

Belconnen High school

Belconnen High School



Term 1, Week 5 School Newsletter



Principal: Rebecca Pearce

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Welcome back to the 2021 school year to all of the Belconnen families. This year we have welcomed our new Year 7 cohort, and have again grown in numbers. This growth sees our population at approximately 580 students. My thanks go to all of the parents and staff for their hard work in preparing for the new school year.

Staff Update

We have had an increase in staff numbers again this year as well as changes to the Executive Structure. John Alston-Campbell, Roxy McKay and Rebecca Cowan continue in their respective roles as Deputy Principal, SLC Maths and Science and SLC Arts and Technology. The following outlines the structure changes and team members for Semester 1.

- HDA Deputy Principal (additional DP) - Andrea Donaldson
- HDA English and Humanities SLC - Dan Ewin
- HDA Inclusive Education SLC - Ellie Robinson
- PE/School Community - Belinda Chaplin
- Student Services SLC - Alison DiBerardino
- HDA Languages/Professional Practice SLC - Allan Wylie

We also have a number of new staff bringing a range of experience and interests to our faculties. I am excited to have them as part of our fabulous teaching team at Belconnen High School.

- English and Humanities – Annalise Spurge, Scott Dziubinski, Megan Reed, Sarah Cotton
- Science/Maths – Janet Richardson, David Roberts
- PE - Clare Small
- Arts and Technology - Matthew Broadbent

Mid-Semester Reports, Semester Outlines and Academic Calendars

This year, students will be expected to keep up-to-date with classwork and assessment via Google Classroom and Google Calendar. Both of these tools can be accessed via any device with internet access such as Chromebooks and mobile phones.

We know how busy life is for parents and students - between work, casual jobs, sports, music practice, etc. It is easy for things to slip through the gaps. This can lead to stress around assessment time as students struggle to balance their responsibilities. Therefore, Belconnen High School uses Google Classroom and Calendar to be the place students, parents and teachers begin a conversation about time management and producing consistently high-quality work.

Mid-Semester reports will be emailed to parents and students on Thursday 31st March. This will include information on booking interview times with classroom teachers. Please ensure you discuss the report with your child and make appointments with teachers where required.

Year 7 Meet the Teacher Evening

In another first, we conducted an online Year 7 Meet the Teacher Evening in week 4. This format included an information session from Tom Pilkinton and myself followed by a self-paced exploration of students' Google Classrooms including introductory videos from classroom teachers. This was a great opportunity for parents to learn more about the classes as well as how we use Google Classroom for learning.

COVID-19 Update

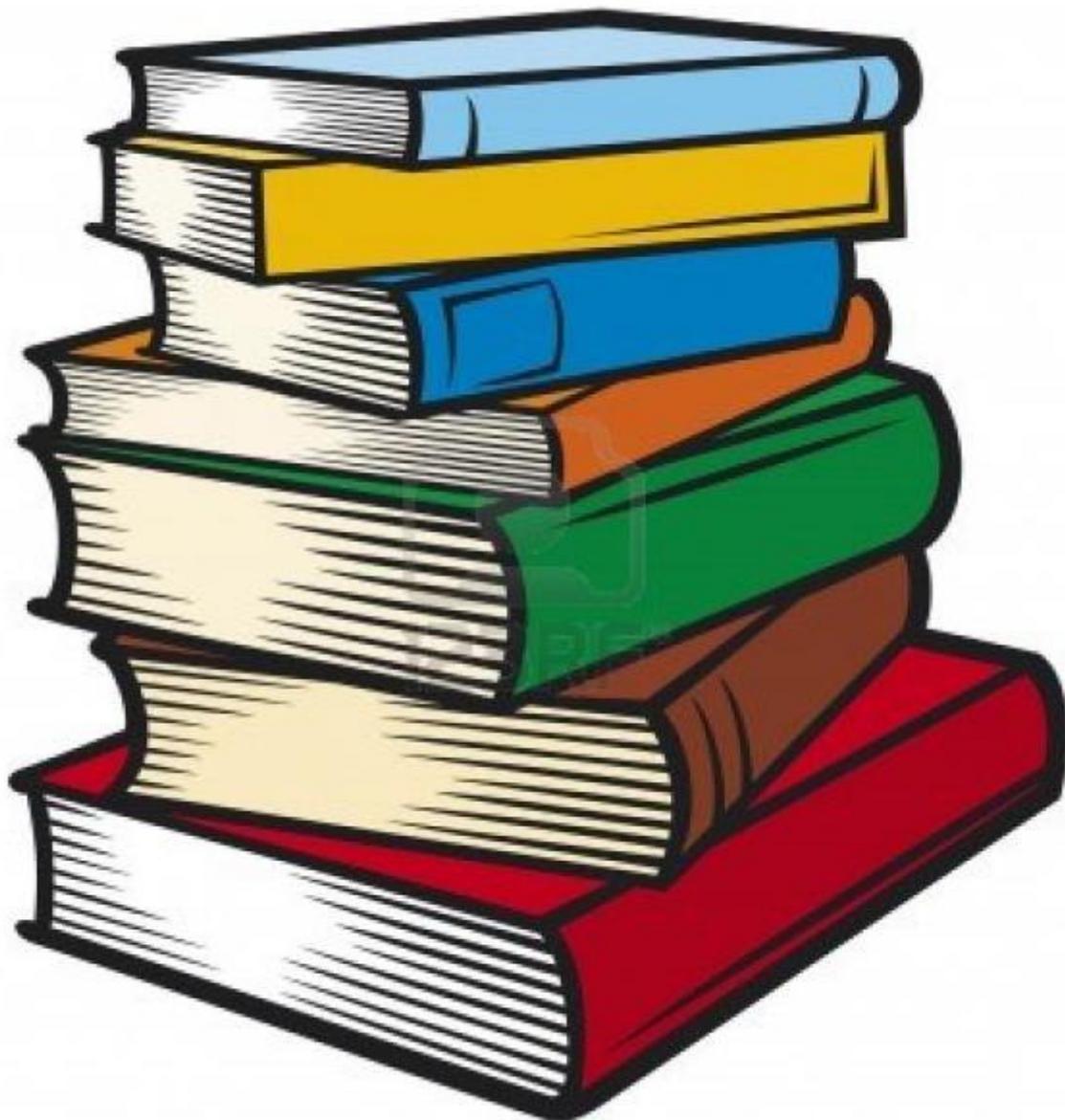
The latest advice from ACT Health and Education is a continuation of the COVID safe measures implemented at the beginning of this term. I will continue to communicate any changes or updates to all families via email.

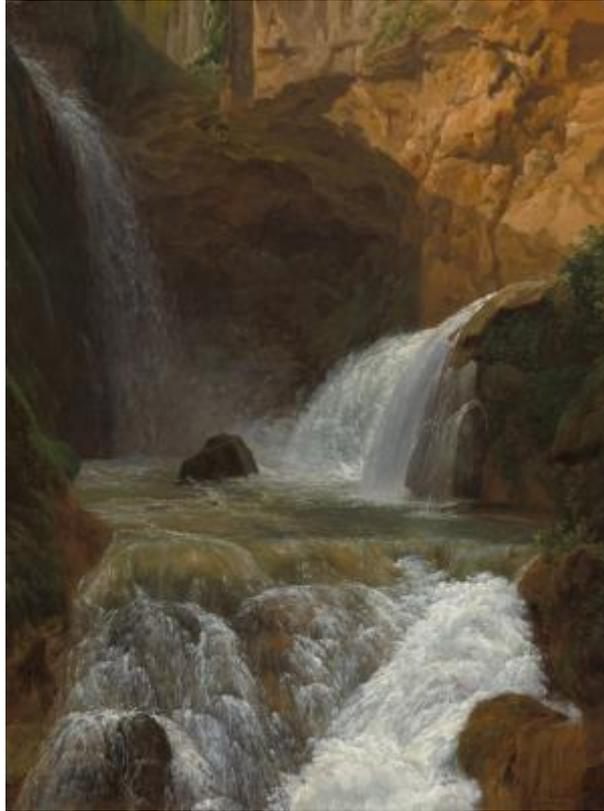
School Board

The School Board for 2021 will conduct their final meeting this term. I wish to thank the retiring members of the Board for their work. Nominations have now closed for the vacant positions for the 2022 Board. The School Board for 2022 will be appointed at the end of the month and I will introduce the Board members in the next newsletter.

Rebecca Pearce

ENGLISH & HUMANITIES FACULTY NEWS





The water crashing against the rocks is loud; the leaves rustling with the high winds is quiet but peaceful. The aroma of sea salt and moss is in the air, and fresh air smacks your face. You can see the eager current of water against the rocks, the trees and the sunset glaring off the yellow/brownish rocks, as well as the old moss against the rocks. You can feel how rough and sharp the rocks are, yet some rocks are smooth. The water is cold and hard-hitting, but the sunset is warm and bright on your skin. The trees are hard and solid, and the moss is slimy and wet. You can taste the salt from the water in the air as it hits your taste buds.

Sell this painting! By Tensy (9English)



RUSH The rush I felt bargaining for the painting was exhilarating. I chuckled to myself when I thought about how the name of this painting matched perfectly with the way I felt. Taking it home and hanging it up on my wall made me feel so peaceful. The reason I bought this painting was that it made me feel a sort of way I had never felt before. As soon as I looked at it I felt calm and I could imagine myself standing in the water and a cool breeze brushing against my face. As I imagined myself in the painting I took a deep breath and I could smell the rocks and the water that streamed between them. I don't know what's beyond the painting but I could imagine trees with deep green leaves and I could taste the blandness of the air. Coming out of my imagination I smiled because I know I made the right choice by buying this painting.

Year 9 - Poetry

I am

I am all I see

A student slaving away at an English task

A bird gliding through the air

The trees touching the sky

And the grass on the ground.

I am all I hear.

The clicking of keys on a keyboard

Heavy breathing of somebody behind me

The dark creations of my classmates

The humming of ceiling vents

And footsteps of the hoard move swiftly downstairs.

I am all I feel

The elbow bumping into me

Cold water trickling down my throat

The keyboard beneath my fingers

And the hard desk supporting my arms.

I am all I taste

The stale air of a face mask

Rebreathed again and again

The tasteless chill of water

And the soggy taste of food that has spent too long in a lunchbox

I am all I smell

The smell of a mask used over and over

A dusty enclosed class

And the stagnant air

I am all I believe in

The people who teach me the way

The ones who inspire greatness in me

And all the others that I've never met

I am all I strive for

A smart and diligent student

An influence to those around me

An environmentally conscious person

I am my own being

Able to make my choices

Command my own body

And go where I want

Despite the crowds

Because I am Alive!

CONNECTING TO COUNTRY



Connecting to Country

To start Connecting to Country this term, students have been exploring the AIATSIS map and learning the names and locations of First Nations. This has been positive collaborative work with lots of sharing by students as they talk about the places they have visited as well as discovering parts of Australia they know little about. It's also a great opportunity for Year 7 students to get to know each other.

From there we zoomed in on the country on which we live and are hearing stories from local Ngunnawal and Ngambri community members about nearby locations such as the Brindabella's.



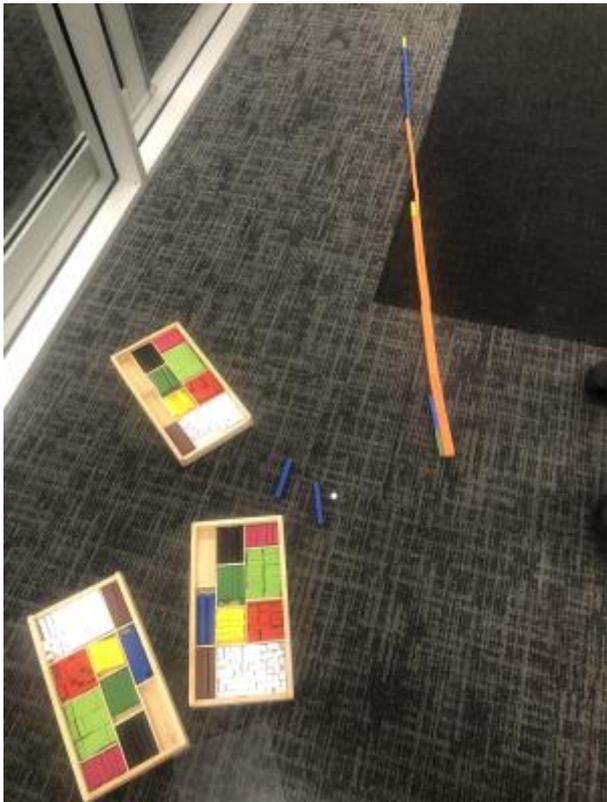
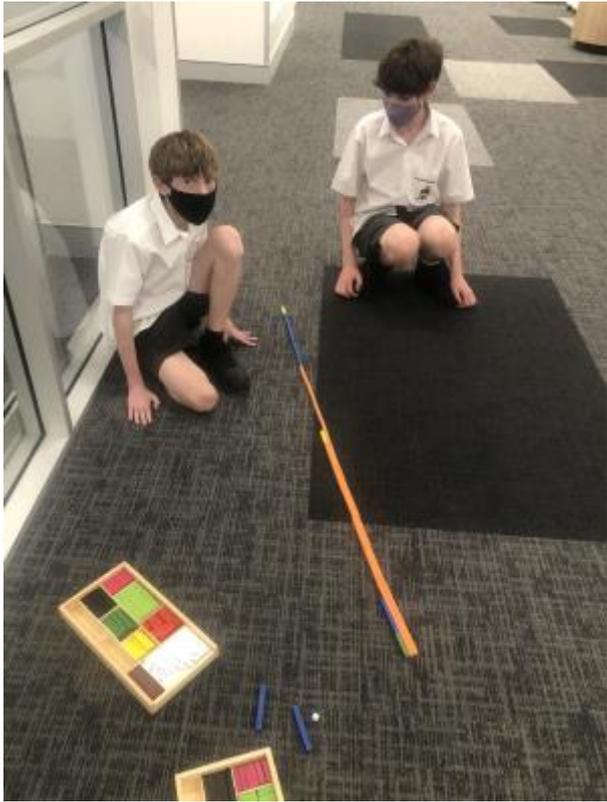
1 - Students' colouring of Bugong artwork by Ngarigo artist Sal Lavarro

MATHS AND SCIENCE FACULTY NEWS



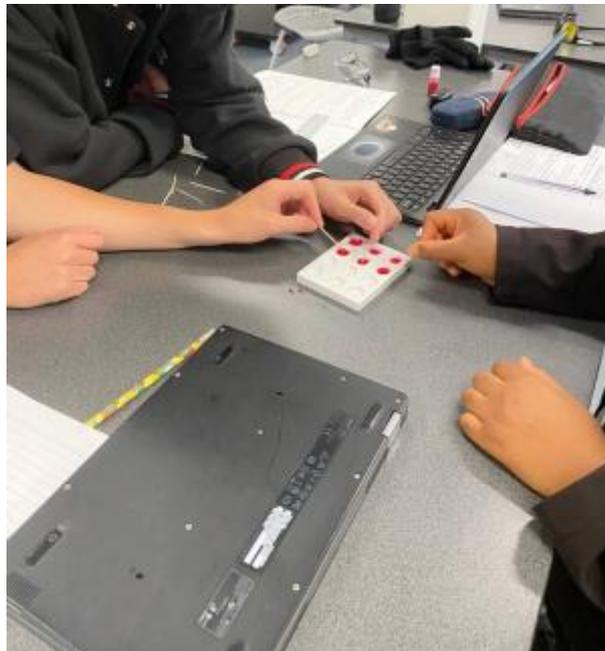
Year 8s are investigating ratios as part of their maths classes. These photos show children working together to solve ratio problems and representing the ratios using counters and blocks.

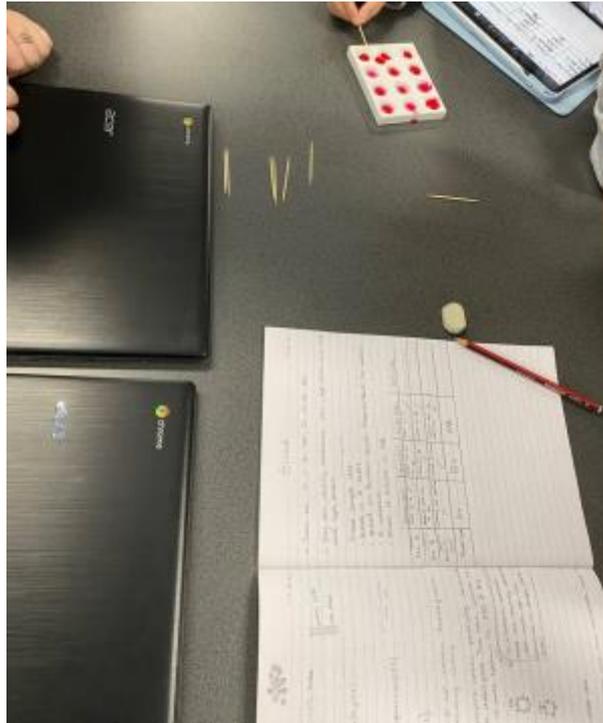






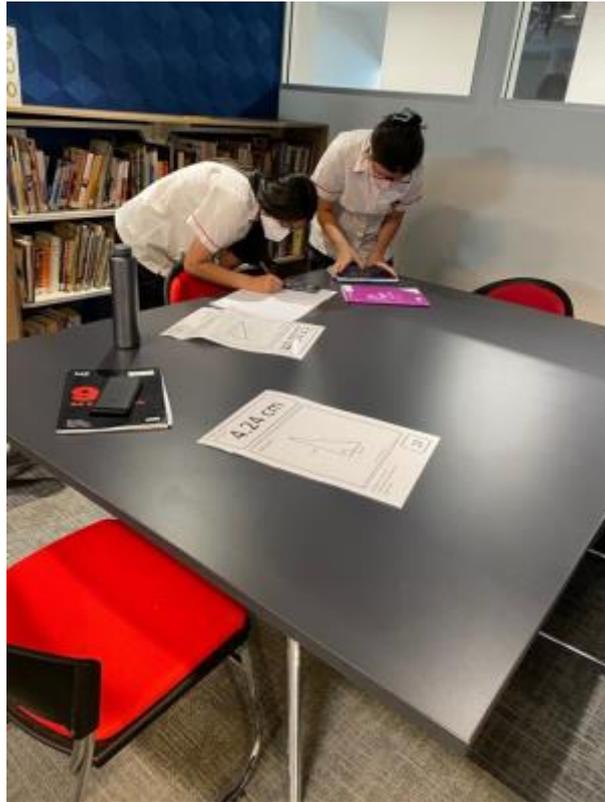
One of the electives on offer at Belconnen High is Forensics. We have had such interest this year there are two classes running! The students have been spending their time learning about different forms of evidence and testing that can happen at a crime scene.





In Year 9 Maths earlier this term students were learning about Pythagoras' Theorem and its applications to the real world. In the lesson prior to the test students revised by going on a mini treasure hunt. Searching the clues around the room for solutions to the problems they found. This is just one example of how we utilise our fantastic BLC space for learning.



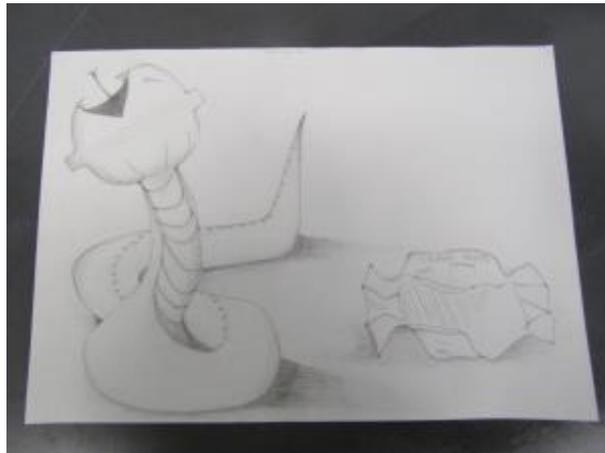


ARTS & TECHNOLOGY FACULTY NEWS



Art- 2D Drawings

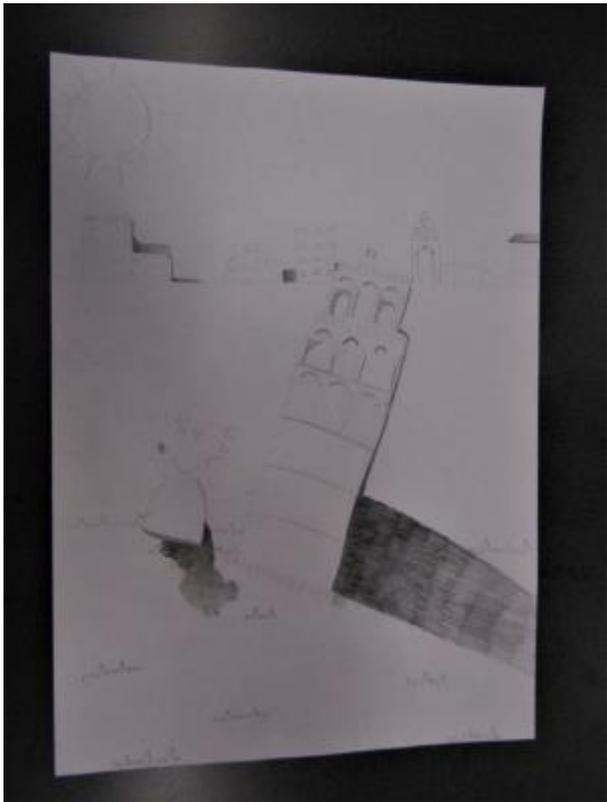
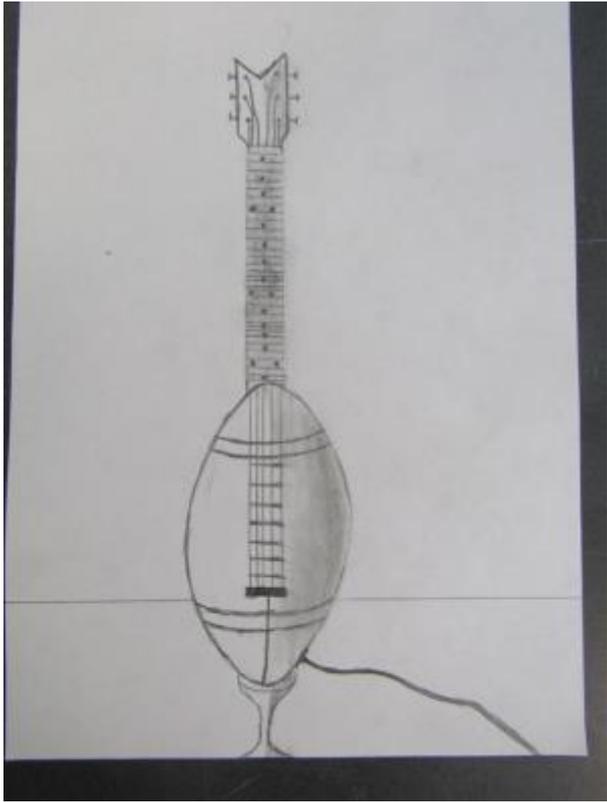
Junior Art students demonstrated elements of art through the style of Surrealism or Character Appropriation













EXTRACURRICULAR MUSIC

START OF YEAR

It has been a busy and challenging start to the school year, particularly in extracurricular music due to cohorting. To briefly recap, we need to 'cohort' as a school community, cohorting being a significant component in our strategy to help limit covid spread across the entire school. So, we find ways to work with it... "cohorting", that is.

The outcome of numerous staff & student meetings is heavily student inspired and as usual, when involving the conceptual blank canvas approach of uninhibited young minds and imagination, the extracurricular music program at school will look very different this year.

- Years 7/8 singing group - this is really good fun. It will incorporate sing-along and basic choir techniques. The "growing musically" goes on.
- Years 9/10 singing group - They have combined sing-along with technically complex parts, which is a huge ask for them to drive. They are already discussing how to produce their song(s), rehearse and present live performances.
- Years 7/8 instrumental group - this is the largest and most traditionally structured ensemble of the music program. We are looking at two rehearsals each week being a full rehearsal followed by a workshop style activity where beginners get additional support.
- Years 9/10 instrumental group - This is aiming to be our super duper extraordinaire group of our most advanced instrumentalists in school. The instrumentation is a rhythm section of guitar(s), piano, bass & drums; and windline of (the horns) trumpet(s), trombones & saxophone.

- Assembly guitars - These are volunteers who support our singing of the National Anthem to start assemblies.
- Percussionists - Our strongest suit with Year 7 arrivals is percussion. We also have Year 8s keen on percussion, so that makes our Y7/8 cohort particularly strong in percussion. We will nurture this area as we progress into 2022. Watch this space!

ACCESS TO THE MUSIC DEPT: Students in the music program are encouraged to use the music department facilities during breaks. A special effort is made to accommodate students who wish to spend time in music. Remember that cohorting limits access to the hall where the Music Dept is. Notices of classes & other cohorted Performing Arts activities (mostly school production, drama & music) will be announced in daily notices and displayed on the hall door.

Drama News



Media News



The 7/8s are bringing the Positive Behaviour Matrix to life! Creating one huge PBL movie together!



The 9/10 Six Shot Stories are coming to life, with horror being the favourite genre!

PE FACULTY NEWS



Welcome!

We have welcomed two new staff members to the Physical Education faculty this year. We have Mrs Clare Small who is working part time with us on Thursdays and Fridays, and Scott Dzuibinski who is an experienced teacher currently teaching Year 7 PE.

Physical Education:

During Term One, students will be covering the following units in Physical Education:

Year 7 - Throwing and Catching, Athletics and Minor Games.

Year 8 - Netball/Basketball, Athletics and Minor Games.

Year 9 – Sport Education Program and Athletics. During the Sport Education unit students have the opportunity to be coach, player, referee and Captain. They work in a team environment on a selected sport with the main focus to develop leadership skills.

Year 10 – Racquet Sports, Team Sports and Athletics.

Health Units:

During Semester One, students across all year levels will complete the following Health units:

Year 7 - Puberty/Friendships & Changes.

Year 8 - Social Media and Body Image.

Year 9 - Mental Health.

Year 10 - Party Safe & Safe Relationships.

COVID RESTRICTIONS DURING PE lessons:

Currently under ACT Health regulations during practical PE classes students are not required to get changed. Students can wear their BHS PE uniform to school on the days they have PE. We encourage students to also bring a hat and drink bottle to all lessons.

Staff and students are required to wear a mask at all times when inside, unless taking part in vigorous activity. PE staff are trying to be outside as much as possible during PE lessons to allow students to have their masks off.

Personal Hygiene is important during adolescence, after an active PE lesson. We strongly encourage students practice positive personal hygiene by keeping PE uniforms clean and wearing deodorant. Students should only be applying roll on deodorant at school due to several allergy and asthma conditions.

School Sport:

It has been disappointing that School Sport has been put on hold during Term 1 due to the impacts of COVID-19. We are hoping Term 2 may allow some lifting of restrictions in regards to School Sport. Students will be informed via daily announcements when School Sport resumes.

PRODUCTION NEWS





BELCONNEN LEARNING COMMONS NEWS



“The BHS chess club meets on Thursdays in the BLC. Break one for all year groups (9:35 for Year 7/8 and 10:20 for Year 9/10).”



NORTHERN TERRITORY TRIP



Northern Territory Trip Update

At this stage the Northern Territory Trip is still on the calendar for later this year. The dates are as follows:

Trip A: Sunday 18 September to Monday 03 October

Trip B: Wednesday 21 September to Thursday 06 October

Planning and organisation will recommence in earnest, most likely in Term Two, when we are more confident that the trip will proceed. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email me or phone via the Front Office.

Richard Erlandson

CYBERSPACE



Year 7 Parent and Carer eSafety webinar

All parents and carers of year 7 ACT public school students are invited to an eSafety webinar held by the Directorate's eSafety team. This webinar aligns with the uplifting and strengthening of eSafety learning modules that have been delivered to year 6 (2021) and year 7 (2022) students. We're asking all secondary schools to advertise this event to their year 7 parent community. The workshop will be held twice to provide flexibility for families to attend.

- Option 1: Tuesday 15 March, 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm
- Option 2: Thursday 17 March, 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

We've attached a flyer and information for school newsletters. Please share this information with families by Tuesday 8 March, so parents and carers have enough time to schedule one of the workshops in their calendars. We will email the Google Meet links to year 7 coordinators. Schools will need to email these to their year 7 parents and carers 24 hours before each workshop.

Attachments:

- [Year 7 Parent and Carer eSafety Webinar Flyer \(3.1 MB PDF\)](#)
- [Year 7 Parent and Carer eSafety Webinar Newsletter piece \(23 kb Word\)](#)

Contact Sarah Darcy and Nicole Agius on EDUesafety@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 QuickWeb 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:



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

Ambulance transport for students at school This information is from the ACT Department of Education policy on Student accidents/incidents:

The ACT Ambulance Service provides free ambulance transport for students who are injured or suddenly become ill at school or during approved school activities within the ACT. Free ambulance cover does not apply to students who attend Jervis Bay School.

COVID-19 NEWS



Mask rules remain in schools

The mask rules for ACT schools and early childhood settings have not changed. Face masks must continue to be worn by staff and visitors in all indoor spaces at school and early childhood education and care settings.

Students in years 7 to 12 are also required to wear a face mask while in an indoor space at school.

The wearing of masks for primary school students is at the discretion of the student and their parents/carers but is not recommended for children in ECECs, or preschool to year 2.

The measures we have in place, including mask-wearing, are helping to limit the impact of COVID-19 and ensure continuity of learning for our students.

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS



Thanks to generous donations from our wonderful school community at the end of 2021 we were well stocked at the start of this year. It's been a busy few weeks and as you can imagine PE shirts are in great demand and now in short supply at the shop. Only sizes 8 and 10 are currently available.

Our stock levels depend on donations from the school community so we can never guarantee supply. However with a growing student population we are always receiving donations and have a good turnover.

Appointments are available for you to come to the shop in person and we welcome questions, feedback and of course requests. All via the shop email uniform.shop.bhs@gmail.com.

Most people send their request via email, pay online, we package it up and your student picks it up from the front office.

Please remember to label your uniforms. If your child misplaces their jacket for example, they should check lost property at Hilary's desk at Student Services. She is superb at reuniting students with lost uniforms IF there is a name in it.

If you prefer brand new - [Workin' Gear at Fyshwick](#) and [Macdonald's Children's Wear](#) at Jamison stock Belconnen High Uniforms.

P&C NEWS



2022 P&C Committee Members are as follows:

President - Emma Dykes

Vice President - Nicole Phelps

Treasurer - Lisa Elliston

Secretary - Sam Holthouse

Public Officer - Alison Elliot

P&C Council Delegate - Sharon Ding

School Board P&C Representative - Sam Holthouse

Uniform Shop Coordinators - Danielle Gilchrist & Toni Jones

Date for your diary! Our next meeting is on **Monday 2nd May at 6pm** (online at this stage). We encourage you to come along to hear updates from our Principal Rebecca Pearce and to find out a bit more about the goings on at Belconnen High School - you can safely attend now all committee positions are filled!

If you can't make the meeting but have a question, comment or just want to be kept in the loop contact us via the P&C email bhspnc@gmail.com

CANTEEN NEWS



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

COMMUNITY NEWS



FREE TO JUST BE

A YOUNGLIFE AUSTRALIA AND
YWAM CANBERRA
PARTNERSHIP

FREE EVENT

HANG OUT - GAMES- FOOD



SATURDAY, MARCH 5TH 2022

4:00-8:30PM

80 Murrnaji St Hawker

Archery Tag

Dinner & Games

Lego Masters Challenge

Fire with Marshmallows



School Years 7-12

Follow Us on Instagram : [younglifebelconnen](https://www.instagram.com/younglifebelconnen)



Want \$500 to help you with school costs?



Saver Plus is a financial education program for families and individuals on a tight budget to develop life-long savings habits.

To join Saver Plus, you must:

- ✓ Have a current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card **AND** an eligible Centrelink payment*
- ✓ Be studying yourself **OR** have a child in school (can be starting school next year)
- ✓ Have regular income from work (either yourself or your partner)*
- ✓ Be 18+ years old

*Many types of income and Centrelink payments are eligible

Here are some of the school costs the \$500 can be used for:



For more information, please contact your local Saver Plus coordinator:

Kathleen Watson

CanberraSP@thesmithfamily.com.au

0448 730 305

DELIVERED BY



everyone's family

Find out more at [saverplus.org.au](https://www.saverplus.org.au)

Saver Plus is an initiative of the Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ and delivered in partnership with local community organisations.





Offering a free confidential service for the most important job in the world.

 6287 3833





LOOK FAMILIAR?

OUR PARENTING COUNSELLORS ARE HERE TO PROVIDE FREE ADVICE AND SUPPORT.

CALL 6287 3833