

Step into Summer

THE BUZZ

SEMESTER 2, 2020

In this Issue:

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Art Express
Youth Summit
Seeds in Space
Farewell Yr 12
Welcome SRC
BGHS donates
Book Reviews
..... & lots more



Buzz Team

2020

Contributors

Vivian Chiem

Year 11

Ivonne Stafurik

Year 11

Nur Suryantoko

Year 11

Lara Ayoubi

Year 11

Jennifer Lu

Year 11

Ainslie Kosena

Year 11

Anna Suryantoko

Year 9

Coordinators

Ms Voros

Ms Vassiliou

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Principal's Report



"Do what's hard. Take risks. Set high standards for yourself. Do something that matters."

- NSW Physics professor – Michelle Simmons

Year 12, you have successfully reached your final semester of your secondary education here at Bankstown Girls High School and the mixture of feelings you are all experience right now are one of excitement and anticipation as you start planning for your next phase of life after school.

2020 will definitely be a year to remember for all of us. Even amongst the global pandemic, we are all in, you all did not lose sight of your ultimate goal. With your families and teachers by your side, who consistently gave you encouragement and guidance, you all came through as resilient, confident and articulate young women who started at Bankstown Girls High school as small girls with dreams who grew up to become young women with vision. Congratulations year 12, we are very proud of you.

Semester 2 of the Buzz will definitely be a bumper issue, even a pandemic will not stop or slow down the incredible work that our students, teachers and school community do at the school. This term we officially launched the opening of our STEAM room and Café and we look forward to hosting future school events when restrictions are lifted to showcase our talented students in action. Thank you to Ms Mircevski, Ms Saisanas, Mr Tsafis, Ms Kyritsis, Ms Martinson, Ms Doai and our students for making the event a memorable one.

I would like to thank our students, parents, carers and staff for their ongoing support and generosity in supporting the Community Light House organisation in raising funds to help many people effected by the Beirut explosion earlier in term 3 and for the food drives to support families within our community through this challenging time. We are definitely blessed with a community that looks out for others and never hesitates to help.

Our school is currently involved in planning for our new four-year planning cycle and 2021 will mark the beginning our new school Strategic Improvement Plan. It is very important that we set the right directions for our school which has involved consultation with all stakeholders and thorough analysis of all relevant data. The main components of the new plan are:

1. Situational Analysis
2. Strategic Improvement Plan
3. Implementation and progress
4. Annual reflection

In other exciting news, I would like to congratulate Ward Moukaddem, whose HSC Visual Arts body of work was selected for Art Express. This is a prestigious honour for our school and it makes me extremely proud. I would also like to acknowledge the incredible talents of two of our year 9 students, Lian Aslani and Anna Suryantoko, whose art work was chosen amongst the many entries across the state for Operation Art.

Principal's Report

This semester has seen many of our staff being awarded and recognised for the exceptional work, commitment and dedication they have demonstrated over the years. Congratulations to Clare Rounis and Vera Neskovski who were awarded the Metropolitan South Directorate, Principal Network Award.

Thank you to our school community who have recognised and nominated 3 of our staff for the Teacher Appreciation Award. Congratulation to Chris Dalton, Yasmine Baddah and Maria Varikos. It is wonderful to see our community recognising the exceptional work teachers do at Bankstown Girls High School. I look forward to attending the event held on 25th November.

As term 4 comes closer to the end, sadly we will be saying goodbye to two staff members who have been part of Bankstown Girls High school for a number of years, Alexandra Stournaras and Nahla Amin. Their commitment and hard work have had a huge impact on all our students. These staff members are highly regarded and respected by all staff, students, parents and carers. They will be missed. On behalf of all the school community we wish them both well and success in their future paths.

We are also saying goodbye to James Caffyn who has successfully picked up a permanent role at Sir Joseph Banks High School in PDHPE and Elizabeth Hatcher, from Science, who is moving to Yass. We wish them well and thank them for their positive contribution and hard work this year.

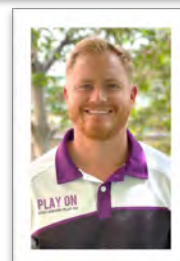
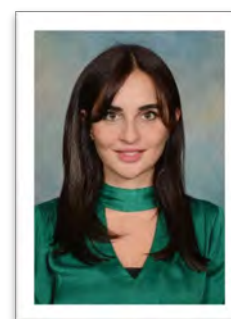
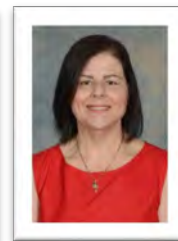
I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents and carers for their ongoing support and entrusting us with the education of their daughters. Wishing our students, a wonderful break and I look forward to seeing everyone back rested and ready to go in 2021.

A huge thank you to all staff for their ongoing hard work and commitment, especially this year. It has been a year like no other. Enjoy your well earned break.

Wishing all our staff, students and families who will be celebrating Christmas a wonderful festive season.

Have a wonderful break!

Suada Bilali



Deputy Report



Dear parents, guardians and students

As I write this report Year 12 2020 have just finished their Higher School Certificate. After what has been an extraordinarily difficult year, Year 12 have managed to complete their exams in high spirits and I am confident that they have performed to the best of their ability despite the unpredictable nature of the 2020 academic year. I would like to wish them the best of luck not only in their Higher School Certificate results but in whatever endeavour they wish to pursue.

Similarly, Year 10 have completed their exams and most assessment tasks in preparation for the achievement of their ROSA. I would like to remind Year 10 that the expectation is that they continue to work with diligence and sustained effort in all subjects so that they fully prepare for the next stage of their learning. This cannot be achieved if they don't attend school regularly and make a commitment to succeed in whatever subjects they have chosen for 2021. To this end, Year 10 will be participating in a four-week block of activities to prepare them for senior school. Attendance will be closely monitored during this time as will be effort and attitude.

Year 8 are also about to enter the next stage of learning in 2021. Having selected their electives for stage 5 I am expecting that they will enthusiastically embrace subjects they have chosen to study and I anticipate great success in their academic achievement at the end of Stage 5.

As we come to the end of the school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the school community for their continued support in all we do at Bankstown Girls High school in order to improve student learning outcomes. It has been a difficult year that we have had to, as a school community, navigate successfully for our students. This could not have happened without the strength of the staff and parents. I would like to wish you all a safe and happy holiday and look forward to working with you all again in 2021.

Mrs Porreca

Deputy Report



Dear parents, guardians and students

We have just endured a year of challenges and as we look to a well-earned break over the holidays it is time to reflect on the challenges we have faced and how everyone has worked so hard to ensure that we come out the other end in the best way possible. In observing the way in which teachers this year had to adapt to such incredible changes in the way they teach while students worked from home. They strove to provide the best teaching and learning possible in a difficult situation. Our support teachers who kept in touch with students to keep them on track and help them when they were struggling. All these changes happened in such a short time frame that it took a momentous by staff and students to be ready for working from home. I feel incredibly proud of the whole school community in the way in which they met these challenges. It is worth reflecting on how much we learn and develop when faced with challenges. This quote highlights this well:

“Strength doesn’t come from what you can do. It comes from overcoming the things you once thought you couldn’t”

And who would have ever thought we would have to overcome the complexities of 2020.

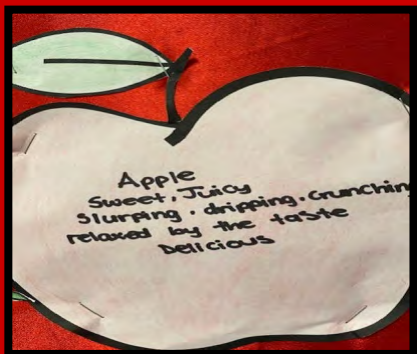
Year 11 have now started their HSC coursework and I know they will be shocked at how quickly the HSC exams will come on them and I encourage them all to work hard this term and lay good foundations for next year. They have started their senior study program with Ms Voros in the library in place of classes lost when they dropped a subject. This provides the girls with a great advantage in their HSC to refine their skills and get assistance they would not normally have access to. They have every opportunity to get the best possible results if they work hard and make active use of the experience and skills offered by Mrs Voros.

I hope that everyone had a safe and wonderful break and has the time to spend with family and be fresh and ready for 2021.

Mr Leary



ENGLISH



As we return to somewhere closer to 'normal' this semester, the English Faculty have had lots of exciting and creative projects where each and every one of our students has had opportunity to shine.

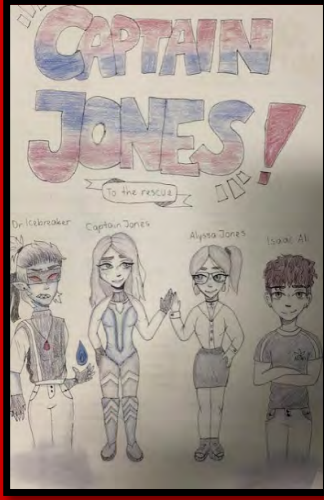
Year 7 have been creating interesting Haiku's and Cinquains as part of their learning about poetry.

And this term, students are creating their own identity film. This is a connected curriculum project with Art and Music, where the students have the opportunity to explore their family stories and traditions that help to make up who they are. So, get ready parents, your daughter's will be asking you lots of questions about culture, family, language and celebrations that help her to build a picture of who she is.!

Year 8 have also been creating some amazing poetry using their cultural voice to represent their ideas. They studied an indigenous poet and then transformed those ideas to express their own cultural identity.

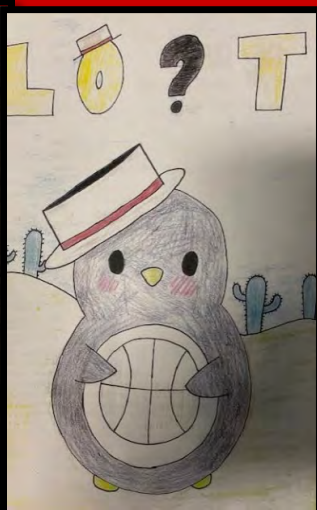
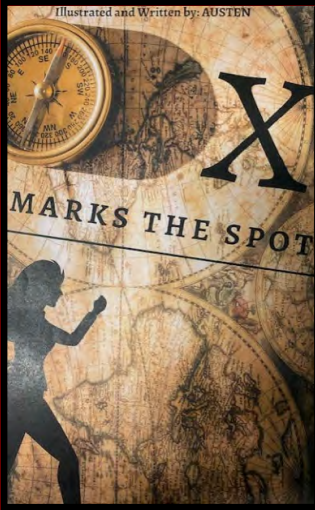
Year 9 have been immersing themselves in the world of Shakespeare, learning about his life and times. Who knew back then you cleaned your teeth with charcoal to make them white and put the poison of the belladonna lily in your eyes to make them blue. Don't try these tricks at home girls....it seems they didn't work as well as people thought 400 years ago!

Year 10 have been studying one of Shakespeare's plays and have just delivered a fantastic speech convincing us all that his work is still relevant. But the big question that we are still trying to answer is....What made Iago do it? And speaking of who did what....Is Adnan innocent or guilty? Year 10 have also thrown themselves into the world of podcasts and have become investigators of not only crime, but of language.



Year 10 Drama finally had the restrictions lifted and they were able to perform. What a talented bunch who created two fantastic performances. One was called “16 wishes” and the other “How you live is how you die”.

Year 11 have just finished their Preliminary course and are about to embark on their final year of study. The Advanced English class is lucky enough to have a partnership with the University of Sydney, where each student is provided with an individual tutor from the university. This is a wonderful opportunity to have a mentor help you to improve your writing skills. Unfortunately, they are still only zooming with each other, but hopefully it won't be too long before we can head to the university and meet each other face to face.





Whilst we faced many challenges throughout this year, the PDHPE faculty has been very busy this term with some wonderful and exciting programs taking place. The staff and students have worked extremely hard to overcome barriers and have gone on to achieve many great things.

Year 7S has been involved in an initiative through Charity Bounce where students develop their skills and leadership capabilities through Basketball, and have worked extremely well with the facilitators. The students have sharpened their Basketball skills and have developed leadership skills that enable them to be active global citizens. We would like to thank the instructor Josie who has given up her time to reach out to our students and put them through a meaningful and engaging program.



PDHPE

The Year 10 PASS classes have been competing in a cross class battle titled PASS of Origin. Similar to the State of Origin concept, the PASS of Origin is a 3-game competition in which the Year 10 PASS classes battle it out over 3 different sports for the chance to be crowned the 2020 PASS of Origin Champions. Led by the respective coaches Mr Gutteridge and Mr Ghazal, the students had an epic first up battle in Oztag which saw Mr Gutteridge's 10PASS B class take the lead 1 nil in the 3-game series. The series continues with Mr Ghazal's desperate to keep the series alive with a win in 1 Bounce Volleyball. The competition is heating up in the back end of the year and we wish all students the best of luck in the upcoming fixtures.

Our Year 12 students have been put through challenges this year that no other year group has faced. Despite the many distractions, the students have shown resilience and maintained focus to finish off their HSC examinations. We would like to wish the PDHPE and CAFS students all the very best, and we are extremely proud of their dedication and effort.

We are also saying farewell to a dear colleague of ours Mr Caffyn. Mr Caffyn has been an integral member of the PDHPE faculty in 2020 and has helped the faculty implement many great programs. Despite his lack of ability in Table Tennis, Mr Caffyn is an incredible teacher who will achieve many great things in his educational career. We would like to thank Mr Caffyn for all his hard work and wish him the very best in the future.

I'd also like to take the opportunity to thank all the PDHPE staff for their dedication and hard work throughout 2020. Ms Baddah, Ms Boz, Mr Gutteridge, Mr Caffyn and Mr Majanggil have been extremely adaptable throughout this challenging year and have still managed to produce quality educational experiences for our students. To all staff and students, we would like to wish you a happy and safe holiday.



MATHS

Year 7 students have worked on a range of activities which have provided them with opportunities to link their learning to real-life situations and make connections with other subject areas.

Students in Ms Doai and Mr Yilmazlar's class have worked on interactive activities to learn about Integers and how they work in everyday life. They have also worked on digital and analogue time, using a range of learning activities to assist them.

The other Year 7 classes completed their work on Integers and Ancient Egypt and were surprised to see how the two topics could be combined. Putting perimeter and area into action when investigating Tutankhamun's Tomb, counting like an Egyptian and solving Egyptian puzzles.

The inquiry based project introduced with **"Imagine living in a world without numbers; having no way to express amounts, no way to measure things etc. Do you think our Mathematics lessons would still exist?"** and extended to **"What would a world without numbers look like?"** has highlighted the strengths and diverse learning styles of our talented and dedicated students. The Mathematics faculty is looking forward to viewing their final products.



HSIE

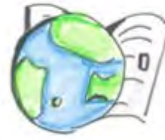
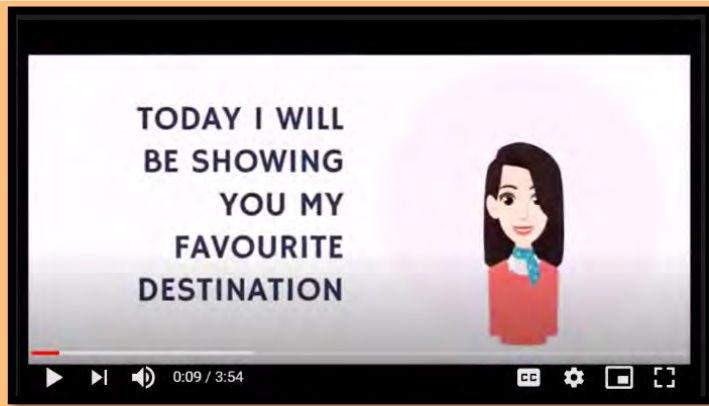
The Balcony café has fast become a staple of Bankstown Girls High school's social calendar. The venture is an excellent showcase of collegiality amongst the staff and students at BGHS. The café has become a comprehensive training ground for several HSIE subjects, including Work Studies and Retail Services. It fosters the girl's confidence in being able to apply the theoretical concepts learnt in class in a practical environment in the form of rostering, stocktake, apply point of sale, creating a display, merchandising and customer service experience. The experience has also allowed the girls to build the interpersonal, communication skills required in the workplace.

Quote from Year 11 Retail Class Student

"The cafe has had a positive impact on us as individuals because it allows us to apply what we learnt in class and be able to use it to experience what it feels like in a real workplace."

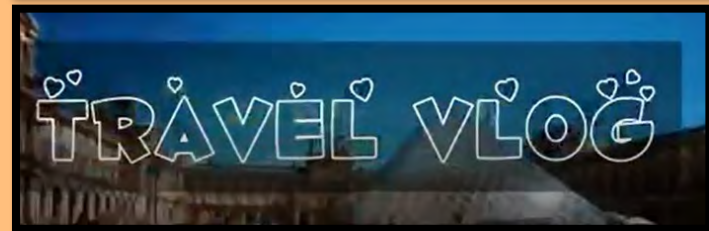
By Quynh Nguyen





HSIE

Year 9 Commerce Travel Vlog by Mr Dalton

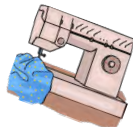


This term in Year 9 Commerce the class have become travel Vlogger's for their own YouTube channel! Unfortunately, in 2020 due to the COVID19 global pandemic we are unable to travel so the class had to make their travel 'virtual' and gain a new understanding on some of the issues that tourists face when travelling abroad.

The class created Vlogs outlining their chosen city, a perfect twenty-four-hour itinerary including a tourists 'must do's and 'most Instagrammable' places and places to eat and stay. Further, they investigated the impact the pandemic has had on global travel and on their chosen destination in 2020.

The class chose destinations from all around the world, from Paris France to Tokyo and Osaka in Japan as well as Istanbul Turkey, Madrid Spain, Rome Italy and Bora Bora in French Polynesia. They even ended up in Iceland, among many others!

Well done to all of the class on your efforts on this task, your ICT skills and creativity was on full show and I am looking forward to the screening of all of the Vlogs and the voting for the student's choice award. Well done Year 9, keep it up!



Year 7 and 8 Design and Technology students were busy this year creating and producing timber photoframes, building an engineered system in the form of a "cam". And developing their own "arduino coding" by writing a programmable sketch. The TAS staff were very impressed with the amazing designed works that were produced. Students also designed and created a healthy food truck dish and tie dyed a "tote bag" that can be used for many purposes. The TAS staff were very impressed with the amazing designed works that were produced.

Year 9 and 10 Food Technology students once again impressed us with their MasterChef skills. They designed and produced a "celebration cake" which challenged previous creative techniques. In Year 10 student deepened their nutrition knowledge and applied the basics of food service and catering.

Textile Technology students designed, produced many textile items including the amazing creative knitted scarves during winter.

TAS/CAPA HSC

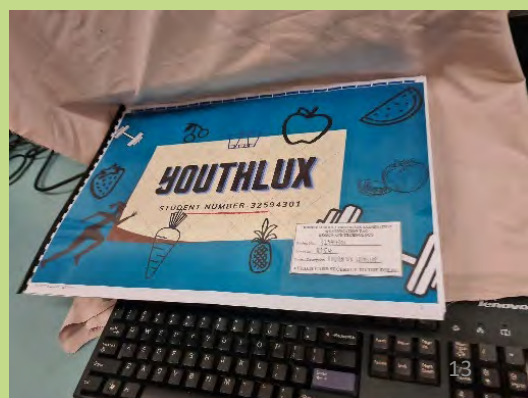
During the entire year, our Year 12 Design and Technology, Music and Visual Arts students worked closely with their teachers to set their learning goals, monitor their work and reflect on teacher feedback. Within *Design and Technology* students explored innovative ideas, applied technologies to design to produce a quality project reflective of a need and incorporating environmental and social impacts.

Within *Music* students deepened their knowledge and understanding of the concepts in Music and skills in performance, composition, musicology. They then delivered performances for their HSC which included cultural, historical and social frameworks. We were reminded the power of Music in not only as a form of self-expression and spiritual development but on the building of self confidence.

In the class of 2020 HSC *Visual Arts* their Body of Works were reflective of personal, cultural, historical and social experiences. This year students presented an artmaking journey through drawing, painting, ceramics, photography and textiles. The techniques in the various artworks revealed the students' deep theoretical knowledge and extensive artmaking practice.

We were very pleased with the effort from our HSC students and congratulate the teachers for giving up much of their time to support each individual process.

Mrs Mircevski





Year 9 Cakes

Everyone loves cakes! Year 9 Food Technology classes showcased their extraordinary cake decorating skills for the Food for Special Occasions unit of work.



CAPA

The achievements of Year 12 Visual Arts and Music students deserve to be celebrated and recognised. Remote learning made this year's HSC process more challenging, as students worked on their artworks and music performances at home and we used zoom meetings, videos and photos to communicate and provide feedback. Our students persevered and although their progress was impacted due to time in remote learning, they managed to overcome the most significant challenges ever to have faced a Year 12 cohort.

The works and performances they have produced are of an outstanding quality and each student should be proud of the dedication, technical skill, conceptual depth, polished performance pieces and resilience they have demonstrated through this journey. We congratulate them all and we are so proud to have been their teacher this year. Well done Year 12 Visual Arts and Music class of 2020.

Ms Carpenter, Ms Voros and Ms Vassiliou





SCIENCE



One Giant Leap Australia Foundation are sending native Golden Wattle seeds to the International Space Station in December 2020 and some of those seeds will end up under the care of some of our girls!

In collaboration with the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) the seeds will live in space for six months, returning to Australia in time for Science Week 2021.

Supported by the Australian Space Agency, the "What'll happen with the wattle?!" programme is being offered to more than 150 schools, scout groups and Australian Air Force Cadets across Australia.

A community panel judged the applications that included 200 words and a short video, explaining what the schools would do with the wattle once it had grown.

One of the panel members said, "We have spent 5 days watching videos. Entries from all over Australia. From a single teacher in a face mask in a school in Victoria to a small school in remote Northern Territory. It has been an amazing opportunity to laugh and cry our way through them."

Our school has been chosen as one of the selected schools to participate in this amazing opportunity. Ms Anna Edwards, Head Teacher Science, and Mrs Randa El-Haddad, Environment Team coordinator, worked with the school's environment team to showcase the dedication the school has to increasing awareness of environmental issues. "We are so proud of our students who were able to pull-together a wonderful video that really captured who we are as a school and the commitment we have to 'What'll happen to the Wattle?!' program", Ms Edwards said. Environment group member, Esther Kabia added that "This will be a great opportunity to see whether space can have an impact on our understanding of the growth of plants and to think that we may have some input to that understanding makes us proud as a school".

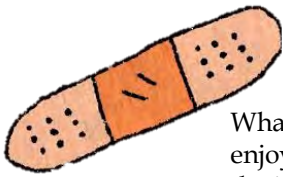
Once selected, the chosen schools around Australia will receive wattle seeds that have flown to space, plus seeds that have not. The seeds are from the same seed lot. Students are asked to germinate and grow their seeds, recording data about the germination and seed growth. Data will be uploaded to the 'What'll happen to the wattle?!' app.

Throughout the programme, One Giant Leap Australia Foundation will run teleconferences and provide educational support to participating groups.

The 12-month to 2 year project will result in the creation of a nationwide map identifying the location of Australia's 'space wattle' trees.

The project is an historic opportunity for Australian schools and students. Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) media announcement: <https://iss.jaxa.jp/en/kuoa/news/200901.html>





LEARNING AND SUPPORT

What a busy year it has been for the Learning and Support faculty!! We have really enjoyed getting to know our students and seeing them grow into lifelong learners during a COVID-19 year that has been full of upheaval and uncertainty.

Some highlights for the year include:

- Employing SLSO Staff. This year we employed two new SLSO staff, Mrs Hose and Mrs Halil-Acehan. They arrived in Term 3 and have made valuable contributions to the success of our students, working across a number of different classes and subjects. Mrs Hose and Mrs Halil-Acehan were even job coaches for Amal's work experience at Toymate! We look forward to having them on our staff again next year.
- Purchasing Sensory tools. 70 students experimented with different ways they can concentrate better in the classroom only to discover that some of our squeeze toys light up!
- Continued success of the Year 12 Senior Studies program particularly in the most difficult HSC year ever. In our Senior Studies lessons, we prepared for the Trial exams, looking at sample questions from all KLA's. After the Trial HSC exams, we looked at their different experiences during the Trials as well as their results and planned for the HSC; aiming at how each student could achieve to their full potential. At the end of Term 3, the girls celebrated their achievements at their graduation assembly, proudly wearing their gowns, not letting the COVID 19 restrictions dampen their spirit.
- The success of the Year 12 EALD class. The co-teaching between Mrs Kalatzis and Mrs Pacey have ensured the girls made great strides in their language proficiency and confidence in writing, speaking and listening in English.
- The International Student program. Our numbers have increased to 20 students this year with students in Year 9, 10, 11 and 12 enrolled. Mrs Pacey established the The International Student Homework Centre this year to assist our students to improve their progress in their classwork as well as work on their writing skills for the Minimum Standards testing. Previous School Captain, Tanya Truong, also attends each Monday afternoon session to assist the students in subject content and language proficiency.

The faculty would like to wish everyone a fantastic holiday and we look forward to seeing you next year for another year of learning!



Look at the gorgeous platter the Year 11 Maths Life Skills class created. Can you count the pieces of fruit?

TRANSITION HIGHLIGHTS

TAFE online Zoom Agency Day for Year 12 Life Skills students – This was a fantastic experience for our girls. Due to COVID, we were unable to go into TAFE for this so we brought TAFE to Bankstown Girls' High! It was a very successful video conference and our students were eager to ask Premy Reddy, the support coordinator at TAFE many questions about a range of courses they were interested in. Premy also informed the girls about support available at TAFE, including assistance with the enrolment process, making decisions about a course suitable to them, as well as help available while students are completing a course at TAFE.

Work Experience – Year 11 & 12 Life Skills students took part in Work Experience in Term 3. Due to COVID, this made it very difficult to find employees willing to take on our students. Although this was a challenge, several of our students successfully completed two weeks of work experience with one Year 12 student being offered employment at the end of her block! Well done girls.



★ Our Work Experience Star ★

Amal Cheikha in Year 12 has been commended for her amazing efforts whilst on work experience at Toymate in Bankstown for two weeks. She displayed excellent communication skills, completed all set tasks, served customers in an approachable and friendly manner and always showed enthusiasm on the job, and she attended every day! The manager of the store was highly impressed with Amal. A big thank you to Derya, Michelle and Ms Halim for all your help with supporting Amal have a successful work experience.

SUCCESSFUL TRANSITIONS

Wafa Akkaoui	Full time at TAFE completing a Cert III in Beauty Therapy
Thieryn Lee	Full time at TAFE completing a Cert III in Design Fundamentals
Sera Siale	Full time at TAFE completing a Cert III in Business Administration
Manelle Ali	Has been accepted for full-time employment at Priceline in Bankstown
Grace Latianara	Full time at TAFE completing a Further Study Skills Course (RoSA Equivalent)
Ariana Hekkenburg	Full time at TAFE completing a Cert III in Pathways to Further Study this year
Muskan Mahzaheen	Has commenced a Cert II in Business at TAFE. Good luck!
Yosra Elseidi	Successfully completed a Childcare Traineeship at Just Little Kidz Learning Centre in Yagoona this year and in a few weeks' time she will be a qualified Childcare Educator. Congratulations!
Sujoud Ghazzaoui	Has been accepted in to a full-time traineeship in Childcare at Kidsversity. Congratulations!
Mya Mawas	Has been interviewed for a full-time traineeship in a childcare centre and is currently on trial. Good luck!

Several of our current students were also successful in gaining casual employment at Hungry Jacks, Kmart, Toymate and Priceline. Well done!

Attention Year 9, 10 and 11 Girls

Check your emails for jobs! Many employers are currently hiring Christmas casuals



Fast Forward – Western Sydney University

The WSU Fast Forward program at Bankstown Girls' High aims to build students' confidence and academic ability to increase their awareness of post-school educational opportunities. As well as, to promote the benefits of lifelong learning and the career paths it leads to.

Year 9 - Welcome to Western Evening

Kicking off earlier in the year, twenty-five Year 9 students were selected to join the Fast Forward program and they were invited to participate in a virtual online *Welcome to Western Evening*, 24th August by the Fast Forward Team. During this presentation our selected Year 9 students and their families were welcomed to the Western Sydney University community and informed about the exciting opportunities

Year 9 Fast Forward Students – 2020



Ayda Akkaoui, Jayda Akkaoui, Shahd Al-muzail, Lian Alaslani, Amani Alawieah, Fatema Alkhen, Ngoc (Winnie) Bach, Aamina Bardouh, Asmaa Bardouh, Nour Brais, Balsam Cheikho, Rayan El Masri, Razaan Ghazzaoui, Angelica Griarte, Hiba Hijazi, Angela Ho, Taghrid Issa, Siti Jahera, Mariam Naaman, Khizra Naveed, Kim Nguyen, Natalie Pham, Leila Rifaie, Ann Suryantoko and Salima Zeidan.

Mrs Bilali – Principal
Ms Hundy – Careers Adviser



Year 9 Virtual University Day Event Tuesday 22nd September

The Fast Forward team developed a virtual 'University Day' to engage with our new Year 9 Fast Forward students and they gave them a live virtual experience with the program and their staff.

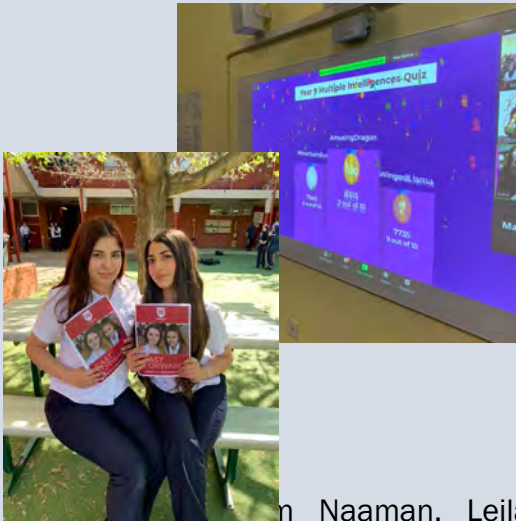
The sessions engaged the students, through interactive activities focusing on multiple intelligences and how this can be applied practically in challenging situations. This also involved the students' participation in a Virtual Escape Room. The feedback from all the students on the day was so positive. They were thoroughly engaged and overly excited with all the virtual challenges provided by the Fast Forward Project Officers.



Students - Taghrid Issa, Amani Alawieah, Khizra Naveed, Shahd Al-muzail, Natalie Pham, Ngoc (Winnie) Bach

Virtual Escape room

Western Sydney University also provides all of our Year 9 to 12 Fast Forward students access to **Studiosity** –a free online tutoring service. Which our Fast Forwards students have been using extensively.



Naaman, Leila
Rifaie

Year 12 news - Great Success Stories!

UNSW free tutoring opportunity (worth \$800) - UNSW awarded a fully funded tutoring package valued at \$800 to five of our amazing Year 12 students, as part of their equity strategy to support HSC students at our school. Along with their participation in the UNSW Gateway Winter Program, these students were selected by Ms El-Sayed Year Adviser based on their dedication and hard work undertaken throughout their school year. They were: Amani Akkar, Christina Chamma, Hilary Le, Linh Vo, Maram Awad

Ms Hundy
Careers Adviser

Bankstown GHS Careers
www.bankstowng-hschoolcareers.com

University Early Entry Opportunities before the HSC

Congratulations to a large number of our hard-working Year 12 students who received early offers to study at one or more of the following universities, Macquarie/UNSW/Wollongong and Western Sydney, before the release of their ATARs on the 18th December. The areas of study/ courses being offered were very diverse and ranged from Aviation, Criminal Justice, Data & Decisions Medical Science, Civil Engineering, Psychological Science, Environment, Information Technology to Commerce. Plus, many more.

Each institutions' early entry schemes differed and were extensive in the students' online written applications, requiring Year 11 results plus school and community-based references.

Macquarie University - Leaders and Achievers Scheme saw nineteen of our students being successful in securing an unconditional offer to their chosen MQU degrees.

Wollongong University - Early Admission outcomes were offered to seven students in their chosen courses. These students also attended an interview with Deborah Neich the Domestic Recruitment Coordinator, along with Faculty Heads at the Liverpool campus.

Western Sydney University - HSC True Rewards early entry program aimed to bring much-needed peace of mind to our Year 12 students by offering some of them entry into university based on their Year 11 results or Year 12 Bands results. Through my discussions with Year 12, prior to their exams, several of them were successful in being offered their first WSU course preference based on their Yr 11 results

UNSW - Gateway Early Conditional Offer Scheme was offered to fifteen of our students. These students also participated in a week of interactive workshops focussing upon HSC preparation and university readiness earlier this year. The offers are conditional which means these students must still meet the UNSW reduced ATAR requirement

Good luck to Year 12 moving forward with their career journey for 2021. They have displayed great resilience, determination and persistence throughout this very uncharted, challenging year! A BIG thank you also to all the staff members who completed leadership /academic references for Yr 12 early entry applications.

FUTURE *FOCUSED* LEARNING



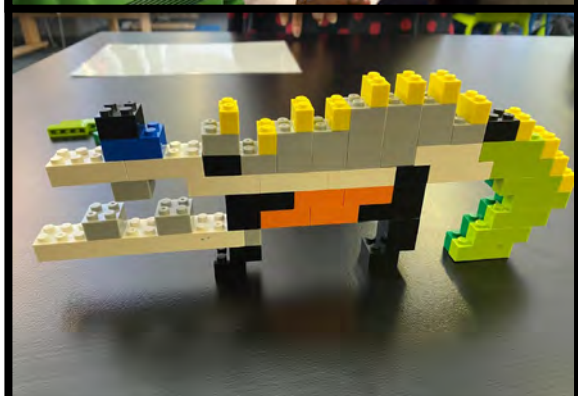
COVID-19 did not stop the Future Focussed Learning at Bankstown Girls High School, we went Full STEAM Ahead with many of our programs, but there were some changes to the way we participated.

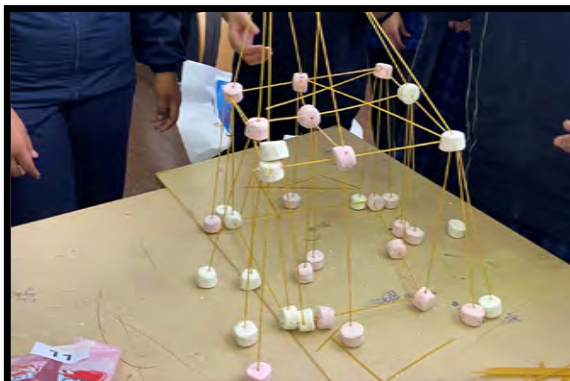
The Year 7 Foundations for Learning program topic areas were unchanged, but we did have to change how we delivered the program. Rather than all working in the library, we separated ourselves into classrooms to research our female role models and reverse engineer our Lego creatures.

For the Little Women, Big Dreams program the students created some fantastic stories of strong female role models such as Florence Nightingale, Jane Austen and Grace O'Malley. The Reverse Engineering Lego challenge took on a new slant this year with the students building Australian Animals using different pieces of Lego. It was quite a challenge, but the students came up with some great replicas of crocodiles, koalas, ibis' and emus.

The Year 7 Full STEAM Ahead program run by ABCN, Powerhouse Museum and Commonwealth Bank went virtual this year! Twenty Year 7 students participated in a Microsoft Teams virtual classroom to learn about coding Arduino hardware as well as robotics and careers in STEAM. Because the group were so enthusiastic and demonstrated amazing aptitude in the coding component, they have been invited to participate in an advanced course that will teach them more about coding as well as design thinking.

The Year 8 "What makes Bankstown special?" STEAM program was introduced this year. The students worked in groups of 4 to investigate their local community to come up with an answer to the driving question "What makes Bankstown special?". The original plan saw students walking around Bankstown to take photos of the landmarks, food and people that would help them to visually answer the question, however COVID-19 really did ruin that. However, we are an adaptable group, so we used photos from the internet, battery powered torch globes, Photoshopped tangrams and constructed frames using art board to create amazing nightlights that displayed images of our wonderful community.





All the girls did a fantastic job, but special mention goes to Angelina Luu and Sarah Karim for their extremely well constructed nightlights. This STEAM program was part of the The STEM Academy program for the teaching staff. In conjunction with University of Sydney, the Bankstown Girls High School STEAM Team devised the "What makes Bankstown special?" program to deliver this year. The staff have presented our program to the other schools in the STEM Academy through film format and the other teachers in the STEM Academy were very impressed. A big shout out to the students who agreed to be a part of the film via voice over as well as in our imagery.

Education Week Challenge Day was new initiative for this year for Year 7 and 8 students. Originally we were hoping to ask Year 6 students from Bankstown Public School to come to participate with our Year 7 students, however due to COVID restrictions the primary school were unable to attend. The day involved students working in mixed Year 7 and 8 groups to collaborate to solve problems that included design thinking and STEAM. Activities included marshmallow tower building, code breaking, puzzle solving and newspaper table building. Congratulations to Group 8 - "Black flying coconuts" for taking out the competition and a HUGE thank you to all the Year 10 students who volunteered to assist on the day in either the competition or cooking our BBQ lunch!!

The Year 9 Making Learning Meaningful program was another great success this year. The students collaborated very well to produce creative, thought provoking campaigns that highlighted important global issues affecting our community. The H50, Black Rights and KLJA Party deserve to be particularly recognised for their campaigns as well as their demonstrated ability to collaborate effectively throughout the process.

The Year 10 Westpac Go! Future Thinkers program was a new program introduced this year. Pre-COVID the students were invited to participate in a one-week work experience program which was going to be held at the Westpac building in Sydney CBD, however that was not to be the case. Instead, sixteen Year 10 students participated in a two week virtual program that introduced them to mentors from Westpac Bank with a focus on design thinking for real world problems.

It was a really interesting way to complete a work experience program and the girls came up with some fantastic solutions to COVID based problems. Vivienne Al-Mallah has even been invited to participate in a interview and photoshoot about the program which will be featured in the Westpac online magazine, we can't wait to see the final product! ²⁴

Ms Martinsons

NEWS FROM THE SRC



On Wednesday 18 November, our Student Representative Council had the opportunity to participate in the 2020 Metro-Regional Inclusive Communities Youth Summit, organised by Together For Humanity and Community Connect Central West.

The Summit provides a platform for students from across NSW to voice their ideas about diversity and inclusion to politicians and community leaders, and some of our SRC team students have been working hard to create a proposal suggesting ways to build and strengthen harmony in our school and local community.

Our SRC girls presented their proposal online to Members of Parliament and community leaders who were gathered at New South Wales Parliament House.

They also had the opportunity to participate in a Q&A session with the MPs. The girls can be very proud of their participation in this opportunity to represent the youth of our community



Student Representative Council

Welcome and congratulations to the future 2021 SRC. In showing diligence and integrity they will make a wonderful contribution to the school, Goodluck!



Year 8: Isobel, Amal, Alina and Fatma



Year 9: Eiliyah, Fatima A, Prabhleen and Ella



Year 10: Siti, Angelica, Shahd and Janah



Year 11: Sarah, Ayah M, Kathryn and Jowa



Year 12: Hannah, Ivonne, Nur, Tamanna, Soundarya, Aya T, Chau and Colleen

CONGRATULATIONS **YEAR 12**

The staff and students of Bankstown Girls High School would like to wish our year 12 Students the best of luck in their future. We are so proud of the resilience you have shown in getting through such a challenging year. It has made you stronger and more prepared to tackle anything that lays ahead of you.







Hip Hip Hooray for The Balcony Café

For those who don't know, the balcony has been a disappointing use of space for far too long. I'm sure that I, and many others, have looked at it wistfully, due to the lack of action that has been taken in fulfilling its potential. This is why when Mrs Bilali told me that she had plans to turn it into a cafe that serves as a multifunctional space for both students and teachers alike, I could barely retain my excitement. It has been highly anticipated, with workers coming in and out of the balcony, working hard to complete the renovation, with chatter and speculation amongst the students who had little to no idea of what was being implemented.

There's nothing better than the rich smell of freshly brewed coffee, it's warm and comforting scent is what I was welcomed with as I entered the school cafe. "The Balcony Cafe", is located above the art rooms, right next to the library and through the common room. The area has always been a wasted and barren space, but has recently been renovated and refurbished, and the results are simply impeccable. With a fresh look, the balcony now has new flooring, equipment and tables, making for a modern yet rustic cafe. Mrs Bilali announced that The Balcony Cafe was now open for business.

The Balcony Cafe is the latest addition in our lovely principal's list of exciting, soon-to-come school improvements, and it was a definite success. This once empty balcony was filled with chatter and laughter from a handful of special guests and staff, as the year 12 hospitality students served them some mean cups of coffee. All seemed enthusiastic about the opening of The Balcony Cafe, which was expected, as it is the first step to a brighter and prosperous future of our school. I'm thrilled to see what Mrs Bilali will keep introducing to our school.

By Lara Ayoubi

Grand Opening



BGHS LENDS A HELPING HAND

When **Lighthouse Community Support** asked for donations for their food drive, Bankstown Girls High School delivered. Thank you to the students and staff that donated food items for our local families in need.



A huge congratulations to our students for holding a successful **BAKE FOR BEIRUT** fundraiser. There were an overwhelming amount of donated cakes and sweet treats leading to a massive sugar overload! Thank you to all our students, parents and staff who baked and donated items for sale. All proceeds went to 'Human Appeal - Lebanon', an organisation committed to helping the victims affected by the devastating explosion in Beirut.



The REVIVE program



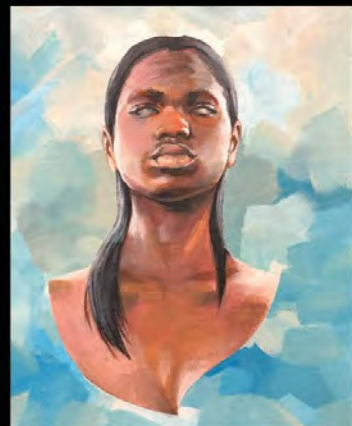
Here are some of our students pictured at Belmore Oval with students from Kingsgrove North High School, Moorebank High School and Punchbowl Boys' High School. The schools are working together with The Canterbury Bulldogs in an empowerment program called REVIVE, organised by Lighthouse Community Support.

Westpac GO!



Vivienne Al-Mallah, one of our Year 10 students involved in the Westpac Go! - Future Thinkers program last term has been featured in the Westpac Wire online publication. Have a read about what Vivienne has to say about the future of work experience and how access to technology can make a difference... <https://www.westpac.com.au/.../students-take-a-virtual.../>

ARTEXPRESS



Year 12 Visual Arts student Ward Moukaddem has been nominated and selected for the HSC exhibition of artworks, ARTEXPRESS. This is an annual showcase of Higher School Certificate Bodies of Work exhibition representing exemplary and dynamic artworks created by New South Wales, Visual Arts students for the 2020 Higher School Certificate examination. Ward's collection of work titled *A portrait is only the ghost of a human*, consists of digital illustrations, paintings, chalk pastel and coloured pencil drawings. The work depicts a series of portraits represented in a highly realistic manner.

By being listed for nomination and included in this exhibition, places Ward Moukaddem's work in the top 5% of HSC artworks in the state. Ward's outstanding Body of Work will be exhibited at *The Armory, Sydney Olympic Park* on 2 March - 11 April. A nomination and selection for ARTEXPRESS is an incredible achievement and Bankstown Girls High School congratulate Ward for creating such a high quality and resolved work.

SASS Appreciation Day



SASS Appreciation day was a celebrated occasion to commemorate the hard work, dedication and commitment of our fellow support and office staff. The morning tea was hosted by Ms Mircevski and catered by year 11 student volunteers, Ivonne, Julie and Vivian. On behalf of Bankstown Girls High School we would like to thank and acknowledge the SASS staff for their hard work and Mrs Mircevski for organising the morning tea.



Year 7 get eduCAIDed

On Wednesday 5th August all of year 7 participated in a workshop about mental health. The program was run by educ-AID, an organisation that works with school students to promote awareness on issues around mental health.

“educAID AU is committed to growing people who are well rounded, resilient, and are able to withstand the current pressures of the world we live in.”

Tareq Ahmed, one of the presenters, bravely shared his story about the pressures he experienced and personal battles he fought while he was at school. He stressed the importance of having supportive people around him during his recovery. The team also talked about strategies you can use to take care of your own mental health and how you can help others. Unlike a physical illness, you don't usually see what someone is experiencing mentally. So, always be kind to others because you never really know how they might be feeling on the inside.



Yr 7 students, participating in fun group activities



Above: Ziyad Serhan and Tareq Ahmed



VIDEO GRAPHER

Shawn Cig is a video/photographer and filmmaker who visited our school to document the opening of the Balcony café and Steam room. We took the opportunity to interview him about his career journey

Ivonne: What advice would you give to those interested in videography as a future career?

Shawn: My advice would be to start with photography, think about how a still image can tell a story, think about composition, practice, do things for free, go out onto the street, try not to annoy people, don't do too many things for free, because that will go on forever.

Practice and don't get caught on gear acquisition. Technology these days, basically any camera is good enough. A lot of us can get caught up on the next greatest latest camera or a new lens, just silly, It's more about the art of it than the camera

Ivonne: What are your go-to angles?

Shawn: Think about how your frame tells a story. You may want to illustrate a feeling in a shot or a scene. Say you want to make someone look powerful, you come from a low angle, so they look big in the frame, and I guess vice versa if you want them to feel small or feel like they are being put upon.

You can have a frame looking down upon them as if they are small. If you want a sense of isolation, you might want to have a big frame and make them physically small in a space

Once you get into the film language, if you kind of get an idea, it becomes more instinctual than anything else.

Ivonne: Who inspires you?

Shawn: I guess I got into it through fine art and photography a long time ago, I did film photography and painting. And then I got into computer artwork. And this is quite a long time ago. I went into animation and I like the idea of making my paintings and drawings move. It was a matter of time before I picked up a video camera. I fell in love with more of the moving image and yeah I kept going. I found out I was good at it and I love doing this kind of thing because I meet a lot of interesting people. There is a lot of variation in my work and it's fantastic. Can't say I have one particular inspiration, it's more from the film and art world.

Bringing Art to Hospitals

Congratulations go out to Anna Suryantoko and Lian Aslani, two of our very talented year 9 Visual Arts students. Their artworks have been selected for Operation Art, an initiative organised by The Department of Education Arts unit. The program gives students from around NSW the opportunity to have their artwork hung on the walls of Westmead Children's hospital. It aims to brighten up the patients stay by decorating their rooms with bright, colourful art.

Anna's artwork was also chosen for Operation Art's touring exhibition in 2021. The exhibition will travel to the AGNW, followed by a tour of regional galleries before being donated to the Children's Hospital. Now, not many people can say that they've had their work displayed on the walls of the Art Gallery of NSW – What an achievement!



After the end one of the most legendary sports manga- Haruichi Furudate's Haikyu! – some fans are left feeling somewhat empty. After all, despite the abundance of many, successful sports manga, it isn't easy to come across one that can challenge the tops such as Kuroko no Basketball and Diamond no ace. Well, that's where 'Blue lock' by Muneyuki Kaneshiro and Yuusuke Nomura comes into the ring- equipped by nothing but a pair of amateur gloves but overflowing from fighting potential.

Blue lock is an ongoing, Shonen, sports manga- that made its debut in the *Weekly Shonen Jump* on the 1st of August 2018, with updates on a weekly basis.

"The story begins with Japan's elimination from the 2018 FIFA World Cup, which prompts the Japanese Football Union to start a programme scouting high school players who will begin training in preparation for the 2022 Cup. **Isagi Youichi**, a forward, receives an invitation to this programme soon after his team loses the chance to go to Nationals because he passed to his less-skilled teammate —who missed— without trying to make the game-changing goal by himself. Their coach will be **Ego Jinpachi**, who intends to "*destroy Japanese loser football*" by introducing a radical new training regimen: isolate 300 young strikers in a prison-like institution called "Blue Lock" and put them through rigorous training aimed at creating "*the world's greatest egotist striker.*"

Unlike a large majority of sports manga, Blue Lock resolves heavily around each individual and the relationships they have with each other. And by relationships, I don't mean friendship or teamwork, but rather, a prey and predator relationship where it's either devour or to be devoured, because at the end, there will only be one successor in Blue Lock.

Alongside an intense storyline, we get to see Yusuke Nomura's breath-taking art, I especially enjoy seeing his large, two page panels that frame some of the most heart racing moments. His style is fierce and many of his line's look almost raw ink blotches, however his style effectively resonates with the story.

Overall, if you're looking for an intense, action packed sports manga that updates on a steady basis, I'd say Blue Lock is worth a try. However, like many others – Blue Lock's thrilling plot is driven by unrealistic sports, similar to Kuroko Basket, so don't be surprised if you see Isagi pull of a move that defies all logic.

A detailed manga-style illustration of Isagi Youichi, a character from the Blue Lock series. He has long, flowing red hair and intense blue eyes. He is wearing a blue and white soccer jersey with a Japanese flag emblem on the chest. He is holding a black soccer glove in his right hand, which is raised towards his face. The background is a vibrant pink and blue gradient with some abstract shapes.

M A N G A R E V I E W

BOOK REVIEWS

Ainslie Kosena (Year 11)



EON and EONA *Alison Goodman*

RATING: 4.5 stars

Anyone who has a deep and avid appreciation for enticing historical fiction novels will know one, when they see it. In this case, it isn't only one great novel, but two. In a world closely aligned with the ancient Chinese realm, Australian author, Alison Goodman, has made good use of her thorough knowledge of the Chinese Imperial Reign. With a twist of energy worlds and Dragon affiliations in accordance to the zodiac animals, the main character, Eona, is a persona with a hidden burden on her frail shoulders. In a world where men are superior and women are viewed as corrupt, Eona is placed in a position of good fortune: As Mirror Dragoneye- who had finally returned after a 500 year disappearance. She is plummeted in a world of curtly manners and a struggle of alliances against those seeking the power of the throne. However, there is a catch: the entire Empire knows Eona as Lord Eon, the mirror Dragobneye. If her true identity as a female were to be discovered, her punishment would be an unquestioned and dishonourable death. If you think you can handle a novel (and its sequel) that is a cross between Mulan and a milder version of Game of Thrones (sorta but not really) and a dig of fantasy story of power and love, this sequel is definitely for you!



WARCROSS and WILDCARD *Marie Lu*

RATING: 4.9 stars

If you're a gal who would rather be holed up in your room playing a serious session of GTA or HALO or FIFA or Assassin's Creed, or PUBG or Red Dead Redeem (you get the drill- if you're a gamer girl), then you urgently need to get your hands on these two gems. Marie Lu is a personal favourite author, who is talented and creative enough (and then some) to conjure a dystopian world that is beyond technological comprehension but frighteningly imaginable with the rate our current technology is advancing. Warcross and its sequel, Wildcard, follow the tale of Emika Chen- and eighteen year old hacker, who originally worked as a bounty hunter. That is, until she glitched herself into Warcross Championship opening match. Plunged into a world of fame and fortune, Emika is hired by Warcross' young billionaire creator, Hideo Tanaka (a rather handsome Japanese bloke with a British accent lol), to uncover a security problem found in his game. This story is one that challenges the ideas of social morals and free will- both being the core values that seem to have blurred lines distinguishing right from wrong. Clearly, if you dig a solid high-tech sci-fi kind of novel, with a protagonist that is confronted by a hot shot troubled past, then this series is definitely for you. P.S. Tremain and Roshan will always be my new fav couple- though, all the other couples are the epitome of 'love has no bounds'. All are squeal-worthy.

BOOK REVIEWS

Ainslie Kosena (Year 11)



CHILDREN OF BLOOD AND BONE and CHILDREN OF VIRTUE AND VENGEANCE

Toni Adeyemi

RATING: 5 stars

At first glance, I had immediately assumed the norms of a typical Young-Adult fiction novel: a protagonist in a fictional world of chaos and disarray, fighting with a rebellion for freedom from a patriarchal monarch or governing system. I had thought that I was right- all the points were there. However it wasn't until the end of Book 1 that I realised how much more depth there was behind the flesh and skin of the novel. The bones of the story were entirely developed on the basis of the struggles faced by black civilians, both past and present. The people were distinctly separated into two races or perhaps, classes: the Maji and the Kosidan. Tomi Adeyemi artfully described the hardships faced by the black minority through Zèlie and the Maji, oppression and hatred sinking them deep into the pits of slavery and hard labour in the world of Orisha. Both books put a particular everything into perspective- leaving you reeling from the harsh and brutal reality behind the worlds. This is a novel that grasps at the value of identity found through the cultural heritage and unity among those of kin. It values freedom and family, love and friendship. This is not a story for the faint-hearted, and although it is an enticing fantasy, the foreshadowing of bleak histories is stifling, and hard to ignore.



THE FOLK OF THE AIR SERIES: THE CRUEL PRINCE, THE WICKED KING & THE QUEEN OF NOTHING

Holly Black

RATING: 4.9 stars

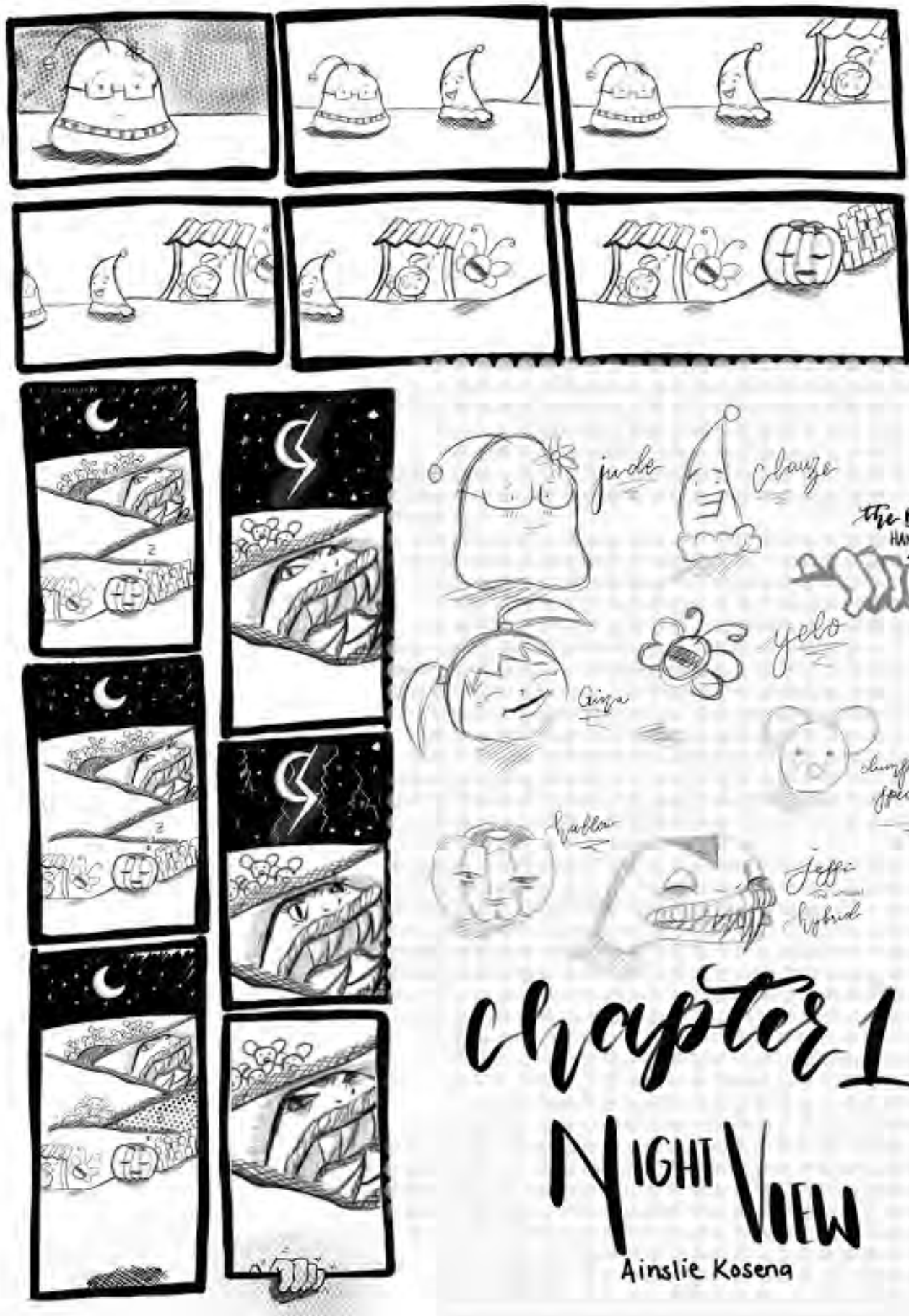
"Holly Black is the Faerie Queen." I couldn't agree more. Holly Black would definitely be on my speed dial in case of any faerie emergency. Her intelligence isn't only reflected in the arid and detailed descriptions of every scene and its characters, but in the plot itself. The way the story turned out, or rather the series of events that took place, were beyond me. I mean it. They were beyond me. It may be due

to my dim-wit and my lack of experience in writing such incredible works, but I've gotta give it to you guys: Holly Black earned her crown. The series follows Jude Duarte, a mortal thrust into the Faerie World after her parents were murdered by Madoc-her mother's first (faerie) husband(and biological father of her older half sister Vivienne). In order to survive a world of tricks and bargains, Jude and her twin sister, Taryn, are forced to learn the cunning ways of Faerie-through deception. Of course this novel isn't recommended to the faint hearted or the overly superstitious, but if you do want to be immersed in a world of sinister games and a twisted version of role-play (you'll understand what I mean once you've read the first book), then this series is definitely meant to be in your hands.



Funny Face Masks







AGES 12-25

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