

# ROUSE HILL HIGH NEWSLETTER



April 2018 / ISSUE 43

## Year 7 Orientation Camp 2018

Mr Minahan



Students saying farewell to Mangrove Mountain after 3 action packed days Photo by: Mr Minahan

On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March, Year 7 students went on their Orientation Camp at Outdoor Education on the outskirts of Gosford. This three day camp is designed to foster positive relationship building and challenge students by asking them to go beyond their comfort zone during numerous challenges. Students rotated through challenges over the duration of the camp and took part in activities such as High Ropes, Rock Climbing, Abseiling, Raft Building, the Giant Flying Fox, Archery and the Giant Swing. Despite feeling very nervous about many activities, the participation on each activity by Year 7 was excellent.

# Year 7 Orientation Camp 2018 cont.

Mr Minahan

Many of the activities needed students to rely on each other to complete safely. Whether it was pulling them up into position on the Giant Swing to buddy systems on the High Ropes and feeding ropes during Rock Climbing, they learnt they could trust their peers beyond just their friendship groups.

The first night involved a Challenge Night in which students formed groups and competed in a range of small challenges similar to the type of challenges on shows like “Minute to Win It”. Despite the efforts of the Peer Support group with cameos from teachers, the Year 7 groups were too strong and dominated the challenges.

Students left the camp very proud of what they had accomplished over the three days. The teaching staff that attended were also very proud of Year 7 pushing their limits and behaving exceptionally well. The camp staff spoke very highly to us about the way our students conducted themselves and mentioned they were excellent representatives of Rouse Hill High School.

Year 7 left nothing at the camp, giving 100% effort for the whole three days. The bus trip back to Sydney was much quieter than the trip there with many students exhausted and falling asleep on the ride back.

A big thank you to the Peer Support Leaders who also attended camp. They did a fantastic job supporting the younger students and providing encouragement to them over the duration of the camp.



Students were involved in numerous challenging activities. Photo by: Shaun Minahan



# Art Express Excursion

Mr Wallace

On Thursday 22nd March, Ms Kirby and Ms Devine took 49 students from Stage 5 Photography and Stage 5 and 6 Visual Arts to see Art Express at the Art Gallery of NSW.

Students were able to view artworks from top performing students in the 2017 HSC and gain inspiration from these works for their own artmaking practice.

As part of the excursion, students also listened to a lecture from 2 past HSC students. They were able to gain an insight into how these students created their artworks and what it was like to complete the HSC Visual Arts course.

As the Stage 6 Visual Arts class moves into the HSC course next term, we hope that they are able to use the inspiration gained from this excursion to create their own Body of Work.



Students at Art Express 2018. Photos by Ms Devine

# China Trip 2018

Mrs Wang

On Monday 9th April a delegation of 19 students and 4 teachers from Rouse Hill High School will depart for China!

We will visit our sister school, Ningbo No.15 Middle School, and also travel to Hangzhou, Shanghai, Xi'an and Beijing for a cultural and study tour. Our students will be staying with billet families during their time at the sister school and are really looking forward to this unique experience. They have been corresponding with their Chinese student "buddies" prior to the trip and preparing some special assembly performances to showcase over at our sister school.

Our trip participants are also looking forward to going on a boat ride on Hangzhou's famous West Lake, looking down at Shanghai from the glass platform of the Oriental Pearl Tower, going overnight on a Chinese sleeper train, visiting Xi'an's famous Terracotta Warriors, going to a Chinese village, climbing the Great Wall and Tian An Men Square gate in Beijing and many other exciting cultural activities.

It is a unique diplomatic excursion representing our school and NSW Department of Education. Students will report on our daily activities and this will be posted on the Rouse Hill High School Facebook page. Be sure to have a look and keep up-dated on all our adventures!



Examples of attractions students will see on China Trip 2018

# Excellence in English

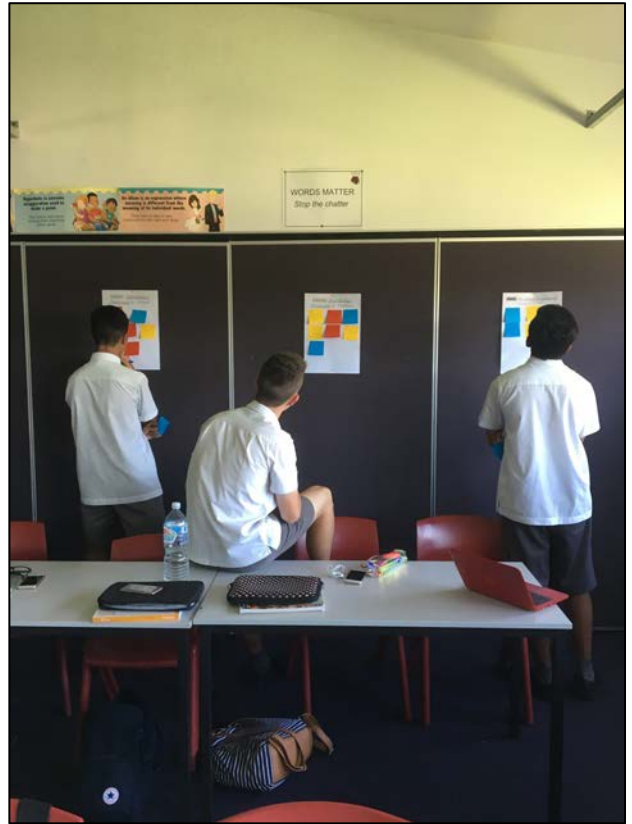
Ms Buckley

With Preliminary end of course examinations fast approaching, the English Advanced class have been learning to think outside of the box when it comes to essay planning and writing.

The students collaborated on an essay in the form of a 360° post-it parade, thinking critically about the ideas and values of the texts that they have studied. From this task, students transformed their shared knowledge into an essay which was individually crafted.

Once the students had crafted their comparative essay, they participated in an annotation rotation activity, where they critically analysed and reflected on their own writing.

This process has been extremely valuable, with students reporting that they have developed a deep understanding of the planning process and their own writing.



Photos by: Ms Buckley

# Senior English - Collaborative Poetry

Ms Messer

During Term 1, students in Preliminary Standard English have been studying the craft of a controversial World War 1 poet, Siegfried Sassoon. During the course, students engage with Sassoon's key concerns, analyse his style and evaluate the value of his poetry in our society. In lesson two, students in class 6B were asked to compose one line that reflected their opinion on war. Students turned these lines into a poem which further immersed them in the world of the war poet. The following poem is the result of deep thought, collaboration and careful selection of language forms and features. *A special mention to Zara Moss, Zoe Greenstein, Darshwiin Indrawathan and Eleanor Foong who were our chief editors!* Students also justified their title choice.

*"After finalising the last draft of the poem, we had 2 possible titles. The first was 'Caught in the Crossfire' and our other idea was 'It's more than just a word.' The first title encompassed Sassoon's perspective of war which is intensely explored in his poems and ethical statement. It also expresses his position as a soldier who denounced the war. The second title was directed at the activity we participated in that led to the writing of this poem. Ultimately, we chose the first title, 'Caught in the Crossfire', but included the second title as a line in the poem."*

## **Caught in the Crossfire**

War is the beginning of the end.  
It tears nations apart.  
It crushes society and the people we care for.  
It is the needless sacrifice for one's selfish desires.

War is never as it seems.  
Filled with innocent blood, it has  
broken the world's relationship  
And brings nothing but conflict, pain, death and more war.

War is a futile way to resolve conflict.  
It is the innocent playing the guilty's game,  
Like a hurricane, war destroys and breaks people.  
It is a killer, and a dark reminder for generations to come.

War demands sacrifice, but only returns suffering.  
It will end us if we don't end it!  
It disrupts the relationships between society and  
Exposes people's greed.

War always has a price.  
It causes trauma for not just one but millions.  
The battlefield is a place of sacrifice for the innocent  
And with deep sorrow, it will live for as long as humanity

War... Does not bring glory but devastation.  
It does not bring peace but prostration.  
It's profoundly unnecessary,  
It's more than just a word.

War. The beginning of the end.

*Composed by Preliminary Standard English: Class 6B*



# The Model UN Workshop

Anthony Radic

On March 29th, 28 students from Rouse Hill High School had the excellent opportunity to experience the Model UN workshop held in our school library. The workshop consisted of students placed into pairs or groups of three, to assume the role of diplomats from a range of nations from the UN security council to decide on international resolutions being passed. A range of nations such as Kazakhstan, Kuwait, China and Russia were represented at the workshop and were successful in giving their stance on topics.

The workshop's primary goal is to inform students of the UN security council, ensure that they have the opportunity to grasp an understanding of the council's responsibility in the international community, and to present the chance for students to practically get involved in the process. For reference, the UN Security Council is the United Nations' most powerful body, with 'primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.' Five powerful countries sit as 'permanent members' along with ten elected members with two-year terms.

The extremely kind volunteers from the UN Youth NSW educated us on these elements of the UN security council and the primary rules of the council, to guide us for the debates that were to come. After grasping an understanding of the rules of the UN security council, as well as how to read the elements of a UN Resolution document (after a practice version), that is when we got the opportunity to discuss and debate the proposed resolution. Over the course of approximately an hour, the delegates from these 'nations' debated over the topic of international espionage and mass surveillance and the discussion was truly entertaining.

Different nations utilised and implemented different tactics to persuade the other international community and the chair (the head speaker). It was most crucial for every nation to express their opinions and nation's perspective, as well as what they felt to be ethically correct. However, some groups used different methods to convince the group as a whole. For example, some people used solid



Photo by: Ms Reddy

# The Model UN Workshop

Anthony Radic

arguments and reasoning, while others implemented a more humorous approach to try and convey their points. All of us had an excellent time discussing and representing our country's views on the topic. Having to not only convey our points across in an impromptu manner but to also gather signatures from our fellow nations, was a new but enjoyable experience. Overall, the experience was highly rewarding, informative and fascinating. We all learned something and enjoyed the experience.

The workshop presents a vast range of benefits, with students being able to learn critical thinking skills, the captivating art of persuasion, public speaking, debating skills and how the UN Security Council works. Moreover, students were able to learn with their friends and peers, which ensured that it was less daunting for those who had not done anything similar previously. Some students came in with some idea of the United Nations, while others had little to no information on the matter, however, by the end, we were all able to get the chance to spread our opinions and to understand how resolutions are passed internationally. Thus, the workshop is extremely interesting and so, everyone should try to be apart of it if they have the opportunity. Therefore, the UN Model Workshop was an extremely fulfilling experience that allowed students to grow their understanding of the UN Security Council and debate on topics that directly relate to our society and world. Thank you RHHS HSIE faculty and executives for making this remarkably beneficial occasion possible.



Photo by: \_\_\_\_



# Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Mr Williams

The Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme provides opportunities for young people aged 14-25 to explore their full potential and learn a wide range of skills and qualities while forming lifelong memories. To complete the award, each student must meet the requirements for physical recreation, skill development, community service and adventurous journeys.

This term, one student at Rouse Hill High School has successfully completed the requirements for the Bronze level. A special congratulations to Zoe Greenstein for her sustained efforts in each of the four sections of the award.

Zoe completed two arduous overnight journeys in the course of her award, one in the Blue Mountains and another in Sydney's Royal National Park. Each journey covered approximately 30 km in a range of rugged terrain in the picturesque scenery of NSW.

Zoe completed 6 months of martial arts training, 3 months of sewing, and 3 months of working with people with disability.

Each section of the award is difficult to achieve, and the school community takes pride in every student who manages to accomplish the Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award.



Photo by Mr Camrass



Proud to support

**THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S  
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# Chess Club

Mr Williams

Chess continues to thrive at Rouse Hill High School. The term 1 teams competition was hotly contended with 8 teams drawn from all year groups. This was the first opportunity for new players to make themselves known, with several making waves. In particular, Aaron Vallejo and Imran Ahmed have given notice to older players that they are not to be underestimated.

At the time of writing, the current standings of the team competition are:

1. Farhan Ahmed, Marc Del Pilar, Imran Ahmed
2. Vihar Patel, Vireshbai Mistry, Keshav Sharma
3. Jonathan Staker, Luke Saunders, Arjuna Coomaraswamy/Aaron Vallejo, Ryan Heng

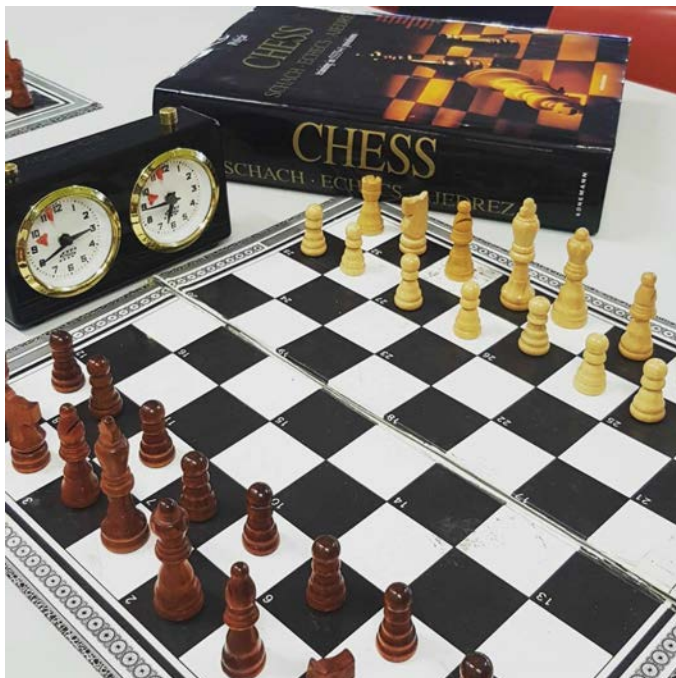


Photo by Mr Williams



White to move  
Mate in two or three

# Library & Information Services

Mr Williams

The school library has had an active first term! In addition to a wide range of new books this term has also seen the library begin to develop an online presence. The catalogue is now fully accessible online, with staff and students able to search, reserve items and manage their borrowing accounts from their own device.

To do this, students need only logon to the NSW Department of Education student portal (<https://student.det.nsw.edu.au>) and click on the tab labelled 'Oliver Library'.

In addition to this, the library's information services are now accessible via social media, with Twitter, Facebook and Instagram being used to promote the library's resources and enable greater student access.



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The following items are samples from the newest additions to the library's collection this term.



## Everless (Sara Holland)

A best selling dystopian fantasy about a world where time is, quite literally, money. In the fictional world, Sempera, 'the rich live for centuries and the poor bled themselves dry'. This is the story of Jules, who takes a job to save the lives of his family, and in so doing uncovers dark truths about the world in which he lives. A brand new entry into a very popular genre, Everless is popular and recommended to readers over 12.



## Great Film Directors: A to Z (Andy Tuohy)

Are you having trouble knowing Kurosawa from Kubrick? Or Scorsese from Spielberg? This book provides a succinct, informative and visual representation of some of film's most significant directors. A light and intriguing look into the defining qualities of key filmmakers, this book will be a fun read for anyone with a passing interest in film.



# Higher levels of Mathematics

Ms Zacharia

Are you considering higher levels of Mathematics in Stage 6? Then it's important to prepare your foundations from an early age. Students who wish to complete the calculus based courses in their senior years must access the appropriate mathematical content from as early as Year 7. Topics such as algebra, linear relationships, functions and trigonometry play a significant role in successfully completing harder Mathematics courses in Stage 6. Access to 5.3 content is vital in Stage 5 and students must demonstrate strong knowledge and skills prior to choosing higher levels of Maths.

Just ask students in the current Mathematics (Advanced) class. They say "Algebra! Algebra! Algebra!" is the key to success.



Students working together to tackle Mathematics. Photo by: Ms Zacharia

# Swimming Carnival - 15/2/18

Miss Paton

This year we returned to Riverstone Aquatic Centre for what is arguably one of the best days of the school year. There were some exceptional efforts from all participants in the pool throughout the day and the vibrant house colours and loud cheering made for an exciting atmosphere. All enjoyed the novelty races, fashion of the pool and the equally entertaining teacher verse student relay race. With all students dressed in team colours and cheering throughout the day, the rivalry was at an all time high.

Competition in the pool was extremely close across most age groups with some champions being decided by as few as three points. Students swam in either the A or B division heats throughout the entirety of the program. It was a fantastic spectacle to see the regular close finishes. Irwin gained an early lead on the points' tally due to their enormous amount of accumulated participation points, however it was once again Dunlop who emerged as well deserved house champions with a whopping tally of over 900 house points!

The standard of swimming and participation continues to improve at Rouse Hill High School and we look forward to many more successful sporting carnivals in the future. Congratulations to all students who managed to qualify to swim at the Macquarie Zone and Sydney West swimming carnivals. In particular our age champions and record breakers. A huge thank you to all parents, teachers and house captains who helped make the day such a wonderful success.





# Women in Science Symposium

Ms Pobjie

On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> of March, twelve female Year 1.0 students attended the Women in Science Symposium at the Australian National Maritime Museum. The free event is run annually by the museum, together with the University of New South Wales and Science 50:50. The aim is to encourage high school girls to look beyond the lab coats and to see the possibilities for careers in science. While boys and girls perform equally well at science and maths at school, women are still underrepresented in science, making up less than one fifth of Australians in science-qualified careers.

The students rotated through a number of activities on the day, including an enlightening behind-the-scenes tour of the Maritime Museum where students saw rare and precious artefacts. The museum's collection is managed by a diverse team of scientists, some of whom talked to the students about how their work uses science to preserve and restore historic items like boats, paintings, books and bone carvings. Students also tried out some fun and mind-bending scientific experiments run by local scientific organisations and universities.

In the afternoon, our students gathered with other schools to listen to presentations from six female scientists working in Australia. These women told inspiring tales of their journeys in science, their challenges, triumphs, and answered questions from the audience. These hard-working women were realistic and motivating role models for our girls. All the students had a thoroughly entertaining and informative day.





# Stage 6 Food Technology

Mr Cluness

Throughout the course of this term, Stage 6 Food Technology have been studying the functional properties of food. The culmination of this topic was the completion of a practical assessment task where students needed to demonstrate the functional properties of food in action by cooking a recipe of their own choosing that incorporates one or more functional property.

Students prepared a variety of dishes including Eggs Benedict, Strawberry Cream Puffs, Cheesecake Brownies, Chocolate Mousse and Soet Broodjie (Sweet Bread).

The practical work completed by the students was outstanding and demonstrated their understanding of the functional properties of food to a high standard.



# Harmony Day

Mrs Casey

On both Tuesday 20th March and Wednesday 21st March 2018, Rouse Hill High School celebrated the national Harmony Day event. Harmony Day is an opportunity to communicate the importance of cultural diversity, and reflect on the core Australian values of inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

On Tuesday 20th March, all students were asked to wear either an orange item (the official colour of Harmony Day) or an outfit representing their cultural background. Gold coin donations were accepted at the gates to support our World Vision Sponsor Child. At lunch, student leaders served a variety of international food including dishes from Lebanon, Cambodia, Serbia, Italy and China. Student Leaders asked students to contribute to the creation of a paper doll chain.

On Wednesday 21st March, our whole school came together in an assembly presentation which included an Irish dance performance by Year 7 student Ellie Gammell, a Bollywood routine from a group of Year 7 students - Mahira Kaplish, Damanjot Kaur, Ayesha Malik and Fatema Mollasalehi, an Indigenous poem read by Jaimee Turner, a vocal performance by Mr Camrass and the vocal ensemble and a reflection by student leader Cole Hilton-Butt.

Rouse Hill High School experienced a fantastic celebration of Australia's cultural diversity and had a lot of fun in the process!



# Senior Executive

Ms Chapman, Mr Medcalf, Mr Kelly

## Staffing update

At the start of the year we welcomed the following new staff:

Mr Nguyen - Mathematics  
Ms Sinderberry - PD/H/PE  
Ms Sun - Mandarin  
Ms Walker - TAS  
Ms Ellis - English/Autism

Mr Wu - Science  
Ms Southall - Head Teacher PD/H/PE  
Ms Bosworth - English  
Mr Boyd - TAS

## Changes for term 2 include:

Mr Miller -(Mathematics) on paternity leave for the remainder of 2018.  
Ms Da Ponte (Autism class) on maternity leave.  
Ms Magi (English/Drama) resigned from the Department.

## School update:

Formal examinations: Students have completed the Year 1.0 Mid-course examinations, Preliminary End of course examinations, Progressive Achievement Tests in mathematics and reading and the Tell Them From Me survey. These assessments and surveys will help teachers provide feedback to students and determine how best to support further growth.

University Links: 11 pre-services teachers from shadowed our staff as part of our partnership with Western Sydney University.

School Bytes: This software package has allowed the school to email invoices with one click payment options. In Term 2 we will continue to explore how best to utilise this tool for email communication and have also nominated to trial their electronic permission note when made available.

Air conditioning: The tender has closed and a preferred supplier selected. It is planned that installation will start in the second week of the holidays and take 4-5 weeks for stage 1 to be completed.

7-9 Interim reports: To be issued in Week 1, Term 2.

Millennium parent portal: In Term 2 we will be introducing the Parent Portal. Parents will be able to print current and historical school reports and view their child's timetable, attendance record and parent notices.





▶ play  
invent  
explore  
learn



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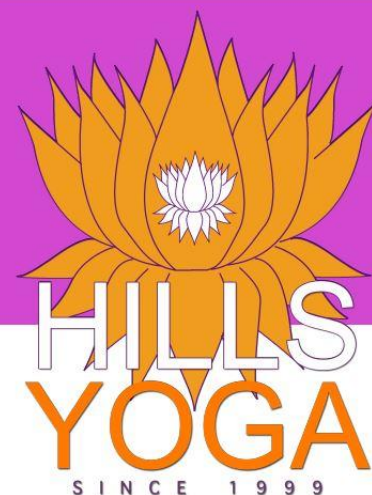
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# RHHS NOTICEBOARD

## P & C NEWS

The next P & C meeting will be held on 21 May 2018 . All parents and carers are welcome to attend. If you would like to be added to the P&C email list, simply email the Secretary at [carley@jackhorner.net.au](mailto:carley@jackhorner.net.au) or log on to [www.rousehill-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.rousehill-h.schools.nsw.edu.au) and click on the P&C tab for information.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

9 April -22 April  
China Sister School Visit 2018

16 April -30 April  
School Holidays

30 April  
School Development Day

1 May  
ANZAC day ceremony (Return to school)

3 May  
RHHS Athletics Carnival

8 May  
Macquarie Zone Cross Country

14 May  
Parent Teacher Night

25 May  
Senior Recognition Assembly

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