

Belconnen High School

Belconnen High School



Term 3, Week 5 School Newsletter



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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



The start of Term 3 has seen a flurry of activity creating a positive buzz throughout our learning community.

We have once again welcomed our Plover family, who are nesting in the very middle of our lower playground area. They have been nesting here for at least 4 years and it is always delightful to welcome them back.

For your interest here is some information from Janet Richardson (Science) about our resident bird family:

'The male is the one sitting on the eggs. But how do you know I hear you asking. Well the male has longer yellow spurs on their wings and in the photo you can clearly see his and not hers.'

They will be nesting for 28 days like a duck does.

They are actually called Masked Lapwings

Plovers mate for life and will stay with their nest if their mate dies.

They have been a protected species since 1946

Plovers will return to the same nest if it hasn't been disturbed so I think we should name our feathered family. Since they may be with us for a while.'

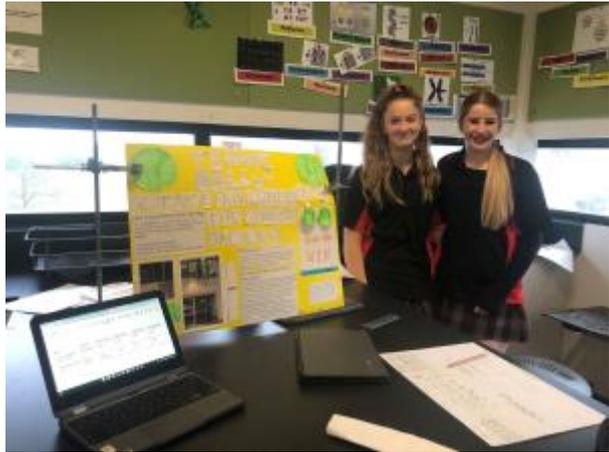
We hope to have many suggestions from students, staff and families so we can name our protected plover family.



Science Fair

Year 7 and 8 students and their teachers have been busy planning for this week's Science Fair. Their research, experimentation, scientific report writing and presentation skills all culminate in a Science Fair Expo where staff and Year 9 and 10 students engage with groups to hear about their learning.

The range and quality of the projects has been outstanding including solar cooked smores, hydrogen propelled rockets, solar and wind energy in action and energy in food. Well done to all.



Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Awards

Today I had the privilege to attend the CBCA awards at the National Library. Students from our BHS Book Club participated in 'Shadow' judging the Older Reader category for this year's awards. They collectively reviewed the six shortlisted books and submitted their vote for the winning book in this category.

The winners were announced today and our students were invited to participate in the CBCA ACT Branch event at the National Library. As part of this event, Shubnoor (Year 10) and Freya (Year 9) presented their creative responses to a shortlisted book. These creative responses were outstanding and both students should be very proud of their contribution to this event.

Well done to all students who participated in this as part of the BHS Book Club and thank you to Ms Cotton and Melissa who supported our young people to be involved in this great project.







Positive Community Connections

The Year 9/10 Sports Leadership students supported our future students at the Weetangera Primary School Athletics Carnival. We received fabulous feedback on our student's involvement and the work of our staff in preparing for the day.

'The students were enthusiastic in their support for our students and provided plenty of encouragement to help keep their spirits up on a cold, wet day. Your students also showed great initiative to get in and help our staff wherever they could without needing to be asked, for example helping sort out the finishing order of races and doing warm-ups for our students while they waited for their race and even transporting the jumpers and jackets of our students so they could collect them at the finish line of their races.'

Mr Dziubinski's communication and enthusiasm in the lead-up to our carnival was helpful and we also appreciated the fact that he was at the track and ready to help out on the previous Wednesday when we had to postpone the carnival at short notice due to the rain.

On behalf of the staff at Weetangera, I wanted to let you know that your students were a credit to Belconnen High School.' Mr McRae (Weetangera PS)

Belconnen High School students represent ACT at AFL Nationals

Mack F and Isla W (Year 10) proudly represented the ACT and Belconnen High School at the AFL Nationals earlier this term. It is such a fantastic achievement to be selected to play at this level, and both students shared that the experience was very rewarding and enjoyable for them as players and as team mates.

'I am blessed to be able to have received this opportunity to represent the ACT at the 2022 AFL under 15s schoolboys Nationals. Although the competition was tough it was a great learning experience and good time to bond with mates and make new friends.' Mack

Isla has also been selected in the AFL Under 15s Girls National Team.

Congratulations to Mack and Isla!





School Uniform Review

Over the coming weeks I will be encouraging students, staff and families to complete short surveys to assist with a review of the current school uniform. The information gathered and possible outcomes will be considered by the school leadership team and the school board. A small review committee, including P&C members, students and staff are assisting in this process.

School Satisfaction Surveys

Each year, the Directorate surveys all parents and carers, school staff and students in Years 4 to 12 about their experience of public education. The 2022 School Satisfaction & Climate Survey is available online from 19 August to 9 September. The survey results will help us to continue to make quality informed decisions about how to improve our school. No personal identifying information will be provided to any school or college. Emails with details on how to access this survey have been sent to families.

Pupil Free Day

Last week's pupil free day was an opportunity for staff to work in their teaching teams to collaboratively plan and develop resources for learning and assessment. In disrupted times our staff are focussed on providing continuity of learning for students. We want to thank you for your support on this day. There will be a second ACT Education pupil free day on Friday 9 September

(Week 8).

Looking Ahead

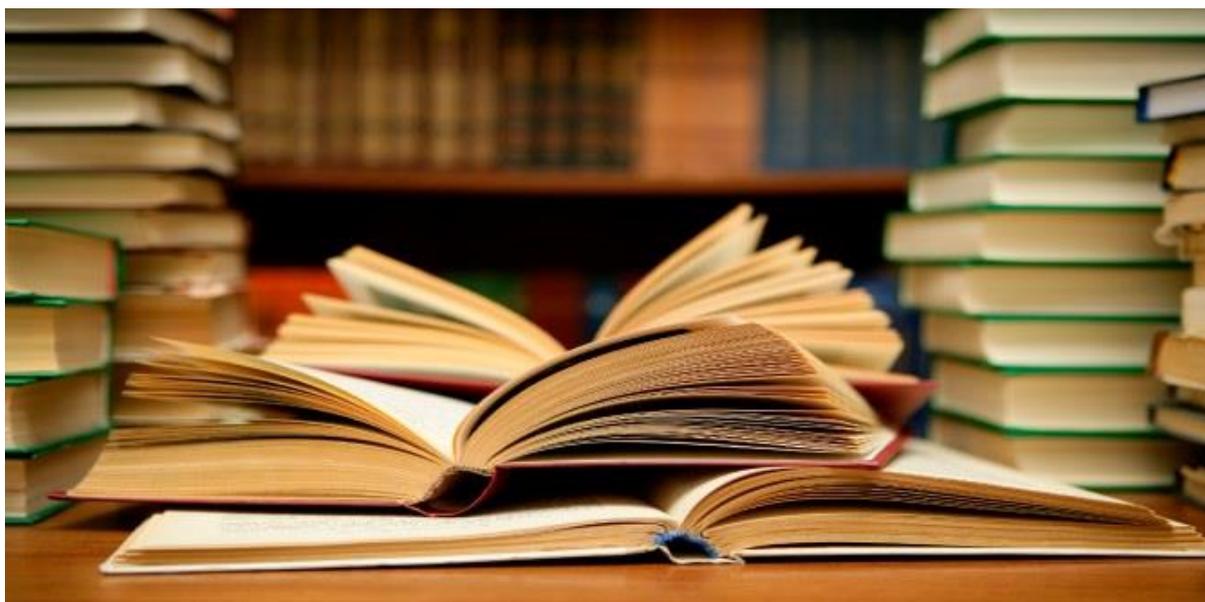
The positive buzz will continue throughout the remainder of the term with major events happening for students and families.

- Year 7 Camp to Wombaroo in Week 10
- School Production performance in Week 9 including:
 - BHS students and staff performance
 - Feeder Primary School performance
 - Family and Community performance

Plus, an array of sporting events, presentations, excursions and incursions for our young people to get involved in.

Rebecca Pearce

ENGLISH & HUMANITIES FACULTY NEWS



Week 5, Term 3 is a unique point of the year, students are in the routine of learning and know what is expected of them but are on the cusp of looking ahead to what next year holds. From Year 7 to 10 students are showing the growth that comes from focused investment in their skills and are producing work that reflects the efforts of our staff.

In English, Year 7 and 9 are exploring poetry, Year 8 are looking at visual literacy and advertising whilst Year 10 explore the impacts of political ambition through Shakespeare's Macbeth. This term showcases the variety of our English curriculum and we continue to encourage students to explore real world concepts and the way in which literature exposes and highlights the world around us.

In Humanities, Year 7 is focused on what makes our places liveable and the ways that we can improve our communities. Year 8 is being introduced to Business and Economics and exploring the impact that government decisions have on our market systems. Year 9 are engaged in a reflection of Australia's colonial past whilst Year 10 are consolidating their geographic knowledge and looking at how organisations can improve the wellbeing of humans in the international environment. Students continue to bring insights to these topics and are engaging in thought provoking discussions that question the role individuals have in the broader global environment.

Below are a few examples of the efforts of our students:

Year 8 English - In Class assessment

This ad is designed to provoke sadness for the viewer. It is by World Wildlife organisation which implies to educate and protect wildlife. The ad has an image of a tiger and some information on poaching accompanied by an impactful slogan. The slogan 'I am not a rug' is a sad commentary on how animals are viewed by some people, living breathing creatures reduced to a piece of décor for the wealthy. The inclusion of the image gives the viewers a connection to the animal, to be able to look into its eyes. The ad is a call to action for anyone who loves animals. It's designed to make people feel sadness, anger, guilt and to encourage them to help. The website and organisation are linked so anyone can help or learn more. The ad is eye catching due to the striking image of the tiger. The message is important and backed up by statistics. Overall, the ad is an emotional call to action, and anyone can help.



Year 9 English - "Love and conflict" poetry

Wherever I go.

You're in my mind.

No matter the day,
no matter the night.

I just want to be,
where you are tonight.

Love is like a flower.

It blooms and blossoms

When it is nurtured and cared for.

But it is easy to neglect,

It wilts and shrivels

Losing all of the bright colours

Losing all hope and joy

Don't forget about your flowers.

Water them.

Care for them.

Or One day they won't bloom again

And they will be lost forever.

The moonlight beams off of my skin

The green grass scrapes across my sore ankles

My pride destroyed by thoughts
Hope lingers in the air but is slowly blowing away in the wind
Looking for peace
A break
In this bloody battlefield of dead soldiers
I lie the last one standing
A man and his victory
But what's victory with no one to celebrate with you
Is it defeat?
Or a sign I'm alone in this big world

CULTURAL INTEGRITY

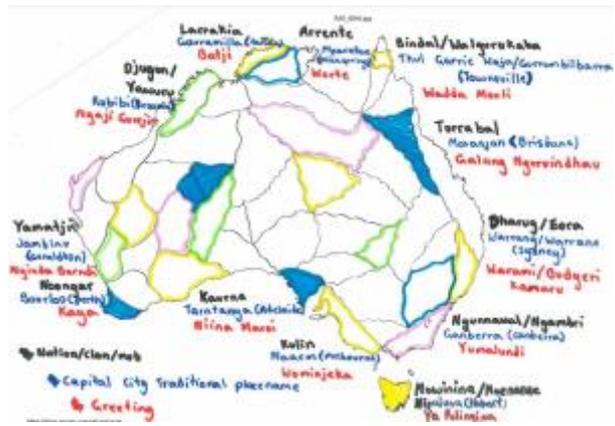
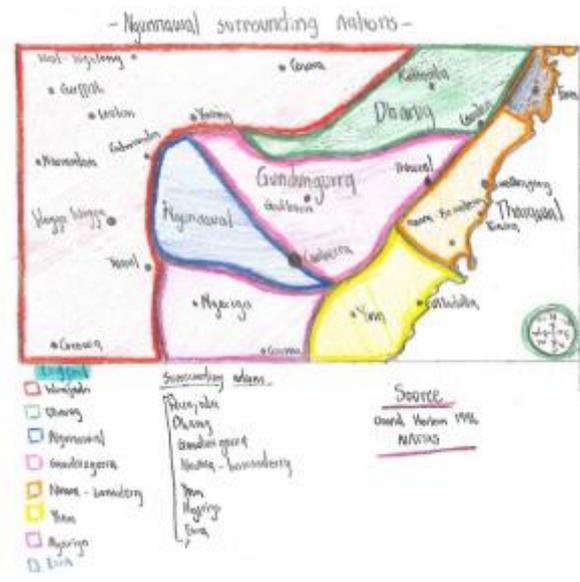


Cultural Integrity Newsletter Week 5 Term 3 2022

Connecting to Country

The four Connecting to Country classes have been completing a series of activities and tasks including naming capital cities by their traditional names, countries and their greetings. An example of this is SK in Year 8, her clear, concise depiction of the different Countries was excellent.

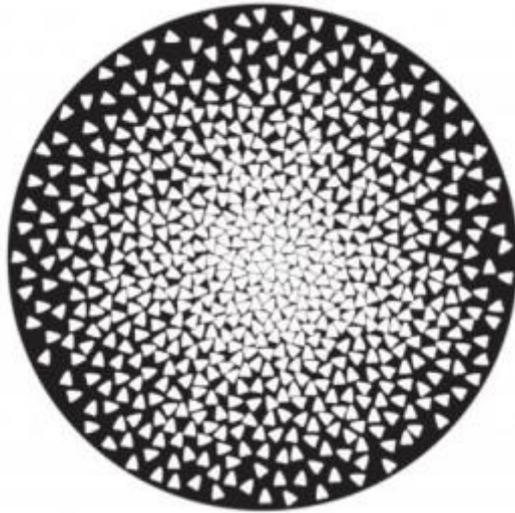
Another example is the drawing of the *Countries surrounding the Ngunnawal Nation*. The students in all four classes put their mapping skills to the test and created their own responses. Below is CH excellent work in Year 8.



In the Connecting to Country classes the students have been learning about the importance of Bogong moths to Ngunnawal and surrounding high country nations. These little moths migrate from northern NSW, away from the heat to cooler areas where they gather in crevices tessellating together. The classes viewed the 7 minute explanation of Bogong by Wiradjuri Kamilaroi artist Jonathan Jones and Ngambri Ngunnawal Elder Aunty Matilda House.

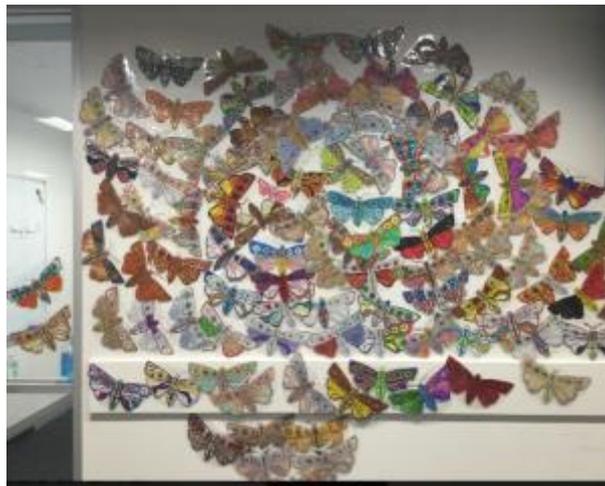
<https://www.facebook.com/PortraitAu/videos/5397641976920594/>

In January 2021 at the National Portrait Gallery, Wiradjuri Kamilaroi artist Jonathan Jones created a light installation which reflected on the importance of community and, with a 1.5-metre diameter, acts as a prompt to maintain social distancing. "Bogong Cluster" is projected in high-traffic areas throughout the gallery. Ngambri Ngunnawal Elder Aunty Matilda House describes, "the arrival of the bogong moths in Ngambri country indicated the start of a period of ceremonies for young men, for their initiation. "Families from many different places travelled here to participate. We called it "running to the feast."



1 - Artist Jonathan Jones' "Bogong Cluster" light installation... National Portrait Gallery

Each student coloured their Bogong moth (template by Ngarigu artist Sal Lavarro) before the student tessellated the moths on the wall in the Front Office and Student Wellbeing areas.

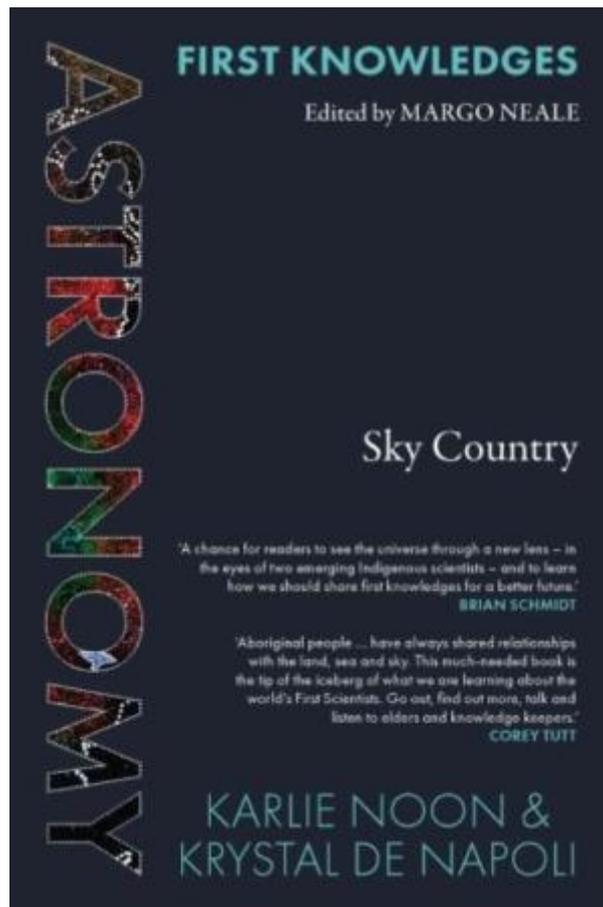


Cultural Integrity in Science

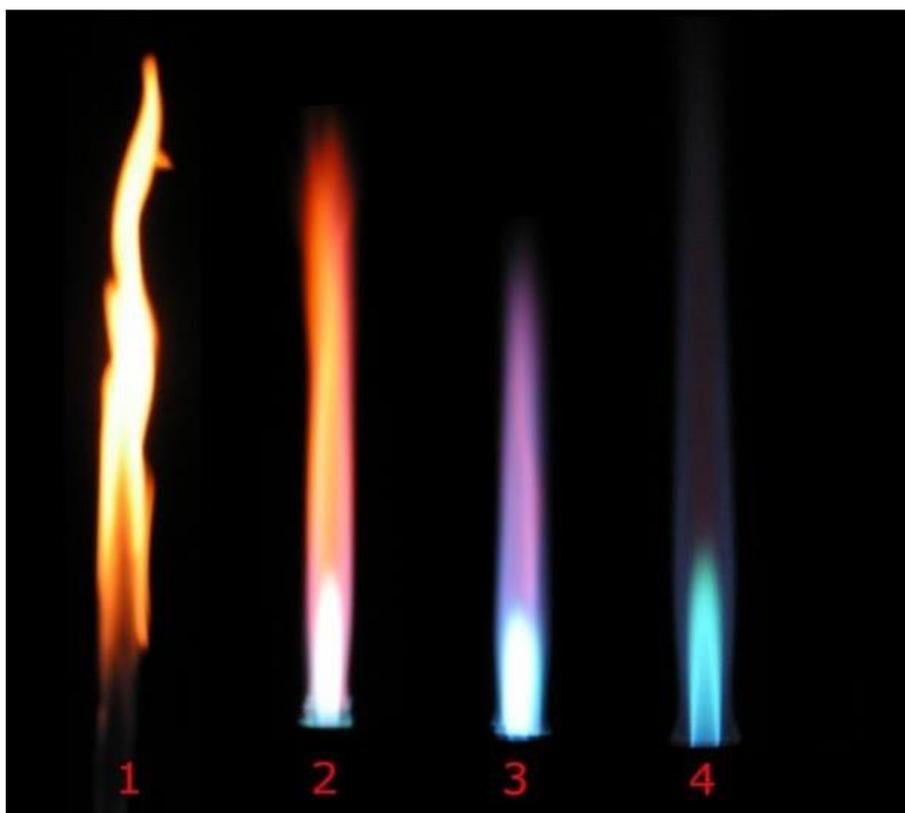
The science teachers have been given a copy of *Sky Country*, the fourth book in the First Knowledges Series. Weaving deeply personal storytelling with extensive research on mnemonics, this book offers unique insights into Indigenous traditional knowledge, how they apply today and how they could help all peoples thrive into the future.

The Year 7 Science classes will have a presentation on Indigenous Astronomy in Week 6

by Anne O'Neill.



MATHS & SCIENCE NEWS



MATHS & SCIENCE NEWS

Welcome to term 3. We have had a lot happening in Maths and Science over the last five weeks. Here are some photos and student work samples from our faculty.

Maths News



On 4th of August, 21 students from Year 7 to Year 10 participated in the Australian Maths Competition (AMC). Australia's leading educators and academics, with a deep understanding of our national curriculum standards, actively design the unique AMC problems each year. Miss Wang organised this opportunity for the students and we thank her for her efforts.

Yr 9 has just completed a unit on Measurement. Mrs Pyner's class was asked by the Connecting to Country Executive and the SRC to find out how many gabion seats were needed for Indigeous Garden. After working this out the next task was to calculate the volume of rocks needed to fill the seats. After the seats are placed on the edge of the garden, the SRC would like to lay mulch. The class also worked out the amount of mulch the school requires to purchase to fill the area. Keeping in mind that a Peace Pole will soon be placed in the garden. We look forward to seeing work being done in this space soon.



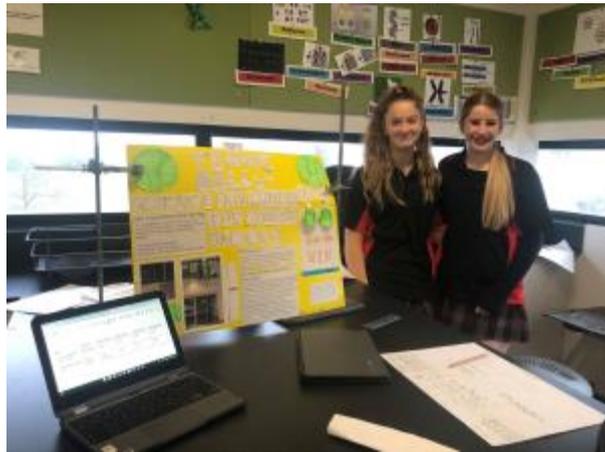


💡 national science week

In week 5 the school celebrated National Science Week. The junior classes have been working hard over this term on their Science Fair projects. Yr 7 investigated Space Exploration, and the Yr 8 students studied Energy. Senior students were invited into the fair to discuss with the students their learning and give feedback on their projects. The teachers engaged students in critical reflection and inquiry in order to improve knowledge and skills. Please enjoy this look at the hard work of our students and teachers.

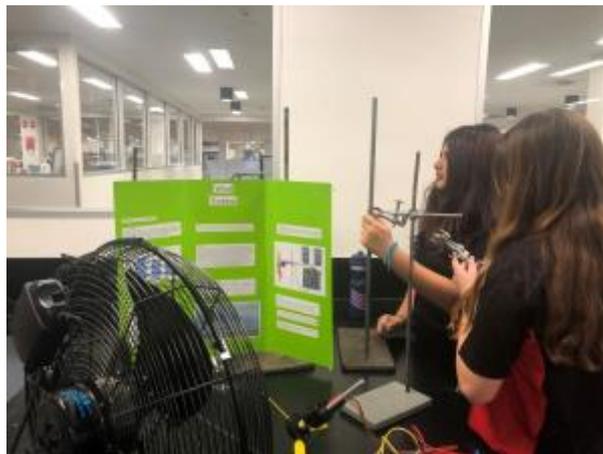
Yr 7 - Space





Yr 8- Energy





Yr 10's have been getting outside and exploring Newton's Third law. Over the last week many bottle rockets were seen being launched from our Futsal Court, so that students can measure the height of a rocket based on the volume of water. As a result a few teachers were drenched in water. Thank you to Dr Roberts, Ms Neumann, Ms Mayilvahanan, Mr Abdul -Karim and Mrs Richardson for organising this activity.





ARTS & TECHNOLOGY FACULTY NEWS



Limelight Art Exhibition 2022

M16 Art Space Griffith

Friday 29th July - Sunday 14th August

Step into the Limelight is the Territory's creative and performing arts showcase event for public schools. Beginning in 2007, it has grown to become the largest youth Arts event in the ACT. As part of this arts celebration, an annual art exhibition is coordinated to display the best our ACT public schools have to offer. This exhibition includes student work from preschool to year 12 in painting, drawing, ceramics, lino-print, collage, photography, textiles, and wood and metal craft.

Each year, art teachers from all public schools across the ACT are asked to select student work that best represents what is being created in their respective classrooms for this showcase.

Representing Belconnen High School this year, the following students: Jayden D (Yr 10) and Myah B (Yr 10), Aimee E (Yr 9), Alicia P (Yr 9), Ruby C (Yr 9) Aadhya S (Yr 10) were selected for their artistic endeavours in the senior elective classes of Studio Art and Sculpture

Their work has now been moved to the head offices within the Education Directorate where they will remain on display for 12 months.



2 -

Jayden D (Yr 10)

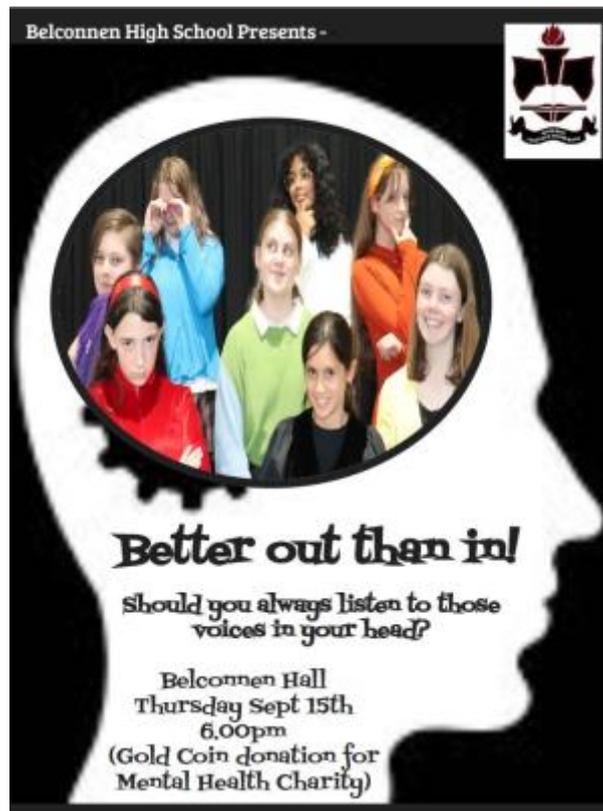
Acrylic paint on canvas



3 - *Myah B (Yr 10)*
Acrylic paint on canvas

PRODUCTION NEWS





PE FACULTY NEWS



In the first week of August, two of our Year 10 students, Jesse R and Sophie I represented the ACT in the School Sport Hockey Championships in Hobart, Tasmania. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and know these students display the highest qualities in sportsmanship



LEARNING SUPPORT NEWS



Learning Support Update

Equine Therapy:

The students have completed two sessions of Equine Therapy. In week 1 they got to know the horses, become accustomed to how to approach, touch, move and read the horse's body language. In week 2 for the first half of the session the students were set the task of working as a team to overcome the challenge of catching their horses using the provided tools (and not stepping foot onto the sand arena – renamed 'the ocean' for the purpose of this task) or we would all be sprayed with a hose! They worked fabulously as a team, catching all three horses and only being sprayed once! For the second half of the session the students worked with their horse teams in *Egg and Spoon* races!







DELTA Dogs

We welcome back our beloved DELTA Dog Teams! Below is Hugo and his owner Barry, and we also have Beans and his owner Natalie. Both teams bring so much love and joy to our BHS students! It's wonderful to have the dogs and their generous owners here at our school.



Life Skills Garden

The updates in the Learning Support Garden are coming along great! The students (along with the expert support from our Bunnings consultant Verdelle) recently installed 4 new garden beds, ready for spring! Look at the awesome crop of broccoli we grew!! It was delicious!!







BELCONNEN LEARNING COMMONS



STUDENT SERVICES



Positive Behaviours for Learning (PBL) News

To celebrate all the good work occurring through demonstration of positive behaviours for learning, a “BRAVO” barrel draw is held once a fortnight at year meetings.

Prizes in Week 2 and Week 4/5 were a \$10 canteen voucher and 2 x \$5 canteen vouchers per year group.

Our current PBL focus for Week 5 and 6 is - Respectful Mobile Phone use –our motto is “In the Building, In the Bag”

Our Week 1 and 2 PBL Winners for our focus – We are Responsible - “Right Time, Right Place” were:

Year 7

Maleah O

Melissa B

Oliver C

Year 8

Fuikaniva F

Laione F

Year 9

Sachi S

Madison D

Annabel J

Year 10

Hamish S

Aadhya S

Noah P

Our Week 3 and 4 PBL focus was – We are Learners – “ We are Prepared for Class”

Our winners from our draws in Week 4/5 were:

Year 7

Mia A

Caelan A

Isaac C

Year 8

Fuikanvia F

Laione F

Year 9

Bella N

Liam M

Emma M

Year 10

Draw

AFP “Think You Know” Presentations

All Year 7 and 8 students will be participating in an hour length AFP presentation on cyber bullying and cyber safety, to complement our focus on mobile phone use at school.

The presentations will greatly assist students to keep themselves and others safe online, as well as in reporting unwanted online bullying or social media posts.

Year 7 presentations will be held on Thursday 26th August and Year 8 presentations will be held on Wednesday 31st August.

Student Services – staff additions

We have been fortunate to have Jo and Kane join us this term as LSA's in Student Wellbeing to support a number of our students. They are awesome assets to our team and a crucial component of student wellbeing.

Our school nurse Mel will be leaving us at the end of the term for maternity leave. She is reducing her days in September and will be only be available on Tuesdays for students to access. Mel's can do approach will be greatly missed by the team.

PCYC Programs

Our PCYC Programs are off and running, providing students who are participating the opportunity for thought provoking discussion and activities. Our groups are engaging well in the social and emotional learning program which is focused on developing resilience, managing emotions and respectful relationships. Thankyou to Chris who has designed a really useful and engaging program and to Kane and Kathy who have been supporting the students.

This week our 7/8 boys in the program enjoyed a game of touch whilst demonstrating incredible resilience, encouragement to all in the group and the ability to overcome disappointment. By the end of the game, the boys and staff were red faced and exhausted by the end of the workout! Try of the day went to Lesane!

Congratulations!!





Attendance

It is great to see students at school and mostly in school uniform. Thankyou for being responsible, respectful learners.

Students and families are reminded to advise the school of absences through note or email, including future periods of leave. This will assist your teachers to make adjustments and plan for periods of leave so students don't fall behind with their learning. Family holidays should generally be planned outside term time.

Catch up

Our school wide approach to truancy is to provide students the opportunity to “catch up on work missed” in place of enrichment activities on Friday afternoons (Thursday afternoon in Week 5,6,7). Catch up is held each week under the supervision of a teacher and students scheduled for catch up should bring a task to work on in this time.

Students and families will be advised if they are to attend in the fortnight leading up to catch up, absent students will be rolled over to the next catch up session.

Students on catch up meet at student services for catch up, after year meetings.

Catch Up Schedule

Week 5 – Yr 9/10

Week 6 – Yr 7/8

Week 7 – Yr 9/10

Week 8 – Yr 7/8

Week 9 – Yr 9/10

Week 10 – Yr 7/8



Sausage Sizzle coming soon...

The Year 10 Formal Committee will be holding a Sausage Sizzle on Friday the 2nd of September in Week 7. The funds will go towards the Year 10 formal's Photobooth. The event will be in the quad during break 2 from 11.35am to 12.05pm.

The costs are:

\$3 per sausage sizzle and

\$2 per can of soft drink.

Come along and support our Year 10s.

CAREERS



Careers Conversations

All Year 10 students have had the opportunity to have a careers conversation with BHS and Hawker College Careers Advisors over 3 days, to assist in providing direction for future career path exploration and college class selections for 2023. Students found the conversations most beneficial. A huge thankyou to Chontel and Genna from Hawker College for giving up their time to assist our students.

Further careers conversations or help with resumes is available throughout the year. Mrs Di Berardino is a qualified careers advisor and her door is usually open to students during breaks for assistance. Making an appointment is helpful to make sure time is put aside.

Canberra Careers Xpo Excursion

Our Year 10 students need to be commended on their behaviour and engagement at our Careers Xpo excursion this week on Thursday 18 August. Two buses filled with our students thoroughly enjoyed their time at EPIC talking to lots of stall holders, gathering future focused ideas from apprenticeship centres, vocational providers, defence, local and interstate universities and other providers. There was quite a buzz on the bus on the way back to school, as students really enjoyed the excursion and came home with many a brochure, pot plant, pen etc etc.



Work Experience News

A number of students have been out on work experience placements or have a placement coming up. It has been great to share the stories of their experiences so far.

Students interested in completing a work experience should see Ms Bridges

A snap shot of recent placements are:

Hudson – Auto

Henry – Bakery

Louie – Panel Beaters

Maddie – Business Admin

Jayden - Electrical

Shubnoor – Pharmacy

Lara – Community work

Vocational Learning Options (VLO) News

Students in VLO programs this term report enjoying learning new skills in each of these hands on programs. Along with practical work, students complete competency based tasks which transpire into vocational statements of attainment if students are deemed competent in the competencies being assessed. Students are able to build on these through further study. Students in VLO's are:

Hairdressing - Jasmine

Health Starter – Jaiden, Matilda,

Hospitality – Lola and Lily

"Hi my name is Lola and I am in year 9. I have currently been participating in a Vocational Learning Option for Hospitality. Every Wednesday I take part in activities that help me develop my cooking and hygiene skills in the kitchen. So far we have explored bacteria and how to safely handle food. I am looking forward to learning more about hygiene and safety as well as developing my cooking skills further."

ASbAs

A number of students have expressed interest in school based apprenticeships. Students must be 15 to be eligible for an ASbA. Opportunities as they arise are advertised in the Year 9 and 10 Google Classrooms, as well as in the daily announcements. Currently there are HeadStart ASba positions available, EOI for these close on Sunday.

Women In Construction Pathways Program



Expression of Interest Form

Please complete the form below and email to:
mcollufo@ustrg.com.au & khunter@ustrg.com.au

I wish to apply for the Women in Construction Pathways Program:

Name:

Contact Number:

Email:

School:

Current Year Level:

Signature:

Date:



HAWKER COLLEGE
Engage | Inspire | Achieve



ENGAGING PARENTS IN CAREER CONVERSATIONS (EPICC)

PARENTS AND CARERS CAN HAVE AN ENORMOUS INFLUENCE ON THEIR CHILD'S CAREER DECISIONS AND PATHWAY PLANNING, BUT IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY TO KNOW WHERE TO START.

Hawker College will be facilitating a workshop aimed at equipping parents / carers with the knowledge and skills to have positive career conversations with their child. We will also look at practical strategies and reliable sources of information designed to assist your teenager with their career journey and their career decision making.

We would like to invite parents / carers from Hawker College, Belconnen High School, Kingsford Smith School, and Canberra High School communities to join us for this evening.

DATE: Wednesday 24th of August 2022

TIME: 5pm-7pm

LOCATION: Hawker College Library

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED: <https://form.jotform.com/222140523649047>

Please note this workshop is capped at 40 participants.

The registration link will close on Sunday 21st of August at midnight. If you miss out on a place, please register your interest here <https://form.jotform.com/222140523649047>.

We will place you on a cancellation list. If we have enough interest, we can also run another workshop in Term 4.

Hawker College Careers Team
careers@hawker.act.edu.au



Hawker College—11 Maxwell Street—Hawker ACT 2618
1 800 428 885 • fax 02 61 428 885 • ABN 26 721 915 152
e info@hawker.act.edu.au • www.hawker.act.edu.au

BUSINESS MANAGER NEWS



Future of Education Equity Fund P-12 (expanding the Secondary Bursary Scheme)

Applications are now open for the Future of Education Equity Fund, which replaces the Secondary Bursary Scheme. The Equity Fund provides financial assistance to low-income families with students in years P–12. It helps cover the costs of education expenses through a one-off, annual payment for families with students enrolled in an ACT preschool (attached to a school) or school (as well as independent students). Payments of \$400 for preschool students, \$500 for primary school students and \$750 for high-school and college students are available to those who meet the eligibility criteria. [Apply on the SmartyGrants website](#). Families with students in years 7-10 who have already applied for financial assistance for the 2022 school year are not eligible for a second payment.

Please share this important information with members of your school community. A school newsletter item is attached. Applications for the 2022 school year close **30 September 2022**. More information, eligibility criteria, evidence requirements and how to apply are on the Education Directorate website at [Financial and Resource Assistance for Families](#).

Attachments:

- [Newsletter item \(26kb Word\)](#)

Contact Equity Fund Administrator on 02 620 71818 or equityfund@act.gov.au.

FINANCE NEWS REGARDING CONTACTLESS PAYMENTS:



CONTACTLESS PAYMENTS

Due to unprecedented times with Covid 19, Belconnen High School will only be accepting contactless payments until further notice. We welcome your payments via Quick Web which can be located on the Payments tab on our [Webpage](#).

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation with this process for future payments.

IMPORTANT - FAMILY CONTACT DETAILS:



It is important that the school maintains an accurate and up to date record of family/carer email addresses, home addresses and telephone numbers for all student. Please let us know if there are changes to your contact details by sending an email to info_BLCH@ed.act.edu.au or phone the front office on 6142 1690. We are always grateful to receive this information.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING:

IMPORTANT NOTICE

STUDENT ACCIDENT/INCIDENT

Schools collect information about injuries and incidents, which occur at school or on school organised activities, on behalf of the Education and Training Directorate. Some of the information may be personal information as defined in the Privacy Act 1988 and the Health Records (Privacy and Access) Act 1997. The information is usually included in a Student Accident/Incident Report together with any accompanying witness statements or the Notification of a Critical Incident.

AMBULANCE TRANSPORT

CANTEEN NEWS



Download the app and register with [FlexiSchools](#)