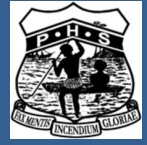




Parramatters



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.

ISSUE 14 | TERM 4 | 6th NOVEMBER 2020

Principal’s Report

Dear Parent / Carers



We are almost half way into Term 4 and planning for 2021 has already begun.

The NSW Department of Education has recently announced changes to School Development Days beginning in January 2021.

Please take note of these changes as they may impact arrangements at home.

Commencing at the start of 2021, there will now be two School Development Days at the beginning of Term 1 and only one School Development Day at the end of Term 4.

The School Development Days are scheduled for the following dates:

- 27 and 28 January.
- Years 7, 11 and 12 students return 29 January 2021.

There will be no changes to:

- the total number of School Development Days – remaining at five days
- The length of the school year for staff or students (students will start and finish the school year one day later)
- School Development Days occurring at the commencement of Terms 2 and 3.

A reminder that students are due to finish Term 4 on Wednesday December 16.

Best Wishes
Domonique Splatt

CALENDAR 2020 TERM 4

Week 5

HSC Examinations
Year 7-10 Examinations may continue
Friday 13th - Year 12 sign-out day

Week 6

High Resolves for Years 7 & 8
Friday 20th – Careers Excursion
Dental Van visit

Book Published

We here at Parramatta High School are always keen to hear about the accomplishments of past students. The School recently received an email from former student, Les Denham, informing us that a book he has written has been published. Please read the email below:

All at PHS,

PHS has always been interested in accomplishments by people who were educated there, so it occurred to me you might like to know that my memoir covering the year I spent in Antarctica (fifty years ago) has been published.

"Blizzards and Broken Grouzers -- a Year of Antarctic Glaciology" was released by the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG) earlier this month. The book (paper or e-book) is now available on the SEG website.

Les Denham (LC 1958)

Blizzards and Broken Grouzers

<https://seg.org/shop/products/detail/237626086>

Student ID cards



Students must bring their ID cards to school with them every day.

Thank you



Attendance at Parramatta High School

Care Provider Responsibilities:

- Sending students to school on every day instruction is provided
- Promoting a positive attitude towards school attendance
- Providing written or verbal explanations for each absence from school
- Cooperating with school attendance policy

Student Responsibilities:

- Attending school punctually on each day that instruction is provided
- Attending all lessons punctually
- Remaining in class at all times unless given permission to leave
- Bringing notes from parents/caregivers to explain absences
- Cooperating with school attendance policy

Dental Visit



The Dental Van will return to Parramatta High School on November 16th

Australian Geography Competition

Earlier this year on Monday 24th March, a number of students from Year 7 to 10 participated in the 2020 Australian Geography Competition. Students tested their geographical skills and knowledge against students from all around Australia in the Competition.

We have finally received the results after a long wait, due to COVID-19 delays. The HSIE staff are pleased with how students have performed. We have a number of student geographers at our school who performed to a very high level in the Competition this year with one student in the top 1% in their Year Level across Australia, five gaining high distinctions, five distinctions and seven credits.



We would like to congratulate **Nithooshan Suresh in Year 10** for achieving in **top 1% across Australia**. Also, we would like to acknowledge the following students for receiving **High distinctions: Vishal Chiluvary, Vinaya Rathinam, Arnav Shrivastava, Aaron Macadangdang, Aarzo Garg**. Congratulations to all the students that participated in the competition.



LIBRARY BOOK WEEK NEWS



Check this out! Borrow me! Come down to the library before school, recess and lunch and read any one of our wonderful **Jokes** books!

Why are libraries the tallest buildings in the world? Because they have so many stories! 😊



Explore our Audiobooks with 24/7 access using your computer or mobile device!

To access the Wheelers Audiobooks titles, follow these simple steps:

1. Open Google Chrome (Not Internet Explorer)
 2. Type, or copy and paste the web address <http://parramattahs.eplatform.co/>
 3. Click Sign In
 4. Login/password: Use your existing DET login/password
- (The Wheelers Audiobook link is also available on our OLIVER Homepage, under the "News" tab).



CAREERS NEWS

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Australian university Rankings 2020/2021 provides an insight into our universities; giving their strengths and characteristics which distinguishes them from each other. You can access the site using the link below:

<http://www.gooduniversitiesguide.com.au/universit-rankings/2021/overall-quality>

As the closing date for university applications draws closer, many students start to panic about choosing their preferences, however, it is not unusual to have a change of mind.

Go to

<https://www.gooduniversitiesguide.com.au/education-blogs/student-life/why-it-s-ok-to-change-your-study-path>

Excursions coming up:

For year 10 students:

- Maritime Museum: Exploring careers in Science/History. Friday November 20th: Workshop on Maritime Archaeology/talks on careers in related areas/tour of museum. Notes available Monday Nov 9th.
- Careers excursion to Ultimo Tafe. Thursday November 26th: Tafe-it's more than you think.
- Excursion to ACU campus North Sydney. Wednesday December 2nd: Courses/careers/tertiary options.
- All excursions will involve only small groups of students. Risks assessments have been created and COVID safety checks are in place. I will try to arrange more excursions for interested students, depending on what is available.

Mrs M.Ibrahim
Careers Advisor

Parramatta High School featured in the Sydney Morning Herald.

Please read the article below:

'One of the hardest exams I've come across': New maths common content splits HSC students

By [Natassia Chrysanthos](#) - The Sydney Morning Herald.

October 26, 2020 — 8.05pm



HSC student Manya Jain, from Parramatta High, after finishing the new advanced exam, with head maths teacher Belinda Aylett. LOUIE DOUVIS

Many standard mathematics students have decried the difficulty in their HSC exam, after the tests were changed this year to allow for better comparisons between different levels of senior school maths.

Monday's exams marked the first time that standard maths, the lower-level non-calculus course, shared common questions with the intermediate-level calculus course, advanced mathematics.

Almost a quarter of exam content – 23 out of 100 marks – was the same across both papers on Monday morning but teachers could only speculate about what form it would take.

Parramatta High School head of maths Belinda Aylett said there was a "little bit of surprise" in the final product. "I do think it was unexpected ... For the advanced students it was fine, but the standard students found it challenging," she said.

"The common content was from a variety of different topics. It was definitely difficult for some of the students to answer those questions – some were really thrown."

The common elements included a two-part, 4-mark financial maths question that involved calculating interest, and a 4-mark question asking students to calculate the area of a decagon based on its perimeter. One of the more puzzling questions was a 5-mark statistics problem.

Those questions will give the NSW Education Standards Authority and the Universities Admissions Centre data that allows for a better comparison of student performance across the two subjects.

It follows years of concern that advanced students were being disadvantaged in scaling while their peers opted for the easier maths course to score higher marks and boost their ATAR. Almost 17,000 students sat the advanced exam on Monday, while 30,757 sat the standard test.

Parramatta High student Manya Jain, who sat the new advanced exam, said she felt relatively prepared despite a lack of past papers. "It was definitely challenging, but it has to be the first year," she said.

But standard maths student Rasheel Tannous, from St Mary's, had a very different experience. "That exam was one of the hardest exams I have come across," she said. "During my reading time, I really thought that the papers with advanced and standard got mixed up."

She thought most of the shared questions were too advanced for her knowledge, and regretted that she did not have a full grasp of some topics that had been taught during lockdown earlier this year.

Manly student Lydia Virgo agreed. "The last thing I expected was for NESA to make the exam 10 times more difficult than last year's exam. There were terms used in some questions that I had never even heard of before," she said.

"Some questions I had to read and re-read at least five times to finally understand. And then there were just some questions I didn't even know how to approach. I'm extremely disappointed."

Continuing in Term 4, 2020

Mathematical Association of NSW president Karen McDaid said teachers were reporting that the common questions had not been well received. Standard students found the 5-mark statistics question, which was second-last in their exam, particularly difficult.

"Some teachers are saying that their students are very upset and that the standard paper was hard," one teacher said. "Students are upset that they hadn't known what to expect," another said.

A NESA spokeswoman said the authority had "received feedback from a number of students and parents about today's Maths Standard 2 exam being difficult".

"NESA confirms that all questions asked within today's Maths Standard 2 exam were within the scope of the syllabus," she said.

"All HSC exam papers are designed to differentiate student achievement. NESA will monitor marking of the Maths Standard 2 paper very closely."

Dr Julie Greenhalgh, principal of Meriden, [which typically performs well in maths](#), had a similar view. "The standard paper was more difficult than previously but not inappropriately so," she said.

"The advanced paper covered a wide range of topics and many questions were accessible, particularly those on the new syllabus content. There was an appropriate mix of routine, familiar questions from the old format, interspersed with the new."

YEAR 12, 2020

Congratulations to our Year 12 students who have been completing their HSC examinations.

- The final HSC exam will be held on Wednesday November 11.
- Year 12 sign-out day is on Friday November 13.
- The Year 12 formal will be held on Thursday November 26.

In accordance with advice from [NSW Health External link](#), parents and carers are reminded **NOT** to send children to school if they are unwell, even if they have the mildest flu-like symptoms.

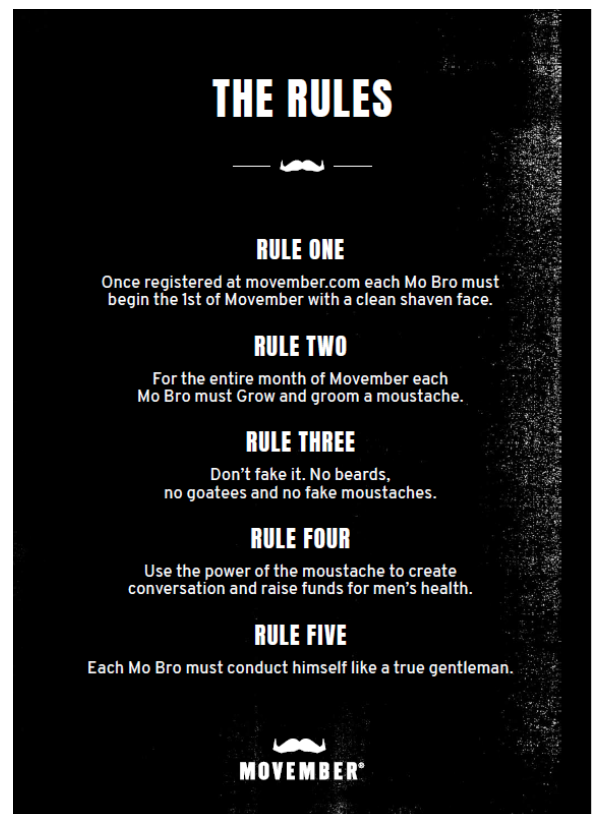
NSW Health has requested that schools encourage anyone who is unwell or has even mild flu-like symptoms, to arrange to be tested through their local medical practitioner or one of the [COVID-19 clinics External link](#).

Students and staff with flu-like symptoms will need to be tested and provide a copy of a negative COVID-19 test result and be symptoms free before being permitted to return to school.

Students who do not undertake a COVID-19 test result will not be permitted to return to school for a 10 day period. Additionally, they must be symptom free for at least 3 days prior to returning to school.

Students who have seasonal allergic rhinitis or another condition that presents similarly to flu-like symptoms are still required to get tested for COVID-19 and return a negative test result. Where their symptoms continue beyond 10 days, students should provide documentation from their GP confirming their symptoms are typical for their condition. If the student develops new or changed symptoms, they should get tested for COVID-19.

IT'S HERE...



VIRTUAL REALITY IN HSIE



THE HSIE FACULTY HAS RECENTLY INTRODUCED VIRTUAL REALITY HEADSETS INTO OUR LESSONS. STUDENTS CAN NOW EXPERIENCE ANOTHER WORLD IN THE SAFETY OF THE CLASSROOM.

STUDENTS ABOVE WERE TOURING ANCIENT AND MODERN JAPAN, IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR STUDY OF JAPAN UNDER THE SHOGUNS FOR YEAR 8 HISTORY.

INTRODUCING



STUDENT

AUSSIE INVENTIONS

THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

COMPETITION

During Term 4 2020, ClickView is running a nationwide search for Australia's next generation of inventors. Students have the chance to pitch their inventions to an expert panel, including some of Australia's leading innovators. The competition is free to enter and open to all primary, secondary, TAFE and university students in Australia.

Inspired by the series, Aussie Inventions That Changed The World, the competition encourages students to think creatively as an individual or team. For inspiration, [visit the ClickView website](#) to watch the full series.

Students, time to start thinking creatively!

Inventions can be any type, size or functionality and solve any kind of problem. It could solve a problem, make life more interesting or just be incredibly cool!



IMPORTANT DATES

Competition launches 8 October 2020
Entries open 30 November 2020
Entries close 17 December 2020
Winners announced 1 February 2021

Who can enter

The competition is open and free to enter for all primary, secondary, TAFE and university students in Australia.

For more information and how to enter, visit www.clickview.com.au/aussie-student-inventions/

For more resources about the competition, visit clickv.ie/w/1hHo.



Amazing prizes for winners in all five categories

The winners of each category will receive:

- Two mentoring sessions with the judging panel, to help them make their concept a reality
- Cash from ClickView towards their creation process
- Invaluable exposure to networks of innovators, via the networks of the judging panel, and ClickView's industry peers, audiences and customer network.



Mentor & Judges



Sally Dominguez

[Sally Dominguez](#) is an inventor, serial entrepreneur, architect and futurist with seven international product awards. Sally designed the Adventurous Thinking innovation strategy used as a 10X Mindset by organisations including NASA. She judged Car of the Year for 10+ years, was an expert judge on ABC's New Inventors, and co-hosted Aussie Inventions That Changed The World. Sally is an ambassador for Good Design Australia, Faculty at Singularity University in Silicon Valley and teaches Adventurous Thinking at Stanford.

Dr Niraj Lal

[Dr Niraj \(Nij\) Lal](#) is an Australian physicist, presenter and author. He's a principal at the [AEMO](#), hosts [Imagine This](#), is a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Sustainable Energy Systems at ANU, and Director of First Principles. In 2012, Nij graduated as a Gates Scholar with a PhD in Physics from the Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge. Nij has taught Science at levels ranging from pre-school to post-graduate and, in 2016, was named one of the ABC's Top 5 Scientists Under 40.



Evan Clark

Evan Clark graduated from UNSW in 2003 with a Bachelor of Telecommunication Engineering. While studying, Evan invented a way to deliver on-demand HD video to schools over IP networks using MPEG-4 compression standard. The underlying invention was "predictive file transfer" and led to his co-founding of ClickView in 2003. Evan won the 2015 EY Entrepreneur of the Year award. He continues to enhance education by leveraging immersive rich-media technology in AR and AI-driven non-linear video playback.

For more info and how to enter, visit www.clickview.com.au/aussie-student-inventions/