Principal’s Report

This Term has been a very busy one, culminating in the completion of the Semester 1 courses. The report for each of the courses studied by students was distributed to students on Thursday 26th June prior to the Parent/Teacher interviews last Tuesday evening. On Thursday morning, students receiving Achievement and Endeavour awards were presented with their awards at a whole school ceremony. Once again congratulations to all of our award winners this semester and I look forward to presenting the awards at the end of the year.

School Upgrade and the ACT Government Budget Announcement
The ACT Government recently announced in the budget a further $0.25M for stage 1 of the modernisation of our school. The planning process for stage 1 is now close to completion and I am expecting work to commence before the end of the year. I am looking forward to sharing the details with parents and students as the project progresses.

World Challenge
Our two World Challenge teams have now been in Malaysia and Borneo for the last two weeks. Their first week was to acclimatise to their new surroundings while coming to terms with their newfound leadership responsibilities. In their second week Team 1 completed their trek and Team 2 completed their project in Bentong. By all of the accounts our teams are doing extremely well, both with the heat and a new experience at every turn. Next week Team 1 advance to their project in the Kelabit Highlands, while Team 2 departs for their trek. I wish them all well and look forward to both the stories and photos when they return.
Semester 1 Reports
All students were issued with their Semester 1 reports in Week 9. If students were unable to receive their report they are available for collection at the front office. I urge parents to take particular note of the following when reading the report:

- Achievement Grades for Mathematics, Science, English and History are now based on the standards set in the Australian Curriculum
- These standards apply to ALL students in that particular year group
- The achievement of the minimum standard is awarded a “C” grade
- This is not yet the case for other subjects

The school reports now include an Effort Grade to inform parents the level of effort their student applied to a particular subject.

Any parent wishing further clarification regarding the reports please contact Diana Whymark.

Work Experience
In Week 9 many of our Year 10 Students participated in the work experience program. The program involved the students organising and attending their placements and staff visiting the students in their workplace. The program was very successful for our students and the school.

Road Ready
In the final week of term the Year 10 students participated in the Road Ready course. The course is run by the Belconnen High staff at Hawker College. This highly successful course resulted in many students obtaining their Learners Permit and provided another opportunity for our students to familiarise themselves with the College. My thanks goes to all of the staff who delivered the course, and the staff back at Belconnen who looked after the classes from the other year groups, for making this opportunity possible for the year 10 students.

School Camps
This year we have introduced an annual camp for each of the year groups. To date the years 7, 8 and 10 camps have been very successfully run, with the Year 9 camp to happen at the end of term 3. These camps are a very important part of the overall education of our students and I wish to thank parents and staff in making these fantastic opportunities a reality.

Communication with Parents and Carers
Email continues to prove to be the most effective form of communication with parents and carers. Thank you to all of the parents who have supplied an up-to-date email contact. To continue to assist the school to improve our communication, please continue to update your email address and other contact details to the front office.

I would like to wish all of our families and staff a safe and happy school holidays and I look forward to working with you in Term 3.

David McCarthy
A Message from the Minister

Parental Engagement A Priority

During Public Education Week at the end of May, it was very good to see the achievements of our students, schools, teachers, and staff showcased and celebrated. On show were so many examples of where you and your communities are actively involved with your children’s schools; through different activities and programs.

I will continue to focus on putting children, parents, carers and communities at the centre of our education system and will be looking at further ways of communicating the values of the public education system.

For example, the online enrolment system has simplified processes for parents and carers, and we have also launched the ‘Parents and Students At The Centre’ page on our website, which features stories of parent-school engagement, including one about how ACT public schools are increasingly using Facebook and Twitter to enable parents and the community engage and stay up to date on their activities and achievements.

Other initiatives include the ‘Fresh Tastes’ program which encourages learning about nutrition and healthy food and drink choices in schools and we have also launched a series of fact sheets for parents and carers of gifted and talented students.

I also recently launched the ‘100 Stories: Celebrating public education in Canberra’ book which features fascinating stories of people who have influenced, or have been influenced by our public education system.

Have a great run-up to the end of term and stay warm!

‘100 Stories: Celebrating public education in Canberra’ can be viewed online at www.det.act.gov.au.

Joy Burch MLA
Minister for Education and Training
Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you to request your participation in an important survey about the climate or social environment at this school. The aim is to hear from parents/carers about their experiences as a member of this school community. This survey looks at more areas in detail than the school satisfaction survey, such as relationships with teachers, connection to the school (school identification), and engagement in school life. While we will endeavour to combine the two surveys in the future, it is important for our school improvement process that we receive a strong response to both surveys this year.

Relationships – being valued, respected and listened to in our dealings with others.
Connection – a sense of belonging and connection to the school and what it stands for.
Engagement – investment in and enthusiasm for school.

Your responses are extremely useful and valuable in finding out what we do well and where we can improve as a school community.

To access the survey you need to do the following.

1. Type in www.blch.act.edu.au to go to the school web page.
2. Click on the survey link for parents/carers (or type this code into the search area of the browser) http://anupsych.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_SiQGBNXqsXdKtnL
   If you do not have access to the internet please contact the schools front office for a paper version.
3. Generate your access code following the instructions provided

The survey will take 30 minutes to complete and will need to be completed by Friday 4th July 2014.

Thank you for your participation

David McCarthy
Principal
WRITE4FUN
Recently, members of Ms. Bartlett’s Creative Writing elective entered the “write4fun” competition. For this, our students were asked to contribute great poems or short stories that they had worked on in class. The following students entered a piece in the competition and were commended for their submissions: Jessica Henderson, Kate Bonnett, Sara Jones, Bethany Jones, Sachi Ashok, Robi Joyce. Robi Joyce (Year 10), wrote a short story entitled ‘Snow’. This story was chosen for publication and was published, along with other short stories and poems, in the 2014 Write4fun anthology. Well done to all students involved!

INDONESIAN AND FRENCH LUNCHES AT HAWKER COLLEGE
This Semester, students from Year 7 Indonesian and Year 8 French were lucky enough to go on excursion to Hawker College to experience authentic Indonesian and French meals. These meals were cooked and served by students from Hawker College’s Food and Hospitality course. We dined in the College’s own restaurant, ‘Donovan’s’.

Both excursions were a fantastic opportunity for our students to see what Hawker College has to offer, as well as eat meals that they had learnt about as part of their units on Indonesian and French food. A big thank you must go to the staff and students at Hawker for their fantastic efforts.

YEAR 9 STUDENTS ARE “PROJECTABLE”
This week Year 9 students attended the Carecareers “projectable” workshop which is an initiative which gives students the opportunity to gain first-hand experience in the disability and community care sector. The workshop involved expert trainers from Belconnen Community Service (BCS) running our students through hands-on exercises that built their skills and knowledge of people with disability. The students learnt ways to promote positive perceptions of people with disability and career opportunities in this field. These students will now be given the opportunity to work at Cranleigh School next semester in classrooms working with students with disability.
Financial payments
Parents/Carers are able to make payments in person at the front office, via credit card, direct deposit to our school account or on line via the school website.

www.blch.act.edu.au

If paying on line click on the payment link at the top of the school’s webpage. This will direct you to Westpac’s secure payment site Quickweb payment system.

When you access the Quickweb payment screens you must enter the mandatory fields.
1. **Student details**: student key, given name and surname
2. **Payer details**: Payer full name and contact details plus email address
3. **Payment option**: voluntary contribution, excursion etc.

If fee code is not known, please give description i.e. Year 7 camp, then enter student ID number if known to enable us to receipt your transactions more efficiently.

These details will need to be entered every time you make a payment. If paying by direct deposit please use the following information.

Bank: Westpac bank
Account Name: Belconnen High School
BSB number: 032777
Account number 001017

Information that needs to be entered is student name and field i.e. excursion, fees etc. if the field allows.

All information you input will be held by Westpac subject to the Privacy Policy available at http://www.westpac.com.au/privacy/

Credit Card Payment
Complete the following information if paying by credit card

MasterCard Visa Expiry Date
_____/_____

Amount: $___________

Card Number:_______________________

Cardholder name:_____________________

Card Holder’s signature:_________________

Excursion Acquittals

**Year 7 Camp 2014 Mittagong Acquittal**

Income $23,100.00

Accommodation+ $18,091.00

Programs $ 5,009.00

Transport + Staff $23,100.00

Expenditure =

**Year 8 Camp 2014 Cataract Scout Park Acquittal**

Income $11,970.00

Accommodation+ $ 9,705.00

Programs $ 2,265.00

Transport + Staff $11,970.00

Expenditure =

**Year 10 Coastal Wilderness Camp 2014 Acquittal**

Income $11,500.00

Accommodation+ $ 9,062.00

Programs $ 2,438.00

Transport + Staff $11,500.00

Expenditure =

**Ocean sports Camp 2014 Acquittal**

Income $7,250.00

Accommodation+ $ 5,182.00

Programs $ 2,069.00

Transport + Staff $ 7251.00

Expenditure =

**PIN Authorisation Required**

Please note that from 1 August 2014, card holders will no longer be able to sign for payments made in person.

This is part of a banking industry initiative to improve credit card security in Australia, while most overseas countries have already adopted this method of card purchase authorisation.

This also applies to payments made using debit cards and savings account cards.

A ‘PIN’ authorisation is required when paying at an EFTPOS terminal. Any transactions without a pin will be declined after that date.

If unable to locate the original PIN you can update the PIN by dropping into their bank with card and ID.
**Rugby League**

**Boys 9/10 ACT Finals** – On the 7th of May the 9/10 boys Rugby League team went to the ACT finals having finished second in the north side competition. While our team was brimming with talent, a disrupted preparation limited our ability to combine well as a team. The boys still put in a gallant effort in both our games finishing fourth in the ACT which was a fantastic result.

Mr Mowbray

**AFL**

On the 28th of May the Belconnen High School boys AFL team competed at the north side AFL carnival known as the Giants Cup. Our team was made up of a couple of AFL players, a few rugby league and union players, soccer players and a few boys who had no experience with any football code what so ever. As a result the day was a steep learning curve for many. We played games against Campbell, SFX, Lyneham and Canberra, all tough teams. The boys improved dramatically over the course of the day and by our final game came within a whisker of victory. Special mentions go to Zac Lindsay who starred for us all day long and Israk Islam, whose skills and ability to read the play were exceptional for a non AFL player.

Mr Mowbray

**A.C.T Cross Country**

On Monday 2nd of June, 24 enthusiastic students participated at the A.C.T Cross Country Carnival. The conditions were extremely tough; with rain and wind really making the challenge even greater. The students were great ambassadors for the school, Zac Lindsay and Abby Tosic had outstanding results placing in the top 30 positions for their age.

Mr Foxhill

**Futsal**

**Boys 9/10** – On Thursday 5th of June, 7 of our Year 9/10 boys represented the school at the Northside Boys Futsal competition. The boys started the day slowly losing their first match 4-2. This result seemed to spark the boys into playing some high quality Futsal, winning matches against Canberra High and Kingsford Smith. It meant with a win against Campbell High the boys would qualify for the final. Unfortunately, Campbell (the eventual winners) won the match, which left us finishing second in our group. I would like to thank the boys for the commitment and passion that they showed throughout the matches on the day.

Mr Foxhill

**Boys 7/8** - The year 7/8 boys Futsal team had a really good day out. While during the day results didn’t go our way, the boys had steady technical improvements during the day. As a team, the boys worked really well together and were never short of encouragement for each other, the 9/10 boys team, and even other teams as spectators. The boys were fantastic ambassadors for the school, showing dedication, drive, effort in improving all day and great sportsmanship. Special mentions need to go to Andy Zhang, for displaying extraordinary courage in goals and Adam Harris for leadership shown on the day.

Mr Foxhill

**Girls 7/8 & 9/10** - This term in week 5 the girls 7/8 and 9/10 Futsal teams headed to the Lyneham Indoor Netball Centre to represent the school at the Northside High Schools Competition. The competition on the day was massive with 12 teams in the 7/8 pool and 13 teams in the 9/10 pool. The 7/8 teams played 5 games over the course of the day, winning 3 games and losing 2. The 9/10 teams also played 5 games throughout the day, winning 2 games, losing 2 and drawing 1, which was a phenomenal effort from both teams. The girls came out strong, were positive, encouraging and represented Belconnen High School to the best of their abilities.

Miss Harries
Special congratulations should go to our 2014 Pierre de Coubertin award winner Anand Gupte. The Australian Olympic Committee gives the Pierre de Coubertin award to one student from every high school who exemplifies the ideals of the modern Olympic movement. Anand received this award at a special ceremony held at the Hedley Beare Centre on the 20\textsuperscript{th} of June.

Year 10 student Daine Clake has been selected to represent Australia for Australian Martial Arts Championships (AMAC) team. AMAC combines a range of martial arts disciplines and Daine is the only Canberran selected in the national team to compete in Japan in late June. Well done Daine.

Years 7-10 girls AFL team

In week 10 of term 1, 17 girls and Miss Lazarides went out to the Deakin ovals for the Giants Cup AFL carnival. We were lucky to have such beautiful weather and the girls had a spectacular day showing off their skills, some newly learned, others already mastered. Considering our mixed abilities, the girls demonstrated a fantastic sense of pride and sportsmanship throughout the day and didn't give up even when sometimes the odds were against us. We had a win in our first game, however lost our next three, but we did not let those wins go without a fight. The girls ended up making it to the finals which was a huge achievement but unfortunately were not able to win this one. Despite one injury the girls stayed incredibly strong all day and all should be congratulated on their efforts. Well done girls!

The team consisted of:

Kaylen Warhurst  Jessica Palomar
Patricia Kaufusi  Abby Tosic
Bronte Sheaves  Alison Bruemmer
Maddy Geeves  Olivia Brockman-Reis
Emily Hoffman  Alicia Cowan
Kamryn Lewis  Carie Liddle
Cassidy Reis  Tash Reid
Ella Girvan  Mercy Canning
Saavy Thompson  

Disability Education Sports Gala Day

On Friday the 9th of May, 11 Learning Support students from years 7, 8 and 9 attended the Lord Taverners Disability Education Sports Gala at the Mpowerdome. The day started with a free sausage sizzle lunch and then moved into the Mpowerdome for the round robin gala. The students tried their hand at multiple sports, starting the day off with Basketball. Students worked on their dribbling and shooting skills before moving onto cricket. Students used the giant blow-up ball and cricket bat to showcase their skills and teamwork. The third activity for the day was tennis, students worked on their forehand swing and racquet skills before moving onto the fourth rotation of the day which was rugby. They worked with the boys from the Brumbies, developing their hand eye coordination as well as agility and movement skills. The fifth rotation of the day was soccer, the students had a great time playing line tag while dribbling the ball at the same time. The last rotation of the day was bowls; students had fun challenging each other to try and get their bowl the closest to the white ball. The day was a huge success with each student giving everything a go, having a great time and even coming home with a free goody bag.

Year 9 Leadership Camp

Year 9 students are going on their leadership camp on September 24-26. The location is Tathra Beach Motor Village, in the Bega Valley Region. The camp will be an immersion of leadership/teambuilding sessions combined with a range of interactive activities. The ‘Peer Support’ program training will also be incorporated into this leadership camp. Therefore, student leaders for year 10 2015 will be chosen from the participation in these activities and programs; all students are required to attend. Coastlife Adventures will be teaming with us to make the camp a success:

*This 3-day, 2-night program has been specifically designed for the Year 9 students at BHS. The program will focus on developing group cohesion and gaining coastal skills and knowledge. The peaceful bush setting at the Tathra Motor Village is the ideal location for these students to strengthen their team work skills and appreciate one another’s company. The program will include an evening of camp oven cooking and a rotation of daytime adventure sessions including team initiatives, learning to surf and ocean kayaking. The final morning will feature an all in beach carnival. (www.coastlife.com.au)*

The initial expression of interest notes with deposit have already gone out to students and through email. Please see the Year 9 Coordinator, Pastoral Care Teachers or the front office for another note if required. The permission note and deposit are due at the end of week 3 term 3 (10th August) with the final payment due by Friday 12th September.
Peer Support Leaders Show What They Are Made Of

Part of the Peer Support Leaders’ responsibilities this semester was to design a Service learning Project. Two Pastoral Care groups raised money for World Vision by running a Pizza Lunch and a BBQ lunch for the school community whilst the leaders of another group ran a series of challenges for the Year 7s during breaks over 3 weeks. These activities were a treasure hunt, a malteser challenge, cup cake decorating and a newspaper dress up competition. The projects required the leaders to design and implement their projects using skills they had learnt over the semester such as time management, organisation, teamwork and communication. These projects were amazing and I know the Year 7 classes enjoyed being part of these. Thanks to the leaders and Year 7s who gave up their breaks to coordinate and participate in these activities.
As the semester wound up for the Peer Support leaders, they held a party to thank their Year 7 groups for a wonderful semester where they formed solid friendships and supported the Year 7s through their transition to high school.
Youth Programs Are A Winner

This semester students have had lots of opportunities to work on a variety of skills in the Youth Programs run by Eva (Youth Support Worker) and Sharon (School Chaplain). Students have reported feeling more confident, tolerant and able to communicate and cooperate with others as a result of participating in the following programs: Kulturebreak, Choppers bike design, Warehouse Circus, Messengers Arts, smARTS (Smith family Arts at ANU), Young Women’s and Carer’s groups.

In Kulturebreak students have the opportunity to work with a professional hip hop teacher to create their own unique group performance. Warehouse Circus sees students learn an array of circus skills such as unicycling, juggling, plate spinning, diablo, hoola hooping and skipping. Choppers Bike design is run by Peter McGrath and gives students skills in designing and constructing new bikes from old. The broken bikes are pulled apart, soldered, sanded, painted and transformed into weird and wonderful chopper bikes. The smARTS program run by the Smith family provides students who are interested in performing and visual arts the opportunity to work with professional musicians and artists. The music students went to an old people’s home and a primary school to play for them. The young Women’s group meet weekly to forge friendships and discuss issues relevant to them. Some students at Belconnen High care for a family member who is ill for many hours a week. These students regularly meet and support each other in this important role.

The photos below show how talented our students are and how proud of them we are.

Sue Smith
Pastoral Care
Professional Learning Community Forum

David and the Maths team presented an inspiring forum on the new direction in learning at BHS.

A good turnout interacted with the presenters on this exciting new direction and came away feeling very positive about the future learning environment for their children.

The new direction is based on the principle that all children can learn and they learn because of what the teachers do.

The year 8 Maths team shared their early successes in teaching Algebra with the current year 8 students.

BHSPFG Bowling Night

The PFG organized a social family friendly night at Belconnen AMF bowling.

We all had a fantastic time and are looking forward to the next social event.

We’d love to hear your ideas for forums or social nights, please email ideas to bhspfg@gmail.com

If you would like to be included on the PFG email list, please email bhspfg@gmail.com

Coming Events

Monday 28th July, 2014
P&C/ PFG meeting
Teachers Meeting Room
6pm

Monday 15th September
Rocksalt Dinner
Hawker Shops

Uniform Shop
Open every Monday
During term
2:30 to 3:00pm
Second Hand Uniform Shop
Open every Monday
2.30pm until 3.00pm

The uniform shop is located within the old gym around the corner from the canteen.

We would greatly appreciate any donations of clean, good condition uniforms. Donations can be dropped off at the front office or at the uniform shop when open.

We are in desperate need of jumpers with the cooler months upon us. If you have any items of second hand uniform please drop them in and we will put your name in the draw for a $20 iTunes Card

Drawn at the end of Term 2

Come and have a browse.

Contact Lorraine Myatt on 0407108621 for further enquiries.
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<td>Jul 28 P &amp; C Meeting</td>
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<td>8 WKB</td>
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<td>Sept 10 Mental Health ACT Year 9 presentations</td>
<td>Sept 11 Social 7—10pm School hall.</td>
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<td>Sept 15 Parent Forum Group Dinner at Rocksalt</td>
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<td>10 WKB</td>
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**HOLIDAYS** - Saturday 27th September 2014 to Sunday 12th October 2014
Return Monday 13th October 2014