BIRRONG BULLETIN

The Newsletter of Birrong Girls High School

Cooper Road, Birrong 2143 Telephone: 9644 5057

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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

It has been a busy Term 3 with our students continuing to demonstrate enthusiasm and a commitment to learning in many of the opportunities offered throughout the term.

A recent highlight was our Education Week celebrations, which provided a wonderful opportunity to celebrate learning, creativity and the many talents within our school community. Students enthusiastically participated in a range of engaging activities, including poetry, spelling bees, cake decorating, geography trivia, Japanese calligraphy, and still life drawings..

The highlight for many was undoubtedly the Teacher versus Student Basketball game. The match generated plenty of excitement and school spirit, with students and staff showing great sportsmanship. Events such as these remind us that education is about much more than what happens in the classroom; it is also about building relationships, creating memories and developing a strong sense of belonging. The theme for 2026 Education Week was Inspiring Excellence and this was very evident throughout the school over the fortnight

These are the winning cakes form the cake decorating competition. (I was lucky enough to taste them also, as you can see.)

Some important reminders.

Overseas travel or holidays:

We strongly encourage holidays to be planned during school breaks. Unless exceptional circumstances, the leave will not be approved and appears as unjustified on attendance records. Students who miss weeks or months of learning are significantly disadvantaged in their academic growth and can find it difficult to transition smoothly back to school routine. The school may request work to be submitted for the student to progress to the next year, or there is a possibility of repeating.

Online behaviour outside of school

We encourage parents to continually monitor their daughter's behaviour online. Anything that is threatening or concerning can be referred to the police. If a student is unhappy with any messages, the best step to take is block and ignore, rather than engage in the conversation. Here is a great resource to look at. https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents

Homework

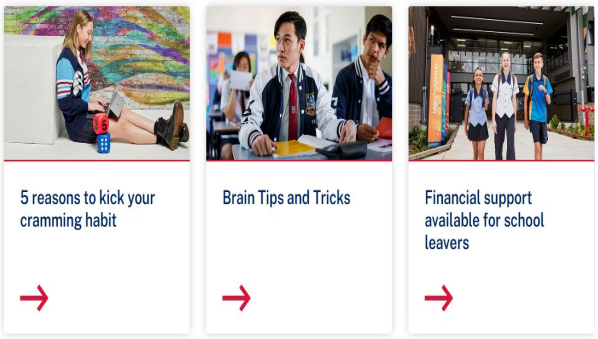
Each day, students will be allocated specific homework in some (or all) of their subjects. Homework may include a continuation of classwork, a draft piece of writing, study notes, working on an assignment, or online activities such as Maths Online. Twenty minutes of reading is also highly recommended. If your daughter suggests she doesn't have homework, she can access Maths Online or read to you. These habits are critical to success at school.

Ms Natalie Hale, Principal

REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

Welcome to Term 3 2026, one of the busiest terms for all students across the school!

Year 12 students are working exceptionally hard as they complete their Trial HSC Examinations. This is the last term of course work for students before they embrace their HSC Examinations in Term 4. All students will need to work hard and knuckle down into strong home study habits to assist their examination preparation. Take your teachers' advice and don't let obstacles get in the way of your success. Make sure you take advantage of the Homework Centre and any HSC clinics made available to you for each of your subjects. Students should also have a look at the NSW Department of Education's Stay Healthy HSC website which contains fantastic resources and strategies for study techniques, exam tips and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. https://education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/students/stay-healthy-hsc



Year 11 students are also engaging in the last term of their preliminary studies before they commence their HSC course of study in Term 4. Year 11 will also be involved in the nomination and selection of the 2026-2027 prefect body in the second half of this term. This process is about selecting students who represent and uphold of the ideals of Birrong Girls High School in all areas of life. Prefects who are selected are role models and ambassadors for our school community and the process is taken very seriously. Year 11 students also face their final examinations starting in Week 7. The tips provided above on the Stay Healthy HSC website are equally recommended for Year 11 students.

Misk Hassan represented Birrong Girls High School at the State Final of the English Public Speaking Competition. She presented an 8 minute prepared speech and a 3 minute impromptu. Misk was named runner up in a highly competitive group of 6 finalists from around NSW across all education sectors. Congratulations Misk and Ms Wright.

Year 10 students have engaged in the Year 10 subject selection program, including a Subject Market, a student and parent/carer information session and targeted interviews with our Executive teachers. The aim of the subject selection process is to introduce information about the range of courses that students can select for Year 11 and continue into Year 12 from 2027 to 2028. Students will gain valuable insights into the rigour required for all courses before having to make their ultimate selections. The subject selection information session focused on the Year 10 subject selection process regarding appropriate course selections, Year 11 and HSC requirements and ATAR information to assist in the overall selection of 2027 courses. Thank you to the many parents/carers who participated in these important sessions. If students or parents/carers have any concerns with subject selections, please contact the school and speak to the relevant Head Teacher, Ms Boyle, or Ms Hale.

Year 9 students are enjoying participating in a range of extracurricular activities! Congratulations to our Year 9 /10 debating team who have been out and about persuading adjudicators with well thought out arguments and representing the school with pride! Our spoken word competition for Year 9 required our students to compose and perform their own piece of poetry about any aspect of their life experiences and our class winners competed during Education Week in the final.

Year 8 students have done the first round of selection of their Year 9 2027 elective subjects. All Year 8 students have been issued with a course booklet outlining individual course information before they must narrow their selections down to the two most appropriate courses for them to study throughout 2026-2027. Thank you to the parents who attended the Subject Selection Meeting Monday 10 August.

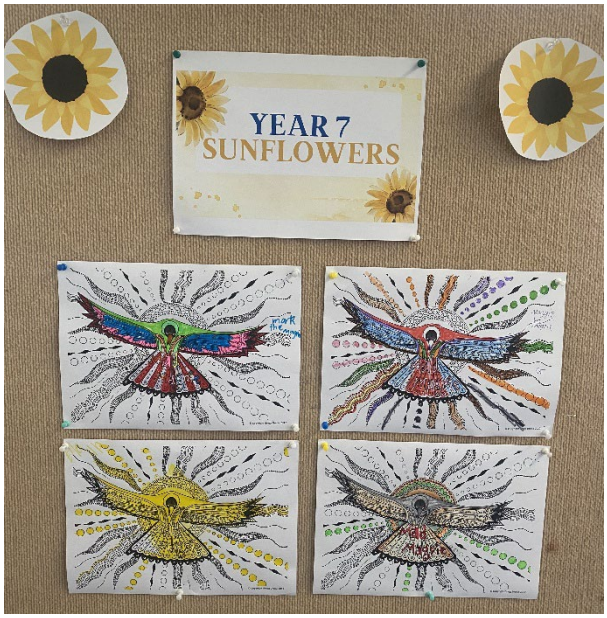
Year 7 engaged in a STEAM project last term as part of Project 21, which emphasises the development of the 21st century skills such as communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics – and at Birrong this means students working together to solve a problem. The project involved students working in teams to create a rollercoaster which incorporates the elements of each subject, as well as those 21st century skills!

We encourage students to attend the Homework Centre on site every Tuesday to Thursday from 2.50pm – 4.45pm. Please contact the office for specific details.

Ms Andrews, Ms George and Ms Boyle
Deputy Principals

LIBRARY REPORT

Term 3 is shaping up to be another vibrant and busy time in the Library. We began the term by celebrating NAIDOC Week with vibrant displays in the Library showcasing a range of resources that highlight First Nations culture, history, and achievements. During the Sunflowers (7K) Library lesson we read the book *Mad Magpie* by Gregg Dreise who is a proud descendant of the Goomelroi/Kamilaroi and Euahlayi people of south-west Queensland and north-west New South Wales. The themes of *Mad Magpie* make it a valuable book for promoting resilience, understanding, and respect for self and others, alongside learning about First Nations culture. Students displayed some of their work from this lesson on their class noticeboard.



The Library continues to be an environment that celebrates creativity and community. As a highlight at the end of last term, we hosted lunchtime card making on Wednesdays during Weeks 10 and 11. Students thoroughly enjoyed expressing their creativity and crafted a range of beautifully decorated cards that showcased their unique styles and thoughtful messages. The activity was also a wonderful opportunity for students to relax and connect with peers.

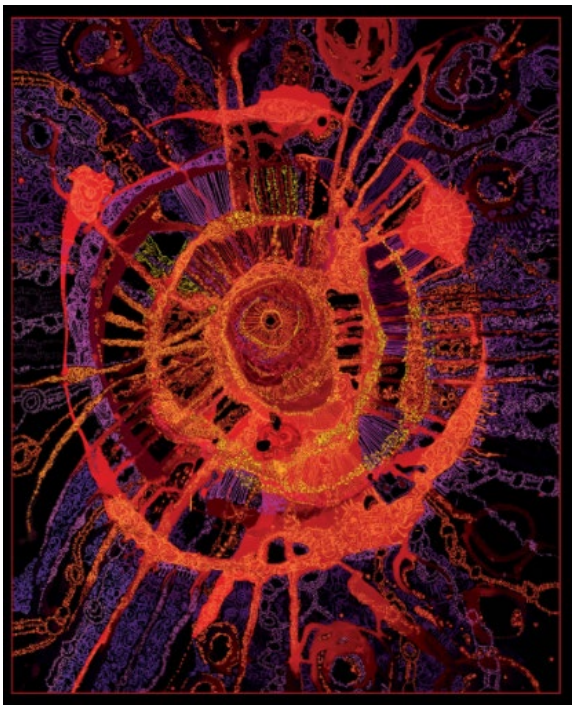
We have recently launched our inaugural Library Book Club, open to all students and aimed at fostering a love of reading, critical thinking, and lively discussion. Students received a copy of the selected novel to read, then came together in a group meeting to share their thoughts and ideas about the book. The first title chosen for our Book Club was *Seven Days* by award-winning Australian author Fleur Ferris. Students found this book to be engaging and thought-provoking, with its compelling characters and gripping storyline sparking meaningful discussions and diverse perspectives within the group.

The Premier's Reading Challenge is well underway and continues to inspire students to explore new books and expand their love of reading. The Challenge will conclude on Friday 18 September, so participants are encouraged to keep logging their reading progress regularly.

Students are reminded of the valuable resources and services offered by their local Libraries. Several Canterbury Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centres provide access to professional tutors who offer FREE homework and assignment support for students in Years 2-10 throughout the school term. For example, Bankstown Library hosts tutoring sessions every Tuesday from 4:00pm to 7:00pm. Additionally, all libraries feature study desks and many have dedicated spaces or rooms available for group work. They also provide computers with internet access and free Wi-Fi for public use. For more details, please visit the following website. https://www.cbcity.nsw.gov.au/library-and-knowledge-centres/discover-technology-services/programs-everyone/students-and-study.

Mrs Linquist
Teacher Librarian

NAIDOC WEEK 2026



NAIDOC stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. NAIDOC Week is a time where we, as a nation, acknowledge First Nations' history, culture and achievements.

It is held annually in July and this year it was held from 5-12 July. NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for all Australians to come together and celebrate.

The theme for 2026 is fifty years deadly. It's a tribute to the people who built this movement, the Elders who stood firm, the organisers who made space, the artists who turned resistance into expression, and the communities who keep showing up, year after year.

It's also about the here and now, who we are today. Grounded in culture. Strong in our identity. Leading change across every field, from health and education to media, business, and the arts. We're telling our own stories, in our own way, on our own terms.

And it's about the future. The next 50 years. The young ones growing up proud. The return of language. The return to Country. The fight for justice continuing with new tools, new voices, and the same fire.

Birrong Girls celebrated NAIDOC Week in Week 1 this term. Chloe S in Year 9 presented at assembly to educate our community about the importance of celebrating our indigenous heritage. Amirah E in Year 9 ran a lunchtime session, leading Indigenous games, including Emu and Gorri. She educated players on the history of the games and then fun was had to play these games.

We look forward to continuing to celebrate our First Nations students and their culture.

Ms Boyle
Deputy Principal

CAREERS NEWS

Year 9
Western Sydney University hosted their Year 9 Fast Forward orientation evening on 29 July. We welcomed all the new students, parents and guardians to the program. The next Fast Forward program will be held on 1 September at the Bankstown campus.

Congratulations to our representatives: Aisha, Lana, Sarah, Houda, Lana, Tabarik, Aysha, Hailey, Hope, Zahra, Sokaina, Mia, Sarah, Georgia, Ayah, Skaia, Tahreem, Hamnah, Yousra, Hannah, Zainab, Katie and Lien.

Year 10
Throughout Term 2, Year 10 were engaging in the subject selection process. They attended careers lessons throughout the term. During the holidays, students were provided with online subject information videos, focusing on providing information about all the subjects students can select to study from in Years 11 and 12.

Upon the return from the school holidays, Year 10 were privileged to attend the Subject Market sessions. Staff across the KLAs presented vital information to all Year 10 about the subjects that will be offered.

So far throughout this process, students have been engaged, inquisitive and positive, which indicates that they are taking this important process very seriously. We thank the students and their parents/guardians for their interest and participation. I look forward to working with Year 10 as they enter their final years of education and begin pathway planning for their future careers.

Year 11
Year 11 students have begun engaging in university programs such as U@Uni, UNSW Gateway programs and the WSU Fast Forward Program. These are great programs for students to get a head start into the life of a university student. Students engaged with the UTS U@Uni program were involved in a school holiday program and were provided with many real-life experiences on campus. Thank you to the students who shared their experience with us by submitting articles for you to enjoy.

On the Year 11 Google Classroom page, information about opportunities and workshops presented at universities over the break have been advertised. Students should begin attending university days to familiarise themselves with each university.

Year 11 and 12 Life Skills students will be engaging in work experience during the examination period. We are looking forward to hearing about their amazing experiences.

Year 12
Year 12 have hit the ground running in Term 3. UAC/SRS/EAS, early entry and scholarship applications are all open and students are in the middle of finalising applications. I am regularly seeing students, ensuring they are on track and supported. If parents wish to speak to the Careers Adviser please phone the school to make an appointment.

Other Careers events happening in Term 3 include Year 12 U@Uni students completing their final workshops with UTS, university and TAFE lunch presentations, UAC Q&A sessions with the Careers Advisers and a variety of online webinar/workshops that students can attend and join. All information is advertised on the Year 12 Careers Google Classroom. Students are reminded to check this regularly.

Late last term, selected Year 12 students attended Western Sydney University's Fast Forward Conference at the Parramatta South campus. The students have been a part of this university program since Year 10, and this was the final event for them. Students were able to tour the campus, learn more about specific degrees, ask questions to current university students and staff and most importantly, gain an understanding of what university life would be like for them. The students' behaviour was exemplary, and feedback was very positive.

Year 12 students are to complete the DATA form on the Careers Google Classroom page as well as complete their applications for EAS, SRS and Scholarships. It's a busy time with examinations and assessments before the HSC begins. Year 12 are encouraged to see me to discuss any matter in the Careers Office.

Ms Shinas
Careers and Transition Adviser

U@UNI WINTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

My time at UTS was truly wonderful, a week of creating deep new friendships and exploring the beautiful energy of the city that surrounds it. The university itself is unforgettable, it's a creation of modern architecture, with its glass buildings that view the city from a high angle. UTS created a strong and inspiring environment for my learning, growth and others. Walking through the campus I was nervous feeling like I didn't have a connection, but the students at UTS helped me guide through the week. Throughout the week during meal breaks UTS offered us a lovely breakfast. We were offered a fantastic spread of choices. I could pick between fluffy pancakes or crispy waffles, both served with fresh berries. Then there was the choice to pick whichever donuts we wanted, and a surprisingly good option of bread with cheese and tomato. I even got to decide if I wanted syrup on my pancakes and waffles, which was a nice touch. It was truly a nice meal break with new options to try every day. The mentors for my faculty communications at UTS were truly wonderful. Each one was so sweet and made sure to visit our table. They took the time to chat with us about what UTS offers. It was great to discuss our choices and future plans with them. Their guidance made the whole experience feel very engaging and supportive. At our faculty throughout the week our topic was on Australia, sharing an experience we'd had in Australia. Everyone in our faculty had a choice of choosing between making a video on this or making a comic, my group discussed that we will choose to create a poster comic. We drew a girl visiting Taronga Zoo, a memory many Australian kids share from primary school. It's a fun way to capture a classic Aussie experience. Creating that comic poster with my table really strengthened the trust and friendship within our group. We each had turns colouring and drawing and talking about our ideas with each other, and that collaborating brought us much closer. Overall, through all these experiences, UTS was a nice and welcoming place.

By: Nour, Year 11

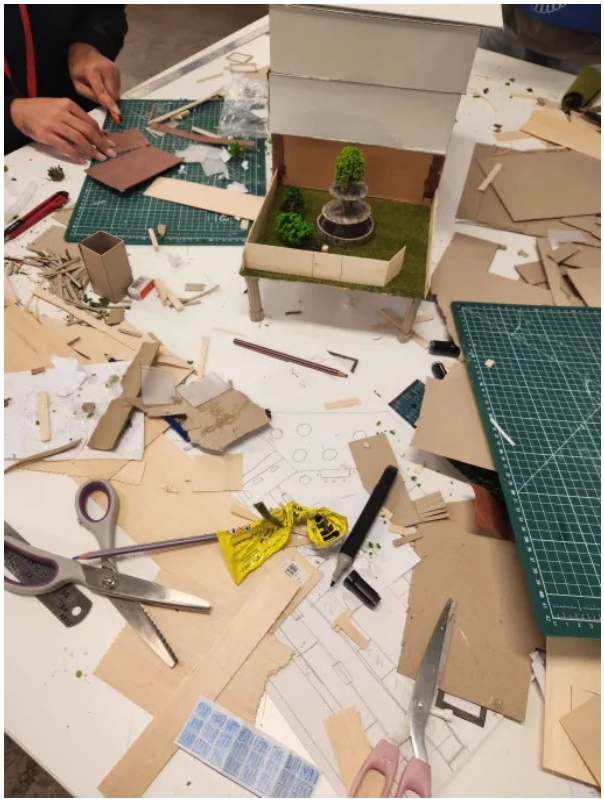
The U@Uni Winter Holiday Program gave me the opportunity to spend a week in the UTS Design Faculty, and it was an incredible eye opening experience. As someone who is naturally introverted and was initially intimidated by the unfamiliar environment, the program helped me gain a better understanding of university life whilst encouraging me to step outside my comfort zone. Throughout the wee I overcame small challenges and found myself initiating conversations and building connections that I never thought I would.

From Monday to Wednesday, I travelled to UTS with 2-3 other students from Birrong Girls High School who were also participating in the

program. Travelling together made the journey less frightening and stressful as we were less likely to get lost or arrive late, while on Thursday and Friday, I travelled independently, catching the same train that arrived at Central Station at 9:00am before walking about 10 minutes to UTS. On the first day, students in the Design Faculty met at Building 6 where we were divided into our chosen fields. Previously during orientation day we had a chance to experience an activity from each of the three fields (architecture, fashion design and product design), then given an opportunity to rank them in order of our preferences. I chose architecture as my first preference and was delighted to be placed in that field. Our architecture group was guided by two lovely mentors, Emi and Bowen, who welcomed and supported us throughout the week. They divided us into smaller groups of four or five and introduced our project for the week. The end goal was to have a finished structure through redesigning one of several buildings which included the UTS Building 6, ABC building, TAFE Ultimo or the Novotel. My group was assigned the Novotel and we developed a concept that focused on vegetation to not only enhance the aesthetics but improve the wellbeing and create a healthier environment within society. We then had to bring our ideas to life by planning, drafting and constructing a physical model using a range of materials, such as cardboard, which was a common use throughout all the groups. One random thing I noticed during the program was the gender distribution across the different design disciplines. There were only four female students, including myself, in architecture, while fashion design was made up entirely of female students. Product design, on the other hand, had only one female student, with the rest being male. As someone who is naturally quiet, I found this made it a little more challenging to start conversations with other females outside of my own group, but it also encouraged me to interact with a wider range of people and become more confident in unfamiliar situations. For recess and lunch, they provided us free food but we were only allowed to be within our design faculties.

Ultimately, I enjoyed the experience and what I've learnt from it. Not only did I make new friends but I surprised myself at how well I was able to work in a group of unfamiliar people and our cooperation together. Some challenges we came across were quite minor, for example, the colours for our build. The mentors ran out of a particular spray paint colour so we collectively decided to use white for the rest and adapted through that. In the end we got into little groups and made something for each of our mentors. My group decided to craft flowers out of pipe cleaners for Emi's little gift as an appreciation for her dedication and effort whilst the other group created something for Bowen. After that, we displayed our work and had the experience of seeing what the other faculties have been doing! Overall, I can say that this program allowed me to develop and build upon my capabilities of critical thinking, creativity, communication, collaboration and innovation. All while experiencing something I may pursue in the future.

By: Liza, Year 11



BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL
PARENTS & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Parents are invited to join the P&C MEETING at the school - Wednesday 19 August 2026, 4pm.
Please register your attendance by phoning the school office or via email.

CALENDAR

The school calendar is available via the Sentral Parent Portal.

AUGUST:

Monday 17 Aug – Friday 28 Aug
- Trial exam period (Year 12)
- Life Skills work experience

Wednesday 19/8/26
- P&C meeting, 4pm

Thursday 20/8/26
- Year 7 Luna Park excursion

Monday 31 Aug – Friday 11 Sept
- Year 11 final exam period

SEPTEMBER:

Tuesday 1/9/26
- UWS Fast Forward excursion
- Year 10 VALID testing

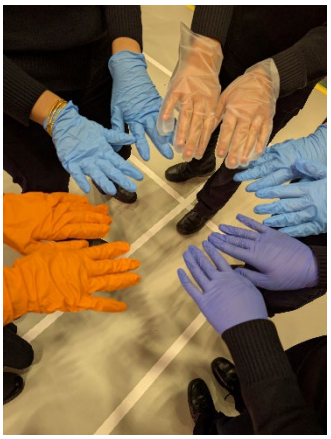
Thursday 3/9/26
- Year 7 Field Day – all students

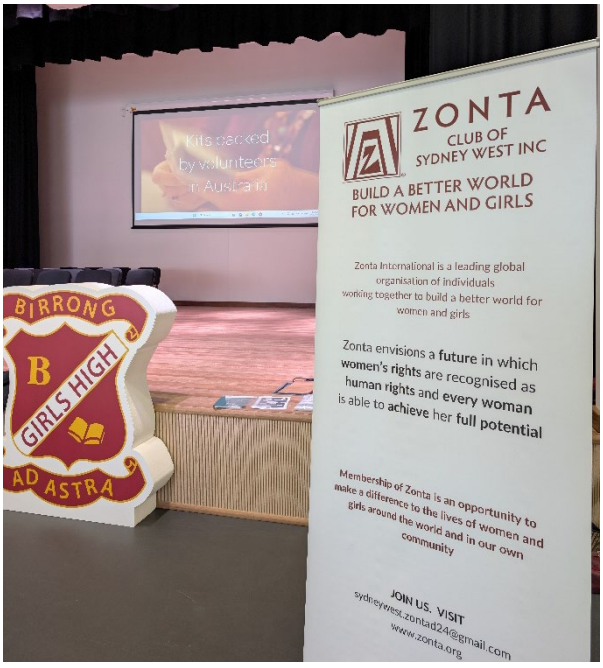
Monday 14/9/26
- Year 9 Science incursion – Tick Tick Boom

Friday 18/9/26
- MULTICULTURAL DAY
  Many cultures connected under the stars

ZONTA BIRTHING KIT ASSEMBLY
Saturday 1 August @Birrong Girls

Thank you to all students, staff and community who gave up a Saturday morning to pack birthing kits to be sent overseas to help women in disadvantaged countries, who do not have access to hospitals or health care when giving birth.





SAVE the DATE

MULTICULTURAL DAY

MANY CULTURES CONNECTED UNDER THE STARS.

Friday 18th September

- Assembly
- Flag ceremony
- Food stalls
- Student performances
- Wear your cultural attire!
- Cultural Activities

DESIGNED BY KATIE & SKYLAR