

# MERCURIUS

The News Magazine of Fort Street High School

November 2015 Term 4

Phone: 8585 1600

Fax: 9550 9219

Web: [www.fortstreet.nsw.edu](http://www.fortstreet.nsw.edu)

Email: [fortstreet-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:fortstreet-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)



@fort\_street

## Dear Parents, Carers and Fortians

As part of our communication strategy we have opened a twitter account to enable student activities, special events and student achievement to be reported on in a timely manner. You can join the twitter feed @fort\_street and follow the feed. Michelle Bruniges, Secretary of the Department of Education and Murat Dizdar, Executive Director for our school and Fortian 1990 currently follow the feed.

Congratulations to **Edward Fu** who recently took part in the 2015 Australian Science Olympiad examination. These examinations are the first stage of the selection process for Australian Team selection for the International Science Olympiad. Edward was one of nearly 4000 students from 270 secondary school taking part in the examination. He has been awarded a Silver Medal and a High Distinction in the examination placing him in the top 6% of candidates in Australia. We encourage students to enter these competitions to build engagement and motivation in their chosen field.



Another way of providing rich, real world experiences to supplement students' learning is to take them on excursions. Year 7 recently attended Sculpture by the Sea. The diversity

and artistic aims of the sculptures enabled the students to discuss and critique the works on display.

The HSC finished this week with our Visual Arts students sitting for their examination. I am

impressed each year by the level of professionalism and commitment shown by the staff in the lead up to these examinations. Our focus however, is not solely on the students sitting for the HSC. In a discussion yesterday I was excited to hear about the approaches taken by some faculties in the junior school.

As a staff we are constantly reviewing our practice based on data and feedback and looking for ways to meet the needs of every student in every classroom. We have been trialling some project based approaches in the junior school allowing an increasing amount of student choice as they move from Year 7 through to Year 10. Teaching staff have been explicitly teaching skills in research and presentation allowing students to develop their work within a scaffold in Year 7.

This has been one approach in the journey towards academic excellence. Another approach that I raised with members of the executive yesterday is to formally differentiate our teaching programs. This approach to meeting the needs of all students comes out of the work that all teaching staff members undertook with GERRIC earlier this year.

Mr **Justyn Boyle**, our new Head Teacher History will start at the school next Monday. Mr Boyle was warmly welcomed by the executive yesterday. Our new Head Teacher Languages has also been appointed. Mr **Mark Backhouse** will be coming to us from the Conservatorium High School. A very experienced teacher who is currently Relieving Teaching and Learning, Mr Backhouse has also relieved as Deputy Principal for over two years. Mr Backhouse comes to us as an experienced teacher of French, German, Mandarin and has had experience teaching junior Japanese and Latin.

As we move through the remainder of this year we are looking at our milestones for 2016. Our

core measure of improvement is still based around academic results but it is how we meet the needs of every student, build a supportive community that builds a richer environment, and how we communicate with and receive information from our community that are the challenges for us in the future.

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

### Important Dates

#### November

- 9** IMP AGM and Parent Meeting
- 11** SRC Induction and Remembrance Day Assembly
- 12-13** Year 10 Leadership Camp and Peer Support Training
- 18** Open Morning
- 20** Recognition Assembly Year 10-11
- 25-26** M A D Night
- 27-28** School Spectacular

### Sculpture By The Sea



Year 7 students visited the Sculpture by the Sea exhibition on Friday, October 23 as part of their Visual Art experiences at Fort Street. Students were given a guided tour as well as meeting the artists and being able to explore the exhibitions from Tamarama Beach through to Marks Park and Bondi. The water squirting spray bottles proved to be a literal hit, dousing many students in an interactive way.

**Simon Pike**  
**TAS**

### Careers Advisory Website

The DEC's Careers Advisory website is now live at <http://www.cas.det.nsw.edu.au> and the phone and email advice line will be available for students and parents from Friday 18th December (the day after students receive their ATARs) to Wednesday 23rd December. The Careers office also recommends that students and parents explore [www.GoodUniversitiesGuide.com.au](http://www.GoodUniversitiesGuide.com.au) and the free digital version of the Good Uni Guide (hard

copy available in the Careers Office) available at <http://ebook.gooduniguide.com.au>.

Congratulations to all the Year 10 students who are currently in the process of organising or completing Work Experience - there has been a noticeable increase in the number of Year 10 students undertaking WE this year as students understand the value of workplace learning and developing career contacts. Parents who are interested in hosting a Fortian work placement should contact Kylie Salisbury, Careers Adviser, on 8585 6121.

**Kylie Salisbury**  
**Careers Adviser**

### Philosophy 2016

In 2016 the school hopes to once again run a co-curricular Philosophy course for students Years 7 - 12. In 2015 the course was extremely popular and was oversubscribed, so students wishing to be included in this course in 2016 will need to submit an Expression of Interest to Ms Salisbury in the Careers Office now.

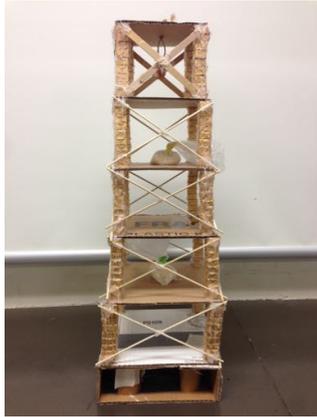
In 2015 topics included: Aesthetics, Brain and Mind, Consciousness, Epistemology, Free Will, Good and Evil, Justice and the Law, Knowing and Truth, Logical fallacies, Machine Intelligence, Religious models of the world, and Value and Meaning. Philosophers studied included Aristotle, Copernicus, Darwin, Democritus, Descartes, Freud, Hegel, Jung, Maimonides, Marx, Newton, Nietzsche, Plato, Siddhartha Gautama and Thoreau. However, these are not exhaustive lists, as the classes are run on a highly participatory, communal fashion, where students are encouraged to think for themselves and engage in thoughtful discussion rather than being "taught" about topics and ideas. Guest presenters, who are experts in fields as diverse as Law or Artificial Intelligence, are also invited to open the discussion or lead a debate from time to time.

In 2015 the course ran during Period 6 on Wednesdays, when students normally have early-leave, and it is hoped that this will be the case again in 2016, but that will depend on the availability of the 2016 course leader. Please forward an Expression of Interest to Ms Salisbury to be considered for this course in 2016.

**Kylie Salisbury**  
**Careers Adviser**

## Year 9 Science

As part of the Year 9 Science Curriculum, students were presented with a task in which they had to construct a model of an earthquake-



proof building, following certain design specifications. These design specifications included a 50 cm height, a 20 x 20 cm base made of cardboard, 5 storeys (with each storey being 10 cm) and walls made of stock cubes, among others. Our group, in particular, made use of

stock cubes, glue, skewers, paddle pop sticks, cardboard, foam balls, string, cardboard toilet rolls and rubber bands to create the model. Our efforts and research resulted in the model as pictured.

One of the main aspects of our model is its structure and form. Near the ground, the storeys in the building are somewhat large. The size of the storeys decreases with the increases of its height, resulting in a small storey at the top of the building. Somewhat taking the structure of a pyramid, this ensures that most of the weight is placed at the base of the building. Another aspect of our model lies beneath the building. Representing large springs in real life, the toilet paper rolls beneath the ground ensure the stability of the building above the ground. This ensures the model's secured state and formation. Additionally, exterior cross bracing is utilised to ensure the stability of the building and reinforce the walls.

We then tested the effectiveness of the building and found that the building was capable of withstanding frequent shaking. With these tests, we had ensured that our structure was earthquake-proof and completed the task to a standard we were all proud of.

**Vivian Jin. Vanessa Lam. Dalena Ly**

## IMP Competitions and Festivals 2015 Results wrap-up

### **NSW School Band Festival**

Fort Street High School Big Band  
Don Burrows Secondary School Open Big Band Event  
*Bronze*

Fort Street High School Concert Band  
Graham Lloyd Secondary School Concert Band Event  
*Bronze*

Fort Street High School Training Band  
George Dreyfus Secondary School Concert Band Event  
*Gold*

Fort Street High School Wind Orchestra  
David Stanhope Secondary School Concert Band Event  
*Silver*

### **Sydney Eisteddfod**

Fort Street High School Symphony Orchestra  
Section: 281 - Robert & Elizabeth Albert Community Youth/Secondary School Orchestra  
*2nd place*

Fort Street High School Wind Ensemble  
Section: 295 Secondary Premium Concert Band  
*Highly Commended*

Fort Street High School Big Band  
Section: 292 - Intermediate Secondary Stage Band  
*Highly Commended*

Fort Street High School Jazz Ensemble  
Section: 290- Secondary School Jazz Band  
*2nd place*

Fort Street High School Stage Band  
Section: 291 - Secondary Premium Stage Band  
*2nd place*

Fort Street High School Senior Percussion Ensemble  
Section: 287 - Secondary School Percussion Ensemble  
*1st place*

Fort Street High School Chamber Choir  
Section: 115 - Youth Chamber Choir  
*3rd place*

Fort Street High School Chamber Choir  
Section: 110 - Australian Choral Grand Prix  
*1st place: Jury & Audience + Australian Composer/Arranger)*

Fort Street High School Chamber Choir  
Section: 111 - John Lamble Australasian Championship for Youth Choirs  
*1st place*



2015

# FORT STREET HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY COMPETITION

*A COMPETITION OPEN TO ALL CURRENT STUDENTS*

**Junior Division: Years 7 – 9**

**Senior Division: Years 10 – 12**

## **Instructions and Information**

## **Instructions and Conditions for Entries in the Essay Competition**

### ***Junior Entries Years 7-9***

**Word limit:** 800 words. The word limit must be adhered to strictly. Entries longer than the word limit will be disqualified. Include a word count at the end of your essay. You may submit an essay of less than 800 words if you wish.

**Topic:** you must choose a topic for your essay based on the general subject of Australia in the twenty-first century. The topic must be typed as a header to the essay. The choice of topic will be part of the judging criteria.

**Typing Instructions:** essays must be double spaced; Ariel or Times New Roman font; size 12. Page numbers must be added to the centre of the bottom of the page.

**Adding your name:** do NOT add your name to the essay. Your name will appear on the plagiarism declaration sheet. When you submit your entry, you will be given a receipt.

**Plagiarism:** plagiarised essays will be disqualified. You must fill out a plagiarism declaration sheet, which includes your name, and submit it with your entry. Do not staple the plagiarism declaration sheet to your essay. You can collect plagiarism declarations from outside the Cohen Staff Study.

Essays must be stapled at the top left hand corner of the pages.

**Entries close** at 5pm on Wednesday 11 November, 2015, Week 6. Submit your entry to Mr Scudds at the Cohen Staff Study.

### ***Senior Entries Years 10-12***

**Word limit:** 1300 words. The word limit must be adhered to strictly. Entries longer than the word limit will be disqualified. Include a word count at the end of your essay. You may submit an essay of less than 1300 words if you wish.

**Topic:** you must choose a topic for your essay based on the general subject of Australia in the twenty-first century. The topic must be typed as a header to the essay. The choice of topic will be part of the judging criteria.

**Typing Instructions:** essays must be double spaced; Ariel or Times New Roman font; size 12. Page numbers must be added to the centre of the bottom of the page.

**Adding your name:** do NOT add your name to the essay. Your name will appear on the plagiarism declaration sheet. When you submit your entry, you will be given a receipt.

**Plagiarism:** plagiarised essays will be disqualified. You must fill out a plagiarism declaration sheet, which includes your name, and submit it with your entry. Do not staple the plagiarism declaration sheet to your essay. You can collect plagiarism declarations from outside the Cohen Staff Study.

Essays must be stapled at the top left hand corner of the pages.

**Entries close** at 5pm on Wednesday 11 November, 2015, Week 6. Submit your entry to Mr Scudds at the Cohen Staff Study.