

## Supporting students reach their potential

### Principal's report – Jane Ferris

As a school we are committed to supporting students as they strive to achieve their personal best. At times some students do not know what they are capable of and need support in setting goals and working towards them. As parents you will know this is sometimes a balancing act between what is indeed encouraging them, but your child may see as nagging. To the students, you need to take responsibility in grabbing the opportunities and applying yourself with diligence and sustained effort to all your subjects.

Foremost classroom teachers are there to support the students in their classes. In identifying the needs of individual students, teachers encourage and challenge them through a level of curriculum differentiation. How we differentiate the curriculum to engage all students in their learning is a major focus for 2013. Also teachers give regular homework which may be a long term assignment that has to be completed, further reading and note making after a lesson, or completing some work on MOODLE.

In addition there are other programs in the school that support all students reach their potential:

After school Learning Centre on Mondays 3.30 to 4.30 in the library for students years 7 to 12. This provides great spaces for group work, quiet corners for getting ahead with homework, computer access and teacher support.

Senior Learning Centre in the library for use in study periods. The school has invested heavily in having an additional teacher available through the day in the library. The teacher on duty and the librarian are there to assist senior students whether with research or study skills such as time management.

Year 12 mentoring – students are attached to a mentor teacher for support in the HSC. They meet regularly to discuss how things are going and for the mentor to provide helpful advice. Some students did not arrange a mentor in term 4 last year. It is never too late. There are still teachers available to mentor students, so pass on your name to Ms Allan or Mr Muirhead and we will connect you to a mentor.

Year 10 Personalised Learning Goal program – as parents and students were informed last week at the Year 10 Information Evening, all students will be reflecting on their progress as they set goals for year 10 and beyond. With looking at progress to date from school reports and NAPLAN results, reflecting on strengths and weaknesses, students will be interviewed by a member of the executive this term. We want students to be challenged, build sound work habits, and continue to acquire knowledge and skills in preparation for achieving excellence in the senior school.

Learning Support Team – this team is made up of teachers who identify the individual learning needs of students who find school work more difficult. The team prioritises appropriate additional support in classes with Student Learning Support Officers.

### On other matters

In the last week, parents have been posted home an invoice in regards to school contributions. Your timely support in this matter is greatly appreciated so we can meet our 2013 budget costs. If you are experiencing financial difficulty, you may be eligible for the Schoolkids Bonus. Check your eligibility by visiting [Australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus](http://Australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus) and if you think you might have missed out on the January payment, contact Centrelink—either in person at a Centrelink-Medicare office or by calling 132 468.

Also we would like all parents to complete the parent/guardian consent form for publications and local excursions. On the one hand, this will ensure we can recognise student achievement, and on the other hand widen the learning environment into neighbouring local areas. Please see separate form later in this newsletter.

CALENDAR	
Tuesday 5 March	Open Night – 5:15-8pm
Friday 15 March	Blood Bank
Monday 18 March	Year 12 Parent/Teacher Night
Saturday 23&Sunday 24 March	CHS Swimming Carnival
Friday 29 March	Good Friday
Monday 1 April	Easter Monday
Friday 12 April	Last Day Term 1
Monday 29&Tuesday 30 April	Staff Development Days – no students attend
Wednesday 1 May	All students return
Friday 3 May	School Photos

# A Note from the Deputies

Halfway through Term 1 already!

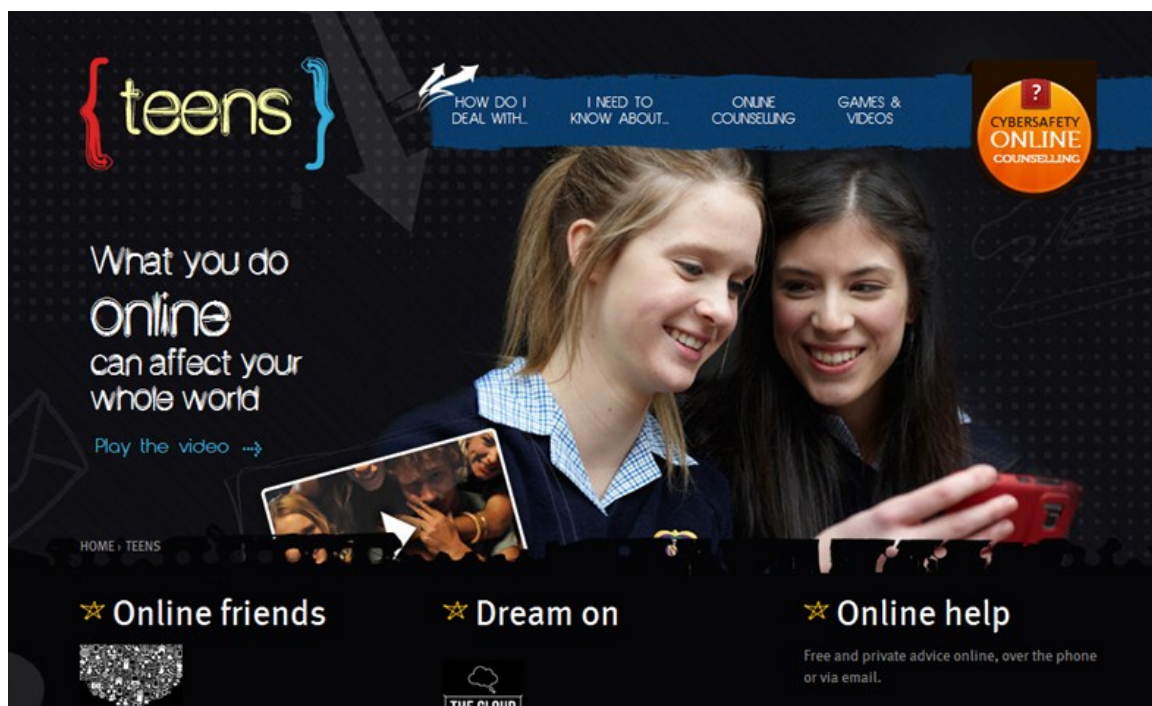
It has been great to see so many parents and students at the information nights we have held for Years 9, 10 and 11. These provide opportunities to come together as a school community and for students and parents to find out information pertinent to the year group. Cybersafety was one area presented at the Year 9 and 10 evenings. There are links on the school website to video clips and further information for parents and students about staying safe online. As part of this focus I would like to remind all students that they are not allowed to take photographs or video footage of others without their express permission.

The swimming carnival was a great success – the weather stayed fine for most of the day and large number of students who attended had a really good day. It is very important take opportunities to get involved in the many positive extra-curricula offered at school. It will be these days that you remember long after school is finished.

Year 11 students are settling into senior study in a positive way. They will be signing off their Board of Studies entries for Preliminary study tomorrow during their year group meeting. This is an important part of the process as they check their enrolment in the correct courses and other contact details such as addresses.

Year 12 parent teacher night is on Monday 18 March. We will be using an online booking system for you to make appointments with teachers. This information will be emailed all students on their DEC email. Please ensure that your child opens the email to enable you to make the bookings.

Renee Andrews and David Muirhead  
Deputy Principals



# WILLMETTE EXCURSION

On 12 January we all met up at Sydney Airport and set off on the first part of our trip, to Hawaii. After months of waiting, we couldn't believe we were finally leaving and we were all very excited.

We were welcomed in Honolulu by relatives of Mr Mitchell's – Kathy and Hilton, who generously took us into their home for the week and greeted us with colourful, flowery laie. The house was lovely and was situated in Kailua and over looked the main areas of Oahu. The following morning, we all went paddle boarding at Ala Moana at sunrise and saw turtles swimming around us which was a huge highlight for us all. The next few days were packed full of adventures including a trip to Pearl Harbor, surfing at Waikiki, snorkeling at Hanuama Bay, watching people surf 25ft waves on the North shores biggest surf breaks (Pipeline, Sunset Beach) and shopping at Waikale Outlet Centre. At Pearl Harbor we saw the ruins of the Arizona and had a tour of a huge battleship called the Missouri which was very fascinating. Throughout the week we also experienced eating at many different restaurants such as the Cheesecake Factory, Round Table Pizza, Spaghetti Factory and more. Our time in Hawaii was incredible and although we didn't want to leave, we were ready to face the cold and finally meet all the Americans.

When we arrived in Chicago, we were nervous but extremely excited to meet everyone. Walking through the airport, we felt so full of adrenaline and when we finally saw the Americans waiting for us with a 'Welcome Aussies' sign, we greeted them like old friends. After going out to Steak and Shake (a classic American diner), we went to each of our homes where would stay over the next three weeks.

On one of our first days, we got a tour of the local fire and police stations where we got to sit in the police cars and look at all the equipment in the fire trucks. We then went to a community facility where we got to go on all the gymnastics equipment and had a lot of fun in the foam pit and afterwards, we went ice skating. Of course, something we had been hanging out waiting for was our first day at school, and it lived up to all our expectations. Walking through the front gates and seeing the yellow school buses was like being in an American movie! We got assigned our own classes which were a mixture of all the most outrageous subjects like Glass Art where we made tear-drop shaped pendants, Outdoor Ed where we went rock climbing, Dance, Theatre, Automotive where we worked on cars in a garage, Ceramics where we made pots and plates and Gourmet Cooking where we learnt many new things that we have brought home with us. Aside from the amazing classes we got to take, we also made so many close friends through the school and met some amazing people who made an effort to get to know us and show us a great time at New Trier and the North Shore, which meant so much to the four of us.

We spent our weekends and a couple of days that we had off school exploring the city of Chicago and doing some sightseeing. We saw the Blue Man Group, which is a show unique to Chicago, went up the Sears Tower which has 110 floors and glass platforms that you can stand in and look down on the city from, saw heaps of memorabilia at the Hard Rock Café, went to the Art Institute, stood around and under the Bean, went sledding, went to an improvisation performance called Comedy Sports and saw the night lights from the John Hancock Building.

Leaving all the amazing people we had met and our incredible host families was the worst part of our experience as we had made friends for life and it was time to say goodbye! We all encourage the younger students of our school to try and get involved in this program. It is such an amazing opportunity, a once in a lifetime experience and we would all like to thank Mr Mitchell for taking us and putting in an incredible amount of effort into making our experience as great as it could be. Words cannot express how much we enjoyed and loved this trip. We are so thankful and couldn't have asked for a better experience .



# SPORTS UPDATE – MS FLEMING

## SWIMMING CARNIVAL – LANE COVE AQUATIC CENTRE– FRIDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2013

Congratulations to all everyone who attended and swam in the carnival. It was a fantastic day with lots of house colour and spirit. We had record numbers participating and so much talent amongst our students. Good luck to the 60 students who will be competing at the Zone Swimming on Tuesday 5 March at Warringah Aquatic Centre. We will definitely be the team to watch!!!

### Swimming Age Champions

12yrs	Olivia M	Christian G
13yrs	Lily C	Jasen W
14ys	Sophia D	Liam D
15yrs	Claire S	Harry H
16yrs	Darienne A	Tyler A
17yrs	Jasmine H	Luke B

### Swimming Records

The following students broke an unbelievable 4 records each!

Luke B	17yrs+	50m Freestyle, 50m Breaststroke, 50m Backstroke, 50m Fly
Jasen W	13yrs	50m Freestyle, 50m Backstroke, 50m Fly, 100m Freestyle

### House Points – Congratulations Barrenjoey!!!

1 <sup>ST</sup>	Barrenjoey	484pts
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lion	378pts
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Warringah	356pts
4 <sup>th</sup>	Scotland	282pts

## SPORTS STARS

**Jordyn H (Year 8)** – has made it into the State Championships athletics for the 1500m. Congratulations Jordyn and good luck with your preparation.

# SWIMMING CARNIVAL



# ART EXPRESS

Congratulations Tom L from 2012 Year 12 who has had his Visual Arts major work selected for display in the prestigious Art Express exhibition at the Art Gallery of NSW. Art Express is an annual exhibition of exemplar art works produced by students undertaking the Visual Arts course for the HSC.

Tom is pictured standing in front of his extraordinary and detailed group of ink drawings on paper titled "Epoch" which highlights his interest in the collision of nature and a manmade universe.

Tom explains: "This artwork represents us separating from nature into a new, constructed world. In this modern era we have changed the face of the world in such a way it can be viewed as having two different aspects: natural and manufactured. The large tear between the islands represents our human evolution away from nature into this contrasting world of metal and concrete buildings, frames and pipes shrouded in smoke. The trees and shrubs contained in the greenhouse domes show that we still need to hang on to nature to provide oxygen and resources for survival"



You can see Tom's works along with a fine selection of works at the 2013 Art Express exhibition at the Art Gallery of NSW until 14 April 2013.

Milly M also Year 12, 2012 was selected for Art Express and her collection of works—"My Committal" are on display at The Armory Gallery at Homebush Bay until 28 April 2013.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH!**

## CAPA FACULTY NEWS

The Creative and Performing Arts faculty have begun with a flying start this year with several performances and exhibitions having already occurred.

The Drama part of the faculty has been preparing for the performances with Open Night. Thank you to Ms Brigden who has ably filled in for Mr Gleeson who has been on his honeymoon. There have been some Drama captains elected and these are going to be announced in the near future. There are numerous Drama performances planned throughout the year and all are welcome to come and be part of the audience.

The music department has been busy with not only the class work but with many co-curricular activities. Music classes have already settled into their programs with year 7 classes enjoying the practical lessons on the keyboards and guitars. The year 7 extension class is an excellent standard and we look forward to their participation in performances throughout the year. The junior elective classes have begun their work within their music subjects and we are looking forward to hearing the student's performances and compositions throughout the year. The seniors are busy preparing for assessments, including musicology, listening, composition and performance.

Already the musical has begun rehearsing in earnest on Thursday afternoons, Sundays and most lunchtimes. Ms Deborah Meyers believes that this year's musical, Back to Eighties, will be sensational so don't miss the performances in early third term.

On the back of last year's European Tour the bands and orchestras have begun the year well. Already there are several performances on the horizon including Open Night, an evening with the Primary Schools, a proposed Senior Stage Band Tour to Mt Gambier and a proposed Junior Stage Band to Port Macquarie. There are many concerts planned throughout the year which will be advertised in the School's newsletter. These concerts are generally public and everybody is welcome to attend.

Finally, for those students that have a passion and talent for the Arts it is important that they elect these subjects throughout the course of their schooling. Not only will these students find the courses rewarding but the classes will provide them with a creative outlet that will stay with them for their lifetime.

Dr M Hardy Head Teacher, Creative and Performing Arts.

# MUSIC NEWS

TERM 1 WEEK 6



## PERFORMANCE & MEETING DATES

<b>*First performance 5 March: School Open Day.*</b>			
<b>Term 1- Performances</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Bands</b>
5 March 2013 School Open Day	Tuesday	5.45 to 6pm ----- -- 6pm ----- -- 6.30pm ----- --	Strings, Symphonic, Both Stage Bands.
Please arrive at the School Hall, 15 minutes before performance time in full Band Uniform.			
9 April 2013	Tuesday	7.00pm	Concert & Symphonic
<b>Music Ensemble Rehearsal Times. All rehearsals are in the Performance Space.</b>			
Symphony Orchestra	Monday	5.00 – 6.15pm	Performance Space
String Ensemble (All years)	Monday	6.30 – 7.30pm	Performance Space
Senior Stage	Tuesday	7.30 – 8.40am	Performance Space
Concert Band (Yrs 7 – 9)	Tuesday	2.45 – 4.00pm	Performance Space
Symphonic Band	Tuesday	4.15 – 5.45pm	Performance Space
Senior Strings	Wednesday	7.30 – 8.40am	Performance Space
Concert Band	Thursday	7.30 – 8.40am	Performance Space
Junior Stage (Yrs 7 – 9)	Friday	7.30 – 8.40am	Performance Space

**School Spectacular:** Applications are NOW OPEN for the Arts Unit School Spectacular 2013. For more information, or to apply, visit [www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/school-spectacular/applications-and-auditions/](http://www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/school-spectacular/applications-and-auditions/).

**Arts Unit Music Camps:** Applications for the Junior, (Dates: Sat 13/07/2013 – 18/07/2013, open to student years 5 – 8) and Senior, (Dates: Sat 22/06/2013 – 27/06/2013, open to student years 8 – 12), Music Camps open soon.

**Fundraising:** The Committee urgently needs your help in organizing our next Music Ensemble Fundraising Event – a night of Jazz and Gourmet delights – which takes place on 5 April in the School Hall. Anyone who can offer their help and expertise, please ring Karin on the number below.

### CONTACTS:

*Band President* - Karin Krueger: [karin@kdkmedia.com.au](mailto:karin@kdkmedia.com.au) or 0419 991 267;

*Secretary* - Joanne Gwatkin-Williams: [joanne@thevastideep.com](mailto:joanne@thevastideep.com) or 0437 408 801;

*Treasurer* – Rick Elliott: [icycold@outlook.com](mailto:icycold@outlook.com) or 0400 461 941;

*Uniform* – Geri Bergstein: [geribergstein@hotmail.com](mailto:geribergstein@hotmail.com) or 0407 602 795.



# Pittwater High School

Mona St, Mona Vale NSW 2103

Phone: 9999 4035

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Email: [pittwater-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:pittwater-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

Website: [www.pittwater-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.pittwater-h.schools.nsw.edu.au)

PRINCIPAL: Ms Jane Ferris

DEPUTY PRINCIPALS: Ms Renee Andrews and Mr David Muirhead

Dear Parents/caregivers,

From the reverse side of this letter, you will see that we are seeking your overall consent in the area of publications and also for local excursions. This will assist staff who have responsibility for managing publications, ensure that students receive recognition for their efforts and help teachers who want to provide increased learning opportunities for students in the local area away from the school site.

1. **Publication Consent:** As our students participate in events around the school such as athletics carnival, excursions, competitions, special assemblies or everyday class, we like to report on these in various publications. We are also in the process of improving and updating our web page. On the web page we have a link to newsletters, making the Pittwater Press available to a wider audience. Therefore it is timely to seek permission that students' photos, names etc can continue to be included in our publications at Pittwater High. It is our policy not to use photo captions that directly identify students.
2. **Local Excursions:** During the course of their study at Pittwater High, there are times that it is appropriate for students to leave the school premises during the lesson with their teacher. This may be for fieldwork in Science or Geography, a visit to local shops for Commerce, tutoring at a local primary school for sport or debating, or visiting a local playgroup for Exploring Early Childhood. These are great opportunities that enrich student learning. At these times students are supervised by the class teacher. For any local activity that will involve swimming the school will seek separate permission for that activity.

Your prompt completion and return of this consent form would be greatly appreciated. If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school. If for any reason you feel you cannot consent, could you please let us know. Completed forms can be returned to the red box or the roll call teacher.

Yours faithfully

Ms Jane Ferris  
Principal



# Pittwater High School

Mona St, Mona Vale NSW 2103

Phone: 9999 4035

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PRINCIPAL: Ms Jane Ferris

DEPUTY PRINCIPALS: Ms Renee Andrews and Mr David Muirhead

## PARENT/GUARDIAN PUBLICATION CONSENT FORM

I hereby consent to my daughter/son/ward \_\_\_\_\_ of roll call \_\_\_\_\_ being photographed at Pittwater High School for school publications including the Pittwater Press newsletter, promotional pamphlets and DVDs, promotional material in the local press, Annual School Report and the school web page. I understand that photo captions will not directly identify students. I also consent that my son's/daughter's/ward's name can also be used in these school publications in relation to school events or competitions etc that she/he may have participated in. If in the future I choose to withdraw this consent I will notify the school in writing.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## PARENT/GUARDIAN LOCAL EXCURSION CONSENT FORM

I hereby consent to my daughter/son/ward \_\_\_\_\_ of roll call \_\_\_\_\_ leaving the school premises during allocated lessons under the supervision of the class teacher, to participate in local excursions and fieldwork in areas nearby to Pittwater High that can be reached with walking. This may include adjoining bushland, Flying Fox Park, local shops, coastal area or another nearby school. I understand that if water activities were to be involved other permissions will be sort. If in the future I choose to withdraw this consent I will notify the school in writing.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# JAPAN TRIP MEETING

**All participating students and a parent are required at this meeting.**

When: Wednesday 13 March @ 6:30 pm

Where: Staff Common Room, PHS

Please bring your child's passport (or 3 copies of the photo page).

Passports must be valid 6 months beyond our return date, ie valid until April 2014.



If you have any questions please contact me: email: [colleen.lustig@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:colleen.lustig@det.nsw.edu.au) or call the school on 9999 4035 and I will return your call.

Colleen Lustig (Language faculty)

## Canteen News

WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH - Vicki Gurman, Helena Nobs, helpers needed—please call to canteen to confirm

THURSDAY 7 MARCH Kim Grosser, Sharryn Brown, Diane Del Pozo, helpers needed—pl call canteen to confirm

FRIDAY 8 MARCH Sue Nicol, helpers needed—please call canteen to confirm

MONDAY 11 MARCH Karen Vukobratovich, Martha Leonard, Melissa Livingstone, Matt or Alison Trapnell

TUESDAY 12 MARCH Leoni Olivari, Deb Van Der Saag—helpers needed—please call canteen to confirm

WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH Melissa Trbojevic, Mandy Daher, Mel Marshall, Linda Newman

THURSDAY 14 MARCH Keryn Gallagher, Sarah Jones, Jane Millar helpers needed—please call canteen to confirm

FRIDAY 15 MARCH: Tammy Rudder, Rhonda Scotter, Sunny Van Raad, Lisa Haworth

MONDAY 18 MARCH Deb Bertock, Roger Springthorpe, Christine Bratkovic, Katie Scharkie, Karen Lambert

TUESDAY 19 MARCH Sue Stevens, Kim Jefferys, Wendy Mclean, Michelle Watts

If you are unable to make your rostered day please try to arrange a swap or advise canteen managers  
Lisa/Katrina (9999 4035).

Thank you to all the volunteers we have for this year. This year we have a few changes to the roster. So we  
now have some great days and spots available—  
7 people needed on Tuesdays, 3 for Wednesdays, 5 for Thursdays and 5 for Fridays.

If any parents, friends, family or grandparents to the school are able to assist on any of these days please let  
me know. A full day is 9am to 2:30 or 3pm; a half day is 3 hours

Penny Winterbottom;  
Canteen roster co-ordinator  
[Pennywinterbottom1@hotmail.com](mailto:Pennywinterbottom1@hotmail.com)  
Phone 0432 679977

Our Agriculture Department would appreciate any donation of



plastic pot plant containers;

and

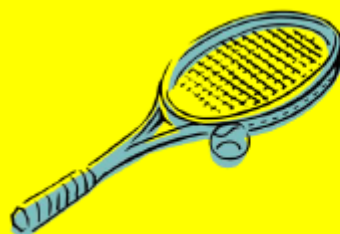
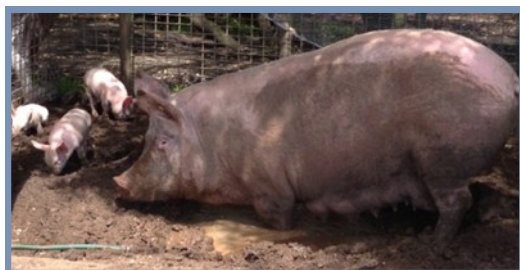
towels for washing and drying our sheep.



## Birth Notice



Our sow, Stella, gave birth to 7 piglets which has provided our students with an excellent learning opportunity available only at some specialist high schools.



For full information on hiring the tennis courts please email [phs.tennis@yahoo.com](mailto:phs.tennis@yahoo.com)

### PITTWATER HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS COURT HIRE.

PHS Tennis Court hire continues to offer value for money for community users however in keeping with charges of other venues and to meet our costs, we have revised our hire charges.

Daytime hire \$10 per hour or part thereof - Evenings \$14 per hour.

The school and Tiger tennis will always take priority over other bookings.

Court fees are billed first week of the month following use. Payment can be by cash, cheque or credit card direct to the school. All monies raised are used for school grounds and tennis court maintenance.