Principal’s Report

We are well into term 4 already. Students in all years have continued to be engaged in learning and have been undergoing meaningful assessment of that learning. Teachers are engaged in the process of preparing to report on student achievement and progress.

Transition activities for both year 10 students who are moving to Blackwattle Bay Campus and students in the 2016 year 7 cohort are continuing this term. These very vital opportunities for students to get to know their new campus and the teachers they will be working with assist students to make the transition with lower levels of anxiety.

Our welfare team have been visiting many of the local primary schools to speak to year 6 teachers and students. Some students have been paying us extra visits this term to assist them to successfully transition at the start of next year.

Year 10 will be participating in the Taste of Blackwattle program where they will take part in taster lessons for each of the subjects they have chosen for year 11.

A curriculum team has spent much of the year researching the impact of going from a 6 period day to a 5 period day. This proposal would bring us into line with Balmain Campus and bring our teaching periods up to about 65 minutes. As we move to a pedagogical focus on whole-child learning involving higher order thinking, inquiry and project/problem based learning this increased length in lesson time will be of great benefit. As teachers we are continually seeking to improve the way we teach and learn. Allowing our students to have greater control over their learning is a challenge for us all. We must design tasks which enable them to do so but we must also prepare them to take risks and fail. Through failure we often learn much more.

As planning for 2016 continues we have been given permission to run three classroom teacher panels for new teachers. College Principal Judy Kelly will be convening a classroom teacher HSIE panel. David Springbett, Head Teacher TAS will be convening a classroom teacher TAS panel and I will be convening a panel for a classroom teacher Mathematics. I would like to thank the three parents who have put up their hand to assist on these panels. It is a vital partnership between parents and the school which supports us to secure the best possible teachers for your children.

Melinda Bright
In Week 5, our Year 10 students will have their Yearly exams. Here are some study tips for the exam:

- Plan realistic weekday study time and stick to the plan: starting 2 weeks before the exam would be ideal.
- Complete a mind map for each topic (use the textbook’s mind maps at the end of each topic as a guide) and make sure you have all the necessary formulas and examples on the maps.
- Complete the Chapter Reviews and any revision booklets.
- Ask questions during lessons.
- Pay attention and make notes during the revision lessons.
- Check that your calculator is working.
- Try to relax by having plenty of sleep, eating healthy and sticking to your study plan.

Annual COUNTDOWN competition

An impressive 128 competitors participated in our first Countdown competition.

Under Mr McCue’s organisation, the competition was open to students and teachers at SSCL for nearly 4 weeks at the end of Term 3. Anyone who saw the quarter-final and semi-final would agree that those two hours of competitions were very intense. Congratulations to all 128 competitors for their fine efforts and amazing number abilities!

Winner: Cori Ugarte-Foley (Year 10)
Runner-Up: Jonathan Yang (Year 8)
Semi-Finalists: Vidan Cvetkovic (9), Aidan Flanagan (8)
Quarter-Finalists: Mikey Grove (9), Marina Abdul (7), Charlotte Claymore (9), Harry Morgan (8).
Top 16: Tommy Huang (7), Zachary Bonham (7), Ms Au (Teacher), Andrew Fu (8), Mr Murty (Teacher - ineligible to advance), Alisi Huang (10), Flynn Taylor (7) & Zhen Ting (8).

A big thank you must go to Mr McCue and we are hoping to run the competition each year! Our first winner Cori has received a trophy and he will be on our school Number trophy for 2015. If you would like to start practising early for next year, visit the website and have a fun maths time!

Thanks to the SSCL numeracy team teachers

Another big year for the SSCL numeracy team in running the Numeracy Relay, Pi-Rate peer tutoring class, Year 8 Edmodo numeracy program, Moomba numeracy lessons, Number Crunchers and transition day, Stages 3 and 4 numeracy transition project with local primary schools and planning for the Numeracy cross curriculum in 2016. I would like to thank all the teachers involved: Ms Au, Ms Zhang, Ms Sinclair, Ms Goritsas, Ms Reed, Ms Salerno, Mr Crasti, Mr Parker, Mr Calvert, Mr Harris, Mr Crosbie, Mr Park, Mr Murty.

Special thanks go to Ms Zhang for organising the Number Relay, Mr Park for running the Year 8 Edmodo numeracy weekly questions and Mr Parker for organising the numeracy Moomba lessons. I also thank all the maths teachers who are part of the numeracy team and who helped run numeracy events such as Pi recite competition, number crunchers and transition day, and the Countdown competition.
**HSIE NEWS**

**History fun fact:** Albert Einstein was offered the role of Israel’s second President in 1952, but declined.

The first four weeks of term four have been an interesting and exciting time for HSIE. The year 7 history classes have wrapped up their unit of work on Ancient Egypt and a few cucumber mummies as well as they explored the process of embalming. They now begin to explore the wonders of ancient China. Year 8 is now finishing up their exploration of the Aztec civilisation and will be beginning Japan under the Shoguns in the coming week. Meanwhile, year 9 students in International Studies are displaying their creativity as they have begun a project-based learning assignment. In groups, they are researching and exploring the relationship between culture and sport and intent to present their findings through various mediums. Their final products will certainly be something to look forward to.

**Geography quote of the week:**

“Everywhere’s been where it is ever since it was first put there. It’s called geography.” The Late and great Terry Pratchett

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**Mitchell & Marshall welcome students commencing at Leichhardt in Year 7, 2016**
White Ribbon Touch Football Match

On Tuesday 10 November (week 6) the school will be holding a White Ribbon mixed family touch match and BBQ on the oval. The event is taking place to raise awareness for domestic violence against women in Australia. It is also to promote positive relationships between men and women in society.

We are asking for both male and female students to partake, bringing along one or two family members. These members must be over the age of 18 and no longer be at school. We encouraged all mothers, fathers, guardians, sisters and brothers to come along with their brothers, sisters, sons and daughters.

Unfortunately, we can only take the first 14 participants who RSVP. So be quick in getting your interest in!

If you wish to participate students can collect a note from Mr Paterson in the HSIE department, and return with information on what family members they will be bringing along with them.

Please arrive at 7:45am for an 8am kick off and all participants are invited to a breakfast BBQ after the match at 8:40.

Please return all permission notes by Friday 4 November.

Thank you, Tim Paterson
Our annual Learning Fair experience has taken a bit of a twist this year to focus on Year 6-7 Transition.

In OnTrack Classes and some extra ordinary collaboration times, our Year 7 students are working in collaborative groups to solve the driving question:

“How can we make beginning high school more fun for Year 7 students?”

They have been asked to create a product that solves the dilemmas they or their friends may have experienced when starting school at Leichhardt 10 months ago.

In Term 3 we held a ‘Thinking’ Day in which Mr Bearman, Ms South and Ms Cleaves supported students to think about what they could do to help next year’s year 6 students.

On Thursday 29th October, we gathered for our Creating Day. Students spent 2 periods in their groups creating their products.

The big exhibition of our products will be an authentic ‘fair’ style exhibition during A Day at High School Week in Week 7.

Mr Bearman, Ms Jones (stepping in for the injured Mrs South) and Ms Cleaves are totally amazed by the ideas and solutions. Students have taken their own experiences to create tangible objects that will no doubt be a huge help for all Year 6-7 students in 2016.

Well Done so far, year 7 for all your empathy, ideas and creative spirit!

Ms Cleaves, HT Learning Innovation