As we move towards the end of yet another very busy term I would like to thank all of those parents who have contributed to the many activities and programs at the school over the last couple of months.

Last month I was fortunate to visit the United Kingdom as part of a delegation of Australian Principals. The program was provided by the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership as part of the Empowering Local Schools initiative. I spent a week at the National College for Teaching and Leadership in Nottingham, followed by a week visiting schools in the London area. The trip was particularly interesting in highlighting the benefits and costs associated with increased school autonomy and accountability. I look forward to sharing with you some of my observations at the next P&C meeting.

Showcase
At the time of writing, we are about half way through the series and as always the quality and commitment of all involved is outstanding.

It was wonderful to see so many of our new Year 11 and Year 7 students performing so well. Their welcome addition to our talented student population is clear for all to see.

What I enjoy, as an audience member, is witnessing the looks of excitement and pride on our students’ faces as they perform. It is the best advertisement for what we do. It is not too late for you to share in the excitement and pride because concerts continue until Tuesday 18th June here at school. And a reminder that our final dance concert will take place on Saturday 22nd of June at the Seymour Centre.

Special congratulations go to our student directors for their enormous creative leadership and as always our Technical Company for their tireless and outstanding contribution.

Auditions
Immediately following our showcase season we will be conducting our annual enrolment auditions for entry into Years 7 and 11 for 2014. This is a huge undertaking with over 800 auditions places to be allocated over 8 audition days. Thanks to everyone involved and we look forward to selecting another outstanding group of new students.

Athletics Carnival
Congratulations to everyone involved in this term’s very successful Athletics Carnival held at Homebush. Again, what is pleasing, is that with each carnival we are seeing increased levels of attendance and participation. Good luck to those students who have been selected to represent the school at zone and regional levels.

Music Success
I’m proud to report that our music ensembles achieved outstanding results at last month’s Sydney Eisteddfod. Our Big Band was placed first in the Secondary School Premium Stage Band event, while our Symphonic Wind Ensemble was placed second in the Concert Band section. Congratulations to all involved.

Best Actor Award
Congratulations to Thomas Green of Year 12 who was the winner of the “Best Actor” award at the prestigious Short + Sweet Festival. Short + Sweet is the world’s largest short play festival showcasing 170 ten-minute plays from across the world. The Festival culminated with a Gala Final at the Seymour Centre where Tom was presented his award for “The Fox and the Hunter”. A truly outstanding achievement from one of our most talented actors.

Reports
By the end of term all students will have received their mid year reports. Year 11 students will receive their reports and attend interviews with a member of staff to discuss their progress on Monday 17 June. These interviews are designed to help students achieve their school and post school goals and give them advice and support in dealing with the requirements and stresses involved with senior schooling. Junior reports will be posted home before the end of term.

Any issues arising from your child’s report should be addressed to the relevant Year Adviser, Head Teacher or Deputy Principal.
China Tour
I’d also like to report on the outstanding success of our recent tour of China as part of our Expanding Horizons initiative. 70 students and 7 members of staff toured for 12 days throughout central China with numerous school performances as well as visiting major tourist attractions in Beijing, Zhengzhou, Xi’An and Dengfeng. We all left China, very tired, but with wonderful memories and experiences. Our students were great ambassadors for public education and our school and I thank all of them for their behaviour, commitment and company.

Garfield Lemonius
We are very pleased and fortunate to welcome back Garfield Lemonius from Point Park University in Pittsburg, USA. Garfield is here again as part of our P&C’s Master Class program. His career includes performing as a principal dancer with the Dallas Black Dance Theatre touring in Europe, across the United States and Canada; solo performances in Vienna, Austria; and guest artist performances with other companies across the U.S., Canada and Europe. He has worked with notable choreographers including Robert Battle, Colin Connor, David Parsons, Bruce Wood, Charles “Chuck” Davis, Alonzo King, Donald McKayle, Troy Powell and Kevin Wynn, and has performed solo masterworks by renowned dance masters including Talley Beatty, Asadata Dafora, Jose Limon and Martha Graham.

During his 2 weeks with us, Garfield will conduct a number of classes and will also set one of his works on a company of our students. You can see this work as part of our “Off Broadway” concert at the Seymour Centre on Saturday 22 June.

Thank you again for your support this term. I hope you and your children enjoy their up-coming holiday. Classes start back on Tuesday 16 July.

Stephen Gray
Principal
Our showcase season continues in June with Music performances on 3rd and 4th and performances from Year 12 soloists and Showcase elective classes “Glee” and “Up in Lights” on 5th. The Showcase “Hospitality” students will be catering on this night serving some savoury and sweet delights at interval. The Dance performances on 11th and 12th June showcase the classwork of all Dance extension, Dance and Classical Ballet classes. The following week on 17th and 18th there are Drama performances from Benson, Burke and Dwyer companies. These concerts are held in the Studio Theatre with tickets available from the office, on-line via the link from our website or at the box office on the night. If you haven’t been to a showcase concert this season, come along with your family and friends for a great night of entertainment.

On Saturday 22nd June there will be an “Off Broadway” Dance Showcase concert held at the Seymour Centre. Tickets are available from the Seymour Centre or on-line.

June has begun with a continuation of cold weather. Students requiring a warmer uniform can purchase blazers, jumpers, jackets, cardigans, coats and overcoats from the Uniform Shop which is open every Thursday. It is a requirement that all students wear our school uniform. If, for any reason your child cannot wear an item of uniform, a note explaining that reason should be given to the office clerk in the swipe room and it will not be recorded as a uniform breach. If there is no note provided when your child is out of uniform it will be recorded as a uniform breach. It is most important your child brings a letter explaining the reason. I look forward to seeing our students well-presented and in appropriate uniform.

Year 12 will be issued with the Trial HSC timetable this month, including information to students regarding expected behaviours and procedures. It is important for students to be at school well before the exam starts and follow appropriate procedures regarding illness/misadventure should there be a reason for not attending the exam on the day.

Year 11 will be issued with their reports on 17th June when they meet with their Curriculum Advisers. This represents an opportunity for the students to reflect on their progress, acknowledge their successes, highlight the areas for development and make any necessary changes to their study plans. The Afternoon Study Centre is open every Monday and Wednesday until 5pm with teachers available to support students with their studies.

Year 10 will be participating in work experience programs in the last week of June. Students need to contact our Careers Adviser, Ms U. George to confirm their placements in the coming weeks. Those students who do not have a confirmed placement are expected to attend school and normal timetabled classes.

It is that time of the year for our students in Years 7, 8, 10 and 11 to begin to consider their elective and course choices for next year. It is most important that students make the correct choices initially as it is those first choices that determine the number of classes that operate within the 2014 timetable. There will be limited opportunities to change courses afterwards, especially next year. No course changes are possible from mid-February 2014.

The Year 10 into 11 subject information night will be held on 6th August from 5pm and the Year 11 into 12 subject information night will be held on 13th August from 7pm. These forums represent opportunities for parents, carers and students to receive information about courses offered at our school next year. Students should seek advice from parents/carers, teachers, curriculum advisers, older peers, and our Careers Adviser, Ms George to assist them in making appropriate, informed choices. Year 10 complete their subject selections with their Curriculum Adviser on 14th August.

More details about elective information nights and subject course selections days will be published in the August newsletter.

If you have any concerns, especially with regards to Years 7, 9 and 11 please do not hesitate to call.

Peter Shields
Deputy Principal
Semester 1 Reports

We are in Week 6 of a nine week term. The half-way point of Term 2 has quickly approached and we are already into our semester one reporting period. All Year 12 students have been issued with their half yearly course reports during meetings on Monday 20th May. Year 11 students are next to meet with their curriculum advisors, with their reports to be issued on Monday 17th June. This year we will be running report meetings with Year 9 and 10 students to go through their reports and to undertake a personal best exercise. This initiative allows students to set short-term and long-term goals. Research supports that setting and measuring goals increases student confidence. Goals give directions for a student’s effort and provide a way to measure achievement. On Wednesday 19th June Year 10 students and on Monday 24th June Year 9 students will meet with their curriculum advisors to go through their reports individually and set a personal best. It is hoped that through these discussions students can reflect on their progress and implement some strategies to improve their results over the second semester.

All Year 7-10 reports will be sent home to parents by the end of term in Week 9. Just a reminder, that all junior report subjects are graded from A-E with individual teacher comments for each subject. If parents/carers have any questions regarding the reports once they have been sent home, please contact the Head Teacher responsible for that subject for clarification.

Showcase

Our semester 1 showcase season started in Week 4 with a very successful evening of music and drama. During intermission the Year 9 showcase hospitality class, under the supervision of Ms. Favelle, offered the audience a spread of many delicious treats. Thank you to all involved.

The quality and standard of each of the evening performances this season has been outstanding. This would not be possible without the commitment and professionalism of our performing arts staff who work so tirelessly especially at this time of year to ensure our students have such performance opportunities.

These showcase evenings, as well as many other events would not be possible without the continued support of our P&C and I take this opportunity to thank all members of the P&C. The technical crew under the leadership of David Ferguson also deserve to be recognised for their work behind the scenes each day and night to maintain a very professional production. Each year the numbers of students involved in the showcase season increases and this trend has continued in 2013.

If you have not yet had the opportunity of attending a showcase concert, I would strongly recommend that you experience at least one evening of performance either at the Studio Theatre or the Dance Showcase at the Seymour Centre on Saturday 22nd June.

Attendance/Uniform

It is important for students to be at school on time each day and attend every timetabled class. If students are late to school they must ensure that they have a note from their parents explaining the lateness. Also if a student is absent from class without a valid reason a partial truancy letter will be issued home.

Regular school attendance is critical for academic success. Research has proven that there is a high correlation between school attendance and academic performance and success, while absence from school is often the greatest single cause of poor performance and achievement.

DER Laptop Stocktake

A reminder that as part of the DER Laptop project, the school is required to perform an eSight stocktake of all devices allocated to students in Years 10, 11 and 12. Students are to bring their laptops to school and login using their @detnsw suffix on their userID. Laptops are to be left logged on the school network for at least half an hour.

In addition to the stocktake exercise, students who undertake the electronic sighting will be eligible to have the operating system on their device upgraded to 64-bit processing, but only if the system has detected their device during the sighting period. There is no cost involved for any of these upgrades.

The eSight Stocktake ends 28th June. If students have not already done so, they are to bring in their DER laptops before this date.
Year 12
Year 12 students are currently going through another busy week of assessment tasks. A reminder that students are to follow the illness/misadventure process if they are unable to undertake an assessment task on the scheduled day.

The HSC Trial assessment period will commence on 16th July (Week 1 Term 3) and will continue until the end of Week 3. Students will be issued with their Trial timetables before the end of this term. We wish our Year 12 students the very best for all assessment tasks they undertake.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the achievement of one of our talented Year 12 student, Thomas Green. Thomas was awarded the best actor in the Short & Sweet Gala Finals held earlier this year. The Short & Sweet festival is the largest festival of 10 minute plays worldwide. A fantastic achievement, especially for someone as young as Thomas. Well done, Thomas.

I am available to assist our parents with any Year 8,10 and 12 school matter or welfare concern.

Nilaufar Rajwar
Relieving Deputy Principal
The next **P&C Meeting** will be held on Tuesday 11 June at 6pm in the school common room. Everyone is invited to come along, meet other parents and play an active role in the school community.

**AFTERNOON TEA WITH THE AGENTS**
The P & C's first *Afternoon Tea With…* event was held on 14 May in the Studio Theatre and was a wonderful success with over 100 members of the school community snacking on breads and dips before joining our agent guests, Natasha Harrison and Trish McAskill. Natasha and Trish talked openly and honestly about the role of an agent, how to get one and what to expect as a young actor starting out. The session gave students and parents a unique opportunity to ask hard and fast questions about 'the business', and to seek advice from two leading agents. If you were there on the night and want to follow up on any of the topics covered, please direct your questions to P & C member Lisa Penlington at lisapsm@gmail.com so that we can follow up with Natasha and Trish. Similarly, if you have any requests for topics for future sessions, please let us know.

In the meantime, stay tuned as we’re currently planning our next session which will feature a quite different group of arts practitioners who will give our students their insight and some friendly hints on how to pursue a great career in the arts.

**WORKING BEE**
Thanks to the 30 keen bodies who invested part of their weekend working to maintain the school grounds. Autumn is a great time to get plants in the ground and after a lovely sunny day the 100 shrubs and ground covers we put in are now getting a few days rain to settle them in. You might also notice the front of the school admin block is looking a bit cleaner as is the wall beside the basketball courts and one of the long ramps leading down from the Studio Theatre extension. There was lots of rubbish removed, weeds pulled and plants pruned and a small team worked to put the finishing touches on the Studio Theatre foyer upgrade.

*Left Behind: 2 garden trowels are at the office awaiting collection.*

Many thanks to John Caley for organising the day and remember, if you missed this one, there will be another bigger one in spring.

**ROSTERING**
After three years working small miracles each Showcase and audition season, Mark Rolfe is stepping aside as the P & C’s chief roster organiser. The P & C thanks him for all his hard work. Also thanks to Dennis Dumlaoo who has agreed to assist Mark in further rostering until a new volunteer is appointed. The P & C requests any parent willing to take on this duty to email Mark at m.rolfe@unsw.edu.au or on 0419 146 032.

**STUDIO THEATRE FOYER**
We have incorporated the newly gilded school portrait frame (thank you props department) to give a fresh look to the display of a selection of Showcase posters in the theatre’s foyer. An adjustable nylon display system has been mounted to the wall to allow for more creative display layouts. The counter has had a new lease of life with some lasercut decorative panels and an oiled finish for a more natural look to the timber. We have purchased some aluminium replica navy chairs and we will soon be installing some rolling benches that will provide additional seating and work surfaces. Many thanks to Terry Bail for his ongoing dedication to this project.

**NHSPA School Website** - follow the link below:

The school website has a calendar and also links for the P&C, contacts, minutes etc.

**Parent Email Network (Google Groups)**
We encourage all parents to subscribe to our parent email network. This is a great way to receive information from the P&C and stay in touch with other parents (including getting questions answered and sharing information). To subscribe send a blank email to:

nhspa+subscribe@googlegroups.com

There is a google groups fact sheet on the P&C page of the school website

**NHSPA Parents Contact Message Board**
Follow this link for posting requests and ads for second hand uniform, instruments and equipment etc.
Community Mural Artwork Project
An artwork project has been organised between the Welfare Team, Erskineville Youth Centre and artist Rodney Monk (father of Milan and Allegra) to design and create a piece of art for the exterior wall of the basketball court.

Students from various year groups have been selected to participate in a school community project that will strive to improve their connections with the school. This is a great opportunity for everyone involved and I would like to thank the following students Oskar Backent year 9, Paulina Treffiletti year 9, Ruben Neeson year 10, Millie Shearer year 10, Tatiana Craufurd-Gormley year 10, Rose Tyack year 10, Zach Perez year 10 and Chris Konitsis year 12.

NHSPA Senior Students Blood Drive
At the end of term 2, 36 senior students will donate blood a the red cross blood centre in the city. This initiative is being used to encourage more student participation in issues that our society faces today. I am impressed by the interest for this day and it is great to see students at Newtown are willing to give back to their community.

I would like to thank Natasha Ivkovic in year 12 and the SRC for their involvement in this event and hopefully we can make this a regular day on the yearly calendar.

Student Newsletter - Newstown
Just a friendly reminder to look out for the next edition of "Newstown". The student newsletter made by the students. As part of the work achieved by the SRC, students are producing this paper every term to display information, student achievement and news from their own perspective. If you would like to view previous editions, you may find them on the school's website.

Adrian Shipp
Relieving Head Teacher of Welfare

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

The debating season is well and truly underway and already we have secured good wins for our Year 9/10 team and our Year 11 team. The debating coaches were delighted with the interest shown by our students and the various auditions saw record numbers of students turning up.

Our Year 9/10 team, coached by Mr Jack Taylor had a good win over Tempe High School and they successfully argued that self defence should not be taught in schools. The team comprises Veronica Von Amin, Abigail Tlise, Jarred Ziegler and Laura Stewart. They are, as we speak, preparing for their next debate against Alexandria Park High School. Meanwhile the Year 11 team have won their first debate against Concord High School where they successfully argued against the notion that English should be voluntarily studied in high school. The team comprises Toby Blome (Captain), Yazmin Bradley, Eliesha Smith, Charlotte Regan and Antonia Flowers. They take on Burwood Girls High in our library on Friday 7th June. Ms Leotta and Ms Hoddinott were amazed when over thirty Year 7’s and Year 8’s auditioned for Years 7/8 team and the coaches are in the process of selecting a squad to represent the school. It’s worthwhile to glean from the high number of students keen to debate exactly why they want to debate…as we all know, our students love a stage: debating is another opportunity to perform. Secondly, students enjoy the competitive nature of debating. The opportunity to do friendly battle with other schools and like-minded students is clearly sought after by our kids. Debating also involves teamwork, higher order thinking and of course the challenge of public speaking. As well as all this, debating requires students to have a good knowledge of current affairs and important issues in society.

The English staff are hard at work at the moment, preparing for the implementation of the new Australian Curriculum for Years 7 and 9 in 2014 and Years 8 and 10 in 2015. As you are no doubt aware, English is one of the so called Phase One subject that have to be ready on the first day of 2014 to teach the new curriculum. English teachers are seeing this as a great opportunity to revisit our teaching programmes and make the changes that are necessary. We’ll be ready!

Michael Fischer
Head Teacher English
Topics being studied this term
Currently Year 7 are studying a Rocks and Resources topic which allows them to gain a greater understanding of the formation of different rock types and how they can be extracted and then widely used in diverse manners in society.

Year 8 are completing a Cells, Systems and organisms topic which helps students understand the relationship between different body systems in humans and compares these to those found in plants. The students are challenged to understand how each of these systems helps to serve the needs of cells to maintain a healthy and fully functioning organism.

Year 9 have been looking at a Natural disasters topic which has been inquiry based having students work in small groups to assess the risk of different natural disasters occurring within Australia and understand scientific methods to monitor and manage the effect of these should they occur. Since Australia is prone to different natural disasters it is important that students can appreciate the risks as well as become informed as to how they can be mitigated. We look forward to seeing many students present their findings late in the term as we hold a conference in which each group shares their understanding with groups who have studied other natural disasters.

Year 10 began the term looking at different wave types such as sound and light as well as their different properties and how we can detect them through our senses of hearing and sight. Building on their understanding of electromagnetic waves they now look at how devices such as telescopes have increased our understanding of the universe. They information that they have gathered is examined and they examine this as providing evidence for our current thinking about the formation of the universe through the Big Bang.

In the senior school we are pleased that many students are seeking to clarify ideas and concepts that they are having difficulty with. It is essential for the success of these studies that regular, focussed revision is done and guidance sought to check the depth of their understanding. We ask that students work consistently and ask for assistance so that they can achieve the results that they are capable.

ICAS Science Competition
As you read this many students in years 7-10 will have just completed the International ICAS Science assessment, paid for in your school contributions. This assessment is one which provides us with valuable data showing the strengths and areas for development in students’ skills in interpreting and analysing scientific data. These skills are helpful for students to be able to think critically about information that is presented to them both in a scientific context and through the media. It is our hope that we can continue to develop these areas through targeted activities to address these areas. Assessments such as these help us to plan opportunities to improve specific analytical and critical thinking skills. Students and parents will also receive individualised feedback on student achievement as well as acknowledge their efforts with a certificate. We look forward to seeing the results of this this once they are released and will forward them on as soon as we receive them.

Should we be able to help your child further in their Science studies please don’t hesitate to give me a call.

Brett Stone
Head Teacher Science
Legal Studies Student Q & A with Bill Gates

On Tuesday 28th May, seven Legal Studies students attended a special episode of the ABC program Q & A which hosted special guest Bill Gates. On arrival to the Clancy Auditorium at UNSW three of our students were selected to ask Bill Gates their questions.

Amy Kimball asked: *Given that your charity focuses on providing better health for those in foreign countries, does it frustrate you that underprivileged citizens of the United States don't have access to an affordable healthcare system?*

Zack Solomon asked: *You say you don't think it's a good thing for your children to have too much money... You're only giving them a small portion of your fortune... a paltry $10 million... That amount would be life changing for most. Do you think that your sense of perspective has been skewed by your wealth?*

Charlotte Regan asked: *How justifiable do you think it was for the Federal Government to blame a lack of predicted revenue for delaying their anticipated increase in foreign aid?*

I would like to congratulate Zack Solomon, Charlotte Regan, Amy Kimball, Remy Danoy, Orson Heidrich, Will Bartolo and Nick Bradbury who represented the school at this event.
The Year Sevens Have Done It Again

Tuesday 28th was a night to remember, for all the right reasons. There were three very different drama performances, each using three different dramatic techniques, exhibiting the talents of three different year groups. Year 8/9 Megan Company Boy meets Girl performed a series of short skits using dialogue from movies about love. Year 7 Woodroffe Company Kubla Khan brought to life a famous poem. Year 8/9 Gregory Company Mission Improvable tackled the task of improvisation with outstanding results.

Woodroffe Company kicked off the night with their movement based illustration of the poem Kubla Khan. It is always great to see the year sevens developing their dramatic skills, this was no exception. The abstract piece bought alive this iconic poem, complete with a giant beating heart made entirely of human bodies and a catchy refrain that refuses to leave your head. Watching the whimsical performance of Kubla Khan was like viewing a great artwork; the images have the uncanny ability to stay imprinted in your head for days to come. Congratulations to these year sevens for producing a beautiful performance, using movement to illustrate a distinguished poem.

The night progressed as it started; each performance was a credit to the showcase season.

Georgia Brigg
Showcase article from Year 9 Journalism
Boudicea McGlone has won a monthly round of the Australian Human Rights Commission photography award.

The competition aims to highlight that every person has inherent dignity and value. Asserting that Human Rights help us recognise and respect that fundamental worth in ourselves and others.

Congratulations to Boudicea for creating an image that conveys an important message in a creative way to an audience.

Boudicea writes that her ‘image represents the human right to have access to food. The image shows an urban environment and depicts the difficulty for people to afford food for their families even in a wealthy society.’

Claire Conroy
Visual Arts Department
Congratulations to the NHSPA Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Big Band placed 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 1\textsuperscript{st} respectively in the Premium events at the Sydney Eisteddfod.

The “In Performance’ concert at the Sydney Town Hall (May 13\textsuperscript{th}) was well represented by NHSPA choir and orchestra students in a fantastic performance of Mozart’s “Requiem” and Gershwin’s “Porgy and Bess.” Georgia Melville (Year 12) and Madeleine Sullivan (Yearr 11) performed beautifully in the soprano solo sections of the two works.

Thank you to all the families and friends who support the students as an audience for Showcase performance nights. These nights are the culmination of weekly rehearsals during terms 1 and 2 and rely on a tremendous spirit of team effort.

Gemma Thomas
Head Teacher Music
Term 2 is an incredibly busy and exciting one for the Dance department.

Next week, on Tuesday 11 and Wednesday 12 June, we have two Classwork Showcase performances in the Studio Theatre. The evenings are an opportunity for all of our Dance students from Year 7-12 to perform their class dances to parents and friends. An estimated 220 students will perform over these two nights.

All of our Dance and Classical Ballet Company and Ensembles are performing at the Sydney Region Dance Festival at the Seymour Centre from the 17-21 June. It is a week long Festival involving close to 100 schools from our Region. It is a special Dance event and our students feature prominently. Please support them by buying tickets and going to see our talented students perform.

Saturday 22 June is our Dance Department ‘Off Broadway’ Showcase concert at the Seymour Centre. It is one of our favourite nights of the year. To have all our Companies and Ensembles come together to create a diverse program that really does showcase the talent of our students. Please come along and see the show.

Tickets for the ‘Off Broadway’ Showcase and the Sydney region Dance Festival can be purchased online at seymourcentre.com.au

As part of the P and C’s Masterclass Program, we also have Garfield Lemonius who is a Dance teacher and choreographer from Pointe Park University in Pittsburg USA coming to spend 2 weeks in the Dance Department. During his time here he will be teaching Horton Technique classes to many of our students as well as setting his most recent work ‘Memoirs’ on some of our dance students. We have had Garfield visit us twice before and find it an invaluable learning opportunity for both the staff and the students. It has also enabled the Dance department to form strong links with the prestigious Pointe Park University, with one of our 2012 students, Georgia Bray, taking up a scholarship to study there this year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the P and C for their generous support of this Masterclass program.

Important dates for future events - State Dance Festival 2-6 September 2013.

Leisa Munns
Head Teacher Dance