PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Given the events that are occurring in schools around the country at the moment we brought our scheduled evacuation drill forward this week. We always schedule an evacuation drill at the start of the school year to make sure that Year 7 and new enrolments know the procedures. We have been looking for a window of opportunity for the drill when it is not 40 degrees, raining, stormy, soggy or during an HSC assessment task or practical class.

The drill on Tuesday reinforced my immense pride in our school yet again. One of the many things that I love about our school is the wonderful sense of community and the way that the teachers and students work so well together. I have never seen a school community work so seamlessly together – we broke our record from last year and managed to “evacuate” over 800 people in 3 minutes and 27 seconds! We completed the whole process of evacuating, marking rolls, accounting for staff and returning to class in about 13 minutes. I don’t think that there are world records for school evacuation drills but that must come pretty close!

Could I please ask that you help us to ensure that the standard of uniform across the whole school is consistently high. We generally have an excellent standard of school uniform. This is what you have told us as a parent community that you expect and want for your sons. You can help us maintain this high standard by insisting that your son leaves home every day in a full school uniform that is clean and ironed. This uniform includes correct hard leather upper lace-up shoes. Besides being part of our uniform, correct footwear is a safety requirement in a high school setting where we have practical rooms and science laboratories.

If there is a problem with your son’s uniform please send him with a note to let us know. If you are having financial difficulty please make contact with your son’s Year Adviser or the Deputy Principal as we may be able to help you with this.

Dwayne Hopwood
Principal
After a week of transitions, new faces, new teachers and new routines, Year 7 students in their English classes have been busy learning about what it means to feel connected. The students have delivered short oral presentations about personal connections they have with significant possessions and have discovered connections with other students in their new classes. From acrostic poems to visual representations, the students have enjoyed making new connections with their peers.

7 Confucius
8 APOLLO KICKS OFF YEAR 8 SCIENCE

Year 8 Apollo kicks off their 2016 Science class with their presentation skills, on “The Living World” topic.

Wali Mohammed, Jee Teng Ong and Justin Luong were presenting various body systems within the human body. The boys practised with clear voices and great composure, but most of all the “Kids Teaching Kids” approach has worked a charm. Well done 8 Apollo for a great start to the year!
2015 HSC ACHIEVEMENTS IN MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTING

Ashfield Boys High School Mathematics students achieved outstanding results in the 2015 Mathematics Examinations. 28% of the students in Mathematics General Pathway 2 scored Bands 5 and 6; in Mathematics 29% of the students scored either Band 5 or Band 6; and without boasting all students in Extension 1 Mathematics scored either Band E3 or Band E4; and in Mathematics Extension II all students scored a notional Band 6.

In both the computing courses of Information Processes and Technology and Software Design and Development, 40% of students scored a Band 5 or Band 6.

I am also pleased to report that in the majority of the Mathematics and Computing courses studied at Ashfield Boys High School in 2015, these courses achieved above the State average.

Mathematics TIPs for success........ WORKING OUT!

Mathematics is not just about getting the correct answer.

Mathematics is a form of communication, in which you use words, numbers, symbols and drawings to communicate your thoughts. Unfortunately the marker can’t see what you were thinking or what you did on your calculator, unless you write it down.

Good thoughts and good communication can score good marks, especially if your answer is incorrect but your working is sound.

Showing working will also be helpful for you when you are checking your work under time pressure at the end of the assessment.

A bald answer is one that appears without working. A bald incorrect answer will always receive zero marks! A correct answer with no working may be penalised. So as an insurance policy, show your working!!!!!!!!!!!!!
ARE YOU UP FOR A CHALLENGE THEN READ ON.....

Computing and Maths Competitions

ICAS Digital Technologies Competition

This competition is offered to students in Years 7 to 10 only. The paper assesses the students’ knowledge and skills which include: common operating systems and hardware, word processing, graphics and multimedia, spreadsheets and databases, Internet and email, with programming for Year 10 students. Year 7 and 8 students complete 40 multiple choice questions in 40 minutes. The Year 9 and 10 students complete 45 multiple choice questions in 45 minutes.

Students receive a detailed diagnostic report and a UNSW certificate acknowledging their level of achievement. The test date is Tuesday 17th May 2015.

The ICAS Mathematics competition

The test date is Tuesday 16th August 2015.

The Mathematics test requires 35 multiple choice questions and 5 free response questions to be attempted in 1 hour. The Mathematics skills cover a range of contexts from the following areas: Algebra and patterns, Chance and Data, Measurement, Number and Arithmetic, Space and Geometry.

All students from Years 7 to 12 who sit the test receive a report and receive a certificate commensurate with their performance.

The cost of each competition is $8.80 both are payable to the office/Ms Jane by 31st March 2015.

Maria Thomas
Head Teacher Mathematics and Computing

CAPA NEWS

Year 12 Drama Excursion to ‘Offstage’

On Saturday 30th January, members of the Year 12 Drama class and I attended ‘Offstage’ at PLC Croydon. ‘Offstage’ showcases the exemplar performance works of the 2015 HSC Drama cohort. The Year 12 Drama class saw group and individual performances from a range of public and private schools from around the state. It was a great opportunity for the students to get a taste of the Band 6 standard and a realisation of the hard work and determination it takes to reach such a high standard. With a performance task fast approaching, it will be good to see that they utilise some of what they saw and learnt, in their own works.

Tracy Small
Head Teacher Creative and Performing Arts
On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016 there will be an information evening for Year 11 students and their parents regarding their Preliminary HSC assessment.

The meeting will be held in the school hall between 6.15 - 7.30 pm. Parents are asked to be at the school by 6.15 to sign in and receive the associated Preliminary HSC documentation prior to the start of the presentation. An exhibition of student projects from last year will be on display for your interest.

Attendance at this evening is essential and students must have a parent/guardian over the age of 18 to accompany them.

An opportunity to meet and talk to your child’s Year 7 teachers and learn more about our Stage 4 teams

**When:** Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2016  
**Where:** Meet in the hall  
**Time:** 6.15 - 8.30 pm  
**Dinner:** A light dinner of chicken and salads will be provided after the team meetings.  
**Your son will bring home an invitation. Please return the RSVP slip to your son’s team leader.**
PICKING UP AND DROPPING OFF YOUR SON

We know that our school location can make driving your son to school difficult. If you drop your son to school on the way to work it is safer for him and everyone else to do this in one of the back streets near the school. It is illegal and unsafe to stop on Liverpool Road to drop off your son. The Police will (and have consistently in the past) fined parents for stopping in front of the school to drop off students. Please do not drive into the front courtyard of the school to drop off your son. There is a large volume of pedestrian traffic through the main gate and it is dangerous for parents to drive in and turn around in this limited space. Everyone is safer if you drop your son off a few hundred metres away and ask him to walk the rest of the way.

PARENT ONLINE PAYMENTS (POP)

Just a reminder that we now have the facility for parents to make payments online. You can do this through our website via a secure link to Westpac. Westpac has now upgraded the system to make it easier to use on mobile devices. If you go to make a payment using a mobile device the POP system will take you directly to the mobile version.
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## RECREATIONAL SPORT - WEEK 16

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### Notes:
- **Futsal** – Olympic Park Sports Centre booking times:
  - 3, 17, 24 February

- **Badminton** - Olympic Park Sports Hall booking times:
  - 3, 10, 17, 24 February

- **Table Tennis** - Olympic Park Sports Hall booking times:
  - 3, 10, 17, 24 February

- **Badminton** - Olympic Park NSW Netball booking times:
  - Unavailable
Wests Junior Rugby Union

We Want YOU in 2016

Under 6 to Under 18
U6 - U9s (minis) Play locally at St Lukes Concord.
Try Rugby for 4-7 year olds. A fun Non-tackle Friday afternoon Program.
Starting Friday 4th March 5 - 6:30 pm at St Lukes Park Concord.
Registration: Sat 13th & 20th February from 1-4pm
Where: Concord Oval, Lotus Street Concord

www.wjr.u.com.au  1300WESTS1
You’re invited... to play AFL in 2016 with Wests Juniors!
boys & girls teams

About Wests...
U5s to u17s
ultra-low registration fees and try before you buy
socks & shorts included
playing jerseys provided
qualified coaches
age-appropriate rules for fun and fairness
family atmosphere at games
canteen & BBQ

Contact Richard Stone | 0408 409 200 | www.westsjuniorsafl.com.au
✓ u5 to u17 players wanted - boys and girls
✓ ultra-low rego fees & try before you buy
✓ age appropriate rules for fun and fairness
✓ socks and shorts included
✓ playing jerseys provided
✓ qualified coaches
✓ family atmosphere
✓ canteen and BBQ
✓ based in Croydon Park

...call Richard Stone on 0408 409 200