Blackchat

Parent Newsletter

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2017 Issue 3: Term 3

School Calendar

Key Dates: Term 4 2017

9 October: Term 4 begins

13 October: School Colour Run

16 October: HSC Exams

commence

20 October: Year 10 Photography

& Digital Media excursion to the Museum of Applied

Arts

23 October: Year 9 Swim School

13 November: Year 7 Swim School

14 November: Junior Showcase

16 November: PULSE Concert at Sydney Opera

House

4 December: Year 7 2018

Selective Students

Orientation

7 December: Beacon Charter

Signing

13 December: BGHS Presentation

Day

15 December: Term 4 ends



Welcome to another edition of *Blackchat*! Here are some of the Term 3 highlights featured in this issue:

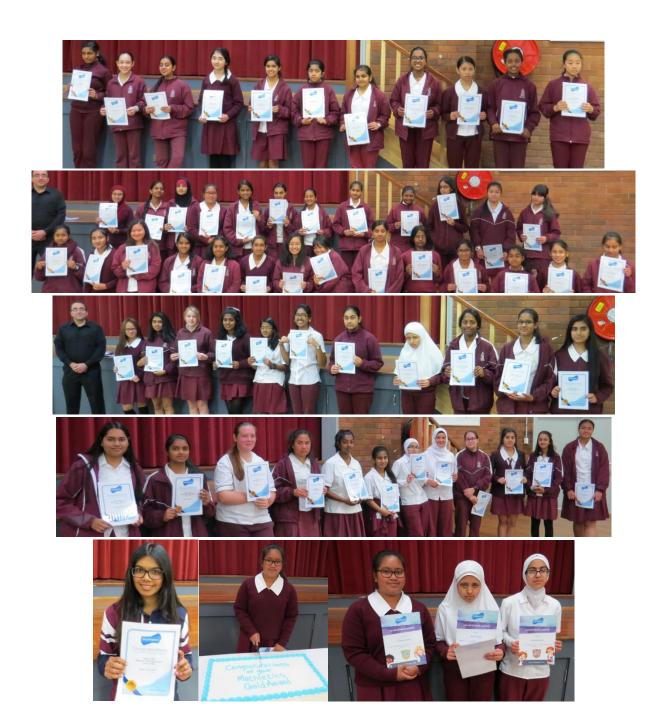
- Students received outstanding results in the 2017 Australian Mathematics Competition and continue to earn an impressive number of Mathletics Gold Awards, showing their dedication to strengthening their numeracy skills.
- Members of the Tribal Drum group and Dance Ensemble performed brilliantly in the Blacktown Festival of the Performing Arts held at Wyndham College.
- Performing Arts students attended a special performance of Seussical the Musical at The Concourse in Chatswood held by the LOUD Theatre Company and had the opportunity to meet and speak with the performers after the show.
- Year 10 and 11 Visual Arts students visited the 2017 Archibald Prize exhibition at the Art Gallery of New South Wales as well as the Museum of Contemporary Art, gaining valuable exposure to the thriving modern art scene in Sydney.
- BRAG students were involved in putting together a variety of events during Book Week, including a costume contest and trivia competition. BRAG students also continued to review books to help promote reading and one student, Jasmeen Kaur of Year 7, won an award from the Australian Children's Literary Board for her original poem, "Loneliness".
- In their final article for *Blackchat*, the 2017 Prefects reflect on a truly incredible year of leadership, service and learning. The girls can hold their heads high knowing that they did an outstanding job all year, including the raising of a significant amount of money for the education of girls throughout the world during Women's Week, the production and promotion of a variety of school spirit events including mufti days, trivia competitions and food stalls, and the further strengthening of the BGHS social media presence on Instagram with the development of *Humans of BGHS*. Congratulations to the entire Class of 2017 on their graduation and we wish them the best of luck as they prepare for the final leg of their high school journey, the HSC!

Happy reading!

And the Gold goes to...

Congratulations to the latest Mathletics Gold Award recipients:

Ria Bhatt	(Year 7)	Kaavya Udaya Kumar	(Year 8)
Destinee Horvath	(Year 7)	Anoushka Venkatesh (Year 8)	
Jasmeen Kaur	(Year 7)	Simar Walia (Year 8)	
Pukhrajdeep Kaur	(Year 7)	Shathana Srirangan (Year	
Manvi Manvi	(Year 7)	Roopika Subhash (Year 8)	
Aanshu Patel	(Year 7)	Aresha Touqeer (Year 8)	
Judy Renno	(Year 7)	Kaavya Udaya Kumar (Year 8)	
Zainab Sheikh	(Year 7)	Anoushka Venkatesh (Year 8)	
Devanshi Tankariya	(Year 7)	Simar Walia (Year 8)	
Theja Thevathasan	(Year 7)	Kaitlyn Brown (Year 9) Dahamya Gajanayake (Year 9)	
Alexandra Vergel de Dios	(Year 7)	Ninuri Mahagoda (Year 9)	
Hewan Workineh	•	Anjhana Murugesan (Year 9)	
	(Year 7)	Taimia Narisha	(Year 9)
Yuyang Yang	(Year 7)	Prabhnoor Nijjar	(Year 9)
Rida Ansary	(Year 8)	Vivianne Pham (Year 9)	
Cortney Brider	(Year 8)	Sophie Ryhs Bompat	(Year 9)
Albi Chalbhagam Raphel	(Year 8)	Siya Sachdeva	(Year 9)
Mariyah Faisal	(Year 8)	Mehak Sattar	(Year 9)
Francis Fronteras	(Year 8)	Gaayathiri Shanmugarajah Thusitha Srineelavannan	(Year 9) (Year 9)
Anoushikha Ginni	(Year 8)	Nabila Srotaswini	(Year 9)
Shreeshaila Jayakumar	(Year 8)	Xue Yu	(Year 9)
Vivyane Kassar	(Year 8)	Yojana Dabholkar	(Year 10)
Mantajvir Kaur	(Year 8)	Acacia Faull	(Year 10)
Bavleen Kaur Rai	(Year 8)	Alexandria Fua (Year 10)	
Raksha Kumar	(Year 8)	Biruthy Kumaralingham (Year 10)	
Inayat Mander	(Year 8)	Nivishka Maharaj (Year 10)	
Princess Marcos	(Year 8)	Muznah Naeem (Year 10)	
Fayza Mridha	(Year 8)	Ferdos Rahmany (Year 10)	
Rabia Naseer	(Year 8)	Ayesha Rashid Hazal Redjeb	(Year 10) (Year 10)
Kristine O'Laco	(Year 8)	Minal Tanvir	(Year 10)
Ritu Patel	(Year 8)	Kelly Ann Tihema	(Year 10)
Riya Patel	(Year 8)	Katai'l Toloke	(Year 10)
Ramica Rajkumar	(Year 8)	Emina Vejzagic	(Year 10)
Anastasia Reyes	(Year 8)	Serena Olatona	(Year 11)
Alessandra Salvador	(Year 8)	Rania Renno	(Year 11)
	,	Nupur Patel	(Year 12)
Liya Sam	(Year 8)		
Tharankini Santhanakrishnar	,		
Shathana Srirangan	(Year 8)		
Roopika Subhash	(Year 8)		
Aresha Touqeer	(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!

Three students were also issued Mathletics Achievement Awards for 2017, a certificate awarded to acknowledge the efforts and achievements of our top Mathletics students for the academic year:

Francis Fronteras (Gold)
Mehak Sattar (Silver)
Ferdos Rahmany (Bronze)

Congratulations again to all award recipients!

Ms Julie Whittaker Head Teacher, Mathematics

Australian Mathematics Competition Results 2017

75 students from BGHS participated in the Australian Mathematics Competition 2017 and achieved outstanding results.

The following 3 students ranked in the top 15% of the state and were awarded **Distinction** Certificates:

Jasmeen Kaur - Year 7 Wing Lam Chong – Year 7 Ninuri Mahagoda – Year 9

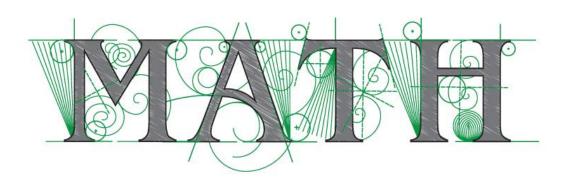
The following **Credit** Certificate winners, 34 students, rank in the top 50% of the state:

<u>Year 7</u>	Year 8	Year 9	<u>Year 10</u>
Ranjot Kaur Rafia Akanda Destinee Harvath Ria Bhatt Kriti Mainali Halis Rishamsulkamal Ipsita Dutta Annie-Rose Grace	Nashrah Alam Ritu Patel Riya Patel Thrisha Loganathan Jovel Espinosa Mantajvir Kaur Anoushka Venkatesh Rida Ansary	Sunidhi Gupta Georgiana Nhan Siya Sachdeva Bethany Southam Vaishvi Doctor Youngju Wee Melissa Artwoeger Taimia Narisha	Kajel Raina Kimiko Trinidad Aisha Nauman Sukhleen Khalsa Jashanpreet Kaur Bola Muznah Naeem
Yuyang Yang Manvi Manvi	•	Gaayathiri Shanmugarajah Thusitha Srineelavanan	

The Best in School award for this year goes to Jasmeen Kaur, Year 7.

We wholeheartedly congratulate all this year's participants!

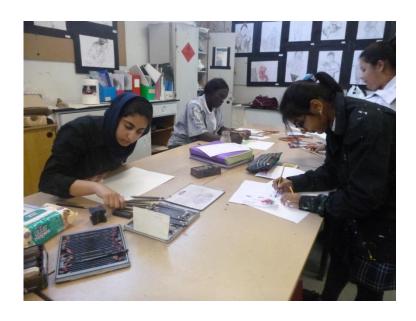
Mrs U Thangasamy Competition Organiser



Media Workshop



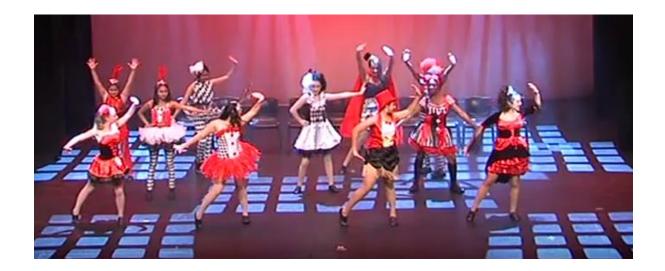
Early this term, Year 11 Visual Arts students had the opportunity to explore a variety of materials that could be used in their artmaking. Led by a representative from S&S Art Suppliers, the girls experimented with different methods of making marks or creating unique surfaces on two-dimensional works. Everything from graphite dust to pumice mediums were supplied in the 90-minute workshop, providing students with a range of avenues for exploration in their own works. They worked to develop tones, textures and linear patterns in eye-catching colours, producing exciting reference sheets that should assist the development of their skills and ideas next year as they prepare their major works.



Blacktown Festival of the Performing Arts

On Tuesday 22 August, members of Tribal Drum and the BGHS Dance Ensemble performed at the Blacktown Festival of the Performing Arts, an event which showcases outstanding primary and secondary school music, dance, choral and dramatic performances from the Blacktown area. Held at Wyndham College, the students attended rehearsal during the day and returned in the evening for the live performance. Congratulations to all the students involved!







Seussical the Musical Excursion



On Friday 21 July, Performing Arts students attended a performance of *Seussical the Musical* at the The Concourse in Chatswood held by the LOUD Theatre Company. Blacktown Girls High School students were lucky enough to meet many of the actors as well as dancers and acrobats after the show. They had the opportunity to ask questions about the theatre, performance and training, gaining valuable insight from professional members of the performing arts community here in Sydney.





A Day with the Archies

Year 10 and 11 Visual Arts students were excited to visit the 2017 Archibald Prize exhibition at the Art Gallery of New South Wales this term. The diversity of artistic techniques and subjects provided a rich source of inspiration and discussion as students considered their own artmaking and directions for their senior year in 2018. The Wynne and Sulman exhibition also broadened the options for investigation with many of the techniques capturing the girls' interest. After a brief walk to the quay and a light lunch, further exploration of the Sydney art scene was offered by a visit to the Museum of Contemporary Art, where the exhibition pieces challenged the students' ideas about how art is defined. An enjoyable and beneficial day for all, many of the students came away with new ideas and possible techniques that could be applied to their own work.





SALSA: Term 3 2017



During Term 3 the SALSA team has been working towards increasing the level of physical activity among students during lunch time.

Prior to Term 3, the group surveyed students to discover what they wanted to see happen at lunch time. From this they designed posters and a timetable to ensure the students knew what physical activities were going to be offered to them each day during lunch. There have also been weekly fitness facts and information about the benefits of physical activity mentioned in the daily student and staff notices read out each morning.

Every day during Term 3 the PDHPE staff have had students coming up to the staffroom to borrow sports equipment to play with, including badminton sets, handballs, basketballs, volleyballs and footballs.

The staff have also shown initiative and are improving their health through walking groups at lunch time and participating in an exercise fitness program after school each Monday.

We hope to see this positive energy and health consciousness continue into Term 4.





Student Statements

Kirsten: "Before SALSA I was excited to learn and teach other students about health, but the preparation made me nervous. As we taught the class, each lesson I gained more confidence. At the beginning of the canteen change process I felt proud knowing that we are going to make a difference and as we continued to work towards our goal my feelings varied from nervous to excited."

Zainab: "SALSA was a great opportunity to build my self-confidence. It helped me become more organised and made me more confident about standing in front of a bunch of people and talking. This was a great experience and I would love to build on it even more."

Najlaa: "When we started this program I was very nervous because I am not as confident as my peers. This experience helped strengthen my confidence but I am still working on it. I feel happy I'm a part of SALSA."

Book Week 2017

On Thursday 17 August, the Blacktown Reading Advisory Group (BRAG) held a Character Costume Day to bring students and books together and celebrate Book Week. The theme for this year was "Escape to Everywhere!" Students and teachers were encouraged to dress up in costume as a character from literature that represented this theme. Blacktown Girls participated brilliantly and it was exciting to see so many of our favourite characters come to life. A costume parade was held in the library where judging of the most creative and unique costumes took place.

Congratulations to the following students who received awards for the most interesting costumes:

Year 12 Group Effort: Characters from Alice in Wonderland.

Year 11: Madison Buck, Amy Lomax and Katelin Falconer as the Three Little Pigs.

Year7: Tasha Hyde as the Mad Hatter and Abishaa Yogarajah as the Little Mermaid.

BRAG also hosted a Kahoot trivia competition based on books and authors. Sixteen teams enthusiastically battled their way to the final. Congratulations to Brianna Johnson and all the members of the Year 10 team "EGG", who were crowned Quiz Champions.

Congratulations also to Maliha Royhan and Maheen Tariq of Year 8, who won prizes for the "Escape to Reading" poster competition with their eye-catching and creative entries.

Thank you to everyone for promoting Book Week and for your wonderful participation in all the activities!



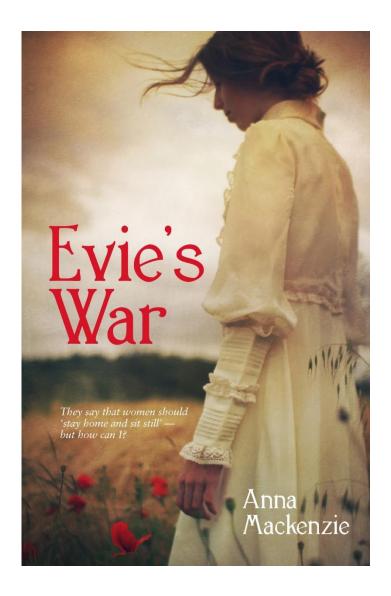


BRAG Corner: Book Reviews

Evie's War by Anna Mackenzie

Evie's War is an excellent, touching novel that illustrates the hardships experienced in World War I from a particular perspective. Evie, the protagonist, is an 18-year-old New Zealander who is excited by the prospect of a tour of Europe, expecting to enjoy herself, but instead is immersed in war. The young teen is confronted with a personal tragedy and is grievously wounded mentally and physically. Throughout the novel, Evie is challenged with family expectations, society's restrictions and just staying alive. She experiences the horrors of a casualty station behind the front lines, tending injured soldiers. When her health worsens, she returns to England and begins the battle to maintain her hard-won independence. I loved that Anna Mackenzie used the diary form as a technique to shape an understanding of the main character. This also made it easier for the responder to understand and follow the events that occur in the text. Overall, I rate this book a 4 out of 5 and strongly recommend it to readers interested in history, drama and diaries.

Hewan Workineh, Year 7



Hunted by Amanda Holohan

"Erebii souls were bound to their ink, which kept on living even after the bodies were gone. The Erebii were waging a never war. They needed a constant supply of replacement bodies, and that's what the city had supplied. Bodies the living ink could slip into and activate immediately. Humans."

Bea Azaeli, along with a few other survivors, has managed to survive the resistance and escape a prison for humans in the city, but now that they've all fled into the wild, the question is, will they survive? Those that had once been infected with controlling ink are now cursed with an atrocious illness, and the minimal supplies of food and water are a constant threat to all those who are still alive and in control of their own bodies. Bea wants nothing more than to keep her family safe, but with the enemies she has made, it will be no easy task. With her foes watching her every move, they are bound to get their revenge. And will Bea's hope of finding her beloved Red diminish, or will they bloom, just like the ink on her body? *Hunted* is a book that keeps you on edge every single time you read it. It is written in such a way that you want nothing more than to finish the thrilling tale of Bea and Red in hopes that their society will eventually find themselves free from the "ink". Thrilling, shocking and by far one of the best science fiction novels out there, *Hunted* is a must-read for all those who enjoy adventurous and exciting stories. Even if that is not your particular style of reading, give *Hunted* a shot. You'll be in love with it in the end. This sublime book definitely deserves 5 golden stars.

Pukhraj, Year 7



Words in Deep Blue by Cath Crowley

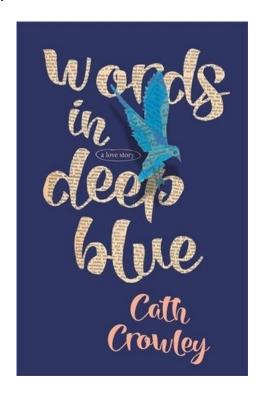
Since her brother Cal drowned, Rachel feels like she's lost everything and struggles to pull herself together. She has drifted away from friends, lost her academic drive, failed Year 12 and watched her mother become consumed by smoke and grief. Desperate to make a fresh start, she moves back to her hometown, Melbourne, where her life halted three years ago. Melbourne is where her unrequited love and former best friend Henry resides. He broke her heart just as her family moved to the seaside. It is the place where Howling Books is, the second-hand bookstore Henry's family owns. Rachel is travelling back with those unveiled memories which are still raw. She is returning back to those who have no idea Cal is gone.

Henry is also going through a stressful crisis of his own. Amy, the girl he once chose over Rachel, has been toying with his heart for years, and she's back at it again. Henry is heartbroken and devastated and may not ever love again. Subsequently, the family's second-hand bookshop is struggling, and Henry is tempted to side with his mother and sell the place—to get enough money to win back Amy—but when Rachel shows up to catalogue the shop's so-called Letter Library, things seem more confusing than ever and are spicing up.

Words in Deep Blue is a beautiful journey of love, grief and the power of words exploring the impact of grief on an individual, the influence of landscape in shaping and healing us, and the importance of words in connecting people. The novel is a coming-of-age story recounted as a dual narrative and aided with excerpts from letters and notes referring to a range of renowned poets and novelists. Cath Crowley has penned an interesting tale about self-discovery, growing up and resilience through flawed characters. This book offers something we all can learn from or implement to enhance our own lives. Words in Deep Blue is a fast-paced, moving story offering nourishment to readers who love words, books and the thrill of discovering the unexpected within pages or just life itself. The book is gripping and a must-read, which you simply won't want to put down without finishing.

4.5/5 stars

Nabila, Gaayathiri and Rachel, Year 7



BRAG Corner: Creative Writing

Sorcerer

She was proclaimed a sorcerer. I truly did not believe she was. Her long, jet black hair was as dark as the night sky, while her pale skin was as light as snow. She had an extremely skinny body. I could see the shape of her bones. She was fascinating and I wanted to know more about her. Sometimes she gave me a short glance, if I was lucky, usually when I was picking up the mail. I did not believe what people declared about her. Everyone warned me to stay away from her, but I couldn't see why. She was beautiful and I believed she was harmless. She wore a long, black, full-skirted dress and I noticed that she never left her house but always lingered on her front veranda. I rarely saw her interact with anyone and I was curious to find out why.

She took a longer glance at me this time, as I watched her through my window around midnight. It wasn't hard to see her at night, because the moon shone directly at her figure. She knew I was watching her, but she didn't seem to care. I felt a cold and weak feeling as I observed her. I wanted to go over to speak to her but my legs wouldn't move. She looked up at the moon as if in despair. I felt that I could sense her emotions.

On a gloomy Tuesday morning, I looked forward to seeing her again. I went outside to the mailbox, leaving the door fully open. There was nothing important in the mailbox, but when I turned around I was startled to see her standing just behind me. I walked slowly up to her and stared into her magnificent, dark, forest green eyes, wanting to say something, but I couldn't get myself to speak. She understood.

"I saw you watching me yesterday," she stated in a deep, quiet voice. I paused and took a second to regain my control.

"So you live opposite me, right?" I asked, trying to change the topic.

"Yes," she confirmed.

"Do you want to join me for breakfast?" I queried.

"No," she replied. No reason. No excuse, nothing. She walked away and did not look back, even for a second. I stared at the ground and noticed a rather odd-looking envelope. I thought it was hers and crossed the street to her house. I knocked on the door a few times, but there was no answer. I decided to give it to her later, maybe tonight, because I knew she would always be on her veranda, watching the night sky. I was tempted to open the envelope to see what was inside, but I resisted.

Hours passed. It was finally midnight. I looked through the window as usual. Surprisingly, she was not there. I decided to go to her house once again to see if she was at home. I knocked on the door four times and before my knuckles could touch the door again it released, creating a loud, creaking sound. It was pitch black and I could not see much; quite frankly I could not see anything. Just as the door was almost fully open I spoke a fearful, "Hello?" Nothing. I stepped inside and was grabbed. I heard a hoarse whisper.

"Why?"

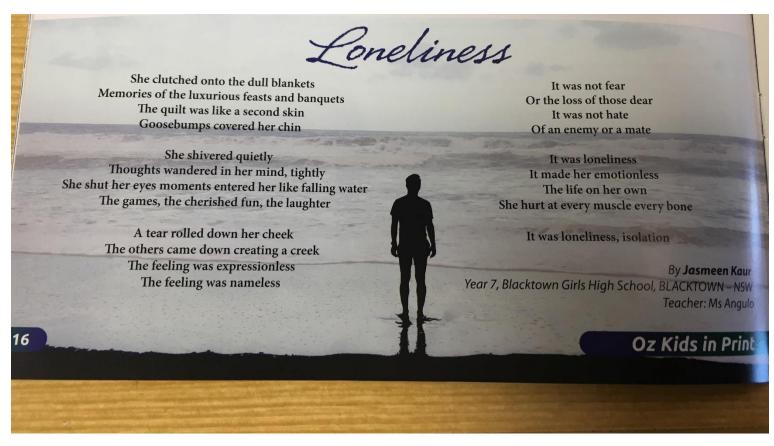
I observed the room. It had no other furniture, except the chair I was tied to.

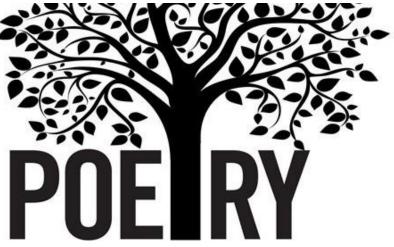
"Please," I begged as I saw a shadow. She walked into the light. I could see remorse in her eyes, they were watery, but not even one tear fell and finally she looked straight at me.

"You should have listened to them, you should have stayed away." She approached until her face was close to mine, her icy-cold hands slowly tracing the outline of my jaw. Finally, her fingertips reached my neck and she dug her long sharp nails into my flesh. It was a slow and painful encounter. My heart was pounding painfully. My eyes started to drift. People had warned me, but, foolishly, I had ignored them.

Hewan Workineh, Year 7

BRAG is pleased to announce that Year 7 student **Jasmeen Kaur** won a Certificate of Achievement for Writing Excellence from the Australian Children's Literary Board this term for her original poem, "Loneliness", which was published in the *Oz Kids in Print* literary magazine. Congratulations to Jasmeen on such an amazing achievement!

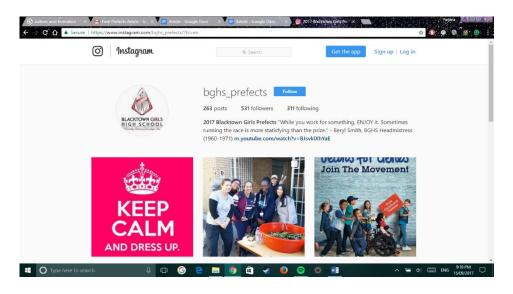




Prefect Article: Term 3 2017

During our last semester as prefects, we have had the honour of continuing the BGHS value of aiming to make a difference. The final part of our journey involved many exciting events, including hosting as well as attending student leadership conferences, maintaining our Instagram page (@bghs_prefects) to reach out to the student community, and the formal assembly, where we thanked the school for providing us with such a rewarding experience and welcomed the new prefects of 2017-2018.

Throughout 2016-2017, our prefect team utilised our Instagram account, @bghs_prefects, as a social media platform to communicate with Blacktown Girls students. This account was dedicated to ensuring the student body of Blacktown Girls remained up-to-date on events occurring at and around school. This included events such as Women's Week and Science Week as well as broadcasting events held by the Student Representative Council (SRC). Furthermore, we posted information about scholarships and work experience opportunities catered for Years 10 and 11. Finally, we introduced *Humans of BGHS*, an initiative inspired by the blog *Humans of New York*, through which we could share experiences, stories and quotes from the BGHS community. Sharing the diverse stories within our school has inspired students and staff, and has allowed us to build a stronger connection with our school community.



Student Leadership Conferences

What is the definition of leadership? What are the leadership skills one needs to truly be effective? These were the questions asked and discussed at the Student Leadership Conference held on the 2nd of June. In collaboration with the Blacktown Boys Prefect and SRC bodies, we had the honour to co-host this inspiring event, with the aim to network with other leadership bodies throughout New South Wales and challenge students' current perceptions on leadership and the values that shape it.

Ready, set, go! The Amazing Race was one of the first fun-filled challenges of the afternoon, encouraging students to utilise their problem-solving, communication and leadership skills to decode and win each obstacle they faced. Soon after, students delved into a competitive Kahoot trivia match aimed at developing strategic thinking skills under pressure. Both thrilling contests revealed new perspectives on the role and strengths of leaders and our ability to tap into these strengths with confidence and drive.

Concluding the evening on a positive, inspiring note, student ambassadors from the University of Sydney were invited to address the significance of leadership in the wider community and the pioneering opportunities leadership offers in university, shedding light upon the pathways available to us in the future.





As members of the prefect body, we have been fortunate enough to be invited to experience and learn from other schools' prefect and leadership teams through student leadership summits at Parramatta High School, Arthur Phillip High School and Girraween High School. Engaging with other Year 12 leaders has broadened and deepened our knowledge and provided us with innovative ideas that we can use to develop our own events here at BGHS. Through discussion of our own experiences as prefects we were also able to pass on ideas which we believe work well in achieving a productive and inspired school environment. For example, Parramatta High School collaboratively worked with their whole school to create hundreds of handmade origami paper planes with small, heart-warming messages of support and love written inside, which were then passed on to other students in the

school. This has been held annually to celebrate national "R U OK?" Day. We hope to develop a similar activity here at BGHS.

These conferences have been incredibly worthwhile opportunities that have really opened our eyes to the importance of school spirit and the power to positively influence others through leadership.



"I recently read in an article that the position of a leader comes without any manual, but instead with a handshake and a badge. But for us, it has been an extraordinary opportunity to collaborate to make a difference and bring our school community together, with the support of so many teachers and, most importantly, with the astounding participation of all the students."

Gayathri A., 2017 BGHS School Captain

Outgoing 2017 BGHS School Captain Gayathri's final speech aimed to reaffirm the notion of always pushing our limits and understanding our power to bring change and "to remember, you have within you the strength, the patience and the capacity to make a difference."

We are so proud of the BGHS community for working with us so enthusiastically to bring about change. We have always had the incredible support of students and staff helping us to make our vision for the school a reality.

At this term's Formal Assembly, we showed the school community the email sent to us by the CEO of the charity organisation One Girl and a video made for us by the organisation to congratulate BGHS on making a difference in the lives of girls in Sierra Leone and Uganda through our fundraising for their educational opportunities.

We then handed over our leadership position with a final video showcasing all the fun events from the past year and a final message welcoming the new prefects for 2017-2018. We would like to wish them good luck once again and we hope you enjoy and learn from this incredible opportunity. We know you will continue the legacy and values of Blacktown Girls High School and show that we are indeed the school that makes a difference.

Our leadership role has been an absolutely rewarding yet humbling experience and an amazing learning opportunity. We are both anxious and excited to close this chapter of our lives. Though our role as school prefects has come to an end, the lessons we have learnt live on and will help strengthen us into positive leaders of the future, and for that we are so deeply thankful to our school community.

