As the year draws to a close and we reflect on 2015, we could not be prouder of our staff and students. It has been a year full of challenges ALL of them positive because of the opportunities for development they afforded us. The school is growing and changing. Our numbers are increasing as each day passes. Some of our year groups are operating at capacity.

We have been so pleased to welcome a high number of new enrolments, late this year, from other schools and countries, who have settled quickly into our community. We hope they feel that they are a part of our Condell Park HS family, because we do.

If you follow the activities reported in our newsletter and our Facebook page, you would be aware that the philosophy of our school is driven by the understanding that learning is not confined to the textbook or four walls of a classroom. Learning is achieved through daily, productive enquiry, exploration, experimentation, reflection and evaluation. The staff at our school work so hard to provide as many exciting opportunities for your students as possible and we do so under the assumption that our parents recognise this value and support us. Our P&C meetings are full of parents who are eager to work in partnership with our staff to improve the learning outcomes of our students. We thank them for this. I would like to extend much appreciation to our volunteer parents Mrs Turk and Mrs El Kheir for the time they have given to individual students and groups. I urge and encourage our parents to join the P&C and attend the information sessions and workshops focusing on improving student learning in 2016.

I would like to pay particular tribute to our substantive Principal, Susie Mobayed. While the school is running exactly as if she is here, we have felt her absence. She has been an inspiration to all of us. Her strength, courage and persistence in the face of ongoing challenges have demonstrated a capacity that we all should aspire to. What has driven Ms Mobayed at ALL times, in her personal and professional life is her passion for education and improving outcomes for students. This level of community service is insurmountable and invaluable. We could not begin to grasp the impact she has had on the lives of students and staff that have crossed her path. We look forward to her return in mid-2016.

The student prefect body recently visited a number of local primary schools to inform students and staff about White Ribbon Day, which was on Wednesday 25 November. White Ribbon Day is Australia’s campaign to prevent men’s violence against women and this year the message was very clear - NOT SILENT NOT VIOLENT!

Condell Park High School donated over 3000 white ribbons to students at Wattawa Heights Public School, Bankstown Public School, Bankstown West Public School, Georges Hall Public School, Yagoona Public School and Condell Park Public School as well as having the Captains from each school be part of a White Ribbon Day painting which will hang proudly in our school foyer.

If you or anyone you know is experiencing any kind of violence in the home, please SPEAK OUT! Contact the National hotline 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732).
Congratulations to the following Year 11 students, who have been appointed to represent Condell Park High School in 2016.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ayman Douar</td>
<td>Captain</td>
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<td>Mary Welsh</td>
<td>Captain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vina Ta</td>
<td>Vice Captain</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Ghabache</td>
<td>Vice Captain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aisha Sukeik</td>
<td>Ambassador</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ali Bayad</td>
<td>RESP Captain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samia Belani</td>
<td>Sports Captain</td>
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<td>Jody Luisi</td>
<td>Sports Captain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hassan Kurdi</td>
<td>Senior Prefect</td>
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<td>Everina Toomalatai</td>
<td>Community Service Captains</td>
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<td>Sarah Madrajat</td>
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<td>Chris D</td>
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On Friday 28 August, Tami Tran, Kriston Do, Samah Najjarine and Enessa Huseinspahic participated in the CAPA Cross Network Concert. This project included a variety of musical, drama and dance items involving schools across NSW regions. The girls from CPHS performed in a Hip-Hop Dance routine at this concert and enjoyed working with students from other schools. They were excellent representatives of our school, dancing in both a matinee and night performance.
On 28 October the Year 9 and 10 Music classes went on an excursion to the Sydney Lyric Theatre to watch ‘Matilda the Musical’ with our class teachers Ms Watts and Ms Kessegian. We made our way to the city by catching a bus then a train after Period One. It was a wonderful day as we got to eat lunch in the city and enjoy the famous views. We felt very lucky that our school had given us the opportunity to experience Sydney Harbour at its best. After lunch we walked to the theatre to watch the musical. We enjoyed the wonderful performance. The acting, dancing, singing and light show was worth every minute. There were amazing songs that accompanied the story and it was a very entertaining and enriching performance to watch. After the performance, we walked back to the station to catch the train home. Without a doubt it was one of the best excursions of 2015 and I am sure that every one of us that went will remember Matilda for a very long time to come. Thank you to Ms Watts and Ms Kessegian for taking us, looking after us during the day and bringing us home safely!!!

H’tee Aung

Congratulations to Rianne El-Zein who participated in Work Experience at the NSW Public Defenders Office. Rianne applied for this placement through the Barristers Chambers and was accepted due to her professionalism and enthusiastic attitude. Whilst at Work Experience, Rianne assisted the barristers and solicitors with the preparation of cases, as well as attending court daily. She spent many hours observing and learning the different roles within the legal field and hopes to one day join this profession.
Brain Awareness Week

Year 8 students celebrated National Brain Awareness Week on 7 August this year with a number of scientists from the University of Sydney. Twelve scientists from the university came to CPHS to conduct hands-on activities with our students. Students explored various concepts such as the anatomy of the brain, olfaction, sensory perception and reflexes. This activity is part of a program run by the CSIRO called Scientists in Schools where students get to work with real scientists. Our Year 8 students were truly inspired by the scientists and enjoyed the opportunity to ask questions about careers in Science. It was a valuable experience for the Year 8 students and we hope to see our partnership with the scientists continue in the future with more fun and educational experiences for our students.

Ms Chanaoui

SRC Leadership

On Thursday 5 November Ali Mehdi (Year 8), Hassan Kurdi (Year 12), Htee Aung (Year 10) and I were invited to attend an SRC leadership seminar at Birrong Boys High School. This seminar focused on our student voice and how we, as leaders, are able to improve the transitioning of Year 6 students into high school. We were asked to prepare and present how our school showcases our student voice, and how we, as a united school, can provide a safe and welcoming environment for new students shifting from primary to high school. After listening to eight other presentations from various schools, we were able to gather ideas that would benefit our school in the future. The group activities allowed us to establish friendly relations with other schools and compare our ideas. It was a very interesting and beneficial excursion and we thank Miss Wahsh for organising it!

Aisha Tlais, Year 10
On 27 August Year 11 Biology attended a full day program on the ‘Evolution of Australian Biota’ unit. This was developed by the Australian Museum, the Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust and Taronga Zoo. Students examined fossils, specimens, live animals and plants to investigate the evolution and adaptations of Australian animals and plants. Students spent half a day at the Australian Museum and half a day at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney. Students worked in small groups and performed first-hand investigations using fossils and specimens of Australian animals to compare current and extinct forms. Activities focused on Australian megafauna and on platypus evolution. Students then gathered and analysed information from displays in the Surviving Australia exhibition to examine reasons for the evolution, survival and extinction of Australian fauna and the contribution palaeontology makes to our understanding of past and future environments. Students also investigated native Australian plants, including the forests of Gondwana, living plant fossils, and pollination strategies of some modern species. Finally, the Taronga Zoomobile visited the Garden allowing students to interact with live animals while learning about the adaptations and evolution of native Australian animals including kangaroos and echidnas. Mrs Kalaz

The Parents & Citizens Association of Condell Park High School invited the School Executive, teachers and staff to a morning tea on 4 November to extend to them their thanks and appreciation for their ongoing support of our school community. Invitations were also extended to the guest speakers who have been lecturing parents and holding workshops to raise parent and community members awareness of many aspects of life. The parents offered all sorts of delicious food to our guests and Ms Mobayed was able to attend, which delighted parents and staff. Our school is privileged to have a highly experienced and committed team of Community Liaison Officers who, through the years, have been able to build and develop strong relationships with the wider community.
During the September/October school holidays, Luke Dewberry and Ms Simoes joined a group of 26 teachers and students on a science excursion to the NASA Space Camp in Alabama, USA. In addition to Space Camp, the students also visited the California Science Centre, NASA Ames Research Centre in San Francisco and numerous tourist attractions such as Google headquarters, Universal Studios, California Adventure Land, Sea World and Alcatraz. Three days were also spent in South Korea, which allowed students to experience a new culture and discover new developments in science and technology. If students are interested in attending Space Camp next year, they are encouraged to make enquiries with a member of the Science faculty.

In the past twelve weeks, a selected number of Year 10 students participated in the Creating Chances workshop. Creating Chances is a program run by Football United, an organisation all about bringing people together through the magic of sport. The students learned about qualities that not only sportsmen use but what they could use in everyday life such as team work, goal setting, decision making, conflict resolution and communication. Thank you to the Football United ambassadors who came to our school to run the workshop and a big thank to Mrs Chahine who made the workshop possible.

Abdelrahman Atia Year 10
Students have been involved in many mathematical activities throughout the last term of 2015. Week 5 was the annual celebration of “Maths Week”. Throughout the week, students participated in maths challenges and games, which saw them engage in some healthy competitions. We also had lunch time activities, such as the Pie Eating Contest, the Fruit Bob, Maths Quiz and the Amazing Race. Students participating in these activities were very happy to showcase their maths skills. The Chess Club also held their annual competition, with Catherine Jandal being named the Junior Champion and Ben Huang, the Senior Champion. Thank you to Mrs Wu, who runs the Chess Club every Thursday for those students who are interested.

New Robotics sets were introduced during Maths Week. This is a significant resource in teaching students Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) skills that are critical in 21st Century Learning. The week ended with the World of Maths presentation. This involved students from Year 7 and 8 working in groups to solve puzzles and games of a mathematical nature. It was great to see them so involved and developing their problem solving skills without realising it!! Thank you to the parents who supported this opportunity to develop these skills in their children.

We have received the results for the Mathematics Competition, which was held in July. It is pleasing to announce that we had nine students who gained a Credit Certificate (top 30%) and one student, Malek Karare, who received a Distinction, (top 10%). These are excellent results that the students should be very proud of. Once again, the Mathematics staff would like to thank all of the parents who helped encourage their children to participate in this competition.

We hope everyone has a relaxing and safe summer holiday and we look forward to another exciting and productive mathematical year in 2016.

MADMaker Program

In Term 4, students from Year 9 Science 1 participated in the MADMaker program run by The University of Sydney. MADMaker is a 6-week online course aimed at stage 5 students with a goal to educate them about embedded systems (electronic devices) and their use in everyday life. It involves using the entry-level Arduino Esplora programmable board and desktop ‘Processing’ programming language to investigate fun and interactive ways to use science, technology, engineering and maths to solve real-world problems. Students completed a series of designed challenges through the first 5 weeks, including programming the Esplora board to play musical notes and creating a simple lunar lander game. The final week of the project allowed the students to use their new knowledge to design a program of their own. Some of the fantastic designs included: a game controller, music player, light show and password lock. Overall, it was a great opportunity for Condell Park High School students to experience the world of embedded systems which are vital for further careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.
THANK YOU to the local businesses that support our students through Work Experience opportunities, Workplace learning and fundraising. Condell Park High School is very appreciative to have your continued school involvement.

Peppertree Cafe and Catering is a Social Enterprise Café. Great coffee, food and catering services. Training and helping young people in South Western Sydney.

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