Principal's Message

I have spent considerable time this week reading through the half yearly reports for Year 12 students. My purpose was to review the teachers’ assessments of each girl, particularly regarding the extent to which she is applying herself to her studies in her final school year.

Each student has her own gifts and talents; however, extensive research, notably that led by Professor Carol S Dweck of Stanford University, shows that attention to effort has a positive and significant effect on student achievement. Dweck writes:

‘our studies show that teaching people to have a “growth mind-set,” which encourages a focus on “process” (consisting of personal effort and effective strategies) rather than on intelligence or talent, helps make them into high achievers in school and in life.’

(Dweck, Scientific American January 2015)

At Ravenswood, we have taken this research on board and it is informing our practice across all levels of the school.

The written school report has long been the primary, and most formal, method of communication about a child's progress, to her parents. With our focus on personalised attention for each student, we are now investigating the practice of on time, online reporting to parents regarding student progress. This work is only in the preliminary stage but we are positive about the potential benefits to students and parents and will keep you informed about our plans as they develop.

Less formal methods of communication with the school are encouraged and please do not hesitate to contact your daughter’s class teacher, subject or Year Coordinator should you have any queries.

Ms Vicki Steer

Chaplain's Message

If we think back to the Easter story, it is not a 'nice' story. It is not nice in the sense that we can listen to it and say, 'Oh, that's a nice story'. For Christian people, it is powerful and full of grace and hope, which is nice in terms of how it speaks of God’s love but it is a story of injustice, cruelty, the politics of power, the weakness of the human character, violence, torture, persecution, betrayal and killing.

The Easter story is about triumph of love over evil, life over death and hope over despair. It is one which holds great meaning but that meaning is found in the deep realities involved with overcoming suffering, and the cost of working for a better world.

Jesus was not a 'nice' person to be around. He was a good person but he was provocative and challenging. What he had to say was often difficult and confronting. He set high standards and was always pushing against the status quo. He was a dangerous person and a rebel. He was not dangerous in the sense that he was physically threatening but his way of talking about the Kingdom of Heaven and how the world should be threatened, undermined the social and religious hierarchy and systems of power and injustice that society was, and still is, founded upon. That made him dangerous to be around.
The Easter story is not a nice story, even though we might want it to be. It is not a religious fairy tale. It is a story which has, for good (and sadly sometimes for ill), shaped a significant part of history. It is not a nice story but it is one that can shape our future. Jesus ended up on the cross, not because he was nice but because of what he was teaching and advocating. The way he lived was in opposition to the powers of his day, and sought to help people shape lives that would make a positive difference in the world. This is something to think about. God bless.

Rev Jon Humphries

Whole School

Operation Bula!

We are collecting donations of new and unused toothbrushes and toothpaste, to help the children of Fiji maintain good oral hygiene. Additionally, Operation Bula! is collecting stationery, such as coloured pencils and pens, to give to the Tagaqe school.

Donation boxes are located in the Junior School Courtyard and outside Student Reception. All donations are appreciated.

Katherine Jacobs and Eryn McCaskie, Year 12

Language Perfect World and G6 Championships 2016

The competition starts this coming Monday 18 May and runs until Thursday 28 May. We thank you in advance for supporting your daughter in contributing as many points as possible for the school, and her language skills and range of vocabulary will improve enormously too.

Tour de Nouméa 2016

Expressions of interest are being requested for our next school language immersion tour to Nouméa, New Caledonia, which will take place from Friday 8-15 April 2016. This tour is open to students who are currently in Years 8-11 and who are studying French.
It is also expected that participants will continue their study of the language in 2016. Students taking part in this tour attend French school, live with a host family for five of the seven nights and also take in many of the sites of Nouméa and the surrounding islands. It is a wonderful opportunity to not only improve their competence and confidence in using the language but also a great way to immerse themselves in an authentic French-Melanesian culture, and connect with students from other Year Groups and other schools.

To reserve seats at the Information Evening (6.00pm-6.45pm on Thursday 28 May in the Middle School Learning Studio), please email bcalcraft@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au, giving your daughter’s name and Mentor.

For further details regarding the tour, see the flyer with this week’s Newsletter.

*Vivent les langues!*

*Mrs Bronwen Calcraft, Languages Coordinator*

**Access to the Parent Portal**

To access the Parent Portal from the new website, click on Online Services, on the homepage.

From there, click on the Parents menu:
Curriculum-related registrations links can be found under Sports and Performing Arts:

For any other registrations, please go to the Parent Portal.

**Extra-Curricular Photo Shoot – Sibling Photos**

The Semester 1 Extra-Curricular Photo Shoot will take place on **Thursday 28 May**. A schedule of photos to be taken will be made available closer to the event.

If you would like a sibling photo to be taken of your daughters on this day, then this must be pre-ordered and paid for online. Sibling photo orders will close 48 hours prior to photo-day.

To pre-order your sibling photo, please visit [www.advancedlife.com.au](http://www.advancedlife.com.au):

1. In the Secure Code Box, enter Ravenswood’s online order code **AV1 QR8 PC1**.
2. Click ‘Order Photos’ on the left-hand side.
3. Click ‘Sibling’ and follow the prompts thereafter.

Sibling photos will be delivered to the school for collection by the students, approximately four weeks after photo day.

If you have any questions, or experience any difficulties, please call Advanced Life Customer Service on 1300 728 972.
Activities and Excursions Online Procedure

A letter was sent home regarding the online procedure for all notification of activities and excursions. We would like to begin this new procedure, however, all permission notes must be submitted prior to starting.

This is a reminder to return the Ravenswood Consent permission note. Thank you to those families who have already done so. If you have any questions regarding this new online procedure or did not receive the letter via email, please contact me on kchristodoulides@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au.

Mrs Kate Christodoulides, Coordinator of Operations

Junior School

From the Head of Junior School

On Monday morning, I was greeted with the Year 6 girls dressed in House colours and speaking about the Spirit Stall, which took place on Tuesday, selling goods in House colours, in preparation for the Athletics Carnival. What a colourful way to return to school. Thank you for your good wishes during my absence.
I hope all of the mothers and grandmothers in our school had a lovely day on Sunday and were spoiled by their daughters. Special thanks to the committee that organised and ran the stalls for the Mothers’ Day gifts. The girls love shopping for their gifts at school, taking pride in the selection of the gift and the ability to be independent with money.

This week has been a busy one for Years 3 and 5 with the NAPLAN testing. The tests are designed to gauge the development in the students, in Literacy and Numeracy. The girls have managed the tests well and have been well-prepared by their class teachers.

It is important to gather data about students, which we do as part of the assessment process. The data gathered within the school focuses on the individual student, her progress and looks at pathways for improvement. We also use a range of standardised material that provides comparisons between each student’s results, compared to her chronological age or Year Group. The information ensures we are catering for each individual’s needs and encouraging development in learning.

Next week is a busy one with the K-2 Grandparents’ Day on Tuesday. Thursday will commence with Year 5 hosting Little Puppy Cupcake Day, followed by Operation Bula! Movie Afternoon for Years 5 and 6. Years 3-6 are excited about the Athletics Carnival next Friday at The Academy of Sport, Narrabeen. The girls are required to be at school by 8.00am, with a 9.00am commencement of the carnival.

Mrs Cheryl Bailey, Head of Junior School

Crunch&Sip®

Kids love the crunchy outer and juicy inner of cucumber. Most girls bring in cucumber cut into sticks or slices for Crunch&Sip®.

However, whole baby cucumbers, or a whole or half Lebanese cucumber, or section of a Telegraph cucumber can be great to munch away at during Crunch&Sip® and require less preparation.

Mrs Melissa Mülle

K-2 Grandparents’ Day

K-2 girls are looking forward to Grandparents and Special Friends Day, next Tuesday 19 May.

Grandparents and special friends are invited to join the girls in the classroom from 8.30am, to work together on some fun activities. We will all go to Chapel together, this will be followed by a special morning tea in Mrs Holly’s Garden, finishing at 10.30am. Please see the K-2 teachers for any further information.

Mrs Tracey Hurley, Year 2 Teacher
Secondary School

Planning a Gap year in the UK?

Is your daughter taking part in a Gap year in the United Kingdom in 2016? Would you like to find out more about arranging her travel, insurance, accommodation in London, Top Deck tours of Europe in Summer, and so on? If so, I invite you to an information session for Year 12 students at Ravenswood and neighbouring schools on Tuesday 26 May in the Assembly Hall.

If your daughter has been offered a placement in a UK school for 2016, I encourage you and her to come to the Assembly Hall at 7.00pm and listen to the presentation from Roz Martindale at Wahroonga Travel. Mrs Martindale will be escorting students from Sydney on 2 January 2016. For more information, please see the flyer with this week’s Newsletter, or telephone 9489 1978 or email roz.wahroonga@optusnet.com.au.

Year 7 Parent/Teacher Student Conferences

The Year 7 Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences are being held next Tuesday 19 May. If you have not yet booked your appointments online, please be mindful that the deadline is Monday 18 May and that no appointment times can be made after this date. Unfortunately we are unable to use the Assembly Hall (AH) as a location and the PTI website has been updated to reflect the changes. An email regarding the new locations was sent on Wednesday. Should you require further information, please feel free to email secondaryschool@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au.

Year 10 Half Yearly Examinations

Best wishes to Year 10 students as they commence half yearly examinations on Friday. Examinations will conclude on Friday 22 May.

Immersion

As you know, Ravenswood has partnered with Knox Grammar School for three years and facilitated Immersions in Cambodia for Year 11 students. On Thursday 11 June, Immersion, a documentary about the Ravenswood/Knox Cambodia Immersion program, will premiere at Knox Grammar School.

If your daughter has taken part in a previous Immersion or she is currently in Year 11 and preparing to travel to Cambodia in June, I encourage you to join me on the night. I would also like to invite current Year 9 and 10 students who may be thinking about taking part in the program in the future, to come along on the night. Please view the trailer here: https://vimeo.com/knoxgrammar/review/98605982/8e56af2524.

Over twelve months in the making, Immersion tells the story of a group of students from Ravenswood and Knox who travel to Cambodia to teach English in the slum communities of Phnom Penh. This is a ticketed event (even I will be purchasing my own seats!) and can only be booked via this link: http://www.trybooking.com/Booking/BookingEventSummary.aspx?eid=134545&embed=134545.

Seating is strictly limited so I strongly encourage purchasing your tickets as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. The evening will include a presentation from John McKeon, the Director of Matesabroad, the NGO Ravenswood has worked with since 2011; fundraising opportunities and a food stall run by our June Immersionists. All proceeds from the sale of tickets and food on the night will be donated to Matesabroad.
School Uniform

I acknowledge the majority of students in Years 7-12 wear their uniforms with pride. However, a number of students are not observing the school’s dress code and I ask for the support of parents, to ensure students represent the school in a positive light in the wider community.

Please ensure your daughter is appropriately dressed when she leaves for school in the morning by closely monitoring her appearance whenever possible. In particular, I draw your attention to the following:

- If your daughter chooses not to wear tights and would prefer to wear socks, please ensure she wears knee high socks purchased from the Uniform Centre. Short blue or black socks are not part of the school uniform, despite protestations from your daughter that they are and ‘you’re allowed to wear them’.

- If your daughter’s skirt extends to a length above her knees, it is too short and will either need to be lengthened or replaced so that it sits at or below her knees.

- Jewellery is not to be worn with the school uniform, however, students are permitted to wear a chain with a cross, providing it is on a thin chain and the cross is no larger than 2cm.

- Ear studs only are permitted, provided they are a single pair, worn in the centre of the ear lobe, and are plain silver or gold, no larger than 4mm in diameter. No other form of studs, sleepers or earrings are permitted, so if your daughter has an extra piercing in her ear, she is breaching school rules.

- Finally, makeup and nail polish are not permitted.

The School Rules regarding Uniform and General Appearance and the wearing of PE Uniform, can be read on pages 20 and 21 of the Student Diary. If your daughter wears her uniform correctly and with pride, please commend her for her efforts; they do not go unnoticed by me.

Mr David Garner, Deputy Principal – Head of Secondary School

Careers

Year 12: Excursion to the Careers Expo on Friday 29 May - We leave at 9.00am and will return for afternoon lessons. A list of exhibitors will be issued this week.

Year 10: Students have received an email regarding their Career Avenues interview time for either 1, 3, 4, or 5 June. Parents are welcome to attend.

Other careers announcements and the weekly myhighschoolcareers news has been placed on the Careers page of the school Portal.

Ms Meg Hall, Careers Counsellor
mhall@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au
Performing Arts

Music

*Ravo Presents*

Tickets for the Final (Thursday 18 June) are now on sale via [http://www.trybooking.com/HQCC](http://www.trybooking.com/HQCC) and are selling very quickly. Book soon to avoid disappointment.

**Term 2 Lunchtime Concerts**

Please sign-up for the Lunchtime Concerts at Performing Arts Reception or via music@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au:

Years 3-6: Wednesday 27 May
Years 7-12: Wednesday 3 June

**Band Performance**

The Morrison Band and Symphonic Wind Ensemble will be performing their current repertoire on Thursday 11 June at 7.00pm-8.00pm in the Lorraine Smith Auditorium. The Ravenswood community is invited to join us for this free, informal concert. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Speakfest**

An invitation for Years 7-9 students is included with the flyers, with this week’s Newsletter. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Jillian Burgess, Convenor Public Speaking at jburgess@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au.

*Mrs Heather Aird, Director Music and Performing Arts*
Junior School Vocal Ensemble

On Friday 8 May, the Junior School Vocal Ensemble had the chance to perform on Northside Radio’s Breakfast in Bed Mothers’ Day program, which went to air on Sunday 10 May.

The girls sang Magic and Ordinary Miracle wholeheartedly, capturing their love for their mums in song. Some students also had the opportunity to record a personal message to their mums for the special day. It was such a wonderful experience for all those involved and gave the students a glimpse into life ‘on air’.

Thank you Northside Radio for inviting us to take part.

Mrs Anneliese Constantine

Dance

Choreographer’s Assistants Applications Open

In Terms 3 and 4, Year 6 students will commence rehearsals for the Junior School Musical. I am looking for two Years 9-10 students who will take on the role of Choreographer’s Assistants, by helping to teach choreography to the Year 6 students.

Any dancers interested in applying must be available on Monday afternoons from 3.30pm-6.00pm and/or Thursday mornings from 7.00am-8.00am. To apply, simply send an expression of interest to me at Dance@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au, outlining why you think you would be suited for the role. Please contact me if you have any further enquiries.

Miss Ebony Keys, Dance Convenor
Sports

Cross Country

Ravenswood Cross Country Invitational Results

Congratulations to the Ravenswood girls who competed against Wenona and Queenwood at St Ives Showground, last Thursday 30 April.

The course was extremely slippery and muddy. Our girls did a fantastic job in these conditions, racing against a total of 81 girls in this friendly event. The girls had a great afternoon and we are hoping to make this an annual event.

IGSSA Cross Country Good Luck

Good luck to our Ravenswood Cross Country team which is competing today at the IGSSA Cross Country Carnival at Frensham. This is a very competitive carnival as most races will have over 150 girls competing for one of the 15 golden tickets to the NSWCIS. The girls have trained incredibly hard all year, including the holidays, and in all conditions.

Mrs Kara Bryson, Head Coach Athletics and Fitness

Snowsports

It's not too late! There is still time to join Ravenswood’s Snowsports team for 2015. Any families who are heading to the snow are strongly encouraged to join the team.

Your commitment can be as little as participating in one race, through to coming along to all the races and training sessions. If you are interested, please contact the Sports Office on 9498 9919 as soon as possible.
**Week 5 Training Arrangements**

Next week, there will be changes to the Sport training schedule, as a result of works being conducted on the tennis courts and oval.

From Tuesday to Thursday, there will be demountable classrooms assembled along the side of the oval, resulting in part of the oval being out of action. On the tennis courts, there will be repairs carried out to cracks on the surface, so they will be out of action on Tuesday and Wednesday.

All parents and students must be aware of the changes which affect the following teams; Basketball – Rav1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14, and for Football – Rav 1 and 6 will only train once that week. Any students who cannot make their rescheduled training, must contact their convenor to make alternative arrangements. The updated schedule can be found on the noticeboards and the Portal by clicking here.

*Mr Dale Berg*
Community

From the Development Office

Year 5 Little Puppy Cupcake Day – Thursday 21 May at Recess

Please bring money in for the Year 5 Little Puppy Cupcake Day next Thursday. Cupcakes not sold will be available to Secondary School students at lunchtime. Proceeds from sales go to the Guide Dogs.

Year 5 parents are reminded to check the Portal for recipes and for further information about the event.

Ms Liane Leslie, Development and Relationships Manager

RPA Year Group News

Year 1: Coffee Catch-up, Monday 18 May from 8.30am

Please join other Year 1 parents for a coffee catch-up any time after 8.30am at The Runaway Spoon in Lindfield.

Year 6: Parents Morning Tea, Tuesday 19 May from 8.30am

Year 6 parents are invited for a coffee and a chat at The Runaway Spoon in Lindfield from 8.30am.

Year 7: Morning Tea, Friday 5 June from 9.30am

Year 7 parents are invited to a morning tea at the home of Julie Cowdery. Please RSVP to Julie via stephenandjulie@ozemail.com.au by Monday 1 June. Full details are available on the Parent Portal.

Year 8: Parent/Daughter Dinner, Sunday 14 June at 6.00pm

Year 8 parents and their girls are invited to a Tapas-style dinner at The Runaway Spoon, 6.00pm-8.30pm. The cost is $37 per head and bookings should be made at http://www.trybooking.com/HRUW by Monday 8 June. Full details are available on the Parent Portal.
PLANNING A GAP YEAR IN THE UK?

JOIN ROZ’S ESCORTED DEPARTURE BOUND FOR LONDON ON JANUARY 2ND, 2016!

- Group departure with Singapore Airlines
- Other departures catered for
- 2 experienced travel consultants to accompany the group. In 2015 we took 129 students
- 30kg of luggage allowance
- Special visa assistance
- Group yearly insurance
- Arrange onward destinations from London
- Accommodation on arrival in London if required, with free tour and hotel transfer
- Top Deck gap tours of Europe during Summer break
- Confirmation of return flights free of charge
- Assistance with excess luggage home
- Information regarding bank accounts and mobile phones
- End of year BBQ for all gap families to finalise documents and meet fellow gappies
- Roz’s 24hr assistance during gap year

For further details please contact Roz Martindale:
W: 02 9489 1978 - M: 0402 081 104

SPECIAL GAP MEETING
Ravenswood School
26TH MAY AT 700PM
Assembly Hall Gate 3
Henry St Gordon
ALL FAMILIES WELCOME
RAVENSWOOD TOUR DE NOUMÉA 2016 (8 – 15 APRIL)
Open to students of French currently in Years 8-11

$ 2470* per student, based on 20 paying students and 2 staff escorts plus pre-paid
taxes and levies
* Costs are subject to currency fluctuations, airline increases and seasonality
changes for 2016.

Inclusions

• Return economy airfare with Aircalin ex-Sydney (based on a special fare),
  prepaid taxes and levies. Return airport transfers in Nouméa.
• Two (2) nights’ accommodation at Le Pacifique
• Five (5) nights homestay accommodation in pairs.
• Daily buffet breakfast whilst at Le Pacifique.
• All meals, including one set menu dinner at L’eau Vive on the last evening,
  and transfers.
• 2-hour guided tour of the Tjibaou Cultural Centre, including transfers.
• Excursion to the Parc Forestier, including coach transfers, entry fee and
  picnic lunch.
• City Sights Tour on the Chou Chou Train.
• Entry to the famous Aquarium de Nouméa.
• Amédée Lighthouse Cruise including Melanesian buffet and performance.
• 4 x 3 hour French Language lessons at C.R.E.I.P.A.C., including transfers.
• 5% New Caledonia service tax.
• Room tax.
• Tour Diary and polo shirt.

If your daughter is currently in Years 8-11, is studying French and is keen to
improve her cultural knowledge and linguistic skills (with a view to continuing her
study of the language in 2016), then you are invited to attend an information
evening on Thursday 28 May, 6.00pm-6.45pm in the Middle School Learning
Studio.

Please email your expression of interest to attend this meeting, plus your
daughter’s name and Mentor Group, to Mrs Bronwen Calcraeft
bcalcraft@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au by no later than Monday 25 May.

Vive le français!
Speakfest – Years 7-9

This Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championship is the preliminary competition that leads to the Australian Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championship (AIDPSC).

Ravenswood is able to take 4 students each year.

This year it is being held at St Kevin’s College, Toorak in Victoria from

Monday 21 to Wednesday 23 September. (THE FIRST THREE DAYS OF THE SEPTEMBER HOLIDAYS)

If you are chosen, the team will travel to Melbourne on Sunday 20 September and return to Sydney on Wednesday 24 September in the evening.

The cost is usually around $850 per student.

SPEAKFEST TRIALS

Monday 1 June/Friday 5 June in Room 604 at Lunch:

- Persuasive Speaking OR After Dinner Speaking - a 3min speech for the trial

Friday 12 June in Room 609:

- Interpretative Reading: Choose a short passage (300 words approximately) from a fictional novel or a Narrative Poem to read aloud.

Monday 15 June in Room 604:

- Impromptu Speaking: Deliver a 2 minute extemporised speech on one of three topics: - a word; a phrase; or a quote given to the candidate who is given 3 minutes preparation time.

IF YOU ARE CHOSEN FOR THE TEAM - DEBATING AS WELL AS IMPROMPTU SPEAKING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE IN TERM 3.