WILLOUGHBY GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

A Leader in Girls Education

NEWSLETTER

November 2014

Please join us as we celebrate the

80th Anniversary of Willoughby Girls High School

Monday 1st December 2014 - 5pm

Light refreshments and school tours including the new Sustainability Garden from 5pm

Official Opening of the upgraded Lora Walla Library incorporating the Nell Mackie Study Centre at 6pm

Music Spectacular 7pm

RSVP Ph (02) 9958 4141
Email: willoughbg-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Willoughby Girls High School
1934-2014

www.wghs.nsw.edu.au

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Willoughby Old Girls Lunch

I recently joined 45 Willoughby 'Old Girls' at their annual lunch where I enjoyed hearing stories of school life in past times. I also had the pleasure of meeting 94 year old Peggy Tanner (nee Power) who attended Willoughby Girls High School in our opening year in 1934. Peggy is a founding member of Lane Cove Country Club where she still plays golf every week, as well as regularly practicing yoga and is an active member of the Lane Cove bushwalking group. She still does volunteer work for War Widows, Legacy and Glaucoma Australia. She is as young as her list of regular activities suggests and a great advertisement to us all that our lives can be long and productive when we remain active and enjoy the rewards of helping others. I look forward to again seeing many of these lively and interesting women at our 80th birthday celebration on 1 December.

80th Anniversary Celebrations

We are celebrating our 80th birthday on 1 December, starting at 5pm. The focus of the celebration is the opening of the upgraded Lora Walla library and the naming of the Nell Mackie study centre. Lora Walla was principal of Willoughby Girls High School from 1967 to 1975 and Ms Nell Mackie was librarian at the school for many years and bequeathed $100,000 when she passed away in 2001. The bequest has been used to upgrade facilities in the library. Our most recent upgrade has opened the library space and includes furniture and moveable shelves to provide a flexible and attractive reading, research and study space for students.

We are hoping that many past students, teachers and parents, as well as current members of our school community will attend the celebration. This will be an informal event with school tours and an opportunity to meet with past school friends. Everyone is welcome to stay for the Music Spectacular, a showcase of students' musical talents, which is being held in the Multipurpose Hall, starting at 7pm.

Students' Outstanding Sporting Achievements

The NSW State All Schools Athletics Carnival was held from 9 to 12 October at the Sydney Olympic Park in Homebush. Willoughby was widely represented in a number of disciplines including hurdles, sprints, middle distance, pole vault and the steeplechase. From the five girls who competed (Divine Aaron, Amanda Crowe, Alice Falconer, Nikki Haggerty Mayers and Beth Croft), Willoughby achieved three Gold, a Silver and a Bronze which is an outstanding feat at such a high level of competition. Furthermore, four of the girls have been selected to represent NSW at the Australian All Schools Athletics Championships in Adelaide in December.

Beth Croft, Amanda Crowe, Divine Aaron and Nikki Haggerty Mayers

Congratulations girls and best of luck at Nationals!

Student Attendance Term 4

The school year ends on Wednesday 17 December for all students. It is important that continuity is maintained throughout the term where students will be expected to pay full attention to their studies and other school commitments. While examinations and final assessment tasks for the year are completed early, students will engage in new learning in preparation for next year. I expect all students in all year groups to be present, focused and learning until the last day of term.

This is the final newsletter for 2014 so I take this opportunity to congratulate all students on their fine achievements this year and on their commitment to the high standards at Willoughby Girls High School. I also thank all parents, students and teachers with whom I have had the pleasure of working throughout the year. Together we make a positive contribution to the learning and well-being of the young women in our care. I wish you all a safe and happy holiday break and festive season. I look forward to working with you for another productive year in 2015.

Ms E Diprose
PRINCIPAL

Director Generals Award for Leading Girls Education in Academic Excellence

Deputy Principal's Report

Examinations
By the time you receive this newsletter the girls will have completed their yearly examinations. Year 10 students completed their yearly school examinations during weeks four and five. These examinations were important because the marks awarded form part of the Record of School Achievement (RoSA) assessment program. Year 10 teachers will have assigned Year 10 RoSA Grades on the basis of the marks achieved in these examinations and the other assessment tasks administered in Year 10.

Year 8
Year 8 completed their yearly examinations during week four. Examinations for girls in Year 9 concluded on Friday 24 October.

Year 12
Year 12 concluded their HSC examinations on 5 November. Having spoken to the Board of Studies Presiding Officer I am very pleased to report that the Year 12 students were very well prepared. The students arrived on time and were well versed in the rules and procedures. The Presiding Officer was very impressed by the diligence of the students, and has informed me that they worked very hard throughout the examinations and right up to the scheduled finishing times. They conducted themselves in an exemplary manner. Teachers await with anticipation for the results of the HSC examinations on Wednesday 17 December.

Year 11
Year 11 students began their HSC courses at the beginning of Term 4. The girls in Year 11 have all been issued with a copy of the HSC Assessment Booklet. It is essential that all Year 11 students read this booklet carefully. Year 12 HSC assessment tasks begin this term, and the marks achieved by students in the HSC assessment program make up 50% of the final HSC mark.

Finally, as this will be the last newsletter for 2014, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding efforts and dedication of all the WGHS staff throughout the course of this year. They have worked tirelessly to ensure the best possible outcomes for the students in their care. I wish all staff and the whole school community a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Mr S Leavers
Deputy Principal

Deputy Principal's Report

Parents are reminded that all students should attend school until the last day of term. Examinations and assessments in Years 7 – 10 have been completed, however there are many activities scheduled to enhance student learning and classes will be working up to the end of term. No student will be "doing nothing", so please ensure you daughter/ward attends.

Important dates for this term:
Friday 21 November – Year 10 Rotary interviews
Monday 1 December - Music Spectacular
Wednesday 3 December – Year 7 2015 Orientation Day
Friday 5 December – Multicultural Day. Students are encouraged to bring a "cultural costume" to change into at lunchtime on the day and prizes will be awarded for the best costume. It is not a mufti day.
Monday 8 December – Silver Merit Assembly
Wednesday 10 December – Christmas Church Services
Friday 12 December – Presentation Day at 'The Concourse', Chatswood
Wednesday 17 December – Final day of attendance for all students
Thursday 18 and Friday 19 December – School Development Days.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2015
Wednesday 28 January 2015 – Years 7, 11 and 12 return
Thursday 29 January 2015 – Years 8, 9 and 10 return

All students should be in attendance on the day scheduled for their return to school, unless approved leave has been granted.

As part of our annual school reporting, we evaluate whole school and curriculum based programs on a rotational basis. In 2014, an evaluation team will be investigating the following areas:

- Mathematics
- Technology and Applied Studies
- Sport

The team will have access to classrooms, teaching programs and students' work, and team members will interview staff, parents and students and observe lessons. To assist the team in its investigations, the school will be collecting parent, student and staff responses to surveys of learning and teaching practices. Respondents will be randomly selected and remain anonymous.
The data collected is used by the school in the evaluation of teaching and learning at Willoughby Girls High School.

I wish everyone a safe, happy and restful holiday.

Mrs J Watts
Deputy Principal

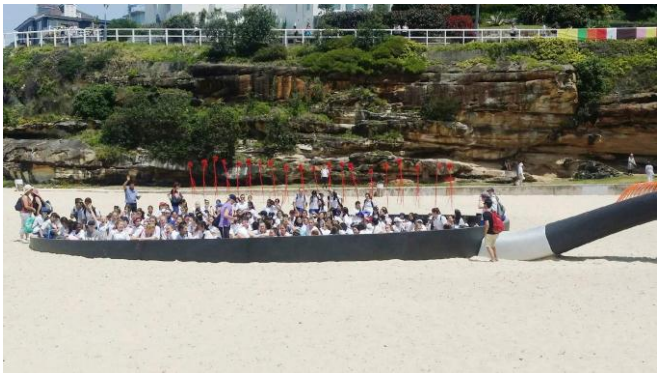
Technology and Applied Studies Report

On Friday 24 October, 180 Year 7 Technology students and eight supervising teachers attended the 18th annual "Sculpture by The Sea" exhibition. This is the world's largest annual free to the public exhibition of amazing outdoor sculpture along the stunning two kilometre Bondi to Tamarama coastal walk.

Despite some early showers in the morning, by the time the students arrived at Bondi beach the weather had cleared and was perfect for the remainder of the day. Students began by enjoying recess overlooking the iconic beach with post card views. Then they spent the morning walking from Bondi to Tamarama while stopping along the way to admire over 100 sculptures submitted by artists from Australia and across the world. Students learned about dimensions, materials, equipment and techniques used and sources of inspiration. All the while, taking lots of photographs and unsurprisingly the 'selfie sculpture' was immensely popular among the girls.

Once we reached Tamarama beach it was time for a group photo of us frying on the beach, followed by lunch, before the buses came to take us back to school.

Ms D Kiely
Design and Technology Teacher



Year 7 Technology students in the frying pan at Sculptures by the Sea

Students beside George Andric's 'Sysiphus'

Languages Report

On Monday 25 August till Wednesday 27 about 20 students from Year 9 and 10 Japanese classes, had the opportunity to "buddy up" with a student from Suginami District Girls School in Tokyo, Japan. Students from Willoughby guided their buddy to their classes and around the school. This was an excellent chance to practice any Japanese to buddies, as they knew English.

Some classes had three or four Japanese students at a time. The girls from Willoughby were helpful and interested. Some even spoke Japanese that they learnt from previous years.

My buddy's name was Riena Tsukada. I think she, like many other students, took away with her an experience that she will never forget, learning the different class behaviours in Australia. We were very similar as we both liked Mario Kart and did Jazz dancing. I still keep in contact with her through emails.

On the last day for the Suginami students, the school's canteen hosted a farewell party in the library. Gift exchanges, drinks, snacks, speeches, awards, photographs and farewells are in our memories. Many tears were shed from many students as we said our goodbyes.

Everyone is extremely grateful for this experience to bond with people and cultures. Currently, Year 9 classes are working on a long waited Video Conference but to a different school. Speeches will be made from both schools whilst being live on camera.

Jennie Tang
Year 9

Students from Suginami District Girls School, Tokyo

Social Science Report

My Economics class

Even though my year is not over yet at Willoughby Girls High School, I've really enjoyed my Economics class. I've had nine amazing months so far and I'm sure my last one will be as great. We've had a lot of fun together and I won't forget all these great girls. As we say in French "plus en est de fous, plus en rit" (the more the merrier, the more laughs)!

Thank you Mr Palmer for being so entertaining throughout those nine months, as well as helpful and welcoming (we arrived at school on the same day, 3 March). I had already learnt about Economics in France but you've added quite a fair bit and I'll surely bring these skills back home whether it be in English or Economics. The highlight of my experience in Economics has probably been Amelia and Teresa's rap video for our assessment. It was a really awesome video and I didn't even know we could rap for assessments. That was good fun.

I'd like to thank my teacher, Mr Palmer and all the girls for making these months so special in Economics. You will surely be missed. Good luck for the HSC…J'espère vous revoir très bien tôt

Heloise Deprez
Year 11 Exchange student

Year 11 Economics class farewelling our exchange student Heloise Deprez

Year 8 Geography

In Term 3, Year 8 Geography learned of Global Inequalities. One of the many inequalities we learned about was hunger. This is a very big issue as over 1,000 million people all over the world suffer from food shortages, which means 1 in 8 people go hungry every day. Even though we studied this topic and learned about the Millennium Development Goals, we thought that we should do more. Ms Piech suggested we participate in a campaign named "Eat Local, Feed Global".

This is an annual campaign run by Oxfam, a Non-Government Organisation. It involves hosting an event where you can raise money and awareness of world hunger. To participate in this event we held a class lunch on Friday 31 October. In pairs, we each brought in national dishes, such as French toast and scones with jam and cream, to share. We had the best time trying different foods from all over the world. We also contributed a gold coin as a donation to Oxfam, raising a total of $50.

This was a great activity to be a part of - we took one step towards solving world hunger.

Leah Gocher and Sophie Arestides
Year 8

Year 8 Geography students raised money for Oxfam for 'Eat Local, Feed Global'

Year 12 Legal Studies excursion

On 30 October the Year 11/12 Legal Studies classes went to the Downing Centre courts to learn and gain first-hand experience about the criminal trial process.

After catching a bus to the city, students were allowed to roam around the Downing Centre and observe the various court cases in the local and district courts. The cases ranged from traffic offences to drug offences and more serious cases such as assault and human trafficking. The day ended with lunch at Hyde Park where the students sat together and discussed the various cases they had witnessed.

It was a great experience and would not have been possible without Ms Piech and Ms Pettifer who gave constant feedback and planned the successful day.

Nina Bauer
Year 11

Science Report

Throughout the year many students have participated in many diverse external Science competitions. Forty five Willoughby Girls High School students from Years 8 to 12 entered in the National RACI Chemistry competition and 18 of these students have received awards, gaining seven High Distinction, six Distinction and five Credit awards. The award recipients are listed below:

Year 8 High Distinction	Aditi Krishnakumar (99 NSW percentile
Year 10 Credit Distinction High Distinction	Lisa Moran Vertina Teh Katherine Lee (93 NSW percentile) Ying Ying Alice Yan (93 NSW percentile
Year 11 Credit Distinction High Distinction	Molly Young Isabelle Palmer Sophie Ellis (92 NSW percentile Eleanor Imlay (92 NSW percentile
Year 12 Credit Distinction High Distinction	Anika Blackford You Jin Jeong Cassie Wong Lucy Fuchter Brie Hamersley Mona Khoshkhesal Emma Su Sonia Lau (93 NSW percentile) Xu Ran Li (95 NSW percentile)

Nine Year 11 students were invited to participate in the challenging Rio Tinto Australian Science Olympiads (National Qualifying Tests) in Physics, Chemistry and Biology. These students performed with great confidence and seven of these students achieved very good results. The award recipients are listed below. Congratulations to these students for their achievement and commendable efforts.
Note: High Distinction – top 10%, distinction – next 20%, credit – next 30% and participation – remaining 40%.

Biology Olympiads
Credit: Yu-Ning Su and Claire Hanna
Distinction: Eleanor Imlay

Chemistry Olympiads
Credit: Mahima Mandal and Eleanor Imlay

Physics Olympiads
Credit: Mahima Mandal and Yu-Ning Su

Thank you to all of the students for their diligence and drive. Also, many thanks to the Science team for their professional and conscientious *'quality teaching and learning'* practices.

Ms J Atchison
Head Teacher Science

History Report

As the year comes to a close the History Faculty are busy finalising their junior courses. Year 7 students are currently exploring Medieval Japan and have finished their History Portfolios. Teachers have been very impressed with student efforts with their portfolio items, so well done Year 7!!

Year 9 students are currently studying World War II, specifically the War in the Pacific.

Various classes are experimenting with groupwork presentations and exciting activities to conclude our areas of historical investigation. Year 10 have finished their examinations and are now commencing on historical investigations of various personalities, events or sites and in most instances will present these investigations towards the end of the term. Year 11 students have now begun their Year 12 course work in all of the History courses and are preparing for their first assessment task in the latter half of the term.

As this is the last newsletter for the year, I would like to congratulate our students on all of their fine efforts throughout the year. The History staff, very much enjoy teaching such engaged and enthusiastic students. I would also like to thank Ms Patten, Mr Willmot, Ms Blackman, Ms Alfonso, Ms Topic, Ms Chou and Ms Wigan for their dedication, professionalism and passion for History, the students are very fortunate indeed!!

The History faculty would like to wish parents and students all the very best for the holiday season and we look forward to seeing you in 2015.

Ms C Allen
Head Teacher History

Visual Arts Report

The Visual Arts Faculty has breathed a collective sigh of relief as this year's HSC students have successfully completed their Bodies of Works. The staff wishes them every success for their ensuing results.

Ms Drougas and Ms Scenna have been organising an exciting incursion for Term 4. Twenty Year 10 Visual Arts students will take part in a one day workshop at the school, run by Rhonda Pryor a contemporary Australian artist.

Rhonda is a practising artist who has currently held a solo exhibition at the Incinerator Art Space. Her art practice deals with memory, the human gesture, and expression. This project involves narrative and memory based themes with reclaimed materials, textiles, installation and photography. The students will be reworking old photographs and incorporating selected media.

Ms M Drougas
Visual Arts Teacher

Careers Report

Student Spotlight
This year at Northern Sydney Institute of TAFE, St Leonards, a Willoughby Girls High School student has been able to complete a TAFE "Taster" Course in Beauty. This practical course has been designed to give students an idea of what it is like to study and work in the industry for one day a week for a term whilst continuing their usual Year 10 studies. Congratulations Abbie.

Abbie Blake, Year 10 in action applying a total face mask

"Beauty at St Leonards is so much fun and we do loads of practical work, including facials, make-up, massage and nails. You get to see how the Beauty Industry works and what treatments and procedures are currently available in Salons. I have always been interested in this area and I can see myself working in a Beauty Salon after School."

Abbie Blake
Year 10

Year 11
With the previous Year 12 now finished (but not forgotten) I think I can now start calling you the New Year 12. You have now commenced your final year at Willoughby Girls High School and probably will have started to think and plan some of what your future will hold.

I am currently available for interviews for Year 11 between now and the end of the year so please come to the Careers Office to schedule an appointment time when it is convenient. I encourage you to visit the University and TAFE campuses over the coming year as you need to be comfortable with the environment you will be studying in.

Year 10
A reminder that the Mock Rotary Interview Day is on Friday 21 November and you are only required to be at school for your interview time provided you have submitted the permission form which allows you to be off site during the rest of the day. I'd like to thank in advance members of Northbridge Rotary for volunteering as interviewers for the day.

Year 9
As part of the Careers program for Year 10 in 2015 you will be required to complete one week of Work Experience in the community preferably in an area that you are interested in pursuing as a career. As some firms and businesses are popular, you may wish to start applying for suitable places now. You may use your family network of contacts or you could visit websites of possible businesses. Many students can find this process daunting, but it is a great opportunity to work with mature members of the community and get a feel of what it is like to work in the industry of your choice. Not all businesses are set up or have the staff availability to take on Work Experience Students so please don't feel dejected if you get rejected! The date for Work Experience 2015 is Term 2, June 1-5.

Careers Website Subscriptions
Just a reminder to Parents and Students that the School subscribes to two different Careers Websites that enable access to information regarding further study, careers and upcoming events at Universities, TAFE and Private Colleges. These act as a "one stop shop" instead of having to access multiple sites to find out much of the current information available.

(These services are provided for the school community only)

www.jobjump.com.au *password* – squirrel

www.careersworks.com *password* – works

All Year 10 - 12 students please check your DET email account regularly, Daily Notices and the Careers Noticeboards for further communications regarding Study and Careers

Ms R Morris
Careers Adviser

Welcome to JobJump

careersworks™
simplify the search for your future

Music Report

It has been a busy year for Willoughby Girls High but more is to come, the most exciting being the WGHS Music Spectacular! This is an event not to be missed as it is a showcase of the diversity that Willoughby's instrumental and vocal and solo acts have to offer. The music will certainly be of a 'spectacular' standard to keep you entertained for the evening. This year it is being held on Monday 1 December so keep that evening free!

The Year 12 girls have breathed a sigh of relief as the HSC Music 1 and Music 2 and Music Extension performances are all complete and ran smoothly. Now we just await the results!

In August, the annual Year 12 Performance Night was held, which allowed family and friends to hear the final result of their hard work, dedication and hours of practice. For some, the HSC marks the end of their formal music studies whilst for others it is the beginning of their musical career but either way, we wish them all the best as they leave Willoughby to discover what lies ahead.

A big congratulations to Immacolata Losurdo, one of our Music 1 students, who has been nominated for possible inclusion in Encore 2015 as one of the state's top performers in the HSC.

Rehearsals for the school spectacular have commenced. We have 16 girls who will take part in the concert on 28 and 29 November and are hard at work and busy preparing various songs for the big event.

This term the Year 9 Elective Music classes had the opportunity to visit the Sydney Conservatorium of Music to experience playing the Balinese Gamelan with Professor Peter Dunbar-Hall, a world leader in ethnomusicology. They also enjoyed a tour of the Conservatorium's historic and modern facilities and a relaxed lunch in the Botanic Gardens. It was certainly a wonderful day especially since it occurred the week after their examination block!

Year 10 and 11 will be going to see 'Wicked' the musical at Capitol Theatre later this term. No doubt it will be full of incredible music, singing, dancing and acting, not to mention fun and drama!

As this excellent year draws to a close, to everyone involved in music at Willoughby, thank you for your effort, time and enthusiasm. Enjoy the upcoming summer holidays but we'll see you first at the Music Spectacular on Monday 1 December!

Ms R Schroers
Music Teacher

Year 9 Music class enjoyed the Balinese Gamelan with Professor Dunbar-Hall and lunch afterwards

PDHPE Report

The PDHPE Faculty are very much looking forward to the premier aquatic event of the semester which is the Year 7 Swim School.

Year 7 Swim School
Year 7 Swim School will be held on 18–21 November (Week 7). This will involve students participating in swimming, survival and lifesaving instruction under the supervision of qualified AUSTSWIM instructors and school staff. Swim School has been designed to cater for all ability levels – students will be grouped prior to the commencement of the program. Students will be issued with an accredited certificate at the conclusion of the program.

Year 8 and 9 Sport Choices for Term 1 2015
Towards the end of Term 4 an information note will be given to Year 8 and 9 students about sport selection for Term 1 2015. They will be asked to register their preference on the School's Moodle by the end of this term. Please make sure that all student's moodle log ins are working before this time.

Ms N Best
Head Teacher PDHPE

Technology Report

Year 10 students have now completed their yearly examinations and have started building their robot. They will practise soldering before putting the robot's parts together.

Parents ask your daughters to show you the computer game they made. We have some great programmers and graphic designers in this year.

Year 9 students are creating clay-mation videos, talking books and bus art this term, giving students a chance to let their imagination and technology skills run free. Parents ask your daughters to show you their music clip they made. We have some budding rock stars in the group. Soon to be shown in the hall at lunchtime as Willoughby's own XX-factor.

As we progress towards the end of another year at Willoughby I would ask you to talk with your daughter about the information, software, videos and games she may download from the internet and to discuss:

- the proper acknowledgement of this information into their assessments
  (ask Ms Brennan our Librarian about "How to write a Bibliography".)
- who is missing out on their livelihood by not paying for the downloaded file.

The Department of Education has developed a program on Digital Citizenship, about how to stay safe online whilst using technology appropriately and being a positive contributor to the digital world. Some of the information may be confronting for younger students (videos) so I suggest you use the program with your daughter. http://www.digitalcitizenship.nsw.edu.au/

Parents are asked to ensure they have access to the Parent Portal. Apart from the already available information such as student timetable, reports, attendance and school documents like the Newsletter, more modules will be installed next year including booking Parent/Teacher Night interviews. It is important all families have registered on the portal as this is the only way of booking a parent/teacher interview. The Parent Portal and School Calendars (Webcal) are available from the following address:
http://web1.willoughbg-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

If you are a new family to the school and do not have the registration letter then I am sending the letter home with the student end of year reports. If you have mislaid the registration letter, previously sent home with the half yearly report, then please send an email to the school marked to the attention of Mr P. Devitt requesting another registration letter.

Year 11 students have started their HSC course. They are now learning Year 12 work with an assessment task later this term. This will be the first component which goes toward determining their final HSC ranking. It is with this realisation that I suggest one starts planning now. Therefore, for the benefit of all, here is some practical advice on everything from writing an essay to helping the rest of the family stay supportive (and sane) while your teen works towards their final examinations.
http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/tips-for-surviving-the-hsc/hsc-resources-to-help-your-child

Now keeping in mind student assessment work I offer the following interactive piece which I have adapted from the SMH.

Please say the next line out loud. It is the chorus for what follows and it happens every year. "But you have a backup, haven't you?" Practise it a couple of times then get your daughter to recite it with you.

A student spends days, weeks sometimes months working on a major project for her assessment. She has it stored on her laptop and takes it with her everywhere, ensuring it is always fully charged for school. However, on arrival at school she discovers her laptop will only display a blue screen (flashing Question mark, on the fruit machines). Suddenly her whole world collapses. Her friends see the tears streaming down her face, give her a hug and ask: "But you have a backup, haven't you?"

Her mind harks back to the assessment booklet a "Zero will be given for not submitting an assessment." A problem with a digital device is not acceptable as a reason not to submit. Howling with dread she grabs the offending device and rushes to her saviour, the guru for making digital devices work, Mr Devitt. Forgetting all manner of politeness she bangs on his door and explains the situation. Of course the first thing he asks is: "But you have a backup, haven't you?"

Throwing herself on the floor in a fit of hysteria, the girl draws on all of the spirits of students from bygone years to help and somehow Mr Devitt gets the message. He tries safe mode. No good. He uses some strange DOS program, whatever that is, but to no avail. He then starts with his surgical gear to remove some part and analyse it with another program. No good. The girl meanwhile is wondering if maybe joining the circus is still an option, when Mr Devitt says "if only you backed it up to a cloud account.'

The girl goes still. The crying settles into sobs. The tantrum settles. Mr Devitt is sure this is the calm before the storm and any minute now his office will be unrecognisable. Torn to shreds by a desperate student. But no, she is smiling. Of course, the cloud! She rushes to the Library logs on and retrieves her assignment. She sprints, delicately as only ladies do, to submit the assignment to her favourite teacher knowing full well that the deadline cannot be moved. The clock ticks down towards 9.00 am, all of the other students seem to be moving in slow motion, the only thing moving faster than her is the minute hand on the clock. She spies the teacher, calling her name, she hands her the assignment as the bell rings. Job done. She starts to walk away totally exhausted after her experience when her teacher says "You are so efficient! Handing in the assignment a week early allows me time to pre-read it and suggest enhancements for the script." OHH!!!!!! Note to self: Backup calendar.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for another wonderful year and to wish you well for the coming festive season.

Mr P Devitt
Head Teacher Computing Studies

Student Representative Council Report

Nominations and Voting for 2015
The Student Representative Council at Willoughby Girls promotes students views and participation in school decision making. Some key initiatives this year have included hosting the inaugural Talent Quest, producing a student newsletter and consultation regarding changes to school uniform. Additionally, the 2014 team have worked admirably to perform responsibilities such as flag raising and recycling.

Earlier this term, students submitted their nominations for the 2015 team and elections are currently being held across a number of school years. The 2015 team will be announced later this term.

Ms S Piech
SRC Coordinator

"Being an SRC member provides opportunities to really make a difference in your school and it includes responsibilities that encourage you to grow as a person. You get to meet an amazing group of students from different school years and form unique friendships"

Sanjana and Carina
2014 SRC Members

NSW Australian Leadership Conference
As part of the SRC, I was presented with the opportunity to attend yLead's NSW Australian Student Leadership Conference last September. I signed up for '3 sensational days of inspiration, networking and out of this world fun!' and I was not disappointed.

The Conference, held in Stanwell Tops, was buzzing with energy. I thoroughly enjoyed being with such confident people; the students, our young 'mentor' volunteers and the staff. It was a great opportunity to meet new people, with groups of students hailing from Hills Grammar, Lambton High, Great Lakes College, Blue Mountains TAFE, Central Coast Grammar, Our Lady of Mercy College and St. Patricks College Campbelltown.

The days were packed with a range of activities and inspiring speakers. We worked through group activities with lessons to consolidate at the end; one example was a frenzied 20 minutes of trying to build three Lego windmills without the instructions! We were able to build one as well as two thirds of another, apparently a better result than the previous year. The fun and games was accompanied by deep and meaningful conversations within the group. We discussed our vision, passion, values, accomplishments and goals.

People were quite intrigued by my passion for politics and statistics. The yLead team gave us their personal stories of their time as leaders at school. The CEO Matt Kershaw told the story of his time at school helping a younger student gain confidence, similar to our peer support program, how his effort may not have been formally recognised, yet still made a difference. '*Leaders don't need a badge*' was his message.

We also had guest speakers at the conference. Steph Lorenzo was my favourite. She told us of her work as the CEO of Project Futures, a non-profit company she founded that is combating human trafficking, both domestically and internationally. Her story resonated because I felt she was the type of person that Willoughby Girls inspires - empowered young female leaders. The message from the conference overall, reinforced by Steph, was *Leadership is Action*.

Sophie Ellis attended the yLead NSW Australian Student Leadership Conference

My capabilities to continue serving in leadership roles at Willoughby Girls has been strengthened by my experiences at the conference and I would like to thank the school for supporting my application to attend. I hope that there will be more students from our school attending next year, as it was a truly worthwhile experience. I will be bringing my new outlook on leadership to my time as a Prefect of Willoughby Girls.

Sophie Ellis
SRC 2014, Prefect 2014-2015

English/Drama Report

Congratulations to the Year 8 debating team for being Zone Winners. Unfortunately, the team lost against Normanhurst Boys in their next round. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank all debaters, coaches and teachers for their enthusiasm and dedication this year. A big thank you goes to Mrs White for her excellent co-ordination of the debating program this year. We will be continuing this worthwhile program at the beginning of next year.

Auditions for the 2015 School Musical Production will take place in Week 10. There will be a meeting for all interested students in Week 7. Information will be posted on Sentral in Week 6. The production will be a collaboration between the Music and English faculties.

Entries for the annual short film festival are due at the end of Week 9. Details have been posted around the school. Students should see Ms Henzell and Mr Samios if they require further information about submissions. We look forward to seeing some entertaining and creative entries.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all students for their excellent work in English and Drama this year. Thank you to all members of the English/Drama faculty for their hard work.

Legacy Junior Public Speaking Award
Many words are spoken at NSW Parliament House but this week it was the young giving their words of wisdom. On 6 October, Logan Woodman, Year 9 was one of twenty four students from across the state who took to the stage at Parliament House for the NSW semi-final of the Legacy Junior Public Speaking Award.

The competition is organised by the Arts Unit, within the NSW Department of Education and Communities and encourages the speaker's use of language to convey a message or a point of view to the audience. They are judged on choice of words, intonation, articulation, pace and pausing.

Logan Woodman spoke eloquently for five minutes on her chosen topic "Freedom of Speech" and followed up with a convincing argument for the two minute impromptu talk on the topic. Making it to the semi-finals was a great achievement for Logan as more than 450 students competed in the competition across the state.

Ms S Brown
Head Teacher English/Drama

Logan Woodman at the Legacy Junior Public Speaking Award, NSW Parliament House.

Wellbeing Report

Earlier this term the Welfare team held a conference to review all existing Welfare programs that had taken place this year and to plan for 2015. It was a very successful day with lots of great ideas and new strategies for ongoing improvements for the well-being of our students.

Raise Program
This year Willoughby Girls High School introduced a new youth mentoring program to the school. It was run by the Raise Foundation and involved twelve girls meeting with an individual mentor each week during Terms 2 and 3. The mentoring program focused on helping young people make informed choices, improve their relationships, advance their wellbeing and coping strategies, increase their self-confidence, identify and achieve their goals, and engage in further education and employment. The program has had a positive benefit to all the participants. Some of the positive comments included "It was good to have someone to talk to that would always listen and respect me. I felt like I could tell my mentor anything without her judging me", "The mentor is there to listen to us and help us with whatever issues we may have."

All students agreed that it was a very worthwhile program and would recommend it to other students.

Ms N Budd
Relieving Head Teacher Wellbeing

Students participating in the Raise Program

BLUE STAR

WHAT'S INVOLVED

BLUESTAR CITIZENSHIP

Introductory program including 20 hours volunteering

- Cert I Volunteering
- First Aid Certificate
- Bushwalking and Camping

BLUESTAR LEADERSHIP

Leadership development program including the delivery of an activity project at local PCYC.

- Certificate II Community Recreation
- 30 hours Volunteering at PCYC
- Leadership training

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

Individual mentoring for development opportunities

- Youth Rep on PCYC Board
- International One Young World Summit

BLUESTAR is a Youth Development and Leadership program created by PCYC to assist in creating '**Young Leaders for Tomorrow**' in our local communities. The program gives practical, real life skills that young people can apply to work, and family, helping them on their way to becoming great community leaders.

BLUESTAR CITIZENSHIP PROGRAM

The BlueStar Citizenship program is the first step in the Leadership Journey for young people at PCYC.

The program introduces them to PCYC and gives them both formal and informal training opportunities. In addition to this they get the chance to meet young people from all over NSW, and form friendships to last well into the future.

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Two camps at a Sport & Recreation style facility,
- Motivational workshops and experiential learing exercises.
- 20 hours of volunteering at their local PCYC
- Opprotunity to complete the Duke of Edinburgh Award—Bronze level.
- Facilitated Learning sessions on Citizenship.

PCYC | POLICE CITIZENS YOUTH CLUBS

WWW.PCYCBLUESTAR.ORG.AU

PCYC

CORE VALUES

CITIZENSHIP

Work to achieve the best for your community.

RESPECT

Respect yourself and others.

COMMITMENT

Be determined and see things through.

INTEGRITY

Live out your values.

RESILLIENCE

Look for the positives in every situation.

BLUESTAR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The BlueStar Leadership program is the next stage of the program which helps young people to become Young Leaders within their community, and gives them the tools to develop and lead an activity project at their local PCYC.

The program gives them the opportunity to be a young leader at Citizenship camps in the future, and experience the role of a young leader amongst peers.

The Leadership program supports the your person remain actively engaged with their PCYC, and helps them be a role model to younger children , as well as strive for their dreams and ambitions.

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Two camps at a sport & Recreation style facility
- More advanced Leadership training and mentoring
- 30 hours volunteering at their local PCYC
- Be mentored to develop and deliver an activity project at the PCYC,
- Opportunities to lead other young people at the Citizenship camps.
- Feel a sense of satisfaction, having made a contribution to the local community.

PCYC YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

Graduates of the BlueStar Leadership program are eligible to nominate to become a PCYC Youth Representative. Youth Reps are appointed for a term of 12 months and have some amazing opportunities to gain experience in a variety of public roles, and represent PCYC, their family and their community and functions and conferences around the State and around the Globe.

The Youth Reps have the opportunity to provide regular feedback on current youth issues and perspectives, and recommend ways PCYC can improve it's service to engage young people and address priority issues into the future.

In this role young people have the opportunity to not only share in some amazing life experiences, but also 'give back' to their community through ongoing support of the PCYC BlueStar programs.

WHAT'S INVOLVED:

- Opportunity to present to the PCYC Board of Management on matters affecting youth.
- Opportunity to represent PCYC at a variety of conferences and functions, to present on youth issues and priorities.
- Represent PCYC by attending the One Young World Summit (international).
- Opportunities to lead other young people at the Citizenship camps.

Teaching someone to drive can be a happy experience.

You can learn all the simple steps on how to teach a learner driver at a **FREE** two hour workshop.

The next workshop in your area will be held:

TIME & DATE:	VENUE:	BOOK NOW ON :
Thursday 27 November 6pm - 8.30pm	Dougherty Centre, 7 Victor Street Chatswood	roadsafety@willoughby.nsw.gov.au or 9777 7723

Helping learner drivers become safe drivers

NSW GOVERNMENT

WILLOUGHBY CITY COUNCIL

Enrich your home with a WEP exchange student arriving in January 2015!
World Education Program (WEP) is looking for caring families who wish to experience another culture in their own home by becoming a volunteer host family. Browse through student profiles, and select a student who you think will fit best into your family and lifestyle!

Who are the students? Read over their profiles below:

Nine (15) from Thailand enjoys playing basketball, golf, swimming, going camping, reading Japanese manga, drawing and playing the piano. At home he helps with the gardening and takes care of his dog Benjy. He is very excited to learn all about Australian lifestyles and to meet new people. He wants to share some Thai greetings and food with his host family.

Andrea (17) from Italy is looking forward to making his dream come true when he comes to Australia. He enjoys trekking in nature as well as swimming for pleasure and is equally happy reading a book or spending time with his friends and family. His parents say he is helpful at home and as they both work he sometimes helps with the cooking. Andrea also likes to take photographs and can't wait to experience Aussie culture, nature and the beautiful landscapes.

Gabriel (16) from France was born in Spain and moved to France when he was four years old. Therefore he is fluent in both French and Spanish. He enjoys swimming, surfing, soccer, bike riding and watching movies with his friends. He and his father enjoy cooking together or watching sports on TV. Gabriel is very excited to experience Australian life, by living as a family member in his host family.

WEP

For further information, please contact Sylvia Kelly (WEP Inbound Manager) on 1300 884 733, by email on info@wep.org.au or by visiting our website www.wep.org.au.

CALENDAR

WGHS NEWSLETTER INFORMATION FOR 2014

Next Newsletter – February 2015

P & C MEETING

Tuesday November 18 2014
7:30 pm in the
Staff Common Room

You can access online via web1.willoughby-h.school.nsw.edu.au. Click on student and guest access link

Parents/Community invited to the events highlighted in red

NOVEMBER DECEMBER	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
6A	**9**	**10** Year7 Reptiles Incursion	**11** Remembrance Day Service	**12**	**13**	**14** Year 10 Science Excursion	**15**
7B	**16**	**17** Year 11 Music Excursion	**18** Year 9 Science excursion Year 7 Swim School P&C Meeting 7.30pm in the Staff Common Room	**19** Year 7 Swim School Years 9 & 10 Religious Seminars	**20** Year 7 Swim School	**21** Year 11 Biology excursion Year 10 Rotary Interviews	**22**
8A	**23**	**24** Library closed - stocktake	**25** Library closed - stocktake Year 10 UN Youth Project	**26** Library closed - stocktake Year 9 and 10 Peer Support Years 7 & 8 Religious Seminars	**27** Library closed - stocktake Year 9 and 10 Peer Support Year 11 Senior Science excursion Year 11 PDHPE excursion	**28** Library closed - stocktake Year 11 Chemistry Excursion	**29**
9B	**30**	**1Dec** Music Spectacular Library closed - stocktake	**2** Drama Night Library closed - stocktake	**3** Library closed - stocktake Year 7 2015 Orientation Year 7 English excursion	**4** Library closed - stocktake	**5** Library closed - stocktake Multicultural Day Year 11 Physics excursion	**6**
10A	**7**	**8** Silver Merit Assembly	**9**	**10** Christmas Church Services	**11**	**12** Presentation Day	**13**
11B	**14**	**15** Film Festival	**16**	**17** **Final Day for students**	**18** School Development Day	**19** School Development Day	**20**

Ph: 9958 4141
Fax: 9967 2174
Mowbray Rd. Willoughby NSW 2068
www.wghs.nsw.edu.au
Email: willoughbg-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Editor: Mr S Leavers
Layout: Ms J Black