



# PITTWATER HIGH SCHOOL

BE RESPECTFUL

ASPIRE

BE RESPONSIBLE



**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT - Jane Ferris**

15 December 2016

## **CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE and BUILDING RESILIENCE**

Congratulations to all our students who received awards on Presentation Evening this week. I would also like to acknowledge that there are many other students that have done really well in achieving their personal best who didn't receive an award as time and space on the evening does not permit. However many of these students have been recognised at Sport presentations, instrumental music presentations, year meetings and other assemblies.



In my address I indicated that the key to success at school both academically and developing as a complete whole well adjusted person, is resilience. Sadly in our society with increased expectations of what we should have, what we should do, how we should look and how we should perform, we often lack resilience and become anxious. Recent research by Resilient Youth Australia has found that 25% of girls and 21% of boys feel anxious and under strain. These levels shoot up to 69% of girls and 36% of boys by year 12.

This clearly is counter productive as ensuing poor sleep, lack of concentration, procrastination and memory difficulties hinder the capacity to continue to excel not

to mention a lessening of the joy of learning. How we support development of resilience in the school is central.

At the school we have a very proactive wellbeing program to assist students in their development as well as PDHPE addressing issues such as mental health through the teaching programs. Most important we focus on the skills of critical and creative thinking, collaboration, independent learning and developing an inquisitive mind. This focus, rather on simply content, helps develop resilience.

Most important is also developing a sense of connection and belonging within the school community. With students feeling safe and happy, they can have the confidence in their learning to have a go without fear of putdowns. Our students in the main are very respectful of each other and learn how to self reflect and provide constructive feedback to their peers.

Persistence is also key to resilience and therefore success in learning. Our guest speaker James Spithill did not get to be a champion sailor without hours and hours of training and pacing himself. This is indeed a lesson students can apply as they take ownership of their learning.

So to all students – congratulations if you know you have done your best this year. Seek out the opportunities within our school to develop all your skills, sense of worth and hopefully a life long love of learning.

### **STOP PRESS: CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVERS IN HSC RESULTS 2016**

- **Mori Wakana: First in State in Background Speakers Japanese**
- **54 Distinguished Achievers results in cohort of only 90 students**
- **Inaugural accelerated Aboriginal Studies Students outstanding results whilst still in year 11: 50% Band 6, 50% band 5**
- **Many subjects above state average and above average for top bands**
- **Full analysis next year in Annual School Report**

# DEPUTY PRINCIPALS' REPORT

Rachel Fleming and Renee Andrews

Thank you to all students, staff and parents who have given 100% in 2016. There have been many highlights to celebrate and it has been a year of personal growth, challenges, and commitment from all. We wish you a safe and happy holiday and look forward to working with you all next year.

## 2017 Organisation

**NB/ The week student's start back will be known as Week 2A**

Day/Date	Year Group	Time
<b>Monday 30 January</b>	Year 11 & 12	8.50am – Assemble in the quad in 2016 roll call groups
	Year 7	9.20am for 9.30am start – Assembly in the hall
<b>Tuesday 31 January</b>	Years 7 to 12	8.55am – Assembly in the quad – Students to sit in 2016 roll call lines

**Students are to return in full school uniform on day 1.**

## Support Services

If you require support during the holiday period then do not hesitate to contact one of these services:

Kids Helpline	1800 551800
Lifeline	131114
Headspace	1800650 890

## CALENDAR

Term 4. Week 10

Friday 16 December	Year 12 ATAR morning tea 10.45am
Friday 16 December	Last day of term for staff and students

# Peer Support

It was such a pleasure to see the newly selected Peer Support leaders performing their first role on Orientation Day.

The 48 Year 9 students had recently undertaken two intensive training days to equip them for this very valued position at Pittwater High.

The leaders were required to orientate the new students who will form our Year 7 cohort in 2017. Not only were they respectful, polite and perfectly groomed, they did a wonderful job making the new students feel comfortable, easing any nerves and showing them around our school.

**Ms Lagois**



# BYOD A Year 10 Perspective

by Chelsea Gallagher and Grace Santich

In Term 3, the Year 10 Math classes were given a project that entailed budgeting for our future lives. We had to choose a career and research the income and necessary qualifications. We also had to research the costs of renting/buying a house, insurance, having a car, bills and the cost of going to university. We collated all this information and created a budget using an Excel spread sheet. When using Excel, we learned how to use formulas that automatically calculate values and enabled us to conduct “what-if” analyses to see how results change, when individual or combinations of input values change, without re-entering the whole spread sheet.

We gained crucial knowledge in how to purchase a house, manage mortgage payments, also factoring in the general cost of living and university debt. In this project, we learned about how finance is such a significant part of living independently.

This project was very enjoyable and informative because the knowledge we gained will be very helpful in planning our future life. In Year 10 Maths, we learn about linear and non-linear relationships, trigonometry and circle geometry, amongst other things. Some of us have been left wondering if any of it will have any use in our future, whereas, in this assignment, we used financial maths which is very useful knowledge for all of us after school.

## “Gateways to Learning” mural displays Pittwater’s commitment to cross curricular and lifelong learning



This week, Pittwater High School unveils its “Gateways to Learning” mural on the brick wall of C block in the school quadrangle. Enthusiastically supported by our principal, Ms Ferris, The Mural Project was supervised by Mrs Jamieson and local artist Cam Wall and was intended to extend students with an interest in art, and encourage older students to mentor younger students over two terms. As well as learning how to design an artwork, transfer a design and execute it, the students practised school’s key values of Respect, Responsibility and Aspire through working cooperatively and displaying commitment and focus to the project. The overarching design

of the artwork itself is based on the Fibonacci sequence, a Mathematical progression, and incorporates design elements which represent Art, Music, Science, HSIE, TAS, Maths and English. It is symbolic of Pittwater’s commitment to cross curricular projects which extend and engage students, and to engendering a love of lifelong learning in our students.

The following students participated in the Mural Project:

**Nathaniel Van Dyk, Polly Bryant, Lara Heath, Alex Dunlop, Daniel Wheeler, Hailey Carter, Aja Phelps, Caitlin Spencer, Grace Fisher, Jenny White, Casey Kern, Tegan Evans, Jazmyn Ann Quince, Jacob Macri, Tre Macri, Luke Rankin, Cale Trapnell, Bryson Hill.**

Congratulations to all students for their successful commitment to this project!!

# HSC ART EXPRESS



Detail: *Genealogy Trails*

Congratulations to Year 12 Visual Art Students Harry Stieven-Dalton for his selection and Natalie Mavridis for her pre-selection to *Art Express* for 2017, and Taylor Springthorpe for her acceptance in Manly Art Gallery and Museum's '*Express Yourself*' exhibition for 2017. To receive a nomination for these exhibitions outlines the marker or curators acknowledgement of the outstanding quality of the selected works.

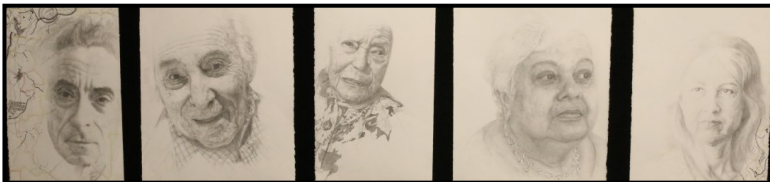
***Express Yourself*** showcases exemplar major works from the Northern region of Sydney. Taylor's work '*Per ardua ad astra*' was submitted as a Collection of Works and featured drawings, sculptures and paintings exploring the effects of bushfires on native Australian flora and the importance and patterns of rebirth in our lives. Congratulations Taylor on your well deserved honour.

***Art Express*** is organised by the Arts unit of New South Wales and is attached to the Board of Studies marking centre.

It is a highly prestigious recognition of the work of students who have produced exceptional artworks throughout the course of their HSC in Visual Arts. It is curated by the individual galleries themselves, therefore demonstrating the high calibre of works selected. This is an extraordinary honour for Natalie to be preselected for this opportunity with her work '*Genealogy Trails*'. Her work focused on life and identity being shaped by the landscape and culture of a person's heritage, focusing directly on her multi-cultural family.

Further congratulations to Harry, who's work progressed through the final stage of selections and will be exhibited at Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre for his work '*Wall Up*'. His drawings reflected a personal journey with permanent hearing loss in one ear as a child.

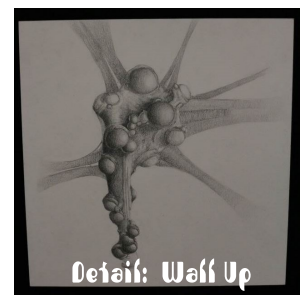
**Congratulations again to Natalie Mavridis, Taylor Springthorpe and Harry Stieven-Dalton.**



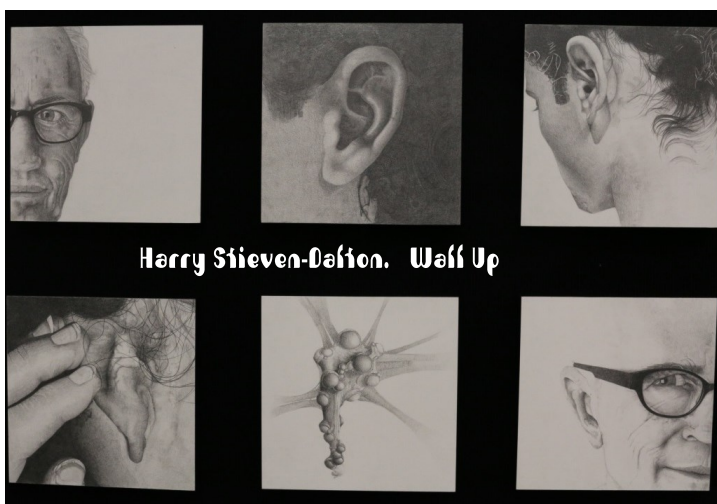
Natalie Mavridis. *Genealogy Trails*



Detail: *Per ardua ad astra*



Detail: *Wall Up*



Harry Stieven-Dalton. *Wall Up*



Taylor Springthorpe. *Per ardua ad astra*

# Combined Classroom. Creative Classroom

Today we merged with a different class. It was a great opportunity to share our creative writing ideas. The open classroom gave the effect of space so we didn't feel squished. It was a fun creative writing topic and being able to do with another class made it ten times better. **Skye Stone 7R**

*As part of their unit on Shakespeare, 7R and 7S are reading the novel King of Shadows about a boy who travels back in time and meets Shakespeare! In response to the novel students collaborated to generate story ideas and then wrote their own time travel story. Below are some examples. Well done year 7!*



## **The Trenches, by Max Schweinsberg 1912 – WW1**

It was a cold wet night in the trenches and I wished nothing more than to be in the safety of my own home and to rid the blisters from my hands and the pain from my feet. I came to a point of exhaustion and all I can remember is the darkness of my own mind.

Then suddenly a light appeared - it was the moon. And then the sound of a melody made from the rhythm of the crashing waves - so perfect; so enchanting that it lured me into the water and, totally overpowered by its force, I was swept down into the darkest depths until silence again.

I awoke in what felt like a matter of seconds but it all seemed too familiar - the smell in the air, the sound of the wind. It felt safe. I was home!

# Timeless

by Talia Dunning

If you could go back in time would you? Would you risk it all just to fix one mistake? Well I learned that the hard way. It all started in 1924, April 4<sup>th</sup> - Sam and I were going out to a restaurant to meet someone. In this restaurant you're not allowed to see anything because it is all pitch black. They do this so that you can meet someone by their personality not by their looks.

So we went in and I sat with this girl called Sophie - the love of my life. She was funny, nice and had a great sense of humour. We talked and talked for the whole night and she seemed to like me so it worked perfectly. But the catch with this restaurant is that in the end you have to reveal yourself to each other. All I could think about were all the doubts running through my mind. "Will she like me anymore, I'm so nervous!" As we walked out of the restaurant that's all that was running in my head... but my jaw dropped when I saw her face.

Such beauty stood right in front of me, but the thing that most surprised me was that she liked me. We talked and talked and deeper and deeper I fell for her, but then she had to leave. I asked for her number and surprisingly she said yes. And in that silent moment I took a step forward and looked into her eyes that were looking directly back at me. From then on we did everything together.

Soon enough she moved in and everything was perfect until the day I proposed. We were walking to the park and just crossing the road when she ran ahead and BAM. One minute everything was great and the next she was gone.

In my family a traditional skill was passed down - the ability to time travel. But each time you go back, more and more energy is taken out of you until there is none left to take.

If you try to change things that happen suddenly you can't - it will happen anyway. So I went back to the tragic day and tried to get her past the street where the accident happened but she still ended up with the same fate. I went back again and again until I was too weak to continue.

There was only one other price I had to pay if I was going to save her life - somebody had to take her place. So I went back one last time and I finally got her to the park. I looked at her and she was smiling. It brought tears to my eyes because I knew that was the last time I was going to see her. I stopped and slowly started to walk until I was at a good 3 metres away. She looked at me in confusion and then I reached into my pocket and grabbed my gun, and as I brought it up to my head she screamed and sprinted towards me. But I was already gone.



# Kalori Film Festival

On 5 of December Pittwater held the annual Kalori Film Festival. This year's theme was 'All the world's a stage' and all this year's entries were incredibly creative. Each of the participants took the theme and twisted it to their own style.



***Spoonasaurus Rex***

From music videos to horror stories, a fake reality show to a story about memes, each of the films shown was wonderful and unique. The audience were on the edge of their seats or laughing until their sides hurt, at least I know I was! Students are already looking forward to next year's festival, which we are sure will be entertaining!



***Forsaken***



***Basic***

## **The award winners were:**

Critic's Choice – **Spoonasaurus Rex**

People's Choice – **Basic, The Cave**

Recognition Award (voted by Real to Reel classes) - **Forsaken**

The Uniform Shop and Canteen would like to take this opportunity to thank all the hard working volunteers who have helped to make 2016 a wonderful year. Our school Uniform Shop and Canteen would not be able to function successfully without your help. Thank you to Sheridan Femia, Margaret and Peter Woods, Joanna Cartright, Kay Little, Deb van der Saag, Giovanna Graziano, Nicole Graham, Ange Torres, Suzanne Humphreys, Bindi Hooghuis, Irina Lindley, Kerry Gallagher, Sarah James, Monique Stidwell, Robyn Armsworth-Brack, Kylie Bennetts, Chris Marshall, Sandra Avedissian, Simone Davis, Sarah Atfield, Melissa Hanks, Deb Havenstein, Sue Nicol, Sunny van Raad, Alison Crawford, Meredith Cox, Joanne Huxtable, Alison Turner, Catherine Aitken, Anne Graham, Rowena Kempton.

Kim would like to especially thank Wendy, Fiona, Georgia, Janine, Gloria, Karen and our lovely band of Year 12 students who work tirelessly for Orientation Day.

We would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year. We hope to see you all in 2017!

Kim, Felicity, Katrina, Cindy and Diana.

# St. Art Competition

St. Ives Shopping Village invites students to participate in our bi-monthly art competition.

Register now to receive an information pack and for your chance to win prizes!

*to register*

send your full name, age and school to, [comms@undergroundcomms.com.au](mailto:comms@undergroundcomms.com.au)

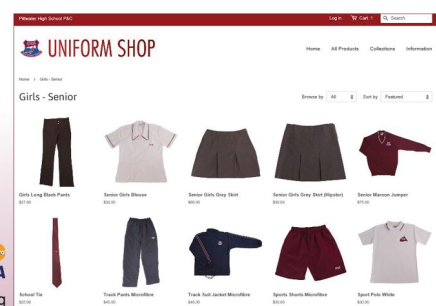


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Thursday	08:15 - 11:15	08:15 - 11:15
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A selection of second hand uniforms are available via the uniform shop only.