Principal’s Report

Reminders

HSC Exams

16 Dec
Last day of School

4 Feb, 2016
Years 7,11 & 12 return to school

5 Feb, 2016
All students return to school

Staff Changes

This year we have a number of very talented and professional staff leaving us and heading eastwards to new and challenging positions or adventures. First and foremost Head Teacher Secondary Studies, Mr Andrew McKay, is taking up the position Head Teacher Mathematics at Maitland High School. Mr McKay has spent the last five years teaching at Bourke High School and has been the driving force behind the school’s successful QuickSmart numeracy program which has seen some excellent improvements in Stage 4 and 5 numeracy results. He is a teacher with high expectations who develops a great rapport with his students which relates to positive mathematics learning. With Mr McKay going we are also losing his partner our esteemed and empathetic Student Support Officer (SSO) Miss Mary Kate Ferguson. Miss Ferguson has operated as far more than an SSO coordinating the school’s newsletter and website, and has been the maestro behind our very melodic girls’ vocal group. She has run the school’s lunch club and been instrumental in seeking out and securing funding to support a range of health and welfare initiatives within the school for students. Miss Ferguson has also been instrumental in the day to day follow-up of students’ health and welfare issues, and has worked very closely with all the medical providers in the town and further afield, including Mental Health. Ms Ree Nicholson, English History teacher, began her teaching career at BHS three years ago and has been an active and dynamic member of staff, willing to take risks in the classroom to make lessons interesting and engaging for her students. She has also made a strong contribution to the school’s welfare system as both a School Representative Council Supervisor and a Year Adviser. It was Ms Nicholson who had the foresight to enter the school in the SBS School Take your Own Selfie Competition, which saw BHS as one of the four winners Australia wide. This then provided twenty of our students and two teachers with the opportunity to participate in a full day workshop with a professional photographer as well as a second photographer making a photographic record of a day in the life of BHS. These images then became part of a photographic exhibition at the Australian Centre for Photography in Sydney and were also shown on an SBS website. Miss Nicholson is transferring to Yass High School. Mr Chris Ferrarin, Mathematics teacher, was appointed to commence his teaching at BHS at the start of 2013. As a new teacher he has worked very hard to adjust his teaching to create effective teaching and learning experiences for his students. His classroom is a positive and productive learning environment as he always does his best to implement engaging teaching programs. He is transferring to Cherrybrook Technology High School where he will be going from a faculty at BHS with one Head Teacher and two mathematics teachers to a school with two mathematics head teachers and twenty two mathematics teachers! Mr Robert Dickison, Social Science teacher, has been employed as a Temporary Relief Scheme teacher and that position will not be available for him next year. He is a most capable and well liked teacher who adjusts his teaching to meet students’ individual needs and cultural characteristics, and his classroom is a place where all students are encouraged to participate. Next year he will work in the capacity as a School Learning Support Officer and will take over and run the school’s QuickSmart numeracy program with the transfer of Mr McKay.

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Another major change for the school will be the move of our capable and engaging Director of the Clontarf Academy, Mr Michael Watton. Mr Watton has worked with us over the last two years and most certainly placed his sensibility and character on the Academy and boys regarding fairness and responsibility, teamwork, love for sport and learning, and above all planning for a future pathway. He modelled respect at all times and his friendly and congenial nature will stand him in great stead when he takes up his new position next term as the Director at the Clontarf Academy at Inverell High School. Mr Watton is being replaced by Bourke local Mr Dane Parnaby who is looking forward to his new role in 2016. Lastly farewell to two very organised, experienced and competent School Learning Support Officers (SLSOs) who have been brilliant in terms of the classroom assistance provided to both students and staff alike: Ms Libby Bramble and Mr James Brien. Libby and James possessed the requisite knowledge and skills to assist in differentiating learning to meet specific students’ needs, while creating a good rapport with the students they were working with. They developed a good understanding of individual learning needs, including personalities, and were able to help tailor appropriate help and feedback accordingly. Ms Bramble is moving back to Newcastle and because of her love for working in learning with students intends to pursue qualifications in the educational field. Mr Brien has been accepted at the Australian National University on a full scholarship to complete his Doctor of Philosophy Studies focusing on New Guinea for the period of World War II.

Briefly

Thank you to the many students, parents/carers who attended the school’s very successful Presentation Night last Thursday, as well as our special guests: Mayor Andrew Lewis, Mrs Sharon Knight (President BHS P & C) and Ms Kyllie Pennell (Principal BPS). There was very good attendance by our many award winners who were recognised for their excellence and participation. Some of those who could not be there were our students on the Japan excursion, but under the circumstances they would not regret being unable to attend. The evening ran like clockwork thanks to the organisation of Mrs McCorkle, Ms Smith and Ms Hull. The girls’ choral and dance groups performed beautifully, and most people were impressed by the school’s digital media presentations about each year group, the SBS ‘selfie’ visit and the brilliant Oxley House musical clip to encourage respect in the school. Congratulations also to the many students who attended the rewards night at the Bourke War Memorial Pool last Wednesday, as well as the teachers who were there to support. The night was organised by Mr Ryder, DP, and was a new innovation which seemed to be greatly appreciated by the students who enjoyed the large slip and slide obstacle course which was blown-up and anchored in the shallow area of the pool, followed by a sausage sizzle. Thanks to the staff at the pool for their help on the night.

End of Year

Thank you to the many wonderful and professional BHS staff for their commitment and hard work over the last twelve months as we are making some very positive changes in our students’ lives which will lead them to brighter and more gratifying futures. Thank you also to the Bourke High School community for your participation with and support of the school this year. On a personal note I would like to thank my wife Lee for all of her support and help as we both look forward to next year and continuing our wonderful adventure as part of the Bourke community. Next year we will be working harder on maximising student attendance with a focus on Ready To Learn. This means to turn up every day on time, after a good night’s sleep, with a school bag, books, pens and pencils; and a frame of mind to work and try hard to get the best out of school.

The last day of term for students is Wednesday 16 December, with students in Years 7, 11 and 12 returning next year on Thursday 4 February, with everyone attending on the next day, Friday 5 February. Best wishes for a safe and happy Xmas and New Year.

Rob Bourke– Executive Principal
PRESENTATION NIGHT
THURSDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2015
MAJOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

DUX of YEAR 7: Samantha Milgate
DUX of YEAR 8: Molly Harris
DUX of YEAR 9: Jack Cunningham
DUX of YEAR 10: Anthony Heinemeyer
DUX of YEAR 11: Matthew Knight

SPORTSMAN of the Year
Cody Simmons

SPORTSWOMAN of the Year
Samantha O’Shannessy

NSW Premier’s Sporting Challenge Medal
Raymond Simmons

ABORIGINAL Education Team Award
Anthony Heinemeyer

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL AWARDS
These awards are presented by the SRC to students who uphold the values of Bourke High School and actively participate in all areas of school life.

STAGE 4 Charli Ibbottson
STAGE 5 Anna Brown
STAGE 6 Samantha O’Shannessy

PARENTS and CITIZENS Award
Awarded to a student who exemplifies the ideals expected by the school community.
Adrienne Hayman

CITIZENSHIP Awards
Awarded to students who have made life at BHS all the better because of their participation and contributions.

JUNIOR Citizenship Award
Lekeisha Orcher

SENIOR Citizenship Award
Teneka Fitzgerald
PRESENTATION NIGHT
THURSDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2015
MAJOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE ACADEMY LONG TAN LEADERSHIP & TEAMWORK AWARDS
Awarded to students who display outstanding leadership and teamwork qualities within our school and the broader community.
Douglas Anderson and Anthony Heinemeyer

RURAL FINANCIAL COUNSELLING SERVICE NSW BOURKE AWARDS
Awarded to students who have demonstrated consistent interest and application in their Agricultural studies.
Reuben Barker and Emma Cunningham

THE YEAR OF THE OUTBACK AWARD
Awarded to a Year 11 student who sets an excellent example in all areas of school life and is continuing on to their HSC studies. This recipient is recommended by Year 12 – 2015 and the Executive.
Matthew Knight

BOURKE HIGH SCHOOL TERTIARY AWARD
This is awarded to assist our students with the transition from school to study at university level. It recognises their constant application to their studies in preparation for tertiary studies. This recipients are chosen by the BHS Staff based on their conscientious and diligent work ethic.
Douglas Anderson and Kaitlyn Mathews

PRINCIPAL’S AWARD
Awarded to a student who has demonstrated consistent effort and a commitment to their schooling.
Kahlia Johnston

DUXX OF BOURKE HIGH SCHOOL 2015
Awarded to a student who exemplifies the ideals expected by the school community.
Kaitlyn Mathews
Japan, 2015
Thanks to a grant from Going Viral NSW the school has been able to work with Community Health to complete a series of artworks that tackle the controversial issue of drug use and disposal of syringes. The artworks were completed by Mr David Pickard and the students that attend the Yarra Pai program.

Many Thanks to Mr Pickard for his commitment to the project and for his incredible artistic skill. Also thanks to Pat Canty, Karin Regan and Mark Hollman for their assistance and support of this project.

Matt Miekle and Mary-Kate Ferguson.
Enjoy a family night out in Bourke and find those last minute Christmas presents.

Wednesday 16 December

5pm-8pm

Join us for our annual Christmas night markets with live music, food, jumping castle, kids activities and many local stalls.

SHOP LOCAL - EAT - SOCIALISE - PHOTOS WITH SANTA

For more information contact Berdine Warne at Little Birdy, 15c Mitchell Street, (02) 6872 4242.
DO YOU NEED HELP TO GET YOUR LICENCE?

Do you live in the Bourke area?
Are you looking to get your Learner’s Licence?
Need help with your log book hours?
Need help preparing for the Driving Test?

The Maranguka Driver Licence Initiative is here to help you!
If you need help to get your Learners or Provisional Licence
If you need help with State Debt issues
or are having trouble getting access to a car and a licenced driver
Peter Mackay can help you.

If you would like more information contact
Peter on 0438900326 or 02 5834 7916
Or call into Maranguka Community Hub
41b Mitchell St Bourke
Email: marangukadl@gmail.com
The Jandra is available for purchase at the front office. It is $15.00 a copy. Don’t miss this special edition of the school magazine celebrating 50 Years of Bourke High School!

Wishing all members of the community a Merry Christmas and a safe and enjoyable holiday!
If you have moved or changed your phone number please call the office and let us know.

If your child has medical information that is important to his/her health please call us so we can update your file. This includes information on allergies and medication.

If your child will be absent due to illness or family circumstances please call the office and let us know.

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Have your details changed?

School newsletters are online

Free iPhone and iPod Touch App for school newsletters
http://ios.schoolenews.com.au

Any problems email the school bourke-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Maximise your business and reach local families at a reasonable price!
You can advertise in the school newsletter.
Please contact Bourke High School for further details!