PRINCIPAL’S NEWS
August 2011

DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday 11 August to Thursday 25 August
Yr 12 Trial Examinations

Monday 15 August to Saturday 20 August
National Science Week

Tuesday 16 August
UNSW Mathematics Competition

Wednesday 17 August to Friday 19 August
Yr 8 Camp at Sydney Academy of Sport & Recreation, Narrabeen

Tuesday 24 August
Yr 11 Drama Performance Evening in Performance Space 7.30pm-10.00pm

Monday 29 August
P&C Meeting 7.30pm

Tuesday 30 August
Dance Showcase Evening 6.30pm-10.00pm

Monday 5 September
7.30pm Japan Trip Information Evening in the Library

Thursday 8 September
Sutherland Shire Oztag Challenge at Solander Field Yrs 7 to 10, 8.30am to 3.00pm

Student News

Our School Captain Micaela Bassford, for the second year in a row, has been successful in making the state final of the Plain English Speaking competition. While the final result did not go the way everyone in the audience expected, Micaela’s prepared and impromptu speeches were nothing short of brilliant. Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find a picture and report on Micaela’s efforts.

Two of our Year 11 students, Elise Munroe and Ryan Sorensen, (see picture above) were invited back to Grays Point Public School as former school captains to assist in the official opening ceremony of the new school hall. Viewed as outstanding role models for both the primary and infants students, Elise and Ryan were warmly greeted and inundated with questions before and after the ceremony from both students and staff.

Les Misérables

Our school musical Les Misérables, which took place last term, proved to be nothing short of a stellar success. The school has received an avalanche of letters, emails and phone calls congratulating all involved with the musical for the quality, professionalism and sheer talent of the performances, direction, music, staging, lighting and organisation.

Over the course of the performances close to 3,000 people were lucky enough to experience the connectedness and emotions which our KHS musical generated, making all realise at its conclusion, that this was not just any school production but something really special.

Digital Education Revolution (DER) Project

As part of a Sydney Region DER funding initiative teaching staff at Kirrawee High have been developing and using specific lessons across all faculties so that students can use their Notebook computers in Years 9 to 11 to learn in ways that previously have not been accessible. Blogging in class, interactive presentations, quizzes and online assessment, web quests and experiments, interactive games, multimedia presentations, mind mapping tools, graphing software, virtual tours, and wikis are just a sample of what our students are experiencing every day in their class rooms. Not only do these lessons allow students to learn things in new ways, they are also preparing students to develop the skills to manage the ever increasing variety of technologies that they will encounter as the 21st century technology boom continues to expand.

P&C and School Council Meetings

Our next scheduled P&C Meetings are: August 29, October 24, November 21

Our next scheduled School Council Meeting is: November 1
Kirrawee High School is participating in the **Coles for Schools** program again this year.

Last year we collected 24,000 vouchers which enabled us to purchase three table tennis tables for the school.

This year we hope to collect even more vouchers and redeem them for more sporting equipment for our students.

When you shop at Coles, you will receive one voucher for every $10 you spend. Please send your vouchers into school and place them in the **Coles for Schools** box in the front office.

If you would like any further information about the program, please don’t hesitate to contact Mrs Anderson in the PE faculty.

**Start collecting now!**

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**Sports Acrobatics**

Merrin Curry-Howie, Annaliese Hogan, Macalla Farland and Caitlyn Hagtharp qualified for the NSW Sports Acrobatics Championships by scoring more than 42 out of 60 in both routines at the state trial.

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**TREE PLANTING AND NEW VEGETABLE GARDEN**

Two weeks ago our students and staff made a commitment to further improve our school environment with a tree planting event. Sutherland Shire Council donated 120 trees and shrubs that our Year 7 technology students planted around the school library, in the area between the canteen and the tennis courts and on the edge of the basketball courts. These areas are being landscaped by our senior construction classes.

Our senior construction classes have also begun the creation of a vegetable garden behind the library with future plans to plant and develop a variety of fruit trees into a small orchard. A number of curriculum areas have already expressed interest in becoming involved in using these areas as part of their practical studies.

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**Japanese Visitors**

Students from our Japanese sister school, Komae High School, have arrived for their much anticipated 2012 exchange. The genuine excitement from our students and the Japanese students last Wednesday afternoon while they were waiting to meet their billets just shows how the exchange program is such a worthwhile and in many cases, life changing educational experience for students. Full details of their visit will be in our next newsletter.

The Sutherland Shire Sister City visit took place last week with their delegation from Chuo City again requesting a visit to Kirrawee High. They visited classrooms, sitting in on lessons and asking many questions on teaching approaches and the structure of education in NSW. The group were very impressed with our school and mentioned how excited they had been to visit Kirrawee High as their colleagues in Japan speak so highly of our school.

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**TAX DEDUCTIBLE SCHOOL BUILDING FUND**

The Kirrawee High School P & C Building Fund contributions have been very generous again this year. Our total for this year is currently sitting at just under **$14,300** – a fantastic effort! We would really like to try and better last year’s total of **$16,500** so, if you haven’t contributed and plan to do so, now would be the time.

Remember, the Building Fund continues until the end of the school year. **All donations go toward improving facilities at the school.**

Better still, all donations are tax deductible.

We would like to take this opportunity to again thank all families who have contributed to the Building Fund this year. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Nicola Kelly - P & C Treasurer
It is appropriate as the Year 12 Students come to the end of their commitment to debating and public speaking representation at school, to recognise their extraordinary efforts and successes. Micaela Bassford ends this aspect of her school life as one of the six state finalists in the prestigious Plain English Speaking Competition as a NSW representative in the United Nations Youth Association that went to Adelaide in the July holidays and as the winner of the Senior division of the Sutherland Shire Public Speaking Competition. Micaela has won every division of this competition in the past six years. In recognition of this success Micaela has been asked by the DEC at regional and state level to compere events.

In debating over the past six years Micaela, Jodie and Hannah Robinson have been a formidable team, winning Sutherland Shire Debating Competitions and reaching zone and state level. In junior school, Chris Fox helped them to their success, while this year Riley Mason took up debating for the first time at this level and did a wonderful job. This group was always able to work together and articulate their clever arguments. They have defeated many schools because of their belief in and support for each other and have always generously shared their skills. It might have appeared to Riley that he was being bossed by three females but he still recognised that without the team, and in particular Hannah who has been the most amazing team adviser I have seen operate, he would not have been part of a winning team. As someone who has watched them over the past six years I can attest to the work and fun they have had along the way.

On behalf of those that have coached you, many thanks and our best wishes for the future. Make sure you all train as adjudicators so that we can have access to your talent in a different mode and join university debating teams so that you can continue the fun.

Jodie Cooper was also a NSW representative in the United Nations Youth Association that went to the National Conference in Adelaide in the July holidays and was the runner-up in the Senior Division of the Sutherland Shire Public Speaking Competition. Jodie has also represented Kirrawee in the Plain English Speaking Competition.

We also held a movie night at Cronulla Cinema to celebrate the release of ‘Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows’ Part 2. We had a great turn out with best-dressed awards going to Sarah Wood and Aaron Gobby. Mr Myers must also be commended on his excellent costume! Thank you to Dylan Ashton and Rachel Ridge of Year 11 for their efforts in organising the night.

Between Quidditch and the movie night we raised $1000. This was a great effort for all involved and will go towards a gift for the school from the SRC. We will keep you posted.

**Harry Potter Fever!**

At the end of Term 2 the SRC ran a game of *Quidditch* on the oval with a gold coin donation to watch. Year 12 and some very brave teachers mounted their broomsticks (*also known as pool noodles*), for a magical afternoon of hilarious fun. With unrivalled commentary from Emanuel Comino of Year 12 the game was a wonderful success, with rave reviews from teachers and students alike.

Technically, the teachers caught the golden snitch and won, but since they displayed a blatant disregard for the rules of the game the final outcome was debatable! Thanks go to Year 11 SRC for refereeing and Mitchell Fox and Matt Lewis for being the ‘snitches’.

** SRC News
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**Harry Potter Fever!**

**Ye12 students have a pre-game pep-talk!**

**A Farewell to Year 12 Debaters and Public Speakers**

** SRC News
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**Harry Potter Fever!**

**The 2011 Mayoral Ball**

**Year 12 Mufti Days**

**A reminder to Year 12**

After trials we will be holding another mufti day with the theme ‘When I grow up...’ Start thinking about your costumes now! Please remember to bring your gold coin donations on the day as this money is going towards our graduation present to the school.
**SCIENCE NEWS**

Science Week - React to Chemistry, Science Trivia and Jeans for Genes

We have a huge month coming up with the celebration of Jeans for Genes Day and Science Week.

Meagen Alpin, an ex Kirrawee High School teacher, has been invited to talk with the senior students about her work in Cancer research with the Garvan Institute. Meagen will spend some time with the Year 9 classes to show them how to extract DNA. Year 7 students will participate in a class competition to make the longest DNA chains which will be judged on Friday when the SRC will be fundraising for Jeans for Genes Day.

Year 7 students have been invited to enter the crystal growing competition. The information for this went out last term and by now students should have their saturated solutions set up to give their crystals time to grow. It is not too late! Use the internet to find a good recipe and start crystallizing. **Entries due by Monday 13 August.**

To get us in the mood for Science Week we will be holding the Science trivia competition – questions will be published through Moodle and the school Intranet. Prizes will include family movie passes.

Have a warm up with ANSTO’s Science Fact or Fiction quiz at: [http://survey.confirmit.com/wixS/p1829494398.aspx](http://survey.confirmit.com/wixS/p1829494398.aspx)

Science Week will start off with another ex-student and now scientist at ANSTO, Amelia Parker, who will speak with senior and Year 9 students about careers opportunities and the work that she does.

Other activities will include:

- **A variety of in class activities focussing on the central theme ‘React to Chemistry’ for all years**
- **Year 10 will watch SCINEMA, a series of popular short films with a Science theme**
- **A visit to Science in the City for the Year 9 super class**
- **Year 7 will participate in the crystal competition**

**Remember Science is FUN!!**

Thanks to Mr McKay and Ms Stanborough for organising additional activities with the support of the whole Science team.  

Narelle Johnston - Head Teacher, Science

**Piano News**

At the end of Term 2 Kirsten Lloyd (Year 9) sat for her 6th Grade Piano Exam with the Australian Music Examination Board (AMEB). She not only passed, but was awarded a credit. Congratulations Kirsten!

Anyone wishing to learn piano during school time, please contact Mrs Wotton on 0450 031 245.

Kirrawee High School  

August 2011
Forget Masterchef or Hamish and Andy’s Gap Year! It’s our turn. Yes, that’s right! Twenty nine of Kirrawee High School’s Year 10 and Year 11 Dance and Drama students will travel with Ms Kokori, Ms Balderston and Mr Morrell on an inaugural performing arts tour of New York City in the September holidays.

Students will have their studies enriched through immersion in a myriad of professional workshops, performances and behind the scenes experiences, led by a variety of professional practitioners from the Broadway Stage.

The inspiration for the tour came from a number of students and parents who expressed a keen interest to initiate such a unique and valuable experience. A highlight of the itinerary includes a school visit to La Guardia Performing Arts High School, NYC, where our students will present a group-devised performance. The tour will also take in the many vibrant cultural experiences and sites the Big Apple has to offer.

**NEW YORK CITY FUNDRAISER**

**Fabulous fundraising prizes for our giant raffle**

A big thank you to the parents and students who made a tremendous effort to secure some great prizes for our giant raffle. In particular Eddie Cofie, Catherine and Rob Pinkerton, Janine Bishop, Diane Zagalia, Janine Nurthen, and Nyree Pettit-Young, who also coordinated this mammoth task.

We would like to acknowledge the following individuals and local businesses for their generosity and support:

**Major prizes include**

1. Box for 18 at Swans 2012 ($2000) (Louis Petkas – Quay Clean Sydney Cricket ground)
2. Three nights accommodation at The Cullen Hotel Melbourne ($590) (Mario Paez at About Travel Elizabeth Bay)
3. Ladies mountain bike (Gymea Bay Hotel) ($299)
4. Nikon Coolpix s3100 Camera ($180) (Nik Nikkas - Good Guys Taren Point)
5. Three Tutoring Lessons (Master Coaching) ($240)
7. Vittoria Coffee Hamper (Sam Harocan) ($100)

**Plus eight Gift vouchers**

1. Arties Frames (Arties Frames Kareena Road Miranda) ($100)
2. Two x $50 Vouchers (Bistro Gymea Hotel) ($100)
3. Body Focus Massage Miranda (Shani Lavis) ($75)
4. Makeover package (Honey Pot Gymea) ($100)
5. Gymea Fresh Fruit Market ($20)
6. Whispa Salon Spa (Menai) ($20)
7. Pro Klean home cleaning products (Elizabeth Davis) ($25)
8. Café Naked (Gymea Bay Road) ($20)

But wait there’s more:

- Perfume packs (Liquid Essentials, Gymea)
- Novels (Unleashed Books, Miranda Fair)
- Wine and champagne (Paynes Crossing Winery) (Bayfields Bottle Shop, Caringbah)

and other donations from

- Home and Gift warehouse Taren Point
- Shire Newsagency Gymea
- Gymea Lily, Gymea

Thank you to Sandra Hogan and Walkers Party Hire, Kirrawee
And Nick for organising the canteen raffle as well

**Please note that these prizes will be drawn at Gymea Hotel**

(Gymea Bay Road across from the station) on Monday 12 September at 7pm

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**A NIGHT IN NEW YORK**

**New York Fundraiser**

**Music & Dance Night**

**Friday 12 August**

7.00pm – 10.30pm

Grays Point Community Hall
Corner Grays Point Rd & Ingelwood Rd

Kirrawee High School Senior Stage band will be playing some fabulous tunes, free swing dance classes, salsa lessons with **Kate Barnes** (who won the 2010 Australian Salsa Championships), games and loads of fun!

**Dress:** New York theme before WWII – Art Deco, Gangster etc

**Prizes for best costume**

**Tickets:** $15 per adult, $10 per child or $40 family ticket

**Bring:** Nibbles and drinks for your table and your dancing shoes

**Bookings and payments ASAP**

Please contact Nyree Pettit-Young 9521 4493 or 0422 235 632 or npettityoung@optusnet.com.au

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Start Spreading the news…..

We’re leaving ..... on the 23rd of September.....
Australian Vocational Education Training Award

Jaiman Stack (Year 12, 2010) was successful in achieving an Australian Vocational Education Training Award. He was nominated by Kirrawee High for outstanding achievement in the Hospitality course specialising in Commercial Cookery. Jaiman was recognised with the award and $2000. We wish him well in his future career.

Cynthia Treacy - TAS

Hospitality Work Placement

Year 11 Hospitality (Food & Beverage) students successfully completed work placement during Term 2. They were placed in an array of hospitality venues and gained valuable knowledge and skills. The hospitality students proudly represented themselves, their families and KHS by demonstrating a strong work ethic and maturity.

Cynthia Treacy / Kellie McKenzie-Hicks - TAS

Year 8 Visual Art Excursion

Student Report

On Monday 20 June, Year 8 went into the city to the Australian Museum. The point of the excursion was to learn about Australian Indigenous art, culture and dance. We watched an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dance group called ‘Descendance’.

The performance consisted of songs, dance, culture and storytelling. The group interacted with us and taught us how to do dance. There were two boys and one woman in the group who wore traditional clothes and paint. My favourite part of the performance was watching the group play their music using a didgeridoo and clapping sticks. The performance was very good and informative and I am glad I saw it.

As well as watching the group perform, we also looked at the Australian Indigenous display. The display included paintings, clothes and articles made out of fur. We also saw some of the other exhibits on offer and these consisted of dinosaurs, insects, bugs, mammals and amphibians. These exhibits were my favourite because I like learning about all the different animals.

Thank you to Mrs Veljanovski and the Visual Art teachers for taking us - we had a really great time!!

Gabby Sneddon - 8O
**SPORTS NEWS**

**Region Athletics**
The weather for the Region Athletics was sensational this year, sunny and warm both days, and the Kirrawee students who competed performed very well. The following students have qualified for State in individual events:


The following relay teams also qualified:

- **12 Girls** Brooke Salzman, Chelsea Aros, Elise Botskor, Hannah Lloyd, Brittannie Northey, Jemimah Giles-Cook
- **13 Girls** Molly Black, Tia Jones, Deni Heffernan, Phoebe Hick, Megan Dibley
- **15 Girls** Toni Anderson, Aya Shimamoto, Abbey Young, Bree Hermann, Jamie Hick

**All Schools Cross Country**
Twenty students from Kirrawee High went to Eastern Creek on Friday 22 July to compete in wet and very cold conditions. They should be commended for their outstanding efforts.

Individual students who competed were: *Jack Graham (18B), Lace Temana (14G), Laura Keoghan (18G).*

Teams which qualified were:

- **12G** (Scarlett Weate-Jones, Elise Botskor, Rachel Scarra, Brittannie Northey, Gabrielle Bridgeman [R]) *finished 4th*
- **13B** (Liam Thomas, Luke Delaney, Daniel Watchhorn, Joel Walker, Brian Au [R]) *finished 2nd*
- **15B** (Jack Robertson, Tommy Lyons, Daniel Fallins, Alex Hopkins, Joshua Eaton [R]) *finished 6th*
- **17G** (Annalese Popp, Adrienne del Din, Antoinette Johnston, Lauren Naylor) *finished 4th*

**U/15 Girls’ Soccer**
Last week Kirrawee High was defeated by Endeavour Sports High in the Regional Final. This is the second consecutive year that the girls have been the second best team in Sydney East Region. In the *Star Player Awards* for the final, Jordan Baker was awarded three points, Emma Southwell two points and Megan Dibley and Aleisha Oberg one point each.

In the first three games Kirrawee defeated Lucas Heights 3-0, Port Hacking 3-1 and SCEGGS 8-0. During the competition the girls played very well, defensively shutting the opposition down and midfield setting up some great goals for our forwards. One of the highlights was Phoebe Hick’s *celebration* after scoring a goal against SCEGGS.

**Water Polo**
Maddison Schmid and Michaela Davies have made the U/20 Australian World Cup team to play in Europe in a few weeks.
Girls’ Futsal
Jordan Baker represented the Western NSW Futsal Team at the FFA Futsal National Championships Canberra and was awarded MVP of the tournament. In conjunction with that she was awarded Golden Boot and Player of the Year at the Football NSW Futsal Presentations, and MVP and Golden Boot awards at Sutherland Shire Futsal Association Awards.

Interschool Snow Sports Northern Championships
Sienna Doolan, Year 7, competed in the Interschool Snow Sports Northern Championships on 6 July representing Kirrawee High School. She placed third in the Snowboard Giant Slalom and fourth in the Snowboard Cross. Sienna will now be racing in both disciplines at the State Championships which are being held at Perisher on the 26 August. This is the first time she has raced so it is a fantastic result. Congratulations Sienna!

During the holidays Anthony Franco, 7L, competed in the Shotokan Karate Coalition (SKC) National Championships in Melbourne. Several dojos from across Australia came together to compete in this annual event. Anthony competed in the 12 to16 years’ purple to red belt section. He gained a gold medal for kata and a silver medal for kumite (free fighting).

Anthony also represents KHS in the NSWPS Millennium Marching Band. This year the band participated in the ANZAC Day march and the Arts Unit showcase. The band will be the half time entertainment at the Sydney Swans V St Kilda AFL match on 21 August. This will be the first time the band has performed at the Olympic Stadium since the opening ceremony of the 2000 Olympics.

Upgrade of facilities from Premier Sports Challenge Building Funds
Early last year the school applied for a grant to upgrade some sporting facilities at school. The result was positive and we were able to have the netball and basketball courts resurfaced from the old cement to a new blue/green, all weather court surface. This upgrade is a vast improvement which the students are enjoying.

The oval was also sown and topdressed. With continued watering, the oval has come back to being a great playing surface for many PE classes and knock out competition matches. The oval is not hired out, as was the case years ago, and is protected and maintained for school use only.

Jack Beckinsale to Represent Australia at Youth Commonwealth Games
Jack Beckinsale, Year 12, who recently competed at the National Road Cycling Championships and won silver for the Individual Time Trial, also completed two grueling road races in adverse conditions finishing in the top 10. Jack has now been selected to represent Australia at the Youth Commonwealth Games on the Isle of Man in September. Good Luck!
You are invited to attend …

TVET Information Evenings

Current Year 10 and Year 11 students and their parents are invited to attend information evenings for TVET courses that will be offered in 2012.

Gymea Campus

Tuesday 9 August 2011 at 7.00pm in Block E

Gymea Campus is located at the corner of Hotham Road and Kingsway, Gymea

Courses: Accounting, Automotive, Business, Construction, Electrical, Plumbing, Beauty Therapy, Hairdressing, Music Industry, Retail, Boating Services and Screen.

Loftus Campus

Tuesday 16 August 2011 at 7.00pm in Music Room Block D

Loftus Campus is located in Rawson Avenue, Loftus

Courses: Hospitality, Tourism & Events, Sport & Recreation, Outdoor Recreation, Youth Work, Child Studies, Information Technology and Multimedia.

For further information contact:

Jill Close, TVET Coordinator on 9710 5883

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Dyslexia Support Group

Do you have a child with Dyslexia?

Do you want to meet other families who are in a similar situation?

The Dyslexia Support Group for the Sutherland Shire and St George area is a forum where parents can talk, exchange ideas, information, resources and experiences with other parents. This support group keeps in contact via email, phone and meeting over coffee on the 4th Monday of the month at 10.30am at a café in Sutherland.

If you are interested as a parent or as professional in attending the meetings or going on the email list please call

Paula Goulden on 9528 4638 or email psgoulden@tpg.com.au

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