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## HIGHLIGHTS

- Deputy Principals' Report
- Full Circle Program
- Year 7 Integrated Unit Day
- Slam Poetry and Coding
- P&C Report

## WELCOME

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Caregivers

As 2019 draws to a close, I would like to express my thanks to our stakeholders and partners who have helped shape another incredible year for us at Randwick Girls' High School. The past twelve months have indeed been both busy and rewarding. The staff and I are privileged to be guiding our young women to become responsible leaders of the future. It is heart-warming to witness active participation around this mission on a day to day basis!

Last week we celebrated the culmination of a year's work at the Annual Presentation Day. Even though it was a hot and smoky day, all who were present were privileged to witness the celebration of student achievements. Those present included the Director of the Bondi Network, parents, families, staff, students and dignitaries.

We are grateful for the partnership and friendship we have enjoyed with parents in the school community over this year. I thank the P&C parents

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### Return to School Dates 2020

- **Tuesday 28 January**  
Staff return
- **Wednesday 29 January**  
Year 7 commence at 9am  
Years 11 and 12 commence at 10am
- **Thursday 30 January**  
Years 8, 9 & 10 commence at 9am

## **Principal's Message continued**

and many other parents who have helped the school in some way or another, including assistance as coaches in clubs such as Debating and Sports. Parent engagement is an integral part of the school and I encourage more parents to join us next year. Many parents have volunteered their time in assisting in P&C related events including the recent painting of the school library, the Year 7 Meet and Greet evening, and other school events such as the Show musical program. We thank you for your part in making Randwick Girls' such an exciting and enriching place for our students to learn.

Critical to this partnership are the wonderful staff at this school who again have worked tirelessly and effectively for positive student outcomes. The past year has been a very fruitful year of learning for our students with not only the day to day learning in the classroom but also the vast array of learning opportunities outside the classroom. The Show, the Music Ensembles, the Art and Photography Clubs, the Harmony Day celebration, the Science Crystal club, the Debating club, the Chess club, Scissors and Paper club, the Homework Centre, and many others have truly enriched and extend the learning experiences of our students. To this end I thank our dedicated staff.

Our support staff are at the forefront of the school and as such they undertake a significant role at our school every day. We acknowledged their contribution to our school last week at the Presentation Day as well. It was a proud moment for each SAS staff as they came on stage to receive their awards from our Director Dr Owens.

I congratulate the HSC class of 2019 for their HSC prowess and success. It was fantastic to welcome some of them back on Wednesday. It was all smiles as everyone present was able to gain ATAR marks which will enable them to gain placements in 2020, whether they be courses at universities, or further study at TAFE colleges, or undertake employment. We know our 2019 HSC alumni will make a wonderful contribution no matter where they will be in 2020 and beyond. This year, we had a total of eighteen students on the Achievers List, with one All Rounder, and one Top Achiever who

came tenth in the State in EAL/D (English as an additional language or dialect). We congratulate them all. In particular, we congratulate Zita Zhu who tops the ATAR score at 99.6, and Amandeep Mondal whose ATAR score is at 99.5. I am proud of students like Zita and Amandeep whose scores are amazing and I am also proud of those students whose scores would not make it into newspaper or newsletter reports. I believe that no score on its own can reveal the story behind the student's year. Some of our students have faced significant issues throughout the course of the HSC year and have undertaken the very best they could and they too need to be celebrated. We value each one of them and congratulate them all and thank them for allowing us to guide, encourage and support them through to the HSC.

It would be impossible to talk about the year without mentioning the Full Circle Program on the last three days of school. Hats off to Ms Theodoridis, the staff at RGHS and the students for an amazing effort over the past three days putting in such a fantastic effort! You will read more about this program and the enjoyment the program brought to our students in this Newsletter edition.

By any measure, we have had an extraordinary year. A big thank you for your ongoing support and best wishes to you in the new decade and beyond! The details for the first few days in 2020 are:

- Staff return on Tuesday 28 January
- Year 7 students commence on Wednesday 29 January at 9:00 am
- Years 11 and 12 students commence on Wednesday 29 January at 10:00 am
- Years 8, 9 and 10 students commence on Thursday 30 January at 9:00 am

Please note that in 2020, the first bell will go at 8:55am, with DEAR commencing at 8:58am on each school day. The rest of the bell times remain unchanged. A copy of the bell times are available on the school's website.

I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Please have a safe one and see you all in the New Year.

Lucy Andre  
Principal

## FROM THE DEPUTIES

We have reached the end of another exciting and challenging educational year at Randwick Girls' High School, where the students have had the opportunity to benefit academically, on the sporting field, in the performing arts and in the many co-curricular and leadership programs available at our school.

Next year will see the continuation of existing educational opportunities and will also see the introduction of Numeracy and STEMS to support our students' learning. STEMS (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and Science) periods will be timetabled for all Year 7 students in the redeveloped library space. Numeracy lessons will be available for all Year 7, 8 and 9 students to supplement the already existing Literacy program. Also Engineering studies 2unit has been introduced in the Year 11 subject structure and will include accelerated Year 10 students.

Term 1, 2020, begins for students in Years 7, 11 and 12 plus Peer Support Leaders on Wednesday 29 January whilst Years 8, 9 and 10s return on Thursday 30 January. We look forward to the return of all students, ready to work hard and face the challenges to improve on their achievements this year. "Keep practicing, never rest, until your best is better and your better becomes your best!"

Finally, we would like to congratulate all our Year 12 students on their many achievements and wish them the best of luck in their future careers.

D. Posener and B. Rekic

Taylor Lamont, one of our Year 11 students, has been selected as an umpire in the 2020 Sydney Netball Academy program. The program is a great opportunity and is run by Netball NSW. She will be mentored by top umpires and be exposed to playing, coaching and officiating excellence. The 8 girls selected into the program also benefit from off court modules including mental toughness, nutrition and leadership. Taylor underwent 2 days of trials to be chosen for the program and this is a great opportunity for her to be part of Netball NSW. Taylor has been playing in the Randwick Netball Association since 10 years of age. She started umpiring at 13 and received her national C Badge for umpiring in 2018.

## What's new in 2020? LITERACY

There are many exciting literacy opportunities that will be introduced to the Randwick Girls' High School community in 2020. A book club will be introduced to the school beginning next year. The book club will meet once a term to discuss an assigned reading. To kick off 2020, the first book will be Patrick Ness's acclaimed 'The Knife of Never Letting Go.' The story follows Todd Hewitt, a 12-year-old boy who runs away from Pentitytown, a town where everyone can hear everyone else's thoughts, after learning of a secret about its past. The first meeting will take place in Week 7 of Term 1 2020 in the library during lunch. Come to the table with ideas, quotes that you've liked, and moments of the text you found intriguing. Leave with enriched ideas, a creative drive, and new friends who also have a passion for reading. It will be great to see all fellow bookworms there!

If you would like more information about the book club, join the google classroom by entering the following code 'wguycr' where you will find a general introduction to the book club and a PDF version of the text if you are unable to access it.

In even more exciting news, Randwick Girls' will also be launching its first slam poetry club in 2020. During Week 9 of Term 4 2019, a Slam Poetry workshop was held for students in Years 7 and 8. The energy among the students was fantastic and discourse surrounding themes of identity, change, and place was fruitful and thought provoking. Students constructed poems and performed them in front of their peers. The confidence of the students is to be commended and the talents of the student body was truly exemplified. As an extension of this initiative, a Slam Poetry Club will run during Term 1 of 2020. There will be two types of meetings for the club: workshops and performances. The club is expected to begin in Week 4 with an introductory workshop on how to create slam poetry, followed by performances in Week 6. Whether you have never read poetry, or are a poetry lover, all students are welcome to join, whether you intend being a performer or a spectator. Come on over and extend your creative skills that you can then use to participate in actual Slam Poetry competitions outside of school, or to simply improve your creative writing skills in general. Keep your eyes peeled for posters around the school when you return in 2020 or feel free to ask Ms Reilly and Mr Briffa if you have any questions.

# Full Circle Program

Students of Randwick Girls' High School engaged in a meaningful learning program during the last week of term this year. The program, titled "Full Circle", was a celebration of the cross-curriculum priorities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures, Asia and Australia's Engagement with Asia as well as Sustainability. As a celebration of the end of a successful school year, our students took part in a series of exciting workshops where they learnt new practical skills which were contextualised within studies of current events and the cultural history of Australia. Each workshop was explicitly connected to a cross-curriculum priority area.

Our students were presented with a range of opportunities to solve problems, work in teams as well exercise their numeracy and literacy skills. Students participated in a variety of workshops including gardening, tie dying, body art, watercolour painting, embroidery and a mandala project combining meditation, maths and art. Use of learning logs ensured that students logged their learning and reflected on their understanding of the cross-curriculum priorities.

A special thank you to Bunnings Warehouse Eastgardens and Randwick for their generous donations of gardening supplies and plants. Through their generosity, students had the unique opportunity to learn about the importance of planting native varieties of plants to support local ecosystems and how to plant and propagate native edible plants.

The program received overwhelming positive feedback from students and teachers. We believe that students gained invaluable skills and knowledge through participating in this program and we look forward to coordinating this program again in the future.

Nicole Theodoridis  
Visual Arts





# YEAR 7

## Integrated Unit Day

### Meika

On Thursday the 5th of December, there was a full day of cross-faculty activities occurring at school. Through a series of various tasks, Year 7 students achieved the opportunity of understanding the term "integration" from many different views, as well as discussing "storytelling".

Our initial task in the part of the visual arts of this unit was a scavenger hunt involving many different activities, but due to unsafe weather conditions was cancelled and instead we did a fun arts task. Symbols are traditionally used as an important part of contemporary Aboriginal art. With this in mind, we made our own symbol artwork, relating to us and who we are. We could use symbols such as our star signs, gender symbols, things they believe in, personal beliefs etc. It was a fun way to feel how the aboriginal people expressed their art. Overall, this was a great incursion.



### Emily

English, based on a short film we watched. We made a big poster and designed our own 'lost thing'. We used lots of different craft materials including pipe cleaners, pom poms, googly eyes, magazines and many more recycled materials. I found this fun and entertaining as we were creative and we worked together.

### Meital

The incursion has taught us about others and ourselves. For each subject, we focused on a different way to learn about each other. During Maths, Mr. Shlozenger told us about his life as a child, growing up in the US and going to an all-boys high school. He then explained the counting system indigenous Australians use to count, teaching us how to count like them as well by using only five fingers. We learnt about base five and how to convert numbers to different bases. It was a great learning experience.





### Sari

The technology lesson we had on the day of the incursion on Thursday the 6th of December, started with us writing a letter to ourselves, to read in year twelve. The teachers gave us a few ideas and basics of what to write for example; our favourite subject, friends, favourite part of year seven, all that type of stuff. Once completed, the teachers started to hand out ribbons of all different colours. Red's, greens, yellows, you name it! They told us that the ribbons on the Jacaranda tree outside the office had got taken down, and we were going to link all of our multi-coloured ribbons together and tie them to the tree, along with little messages saying our favourite thing about Randwick Girls. For example, I wrote that my favourite part of school was books. The day carried on with all other types of fun activities throughout the subjects, but my favourite part of the day was looking at the new ribbon tree I had helped put up.

### Ruby

As part of the integrated unit, the math faculty encouraged us to talk about how our family got to Australia, and the symmetry in Aboriginal art. We all took part in a survey and figured out what percentage of our class had one parent born overseas, two parents born overseas, or were born overseas themselves. We then looked at some aboriginal art and studied the symmetry in that artwork. After we got to create our own symmetrical aboriginal artworks.



# SLAM POETRY AND CODING



On Thursday the 12 December, a class from Year 7 and 8 participated in an incursion for Slam Poetry and Coding. This incursion helped students understand what Slam Poetry is and the hard but fun work that goes into coding.

There were two sessions. The first session was Slam Poetry and the class participated in different group projects and activities. They received an activity booklet with multiple questions that they answered throughout the sessions with their teacher. The session included different activities that involved creativity and performing in front of the class. It increased their confidence and their knowledge in poetry.

An activity included creating your own “InstaPoetry”. This activity related to the social media platform and involved the student’s creativity. The activity was simple: Create a small poem or sentence that is relatable or completely random. This activity was to boost the student’s imagination and creativity as it will help in writing poems later in the session.

During the session, there were also case studies of different Slam Poetry performed on stage. “My Australia” and “Shrinking Women” were two of the poems that were shown and discussed during the session. The class studied the poems and broke down the techniques and messages within these examples. Near the end of the session, we wrote our own poems and shared them with the class.

The second session was coding. The class went down to the library and joined a team of teachers from “Coding4Fun”. Each student received a computer and was guided by the team to create some amazing projects. The coding language that we used was called Java and this experience helped us understand the time and effort used to create games and animation. In the session, we were taught the meanings of codes and what they do. By using our knowledge and the teams help, we coded an animated emoji and a 3D emoji. To code these emoji’s, we used a website built to help students and coders learn and create their own code. To code something we needed to understand and learn the coding language and meaning. When coding, we understood what to do and decided to experiment with our creations, from changing the colours of our emoji to creating Santa hats.



Over the 3 periods, the class learnt important information and has taken home different knowledge from both sessions. This incursion was enjoyable, and the students had a great opportunity learning and creating their own art. Thank you to Ms Reilly, Ms Jordan and Mr Briffa who organised this incursion and helped the students.

Ishika and Anastasia



## P&C UPDATE

### Holiday time!

As another busy school year draws to a close and the festive season swings into top gear, we would like to wish everyone a safe, relaxing and joyous break with loved ones. Have a fabulous summer holiday and we'll see you in 2020.



### Save the dates...

Just in case you missed them in the last newsletter... here are the 2020 meeting dates. We hope you'll join us at one (or more...).

<b>JANUARY</b>	No events			
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	Monday 17	6pm	Year 7 Welcome BBQ	Library courtyard
	Monday 24	7pm	P&C Meeting	Staff Common Room Lvl 2
<b>MARCH</b>	Monday 16	7pm	<b>P&amp;C Annual General Meeting</b>	Staff Common Room Lvl 2
<b>APRIL</b>	No events			
<b>MAY</b>	Monday 18	7pm	P&C Meeting	Staff Common Room Lvl 2
<b>JUNE</b>	Monday 15	7pm	P&C Meeting	Staff Common Room Lvl 2
<b>JULY</b>	No events			
<b>AUGUST</b>	Monday 17	7pm	P&C Meeting	Staff Common Room Lvl 2
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	Monday 14	7pm	P&C Meeting	Staff Common Room Lvl 2
<b>OCTOBER</b>	Monday 19	7pm	P&C Meeting	Staff Common Room Lvl 2
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	Monday 16	7pm	P&C Meeting	Staff Common Room Lvl 2
<b>DECEMBER</b>	No events			

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