2016 Term 1, Week 3 – 12 February 2016

Principal's Message

Our Welcome to 2016 Cocktail Party last night was such a special and memorable event! With over 500 community members and staff in attendance it provided an invaluable opportunity to meet with many, many parents. There was a wonderful atmosphere as we spent time together in lively conversations celebrating the commencement of a new school year on the Mabel Fidler Terrace – with a majestic sunset as a backdrop to our festivities. It is such an honour to be part of such a vibrant community, and I am so excited about the future of our amazing school as we continue to work together in partnership to strive for the very best outcomes for our girls.

Thank you to all who attended and for so generously sharing with us your experiences, insights and perspectives as well as your aspirations for your daughters. It was also a privilege to have so many members of the Ravenswood School Council in attendance. Mr Mark Webb, Chair, opened the evening with an inspiring speech and I also enjoyed the opportunity to make an address. Thank you to Ms Liane Leslie, Development and Relationships Manager, and her team for organising such a stunningly successful event, thank you to our Property Services team who helped set-up an enchanting setting for the party and for the many other staff who assisted on the night. I hope many of you took the opportunity to take a first look at the extremely impressive new SciTech Centre. This state-of-art facility provides our girls with the very best in laboratories and learning spaces in which to be engaged in exciting learning experiences and the wonders of STEM. Congratulations also to Alison Kingsley who won the inaugural RPA Tuition Raffle.

Another highlight of this week was the Ravenswood Secondary School Swimming Carnival held at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre. The atmosphere was electric as students showcased their House spirit through war cries and cheers as students competed in races, striving for personal bests in the pool. It was wonderful to see the zest and enthusiasm of all students – and many times over the course of the day the spectator stands were quite empty due to the number of girls participating in events. I especially commend the Year 12 girls for their leadership in encouraging the younger girls and for being such great role models. My congratulations to Stuart on being the most successful House on the day, and also to our wonderful Boarders who won our traditional Boarders vs Day Girls relay. It was also a delight to meet the many parents who came to cheer on their daughters.

During our busy week, a team of staff has continued to meet to discuss how we can best introduce Positive Education to the school. There is such a sense of positivity among our wonderful staff and I am excited and affirmed by the many stories they have shared in recent weeks regarding the new and innovative ways they are getting girls to engage with their studies and within broader life within the school. As promised in last week’s Newsletter, a date has now been set for an information session for parents on Positive Education. I will be presenting this session on Monday 7 March at 7.00pm. Please save the date and you will receive an invitation shortly.

You may notice that there is a new section in our Newsletter this week which celebrates a very important group in our student community – our Boarders. It is important to note that for these girls, Ravenswood is not just their school but their home and they make such an important contribution to our school. I know our new Director Boarding and International Students, Mrs Jackie Gilson, is relishing getting to know the Boarders better and creating a fun yet supportive home for the girls. I hope our Boarders have a wonderful time on their upcoming Boarders Closed Weekend tomorrow. This is an opportunity for the girls to get to know each other and bond at the beginning of the school year and I look forward to hearing about the special weekend that Mrs Gilson and the Boarders Activities Captains, Caitlin and Arabella have planned for them.
I am delighted that next Monday marks my official commissioning as the 10th Principal of this exceptional school. I am truly privileged to have the opportunity to lead and serve this school and am thrilled to have the opportunity to help offer our girls an outstanding education as we strive together, always towards better things - *semper ad meliora.*

*Mrs Anne Johnstone*

---

**Chaplain's Message**

The asylum seeker issue in Australia has seen religion weighing into politics, and the last week or so has seen this kicked up several notches. There is a myth that politics and religion should not mix. This is probably perpetrated by those in power in politics. Don't get me wrong, sometimes I think that some people have very strange ideas and they should not be influencing politics, and I certainly loath religious politics and the abuse of power in some religious institutions. However, faith and belief inform our values and attitudes and our values and attitudes shape our political view. Therefore, religion should have much to say in politics, because people have the right to express and lobby for what they value in public life. Of course, we don't have the right to force others to believe what we believe, and we should only be able to influence policy and programs to the extent democracy allows.

Some might wonder why Churches care so much about this issue. The core of the answer has to do with the Christian (and Jewish) tradition of justice and advocacy for the poor and afflicted. In the use of the word 'alien', the High Court instantly activated a long stream of Biblical memory for Christian people. The following link opens up 18 verses which can be interpreted as instruction to care for those who might be strangers in the land. [http://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Loving-foreigners](http://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Loving-foreigners). It also opens the door for us to remind our nation of the plight of our first peoples, whom we failed to make a treaty with when the first boat arrived from England. Set alongside the call to love others as we love ourselves, to work for justice, to be people of grace and mercy, the Church (in many of its brands and flavours) has united behind this issue of refugee and asylum seekers, as it is committed to the issue of reconciliation and other issues of justice, because it has no other choice if it is to live faithfully to the teachings of Jesus and what is a core component of the teachings in the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament). For Churches such as the Uniting Church, it is not just something to think about but something to act on and get political about.

As Ravenswood is a Uniting Church school, we have raised this issue with the girls. We are by no means trying to tell them what to think but we are raising the issue, presenting what the Church is doing and why it is doing it and inviting them to form their own opinion and position. I invite you to do the same. A good place to begin is the UnitingJustice website, [http://www.unitingjustice.org.au/refugees-and-asylum-seekers](http://www.unitingjustice.org.au/refugees-and-asylum-seekers). It is something to consider. God bless.

*Rev Jon Humphries*

---

**Whole School**

**Save the Date**

Positive Education brings together the science of Positive Psychology with best practice teaching to encourage and support individuals, schools and communities to flourish.
This is an opportunity to come and hear Principal, Mrs Anne Johnstone, who is a founding Board member of the Positive Education Schools Association (PESA), and has been a leader in the implementation of positive education in schools, along with wellbeing and resilience in learning.

Monday 7 March 7.00pm-8.30pm
Lorraine Smith Auditorium
Entry via Gate 3 Henry Street

**Limited Parking and Congestion Next Monday**

Please note that due to the Commissioning of Principal Service being held on **Monday 15 February**, there will be increased pressure on parking in the surrounding areas of Ravenswood. Some of the parking normally available directly out the front of Gate 1 on Henry Street, will be allocated to VIPs and visiting guests.

Please be mindful of this when organising your travel and parking arrangements on this day.

**Language Perfect 2016**

Language students in Years 5-12 (HSC and IB Diploma) are once again registered for this year’s Language Perfect online vocabulary and grammar learning tool and the 2016 World and G6 Championships (16-26 May). Already this term, Ravenswood has answered over 50,000 questions. A fantastic and inspiring effort by our students.

**Language Tours 2016**

Watch this space for a report on the **Tour de Nouméa** and the China Trip, both of which are to take place in the April holidays.

*Vivent les langues!*

*Mrs Bronwen Calcraft, Languages Coordinator*
From the Health Care Unit

The commencement of the school year brings our students in close contact with each other which is wonderful but unfortunately means they can easily pass head lice between each other. Please check your daughter’s hair and if need be, treat as per these instructions.

If you are having trouble ridding your daughter’s hair of lice there are a number of great products you can use. Failing these, there are head lice remover salons, e.g. No More Nitz 9893 8441, or you can try coconut oil and apple cider vinegar.

Please check your daughter’s hair regularly so we can prevent an outbreak.

- If you want to get rid of nits and head lice you need to understand the lifecycle:
  - nits – the eggs – take 7-11 days to mature and hatch
  - a baby louse take 9-12 days to grow into an adult
  - the adult louse needs to find a mate
  - 24-hours after pairing, the female lays her first eggs – and then keeps laying them day after day.

- It’s common to find that after clearing your child’s hair, head lice appear 3-4 weeks later, which means they must have been caught from someone. However, this is usually because they weren’t fully cleared in the first place. The lice might have been removed but not all the nits, and 3-4 weeks later those nits have hatched and matured.

- To break this cycle you have to keep clearing both the nits and the lice day after day.

- When the products work they will kill the lice but they won’t necessarily kill the nits. You have to reapply these products two weeks later, to catch anything that has successfully hatched. However, through overuse and misuse, lice have become immune to these shampoos and treatments and 80% of the time they don’t work at all.

- The products will not get rid of the nits – there’s no getting away from the workload, these have to be combed out, which is why products often include a nit comb.

Nits appear as tiny dull white blobs securely attached to the hair, 1-2cm from the scalp. They are most likely to be found at the back of the neck and behind the ears.

In the event of an infestation, it is best to clean all bed linen, towels, brushes, combs and hair accessories, as adult lice can live 24-48 hours away from the scalp.

It is Ravenswood’s policy to send home any girl who is infected.

Mrs Letitia Coker, Registered Nurse
Junior School

Head of Junior School

Parent/teacher sharing interviews were well attended this week. These provide the opportunity for parents to discuss the needs of their daughter. If you missed this session, please take the opportunity to make an appointment with the class teacher.

It was wonderful to see so many Junior School parents attending the Welcome Drinks on Thursday evening.

Important Dates

Week 4B

Monday 15 February  
Commissioning of the Principal – K-12 students to attend

Tuesday 16 February  
Induction of Year 6 Leaders in Chapel – 8.30am

Thursday 18 February  
Years 3-6 Swimming Carnival at Knox Grammar School  
Students will travel by train in Class groups. Parents are welcome to travel by train with the students. Years 3-6 students will attend roll call at 8.15am and return to school at 3.15pm. Information has been sent home to parents.

Friday 19 February  
RPA Junior School Term 1 meeting 9.30am Mabel Fidler Boardroom

Week 5A

Tuesday 23 February  
Year 6 Father/Daughter Breakfast 7.00am Assembly Hall

Wednesday 24 February  
Years 3-12 Cross Country Carnival. Notes have been sent home to parents.  
8.10am depart Ravenswood  
8.35am Years 3-6 arrive at St Ives Showground  
11.00am Junior School departs

Week 6B  
RRR Week – Rest, Rejuvenate, Recharge

Wednesday 2 March  
IPSHA Swimming and Diving

Thursday 3 March  
Mini K-12 Music Showcase 6.00pm Auditorium  
A complete schedule of which ensembles are performing can be found at https://rayonet.ravenswood.nsw.edu.au/performingarts/music/Lists/Announcements/Attachments/1/Mini%20Music%20Showcases%202016%20Final%202015-Jan16.pdf. Admission will be $5 (general admission, cash only). Tickets will be available from Performing Arts Reception two weeks prior to the concert and on the night at the door.

Thurs 3 – Fri 4 March  
Year 3 Camp  
Year 4 Camp

Mrs Cheryl Bailey, Head of Junior School
Secondary School

Year 12 Parent/Teacher/Student Conference

The Year 12 Parent/Teacher/Student Conference is being held on Monday 29 February from 4.00pm-7.00pm. All appointments will be made online and information regarding the process was emailed to all parents on Tuesday 9 February.

If you have not received the email, please send an email to wellbeing@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au requesting the information. Please be mindful that the deadline for booking your appointment times is Friday 26 February.

Ms Hayley Humphreys, Director Student Wellbeing

Maths Help

MATHS HELP 2016

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

Ms Hazlehurst (Mon Week A), Mrs Close (Tues Week A and Mon Week B) and Mrs Luong (Tues Week 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.

Community

From the Development Office

What an incredible night at the 2016 Welcome event last night. We are thrilled that the community has come together to welcome not only Principal, Mrs Anne Johnstone but also each other into the Ravenswood family. It was a great opportunity to hear Mr Mark Webb, Chair of Council and Mrs Anne Johnstone speak about what lies ahead. I truly believe that the success of the night can be attributed to each person who attended or helped in the set-up. There are too many ‘behind the scenes’ people to list here but I would like to acknowledge all staff including teachers, Property Services and administrative staff who worked together to ensure the success of the night.
‘Everything we do is an echo into eternity’, old Spanish folklore saying

The support and love for Ravenswood has also been evident in the emails and phone calls that I have received from our alumni, Ravenswood Old Girls' Union (ROGU) members, Ravenswood Association of Past staff (RAPS) members and wider community, over the sad news of the passing of former Principal, Miss Phyllis Evans. The legacy that Miss Evans leaves and the strong affiliation with ‘Ravo’ goes back many generations and it is wonderful to collect these stories to share with our current families in the next edition of Semper, Ravenswood's bi-annual magazine. Miss Evans’ family told me that ‘from the minute she placed her foot on the Ravenswood steps, Ravenswood became her family’. Miss Evans remained close to the school through her connections with the Fidler Fellows and her last visit to the school was for the Anzac Day Service in April last year.

Ms Liane Leslie, Development and Relationships Manager

All Ravenswood Parents

Upcoming Ravenswood Parents' Association (RPA) meetings

Note that all parents of Ravenswood students are members of the RPA. The RPA Junior School Sub-committee meeting will take place in the Centenary Centre Foyer from 9.30am on Friday 19 February. The Years 7-12 RPA Sub-committee meets on Friday 26 February in the Centenary Centre Foyer from 8.30am. All Ravenswood parents are encouraged to attend.

RPA and Foundation Tuition Raffle Winner

Principal, Mrs Anne Johnstone; Suzanne Stanton, President of the Fidler Foundation; and Colin Frost, President of the RPA drew the winner of the RPA and Foundation Tuition Raffle at the Welcome to 2016 Cocktail Party last night. There were 130 tickets sold in the online raffle. The prize of a year’s free tuition for one student at Ravenswood was won by Alison Kingsley, who has daughters in Years 5 and 6. Hearty congratulations.

Ravo Parents' Prayer Team

Kick off the year with prayer. Please join the Parents’ Prayer team to pray with our School Leaders for 2016: Friday 19 February 7.30am-8.15am in the Mabel Fidler Boardroom (enter via School Reception). All staff and parents are warmly welcome. Contact Lloyd on irwin.lloyd@gmail.com for information.

The Ravenswood Connect Group

There will be a coffee morning at Pecorinos Cafe (in Weronq Avenue, opposite Gordon Station) from 8.30am on Monday 22 February. Please email Marissa Nerwich (marissaneil@gmail.com) so we can reserve a big enough table. This group is for Ravenswood parents interested in meeting other parents across all Year Groups. It can be particularly beneficial for those new to the school or the area. You are welcome to drop in and out of the group as you choose.
Lost Property

Please see the Parent Portal for a list of items held in Lost Property. Students can collect their Lost Property on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 11.00am-1.40pm. Alternatively, make an appointment with Anne Reilly in the Development Office by emailing developmentoffice@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au.

Second-Hand Textbooks

The RPA has registered Ravenswood on the Sustainable School Shop website, which operates in a similar way to sites like Gumtree or eBay. You can list either ‘Wanted’ or ‘For Sale’ adverts, and part of the negotiation is how the seller gets the books to the buyer. Ravenswood’s booklist will be loaded into the system, so you know which books you need, and the site guides you to the cheapest items: www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au. For more information, see the flyer on the Parent Portal.

Rebel Sports Rebate Program

Ravenswood families and friends can nominate Ravenswood to receive a rebate from any purchases made at Rebel Sport Stores. Ravenswood has been a part of the Rebel Sport rebate program since 2008.

What is a Rebel Season Pass?
The Rebel Season Pass is Rebel Sport’s Loyalty program, which rewards their customers for going into their stores. The ‘Support Your Sport’ rebate works in two ways:

• You will receive loyalty points on your Season Pass account at Rebel Sport on your purchases.
• Ravenswood will receive a rebate to the value of 5% on the purchases made by Ravenswood families. Ravenswood can then redeem this rebate at Rebel Sport to buy sporting equipment for the school.

What do you need to do to obtain this discount?

• Obtain a Rebel Season Pass the next time you shop at Rebel Sport.
• Nominate Ravenswood as the school you wish to receive the rebate from your purchases.
• If you already have a Season Pass account, you can update your details and nominate Ravenswood the next time you shop in-store at Rebel Sport.

Performing Arts

Music

We are delighted at the number of students who will be undertaking music tuition this year, both continuing and new. Unfortunately, due to the large number of students who have enrolled in violin and/or piano tuition, we are closing enrolments for those instruments for Term 1 as those music tutors are now fully booked. We will reassess these numbers at the end of Term 1 and will advise the community of any slots that become available for application. In the meanwhile, if you wish your daughter to be put on a waiting list for violin or piano lessons, please send an email to music@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au.

The Music Scholars' Concert will take place on Thursday 25 February at 7.00pm. To reserve your free ticket, please email: music@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au
Rehearsals for Junior, Middle and Senior Vocal Ensembles will run as normal next week.

*Mrs Heather Aird, Director Music and Performing Arts*

**Sports**

**Badminton**

Week 1 for badminton was great with lots of enthusiastic and friendly participants. All players participated in internal trials at Ravenswood, in a local round robin series. The coaches assisted the girls with learning the rules, how to score, umpiring etc. Each team played 2-3 games and learned a lot, so they should hit the ground running this weekend. The first round of matches in the Loreto Normanhurst competition take place this Saturday. Please check the noticeboards and Portal during the week for an expected update to the draw.

**Please note:** Training next week will not be on Monday and Wednesday mornings. It has been re-scheduled for Thursday 18 and Friday 19 February from 6.45am-8.15am due to the Commissioning of Principal Service. The following week will be back to normal. Sorry for any inconvenience.

*Dr Michelle Nancarrow, Director Sport*

**Golf**

Lessons are now available on Monday afternoons for any girls interested in learning to play golf. They are held at Killara Golf Club from 4.00pm-5.00pm and cater for all levels of experience. Anyone interested, please contact me on 9498 9919.
Snowsports

Ravenswood Snowsports is hosting the annual Information Evening on **Wednesday 23 March at 6.00pm**. The evening is a way to give parents who are interested in joining, an insight into how we run our Program. Anyone wishing to register their interest in Snowsports, please contact me at dberg@ravenswood.nsw.edu.au or 9498 9919.

*Mr Dale Berg*

---

**News**

**Ravenswood Year 6 Shining Leaders**

On Friday 5 February, all the Year 6 students participated in workshops to learn how to be better and more effective leaders of the Junior School. The LEAD With Courage workshops were a fun mix of interactive games and activities, along with group work and leadership discussions aimed at identifying what makes a good leader.

The students quickly discovered that wearing a badge does not make a leader but instead the positive actions of an individual allow all leaders to shine.

Throughout the day, the Year 6 girls became familiar with the skills that come with being a positive leader through the acronym LEAD.

L – Listen and Learn (skills)
E – Engaged and Empowered (attitude)
A – Align and Accept (behaviours)
D – Make a Difference (purpose)

The students finished the day with a clearer vision of their leadership role and how they can become an even better leader into the future. The day was full of energy, excitement and engaged learning.

All the Year 6 students are leaders in the Junior School. We encourage you to discuss the LEAD With Courage day with your daughter and in particular the acronym above.

*Mr David Freeman, Ms Georgia Poulos and Mrs Karla Russo, Year 6 Teachers*
Ravenswood Celebrates the Year of the Monkey

On Monday, we celebrated the Chinese New Year with much colour and spirit, thanks to the energy and creativity of Dr Yan Bai, Ms Rita Guo, our new Chinese teacher, and the LRC staff, as well as the enthusiasm of a group of senior students of Chinese. Ravenswood staff and students were invited to partake in a series of cultural activities outside Mabel’s Café, such as Chinese paper-cutting, calligraphy and origami, and to sample a taste of China with spring rolls and fortune cookies. Gong Xi Fa Cai!

Vivent les langues!

Mrs Bronwen Calcraft, Languages Coordinator
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 10-12 2017

$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, Bateaux Mouches cruise along the Seine.
- Comprehensive travel insurance with Suresave

If your daughter is currently in Years 9-11, studying History, French, German or Latin and is keen to improve her understanding of important historical sites, cultural knowledge and/or linguistic abilities, then you are invited to attend an information evening on Tuesday 16 February 2016 from 6.00pm in the LRC.
Challis Singers Community Choir

Can you sing?

Got a little bit of X, Y or Z factor?

Perhaps you’d like to join our local choir?

Challis Singers is a non-auditioned adult community choir that performs 1-2 concerts per year.

We rehearse on Monday nights in Turramurra from 7.30 - 9.45 pm.

We sing a range of musical styles in 4-part harmonies. Sight-reading is not necessary, though a good ear is a bonus. New members are welcome.

Contact Isabel Palethorpe on 0408 217 187 or via our website: www.challissingers.org.au