



Fort Street High School

MERCURIUS

The News Magazine of Fort Street High School
February 2011 Term 1

Phone: 8585 1600 Fax: 9550 9219 Web: www.fortstreet-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

A Word from the Relieving Principal

It has been another busy start to the year for the staff and students of Fort Street High School. In the first week back John Ockwell accompanied Christine Wong, Yr 10 to a master class with Michael Kieran Harvey. In what turned out to be a frenetic first few weeks Year 11 Geography visited Bantry Bay, the Year 10 Chinese class visited the New South Wales Art Gallery and Year 9 participated in the Forensic Frenzy program and Year 11 and 12 Music have started their Meet the Music series.

Our Saxophone Quartet and Vocal Ensemble performed at the Sydney Region celebrations to open the school year with the Saxophone Quartet also performing at the opening of the Art Express exhibition at the Art Gallery of New South Wales

Two of our 2010 Fortians will have their art work displayed in the Newcastle regional gallery as part of the Art Express exhibitions. Congratulations to Grace Garden with her work Invisible Mills and Wendy Zhang with Echoes of Home.

The Year 11 Drama performance for 2011 will be *Antigone* which will be directed by the very talented Katie Humphries. The Year 10 music class will again be composing and performing the accompanying music with Ms Mattick and Ms Schlam providing support to the students.

The Aircraft Noise amelioration project team were very busy over the summer break installing windows, air conditioning ducting

and plant and upgrading the electrical infrastructure of the school. During the first few weeks the students enjoyed quieter and cooler learning environments while in the rooms on the ground floor of the Wilkins building. The rooms on the eastern wing of level one in the Wilkins building now have functioning air conditioning and are much more comfortable and conducive to learning. I would like to thank Michael Bourdoulis for ensuring that the works planned were finished on time and allowed the school year to start without interruption.

Work is now being completed in rooms W1, W2, W3 and the Ron Horan room. These rooms have been taken over by the project for one week and will be handed back to the school on March 7th 2011. This process of taking four rooms off line will continue throughout the Wilkins building for the remainder of the term and students will be directed to alternative rooms. At the end of this phase of the project the Wilkins building will have air conditioning in every room, double glazing on every opening window and a fresh coat of paint.

I would like to congratulate all the students who participated in the recent swimming carnival and in particular Harry Dai from Year 9. Harry broke a number of long standing school records on the day and will be part of the strong Fort Street High School team taking part in the upcoming zone carnival. I would also like to thank Mr John Gaal for organising the carnival this year.

My thanks also go to the staff who happily volunteered to attend the Year 7 orientation camp. The camp was held at Stanwell Tops conference centre this year and from all accounts the students valued the interaction with the staff, Year 11 Peer Support leaders and the camp staff.

I look forward to the upcoming P&C meeting on Wednesday 9th March 2011 where Rocky Biasi will speak to parents at 6:00pm about motivating students. This will be followed by the regular meeting at 7:30pm. During the P&C meeting Ms Kemp and I will discuss the laptop program.

Year 9 students very excitedly received their laptops on Monday 28th February and have started to use them in class. Parents attending the meeting will have the opportunity to hear how the laptops are used to enhance the educational experiences provided to students and what the responsibilities of students and parents are in relation to this project.

In conclusion I would like to thank all those involved in organising the annual speech day at the Sydney Town Hall. Unfortunately our guest speaker, Simon Sheikh was unable to attend due to a family emergency but we have invited Simon to speak to the students at a later date. The event was as usual a great celebration of breadth of talent at Fort Street High School.

David Osland
(Rlg) Principal

Contents

Page 1	Relieving Principal's Address
Page 2	Important Dates
Page 2	Welcome
Page 2	A Reminder To Parents To Notify The School About Your Child's Health
Page 3	Swimming Carnival Report
Page 3	Year 12 Excursion To Ric's Cafe
Page 4	National Youth Science Forum Report 2011

Page 5	UNSW Mineral Summer School
Page 6	The University of Western Australia Science Forum
Page 6	SRP Report
Page 7	IMP Report
Page 8	IMP Report
Page 9	The Western Sydney Careers Expo 2011

Important Dates



March

2	Open Morning Year 12 Parent / Teacher Evening
4	Photo Day
9	Year 9 and Year 10 Study Skills Parent Study Skills Evening P & C Meeting Zone Swimming
10	Year 7 and 10 Vaccinations
14	IMP Executive Meeting
16	Regional Swimming
30	Open Morning

Welcome to Dominik Fehrenbach, the new German Assistant Teacher. Originally from Freiburg in the Black Forest, he will be working two days a week at Fort Street for the entire year. His duties will include team-teaching in German lessons at all year levels and conducting conversation classes to help prepare senior students for their HSC oral exams.

A Reminder To Parents To Notify The School About Your Child's Health

We welcome information from parents about your child's health, even if you are not requesting specific support from our school. Our school asks for medical information when you enrol your child. It is also important that you let us know if your child's health care needs change or if a new health condition develops.

Information about allergies, medical conditions such as asthma and diabetes and other health care related issues (including prior conditions such as medical procedures in the last 12 months) should be provided to the school by parents. Please provide this information in writing to the principal. This will greatly assist our school in planning to support your child's health and wellbeing.

Please also remember to notify staff in the school office of any changes to your contact details or to the contact details of other people nominated as emergency contacts.

We appreciate your assistance in this regard and assure you that any information you provide the school will be stored securely and will only be used or disclosed in order to support your son or daughter's health needs or as otherwise required by law.

Richard Strauss
RLG Head Teacher Teaching and Learning/Welfare

Swimming Carnival Report

A very successful swimming carnival was held at Ashfield pool on Monday 2nd February. A large number of students attended, making the carnival a great success.

Our age champions for 2011 are:

12 years boys – Jason Pang
13 years boys – Michael Tan
14 years boys – Harry Dai
15 years boys – Hunter Icton
16 years boys – Michael Nguyen
17 years boys – D'Arcy Roche-Bancroft
18 years boys – Riley Berlecky
12 years girls – Ruth Lin
13 years girls – Jennifer Zhao
14 years girls – Linda Xu
15 Years girls – Celeste Ly
16 years girls – Elizabeth Hunt
17 years girls – Jenna Smith
18 years girls – Tammy Poon

The highlight of the carnival was the six individual records set by Harry Dai:

400m Open Freestyle – 4:57:99
14yo 50m Freestyle – 27:45
14yo Backstroke – 33:54
Open 50m Butterfly – 30:03

14yo Breaststroke -33:76
14yo 100m Freestyle - 1:01:99

Congratulations to Harry as this means he set a new record in every individual event at the carnival on the day.

Many thanks to the staff whose help allowed for a well "swam" carnival.

John Gaal
Head Teacher PDHPE and Carnival Organiser

Year 12 Excursion To Ric's Cafe

On Thursday 17th February, the Year 12 Hospitality students were given the opportunity to produce gourmet pizzas at Ric's Café – Paramatta Road. The students prepared their pizzas and then cooked them in the pizza ovens. The cooking time was only five minutes to bake! The students worked very well as a team and took away some excellent pizzas at the end of the session.

Thanks to Head Chef Chris Moxham for his demonstrations, guidance and allowing us the use of commercial facilities within the café. The Year 12 students will again be cooking at Ric's Cafe where they will be preparing poached trout.

The access to the commercial facilities at Ric's Café is an essential and valuable part of the Hospitality course and Fort Street High School is very thankful to Ric's Café for their support.



Ms Joanne Ruth
Year 12 Hospitality Teacher

NATIONAL YOUTH SCIENCE FORUM **REPORT 2011**

The National Youth Science Forum was truly one of the most amazing experiences during which I learnt about science, careers and so much more. In the short period of two weeks I learnt about personal development, communication, leadership and the wider world while forming new friendships with students from across Australia and New Zealand.

After hearing about the extraordinary time my sister had when she attended the program two years ago, I had no hesitation to apply for the NYSF. I applied through Parramatta Daybreak Rotary Club which was followed by an interview through Rotary District 9690 consisting of presenting a short speech about an aspect of science, a panel interview and a group discussion – a valuable experience in itself. I was fortunate enough to be selected as one of 150 students to go to Session C in Canberra and was generously sponsored by Parramatta Daybreak Rotary Club.

On the 17th of January 2011, I departed Sydney with 45 other students to the most action-packed 12 days of my life. The four hour bus ride provided a great chance to meet everyone and to learn the very impressive NYSF chants. As soon as we stepped off the coach at Burgmann College at the Australian National University, where we were staying for the duration of the program, we were warmly greeted by the rest of the students and the energetic staff.

It was a wonderful way to formally start the program at the Parliament House. The program ahead was packed with laboratory visits, open forum discussions, inspiring talks and workshops. Highlights included Hans Bachor's Laser Show, the many inspiring talks we were given at the Opening ceremony, Rotary reception, science dinner and the forum debates. We also had the privilege of a live video conference with CERN at the Large Hadron Collider in Switzerland which was awe inspiring.

At the forums, scientists informed us of the issues of climate change, biotechnology and nanotechnology and genetic engineering after which we were given the opportunity to express our own views and also listen to those of others. It was inspiring to meet and

talk to leading scientists, engineers and researchers across many fields of science and engineering during our lab visits as well. These experiences have made me aware of some challenges the Earth faces while it has also widened my knowledge of science and research.

My activity group was Lyell, the environmental and earth sciences group. Our lab visits included a fossil dig, observing rock core samples at Geoscience, testing chemistry of water samples in a lab, visiting the Research School of Earth Sciences (RSES) at ANU, visit to the zoo and going to the Deep Space Tracking Facility at Tidbinbilla – after which revealed to me how little we know about the universe. The lab visits were very fascinating and lots of fun through which my interest in science and learning about the universe grew.

During our lab visits we got to use and see equipment which we could not access at school, for example, at the RSES, we got to see a mass spectrometer and scanning electron microscopes. Having that opportunity to see scientific research and equipment really enriched my understanding of how things work and how concepts are applied. All of the lab visits and presentations exposed to me the exciting opportunities that a career in science can offer and really motivated me to question about the world, to make connections and make discoveries.

The NYSF was not just a 12 day science camp. It offered much more than that. Throughout the 12 days, I learnt the importance of effective communication, negotiation and leadership skills and becoming a well rounded person. Personal development and beyond year 12 workshops, the mock job interview and the career supper I found were very insightful and helpful as I got valuable individual advice on the pathways I am considering. The university partners day also offered a great opportunity for my questions about university entry and courses to be answered.

The most memorable and special times were when we got to bond during picnics, barn dancing, science relay quiz, Science disco, floor suppers and the chanting and singing on the bus – serious fun!

The best part of attending the NYSF for me was to meet so many enthusiastic, talented individuals from all over Australia and New Zealand. By the end of the 12 days, we felt really sad, finding it hard to get on the coach to depart Burgmann, wishing that the NYSF would not end.

I realise that organising and running such a large scale program as the NYSF requires a lot of devotion, time and work and am truly grateful for all those who were involved in the process. I sincerely thank Rotary for supporting the NYSF, from their involvement in the selection process to hosting us for home hospitality during the middle Sunday and to all the Rotary Mums and Dads and Rotary Aunts and Uncles on session. I would especially like to thank Parramatta Daybreak Rotary club for supporting and sponsoring me. I also thank my parents for supporting me to go to the NYSF and for providing funds for my attendance. Thank you to all of the enthusiastic staffies who became our mentors and friends, NYSF staff and Director Mr. Geoffrey Burchfield for planning the amazing program throughout the year.

The NYSF has truly been an unforgettable experience from which I have become more informed, been inspired and challenged. I have learnt to be open to the extensive opportunities that exist and am more aware of the exciting courses and careers in science. The experience has broadened my perspective on issues that affect this planet and the need to 'THINK BIG' in a changing world.



Annie Zhou

UNSW MINERAL SUMMER SCHOOL

On 10th January 2011, I was one of 32 lucky students to participate in the UNSW Mineral Summer School. It was a four day camp at Hunter Valley exploring the growing Australian minerals industry and the wide career opportunities.

The UNSW Minerals Summer School began with a day at the university, which involved a walk around the campus and talks about the industry and career options mining engineering, geological, environmental and other exciting possibilities, which was delivered by UNSW senior professors. Then, on the evening of our first day, we set out for Hunter Valley.

On the early morning of the next day, we went on an underground visit to Xstrata Coal's Ravensworth Mine to inspect the interesting features underneath the ground including experiencing the mining process first hand and to chat with the miners. We got to wear an overall suit, with steel cap boots, a hard cap with lights on top of it. It was surely a trip highlight. That night, we were joined by 6 recent graduates currently working in the industry, who shared stories of their early careers and why they enjoy working in the industry and the career choices they have made.

The next day was a drive to Muswellbrook to visit one of the newest and largest open cut mines in the Hunter Valley – Mt. Arthur, owned by BHP-Billiton. Here, we saw some of the biggest trucks in the country, as well as their environment management programs of the mine. Next was a drive up to Kurri Kurri to visit the Orica Mining Services Technical Centre, where we were shown to videos of blasts in a diverse range of mines from around the world.

On the final day, we came back to Sydney and had our final lunch together at UNSW. Each of us also received a certificate of appreciation. For the four days, I experienced great memories and am placing mining engineering as one of my career options.

Stella Modyanto



Hunter Valley – Mt. Arthur, owned by BHP-Billiton



THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY YOUTH SCIENCE FORUM

On the 19th to 21st of January, I attended the Youth Science Forum, a three day science camp held at the University of Western Sydney where I and about 40 other students from all over NSW got a really good insight into uni life, the different fields of science and the different careers in science.

The first day was at the Hawkesbury campus and was filled with team building exercises, lectures, workshops and lab visits where we learnt about topics such as DNA, forensics and communication styles. The forensic science workshop was particularly interesting as we got to work with real horse blood, something I'm sure none of us had had the opportunity to do before.

After a stimulating first day, we were up and ready at 7am the next morning to head to the Parramatta campus. Here, we learnt about minerals, nanotechnology and separation science. We even got to use a scanning electron microscope, which allowed us to see the hairs on a fly's leg or an ant's antenna and making it a truly riveting experience.

On the final day, with slightly more fatigue after the previous night's games of cards and dares until 2 a.m, we were bussed to the

Campbelltown campus where we got a short tour of the medicine and anatomy labs as well as ask questions to current first year medicine students.

For a student not previously interested in medicine, it was certainly interesting to hear them talk and it made me reconsider what field of science I actually wanted to pursue. The final day was also filled with frantic exchanging of numbers and emails, promises to keep in touch and exclamations of annoyance about how short the camp was.

Overall, it was honestly so great to not only learn about other fields of science that I had not previously considered but also to meet the professors, lecturers, under-grad, post-grad and PhD students as well as the year 12 students from all over the state. I would also like to thank Wetherill Park Rotary Club for their support and sponsorship to attend this camp. The Youth Science Forum showed us that there are so many different paths that one can take in science and it truly was a fun, unique and worthwhile experience that I won't forget for a long time.



Aimee Tran

SRC REPORT

It's been a busy start for the SRC in 2011. In the first week back we began selling roses for the traditional Valentine's Day Rose Drive, an annual event which fosters friendships and romances within the school community. This project however involves a copious amount of time and effort for the SRC. Cutting out hundreds of red hearts, serving in the hectic Rose Stall and arriving at 7am to begin de-thorning 1000 roses, it wouldn't have been possible without our trusty, hardworking SRC reps! Overall the SRC sold over 950 roses and raised over \$1,440.

The inaugural Year 7 Welcome Trivia Night was held on the Wednesday, 9th February to welcome the Year 7s to Fort Street and help them become better acquainted with their Peer Support Leaders and classmates before their Orientation Camp. The Trivia Night flew by in a flurry of bonus questions, mini-games, famous faces and music clips. I am proud to say this event was a great success where we raised \$596 for the Queensland Premier's Flood Relief Appeal.

We will be running a charity collection to raise money for the victims of the Christchurch earthquake on Tuesday, 1st March in rollcall. We encourage everyone to give generously to the people of Christchurch who are struggling to piece their lives back together.

A reminder that SRC meetings are open and we encourage all students who have any ideas or general interest to come along. Finally I would like to thank Miss Lawson, Mr Fischer and Mr Gillespie, Ms Levy, the SRC students who made our work possible and all the Fortians who participated in the Rose Drive and Trivia Night.

Alicia (Poppy) Bell
SRC President

IMP REPORT

The IMP has gotten off to a very busy start to the year. Chamber Choir has had two performances already - one as part of the Sydney Chamber Choir Conducting Workshop weekend and the second as part of the massed choir at the Sydney Region Official Opening of the School Year.

The Saxophone Quartet has also enjoyed a busy start to the year with a performance at the NSW Art Gallery for the Opening of Art Express and a solo performance at the Sydney Region Official Opening of the School Year at City Recital Hall - Angel Place. Congratulations to all involved.

The IMP is very happy to welcome over 45 new members this year from Year 7 through to Year 11. Training Band rehearsals will commence on Thursday 3 March - if you are starting a new instrument this year, this is the ensemble for you!

It does not matter whether you are in Year 7 or Year 12 - if you have a new instrument in your hands, don't miss Training Band.

If you haven't managed to organize your instrument ready for the first rehearsal - you should attend the first rehearsal anyway.

I am very happy to officially welcome Mr Dan Walker as the new conductor for Vocal Ensemble and Chamber Choir. Mr Walker comes to us with a wealth of experience with choirs and we are very lucky that he has agreed to join the IMP team.

The Vocal Ensemble is open to all students - come along on Monday mornings at 7.30am if you are interested!

Liz Scott
IMP Coordinator



FORT ST P&C PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Year 7 Parents Welcome

Our first P&C meeting for the year was the Year 7 Parents Welcome, held on Wednesday 9th February. There was a good turn out of parents from year 7, a few parents of new students from other years and a few other parents along to support the P&C and to hear the always informative Principal's report. The Principal's Report was delivered by our acting principal for this term, David Osland, who also answered questions from parents.

The P&C Executive gained 2 Year 7 parent representatives, Susie Connor and Jacky Zeng, and 3 other new Executive Committee members, Tang Grady, Vinay Lopes and Mary-Ellen Mullane. Welcome to all of you. There were also some volunteers to help out on the canteen sub-committee and with the uniform shop. A big thank you to them.

1.1 Fundraising

As mentioned in the January Mercurius, we are looking at different ideas for raising money for the school this year. We are in the process of forming a fundraising committee. This committee would not be responsible for running events but for coming up with ideas on how best to raise money for our children's education. If you have an interest or experience in this area then please contact the P&C at fortst.pc@gmail.com

1.2 Community Event

We are hoping to run 1 major community event this year, most likely on the weekend of 21 - 22 May. The emphasis of this event will be on community building but hopefully we can raise some money at the same time.

There have been a number of ideas put forward but at the moment we are learning towards a series of competitions, for students and parents, in a range of areas such as chess or table tennis.

There would also be food stalls. The idea is to appeal to as many of the school community as possible.

If you have any ideas or would like to help out please send an email to the abovementioned email address.

1.3 Meetings

The next P&C meeting will be at 7:30 pm on Wednesday 9th March in the school library. It will be about technology and will be particularly focused on year 9 parents, as their students will be receiving laptop

computers shortly. However there will also be other items of interest for parents of all years.

The proposed meetings for this year are:

1.3.1 Wed 9 Mar - Year 9 Technology

Year 9 students will be receiving their notebook PCs and there will be a presentation for parents to prepare them for this.

1.3.2 Wed 11 May - Year 8 Subject Selection

Year 8 students will be selecting their elective subjects for years 9 & 10 and there will be a presentation for parents about this.

1.3.3 Wed 1 Jun - Study Skills

Starting at 6pm, there will be a presentation on the Online Study Skills Handbook available to students and parents courtesy of the P&C.

1.3.4 Wed 10 Aug - Year 10 Subject Selection

Year 10 students will be selecting their elective subjects for years 11 & 12 and there will be a presentation for parents about this.

1.3.5 Wed 7 Sep - Cyber Safety

With the proliferation of Facebook, Email, Texting, etc Cyber Safety has become a major concern in school and elsewhere. This presentation informs parents about this.

1.3.6 Wed 9 Nov - School Plan and AGM

There will be a presentation of the schools 3 year plan as well as the P&C AGM.

1.4 Contact

The P&C has some pages on the school website (<http://www.fortstreet.nsw.edu.au/>) under the **Community** link. There you will find information about the P&C, meetings, the canteen and the uniform shop.

If you wish to contact the P&C, email fortst.pc@gmail.com or contact me on 0402 188 489.

Ian Reid
P&C President

The Western Sydney Careers Expo 2011

23 - 26 June 10am – 4pm
Sydney Showground
Sydney Olympic Park – Homebush

The Western Sydney Careers Expo brings together organisations providing tertiary course, career, vocational, employment, HSC and gap year information and resources. The Expo also features over 120 seminars on topics including tertiary and training courses, career and study advice. HSC and VCAL subjects seminars will be presented by the NSW Board of Studies.

Admission is \$10 or \$25 for families of 3 or more (children: 14 and under free) and is valid for all 4 days of the Expo.

Admission includes seminars and a comprehensive Visitor Guide.

For more details go to:
westernsydneycareerexpon.com.au

