



Newsletter

TERM 4 NO 5
3 December 2014

FINAL PRAYERS

Saturday 6 December 2014
Clubbe Hall ~ 2.30pm

CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 7 December 2014
Clubbe Hall ~ 11.00am

'Wishing you a happy and safe holiday'

~ Winifred West Schools ~

FRENHAM PRESENTS

Public Performance

Friday 5 December ~ 7.30pm

School Performance

Saturday 6 December ~ 7.30pm

Books and Lyrics by **ALAN JAY LERNER**

Music by **FREDERICK LOEWE**

Director **SALLY HANNAH**

Musical Direction **CHRISTINE TILLEY**



Celebration of being *the best you* possible...

To Year 6 at their End of Year Dinner with parents and teachers, I urged students (teenagers ahead) to 'have the courage to be *the best you possible*', to **beware the pressures to be like, look like or think like others: trust your values...treasure your uniqueness...and allow others to treasure theirs.** In brief:

Think of all the people who live or ever lived on our planet since the very beginning of time - none of them is exactly like you: nobody has the same combination of talents, abilities, worries and opportunities; no one has the same family jokes and family friends; no one has all your goals; no one in the world has the same things going on in his or her mind, soul or spirit as are going on in yours – this is a gift only to you; no one can bring your unique impact to another person.

Student Highlights – highlighting uniqueness

From Semester 2 Reports I am pleased to share a short summary of student highlights:

Seniors: working hard and enjoying my subjects and improving my results; my involvement in Duke of Edinburgh's Award; working towards my Piano Grade 4 examination; completing my last sports banner for the year; developing concentration and efficiency in my academic studies; learning Piano; studying Economics; Maths Club - a more challenging way to do Maths; boarding in Turner; anticipating taking on a leadership role; learning more and enjoying all my subjects; playing Hockey with an advanced team; spending time with my peers; having my own room; becoming well organised; enjoying in-depth study of the content in classes; persistence in preparation for the HSC year; taking my School steer to the Royal Easter Show; doing Ceramics at Sturt; visiting the Bowral Nursing Home each week for community service; competing at the Equestrian Interschools Nationals; making decisions about 2015 subjects; being Head of House; looking forward to challenging Mathematics next year; creating a strong bond with my Year 7 Crack; getting to know new people; playing at Grade 7 level with the future aim of completing my Grade 8 music examination; assuming responsibility for Backstage for the Play; racing in the Frensham Snowsports team; independence and freedom in senior artmaking.

Juniors: learning how to study efficiently for examinations; sitting with older girls at meals; Chinese Tutoring; riding for the School; Friday-night activities; being persistent with learning Algebra; the experience of examination week; doing Prep in the Library because it is a nice environment; Crack meetings.

Acknowledgement to:

- Sturt Certificate IV graduates from Sturt School for Wood, whose works form the current Sturt Gallery Exhibition;
- Gib Gate staff and Year 6 on their preparations for the annual Year 6 Dinner with parents last Friday evening. [The Reflections publication, with a contribution from every student, will form an important lifetime memory for students and will become an archival treasure];
- Pen & Ink contributors – whose work will be published and on sale for Charity, over the final weekend of term;
- Frensham's Touch Football team finalists in the IGSSA competition;
- Paige Wilson (Year 9) who is about to represent New South Wales in High Jump at the National All Schools Championships in Brisbane;
- Year 12 (new) for their support of staff in preparing the School for end of year events;
- Music and Drama Staff of Gib Gate and Frensham for their intense efforts to prepare magnificent performances for our end-of-year celebrations;
- The Mittagong branch of the Returned Services League Club for their generous donation in appreciation of the Schools' support of various Club events during the course of the year.

- All staff of Winifred West Schools who have been part of our team in 2014: continuous effort to set the highest professional standards is a shared goal.

Special thanks to:

Rev Richard Mills, Senior Minister, St Stephen's Church, for hosting a Christmas Service and Morning Tea for Frensham staff and students on Friday 28 November.

Much effort is always made by Rev Mills to link his messages to students and to the values and history of Frensham.

Staffing Update

We will acknowledge and farewell those staff leaving us at the end of the year at end-of-year Services attended by our School communities; we are always sad to farewell colleagues but greatly appreciative of their professional contribution and friendship.

Our professional learning programme for the end of the year includes a presentation by McCrindle Social Researcher and Director of Research, Claire Madden. From her biographical notes:

She is a next-gen expert, fluent in the social media, youth culture, and engagement styles of...global generations, and a professional in interpreting what this means for educators, managers and marketers.

Ahead:

Frensham:

- Friday 5 December – Public Performance of *My Fair Lady* – purchase tickets at the door (Community, Former students, extended family – ample space available.)
- Saturday 6 December – 11am Games and Picnic Lunch followed by Final Prayers at 2.30pm and, in the evening, the School Performance of *My Fair Lady* (NB capacity or current Frensham students and immediate family only) ;
- Sunday 7 December – Carol Service commencing at 11am, Clubbe Hall (Term ends after the Carol Service).

Sturt:

- Monday 8 December – commencement of refurbishment for Design, Fabrication Labs/Studios commences: (Café space) followed by works in the Weaving Room from 12 December;
- Sunday 4 January Registration/5-10 January courses: Sturt Summer School

The Centenary Pool - Preview

For those interested in testing out a squad experience at The Centenary Pool, we will be emailing details prior to Christmas, so please stay posted for an email in the week after term ends!

The facility is magnificent – the Learn-to-Swim Pool being physically separated (and heated at a different temperature) from the 25m lap/training pool, providing the best possible learning and training indoor heated facilities for all ages.

We are thrilled with the outcome and look forward to a full programme of classes commencing in the New Year. Our Operators, *Aquabliss* are now working with us to complete the Semester 1 programme and full details and booking arrangements are about to appear on their website and ours:

(p) +61 2 4872 3672

(m) +61 447 937 946

(e) frensham@aquabliss.com.au

(w) <http://www.frensham.nsw.edu.au/centenarypool>

Please note that advance booking advice will be provided to current parents, to ensure that spaces are offered first to our own families.

Thank you, Parents

As the year comes to a close, students are mostly at the forefront of consideration, featuring in our celebrations, leading special events and completing formal classes with their teachers. From all at WWS, I offer warmest thanks to parents for your support of our efforts over 2014; we continue to value the privilege and your trust in us to share in the education of your children!

Julie A Gillick

Head of Frensham

Head of Winifred West Schools

PARENT/COMMUNITY NEWS

Advisory Committees

2014 Frensham Advisory Committee Contacts

Mrs Georgy Alker	tarnuk.alker@bigpond.com
Mrs Pip Crichton	pipcrichton@bigpond.com
Mr Ben Cruikshank (Chair)	cruikshank@bigpond.com
Mr Robert Dulhunty	dulhuntyrv7@bigpond.com
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Mrs Judy Newton	judy.newton5@bigpond.com
Mr John Penton	jbenton@tpg.com.au
Mr Jonathan Purvis	jonathan@bigdutchman.com
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Mrs Jane Woods (Sec)	woodsforming@bigpond.com

2014 Gib Gate Advisory Committee Contacts

Mrs Rachel Arnott (Chair)	rachelkarnott@gmail.com
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Mr Gil Downes	gil.downes@neerim.net.au
Ms Nyema Hermiston (Sec)	nyema@bigpond.net.au
Mrs Sarah Lewis	sarah.lew@me.com
Mrs Elizabeth Mackie	eamackie@me.com
Mrs Helen Pernice	dandhpernice@bigpond.com
Mrs Zoe Suttie (Chair of FOGG)	zoeandrobert@bigpond.com

2015 Term Dates Gib Gate and Frensham

Term 1

Gib Gate & Frensham:

Thursday 29 January – Wednesday 1 April, 3pm
(Frensham New Student Induction Wednesday 28 January
and all boarders return evening of 28 January)

Term 2

Gib Gate & Frensham:

Monday 20 April-Thursday 18 June, 3pm
(Year 10 Work Experience ends Friday 19 June)
(Boarders return on the evening of Sunday 19 April)

Term 3

Gib Gate & Frensham:

Tuesday 14 July-Thursday 17 September 3pm
(Boarders return on the evening of Monday 13 July)

Term 4

Gib Gate: Tuesday 6 October-Friday 4 December 3pm

Frensham: Tuesday 6 October -Sunday 6 December
12.30pm (after 11am Carol Service)
(Boarders return on the evening of Monday 5 October)

2015 Frensham Parent Weekends Ahead

Year 7	Saturday 28 February-Sunday 1 March Frensham Open Day ~ Saturday 28 February
Year 10	Saturday 21-Sunday 22 March
Year 8	Saturday 9-Sunday 10 May
Year 12	Saturday 30 -Sunday 31 May WWS 102 nd Birthday Friday 29 May
Year 11	Saturday 1-Sunday 2 August Saturday 1 August – Year 10 Senior Studies (with parents)
Year 9	Saturday 22-Sunday 23 August

Ranier Uniform Shop

UNIFORMS FOR 2015

It is recommended that students starting in the new year come in early to organise their uniforms. Fittings may be arranged during the remaining weeks of this term. **All fittings are by appointment.**

Mondays and Thursdays 12noon-5.00pm

Shop Manager Mrs Cherie Heard

To order goods, please call the Shop: (02) 4860 2136 [BH]
or email: frensham@ranier.com.au

**January 2015 Additional Trading Days
[by appointment only]**

Wednesday 21 January 10.00am to 3.00pm
Tuesday 27 & Wednesday 28 January 12.00pm to 5.00pm
Friday 23 January 10.00am to 3.00pm
Regular trading days [as noted above] will resume from
Thursday 29 January.



WINIFRED WEST SCHOOLS
FOUNDATION

news

Thank you!

2014 has been another positive year for Foundation - thank you to all who have donated to, and participated in, Foundation activities throughout the year.

Cattle Herd numbers have exceeded expectations as a result of the generosity of both donors and host farmers and we look forward to adding more next year – *raising capital by raising cattle.*

Best wishes for the Festive Season

For information about Foundation activities, please contact Michele Scamps on +61 2 4860 2000 or foundation@frensham.nsw.edu.au

GIB GATE

Over the past two weeks, Year 6 students have marked the end of their time at Gib Gate in a number of different ways. Last Friday evening, students and parents joined Gib Gate staff for the Year 6 Farewell Dinner, a formal opportunity for staff, students and families to come together to celebrate the culmination of each student's primary education at Gib Gate. The students conducted the evening's proceedings, demonstrating the leadership skills they have developed throughout their years at Gib Gate and, in particular, through their leadership role and monitor positions this year. Sharing memories of their personal 'Gib Gate experience' in their own words, students expressed thanks to all who have played a role in their primary-school education.

In contrast to the formal Friday night function, the Years 5 and 6 Social on Monday evening gave Year 6 students the opportunity to relax and have fun with their peers and the Gib Gate Year 6, 2015 students. The evening of dancing, games and party food, culminated with the infamous chocolate fountain, and a game of limbo. The Social provided a wonderful opportunity for students to relax after a busy and responsible final term.

On Tuesday evening, the whole school from Kindergarten to Year 6 joined the school community to celebrate Christmas and the end of the school year at the Gib Gate Christmas Concert. Ending with the formal procession of Year 6 with their Kindergarten buddies, the evening's sense of ceremony and celebration was significant.



Sienna Andersson and Gemma Macaulay-Black

For the last day of this term, Year 6 students have carefully planned a wonderful morning for their Kindergarten buddies. Kindergarten children will participate in games and activities, and enjoy a celebratory lunch with their Year 6 buddies, after which, Year 6 students complete their last day at Gib Gate leading a whole school assembly for students.

Gib Gate continues to provide students with a unique primary school experience. The following excerpts, taken from a selection of the Year 6 Reflections, shared with parents and staff at the Year 6 Farewell Dinner, give us a sense of how our most senior students feel as they prepare



Dominic O'Shannessy and Sam Harwood



Joshua Mazurkiewicz, Hamish Murray, Hunter Taylor

to leave Gib Gate to embark on the next stage of their education;

'I wish I could put my whole Gib Gate experience on a DVD and press rewind so I can watch my primary school years over and over again because every second of my Gib Gate adventure has been so special. I will grow up and never forget this amazing experience.' Alec McLeod

'Even though it's not the end of my schooling, Gib Gate has helped me prepare for what lies ahead in the coming years at high school. I would like to thank all the teachers who have helped me through my journey at school. I also want to thank my Mum and Dad for all they have done over the past years to make my Gib Gate years so special.' Angelica Bella

'I am very sad that I am ending my journey at Gib Gate. I wish I could relive every second of it. But now it is time for me to start a new journey on which I will meet other, new challenges. I wish I could stay longer because Gib Gate has helped me more than any other school and I feel like I have made a real connection with this school.' Hunter Taylor

'Primary school at Gib Gate has been a rollercoaster. I've had my ups and my downs but the whole time it has been a wonderful journey; meeting friends, teachers and loving the adventure. I would like to thank my parents for sending me to this school and also my teachers and friends for supporting me and helping me learn through my mistakes.'

Gib Gate you will leave a huge mark in my life. Anika Berkelouw

'Now that I am at the end of my journey here, at Gib Gate, I will never forget my time with all of the amazing teachers and friends. As I am going into high school, I know that I can tell all of my new friends proudly that I went to Gib Gate.' James Wallace

'I was thinking the other day about what it would be like in Year 12, and I found out that it would be 2020... 2020! In six years' time we will probably all have to write a reflection about High School. So here I am talking about my Primary School years. Before I start to tear up about all the great memories I have had, I would like to thank the staff at Gib Gate for all they have done, my friends for always being there for me and most of all my parents for sending me to this lovely and beautiful school. Thank you' Charlotte Dulhunty

'The end of Primary School has taught me that people will come into your life and sometimes leave forever. That's one of the hardest things to accept about being human. But I have come to realise that you only live once, and, as a wise man once said, 'if you do it right.... once is enough!' Dominic O'Shannessy



Piper Berkelouw and Christina Richardson



Olivia Quilty and James Wallace

Ms Sally Robson, Head of Gib Gate

Curriculum Highlights 2014

Thursday 30 January – Friday 5 December 2014

From the first day to the last day: Learning to Learn at Gib Gate

One small, seemingly insignificant – [dash] represents each of the days of exciting learning experiences, during Gib Gate's 60th year, enjoyed by all students from Kindergarten to Year 6. Highlights follow of just a few of the many adventures sandwiched between those two dates and signified by one small - [dash].

Adventure: 'Are children the same the world over?' We learned to be global citizens and came to know and care about children from places far from Mittagong. We learned through guest speakers, and research using books, maps, the internet and Skype that all children have much in common – their love for their families, their friends, their pets and their school – if they are lucky enough to go to one - all children enjoy playing games, sports, eating, sleeping, imagining, talking, laughing, getting up to mischief...and dreaming of the future.

Our research culminated in August when we 'konnichiwa'ed the children from our Japanese sister school, Hokuriku Gakuin. For three action-packed days, we practised our Japanese speaking skills and learned that there are so many ways to communicate that do not necessarily require a high level of either English or Japanese.

Belonging: Celebrating the school's 60th birthday allowed us the opportunity to learn to be historians. We discovered that historical information can be drawn from the physical remains of the past – artefacts - as well as written, visual and, most significantly, through the oral stories visitors to Gib Gate shared with us. 'Old student', Mrs Andy Hook, came to tell us all about her days at school, including her first day at Gib Gate in 1954. On Friday 30 May, we transformed each classroom into a showcase of visible learning and shared our work with each other, parents and friends.

Challenge: Using our extensive, specialised children's library and classroom collections, Gib Gate students have read independently, with their teachers and peers for extended periods daily at school and at home and love every minute of it! We have enjoyed our first ever Reading Picnic in March this year, Dr Seuss would be proud of us because we have taken up the challenge to read literally thousands of books this year and we know:

The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go...

Doing: A famous mathematician once said: 'The only way to learn mathematics is to DO mathematics.' Personalised individual learning goals in Years 3 to 6 have included developing recall of the times tables from 1 to 12 in order to help solve problems efficiently and quickly. Children from Kindergarten to Year 2 challenge their families weekly with their Maths Toolkits. A learning highlight for one student this

year reads, and I quote: *'I love doing Maths. I love the patterns, the problems and figuring it out – sometimes I get it wrong, but I just have another go and think some more!'*

Excellence: 'What Does a Scientist Do?' was a question posed explicitly to Year 5 students at the beginning of the year and they learned that scientists are self-motivated sleuths. We commend our Year 5 scientists for their enthusiastic participation in the University of Wollongong Science Fair in November this year, where they displayed their ability to 'be' scientists through their carefully documented process of working scientifically. Science is ALIVE at Gib Gate.

On behalf of all teachers, I offer sincere thanks to the students of Gib Gate for 'taking our hand' and learning to learn with, and from us, throughout the 'dash' of January – December 2014. We also thank parents, grandparents and members of the school community for the wholehearted interest, time, support and encouragement the offer to the teachers and children at Gib Gate throughout 2014.

Ms Kate Chauncy, Director of Teaching and Learning P-12 and Coordinator of Gifted and Talented Programmes

Gib Gate Soirée

Last Wednesday night, there were nearly thirty performances in the Gib Gate Hall for the Term 4 Soirée. Students performed on piano, flute, piccolo, saxophone, voice, double bass, guitar, violin and cello. The high standard of the performances was testament to the hard work undertaken by students, parents and music tutors throughout the year

After School Dance

Ms Annabel Lomax's after school dance class presented its dances to the whole school on Wednesday afternoon. These students from Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 were enthusiastic and confident and their skills and attention have developed extremely well over the year.

Christmas Concert

All students from Kindergarten to Year 6 performed in the annual Christmas Concert in Clubbe Hall on Tuesday night. Instrumentalists accompanied many of the Christmas songs and the evening culminated with community carols accompanied by the 25-piece Gib Gate Orchestra.

Kids on Show

Gib Gate has exhibited a range of work in the *Kids on Show* exhibition at the Berrima District Art Gallery. Congratulations to Grace Cox (Year 5), Highly Commended; Caitlin Quinn (Year 5), 1st place *'Celebration of Life – Lily'*; Year 3, 1st Place *Still Life – Margaret Preston*; Year 2, Commendation *Splash*; K-2, Highly Commended – *Bottle Cap Tree*.

Mrs Anne Graham, Gib Gate Coordinator (Administration)

Sport

All students are to be commended for the positive manner in which they have been participating in the Swimming Development Programme. Despite the weather conditions, students have worked hard in the pool each Thursday and their skills have improved over recent weeks.

Mr Michael Standen, Co-ordinator of PDHPE and Sport

Preschool

Learning highlights

Preschool children were asked to reflect on their learning highlights during their year in Preschool. Below are some of their responses:

I liked using the marbles with paint to make my art. I liked rolling the marbles around the box. It made all sorts of different colours, (Jackson Pollock-inspired artworks).
Molly Harwood, Reception

I liked it when we got the chicken eggs. It was fun watching the eggs move. Baby chickens came out of the eggs. The chickens were hungry when they hatched.
Harper Johnston in Reception

My favourite thing this year in Preschool was being a rat in the Pied Piper. I liked doing all the dancing.
Isla McVinish in Transition

I loved the athletics carnival this year. I liked the running race the best. I ran fast.
Camilla Willingham in Transition

Ms Kelly Lees, Preschool Teacher

STURT



FRIENDS OF STURT

Joan Dinning (President), Robin Golledge (Secretary), Ruth Wright (Roster Secretary), Kay Faulkner, Michael Harris, Alan Matthews, Julie Musgrave, Denise Sumner, Chris Topp

Special News

Sturt Christmas Party - Friday 12 December from 6pm

An important date for your Christmas diary is the Sturt Christmas party and late night shopping night featuring the opening of our newest exhibition, the National Contemporary Jewellery Award 2014. With complimentary food and beverages available, plus live musical entertainment in the beautiful gardens in front of the Gallery, this is an event not to be missed. For catering purposes, please respond to Sturt Shop on +61 2 4860 2083 or email at: shop@sturt.nsw.edu.au

Sturt School for Wood - Graduating Students

On Saturday 22 November, Sturt Certificate IV graduates from Sturt School for Wood, attended the graduation ceremony along with the opening of this year's exhibition, *Assemblage*. This year, 11 students completed the full time course and three students completed individual terms.

Professor Alec Tzannes from UNSW was the special guest and he spoke passionately to a very large group about the increasing importance of the hand-made in our modern world.

We offer our congratulations to the 2014 students: Chris Bartkus, Roy Bowyer, Ben Crossweller, Rohan Goradia, Monette Hoppitt, Ricky Klein, Harry McInnes, Lachlan Meaney, Gabriel Miller, Adrian Olasau, Jessie Spencer, Stefan Wieland, Greg Wheeler and Bruce Mackenzie.

Two special awards were also presented on the day: *The Craft ACT Emerging Contemporaries Award for 2015* went to Adrian Olasau and Rohan Goradia – this award will provide both students with the opportunity to exhibit work at Craft ACT next year. A new award from *Studio Woodworkers Australia* (cash and tools) was presented to Adrian Olasau – this award is designed to encourage a student to make the transition from student to professional. Well done Adrian and Rohan.

Propose an exhibition for 2016

We are now inviting exhibition proposals for Sturt Gallery for 2016 and beyond. Full details on the procedure and the Exhibition Policy can be found on our website at: <http://www.sturt.nsw.edu.au/get-involved/exhibition-proposal>

Christmas opening hours

Sturt Gallery will be closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day only. Sturt Café will close after 7 December. The pop-up coffee bar will open in Sturt Gallery for Summer School from 5-10 January with special Summer School hours of 8.30am to 4.30pm.

Sturt School for Wood 2015

Teachers of the Fine Furniture Making Course for 2015 will include Neil and Pam Erasmus, David Upfill-Brown and Brian Reid (USA). Enrolments are now in the final stages with one place remaining. Term dates, fees and prospectus for 2015 are now on the Sturt website or call +61 2 4860 2080 to discuss making an application.

Summer School 2015

Online booking is open now for Summer School 2015 with a programme of 25 courses being offered for all skill levels and interests. See www.sturt.nsw.edu.au/education for the full programme.

Sturt Gallery

Assemblage - Sturt School for Wood Annual Exhibition
Exhibition closes 7 December.

National Contemporary Jewellery Award 2014 – 12 December – 15 February 2015.

This national acquisitive prize exhibition, produced by Griffith Regional Art Gallery, attracts jewellery artists Australia-wide. Sturt is a major supporter of this biennial programme, awarding a residency as one of the major prizes.

Join us on Friday 12 December from 6pm for the exhibition opening which coincides with Sturt Gallery's Christmas shopping night.

Of national significance - Ceramics Then And Now by Artists in the Sturt Permanent Collection - 22 February – 12 April.

The Sturt Collection tells the story of Australian craft since the war. This exhibition will feature new work by a selection of prominent Australian and international artists alongside the historic work currently in the Sturt Collection and include: Les Blakebrough, Patty Wouters, Campbell Hegan, Yasuo Terada, Yasuhisa Kohyama, Svend Bayer, Kevin White, Paul Davis, Pru Venables and Victor Greenaway.

Events

Summer School Talks Programme – Clubbe Hall Daily 5-10 January 2015

The annual Summer School includes talks and demonstrations by many of the artists featured in the Summer School programme. All presentations are free and are open to the public. A detailed programme is available from Sturt Gallery or via our website.

Tools and Techniques Weekend

Saturday 14 to Sunday 15 February 2015, 10am - 4pm.

Sturt's largest annual event will feature displays and sales from Australia's finest tool makers and specialist timber suppliers; HNT Gordon, Colen Clenton, Japanese Tools, Allwood Timbers, Gifkins Dovetail Jig, Jim Davey, Vesper Tools, Dunstone Design and more. In addition, there will be a programme of woodwork demonstrations on both days by Australia's leading furniture makers.

Food and beverages will be available and admission is free. A detailed programme will be available on the website closer to the time.

Friends of Sturt Annual General Meeting - Sturt Cottage, Sunday 22 February 2015 at 2pm.

Members and prospective members are invited to attend the AGM and to consider nominating for places on the committee for 2015.

Full details of all Sturt courses, exhibitions, residency programmes and events can be found on the website www.sturt.nsw.edu.au or to make a booking or enrolment:

- call Sturt Shop on +61 2 4860 2083
- or email shop@sturt.nsw.edu.au

Mr Mark Viner, Head of Sturt

FRENHAM

Deputy Head

Over the past four weeks, members of the Frensham Advisory Committee have been trialling the Schoolbox Parent Portal.

As well as a Learning Management System (LMS), Schoolbox is also a Communication Management System (CMS). A CMS allows schools to disseminate and post information to its community quickly and efficiently, but unlike a website, only the members of the school community have access to the CMS via a portal (the portal being password protected)

The Parent Portal has the capacity to provide access to vast amounts of information to parents already contained on school databases. The Frensham Advisory Committee is working to determine what information is necessary and appropriate, what current operations could be digitised via the portal, and most importantly, what information should not be available using this format.

At this point, it would seem likely that in 2015 the portal will be used to transmit the fortnightly Newsletter, sports draws and other notices which have previously been sent to parents as a pdf attachment via email. Term calendars will be replaced by the calendar on Schoolbox (this will allow for continual updating with more detail and notification to parents of any changes).

Annual publications, such as the Parent Information Book could be made available and all forms including; exeat forms, equestrian leave forms, each term's extra-curricular forms, would be available via the portal.

The process for connecting parents to the CMS via a secure password will be communicated to parents before the start of 2015.

Mr Geoff Marsh, Deputy Head

Boarding News

The end of the year is an exciting time in the Houses with girls planning for Secret Santas and the week ahead. Jamieson Week, with all its activities, is combined with packing and preparing for 2015.

Last Friday night was spent on the Games Field with dinner outside, party games following and all involved enjoyed the evening. On Saturday, Year 7 girls decorated the Dining Room with a Christmas tree and wreaths and the juniors will decorate their dorms ready for judging on the creativity of their Christmas decorations later in the week. Each morning at Prayers, the Christmas story will be told through readings from the Bible.

The Year 10 Heads of House have organised the 'Secret Santa' activity in Kennedy and Hartfield. With a limit of \$10, those choosing to be involved have been highly creative in making or purchasing a gift to exchange by the third day of Jamieson Week.

On Wednesday night, the whole School participates in Carols by Candlelight [battery candles!] in Cooper Hall with a Christmas Dress-Up theme. On Thursday night there is the final packing and clean-up, with Year 12 Boarders returning that evening to join the School to celebrate the end of their high school years.

Year 12 girls will attend a breakfast at Sturt with Ms Gillick on Friday morning, where each student will be presented with a copy of Winifred West's *Addresses and Talks*. Also on Friday, the whole school enjoys Christmas Lunch with all the trimmings for students and staff.

Saturday morning is the House of Origin celebration and all girls attend an *al fresco* breakfast at either Kennedy or Hartfield before parents arrive to join their daughters for softball matches and a Picnic Lunch on the Games Field, before attending Final Prayers. To close the day, the whole school will attend the final performance of *My Fair Lady* at 7.30pm.

The final event of the weekend is the Carol Service in Clubbe Hall on Sunday morning prior to departure for the summer vacation.

Mrs Jayme Rafferty, Head of Boarding

Director of Teaching and Learning

Frensham and Gib Gate teachers, Boarding and Health Centre staff will be involved in their last Professional Learning Day for 2014 on Monday 8 December. Highlights on this day will include teachers [P-12] being presented with their Certificates in Gifted Education from UNSW School of Education and House and Health Centre Staff with their Certificates in Residential Care These certificates mark the successful completion of a minimum of 10 hours face-to-face professional learning and associated independent ongoing study throughout 2014.

In support of our professional learning goals including: *To create a learning community which is world class and embraces innovation, inspired by evidence-based research and external critique*, we, as a professional learning community, are thrilled to be offered the opportunity to hear from Claire Madden, Research Director at McCrindle, one of Australia's leading social research and advisory firms, who will deliver a keynote address in the afternoon session entitled, 'NEXT GEN: How Educators can Equip their Students to Thrive in Changing Times'. Claire is regarded as a 'next-gen' expert, fluent in social media, youth culture, and engagement styles of these global generations, and a professional in interpreting what this means for educators.

We are keen to know what is changing (and predicted to change) in the world our students will be entering beyond school and we will have much to consider for our work with students in 2015 and beyond.

Ms Kate Chauncy, Director of Teaching and Learning P-12 and Coordinator of Gifted and Talented Programmes

Director of Studies

With all reports now sent to parents and elective choices for 2015 almost finalised, reflection on the academic and personal growth of all students is important. This is reviewed at Frensham in a number of ways:

- Half-yearly and yearly reporting to parents
- Report Reading involving a student with her Form Tutor
- Regular cross-faculty staff meetings focused on overall student progress and involvement
- Student-led discussions or interviews with the Head or Directors of Teaching and Learning, Studies or Boarding
- Individual interviews with Senior Staff, based on a student's reflection on her academic and personal achievement and progress

Supporting each girl's growth on an individual basis is a priority, with staff working as a team in their approach to meet the learning outcomes of every student. Reports provide a snapshot of the progress of each student based on the descriptions of how students typically achieve and demonstrate the results of their learning for each Key Learning Area. These descriptors are a series of statements, which summarise observable and measurable features of student achievement in relation to course outcomes (Frensham Grades).

Additionally, students who have completed Preliminary HSC courses and Stage 5 (Year 10) in 2014 receive a Record of Achievement (RoSA) from the BOSTES indicating satisfactory completion of these courses as a prerequisite for HSC studies. The RoSA is a cumulative credential in that it allows students to accumulate their academic results until they leave school. The RoSA records complete Stage 5 and Preliminary Stage 6 courses and grades, and participation in any uncompleted Preliminary Stage 6 courses. Students who complete Year 12 use the Higher School Certificate as the academic culmination of their studies.

Ms Janene van Gogh, Director of Studies - in Residence

English and Drama

English

My Daughter,

Although the world you are in now will be different beyond my imagination to mine, I want you to know that there's nothing you should want more than knowledge...Take the experiences you have right now, because now is the time to explore every aspect of the world you can find. Make judgments and voice them. Use every feat, fault, friend and foe to become the amazing person I know you are and will grow to be.

Cherish your faults and take a humble pride in your achievements. You have an entire world full of wonderful differences, never feel as though you have to confine to normality.

Daughter,

Wherever you end up, I will always be proud of you. I will always be there to support you in your future ideals. Your family is your biggest asset and the ones who will be there for you. Keep them close and never let them down, some people don't have this.

Strive to be happy, even when things seem the worst they can be. Work hard and be diligent in your education, don't do it for me, but for yourself. An education is the window to opportunity. Pursue the opportunities you want the most.

Dear Daughter,

Whoever you are and wherever you may be I just want you to know that you father and I will always love you. I hope that one day you will appreciate the education that you were given and strive to do your best for the future. I hope that you value it and realise that education is one of the greatest things that one can have.... When I look at you, I see the beautiful, vibrant, kind, loyal daughter that I raised you to be.

To My Daughter,

My life and your life will greatly differ in some ways at this stage, but there are some universal truths my parents have shared with me which I will pass onto you. I hope you can look for the good in everything and everyone you meet. Be open and accepting to all... appreciate the people in your life. Show gratitude and show it often. Stay gracious and kind to all.

If life is a car ride, you will find you have people that are temporarily with you, and they don't stick around forever. These are the hitchhikers. They probably won't be there when the going gets tough. However, don't worry because, although they only may be few, you will find there are people who remain with you, for the whole journey. You don't need a lot of people in your car... In fact, I daresay, it may even be the less the better. Besides, we all know when you have fewer passengers; you have more freedom, more room and full control of yourself.

Although sometimes the revision mirror will obscure your view with its sneaky blind spot, I will always be there, right behind you, to help with anything and be a guide.

The Orientation programme for Year 10 English explored the evolution of women's education through the documentary series, *Girl Rising*. The series tells the true stories of young women from third world countries and the confronting realities they have had to face. Some stories are tragic, others far more hopeful, yet what was made clear to students was the outcomes of these young women's lives were strongly linked to the level of education (if any) they were able to acquire.

Students were allocated individual stories and were expected to conduct research into the cultural, social, geographic, economic, religious and historical status of the country and present this to the class.

In addition, they were asked to interview a significant woman in their lives and ask questions about her educational experience and the changes which have occurred. Finally, they were asked to write a letter to their 'daughters' about their expectations and hopes for the future. Above, are some excerpts from the many beautiful and moving letters which were prepared. The tributes demonstrated that the values, dreams and aspirations which the school and parents are instilling in the girls in 2014 are very strong and will continue for generations of future 'daughters'. This exploration of values introduces student to the focus of Preliminary English.

In Week 8, both Year 8 English classes 'set sail' on their Survival Challenge which was an appropriate culmination of their exploration into survival stories. They had to apply the concepts they had learned as well as develop new thinking, to construct a series of 'quests' for the other task to complete. During the first lesson each 'team' ('The Clubbers' and 'The Braidy Bunch') donned their bandanas and marched fervently towards the weir, self-made raft in tow.

The task was to see whose raft remained afloat, carried their team mascot (a teddy) and 'sailed' the furthest. Each class then completed an orienteering challenge, which required both mental and physical exertion. During the second lesson, each team swapped classrooms to complete challenges that had been designed and implemented by their counterpoints. The challenges included: IT, extended writing, spelling, puzzles, a 'Holes' quiz and a mystery taste-test.

Each team competed with grit, demonstrated resilience and sportsmanship, and all walked away with an enhanced understanding of the core concept, 'Survival'.

Drama

Excitement is brewing as this year's musical; *My Fair Lady*, is in the final stages of rehearsals. It is always rewarding to come to this stage of the production process and observe how the cast and crew have worked together and achieved so much in just over 10 weeks.

The school was treated to a special sneak preview during Friday Prayers with a performance of *'Get me to the Church on Time'*. The enthusiasm, joy and energy this polished number produced caused the foundations of Clubbe Hall to tremor just a little in anticipation. There is no doubt that the audiences after the public performance on Friday 5 December, or the school performance on Saturday 6 December, will be humming these memorable tunes long after the curtains close.

Ms Lee McGuinness, Head of English/Drama

Japanese

During the final week of Term 4, Riona Suzuki visited the Year 8 Japanese class and performed a karate demonstration. Riona is a Japanese exchange student staying in Australia for four weeks as part of her Gap Year. She finished high school in Japan this year and is hoping to improve her English during her time in Australia. All students introduced themselves to Riona in Japanese and had an opportunity to ask about her life in Japan. Riona has a karate black belt and performed a karate demonstration for the class. All girls then participated in a short karate lesson.



Riona Suzuki with April Stokman, Georgia Richardson and Antoinette Inglis during a karate demonstration

This year, students of Japanese have had many opportunities to participate in traditional cultural activities including sushi making, calligraphy, origami, karate, a Japanese tea ceremony and learning how to wear a Japanese kimono. This year, Yukari and Tomoko have worked with all students of Japanese, attending two hours of lessons each week throughout the year. Tomoko also taught Japanese at Gib Gate this year, working with the classroom teachers to ensure students were prepared for the Hokuriku Gakuin visit in Term 3.

Having Yukari and Tomoko in lessons at Frensham has provided students with additional opportunities to engage with the living language and to consolidate their speaking skills. Both Assistant Teachers worked extensively with all students to improve their Japanese speaking skills. Students worked one-on-one and in small groups with Yukari and Tomoko and were provided with feedback from native speakers about how to improve intonation and pronunciation. Regular sessions with the Japanese Assistant Teachers also improved all girls' fluency significantly when speaking in Japanese. Yukari and Tomoko have been working as native speaking Assistant Teachers for four years and we offer our thanks and appreciation for the work they have done with students of Japanese during this time.

Ms Stephanie French, Teacher of Japanese

Latin

To finish the year, Year 8 students of Latin in both classes worked hard to perfect their pronunciation and acting skills in order to launch productions of *Auricoma et tres ursi* (Goldilocks and the Three Bears) for their classes. Girls used a lesson to rehearse, casting each role and working out choreography and props to make their performances engaging and clear. While some of the vocabulary was new (ursule – bears; polenta - porridge) others acted as welcome revision (vale – goodbye; dormio – I sleep). In the second lesson, each group acted their stories convincingly and with much humour and good fun! The girls showed excellent organisation and collegiality, along with some excellent leadership skills. Needless to say, a lot of enjoyment was had by all.

Ms Liz Stephenson, Senior Teacher in Latin

Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE)

HSC Geography students are continuing their case study of the Great Barrier Reef as an example of an 'Ecosystem at Risk'. The Stage 6 Geography course places particular emphasis on students using current information in relation to their case studies, such as recent newspaper articles.

Students of Modern History have completed their first Year 12 assessment task on World War I. Their vacation work will comprise research on Russia and the Soviet Union – looking in particular at 1917, a significant year in Russian history.

Students of Economics have completed their first assessment task this week based on a case study of China. As part of the Year 10 Orientation Programme, Geography students have been working on global population statistics and using newspaper articles to develop an understanding of the Human Development Index (HDI). Business Studies and/or Economics students for next year have been studying a range of introductory topic areas to broaden their experience of commercial concepts. Through case-study investigations and wide research, students have examined concepts such as entrepreneurialism and marketing, the causes and consequences of the Global Financial Crisis [GFC] and budgetary sustainability within the Australian economy.

Year 9: Geography students are completing a study of how Australia's unique characteristics are marketed to the world, whilst History students have completed a comparative study of World War I and World War II home-fronts.

Year 8: Geography students are focusing on 'Global Citizenship' and are completing their study of 'Sustainability', whilst History students are producing an art work or movie presentation reflection on Colonisation.

Year 7: The World Studies, History and Geography classes have been investigating an integrated unit on Ancient China. They have presented on a range of issues: the Terracotta Warriors, the Great Wall of China, the Silk Road as well as

geographical features and endangered species which were thoroughly researched and highly entertaining.

This year, a total of 14 students have enrolled for the HSC History Extension course. The girls have their Project questions and will complete the bulk of their research over the Christmas vacation. On their return, students will need to review their progress with their teacher and use their log books to evaluate their reflections, so that their refinement of both the research and questions can be achieved.

The students are enthusiastic and their projects cover a range of areas of interest.

Students have been studying the works of Herodotus and Thucydides as the earliest historians and we have been assessing their methodologies and contributions in Historiography. They will embark on the Case Study of Appeasement next term as the second section of the HSC Examination questions.

Ms Janene van Gogh, Head of HSIE

Jamieson Programme

The Jamieson Programme is built on the belief that ...

The very experience of being confronted by physical, intellectual and emotional challenges in a stimulating environment is inherently exciting and immensely rewarding.

The School year finishes with Jamieson Week, a well-loved and much-anticipated period in the School calendar. Within the wider Jamieson Programme, students have benefited from a myriad of learning opportunities throughout the year. At the end of each semester, each student in Years 7-10 reflects on her individual highlights and challenges within the Jamieson Programme. This then forms part of the Jamieson Report and guides her ongoing personal development.

Year 7: This term the students have been composing Shadow Books for the incoming Year 7 students and will complete them during Jamieson Week.

Year 8: Students continued their important role as Shadows to Year 7. Last week, rostered girls continued Farm Management duties, tending to the animals on the Farm. The Riding for the Disabled programme continued throughout the term.

Year 9: In the Thursday afternoon activity in Week 7, Year 9 students completed a 'Walk in Her Shoes' activity to raise awareness of how far some women have to walk every day. In developing countries, women and girls walk for hours each day to collect food, water and firewood, often in rugged terrain and under quite dangerous circumstances. The hours spent walking prevent them from spending time going to school or earning an income. Students and staff walked approximately seven kilometres around Mt Alexandra. Upon their return, the girls reflected on the toll

that a walk like that every day, often carrying 10-15 kilograms of water or firewood, would have on their education, leisure time and physical wellbeing. The final activity undertaken by the students was the completion of an on-line course evaluation, of both the Jamieson Programme and the 'Global Perspectives' course.

Year 10: Students completed the Orientation Programme into their senior subjects last week, in preparation for Year 11, 2015.

Mr Paul Nash, Jamieson Programme Coordinator

Mathematics

For the past two and a half weeks during the Orientation programme, Year 10 students have been studying, trialling the different Mathematics courses which are available in Year 11, 2015. Girls have had the opportunity to spend time in Mathematics General, Mathematics or Mathematics Extension 1 and most girls will have experienced class with more than one teacher.

The Mathematics General Course consists of Financial Mathematics, Data & Statistics, Measurement, Probability, Algebra & Modelling as well as two Focus Studies. There is an increased focus on the use of technology and, during Orientation, girls were able to develop their skills in the use of spreadsheets, namely Microsoft Excel. They also spent some time refining their Algebraic techniques.

Girls who selected Mathematics during Orientation, built on their Graphing skills and developed the concept of Functions. They too, had the opportunity along with the Extension 1 group, to hone their Algebraic skills. Students in the Extension 1 class also studied Circle Geometry where they proved Geometrical Theorems and used these to right formal proofs. The concept of a proof by contradiction was also introduced.

Contradiction is not a sign of falsity, nor the lack of contradiction a sign of truth. Blaise Pascal

Ms Sue Wymer, Head of Mathematics

Music

Over the past weeks, the final group of students has completed their AMEB CPM Singing and Guitar and Piano, and Piano for Leisure examinations which are held at Frensham each year.

In this final week of term, the Music Department is preparing for the final week of activities. In particular, the cast of *My Fair Lady* have been rehearsing in earnest in preparation for their performances during the week. Performers have been dealing capably with the rather complex dialogue and the songs and choreography are coming along well. The Orchestra accompanied rehearsals on Sunday and the cast adapted very quickly to the extra 'bits' coming from the Orchestra Pit.

The School has responded very well to Ms Tilley's directing of the Carols and a very positive atmosphere has been created in the whole-school rehearsals. The support of Year 12, 2015 has been pivotal in creating a positive approach to these rehearsals.

Mr Keith Mitchell, Acting Head of Music

Science

Year 10 Science Orientation classes have been in full swing for the last two weeks with a range of activities being experienced.

In the Chemistry Orientation classes, students have been developing the practical and theoretical skills required for the Stage 6 Chemistry course. In their lessons they have been focusing on the specific nomenclature of ionic and covalent compounds and have begun balancing difficult chemical equations. They have done a number of experiments involving physical and chemical reactions in practical lessons that have encouraged them to apply the skills of observation, inference, following a method, critical thinking, selecting appropriate apparatus, variable control, calibration, safety, accurate measurement and experimental design.

Students attending the Biology Orientation have also been developing skills necessary for the Preliminary Biology course. They have practised setting up and using light microscopes as well as making their own wet mounts to view under the microscope. Skills in researching and presenting scientific information appropriate for a given audience have been developed in a task looking at a range of diseases affecting the human population including Ebola, Malaria and Schistosomiasis.

Abilities in dissection and using a classification key have been developed by dissecting owl pellets. Owls eat small rodents, reptiles and birds whole. An owl's stomach acids are not strong enough to digest bone and hair. Owls regurgitate the indigestible material about 24 hours after eating it. It is these owl pellets that enable us to discover what the owl has been eating. Students have dissected pellets, glued the bones on cardboard and then used a chart to identify the species the owls have eaten. This information has also been used to develop food chains.

The Orientation classes in Physics have focused on an introduction to Newtonian Motion and Electrostatics. Students explored how Physics quantifies both motion and charge and scientific method is used to investigate and ultimately understand the world around them. One lesson was also spent discussing some interesting aspects of Quantum Physics.

Mrs Alison Andrew, Head of Science

Agriculture & Show Cattle Team

All steers for the 2015 Show Cattle season have now settled in to Frensham farm life and most are responding well to training and their new diet.

During the Christmas vacation, the steers will be weighed weekly and their grain ration adjusted accordingly to ensure they are gaining 1-2 kg per week. The Show season will begin early in Term 1 next year. The dates of the Shows are as follows:

- Berry Show Saturday 31 January
- Nowra Show Saturday 7 February
- Kangaroo Valley Show Friday 13 February
- Robertson Show Saturday 7 March
- Moss Vale Show Saturday 14 March
- Sydney Royal Easter Show Thursday 26 March–
Wednesday 8 April (Frensham will be attending from
Monday 23– Sunday 29 March)

Mrs Leonie Harris, Coordinator Agriculture & Show Cattle Team

PDHPE

With all classes finishing lessons last week, it was an opportunity for the PDHPE Faculty to reflect on the year that was and, importantly, to always look ahead to the future.

We are very fortunate to be able to teach practical lessons in a variety of locations, and next year, the Centenary Pool will be added to this list. All students in Years 7–10 will have the opportunity to use this environment to develop their aquatic skills in a variety of ways, including, but not limited to, levels of the Royal Life Saving Society Australia Award, Water Polo and Underwater Hockey. The PDHPE Faculty are very excited about the year ahead!

Miss Erin Gray, Head of PDHPE

Sport

Touch

Saturday 29 November was the final round of this year's IGSSA Competition. Nine Frensham teams (one Year 7, five Junior and three Senior) travelled to two Sydney venues. With many close results, Frensham 13 (Junior F) and Frensham 6 (Senior Team 6) won their respective grades. This Touch season was the most successful yet, with a total of 21 teams entered in a 19 grade competition.

Athletics

Paige Wilson (Year 9) is currently in Adelaide, South Australia representing NSW at the National Schools Athletics Championships. She will be training all week with the NSW Team before competing this Saturday 6 December in the 15 Years High Jump Event. This year has been another successful one for Paige, winning both the NSW CIS Title (new championship record of 1.74m) and the NSW All Schools Title. We wish her well for this weekend's competition.

Miss Erin Gray, Acting Head of Sport

Visual Arts/Design & Technology

Students of Year 12, 2015 Visual Arts and Design & Technology are now well underway formulating concepts for Bodies of Work and Major Design Projects respectively.

At the beginning of each course, in the first week of Term 4, the specific number of school weeks until the BOSTES completion dates [set for mid-Term 3, 2015] was made very clear for students. Making allowances for short weeks [which may occur at the beginning and end of a term] and weeks spent preparing for, and completing examinations, the faculty calculates that students have 28 school weeks to produce these Major Works. Thus, at the end of last week, students have completed eight of the 28 school weeks. For teachers, we aim to be as clear as possible about the time available and the importance of using it efficiently, without placing undue stress on the process. Given that vacation periods were not factored into the calculations, students certainly have significant time to produce works of quality.

Taking the above into consideration, both Ms Piper and I have been impressed with the collective start to the production of Major Works in these first eight weeks in both Visual Arts and Design & Technology. Students have been very diligent and industrious both in and out of the classroom, devising some highly creative concepts and exploring suitable material and technical means with which to convey them. During the vacation period, students are expected to work on aspects of their Bodies of Work and Major Design Projects, acting on advice provided both verbally and in written feedback. Some judicious use of time during vacation periods can help reduce compounding pressure sometimes felt by students during the first three terms of their HSC year.

Faculty staff are excited about the arrival of both a 3D printer and a Laser Cutter last week and their imminent installation on campus. Both Ms Piper and I have had a number of discussions with students whose work may benefit from using these technologies. The 3D printer and Laser Cutter have the potential to add refinement and resolution to major works in certain instances, and can help deliver accuracy and detail not possible with the hand. Faculty staff are mindful that these technologies are tools, and they will be used in ways to realise the creative vision of students, not as ends in themselves.

Mr Phil Aldis, Head of Visual Arts and Design