



MERCURIUS

The News Magazine of Fort Street High School

June 2015 Term 2

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

Dear Parents, Carers and Fortians

With another month passing at the Fort I have again been astounded and proud of the students at the school. They have demonstrated an ability to care for others, use their talents to make people laugh and understand adversity.

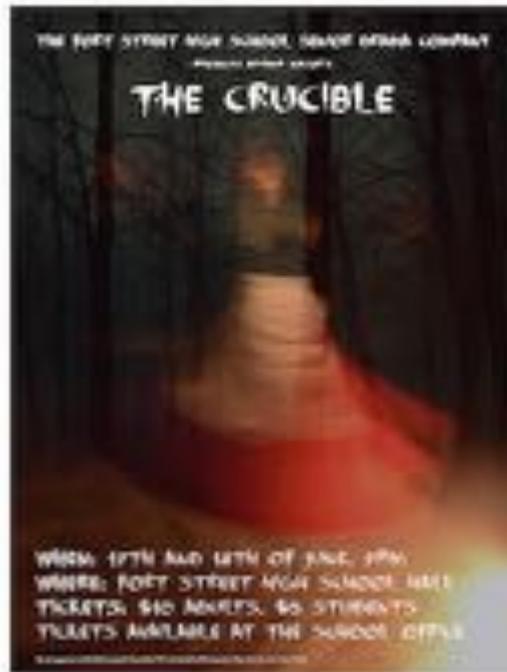


Rowan Lembit has been announced as coming Equal First in NSW and Equal Second in Australia in the intermediate level of the 2015 Australian Geography Competition. Congratulations Rowan on this outstanding achievement.

Congratulations also to **Yerin Kim** who has been selected to compete in the All Schools State Golf Championships on June 23-26 and **Eilish Salmon** has been selected to compete in the Pacific Games representing Australia in swimming.

A group of Year 9 students are leading the school in fundraising for the people of Nepal. The students led by Ms Woodhouse and Mr de Bres raised money for the ADARA foundation in 2014 and have again rallied the students and staff to raise over \$3600 to support young people in Nepal. The Inner West Courier will be running a picture and an article to further promote this worthwhile charity.

We were fortunate to have Kevin Luu from the class of 2009 return and speak on an assembly recently. Kevin suffered a



traumatic brain injury after a cycling accident and the students have raised money during 2014 to assist with his rehabilitation. His message to the students about overcoming adversity was powerful and hopefully allowed those who were in the audience the opportunity to look at life from a different perspective.

During the same assembly Milo Watkinson and Angelo Morton displayed their Theatresports skills to the student body and assembled staff. They presented an imaginary cup to the school which FSHS had in fact won. The Theatresports team of Milo, Liam Dodd, William Thackway, Patrick Galagher and Sefa Laga'aia won the Newington Cup last term competing against a range of local private schools.

Alex Leal Smith (Fortian 2014) was awarded the 2014 Inner City Teachers Association President's Environment and Social Justice

Prize at a recent assembly. Alex was recognised for his tireless work that brought the “Wear it Purple” concept into the school. His contribution to the safety and acceptance of LGBTQI students in public schools has created an ongoing legacy within the school.

A number of current students at the school have started a Diversity group which carries on the great work that Alex started. The group has expanded their focus to include broader gender issues that face us all. Recently this group spoke at assembly, and have run a cake stall to raise funds for local women’s shelters.

We have been lucky enough to become part of a federally funded and DEC supported mentoring program for a small group of Year 8 and 9 students. Students involved in the program will meet with their mentor once a week and eventually complete a civic program in our local community together.

Another initiative to assist students to remain engaged in their learning was held last week. The information evening for Year 7 students and their parents was run by one of our long term associates Pru Salter from Enhanced Learning. Year 7 parents who were unable to attend please review the material that was sent out via email last week.

A range of Year 11 and 12 students performed last Thursday evening at the Senior Performing Arts Night. My thanks go to Carolyn Mattick, Rhianna Blake, John Ockwell and Hugh Cotten who prepared the students for the evening. These evenings are important for students to practise performing individually or in small groups as they work towards their HSC.

A group of engineering students organised by David Grant from the TAS faculty have reached the final of the Aeronautical Velocity Challenge. The final will be held at the University of Wollongong on June 12. Their ability to design and build water powered rockets is linked directly to the Year 9 Engineering course taught at the school.

The staff are currently writing reports for

students across the school. Year 12 have already received theirs and Year 11 will be distributed this week. Year 7 and 10 reports will be distributed on 10 June with the parent teacher nights on Thursday 11 June. We will be using an online booking system for the first time this year. Details on how to use the system will be emailed to parents shortly. This initiative is the first in a series that will provide a greater ease of access to information for parents of the school.

David Osland
Relieving Principal

Personal Safety

When travelling to and from school students come into contact with the community and are taken by surprise when some sections of the community behave in a way that is foreign to them. Sometimes this can take the form of verbal abuse and in some rare cases physical violence towards one of our students is the outcome.

Unfortunately this happened to one of our junior students recently while waiting for a bus in Leichhardt.

Some basic safety steps when out in the community are:

1. Always walk in groups
2. Be aware of your surroundings and the people around you
3. If confronted walk into the closest shop and ask for assistance
4. Call 000 if you are feeling threatened.

Please report all student absences by phone on 8585 1600 and follow the prompts.

Year 10 Information & Scholarship Information Evenings

Our **Year 10 Information evening** is fast approaching. Limited places are still available but are filling quickly.

Date: Monday 22 June 2015

Time: 6 - 7.45pm

Venue: The University of Sydney. Final venue information will be provided to registered attendees.

Our popular **Scholarships Information Evening** will be held in June for Year 12 students.

Date: Tuesday 16 June 2015

Time: 6 - 7.45pm

Venue: The University of Sydney. Final venue information will be provided to registered attendees.

[REGISTER ONLINE NOW](#)

We look forward to welcoming you to the University of Sydney.

Important Dates

June

- 5** White Ribbon day
- 8** Public Holiday
- 9** Year 7 vaccinations
- 10** P&C meeting
- 11** Regional Cross Country
- 11** Years 7 & 10 Parent Teacher Evening
- 12** Sport and Special photo day
- 15-19** ICAS Writing
- 17-18** Senior Drama Production
- 19** Year 8 & 9 reports
- 19** Recognition Assembly Years 7 to 9
- 21-26** State Senior Music Camp
- 22** Year 8 and 9 Parent Teacher Evening
- 24** Open Morning
- 26** Last Day of Term

Visa Payment Device Innovation Prize

On 9th and 10th May we were selected to participate in a competition sponsored by Visa and hosted by the Bachelor of Creative Intelligence and Innovation team at UTS. The brief was to design a new method of payment to be used by Visa. This meant identifying problems with the current systems of payment, and creating solutions to these problems. At the end of the two days the 40 university students and 10 high school students involved presented their ideas to a panel of Executive Visa staff, including Ken Sippola, the Senior Director of Global Innovation from Visa's head office in the US (who flew in especially to mentor students and judge this prize) and the Head of Card Standards in Singapore (who also flew in specifically to hear our ideas). The judging was based on the project's innovative potential, its ability to make effective use of emerging technologies (such as biometric security) and tap into the pool of micro transactions which remains untapped to date. Our concepts won first prize (\$1000 to Rishi and each of his team-mates) and second prize (\$500 to Harri and

each of his team). Unfortunately we can't expand on the nature of our actual projects, as we had to sign a non-disclosure agreement!

It was a fantastic weekend in the new world of creative intelligence and innovation, and we thank Ms Salisbury in the Careers Office for promoting this amazing opportunity to Year 11. Advice to other Fortians: read your DEC emails!"

Rishi Golembievski and Harri Jani
Year 11

Year 9 Geography excursion report

It was a cold morning when one by one, like seagulls, we flocked outside the Sydney Aquarium, in wait for our mission. We were summoned to be at the meeting place by 9am on the dot for our excursion. About half an hour later, two expert guides arrived, ready to train us young grasshopper geographers...

On this year 9 excursion, Geography classes had a tour around Darling Harbour, getting enlightened on the changes and impacts, both positive and negative, throughout Darling Harbour. Each class got a guide who taught us about the changing Darling Harbour, different land uses of the foreshore (natural, urban, working and recreation), quality of the environment in the Sydney Harbour (including water quality) and causes and impacts of industrial growth and urban renewal around Barangaroo.

We first started off on a ferry trip, cruising like wealthy million dollar business owners around the harbour, whilst we looked at the different uses of land. We noticed that majority of land use is for high quality commercial and residential buildings as well as public recreation areas. After the ferry trip, and a quick recess break (where we pooled together \$5 for hot chips like the loaded-with-money people we are), we walked down to Circular Quay where we tested water quality, noise level, wind speed, light intensity and observed how the heritage around the harbour had been conserved. We also analysed the implications of ongoing activities such as building apartments and skyscrapers around the harbour.

The water quality testing was interesting as our tour guide had a giant clear long measuring cylinder with wavy lines at the bottom to determine the quality of the water. We poured the harbour water in the tube and a few of us tested if we could see the lines at the bottom. If we could not see the wavy lines we had to pour a bit of water out until we could see. Surprisingly, the water was clean, having a turbidity of 0. When we tested the noise level, the reading was at 75 decibels and was described as "disturbing" due to construction in the area.

After we finished testing environmental features that could be impacted due to activities around the harbour, we began walking again, to investigate the history of The Rocks. We learnt about the urban decay this area went through around 1970 and the gentrification that occurred after that. Gentrification is when a wealthy area decides to fix up the older, poorer area, investing in it to turn it into a trendier, richer place. The main stakeholders who were the local residents, refused to move when the area was to be gentrified as they were unhappy with being removed from their homes without a say.

We then moved onto Millers Point where we walked past old government funded houses with banners hanging on them saying, "Millers Point is not for sale". This place, occupied by people whose families had been living here for generations, is being sold by the government. The government decided to sell these public housing properties to private owners as the location is ideal for wealthy people who want to live in the heart of Sydney- the CBD. While our guide was talking about the situation of unhappy residents and the selling of 15 houses already (some sold for \$3 million), a local resident approached and started talking to us, giving us an insight on his point of view on the gentrification of this area.

Near the end of our trip, we studied Barangaroo Point, a multi-billion dollar project. This innovation is advertised to bring aesthetics to Sydney, a 67 storey casino, low rise apartments and more public access such as parklands. Many people are looking forward to this Las Vegas imitation project whereas others are unhappy with the

problems being caused such as overshadowing, gambling habits and noise. This excursion has taught us about changing land use along the foreshore of Sydney Harbour, the geographical processes and impact of urban growth and decline (such as construction of commercial/residential buildings) and the insight of stakeholders (residents, business groups etc.) to urban growth. Finally, a special thanks to Ms Jerrems for organising this excursion!

Ericka Koit
Year 9

ASX Competition

Fort Street High School had its best ever semester in the ASX competition with a whopping 195 students from year 7 to year 12 actively participating. Each team received \$50,000 in pretend money to invest in shares listed on the Australian Securities Exchange. A special congratulations to the following teams who were ranked in the top 20 across the state:

Matthew Chen and Sean Yao from Year 9 - 14th best team across Australia and 4th best team in NSW with a total of \$61,140
Jefferson Lee from Year 10 - 15th best team across Australia and 5th best team in NSW with a total of \$61,039
Nathan Cao, Oscar Feng, David Ting and Vincent Lin from year 9 - 10th best team in NSW with a total of \$59,866
Alan Vien, Daniel Nguyen, Eric Ly and Winston Sun from year 9 - 17th best team in NSW with a total of \$59,169

Matthew and Sean were very active investors who frequently traded small quantities of a very diversified range of shares. Jefferson was also an active investor, although he traded in larger quantities than Matthew and Sean. Some of Jefferson's shares were Retail Food Group, which is the franchisor of multiple brands including Michel's Patisserie and Donut King; G8 Education, which provides childcare; Caltex Australia and a number of resources companies.

41 of our 97 teams ended up with a profit, which exceeded the national average of only 36%.

It was a challenging, volatile period to be in the stock market. The market moved up and down quite a bit before falling significantly at the end of April. The All Ordinaries Index fell 3.47% over the course of the game. The best performing sector was materials up 3.31% followed by information technology up 1.74%. The worst performing sector was financials down 8.34% followed by healthcare and industrials both down over 4%.

All Fort Street High School students are encouraged to participate in the competition in second semester. An email will be sent to all students' DEC accounts in term 3 with registration details.

Ms Jerrems



The Fanny Cohen sundial was restored courtesy of a NSW Public Works Heritage Grant and is now complete

Futsal

On the 27th March the newly formed futsal (indoor soccer) team of Liam Varley, Eliash Hemzel, Simon Gorta, Shintaro Messer, Dom Bicego, Milo Watkinson and Will Thackway travelled to Marickville to compete in the Football Federation Australia Regional Futsal Championships. Teams drawn from schools from all around Sydney ventured to compete. In the group stage, local rivals Blackwattle Bay and then Belmore were knocked down as the team were undefeated to progress to the semi-finals. A dramatic 1-0 win in extra time in the semi-final set up a dream showdown with the only other undefeated team: Emmanuel College. A tough final ensued, but unfortunately the final was to be our first loss of the tournament. However, by making it to the final, the team qualified for the State Futsal Championships in July. Surely the team will only continue to grow and improve at a higher level and with a greater challenge!

Will Thackway
Year 10

Language Perfect World Championships 2015

Each year, the Language Perfect website runs their World Championships and on the 18th of May, Fort Street languages students had their fingers ready to begin their World conquest. Over 10 days and nights they practised their vocabulary and language structures on line, accumulating points. It is with great pride that I say that Fort Street students excelled in this competition and it was gratifying for their teachers to see so many of them dedicating extra time to their language learning. Here are some of Fort Street's statistics:
They answered a total of 121, 708 questions
2 Gold Awards (3,000⁺ points): Jessica Yang and Jia Min Guo
4 Silver Awards (2,000⁺ points): Chris Cheng, Niamh Elliott-Brennan, Felix Tran and Oliver Reucassel



4 Bronze Awards (1,000⁺ points): Min Kim, Victory Yang, Angelina Lee and Nicholas Utojo

12 Credit Awards (500⁺ points): Angel Senthilnathan, Ricky Mai, Sarah Boge, Thy Lily Lam, Raphael Muranty, Aidan Martin, Aidan Limnios, Jonathan Lai, Ameira Sant, Brian Lee, Larissa Yang, Eileen Wu

A fantastic effort! The subscription to this website continues all year so we encourage students to keep up their language skills by spending some time each day revising what they have done in class.

Evelyn Manson
Head Teacher Languages

Year 9 Charity Report

On the 25th of April, an Earthquake with a magnitude of 7.9 hit Nepal and devastated the country. Another major earthquake on May 12th along with numerous aftershocks and landslides have collectively claimed the lives of nearly 9000 people. Hundreds have lost everything and surviving has become an ongoing struggle. We, as Fortians, active members and leaders of the community, decided to help those in need by fundraising for the ADARA foundation.

The ADARA foundation, working in Nepal since 1998, focus on long term support in partnership with the community in areas such as health, education, infrastructure and child wellbeing. As soon as the earthquake struck, ADARA ensured the safety of their team and then set up medical camps. They are now in a transition phase, focusing on sanitation, waste disposal, drainage, and health education.

On the 18th of May the Year 9 Charity Committee conducted a fundraising initiative for the ADARA Nepal Earthquake Appeal. The charity committee had previously put up posters to promote the fundraiser, and as a result we succeeded in reaching our goal. In fact, we exceeded our goal, raising over \$1600 for the ADARA Foundation and Nepal, with many classes donating over \$100. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to all of the Fortians and teachers who donated as the fundraiser would have

not been possible without them.

After the success of our fundraiser, we decided to hold a barbeque to raise further funds for Nepal and the committee decided to sell knitted scarves as well. The barbeque, along with scarves sold, raised over \$1200. The SRC has also promised to match every dollar earned from the barbeque, raising our total to \$2400.

We would like to thank the charity committee for their work as well as everyone who donated their money for the great cause. We would also like to thank Mrs Woodhouse and Mr DeBres for their continuous time and support in our initiative.

Aava Adhikari and Annaliese McGuirk
Year 9

Top Tips for Moving Information into Long Term Memory

The following are some tips which may help you to move information from short to long term memory.

1. **BE ENGAGED:** If you are interested in what you are learning you are more likely to remember it. Ask questions, pre-read information, make summaries and follow up on things you don't understand.
2. **USE REPETITION:** Repetition is key to transferring information from short term to long term memory. The more often you practice a technique, or revise your information the better it will transfer to long term memory.
3. **RECORD INFO:** Don't just write down everything your teacher says, or copy straight from a textbook or the Internet. Think about what is being communicated and create notes that are accurate, meaningful to you and build connections. Mind maps are a helpful tool for this.
4. **ORGANISE INFO:** When you are studying for a topic, make sure you organise the information into small, distinct chunks.
5. **VISUALISE INFO:** Build a mental picture of what you are trying to remember, like the parts of a plant or a battle in history.
6. **BUILD ASSOCIATIONS:** This might mean developing some kind of sensory cue which enables you to remember information such as smell or sound. Try turning your notes into a song or poem.
7. **SHAKE THINGS UP:** Write in a crazy font, use lots of colours, use your left hand to write instead of your right...anything that makes your brain have to engage more actively with what it is you are trying to learn.
8. **FUEL YOUR BRAIN:** If you want your brain to work well for you, you also need to work well for your brain. Eating foods rich in Omega 3 and essential fatty acids (such as fish, nuts, legumes and leafy green vegetables) will help your brain to function optimally. Drink lots of water so that your brain doesn't dehydrate. Keep away from too much caffeine which may impair brain function.
9. **REST YOUR BRAIN:** Getting fresh air and exercise helps your brain to process information, as does sleep. Most students need 8-10 hours of sleep a night. The last stage of memory consolidation takes place while you are sleeping so ensure you get enough sleep each night.

*Learn more this year about how to studying effectively by working through the units on www.studyskillshandbook.com.au, particularly *Active Studying and Your Brain and Memory*. Our school's access details have been emailed to all students via their DEC accounts.*

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability Notification for Parents and Carers

From 2015, all Government and non-Government schools across Australia are required to participate annually in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD).

All Australian schools will collect data on their students who are receiving adjustments to meet additional learning and support needs in accordance with their obligations under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and *Disability Standards for Education 2005*. This data will be provided to the Australian Government to assist in the development of a consistent, national picture of the education needs of students with disability.

The data provided to the Australian Government by the NSW Department of Education and Communities is provided in such a way that it cannot be used to identify any individual student or school.

General information about the national data collection can be found on the Australian Government Department of Education and Training website at <http://education.gov.au/fact-sheets-nationally-consistent-collection-data-school-students-disability>.

Privacy Protection

The NSW Department of Education and Communities follows the requirements of the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* and the *Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002*. Schools will collect, record, store and use data about individual students in line with these requirements. Data security and protection is a priority and students' personal details will be kept confidential.

Under Clause 52 of the Commonwealth *Australian Education Regulation 2013*, data collected by the NSW Department of Education and Communities for the NCCD must be provided to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training. This includes the number of students at each level of education, the number in each category of disability and the number at each level of adjustment. The information is provided to the Commonwealth as a series of number sets that cannot be used to identify any individual student or school.

The Australian Government Department of Education and Training follows the requirements of the Commonwealth *Privacy Act 1988* when handling any data provided by NSW Department of Education and Communities in connection with the national data collection. A privacy notice has been developed to by the Australian Government to provide students, parents and carers with important privacy information in relation to the data collection. This notice is available on the department's website at <http://education.gov.au/notices>

If you have any questions about the data collection please do not hesitate to contact Karen DiStefano, Deputy Principal, Fort Street High School.