Welcome to our first newsletter for 2015. A special welcome to our Year 7 students and to our new students and their families. Term 1 is already underway with many activities and events which have already taken place. You will find out about these in this newsletter. A warm welcome to our new members of staff for 2015, Mr Frazer in Science, Ms Gribble in Visual Arts and Ms Khayat in Mathematics.

Parents will also notice that we have new School Zone signs at the front of the school now reminding us that it is a school zone. Please drive carefully and take care when dropping off your children.

We were very pleased with our HSC results last year. Our Year 12 students performed exceptionally well and some of these results are featured in this edition of the newsletter. Every Year 12 student from the 2014 cohort has either been accepted into University, doing a trade, involved in an apprenticeship or has entered into full time employment. Thank you to Ms Eldar, our Careers Adviser and all the teachers who taught Year 12 last year for their hard work, dedication and commitment.

On Monday 30 March, we will be having a Year 7 progress afternoon. We will be handing out a progress report for all our Year 7 students. All school staff will be present to spend some quality time with you to discuss your child’s progress in Year 7 so far. We will also be holding a barbecue for all of us to mingle and break bread together. It will start at 3pm and end at 4.30pm.

The school received part of a grant from The Cancer Council and eftpos® to build outdoor covered areas across the back of the school. After negotiations with several companies, we now have over 40 metres of shelter for our students. We are also building 2 covered walkways for our students linking a few buildings together. This will provide shelter from the rain when moving from one area to the next.

I am looking forward to 2015. We will continue to deliver quality education to your children and ensure that our school is a happy, safe and learning environment for all.

I wish all our Christian Community a Happy Easter and to all of you a wonderful and safe holiday. School resumes Tuesday 21 April.

S. C. Mobayed

Bankstown Zone Swimming

Condell Park High School had thirteen swimmers attend the Bankstown Zone swimming carnival on Monday 2 March, at Roselands Pool.

All of our students gave their best against some strong competition. Congratulations to Taha Dannaoui from Year 12 who won the Champion of Champions event. This includes the fastest swimmer from each school in a 50m freestyle race. We wish Taha all the best at the regional championships.

March/ April 2015

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Thurs 26 March</td>
<td>Year 12 Examinations</td>
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<td>Thurs 2 April</td>
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<td>Mon 30 March</td>
<td>Year 7 Progress Reports</td>
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<td>Wed 1 April</td>
<td>Years 7 and 11 Camp</td>
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<td>Thurs 2 April</td>
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<td>Tues 21 April</td>
<td>Term 2 Begins</td>
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Year Seven has commenced their first year of high school without a hitch. The students are happy and settled, looking forward to the swimming carnival and the camp as their extra curricular activities for this term. They look fantastic in their uniforms and are thoroughly enjoying the peer support activities with Year 11 being conducted weekly. As their Year Adviser, I have enjoyed getting to know all my students and look forward to seeing each one discover their passion in learning as we nurture them on their journey towards their future. Although this is the beginning, I am looking ahead towards the end, wondering what exciting prospects exist for each of them after they graduate. My Year Seven group is a wonderful mix of personalities and talents. They are friendly, vibrant and generally caring towards each other. Their Year 11 peers have already formed strong bonds and are enjoying watching over their young charges. Settling into the high school routine may be easy for some and challenging for others. As we advise in our parent information sessions, it is vital for students to establish a solid school and homework routine and parents must oversee this. Homework should be regular and ongoing, involving a combination of completing set tasks, revising concepts covered in class, extra practice of difficult skills or concepts and no matter WHAT HAPPENS, nightly literacy and numeracy revision is a must. While we are pleased to see how well Year 7 as a group are doing, all parents and Year 7 students are reminded that if they have any issues, the best approach is to speak with me or another member of staff so the school can mobilise its resources to provide the best response. Ms Estephan

On Friday the 13/02/15, Year 9 participated in a Science incursion in the Hall about Forensic Science. We investigated the murder of Dean Johnson, who was found lying dead beside his burnt out car in the National park. To investigate the murder, we had to move around the hall and observe a wide range of evidence at different stations. For instance: fingerprint comparisons, DNA analysis, handwriting samples, digital evidence, autopsy report, arson accelerant analysis, ballistics and trace evidence and tyre impressions.

This incursion taught us the importance of scientific analysis used to investigate crimes such as this murderer. We also learnt about the importance of assessing evidence and not making assumptions. The most enjoyable moment throughout the incursion was when the class solved the murder by working together and talking about all the evidence at the end.

This incursion expanded our knowledge of Forensic Science by giving us an insight into how Science is used to solve crimes. This was a great opportunity to enhance our thoughts of what forensic Science and it also gave us more information of what we are learning in class throughout this topic.

By: Hana Elchanti and Sana Elchanti
On Wednesday February 18 and Thursday February 19, our school hosted over 400 primary school students in order to accustom them to our school as prospective future students. Both of these days ran well and our school received an abundance of positive feedback from our guests. The success of both of these days was due to the many staff members who dedicated much of their time towards planning and preparing exemplary demonstration lessons. Additionally, our student leaders conducted themselves in a mature fashion, ensuring that their allocated groups moved in an orderly way around the school. The outstanding manner in which they managed their allocated roles, exceeded the expectations of all staff members and they proved themselves to be a credit overall.

As past participants of the Space Academy Program, Stephen Willadsen, Mohamed Jabado and Sue-Lin Alnimer were chosen to attend the Sydney Powerhouse Museum to meet the Deputy Associate Administrator of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Mr Badri Younes. The students invited were also involved in a nationally broadcast video conference and were able to ask Mr Younes questions during the videolink. This was a great chance to showcase the wonderful opportunities available to students in NSW schools. Our students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were honoured to be chosen to represent Condell Park High School.
Work Experience for Year 10 students has begun, with many students enthusiastically looking for a host employer. Bader Chahwan, was the first student from his year group to complete the mandatory paperwork and participate in Work Experience; at Marbo Smash Repairs. Bader spent one week gaining first hand knowledge about the automotive/ smash repairs industry. He was able to observe and become aware of the skills needed for that particular field. Bader is now able to make an informed decision about his future and the direction he would like to take with his career.
Well done Bader!

Workplace Learning has also begun for students undertaking Work Studies in Year 12. Rami Barakat has just completed his week of learning at The Grounds of Alexandria. Rami travelled to Alexandria each day and immersed himself in learning everything he could about business and the hospitality industry. He was taught to use the coffee machine by the very supportive staff; had a chance to watch and learn the art of coffee roasting; experienced customer service and learnt about stock rotation and control. Rami thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience and walked away with many new employment related skills and quality advice from the friendly staff at The Grounds of Alexandria.
Well done Rami!
Thank You to The Grounds!
The Open boys basketball team played Sefton High School in round 1 of the regional knockout. This was a tough opponent to face first off as they had 5 representative players in their side. However, our boys held their own and pushed Sefton all the way, eventually going down 38 to 23. Congratulations to all our players and special mention goes to Colin Nguyen for the best airball of the day.

Condell Park High School held its annual swimming carnival at Birrong Pool on Friday 20 February. Students dressed in their house groups and participated enthusiastically in their team chants. It was great to see students dress up, with the best dressed from each house awarded a prize. The overall winning house group was the Roe house who accumulated points throughout the day by competing in the serious races and novelty events. As usual, the Staff smashed the Year 12 team in the relay and will hold the Champion’s title for yet another year.
Year 12 - 2014:
Where are they now?

Post School Pathways:
I am pleased to inform the Condell Park Community that the majority of our ex-Year 12 students have smoothly transitioned from High School to University Degrees, TAFE courses, Colleges, Apprenticeships and/or full time employment. They have all made positive steps with their career pathway planning and we, as a school, are very proud of them! Congratulations to Year 12, 2014!

AHMED KAWAS has been accepted to the University of Western Sydney, undertaking a Bachelor of Science Master of Teaching.

MARY HADDAD has accepted an offer to attend the University of Western Sydney to complete a Bachelor of Policing.

SAAED SAADIE was awarded a scholarship to attend the University of New South Wales and undertake a Bachelor of Criminology & Criminal Justice.

MARISA BATTI was awarded an early offer to begin a Bachelor of Education, Early Childhood at Macquarie University.

ZAC GHANEM has accepted an offer to attend the Macquarie University, to undertake a Bachelor of Security Studies (Intelligence & Counter Terrorism).

ANNA ELKHATIB is undertaking a Bachelor of Business & Commerce (Marketing) at the University of Western Sydney.

DUMITRU JELAMSCHI has begun a Diploma in Business Management at a Private College.

LAMYS BULTAIF was awarded a scholarship to attend the University of Technology Sydney, to complete a Bachelor of Business & Law.

PETER DIONISIOPOULOS has accepted an offer to attend University of Western Sydney, to complete a Bachelor of Policing.

YASMIN HAMDASH is currently starting a Bachelor of Arts, Communication at the University of Technology, Sydney.

JIMMY THAI is currently enrolled at the University of Western Sydney, undertaking a Bachelor of Policing.

JAZMINE SWEID is currently enrolled the University of Western Sydney undertaking a Bachelor of Secondary Education.

RYAN BAKI is currently enrolled the Ultimo TAFE, undertaking a Diploma of Locksmithing.

NAZMADAN ELBASHA has accepted an early offer to attend Macquarie University, to undertake a Bachelor of Commerce.
JAMIE RYAN is undertaking a Bachelor of Policing at the University of Western Sydney.

HANNA MERHI has been accepted to Macquarie University, undertaking a Bachelor of Business/Law.

JACK PHAM has accepted an offer to attend the National Art School, to complete a Bachelor of Fine Arts.

SONDOS AL EISAWI has been accepted to the University of Western Sydney, to undertake a Bachelor of Arts/Master of Teaching (Secondary).

IBRAHIM AHMAD has begun an apprenticeship in Electro Technology.

LUCY ROKO has begun a Diploma of Criminal Justice at the University Of Western Sydney.

BILAL BELANI has accepted an offer to begin a Bachelor of Business at Macquarie University.

MAASOOMA AL HUSAINI is undertaking a Bachelor of Medical Science at Macquarie University.

BRADLEY GRADY has accepted an offer to attend the University of Western Sydney undertaking a Diploma of Health Science/PDHPE.

ALICE ALAMEDDINE has begun a course in Information Technology at a Private College.

MOUNIR BARBOUR has begun an apprenticeship in Cabinet making.

NORA HAMOWI is currently starting a Diploma in Information Technology at a Private College.

KASEM MASRI is currently enrolled at Ultimo TAFE, undertaking a Diploma of Surveying.

CEREN BILGIC is currently enrolled the University of Western Sydney undertaking a Bachelor Arts/Master of Teaching (Birth to 12yrs).

PETER VANTA is currently enrolled the University of Western Sydney, beginning a Bachelor of Medical Science.

MICHELLA ROLLS is currently registered with NOVA Employment.

MOIZ IFTIKHAR has accepted an offer to attend Macquarie University undertaking a Bachelor of Arts.

RAYAN OMAR has begun a Diploma in Aged Care/Pathway to Nursing at TAFE.
2015 has already been a busy year for the Year 11 and 12 Drama classes in terms of experiential learning. On Tuesday 10 February, these classes travelled to The Seymour Centre in Darlington to view the Board of Studies annual OnStage spectacle, a collection of the best HSC Drama performances of 2014. Students walked away with new ideas, clarification of expectations and inspiration to begin their own HSC projects. This was one of the best groups we have taken in terms of their appreciation of the performances. After such an amazing evening, I look forward to seeing their performances develop over the next few months.

Ms Edwards

At the end of 2014, Sarah El Darwich made the brave decision to cut her hair and donate it to the Princess Charlotte Alopecia Foundation. This foundation helps people with Alopecia, a disease that causes sufferers to lose their hair. The hair Sarah cut off helps sufferers in two ways: it is sold and the money is used to buy hair wigs, and her hair was long enough to actually make a wig for a young girl. Earlier last year, Sarah Madrajat, in Year 11, also donated her hair. If anyone would like to find out more about this foundation, or if you would like to donate your hair, please see Ms Williams in the English staffroom.