

# CHS Keeping InTouch Term 3 Week 5

# What's on 2023

Saturday 19 August - Trivia Night - 6:30pm, Concord High School Hall (Tickets Sold Out) Friday 25

August - Wear it Purple Mufti Day Tuesday 5 September - P&C Annual General Meeting Monday 11

September - Wednesday 13 September - Year 11 camp - R U Okay week

Thursday 21 September - Year 12 Graduation

# Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Carers, Student and Staff,

Welcome to our first Keeping in Touch for Term 3. With the shift to Microsoft Sway as a platform for our school newsletter, we have been able to collect some useful data. The newsletter link is distributed to just over 1500 email contacts (Staff and Families). Our views are currently averaging around 300 per edition.

We currently have 640 followers on Instagram and 440 on Facebook.

As a result of the above we have decided to adjust our community engagement approach slightly:

- Increasing the frequency and broadening the distribution of our Instagram and Facebook updates
- Reducing the frequency of our KIT Newsletter to twice per term (Weeks 5 and 9)
- Using email to update and share time sensitive information, survey links, and year group specific correspondence.

**Mobile Phone Policy Development** The school policy development team has created and released a draft policy in relation to the Government's planned move to ban mobile phones and similar electronic devices from secondary schools commencing in Term 4 - 2023. Our draft policy has already been shared with the school community and we have received valuable feedback in relation to this from both families and staff. This week we have commenced the process of sharing the policy with students and are now planning to move into a transition phase regarding mobile phone use. During this transition phase, the key messages are:

- From Monday 21st August mobile phones and other electronic devices are expected to be switched off and placed into school bags from the time students enter the school grounds until after their last timetabled period.
- Phones will remain in bags during the day unless specifically directed by a teacher.
- The current approach to mobile phone use in the classroom will remain (general warning, targeted warning, confiscation).
- The staff will take an educative approach to enforcement in the playground during the transition phase. This will include verbal warnings, PA reminders and year meeting reminders.
- Students repeatedly ignoring reminders and failing to follow reasonable instruction will be followed up in accordance with the current school behaviour policy.
- Students and families are asked to consider alternate ways for the following during the transition period:
  - Checking timetables and room changes
  - Communicating with friends
  - Communicating with parents
  - Communicating with work for senior students with part time jobs
  - Paying at the canteen
  - Making your bag secure
  - Recording progress of school work.
- The school team will work with students and families with special considerations over the coming weeks to ensure student learning and wellbeing is not negatively impacted.

• Full implementation will commence Day 1 in Term 4.

The team continues to work on the more detailed procedures in relation to breaches of the policy, consequences, exemptions and additional considerations as they are being raised. We will keep up our consultation and communication with the school community moving forward.

Year 12 Trial HSC Exams The Trail HSC exam period has now been completed for students in Year 12. This is a significant milestone in the HSC year. The school has utilised external HSC Exam Supervisors (the same team that NESA will use for the actual exams next term), to simulate the written exam process as closely as possible. Some feedback and follow up from the recent exam period:

- The next 7 weeks until the written exams start can make a huge difference to the final result.
- Use the feedback from the trials as a guide for next steps in improving the result.
- Attend school regularly over the remainder of the term and use teacher expertise to maximise your results.
- Make sure the HSC rules are followed. It is not worth risking your whole HSC by having a mobile phone in your pocket in the exam room.
- Use all your time, attempt everything, engage with every question.

Senior Showcase On Tuesday this week, we had the opportunity to see the major works from students in Textiles, Timber, Design and Technology, Music and Visual Arts on display. The quality of the works was exceptional, and highlighted the time, dedication and talent of our senior students, as well as the expertise of our teaching staff. Congratulations to everyone involved for an incredibly successful evening. Staffing Staffing in schools at all levels continues to be extremely difficult. Although we are fortunate to have all substantive positions at the school filled, accommodating sickness, staff emergencies and planned leave continues to be highly problematic. The shortage is common across the whole state, with many schools in a worse position than us. We ask for ongoing school community understanding while our incredible teaching, non-teaching and administration staff do the best they can to ensure the best possible education for our students under these difficult circumstances. Extended Leave I will be taking some extended leave in the coming weeks. I will be absent from school from 31st August – 3rd November. During this period Jody Engisch will relieve as Principal, and Vanessa Cesta (Head Teacher CAPA) will step into the Relieving Deputy Principal role for years 8 and 11.

To keep up to date with all the amazing things happening at Concord High School please follow us on our social media platforms at:

facebook.com/ConcordHighSchoolNSW

www.instagram.com/concordhighschoolofficial

# Duke of Edinburgh's International Award



**Duke of Edinburgh Adventurous Journey -Bronze Medallion 11-12 August 2023** The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award is a global framework for non-formal education, which challenges young people to dream big, celebrate their achievements and make a difference in their world. Through developing transferable skills, increasing their fitness levels, cultivating a sense of adventure and volunteering in their community, the Award helps young people to find their purpose passion and place in the world to become **#WORLDREADY.** 

The DofE has three levels: **Bronze, Silver,** and **Gold**. Each level has four sections, one of which must be completed for 26 hours, the remaining two sections for 13 hours each:

- **Physical Recreation**: This section requires participants to participate in a physical activity for at least 13 or 26 hours. They can choose from a variety of activities, such as sport, dance, martial arts, or hiking.
- **Skills**: This section requires participants to learn a new skill, such as cooking, woodworking, or playing a musical instrument. They must practice the skill for at least 13 or 26 hours and be able to demonstrate their proficiency to an assessor.
- **Voluntary Service**: This section requires participants to give 13 or 26 hours of service to their community. They can volunteer for a local charity, sports team, or religious organization.
- Adventurous Journey: This section requires participants to complete a two-day expedition in a
  new environment. They must contribute to the plan of the expedition, and be able to navigate
  and camp in the wilderness

The **Bronze Medallion** requires a minimum of 6 months participation, culminating in a two-day, overnight Adventurous Journey. A group of eight students from Concord High have just successfully completed their first expedition.

Concord High students undertook a Practice Journey day-hike, walking from Mosman to Manly in July. They then completed the fourth section of their Bronze Medallion on the weekend of 11th-12th August. The Adventurous Journey was a two-day hike from Hornsby to Berowra with a full backpack, and must include all necessary equipment for camping overnight e.g. water, food, tent, sleeping bag, utensils, maps, first aid etc.



Students walked this 22 km profile (right to left) with the highest point 228 meters, the lowest 1 meter, with 75% of the hike at elevations above 70 meters. For comparison the City to Surf has a profile of 14 km and max elevation of 100 meters. Our local Bay Run is 7 km and an average elevation of 5 meters. The walking party of 8 student hikers, required 12 hours to complete this predicted 9 hrs 18 mins for an experienced individual hiker. The students carried backpacks that weighed 15-20kg for the entire journey. The overnight weather condition was a cold 5oC, in just a sleeping bag and small tent. It is fair to say that the students experienced a level of cold that was both unexpected and both physically and psychologically confronting, resulting in broken sleep. Just one of many challenges they faced.

The following members of staff: **Ms. C. Giles, Mr. Shephard** and **Mr. Munday**, supported our students in the preparation and completion of this walk.

Congratulations to the following participants and upcoming recipients of the Bronze Medallion:

Year 10 - Lars Emery & Hannah Mangerah;

Year 11 - Annalise Magill, Jennifer Chen, Evie Munday, Ted Newton, Oliver Drozdz, Eric Wong.



8am at Strathfield Station on Friday 11th August

"All the gear, and some ideas!"



Location: 33.6881 - 151.0917

Entrance to the Berowra Valley National Park & Great North Walk

3.4 km completed



Location: 33.6801 - 151.0861

Steele Bridge

Commissioned in 1965 it spans Berowra Creek and provides a great view of the sandstone rocks. It allows access for fire trucks. Bridges of this type were used in WWII South West Pacific campaigns.

6.7 km completed



151.0809
Tunks Ridge Rest Area
The first break!
7.5 km completed

Location: 33.6785 -



Location: 33.6677 - 151.0809

**Galston Gorge Track** 

"Hold on tight, those bags are heavy!"

8 km completed



Location: 33.646 - 151.0803

**Galston Gorge Track Head** 

"Don't fall in!!"

9 km completed



Location: 33.6311 - 151.109

Crosslands Reserve Campsite & Tent Set-up

"At this point I think they would eat anything, which is probably just as well!"

14.5 completed



Location: 33.628 - 151.1137

Berowra Creek Estuary Lookout

17 km completed



Location: 33.6199 - 151.1257

Sams Creek Crossing

This area is subject to flooding in heavy rain.

18.2 km completed



Location: 33.6219 - 151.1295

Intersection of Great North Walk & Berowra Links Track

"It was just up from here, the long climb out!"

(3 kms with a 220m elevation)



Location: 33.6192 - 151.1302

Naa Badu Lookout

In the Aboriginal tribal language of the Dharug people Naa Badu means 'see water'. It is believed that Berowra Creek was the boundary between the Dharug and Guringai Aboriginal peoples.

20.5 km completed



Location: 36.6232 - 151.1467

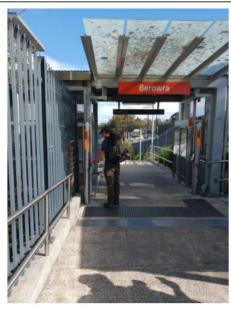
Crowley Road Track Head to Berowra Station

21.2 km completed



"The final walk to freedom...

Or at the very least, the nearest food outlet!"



1pm Tapping ON at Berowra Station to return home on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August.

22 km completed

If you are interested in finding out more about the Duke of Edinburgh Award, information can be found on the dedicated school webpage: <u>Concord High DoE</u> or from **Mr. Shepherd (TAS) Award Leader**.

# **Careers Corner**

## Guest speaker schedule continuing in Term 3

Following completion of the Year 12 HSC Trial exams, the Friday lunchtime guest speaker talks are continuing this term. The following guest speakers are visiting our school, to present information to our students:

- Friday 18th of August Australian Defence Forces (ADF)
- Friday 25th of August AFL Sportsready
- Friday 1st of September Western Sydney University (WSU)
- Friday 8th of September HIA
- Friday 15th of September NECA

Students can come along to hear about career opportunities in the Defence Forces; apprenticeship and traineeship entry requirements; or university course information, early entry/alternate entry schemes, other entry pathways, and scholarships.

Please note: As space is limited in the Library, Year 12 students will have priority for the WSU university presentation.

Where: Library Senior Study Area

When: **12.45 - 1.15pm,** Fridays at lunch.

#### Is your child planning to go to university?

#### Please make sure they have done these two things by the end of the week:

1. Is your child an Australian Citizen or Permanent Resident and planning to go to university (or a university pathway program for a university degree), via the University Admissions Centre (UAC)?

Have they finalised the creation of their UAC account, to apply to university?

#### https://www5.uac.edu.au/uacug/

2. Has your child checked their eligibility for UAC's Educational Access Scheme (EAS)?

(Please note, this scheme is *not* available to international students).

To check eligibility for EAS please ask your child to read through the attached "EAS Application Guide" (see pages 4 -19). https://www.uac.edu.au/assets/documents/eas/eas-application-guide.pdf

Students will only be able to access an EAS application form once they have completed Step 1, above.

Students who need assistance with their EAS application should speak to the School Counsellors, or their Year Advisers (Mr Morrissey or Ms Hawkins), or Ms Makris by the end of Week 6.

Students who intend to apply for EAS should aim to complete their application, including collecting any supporting documentation, by Week 8 this term. Though there is time to apply for EAS after this deadline, students will need to focus on HSC exams beyond this point, in the upcoming school holidays and during Term 4. If they intend to apply for EAS, please ask your child to action their EAS application this week.

#### **NSW Government Infrastructure Traineeship Program**

Apprenticeship Careers Australia, in partnership with the NSW Government, is offering 2023 Year 12 students and school leavers the opportunity to apply for traineeships in infrastructure, in regional and metro NSW. There are employment opportunities, starting in February 2024.

Traineeships involve work and study for two years – being a trainee with one of 15 NSW Government agencies and public and private sector industry employers, while undertaking a Certificate IV at TAFE.

Some of the Traineeships on offer are in:

- -Procurement and Contracting
- -Project Management
- -Business

https://www.apprenticeshipcareers.com.au/job-seekers/infrastructure-traineeships?utm source=web&utm medium=gov&utm campaign=aca it23 24&utm content=gov

### Macquarie University special seminar - ARTS AFTER DARK |

Al needs intelligent humans...or does it?

Ever spent an evening with an AI robotic drummer, an internationally renowned journalist and some of the nation's leading thinkers in film, culture and education?

Prepare to be propelled into the fascinating world of AI and how humans can avoid its pitfalls whilst also leveraging its benefits. Artificial Intelligence is now an inescapable part of our world. Whether it drives the virtual assistant in your phone, checks your bank transactions for fraud, or filters candidates for the next job you apply for, we are all interacting with it. But the technology also risks entrenching social inequality, it's open to abuse by malignant actors, and it exposes our privacy. In this world, critical thinking becomes vital - the ability to evaluate and analyse the decisions made by AI, and make sure it serves the common good.

Dr. Richard Savery, a developer of artificial intelligence and robotics, using music and creativity as a medium to program better interactions, understandings and models, and a current Research Fellow at Macquarie University will kick-start the night with his astonishing creation - the one and only drumming, rapping robot, Keirzo - before leading into a riveting discussion with distinguished academics and industry representatives.

Hosted by Peter Greste, award-winning foreign correspondent for the BBC, Al Jazeera and Reuters, the Faculty of Arts at Macquarie University invites you to its one-of-a-kind event:

**ARTS AFTER DARK** | - Al needs intelligent humans...or does it?

Thursday 14 September

5.45pm – 8pm Refreshments and entertainment from 5.45pm. Panel discussion to commence at 6.30pm.

Parents, students, and anyone with an interest in AI are invited to this event - please note that attendees must be 16 years and above to attend.

Mason Theatre, 14 Sir Christopher Ondaatje Avenue, Macquarie University

RSVP by 5pm, Tuesday 5 September 2023

https://event.mq.edu.au/arts-after-dark/registration/Site/Register?utm source=eventsair&utm medium=email&utm campaign=arts after dark

# Student Leadership News

## **Victory in the Pacific Commemoration Service**

Concord High School has a proud history of supporting the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway's commemoration services to honour those who fought in WWII. The 15th of August commemorates the Victory in the Pacific and this year our Vice- Captains, Jessicah Mazzone and Ted Newton, represented the school at the service.

The service particularly focused on those who lost their lives at sea, as well as marking 80 years since the sinking of the The Centaur, an Australian Hospital Ship, and the discovery in April 2023 of the Montevideo Maru, a Japanese ship that sank during WWII with the loss of 1,054 lives, mostly Australian prisoners of war and civilians.

Special thanks to Jessicah and Ted for attending the service, especially as it finished after school hours, and for being excellent ambassadors for Concord High throughout.





# Languages News

The Chinese Study Tour from North America High School, SuZhou, China started their immersion study program at Concord High School on 31 July and ended on 11 August 2023.

The first thing they felt about Sydney was 'It's so cold!' During the two-week learning, they overcome the barrier of climate, language, culture and demonstrated their diligence and commitment to learning. They worked hard and got along well with their buddies and other students not just in the classroom but also on the playground.

We went on excursions to the Sea Life Aquarium and a guided tour in the Opera House on 4 August. The students explored the beauty of the world's largest coral garden and learned why protecting our marine animals is important. In the Opera House, this one of the most iconic buildings in the world, students appreciated the architectural masterpiece and Australian culture and art. We also visited the Taronga Zoo on 9 August, where the students had the opportunity to explore Australian flora and fauna and experience natural Australian wildlife.

Our students demonstrated their kindness and helpfulness towards these visitors. The Chinese students expressed their gratitude for the help from the friendly teachers and students. A lot of them have become pen pals and these Chinese students wanted to come back to Australia to study in the near future. One had applied for studying in Sydney and already had an interview during the visit.

Ms Mei Yuan EALD/Languages Teacher



















Languages Outside of School

Dear parents and guardians,

If your child wishes to study a language on Saturday, the Secondary College of Languages offer a range of languages. Enrolment applications for 2024 are now open for Years 7-12. Students can speak to Ms Zhai in the Common 2 EALD staffroom for more information.

Kind Regards,

Jennifer Zhai

Relieving Head Teacher English EALD/Languages (Thursday & Friday)

International Students Co-ordinator

Languages Outside of School Co-ordinator





# **NAIDOC** Week

During week 2, Concord High School observed NAIDOC week. NAIDOC week is an annual celebration of the history, culture, and achievements of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This year's theme, "For our elders," held special significance as it was a recognition of the crucial role Elders play within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. Elders are cultural knowledge holders, trailblazers who paved the way for future generations, nurturers of wisdom, tireless advocates, esteemed teachers, resilient survivors, inspiring leaders, and family members.

A range of activities were held across the week including formal assemblies, weaving for the Reclaim the Void project and bracelet making. The highlight of the week was the cooking workshop with Aunty Carol where students learnt to make lemon myrtle pancakes.

Well done to all the students who participated in the activities, your enthusiasm made NAIDOC an enjoyable week for everyone involved.

A special thanks to all the teachers who gave up their time to run activities during the week, including Ms Hawkins, Ms White, Ms Cheers, Ms Backes and Ms Hempstead.

Ms Santos- Aboriginal Education Coordinator

















# Science News

Exciting times during Science Week Students from Year 7, 9, and 10 dove into the future of learning with an amazing VR workshop.

"A wonderful experience and great learning opportunity, The VR workshop was the perfect standard for an avid technology enthusiast. I've never had a privilege to experience VR. I was transported to a realm where reality and imagination seamlessly merged, leading me into a world of physics and biology. We explored endless possibilities when comparing CGI to real life 360 degree imaging. This was definitely a worthwhile experience, having learnt a lot with this exceptional VR experience. It's left a mark on my perception of the possibilities within the realm of virtual reality." - Egbert Wu

"The VR workshop was amazing and fun. We got to learn about many things like body parts of a frog and lasers. Also, we learned about 3D cameras, CGI and making our own clip. It was super fun and I think more people should try it." - Herbert Janes

Annie Ha Science Teacher | Year 7 Co-Advisor | 2IC Science Department













**Year 9 Students** At the beginning of this term, a few Year 9 students were interviewed by Dr Karl Kruszelnicki on a panel at the Sydney Local Health District's Innovation and Research Symposium about their experience of the LifeLab program in 2022. LifeLab has run successfully in UK schools for the past 10 years; a pilot study was established in Sydney in 2022. The program focuses on teen understanding of health, disease and the lifelong implication of lifestyle choices through the scientific lens.

The students spoke exceptionally well, clearly articulating their reflections on the LifeLab program. The audience was particularly impressed by their knowledge of epigenetics. Below are some pictures of the students and panel at the symposium.







## Year 7 News

Year 7 National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence (NDA)

The National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence (NDA) is Australia's main bullying prevention initiative. The NDA theme of 2023 is growing connections to promote the importance of student connectedness and sense of belonging, helping students feel accepted, respected, included and supported. The NDA is on Friday 18th August 2023 which will be marked by a workshop in period 2.

The workshop will be run by the class leaders of each class in Year 7. The workshop will talk about how and why you should be an Upstander not a Bystander. It will tell students what an Upstander and Bystander is, what empathise means and will talk about a scenario.

The workshop will go over why we should stop cyber bullying and what to do to help stop it. It will include what to do if you are being bullied and what cyberbullying is. This will be in small groups for students to work together and role play scenarios.

Written by Ariela Frutos

Annie Ha Science Teacher | Year 7 Co-Advisor | 2IC Science Department

## Canteen News

Just a reminder to students and staff that you are encouraged to place lunch orders at the canteen before school and during recess.

#### From the P&C



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#### **OUR PURPOSE**

Concord High School P&C Association and its volunteers work to bring the school community together so that parents, carers, staff and community members can help meet the needs of the school community and contribute to decisions about the school.

We also assist in providing facilities and equipment for the school and promoting the recreation and welfare of the students at the school.

The P&C offers a means of staying connected with your child, their school and your local community.

#### **OFFICE HOLDERS**

The P&C is made up of an amazing group of parent, carer and community volunteers. Some choose to be elected to take on specific tasks. Our current office holders for 2023-2024 are

President: Vacant

Vice President: Alison Wallbank

Vice President: Amber Hooker

Secretary: Carmen and Mark Barclay

Treasurer: Chris Shaw

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

All members and non members are welcome. An annual \$2 membership can be paid online.

Once your membership is paid, you will remain a current member until the close of the next Annual General Meeting after your membership was paid. The Membership year is from the close of the AGM until the close of the next AGM.

Membership is open to

- All parents and guardians of students enrolled at the school
- All citizens within the school community
- The Principal, or the Principal's nominee, shall be an ex officio member of the P&C Association and its sub-committees
- School staffOnly members have the right to vote or move a motion or be Office Holders.

#### **GRANTS**

The P&C Grants programme is run in collaboration with school leadership and staff as well as community groups to identify and apply for funds to finance initiatives that will help our school and community thrive and prosper.

Do you work for an organisation that provides employee grant opportunities? You might not know it but a simple search or query of your company might unearth a grant just waiting for your application on behalf of CHS P&C.

Please <u>contact us</u> if you become aware of any grants that might help the school or if you wish to assist in this area.

#### **P&C REPRESENTATIVE ON STAFF MERIT SELECTION PANELS**

Another important way to be involved is to sit as a P&C representative on a Merit Selection Panel for new staff. Please <u>contact us</u> if you would be interested in receiving more information and/or if you are currently trained and/or have sat on Panels before. Training will be provided.

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM OUR CONSTITUTION

The objects and functions of this association shall be those set out in Section 116 of the Education Act 1990, which include:

## (i) The objects:

- (a) to promote the interests of the school by bringing parents, citizens, students and teaching staff into close co-operation; and
- (b) to assist in providing facilities and equipment for the school and in promoting the recreation and welfare of the students at the school.

#### (ii) The functions:

- (a) to report, when requested by the Minister for Education and Training, on the material requirements of the school and to advise on the subject of maintenance of the school, alterations and additions to school facilities, and the selection of new sites;
- (b) to assist and co-operate with the teaching staff in public functions associated with the school;
- (c) to be responsible for the election of parent representatives to any school council constituted at the school in consultation with the Principal of the school to ensure consistency with any guidelines for elections issued by the Director General of Education and Training.
- (d) to assist in any matters in which the Minister may seek the co-operation of the association and to exercise such other functions as may be prescribed by the regulations (under the Education Act 1990).

# **CONCORD HIGH SCHOOL P&C MEETINGS**



## **MEETING SCHEDULE**

Held at Concord High School Library

Term 3 2023

6:30pm Tuesday 5th September (AGM)

Term 4 2023

6:30pm Tuesday 17th October

6:30pm Tuesday 28th November

Please remember, paying your \$2 P&C membership allows you to vote in P&C meetings

# How long is my membership valid for?

The Membership year is from the close of the AGM (6:23pm, Tuesday 5 September 2023) until the close of the 2023 AGM (date and time tba)

# **Community Announcements**





## **PLEASE CHOOSE SAFETY OVER CONVENIENCE**

















#### **PEDESTRIANS**

STOP THINK



1a Marlborough Street Drummoyne NSW 2047 Tel 9911 6555 www.canadabay.nsw.gov.au







3 Stanley Street, **CONCORD**, NSW, 2137 **Phone**: 97453777 **Website**: <a href="www.concord-h.nsw.edu.au">www.concord-h.nsw.edu.au</a> **Email**: <a href="mailto:concord-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au">concord-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au</a> **Facebook**: <a href="mailto:facebook.com/ConcordHighSchoolNSW">facebook.com/ConcordHighSchoolNSW</a> **Instagram**: <a href="https://www.instagram.com/concordhighschoolofficial">www.instagram.com/concordhighschoolofficial</a>

