The past term has been filled with a calendar of special events, field trips, learning milestones and community service activities. As usual, Condell Park High School is filled with purpose. Staff and students alike are working towards their goals, reminding us that productivity and the pursuit of excellence are worthy daily practices.

At the beginning of this term Ms Mobayed was asked to provide her leadership expertise to another school temporarily. While I have the special responsibility of relieving in her place, Ms Mobayed has direct contact with the school regularly. Both Mr Harding and I speak to her daily and she visits the school grounds at least once a week. Both staff and students have carried on with their responsibilities and expectations because nothing has changed. The same high standards and firm commitment to our RESP values and rules remain enforced consistently.

Last Tuesday, Mrs Nielsen and I had the pleasure to attend the annual Zonta West Citizenship awards dinner. We accompanied our prizewinner, Mary Welsh who presented an engaging and thought provoking speech about her active participation at Condell Park High School. Mary was an exemplary representative of our school and all that is positive about the young students who we have the privilege of educating daily. Ms Watts oversaw Jody Luisi, Tyron Rio and Matthew Laupepa when they were selected by the Performing Arts Unit to perform in a special drumming piece a few weeks ago. The boys were complimented on their musical talent and their performance showcased the amazing skill development and opportunities available in the public education sector for students who are eager to participate and be exposed to new things.

In the past term, we have had teachers representing almost all our faculties take on special projects that demand additional time outside the classroom- above and beyond the call of duty. These involve special tutorial sessions, projects with universities or specialised workshops. Without being blessed with such dedicated staff who actively seek out special opportunities for our Condell Park kids, we would not even know what we were missing! A great big thank you to all our teachers who give so much of themselves and their time!

Mrs Dabaja

Centenary of Anzac at Bankstown Oval

On Saturday 25 April, I accompanied our school captains Mariam Hamad and Colin Nguyen, to represent our school at the Centenary of Anzac Commemoration at Bankstown Oval. Mariam and Colin paid their respects at this ceremony, each laying a wreath at the basalt honour roll.

The honorary Member for Blaxland, Mr Jason Clare delivered an informative and moving account about how three hundred and fifty men from the Bankstown and surrounding area enlisted for active duty for World War 1. “To the best of our knowledge, fifty four of these men died. A subset of these men, a group we will call the 31, had their names inscribed on a basalt honour roll.”

Representatives from local schools and institutions attended this solemn occasion. Additionally, many members of the public filled up the stadium to watch the live coverage of the dawn service in Gallipoli on a large screen organised by the council.

Students can find out more information about the local men who fought at Gallipoli in the literature provided by Bankstown Arts Centre titled, ‘The Thirty-One’ written by Adam Coutenay, in our school library. Ms Nielsen

June/ July 2015

Thurs 25 June Parent/ Teacher Afternoon
Reports distributed 3.30– 5.30pm

Fri 26 June Last day of Term 2

Tues 14 July School resumes Term 3

Mon 20 July Year 7 Immunisations

Fri 31 July In-School Careers Expo
On Friday the 8th of May, our school held a Pink Accessory Day in honour of Mother’s Day and working with the National Breast Cancer Foundation. We held this event to raise money for breast cancer awareness and to find a cure to help thousands of people who are suffering from breast cancer. Thanks to everyone’s generous donations we managed to raise over $600.

A few days later on Sunday 10th of May, I attended the Mother's Day classic event at Parramatta Park. Along with thousands of other people, I took part in the four kilometre walk around the park to show our support and raise awareness for the victims of breast cancer. I have also setup my own personal fundraising account, raising $750 and counting so far. The donation fund is still open for anyone wanting to donate. Walid Zoualfakar

During the Easter holidays, Compass held an Open Day for students and their parents at the University of Sydney. Aymen Douar and Ali Bayad took the time to explore the university and all that it offers on this day. Both students, who are in Year 11, recognised that the more time they spent visiting the major universities and became familiar with their environments, resources and faculties, the better they would be equipped to make a final decision about where they would pursue their tertiary education. The University of Sydney devised the Compass program from within their Social Inclusion unit in order to ensure that the university gates were open to everyone. Over the past six years, the program has expanded, offering reduced ATAR entry for students from disadvantaged backgrounds seeking enrolment in selected courses as well as additional support for students. A parent visit to the University of Sydney is being organised in Term Four. Interested parents can make enquiries by contacting our Community Liaison Officers.
I cannot count how many students have asked me, "What are the red flowers for Miss?"

Our library has been decorated with hundreds of paper poppies in commemoration of the centenary of the ANZAC’s landing at Gallipoli.

The poppy is properly entitled, The Flanders poppy and refers to the battlefields of north-east France and Belgium where many soldiers died and were buried in World War 1. The famous poem, In Flanders Fields (1915) by Lieutenant colonel John McCrae contains the lines:

In Flanders fields
The poppies blow.
Between the crosses,
Row on row,
That mark our place.

The Flanders poppy has traditionally been a symbolic part of Remembrance Day, as it marks the Armistice of 11 November 1918. During the First World War, red poppies were among the first plants to spring up in the devastated battlefields of northern France and Belgium. In soldiers' folklore, the vivid red of the poppy came from the blood of their comrades soaking the ground. The sight of poppies on the battlefield at Ypres in 1915 moved Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae to write the poem In Flanders fields poppies had symbolised sleep or a state of oblivion; in the literature of the First World War a new, more powerful symbolism was attached to the poppy – the sacrifice of shed blood.

The poppy has also become very popular in wreaths used on Anzac Day. An early instance took place in Palestine, where poppies grow abundantly in the spring. At the Dawn Service in 1940 each soldier dropped a poppy as he filed past the Stone of Remembrance. A senior Australian officer also laid a wreath of poppies picked from the slopes of Mt Scopus.

Poppies adorn the panels of the Memorial's Roll of Honour, placed beside names as a small personal tribute to the memory of a particular person, or to any of the thousands of individuals commemorated there. This practice began at the interment of the Unknown Australian Soldier on 11 November 1993. As people waited to lay a single flower by his tomb in the Hall of Memory, they had to queue along the cloisters, beside the Roll of Honour. By the end of the day, hundreds of poppies had been pushed into the cracks between the panels bearing the names of the fallen.


Many thanks to Learning Support Faculty and Library Staff and students, who helped create the beautiful display.

Ms Ahilleos
Work Experience

Students from the Support Unit have been undertaking Work Experience at various places, including Coles, DSA Australia, Primary Schools and Automotive workshops. The students are thoroughly enjoying their experience, picking up new skills and meeting new people. John Cavaleri, is one student who is enjoying the overall experience and has written a letter outlining his thoughts.

Hi Everyone at Condell Park High School. My name is John Cavaleri, I am 18 years old, in Year 12, and a member of the Support Unit. I am going to tell you about my Work Experience. I have been doing Work Experience at Learning Links Preschool in Peakhurst and Newbridge Heights Primary School in Chipping Norton. I’m doing Work Experience at these places because I would like to be a Teachers Aid or a Preschool Teacher, when I’m older. Activities I do are Sport, Easter parade, reading books, school work, helping children and playing with the children. I am looking forward to enjoying the last 8 months of my Work Experience. Thank you for reading my article everyone!
John Cavaleri

English

Each month, the English faculty choose one student in the school as the recipient of the English Student of the Month award. In April, this award was presented to Makomborero Tambanemoto of 7E. Mako was presented with this trophy at assembly for his continued diligence in class. He is a shy student who always tried his best and provides insightful contributions during class discussions. Well Done, Mako!

Drama

The Year 11 Drama class were lucky enough to view "Samson" at Belvoir Street Theatre thanks to Company B Belvoir, who allow our students to see a variety of plays each year for free. This play was set in a rural Australian town and follows the lives of 4 troubled teens who are struggling with their emotions after the sudden death of their friend. The students responded admirably to the play, asking insightful questions to the actors during the post-show Q & A to further their understanding in preparation for their essays. They even got to meet Logie Nominee and star of Puberty Blues, Ashleigh Cummings, after the show for a more indepth discussion.
Ms Williams
On Monday 9th March, students from the Year 11 Music class attended Encore at the Opera House. Encore is a concert run annually by the Board of Studies that showcases the best HSC Music performances of 2014. Students from Condell Park High watched inspiring performances and compositions and walked away with new ideas for their own HSC performances. Our senior Music students have also been involved in performance workshops and showcases. Jody Luisi, Matthew Laupepa and Tyron Rio were selected to represent our school at the West African Drumming Workshop held in Surry Hills. The workshop fosters the development of student’s instrumental performances and provides them with the opportunity to study under some of the world’s best musicians. Our students were fortunate enough to learn drumming performance techniques with Senegalese drummer Yacou Mbaye. His enthusiasm for music inspired our students, who were selected to join the NSW Public Schools West African Drumming Ensemble. This ensemble will be performing at Town Hall later in the term. Well done, boys!

HSC Music Study Day - by Zulinda Stelio Year 12

On Thursday 30th April Claudia Hake and I attended the excursion to Liverpool Girls High school which was held for students who have Music as a HSC subject. At L.G.H.S. many presentations by teachers and performances by students were given. The students there, were able to ask many questions about the HSC, they were all answered by the great help of pre-HSC markers. We attended many different workshops throughout the day, where we obtained great information about Aural skills, Musicology, Composition and Performances. A variety of schools from Liverpool, Bankstown, Campbelltown and Parramatta attended this excursion. Claudia and I believe that this HSC Music Study Day was a real benefit to us, with tips and advice for our HSC.

Salaka African Drumming Workshop

On Tuesday 31st March, Year 7 students together with Support unit students, attended a fun, interactive African drumming workshop where every student had a turn on the drums. There were literally over 100 drums being played at once. The Salaka Drumming group are originally from Ghana, and it was led by Master Drummer Tuza. Tuza shared rhythms, songs and dances from African music and told stories about their culture. Teachers and students from the audience were picked by Tuza to play in the percussion group. The students were introduced to an array of traditional African instruments of all shapes and sounds, including the 'talking drum', djembe drum, kpanlogo drum, box drum, bells and shakers. It was a great and enjoyable experience for everyone. Thanks to Ms Watts for organising the incursion.
On the last two days of school of Term 1, Year 7 and 11 peer support went to The Great Aussie Bush Camp. This was to strengthen the relationship between the year 7 and Year 11 peer support leaders, as part of the Peer Support program that was conducted during Term 1.

A memorable experience where the Year 7 and 11 peer support leaders undertook a different educational experience in outdoor environment and built rapport with each other, as well as, with staff attending the camp.

We participated in many games and activities including mud activities, commando game, bullying workshops, Survivor challenge and egg toss. The most fun activities were the giant swing and archery.

All year 7 and 11 teamed up to push Mr Lindsay into the mud, it was a laugh for all of us including the teachers. Overall, the camp was an amazing experience for everybody who attended and we would like to thank Mr Lindsay, Ms Vandergraaf and especially Mrs Estephan.

By: Samia Belani and Sarah Madrajat
The Mathematics Faculty has had a busy start to the year, with students engaged and motivated in the business of learning the Mathematical concepts that they will need to succeed for the rest of their lives. I would like to remind parents about a few special events that we have organised throughout the Semester to encourage each student's mathematical enquiry. Every week, Mr Jerich poses the weekly Maths Riddle — it is fascinating to see who can get the first correct answer to him so they can be recognized as the Maths champion of the week. The riddles are tricky, but are answered using sophisticated problem solving skills, which are always encouraged in mathematics.

A special monthly Maths award goes to the student who is recognized for the various qualities that staff at CPHS think is positive and worth recognition — showing RESP values, completing homework and obviously performing well in the subject of Maths. Recent winners have included Mohammed Fayad (Year 11), Zac Obeid (Year 10) and Emad Najjerine (Year 8). Very worthy winners of this prestigious award!

The Chess Club also runs every Thursday at lunch time. The students have a lot of fun playing against each other and learning new skills in this age-old game. A special thank you to Mrs Wu for volunteering her time to run this club each week.

On the 30th April 2015 the Junior girls soccer team travelled to Holsworthy High School for their first round knock-out match, travelling in style on the team bus. The weather was cloudy and the ground was boggy, as Sydney had had many weeks of rain that month. The Holsworthy team scored a quick goal, but Layla scored for us straight away, the score was 1 all after 5 minutes. Sofia and Jasmine played solidly keeping a tight defense and Abby was everywhere in the front row dodging and darting the whole game. Yemen’s goal keeping was a-m-a-z-i-n-g. The player of the match was Leanne who was using her athletic skills to defend tirelessly. The half-time score was 1-1. After some substitutions were made, the Holsworthy team came out strongly and scored 2 more quick goals. We responded well, with shot after shot missing by millimetres. Finally, Layla scored her second goal and Holsworthy defended with all their might for the last 10 minutes of the game. It was disappointing to lose - but it is one of life’s lessons to pick yourself up and move on — according to Ms Maslen’s logic anyway! The team has not played many games together, but is youthful and will be able to play together for many more years to come, so best of luck for next year girls.

Also representing the school were the Senior girls soccer team and on the 26th of March, they travelled to Liverpool girls to play their first round match. Miss Ghadban was the coach. Unfortunately, they lost 5-3 but the games was close and the girls played well. The player of the match was Layla. Michelle Haddad
Our 8T students were involved in an exciting competition with the University of Sydney called ‘The Sleek Geeks Science Eureka Prize’. This prize is offered to primary and high school students and encourages students with a passion for science and for communicating ideas to tell a scientific story using a short video.

Our students were involved in workshops where they learned how to think about a question of interest, brainstorm ideas in groups and develop a storyboard for their short film. The students spent a day with Jack McGrath, a film making expert from the University of Sydney, who has worked numerous times with our school and the Compass team to film and produce their short film. This was a really valuable opportunity for the students to learn and apply their newly acquired film making skills and scientific knowledge. Mrs Chanaoui also attended a workshop at the University of Sydney to brush up on her film making skills using iPads and iMovie!

Mrs Dabaja and Mrs Kalaz watched and judged the finished movies. As a result, two films were submitted to the competition judging committee. ‘Do you see the colour I see?’ was produced by Thanh Ly and Amira Assaad and ‘DNA – Identical Twins’ was produced by Tami Tran, Lara Alama and Shakira Nugent.

The students would also like to thank Mrs Elrayes, Mr Frazer, Mrs Hill and all the teachers of 8T for their help and patience.

Well done to 8T and good luck to the entrants of the Sleek Geeks 2015 competition!

Mrs Chanaoui