



RANDWICK GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL
Barker St, Randwick, NSW, 2031 | 9398 3233

NEWSLETTER

TERM 3 | WEEK 8B | 5 – 9 September 2022

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HIGHLIGHTS

- SRC Election Results
- Poetry Workshop
- Write a Book in a Day
- LOTE News

WELCOME

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Caregivers

At this time of year, we are focused on preparing the Year 12 Cohort to finalise their HSC preparations, as well as their graduation from school. This is an intense time for this group of students, and I am proud that they have risen to the challenge of embracing all the learning afforded. The students have so far successfully completed their Trial Examinations and are receiving feedback. The next two weeks continue to be significant, so they are expected to be in class.

Year 4 Visit

After two years of not holding a Year 4 visit because of Covid, this return to a large-scale event at our school was a big occasion. This event happened two weeks ago on 23 August, when more than two hundred Year 4 students from our feeder schools walked into our school for a day of high school experience. They were all smiles as they were met and welcomed by our enthusiastic student ambassadors.

Principal's message continued on next page



Principal's message continued

These 62 ambassadors immediately put their public relations skills to work, as big sisters would do, thus creating and ensuring that all had a successful day. Teachers were also on hand offering a smorgasbord of high school activities. These activities ranged from slime making to biscuit cooking, garbology to poetry and Spanish dancing to gymnastics. The success of this day was accompanied by the glorious sun shining on us, which was indeed a blessing!

SASS (School Administration and Support Staff) Recognition Week

Well-deserved acknowledgements were expressed throughout the week from teaching staff, for the untiring, often behind the scenes, and selfless efforts of our dedicated SASS team. The undeniable value that SASS makes to the smooth running of RGHS is always valued and we cannot run a school without them! I commend them for their continuing professional work amongst us!

RUOK Day

Yesterday the Wellbeing Team led the day by asking us to stop, reset and refocus on others in our community. Our attention was drawn to the need to meaningfully connect with people around us amid our own busyness. This can be as small as starting a conversation. Letting others know that one is there to listen and support in being part of a vital member of a meaningful community! I hope everyone will take time today and other days, to ask a friend, a colleague, an acquaintance or a neighbour about how they are really feeling.

Online safety information for parents and families

A parent webinar is available in October for community use. Users will gain an understanding of how games, apps and social media can influence young people's mental wellbeing. The webinar is designed especially for parents and carers of young people aged 10 to 18 years and will cover:

- The current research on young people's habits, in particular the time they spend online and associated potential mental health issues

- What families can do about children's accidental exposure to content about suicide, self-harm or eating disorders
- How families can use games, apps and social media to support mental wellbeing
- Strategies for young people to support friends online

To register, copy this URL into your search bar - <https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/9223357062192996109>

Regards

Lucy Andre
Principal

Principal's Tours

The Principal conducts tours of
the school each week for
interested families

You can seek more information
before enrolling your daughters

Call 9398 3233 to book

In light of a recent increase in reporting of antisemitic and religious discrimination at a number of different Sydney high schools, the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies has launched a new online portal for Jewish students and families across NSW to report incidents of antisemitic bullying. To report an incident, go to www.nswjbd.org/bullying

From the Deputies

Year 12 Art Exhibition

When studying the history of art, the marks an artist makes can reflect a melting pot of artistic influences. Year 12 Visual Arts students' Body of Work exemplifies this perfectly.

On Thursday 1 September the Year 12 Visual Arts 2022 Class exhibition was held. The students have created sophisticated and refined Bodies of Work and complex and insightful accounts and understandings in Art Criticism and Art History. The creativity and phenomenal talent demonstrated was outstanding.

I wish to extend my gratitude to the hard work, dedication and continued efforts of the Visual Arts staff. Thank you!

R U OK? Day

On Thursday 8 September our Wellbeing team highlighted that we don't need to be an expert to have an R U OK? Conversation. This reminder that we need to stay connected and make asking *are you ok?* a part of everyday. That way if someone we know is struggling with something big or small, they'll know we care. Students and staff were encouraged to wear yellow accessories to help raise awareness of this important day. The library mural dedicated to conversation starters is a visual reminder that a conversation could change a life.

SASS Recognition Week

During Week 8, Term 3 every year we acknowledge the great work of our school support staff. Whether they work in the office, library, in the school grounds or in the classroom they are instrumental in supporting our students, teachers and the whole community. They often go above and beyond to support the school and work tirelessly to ensure everyone is supported. These staff are the heart of our school community, and I would like to personally thank them for their contribution.



Final Weeks of Year 12

As the Year 12 cohort is counting down, we wish them all the best in these final weeks. Week 9 and 10 is a final opportunity for the students to consolidate all their learning, absorb as much knowledge and ask as many questions as possible to best prepare for the HSC exams in October/November. The Year 12 Graduation Ceremony will take place on Tuesday 20 September 7pm, RGHS MPC.

Regards

Ms Reilly

This past fortnight has been particularly busy for our senior students. Last week our Year 12s completed their Trial HSC exams, and this week our Year 11s commenced their final examinations. For both cohorts, these exam periods represent an important junction in their secondary studies. With recent NESA changes regarding the ratio of various assessment types, I urge all students to use these limited formal exam periods as an opportunity to hone their approach towards large scale examinations. I also ask that students take on board the feedback provided by their teachers, as a means of developing their content knowledge and skills, as well as refining their approach to the examination process.

This Tuesday, our school celebrated SASS Appreciation Day, in order to recognise the amazing contributions from all our SAS staff. We are fortunate to have such dedicated SAS staff working every day to ensure the highest level of support to staff and students, in areas as diverse as Front Office support, Science Lab preparation, Print Room operations, Business Administration, General Assistance and Grounds Keeping. I would like to thank the amazing SAS staff who work here, and celebrate the important contribution they provide to the operations and educational outcomes here at Randwick Girls. Thankyou!

This year's RUOK Day was held on Thursday. The focus was on inspiring and empowering individuals to meaningfully connect with the people around them and start a conversation with those in their life who may be struggling. Our school celebrated this by asking students to wear yellow accessories. Students also participated in lessons throughout the day celebrating this important issue. A big thanks to Ms Garcia and her team for organising this wonderful event.

Until next time

Mr Rekic

SRC ELECTIONS

Congratulations to the following students who were successful in gaining a position on the 2022-23 Student Representative Council as they were recognised for their personal leadership qualities and attributes:

School Captain	Keira
School Vice Captain	Amy
President	Kiana
Vice President	Maria
Treasurer	Jessica
Secretary	Holly
Senior Liaison Officer	Nanjiba
Junior Liaison Officer	Eliafia

Year 11

Maria
Ava
Holly
Austeja
Kiana
Chloe
Jessica
Emily
Keira
Suhana
Amy
Jasmine
Alesha

Year 10

Bronte
Ruby
Isabela
Michella
Lashel

Year 9

Egshiglen
Shareefa
Alexandra
Unnati
Nanjiba

Year 8

Misha
Alice
Sadhbh
Valencia
Mira

Year 7

Eliafa
Leila
Julia
Riya

Kids Giving Back

The following wonderful young students from our school participated in community programs at *Kids Giving Back* during the second term of this year and the recent July school holidays.

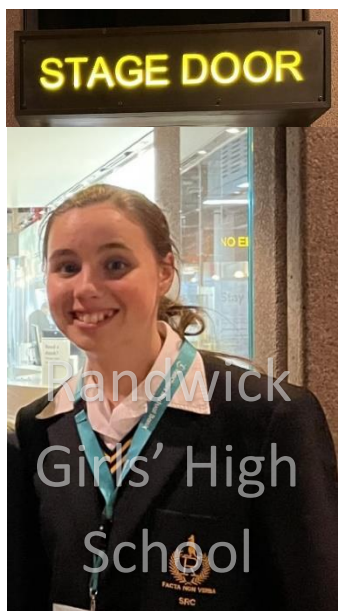
Bowie

Ava

These students are among over 500 *young people* who produced over 13,500 hot meals, soup, salads, fruit kebabs, breakfast boxes, snack packs, care packs and decorated tote bags, with empathetic, positive messages, which were distributed to 13 charities around Sydney. Volunteering in the July school holidays was especially valuable as soup kitchens were held twice weekly, making and handing out almost 1000 servings of soup in the cold and rain, to those who needed warm food and support. Student volunteers were also especially helpful in folding and packing new clothes for over 12,000 vulnerable people, many of whom were affected by this year's floods. Their service to others and the kindness they have extended is deeply appreciated.

Both Bowie and Ava undertook the awesome work with *Kids Giving Back*. This organisation promotes generosity and community service. Students can also volunteer with the same organisation for a variety of initiatives. These can be found on their website.

Festival of Instrumental Music



Year 7 student Zara (7H) recently performed in the junior State Wind Band as a part of The Arts Unit's Festival of Instrumental Music. Zara played flute and she learnt three pieces of music in her own time. She joined other students from across NSW for two days of intensive rehearsals in Lewisham and sound checks at Town Hall and The Sydney Opera House.

The festival opened with the Jacaranda Concert at Sydney Town Hall and closed with the Mimosa Concert at the Sydney Opera House. The concerts featured hundreds of public school students from all over NSW performing works including J S Bach and special commission pieces from talented Australian composers.

Zara enjoyed sharing her talent and performing live in prestigious venues for the first time in two years.

Zara's favourite part about performing in the junior State Wind Band was meeting students from all around NSW and making new friends.

HT Secondary Studies

Poetry Workshop

If the poem is thin, it is likely so not because the poet does not know enough words, but because he or she has not stood long enough among the flowers – has not seen them in any fresh, exciting, and valid way.

Mary



On 4 August, Randwick Girls' welcomed Donnalyn Xu, a writer, poet, and artist whose creative work has appeared in print and online in Art collector, Overland, Peril Magazine, Honi Soit, Art Edit, and Voiceworks, amongst others.

Donnalyn encouraged us to spend more time with the flowers. To spend more time thinking about the poetics of language. Donnalyn began by acknowledging that the experience of poetry cannot be achieved by 'signing' meaning to a poem, but rather through 'finding' meaning in a poem. Our students were encouraged to do just that, guiding them to develop their own poetry.

As a published writer, Donnalyn reflected on her own writing practice. She referred to literary techniques as friends she carried around with her. And I think this is a pertinent message for our students: do not think of language techniques as something to simply memorise for an exam, but rather as friends – as an optic to see deeper into the texts we read.

It was great to see a large turnout of students at the workshop, but for those who may have missed it, here is something to think about as you cultivate your creative identities.

Donnalyn reflected on her time as a visual arts student at university, sitting in museums to sketch and replicate artworks. An artist learns their craft through imitation. And so too does the writer. Find a text that speaks to you. A text that you admire for its beauty. And begin replicating it. As T.S. Eliot proclaims, *There's no such thing as originality anyway, just authenticity.*

As an editor of Voiceworks, a literary magazine for young Australian writers under 25, Donnalyn encouraged our students to submit their work for publication. We hope our girls will take on this challenge. She shared her past

experiences of rejection from publications and expressed that it was a necessary process in the development of her identity as a writer. We hope to provide more opportunities for our girls to develop their creativity soon – watch this space!

A warm thank you must also be extended to Ms Sun, Relieving Head Teacher Secondary Studies, who worked hard behind the scenes to make sure the day was possible.

Mr Briffa

It was a really fun workshop to participate in. We enjoyed the lesson, we had with her. We were able to learn how to appreciate a poem, not only by identifying techniques but by relating to the contents of the poem. We discovered how to find and create poetry from anything rather than trying to create a subject in our minds that is limited in qualities as it isn't right in front of us. This technique of poetry writing was very helpful in allowing our minds to reach its full potential of comparing and describing objects and emotions through poetry. We are grateful to have attended this workshop and we hope in future years, other year groups will get the same amazing opportunity.



Jinny and Grace Year 9



I strongly encourage students at Randwick Girls High School to submit their writing to Voiceworks, the literary journal I edit for young people under the age of 25. Students will be able to receive advice and directions from editors on how to approach their piece.

Donnalyn Xu

WRITE A BOOK IN A DAY COMPETITION



On Thursday 18 August two teams, one from Years 7 to 9 and the other from Years 10 to 11 participated in Write a Book in a Day competition. Teams of up to ten had just 12 hours to write and illustrate a book from start to finish. To make it even more exciting, unique parameters must be included in the story. The competition involves students engaging in fundraising activities that goes directly towards the Kids' Cancer Project.

We congratulate the students who took part in this inaugural event and who braved the pressure of the task! It is safe to say that Randwick Girls' High School now has its own authors and illustrators who will benefit the community with their words and deeds.



LOTE NEWS

Japanese Kinjo Restaurant Excursions – 8C, 8S and Year 10

On Monday 8 August, our Japanese class, 8C, went on an excursion. Our class was overjoyed when we found out that we would be going out for lunch to learn about the culture and food in Japan. We got to choose from three different bento boxes and there was even an option to have dessert. Each box included miso soup, entree's, a main with rice and six mini sushi rolls. We handed in our notes and waited with anticipation.

When the 8 August finally arrived, we all hurried into the classroom, too excited to even sit down. We made our way up to The Spot and we piled into the restaurant. We were greeted by staff and we sat down. Lanterns, artworks and traditional practices made for an educational experience. The food came out fast, and each individual item was delicious.

Once we were all full, we unfortunately had to leave to get back to school. We were all disappointed to leave the restaurant, but we thanked the staff and made our way back to school grounds.

We would like to thank Kinjo for having our class and allowing us to learn more about Japanese culture through the traditional food and practices. We would also like to thank the school for organising this excursion as it was an amazing experience.

Many thanks

Lucy, Tahlia and Arkie on behalf of 8C



8S Japanese Excursion

We went to Kinjo on Tuesday, 9 August. We started with some delicious miso soup and were soon given three different types of bento boxes to choose from: vegetarian, Karahi Chicken, and Teriyaki Chicken. The bento boxes also included Pork Gyoza, Prawn Parcel, and Potato Croquette, as well as three different types of sushi: Avocado, cucumber, and tuna. Finally, we had some ice cream with vanilla, green tea, and black sesame flavours, as well as whipped cream on top. Overall, the experience was incredible, and we all would definitely go again and recommend it to anyone reading this.



Year 10 Japanese Kinjo Excursion

In Week 5, we went on an excursion to a Japanese restaurant (Kinjo). We all walked up to The Spot from school and when we got there, there was a little table in the back reserved for us. After 5-10 minutes the people working there gave us miso soup as a starter course. A little while later when the majority of us had finished the soup we were given our bento boxes. In our bento boxes were mini sushi rolls with avocado, cucumber and tuna, plain rice, Karage chicken as the main course (we all had this option, apart from Keona) spring rolls and an orange as garnish. The food was really delicious and great! And then after that very tasty meal, we had ice cream from the desserts option. The flavours were green tea, black sesame and vanilla ice cream with whipped cream. The ice cream was out of this world! Overall the food was amazing and we enjoyed it a lot

Year 10 Japanese class

Year 8 French Crepé Restaurant Excursion

It was great. The crepes were "délicieuses"! I ordered a ham & cheese crepe and then a Nutella crepe for dessert. I preferred the sweet crepe to the savoury.

London 8G



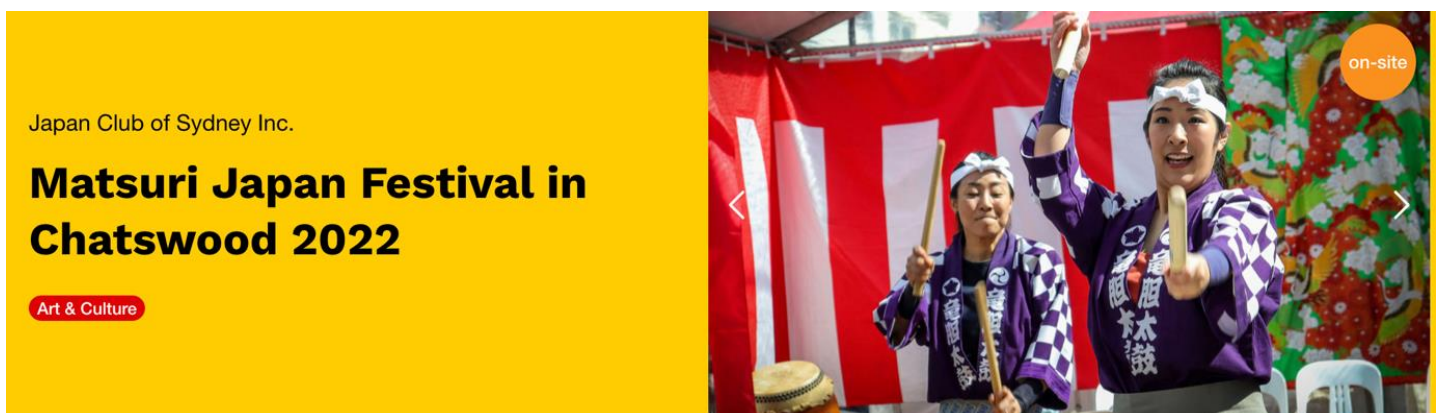
Recently in French we have been studying the language and culture of France, learning everything there is to know from going shopping to greeting an old friend. We were recently given the privilege of visiting Four Frogs Cafe in The Spot, Randwick. As a class we had lots of fun and the food was simply delicious and the room was filled with lots of laughter and intriguing conversations. Overall the trip to Four Frogs was enjoyed by all and we got to learn a lot about the brilliant French culture.

Alice 8R






Chinese Competition

Congratulations to our Year 12 Chinese Continuers students Heidi and Daisy for participating in the Sydney Preliminary Contest for the 15th Chinese Bridge Competition. They both won an Excellence Award.



The Matsuri Japan Festival in Chatswood 2022 celebrates Japanese culture and cross cultural friendship within multicultural society. This event is for everyone who loves Japan as much as we do. You will find many Japanese festival attractions at the Matsuri Japan Festival including Japanese food stalls, traditional arts and crafts workshops, a vibrant kimono stall and stage performances.



We acknowledge and pay respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.   



NEXT P&C MEETING MON 19 SEP

Our next P&C meeting is Monday 19th September 2022 via Zoom.

Come and meet other parents and hear from Principal Lucy Andre about all the great things going on at Randwick Girls' High School.

Everyone is welcome, and for a gold coin donation you can become a financial member with voting rights. Scan the MailChimp QR code (below right) to join the list.



**Newmarket
Development**

There will be a joint RBHS, RGHS & Rainbow St PS joint community info session about Newmarket updates. Stay tuned for more details.

A CONVERSATION COULD CHANGE A LIFE

Got a feeling that someone you know or care about it isn't behaving as they normally would? Perhaps they seem out of sorts? More agitated or withdrawn? Or they're just not themselves. Trust that gut instinct and act on it. Learn more about the signs and when it's time to ask R U OK?

<https://www.ruok.org.au/signs>

Tips on how to ask:

1. **Ask** - are you OK?
2. **Listen** with an open mind
3. **Encourage Action**
4. **Check in**



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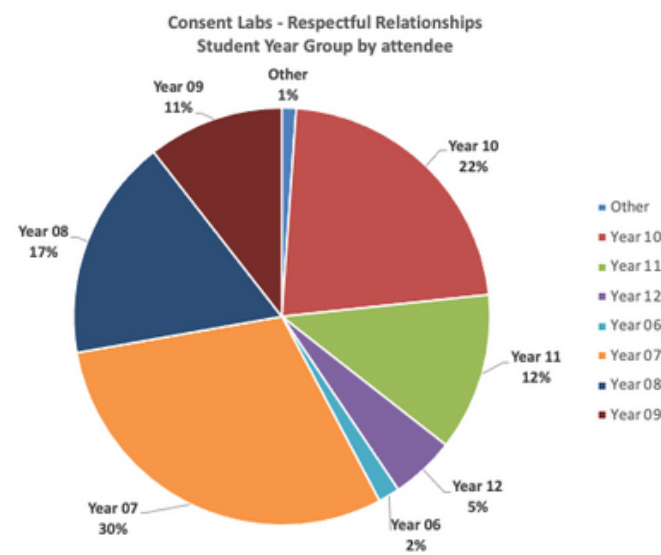
CONSENT LABS | 30AUG

It was great to see many parents from RBHS, RGHS and surrounding schools register for our first joint P&C event! We heard excellent feedback about the presenters Bec & Noah and the insights they shared with the group in-person and via Zoom. Unfortunately we don't have any post-session slides available.

About the attendees:

- 30% students in Year 7
- 67% from RBHS
- 11% students at RBHS & RGHS
- 18% from RGHS
- 4% other schools
- 32% have not yet had the conversation

“start the conversation sooner rather than later”



“Talking about sexual consent keeps your children safe”

