



# MERCURIUS

The News Magazine of Fort Street High School

June 2014 Term 2

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## Dear Fortians, Parents and Caregivers



The bi-annual Fort Street Festival was another huge success bringing parents, staff, students and members of the

public to our amazing school. My thanks go to Lorena Uriate, Jenny Curtis and Tang Grady for the countless hours of negotiating, wrangling and community building they undertook leading up to the event. I would also like to thank all of the parents who played a role in the planning, preparation and running of the festival.

The Student Representative Council (SRC) also organised all of the stalls in the fountain quad plus the Battle of the Bands, which ran in the hall. The original Fort Street Festival grew from an initial idea to run a band competition many years ago and this tradition was successfully continued this year.

We have welcomed a group of students from France to stay with our students and build a new sister school relationship with Lycee Arbez-Carme. During our welcome assembly Alex Leal Smith and Marlowe Fitzpatrick delivered a bilingual speech. My thanks must go to Evelyn Manson for her persistence and organisation that has made this sister school relationship possible. Ms Manson and Ms Reynolds have also been busy preparing the applications for our return visits to France and Germany later on this year.

Below is an excerpt from a speech delivered by Michael Kirby at the Public Education Foundation Awards Night. Four members of the SRC participated in the evening and were praised for their ability to welcome guests such as the Minister for Education. The four students, Naomi Hyland, Jennifer Zhao, Alex Grady and Kris Choy also had the opportunity to speak with

Michael Kirby at the end of the evening. Michael's words relate to his beliefs about public education and reflect the passion and understanding that we have come to appreciate. 'As I came to understand them, the aspirations of public education were togetherness, helping one another, imbibing the principles of the "fair go", and aiming for excellence, but never forgetting the communitarian values of a place where the mind and heart were still fresh and open. A place that did not depend on parental wealth and the differences that can bring, nor on religion and the divisions that can cause. Nor on political, social or other distinctions. Public education remains one of our greatest achievements'.



Fort Street High School continues to be fortunate enough to have many extraordinary students. **Arthur Thiele** from Year 12 is one such student. He recently returned from the Asian Physics Olympiad as part of the Australian team. Arthur was part of an eight person team who sat a five hour theory examination and then a five hour practical examination. At the end of the competition Arthur received an Honourable Mention and was placed third in the Australian contingent. Arthur will be representing Australia at the world Physics Olympiad in Kazakhstan in July of this year.

**Congratulations** also to:

Mariela Powell-Thomas, Tom Vastani, Ike Schwartz, Otto Khoo, Aiden Sheils, Zoe Robertson and Alana Tarrant who became age champions at the Northern Suburbs Zone Carnival.

As you are aware the federal government support for digital devices in the classroom has ended. The final phase of this has taken place with the departure of our technical services officer. His role for the remaining students with laptops will be taken over by Mr Tran.

The canteen survey has closed and the results are being collated. Dimantha Goonasekera, Kay Proos and the P&C executive will be reviewing the data and using this to develop a strategy to meet the needs of all stakeholders. My thanks to all respondents, this process is a vital part of our communication and engagement with the broader school community.

Another area that the school will be seeking your input on is the development of the new

school plan. This plan will run from 2015 through to the end of 2017 and we are hoping to hear your voice coming through. As part of the planning for the coming years we have commissioned an educational research company to research the links between participation in one or more of our co-curricula programs and engagement with our academic program.

Ros Moxham will be returning from leave in the first week of June. This will see a return to the substantive positions for a number of staff. I would like to thank Matthew Dopierala for the amazing job he has done relieving as Deputy Principal throughout the first part of this year. I would also like to thank Alison Woodley for her outstanding contribution leading the TAS and PDHPE faculties.

**David Osland**  
**Relieving Principal**

**Consultation on strengthening public secondary education in the inner Sydney area**

The Department of Education and Communities is looking for community ideas and feedback as it considers how best to strengthen the provision of public secondary schooling in inner Sydney, especially from 2018 when projections indicate there will be a need for additional teaching and learning spaces in the area.

You are invited to visit <http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/sydneyhsconsultation> to find out more about the consultation, participate in online forums, RSVP to attend a community workshop and find out how to host your own "Kitchen Table Discussion" to gather opinions and feed them back into the consultation process.

**Community workshops** are being conducted from **6:30 - 8:30pm** on:

- Thursday, 29 May at Sydney Girls High School - Campbell Hall - Cleveland Street, Moore Park
- Tuesday, 3 June at Alexandria Park Community School - The Denzel - school hall - Park Road Campus, Alexandria
- Thursday 5 June at Sydney Secondary College – school hall - Blackwattle Campus, Taylor Street, Glebe

The majority of the workshop will be spent working in small groups to maximise the opportunity for you to discuss the issues and give feedback.

To register for a community workshop please go to [www.dec.nsw.gov.au/sydneyhsconsultation](http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/sydneyhsconsultation)

If you are unable to attend one of the community workshops there are multiple other opportunities to participate and have your say. Visit the Department's website at [www.dec.nsw.gov.au/sydneyhsconsultation](http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/sydneyhsconsultation) to find out more.

The consultation period is from Friday 16 May – Friday 27 June 2014.

All members of the school community are encouraged to participate in and support this exciting initiative to help shape the future of public secondary school education in our area.

## **Zone Carnival Report**

Fort Street is a school filled with skill and determination and this was showcased in our spectacular performance on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May) at the Northern Suburbs Zone Carnival. We were successful enough to have 7 out of the 12 age champions. They were: 12yr Boys – Aiden Shiels; 14 Yr Boys – Otto Khoo; 14 Yr Girls – Zoe Robertson; 15 Yr Girls – Alana Tarrant; 16 Yr Boys - Ike Schwartz; 17 Yr Boys - Tom Vastani; 17 Yr Girls -Mariela Powell-Thomas. Special thanks to Ms Cotton, Mr Fischer, Ms Stamoulos and Ms Eastment for running this glory filled event. This was not just a successful day for Fort Street but it was an extremely fun day with lots of encouragement ringing through the Fort Street Camp. Overall, it was a great day and I'm sure we will be remembered and scared of for years to come, thanks to our performance.

**Oliver Reucassel**  
**Year 7**



## **Year 7 Excursion to Cockatoo Island**

On April 9 Year 7 History classes travelled to heritage- listed Cockatoo island with Mr de Bres, Mr Hoekstra, Mr Asher, Ms Page and Ms McGowen. Upon arrival students were given a guided tour to investigate the many different stages in the Island's history, including its Aboriginal, convict and shipbuilding periods. In small groups, students strolled gently around the Island, Sydney's largest, closely observing the many fascinating historical features which included sandstone buildings and structures, grain silos, imposing cranes and impressive dry docks. Sydney's Biennale provided an intriguing artistic backdrop for the visit and students also enjoyed catching the ferry to and from the Island. Oliver Reucassel, who had previously visited the Island, deserves a special mention for explaining the significance of many of the Island's historical features to others as do the dedicated teachers who kindly accompanied the Year 7 students on this unique excursion.

**John de Bres**  
**Excursion Organiser**



### **CANTEEN NEWS**

*In order to relieve the queuing issues at the canteen at lunchtime which were highlighted in the recent survey, the canteen has introduced two lines just for fast pick up of orders.*

*No cash sales will be taken at these two clearly marked windows so that picking up an order at lunchtime will be a lot faster and easier. Please pre-order either in the morning or on Munchmonitor to take advantage of this improved service.*

## Year 11 Ancient History

While studying Greek Drama Year 11 Ancient History students recently completed a reading of Euripides' tragedy Medea in the valley. The weather gods were kind to us and we were able to finish the play during a double period,



despite the usual competition from low flying passenger jets, bemused kookaburras and concerned glances from junior cross country runners when the betrayed Medea exacted her final, cruel revenge. The main roles this year were filled by Riley Lonergan-Stewart as Jason and Liam Edgeworth as Medea, ably supported by assorted kings and attendants and a spirited chorus.

**John de Bres**  
History Faculty

## Year 10 Food Technology

According to the Dieticians Association of Australia adolescence is a critical period of growth and development, so good nutrition is essential. During adolescence, the need for most nutrients including energy, protein, vitamins and minerals increases. As appetite is also likely to increase, it is important that food choices are made carefully.

Recently Year 10 Food Technology have been very busy during practical lessons preparing meals suitable for adolescents. Three of these are Thai beef salad, Indian dahl with pappadams and handmade fettuccine with tomato concasse sauce.

This is part of our Food for Life unit and students have thoroughly enjoyed these practicals.

**Alison Woodley**  
TAS

On May 15 the class, accompanied by Mr de Bres and Ms Blyth (USyd practicum teacher), also visited the Nicholson Museum to participate in an archaeological workshop and to tour the Museum. As in the past our guide was Alina Kozlovski (Fortian 2005), now M.Phil Classics and Ancient History, who has just been awarded a 3 year scholarship to study Ancient History at Cambridge. The students particularly enjoyed meeting Alina and learning more about the wonders of the ancient world from one of their own. Special thanks to Ms Blyth for her kind assistance on the day.



**Hand making fettuccine**

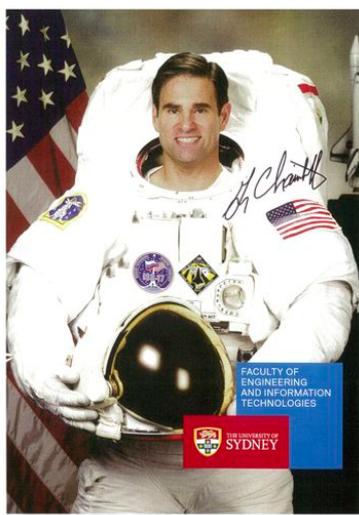


**Dahl and pappadams**

## Professor Gregory Chamitoff

On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May Year 11 were privileged to have a talk by Professor Gregory Chamitoff, NASA Astronaut and Lawrence Hargrave Chair Professor in the Department of Aerospace, Mechanical and Mechatronic Engineering, University of Sydney.

As an undergraduate Professor Chamitoff, worked summer internships at Atari Computers, IBM and Northern Telecom. During postgraduate studies at MIT he performed stability analysis for the deployment of the



Hubble Space Telescope, designed flight control upgrades for the Space Shuttle autopilot and developed system software for the Space Station.

Year 11 heard how Professor Chamitoff served as the Flight Engineer and Science Officer for a six-month mission aboard the International Space Station. In 2011 he served as a Mission Specialist on the final flight of Space Shuttle Endeavour. He performed two space walks, and logged more than 198 days in space. Professor Chamitoff has published numerous papers on aircraft and spacecraft guidance and control, trajectory optimisation and Mars mission design.

He gave a fascinating and very entertaining talk about his work and his experiences at the International Space Station and the students enjoyed asking him questions about his life and his experiences in space. Professor Chamitoff was a very inspiring speaker, sharing his optimism about humanity's potential when people of all nations work together and his confidence about the future of scientific discoveries and space exploration.

## Kylie Salisbury Careers Office

## IMP Report

The IMP camp 2014 had a record breaking 143 kids at the camp with a Wind Band, String Ensemble, Philharmonic Orchestra, a Big Band, a Junior Winds Band, two Vocal Ensembles and the Camp Item Ensemble. Each of these ensembles was formed on camp and all of the pieces were put together during the three days that the camp spanned over, and so creating a challenge for every player at the camp.

Once we arrived, a short briefing was held and the rehearsals began right away and after four one and a half hour intense rehearsal sessions the day was finally at an end. After the long day, the Year 11s ran a fun evening of games which brought together all the members



of the camp. The next morning, we were awoken by the sound of Mr Manchester's bagpipe, and after breakfast it was straight into rehearsal with 8

hours of playing and singing in preparation for the Camp Concert at the end of the camp. That night concluded with a Ceili dance, which was led by Mr Manchester, with the help of Alex Pringle, Martin Highland and John Ockwell. The fun folk tunes and the dancing brought together everyone at the camp and the energetic dancing allowed everyone there to have a lot of fun.

On Saturday Night, the Chamber Choir, with a few extras, took a bus trip to back to Sydney to



perform with Elvis' original band at the Elvis in Concert Viva Las Vegas 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour. The performance went wonderfully and some of the

choir even got some pictures with the Elvis Impersonators.

Each night had a camp night concert that allowed the performers to show off what they had been working on. There were some

fantastic performances, including some original compositions, acapella groups and a special performance from the Year 11 boys of Shake Your Tail Feather.

At the end of the camp, all of the efforts that the students and conductors came together and performed all the pieces they had been working on over the weekend. For the first time ever, because there were two Vocal Ensembles, one of the ensembles sang with the wind band in a wonderful performance of Moon River.

At the end of the concert, the camp item choir and orchestra put together a thrilling performance of "I Was Glad" by Parry in the arrangement by Rutter that was performed at the Royal Wedding.

Overall the camp was a wonderful success and all of the students had a wonderful time. A great thank you goes to all of the conductors, staff and parent volunteers that allowed the camp to happen.

**Spencer Ferrier**  
**IMP**

## **P&C President's Report**

### **Fort Fest 2014**

The Fort Street High School Festival was held on Sunday 18th May 2014 from 10:30am to 4:30pm. Weather conditions were excellent this year and the event was a great success. Hundreds of people attended the Festival and enjoyed the rides, stalls, food and music. I would like to thank the Festival Committee, Student Representative Council, Instrumental Music Program, countless volunteers and parents that gave up their valuable time and made generous donations. It was wonderful to experience the community coming together to celebrate all that is great about Fort St High School.

Special thanks to Lorena Uriarte (Festival Coordinator), Jenny Curtis (Volunteer Coordinator) and Tang Grady (International Food Court Coordinator) for their leadership and tireless efforts in making the Festival successful.

### **The June 2014 P&C Meeting**

On the 11th of June 2014, there will be a P&C General Meeting in the School Library at

7.30pm.

This meeting will include a special session on Asthma Education.

As usual there will be reports by our Treasurer, Instrumental Music Program, Uniform Shop, Canteen, Festival, Principal and Deputy Principal.

All are encouraged and welcome to attend.

### **2014 P&C Meeting Special Topics**

June 11 - Asthma Education

July 16 - Year 10-11 Study

Aug 13 - UNSW / Sydney Uni

Sept 10 - HSC Info

Oct 15 - NAPLAN Analysis

Nov 12 - School Plan / AGM

### **Canteen News**

The Fort Street High School Canteen Survey was completed by nearly 300 students and 180 parents. iTunes vouchers will be drawn for a few lucky participants and announced shortly. Thank you to all who offered their honest feedback.

The Survey results will be evaluated by the Canteen Committee and a Task Force will be established to make positive changes to the School Canteen.

### **Nominations for Co-Secretary**

The P&C is presently looking to fill the position of Co-Secretary for 2014 and beyond. Candidates should have good communication skills. If you are interested in taking this role, please email us or come to the upcoming P&C Meeting on 11th of June 2014.

### **Website**

The P&C has information pages on the school website: [www.fortstreet.com.au](http://www.fortstreet.com.au) under the Community link. Online 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 P&C 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 email distribution list.

**Dimantha Goonasekera**  
**P&C President**

## SRC Report: Fort Street Festival

May the 17<sup>th</sup>, a sunny autumn day marked the most anticipated event of the busy school calendar, the biannual Fort Street Festival. A significant day filled with overwhelming passion and excitement, where the taste buds and eardrums of every individual were taken on a sensational ride as they ventured through the festival. Visitors were enticed with the aromatic scent of a diverse range of multicultural food, thrilling rides, intriguing market stalls and beautiful music. There was a variety of delicious options, from the spicy Korean rice cakes to the enticing butter chicken, and for dessert, luscious ice cream, sugar-coated cupcakes and melt-in-your-mouth fairy floss.



In the Fountain Quad Fort Fest revellers got a taste of the diverse talents and interests of the student body as school groups including, the Environment Committee, Amnesty, Robotics and the Female Rights Awareness Committee ran stalls to raise money and spread their message. The language faculty was also there in full force, offering tasty treats to raise money for upcoming overseas trips. A thrilling troop of lion dancers and musicians weaved their way around the school, a group of students impressed with their graceful

Tai Chi demonstration and Angela Zha from year 9 amazed everyone with her traditional fan and ribbon dancing.

Many also took advantage of the SRC's photo booth and had fun with the costumes to create a lasting memory of the day.

In the hall, the audience was wowed as 7 school aged bands took to the stage in the Battle of the Bands competition.

Hibernia won the applause of the audience and secured 1<sup>st</sup> place, followed by A Common Cause and And Then There Were Six, the 3 place getters sharing in \$600 worth of prizes.

Special thanks to Allan's Billy Hyde Music for generously sponsoring part of the prize pool, and also to Showtime for providing the equipment at a discount. A big thanks also goes out to Jake Stone from Bluejuice, for giving up his Sunday to judge the event and offer great feed back to the bands.

We would like to thank all of the volunteers, the teachers, the students, the friends and family of the school community and the P&C who contributed to the success of the day. This special day was the gratifying result of months of preparation and teamwork, which would not have been possible without the efforts of all involved. I guess it is safe to say that Fort Fest '14 was a huge success!



**Diana Xue, Riley Lonergan-Stewart and Yashas Bhatt**



# FORT FEST FORT FEST



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photobooth by silvercity

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photobooth by silvercity

## **P&C Fort Fest 2014 report**

The weather report promised blue skies and unusually warm May temperatures, the excitement built, donations rolled in and volunteers continued to put up their hands. The rainbow dove of music and sunshine flew over the Fort and graced us all with a glorious weekend, the organising committee were very relieved!

Unexpectedly, the Giant Pink Slide came early on Saturday morning, which gave us a taste of more to come. Saturday provided a good workout for the dozens of volunteers that came to lug books, second hand items and hundreds of tables and chairs. By nine thirty on Sunday the rides were in place and awaiting our thrill seekers, thousands of books were put out for browsing and the stages were set.

Within an hour the BBQ was sizzling, the coffee cart has hissing and squeals of delight sounded across the oval.

From the enthusiastic student stalls, the talented Battle of the Bands and the wonderful IMP performances, what shone through was the creativity and community spirit that thrive at FSHS. The willingness to work together not solely in the pursuit of profit but to build a strong and friendly village.

Community building doesn't happen alone, many hands made light work of the many tasks needed to pull off such a successful event. Someone pointed out that at Fort we measure success in smiles and it was wall to wall smiles on Sunday.

*Thank you!*

**Particular thanks to:**

Matt Manchester and John Ockwell and all the IMP directors for the excellent entertainment across two stages.

Jenny Curtis, who did an excellent job organising volunteers and keeping Fort Fest on track and in the news!

Matthew Martin for his uplifting branding design and Rachel Knepper for her marketing and prize searching nous.

Tang Grady and Si He who coordinated a huge number of volunteers to provide fresh and delicious, Chinese, Greek, Indian, Japanese, Korean and Mexican food.

Owen Watkinson and Brendan Edgeworth for running the BBQ like a well oiled machine!

Alison Gould and Morgen Lee for out of the ball park creativity and awesome face painting skills.

Cristiana and Mario for a stylish and well stocked café oasis.

Melanie Bruniges and Kay Proos for not fainting at the sight of so many books and chipping away at it!

Junko Hagiwara who made sense of all the Second Hand Clothes donations and presented them so enticingly.

Mary White who got stuck into the White Elephant stall and kept it ticking over all day.

Cheryl Beatty for getting folks excited about our plans for a lecture theatre and donating to our Wishing Well.

Elizabeth Campbell for her clever idea to run a second hand uniform stall, genius!

Gordon Ashley our First Aid officer who calmly coped with the one band aid emergency. What a cool cucumber!

Ian Reid and Finola Carey, the “brains trust” who knew where each bin, power lead and banner was stored.

Anna Bashkirova & Pauline Leung for all their help with the accounts.

The school administration staff Christine, Kellorin, Diane, Denise, Sharon and Jules for never saying no! And Bill and Mark for opening every door and then remembering to close them!

Evelyn Manson for organising the show stopping Lion Dance and drummer, Jill Ryan for guiding the SRC with their stalls and band competition.

Finally I'd like to thank John for his dedication to recycling duties on Sunday and Sue Hemsley for further sorting on Monday. Not very glamorous but invaluable.

**Here is a full list of the International Food volunteers** (my apologies in advance if I've left anyone out)

Si He, Priya Nair, Esta Paschalidis-Chilas, Alison Drayton, Michelle Kang, Mutsumi Young, Tang Grady, Lorena Uriarte, Menelo Migdalias, Dimitra Vassil, Helen Perikleous, Christine Kannelaki, Olga Voukidis, Pat Dimarti, Robyn Sofianidis, Ann Lau, Karyn Knowles, Magnolia Cardona-Morrell, Manny Martin, Penny O'Donnell, Brendan Edgeworth, Paul Choi, Chang Min Kim, Jade Jung, Jiwoo Jung, Ryan Kim, Agnes Lee, Richard Oh, Sarah Cho, Rebecca Kang, Joy Kim, Christina Dang, Jason Kim, Daniel Park, Leon Beare, Seung Byun, Aden Kobayashi, Tomoko, Kazuyo, Ryuko, Kaoru, Junko, Trish Henderson, Neil Grady, Jonathan Chan, Van Tsang, Jacky Zeng, Penny Pang, Terisa Cheng, Stephenie, Janny, Fiona Yang, Yi fan Wu, Lisa Wang, Lisa Zhang, Weiqin, Calvin, Mrs Tan, Mrs Lau, Julia Wang, Vanessa Truong, Sau chee Low, Weina Homigdalias, Jian Fang, Fiona Sun, Mary Tran, Elaine Ko, Daisy Xie, Sarah Wu, Hery Nham, Linda Yang, Simon Sim, Nancy Mai, Thi Nguyen, Monica Zhong, Ming Fung, Mr Trinh, Joey Zhang, Mrs Yu, Tim Amanda, Mrs Vo, Mrs Lin, Mrs Lai, Ann Luong, Monica Chan, Mrs Qi, Cindy Gao, Tracy, Mr & Mrs Sun, Mr & Mrs Zhou, H J Hua, Sarah Guo, Amanda, Hieu Lam, Mr & Mrs Wong, Mrs D. Ly, Mrs Nguyen, Mrs Rawson, Mrs Huynh, Mr Mai, Zhijian. Mulin Zhou, Jan Yan. Supriya Pillai, Mr Sunil Dilip Kapadia / Tina, Darshana Bhatt, Jay Nair, Karishma Desai, Shanti Raman, Mr & Mrs Khosla (Kirti), Mr & Mrs S Santhakumar (Matangi), Amrit Kathuria, Alex Grady, Mary Su and others who helped throughout the event.

**Special thanks:**

Waterloo take away  
Tokyo Syokudo Croydon  
The Henderson family  
Lingling swim school  
Elite Dry Cleaners, Marrickville

**Lorena Uriarte and Jenny Curtis  
P&C**

## **THANK YOU**

To the following individuals & organizations who contributed so generously to the Fort Fest 2014 Magic Boxes raffle:

Art Gallery of NSW

Australian Chamber Orchestra

Australian Museum

Belle Fleur Chocolates

Bell Shakespeare

Belvoir Street Theatre

Berkelouw Books

Brandenburg Orchestra

Griffin Theatre

Hilary Bell

Intimo Lingerie

Matthew Martin

Palace Cinemas Norton Street!

Phillip Johnston

SIMA (Sydney Improvised Music Association)

Sydney Observatory

Sydney Symphony

Vivid Festival

Ted Driving School

Tyre Right

# Fabulous Print Silent Auction



Framed Matthew Martin print  
on A3+ Arches 320gsm paper  
At the IMP mid-year concert  
Friday June 13, 2014

Advance bids to IMP Convenor  
Finola at [odma@ozemail.com.au](mailto:odma@ozemail.com.au)