PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Dear Parents, Staff and Students

Presentation Day - Our Annual Presentation Day in the School Hall will take place at 10.00 am on Friday 11 December 2015. Parents, family and friends are warmly invited to this occasion where the Mackellar community is able to showcase its many areas of excellence and acknowledge student achievement.

Staff changes for 2016 - Ms Jacky Penfold, Head Teacher Administration is retiring after being at Mackellar for 19 years, 9 as a teacher and the last 10 as Head Teacher. Ms Penfold has been unwavering in wanting the best for our students and delivering quality teaching. The highly functional organisation of the bedrocks of the school is the result of Ms Penfold’s skills and knowledge, her notable commonsense and her ability to have everything running efficiently without fuss. Ms Penfold has ensured that things run smoothly – casual teacher employment, all staff leave, the timetable, playground and examination organisation and supervision, student entries for BOSTES and Presentation Day award winners.

Ms Carol Hourigan, Head Teacher Social Science, is taking leave at the end of the year to head into retirement, after being at Mackellar for 20 years – the first 10 as Head Teacher Administration and the last 10 as Head Teacher Social Science. In 20 years much has been contributed to the school and its students. Ms Hourigan has led her faculty with a sense of calmness and has always been collaborative and strongly supportive of her staff. She has shown consistent care for her students and fostered the HSC course Society & Culture resulting in it now being a strong subject in the school. Ms Hourigan has shown a long-term commitment to public education in NSW.

On behalf of the school community, I wish them both all the best in retirement, and wish them good health and happiness in the years ahead.

We have been fortunate to have a wonderful group of temporary teachers this year filling the positions of staff on leave. The temporary teachers who will not be with us next year include Kate Burns, Rowena Ek, Matt Hiddlestone, Caroline Horton, Charmaine Leman and Geesje Van De Linde. These teachers have been an integral part of our teaching and learning and I am grateful for their contributions.

Staff and Community Recognition Awards - For the past 12 years, the Northern Beaches Secondary College has acknowledged the fantastic service of school staff. Mackellar Girls recipients for 2015 are Caren Leung, Wendy Mailey, Jenny Paton, Jacky Penfold, Christine Richardson and Steffi Whitehouse, as well as our HSC Presiding Officers Carmel Amos and Susan Van Gils. Our school is indebted to these people and all others who continue to do a fabulous job to support Mackellar to provide the best possible education and school that we can.

Schools Spectacular - It was the 32th anniversary of the Schools Spectacular last week. What a truly fantastic event of amazingly talented students from NSW public schools performing to an audience of 10,000. I was really touched by such talent, such participation of 3600 students, such dedication from teachers to give students this opportunity and such pizzazz!
End of 2014 / Start of 2015
- Teachers return on Wednesday 27 January
- Years 7, 11, 12 and peer support leaders return on Thursday 28 January
- Years 8-10 return on Friday 29 January

All new enrolments in Years 8-12 are to come on Thursday 28 January

I ask parents and students to make sure that the wearing of the correct school continues from Day 1 next year. We expect high standards in the wearing of our uniform.

I want to particularly remind parents to ensure that their daughters wear their uniform at a correct length – short skirts and dresses are not part of our uniform. Skirts and dresses should be just on the knee. It is important for safety reasons that correct shoes are worn – black leather shoes with black laces. Ballet shoes are not uniform as the foot is not protected.

I want to remind parents to ensure that makeup, jewellery and body piercings are not worn and hair is not brightly coloured.

I also want to remind parents of the importance of getting 2015 fees paid so the new year can start with a clean slate for students.

I wish to acknowledge the dedicated and professional job that our teachers do in working with our students to provide the best possible education. Your daughters have been provided with innumerable opportunities and activities to develop further, both in achievements and personally.

Congratulations for high achievement to:

- **Imogen (Y12)** for the selection of her HSC Visual Arts Body of Work for ArtExpress, the exhibition of the best works of the HSC
- **Brianna (Y11)** for her selection in the Australian Schoolgirls Softball team and being in the Australian Champions team at the Pacific School Games
- **Pihuka and Lucy (Y9)** for being in the NSW Touch Football team at the Pacific School Games, and placing 2nd. Pikuka was selected in the 15s Australian All Schools Touch team
- **Sascha (Y8)** for her 4th in the World kneeboard titles, 2nd in the NSW Football Titles, and 3rd in both the NSW Surf Lifesaving Board Riding Titles and Board Relay
- our swimmers who competed in the Pacific School games in the NSW team: Christine (Y11) and Charli (Y7), both winning medals
- **Sophie (Y10)** for her playing in the NSW Soccer Team at the Pacific School Games
- Our students who won Mackellar Girls the NSW Kool Skool NSW Music Award. Individually, **Erin (Y11)** won two categories for Best Female Vocal and was nominated for several others, **Lydia (Y8)** won the Best Indy Rock Track featuring a female vocal and was nominated for several others, **Joy (Y9)** received a special Judges Award for Singer/Songwriter and **Abbey (Y9)** was nominated for Best Mainstream track.
- **Ebony-Ella (Y8)** for her being selected by the Australian Girls Choir to perform in the Hugh Jackman show Broadway to Oz
- **Talia (Y7)** for her selection into the NSW Public Schools Symphonic Wind Orchestra
- **Brianna (Y11)** for her Regional Blue in Softball, **Alyssah (Y12)** in Trampoline Sports and **Brittany (Y12)** for Volleyball
- **Kayleen, Alexandry, Eve and Eloise (Y7)** for their selection for the NSW Public Schools Junior Secondary Band
- **Brianna (Y11), Brittney, Pihuka and Jenna (Y9)** and **Mya (Y8)** for their selection in the Regional Softball team
This week the P&C will present its final cheque for the year to the school, making a total donation of $200,000 for 2015. This is money that goes directly to improving teaching resources and improving learning outcomes for our daughters. This level of funding is possible as a result of the successful Uniform shop and Canteen operations at Mackellar. A big thank you must go to Leigh McPherson (Uniform Shop Manager) and Bronwyn Moody (Canteen Manager) and to their employed workers and volunteers.

A very successful Thank You evening was held for the volunteers on Tuesday 24 November. Thanks to the efforts of Kerry Mills and her hospitality students from both Mackellar and Balgowlah Boys Campus. The volunteers enjoyed delicious finger food, while beverages were supplied and served by the P&C. Also thank you to Vanessa Patterson and the Big Band who provided the music for the evening.

The P&C will start 2016 with their AGM, followed immediately by the first meeting of the year on Wednesday 2 March. At this meeting all executive roles will be declared vacant and any existing P&C member can nominate for election. I encourage anyone to participate next year whether as an Executive member or a new committee member. If you would like more information contact me at president@mackellar-pandc.com

To finish I must thank my fellow P&C Executive members for their help and support throughout 2015: Kathy Flower (Vice President), Doug Price (Vice President), Gabrielle Davis (Treasurer) and Fifi Spechler (Secretary). I would also like to thank Christine Del Gallo for her continued support and involvement.

The P&C would like to wish all the Mackellar families a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Christine Del Gallo, Principal

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NORTHERN BEACHES SECONDARY COLLEGE Website -
The college website - [http://www.nbsc.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.nbsc.schools.nsw.edu.au) - contains the latest news, great stories and photo galleries celebrating our recent achievements: the Science Techno Museum Expo, Jazz Impro Band performances, the Duke of Edinburgh Awards, the Foreign Language Film Festival, Project Penguin Expo and more. The college website also has important information and documentation about upcoming events.
IMPORTANT DATES TO ADD TO YOUR 2016 DIARY

How to support your child though the HSC
Without becoming the enemy

SPECIAL FREE SEMINAR FOR YEAR 11 AND 12 PARENTS

Have you ever asked yourself the following questions:
- How do I help motivate my child?
- How do I help my child manage her time?
- What are reasonable expectations?

Elevate Education, Australia’s most trusted provider of study skills programs, will answer the questions that all parents are asking.

**When:** Thursday 4th February 2016

**Time:** 6.30pm – 8.00pm

**Where:** Mackellar Girls Campus Performance Space

**Cost:** Free

**What to bring:** Something to write on and a pen

This 90 minute session will ensure you have all the tools you need to effectively support your child through the HSC without becoming the enemy.

Elevate Education has being running study skills seminars for our Year 11 girls for over five years, 2014 saw the introduction of a study skills session for Year 7 and Year 9 in 2015.

2016 Study skills sessions for the girls:
Year 11 – Thursday 4th February (Week 2 Term 1)
Year 9 – Thursday 31st March (Week 10 Term 1)
Year 7 – Tuesday 5th April (Week 11 Term 1)

**Year 7** - 2015 has been a fantastic year for Year 7 and they have settled into Mackellar very well. Congratulations to so many of you for working at your personal best this year. It was wonderful to see so many of you getting involved in Multicultural Day and congratulations to our very talented Year 7 performers. The Year 7/8 picnic was a wonderful afternoon to celebrate your achievements. Have a safe and happy holiday.

Jane Secrett (Year Adviser), Louise Guest (Assistant Adviser)

**Year 8** - This year, the girls have participated in a range of welfare activities including Year 8 Sleepover, High Resolves, KYDS workshop and many more. They have gained a greater awareness of the world around them and a better understanding of themselves and their peers.

We are delighted with the effort and diligence displayed by the girls throughout the semester and this is reflected by the positive comments noted by the teachers of Year 8. The girls who have been working to their personal best throughout the semester will be awarded with a Blues Banner, Silver or Gold Merit Certificate at the Personal Best Assembly on Friday of Week 9.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the teachers of Year 8 for their endless dedication to the girls as well as you for your ongoing support throughout the year. To celebrate, the annual Year 7 and 8 picnic was held during lunchtime on Wednesday Week 8.

We would like to congratulate the girls on their achievements and participations in all of the opportunities provided at Mackellar this year and wish everyone a relaxing and happy holiday.

Ms Reeves (Year Adviser), Ms Leung (Assistant Adviser)

**Year 9** - Year 9 took part in a Young Women’s Work Inspiration seminar in Week 8, where they met and had the opportunity to learn from women who had experienced career success in a variety of fields. The students learnt valuable lessons about how being resilient, determined and passionate is essential to achieving career goals.

The students also enthusiastically took part in Multicultural Day during Week 9 where a large variety of cultures were celebrated through food stalls and cultural displays and performances.

Ashleigh Griffin (Year Adviser), Liz Gazzard (Assistant Adviser)

**Year 10** - Year 10 has had a very busy term working on a variety of projects including Work Experience, Peer Support Training, Australian Business Week and the English Project Based Learning assignment. This week they participated in Crossroads, an engaging seminar about self-defence and staying safe in social situations.

Year 10 have two important assemblies coming up, the personal best assembly on the 4th of December and the Year 10 Assembly where students will receive their reports and certificates of achievement for the year. Students receiving special awards will have their names posted on the Year 10 noticeboard.

We would like to thank Year 10 for their hard work in “setting the example” and completing another successful year at Mackellar. Stay safe and enjoy the holidays. We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year ready to start your senior years!

Catherine Barker (Year Adviser), Skye Campbell (Assistant Adviser)
It is with great pride that we congratulate all the girls involved in the 2015 Schools Spectacular performances on Friday 27th and Saturday 28th November. Schools Spectacular gives students the fantastic opportunity to work with experienced choreographers and perform on a world renowned stage in front of a large audience. These girls worked extremely hard and had a fantastic time in the last ever show at the Qantas Credit Union Arena. The theme this year “This Is Our World” showcased Mackellar girls in several numbers including the lyrical piece “Dies Irae” and the Aboriginal Ensemble “Ngarra Bura Ferra/Sapphires Medley” choreographed by Bangarra. Mackellar also showcased several featured dancers including Cameron, Amber, Djirri, India, Erika, Freya and Tianna.

The Combined Dance number “Dies Irae” showcased 16 Mackellar Dance performers. This beautiful performance was choreographed by Courtney Horton and Susan Rix and was accompanied by an amazing aerial silks performance.

The Aboriginal Ensemble performance “Ngarra Burra Ferra Sapphires Medley” was choreographed by Bangarra dancers Patrick Thaiday and Sidney Saltner. The 8 Mackellar girls involved had a fantastic time working with the choreographers and meeting other Indigenous dancers from all over NSW. It also featured Mackellar dance student Djirri in the Aboriginal Dance Company.

Eleanor Maxwell, Dance Teacher.

Band News - Term 4 has been an extremely busy one for all of our wonderful Mackellar musicians with 14 performances from the various bands. Thank you to parents for transporting the girls to performances and to the girls for their commitment to music making at Mackellar and in the wider community.

BAND TOUR - The Performance Band and Big Band have just returned from a highly successful Band Tour to the North Coast. The girls worked wonderfully well as a team with amazing efficiency setting up each performance. They were very helpful and friendly to students at Junction Public School during a 2 hr workshop and then performed to the whole school including two combined pieces with the younger students. The girls also joined students at The Hunter School of Performing Arts for a workshop and performance in their impressive Theatre.

On day 2 the girls performed to a very enthusiastic audience at Warner’s Bay Public School with the young students learning a lot about instruments during our instrument demonstrations and performance. One lucky Year 4 student even got to conduct our Band. The bands then performed at the Uniting Care Salamander Bay Village where the residents were extremely appreciative of our beautiful music and the effort made to visit them. The girls finished Day 2 with fun at the Sand Dunes adjacent to our accommodation. The final performance for the tour was at the Harbourside Haven Age Care facility and was a special highlight with a large audience, some of who, got up to dance.
I was thoroughly impressed and extremely happy to work with such wonderful students on this very community-minded Band Tour and thank you to Mrs Power for assisting on Tour.

P&C Volunteers Night, Multicultural Day, Orientation Day

Congratulations to the Stage Band, Jazz Impro. Group and the Big Band for the wonderful atmosphere they created for the P&C Volunteers Night this week. The same group of musicians also performed with great enthusiasm at Multicultural Day. The Concert Band is to be congratulated for their wonderful performance for the Year 7 Orientation Day.

End of Year rap up - There are a few performances still to go for 2015 where the girls are to remember instruments and be impeccably dressed in Full School uniform:

- Big Band at Year 10 Assembly Day December 10th
- Performance Band at Presentation Day December 11th

I wish all band members and their families a safe and Merry Christmas.

Vanessa Patterson, Band Director

SPORTS NEWS -

Mackellar Girls represented with force at the 2015 Pacific School Games in Adelaide. Christine came 6th in the 4x110m relay, 2nd in the 200m backstroke and got a PB as well as the Pacific School Games record.

Pihuka and Lucy made the Under 15s Australian All Schools Touch football team. Pihuka was awarded most valuable player at the Pacific School games final in Adelaide last week. She also was selected in the Under 17s Trans-Tasman squad to represent Australia in 2016.

Charli from Year 7 is not only the fastest 50m swimmer in Mackellar, Charli is the Australian 13 years 50m Champion! These were her amazing result: 1st 50 backstroke; 2nd 4x50 medley relay; 2nd 4x100 medley relay; 3rd 4x50 freestyle relay; 5th 100 backstroke; 7th 200 Individual medley.

Brianna was a member of the NSW Softball team and this team was Australian Champion! Brianna is into the Australian Softball team that will compete in 2016.

Sophie was a member of the NSW Soccer Team.

Congratulations to the Year 8 Basketball team who came 2nd in the Northern Beaches competition. The following girls were in the team; Ryleene, Vanessa, Kailey, Imogen, Khiala, Jasmine, Leah and Tia. Thank you to Katelyn (Year 10), who coached the team before school.

Congratulations and well done to all these amazing Mackellar representatives!

Rhonda Williams, Head Teacher PDHPE
SHIMMER - At Shimmer on 15th October we had the privilege of having Derek Rabelo come to our lunchtime group and speak about what it is like to surf blind, have faith in God and travel around the world visiting different beaches.

Many of the girls were inspired and excited to meet him and hear his story. We had over 45 girls come to Shimmer for the event and it was a great opportunity to have the girls hear about Derek’s story and his faith in God.

We had a question and answer time where many students asked questions and also a time where the girls could take photos with Derek.

On Wednesday 25th November Shimmer also held a pancake breakfast for the School Community. We were blessed with a beautiful sunny morning and over 200 pancakes were served with love to teachers and students from the Shimmer girls. Special thanks to Joy, Ella & Andie who did a fantastic job cooking and serving our Mackellar Community.

Suzie Macdonald
Religious Education Teacher

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING SCHOOL BUSES FROM JANUARY 2016

From January 2016, buses to and from Mackellar Girls Campus will be changing their 3 digit route numbers. Please see the attached sheet for updated details. For further information please go to the website www.sydneybuses.info

There will also be the introduction of School Opal Cards for students eligible for free or subsidised travel between home and school. Students who have already completed the blue application form for the 2016 student intake will be issued with an Opal card which will be sent to the school at the start of the school year. Students who have existing bus passes will automatically be issued with a School Opal Card. For further information or for relevant online forms, please go to the website www.transportnsw.info/school-students

YEAR 10 Maths Enrichment Day - Inquisitive Minds – Problems, Patterns, Pictures and Puzzles

Despite the anticipated 40° heat wave our top Year 10 Inquisitive Mathematicians were engaged and eager to learn. The girls had a fantastic day with well organised workshops where they worked in pairs on a variety of different problem solving strategies, including 'logical reasoning', 'make a pattern', 'draw a diagram' and 'make a list'. The girls participated in groups of two with the hands-on problems and were encouraged with chocolate rewards and ice block breaks.

Ms Varjavandi, Ms Guest and Ms Beard

"Please pass on a big thank you to the Year 10s too. We are still so amazed at how hard they were able to push themselves in the most unusual conditions on Friday!! Very impressed!"

Debbie Smith, Inquisitive Minds

Evaluations from students - The best thing about PPPP was: Challenging, provided equipment, fun activities, chocolate bribes, building blocks, fantastic program, amazing day, enjoyable, competitions, friendly instructors, puzzles

Suggested improvements: more time
Welcome the world to your home!

Why not host an overseas exchange student with AFS Intercultural Programs? We have participants due to arrive in February and they require volunteer host families for their stay in New South Wales. Make a friendship that can last a lifetime. Participants come for 5 months to 11 months and attend high schools and become an active member of the school, community and your family.

They come from countries including France, Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, Finland, Canada, Japan, Costa Rica, Argentina and Brazil.

If you are interested in going on an exchange overseas we would also love to hear from you to discuss the opportunity of becoming an exchange student.

For more information please call Sharon Toohey on 02 9215 0077, aus.hosting@afs.org or contact the AFS Hosting team on 1300 131 736 or visit www.afs.org.au/host to make an inquiry!

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Find your international experience with WEP Australia!

WEP Australia offers not-for-profit student exchange programs to over 25 countries around the world! Are you dreaming of a white Christmas in Europe next year? Maybe you’re keen to discover the ‘real’ USA or Australia’s cooler cousin, Canada! Whatever your style, there’s a place for you! To find out more, visit our website: wep.org.au or connect on social media at @wepaustralia and wepaustralia!

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UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

Please see below the roster for volunteers for December 2015:

- **Saturday 5 December**
  - Mini Kutty, Julie Morris, Georgia O’Neil, Steph Jeffress & Dzung Gibson

- **Monday 7 December**
  - Nicki Fox & Jo McCartney - HELP REQUIRED - 9am-11am and 1.15pm-2.15pm

- **Wednesday 9 December**
  - Sandra de Lange, Gladys Withers, Lindy Smart & Liz Russell - HELP REQUIRED 9am-11.30am and 11.30am-2pm

- **Monday 14 December**
  - HELP REQUIRED 9am-12pm and 12pm-3pm

- **Wednesday 16 December**
  - Liz Russell & Mini Kutty - HELP REQUIRED 9am-12pm and 12pm-3pm

Please let me know if you are unable to make your rostered day. Please contact me if you can help on any of the above days/times.

Please note the last day we are open for 2015 is Wednesday 16 December, 9am - 3pm.

We will re-open on:

- **Saturday 23 January 2016** 10am - 2pm
- **Wednesday 27 January 2016** 10am - 2pm (Pupil Free Day)
- **Friday 29 January 2016** 10am - 1pm (Years 8, 9 & 10 commence)
- **Monday 1 February 2016** 9am - 2pm
- **Wednesday 3 February 2016** 12pm - 2pm

For further opening times please or price list/order form see school website.

Due to supplier price increase the following items will be selling at a new price, effective 1 January 2016: **Wool Jumper $75.00 and Cap/Visor $15.00**.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my volunteers for all your help this year. All the best to those of you who have daughters leaving our school this year. We are always looking for new volunteers. If you can spare an hour or two, once a month, please contact myself by email via the school.

I wish you all a very happy and healthy Christmas break.

Leigh McPherson, Uniform Shop Manager, uniformshop@mackellar-pandc.com
Warringah Council School Holiday Program

Club 567 is aimed at children in years 5, 6 and 7 and the focus of these programs is on providing opportunities for young people to participate and develop skills in new activities in a fun, safe and friendly environment.

These holidays the following workshops are on offer:
- Customise Trucker Cap Art Workshop
- Robotics Workshop
- Creative Writing Workshop
- Summer Skate Nights

There are discount vouchers available at the back of the brochure. These vouchers offer a wide range of holiday activities that young people can take part in at their own leisure for a special price.

The Summer program is available for download from Council’s website www.warringah.nsw.gov.au

Gelatissimo
Sat 5 December 8.00am
Beach end of Manly Corso
Join the attempt to break the world record for gelato licking.
You will receive a free gelato, 2 for 1 voucher.
There will also be prizes on the day.

Angela’s Singing Lessons

Whether you want to sing as a hobby or professionally, I aim to help you find your own unique voice.

All ages & abilities welcomed.
Call today for a FREE trial.

If you email us at nbscmgirls-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au we can email the school newsletter directly to you. It can also be accessed online at www.mackellargirls.nsw.edu.au

Director General’s Award for Turning Potential into Performance
Director General’s Award for Excellence in Girls Education
Director General’s Award for Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education
Director General’s Award for Excellence in Aboriginal Programs
Secretary’s School Achievement Award for Pacific Islander Programs