



WILLOUGHBY GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

A Leader in Girls Education

NEWSLETTER

Phone : 9958 4141

www.wghs.nsw.edu.au

21 DECEMBER 2018

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019 CALENDAR

Week 1B 28 January – 01 February

Monday 28 Australia Day Public Holiday

Tuesday 29 Staff Development Day (No Students)

Wednesday 30 Years 7, 11 & 12 return
9.30am – Year 7 report to Hall
9.00am - Years 12 to Library undercover
9.00am – Year 12 to Studio

Thursday 31 Years 8, 9 & 10 return

Friday 01

Week 2A 04 – 08 February

Monday 04 Year 7 Camp

Tuesday 05 Year 7 Camp

Wednesday 06

Thursday 07

Friday 08

Week 3B 11 – 15 February

Monday 11 Gold Assembly
Music Information Evening

Tuesday 12

Wednesday 13

Thursday 14

Friday 15 Year 7 Welcome Evening
Year 12 Biology Bio- Technology
Incursion




Principal's Message

2018 has been another outstanding year for Willoughby Girls. 2018 HSC students received their results last week and we are again ecstatic about these young women's achievements. Five students classified as all-rounders having achieved a mark over 90 for all their courses; three students were placed in the top 10 in one of their courses. In addition, five students' works have been selected for ArtExpress and will be exhibited in several galleries across NSW including the Art Gallery of NSW. Our DUX for year 12, 2018 is Siobhan Lynch who achieved an ATAR of 99. We were additionally excited to see that several of our students, who had struggled at various times throughout their HSC year, managed to gain excellent final results, through hard work and determination. And finally, our school is the top ranking non-selective public school in NSW.

Further detail about this year's HSC achievements will be published in the first newsletter in 2019.

2018 saw some new curriculum innovations and evidence that previous innovations have achieved intended outcomes for students. The new iSTEAM course was introduced to the Year 9 elective program this year. Ms Pryor and Ms Gregg and our students have worked closely with students and teachers from our Lower North Shore Community of Schools, comprising Cammeraygal, Mosman, and North Sydney Boys and Girls High schools. The students' first project was roller coasters constructed out of paper, which involved some serious mathematics, physics, design and visual art components, and these were co-exhibited at our school last Term.

It was great to see the range of structures created by teams from each of the schools and it was clear that the students learnt much and enjoyed the significant challenges involved.

 WGHS P&C		
	facebook.com/wghspandc	Next P & C Meeting Tuesday 19 February 2019
	wghspandc@gmail.com	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Please follow our Facebook page to stay informed of interesting things happening in the parent community. You don't have to be a Facebook member to access the page. ✓ All parents are welcome at P&C meetings, held twice per term at 7.00pm in the staff common room. (Access via front door). ✓ Any queries or matters to be raised can be raised via the Secretary at the above email address at any time. 		

In second semester students constructed an automata, a box structure that uses gears and mechanics to tell a story. With the help of CAD/CAM computer-aided design and manufacturing, student's laser cut their mechanics, resulting in very professional looking automatons, which were technically amazing and creatively clever.

Our students have also been out and about across the state enhancing their learning through field experiences. In another new course, Physical Activity and Sport Studies, Year 9 students travelled to Gunnedah for the Winter Warrior Challenge. In teams of six, students completed a rigorous 15km obstacle course that was mentally, emotionally and physically challenging. They were required to work as a team to complete all the challenges and one of our teams won the title for the all age girls section in The Winter Warrior Challenge for 2018.

Project Based Learning and Problem Based Learning experiences are continuing to grow and thrive throughout the school. The success of Year 7 Problem Based Learning course, now in its third year, is evident in current Year 8 and 9 students who are practiced at working collaboratively on group projects in all subjects. For example, the Year 9 cross curricular projects, were outstanding this year. Students worked in groups to identify an environmental issue then worked as scientists, geographers and mathematicians to research information, conduct experiments and analyse data to generate solutions to problems such as rising sea levels, melting ice caps, destruction of animal habitats and the spread of disease caused by climate change. These projects were showcased last week with parents, community members and academics among the audience.

Year 8 Guerrilla Poetry was again successful this year – students write poems and place them randomly around the school – on window sills, on library shelves, attached to picture frames or door knobs or hanging from trees. This is a great way to showcase students' writing, and I thoroughly enjoyed being distracted by these works when moving around the school.

Positive impact is also evident in Year 9 and 10 English writing projects; improved students' writing of through the use of editing stations in History, and the practice of peer feedback in many subjects. And just as importantly, students are visibly engaged and excited about what they are doing in classrooms across the school.

So why are we embedding these kinds of learning experiences across the school?

In the past two years I have visited schools and engaged with educators and education systems in Finland and Canada, as well as locally. The key element I have come to understand is that changing the content of curriculum alone will have little impact on student outcomes; rather it is the ways in which we engage young people in their learning that will have the greatest impact. And this comes back to a system and indeed, a school's culture. At Willoughby Girls we have been working towards a culture of thinking for the past four years and this developing culture is showing positive impacts, evidenced by this year's outstanding HSC results, and by the achievements of students in Years 7-11, celebrated at Presentation Day last week. When classroom experiences focus on learning rather than just work; on understanding rather than content knowledge; on deep rather than surface learning; and when students develop learning independence and a growth mindset, young people can learn anything and achieve success. And this applies equally to experiences beyond the classroom.

I congratulate our environment group who have worked tirelessly this year to finally organise plastics recycling in the school. The group has spent a lot of time ensuring the plastics we collect are recycled and don't just end up as landfill. The group has also worked hard on minimising paper use within the school, to complement the SRC's existing paper recycling operations. They have researched this extensively and staff are informed regularly on the number of photocopies made during that week, the information having been diligently collected by students.

I am also proud of our students' continued commitment to social justice and equity. This year the SRC joined with the Prefects on International Women's Day to raise funds for One Girl an NGO that educates girls in Africa. Their guest speaker was professor Hala Zreiqat, head of Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering Research at Sydney University, who shared her story of the long journey from her homeland in Jordan to NSW Premier's Award for Woman of the Year – as always we were reminded that it is possible for women to do anything, but commitment to gender equity must remain at the forefront of our consciousness as there are many barriers and biases to overcome.

The SRC also ran mufti day and the talent show to raise funds for Bear Cottage, which is the only children's hospice in NSW. This year, on charities day, the prefects raised over \$13,000 for the Cathy Freeman Foundation to support the education of Aboriginal Australians. Lately student leaders have been very busy raising money for the Salvation Army's Christmas appeal by selling reimagined candy-grams and coordinating the Christmas Hampers. Last week the SRC collected over 30 laundry baskets of grocery items and Xmas gifts donated by staff and students.

This year parents' involvement in the school has continued to grow. The P&C led sporting clubs are flourishing with Willoughby Girls dominating many of the local competitions, and the music program just gets better every year.

In September, over 60 members of the various music ensembles travelled to Bathurst, Orange, Millthorpe and Oberon where they performed and ran workshops with younger students at local primary schools. The highlight for me was their performances in the Grand Arch at Jenolan Caves – it was truly spectacular. The chamber ensemble and combined vocal ensemble provided the music for the Remembrance Day service at St Stephen's church and were joined by our prefects who participated in the service with a poetry reading and naming of the local servicemen who died during the Great War. It was a very moving service and, as always, our students excelled in their respectful involvement in this important occasion.

We live and work in exciting times – there is much happening at our school and our students' success is a result of this close collaboration between students, staff, parents and the broader community. I sincerely thank all our parents who engage regularly with the school through P&C activities, student initiated events and as leaders in our classrooms. I also thank the P&C for their important contributions to the development of the new building that is finally underway. I thank our teachers for your outstanding commitment to student learning and wellbeing.

My best wishes to all in the Willoughby Girls High School community for a happy festive season and a restful and enjoyable summer holiday break. I look forward to seeing you all again next year as we continue to work together for the benefit of our students.

Ms Liz Diprose - Principal

Year 8 PBL – LOTE & Visual Arts

The Year 8 students displayed their PBL final products on Tuesday 18 December.

This term, Year 8 students participated in a Project Based Learning Project, combining Visual Arts and Languages including Chinese, French and Japanese. Each student produced a poster, promoting the country of the language they studied this year and reflecting the several cultural aspects of this country, using water colour, sketch and other artistic techniques.

“It was a memorable experience and I would highly suggest continuing this project in future years,” said many students who partook in the project. Students’ attitudes towards the project were positive and many were partial to the idea of combining subjects as it allowed them to be more diverse in the artworks they created. This experience allowed Year 8 to tap into their creativity in order to produce a piece of artwork that they were proud of, whilst incorporating language elements as well. Many guests enjoyed viewing the exhibited artworks and had many pleasing things to say about the quality of several outstanding posters. I am confident that this project was highly beneficial to the majority of students and a project that can be improved and developed further for future Year 8 students.

Sydney M – Year 8



Full STEAM ahead!

Ladies and gentleladies (and of course, others), we present to you a new track to trail down! ISTEAM.

This year, in 2018, Willoughby Girls was introduced to a new Stage 5 elective; integrating science, technology, engineering, arts and maths – where students can use their minds together to solve puzzles and challenges in ways that make them jump out of the box, sometimes into a pentagon instead.

ISTEAM is a completely new subject recently introduced to Lower North Shore schools including the North Sydney Selectives, Mosman and Cammeraygal – and sometimes, they like to challenge us with a competition.



The paper rollercoaster

For the first part of the year, our task was to design a rollercoaster for Luna Park. A supreme, majestic one that had to be thrilling, but also have a long-time length. It had to be made out of paper and the ball moved purely by gravity. We had also had to include a certain number of twists and loops in the design, but not too many so the ball could continue rolling, and they could continue hating.

This challenge was an ultimate test of team work, paper folding, and our understanding of physics and gravity. Near the end though, my team's main concern was if the road worked ahead (sure hope it does), and where the right place to put the tape was.

There was also, sadly, a presentation we had to make. (I know. Ew)

Once all the schools had finished building their rollercoasters, a couple of brave tributes from each school entered the interschool competition. The schools; North Sydney Girls, Cammeraygal and of course, us. Then, after all the presentations concluded, there was a democratic vote to decide the winner.

My team did...not win, and we missed out on the Grand Prize of a block of chocolate and bragging rights. Boo hoo.

Though another WGHS team did win. Well done Stratosfear! And thank you for proving to the other schools that we're awesome.

Automata

There was one other major task to complete this year; the construction of an automata – a box that uses mechanics to tell a story.

In this unit we learnt about different types of gears and mechanics and how they worked together. We able to design our own set – so when they all moved, a little animation at the top of the box moved and told a story. With the help of CAD/CAM; computer-aided design and manufacturing, designed on adobe illustrator, we were able to laser cut out our mechanics to get a professional looking automata.

My group created an automata with the story of a ship sailing towards a sea monster. I personally think it looks elegant with its wood finish, but being in an art room, I don't blame other groups whipping out their paints and Bob Ross tutorials.

The iSTEM Challenge

On a faithful Tuesday 27 November, the first ever Lower North Shore Interschool ISTEAM competition was held, where a few select ISTEAM students from North Sydney Boys and Girls, Mosman, Cammeraygal and Willoughby Girls all went to NSBH grounds to partake in an exciting competition sponsored by Macquarie University.

Students were split up into groups with the other schools – a student from each school in each group – and together, we put on our metaphorical thinking back packs, completed five challenges and collected points before the other teams could swipe them.

Each challenge related to a component of ISTEAM, (except there were two science challenges and no art challenge as other schools did not include the component), such as the Engineering challenge being the classic “build a good boat”.

The prizes; a personal Macquarie campus tour, free Macquarie HSC tutoring and a \$50 voucher. To what, will forever remain a mystery to me.

The whole day though, was one of the best ways to meet new people from other schools and test our ISTEAM skills.

If there is anything you should gather from this long-winded article, it’s that ISTEAM is a great subject for learning and testing yourself. Testing the ability to think creatively; outside of the box. It has been an honour to be a guinea pig for this subject’s curriculum.

If you see the iSTEM train passing by: hop on – it’s a fun ride.

Keana T Year 9



Winning group of the iSTEM interschool challenge



Salvation Army's Christmas Appeal

The SRC would like to thank the school community for their festive spirit and generous donations to the Hampers and their participation in the Candy-grams. Home rooms 8.5 and 7.5/10.5 had the prize winning hampers.

Over 440 Candy-grams were prepared and delivered by the SRC and 34 hampers were donated to the Salvation Army's Christmas Appeal.



The SRC wish everyone a happy holiday!

Willoughby Girls High School Christmas Choir

For the past few years our students have sung Christmas carols for the senior community members at the Catholic Wellbeing Centre in Sydney Street, Willoughby.



For the past two years the same group of girls has sung, and the brass band has played carols in the Queen Victoria Building.

Both events are much appreciated by the audiences and, as always, our students represented themselves and our school brilliantly





Library

The Christmas break is a great opportunity to enjoy reading for pleasure. Many students have borrowed from the school library for the holiday however if you would like inspiration on what to look for in your local library the book lists for the NSW Premiers Reading Challenge are available at <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/booklist/home.html> .

Alternatively classic literature is available online at <http://gutenberg.net.au/> .Happy reading!

Alexandra Parker
Teacher Librarian

Year 10 Annual Science Project

On the 13 December, the Year 10 finalists from each class presented their Science projects to a panel of scientists from the University of NSW.

Congratulations to the winners Sarah G, Madeleine F, Ella C, Katrea T, Portia S and Anika C whose project was titled 'Sour Power' and investigated the acidity of different confectionery. Second place went to Jemima Barwick and Nikki Tsiamis.

Well done Year 10 for all your efforts and your interesting projects!

Lena Mak
Science Teacher



COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

WGHS Indoor Hockey Term 1 - 2019 Registration Form



Willoughby Girls' High School P&C Hockey formed in 2002 and has competed in both indoor and outdoor competitions. We welcome new and experienced players.

We will be entering teams into the NORTHERN SCHOOLS INDOOR HOCKEY COMPETITION.

COMPETITIONS/GRADES & VENUES:

The competition offers 2 age based grades: Under 15 (years 7 and 8) and Under 18. (generally year 9 and up). We will form the teams once we have received all registrations, however U15s can play up with U18s if they wish and so can those who may be more experienced.

Under 18 girls will be on Friday nights at Mosman (Marie Bashir Gym) with the overflow played on Wednesday nights at Ryde Aquatic centre.

Under 15 girls will be played on Wednesday nights at Mosman and Ascham School with a small chance of Ryde.

Games are from 4.00PM to 8.00PM and venues may vary. Once teams are established a car-pooling list will be circulated to assist with transport.

Game duration is 2 x 20min halves and the competition consists of approximately 7 rounds plus semis and finals, **with matches starting in w/c 4 Feb.**

KIT:

You will need an indoor stick, shin pads and mouthguard. The teams wear the school sports top and shorts with blue and white sports socks (available from the uniform shop).

TRAINING

There will be an initial training session from 3.30-5.30pm on Sunday 3rd February at the Marie Bashir Centre in Mosman. Further training will be arranged once we have been notified by the school of hall availability.

REGISTRATION:

The cost for the term will be \$120.00 per player which will cover competition fees, coaching and other equipment. Please pay into the following bank account:

Account name: Willoughby Girls High School Parents and Citizens Association Hockey Club

Account no: 161740329

BSB: 633000

Please use your surname in the reference field.

Please complete the form below and email to wghshockeyclub@gmail.com. Registrations should be received by **24 Dec.**

Parents: Please Note

WGHS P&C Hockey is a parent-run body – We need your help!

If you can help our teams, please let me know.

We need team managers, coaches, referees & committee members.

I can help with: (eg. Team Manager, Umpire, Treasurer, etc.) – please circle.

Players Name: _____

Players D.O.B: _____ School Year: _____

Players Address: _____

Players Email: _____

Players Mob Phone: _____

Players Home Phone: _____

Previous experience (if any): _____

(Essential for contact in case of emergencies)

Parents Name: _____

Parents Email: _____

Parents Mob Phone: _____

Parents Home Phone: _____

Parent's signature: _____



I am interested in car pooling please circulate my contact details to assist with this YES/NO

Further Enquiries should be directed to ~~Ex~~ and Penny, WGHS Hockey Convenors

Mob: 0407287366



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ARTARMON UNIFORM SHOP

The Uniform Shop will be open on the following dates and times

during January 2019

TUESDAY 8th JANUARY 2019 – 1st FEBRUARY 2019

Mondays 9am – 4pm

Tuesdays 10am – 6pm

Wednesday 9am – 4pm

Thursdays 7.30am – 4pm

Fridays 9am – 4pm

We will be open Saturday 26th January 9am – 12md

APPOINTMENTS ONLY

**Please note the Artarmon Shop will be closed on
MONDAY 7th January and on the PUBLIC HOLIDAY
MONDAY 28th January**

New student fittings are by appointment.

Please call us to arrange a suitable time.

Don't forget our online service at www.noone.com.au

Noone Imagewear

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