



# Evans High School

A diverse and innovative school of excellence

## Term 4 2014 Newsletter



### From Bridget Sarris Principal (Relieving)

With the end of the year fast approaching it is time to reflect on all our achievements in 2014.

Many thanks go to the teachers, office staff, parents, businesses and community groups who have worked so hard for the benefit of all our students.

This term, we welcomed Ms Hunter to our school as an additional deputy principal and I know that our school community has given her a warm welcome. In 2014 she is working with students in Years 8, 10 and 12 and she joins Mr Fenech who is working with students in Years 7, 9 and 11. Next year, the deputy principals will follow these same cohorts so as to provide consistency in supporting their learning and

wellbeing needs.

At the end of term 3 we farewelled Year 12. With the HSC behind them, we wish them all the very best in the next stage of their lives and look forward to hearing about their future plans. As Year 12 leave, we are getting ready to welcome our new Year 7 students and families for

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Dates to remember

NOV 26	Aboriginal Cultural Experience Excursion (Years 7-11 Aboriginal students)	DEC 17	Last day of school for students
NOV 28	Snakes Alive Science Incursion	JAN 22	Uniform shop open from 9:00am—2:00pm
DEC 3	IEC Vaccinations	JAN 27	School resumes for staff
DEC 3	Year 7 Orientation Day	JAN 28	School resumes for Years 7, 11 and 12
DEC 3	Presentation Evening	JAN 29	School resumes for Years 8, 9, 10 and IEC
DEC 9	Year 10 Beacon Charter signing and celebration evening		

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2015. I look forward to meeting them all at the Year 7 Orientation Day on 3 December. Year 10 students are busy organising their Year 10 BEACON Celebration where they will make their commitment to further studies or employment, as well as celebrate their junior years of education.

This is always a very exciting time of the year when we recognise student achievement through events such as our CPR Celebration Day, our Presentation Evening and the IEC Leavers Assembly. The 170 students who

completed 8 CPR passports by demonstrating cooperative, polite and responsible behaviour visited Taronga Zoo on 24 November and on the evening of 3 December we will celebrate students' academic, performing, creative, sporting and citizenship achievements at the Presentation Evening. On 12 December, 138 students will graduate from the IEC. Many will join Evans, others will join high schools closer to home. We congratulate all of them on the remarkable progress they have made in their short time with us and wish them well in their future studies.

Reports for Year 11 will be

distributed by the end of week 9 and for Years 7 – 10 by the end of term. We welcome your feedback on the new format we have used this semester and we know that you will enjoy reading about students' progress.

We wish all our families and friends a safe and enjoyable holiday period.

*Ms Bridget Sarris*

## School Uniform Shop

The school uniform shop will be open on 22 January from 9:00am to 2:00pm for students to purchase any uniform items they need. Remember, if you are buying shoes for school, our school community has agreed to all black leather shoes.



**Appropriate footwear is required for all students**



## From Steve Fenech

### Deputy Principal 7, 9 & 11

This year has been a most exciting one on many levels.

I am most fortunate to have been appointed in this position since the beginning of this year and I am thrilled to be part of an innovative, caring and hard-working community that Evans High School is.

As part of the National Partnership for Improving Literacy and Numeracy, one of the many initiatives we are working on is Reading to Learn – a program of teacher professional learning that is designed to enable all learners at all levels of education to read and write successfully, at levels appropriate to their age, grade and area of study. The Reading to Learn strategies have been independently evaluated to consistently accelerate the learning of all students at twice to more than four times expected rates, across all schools and classes, and among students from all backgrounds and ability ranges.

Already twelve teachers across the whole Evans site have been trained in Reading to Learn. These teachers have commenced using Reading to Learn strategies in their own classrooms with immediately outstanding results. Next year will see the implementation of these strategies across every Key Learning Area in the school through the creation of Instructional Leaders on staff who will lead this implementation.

We have also commenced planning the future of Evans High School – more specifically, the next three years. Our new school plan will involve two initial phases – School Community Consultation and then Executive Planning. The School Community Consultation Phase has already begun, with students and teachers having completed online surveys regarding various aspects of learning and life at school. You, as parents and carers, also have an opportunity to provide us with your opinions

regarding the learning of your child here at Evans High School. I invite you to participate in our online survey which you can access through the schools' website and Facebook page. Your opinions are very important to us. Data collected from these completed surveys will inform the School Executive body to write our new school plan, in preparation for implementation in 2015.

These are very exciting times for our entire school community. You will also see in the near future a greater representation of events and achievements from Evans High School in local media. Your children are engaged in many wonderful programs at school and this regular newsletter should publicise them more widely.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

*Mr Steve Fenech*



## From Belinda Hunter

### Deputy Principal 8, 10 & 12

Firstly I would like to thank all of the students for the warm welcome that I have received to the school.

All of the staff and students have been very helpful and supportive over my first weeks here this term and I look forward to all of the exciting opportunities that Evans High School has to offer. It has certainly been a busy term so far, and with so many fantastic events coming up throughout the remainder of the term, it shows no sign of slowing down!

Years 7 and 8 participated in Swim School weeks 6 and 7, and the weather could not have been any better. All of our students will gain valuable skills and experiences from this program to ensure their own safety and that of those around them when in or

near the water.

We are fast approaching the Year 7 2015 Orientation Day, which will be held on Wednesday 3 December 2014, where our prospective students for next year will visit and complete some activities to familiarise themselves with our school. Mrs Mann, Miss Isaacs and Mr Williams have been visiting our local primary schools and ensuring that the transition from primary to high school is a smooth journey, albeit with a few nerves I am sure. I know that all of our students will support our visitors on the day and support them to settle into the high school routine.

Although I have only been at Evans High School for a number of weeks, I am certainly very impressed with the standard of uniform that is displayed by all students, and the positive behaviour that is displayed not only in the classroom and playground, but also in our community. There

are some outstanding young leaders who have showcased their talents through charity BBQs, SRC opportunities, CPR celebrations and also during the recent Remembrance Day Ceremony. All of these achievements continue to send positive messages to our community about what a fantastic and engaging place Evans High School is, and will continue to be into the future.

Thank you for your efforts throughout the year. I am sure that as we approach the Christmas Holiday period, staff and students will reflect on what has been a most productive year here at Evans High School. The planning for 2015 is well under way, and I can assure you that there are many more exciting things heading our way!

*Ms Belinda Hunter*



## From Linda Cheeseman IEC Deputy Principal (Relieving)

2014 was a very successful and busy year. Students had the opportunity to attend excursions, overnight camps, swim schools, sporting activities and performances.

Students also attended programs which were run by our community partners.

This year students attended excursions to: Blacktown TAFE, the Belvoir Theatre, Manly Beach, the Powerhouse Museum, the Riverside Theatre, the RYDA Driver Education Program and City walks. In term 4, two groups of senior students travelled to Bundanoon for three day camps. At the camps students went on a five hour long bushwalk through the National Park, a night bushwalk to the Glow Worm Glen and presented talks to the students of Bundanoon Public School.

There were many victories and personal bests in Athletics, Cross Country, the Inter-IEC Gala Day, and State Knockout events. In all of these events Evans students were always praised for their excellent sportsmanship. Over 160 students also had the opportunity to attend swim schools.

Throughout the year many students were fortunate enough to be involved in programs developed by some of our community partners. Blacktown Youth Services Association (BYSA) ran Links to Learning program for senior students. The program involved team building activities, first aid training and career planning. The boys group wrote, produced and directed their own short film. The girls group formulated and cooked recipes from around the world and produced their own cook book. Football United taught junior students goal setting and team building skills in the Creating Chances program. The Tree House Theatre

worked with students who wrote and performed stories about their own experiences.

During lunchtimes students can be heard having fun in one of the many different activity groups. Musical melodies can be heard from both the cello and the guitar groups. Pop songs accompany choreographed moves in the performance groups and, for the sports minded students, games of table tennis and volleyball are keenly contested.

Finally, on behalf of the staff I would like to congratulate all of our students on their effort and commitment towards their studies, thank our SRC and prefect body for their effort and leadership throughout the year, thank all our community partners for their support and wish the 138 exiting students all the best in their studies at high school and TAFE.

Have a happy and safe holiday.

*Mrs Linda Cheeseman*



## From Sarah Baldwin

### Year 8 Adviser

Semester 2 saw Year 8 select two elective subjects to study in 2015. All students were given the opportunity to read through the courses offered and identify subjects they would like to study. Each student has now been placed into an X and Y elective. These classes can be found outside the CAPA staffroom. All students are excited to enter into their next stage of learning.

*Ms Sarah Baldwin*



## From Leonie Miller

### Year 11 Adviser

This year has been quite a milestone for the Year 11 group.

At the end of term 3 the student prefect body was elected in preparation for their role as school leaders, taking over from the previous Year 12 students. Congratulations must go to our new school leaders. The two new school captains are John Santillana and Alisha Ganda. The two vice-captains elected are Ranu Narayan and Kenneth Ieremia. The prefects are Peter Phillips, Ahmad Ghanem, Klaudia Bakhos and

Tamana Abrehami. Each of these students take pride in their role and will serve our school with honour for the next 12 months. Our Year 11 students enjoyed a school camp to Vision Valley at Arcadia for three days. This enabled the students to participate in many different types of activities including: archery, raft building, high ropes challenge and many others. The experience brought the students closer together and many new friendships were forged in the friendly social atmosphere of the camp site, especially

sitting by a campfire at night. Our students will remember these experiences for the rest of their lives.

The students in the Year 11 Jersey Committee have come together with some great designs for their Year 12 jerseys. Special thanks go to Nick Skondrianos and Isaac Ennis for their innovation in creating specific designs for our students to choose from. The jerseys can be worn as a part of their school uniform next year and they have designed both short and long-sleeved versions for the students to choose from.



Recently the whole Year 11 student body (including the Year 11 IEC students) attended a day out at Olympic Park participating and learning how to be better drivers in the RYDA program. The day turned out to be quite a busy day as we raced from activity to activity but the students not only saw how to calculate braking times over short distances but were introduced to a victim of a motor bicycle crash. They listened to his story as he spoke of the accident and how he has lived and coped since the incident. It was a very moving experience for the students.



Now the students are preparing themselves for the final year ahead. This is a very important time for the year group as they have assessment tasks to complete and examinations to study for. They are organising their formal venue in preparation for next year and the consequent fund-raising to help support the costs. I wish them all the best for the coming year and may they have a safe and enjoyable Christmas holiday break.



*Ms Leonie Miller*



# IEC Snapshots



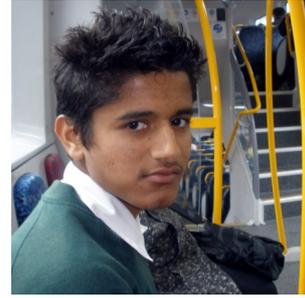
**City Walk**



**IEC guitar group rehearsing at lunch**



**IEC Senior Drama class**



**Amou, Akuch and Budha at the Fire Excursion**



**IEC swim school**



**IEC go on a bush walk in the Blue Mountains**



**Football United students go to Moore Park Stadium to watch SFC play. Students were given the opportunity to walk across the field with a country's flag in celebration of Harmony Day.**



**IEC drama performance at Leavers Assembly**



**IEC leaders and members of the IEC SRC**

# AIME Excursions

Throughout the year Miss Petschy and I took our Aboriginal students to Sydney University to participate in the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME). The students involved were Brooke Mckenzie, Alexander Heal from Year 10, Grace Barlow, Jason-Corcoran Roberts, Maison and Jordan Sturgeon from Year 9, Ethan Walker, Jordan Taylor and Blake Forrester from Year 11.

These days included a number of educational sessions that emphasised goal setting, future career perspectives and the importance of their cultural heritage and identity. They also were able to meet a number of famous Indigenous role models from sporting, educational and community backgrounds. Our Indigenous students from Evans High School value the AIME program and enjoy interacting with other Indigenous students from Western Sydney and being exposed to role models that encourage education as the key to success.

*Ms Mel Silva*



## Year 9 Girls Group



The Year 9 Girls Group kicked off in term 3 this year. The 18 girls selected to participate were essentially 'guineapigs' as this is the first time a program like this was run in a few years. The group is designed to help girls to develop skills in acceptance, positive communication, empathy, tolerance and confidence. This term, a new group of Year 9 girls are taking part in the program with a final celebration taking place at Hoyts Cinemas in week 11.

*Mrs Amanda Shannon and Ms Laura Anderson*



## Senior Boys Leadership Group

On Friday October 31, a group of our Year 10 boys ran a charity BBQ to raise money for Men's Health awareness. The boys ran the event in an organised and professional manner, enabling them to sell all of their



products and raise the maximum amount of money for their chosen charities.

In the end, they raised \$252.50 to be donated to the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia and the Black Dog Institute for research into mental health.

Congratulations to Yosha Ali, Eli Aslanidis, Luke Ross, Luke Spiteri, Nick Perez, Bryan Zeledon, Nathan Higson, Robert Brown, Adam Kassem and Maaz Goda for running such a successful event. Thanks also to Mr Aguiar, Mr Murphy and Joe Tau for assisting the boys on the day.

*Mr Dave Merrick (Head Teacher, HSIE)*



# Year 9 English

Year 9 have had a fun-filled year in English.

We read *A Monster Calls* in term 1 before looking at 'the Adolescent Journey' in term 2. But one of the best topics studied this year was Macbeth. Students had to compose their first essay under exam conditions which was no mean feat, but students took on the task with a determination that left our teachers in a state of shock and awe! This was combined with the opportunity to see Macbeth performed live by Bell Shakespeare Theatre Company at the Sydney Opera House. A lot of fun was had by students and teachers alike, as evidenced by the photos!

This term Year 9 are looking at the short films entered into the Tropfest Festival. Don't forget that Tropfest is on Sunday, December 7 at Centennial Park and is free to attend! We hope that Year 9 will enter 2015 with the same energy and passion seen in 2014!

Thank you for your ongoing support.

*English Faculty*



**Year 9 English on excursion to see Macbeth performed live by Bell Shakespeare Theatre Company at the Sydney Opera House.**

# HSIE



**Guest speaker Ms Lucia Uen, Assistant Director of JP Morgan talks to Year 9 Commerce students**

The HSIE ( Human Society and its Environment ) faculty has been very busy over the last few months, organising and running excursions, workshops and engaging learning opportunities for our wonderful students.

## Year 9 Commerce

In week 3 this term, the Year 9 Commerce class had the opportunity to participate in the Collaborative Classroom with the BEACON Foundation business partnership. The guest speaker was Ms Lucia Uen, Assistant Director, J P Morgan. Students learnt about social, financial and legal importance of superannuation. It was incredibly rewarding to partner with the BEACON Foundation to bring 'real business' to the classroom and we look forward to being involved in further Collaborative Classroom

projects.

## Year 11 Work Studies

The Year 11 Work Studies class are participating in an eight week 'Job Ready' workshop every Tuesday at Blacktown TAFE. The students are given the opportunity to interact with industry professionals offering tuition in resume writing, interview conduct and employment strategies.

This class also attended an Interview Skills

Workshop on Thursday November 6 at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC), Darling Park in Sydney. This was a one-off facilitated session in which students and corporate mentors engaged in interactive activities designed to build confidence, raise awareness of communication through body language and prepare students for job interviews.



## Year 11 Society and Culture

On Friday November 7, Year 12 Society and Culture students attended a live stream of the 2015 Year 12 Society and Culture Personal Interest Project Information Day. Run by The Society and Culture Association of NSW, the day was designed to give Evans High School students all the information that they require in order to complete their Personal Interest Projects to an outstanding standard. Students completed activities and were engaged in group discussions to get the most out of their HSC Society and Culture course. This is the first time that Evans has run an activity of this nature and the students and staff are excited that these opportunities are being made available for current and future classes. Thanks to Mr Murphy for coordinating this experience for our students.

## Year 10 Geography

On November 7 and 11, our Year 10 Geography classes attended Penrith Lakes Environmental Educational Centre. Students completed a working action plan for the Year 10 Geography 'Field Work' assessment task. Penrith Lakes allowed them to investigate the geographical issue of Land and Water Management and how it affects the Australian environment. Thanks to Ms Miller, Ms Celeban and Ms Tryhuba for offering this opportunity to our students.

*HSIE Faculty*



## Com4unity Cup

Evans High School participated in the Com4unity Cup Soccer Gala Day on Friday September 12.

Com4unity Cup is organised by Blacktown Police with the support of other Com4unity members and will involve students from high schools within the Blacktown Local Government Area.

The aim of Com4unity is to develop a pathway for young people to become meaningful participants in their community by providing a range of activities and links to local service providers and support mechanisms.

The team consisted of Teymour Shafaei, Ahmad Dawod, Jacob Taw, Chris Hanley, Arop Alor, Elie Aslanidis, Yoshal Ali, Ebony Costantini, Anne-Marie Wason and Peter Phillips

The team showed great sportsmanship and excellent skill on the day, which led to them achieving runners up.

Congratulations on such a great achievement.

*Miss Petschy (Coach)*



## Years 7 & 8 Swim School

During term 4 in weeks 6 and 7, Years 7 and 8 had the opportunity to attend the annual Swim School program.

The aim of the program is to assist students in developing water confidence and safety knowledge, as well as improving their survival skills and swimming technique. Students participated in various activities throughout the program to improve and demonstrate their ability to swim extended distances, perform complicated entry and exit techniques, as well as demonstrate survival and rescue skills. At the conclusion of the program, students were awarded with a certificate, which represented the Swim and Survive Active Award level they achieved. All students displayed improvement in their swimming ability level and should be proud of their achievements. Students from Years 9 and 10 were selected to attend the swim school as student helpers, who all did an amazing job throughout the two weeks. Year 7 students are already looking forward to returning next year!

*Ms Amanda Minchella*

## Premier's Sporting Challenge

Congratulations to all students who participated in the Premier's Sporting Challenge, which concluded at the end of term 3. Students who participated in this program will have received their certificate,

indicating the award level they achieved. We had many students achieve a Diamond Award, which was the highest award level. Overall, our school achieved a Gold Award for our participation, which is the highest award level we have achieved as a school since beginning the program! Congratulations to all participants!

*Ms Amanda Minchella*

## Captain Cup Gala Day

For the past two years Evans High School students have attended the Captain Cup Rugby League Gala Day held at Hickeys Lane, Penrith. Approximately 50 students from Years 7 to 10 were present with four teams sent over two days.

At this tournament teams competed in a series of nine-a-side Rugby League games against schools from all over the Western Sydney area. Students were great representatives of the school on the day, displaying a positive attitude and a high level of sportsmanship. The Captains Cup has become an annual event for Evans High school with the teams enjoying the interaction with other schools in a fun and competitive environment.

Our highest achievement was one of the Years 9 and 10 teams who placed 4th on the day out of the 24 teams in attendance.

Great work to all involved in this event.

*Ms Sophie Davis*

# Drama



**OnStage with Year 11 and 12 Drama**

It has been an amazing, fast-paced year for Drama.

The tone was set with a trip to OnStage (on a Saturday!) at the Seymour Centre to see the top performing HSC Drama students from 2013. Belvoir St Theatre also gave our students the opportunity to see some of their 2014 Season plays for free, through the Priority Schools Program and through the Theatre Enrichment Program. Year 11 Drama, IEC Drama students and Year 11 Advanced English students saw *Once in Royal David's City* and *The Glass Menagerie*. Belvoir also came to Evans and ran a pre-show workshop for *Once in Royal David's City* which really prepared them for the staging and the content in the play.



**Belvoir St Theatre, *Once in Royal David's City*.**

Year 11 and Year 12 Drama also went to Riverside Theatre to see *Parramatta Girls* and *the Laramie Project*, the verbatim plays set for study in the 2014 HSC. After copious amounts of eye-opening theatrical experiences, the Drama students then got busy preparing their Group Performances and Individual Projects for Showcase, held in term 3 and three of our Year 12 students were successful in auditioning for iPOP, a performer management company from the US.



**Year 11 Drama and Advanced English, *The Glass Menagerie* at Belvoir St Theatre. Laurent Antonio, Shanna Conroy, Taylah Westall, Lauren Jansson, Alisha Ganda, Richelle Bautista, Melissa Marotta, Klaudia Bakhos.**



**Farewell to Year 12 Drama: Scott Helliwell, Esther Nhurudza, Dana Djaja, Jordan Kalkanas, Natalie Gorton, Naomi Bertolotti, Isabella Phillips.**

We have since said farewell to Year 12 Drama.

One can only describe this class as a group of fun, energetic, talented individuals who will be missed! Drama is a fun, time consuming, rewarding course that gets the best (and sometimes the worst) out of each individual. Already, Drama is shaping up to be a fun course in 2015 with a new group of Year 11 students set to join the ranks!

*Mrs Shannon*

# Dance

Evans Dance Ensemble travelled to Castle Hill High School to compete at the Curtain Call Song and Dance Festival.

The students from Years 7-10 performed *Let's Get Ridiculous* and *Say Something*. In a very competitive section, the ensemble placed third for *Let's Get Ridiculous*. It was a massive effort by all students involved.

At the beginning of term 4 students in the 7/8 sport dance group, 9/10 sport dance

group, Year 9 dance elective class and the dance ensemble performed at McHappy Day on the 18 October at Arndell Park McDonalds. The students performed in three routines, *Let's Get Ridiculous*, *Young and Beautiful* and *Shake Your Tail Feather*. The students represented the school in an outstanding manner.

## HSC Dance

Senior showcase provided the final opportunity for Year 12 dance students to reflect on their performances for their HSC practical examinations. Students study three core components of performance,

composition and appreciation and each student had the opportunity to select and study one aspect of the course as a major study. This year saw students perform a core performance dance, create a core composition work and a major study performance and two major study compositions. Each student presented a high standard of technique and performance quality in their performances and we wished them well for their HSC.

*Ms Sarah Baldwin*



Evans dance students perform at McHappy Day at Arndell Park



## Music & Visual Arts

Evans students demonstrated great interest, dedication and skill in CAPA extra curricular activities this semester.

We saw the creation and development of both the *Guitar Ensemble* (coordinated by Miss Zdravec) and the *Combined Vocal Ensemble* (High School, IEC and Walters Rd PS) directed by Mr Williams. The Guitar Ensemble was a great success, with students from Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 showing their talents and dedication. It was a great opportunity for budding guitarists across all skill levels to get together and jam once a week. We are aiming to reopen this opportunity in 2015, alongside the new Evans



High School band, where auditions will be held in term 1 for lead singers, backing singers, lead guitarists, rhythm guitarists, drummers, percussionists, pianists and bassists.

Congratulations to our Year 12 Visual Arts students on the quality of their HSC Bodies of Work. They have taken many months to design, create and refine and looked amazing when exhibited for the HSC Markers this term.

We look forward to seeing CAPA students continue to create, imagine and excel in 2015!

*Mr Kyle Williams (Head Teacher, CAPA)*

## BEACON Celebration Function



**Evans HS students at BEACON Breakfast with Sydney Business Park Developer, Owen Walsh (far left)**

We are very excited at Evans about the BEACON celebration function.

On December 9, Year 10 students will sign a charter to commit to achieving a positive pathway through further education, training or employment. The BEACON foundation facilitates business links from Western Sydney which collaborate with schools in the Blacktown area and support our students in different types of training.

I am very proud of my Year 10 group for their tireless effort and dedication in fund-raising for this inaugural function. We look forward to a fun night for the students and the staff of Evans High School. Dinner and other fun items have been arranged for everyone. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank all the parents and teachers for their wonderful support.

*Mr Saheeb Khan (Year 10 Adviser)*

# Our school

We are an innovative school community supporting confidence and commitment in pursuing student dreams. Our school develops leadership, builds individual character and promotes social responsibility and respect within a safe caring environment.



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## Intensive English Centre

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