Welcome back to another exciting year. It is always lovely to see all our students after such a long vacation, return to school in full school uniform and ready to learn.

By week 3 our Year 7 students have settled in well and become familiar with the large school grounds and the day to day operation of high school. We have certainly ensured that all Year 7 students have had the support they need to ensure a smooth transition from primary school to high school occurs. A special thank you to all our peer support leaders for working with our students to ensure a positive start. Many of our students attended our transition program in 2011 hence making the first few weeks of high school settling. This year we will commence our transition program with our partner primary school in early March. The purpose of our transition program is to provide all stage three students with the opportunity to explore high school life across all areas: sporting, academic, social and welfare. The benefits to date have been that our Year 7 - 10 students develop their leadership skills as mentors, coaches and leaders in the area of sport, literacy and numeracy. Our primary partner students in Years 5/6 explore and interact with students at CPHS and develop a thorough understanding of high school life.

**Staff changes**

Change at Cambridge Park is ongoing. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new permanent members of staff.

Ms Tahnee Moss in our English faculty to replace Mr Oliver Swanson, Ms Sarah Blades in our HSIE faculty to replace Mr Pat Taylor and Mrs Catherine Henderson in our Mathematics faculty to replace Mr Krishna Sharma.

We also welcome two new Head Teachers - Mrs Martina Rapisarda to our TAS faculty to replace Mrs Anne Acret who retired after 23 years service and Mr Paul Jansons to our PDHPE faculty.

Ms Fiona Corcoran will be relieving Head Teacher CAPA, Dr Emily Christian will be relieving Head Teacher HSIE, Mrs Katherine Hadley will continue to be our Highly Accomplished Teacher and Ms Clare Magee will be relieving Head Teacher English replacing Mr Brad Cook who gained a promotion at Richmond High School as deputy principal.

**PBL**

Our positive behaviour for learning focus this year at Cambridge Park High School is respect. Respecting ourselves, respecting each other, respecting our school, respecting our property and the property of others. Students will participate in PBL lessons exploring the areas of respect - what it looks like and how to maintain it. It is an expectation that students conduct themselves respectfully at school and out of school. In addition all students are expected to wear full school uniform including black leather school shoes. There is nothing more rewarding for our school and our community to see all students respecting our school by wearing their uniform with pride.

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I have had the pleasure of visiting classes during the first two weeks of school and I am very proud to say that all lessons presented engaged students and active learning. I hope our students maintain this momentum and continue to work hard and achieve the best possible outcomes.

School Certificate
This year students in Year 10 will not be receiving a school certificate, however they will be working towards achieving a certificate of attainment. This certificate of attainment will be based on students' application throughout the year. Students will be assessed across the board and will be required to complete class assessment tasks and stage based examinations. In early Term 4 teachers will be required to lodge a grade to the Board of Studies which will outline students' level of attainment. Students are expected to complete all assessment tasks to ensure they meet the demands of the Year 10 curriculum.

Cambridge Learning Community
Academic rigour is in the making across our learning community. This week I met with Principals from our partner primary schools. This is the beginning of many meetings to achieve a common pedagogical practice based on engaging students and connecting them to the learning occurring in the classroom. The idea behind our Cambridge Learning Community is to bring teachers, staff, parents and students together to increase learning capacity by sharing teaching practices and studying student learning patterns. We are basing our learning theories and models on the work of Professor Bill Lucas and Professor Guy Claxton. Staff will continue this year to conduct lesson studies to refine teaching practice and improve student engagement. The most important aspect of learning is to connect the students to the concepts being taught. A critical question for students is: Why does this learning matter? Critical questions for teachers are: What do my students know?, What do my students need to know? How will I get them there? And How will I know they have achieved the set outcome? All these questions are critical and align nicely with the Cambridge Learning Model.

Naplan
This year NAPLAN will take place in May. The dates and assessment areas are listed below. Students know that the writing component will require them to write a persuasive text. These three days can be very tiring. Please ensure your child gets plenty of rest prior and during the assessment period. Students are encouraged to attempt all questions to the best of their ability. These assessments assist staff with programming and tailoring the learning to meet the needs of all students. It is a progressive approach to inform parents, teachers and students on growth in learning and areas students need to refine. Please encourage your child to write a persuasive text and persuade them to read every night. Another tip to help your child prepare would be discussing persuasive devices in writing (i.e. using words like should, must, cannot to convince a reader). A practical approach is to use the PEEL method. P = point ( make a point), E - elaborate on your point, E - provide evidence to support your point and L - link it back to the question or topic. The writing task will also require students to attract audience, use varied sentences (simple, compound and complex), use cohesive devices (linking words), paragraphing, punctuation, sophisticated vocabulary, correct spelling and present good ideas. A good way to practise is to get your child to look at advertisements. Advertisements contain many persuasive devices such as graphics, slogans, colour and ideas.

Some practise topics could be:

- Dogs are better than cats! Do you agree?
- Computer games are better than active sports. Do you agree?
- Homework makes learning fun!
- Recycling is important.
- Facebook should only be for adults. Do you agree?
Principle Schools Funding Program Survey
On Monday 5th March students will be bring home a Priority Schools Funding Program (PSFP) survey for parents to fill. It is imperative that all families fill in this survey and return it to school the following day. As a result, if we are successful, we could potentially receive additional funding to support the learning needs of our students. The most imperative being additional staffing and smaller class sizes. We are currently a PSFP school and have been for the past two years. This funding is for 2013 - 2017. The benefits of the program have enabled us to run additional support classes in the areas of literacy and numeracy, additional workshops and learning opportunities for parents and community members. We need your support to keep this program. Please complete all surveys and return them to the school as soon as possible.

Student Safety
Lastly, could I please share with you concerns raised by parents and community members. It is imperative that students riding a bike to school wear a helmet and be careful when entering and exiting the school. Students have been seen riding in the middle of the road and not checking for on coming vehicles. All students are required to walk their scooters and bikes on school grounds. Under no circumstance is a student to ride their scooter or bike on school grounds. Please encourage your child to conduct themselves in a responsible and careful manner. No student is to ride on the middle of the road or obstruct traffic. Please remind your children that they need to travel safely to and from school to prevent any unfortunate mishaps. I thank you for taking the time to support our concern and to ensure all students are safe at all times.

Please refer to the back of the newsletter for additional upcoming events.
Kay Rigas
Principal

From the desk of Mr Diaczok

PBL
2012 The year of respect
In 2011 our school focused on the PBL expectation “Ready to Learn” which led to significant improvements in student punctuality, uniform and the bringing of equipment. We are following up in 2012 with “Respect” as the PBL focus expectation. To support this focus we will have a “Respect” launch on the school assembly in week 6 where students will learn:
1) What respect is
2) How to show respect
3) What are the benefits of showing respect

This launch will be followed up with weekly scenario based lessons on aspects of respect in different situations including at school, in the community and at home. To support students who show respect the staff will issue “respect tickets” which students can use to enter raffles to win prizes. Please support our focus on respect by speaking to your child about what respect means in your home and around the community.

Uniform
Thank you to all of the parents and community members who have gone to great lengths to support our school’s uniform policy. The standard of uniform at the school continues to rise and this is reflected in more positive student self esteem and increased student affiliation to the school.

The most problematic aspect of our school uniform is ensuring that all students are wearing enclosed black leather school shoes. To help clarify this situation all students who returned to school without appropriate footwear were
issued with a letter regarding the rules related to this part of the uniform. For your information please find that letter following my report.

While seeking to ensure high standards of uniform are maintained we also seek to work cooperatively with families that are experiencing difficulty with getting their child into uniform. If your child is going to be out of uniform for a short period (1 or 2 days) please write a note to the relevant Deputy Principal explaining the circumstances and your child will be issued with a uniform pass so they do not receive any consequences for being out of uniform. If you are facing financial pressures that make it difficult to purchase uniform please write a confidential letter to the Principal who will decide whether financial assistance is possible.

Again thank you to everybody who has contributed to improving our school uniform and please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any enquiries regarding uniform.

Tony Diaczok
Deputy Principal

Dear Parent/caregiver,

Cambridge Park High School has a School Uniform Policy that has been developed in partnership with, and endorsed by, the school’s Parents and Citizens Association (P&C) as a group representing the school community. This policy is designed to set a high standard of uniform at school to ensure student safety, to increase school pride, to enhance student self esteem and to create positive community perceptions of the school.

The uniform policy outlines the uniform expectations for all students and includes an expectation that students wear **fully enclosed black leather school shoes** as part of the uniform. To ensure the safety of students at all times and in all learning environments leather school shoes are designated as a mandatory requirement of uniform. DET uniform literature states:

“Under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000 (OH&S Act) the Department of Education and Training must ensure that students are not exposed to risks to their health or safety while they are on Departmental premises. The Act also requires the Department to identify any foreseeable hazard that has the potential to harm the health and safety of any person on its premises and to take steps to identify and eliminate or control such risks. School uniform requirements must take into account these requirements.”

To ensure the highest level of safety the black leather shoe must **enclose the foot**, as exposing the top of the foot increases the risk of injury, as a result “ballet flats” are not acceptable. Shoes are expected to be completely black to establish a uniform look across the school.

In developing the Uniform Policy the school, in collaboration with the P&C, determined that while shoes must be black, enclose the foot and be leather **they can be athletic style shoes** rather than normal leather school shoes. In the case of athletic style shoes parents are to ensure that they are fully black and have a leather upper. Vinyl, fabric and canvas uppers are not acceptable due to the O.H&S reasons outlined above.

While seeking to set the highest standards of uniform the school also recognises there may be circumstances where families may be unable to afford black leather school shoes, particularly at short notice. Where a family faces financial difficulties they should write to the Principal outlining their circumstances and the school may financially support the purchase of an approved pair of school shoes.

The school also recognises that there may be short periods where students are unable to meet the uniform expectations. Where this occurs parents are asked to write a note to the relevant Deputy Principal or the Principal explaining the circumstances causing their child to be out of uniform and explaining when the matter will be resolved. In these circumstances the school will issue a “Uniform Pass” so the student will not receive any consequences for being out of uniform. In all cases however, students out of uniform will be required to stay in the school quadrangle during breaks.

If you have any questions regarding our school Uniform Policy please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Deputy Principal. Thank for your support and co operation in this important area of school life.

T. Diaczok
Deputy Principal
Deputy Principal’s Report
Welcome back to school for 2012 to all our students, especially our new Year 7. Transition into High School can be a difficult time, having to understand a timetable, navigating your way around the school and having at least eight new teachers. It can also be a time of great opportunity through making new friends, learning new concepts and experiencing practical classes, like Woodwork and Cooking. At Cambridge Park High School we want all students to work at a level that will promote being the best you can be and this is only possible if you make the right decisions.

Making the choice between informing teachers of any bullying you see rather than being involved in it, choosing to complete your homework rather spend your time watching television and choosing to be actively involved in your lessons are all examples of the choices you will face at school. Making the right choices is the key to being successful at school. I have included some tips for parents on how you can support your children at school, because we all play an active role in your child’s education.

Ask questions.
If something concerns you about your child's learning or behaviour, ask the teacher or principal about it and seek their advice. Your questions may be like these — What specific problem is my child having with reading? What can I do to help my child with this problem? How can I stop that bully from picking on my son? How can I get my child to do homework? Which reading group is my child in?

Let the school know your concerns.
Is your child doing well in school? Is he or she having trouble learning, behaving, or studying? Is there a problem with another student, teacher, or community member? If you have a concern, inform the school so the problem can be rectified together.

Demonstrate a positive attitude about education to your children.
What we say and do in our daily lives can help them to develop positive attitudes toward school and learning and to build confidence in themselves as learners. Showing our children that we both value education and use it in our daily lives provides them with powerful models and contributes greatly to their success in school.

In addition, by showing interest in their children's education, parents and families can spark enthusiasm in them and lead them to a very important understanding that learning can be enjoyable as well as rewarding and is well worth the effort required.

Monitor your child's television, video game, and Internet use.
Australian children on average spend far more time watching TV, playing video games and using the Internet than they do completing homework or other school-related activities. Quite often this time is used on social networking sites which have little or no educational value.

Encourage your child to read.
Helping your child become a reader is the single most important thing that you can do to help the child to succeed in school. The importance of reading simply can't be overstated. Reading helps children in all school subjects. More important, it is the key to lifelong learning.

Talk with your child.
Talking and listening play major roles in children's school success. It's through hearing parents and family members talk and through responding to that talk that young children begin to pick up the language skills they will need if they are to do well. For example, children who don't hear a lot of talk and who aren't encouraged to talk themselves often have problems learning to read, which can lead to other school problems. In addition, children who haven't learned to listen carefully often have trouble following directions and paying attention in class. It's also important for you to show your child that you're interested in what he has to say.
Encourage your child to use the library.
Libraries are places of learning and discovery for everyone. Helping your child find out about the library will set your child on the road to being an independent learner. Remember that libraries also offer a quiet place for students to complete homework, and are often open in the evening.

Encourage your child to be responsible and work independently.
Taking responsibility and working independently are important qualities for school success. You can help your child to develop these qualities by establishing reasonable rules that you enforce consistently, making it clear to your child that he/she has to take responsibility for what he or she does, both at home and at school, showing your child how to break a job down into small steps, and monitor what your child does after school, in the evenings and on weekends. If you can't be there when your child gets home, give your child the responsibility of checking in with you by phone to discuss her plans.

Encourage active learning.
Children need active learning as well as quiet learning such as reading and doing homework. Active learning involves asking and answering questions, solving problems and exploring interests. Active learning also can take place when your child plays sports, spends time with friends, acts in a school play, plays a musical instrument or visits museums and bookstores.
To promote active learning, listen to your child's ideas and respond to them. Let him jump in with questions and opinions when you read books together. When you encourage this type of give-and-take at home, your child's participation and interest in school is likely to increase.

Make sure that your child gets homework and assessments done.
Let your child know that you think education is important and that homework needs to be done each day. You can help your child with homework and to complete assessments by setting aside a special place to study, establishing a regular time for homework, and removing distractions such as the television and social networking during homework time. At CPHS homework and assessments are set regularly and expected to be completed by the due date.

Thanks
Mr Adam Forbes
Deputy Principal, Years 7, 9 and 11

The Library
Welcome back all students and Hello to Year 7. I hope to see you all in the library at some stage in the coming weeks. This is the International Year of Reading, so I hope that many students will come in and read. There will also be competitions this year for reading, along with the student who reads the most each term.

Year 7 will be, in conjunction this year with HSIE, doing their Information Literacy component in Term 1. I will look forward to meeting all of Year 7 and hope to inspire many self learners.
Any Year 11 student who has not completed All My Own Work, will need to see me or Mr Forbes as soon as possible, as it is required that you complete this unit of work before you start Year 11.

I am also running the Blood Bank this year and am looking for as many students over the age of 16 to donate blood, about once a term. There will be a bus that will run from the school to the Blood Bank during school hours, and students must have a permission note signed before they can donate. Please see me in the library for a form.

Good luck to everyone for 2012,
Miss Johnson
Teacher Librarian
CAPA @ CPHS

The Creative and Performing Arts
The 2012 Creative and Performing Arts calendar is overflowing with opportunities for students to extend their abilities in areas such as Dance, Drama, Music, Photography and Visual Arts.

Below you will find a brief outline of some of the programs and events that are run on an annual basis at Cambridge Park High School:

Annual CAPA Exhibition
This exhibition takes place during Term 4 and is a gallery of some of the outstanding works being developed in Creative and Performing Arts classrooms throughout the year.

Art Club
Art Club occurs one afternoon per week and aims to develop student’s skills in Visual Arts, as well as build student bonds across grades. The students involved have the opportunity to contribute to improving our school environment through large scale murals.

CLC Performing Arts Festival
The Cambridge Learning Community (CLC) Performing Arts Festival occurs during Education Week each year. Three partner primary schools along with CPHS – meaning literally hundreds of talented young people from the Cambridge Park community – come together for three performances to showcase student talent in the arena of the Creative and Performing Arts.

Dance Competitions and Festivals
The “Bring it On” Hip Hop dance competition will again be one of the highlights of this year’s Dance calendar, as well as other local and regional Dance showcases.

Flannofest
Flannofest (previously known as the High Schools Drama Festival) is a Senior Drama event that culminates with two performances at the end of Term 2. The performances take place in the Q Theatre at the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, Penrith. Ten local schools participate and each school works with a number of industry experts in order for students to experience the ‘real life’ applications of the content studied in class.

School Concert Band
The School Concert Band is a brand new initiative that is aiming to bring together junior students one afternoon per week in order to develop skills on a variety of instruments with the view to establishing an orchestral band.

Vocal Group
The school Vocal Group includes students from all year groups. The group rehearse one lunch time per week and are invited to perform at most school events, such as: assemblies, Presentation Evenings, graduations and the Performing Arts Festival. For the past two years, the group have also been part of the state-wide event “Schools Spectacular”, held at the Sydney Entertainment Centre, as part of the Arena Choir.

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“Momentum”
Well folks, it’s been and gone and if you missed it, then you should be asking yourself why...? Why...? Why did I miss this!? Why you ask? Well, it was, without doubt, a fantastic display and culmination of some of the best student works of 2011 – that’s WHY! J

So, as promised, here are the results of the “People’s Choice Awards” from the 2011 Creative and Performing Arts Exhibition:

MUSIC
Year 7 Music Compositions – Jamee and Holly
Year 12 Music Compositions – James W

PHOTOGRAPHY
Year 11 Photography – Jade G
Year 12 Photography – Alex B

VISUAL ARTS
Year 7 Visual Arts – Tyler M
Year 8 Visual Arts – John F
Year 9 Visual Arts – Jessica M
Year 10 Visual Arts – Reeja N
Year 11 Visual Arts – Brandon M
Year 12 Visual Arts – Amelia S

Well done to each of our winners and congratulations on your prize! I hope that you were able to make good use of your JB HiFi vouchers during the school holidays!

Once again, I would like to congratulate and thank everyone who was involved in last year’s event – artists, student assistants, staff and all of the family, friends and community who attended.

So...what talent will emerge from our school in the 2012 exhibition? Well, you’ll have to turn up on the night to find out! Calendar dates will be available later in the year. In the meantime, watch this space for what is sure to be another amazing year for the Creative and Performing Arts.

Jade G Year 11

Providing a Comprehensive Education in a Quality and Caring Learning Environment
As we begin a new school year, I would like to welcome all students and caregivers, especially those new to our school community. At this time we also welcome to our faculty Mrs Catherine Henderson, who is replacing Mr Sharma. We look forward to working with her and trust she will enjoy her time in our faculty.

Be a respectful learner in Maths in 2012

Our theme for 2012 is respect. We show respect for our learning environment by bringing all necessary equipment to each Mathematics lesson. All Mathematics students are required to have a calculator and geometry set, as well as pens and pencils, ruler, eraser and glue stick. Students should always have at least 2 grey-lead pencils, one red pen, and several black and blue pens, to ensure there are spares if a pen runs out during the day. A separate workbook for Mathematics is required (A5/A4 exercise book for juniors, A4 for seniors), and the expectation is that the
student will record all work in the book and maintain it in a neat and organised fashion for the entire year. Workbooks should be covered in contact and named. They may be either grid or lined, depending on preference, and should contain at least 256 pages. In 2012, a bookwork mark will be a component of the report marks and final assessment mark. Geometry sets, containing protractor, set-square, compass, eraser and pencil are required for day-to-day use in class and for tests and examinations. They are available cheaply at many variety stores.

The equipment mentioned above is to be brought to every lesson and carried in a school back-pack large enough to accommodate all school books, pens, pencils and lunch.

Thank you to the vast majority of students, who availed themselves of the opportunity to organise their school equipment requirements during the holidays and came to class with the required equipment. The information above serves as a reminder to those students who still have to organise their learning requirements for the year. All students are expected to develop the practice of bringing this equipment, not just for the first few weeks, but for every Maths class for the entire year.

**Which calculator should I buy?**

All students are required to have a scientific calculator. Calculators are available from the school at a cost of $24. *It should be noted that the use of mobile phones as calculators is not allowed in class, nor may mobile phones be taken into examinations. A dedicated calculator, only, is allowed.*

For Higher School Certificate examinations, the Board of Studies has rules about the type of calculator which may be used. Parents and care-givers should check the list of Board Approved Calculators for 2012, which are named by make and model on the Board of Studies Website at [www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/manuals/calculators_hsc.html](http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/manuals/calculators_hsc.html).

I would urge all students and carers contemplating the purchase of a calculator to buy it from the school, which sells only Board-approved calculators. Too often, at the last minute, students have found that the cheap calculator bought at a $2 shop cannot be taken into examinations. Senior students should check their calculator’s make and model against the current list on the Board of Studies web-site to be sure it is approved for use in examinations conducted by the Board of Studies.

**Homework**

Readers of the *Sydney Morning Herald* may recall an article published during the holidays, in which students on the HSC Honour Roll were interviewed to determine the secrets of their success in the HSC examinations. The strategy common to all interviewees was the discipline of doing homework. Furthermore, the study concluded that students achieved the greatest success if they began the practice early in their schooling, rather than waiting till the final year or two prior to HSC examinations to start doing homework. It was the frequent and systematic practice of new concepts and revision of past work over an extended period, which led to the depth of understanding required to excel in tests and examinations.

In 2012, Mathematics students will be required to undertake homework on a regular and frequent basis in a variety of formats, to maximise their chances of doing well. Please check with your student to ensure that homework is being completed and submitted as required. Homework contributes to the final assessment result.

**Mathletics**

*Mathletics* is again available this year, coordinated by Ms Hillman. Students are encouraged to avail themselves of this facility to improve their competence in Mathematics, both at school and at home.

**NAPLAN**

The National Assessment Program – Literacy

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Providing a Comprehensive Education in a Quality and Caring Learning Environment
and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests will be conducted from Tuesday May 15 to Thursday May 17 for Years 7 and 9 at our school.

It is worthwhile visiting NAPLAN’s web-site at http://www.nap.edu.au, which contains a wealth of information for parents, students and teachers, including a detailed timetable for the tests, past and sample tests, reasons for the test, how to interpret your child’s results and hints on how to help your child prepare for the tests.

Students at our school are currently sitting practice tests to enable our Mathematics teachers to identify and address areas of weakness in numeracy, and so assist students to be well-prepared for the forth-coming tests.

**Excellent Results in Mathematics**

Congratulations to Reeja N for achieving a Band 6 in Mathematics in the 2011 School Certificate examinations, and to Corey G for achieving Band 5 in Mathematics and E3 in Mathematics Extension 1 in the 2011 Higher School Certificate Examinations. These hard-working students have attained excellent results and deserve to be proud of their fine achievement. We wish them well in their future studies.

*Mrs Denise Zanker*

Head Teacher - Mathematics

I hope to see many of you there.

**Lauren Clarkstone**

Year 7 Adviser

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**Year 7 Spellers**

As part of preparing Year 7 for the literacy skills they will need in high school, students are working on a daily spelling program.

Already we have some pretty amazing spellers:

Well done to those students and parents of all Year 7 students. If you can help your children with spelling, testing their words and encouraging them to read, we’re sure you will be impressed with their progress.

*Ms Kathy Hadley*  
H.A.T.

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**Welcome to Year 7 BBQ**

Our school will be hosting a ‘Welcome to Year 7’ BBQ for all Year 7 students and their parents/carers. This will be an excellent opportunity for you to meet your child’s teachers, the Deputy Principals and Principal. It will also allow you the opportunity to discuss any concerns about your child’s transition into high school with myself. Year 7 have settled into high school life well and are growing in confidence every day. From speaking with the students, I know they are very keen to show off their brand new school to their families!

The BBQ will be held on Monday the 5th March from 4pm – 5pm.

Providing a Comprehensive Education in a Quality and Caring Learning Environment
From the English Faculty

As we begin a new school year, I would like to welcome all students and families, especially those who are new to the school.

I would also like to welcome our new staff member, Ms Tahnee Moss, who is replacing Mr Swanson. We look forward to working with her and believe she will be a great asset to the English faculty.

This year is going to be an exciting and challenging year. Year 12 will be working extremely hard to achieve excellent results in their HSC course. To ensure they are fully up-to-speed we are going to run half yearly examinations in Week 8. The English examination will consist of two parts: the Area of Study and the Close Study of Text. A letter will be coming home with your son/daughter in the next day or so outlining the details of the examination. We have chosen to go down this path as it ensures students develop time-management skills, are accustomed to working under examination conditions and become very familiar with the style of questions they will receive in their external examinations later in the year.

Year 11 have begun their Preliminary HSC studies and may well have noticed that the work load and expectations of their teachers are extremely high. It is essential that senior students have well structured study programs in place. They need to be revising their class notes regularly and must be consistent in their approach to their studies. Students should have an assessment and examination timetable visible in their study area at home and make sure they complete elements of tasks over a period of time, rather than leaving everything to the last minute. If your son/daughter feels they need extra support, they should speak with me and I will see what can be arranged.

Our new Year 10 students are studying an Area of Study for the first time. This is, in part, to prepare them for their senior years. Their assessment task will be speech around the concept of Conflict. This task requires students to be fully focused in class as well as to research related texts and ideas on their own at home. Although there is no longer a school certificate, students are expected to complete all homework, class work and assessments in order to ensure they meet the requirements of the English course and receive the Record of School Achievement. Failure to complete all elements of their study will result in ‘N’ award warnings being issues. It is vital that your son/daughter push themselves to achieve the best results they can. The various certificates they obtain during their schooling can provide them with much greater opportunities in life.

Our junior students are also working very hard. This term we have chosen to have all Year 7, 8 and 9 students study novel. This allows students to settle back into their schooling and focus on some of the important elements of English such as writing and reading. We have created a focus class in Years 7-10 for students who enjoy English and may also, but not necessarily, be strong in the subject. This is part of our school plan to ensure that all students achieve to the best of their ability and that they are well prepared and confident for external and internal assessments.

If you have any concerns about your child’s English course, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Ms. C. Magee
English Head Teacher

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Teaching & Learning

Welcome to all our students and families. This year we are going to be working hard to ensure all students at the school achieve to the best of their ability. As such our STLAs and SLSOs will be working closely with many students across all years.

We recently completed testing of all the new students at the school. This testing provides the school with some strong information about the abilities of our students and what areas need to be improved. We will use this information to help us plan the learning support in the classroom, individual withdrawals and intensive literacy and numeracy programs for students.

We will be working with our junior students on improving specific areas of their literacy and numeracy such as spelling, grammar and punctuation, writing, percentages, timetables and the four basic areas of maths. For the older students the emphasis will be on developing essay writing skills and making sure they understand what is being asked of them in a question.

Norta Norta Senior Tutoring Program

The school has employed a specialist teacher to run our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander senior studies program. Each year we receive funds that help the school support our senior Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to achieve to the best of their ability. Individual students receive one-on-one support across a wide range of subjects throughout the year. A letter has been sent home with the students that qualify for this program. If you don’t want your child to participate or are unsure as to whether your child is eligible, please contact me to discuss the program further.

Ms C. Magee
Head Teacher, Teaching and Learning
Community News

CSG/P & C Meeting
Our next meeting will be held Monday 12th March at 1.30pm in the School Common Room.
Everyone is very welcome and we look forward to seeing many new faces.

Parent / Community Workshops
We will continue this year with our Workshops. Topics and dates/times are being organised and will be advertised here.

Market Nights 2012
Due to the success of our Market Night last November we have decided to have 3 during 2012. The dates are: 22nd June, 24th August and 30th November. We look forward to your support on these nights.

Online Courses
We will host another Online Course towards the end of Term 1—Speech, Language and Communication Needs, end of Term 2—Motor Co-ordination and Term 3—Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder. You need to be able to attend 3 x 3 hour sessions spaced over 8 – 10 weeks and have access to a computer & internet to enable you to complete the course in your own time. Spaces are limited to 12 so I need to know asap if you are interested in attending any of these courses.

Janmaree Martin
Community Liaison Officer

Dates for Term 1

February
21st School Swimming Carnival
22nd Yrs 9 & 10 - Cyberbullying
24th Blood Bank donations
28th School Photos
Yrs 7 & 8 - Crime Avoidance & Offensive Behaviour
Art Club 3pm-4pm

March
1st Zone Day 1 Swimming Carnival
2nd Photos - Absentee morning
Zone Day 2 Swimming Carnival
5-9th PSP Survey Week
5th Yr 7 Meet the Teachers BBQ 4-5pm
6th Yr 9 Crime Avoidance & Offensive Behaviour
Zone R League Gala Day
Art Club 3pm-4pm
7th 2013 Yr 7 Information Night 6-7.30pm
12th CSG / P & C meeting 1.30pm
12-15th Year 12 half yearly exams
13th Art Club 3pm-4pm
14-15 Yr 7 Camp at Yarramundi
15th Zone Netball Gala Day
16th Blood Bank donations
19th Encore Performance SOH HSC Music
SW Swimming Carnival
19-27 Yr 11 Outdoor Rec TVET at Lithgow
20th Art Club 3pm-4pm
26th Yr 7 Vaccinations
27th Australian Govt Jobs Expo
Art Club 3pm-4pm
28th Art Express HSC Art - Art Gallery of NSW

April
4th School Cross Country
6th Easter - School Holidays begin
23rd School open - Staff Development Day
24th ALL Students return to School
PENRITH R.S.L. HOCKEY CLUB

Do you and your family want to have more fun and meet new people? Then the Penrith R.S.L. Hockey Club is right for you.

We’re seeking boys and girls of all ages for our growing junior ranks. We’re a fun, family-oriented club. New players and parents all welcome, no experience necessary. Some parents have even become senior players themselves!

2012 REGISTRATIONS

When:       Juniors: Train Tuesdays at 5.30pm, play Friday evenings from 6.30pm
            Seniors: Train Thursdays from 7.30pm, play weekends from 8.00am
            Training times to be confirmed by Nepean Hockey Association (NHA)
Where:      Kingswood Hockey Centre, UWS Campus
Registrations: Sat 18-2 (10am-2pm), Wed 22-2 (6pm-8pm), Sun 26-2 (11am-3pm)
            @Penrith RSL Club, 8 Tindale St, Penrith.
            Please bring child’s proof of age. Parents must join the RSL Club.
Enquiries:  Roy Cladingboel – 0410 533 635 / penrithrshockey@bigpond.com
PENRITH DISTRICT CHEERLEADING
THE INSTITUTE OF DANCE

CHEERLEADING, CONTEMPORARY, HIP HOP, TAP & MORE!

Dance for fun or fame!

Call now to join our squad!

FOR ALL AGES

CALL NOW TO ENROL!

Unit 3, 31 Coombes Drive Penrith
0423 070 843 0438 355 304

www.theinstituteofdance.com
These FREE seminars are designed for parents/carers of 0-12 year olds interested in learning about positive ways of promoting their children’s development. You will receive a certificate of attendance after completion of all or any seminar.

You can attend one, two or three of the seminars. Please indicate which seminar/s you will be attending when you book your seat.

Seminar 1: The Power of Positive Parenting introduces parents to the five core principals of positive parenting.

Date: Tuesday evening 21st Feb  2012    Time 6 – 8 pm

Seminar 2: Raising Confident, Competent Children introduces parents to the key building blocks children need to do well in life.

Date: Tuesday evening 28th Feb  2012    Time 6 – 8 pm

Seminar 3: Raising Resilient Children identifies key skills that parents can use to help their children build emotional resilience.

Date: Tuesday evening 6th March  2012    Time 6- 8 pm

ALL SEMINARS WILL BE HELD AT THE NAMATJIRA NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE
Crn Henry Lawson & John Batman Aves, Werrington County

A partnership with Anglicare Mt Druitt & The Werrington Community Project Inc.

PLACES LIMITED……..BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
Please call on 9673 6133 to register
FREE & LOW COST activities and classes in 2012

- **Beginners Spanish Language Class**: Weekly Wed 7-9pm. Starts 8th Feb. $3 per class.
- **Craft Circle**: FREE workshops weekly Mon 10am- 12 noon from Jan 30.
- **Heartmoves**: Gentle exercise program weekly, times and dates TBA
- **123 Magic**: FREE Parenting Program- Day & times TBA. Starts March/April.
- **Life Experience Counts**: Skills for women. Tues 10am -12.30pm. Starts Feb 7. FREE.
- **TAFE Outreach Koori Art class**: Weekly Wed from 9.30 am. Starts 8th Feb. FREE.
- **Triple P**: FREE Parent seminars: Tuesday evenings 6-8pm. Starts 21st Feb-6th Mar.

For more information on other groups and local services call the centre on (02) 9673 6133.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Wed</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>6 Drop In</strong>&lt;br&gt;Werrington Youth Centre caters for any young people aged 12-18 years who are encouraged to use our programs and facilities.</td>
<td><strong>8 Basketball Contest</strong>&lt;br&gt;2 on 2 basketball is the name of the game. Come on down and test your skills. Youth Centre rules are explained before matches.</td>
<td><strong>9 Foosball Comp</strong>&lt;br&gt;Otherwise known as ‘Table Soccer’, the Youth Centre has a great machine. Doubles or singles matches will occur depending on numbers.</td>
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<td><strong>13 Indoor Rock Climbing</strong>&lt;br&gt;We are lucky to have our own Indoor Rock Climbing Wall, which we open once a month to keep the interest going. Come down and have a go!</td>
<td><strong>15 Table Tennis</strong>&lt;br&gt;Partake in our Table Tennis Challenge. There will be a boys and girls comp played today (depending on levels of interest).</td>
<td><strong>16 Craft Challenge</strong>&lt;br&gt;You will have 1 hour to build something out of small paddle pop sticks! The most impressive structure wins a canteen prize.</td>
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<td><strong>20 Indoor Cricket</strong>&lt;br&gt;Join in for some tip and run cricket. Youth Centre rules ensure everyone gets a turn with a quick turnover of batting &amp; bowling!</td>
<td><strong>22 Chess and Checkers Comp</strong>&lt;br&gt;It’s thinking time as the best strategists and beginners play in our chess and checkers comp!</td>
<td><strong>23 Drawing Comp</strong>&lt;br&gt;The topic of the drawing Comp today will be FRIENDSHIP. Print an image off to guide you or draw something from life. The winner receives a prize!</td>
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<td><strong>27 Pool Comp</strong>&lt;br&gt;Our Pool Comp is a great way to meet new people and learn to play pool! Come down and have a go!</td>
<td><strong>29 Group Pictionary</strong>&lt;br&gt;The winners of our Pictionary Challenge (always done on the Youth Centre White-board) are not always the best drawers. It is won by the best communicators!</td>
<td><strong>1 March Cooking</strong>&lt;br&gt;Mystery Cooking will occur today! Who knows what ingredients you will be given to make your masterpiece!</td>
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The Werrington Youth Centre and all its activities are Drug and Alcohol free. Any breaches of this will mean that you may be excluded from any further participation in Youth Centre activities. For information regarding the Youth Centre, contact Justin or Jane on 4732 1562 or werro.youth@internode.on.net
C L E A N  U P  A U S T R A L I A  D A Y

WERRINGTON LAKE

SUNDAY 4th MARCH 2012
ANYTIME BETWEEN 9:30am – 11:30am

Come and do your bit for the environment and help us clean up Werrington Lake and Creek. The site is suitable for the whole family and will accommodate all levels of fitness, so bring the kids along to get their hands dirty!

We will be meeting in the Lake car park off Burton Street, Werrington.

Make sure you bring water, covered shoes, long pants, a hat and sunscreen. If you have garden gloves bring them along as well.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!

For more information please contact Council’s Stormwater Management Officer during office hours on 4732 8221.