DATES TO REMEMBER

**Friday 16 December**
Yr 12 ATAR results available and Yr 12 morning tea
Last attendance day for students

**Monday 19 December**
Staff Development Day

**Tuesday 20 December**
Staff Development Day

**2012**

**Friday 27 January**
Staff Development Day

**Monday 30 January**
Years 7, 11 & 12 return to school

**Tuesday 31 January**
Years 8, 9 & 10 return to school

**Monday 6 February**
School Swimming Carnival at Caringbah Pool

**Friday 10 February**
School Photo Day

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**The 2011 School Year**

The 2011 school year has seen Kirrawee High at the forefront of education and learning in NSW. With a dynamic and positive student cohort prepared to explore the many opportunities the school offers, supported by a dedicated teaching and SASS staff, there have been many highlights.

These highlights showcase a broad and extended curriculum framework that gives a connectedness and relevance to student learning and includes: School Certificate results well above the state average, our school musical Les Miserables, James Morrison Evening, Dance and Drama excursion to New York, Language excursion to Komae High in Japan, hosting Japanese students and Reunion Island students as well as the many outstanding sporting and music achievements at state, national and international level. This is on top of the many personal achievements of our students at all levels within the school as well as the myriad of other activities and extra-curricular offerings that our staff and students have been involved in this year.

The support of parents and our broader community has been crucial in all of the successes the school and its students have achieved this year. I would like to sincerely thank parents and the community for their dedication towards our students and to the programs that the school has offered in 2011. I would encourage all parents to continue to encourage their son or daughter to connect, engage and enjoy the broad and unique opportunities that the school offers.

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**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON**
Farewell to Clive Houldin

Our Deputy Principal, Mr Clive Houldin, will retire at the end of this year after a distinguished career as a teacher educator.

Clive taught as a classroom teacher at Seven Hills High (two years), Campbelltown High (11 years) and Leumeah High (one year). He took up his first Head Teacher position at Busby High (four years) and later as Head Teacher at Kirrawee High (10 years). He was then promoted to Deputy Principal Kirrawee High and has held this position for the past 10 years.

In all of his positions in schools (and particularly at Kirrawee High) Clive’s career, ‘in service to the school students of NSW’ (as stated on his retirement medal) has been characterised by a strong belief in the importance of his role and a deep commitment to students. This has been underpinned by outstanding teaching expertise, an extensive understanding of the NSW education system and how a high school operates, a commonsense approach and a dedicated capacity for sheer hard work.

Kirrawee High has benefited greatly from his skills as a leader. In his role as Deputy Principal - Administration, he has been a stable and guiding force that has been instrumental in the success the school enjoys today and over recent years. In dealing with student welfare issues he has shown compassion, understanding and fairness to achieve outcomes that have given students new hope and the chance to achieve positively. His ability to find workable solutions and compromise to the most difficult of situations has been a hallmark of his work as a Deputy Principal. He has been the consummate professional in this role at all times.

Clive is held in high regard by all in our school community and we have been extremely lucky to have had him as a Deputy Principal at KHS and I regard him as arguably the finest Deputy Principal - Administration in the NSW teaching service. The parents at KHS can rest assured that their children have been in good hands during Clive’s tenure at KHS.

I know I speak for the entire school community over the past 20 years at KHS when I thank him for his incredible contribution to Kirrawee High and wish him all the best for the future.

Excursion to Japan

It was with great pleasure last month that I was able to accompany Mrs Bev Steele and 24 of our Japanese Language students to Komae High our sister school in Tokyo, Japan. I have to say that what I witnessed was one of the strongest student learning experiences I have seen in my teaching career.

We were very proud of our students and the way they did the utmost to integrate with their host families, from trying different food to undertaking the normal family routine and of course, functioning on a daily basis using the Japanese language at school and at home. Our students can only be described as impressive and the connections they made with the Komae High community in many cases will last a lifetime.

As a group we were overwhelmed by the generosity, respect and warm welcoming nature shown towards us by those at our sister school. The connection and partnership between our two schools runs deep.

Educationally and socially, while at school, our students dived in and never looked back. They attended school from 8.20am until 6.00pm. Clubs run from 3.00pm each day, six days per week at this time due to the disruption caused by the earlier earthquake and subsequent tsunami. School also operates on Saturdays. Seeing our students operate in such a different and challenging environment, cope so well and then add to the learning environment of Komae High was a real pleasure. You could see our students improving their Japanese and also growing as people from the whole experience on a daily basis.

Komae High staff were most impressed with our students’ Japanese language skills, their willingness to be involved and the friendliness they showed towards everyone. Their enthusiasm and eagerness to try everything was infectious.

This wonderful experience for our students could not take place without the passion and dedication of Bev Steele our Languages Head Teacher. Bev has refined this overseas excursion over many years which is viewed across the Sydney Region as the best practice model to be followed. Every aspect of the excursion from the home stay, attending school each day, travel on the Bullet Train, travel around Tokyo, visiting Kyoto and Nara and the everyday small things planned by Bev were loved by our students.

2011 School Certificate Results

With the school receiving the School Certificate results last week our preliminary analysis is that our Year 10 students again performed exceptionally well.

In 2011 185 Kirrawee students sat the NSW School Certificate. In Science our students improved upon the state results gaining a very impressive 21 Band 6 at 11.05% above the state average. In examining the combined results across the top two bands English students gained 109 results representing nearly 58% of our candidature compared to the average of the state at 38%. In Science over 42% achieved results in the top two bands as opposed to 38% state wide, while in Mathematics 33% in the top bands compared to 26%. In History 41% achieved in the top two bands while the state result was 26% and in Geography 23% of students achieved in the top two bands.

In English 93% gained a Band 4 result or higher, in Science 85%, Australian History 73%, Mathematics 71% and Geography 65%. in the Computing Skills test 142 students were deemed highly competent. This was over 75% of our candidature compared with the state average of 52%.

Congratulations to our Year 10 students and teachers as these results and the skills evident in them will support our students as they face the challenges of senior school.

School Canteen Operation

Please note that the school canteen will not operate on Friday 16 December due to the changeover to a new operator following the recent tender process.

Students will need to bring their own food and drink on this last day of the school year.

I would like to thank Nick Mavrakis from Valentia Catering for the great service our students have enjoyed over the last four years. He has always tried to meet student needs and to adjust his management with the many changes that happen within a large High School.

We wish him and the company all the best and hope that their next venture will be equally successful.
Our School Community

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those parents who freely gave of their time to involve themselves this year in the P&C, School Council, Uniform Shop, school committees, appeal panels, finance group, fundraising, merit selection panels, our student exchange programs, school bands and ensembles, host families, debating, dance, drama, overseas excursions and our sporting teams.

In particular, I have very much appreciated the continued working relationship I have had with our P&C President Lea Tsekouras and our School Council President, Irene Evangelou. They continue to be outstanding supporters of our school.

Special mention must be made again of the work by Julie Olbrecths and Sandy Ridge for their dedication and hard work in operating our uniform shop and of course our P&C executive and School Council members.

Thank you also to all parents who have donated financially to our school through the P&C this year as these contributions directly benefit all students at Kirrawee High School through our learning programs. Your support and generosity is greatly appreciated by all in our school community.

Christmas Message

My best wishes go to students, parents, staff and all in our community for a Merry Christmas and a safe holiday season.

Farewell to our outgoing Year 12 students and their parents and we look forward to welcoming back our new and continuing students and their families in 2012.

Bob Hollywood - Principal

SRC NEWS

BANDANA DAY!

On 28 October the SRC raised money to support CANTEEN, one of the major sponsors for cancer research. Students were able to buy a $4 bandana or a $2 pen to raise money for CANTEEN. The school managed to raise over $1000 and sold 200 bandanas and 32 pens! Well done to the students and teachers of Kirrawee.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Many parents have taken the opportunity to purchase uniform items at the uniform selling afternoon or at the Thursday for the coming holidays may be an appropriate time to organise a position.

Students should approach employers with the appropriate documentation and organise a time that doesn’t interfere with important school events such as exams. Two weeks should be allowed from the time it is organised (that is from the time documents are completed and returned to school) to when they attend the placement. This gives ample time for any checks to be made and gives students the opportunity to liaise with their teachers regarding work that may need to be done in lieu of their absence.

Please note, students who attend work experience without notifying the school or who do not complete the written agreements, may forfeit insurance provisions.

If Year 10 students do not wish to miss schoolwork, or do not have a career they want to investigate, they can undertake a placement in Year 11 or Year 12 during school term holidays. NSW Department of Education and Communities regulations do not allow Year 10 to undertake work experience in term breaks.

If you have any queries, please contact John Olovich, Careers Adviser.

CLIVE HOULDIN - DEPUTY PRINCIPAL
Helping your Child to Manage Unexpected Psychologically Challenging Events

As parents we try to foster resilience in our children. That is the capacity to bounce back from challenges and set-backs. It is a normal part of life that we face situations which can be psychologically challenging.

Such challenges may involve things that have happened to a young person themselves, or someone they know or something which has occurred in their family, school or neighbourhood. These feelings may arise from situations which involve disappointment, unfairness, illness, loss, abuse or trauma. The actual events may range in severity but the young person’s reaction will also depend on their skills of resilience to deal with the situation.

At these times many young people may become concerned, sad, agitated, indignant, angry or anxious. As parents it is difficult to see this happening to our children and we are often tempted to do our best to protect them from exposure to these events. However, it is also at these times that young people have the opportunity to grow, mature and learn from life experiences. Many young people show great strength in challenging times. Parents can play a vital role with young people in helping them to put these events in perspective.

The challenge is to manage the situation in a thoughtful and effective manner so as to achieve good long term outcomes for your child. When parents are able to deal with the unexpected events calmly and confidently, they provide the best support to their child. A parent’s reaction to an event will provide a model for their child’s reaction. This may assist them to find strategies and solutions that work for them.

It is important to acknowledge the seriousness of the situation. As a supportive and reflective listener, parents can provide children with opportunities to talk through the associated feelings and to offer comfort. Acknowledging that the young person is sad, hurt, frightened or angry is a crucial part of a parent’s support, as is reassurance that these feelings are natural and normal.

While it is important to acknowledge the young person’s feelings it is not helpful to ‘interrogate’ them about the facts. If the situation is serious enough to require investigation it should be reported to an appropriate professional. Parental support which acknowledges the child’s needs and boundaries is very reassuring to them. Children are likely to share more information in their own time. However, it should be remembered if children are not forthcoming then parental knowledge of every fact and detail is not essential for ‘healing’.

Key areas to focus on when supporting children

- Sense of safety
- Ability to calm
- Connectedness
- Hope

Sense of Safety

Put plans in place to ensure safety and reminded the young person often of these plans.
Talk openly about dangers, but avoid unnecessary alarm.
Teach your child protective behaviours such as identifying trusted adults and reporting.
Have family discussions about personal & family strengths.

Ability to Calm

Avoid talking to other adults about the event in front of the young person.
Stick to a normal, predictable family routine or schedule.
Share with your child ways of self-soothing and calming themselves.
Practice relaxation and mindfulness activities.
Encourage regular exercise.

Connectedness

A positive connection to the community gives children and families a strong sense of wellbeing.
Get to know your neighbours, and make connections with other families in your local area.
Consider joining local sporting or other groups which have a strong family focus.

Hope

Encourage a sense of hope. Remind children that as a family you will find the strength to overcome these tough times.
Remind children of what is going well in their lives and what they have to be grateful for.

DON'T

Talk about rumours or speculation about what happened when you don’t have the facts.
Blame yourself or your child for what happened.
Suggest that it would have been better if they had not told anyone.
Tell your child to forget it ever happened.
Tell your child not to talk about it.
Get upset when your child talks about it.

DO

Tell your child you believe them and you believe in them.
Reassure and support them and tell them you do not blame them.
Let them know you love them and tell them you will try to keep them safe.
Let them know you are glad they talked to you. Give them time to talk at their own pace.
Make time to spend with your child so you can talk privately.
Be open and clear.
Allow your child to talk about how they feel.
Try to be calm when talking with your child about strong emotions which may confuse or upset them.
Find trusted online sources of information such as http://au.reachout.com
Contact professionals for help if difficulties persist too long or you need support.

Brian Plummer
B.A. Dip Ed. M.A.
Registered Psychologist #0001138511
District Guidance Officer

Kirrawee High School
December 2011
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**VISUAL ARTS NEWS**

**ARTEXPRESS and ARTRULES 2011**

In 2011 three HSC Visual Arts students, Blake Malone, Nerida Moran and Rochelle Thompson, were selected to be included in ARTEXPRESS, the Higher School Certificate visual arts exhibition for outstanding artwork produced by Year 12 students. This is a major feat as only 499 artworks from some 9,775 submissions were nominated for this prestigious exhibition.

Blake Malone and Nerida Moran’s work will be on display at the Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre from 11 February to 18 March 2012. Rochelle Thompson and Blake Malone’s artwork will also be exhibited at the Moree Plains Gallery from 12 October to 16 November 2012. Congratulations to these very talented students. If you have the opportunity, please visit the ARTEXPRESS exhibitions next year as you will be very impressed with the standard of work on display.

Congratulations also to three other Year 12 Visual Arts students, Gabrielle Johnson, Jessica Cox and Max Brown, who have been successful in being selected for display at the ARTRULES exhibition at Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Art Centre. Their work will be exhibited from 10 December 2011 to 15 January 2012. Please take the opportunity to visit this exhibition to view the imaginative work produced by not only our talented Kirrawee High students, but also the work of other students from the St George and Sutherland Shire districts.

**VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITION**

Thank you to all the people who attended the annual Visual Arts exhibition. Your support was very much appreciated. In particular, I would like to thank the Honourable Mayor of Sutherland Shire, Carol Provan, for attending our exhibition and for her kind words regarding Kirrawee High School at the opening night of the exhibition. In all, it was a fabulous exhibition that displayed the individual and creative work of our year 7 to year 12 students.

In particular, the exhibition showcased our year 12 HSC Body of Works. Many positive comments were made about our senior students’ work: the skill involved and the imagination employed to produce their HSC works. The Body of Works ranged from drawings, sculptures, textiles and fibre, paintings, digital photography, printmaking and collection of works.

The work produced by our students from year 11 to year 7 was outstanding. The portraits and etchings by year 11 were very skillful and imaginative. Year 10 made creative texture paintings and digital photographs. Year 9 impressed us with their beautiful ceramic work and digital photography based on coastal regions and a visit to Cockatoo Island. Year 7 and Year 8 excelled in the areas of ceramics, drawing and sculpture, Year 7 in particular making individual and skillful sculptural houses.

The students at Kirrawee High School value the Visual Arts and as a result, produce quality work that reflects their interest and enthusiasm for the subject.

Many students were involved in putting up the exhibition - taking artworks down to the hall, displaying artworks, carrying display boards, helping with refreshments and generally ensuring that we had the exhibition ready to open by Tuesday 29 November. Thank you to all students involved in making this exhibition a success.

The hard work dedicated to setting up the exhibition by the Visual Arts staff is also very much appreciated. Without their time, labour and expert displaying skills there would not have been an exhibition.

Thank you to Mrs Falconer, Mrs Williamson, Mr Middleton, Mrs Barclay and Mr Albert, for being such enthusiastic Visual Arts teachers.

*M Veljanovski - Head Teacher Visual Arts*

_Year 9 waitresses attending the exhibition and the Falconer twins_
 VISUAL ARTS NEWS

Blake Malone - 'Meine Reise' (My Journey) - Used as advertising for ARTEXPRESS at Hazelhurst

Alana Hickson's HSC Body of Work

Talia Burton's HSC Body of Work
VISUAL ARTS NEWS

Nerida Moran—'Hyper Ballad'

Rochelle Thompson - ‘Can’t Choose Your Family’
Year 6 Science students are real swingers!!!

We have ended the year on a happy note with the introduction of a new program to help the transition of Year 6 students into Year 7 at Kirrawee High School. Year 6 teachers from Gymea Bay Primary School, Kirrawee Primary School and Gray’s Point Primary School came to Kirrawee High for some professional learning on how to design a scientific investigation. They returned to their primary school classes to develop an investigation into the factors that can affect the swing of a pendulum. The Year 6 students visited the Science laboratories to set up their experiments, take their measurements and to record the data. When they returned to the primary school they processed their data and made their conclusions.

The management of such a large group of primary students was enabled by work of the Year 10 peer support leaders, who will also be working with the Year 7’s next year.

My thanks go to the primary school staff in their cooperation in developing this transition activity and to Jo Stanborough, Peter Reeve and Aaron Cook, who gave up many hours in the planning and delivery of this activity.

This project has been enabled through Helping Hands funding.

From a leader’ perspective

On Tuesday 29 November I worked with Gymea Bay students and enjoyed the experience very much. The group of girls I worked with were cooperative and followed my instructions, listened to my advice and were keen to be there to learn and have their leaders involved with them. The Year 10 leaders were excited to be working with the Year 6 students and were enthusiastic about having the opportunity to be a leader and have the Year 6 students look up to them. Being given the opportunity to teach these young students was very important to me and I was eager to put my leadership skills to the test. I had so much fun with my group of girls, who giggled at the idea of having their own private photographer. I believe every Year 10 student involved in the day gained something from this firsthand experience. I believe every Year 10 leader and the Year 6 Science day was undoubtedly a great success.

Emily Dabron - Year 10

FAREWELL FROM VALENCIA CATERING

Dear Friends of Kirrawee High Community

As you know by now we won’t be here from next year as our lease finished and we were not the successful tenderer to run the canteen again. Tough, but with all respect, acceptable.

We would like to thank everybody from the Principal and Deputy Principals, teachers, administration staff and mostly, the students of the school. From the bottom on our hearts we say a big thank you for your support and the great time we had running the canteen for five years. We will always remember our time here.

We wish you all every success in your school and life. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Thanks

Nick, Tina, Daisy, Berryl

Valentia Catering
Parents will be receiving reports for their children in Years 7 to 10. For Mathematics there are two sections:

**Report Mark** This is a mark based on the performance of the student within each group:

- **For Year 7 (the class)**
- **For Year 8 (the three levels)**
- **For Years 9 and 10 (the course i.e. 5.1, 5.2 or 5.3)**

**Overall Grade** This is based on the student’s performance measured against the outcomes for the whole ability range within each year.

Classes for 2012 will be determined on the basis of these results.

We wish to congratulate the following students on their performance in the recent examinations. All students obtained a mark over 80% and are in the top 10 of their course.

*John Farmer - Head Teacher Mathematics*

### Year 7 Mathematics
**2011 Yearly Exam Top 10 Honour Roll**

1. Andrew Chang 96%
2. Kirra Corrigan 95%
3. Ben Comino 94%
4. Jacob Evans 93%
5. Shaan Patel 92%
6. Holy Butler 92%
7. Emily Redwin 98.5%
8. Emma Brown 98%
9. Keelan Dickinson-Black 100%
10. Jasmine Arnold 99%

**Year 9 Mathematics (5.3)**
**2011 Yearly Exam Top 10 Honour Roll**

1. Rachel Holland 98%
2. Renee Addicott 96%
3. Amy Lunch 95%
4. Alex Chang 90%
5. Michaela Campbell 89%
6. Brooke Davey 88%
7. Jordan Bosley 81%
8. Yolanda Colfie 76%
9. Paige Ellis 75%
10. Tessa Herbert 71%

### Year 8 Mathematics
**2011 Yearly Exam Top 10 Honour Roll**

1. Andrew Chang 96%
2. Kirra Corrigan 95%
3. Ben Comino 94%
4. Jacob Evans 93%
5. Shaan Patel 92%
6. Holy Butler 92%
7. Emily Redwin 98.5%
8. Emma Brown 98%
9. Keelan Dickinson-Black 100%
10. Jasmine Arnold 99%

**Year 9 Mathematics (5.1)**
**2011 Yearly Exam Top 5 Honour Roll**

1. Jordan Bosley 81%
2. Robert Townsend 80%
3. Yolanda Colfie 76%
4. Paige Ellis 75%
5. Tessa Herbert 71%

**Year 10 Mathematics (5.1)**
**2011 Yearly Exam Top 5 Honour Roll**

1. Jordan Bosley 81%
2. Robert Townsend 80%
3. Yolanda Colfie 76%
4. Paige Ellis 75%
5. Tessa Herbert 71%

### Year 9 Mathematics (5.2)
**2011 Yearly Exam Top 10 Honour Roll**

1. Ben Williams 87%
2. Bianca Ho 93%
3. Taryn Carson 92%
4. Ross Sedra 90%
5. Wilson Chen 88%
6. Laura Triggs 82%
7. Tommy Lyons 86%
8. Keegan Spring 85%
9. Daniac Hobden 84%
10. Hayley McCarthy 83%

Year 11 Mathematics 2011 Yearly Exam Top 10 Honour Roll

1. Rachel Thompson 92%
2. Aria Ahmed-Cox 87%
3. Nathan Hewitt 85%
4. Sam Jeffrey 84%
5. Matt Lewis 80%
6. Courtenay Turner 90%
7. Amanda Harrison 86%
8. Hamish Guile 92%
9. Daniel Henson 80%
10. Brielle McCulloch 82%

Year 11 Mathematics 2011 Yearly Exam Top 5 Honour Roll

1. Rachel Thompson 99%
2. Aria Ahmed-Cox 93%
3. Sam Jeffrey 90%
4. Tahlia Nelson 88%
5. Emalie Sparks 87%
6. Nathan Hewitt 85%
7. Lauren Oberg 84%
8. Jack Zuber 83%
9. Aidan Hughes 81%

Year 12 Ext 1 Mathematics 2011 Trial HSC Exam Top 10 Honour Roll

1. Kamine Naidoo 89%
2. Chris Fox 89%
3. Taylah Stuart 88%
4. Micaela Bassford 85%
5. Maddison Schmid 85%
6. Jodie Cooper 83%
7. James Treacy 83%
8. James Treacy 83%
9. Aidan Hughes 81%
10. Amy Johnson 88%
11. Alicia Wood 87%
12. Nicola Salter 87%
13. Connor Farland 87%

Year 12 Ext 2 Mathematics 2011 Trial HSC Exam Top 3 Honour Roll

1. Kamine Naidoo 90%
2. Chris Fox 83%
3. Taylah Stuart 69%
4. Lachlan Bispich 99%
5. Anika Thompson 98%
6. Jack Graham 96%
7. Matt Bell 95%
8. William Budd 93%
9. Nerida Moran 92%
10. Georgia Dixon 90%
11. Elise Wals 88%
12. Amy Johnson 88%
13. Nicola Salter 87%
14. Connor Farland 87%

Year 12 Mathematics 2011 Trial HSC Exam Top 10 Honour Roll

1. Michaela Bassford 98%
2. Matilda Moran 95%
3. Antoinette Johnston 94%
4. Tahlia Burton 93%
5. Laura Keoghann 86%
6. Daisy Susanto 82%
7. Edward Robins 92%
8. Cameron McDowell 91%
9. Taylor Yankos 90%
10. Shona McMillan 90%
ENGLISH NEWS

Congratulations to Daniel Heycox whose HSC English Extension Two short film, ‘Be Alert Not Alarmed’, was selected for screening in the Robin Anderson 2011 Film Awards on 15 November at the Dendy Circular Quay. Daniel’s film won ‘Best Film Editing’.

Year 12 have just completed their first assessment task which was a speech on ‘Belonging’. The general quality of speeches was commendable and most students are demonstrating that they are seriously committed to their HSC studies.

Year 10 have been engaged in preparing for the Year 11 Preliminary Course, completing an Area of Study unit on ‘Change and Changing Self’. This work helps develop important skills for the senior school and it is important that students engage meaningfully with tasks set in class. The bulk of English teaching programs, resources and assessment tasks have been uploaded onto the school’s Moodle site and are now available to all students and parents. This will be invaluable for preparation for assessment tasks for students and will also allow students with absences to keep informed about course content and requirements.

DRAMA

Congratulations to two students for selection in ‘Onstage’ exemplary works from the 2011 HSC Drama exam. Dylan Mayer’s Individual Project on Scriptwriting has been chosen from all the submitted plays across NSW as the one to be presented at ‘Writers On Stage’. It will be produced as a ‘moved reading’ by a professional cast and staged for three performances at Seymour Centre in February. Alana Hickson’s set design for the play ‘Buried Child’ has also been selected for the exhibition.

Our new Year 12 students have successfully completed their first assessment task on their study of Contemporary Australian Theatre Practice, performing scenes from two plays, ‘Ruby Moon’ and ‘Stolen’. Ten of the class members are also lucky enough to be attending the prestigious performance of Shakespeare’s ‘Richard the Third’, starring Kevin Spacey, at the Star City Lyric Theatre.

The Year 9 Drama Evening was held on Wednesday 30 November and included playbuilt performances from their current classwork as well as other scripted scenes and monologues throughout the year. It was a great experience for the students to showcase their work to a public audience, who enjoyed the variety of issues and ideas presented. Many parents commented on the wonderful talent and the confidence students had developed during the year.

DANCE

The Dance department has had much success in 2011 and particularly in term 4. In November, 18 students represented Kirrawee High School in the 2011 Schools Spectacular titled ‘Imagine’. We also had a number of students representing our school in specialist ensembles including boys’ hip hop, tap, and ballet. School’s Spectacular requires a lot of commitment from students and they are involved in long, tiring rehearsals, as well as four shows over two days!

The students handled this exceptionally well and were on their best behaviour at all times. This is a great performance opportunity for students to work as a part of a group and experience the phenomenon that is School’s Spectacular. The show will be aired on 18 December in a one hour special and the full show will be shown on 31 December.

In week 9 we held the Annual Dance Competition. This is a competition that showcases the choreographic and performance skills of students at Kirrawee High School. All performances were of a high standard and demonstrated the talents of students within our school. The two shows were a huge success and raised funds for the Dance department which assists in payments for costumes and transport for 2012. Congratulations to the group that won the competition - Isabella De Santis, Ellie Raggett and Sophie Kinnear with their performance ‘7 Nation Army’. Also congratulations to Year 12 and Year 10 students that received second and third places respectively. A big thank you to Stephen Smith, Lloyd Nurthen, Matt Garrett, Zach Muir and James Bassford who took care of sound and lighting in a very professional manner. Another congratulations to all the students involved. They were organised and should all be very proud of their achievements this year.

Company and ensemble auditions will be in Term 1 Week 3 next year. I look forward to seeing you all next year!

TAS NEWS

Kirrawee High’s Design and Technology and Engineering Studies classes have entered work in the prestigious University of Wollongong’s Engineering Faculty Technology Awards over the last few years with considerable success.

This year is no different, with four students receiving major prizes. From the Year 11 Design and Technology class, Hamish Gullick received a prize for his ‘Eco Deck Chair’ design and Daniel Lister received a prize for his impressive folio work on ‘Reading Chair’. The Engineering Studies students also submitted their reports with Dean Christian from Year 12 receiving a major prize for his ‘Lifting Device’ report. Dean is presently seeking a cadetship in Mining Engineering and this performance will certainly enhance his chances. Tanaz Dhondy, Year 11, had a great night at the awards ceremony which had 500 people in attendance from all over the State. Tanaz received four awards - prizes for the Bioengineering elective, the school-based Photovoltaics elective, the Software Engineering prize and not surprisingly, the Women in Engineering prize. A very impressive performance here from Tanaz, a student who has a lot of potential in the engineering discipline.

The School Certificate Computing Skills results were impressive this year. The students sat for a State wide online test and 75% of the Kirrawee students were judged Highly Competent (80% or greater) while 52% of the State were judged at that level. From the school 67 student received marks 90% or greater with three students receiving 99%.

The School Certificate results from the elective subjects in TAS - Food Technology, Textiles Technology, Multimedia, Timber Technology, and Information and Software Technology, were quite impressive and most students will proceed to the HSC course with strong foundational skills which will allow them to approach their senior courses with confidence.

VET Report

The Year 12 Hospitality classes recently participated in a Barista Course in Sydney. This should enable them to set a high standard when they cater for special events. Both the Hospitality and Construction students have completed their second work placement and all have received very positive feedback for their performance.
SPORTS NEWS

FROM THE FIVE METRE

Well it’s over again! The 15’s State Water Polo has been played and won by both the boys and girls. Whilst the girls were favourites and won easily, 20 to 3, the boys’ event was a different story with a torrid match in which they prevailed 3 to 2. Well, I guess that’s the ‘short’ of it, but as always, it’s what underlies the final scores that tells the real story.

The girls’ team was the benchmark team of the competition. Many other teams chose to stay and watch the final as they were so impressed with the ability of our girls (they would normally hit the road to travel home to all parts of the State). Each of our players stepped up to give their best throughout the two days of competition. The power, skill and fitness of our older girls were devastating and our younger, less experienced members gave excellent support and contributed greatly to the game outcome. Remember younger girls, your time will come in future years, so keep working hard and continue to learn from others. Girls, you made us very proud with your comraderie and the sportsmanship you displayed.

The boys’ competition is always a really challenging side of the finals series. Our first game saw us pitted against Alstonville, our nemesis of the last few years. The match was always going to be a tough assignment and it proved to be. Our Captains, Jack Robertson and Keegan Wicken, led the way with some extremely skilful displays, but this game turned when the ‘Hooker effect’ came into play. Aaron saved a five metre penalty (even the best goalkeepers in the world only have a 60% chance of saving these) and I believe this changed the flow of the game. It certainly put Alstonville on a difficult path to the final and on the back foot. Well done, Aaron! Mitchell Barber, Year 9, was able to hold his own and get some good fouls enabling our drivers to score.

Our Year 8 players performed well. Daniel McStravick, Tom Colquhoun and Rhys Holden were amazing in defence and their skills were some of the best I’ve seen of young men in my 30 years around polo. Adam White and Brandon Foster jostled for position and defended well. Adam often took responsibility and worked his way into centre forward, performing well. Ryan Greer, who along with Tom were part of the winning team last year, highlighted the great future KHS polo has and worked hard in some physically brutal circumstances.

Our semi final was frustrating and again, our opponents showed the level of skill and quality of opposition we were up against. Together we composed ourselves in readiness for Alstonville and a finals berth. Alstonville were very worthy opponents and quickly worked out their game plan, which was to attempt to have any, or all, of our key players fouled out of the game (three fouls and you’re out) - Jack Robertson and Keegan Wicken on two and in the third quarter, Rhys Holden gone on three. Polo, like many games, is a funny game, one player could misread being fouled out and feel he has let the side down. My message is positive – being fouled out means the opposition think so highly of you and think you are so dangerous they will relentlessly target you and with the help of the referee, have you removed. Sadness for sure.

Andrew pushed himself hard and assisted the older members of the team. Big Jake muscled his way into centre forward and was able to hold his own and get some good fouls enabling our drivers to score. With a score line that teetered between one up then one down, Jack managed to put two goals in to keep it at two all going into the last quarter. Keegan put in a strong goal to seal the game in the dying minutes. It was now a matter of holding on with smart play which Aaron, Keegan, Jack and Mitchell did well. We had bite marks, scratches that would make a tiger proud and some fairly strong blows to our players, but they remained composed throughout.

I know that there are many sceptics out there that don’t value sport. Well let me tell you folks, the young men of KHS really showed what sport is about. You often hear analogies about sport and for me it’s a little window into life itself, drawing out the best, the worst, the saddest and the happiest of emotions. In the final we felt them all and showed them all. The boys of the 2011 15’s water polo team represented KHS at the highest level and on and off the field. I am very proud of them, as the rest of the school should also be. Well done boys. I would like to thank our mentors on tour Lachlan Greer, Dylan Holden and Liz Parkin for their help and leadership on tour. We couldn’t have done it without you.

From the five metre - Coach Boy’s Team

CHS Blue At the CHS Blue’s night on Friday 9 December, Michaela Davies and Maddison Schmid were each awarded a CHS Blue. Later in the night Maddison was presented with the ‘Betty Bowen Award’ for the most outstanding female athlete in NSW Sport. Congratulations to both girls.

Kirrawee High School
December 2011
SPORTS NEWS

U13 and U15’s Netball - Sydney East Regional Champions

Kirrawee High School has continued its success in netball with both the U13 and U15 girls’ netball teams winning the Sydney East Regional Championships.

The U13’s have been runners up on many occasions in past years, but this year went through as the undefeated championships. Our new Year 7’s demonstrated outstanding skills in difficult conditions. It was a real team effort with both attacking and defending players contributing to the teams success. The U15’s have continued their dominance in the competition, successfully winning the championship for the third year in a row; also going through undefeated. It would seem our success in the open championships will continue for many years with the great depth of talent we have at our school.

It was a pleasure to coach the girls this year and I look forward to defending all three titles - Open, U15’s and U13’s Sydney East Regional Champions in 2012. The teams are:

**U15’s** - Riquelle Miller (c), Toni Anderson, Aleisha Oberg, Renae Kelly, Madison Dunn, Mikaela Milinkovic, Layne Holloway, Alana Tibbey, Brodie Schreuder, Alana Brierly

**U13’s** - Maddison Mann (c), Brooke Salzman, Hannah Lloyd, Quartney Stephens, Chelsea Aros, Molly Black, Maddison Gilholme, Isabella Conwell, Catherine Kaye, Amy Costin, Libby Holloway

Thank you must also go to our wonderful Year 10 umpires, Emma Rodger and Danielle Reed, who donated their time to umpire both our teams on the day and did a marvellous job.

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**Sydney East Representation**

Sienna Burton, Year 10, has been chosen to be in the Sydney East Representative Softball Team for NSW schools at the upcoming carnival to be held in February 2012.
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