

Blackchat

Parent Newsletter



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2017 Issue 1: Term 1

School Calendar

Key Dates: Term 2 2017

- 26 April: Term 2 begins
- 5 May: P&C Mother's Day
High Tea; Zone Cross
Country Carnival
- 9-11 May: NAPLAN Testing,
Years 7 & 9
- 12 May: Formal Assembly
- 16 May: Parent-Teacher
Evening; "In Concert"
2017 choir
performance
- 18 May: Year 8 Medieval Day
- 25 May: "Go For It"
Information Evening
- 1-2 June: Zone Athletics
Carnival
- 8 June: Year 11 ACU
Workshops
- 12 June: Queen's Birthday
- 19 June: Trial HSC Exams
commence
- 23 June: Year 10 Western
Sydney Careers Expo
- 30 June: Term 2 ends



Welcome to the first issue of *Blackchat* for 2017! Our students have been incredibly busy to start off the school year, participating in academic competitions, reviewing books as part of the BRAG program (several are included here in this issue), attending excursions, keeping the school "green" and eco-friendly, and celebrating the strength of women, raising money to support girls' education throughout the world. Here are some of the term highlights featured in this opening issue:

- Our students continue to excel in Mathematics, with increasing numbers of girls earning Gold and Achievement Awards as they strengthen their mathematical skills.
- Students have also started to build their financial literacy skills this term through participation in the ASIC MoneySmart program, learning how to save money, budget and invest wisely for their future.
- Dance students attended a mesmerizing performance of the musical *Aladdin* at the Capitol Theatre, including special backstage access, and senior Dance students had the amazing opportunity to attend HSC Dance seminars and view *Callback 2016* at the Seymour Centre, watching exemplary HSC dance students perform their inspirational pieces.
- Our prefects organised a Women's Week event to celebrate the strength and accomplishments of women, increase awareness about the struggles and hardships that many young girls and women face in other nations and raise money for the One Girl charity, helping to provide access to education for girls in troubled regions of the world.
- The prefects also started a "Humans of BGHS" project based on the popular "Humans of New York" photo-blog to help give a voice to our diverse student body and build community and spirit, as well as a weekly Gold Star program to recognise the accomplishments of our hard-working, motivational teachers.

Yes, 2017 looks to be an incredible year at Blacktown Girls High School. Happy reading!

And the Gold goes to...

Congratulations to the latest Mathletics Gold Award recipients:

- Husna Ahmed (Year 8)
- Nashrah Alam (Year 8)
- Yashfeen Arif (Year 8)
- Albi Chalbhagam Raphel (Year 8)
- Jessica Chaudhary (Year 8)
- Jovel Espinosa (Year 8)
- Francis Fronteras (Year 8)
- Harsha Kamalanathan (Year 8)
- Yasmine Kassar (Year 8)
- Mantajvir Kaur (Year 8)
- Bavleen Kaur Rai (Year 8)
- Anwsha Khan (Year 8)
- Shreya Krishna (Year 8)
- Inayat Mander (Year 8)
- Princess Marcos (Year 8)
- Fayza Mridha (Year 8)
- Fatima Nisar (Year 8)
- Devanshi Pancholi (Year 8)
- Manisa Pandi (Year 8)
- Fanny Patel (Year 8)
- Ritu Patel (Year 8)
- Roopika Subhash (Year 8)
- Katherine Supan (Year 8)
- Nafia Tanweer (Year 8)
- Monica-Rose Te Kiri (Year 8)
- Mridula Tirumala (Year 8)
- Anoushka Venkatesh (Year 8)
- Simar Walia (Year 8)
- Alina Azam (Year 9)
- Hridhima Dhakal (Year 9)
- Vaishvi Doctor (Year 9)
- Stephanie Freudling (Year 9)
- Sunidhi Gupta (Year 9)
- Ninuri Mahagoda (Year 9)
- Renelli Molina (Year 9)
- Serena Pan (Year 9)
- Zoe Perez (Year 9)
- Mehak Sattar (Year 9)
- Gaayathiri Shanmugarajah (Year 9)
- Bethany Southam (Year 9)
- Aaniya Uppal (Year 9)
- Kirsten Vega (Year 9)
- Jessica Wu (Year 9)
- Annisha Yogarajah (Year 9)
- Rida Chowdhury (Year 10)
- Gabrielle Dolphin (Year 10)
- Natalie Khalil (Year 10)
- Sukhleen Khalsa (Year 10)
- Nafisa Khondokar (Year 10)
- Syeda Muhammad (Year 10)
- Kajel Raina (Year 10)
- HazalRedjeb (Year 10)
- Palak Sanghotra (Year 10)
- Jennifer Latif (Year 11)
- Nadine Muyambo (Year 12)
- Sela Pese (Year 12)
- Lareb Zaidi (Year 12)





Three students were also awarded the Mathletics Achievement award for 2016, a certificate awarded to acknowledge the efforts and achievements of our top Mathletics students for the academic year:

- Cortney Brider (Year 8)
- Francis Fronteras (Year 8)
- Ramica Rajkumar (Year 8)



To receive a Gold Award, students must earn 1000 points or more each week for 20 weeks. Such a fantastic effort on the part of these young ladies!



Ms Julie Whittaker
Head Teacher, Mathematics

Financial Literacy: ASIC MoneySmart Program

In October 2016, we were fortunate enough to attend a two-day workshop in the city that involved the learning and sharing of tools, tips and resources for being “MoneySmart” and how to educate our students so that they develop this core life skill which enables them to build financial health and wellbeing.

The MoneySmart teaching program was developed by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) as a comprehensive consumer and financial literacy (CFL) educational resource for students K-10 nationally that is aligned to the Australian curriculum and addresses the syllabuses for English, Mathematics and Science.

The MoneySmart website explores online learning tools designed to develop student skills in communication, collaboration and problem-solving so that they can become confident and informed financially-literate consumers now and in the future. Not only does financial literacy have an impact on an individual, but the decisions and actions taken in relation to financial contexts can also have a significant impact on families, the broader community and the environment.

The following is a list of some of the online resource options that can be explored through ASIC’s MoneySmart website:

- Managing your money
- Borrowing and Credit
- Insurance
- Superannuation and Retirement
- Investing
- Scams
- Life Events and You
- Teaching
- Tools and Resources

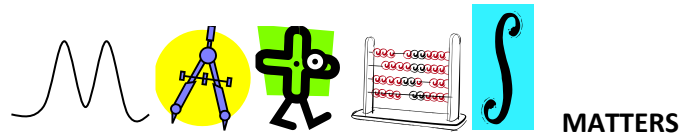
The website is incredibly user friendly for teachers, students and parents to navigate and we encourage you to visit it at:

<https://www.moneysmart.gov.au/>

We hope you find it as beneficial as we have.



Mrs Savic & Mrs Thangasamy
Mathematics Department



Mathletics is a web-based learning program which integrates home and school learning via the internet. Mathletics covers all years of schooling and is currently used in over 1300 Australian schools. Students have **24-hour access to Mathletics** allowing for learning at a time convenient to the student.

Since 2011, the Mathematics Department has integrated Mathletics into all teaching programs for both course work and/or homework. Set work is compulsory, however students may attempt any topic of their choosing to enhance their learning and understanding of concepts. This includes Live Mathletics, which is a fun and easy way to improve their basic skills and speed in computations involving the 4 operations (+, -, \times , \div). All students studying Mathematics have been issued with their usernames and passwords.

Mathletics can also be accessed on tablets. Mathletics Student is a FREE app available for both iOS and Android devices.



No internet? No problem! **Mathletics is now accessible offline.** All data automatically syncs when internet is available.

Activate your FREE parent account.

3P Learning's Parent Console is designed to help you enhance your child's learning experience and gather valuable insight into their progress. Receive weekly reports on their results to encourage regular participation. What's more, access is completely FREE – simply register your details to receive your username and password and you can begin supporting your child right away.

To activate your free access to the Parent Console visit www.3plearning.com/parents.

Enter your details, along with those of your child's Mathletics account. You will receive your own username & password by email.

To access the Parent Console, simply visit the Mathletics website and use your parent username/password to sign in.

Further information on Mathletics can be found on their website:

<http://www.3plearning.com/mathletics/>

Calculators and BYOD

Calculators are an important and necessary tool in the learning of Mathematics.

The Board of Studies Mathematics Years 7-10 NSW Syllabus for the Australian curriculum identifies Information and Communication Technology Capability as one of the General Capabilities (page 40). It further states (page 42):

Information and communication technology (ICT) includes digital technologies such as calculators, spreadsheets, dynamic geometry software, and computer algebra and graphing software. Students use ICT effectively and appropriately when investigating, creating and communicating ideas and information, including in representing mathematics in a variety of ways to aid understanding. ICT can be used by students to solve problems and to perform previously onerous tasks more readily.

Students are required to bring a scientific calculator to each Mathematics lesson. Blacktown Girls High School uses and recommends the Casio fx-82AU PLUS calculator. These calculators can be purchased at many retail stores and are also available for purchase at the school for \$21. A full list of board-approved calculators is available on the Board of Studies website.

Having a **technology device** that can connect to the school's wi-fi is also highly recommended for students to bring to each Mathematics lesson. Spreadsheets, GeoGebra and many other programs are used in various topics across each stage.

Mathematics Competitions 2017

The Australasian Schools Mathematics Competition (AMC), sponsored by Australian Mathematics Trust (AMT) and The International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS), sponsored by the University of New South Wales, are popular and well-respected competitions that are held every year in Australasia.

These competitions test a wide range of student abilities in the areas of Number, Measurement, Space and Geometry, Algebra and Data. They will be held at Blacktown Girls' High School on the **27th July and 15th August** respectively. Prizes ranging from merit certificates to cash awards can be earned by students. Every student will receive a participation certificate irrespective of the score they achieve in these competitions.

We encourage all students to participate in these competitions. The entry fee for ICAS is **\$9.00** and the AMC is **\$6.00** per student payable to the front office.

If you have any queries regarding either of these competitions, feel free to contact your daughter's/ward's Mathematics teacher or the Mathematics Department.

Classroom

The Mathematics Department uses the program Classroom, which is in Google Apps, to enhance student learning by allowing access to course notes, activities and quizzes at any time or place that the internet is available. The Classroom app is a FREE app available for both iOS and Android devices.

NAPLAN

In May 2017 the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in all government and non-government schools.

In the **Numeracy test** students do not require any measuring tools such as rulers or protractors. In **Years 7 and 9** there will be **one Numeracy test with two parts – Part A and Part B**. This is different from previous years. Part A will contain the calculator allowed questions and take 50 minutes (40 questions). Part B will contain the non-calculator questions and take 10 minutes (8 questions). For **the calculator-allowed part**, the student should use the calculator that they currently use at school. **It is very important that your daughter/ward brings her calculator with her on the day (Thursday 11th May).**

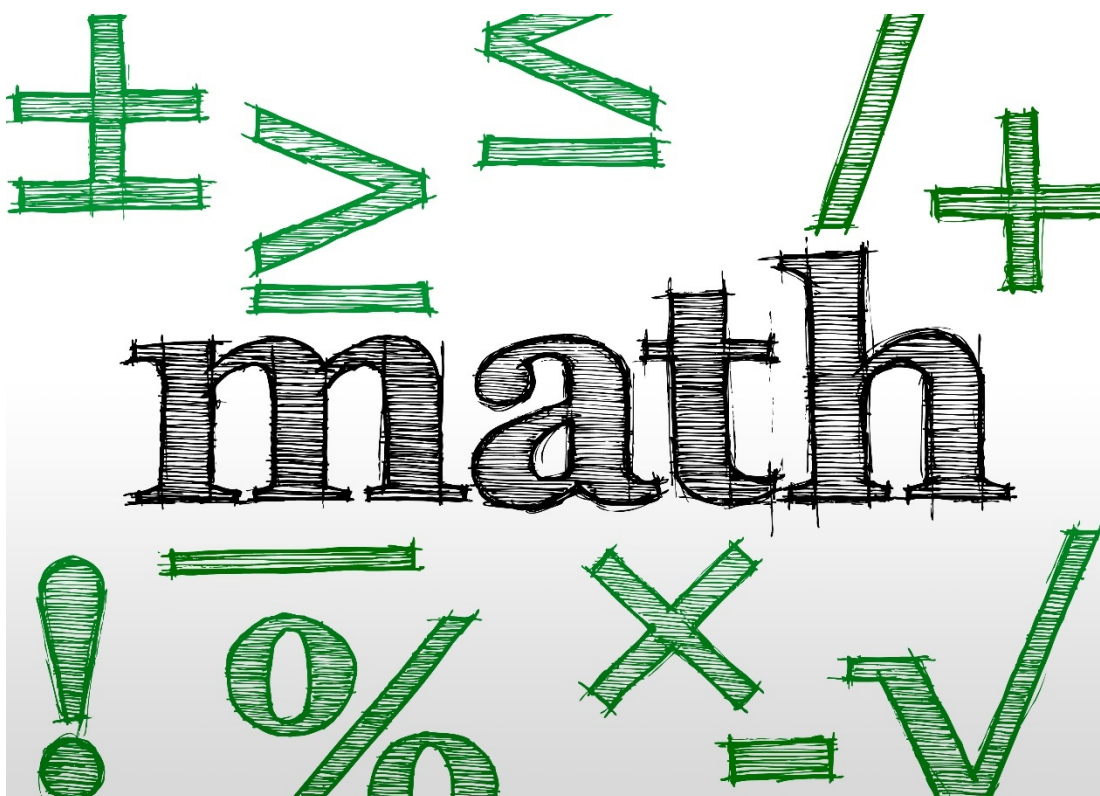
Practice tests are available for both Years 7 and 9 through Mathletics.

More information, including example tests, can be found at:

<http://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/naplan.html>

Ms Julie Whittaker

Head Teacher, Mathematics



Aladdin Excursion



On Wednesday 15 March, Year 10, 11 and 12 Dance students travelled to Sydney to see Aladdin at the Capitol Theatre. The students enjoyed the exhilarating choreography, show-stopping production numbers and flying carpet visual effects! They were lucky enough to meet Gareth Jacobs, the wonderful actor, dancer and singer who played the role of the genie in the production that day.



Callback and HSC Dance Workshops

On Thursday 9 February, Year 12 Dance students Bianca Austin, Rose Harper and Rachel Kane attended HSC dance workshops for dance performance and dance composition. In these workshops, students participated in a contemporary dance technique master class and a composition and choreography workshop with senior HSC Dance examiners. The students were able to test their dance ability and develop their ideas for their HSC Major Study Dance works.



The students then attended the performance of “Callback 2016” at the Seymour Centre, a performance of exemplary 2016 HSC Dance works across a range of core and major study genres and dance styles. These workshops and the performances motivated and inspired Rachel, Rose and Bianca to start creating and choreographing their HSC Composition and Major Study works!





At the beginning of the year, Blacktown Girls High School registered in the Eco Schools Program, a seven-step program promoting sustainability and fostering connections with the land, motivating students to investigate environmental issues within the school community.

The Eco Committee has identified their first project: waste. Committee members are currently collecting data, which will be followed by discussions, recording, formulating solutions and liaising with school personnel to address the issue of waste in the school and local community.

The Eco-committee is looking forward to keeping you updated on the progress that they are making in 2017!



Prefect Report

Term 1 2017 has been an amazing start to the new year for the prefects. We've once again been involved in a range of initiatives, with an aim to enhance our involvement in the school community, increase school spirit and uphold our school motto of being "the school that makes a difference."

School Community

Humans of BGHS

Humans of BGHS is a program inspired by the blog Humans of New York. On our prefect's Instagram page (bghs_prefects), we post about the various experiences, stories and quotes by the BGHS community, with the objective to improve our communication with the student and teacher body and increase school spirit. Sharing these diverse stories has inspired both students and teachers and allowed us to build a better connection with our school community.



bghs_prefects Q. What does International Women's Day mean to you? "International Women's Day should be about equality for all women wherever they live and work. I'm concerned for the women who are unable to speak up for themselves. It is shocking that women still suffer from genital mutilation and are treated no better than slaves. In some cultures, men claim women as their property and do not allow them to move around freely. IWD is not only about educated women breaking through the glass ceiling and having equal rights and equal pay. It should also highlight the plight of oppressed women. (Ms Ericson)



Liked by **kbianca_**, **anosua** and **116 others**

bghs_prefects Q. Who inspires you? "My grandma. She's been in my life every time something goes bad. She's taught me a lot of things in life. She taught me to be myself. She never told me to change who I am and reminded me I don't have to change. She lives in the city but she comes down a lot. She's taught me how to cook, sew and that. She's taught me how to fix my mistakes when I couldn't." (Mary Yr8)

The Gold Star Award

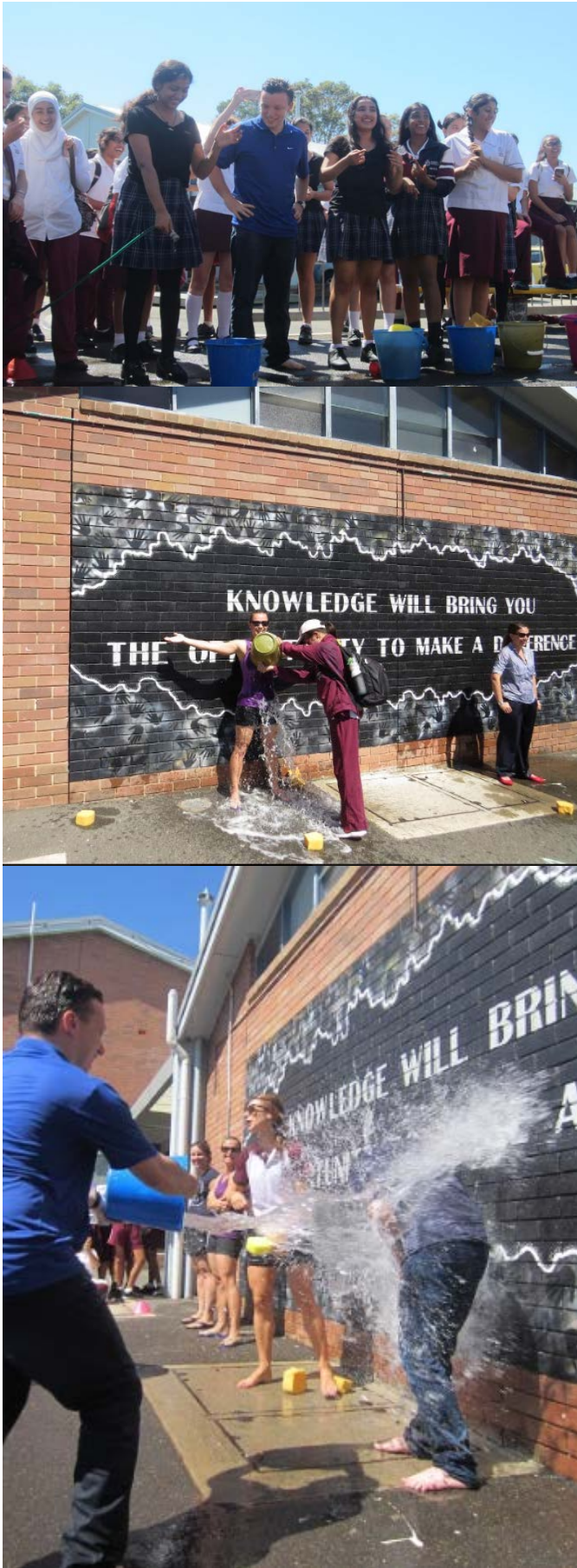
The Gold Star Award was a program the prefect body implemented to show teachers appreciation for all the hard, often thankless work that they do. Each week a teacher's name is drawn out of a box of teachers nominated by students and their efforts are recognised within the school community at our weekly assembly. We thought that if students could be rewarded, we needed a way to reward teachers as well for their positive contributions.

Women's Week

During Week 10, the prefects held a celebration called Women's Week, where our aim was to increase intuition, creativity and awareness for girl's education and increase student involvement and interest in the school community. Throughout this week, we fundraised for the women's education charity One Girl. We aimed to promote the empowerment, motivation and growth of young females both within our school as well as the wider community and raise awareness of the struggles other women around the world experience throughout their lives in relation to education.

- ❖ Day 1: The first activity to start off BGHS Women's Week was the Sponge Throw. During lunch, many teachers volunteered to participate in the event to raise money for charity, allowing students to throw sponges at them. This activity was a huge success! Many teachers and students participated making it a great kick-start to begin our celebration of Women's Week.





- ❖ Day 2: During our celebration of Women’s Week, the highlight event was the Newspaper Fashion Show Competition on Tuesday. 20 teams, with participants ranging from Years 7 to 12, showed their support for the One Girl charity by carefully crafting their innovative dress designs made

from newspapers. Given a 15-minute countdown to prepare their signature outfit, all teams worked diligently, collaborating and sharing their creativity and concepts. Each team's outfit was then modelled down the BGHS runway, where the judges, Ms Crous and Ms Gifford, were given an opportunity to admire and evaluate the newspaper outfits. The winners were crowned during assembly, but despite having chosen the "best dressed" amongst such tough competition, we, the prefect body, believe that all the ladies who participated in this event are extremely talented winners. We are very thankful to all students who participated and helped promote the Women's Week spirit.



❖ Day 3:

- Day 3 of Women's Week included the Cake Stall where an assortment of goodies including cupcakes, brownies, cookies, lamingtons and much more were sold during recess and lunch. This successful event kept the prefects behind the counter very busy and having a lot of fun, with every item being sold. This event alone raised a whopping \$537 and kept everyone with a full tummy.
- To inspire our Year 11 students, on Wednesday during BUZZ, Ceylan Okan, a provisional psychologist and researcher, volunteered to speak about the power of women within the male-dominated field of science and STEM. In a 20-minute presentation, she was able to discuss the capability and excellence of females in the workforce establishing that women CAN do anything, and that we must strive for the best we can achieve. Being an all-girl's school, Ceylan's motivational talk reached out to all the ladies present, bringing them to the realisation that they can change the glaring gap between men and women in STEM-related work fields and that they have the ability to become powerful, driven women in society.



- ❖ Day 4: We held a Kahoot Trivia Competition in the library, open to all year groups. It was a free event where students were facing the test of time against our challenging, yet fun questionnaire. It was another positive event with some friendly competition, once again increasing the spirit of Women's Week.



❖ Day 5:

- On Friday, we played the inspirational movie *Girl Rising* for Year 7 students, provided by One Girl. The film presented the message that educating girls can break cycles of poverty in just one generation, by telling the courageous stories of nine girls who have overcome

incredible hardships in their lives through education. The viewing event was extremely successful as expressed by the following Yr7 students:

"The movie was very inspirational and emotional." (Ria)

"I actually cried." (Chanel)



- It was also Mufti Day on the final day of Women's Week, helping us to end the week with a bang. All students brought in a gold coin donation which went to One Girl to help support women's education.



Fundraising

During Women's Week we raised a total of \$1300 for the One Girl charity, proving that Blacktown Girls is indeed the school that makes a difference!

Volunteering

- School Vice-Captain Bushra and Prefects Nikhita, Kaitlyn, Aishwarya and Ruhama, along with Year 12 student Zainab, volunteered at the Access all Areas Film Festival. This event was organised by Bardic Studios for the International Day of People with Disability, to raise awareness and understanding of people with disabilities and celebrate their achievements and contributions to society. This was an amazing opportunity for our team to give back to the community and contribute to a great cause.

- School Captain Gayathri volunteered at the Bob 'Tug' Wilson Walk for Kids with Cancer for Westmead Children's Hospital, and partook in activities such as greeting the participants after their 28km walk.
- Prefect Pragyna and Year 12 student Anjali volunteered at The Ridiculous Obstacle Course, which is an annual event held at Sydney Olympic Park where individuals compete in a 'Wipe Out'-style obstacle course. Volunteering at this community event meant that they helped with administration work as well as ensuring that the obstacle stations were running smoothly. They worked in collaboration with awesome new people and are keen to revisit the event next year!



**BLACKTOWN
G I R L S
HIGH SCHOOL**

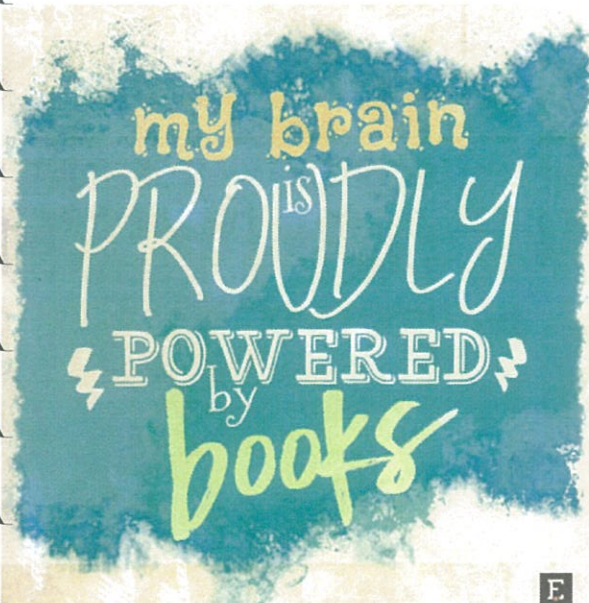
BRAG

Blacktown

Reading

Advisory

Group



BRAG is used to promote books and encourage young readers to read books.

In BRAG, we read books and share our point of view for the book to inspire other readers to read the book.

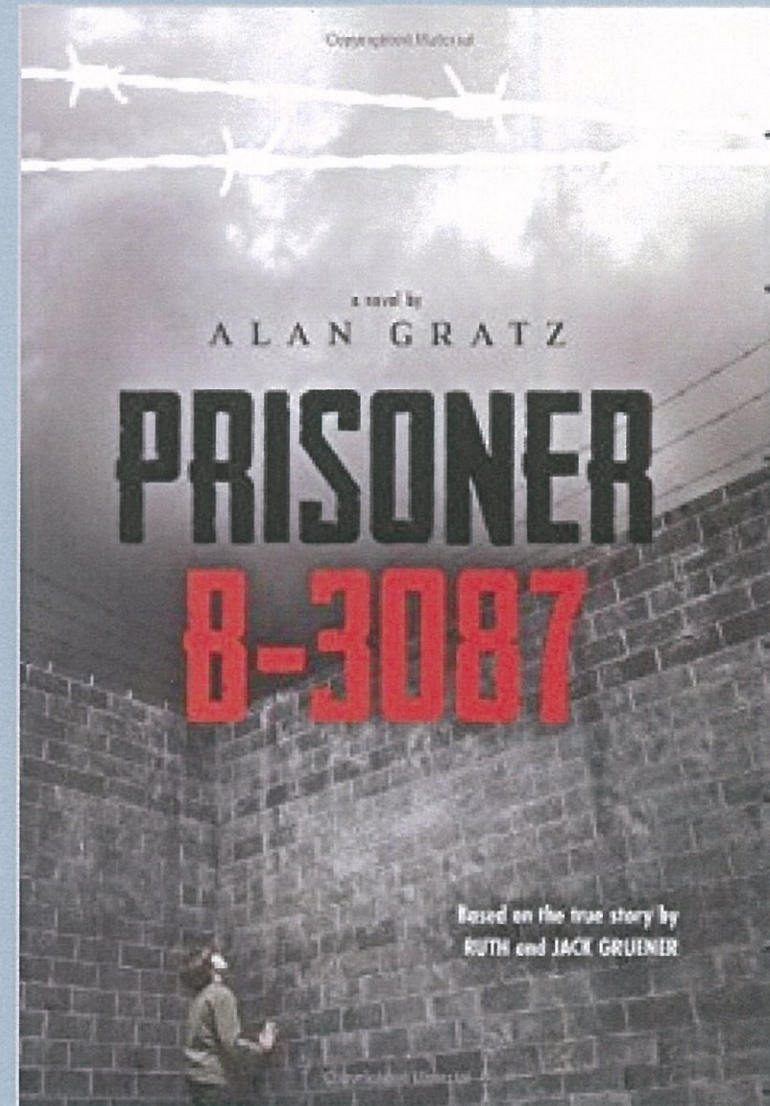
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Prisoner B-3087 by Alan Gratz

Based on a true story of Jack Gruener

Alan Gratz is a wonderful author of fascinating books. Some titles are Prisoner B-3087, The League of Seven, Samurai shortstop, Projekt 1056, The Brooklyn Nine, Something Rotten, The Dragon Lantern, Code of Honour, The Monster War, Fantasy Baseball, Something Wicked, Hero of the Five Points and last but not least The Assassination Game.

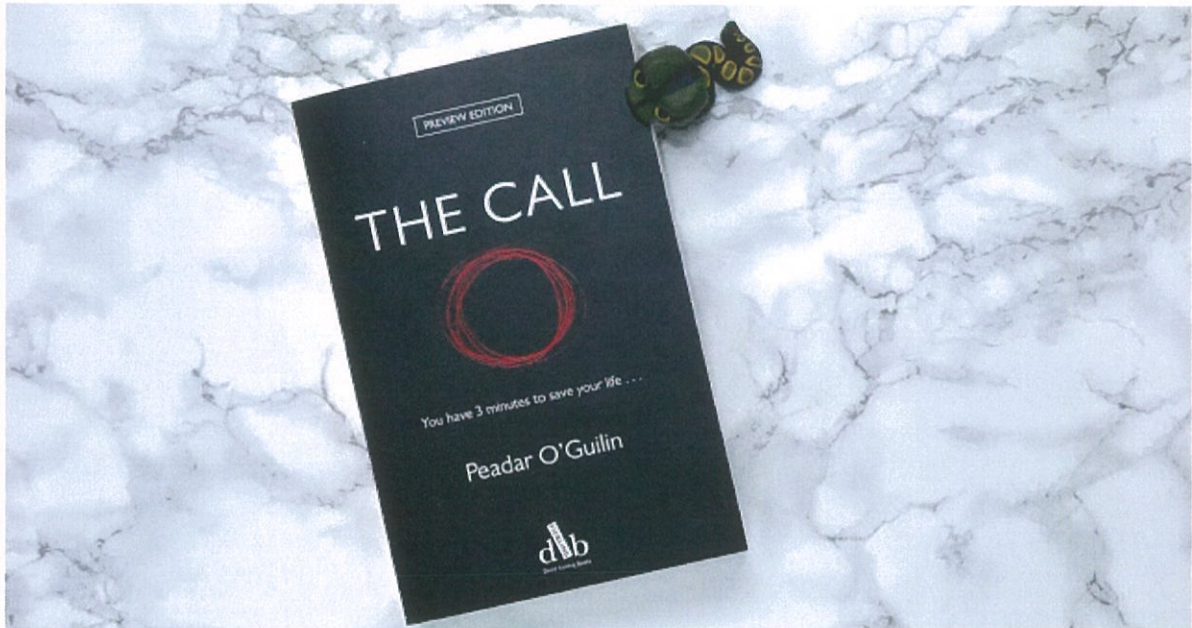
“Ten concentration camps. Ten different places where you are starved, tortured, and worked mercilessly. It’s something no one could imagine surviving. But it is what Yanek Gruener had to face” said on the blurb. This book is a great read for us young women/teens because it makes us have an idea of what World War II was like. It explains how Jewish people were treated, and how they were starved, what they had been forced into doing, it also explains what the roles were of the Nazis and other people involved such as Kapos, Jews and Hitler.



You Only Have 3 Minutes To Save Your Life

The Call

Peadar O'Guilin



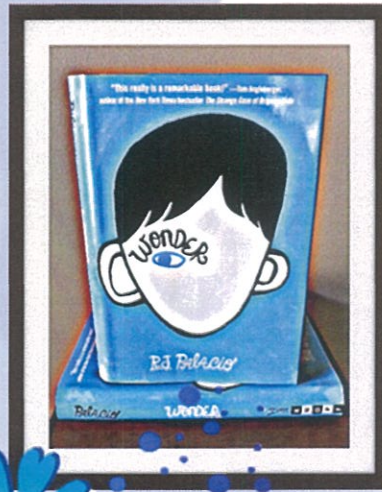
**ARE YOU A PERSON WHO SEEKS
ADVENTURE...**

More than 20 years ago, Ireland was separated from the rest of the world. Thousands of years ago... The Sidhe, an ancient and mysterious fairy folk were exiled from their homes, which is now known as Ireland. Announcing Revenge, the Sidhe have come back to claim what was theirs. But also were going to slowly destroy the land, that everyone in Ireland called home. Once at some point every young person would be called into the grey land. There they need to fight and hide to survive. You only have 3 minutes...

The Call was a book that immediately drew me in. In the book we meet a girl named Nessa who has been diagnosed with Polio. She is almost certain to die in the Grey Land. Nessa and her friends attend a survival boarding school which is supposed to increase their chances of living. However only 1 out of 10 actually survives.

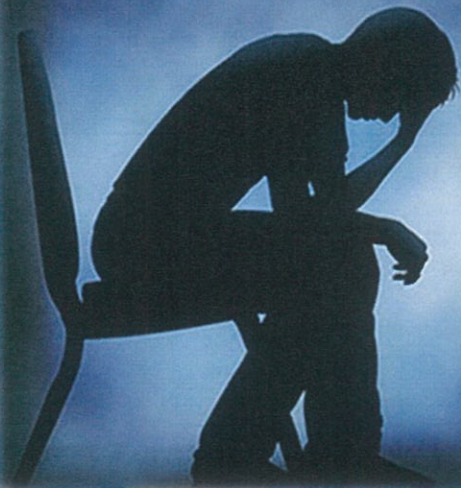
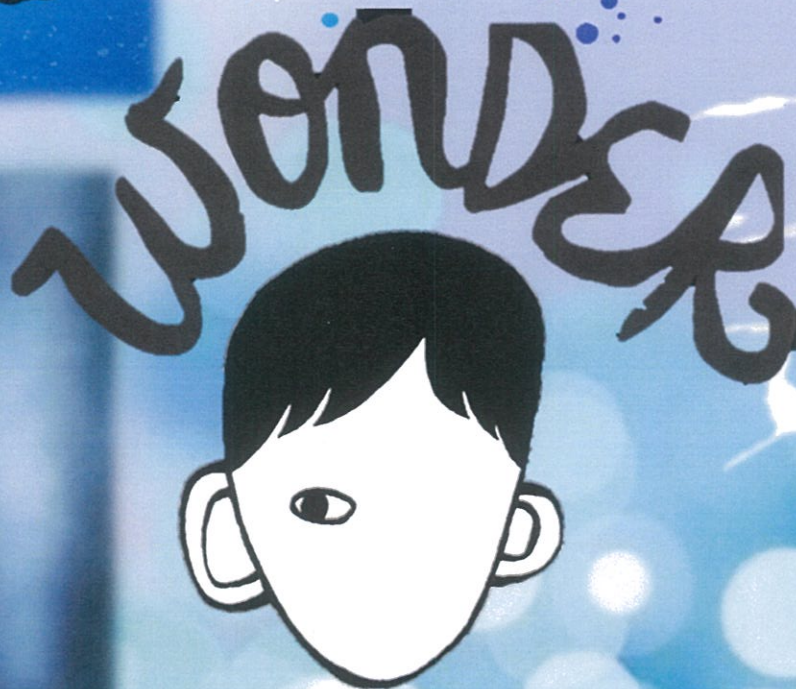
To all The Hunger Games fans, you can compare this stunning book with The Hunger Games. This is definitely an Horror Novel and many of the characters you come to care for, could die in a very gruesome way... The Call is an enchanting book. I definitely enjoyed the novel. It is okay if you don't usually read horror. I just want to tell you that you wouldn't want to miss this book. I would definitely recommend this to anyone. The Call is a great book and had me on the edge of my seat throughout the story.

WONDER



August (Auggie) Pullman was born with a facial deformity that prevented him from going to a mainstream school—until now. Despite his unusual face he shows great undertaking and compassions the school year progresses. August learns that, though there will always be people who will taunt him he can have true friends despite his looks. The wonder of Auggie's extraordinary unique presence is that the people around him learn how it is to be kind and to be courageous.

**Don't judge
a book boy
by its cover
his face**



The Diary of Laura's twin

Laura is about to celebrate her Jewish coming of age ceremony, called a Bat Mitzvah, when she is "twinned" with Sara Gittler, a young girl her own age who was imprisoned by the Nazis in the Warsaw Ghetto during the Holocaust. Sara's diary unfolds with the details of her daily life in the Ghetto, a world full of fear, confusion, tragedy and above all, courage. From Sara's brave story, Laura learns how to find the courage to confront a problem in her own life.



The Diary of
LAURA'S TWIN
Kathy Kacer

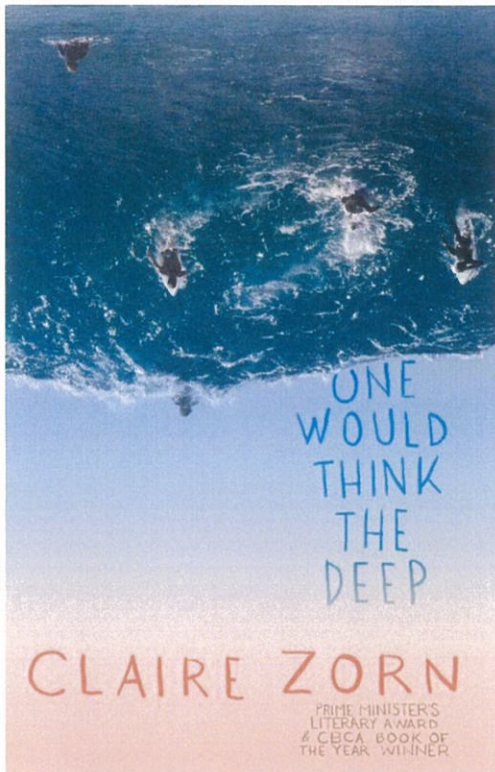
"A moving story that exemplifies the power of fiction to reveal the truths of history..." LIBBY GLEESON

HOLOCAUST

"My name is Sara Gittler and I am thirteen and a half years old. I have lived here behind barbed wire and high walls for more than a year. I dream of walking down a busy street and stopping in a cafe for ice-cream and cake. I dream of buying a new dress, or maybe ten of them. Most of all, I dream of being a famous writer and having everyone read my stories and remember my name. My stories speak for my life; they speak for me. Please, remember me"



One Would Think The Deep



This book is written by Claire Zorn and has won the Prime Minister's Literacy Award, CECA Book of the year winner (Children's Book Council of Australia) and is listed in the Premier's Reading Challenge list. This book is set in Australia, the year 1997. A seventeen-year old boy goes through the hardship of losing his mother, which causes him to leave everyone that he loves and goes to live at his cousins' house, taking his skateboard and a few other belongings in a garbage bag. He listened to music whenever he was filled with unwanted thoughts but he realised it was no use. He goes surfing with his cousins. There he adapts and starts to love and to make many friends who make him feel like he belongs to the area. I highly recommend this book to grades 7-9. I rate it 4 and a half stars out of 5.



*By: Nashrah Alam and
Tharankini Santhanakrishnan*

Brought to you by B.R.A.G



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