

# NEWSLETTER

Friday, 8 November 2019 Term 4

## YARNING CIRCLE OPENING CEREMONY



On the 25<sup>th</sup> September, Cambridge Park High School officially opened the Yarning Circle. See inside for further photos and details.

## BANDANA DAY



On the 28<sup>th</sup> September, Cambridge Park High School celebrated Bandana Day. See inside for further photos and details.

### OCTOBER

Thur 17<sup>th</sup> – HSC  
Examination Starts

### NOVEMBER

Fri 15<sup>th</sup> - Yr 12

Formal

Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> - Raging  
Waters Attendance  
Excursion

Mon 25<sup>th</sup> - Yr 7 Swim  
School

Wed 27<sup>th</sup> - CAPA  
showcase (matinee  
& evening show)

**Best of luck to  
our Year 12  
students with  
their continuing  
HSC exams**

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## FROM THE PRINCIPAL - KRISTINE MACPHAIL



### **Aboriginal Yarning circle is officially open!**

In the last week of last term we officially opened the Yarning Circle with a smoking ceremony, dance, singing and of course a yarn or two. The creation of this cultural learning space has been a real community effort. Most of the building supplies were donated by generous companies in our local community or heavily discounted. We recognise and thank:

Hayters Sawmill - Logs

Dixon's Sandstone - Sandstone

Rogers Landscaping and Soil - River pebbles

Bunnings Warehouse - Edging and Weed Mats

Aboriginal artist - Nikeeta Haverfield

Nepean Landscapes - Soil

Greening Australia - Plants

Tight Space Excavators - Mini Excavator

Grant and manpower - Disability Links

Buttsworth Industry - Steel discs

I must also recognise the work of our Community Liaison officer Kaylene Macmorran. Kaylene was very, very persuasive in getting people on board. She connected with our community to learn how to lead this project in a culturally sensitive way and was also able to source a grant from Disability Links to support the manpower and tools needed to bring the project together. This became a family project for Kaylene as her husband did all the technical surveying and marking out of the circle.

The steel disks around the outside of the circle are reminders of the styles of learning Aboriginal people have been using for tens of thousands of years. They have honed these learning practices so that they are powerful tools for learning skills, knowledge and above all culture. We know that learning in this way is culturally appropriate and beneficial for aboriginal people and they are high quality teaching practices for ALL learners. As our students use this space, they will be explicitly learning and using these techniques. This week students and staff are using the Yarning Circle to explore student opinions on mobile phones, positive behaviour for learning strategies and feedback on how teachers support students to engage in their learning.



### **HSC**

The HSC exams are going well and as we head into the third week, our students have settled into the routine of the exams. We are proud of the mature way in which our Year 12 students have approached the exams. In just over a month we will all wait in anticipation of results which allow them to continue their journey towards their goals. Many of our students who have further study at university as their goal have already been accepted into their preferred university course through Early Entry schemes.

As Year 11 begin their HSC journey this term, may I remind parents that the first HSC assessments are scheduled for Weeks 9 & 10 (9 – 18th December). Students cannot be given leave during this time to take holidays and all absences during the assessment block must be supported by a Doctor's certificate. Good luck to Year 11 students and parents – we know you will be ready to take this first step.



# SENIOR EXECUTIVE REPORT- FIONA CUNLIFFE



As we settle into the last term for the year it is an important time for students to reflect on their learning and be thinking about their future goals.

There are many attributes that today's learners need to develop. As a starting point we have begun by focusing on Vision.

To continue to build student engagement it is important for students to not only have an understanding of growth mindset but to apply this to their learning. To do this, students in Years 7, 10 and 11 have participated in a forum focusing on the importance of reflection and goal setting as a part of their vision.

Reflection can assist students to:

- better understand their strengths and weaknesses
- identify and question their underlying values and beliefs
- acknowledge and challenge possible assumptions on which they base their ideas, feelings and actions
- recognise areas of potential bias or discrimination
- acknowledge their fears, and
- identify areas for future improvement

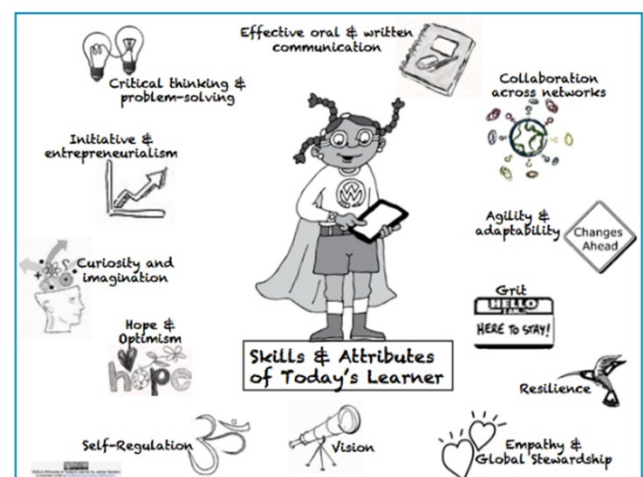
Reflection can lead to greater self-awareness, which in turn is a first step to positive change – it is a necessary stage in identifying areas for improvement and growth which is a goal we want all students to be working towards.

The acts of setting, planning and accomplishing goals can also have a positive impact on student engagement. This practice, can give students direction, motivation, improve results and build self-esteem.

As a part of this process students are asked to reflect on their school report. Students needed to identify their areas of strength and their areas of weakness across their courses. Students were then asked to identify one gap they wanted to close across this semester and set a SMART goal in order to achieve this. This process will continue across all Year groups with all students setting goals to improve their learning in 2020.

Our 2020 Year 12 students have begun their HSC year by developing a better understanding of how the HSC works and the importance of understanding the assessment process. Student have been issued their Assessment Handbook and their first assessment block will be from the 5<sup>th</sup> December until the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019. Students are encouraged to prepare early, ask for assistance if needed and seek feedback for improvement.

Students have also been issued with a diary to use to support with time management and a study skills handbook that we will be using to guide them with how to determine what the task is asking them to do, assist with breaking down tasks into manageable chunks, assist in structuring their assessments, and submitting a polished final product. Further structured support will be provided through forums to assist students to develop more effective learning skills and support them to achieve at their potential.



# CAREERS



Enterprise is the theme in careers this term at CPHS, and there is no better time of year to encourage students to be enterprising – in other words, to show resourcefulness and initiative in their career development. Many local employers are gearing up to hire Christmas casuals and interviewing applicants for traineeships and apprenticeships. This is also the time of year when many registration for many TAFE courses and private colleges open and hold information sessions (some of which are compulsory to attend if you are applying for particular courses!). I've also been very pleased with the number of students approaching me to seek out resume support, and I'm more than happy to receive resumes via email to provide valuable feedback which may increase a student's chances of getting the opportunities they deserve.

I'd also like to congratulate the Year 12 2019 cohort, many of whom are reaping the rewards of being enterprising throughout their senior studies here at CPHS. Many students have contacted me to inform me that they have received either conditional or unconditional offers to university through early offer schemes, offers of full-time employment, traineeships and apprenticeships before even having finished their HSC exams. These are all fantastic achievements, and are truly a reflection of their hard work and persistence paying dividends. This is also a huge stress reliever in what is an otherwise stressful exam period for these students, as the knowledge that opportunities await them can be of huge comfort. The YES program offered to our students through TAFE has been a great success, with the YES Fitness, Digital Media and Landscaping programs all being well received by our students at CPHS. It was very rewarding for me to have the opportunity to visit students participating in the

Digital Media and Fitness programs at Kingswood TAFE and see them flourish as adult learners. Students in our YES Landscaping program, which takes place each Wednesday on school grounds, have been working diligently with their TAFE teacher Damian to create a wonderful HSIE learning space featuring an archaeological dig site and a weather station. Last term they finished the initial fencing part of the project, and this term they have been able to commence work on the archaeological dig site. I was very fortunate this week to watch them as they learnt about basic formwork, concrete slabs, tool use and concrete ratios. A congratulations also goes out to all students who have graduated from the Productivity Bootcamp – an 8 week intensive program designed for students who wish to pursue trades and careers in construction. I am so proud of students who put themselves out there on external programs such as these and make the best of the opportunities.





Students in Year 10 this term will be using their careers classes and time after their exams to organise themselves for Careers Enterprise Week from 2-6<sup>th</sup> December (Week 8). This week is an opportunity for students to develop and practise the skill of being enterprising. This means making choices that will help them work towards both short and long term career goals and planning. Students will have the opportunity to embark on additional work experience, volunteer for charitable initiatives either at school or through external organisations, or participate in the school 'Trade Transition Program'. A note elaborating Careers Enterprise Week will be sent home to all parents/carers of Year 10 students in Week 3 and posted on the school's Facebook page. I'm excited to see our students working towards their career goals and showing the broader community what enterprising young individuals CPHS students are!

Finally, I'd like to make mention of some upcoming excursions and training I have planned and am in the process of planning. Inspiring the Future Australia is hosting an event on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019 called 'Inspiring Careers in Health'. Students in Years 9, 10 and 12 who have indicated an interest in careers in the health industry will be accompanied by two CPHS teachers to this fantastic event to hear from health professionals, receive career mentoring and learn about the opportunities and expectations of this industry. That same week on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019 is Western Sydney 'U' Day at the Penrith WSU campus, where a group of Year 10 and 12 students will explore how a future at WSU can create unlimited opportunities. Furthermore, I'd like to thank all students seeking white card training for their patience as I work with local RTOs to get the best deal for students to complete this valuable training at a fair price. I am looking to run this training sometime during this term, more information will be made available as soon as possible - priority will be given to students who signed the expression of interest form.

Now please enjoy some pictures of just some of the wonderful work and achievements of students at CPHS! I am especially impressed by the photographs taken by our YES Digital Media students (I may just have to hire some of these students as wedding photographers in 2021!).



# ATTENDANCE

## END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

Organisation is well under way for our End of Year Celebration to recognise those students achieving 95% and above for attendance at school. This year Cambridge Park High school will again be fully funding an excursion to Raging Waters, Prospect. The excursion will take place on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 9am- 3pm. Eligible students will be receiving their invitations in Week 369071, with notes due back by the 15<sup>th</sup> November. Last year we had over 130 students eligible and we are looking at similar numbers for this year. Ideally, we would like the whole school to qualify!

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call the school and speak to Anne Acret,



2018 excursion to **Wet 'n' Wild** End of Year Celebration

## VOLUNTEERING

Cambridge Park High School was invited to participate in this year's Premier's Volunteer Recognition Program. This is a great opportunity for schools to recognise and celebrate young people who give their time and energy to help others. Worthy recipients are students who give their time freely to fundraise, assist in Breakfast Club, Biggest Morning Tea, vocal groups visiting nursing homes, school service messengers- the list goes on! We had over 200 students nominated and they will receive their certificates in a formal assembly.

This program has become an established part of our school's programs and your child can nominate themselves if they volunteer- even outside of school hours. Please see Ms Kamel or Mrs Acret for more information.

## RAISING THE BAR FOR SUCCESS

2019-2020 sees a Pilot Program: **Raising the B.A.R. for Success** being implemented. This mentoring program aims to support students by providing them with the skills needed to positively engage in school life by making positive choices, monitor and improve their attendance and build rapport and positive relationships with their teachers and peers. This in turn will lead to students achieving success in their learning and future career pathways.

Research has shown that mentoring has been linked with positive outcomes such as, a sense of belonging to the school community, improved engagement, higher attendance indicators and higher academic achievement. These factors all play an important role in developing positive self- esteem and wellbeing for young people.

Students have been selected for the first intake by Year Advisor nomination or self-nominated and staff have volunteered to be a part of the program.

Students will be interviewed by the Program Development team- **Mrs Acret, Ms Gomes and Ms Kamel**- in the coming





# YARNING CIRCLE CEREMONY

On the 25<sup>th</sup> September, Cambridge Park High School hosted a special assembly to commemorate the opening of the Aboriginal Inspired Outdoor Learning Centre.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, parents and community members were invited to celebrate the special event. The Freeman Dancers performed traditional cultural dances and a Smoking Ceremony where they invited the audience to participate in the event. Students from Years 7 to 10 addressed the assembly and spoke about why Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in education is important and what we can do to improve educational outcomes for our students. After the ceremony, guests and students were invited to join us for a morning tea.

Thank you to all for attending and supporting our school. We believe this will be a great facility and asset to our school, which will provide great educational benefits for all of our students. Additionally, thank you to all businesses and organisations who generously donated their time and resources to building the space. Without their support, this would not have been possible.





# YEAR 12 GRADUATION

It is with great pleasure that we can come to end of 2019 with such an incredible Year 12 graduating class. The effort that they have been putting in over the last year, and the ongoing drive during their HSC final exams, has been an inspiration not only to the incoming Year 11 students but all the members of our Cambridge Park school community. At the end of Term 3, we took a day to celebrate this achievement with family and friends with a formal graduation and it was wonderful to have a hall full of so many people marking this important event. Our Year 12 students spent an enormous amount of time helping me to plan this event and it showed in the music, the speeches, presentations and the video. Ethan Halley, Eric Goetze, Jacob Priestley and the Targeted Music Ensemble set the tone for the event with their amazing performance of Good Riddance by Greenday to start the ceremony.

Our talented Cambridge Park High School Vocal Ensemble and Targeted Music Ensemble performed throughout the Graduation ceremony, showing our community just how hard our students work and the incredible talent that we have at our school. The Year 12 outgoing Captains, Liam Newham and Maddison Locantro, spoke on beautifully on behalf of all the students and did a wonderful job to describing the journey that they have all been through together for the last five years, and the joy of starting a new journey.



Mrs MacPhail told our community of the pride we have in our inspirational Year 12's and the joy of seeing them achieve after years of hard work. Ms Magee, who has been a Deputy Principal and teacher to our graduating students, spoke of their hard work, drive and dedication to their education that helped them accomplish this important milestone. We had a few surprises throughout the ceremony with secretly organised gifts and thank you's and quite a few tears. Finally, our Year 12 students, with a special mention to Jake Peisley, gave our community a beautiful, funny and at times, sad, video of their time of Cambridge Park High School. We closed the ceremony with a morning tea in the library where students and families could take home photos of their times at High School. We had one last picture together outside and the families headed home to continue to celebrate together.

A final congratulations to our 2019 Year 12's on their achievement and I look forward to seeing all of you at the Formal.

Ms Searle  
Year 12 Advisor



## SRC

The SRC has worked hard to put together a successful Bandana day to help raise funds for Canteen. Cancer is a well-known concern in the world we live and many people someone or know of someone who has experiences it. It was good to see the positive response from families and students in supporting this event. We sold out of the bandanas on the day which is reflective of the response, next year we will make sure we have more as we know some missed out! The leadership team has made a smooth transition into their new roles which has been reflected in such a successful event. We look forward to the events we have upcoming to end of this year including a Halloween clue hunt and a Christmas event that is currently being planned.



## SPORTS REPORT

### Learning to Lead

On the 15th of October, Mr Adams took four Year 8 and twelve Year 9 students to Jamison Park for the Premiers Sporting Challenge "Learning to Lead" Action Day. It was an opportunity for these students to participate in a range of sporting activities with students from other schools around the Western Sydney region. Throughout the day, they interacted well and developed skills to be able to coach these sports to their feeder primary schools for the following year as a part of the PSC Transitional Program to CPHS. A great day was had by all those involved and we look forward to seeing these students in further leadership roles throughout the school.

### Students involved:

Taine Jury, Brock Reed, Rosabella Tuicuvu, Mia Hoiua Ruru, Luke Williams (Year 8)

Briony White, Hannah Pitkin, Charlotte Tazzyman, Niulisi Palame, Keeleigh Stephenson, Emily Groves, Jayme Turner, Joseph Smith, Jett Pokino, Braidan Goodchild, Cody Ryan, Matt Bonnice (Year 9)

## YEAR 11 HOSPITALITY

Cooking and preparing food for Aboriginal recognition night at Cambridge Park Public School such a fantastic experience. Seeing my old primary school teachers brought back heaps of memories! It was fun to work together and do different things that we wouldn't really do. We made pesto pasta, salad, potato salad, fried rice and mouse for 250 people. I would like to thank Gale who helped us prepare and have us some food to snack on, Mr Varkey for letting us cook and prepare food and being an amazing teacher, Mrs MacPhail for letting us have this amazing opportunity and for coming out to see us and lastly Cambridge Park Primary School for letting us have this amazing experience.

Georgia Lees



## AWARDS



Congratulations to Year 12 Kyle Silk-Jones on being awarded the John Lincoln Youth Community Service Award for 2019.

Our apologies to Kyle and his family over the mistake in the previous newsletter about the award Kyle received.



Congratulations to Georgia Lees for successfully completing her first Hospitality Work Placement and providing feedback to the School Industry Partnership and received a gift for her efforts.



# DEBATING

On Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October we competed in the semi-final of the Premier's Debating Challenge. Unfortunately, we lost to James Ruse Agricultural High School, but it was a moment of pride rather than loss. We competed with distinction and showcased the talent that exists here at Cambridge Park High School. As a result of our achievements, the school is placed in the top 4 for public schools in NSW. During our journey, we debated against many different schools and won all our debates leading up to the semi-final. These schools included, Colyton High School, Erskine Park High School, Granville Boys' High School, and The Ponds High School. It was truly gratifying meeting many different high schoolers and making new friends from different schools. Some of the debates were held at other schools so it was intriguing to view other schools

and their buildings. Most importantly it was the learning experience that mattered to us the most. There was massive progress since our first-ever debate and we improved as a team and as individuals. With the ongoing support and guidance of our debating coordinator, Mr Widdison, we developed as a team and improved our skills each time we debated. Without a debate coordinator, we wouldn't have made it so far and there wouldn't have been as much improvement, so the Junior Debating team would like to thank Mr Widdison. We would also like to thank our school and our community for their perpetual support and love, it was much appreciated. We are looking forward to pursuing our journey in debating in 2020 and representing Cambridge Park High School.



Amber Justice, Muskaan Kaur, Tegan Stark & Rosabella Tuicuvu.

## IN THE FIELD TERM 3 EXCURISON

Another great day out for our students and staff. The weather was just right for a good long walk from Coogee to Bondi and the students all seemed to have a great time at the Zoo and rock climbing. Mrs MacPhail was a keen member of the walkers to Red Hand Cave at the National Park in Glenbrook and I know that all the students enjoyed the experience of visiting a very important cultural site. As always, the students who visited the Powerhouse museum seemed to enjoy their time, I know it is a favourite place for so many of our students.

I would encourage all students to take the opportunity to see and do something different, share time with friends and build strong relationships with their teachers. At the end of Term 4 we will be visiting the cinema at Richmond and will be seeing the new **Addams Family film**. I am looking forward to it! Information about the cinema and permission notes will be sent out shortly. Please encourage your child to attend the activities that take place at the end of each term, many of them are free and we want all of the students to be active and engaged members of the school.



# POSSIBILITIES

CREATIVE ARTS ANNUAL EXHIBITION  
WEDNESDAY, 27TH NOVEMBER

SHOWCASING:  
\*DANCE  
\*DRAMA  
\*MUSIC  
\*VISUAL ARTS

THIS EVENT WILL INCLUDE:  
LUCKY DOOR PRIZES  
& PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

CREATIVE ARTS EXHIBITION FROM 6PM IN  
THE PAC, PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASE  
FROM 7PM IN THE SCHOOL HALL. \$5 ENTRY  
4731 6722 HARROW RD,  
CAMBRIDGE PARK NSW 2747

