

Blackchat

Parent Newsletter



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2017: Issue 4 / Term 4

School Calendar

2018 School Term Dates

Term 1:
30 January –13 April

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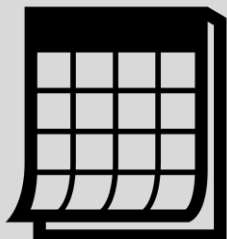
Term 2:
1 May–6 July

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Term 3:
24 July–28 September

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Term 4:
15 October–19 December



Welcome to the final edition of *Blackchat* for 2017. An inspiring school year of journeys, discoveries and fantastic accomplishments in academics, athletics and the fine arts has now reached its conclusion. Our students have impressed us with their talents all year and have earned a joyous, relaxing summer holiday. Here are some of the Term 4 highlights featured in this issue:

- Our students continue to perform well in the International Competition and Assessment examinations in mathematics, earning an impressive amount of Distinction and Credit Certificates for their efforts.
- Year 11 Visual Arts students travelled to Canberra to visit the National Art Gallery and National Portrait Gallery for research and inspiration, and Year 7 and Year 9 Art and Digital Media students won awards for their creations in national competitions.
- Two of our Year 10 students attended Global Dignity Day at the Parliament House of New South Wales to listen to keynote speakers and participate in a discussion about dignity within their communities.
- The H2O Crew, a group of innovative Year 7 Science students, participated in the FIRST Lego League National Robotics Championships at Macquarie University and earned a 1st place trophy for Gracious Professionalism.
- Debating students organised and participated in a Debating Gala Day with Blacktown Boys High School, sharpening their skills and strengthening their connection with their peers next door.
- Also of note, Year 10 student Larissa Jago placed 94 out of 15,822 syndicates in the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX) School Sharemarket Game. Larissa managed a virtual \$50,000 which she could invest over a 10-week period in 200 companies listed on the ASX. She earned a total profit of \$16,588. She dedicated herself diligently to the process and competed against older students with much more knowledge and experience in investing. Congratulations on a phenomenal achievement, Larissa!

Happy reading, and from all of us here at Blacktown Girls High School we wish you a wonderful holiday season and a glorious new year ahead!

International Competition and Assessment (ICAS) Mathematics Competition Results: 2017

95 students from Blacktown Girls High School participated in the ICAS Mathematics Competition 2017 and achieved outstanding results. Of this group, 12 students received a Distinction Certificate and 47 students received a Credit Certificate.

The following 12 students were awarded a **Distinction** Certificate:

Surabhi Hebbar Jasmeen Kaur Yuyang Yang Francis Fronteras	Riya Patel Paridhi Agarwal Vivianne Pham Siya Sachdeva	Melissa Artwoeger Charlene Melencion Sukhleen Khalsa Sylvia Charles
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The following 47 students were awarded a **Credit** Certificate:

Rafia Akanda Kanishka Arora Ria Bhatt Joycelyn Chen Oviya Chezhiyan Grace Annie-Rose Horvath Destinee Pukhrajdeep Kaur Ranjot Kaur Aanshu Patel Siddhi Patel Jasmeet Saini Neha Shinde Makajini Sriranjani Theja Thevathasan Alexandra Vergel	Kavisha Wijesinghe Nashrah Alam Jovel Espinosa Medha Karthikeyan-Sathyapriya Anwsha Khan Thrisha Loganathan Priyanka Maheswaran Ritu Patel Ramica Rajkumar Ambriel Reynolds Alessandra Salvador Shreesharanya Shekaran Roopika Subhash Mridula Tirumala Anoushka Venkatesh Simar Walia	Vaishvi Doctor Dhanya Gajanayake Sunidhi Gupta Ninuri Mahagoda Dareen Milman Thusitha Srineelavannan Aaniya Uppal Young Ju Wee Annisha Yogarajah Jashanpreet Bola Rida Chowdhury Muznah Naeem Aisha Nauman Kajel Raina Kimiko Trinidad
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We whole-heartedly congratulate all this year's participants!

Mrs. S. Kaur, ICAS Maths Competition Organiser

Culture in Canberra

The National Art Gallery in Canberra is currently hosting a major exhibition of artists and artworks which focus on presenting a personal version of reality. Extending from convincingly realistic sculptures to installations and virtual reality experiences, the exhibition showcases significant artists who form part of the required case studies for the senior curriculum in Visual Arts.

Year 11 Visual Arts students seized the opportunity to view these works first-hand, providing them with a more in-depth understanding of how the artworks were produced as well as identifying the scope of media and interpretations that can respond to an area of study such as hyper-realism (exaggerated realism). The girls were mesmerised by the life-like works and intrigued by video and holographic projections, resulting in quite diverse discussions.

Across the walkway from the gallery is the National Portrait Gallery which provided an intensive workshop for the students. A gallery educator provided insight into the ways that different artists addressed character, position and lifestyle through visual representation before engaging the students in a practical exercise. The educator's comment that our students were "the best group I have ever had" came as no surprise, with our girls showing interest, willing participation and enthusiasm throughout the workshop.

After a relaxing evening at a Stromlo conference centre on the outskirts of the capital, we left early to visit Canberra's Arboretum. This area was devastated by fire and has been systematically replanted to reflect the history of the site, including a variety of sculptural works that were of interest through their links between the artist and the area.

A huge thank you is extended to the gallery staff at both locations for their assistance with enquiries and informative responses as well as to Mrs. Adriana Crous, who drove the school bus for the excursion.



Success Stories

Congratulations are extended to Year 7 student Oviya Chezhiyan for her entry in the annual “Design an Ad” competition run by Fairfax Media Group. Her imaginative design gained her second place, which was awarded at a small ceremony at Westpoint Blacktown in the last week of November.

Ashley Prasad and Joanne Huang from our Year 9 Digital Media class both received a certificate and gold medal for their entries in the Young Australian Art Awards. Ashley’s portrait image “The Past” and Joanne’s work titled “Concealed” were both deserving of their award.

Oana Nadine Joya of Year 11 continued her studies at the Sydney Art School’s Dobell Drawing Course by participating in their incredibly competitive Intensive Studio Practice. Occurring during the Term 3 holidays, Oana had the opportunity to investigate a variety of techniques and materials outside the school environment, achieving commendable results. Oana’s participation will be documented on her Higher School Certificate.



Global Dignity Day at the Parliament of New South Wales

Two Year 10 students, Katai'I Toloke and San Win Aye Win, attended Global Dignity Day at the Parliament of New South Wales on Friday 20 October. Global Dignity Day is an annual event where students from both private and public schools are invited to listen to influential speakers and discuss the concept of dignity. Approximately 160 students attended the event on the day.

The purpose of the event is to raise awareness of the hardships faced by many in our communities. The keynote speaker was Aminata Conteh-Biger, the founder and CEO of the Aminata Maternal Foundation. Aminata grew up in Sierra Leone and was captured by rebel forces during the civil war there in early 1999. After her release, her refugee status was officially recognised and in 2000 she became the first-ever Sierra Leonean refugee woman to enter Australia.

Aminata has since led an amazing life, most recently culminating in the foundation of the Aminata Maternal Foundation. The aim of the foundation is to reduce the rates of maternal and new-born deaths in Sierra Leone by supporting multiple programs in the country for pregnant girls, many of whom are living in slums and other marginalised conditions. Her advocacy for maternal dignity and health coupled with her own powerful personal experience

placed her well to present the keynote speech, and she was an engaging presence on stage.

After listening to Aminata, students were provided with lunch and had the opportunity to meet peers from other schools. This was followed by smaller facilitated groups where students were provided with the chance to discuss their own experience of dignity within their communities.

Katai'I and San Win enjoyed the opportunity to visit the Parliament and engage in a discussion of dignity. "One thing we all have in common is that we want our dignity to be recognised," they commented. Both girls left with the thought that Australia is indeed a lucky country and that the experiences faced by people, particularly women, both here and abroad can and do affect us. The girls returned to school and discussed the concept of dignity with their peers along with what they learned from the keynote speaker. It was without a doubt a unique opportunity that was cherished by both the students and their teacher.



Debating and Public Speaking Report: 2017

This year we assembled two debating teams, one for Years 7&8 and one for Years 9&10, to participate in the Premier's Debating Challenge competition. We also had two students participate in the Junior Legacy Competition for public speaking.

We were extremely successful in debating, as our teams won all three rounds of debates at the regional level. The students were dedicated and enthusiastic, participating in coaching sessions throughout the year during their lunchtimes. We also debated at a zone level, reaching the quarter finals, but unfortunately did not advance through to the next round. All our students were fantastic and represented the school with passion and professionalism at each debate. The following students participated:

Year 7: Ridhima Saroya Kanishka Arora Kriti Mainali Siya Patel	Year 8: Harsha Kamalanathan Ramica Rajkumar Thrisha Loganathan Riya Patel
Year 9: Vaishvi Doctor Sidhika Garg Nabila Srotaswini Annisha Yogarajah Siya Sachdeva	Year 10: Minal Tanvir Muznah Naeem Rida Chowdhury Chelsie Uthayakumar

In public speaking two Year 7 students, Siya Patel and Jasmeen Kaur, participated in the Junior Legacy Competition. They both prepared excellent speeches on a topic of their choice and presented them with enthusiasm at this formal event.

This year we also attempted to further train and extend our students through a Debating Gala Day with Blacktown Boys High School. The purpose of this day was to challenge our students by having them debate in friendly matches. The teams were mixed so that students could work with the opposite gender at a professional level. This gave students the opportunity to gain confidence and develop an appreciation for what their work environment in the real world will be like, where they will have to collaborate with males as well as females. Students responded well to the day and learned a great deal from this experience.

Mrs. Lourdes Angulo, English Teacher & Debating and Public Speaking Coach







FIRST Lego League National Robotics Championships: H2O Crew

The FIRST Lego League National Robotics Championships were held this term at Macquarie University. The following Year 7 students represented Blacktown Girls High School in the competition:

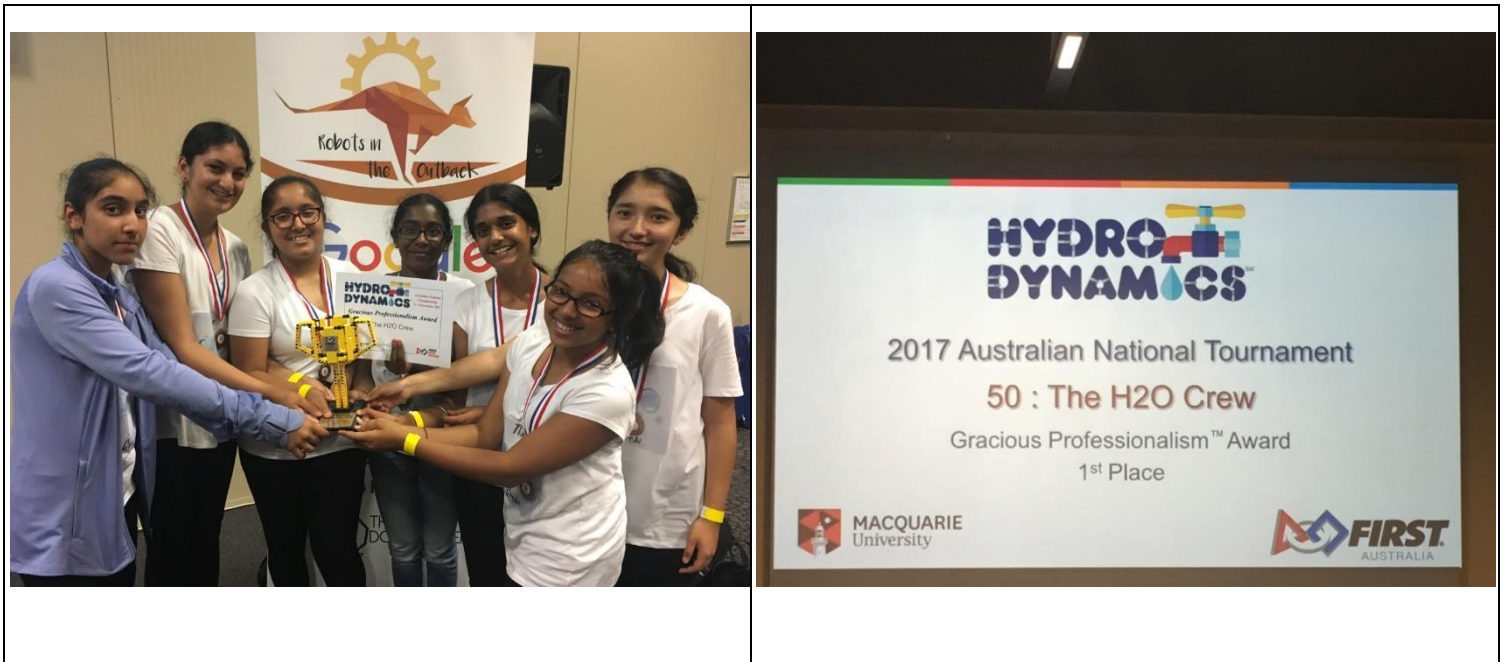
Pukhrajdeep Kaur
Ranjot Kaur
Ridhima Saroya
Jasmeet Saini
Makajini Sriranjjan
Ipsita Datta
Kannishka Arora

Dubbed the H2O Crew, the girls designed, built and programmed a LEGO EV3 robot to complete a series of challenges. The robot had to operate on pre-programmed instructions and complete as many missions as possible using Lego Mindstorms technology in a designated time of 2 minutes and 30 seconds. The team had 3 rounds to score as many points as possible, with the points from the best round overall counting as the team's score.

This year, the theme was centred on hydrodynamics and students had to develop a solution to a specific problem in this area. For their project, the H2O crew researched and designed a water-saving shower head and presented their findings to the judges.

Throughout the competition the team was also judged on their adherence to the Lego League Core Values, including Teamwork and Gracious Professionalism. It was in this latter category that students achieved 1st Place at the National Championship.

Congratulations on an outstanding performance, girls!



Prefect Page

Introducing the Blacktown Girls High School prefect body of 2017-2018:

Captain: Oana Joya
Vice Captain: Stephanie Bamgbose
Senior Prefect: Debbie Joseph
Senior Prefect: Serena Olatona

Prefects

Jessie Ma
Jennifer Latif
Rayana Ajaj
Malynith Chum
Mahina Manapori
Bianca Barton
Ghalia Maqsood
Ghashia Maqsood
Anne Snodgrass
Dustine Dequina

This term, to kick off our role as the new prefect body of Blacktown Girls High School for 2017-2018, we planned a Christmas Week encouraging and celebrating joy, festivity, giving and kindness.



A key event throughout the week was a gift donation to the Anglicare charity where students were able to bring in clothing and non-perishable food items and place them under the Christmas tree in the front office. This event was an initiative to promote the concept of giving and contributing to those in need this Christmas season. Another event spanning the entire week was Secret Santa. Students were able to send a candy cane accompanied with a thoughtful message to students and teachers of choice. The candy canes were personally delivered by the prefects in hope of promoting joy and kindness, spreading the Christmas spirit. These events led to the Christmas Finale at the end of the week where students were able to purchase Christmas treats from a bake sale, have traditional and white coloured henna designs done and engage with a Christmas photo booth complete with props where pictures were taken professionally, printed and delivered to students.

Christmas Week was ultimately a success thanks to the prefect body, who worked tirelessly to ensure the entire week ran smoothly, Mrs. Dean, our Prefect Coordinator who invested many hours with us planning and setting up for the week, and the countless other students and teachers that contributed to the occasion. The objective to promote school spirit, kindness, giving and festivity was sufficiently achieved as the student body enthusiastically participated in the Christmas Week activities.



The prefect body hope to conduct many more activities in the year to come to help build, promote and exercise school spirit, positively impacting the students of Blacktown Girls High School and contributing to a happier and more comfortable educational environment.

Debbie Joseph, Year 12 Senior Prefect

