2015 Term 4, Week 8 - 27 November 2015

Principal's Message

The end of the year is such a busy time as we celebrate the students’ achievements of the school year. I am looking forward to sharing the excitement of the Year 6 Graduation Dinner this evening. Next week parents are invited to attend the Junior School Presentation morning, Tuesday 1 December at school and the Secondary School Speech Day on Wednesday 2 December at Sydney Town Hall. These are quite formal occasions where we acknowledge in particular the academic achievements of the girls for the year.

At this time of the year we also mark the Christmas season. The Carol Service will be conducted on Sunday night in our Chapel, Gordon Uniting Church which should be a wonderful Christmas celebration and again parents are warmly invited. The service commences at 7.00pm.

As I write my final message for the Newsletter I extend my thanks to all in the school community for your support and warm wishes. I hope that you are looking forward to the summer break with your families. I wish you a very happy Christmas and the very best for the New Year.

Ms Vicki Steer

Chaplain's Message

Christmas is coming again. The stores have been full of the tinsel and sparkle which heralds the coming of the Christmas season. I hear people in the Church starting their call about ‘not forgetting the Christ in Christmas.’ However, the fact that people don’t make Jesus or God the focus of the celebration is a real echo of the original story. In the Christmas story we have the beginning of the ultimate story of compassion. God, after the whole of human history trying to get people to live well – not just for themselves but for the vulnerable too, decides to take the radical action of becoming one of us. God takes on flesh and blood, mortality and all the challenges of human life in order to experience firsthand the struggle to live well and to teach us and share with the vision of humanity, as part of the community of God.

So at Christmas, underneath the glitz is the celebration that God comes and lives with us in person. In the Christmas story, God arrives in person, not as a global cosmic celebration to the highest in the land but in poor circumstances to a humble family that is struggling to live and survive as most did in that period of history. Not to the rich and powerful but to the everyday people in their humble existence did God align Godself to, in the person of Jesus. Just like today, the arrival and meaning of the Christ Child goes unnoticed by most of the world and its powers and players. In fact, most of society is largely unaware of the significance of the birth of the Christ, both then and now.

In the end, Christ is always a part of Christmas whether we are aware of it or not, because it is a special manifestation of God’s continual and continuing work in the world. God is for us and with us and wants the best for us. This is not some theory and has little to do with religiosity, just as it has little to do with commercialism and consumerism. God offers us a personal connection which is transformative and redeeming. God works for the best in us and in the whole world and at Christmas through Jesus the Christ, we are reminded of the lengths that God takes to do this. So may you have a blessed holiday season. May you enjoy time to connect with family and friends but may you also find in all the celebration, a life enriching connection with God. It is something to look forward to. Godbless.
Whole School

End of Term 4/Commencement of Term 1 2016

As this is the last newsletter for 2016, I wish you the compliments of the season. I hope that you and your families enjoy a Christmas that is blessed with peace and happiness and the new year brings time for you and your daughters to rest before school resumes.

Term 4 concludes for the Junior School after the Presentation Morning on Tuesday 1 December and for the Secondary School after Speech Day on Wednesday 2 December.

Students currently in Years 7-11 are expected to return to school on Thursday 28 January. Current Year 6 students are expected to return for their Welcome to Secondary School Chapel Service and orientation on Wednesday 27 January. They will be joined by new students in Years 8-11, our new Boarders; their parents, the School Prefects and a number of ‘buddies’.

Combined Carol Service

The annual Ravenswood/Gordon Uniting and Sydney Covenant Uniting Church Carol Service will be held on Sunday evening 29 November at 7.00pm in the Chapel of Gordon Uniting Church. Families are invited to come and share in this special introduction to Christmas which features Ravenswood vocal ensembles. This year, the theme is The Christmas Gift That Keeps Giving.

Mr David Garner, Deputy Principal – Head of Secondary School

Uniform Centre Opening Times 2016

Please report to Main Reception prior to visiting the Uniform Centre.

The Uniform Centre will be open on Monday 30 November from 10.00am-4.30pm then will resume trading as follows:

Term 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Opening Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>Friday 22</td>
<td>8.30am-4.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monday 25</td>
<td>8.30am-4.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 26</td>
<td>Closed - Australia Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 27</td>
<td>8.30am-4.00pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 28</td>
<td>10.00am-4.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 29</td>
<td>10.00am-4.30pm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Then every Monday and Thursday from 10.00am-4.30pm during term.

**Term 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>April</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 25</td>
<td>Closed - Anzac Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 26</td>
<td>10.00am-4.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 27</td>
<td>10.00am-4.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 28</td>
<td>10.00am-4.30pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Then every Monday and Thursday from 10.00am-4.30pm during term.

**Term 3**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>July</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 18</td>
<td>9.00am-4.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 19</td>
<td>10.00am-4.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 20</td>
<td>10.00am-4.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 21</td>
<td>10.00am-4.30pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Then every Monday and Thursday from 10.00am-4.30pm during term.

**Term 4**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>October</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 10</td>
<td>9.00am-4.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 11</td>
<td>10.00am-4.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 13</td>
<td>10.00am-4.30pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Then every Monday and Thursday from 10.00am-4.30pm during term.

**Campion Booklists**


When ordering online you will need to use the following Access Code: HU24.

All Secondary School orders placed online by the due date, **Friday 4 December**, are delivered to your home or office during the week ending Friday 15 January 2016.

All Junior School orders placed online by the due date, **Friday 4 December**, are delivered directly to the school for distribution on the first day of Term 1 2016.

Placing your order online as soon as possible is the best way to ensure your daughter receives all available items in time for Term 1 2016.

*Mrs Kate Christodoulides, Coordinator of Operations*

**School Student Transport Scheme**

The School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) has been replaced by the School Opal card.

Students who already have a school student travel pass, do not need to apply for the School Opal card. The cards will be sent to Ravenswood at the beginning of the 2016 school year.
An application is needed if your daughter is:

- Commencing Kindergarten in 2016
- Progressing from Year 2 to Year 3 in 2016
- Progressing from Year 6 to Year 7 in 2016

How to Apply


Step 2: Print*, sign and date the completed application, then submit it to Ravenswood for endorsement.

Step 3: Ravenswood will send the endorsed application to Transport for NSW. Once approved, the School Opal card will be sent to the address provided on the application.

* Please ensure you sign the printed form before handing it in to Reception otherwise the form will not be processed.

If you have already submitted an SSTS form, these will still be accepted by Transport for NSW.

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**Junior School**

**Head of Junior School**

Information on: the RPA Summer Carnival, Carol Service on Sunday, Presentation Morning next Tuesday and end-of-year activities.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for your support of your daughters and the teaching staff. Below please see the final end-of-year activities.

For those who were able to attend the RPA Summer Carnival last Sunday, I am sure you will agree it was a fantastic event, well organised and with great attendance.

A note has been sent home for the Carol Service on Sunday with the attendance of Ravo Voices and the Junior School Vocal Ensemble.

At the Presentation Morning next Tuesday, the girls will attend school from normal time until 11.00am. This will then be the end of the term for all. After School Care is available from the end of Presentation Morning.

**Term 4 Events**

**Week 8 A**

Sunday 29 November  Combined Carol Service – Junior, Middle and Senior Vocal Ensembles and Ravo Voices will be performing, 7.00pm Gordon Uniting Church

**Week 9 B**

Monday 30 November  Presentation Morning Assembly Practice at 1.40pm

Tuesday 1 December  Junior School Presentation Morning 9.00am-11.00am Joan Goff Gymnasium - blazers are to be worn and parents are welcome

TERM 4 ENDS Junior School

*Mrs Cheryl Bailey, Head of Junior School*
Technology Maker Club for Years 3-6

If you like coding, robots, 3D printing, electronics and exploring new technologies then the new Technology Maker Club is for you. The club will run from 4.30pm-6.00pm every Thursday from 4 February until 10 March 2016. Spots for this new club are limited so to secure your place, please fill in an enrolment form from the Parent Portal. For more information, please contact the Junior School on 9498 9832 or email mscadding@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au.

Mr Matthew Scadding, ICT Integrator

RPA Junior School Year Group News

Year 3 End-of-Year Gathering for Parents: Friday 27 November from 7.30pm
Year 3 parents' get-together at the home of Megan Tranter, East Lindfield, to celebrate the end of another fabulous year at Ravenswood. Full details are available on the Parent Portal.

Secondary School

Secondary School Speech Day

The Secondary School Speech Day ceremony will be held at Sydney Town Hall on Wednesday 2 December, commencing at 10.00am and concluding by approximately 12.30pm.

A significant occasion in the school calendar, the Speech Day ceremony is a compulsory event for all girls in Years 7-12 and I hope each student will be accompanied by her parents. The celebration of the achievements of the girls in the Secondary School is something that is valued by the school community. We frequently acknowledge the girls’ achievements and contributions to the life of the school throughout the year at Year Group Meetings and Assemblies, when we present awards for commitment and achievement in a number of academic, sporting and co-curricular programs. However, Speech Day is a special occasion because it is a function to which parents are invited and the girls’ achievements are celebrated and acknowledged publicly.

I look forward to your attendance on the day.
Year 9 Camp 2016

In 2016, the Year 9 Camp will be held between Monday 4 and Friday 8 April. The school has scheduled the Camp to take place at this time to coincide with the Cadet Annual Field Exercise (AFX). Since Year 9 Cadets participated in the AFX for the first time in April 2012, the school has had several opportunities to evaluate the effectiveness and timing of the AFX and the Year 9 Camp. Scheduling the Year 9 Camp and the AFX to take place at different times has been problematic for those girls involved in Cadets. In the past, the Year 9 Cadets have been absent for the last six days of Term 1, and the learning experiences of their peers who remain at school, has placed them in an advantageous position. In order for the Cadets to be at the same point as their peers when they return to school in Term 2 after the holidays, the students have had to spend a large amount of their time in the holidays completing work covered in class whilst they were at AFX. Year 9 students should be able to relax and enjoy their holidays and not be expected to be completing school work.

The School Leadership Team, the Year Coordinators and the Cadet Liaison have given the timing of the Year 9 Camp a great deal of thought. We are confident the timing of the Camp with the AFX will enable all Year 9 students to experience outdoor education. Cadets will not be disadvantaged by not being able to take part in the Camp, as the experiences and activities they take part in are very similar. We will continue to monitor this to ensure our Year 9 students can best balance the demands of their academic studies with the AFX program.

Cambridge Immerse

Cambridge Immerse is seeking applications from students aged between 15-18, to take part in a summer program in July-August 2016.

Cambridge Immerse is a two-week educational experience with a diverse and enriching curriculum. Tutorials and seminars are taught by highly regarded tutors in an optimal learning environment that stimulates academic enquiry; yet the carefully planned schedule ensures that the program not only meets the academic needs of the participants but also provides a unique insight into the University of Cambridge through an abundance of activities.

Session 1: 24 July to 6 August 2016

Session 2: 7 August to 20 August 2016

The subjects offered in the 2016 summer program include Biology; Chemistry; Creative Writing, Economics; Engineering; English Literature; History; International Relations; Law; Management; Mathematics; Medicine; Physics and Politics.

For more information, please go to www.cambridgeimmerse.com or students may collect a brochure from Mrs Suellen Oakley, Beyond the Classroom Administrator. Email enquiries may be made via enquiries@cambridgeimmerse.com.

Applications must be made via the online application form found at the above website address and places are allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Coming Secondary School Events

Week 8

Friday 27 - Sunday 29 November
Boarders’ Closed Weekend
Sunday 29 November
Ravenswood and Gordon Uniting Church Carol Service

Week 9

Wednesday 2 December
Secondary School Presentation Day Ceremony
TERM 4 ENDS
Boarders may travel home after the ceremony

Mr David Garner, Deputy Principal – Head of Secondary School
Maths Help

**MATHS HELP 2015**

- **WEEK A** Monday and Tuesday
- **WEEK B** Wednesday and Thursday
- 3.30pm-4.30pm
- LRC Foyer Level 2

Ms Blair (Mon Wk A), Ms Hazlehurst (Tues Wk A),
Mrs Hurd (Wed Wk B) and Mrs Allan (Thurs Wk B) will be available for individual help with homework,
preparation for testing or review of problem topics.

All Years 7-12 Mathematics students are welcome.

Please encourage your daughter to take advantage
of this opportunity to consolidate her mathematical
understanding in a relaxed and supportive environment.

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English Support

**ENGLISH SUPPORT**

The English Department is offering English Support in
**Semester 2** in the LRC from 3.30-4.30pm.
This is available for all Years 7-12 students.

Miss Bowers will be available **Monday weeks A & B**
Mrs Sullivan will be available **Wednesday Week A** & **Tuesday Week B**
Mrs Paulsen will be offering EIL support **Thursday Week A** & **Wednesday Week B**

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Performing Arts

**Music**

Information on: the RPA Summer Carnival performances, the Secondary School Choral Festival 2016 Music Ensembles, the Performing Arts Booklet 2016, Ravo Presents 2016 and congratulations to students.

**RPA Summer Carnival**

Congratulations to the Secondary School Rock Band, *Stiletto*, who represented Ravenswood at the first *Battle of the Bands* at Sunday's Summer Carnival. Congratulations to Ravo Rockers who also performed on the day.
Secondary School Choral Festival

Photo: Judges James Magnusson and George Ellis, Director Music and Performing Arts Mrs Heather Aird and the House Choir Captains

Congratulations to the four House Choir Captains for their amazing work at this year’s Secondary School Choral Festival. Not only did they look stunning but they guided their Houses to an excellent final performance which entertained the audience. Well done to all singers.

The Choral Festival DVD will be ready to collect from next Monday afternoon from the Performing Arts Reception, for a gold coin donation.

2016 Music Ensembles

Musicians: Please put 9.00am-1.00pm Saturday 30 January 2016 in your diary. You are invited to a Music Ensemble Welcome Morning where you will meet your band/string ensemble director and other members of your group. This is the final chance to audition for the Music Program if you missed the Term 4 auditions. Please refer to the audition packs on the Portal for music and guidelines. Come and talk to me if you have any questions.

Audition feedback and confirmation of band/string ensemble/orchestra placement will be emailed to all who auditioned in Term 4 within the next few days.

Performing Arts Booklet 2016


Ravo Presents 2016

This is a notice to let singers know that Ravo Presents will run with a different format in 2016. I alluded to this after the 2015 event but this is to confirm that it is likely to take place much later in the year, in Term 4. We value our singers at Ravenswood and are so proud of our girls who auditioned and sang in the 2015 Final. Keep practicing!

Mrs Heather Aird, Director Music and Performing Arts
Sports

Curriculum-Related Sport

Registrations are open for lessons in Term 1 2016 for gymnastics, swimming, diving, tennis, golf and rowing. If your daughter is interested in signing up, please access the information from the Sport Portal, complete the forms and return them by Friday 27 November to ensure that you secure a place in a class.

Snowsports

Ravenswood has 2016 bookings underway for the ‘Ravenswood Lodge’ being The Manor at Perisher. For families who wish to take part in the Regional Championships, they are being held in the last week of the July holidays and we encourage all Ravenswood students from K-12 to take part. If anyone would like more information on the accommodation option, please read the forms available on the Portal or contact the Sports Office.

Ravenswood Swimming Program

Summer is upon us and the 2016 Swimming Carnivals are only weeks away. Now is the time to secure you child’s swimming lessons with the Ravenswood Swimming Program. The program offers intensive lessons in the December and January School Holidays as well as a full program for Term 1 2016. Bookings are essential, so please contact the office on 9498 9920 or swimming@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au to secure your spot.

Lessons are booking out fast, so hurry before it’s too late!

Mr Mitch Falvey, Head Coach Swimming

Community

From the Development Office

I’ve had a number of people ask me to repeat the speech that I made at the RPA Christmas Lunch.

I asked people to stand up and remain standing if any of the following applied to them ...

Please stand if you are on the RPA Executive Committee; the RPA Junior School or Years 7-12 Committees, or have been a Class Parent this year. Please stand if you volunteered for the Carnival, or you made a meal for the Meals Made With Love Program, or attended a Connect group activity, or if you helped out in Lost Property; if you attended a Prayer Group Breakfast, organised a Reunion or volunteered at a Mother’s or Father’s Day stall; if you helped with a translation – I’d like to acknowledge those who sent money for cupcake days, took their daughters to a Junior School Disco or hosted a Class Parent event. Please also stand if you attended a Class Parent event, the Sports Lunch, the Christmas Lunch, or an Empowering Women event?

I would also like to acknowledge those who made a donation, and supported the Annual Giving program; if you purchased a Paver, a raffle ticket at any event or donated a gift; if you attended the Science is the New Black event or supported the Ravenswood Foundation by attending a meeting; if you attended the opening of the War Memorial or bought a camellia; if you are a member of ROGU, or a Fidler Fellow; or if you have attended any Ravenswood event throughout the course of the year.

And now, since you are all upstanding members of the Ravenswood Community, can I simply say, with heartfelt appreciation … thank you.
It has been a wonderful first year at Ravenswood and I have had the great privilege of working with an incredible team, Claire, Melinda (until August), Jane (since September) and Anne (since October). I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year. Enjoy the holidays and I look forward to catching up with you next year.

RPA Summer Carnival – your feedback is wanted

A massive thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered and supported the RPA Summer Carnival. Please spare us a couple of minutes and complete an anonymous survey. Click on this link: 

RPA and Foundation Tuition Raffle

There are still some tickets left for the RPA/Foundation Tuition Raffle. This will be drawn on Friday 18 December at 12 noon.

For your chance to win free tuition for one student for 2016, click on http://www.trybooking.com/JGFQ. There are 500 tickets available; the ticket price is $250 plus the TryBooking fee.

RPA Officeholders

AGMs were held last week for the RPA Executive and Sub-Committees. The officeholders for 2016 are as follows:

**RPA Executive**

President: Colin Frost  
Vice President: Louise Hayman  
Secretary: Shaun Pitcher  
Treasurer: Filip Cloetens

**Years 7-12 Sub-Committee**

President: Louise Hayman  
Vice President: Philip Robinson  
Secretary: Vicki Fenech  
Treasurer: Cassandra Gordon

**Junior School Sub-Committee**

President: Edith Steinert  
Vice President: Lies Vanmechelen  
Secretary: Farah MacLean  
Treasurers: John Tamplin and Kirsten Thomsen

Note: There are vacancies for general committee members for the Years 7-12 Sub-Committee. Please contact the Development Office (9498 9825) with expressions of interest.

**Last chance to buy your limited-edition Ravenswood Remembrance Camellia**

The perfect Christmas gift for the Ravenswood community member who has everything. Funds from the sale of commemorative camellias will go towards the landscaping of the War Memorial. The RRP is $100. Enquiries to the Development Office: 9498 9825.

**Volunteer forms for 2016 are still being accepted**

Have you submitted your volunteer form for 2016? The form is on the Parent Portal under the General Information tab. Or see here.

*Ms Liane Leslie, Development and Relationships Manager*
Active Kids Holiday Program

The Active Kids holiday program offers a variety of sports activities for primary school-aged children including: multi-sport program(s) as well as NEW dance camp and tennis activities at West Lindfield Hall and Queen Elizabeth Reserve. If you're looking to keep the kids healthy, active and excited be sure to choose one of these fantastic program(s) run by qualified and experienced professionals and coaches. For further information visit www.kmc.nsw.gov.au/activekids or call 9424 0802.

Carols in the Park

Special Guest
Colin Buchanan
The Australian Waratah Girls Choir
Golden Karraros Concert Band

Saturday 12th December, from 6pm
Ku-ring-gai Bicentennial Park off Lobberg Road West Pymble

Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women’s Shelter Fundraiser

Handel’s Messiah 2015
at Hornsby Cathedral

8pm Thursday 10 December
Now in its seventh year
Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Ecumenical Choir in collaboration with Hornsby Cathedral presents
Handel’s Messiah
with organ, trumpets, tympani and soloists

For further information e-mail: hmszesh@gmail.com
USA STEM Tour 2016

USA STEM Tour 2016 – places still available!
There is still places available for next years STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) tour (during the June/July holidays), if you are interested and would like more information please don’t hesitate to contact Mrs Cavill dcavill@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au

Paris 2016 Textile and Fashion Workshops

Paras America Academy - workshops

• Workshops
• Couture Technique - hats and embroidery
• Draping
• Design Process and Presentation
• Fashion Communication - photo shoots & photo story

If you are interested and would like more information please contact Mrs D. Bond dbond@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au

Leaving Saturday 24th September – Sunday 9th October
Ravenswood History and Languages Tour 2017

ITALY, GERMANY, BELGIUM AND FRANCE – 8-24 APRIL 2017

Open to students of History, French, German and Latin, currently in Years 8-10

$8250* per student, based on 20 paying students and 3 staff escorts

*Costs are subject to currency fluctuations, airline increases and seasonality changes for 2017.

Tour cost includes:

- Return economy airfare Sydney/Rome/Paris/Sydney
- Economy airfare Naples–Berlin, Berlin–Brussels
- All taxes and fuel surcharges for flights
- All accommodation in 2, 3 and 4 star hotels throughout and all meals
- All land travel by private coach or public transport
- Entrance fees to all sites listed on the itinerary
- All tipping
- Local guides at all major sites
- One-hour lecture with Dr Estelle Lazer (about Pompeii and Herculaneum)
- Tour manager for the entire trip
- Guided walking tour of Roman Forum and of Rome’s landmarks
- Vatican Museum guided tour, entrance to the Cupola and visit to the Basilica
- Visit to Mount Vesuvius
- Guided tours of Pompeii and Herculaneum
- Guided tour of Berlin, Reichstag, Brandenburg Gate, Checkpoint Charlie, Eastside Gallery, Soviet Memorial, self-guided tour of DDR Museum
- Orientation tour of Ypres
- Passchendaele Memorial Museum, Wreath Laying Ceremony at Menin Gate, transfer to the Somme Valley and WWI battlefields with a guide, guided tour of Villers Bretonneux
- Guided tour of Paris, including the Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe, dinner on the Champs Elysees
- Visits to the Louvre, Palace of Versailles, Hotel Carnavalet or sister school Le Lycée Carcado-Saisseval, Montmartre and Sacre Coeur, Bateau Mouches cruise along the Seine.
- Comprehensive travel insurance with Suresave

Information Evening to be held early February 2016.
NATIONAL ART SCHOOL SHORT COURSES IN VISUAL ARTS

Do you love visual arts? Get creative this Summer holidays with a National Art School short course!

The National Art School is an accredited higher education provider, endorsed by the NSW Department of Education and Arts. We offer tailored short courses for teenagers and adults in a creative and engaging studio environment.

Taught by professional practicing artists in our beautiful sandstone Darlinghurst campus, our short courses equip students with the skills and confidence to develop their own unique visual language and create original artworks.

Choose from our Summer School courses in drawing, ceramics, painting, printmaking, photography and sculpture.

To book please visit nas.edu.au or contact +61 2 9339 8633 or shortcourses@nas.edu.au

NATIONAL ART SCHOOL
News

Year 7 Christmas Market

This year’s Christmas Market for Year 7 was, once again, very successful. The students entered the poster making and cooking competitions with great gusto and the result was a range of informative and very creative posters and delicious international fare.

With the Assembly Hall decorated for Christmas, the students set up their stalls; each one representing a different country. These were splendid, with the girls outdoing each other with innovative and interesting cultural artefacts representing Christmas in their chosen land. There were candles, clogs and costumes, to name a few.

After the judges had tried each dish, the students were free to explore the food that their classmates had prepared at home and brought to school that morning. Cookies, cakes, savoury dishes, hot food, chilled food, all was on offer and all was wonderful.

Apart from a great deal of fun, the students experienced a little of what Christmas is like in other parts of the world and their understanding of different cultures has broadened. Perhaps some girls will include their chosen dish as part of their families’ Christmas traditions from now on.

Mr Robert Head