



Concord High School Keeping In Touch

Respectful Responsible Achieving

Term 4 Week 9

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Principal's Report

Presentation Evening – 2019

Principal's Address

Good evening everyone and welcome to the Concord High School Presentation Evening for 2019. Congratulations to all our students receiving awards tonight and a warm welcome to their family and friends who are here to support them and share in their success. Welcome also to our special guests and the large number of teaching staff who are in attendance tonight.

Evenings such as this give us the opportunity to reflect on the year that has been and celebrate the progress and successes that we have achieved. For me personally, as many of you will know, this has been my first year as Principal at Concord High and I have been particularly impressed by so many aspects of this great, comprehensive, co-educational, public school. I arrived here in January this year to find a student body that was welcoming, cooperative and keen to learn and succeed. I found a teaching and administrative staff that were highly skilled, enthusiastic, open to new ideas, and most of all highly dedicated to supporting each other, their students and the leadership of the school. I also found a parent community that was heavily invested in their children's education and welfare. A great set of ingredients for a successful school.



Principal's Report continued

During the course of this year we have achieved some great things. The school has taken over the operation of the Uniform Shop, allowing our P&C to focus on their core business of supporting the school with grant applications and fundraising. The Uniform Shop will relocate to a larger, purpose built accommodation in early 2020, located just off the top Stanley Street car park. Results of the P&C's work this year are the new pathway and covered walkways to the demountable classrooms, the new fan for the school hall, new shade sail outside the canteen area, and new air conditioners that are currently being installed in a number of our classrooms. My thanks goes out to Angela Smith the P&C President, who is so ably supported by the Executive Committee, made up of Donna Hogan, Linda Durkin, Glenn Harris and Katheryn Zerk. Our school P&C goes from strength to strength under this team's leadership and I have found them an absolute pleasure to work with this year.

During the course of this year we have achieved some great things. This year the school has been actively involved in the LAB Student Empowerment project which has focused on ways that we can increase opportunities for student leadership and student voice. This has seen the extension of the highly acclaimed Career and transition (CAT's) program in to two additional programs, the Re-Connect program in Year 9 and the STEP's program extending CAT's into Year 11, due to commence in 2020, to provide an even broader range of student's additional support to succeed. The work done in this project has also seen the development of a new Head Teacher Student Leadership role that will work towards creating opportunities for all students to have more input into their own education, increasing student voice, increasing leadership opportunities from Year 7 to 12 and building students feeling of connectedness to the school. My thanks to Jody Engisch, Fiona Milligan and Alysha Peoples for their incredible work in this project.

During the course of this year we have achieved some great things. The school has participated in the Agile Leadership professional development run through the Department of Education. We have used this training to investigate ways that a culture of high expectations can be embedded across the school. This project has resulted in a series of strategies focused on study skills, goal setting and feedback loops being trialled with selected senior classes across our HSIE and Science faculties, with a view to roll out further across the school in 2020. My special thanks to Craig Anderson, Jody Engisch, Alice Leung and the Maths, Science and HSIE faculty staff for their outstanding work in this important area throughout the year.

During the course of this year we have achieved some great things. In the area of Creative and Performing Arts we have hosted three major workshop events this year. Two with our feeder primary schools in Term 2 and 3 and then just last week with the other secondary schools in our network. These whole day events allowed our students to mentor, support and share their creative skills, resulting in a concert at the end of each workshop day that was of an unbelievably high standard. To Vanessa Cesta and Michael Jobson, thank you for the skill, energy and love that has gone in to these days to support our students and promote our school as a centre of excellence in the creative and performing arts.



Principal's Report continued

During the course of this year we have achieved some great things. In May this year the school started to look at the way in which we structure our curriculum to support our new students entering Year 7. We identified that this transition from primary school to high school is one of the biggest steps that young people take in their lives and we began to look at how we could give every student the best chance of success. Our guiding principle this year, has been to ensure that every student and staff member is known, valued and cared for to achieve their full potential, within a context of high expectations. To achieve that with students entering our school next year we felt that some changes were necessary, to limit the number of teachers each student has, to make the curriculum more connected and relevant and to provide an additional layer of pastoral care at the classroom teacher level. That was the beginning of the Middle School journey. A journey that has been embraced by an amazing group of adventurous, innovative and energetic teaching staff to come up with a model where Year 7 students will have no more than 6 teachers next year, with combined Humanities, STEM and Health curriculum, and a Class Mentor to provide an additional layer of care and support. My special thanks to Craig Anderson, and Fiona Payne for their outstanding leadership of this project. They have been ably supported by the curriculum head teachers Debby Rose, Tim Sloane, Eliza Turner and Julie Taing in the development of this new program. We are waiting in anticipation for our new Year 7 cohort to arrive in 2020.

The common theme across all these initiatives has been the key role that the amazing staff here at Concord play in improving the quality of teaching and learning across the school. As the school grows we continue to add new staff members to our team. This year we welcomed Georgia Moir and Anita Hawkins as permanent staff members into Visual Arts, Mary-Anne Snewin in English, Min Zhang joined us in Maths, Durad Zarkovic in Computing and Annika Fawcett into HSIE. We have also been fortunate to be able to convert 10 of our outstanding, loyal, temporary staff to permanency. This includes Scott Morrissey, Dee Santos and Bill Paling in HSIE, Tina Bean and David Galea in Science, Nikky Phillips and Tanaya Hempstead in TAS, Poppy Anagnostou in Administration and Pam Nolan and Carole Giles two of our long standing student support staff who have also been appointed to permanent positions at the school.

Sadly at the end of the year we also say good-bye to some staff for a variety of reasons. Steven Little after nearly 4 years in Visual Arts leaves us for Mosman High School, where he was successful through merit selection for a permanent position. Phillis Munoz, our Relieving SAM for the past 18 months returns to her substantive position at Canterbury Girls High School and Fiona Payne, Head Teacher Secondary Studies and Acting Deputy Principal has been rewarded by her appointment on merit to the substantive Deputy Principal position at Pennant Hills High School. Fiona has been part of the "fabric" of Concord High School for the past 14 years and will be sorely missed. To Steven, Phillis and Fiona, I hope you will all take a small piece of Concord with you on your journey ahead.



Principal's Report continued

On a personal note, I would like to thank the team that I work with so closely every day. To the members of the Senior Leadership Team – Jody Engisch, Craig Anderson, Danka Milinovic, and Fiona Payne, I thank you all for your tireless hard work, loyalty, wisdom, humour, flexibility, calmness and advice over the past 12 months, none of what we have achieved this year would have been possible without you. I would also like to take the opportunity to acknowledge and thank Maria Serafim, Director Educational Leadership for Strathfield network (aka my boss) who has made herself available this evening, as she makes herself available to me and Concord High every day of the year with an outstanding level of advice, support and guidance in so many areas.

Finally, an event such as this evenings does not just happen. Like everything at Concord High it is a team effort; however, I would like to specifically acknowledge 2 members of our team who have been instrumental in making tonight possible and who have delivered an event at such a remarkable standard. Christine Shiels, one of our English teachers and Leanne Davin, one of our Admin Officers, have put many, many hours, above and beyond into the organisation of tonight. They have done it quietly, calmly and extremely efficiently and I cannot thank them enough for the work they have put in to make tonight a wonderful success.

To all members of our Concord High family, I would like to wish you all a restful holiday break and a very merry Xmas with family and friends. I am looking forward to working with you all again in 2020 as we continue to grow and improve this great public school.

Until Next Fortnight
Victor Newby

Principal



Deputy Principal's Report

Jody Englisch, Craig Anderson & Danka Milinovic

Congratulations to Grace and Hannah Kiefer for medaling at the National taekwondo championships. Grace won a silver medal in her weight and age division. Hannah fought her way to a gold medal and thus earning her the title of Australian National Champion.

Well done girls!



Wellbeing News

#GIRLS ON THE BLOCK

The redecoration of the girls' senior bathrooms have been crafted and successfully completed by the year 9 volunteered girls, year 12 prefects, SRC members and Mrs Peoples. Last year a number of female students were identified as having a negative experience in the school toilets and shared that this was their safe place during recess and lunch for when they needed space away from the large crowds in the playground. In order to cater for this use of bathrooms, the toilets were transformed into a bright and welcoming space, designed especially to assist with female student's well-being and to hopefully become that place which will boost self-esteem and provide support for any girl experiencing those struggles.

During the process of redecoration, graffiti had been covered up and replaced with positive messages and reaffirming quotes. On the back of the toilet doors, posters with information for health and support have also been placed. In addition to this, a jar filled with free sanitary products was donated by female students for use in case of emergencies.

The girls on the block got together in Term 3 and held meetings in the library every recess on Mondays to brainstorm ideas and plans for the new and improved bathrooms. In week 6 of Term 3, the girls held a bake sale with a variety of different sweets and desserts to raise some money for necessary supplies in order to recreate the bathrooms as organized and planned in detail, thanks to which they managed to raise around \$1000! Since then the girls and Mrs Peoples have been working hard renovating for 8 weeks before, during, and after school to help draw, paint and decorate the new developed and modern bathrooms.

The girls were divided into two groups: recreating the doors and recreating the walls of the stalls. The group responsible for preparing and completing the walls have created and added their own phrases of encouragement and inspiration to help support and boost young girls during a troubling period. The group in charge of the doors have instead undertaken the role of outlining and painting the three winner designs of the competition held in week 9 of Term 3 for each of the bathroom stall doors.

In addition to that, Girls On The Block have also purchased shelves and a small white table to display sanitary products and other pleasant items. For instance, air fresheners have been situated throughout the bathroom to give a pleasant aroma and a calming vibe. Other lovely objects have also been added including: new mirrors, plants and pretty posters.

To sum it up, the first bathroom recreation has been an impressive and splendid success and soon enough the girls will, hopefully, be starting on other bathrooms of the school!

Written by: Serena Emanuele yr 9



Concord High School
presents

GIRLS ON THE BLOCK

THE REDECORATION OF THE GIRLS' SENIOR BATHROOMS HAVE BEEN CRAFTED AND SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED BY THE YEAR 9 VOLUNTEERED GIRLS, YEAR 12 PREFECTS AND SRC MEMBERS AND MRS PEOPLES.

Last year a number of female students were identified as having a negative experience in the toilets or shared that this was their safe place during recess and lunch away from the large crowds in the playground or if they need space from friendship issues. To cater for this, the toilets have been transformed into a bright and welcoming space, designed especially to assist with female student's well-being and to hopefully become a place that will boost self-esteem and provide support for any girl experiencing any struggles. Graffiti has been covered up and replaced with positive messages and reaffirming quotes. On the back of the toilet doors, posters with information for health and support have been placed. There is also a jar filled with free sanitary products donated by female students in case of emergencies.

BY: BELLE, HANNAH, ISABELLA AND SERENA





Concord High School News

Concord High School's Bushfire Appeal

As NSW fires have continued to blaze across the state, the Concord High school banded together to support the Rural Fire Service and their efforts. The SRC and Year 10 Food Technology collectively raised \$2604.45 to donate to the Rural Fire Service. A huge thank you to our community here in raising such a significant amount.



Concord High School News

Salvation Army Food Drive

Christmas can be a wonderful time, but when a tragedy or a crisis hits, it can be terribly difficult. Children, people struggling alone, and families battling to keep food on the table are the hardest hit. This Christmas, the SRC ran a successful food drive that raised well over 700 items. Thank you for to the Concord High Community for your support.



Upcoming Dates

VARIATIONS TO ROUTINE TERM 4 WEEK 9 9 December – 13 December 2019

WEEK A

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|--|--|---|---|
| A TERM 4 WEEK 9 | Monday 9 December <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 10 Taste of Year 11 Year 12 Mathematics standard task | Tuesday 10 December <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 10 Taste of Year 11 Instrumental Ensembles Presentation Night | Wednesday 11 December <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 10 Taste of Year 11 Swim safety program Year 7 Hospitality catering for presentation night NRL leadership program Presentation night | Thursday 12 December <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 10 Taste of Year 11 Swim safety program Year 7 HSC Geography Year 12 EAL/D Japanese Obento Incursion | Friday 13 December <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 10 Taste of Year 11 Swim safety program Year 7 International students day HSC English Studies |
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A LOOK AHEAD TERM 4 WEEK 10

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| B TERM 4 WEEK 10 | Monday 16 December <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 10 Taste of Year 11 Legal Studies HSC QUIZ Year 12 Standard and Advanced English | Tuesday 17 December <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 10 Taste of Year 11 HSC and ATARS released today Year 9 end of year BBQ HSC Modern History | Wednesday 18 December <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 10 Taste of Year 11 ATAR morning tea Final day Term 4 | Thursday 19 December | Thursday 20 December |
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2020

TERM 1 WEEK 1

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---|--|--------------------------|
| A TERM 1 WEEK 1 | Monday 27 January | Tuesday 28 January | Wednesday 29 January <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students return Years 7, 11 and 12 | Thursday 30 January <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School returns for Years 8, 9 and 10 | Friday 31 January |
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