2015 has started well for you and your daughter and will continue to provide an exciting and enjoyable experience for all.

The start of a new school year is always filled with enthusiasm, excitement, anticipation and New Year commitments to achieve our dreams. Some of these may be more profound in students who have joined AGHS for the first time in 2015. The academic and welfare structures at Asquith Girls High School supported by strong teacher leadership, ensures all our students are recognised as unique individuals, and supported through adjusted programs to achieve their personal best.

2015 is a year of significant change with initiatives such as:

**Great Teaching Inspired Learning (GTIL)** – is the State Government Initiative that is designed to lift the standard of the teaching profession in NSW, focusing on Initial Teacher Education; Entry into the Profession; Recognising and Sharing Outstanding Practice; and Developing and Maintaining Professional Practice. This includes higher standards for students entering universities, more effective teacher education courses and practicum programs, additional support and time for teachers beginning their classroom careers.

**Leadership Pathways** – part of GTIL is a stated commitment to support teachers to achieve the higher levels of accreditation through BOSTES of Highly Accomplished and Lead, based on the Teaching Standards.

**The School Excellence Framework** is the over-arching guide for schools on which we will base our school planning, assessment and improvement processes.

**The School Planning and Reporting Approach 2015 – 2017** is for implementation from next year- it involves annual school self-assessment and reporting procedures, validated over a 5-year cycle by peer review teams.

We have contracted extensive work with our school community, starting with the Community forum, ‘Vision 2020’ in May 2014. Our draft plan and its implementation are being finalized for its commencement in Term 2, 2015. Our three Strategic directions are:

**School strategic directions 2015 - 2017**

- **Strategic Direction 1: Student and Staff Wellbeing**
  
  To provide a safe, vibrant learning environment where staff and students feel valued and empowered. To provide a foundation for students to achieve their personal best.

- **Strategic Direction 2: Active and Engaged Learners**
  
  To equip learners with the capabilities they need to succeed at and beyond school. To embrace challenging opportunities, build resilience and problem solving abilities through actively engaging in learning. To make a powerful impact as creative, responsible global citizens.

- **Strategic Direction 3: Communication and Community Links**
  
  To strengthen and improve communication links, encourage involvement, celebrate success and promote initiatives and programs. To enhance effective educational partnerships in the local and global communities.

="RESILIENT LEARNERS"  "ENGAGED LEARNERS"  "CONNECTED LEARNERS"
Principals School Leadership (PSL) – these positions were created in response to initiatives suggested by the Principal Associations in NSW, to establish a highly professional network of our school leaders. The Principal Associations are working with High Performance Directorate to progress this unique model.

The Performance and Development Framework replaces the TARS/EARS/PARS procedures of previous years with a process that is designed to encourage continuous improvement in our workplaces. It has 3 interdependent phases: Plan, Implement, and Review. The Framework has been agreed to by the DEC and NSWTF.

Local Schools Local Decisions (LSLD) – is the NSW translation of the national and international trend to more local authority for Principals and schools. This trend has seen a number of interpretations in different countries and in different State and Territory jurisdictions within Australia. All stakeholders in NSW Public Education have advocated, for increased local authority to be within the context of a strong statewide Public Education system. Fundamental to the success of LSLD is the devolution of approximately 70% of funding from central DEC agencies to individual schools utilising increased education funding, under the ‘Gonski’ model, from both State and Commonwealth Governments.

Resource Allocation Model (RAM) – is the model, founded on the principle that every school receives a base-grant that covers their operating costs, supplemented by loadings calculated according to student need and individual school circumstances. This is a complicated procedure.

LMBR – is, as we know, the replacement business system for OASIS. DEC is working with the 229 schools to ensure all system issues are addressed before the roll out implementation to all schools.

2014 Higher School Certificate Results
Our HSC class of 2014 has made us proud with achieving outstanding HSC results. Congratulations to the students their families and staff for their commitment to educate well every student. The achievements of such diligent efforts have yielded the following results for our school: ATAR

Ancient History achieved a Mean of 73.25, a variation of 1.57 marks greater than the State. 5.26% of students receiving Band 6 (over 90 marks) with 36.5% receiving 80% or more compared to 32.8% State-wide

Biology achieved a Mean of 69.39, a variation of -2.26 variation from State-wide

Business Studies achieved a Mean of 74.37, a variation of .37 greater than the State. 30.76% of students receiving 80% or more compared to 36.95% State-wide

Chemistry achieved a Mean of 72.63, a variation of -3.60 from the State

Community and Family Studies achieved a Mean of 76.94, a variation of 2.57 greater than the State. This translated to 6.89% of students achieved Band 6 compared to 5.6% State-wide

Design and Technology achieved a Mean of 79.58, a variation of 3.72 greater than the State. 45% of students receiving top Bands compared to 37.22% State-wide

Drama achieved a Mean of 78.19 compared to State 77.90. A variation of 0.29 greater than State-wide

Earth and Environment achieved a Mean of 79.68 compared to State 74.80. A variation of 4.88 greater than the State

English standard achieved a mean 3.52. 15.62% of students were placed in the top 2 Bands compared to 8.16% State-wide.

English Advanced achieved a mean of 62.35 compared to 80.53 Statewide.

English Extension 1 achieved 2 Band E4 (Band 6). 100% of the extension 1 students received marks in the top 2 Bands in comparison to 92.99% State-wide. English Extension 2 achieved a Mean of 37.30 compared to 38.49 Statewide. English as a Second Language 7.4% of students achieved Band 6 compared to 4.49% State-wide.

Geography achieved a variation 8.08 greater than the State wide. An excellent performance

Industrial Technology 50% of the students achieved marks in Band 6 compared to 8.89% State-wide

Legal studies achieved a Mean of 76.47, a variation of 3.11 marks greater than the State with 65% of students receiving 80% or more compared to 39% State-wide

General Mathematics 6.67% of students achieved Band 6 and 20.33% achieved Band 5 compared to 5.47% and 19.53% respectively State-wide. Mathematics 2u achieved 3 Band 5. Extension 1 achieved 1 Band E4 and 3 Bands E3. 42.85% of the Extension 2 students achieved Band E3 compared to 54.93% State-wide

Modern History achieved a Mean of 80.29%, a variation of 5.34 marks above the State Mean

History Extension 1 achieved a Mean of 40.18%, a variation of 1.47 marks above the State Mean

Music 1 achieved a Mean of 65.48% a variation of 5.19 marks above state average. 100% of students gained marks of 80 or more, compared to 59.58% State-wide

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education achieved an average of 71.02, a variation of – 1.84 from the State.

Physics achieved a Mean of 71.02 compared to 73.49 State Mean

Senior Science achieved 5.46 marks above the State average. 60% of students were placed in Band 5 compared to 28.8% State-wide

Society and Culture achieved 2 Band 6 and 10 Band 5. 63.15% of the students were placed in the top 2 bands compared to 45% State-wide

Textiles and Design achieved a Mean of 76.83%, a variation of 1.00 mark above the State Mean
Visual Arts achieved a Mean of 79.35.86%, a variation of 1.05 marks above the State Mean. 52.63% of the students were placed in the top Band 2 Bands compared to 48.6% State-wide.

Italian Beginners achieved an average of 71.98, a variation of 1.29 greater than State-wide.

French Continuers, Japanese beginners and Japanese Continuers achieved a Mean of 66.77, 71.98 and 67.73 compared to 82.60, 74.37 and 79.02 respectively to State Mean.

VET Courses offered by AGHS and other providers Business Services Examination achieved 4.10 marks below State average, Entertainment Industry Examination achieved 2.13 marks above State average, Hospitality Examination achieved 3.50 marks above the State average, Human Services Examination achieved 3.78 marks above State average and Retail Services Examination achieved 10.49 marks above the State average.

Celebrating Student Achievements
This year we will continue to celebrate our students’ success at school and outside the school. Please let me know of any outstanding achievements, both inside and outside school, so that your daughter can be acknowledged in our future newsletters. I can be contacted through the school email, please mark your email to my attention.

Staff Changes for 2015
I would like to introduce all of our new teachers to you and officially welcome them to the school. I know that the teaching and learning they are providing through their knowledge, skills and innovation will support your daughter's achievement of high educational outcomes. Please join me in welcoming them to our learning community:

Ms Roslyn Grant; appointed as School Administration Manager (SAM)
Ms Courtney Angus; appointed as Teacher HSIE
Mr Matthew Host; appointed as teacher PDHPE
Ms Lynelle Sacilotto 0.4 ESL Teacher sharing the position with Ms Valladares
Mr Brian Bazzo will be employed by the school as a counselor in 2015. Ms Meehan, our counsellor allocation, will be at AGHS Monday to Wednesday and Mr Bazzo Thursday and Friday. Same model as in 2014. This will ensure that our students and families receive professional attention in times of need.

In a temporary capacity in 2015, due to staff leave situations, the school has employed a number of teachers either part-time or fulltime.

Ms Jocelyn Freeman; Librarian (Relieving). Mr Steve Clarke; Head Teacher Secondary Studies (Relieving), for Ms Bronwyn Moreton. Ms Jeanine Prosser; Language Teacher, for Ms Lara Palma. Ms Carly Jeffs; Head Teacher Female Students (Relieving) for Ms Myfanwy Gough. Ms Lynette Govender; Science Teacher for Mr Warren Bell, Ms Heliya Ebrahim Henri Head Teacher Science (Relieving) until the position is filled.

The following positions will be filled through merit selection process. Teacher Science, Teacher Librarian and Head Teacher Science. I encourage parents/caregivers to undertake the merit selection training as it provides an opportunity for the P&C to be involved in the selection process. If you are interested please contact Michael Ficker, P&C President of your intention by letter or email to the school.

School Policies
A number of new and revised school policies will be in effect in 2015. Parents/Caregivers will access these policies from the school website. I encourage you to discuss them with your daughter to ensure common understanding of expectations.

Student Attendance changes for 2015
The Minister for Education has approved changes to the use of the Attendance Register codes for 2015. The changes implement the ACARA National Standards for Student Attendance Data Reporting. ACARA developed the National Standards to establish nationally consistent parameters for the collection and reporting of student attendance data.

Holidays
As part of the implementation of the National Standards, holidays taken by students outside of school vacation periods will now be included as absences. A Certificate of Exemption can no longer be granted for this purpose.

Families are encouraged to holiday or travel during school vacations. If travel outside of school vacation periods is necessary, the school must be advised in writing prior to departure and the absence will recorded.

• If the principal accepts the reason for the absence, the absence will be marked as “L”.

Extended Leave – Holiday issued.
• If the principal does not believe the absence is in the student's best interests and does not accept the reason, the absence will be recorded as “A”. A Certificate of Extended Leave – Holiday will not be issued.
• If the period of absence is in excess of 50 days, the student may be eligible to enrol in Distance Education See Distance Education - Revised Enrolment Procedures 2014. For that period the student’s enrolment transfers to the distance education school.
Leave
The revised use of the “L” code relating to holidays means the 15-day limit on its use has been removed.

Other codes
The recent Attendance Register Codes include the redefinition of some codes:
• The “F” code is no longer used only for senior students participating in a flexible timetable. The code will now also be used for students participating in HSC Pathways Programs, Best Start Assessments, trial or HSC exams or VET courses.
• The “B” code includes student exchange and allows for some additional flexibility around its use.
• The “H” code is used when a student is enrolled in a school and is required or approved to attend an alternative educational setting on a sessional or full time basis.

Accepting explanations
• The“A”code is to be used if no explanation has been provided by parents/caregivers within seven days of the occurrence of an absence or the explanation is not accepted by the Principal. It is at the principal's discretion to accept the explanation provided.
• If a student's absence is due to sickness the “S” code is used. The principal may request a medical certificate in addition to an explanation if the explanation provided is doubted or the student has a history of unsatisfactory attendance.

Uniform
Asquith Girls High School is a uniform school. Students are expected to wear the correct uniform with PRIDE every day. I ask you to support this positive image of our school.

School Contributions
The school is committed in your daughter’s education by ensuring her learning is supported by current and cutting edge resources. Your commitment to paying their school contributions will assist us to reach our target. Should you wish to discuss this with me further, please contact the school during school hours. I thank you in advance for your support.

School Hours
After evaluation of our bell times from last year there has been some minor amendment to Tuesday’s bell times. On Tuesday the school day finishes at 2.22pm to accommodate public transport timetables and ensure students’ safety is not compromised.

P&C Parental
Involvement in our school is very important. One way to become involved in your daughter’s education and discuss future developments/issues, is to come to our Parents and Citizens meetings. The senior executive look forward to discussing any topics, issues or concerns with you at these meetings.

Swimming Carnival
Our first major carnival is the swimming carnival and takes place on Wednesday 18th of Feb at Hornsby Aquatic Centre. The carnival is a whole school event this year and all years are expected to attend. An information and permission note will be sent out to parents early next week advising of the cost and details of the day. Please ensure the Swimming Carnival permission note is returned on time.

In conclusion and as I stated in many of my previous correspondence to you, we are facing one of the biggest changes in our educational system; I am excited to continue leading the school through these changes and to also ensure our focus is directed towards creating learning environments which prepare lifelong learners full of appetite, capacity, resilience and confidence to face the challenges and uncertainties life throws at them. I also take this opportunity to acknowledge our parent involvement and support. I thank you for choosing Asquith Girls High School to educate your daughter. We are committed to providing an environment where they feel safe, respected and valued to reach their personal best.

I look forward to another great year where we continue to work together in achieving outstanding outcomes for our students. Thank you to all the staff for a wonderful start.

Best wishes to all for a successful 2015.

‘The test of successful education is not the amount of knowledge that pupils take away from school, but their appetite to know and their capacity to learn.’

Sir Richard Livingstone, 1941

Elizabeth Amvrazis Principal

2014 - Asquith Girls HS - developing high achieving young women who are responsible and independent leaders and learners
Welcome to 2015! Your P&C has an exciting year ahead, as has your daughters’ school. We would like to wish a very warm welcome to our new families to Asquith Girls High School; our new Year 7 girls are adjusting to the different demands of high school, and meeting new friends, new teachers and a whole new way of learning compared to primary school. We have a great culture and learning environment here at AGHS, and you can be confident that your choice of school is a very good one!

We have a busy start to the year with our first meeting next Wednesday, straight after the Year 7 meet and greet, shortly thereafter we have the welcome BBQ for the Year 5 & 6 Open Night, and we are planning our first parents’ social night, a band night, with details to be advised shortly.

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday February 11th for our first meeting of the year. Please join us to see where you can contribute to your daughters’ education, and get involved in serving our school community to the benefit of all.

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

**News Flash!** Maths calculators are now in stock and are available from the admin office for $22.

**Maths On THursday**
A quiet place to complete your Maths HW
Get free help from a Maths teacher
Available to Years 7-10
In the Library every Thursday 3:10-4:15pm
See you there ... Bring a friend

International Women’s Day Breakfast

Asquith Girls High School **International Women's Day Breakfast** is a major event held at the school and will be held on Thursday 5th March 6.45am-8.15am. This breakfast is a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together and appreciate the progress for women. Proceeds from the breakfast will go to **Mahboba's Promise**, a charity that supports less fortunate children in Afghanistan including girls at our sister school in the Panjshir Valley.

Mahboba Rawi continues to inspire and influence our students and staff everyday through her charity work. International Women’s Day Breakfast has been an important student organised event at Asquith Girls High School for over ten years. With your support, young women can continue to be inspired to achieve greater heights through independence.

Please keep this date free and accompany your daughter to this event. The cost is $25 per person and current Asquith students pay $15. The invitation is included in this publication.
Asquith Girls High School invites you to our tenth International Women’s Day Breakfast
MAKE IT HAPPEN
on Thursday 5 March, 2015
To be held in the Multipurpose Centre
Asquith Girls High School
Stokes Avenue, Asquith
(6.45 a.m. for) 7.00 a.m. – 8.30 a.m.
$25 per head
(Discounted price $15 only for AGHS students)
Limited to 150 guests, so get in early to avoid disappointment

Asquith Girls High School International Women’s Day Breakfast is a major event held at the school that this year will recognise women who Make It Happen. This breakfast is a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together and appreciate the progress for women. Proceeds from the breakfast will go to Mahboba’s Promise, a charity that supports less fortunate children in Afghanistan including girls at our sister school in the Panjshir Valley. Mahboba Rawi continues to inspire and influence our students and staff everyday through her charity work. International Women’s Day Breakfast has been an important student organised event at Asquith Girls High School for over ten years. With your support, young women can continue to be inspired to achieve greater heights through independence.

Dr K Ganeson
Coordinator IWDB

Ms Elizabeth Amvrazis
Principal

Acceptance/Payment Form

Number Attending _____________
(Please do come and bring your mums, dads, family members to this event.)

Names of those attending:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Total Cost @$25 (or $15 for AGHS students) per head = ______

Payment and RSVP date: Thursday, 26th February 2015
Payments can be made at the School office by cash, cheque or credit card (Visa and MasterCard only). For credit card payment please complete the slip below. You may fax or email this form to the school asquithgir-school@det.nsw.edu.au or submit it to the office in person or via your daughter.

Payment By: Cheque: made payable to Asquith Girls High School
Credit Card: please complete the following details

MasterCard or Visa (please circle) Card No. _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
Name on card: ____________________________________________
Card Expiry Date: __________ Amount: ________________
Signature: ____________________________________________
Special Religious Education (SRE) at Asquith Girls

Under the Education Act 1990 Section 32 there is a legislative requirement that time is allowed for special religious education in schools. Religious groups that provide SRE in schools have to be approved by the Minister of Education.

At Asquith Girls High School this SRE instruction is provided by Hornsby and Asquith Districts Christian Education Association (HADCEA). Members of this association include: Asquith Church of Christ, St John’s Anglican Church, St Patrick’s Catholic Church, Australian Ling Liang Church, Berowra Baptist Church, Berowra Uniting Church, St Mark’s Anglican Church, Hornsby Uniting Church, Hornsby Baptist Church, Salvation Army, St Peter’s Anglican Church, Community Church, Hornsby Heights Baptist Church, St Luke’s Anglican Church, Mount Colah Uniting Church, Gospel Chapel, All Saints Anglican Church

HADCEA employ Ms Ruth Mahaffey who teaches SRE once a fortnight for students in Years 7 to 10. Ms Mahaffey is a valued member of staff and has developed a good rapport with the students. Her teaching program centres on Christian Studies.

Students are to continue in the same arrangements as the previous year, unless a parent/caregiver has requested a change. In accordance with the Education Act, no student is required to attend SRE instruction if parents decide that they do not wish their child to participate. Parents can request exemption by sending a letter to the principal. No explanation is needed. These students are then supervised separately in the library.

The Current Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8</th>
<th>Year 9</th>
<th>Year 10</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>Creation to Re-</td>
<td>Myth Busting the Bible: Investigating evidence for the reliability of the Scriptures</td>
<td>Issues Facing Young Women: Relationships, Drugs and Alcohol, Self-Image</td>
<td>The Good, The Bad and The Ethical: Christian Ethics</td>
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<td>Creation (1): The Bible, Creation, The Fall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>Creation to Re-</td>
<td>Creation to Re-creation (3): Moses, Judges, Kingship, The Prophets</td>
<td>Who is Jesus (3): What Relevance does Jesus have 2000 years after His Life, Death and Resurrection?</td>
<td>Who is Jesus (4): Interactions Jesus had with religious leaders, outcasts and his followers, and claims he made about himself that surprised and shocked his hearers.</td>
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<td>creation (2) Noah-Joseph</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>Being God’s Princesses: What it means to be part of God’s family, a child of the King</td>
<td>Who is Jesus (2): Investigating Jesus in Mark’s Gospel</td>
<td>Women of the Bible: What we can learn from the life and experiences of some of the women of the Bible</td>
<td>Comparative Religious: Students research Comparative Religious, compare and contrast with Christianity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 4</td>
<td>Who is Jesus (1): The Historical Jesus, The Nativity Story</td>
<td>Women Who Made a Difference: The Amazing Stories of Christian Women from the past Century who have had a positive impact</td>
<td>The Church: What is the Church? History of the Church, Current Perceptions, Myths and Reality</td>
<td>Why Christianity? What Evidence is there for Jesus, his claims and His Resurrection?</td>
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</tbody>
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HSIE Faculty

The HSIE faculty welcomes all students for exciting learning experiences in 2015. This year there are a number of staff changes. Two new staff members have joined the faculty – Miss Courtney Angus and Mr Steve Clarke. This makes a total of 12 teachers teaching in our faculty.

As a faculty we are all committed to creating a vibrant learning environment with inspiring teaching.

Our teachers include:

Dr Krishnaveni Ganeson – Head Teacher
Ms Courtney Angus
Mr Martin Borri
Mr Steve Clarke – Head Teacher Secondary Studies (Relieving)
Mrs Lynda Clarkson
Ms Carly Jelfs – Head Teacher Female Students (Relieving)
Miss Carly Jones
Mrs Cheryl Key
Mr Russell Lewis
Mr Dimar Lavy – Year 7 Adviser
Mr Mark Robinson – Deputy Principal
Mrs Phillipa Somerville

In 2014 the faculty introduced a new elective subject in Year 9 – Business Services for 100 hours which when completed students attained a Certificate 1 in Business. It was a very popular course with a full class taught by Mrs L Clarkson. We are the only school in NSW to offer this course and are proud of this achievement.

As a result for 2015 we have introduced an acceleration course - Preliminary Business Services - for Year 10 to students who have successfully completed Certificate 1 in Business. These students will have the option to sit the HSC in 2016 in this subject when they are in Year 11. This is the first acceleration course offered in the school to a Year 10 cohort. And again we are proud to be the lighthouse of education at Asquith.

Another initiative in 2015 is the History Transition Program with two partner primary schools - Hornsby North Public and Mt Colah Public. Mrs Clarkson, Mrs Key and Dr Ganeson put forward a proposal at then of last year. We have received a $5000 grant from DEC for this project and are looking forward to continuing our work with our partner primary schools.

A further initiative this year has been the remodelling of the Geography Room to become a Business Services learning space. The work began in early December and was completed at the end of January. This learning space has been designed to promote collaborative computer learning spaces to equip students with 21st Century office environment.

As a faculty we teach a range of subjects - Mandatory Geography and History in Years 7 to 10 and electives in Years 9 and 10 – Commerce, International Studies and Business Services. In the Senior School we teach – Ancient History, Business Studies, Business Services, Economics, Geography, History Extension (Year 12), Legal Studies, Modern History, Society and Culture and Studies of Religion. We all have our specialised areas and aim to nurture personal best and global citizenship for every student.

All the best for an exciting year ahead   Dr Krishnaveni Ganeson

2014 - Asquith Girls HS - developing high achieving young women who are responsible and independent leaders and learners
Welcome back from the TAS faculty!

We hope everyone had a relaxing holiday and is ready to ‘get creative’ in 2015.

Our staff for 2015 include:
Catherine Dawe, Head Teacher Technological & Applied Studies (TAS)
Leanne Steed, Head Teacher Teaching & Learning
Maura Allington, Alyce Avery, Matt Barker, Katey Bird, Claudia Bressi and Jenny Lowe.

Remember to keep Tuesday 15th of September free in your diary….YES… it’s the date for our annual TAS Display.

Years 7 and 8

CONNECTING learning & life

In 2014 AGHS introduced a new program for stage 4 students called ‘Connecting learning & life’ (CLL). This program will continue in 2015.

The specific focus of the Connecting learning & life program is to support students in taking positive action and responsibility for their physical, social and emotional health. The program is designed to meet the personal, social and learning needs of stage 4 students. It aims to ensure that students feel safe, have a sense of belonging, have positive self-esteem, trust their teachers and accept responsibility for their learning.

Once a fortnight year 7 and 8 girls will attend a CLL lesson, where they will participate in activities based around a particular topic or theme. It would be great to see the work in the classroom continue on with conversations at home. In the first few lessons both years will be examining the concept of ‘belonging and the importance of belonging’. Year 7 will focus on how they can connect with their new school environment and develop a feeling of belonging to the different groups they will encounter. Year 8 will focus on the bigger question of the need for a sense of belonging related to social groups, such as family, friends and the community. As an important part of this topic students will look at communication skills and how they can become effective communicators in different situations. There will be an emphasis on safe electronic communication for year 8.

Good luck with the discussions at home and watch the newsletter for information about each of the topics.

Ms Catherine Dawe
Head Teacher Technology
A warm welcome to all new students and parents, and also to those returning to us here at Asquith Girls for another school year. It will no doubt be another eventful year here at AGHS in 2015.

For this year, I am Relieving Head Teacher Female Students (also known as Head Teacher Welfare). I have been at Asquith Girls High School for the past three years and I am excited to be taking on this new role.

- The Welfare team here at Asquith Girls is an energetic and committed team and I will be working closely with the Year Advisers, School Counsellor, Learning and Support Teachers and other staff members to provide a safe and inclusive learning environment for your daughters.

- Year Advisers have the special care of a particular year group. These are the people parents need to contact if they have information which would help the school better understand and support their child. The Year Advisers and Assistant Year Advisers for each year group are as follows:

  Year 7 – Mr Lavy & Ms Fowler
  Year 8 – Ms Ridley & Ms Overhall
  Year 9 – Mr Nicklin & Ms Prosser
  Year 10 – Ms Horne & Ms Bird
  Year 11 – Ms Horler & Ms Young
  Year 12 – Ms Lowe & Ms Ebrahimi

In my role as Relieving Head Teacher Female Students I will support these Year Advisers in their role, as well as ensuring the implementation and coordination of our welfare programs throughout the year.

I would like to draw your attention to a number of workshops for parents being organised by the Department of Health, Northern Sydney Local Health District. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

Should you wish to speak with me, please contact the school reception on 9477 6411.

Carly Jelfs
Relieving Head Teacher Female Students

WELCOME to 2015

From the School Counsellors Desk.

Welcome back to the families of AGHS and a warm welcome to the new families of girls in year 7 for 2015.

We are pleased to announce that Asquith Girls High School again, has allocated 2 counsellors to fill a 5 day counsellor position at Asquith Girls High school. This means that there will be a counsellor available on site for every school day of term. This extra ordinary allocation is due to the commitment and support of the principal, Mrs Amvrazis, and the parent group to the welfare of your daughters at Asquith Girls High school.

Your school counsellors for 2015 are Colleen Meehan (Mon. Tues. Wed.) and Brian Bazzo (Thurs. Fri.). We will also be working with two teams within the school; the very hard- working Learning Support Team and the very dynamic and pro- active Welfare Team.

Please call us any school day at any time for assistance. Our theme for 2015 is - The importance of positive connection and relationships within communities to improve resilience.

Colleen Meehan and Brian Bazzo
CAPA – Creative and Performing Arts

CAPA would like to welcome you all back for an exciting new year filled with creativity and fun.

To our new students – welcome to the Asquith family, we have lots in store for the coming year.

2015 CAPA Staff:

Head Teacher (Relieving) – Ms Alana Lewis
Drama & Vet Entertainment – Mrs Tracey Sekula
Dance – Ms Adelaide Eastley
Visual Arts – Ms Helen Yip
Visual Arts – Mr Mathew Baldwin
Visual Arts – Ms Kathryn Minkley
Music – Mrs Shannon Taplin
Music – Mrs Louise Lander
Music – Mrs Fiona Gudmunson

What a wonderful year this will be!

In Art and Photography: Years 7 & 8 will complete the mandatory Visual Arts course studying topics such as “Hybrid Creatures”, “Lost and Found”, “Ordinary to Extraordinary” and or “Portraiture”. Year 7 will have an opportunity to attend the annual AGHS Indigenous Arts Incursion, and all are extended an invitation to join the after-hours Art Club.

Years 9 to 11 elective classes will be challenged with an array of mediums and conceptual ideas to complete a series of exciting and imaginative works. Elective classes will be given opportunities throughout the year to attend excursions to various exhibitions to further enhance their understanding of the Arts.

Year 12 HSC students have an exciting year ahead with the completion of their self-directed Major Works. They will be travelling to Melbourne to do the famous Street Art tours and visit major galleries in the hub of the Art scene in the CBD.

In Music:

Year 7 are studying the Concepts of music and developing skills on keyboards. Year 8 are looking at music for television and advertisements, developing skills on guitar.

Year 9 to 11 take an in depth look at musical concepts and further develop their practical skills on their instrument of choice. They will look at a variety of topics such as Jazz, Baroque and Australian composers.

Year 12 students will be working on their individual projects for the HSC and we look forward to hearing these pieces at the annual Musicale in Term 3.

Year 11 and 12 students will attend Encore – which is a selection of top performances from the 2014 HSC students from across the state.

Opportunities also include, school Performing Arts evenings, community performances at local venues, Band camp, special assemblies, school spectacular and out of school opportunities for district and state ensembles.
CAPA – Creative and Performing Arts

In Dance:
Year 7 are studying Dance as an artform through the integrated study of performance, composition and appreciation.

Year 9 & Year 10 will develop their dance technique and performance quality through technique classes and performance opportunities. Dancers will explore the elements of dance in response to a variety of stimuli and choreograph their own dance works. Furthermore the students will analyse the practices of international dance artists and their dance works.

Year 12 students will be working on their core and major study pieces; choreographing dance works for selected AGHS students, from various year groups, to perform as part of their HSC examinations.

Elective students have to opportunity to watch Sydney Dance Company’s new work ‘Frame of Mind’ in March.

Performance opportunities for all include, school Performing Arts evenings, community performances at local venues, dance camps and special assemblies. The selected Year 8 Dance Ensemble and the Elective Dance Companies will be auditioning for the Sydney North Dance Festival later this term. All the best to those performance groups!

In Drama: Year 7 will work throughout the semester on Improvisation and Play-building, developing both their individual and group performance skills.

Years 9 to 11 Elective classes will be performing devised and scripted pieces covering themes such as voice and movement, creating characters, melodrama, Shakespeare on Stage and Drama through the ages. Students should be prepared and willing to participate in a range of class games, activities, workshops and performances.

Year 12 Elective students will be working on their group and individual pieces ready for the HSC in Term 3.

Performance opportunities for all include, school Performing Arts evenings, community performances at local venues, drama camps and special assemblies.

In Vet Entertainment: Year 12 students will be completing the outgoing Certificate III course, whereas the Year 11 students will be starting the new Course. Students will be completing 70 hours of work placement within the Entertainment Industry, gaining new skills and creating fantastic industry contacts. As always the Entertainment team will be delivering technical support for the incredible performances developed within the other CAPA subjects.

Don’t forget:

Talent Fest is on this term so get your performances ready. Your act can be anything from gymnastics or Dance routine to a musical item or dramatic theatre piece. Heats will be run in year groups and the finalists will be selected to perform for the school after the cross country carnival. Look out for upcoming notices and start rehearsing.

Have a creative and inspiring year!

Ms Lewis
Music News

Band and Choir 2015
Welcome to all the new members of our extra-curricular music program, especially Year 7.
Rehearsals are now underway for all five of our ensembles, although it is not too late to join! If your daughter is interested in joining either band or choir, please contact Mrs Alex Manton via email at alex.manton@det.nsw.edu.au

Music Fees
Fees for Band and Choir are payable to the front office from Week 4, Term 1 and the cost is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ensemble</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership for Wind Ensemble, Concert Band or Stage Band</td>
<td>$75 per term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Membership for either Wind Ensemble, Concert Band or Stage Band</td>
<td>$25 per term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocal Group or Junior Choir</td>
<td>$35 per term</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

English News
The English faculty would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all students to Asquith. We also welcome any new students to the school; we are certainly looking forward to working with you all over the next 12 months. The team also welcomes Ms Lynelle Sacilotto (ESL), Ms Tess Graves-Brown and Mr Thomas Oliver who will be teaching in temporary engagements during the year.

Staff for 2015:
Luke Fulwood HT Eng/Lang
Alison Fowler
Edwina Horler Yr 11 Adviser
Georgina Kyrikos
Thomas Oliver
Lynelle Sacilotto
Rebecca Smith
Siboney Valladares ESL
Susan Young Yr 11 Assist Advisor
Tess Graves-Brown
Kelly Cheung

A few things you need to know about Term 1 in English:
* Some classes are beginning with a close study of a film. If the chosen film has a rating of ‘M’ or ‘MA’, a permission slip will have been sent home in Week 1. Please ensure you and your daughter sign this slip and return to the classroom teacher as soon as possible so that the film study can begin.
* Year 12 classes studying John Misto's 'The Shoehorn Sonata' will be viewing a performance of the play by Impulse Theatre Company. Students will be attending a 10:30am performance on Monday 16th March at the Figtree Theatre at the University of NSW campus. The cost is $46, payable to the front office. The final date for payment is Monday 9th February.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your daughter’s English teacher or Mr Luke Fulwood.
Welcome back from the Science faculty

The Science faculty would like to welcome back all students to Asquith. We are certainly looking forward to working with you all in 2015. There are many excursions and activities to look forward to. Year 7 will be going to the Zoo, Year 9 Marine Studies to Toowoon Bay, Whale Watching and Aquarium, Year 10 to the Museum of Disease and many more. 2015 is going to be an exciting year for everyone in Science.

Our staff for 2015 include:
Ms Heliya Ebrahimi (Relieving HT),
Ms Meetal Kumar,
Ms Ireine Gunawan
Ms ynette Govender
Ms Jennifer Fisk
Ms Tu Anh Tran
Ms Linda Stanford (Lab Assistant).

World Challenge Expedition to Nicaragua and Costa Rica

On the 28th of December 2014, 6 young, nervous young students from Asquith and Brisbane Water High School, one teacher and one leader from World Challenge assembled at Sydney Airport to begin a student led expedition to Central America. The first challenge: getting there. 3 flights via LA and Miami and 2 days later we have arrived in Granada, Nicaragua. The heat was the first thing that we noticed, then the language – none of us spoke Spanish and lots of hand gestures and “Si, si!” were used to get ourselves into and around the town on Lake Nicaragua. Nicaragua provided us the perfect environment to acclimatise, which included walks around the craters of Mombacho Volcano and zip lining down its slopes.

With our heads now focused we headed 10km north of the town to Perla Del Gran Lago (Pearl of the Great Lake) where the team’s school project was located. Sleeping in tents and having running water only available for 5-6 hours a day were two challenges that presented themselves to the girls upon their arrival, adding to the difficulty of working in the heat and dust of the school. The team approached their work with a smile and passion towards helping the local community. The school had 3 rooms which the team painted inside and out in the Nicaraguan colours of white and blue. The fundraising money that had been raised was put to use re roofing 2/3 of the school – the principal was extremely grateful for the time and effort put in by the girls, reminding them that each student in Nicaragua only receives $100 a year in funding – 1% of what an Australian student would receive. Many new friendships were made and the experience allowed the team to begin to work together as a real team.

Moving onto Ometepe Island and the physical challenges began, though each had a reward once achieved. The first was climbing up the flanks of Maderas Volcano to a beautiful waterfall; the second was climbing the (active) Concepcion Volcano to get the most amazing view of the landscape and lake surrounding the islands. Despite the difficulty going up and down slippery slopes smiles were all around upon their return to the comfort of the hostal.

Crossing the border south in Costa Rica and prices rose and the temperature fell as we made it up to the slopes of the Rincon de la Vieja Volcano (also active). Another water fall walk (with the bonus of swimming in the refreshing waters) and then the added plus of a relaxing day at thermal hot springs made Rincon a fantastic destination (despite the biting bugs!)

Through San Jose to the final challenge: A 38km 3 day hike from the top of the mountains towards the coast. This was the toughest challenge, with long stretches of uphill and downhill straining the calves and heavy backpacks weighing down on both shoulders and minds. But the final reward was waiting at the end of this hike: 4 days on the Pacific Coast at the one of the most beautiful beaches in the world.

The team accomplished so much during their month away together, with the team becoming more organised and taking it upon themselves to learn new skills, including budgeting, conversing with complete strangers in a foreign language and getting from one place to another. Simple tasks that in a new country provided unique challenges each time the team arrived at a new city, but each time the team work together with the World Challenge ethos at the back of their minds.

The team arrived back in Sydney weary but stronger, more organised and most of all, as independent young women that can now tackle anything that comes before them. It was a privilege to be a part of the team and I wish them all the best in their future travels around the world.

Mr Bell
**Sports Update Term 1**

This term is a busy term for sport at Asquith.

Our first major carnival is the swimming carnival and takes place on Wednesday 18th of Feb at Hornsby Aquatic Centre. The carnival is a whole school event this year and all years are expected to attend. An information and permission note will be sent out to parents early next week advising of the cost and details of the day.

**IMPORTANT SPORT AND TRIAL DATES FOR TERM 1 – 2015 ARE**

Friday 20th of Feb – Sydney North Girls basketball

Tuesday 24th Feb – Thursday 26th of Feb – CHS girls Softball (Lismore)

Thursday 26-27th of Feb – CHS All Schools triathlon

3-6 March – CHS individual tennis trials – Parramatta

Thursday 5th March – Under 15’s girls touch trials

Friday 6th March – Secondary girls volleyball trials

Tuesday 10th of March – Secondary trials Netball

Wednesday 11th of March – Zone Swimming Carnival Ryde aquatic Centre

Monday 16th of March – Secondary trials girls soccer

Tuesday 17th March – Sydney North swimming carnival

Wednesday 18th March – Secondary trials Hockey (Girls)

Wednesday 25th March – AGHS Cross country Carnival

26-27-28 March - CHS Swimming carnival

April 7 -13 – CHS Sailing (Belmont)

NB- Some dates are subject to change. If you are wanting to trial for Sydney North please see Ms Overhall to get a note completed to take the trials.

**SOFTBALL**

Taylor Webb of Year 10, represented Tasmania at the U17s Australian National Softball Championships held in Canberra. The tournament was held in January over a 10 day period. Although the team didn’t place, Taylor should be congratulated for reaching this high level of achievement in Softball. Congratulations Taylor.
# Parenting Programs

**Child & Adolescent Parenting**

## WHAT’S ON IN TERM 1 - COURSES/WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS/CARERS

### Tuning in to Teens Course

Skills to communicate with your teenagers so that you understand each other better & are able to build positive relationships.

- Understanding teenagers today & communication skills
- Emotional intelligence skills
- How to prevent behaviour problems & conflict resolution

**Chatswood 5 wks/2.5hrs** (2/3 - 30/3, 7.00-9.30pm)

### Dealing with Teen’s Backchat Workshop

- Learn how to restore a respectful & positive relationship with your teenager
- Understand what it is like being a teenager today
- Learn how to talk so that they listen & how to listen so that they talk to you

**Chatswood (23/2, 7.00-9.30pm)**

### Tuning in to Kids Course - Chatswood (24/2 - 24/3)

### NEW Triple P Seminars - Chatswood (11/3, 18/3 & 25/3)

### Communicating with Kids Workshop (based on PET) - Chatswood (31/3)

## WORKSHOPS ON REQUEST FOR PARENTS/CARERS OF TEENS - 9887 5830

- Dealing with Teen’s Back Chat
- Transition to High School
- Triple P Seminar Series (Teens)
- Resilient Kids
- Bully Busting Workshop

## OTHER WORKSHOPS ON REQUEST (2-2.5 hours)

- Understanding Your Toddler/Discipline & Tantrums
- Tucker without Tantrums/Toilet Training
- Speech & Language Development/Sleep
- Triple P (PPP) Seminar Series (1-12 years)
- Older Sibling - New Baby
- Transition to School
- Grand Parenting
- Communicating with Kids

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Enquiries: Child & Adolescent Parenting 9887 5830


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2014 - Asquith Girls HS - developing high achieving young women who are responsible and independent leaders and learners
Asquith Girls High School

Year 5 & 6 students and parents invitation to our

OPEN
NIGHT
Monday 2nd March 2015
School Hall, Stokes Ave
Asquith
5:15pm BBQ, 6pm – 8pm School Information and Tour

Message from the Principal
I extend a warm welcome and invitation to all Year 5 and 6 parents to our Open Night.

Asquith Girls High School is proud to offer an holistic and nurturing educational environment catering to the specific academic and wellbeing needs of our students.

The Enrichment program caters for academically gifted students. The program is supported by extension, acceleration and extra-curricular opportunities that cater for individualized learning.

We are committed to developing young women who are independent, responsible learners and leaders who are able to work cooperatively as future global citizens.

I look forward to welcoming you at our Open Night.

Elizabeth Amanagis
Principal

2016 Enrichment Class Examination
Saturday 7th March 2015
Visit our website to download an application
www.asquithgir-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

Northern Suburbs Football Association Club Champions 2013
ASQUITH SOCCER CLUB
HELP US MAKE SEASON 2015 EVEN BETTER

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE
FREE SOCKS WITH ALL REGISTRATIONS
FREE BALL
FOR ALL MINI ROGUES PLAYERS (5-11yrs)

REGISTRATION DETAILS FOR 2015
Online at: www.asquithsc.org.au
In Person on the 7th of February 2015 11am – 3pm
at Asquith Bowling Club

JUNIOR FEES START FROM $115
• Pre-season Club day 15th March • Family Friendly Events held
throughout the season • All skill levels and ages welcome, we have
teams in Small Sided Football, Junior Mixed, Girls, Boys,
All Age, Over 35’s Men’s and Women’s competitions

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/AsquithSoccerClub
If you have any questions please contact our registrar on registrar@asquithsc.org.au

2014 - Asquith Girls HS - developing high achieving young women who are responsible and independent leaders and learners