



Parramatters

Parramatta High School Newsletter
FAX MENTIS INCENDIUM GLORIAE

“The torch of the mind lights the path of glory”

Our vision is to provide a holistic 21st century education which develops resilient individuals who are active and informed citizens, empowered to think critically and creatively, within an environment that values diversity, equity and resilience.

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Principal's Report



Dear Parent / Carers
Merry Christmas to the Parramatta High School Community!!

I take this opportunity to thank the students, parents and staff for making 2018 so successful and continuing to put your trust in our efforts to provide the best education we can for our students.

2019 will see some changes in the management practices and processes of the school. DOE has now completed the roll out of new reform for budgets, HR and school administration. However, we will take stock of our progress and assess where we are so that we can further improve our management of both NAPLAN and the HSC results our students are achieving. I am particularly keen to see improvement in HSC results.

I also wish to remind parents to use the school holiday periods for all leave. We have had over 120 applications for extended leave and over 30 of those in Term 4. It is the DOE'S expectation that the generous holidays students receive are used by parents rather than have your child miss important learning time. I will be reviewing this practice in 2019 and monitoring student leave carefully.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday. I look forward to seeing you in 2019 for and an exciting year in learning at PHS.

Many thanks to our caring community,

Domonique Splatt
Principal



CALENDAR 2019

TERM 1

Monday 28th January
PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Tuesday 29th January
Teachers return
Staff Development Day

Wednesday 30th January
Yrs 7, 11 & 12 Return

Thursday 31st January
Yrs 8, 9 & 10 Return

Friday 1st February

Monday 4th February

Tuesday 5th February

Wednesday 6th February
Elevate Study Skills Yr 12

Thursday 7th February

Friday 8th February

Year 8 Gifted and Talented Science Day at Western Sydney University 2018

On the 3rd of December 2018, nine aspiring students and Ms.Wu set out on a trip to the Parramatta campus of Western Sydney University to take part in their “ Year 8 Gifted and Talented Science Program”. The day started with speculations and curiosity. Remarks like, “I think the university will be massive!”, “Will we compete against the other schools?”, “I bet they have electron microscopes”, were frequently popping up in conversations throughout the journey to the university. As the M52 from Parramatta rumbled to a stop, nine students with big ideas and expectations stood to marvel at the glimpse of a great white building with larger opportunities within. This is what we, Ved, Parva, Hansh, Johann, Shlena, Amrita, Japesh, Sricharan and Lanthian experienced during our memorable time at Western Sydney University.

Upon our arrival, we were greeted with warm and welcoming smiles by the staff and university students. There were six other high schools alongside ours and our task was to collaborate. This encompassed attempting various kinds of experiments in three different laboratories of the university called “Colour, Create and Cool”. We were assigned to work with those of Penrith High School thus, opening a huge window for learning, exchanging information and working together. In pairs, we experienced a series of practical experiments under the supervision of the extremely flamboyant university students. As time flew, we created dry-ice fire extinguishers, nylon polymers and attempted various other fun-filled and

interesting experiments. In addition, our visit also allowed us to question various staff and students to understand their perception of science, thus making us realise how diverse and enjoyable the vast subject really is.

Purple fires, liquid nitrogen ice creams, colour changing flowers and gloves that expanded magically really made us think about, ”what not to enjoy?”. Practicals that we particularly enjoyed were those that involved us, students, to produce something, marvel at the results and ask the scientific questions. Students got the opportunity to make slime and taste ice cream made from liquid nitrogen (which was the highlight of the day for many!). Apart from all this, we students really got a chance to interact with students not only from other schools but also our own. We got the opportunity to communicate with peers whom we hadn’t interacted with earlier. Thus, at the end of the day, we weren’t students from our separate classes, but from one school.

While a few things did bring life to the excursion, what we enjoyed most could only be the Science! The main goal of our journey was engaging with other schools and building our base in an often feared subject. This “mission” brought joy and colour into the subject which we often associate with boredom and complexity.

Throughout this experience, we have taken away a heap of information through practical activity. What’s most important however was the fact that all nine of us were more than ever keen to learn more, keep exploring and apply our knowledge in the real world, which was, ultimately, the chief aim of our excursion.

By Ved Khanolkar and Parva Teli

THANK YOU

FROM GILGANDRA

This letter was sent to us from the Gilgandra High School, School Captain.

Dear Mrs Moore and Parramatta High School

On behalf of not only all the staff and students at Gilgandra High School but also the wider community of Gilgandra, I would like to truly thank you for all your time, effort, organising, hard work and travelling that was undergone in the process of your very generous fundraising.

We often hear the phrase, "it's the thought that counts", but I don't believe that my vocabulary could even begin to express how deeply your kind thoughts of those doing it tough, meant and truly touched the students and staff at Gilgandra High School.

When Mr Schier told my class about the plans for your school to visit and why your school had chosen to visit us in particular, at the time I didn't expect it to have such the significant impact that it did. On the morning of our joint breakfast I was truly blown away with the out going and kind nature of all your beautiful students who seemed so interested in the lives of our students, asking questions about what classes we took, what were our hobbies, and how old we were. These questions very quickly turned into conversations full of wide smiles and laughter, from then it didn't take long to see friendships blooming.

For the students of Gilgandra High, this experience was invaluable. It not only provided us with a day off the books in which everyone could relax, stop work and enjoy the company of old and new friends while exploring the sites that Gilgandra has to offer. It also allowed our students eye's to be widened, with many leaving the experience with new understandings of different cultures, values and really with the realisation that "city kids" are really not all that different to ourselves.

A key aspect that the SJL, SRC and teachers of your school expressed was developing a strong bond between our two schools, crafting a long-lasting relationship. I am deeply grateful that as my first year as captain I am blessed enough to be a part of such a pivotal moment in both of our school's history, it truly is a once in a lifetime opportunity. I hope that from our actions it will create the ripple affects that will impact other schools in the same positive way, urging them to reach out in order to develop the same kind of long-lasting friendships that we now have.

We all look forward to the day we get to venture up to Parramatta High School and engulf ourselves in the lives of your students and community. I believe the future has many great things in store for Gilgandra and Parramatta High School.

PS: My Dad, is a long serving devoted Parramatta supporter in rugby league. His father was a supporter also and so are my two older brothers, so it is with a happy heart that he gives this relationship his full blessing.

Yours truly,
Ruby Schembri

CLASS COMPOSITION FOR 2019

Classes for years 7 – 10 have a new format for next year.

Classes will be listed as follows:
Selective classes will be labelled with letters A and B.
Mainstream will be labelled C-G and C-H in Year 7 2019 only.



