



P: 9958 4141
W: willoughbg-h.schools.nsw.gov.au
E: willoughbg-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Newsletter 27 November 2020

Term 4 Week 7

Principal Report

Parent and Carer Survey

Thank you to all parents and carers who have already responded to the survey that was sent out via email earlier this week. The survey is open until 4pm on Friday 4 December and can be accessed via this link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N3N8SSS>

I encourage you to respond as your feedback will assist us with our planning for the next four years. Students are also providing feedback and suggestions via a survey this week.

Thank you to the P&C

At the recent P&C Annual General Meeting new office bearers were elected, replacing the team that has led this group for the past three years. I sincerely congratulate and thank Liz Foster, President, who has done a fabulous job organizing many parent events over the years and has developed many of the school's publicity materials. I am particularly appreciative of Liz's work on our school brochure, including the layout and copy, as well as her advice on other publicity material produced by the school. Liz organized the filming and live streaming of this year's Year 12 Graduation, and was proactive in arranging for Noone to take over our uniform supply. I will personally miss Liz's suggestions and support very much.

Fiona Hearne is also leaving us. Fiona has been a regular member of the P&C for six years and has been the social secretary for most of that time, coordinating family events such as the Year 7 Welcome each year, and managing the P&C's Facebook site. Fi has been an invaluable contributor of ideas and has provided many inspirational academics to speak to our students on International Women's Day as well as in relation to careers advice. Fiona will be sorely missed by the P&C and me.

Past president, William Pape, is also leaving us. William was the parent representative on the Project Advisory Group for our new building. This involved many hours of meetings over several years and his professional expertise and persistence in ensuring we would get the building we needed was most admirable and much appreciated. William has continued to lobby behind the scenes with another regular P&C member, Scott Anderson, to ensure Willoughby Girls' further building needs remain on the forefront of the state government's schools' infrastructure agenda. I am grateful for William's support of the school over many years and will miss his advice and advocacy.

I also thank Karen Pearson who has held the role of P&C Secretary for the past two years. Karen is a great communicator and has provided essential advice on how to best go about lobbying for the school's needs. Her organization of P&C communications has ensured information gets out to families in advance of P&C meetings and other important events. Karen has been an invaluable member of this very well organized and supportive P&C executive and I very much appreciate her contribution.

P&C Funds

The P&C raises funds through your donations and, now that the building is well and truly finished and the oval has been restored, there are a number of projects that P&C are funding, most of which will occur in 2021. The P&C funded the new fans in the multipurpose hall, which are proving a very popular addition with excellent capacity to keep the area cool. We are currently seeking Council approval for a shade structure over the new basketball courts and the netball courts will be renovated early next year. These are both expensive items but will be much appreciated by students. There are other works being planned as well so watch this space. And thank you to all for contributing to the P&C and therefore to important resources for your daughters.

Elizabeth Diprose
Principal



2020 Wrap and Final Farewell from the P&C President – Annual Report

Our school year started well with the new building opening and new basketball courts, both incredible achievements after years of hard work all round. Many thanks to William Pape and Scott Anderson who formed part of the PRG, together with the school exec, for their ongoing support of the school community by vociferously advocating for our remaining entitlements.



By March, Australia was well and truly in the grip of the global pandemic. And our community navigated it together. After a very early evacuation with minimal notice, it's fair to say it felt like we were ready for anything. 2020 was the year of the virtual classroom, and while this did not and will never replace real life face to face teaching, it absolutely had its place. The upskilling required by teachers both in content preparation and tech skills was extraordinary. Hats off to all staff. We somehow got through it, and the Year 12 cohort managed to sit all their exams with the minor blip of a bomb scare evacuation mid exam thrown in for good measure. They have certainly had resilience instilled in them this year.

Continuing social and gathering restrictions sent our P&C meetings online. Sadly parents were not allowed on site, which meant many annual events were cancelled and the year 12 parents were unable to attend graduation. However, the P&C funded livestreaming which was viewed by more than a thousand people around the globe – making it a more accessible event than ever before. And parents got to keep the clip for all time as a bonus.

All our sub committees developed and implemented Covid safety plans and appointed Covid safety officers where needed. The music program continued, with all conductors stepping up and planning and conducting their rehearsals online. This was not without its challenges, but the program survived and thrived. Heartfelt thanks to outgoing convener Tom Johns and the whole of the music subcommittee.

Willoughby Girls offers the widest range of sporting clubs outside school of any north shore public school. Anita MacDonald, our paid netball convener, continues to do an outstanding job in fostering teamwork and camaraderie at the club. In this particularly difficult year the netball season was halved, but the girls still managed to play out the season and win some grand finals along the way. Hockey and Basketball were similarly affected. P&C was able to support the Basketball club with a financial shortfall. Thanks to those parents who run these smaller clubs, they are often a one stop shop managing everything from coaches to kits, matches and fees. Thanks to Evelyn Bowes and Penny Longmire (hockey), John O'Donnell (basketball) and the Year 12 departing touch football conveners John le Couteur and Andrew Carnegie. Your efforts on behalf of all Willoughby girls are very much appreciated.

These extracurricular sporting and musical clubs also help to vertically integrate girls across year groups. By creating these opportunities for our girls we shine a spotlight on the school in the wider community. Parents choose Willoughby in no small part due to these programs.

P&C continues to be fiscally responsible and prepare annual budgets to support the school, including the annual Presentation Day at the Concourse, new industrial fans in the school hall and a new shade covering for the basketball court.

Unfortunately the annual volunteering community immersion to Nepal being organised by P&C fell over thanks to Covid, and the operator went bankrupt. Hopefully this can be revived with a different operator down the track.

Noone's management of our school uniform continues to provide an efficient and seamless service. We have started to receive royalties which are paid to the school. Thanks to former parent, Brenda Bridson, who runs the second-hand uniform service on behalf of all students from her home.

Thanks to the members of the executive, past present and future. A huge shout out must go to William Pape, Karen Pearson and Fiona Hearne, outgoing year 12 parents who have significantly contributed to P&C over the years.

And thank you to the School Executive, teachers and staff for getting us all through this most difficult of years. Your passion, commitment and dedication to our girls' wellbeing and education are very much recognised and appreciated.

This is my final report as an outgoing year 12 parent and P&C President. I've been contributing to P&C since 2013, Liz Diprose's first year as Principal and my first year as a parent, so this feels like a strange but exciting time for me.

Thank you and farewell.

Liz Foster
Outgoing WGHS – P&C President



WGHS P&C

At the P&C AGM on November 17th we farewelled several outgoing Executives whose last girls are in Year 12. Thanks to William Pape, Karen Pearson, Fiona Hearne and Liz Foster for all their hard work and contributions over the years.

Congratulations to the newly elected P&C Executives for 2020/21:

President: Phil Skurrie
Vice President: Scott Anderson
Vice President: Thomas Day
Secretary: Sukesh Nedumgote
Treasurer: Maria Ferreira

Next P&C Meeting will be held face to face in the Staff room on Tuesday 16 February at 7pm. All parents welcome

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020 CALENDAR

Week 8B

Monday 30 November – Friday 04 December

Monday 30 November – Year 7 Religious Seminars
Tuesday 01 December – Year 7 2021 Orientation Day - online
Wednesday 02 December – Year 9 & 10 Peer Support
Thursday 03 December – Year 9 & 10 Peer Support
Friday 04 December – Presentation Day

Week 9A

Monday 07 – Friday 11 December

Monday 07 December –
Tuesday 08 December –
Wednesday 09 December – Christmas Services
Thursday 10 December –
Friday 11 December –

Term 4 Dates: 12 October – 18 December 2020

IMPORTANT DATES

Students in Years 7 – 11 will conclude Term 4, 2020 on Wednesday 16 December.

Students will **return to school in 2021** on the following dates:

Years 7, 11 and 12 – Friday 29 January

Years 8, 9 and 10 – Monday 1 February

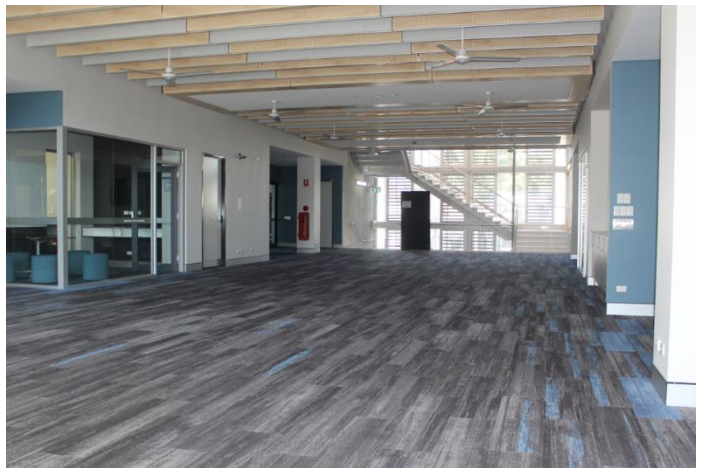
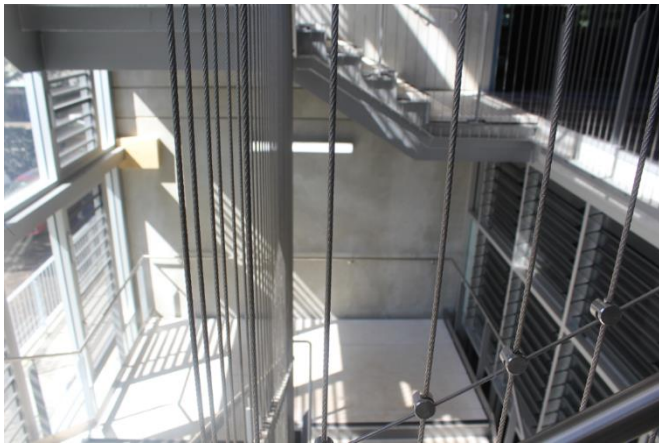
All students are expected to return in full summer uniform. A reminder, it is advised that students wear sunscreen every day and the school hat when outdoors.



Time lapse of the construction of new building

Click here to watch a time lapse of the construction of our new building:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/fyafcd5kohz2uv/Raston%20Group%20-%20Willooughby%20Girls%20School%20-%20Final%202020_03_06_1080p.mp4?dl=0





Year 7 Vaccinations



NSW School vaccination clinic for Year 7 students; Wednesday 2nd December 2020

NSW Health is ensuring that students are safely vaccinated at school during COVID-19

NSW Health has been working with education authorities to implement additional measures to ensure that students in Year 7 and 10 can be safely vaccinated during the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite concerns around Covid-19 it is important that the school vaccination program continues, to provide timely protection against other diseases.

NSW Health will be offering Human Papillomavirus (HPV) dose 2 vaccinations to all Year 7 students at your school clinic on Wednesday 2nd December 2020.

Also, Meningococcal ACWY vaccine will be available for Year 10 students who haven't yet been vaccinated.

Additional measures

NSW Health has implemented additional measures based on expert clinical advice to reduce the likelihood of COVID-19 transmission in school clinics, including:

- Health screening of nurses before clinics
- Pre-vaccination screening of students
- Physical distancing restrictions at the clinic entrance, in the clinic and in the observation area
- Ensuring the number of students & nurses at the clinic does not exceed the maximum allowed
- Enhanced hand hygiene by nurses
- Enhanced environmental cleaning of all surfaces

What parents should do

Parents who have given consent for their child to receive vaccinations at school do not need to take any extra action. Parent who have not provided consent should contact their school on how to consent for vaccination, or their local public health unit on 1300 066055. *Parents must ensure that their child is well and completely free of any acute respiratory illness before they attend school.*

More information

Information about school vaccination is available; <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/schoolvaccination>

It is very helpful to adolescents to be informed about this process. The following short video for you and your child has useful information about the vaccines and how the school immunisation clinic will run. <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/videos/getting-your-hpv-dtpa-vaccinations-at-school-what-to-expect>

A Record of Vaccination card will be provided to each student. Details about vaccinations given at school will also be uploaded to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).

Northern Sydney Local Health District
ABN 63 834 171 987

NS Public Health Unit – Hornsby Office
Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital
Palmerston Road HORNSBY NSW 2077
Telephone (02) 9477 9400 Facsimile (02) 9482 1650

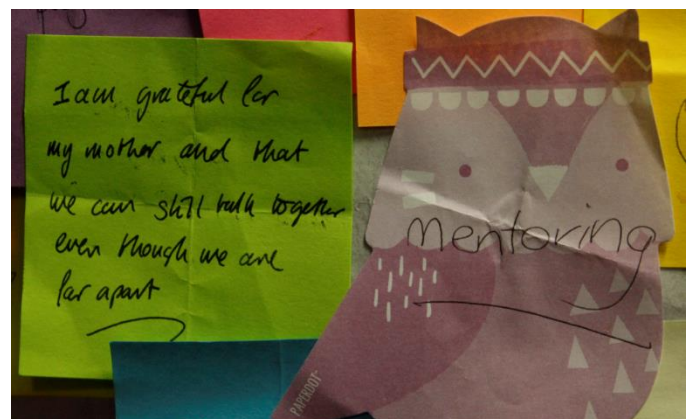
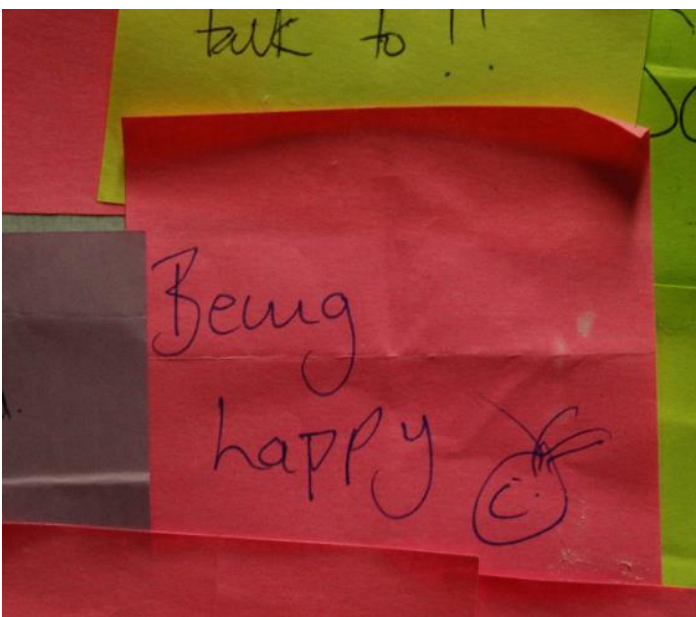
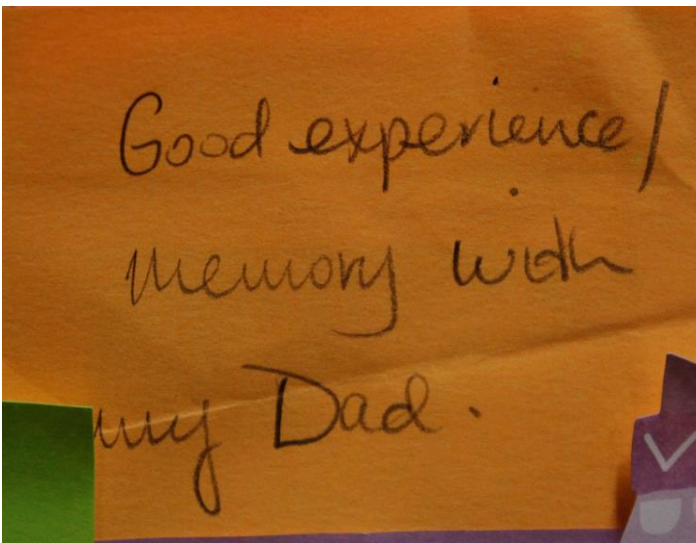


RAISE Mentoring Program

16 students from Years 8 & 9 graduated from the 18 week program. This program was extremely successful despite COVID and its restrictions.

Congratulations girls

Nola Budd
Wellbeing





Headspace Workshops – Looking Out for Friends: Notice, Ask, Connect

Last week, students in Years 7 to 10 attended workshops run by Headspace on looking out for the mental health of friends. Year 11 will attend this same workshop in week 9.

The learning outcomes for the workshop are:

- Notice: identifying warning signs that a friend might not be OK
- Ask: how to have difficult conversations and ask your friend if they are OK
- Connect: how to help them find to the best support and make sure you are looking out for your own self-care

A huge thank you to Philip Stone and Mona Hazell for coming out to run these practical and informative workshops for us.

For more information on how to help friends, please visit the following section of Headspace's website <https://headspace.org.au/young-people/how-to-help-a-friend>.

A reminder that the local Headspace branch is located at 30 Devonshire St Chatswood and is open Mon- Fri 9am-6:30pm.

For more information about the services, they have on offer, please visit: <https://headspace.org.au/headspace-centres/chatswood/>





COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

JOIN NORTH SYDNEY UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

We welcome all ages and abilities:

Boys, girls, men and women from U6 to Over 45s.

We are a Community Club and we are a footballing family!

GREAT COACHES **GREAT FACILITIES** **SOCIAL FOOTBALL**
JUNIOR ACADEMY **DEVELOPMENT SQUADS** **SAP AND DIAMOND LEAGUE**



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WEBSITE BELOW

COME JOIN US

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AS YOU LIKE IT

Join the young cast of passionate players in this joyful comedy of transformations. The ASC Youth Players comprise of talented local school age actors alongside seasoned professional company members to bring to life Shakespeare's romantic comedy of trickery, disguise, banishment, teasing and love.....love as merely a madness. The open air venue of The Incinerator, Willoughby will play host to both the pomp of the Court and the Forest of Arden. It is within Arden that we see each character transform and find the 'good in everything'.

Directed by Jo Bloom

Assistant Director & Musical Director Nicholas Gell

Details

DATES: Thursday 3rd, Friday 4th, Thursday 10th, Friday 11th December

Gates open @ 5pm

Show starts 5:30pm. Running time 2 hours including interval.

VENUE: The Incinerator, 2 Small Street Willoughby

Parking available near the basketball courts of the Willoughby Leisure Centre

TICKETS: \$30 Adults & \$15 Students

Please BYO Picnic rug and picnic.

This is COVID Safe event. Picnic rugs will determine a safe 2m open air spacing. Families and people from the same household are not required to socially distance. Visit our website for more details.

+61 2 9011 7704 | SCHOOLS@SHAKESPEAREAUSTRALIA.COM.AU
WWW.SHAKESPEAREAUSTRALIA.COM.AU



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COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD



These are hard times for everyone and young people are suffering most of all.

There are skilled people who can help them deal with their fears and emotions, but demand is so great, we need more funds to make sure no one who needs our support misses out.

That's why all the Youth Service organisations in the Northern Suburbs have joined together to raise the necessary funds we all need.

Please help us to help them by donating online now at:

www.helpustohelpthem.com

Rotary 
Club of Wahroonga