

Principal Matters by Mark Watson



It is difficult to believe we have reached the end of another school year. Each year appears to pass more quickly than the previous year. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our *St Ives Matters* readers all the very best for the festive season. While we have only had a short week this week, as our final newsletter for 2018 shows, it was still a very busy time!

HSC Results



I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Year 12 class of 2018. The HSC results obtained by this year's Year 12 students are arguably the best results obtained since the year 2000. In last week's newsletter, Mr Lawler highlighted some of the outstanding achievements of our students who are at the top performing levels in their courses. This, however, is only part of the story. One of the things that make this year's results so special is that students achieved at all levels. Only a very small number of subjects, six in total, had results below the State average. This is equal to our best performance for this statistic. This year we achieved the best results we have ever achieved in nine of our subjects. We were also informed about some amazing ATAR scores at the Pizza lunch for Year 12 last Friday. The school is not directly informed of the ATAR scores students obtain. University offers are based upon these scores. At this stage, we are aware of 21 students achieving an ATAR of 90 or above. We will hold a high achievers' assembly for students obtaining outstanding results next year on Monday, 11 February 2019.

VALID Science Year 10

Our HSC results were not the only good news we received last week. We were delighted to receive an email from the Department of Education informing us that three of our Year 10 students had equally achieved the 5th highest score in the State for the VALID Science test in Year 10 this year. Congratulations to Blake C, Lauren C and Nicholas B (all from Year 10) for achieving this amazing result. The VALID Science 10 test was held during September this year and it provides staff with feedback about our students' performance in Science compared to other Year 10 students across NSW. Congratulations to Lauren, Blake and Nicholas and a big thank you to the Science faculty for coordinating the tests.

Presentation Day

Last Friday we celebrated student achievement in 2018 at our Presentation Day assemblies. Three assemblies were held, one for sport and two for academic and special awards, Years 7 – 8 and Years 9, 10 and 11. While the focus of the day is for all students to celebrate student success, we were delighted to see so many parents who were able to take the time to see their children receive awards. The day was only possible with the support of numerous staff. In particular, I would like to mention Mrs Cartwright, Mr Noronha and Mrs Gettens for the academic assemblies, Mrs Terrey and the PE staff for the sports assembly, Mrs Forbes for all of her support from the office and Mr De Parlo for organising the catering.

High Achievers' Morning Tea - Years 7 to 10

A morning tea was held on Monday this week to recognise the high achieving students in Years 7–10 during the second semester this year. The top 10 students performing at the highest levels across all of their subjects were invited to the morning tea. Congratulations to – **Year 10:** Abigail B, Elizabeth H, Alexander L, Nathan C, Matthew B, Chiara B, Nikita P, Nicole C, Elizabeth M, Gavin R; **Year 9:** Nina K, Philippa R, Youjin L, Caitlin S, Jessica B, Keetan S, Suané B, Kathy K, Mai M, Kirsten F; **Year 8:** Alice R, Gemma L-S, Isabella B, Hana J, Zoe T, Sean S, Emily D, Hayley G, Claire R, Winnie M; **Year 7:** William S, Jasmin L, Jessica W, Vania Z, Aden Z, Frida B, Sophie H, Isabella F, Chanel C, Mia S.



Peer Leader Training

On Monday this week, our Year 9 Peer Leaders had the second of their training days as they prepare for the arrival of our new Year 7 students next year. The group had the first of their training days before the Year 6 Orientation day at the start of this month. After Monday, the leaders are prepared and looking forward to their roles in 2019.



Duke of Edinburgh Adventurous Journey

This week we have had a group of Duke of Edinburgh students on a Silver adventurous journey in the Royal National Park. They left on Monday morning and returned home on Wednesday after two nights camping and three days of walking. Thanks to Ms Paterson and Mr Leggatt for leading the expedition.

BUPA St Ives Christmas Performance

On Monday, students from the Choir and the Micro-Fusion Ensemble performed Christmas Carols under the guidance of Ms Lovell at the St Ives BUPA aged care home. The students and their performance delighted the residents. All the Christmas favourites were performed and the students had the residents singing along and making requests. Thanks to Ms Lovell for organising the event and to the parents who helped transport the students and their equipment.



Staff Farewells

Sadly the end of the year is a time when we say goodbye to a number of staff. Leaving us at the end of this year are a group of people who have made significant contributions within their area of operation. Mrs Wigmore has been the head of Mathematics for the past eight years. Under her leadership she and the Mathematics KLA have achieved outstanding results including the Mathematics results in this year's HSC. We wish Mrs Wigmore every success in her new position. Mrs Birch, one of the two counsellors at St Ives High, will be moving to retirement in 2019. She has played an exceptional role assisting students as they face difficult challenges in their lives. Her expertise will be missed. Mrs Shanahan in Science will be leaving us after two years to take up a teaching position in another school. She has been a much-loved teacher and will be missed at Bootcamp each Friday. From the Hearing Unit we are saying goodbye to our two Learning and Support Officers, Ms Jones and Mrs Lamb. For several years Mrs Lamb has been training part time to be a teacher and this year she completed her training and has been appointed to a school. Ms Jones will take leave as she moves to retirement. We are also saying farewell to Ms Gerardi, Ms Morris and Ms Bond for 2019 and we are looking forward to their return in 2020.

Building Update

As you can see, if you are passing the school, a number of demountable buildings have been delivered to the school over the past week. Not all of the buildings have arrived; we are expecting additional buildings to arrive in the second half of January. Services such as electricity and plumbing are currently being connected to the buildings. The demountable buildings will be used next year while C-Block is refurbished for state-of-the-art teaching and learning facilities for Industrial Technology, Art and Music.



2019 School Return

The school office will remain open until Friday 21 December. It will then be closed until Tuesday 29 January 2019 when staff will return on that day. On Wednesday 30 January 2019 Years 7, 11 and 12 will begin school for the year. Year 7 will be involved in a school induction/familiarisation program on Wednesday and Thursday. They will begin following their timetable on Friday February 1. On Thursday 31 January all Years 8, 9 and 10 students will return to school. School Terms for 2019 listed on page 5.

If You Are Not Returning In 2019

If you know your child will not be returning in 2019, please contact the office before it closes at the end of this Friday. If there is a change in your circumstances and your child will not be returning in 2019, you can still contact us via email after the office closes. This will greatly assist us with our planning for 2019.

Have a great festive season and summer holiday. I look forward to seeing everyone at the beginning of our next school year.

Best wishes
Mark Watson
Principal



Sport

Presentation Day



Senior and Junior Presentations



ONE MURAL IS NEVER ENOUGH

Following two murals commissioned by the HSIE faculty, student initiative has seen the creation of another five wonderful wall works!! One in the Languages foyer, one in the English corridor, one supporting equality, one creating a garden vista near the school office and lucky Mrs Kiernan now has a striking image of Nepal in her classroom!! Mostly painted by year 9 Visual Arts students, the works were designed and well painted by all those involved. Now the school is an even brighter and more inspiring place!

Patricia Gettens
Head Teacher Creative Arts
Gats Coordinator

Visual Arts Teacher



SHELLY BEACH EXCURSION

The Support Classes Hearing with Mrs Gambrill and Mr Ryan had another travel training excursion on Tuesday. It was the first time the students had to find their own way to Wynyard Station. The students had to plan their travel experience. All the students were punctual and arrived safely before heading to Circular Quay. A number of people commented on the students and their helpfulness to the public. The purpose of our trips is to plan travelling on public transport, read timetables, use their Opal Card, predict unexpected events, use of money in a variety of situations, make decisions, and to communicate to unknown adults in a friendly and appropriate way. The students also had to find their own way home. The students would ring Mrs Gambrill when they arrived home. All the students had a fantastic time.

Robert Ryan
Hearing Support Unit



UNIFORM SHOP OPEN TIMES

2018 END OF TERM

Thursday, 20 December 2018: closed

2019 BACK TO SCHOOL WEEK 1 OPEN TIMES

Tuesday, 29 January 2019: 8.30 - 11.00 am (extended hours)

Wednesday, 30 January 2019: 8.30 - 10.30 am (extended hours back to school Years 7, 11, 12)

Thursday, 31 January 2019: 9.00 - 11.00 am (back to school hours Year 8, 9, 10)

Year 7 2019 Book Pack - last day to order is Wednesday, 19 December by 4.30 pm
(to be delivered through January 2019)

2019 SCHOOL TERMS

TERM 1 (11 weeks)

Tuesday, 29 January – School Development Day - Staff return to school

Wednesday, 30 January – Years 7, 11 and 12 students return to school

Thursday, 31 January – Years 8, 9 and 10 students return to school

Friday, 12 April – last day Term 1

TERM 2 (10 weeks)

Monday, 29 April – School Development Day - Staff return to school

Tuesday, 30 April – Students return to school

Monday, 10 June – Queen's Birthday (Public holiday)

Friday, 5 July – last day Term 2

TERM 3 (10 weeks)

Monday, 22 July – School Development Day – Staff return to school

Tuesday, 23 July – Students return to school

Friday, 27 September – last day Term 3

Term 4 (10 weeks)

Monday, 14 October – All students and staff return to school

Wednesday, 18 December – Last day of Term 4 for students

Thursday, 19 December and Friday, 20 December – Staff days