



Fort Street High School

# MERCURIUS

The News Magazine of Fort Street High School

April 2012 Term 2

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## Dear Parents and Fortians,

Term 2 commenced with a School Development Day which enabled staff to work on motivation techniques and study skill techniques which had been presented to students in Term 1.

Day 1 for students commenced with a poignant Anzac Ceremony led by **Mrs Miniutti**. **Sacha Tretheway** of Year 12 presented a thought provoking speech. **Zoe Robertson** of Year 7 read the ode and the Last Post was played magnificently by **Jenna Smith** of Year 12. Our thanks to **Mr Pensini** and the Wind Ensemble for their rendition of "Londonderry Air".

The English evaluation has commenced. The Faculty agreed to review assessments and gifted and talented provisions.

Two hundred students and 89 parents responded to the surveys during the school holidays. I thank the evaluation team - **Ms Kemp**, **Mr Dopierala**, **Ms Manson**, **Mr Fraser** and **Mr Leondios** for their work. I am also grateful to the English staff for their openness and co-operation for the team to pay visits into lessons and the participation in interviews.

### Staff Changes

We farewell:

**Mr Cantor** who relieved as Science Head Teacher in Term 1. I thank him for his leadership of the Science Faculty and wish him well on his return to Caringbah High School.

**Mr Honeysett** has taken leave to look after his aging mother.

We welcome:

- **Ms Stockbridge**, our new Science Head Teacher who commenced on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. She comes to us as an experienced Head Teacher and most recently as the Science and Maths Officer at the Board of Studies in which role she worked on the national curriculum.
- **Ms Tidon** - who has returned from maternity leave.
- **Mr Osland** - who has returned from leave.

### Congratulations

- **Jenna Smith** of Year 12, has been accepted into the National Music Camp with the Australian Youth Orchestra. Jenna played the Last Post to close The Morning Show for Anzac Day. She was asked to play on behalf of Sydney Youth Orchestra.



Jenna was recently awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place in the under 19 section for solo trumpet as well as being awarded the under 19 H.J.C. Cartledge Trophy For Outstanding Playing in several sections of the Metropolitan Band Championship.



I look forward to seeing you at our many events during this term.

**Roslynne Moxham**  
Principal

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### Important Dates

#### May:

9	Open Morning
9-10	Senior Performing Arts Nights
11	Assembly
14-18	NAPLAN Assessment Week
18	Year 7 Vaccinations Zone Cross Country
19-20	State Band Championships
20	Red Shield Appeal
22	ICAS Computer Skills Comp
23	Year 7 and Year 10 Parent Teacher Night
24	Year 7 and Year 8 Study Skills - Parent Session
28	Year 12 Reports Issued
30	Athletics Carnival

Fort Street High School has registered to participate in this year's national OzSpell Competition.

Students who will be no older than 14 years on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2012 are eligible to enter.

Please contact Mrs Penniment in the Library for further details.

<https://www.ozspell.com.au>



Students are reminded not to use the Staff Carpark as a route in and out of the school grounds. It is very dangerous for students to be walking in the car park when there are vehicles entering and exiting the car park. Students are to use the pedestrian gates and walkways.



Parents are not to park in the Staff Carpark. Some parents park in this area while waiting to collect their children after school. Students are not allowed to walk through the Carpark. Please set a good example to your child!



**National  
Year of  
Reading  
2012**

## **STUDY SKILLS TIPS: HOW STUDENTS GET THEMSELVES MOTIVATED TO DO ACADEMIC WORK**

The following is extracted from 'Regulation of Motivation: Evaluating an Underemphasized Aspect of Self-Regulated Learning' by C. Wolters. (Educational Psychologist, 2003, 38(4), pp.189-205).

### **1. Rewards**



Many students set rewards for themselves "I'll read this section then I can eat this sandwich". Some students use the opposite, punishments; they create consequences for themselves where they will deprive themselves if they do not do the work.

### **2. Self-Praise:**

Some students find that recognising their progress to themselves and praising themselves for their efforts creates a more positive mental environment and encourages them to keep going. Comments such as "Well done, you've solved yet another problem" can help create mental stamina.

### **3. Goal-Orientated Self-Talk:**



Students who think about why they are studying or what possible future outcomes may be from putting in effort can also strengthen the effect of these thoughts by making sub-vocal statements while they are engaged in an academic activity. When faced with an urge to stop working they may focus on the thought of getting better marks, or getting into a particular course at uni or even the satisfaction of learning a new skill or developing self-discipline.

### **4. Interest Enhancement:**

This involves looking for ways to make the task to be completed more interesting or enjoyable. Even making slight modifications to make something less boring or repetitive. One student found that by writing notes in a different style it made the activity more inspiring.

### **5. Environmental Structuring:**



This is also referred to as resource management and is all about removing temptations and creating an environment that is more conducive to studying. It may even mean studying in a different location such as a local or school library in order to stay focused on the tasks to be completed.

### **6. Proximal Goal-Setting:**

Breaking larger tasks into smaller more manageable chunks will help students to feel more motivated about what needs to be done. Setting specific and achievable short-term goals with an allocated time-frame can help increase students sense of efficacy.

### **7. Defensive Pessimism:**

"I think about how unprepared I am in order to get myself to work harder". There is mixed research about this approach and the negativity involved. However every student is different and for some students making themselves a bit anxious about what they haven't done may be necessary to get them to start doing their work.

### **8. Emotional Control:**

Thoughts produce feelings, feelings lead to actions. If we can make our thoughts and feelings more positive, this can lead to more positive actions.



When students are feeling unmotivated, strategies such as taking a short amount of time to close your eyes and engage in deep slow breathing, or counting slowly backwards from 10 while thinking positive reassuring thoughts about their abilities to do what has to be done has been found to be beneficial.

Learn more at the Developing Motivation Unit of:

[www.studyskillshandbook.com.au](http://www.studyskillshandbook.com.au)

## Year 11 Ancient Historians Re-create Tutankhamen's Tomb

On the 16<sup>th</sup> March Year 11 Ancient History students made their annual pilgrimage to the Rowe Quad to mark out the dimensions of Tutankhamen's Tomb. This year there were a few initial hitches accessing the Rowe Quad, strangely reminiscent of the problems Howard Carter encountered when he first discovered the tomb in 1923.



Once in the quad the students quickly set about clearing the area before measuring and marking out the dimensions of the tomb with tape measures and masking tape. Marina Saunders assumed the mantle of Chief Archaeologist, competently supervising a hard working band of trusty accomplices. First came the entrance steps, then the antechamber, the annexe, the burial chamber and the treasury.



Further difficulties were encountered when the students discovered the tomb would not fit perfectly into the paved area and alternative arrangements had to be made to move on to the lawn beside the tiles.



When complete Mr de Bres led an expedition group through the tomb and students placed images of objects found in the tomb in their respective rooms.



Finally a mummy was laid to rest in the burial chamber. By popular demand this year's mummy was Mr de Bres, judged to be the closest in age to New Kingdom Egypt although of-course Tutankhamen himself had unfortunately died when he was only 18 years old.



After gobbling down some sacrificial Tim Tams brought for the mummy to survive the afterlife, the students left the Rowe Quad having successfully achieved their goal.

**John de Bres  
History**

## Senior Drama Production 2012 "A Respectable Wedding"

Once again, the Year 11 Drama class will be producing a play for the annual Senior Drama Production, with original compositions by Year 10 Music students.

This year we will be performing *A Respectable Wedding* by Bertold Brecht. First published in 1918, the play was originally titled 'A Petty Bourgeois Wedding', criticising the shallow and materialistic values Brecht recognised in early 20<sup>th</sup> century society. Though the context has changed, Brecht's matrimonial satire is as punchy and relevant as ever, so please support the Arts at Fort Street by coming along to our performance.

The production will take place in the school hall on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of June.

Don't forget to diarise this date.

**Hannah Harmelin**

Director - Senior Drama Production 2012

### Fort Street High School Exit Profile

*(Ratified September 2007  
School Council Meeting)*

*Our aim is that on completion of  
Year 12 Fortians will have:*

- *achieved their full academic potential.*
- *developed individual skills and talents.*
- *developed learning strategies to equip them to be independent self motivated lifelong learners.*
- *developed emotional resilience, self reliance and leadership potential.*
- *recognise their responsibility to the wider community.*
- *developed a strong sense of social justice as well as commitment to fairness and equity.*

## The Bell Shakespeare Production Of "Macbeth"



In the last 400 years, one man has contributed more than any other to the development of the modern English language. We refer, of course, to William Shakespeare.

On Friday 16th March, Year 10 was fortunate enough to attend the Bell Shakespeare production of *Macbeth*, arguably Shakespeare's finest play.

Also known as the Scottish Play, *Macbeth* is a story of ambition, cruelty, treachery and guilt. The play was performed by a quartet of actors from Bell Shakespeare known as the Players, although their masterful character-switching made it seem like there were far more. The use of the set, costumes and props were exemplary and aided the willing suspension of disbelief. They broke the fourth wall on several occasions, providing contextual explanations whilst still maintaining the flow of the play, deepening our understanding of the subtexts of the play.

The performance was an abridged 55 minute rendition, and all the salient scenes were covered in detail. The set was interestingly used in the play, and it consisted of 4 shades placed around the performing area, and the use of the shades to indicate a change in character or scene was cleverly done. The Players were skilled actors and they conveyed the gist of the play as well as the important scenes within the time frame, and they graciously answered all the questions that we keenly put to them.

If prompted for an opinion, we would readily say that it was a brilliant performance performed by brilliant actors, and that it was both informative and fun. The whole experience was enjoyable and we would gladly invite the Bell Shakespeare Players back to our school for more productions.

**Ravi Alex Stephens and Maxim Trethewey**  
Year 10

## Year 7 History Excursion

On Tuesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April, Years 7F and 7R went on an excursion to the Australian Museum and Hyde Park Barracks by bus.

After arriving at the Australian Museum, we were ushered into the Theatrette where we were given a talk about the museum's history.



We discovered that it was opened in 1827 and that it was the first museum in Australia. We learnt that it received 10,000 visitors in its opening week and that it now has a collection of 4.5 million artefacts and science specimens.



We learned the history of some of the many specimens on display. We compared early pictures of the building to what it looks like today.

Finally we examined many different skeletons, dinosaur fossils, varieties of minerals and preserved insects.



We had a lunch break at Hyde Park where we sat near Captain Cook's statue. Many of us snapped pictures of the beautiful fountains and statues. We took a group photo posing as Captain Cook with our arms raised.





Then we went to Hyde Park Barracks and had an interesting tour inside this historic three storey building built by convicts. We looked at a magnificent panorama which showed Governor Lachlan Macquarie's vision of what he wanted Sydney to be like. We tried out the hammocks that the convicts slept in and wore their clothes and ankle cuffs.



We closely studied many archaeological items found at the Barracks which the convicts had used in early colonial Sydney.

It was an interesting and fun excursion which we will cherish as a great historical memory. Years 7F and 7R are thankful to Mr de Bres and Mr Hoekstra for planning and attending this excursion with us.

**Jessica Kim, Doreen Zheng, Angela Zha and Alana Tarrant - Year 7**



### **Tips To Prevent The Spread Of Germs And Winter Colds**

Colds are caught from other people who are sick. Colds can be passed on through touching hands or objects or by breathing in droplets from sneezes or coughs.

To prevent the spread of colds – persons should:

- ☑ Cover their mouths when coughing and sneezing
- ☑ Keep hands away from their eyes, nose and mouth
- ☑ Throw dirty tissues away after use
- ☑ Wash hands thoroughly with soap, particularly before eating and blowing noses

If your child is sick, please keep them at home until they have fully recovered!



### **All Correspondence**

When sending through any correspondence to the school eg. Letters Requesting Leave, Change of Address etc

Please ensure the correspondence has the **student's full name and surname**, roll class and date.

This will assist the Administration Staff tremendously as it will eliminate the tedious process of having to look up the student's details on the system.

**Please notify the school in writing if your residential, postal, email address change or if telephone and mobile contact numbers change.**

## Year 10 History Excursion to Canberra



On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March, Year 10 Fortians woke in complete darkness, with little more than five hours of sleep. Many were lethargic, questioning whether train and bus services operated at 4:45am, others were as enthusiastic as ever (perhaps from no sleep at all).

The day began with a 3 hour bus ride. Students entertained themselves with sessions of MarioKart, kept their mouths busy by eating food and avoided camera flashes while sleeping. After stopping at McDonalds, enjoying the beautiful farmland scenery and trying to avoid the sun's rays shooting onto our DS screens, Year 10 arrived at the Australian War Memorial.



The weather was much colder than Sydney's summer! After standing in the Canberra cold for a few minutes, we were welcomed into a warm and toasty room where we watched a short introductory film.

Whilst wandering around and enjoying the museums' collection of artefacts, dioramas and interactive real-life displays, we witnessed the most vivid and compelling recreations of war.



It was an incredible yet surreal experience. This was accompanied by group tours which opened our eyes to the experiences of ANZAC soldiers - their resilience, their bravery and their mateship.

Following our visit to the Australian War Memorial, we departed for the National Film and Sound Archives.



The NFSA provided an incredible, unique and engaging experience. We examined the power of persuasion in a variety of ads ranging from the 1930s to the 21<sup>st</sup> century and we were particularly impressed by how similar coconut shells sounded to a horse galloping. We were given the opportunity to transport ourselves into the shoes of a director decades ago by using interactive workshops throughout the museum. It was an unforgettable experience.

On behalf of Year 10, we would like to thank our teachers, Ms Miniutti, Mr de Bres, Dr Strauss, Mr Hoekstra, Ms Johnson and especially event coordinator, Ms Bresnahan, for organising this insightful and enjoyable excursion.

**Rachel Lee and Veronica Lin**  
**Year 10**

## The Bell Shakespeare Production of "A Midsummer Nights Dream"



On the 16<sup>th</sup> of March, Year 7 experienced a very amusing rendition of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Nights Dream". We were not expecting what we got, but what we got was far better than anyone could have expected.

It started off as most plays do, with an explanation of the scenario, or in the writers world-an-orientation. The actors explained the situation that Hermia and Helena were in, with Hermia having to marry Demetrius while her love was for Lysander, and then how they all ran away into the forest.

We then delved into the complication, with "someone's" mistake (thanks Puck!), and the disaster it created. They also portrayed the mechanicals' play very well, and they gained my respect for that as I would think it rather challenging when you are a good actor and you have to portray a bad actor - and to make it very funny as well.

I believe that the performance was very good, and very enjoyable for all. Thank you Bell Shakespeare!

P.S I am still not sure about the Ferrari that Thesus and Hippolyta had, the fact that one was a tradie and the other a aircraft ping pong batwaver, or the use of an iPad. (I have still not found the iMoon App!)

**Brianna Wilson**  
Year 7

## Persuasive Writing Hints For NAPLAN Preparation

- You are providing an argument, in which you use words to convince the reader of your view(s) regarding an issue.
- Be aware of the audience for whom the piece is being written
- Structure your piece carefully – introduce the topic / establish thesis:
  - state background of facts
  - provide alternative points of view and
  - demolish that argument
  - conclusion: restate main argument
- Provide an example to support each point you make
- Techniques you may use – rhetorical questions
  - Active voice
  - emotive or strong language
  - high modality (eg, must, will, shall)
  - rhetorical devices
- **Check accuracy of spelling, punctuation, paragraphing, grammar, syntax as these are an important component of the way marks are awarded in NAPLAN**

NAPLAN NATIONAL ANNUAL PRACTICE TESTS  
Literacy and Numeracy

acara ASSOCIATION OF CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT RESEARCHERS

**The National Literacy and Numeracy Tests for Years 7 and 9 will take place in Week 4 of Term 2 on Tuesday May 15<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday May 16<sup>th</sup> and Thursday May 17<sup>th</sup> 2012.**

## P&C President's Report

### P&C General Meeting

On 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2012, there will be a P&C general meeting in the library at 7.30pm. An information session for parents of Year 8 students on the selection of elective subjects for Year 9 in 2013 will be held.

There will also be an update as to the organisation of the Fort Street Festival. This meeting is a very important one to attend. All are welcome to join this discussion.

### Senior Drama Performing Arts Night

The Senior Drama Performing Arts Night will be held on the evenings of Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> of June 2012. This event always proves to be both enjoyable and a great success. The Senior Drama Performing Arts Night showcases the many talents of students of Fort Street.

Last year the P & C had sold a selection of hot foods and this year the same will be on offer. Please do not forget to diarise these dates!

### Uniform Shop Coordinator and Manager

We welcome new faces to the Uniform Shop, **Gladys Ko** - Uniform Shop Manager and **Cheryl Beatty** - Uniform Shop Co-Ordinator. **Angela Lu** joins the Uniform Shop Committee. The uniform shop continues to run as smoothly as ever! Thank you to all volunteers for their valuable effort and time over the years. The uniform shop is open every Wednesday between 10am to 2pm.

### Fort Street Festival 2012

Fort Street Festival will be held on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2012. This is a big event for Fort Street communities and only takes place every two years. The Festival unites communities and celebrates our multicultural society. The IMP will entertain us throughout the day while the ever popular 'Battle of the Bands' will again take place. There will be various rides and demonstrations. The second hand goods stall will be bigger than ever!

For those in search of a culinary treat the Fort Street Festival will also host the flavours of international foods such as Vietnamese, Korean, Chinese, Indian and Japanese. For those with a sweet tooth - there will be cakes and treats on sale too.

The Festival's committee has started distributing Festival posters and also sending letters to the parents asking for the donations of second hand goods.

We will keep you informed throughout Term 2 about the Festival's progress. We will need many volunteers on the day in order for the Festival to be successful. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you are interested.

This year the Fort Street Festival Co-ordinator is **Finola Carey** and she can be contacted on [odma@ozemail.com.au](mailto:odma@ozemail.com.au)

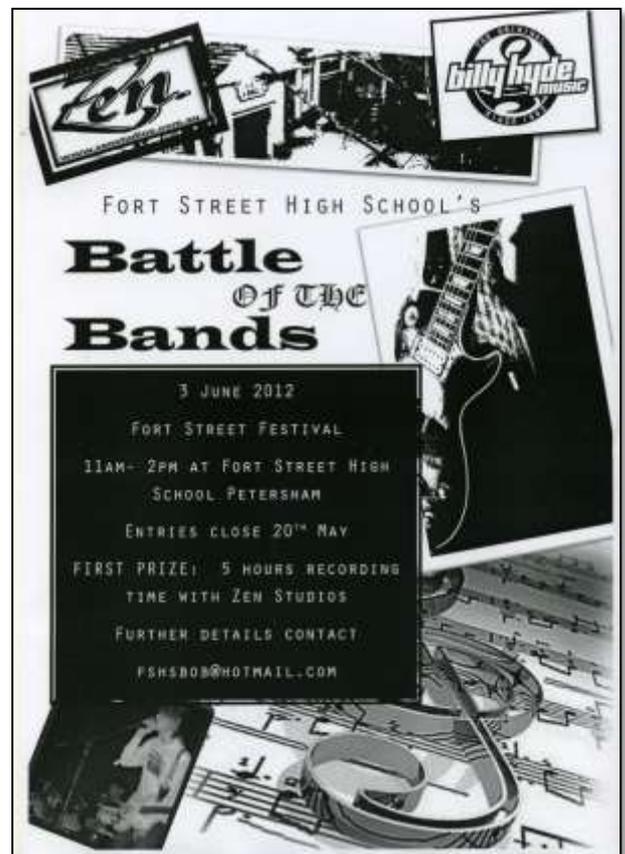
### Website

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

### Contact Us

If you would like to receive emails notifying you of upcoming meetings and other events, please send an email to the following address [fortst.pc@gmail.com](mailto:fortst.pc@gmail.com) and we will have your details placed on the mailing and distribution list.

**Aziz Rahman**  
**P&C President**





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## 2012 Australian History Competition

The Australian History Competition is prepared by the History Teachers' Association of Australia and run in conjunction with The Giant Classroom. In 2011 the inaugural competition was offered for Year 10 students.

Below is an example of the type of questions that were asked last year.

### Source A

An Australian Banknote



### Questions 1-3 refer to Source A

1. Who is the person shown in Source A?
  - a. Queen Victoria
  - b. Queen Elizabeth II
  - c. Dame Enid Lyons
  - d. Elizabeth Macarthur
2. Why is she represented on the banknote?
  - a. To satisfy the demands of feminist historians
  - b. She was a significant figure in Australia's history
  - c. She was Australia's Head of State when the banknote was in use
  - d. To highlight Australia's position as a Dominion of the British Empire
3. What is the best estimate for the years when this note was in use?
  - a. 1880 – 1901
  - b. 1901 – 1929
  - c. 1929 – 1966
  - d. 1966 – 1984

### Competition Details

In 2012 the competition will be offered at two separate levels:

- A Year 10 competition will be *broadly* based on the Australian History Curriculum for years 9 & 10
- A Year 8 competition will be *broadly* based on the Australian History Curriculum for years 7 & 8.

**Both competitions are to be run under test conditions in a 45 minute period on 29 May 2012 during Period 3.**

Each competition will present 50 multiple choice questions. The questions will focus on key elements of the Australian History Curriculum – sound historical knowledge, historical skills and historical understandings. The questions will be graded from easy to challenging, catering for a range of abilities.

In each competition up to 5 questions will be Researched Questions, where there is an indicated topic area or broad question for students to research prior to the competition. While this gives students the opportunity to do some preparation using their own resources, it should be noted that these questions may require more than the recall of historical knowledge. In 2012 Researched Questions topics will be:

- Year 8: Old Kingdom Egyptian Pyramids
- Year 10: The 1967 Referendum

Students' answers will be marked and they will receive awards ranging from Participation to High Distinction. Student results and certificates will be returned before the end of July 2012.

More information about the competition and the style of questions can be found at <http://australianhistorycompetition.com.au>

### **How To Enter?**

As this is the first year we have entered the competition and we are not sure about the level of interest, the competition will be offered to 50 students from Year 8 and 50 students from Year 10. This will be determined on a 'first to pay basis'. The cost of the competition is \$6.00 per student.

Students must pay by **Tuesday 8th May 2012** as after that date we are not able to vary the competition numbers.

- Please pay the \$6.00 to the Front Office **and** hand your permission slip into them at the time of paying.
- These will then be passed on to Ms Miniutti.
- Please keep your receipt as proof of payment.

Thank you for your interest.

**Debbie Miniutti**  
**Head Teacher History**

