



MERCURIUS

The News Magazine of Fort Street High School

March 2015 Term 1

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Dear Parents, Carers and Fortians

As first term draws to a close I would like to thank all the staff, students and community for the support I have had while relieving as Principal this term. I have enjoyed the job and it is very rewarding leading such a dynamic, energetic school community.

I was lucky to have celebrated International Women's Day by attending the Unifem breakfast at Technology Park with the Year 11 SRC students. It is always amazing to reflect that in my own lifetime we have come far in regard to gender equality. When I was asked at a job interview, as a 22 year old straight out of university, "What guarantee can you give that if we train you and give you experiences over 5 years you wouldn't then leave, get married and fall pregnant". My reply was "I will give the same guarantee that a male would give that after the company investment of training and experience they wouldn't leave and go to their competitor". I did get the job. That conversation would certainly NOT happen today. However, still today, the greatest indicator of whether you will be subject to domestic violence is not your socio economic status, income, education, race or religion but your gender. This is an issue that needs to be addressed openly by our community. We need to acknowledge that it does happen and be proactive and voice our opposition to it in all its physical, emotional and psychological forms.

I want to wish all of our knockout sport, debating and Mock Trial teams good luck over the coming months of competition and the IMP a safe and enjoyable tour of Italy, Slovenia and Austria.

A sincere thank you to **Louise Sorbello**, our temporary German teacher, who organised our recent German exchange trip. It was a huge success with both the visiting teachers and

students in awe of our wonderful school and city. Thank you to all those families who looked after students. I've heard it was a rewarding experience.



I had the pleasure of attending the Y10 Academic Excellence Awards at University of Sydney last Wednesday evening where **Angele Yan** was the recipient of an award. It was a pleasure to be a part of the acknowledgment of the successes of many students from across Sydney High Schools. Our future is in good hands.

Year 12 have recently completed their examinations so will be receiving their results over the next few weeks. They need to reflect on their progress, what is working well and what they need to change to achieve their best. There will be an HSC evening at school on Wednesday 22nd April. It is most important that all students and parents attend. Invitations will be sent out next week.

Lastly, apologies for the late issuing of Y7 interim reports. This is our first year of this process and it was not as smooth as we planned. They will be posted on Monday 30th March. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday break.

Karen Di Stefano
Relieving Principal

A request from our neighbours on Palace Street: could parents please use the school car park (if there is space) and not park on the street at school events?



Big Day In

On March 4, the accelerated Year 10 IPT students and the Year 12 Software Design students attended the 'Big Day In' event hosted at the University of Technology Sydney. The event was focused on careers in IT and many big industry employers including Microsoft, IBM, Westpac and others talked about what they were looking for in prospective employees and what sort of knowledge and skills were useful in their particular companies. It was an opportunity for the students to get some first hand accounts from other people in the computer industry and also make some useful contacts for their futures beyond Fort Street. They also had the opportunity to look at some of the latest hardware and software innovations and see how these companies planned to use those items to advance their businesses and customer experiences. Wen Wong of Year 12 was able to try out the Google Glasses on show at the Westpac stand.

**Simon Pike
TAS**

Theatresports – Inner West Cup

The Theatresports season is upon us again and to kick the season off 10 Fort Street students participated in the Inner West Cup held at Newington College on Friday 13th March. Being Friday the 13th and all, students were asked to dress in a 'spooky' theme and that they did. Two teams were entered. 'The Omen Showmen' – Milo Watkinson, Liam Dodd, William Thackway, Patrick Galagher and Sefa Laga'aia and the second team 'The Scream Team' – Ailin Gist, Frank Dwyer, Yasmin Kirk, Moss Johnston and Angelo Morton.

Other competing schools were: Newington College, PLC Sydney, International Grammar School and Casimir Catholic College. The competition consisted of 4 rounds: Round 1 – One minute games, Round 2 – Two minute games, Round 3 – Open scene, Round 4 – 3



minute games. The Fort Street teams were scored highly in all four rounds by experienced judges in entertainment, narrative, and improvisation skills. Both teams created games that were highly entertaining that had Ms Mattick and myself literally in streaming tears of laughter. After the final round, the judges tallied up the scores from all 4 rounds and Fort Street came out victorious and claimed the Inner West Cup for the first time! Congratulations to Fort Street and the 'Omen Showmen' team!

It was a huge win for Fort Street as the cup has been held by Newington College for the past 3 years and also gives our students extra confidence in the upcoming Impro Australia 2015 Theatresports School Challenge. Individual trophies were given to two of our students – Moss Johnston and Sefa Laga'aia for most valuable improviser out of the two teams. Congratulations to both Sefa and Moss as their contributions to the teams was very worthy in hilarity and entertainment value.

Dates for the upcoming Impro Australia Theatresports School Challenge will be advised, it's a very entertaining night to come along to and observe the Fort Street teams in action. It would also be great to get some more supporters in the crowd for Fort Street High School students too so please keep an eye out for these dates. Once again, congratulations to the effort of both Fort Street teams and we hope that you can come and watch in the upcoming competition.

**Ms Blake and Ms Mattick.
Drama**

Important Dates	
April	
1	Cross Country
1	School Council meeting
2	Last day of term
3-16	IMP Tour
20	Staff Development Day
21	Students return
22	HSC Evening
24	Anzac Assembly

P&C News

As P&C President I was privileged to represent the parent body at the Fort Street High School speech day. As usual it was a very impressive ceremony, but made even more so by the number of awards, across a broad range of categories, which were donated by the P&C. Thank you to everyone who attended our March meeting. It was a great opportunity for discussion and debate.

We are very pleased to welcome Lucy Young as our new treasurer. Lucy will be assisted by Sharon Li. However, we are still looking for a volunteer, or a team of people, to help coordinate the Uniform Shop. If you have some time to spare, to volunteer in the uniform shop on a Wednesday, please let us know.

Much of the discussion on the evening centered on the front page article published in the Inner West Courier which focussed on road safety

issues. Road safety around the school was discussed at length. As a result we have written to the Editor of the Inner West Courier to express the concerns of parents. We have also written to Marrickville Council inviting the Road Safety Officer to come to one of our upcoming P&C meetings to discuss possible improvements to road safety around the school.

Some of the other items suggested as possible focus items for our 2015 meetings included mental health, cybersafety and gifted and talented education. Keep an eye on future agendas.

Due to the school holidays there will be no April meeting. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 13 May at 7.30pm in the library; everyone is welcome.

Elizabeth Campbell
P&C President



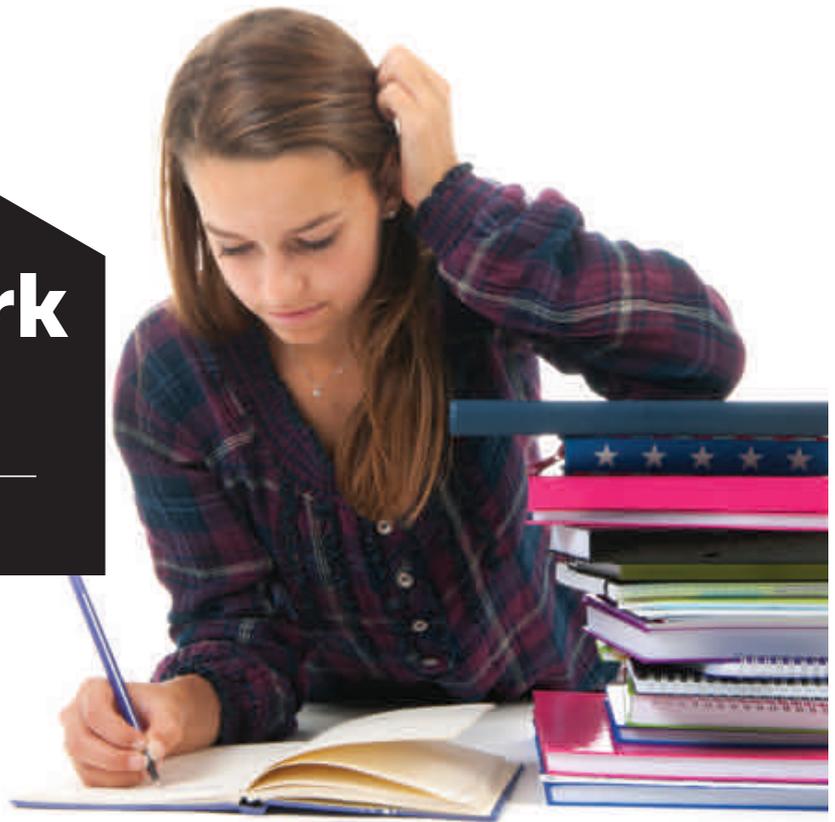
FROM 2 YEARS TO ADULTS

WE'VE MOVED TO LEICHHARDT
FREE CLASSES ALL DAY 19 APRIL

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227 Catherine Street, Leichhardt
0411 861 849 | www.dancenikkiwebster.com.au

Homework Help



After school tutoring

Marrickville Library is offering free drop-in tutor sessions for High School students. Facilitated by AceTute, a professional tutoring company, tutors will be on-hand to assist with maths, science and English, including the HSC syllabus.

When: High School English: Monday 4pm - 6pm
High School Maths: Tuesday 4pm - 6pm
High School Science: Wednesday 4pm - 6pm

Where: Marrickville Library
Cnr of Petersham and Marrickville Roads
Marrickville

No bookings required. Homework Help runs during school term.
Call 9335 2173 for more information.