Principal’s Report

Our final term is always a particularly busy and fulfilling one, as it is crammed with academic as well as celebratory commitments.

We bid farewell to our 2014 Year 12 students and congratulate them on achieving the Higher School Certificate. The realisation for students that their school years are coming to an end is both a time for celebration and reflection. It can be quite a shock to realise that the routine of life is about to change and that the company of friends and social connections might be dramatically altered, but I believe that they leave Hoxton Park High School with fine memories and with the skills and eagerness to accept any challenges presented to them.

On behalf of Year 12, I would like to pay tribute to all the teachers and non-teaching staff who have contributed so much to the establishment of our school, providing such a positive place for our students to come to each day. In particular, I know Year 12 would like to acknowledge the great work of Ms Halley, their Year Advisor, and Ms Jones, who have guided them with sensitivity, dedication and wisdom and who have constantly juggled the welfare and academic needs of so many young men and women negotiating the complexities of adolescence! We thank them for providing the best care and guidance for our young graduating students.

I would like to thank our outgoing school Captains, Jordan Archibald and Robina Brown, and Vice Captains, Jon D’Amato and Belinda Cincotta, for their diligence and their leadership. With the prefect team, these young students represented the school at many forums and events with confidence and pride. Congratulations and welcome to our new school Captains, Jordan Ieremia and Despina Veleski, and Vice Captains, Rami Katlan and Stefani Rnjak, and all the school prefects who were elected and inducted to their roles at the end of Term 3. Whilst I’m delighted with our Captains, I would like to acknowledge each student who nominated for captain and spoke so compellingly last term. I congratulate the leadership team who, I believe, under the guidance of Ms Smith, will be positive role models. I know they will do Hoxton Park High School proud.

This year our theme has been ‘Great Leaders, Great Teams, Great Results’ and it was with this attitude that we collectively undertook rigorous professional learning on engaging students, programming, authentic assessments, differentiating the curriculum, challenging students, Get Reading Right and Quick Smart.

My staff demonstrated lessons in best practice to their colleagues, shared resources, observed each other, wrote reflections on their professional learning plan whilst Executives paved the way to ensure that their faculties were well supported to be Great Teams, developing Great Results.

Our commitment was to make Quality Teaching a reality in every classroom and our collective push toward higher expectations of all school members, both in ourselves and students. I have stood in our school assemblies telling students that there is absolutely no reason for any student at Hoxton Park High School not to achieve their personal best because quality teaching and learning is happening in the classroom and if you had any doubt, here’s the evidence:

The last two years we have embarked on a key Literacy professional learning platform, the Get Reading Right Project led by Joanne Dooner. This program trains teachers in the theory and practice of teaching explicit reading and comprehension strategies. This has resulted in students increasing their reading standards, explicitly using comprehension strategies to gain meaning from a variety of texts and a profound ability to analyse and discuss texts confidently.

Our NAPLAN results reflect this confidence, as overall we achieved well above State average by 17.1% in Year 7 Numeracy, 16.7% in Reading and 5% in Grammar and Punctuation. In Year 9 we exceeded State average by 10.4% in Grammar and Punctuation and 7.1% in Reading and that’s been achieved in one year as we implemented this program in all classrooms this year. Overall, we were commended
by our Department Director as over 60% of our students exceeded State average expectations.

As part of our continued commitment to improving comprehension in literacy, the school has begun the initial phase of a program called Lexiles. The Lexile Program starting next year will target Year 7 and Year 8 students by matching students’ reading ability with the appropriate leveled text. This ensures that students are reading at appropriate levels and are being suitably challenged. The school has significantly expanded its collection of library books and Lexile books and quizzes. Students, parents and staff will be able to monitor and track growth in reading and comprehension through specific ongoing Lexile testing.

This year we had the opening of our Café Hoxton. This café was built by Year 12 Construction Class as their final project. The class gained extensive skills in building and construction. They certainly earned their Certificate II course.

Chess Club was initiated this year. Our students participated in the NSW Junior Chess League Competition. Although it was their first tournament they achieved runners-up in the Met South West Region and should be congratulated on these excellent results.

2014 has been a very productive and successful year which would not have been possible without the contribution and industry of the following people:

Our Great Leaders:
- Executive staff who have the fun of making all the big decisions but, of course, must also take the ultimate responsibility. Their good humour, support and patience have been an asset to me.

Our Great Teams:
- The dedicated group of parents who add to the school through their efforts on committees, working groups and selection panels.
- The Canteen staff and Cleaners for their hard work and commitment to the school.
- The Office Staff, Teachers’ Aides and General Assistants who are so essential to the smooth running of the school and to the success of our educational programs.
- Counsellor, Career Advisor and Year Advisors who assist and support students during difficult times and stressful situations.
- The Teachers for their professionalism and commitment to student learning and well-being.

As always, our fantastic students deserve the greatest thanks for our successful year. We are so proud of the many achievements during 2014. I also thank them for their cooperation. The positive attitude and school spirit displayed by our students make this such a unique school. Teachers and visitors constantly praise their maturity and responsible behaviour. Our student leaders were excellent role models who led our students to great achievements and positive outcomes.

We will continue our ‘Attitude’ to realise our school vision of A Quality School driven by the spirit encapsulated in our school motto ‘Wisdom and Goodwill’. Our overarching goal is to sustain ongoing efforts in making Hoxton Park High School as a choice school for students living in this neighbourhood and beyond.

Leny Wallace

Deputy Principal’s Report

What a Great Year
As we farewell our Year 12 students, it is a good opportunity to reflect on the school that they farewell. 2014 has been another great year at Hoxton Park High School.

Hoxton Park High School is the original school in the Hinchinbrook/Hoxton Park area and, as such, has been providing quality education for over 40 years. This year has been no different and our school continues to lead in terms of quality education and student leadership.

Year 12
Our Year 12 students departed with a tremendous Formal, marking their end of their secondary school education with a fitting farewell. This was a joyous and warm-spirited occasion, befitting the group and all who contributed to their education and the evening itself.

I commend the Captains, Jordan and Robina, and the Vice Captains, Belinda and Jon, for their tremendous leadership over the HSC year. Their visible leadership and commitment to their school has set a benchmark for others to measure their own contribution.

I also commend this fine year group for their strong performance in leading and role modeling for their school. They have modeled the Hoxton Honour Code for all other students in the school.

We look forward to hearing of our Year 12 students’ results and tracking their successes as they embark on the next chapter of their lives.

Year 11
Our Year 11 students have seamlessly transitioned to the first term of Year 12, which is now drawing to a
close. This means that one third of the HSC year is now complete.

It is important that all students maintain their effort and commitment through the holiday break and into Term 1, 2015. Consistency is hugely important and students will benefit from consistent revision, reading and engaging with past HSC examinations and questions.

While it is important to maintain a healthy and balanced lifestyle, including recreation, sports and healthy eating and sleep routines, it is crucial that students stay in touch with their school work and maintain their energy into Term 1.

We look forward to a committed and exciting year from Year 12 in 2015.

Café Hoxton

Our café has been a great innovation over the last two years at Hoxton Park High School. However, 2014 has seen the café take a significant leap forward. Under the guidance of Mr Ali and Mrs Kempton, building on the initial work of Ms Halley, the café has linked with Cucina 105, a restaurant in Liverpool, and a mentoring arrangement has been established.

Our students are benefiting from the guidance and skills of consistent mentoring and, as a result, students are developing into fine baristas themselves, complete with the necessary interpersonal skills and an understanding of the skills necessary to contribute to a successful café business.

Both Mr Ali and Mrs Kempton have highly strategic and long term visions for the café, involving further industry partnerships and mentoring between students. The café has quickly established itself in providing café quality coffee and food and has taken on the catering of some in-school functions, bringing great credit to the school.

As the students gain further experience in working within the café, they are assured of realising the café vision.

I can’t wait to see how the café grows in 2015!

Get Reading Right

This tremendous project has transformed our school in one year.

Under the leadership of Mrs Joanne Dooner, Hoxton Park High School has embarked on a journey of literacy improvement through the explicit teaching of comprehension strategies in our classrooms.

While the significant student literacy results achieved are outlined in Mrs Wallace’s report, it has been so rewarding to witness this project’s implementation and impact through the establishment of a skilled leadership team and the collaborative professional learning partnerships that have developed between teachers across the whole school.

In addition, further links have been made with Hoxton Park Public School, who have also taken on the same project in their school.

2015 will see continued literacy success as this project moves into the second year of implementation.

The Hoxton Learning Community

2014 saw a significant development of our Hoxton Learning Community as we reinforced our strong links with our partner schools through focused learning projects.

Our Hoxton Science Initiative continued for the second year and has grown into a key program in our learning community. Students from Year 4 in all partner schools have the opportunity to apply for positions in this initiative, immersing themselves in Science project-based learning in our specialist Science laboratories.

Under the expert guidance of Ms Bou and Mr Henderson, students participate in Science lessons, including learning within Chemistry, Physics and Robotics.

This has proved so popular amongst local students that we doubled the number of applicants for this year and applications for 2015 have grown even further.

The Hoxton Science Initiative culminated with the celebration of learning event in Week 9 with students and parents attending, starting with afternoon tea at Café Hoxton and finishing with students discussing their learning in the Science laboratories.

Another Primary School Project in 2014 included the Public Speaking and Debating Project led by Ms Mohammed and her debating students from Year 9. These students mentored the Year 5 students from Hoxton Park Public School and Hinchinbrook Public School and developed their skills to the point where they were confident to enter into a debate.

A major formal debate between these two schools took place in our school library with an audience of students, teachers and parents, as the two schools competed, showcasing their skills under the continued mentoring of our Year 9 debaters.

Another new learning community innovation for this year was the Visual Arts Project led by our CAPA staff including Mr Cole, Mr Hanly and Ms Graoroska. This involved the explicit teaching of Visual Arts within Year 6 classrooms at Hoxton Park Public School and was in
direct response to a need highlighted at Hoxton Park Public School.

Our CAPA staff were happy to provide the expertise and support to meet this need and conduct demonstration lessons, team teaching and professional mentoring within ceramics, printmaking and digital photography.

All of our primary partnerships have resulted in terrific outcomes for students within our learning community as well as professional learning and leadership opportunities for staff.

The Hoxton Learning Community is alive and well and Hoxton Park High School is playing a significant educational leadership role.

A Well Deserved Break
2014 has been a strong year for Hoxton Park High School. I have enjoyed working with so many students and families again this year and I wish all of you a restful and enjoyable holiday season.

I look forward to seeing you all back next year.

Paul Lawrence

VET/TAS/Agriculture Faculty

2014 has been a year of many challenges and achievements by our students and teachers in VET, TAS and Agriculture. Our students enjoyed their involvement in both classwork and extra-curricular events throughout the year.

Café Hoxton
Our outgoing Year 12 VET Construction students took on the project of building a real café adjacent to our Hospitality kitchens. Students designed, planned and constructed a café for our Year 9-12 students to participate in their barista training and run a real café under the supervision of Events Coordinator, Mrs Kempton. Recently, the café hosted a number of large events which were catered by our Year 12 Hospitality students, where coffee and light meals were served by our Year 9 students. All these events have been a resounding success and students have gained many skills outside of their classroom learning. These skills will be invaluable to their employment prospects in years to come.

Our Years 9 and 10 students are also mentored by a successful restaurant owner, Angelo of Cucina 105 in Liverpool. Angelo guides students through the art of coffee preparation and making process. Cucina 105 is our valued industry partner.

Our Café Hoxton will continue to provide students with employability skills and give them a competitive edge when they are seeking employment in the future. We have many events planned for 2015, which will, no doubt, provide access to our students’ real work experiences.

Class Chef
Early this year our Year 12 Hospitality students participated in a class chef exercise at Cucina 105, attended by 52 guests, who were served by our students. Students planned, prepared and served all the meals for dinner to the invited guests. They were guided and mentored by a qualified chef, Angelo (the owner), and our Hospitality teacher, Ms Halley. The students performed to a high standard expected in a workplace setting. Students gained numerous skills during this program and it benefitted them in their HSC, especially in their Certificate II Hospitality course.

We are undertaking this program on a regular basis and in Week 8, Term 1, 2015, our current Year 12 students will participate in this program at Cucina 105.

Hoxton Farm
Recently we embarked on a variety of targeted initiatives in the Hoxton Farm. We are highly focused on students’ learning and experiences in sustainable farm management.

Our vision is to create a sustainable, quality working farm on the school site to provide all students and community members with agricultural experience, learning opportunities and employment and further training pathways.

Our farm is 2.5 hectares/6 paddocks and includes: vegetable growing for our Years 7-10 students, a vegetable/crop grown for VET Primary Industries students and six chicken sheds to raise for meat, eggs and show birds. The enterprises operated in the farm are poultry – chickens including layers, broilers, breeding and showing and ducks including layers, breeding and showing. We also have sheep and goats for show purposes.

Our school farm supports the Hoxton Science Initiative in partnership with our Science faculty and three partner primary schools. Within this initiative, the students experience incubating chicken eggs, hatching and raising chickens along with vegetable production.

Our students also participated in the 2014 Penrith Show in the Calf Rearing Competition (we came 1st), in Goat Husbandry (we came 2nd), vegetable production and horticulture.

In 2015, we are also participating in the Royal Easter Show Birds – the raising of special Hyline Chicken breed sponsored by Steggles. In this program students weigh and record the live weight gained/feed
consumed on a weekly basis. Data collected is recorded in an excel spreadsheet. We are focusing strongly on being ready for the 2015 Royal Easter Show.

Students involved in primary school visits showcase their skills such as drenching animals and grooming and weighing animals. Primary school students love this experience with our students being their guides and mentors within the School Farm.

In addition, we are part-way through the construction of a Sustainability model built around four chicken coops and linked compost bays and vegetable gardens to produce feed for chickens. This is proposed to be a transition project focusing on a teaching and learning program in all partner schools and led by students within Stage 5 Agriculture. Participating students will be educated primarily about sustainability principles and also the raising and caring for chickens through focused teaching and learning activities. This project will also contribute to our school’s show team and chicken breeding program by focusing on raising breeds for show purposes.

We are aiming for a great 2015 on our School Farm and look forward to sharing our successes with you.

Mr M. Ali
VET/TAS/Agriculture Head Teacher

English Faculty Report
Premier’s Debating Challenge for Senior Students
This year the Senior Hoxton Park High School Debating Team participated in the oldest and most prestigious debating competition, the Premier’s Debating Challenge, which was first held in 1930. Over 160 schools took part. Our team competed up to the Regional level and, in recognition of their efforts, they were invited along with our junior debating team to be part of the audience at the final of the competition, which was held at the Great Hall of Sydney University in September. This was an invaluable learning experience for our debaters as it inspired our students to strive for even higher levels of achievement in this renowned competition.

Year 9 English Two Celebrate FIFA World Cup Soccer Finals
2014 was the year of the FIFA World Cup Soccer Finals, the most watched sporting event on the planet. Year 9 English Two celebrated by decorating their room with the national flags of each country that competed at the finals. They designed and created a playing uniform for each team and then wrote biographies for each country. They also wrote a personal biography for the most accomplished player from each country. The students were engaged and extremely motivated to learn. It once again showed how connected and relevant high school English is to the modern world.

Year 7 English
Year 7 English had a fascinating time in 2014. They were integrating literacy and technology in the classroom in an extremely exciting manner. Year 7 Self-Select English designed, wrote, directed, edited and produced their own short animation film. This required the students to complete an array of sophisticated, complex and multi-faceted tasks. The students were inspired, challenged and engaged. After this experience the students are eager to take on greater challenges in 2015.

Mr L. Olah-Jewell
Head Teacher English

HSIE Faculty Report
The HSIE Faculty at Hoxton Park High School has been very busy this year. The faculty's primary focus has been on the integration of the Reading Right Strategies in our programs, which has kept us working hard, but we have found it interesting and rewarding. In addition, the Australian History Curriculum was introduced to the Years 7 and 9 cohort for the first time and was well received by our students.

Other activities and programs have been introduced to enrich and motivate our students, but most importantly to develop a sense of appreciation for our heritage and make connections with our real world. Some of our programs and activities for this year included:

- Society and Culture Seminar – HSC Project, PIP.
- Year 9 Commerce Excursion to Camden and Cronulla – Marketing strategies.
- Modern History Excursion to the Jewish Museum – Holocaust.
- Formation of the Mock Trial Team – fully running in 2015.
- Anzac Day Ceremony.
- Remembrance Day Ceremony.
- HSC Tutorial Classes – held before and/or after school.

We welcomed Ms Cinque, who joined us this year. Also, a special thank you to Ms Sami, who has been with us in Mr Kingsley's absence throughout Term 4.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the HSIE staff for their dedication and hard work throughout 2014. Also, on behalf of the HSIE staff, I would like to wish each and every member of our school community a safe and memorable festive season.
Mrs H. Kim
Relieving Head Teacher HSIE

Year 9 Commerce Excursion to Camden and Cronulla

On Wednesday, 3rd December, Year 9 Commerce students went on an urban trail excursion to Camden and Cronulla.

The excursion enabled us to experience firsthand what was taught in the classroom concerning methods used by different businesses to effectively target consumers, to compare the different retail stores in the two suburbs and to identify promotional strategies used by different businesses.

During the bus ride to Camden, Mr Kishore and Mrs Kim announced that a prize would be awarded for the best statement that outlined the main differences between Camden and Cronulla.

At the conclusion of the day, three students shared their statements with the two classes. These students were: Taylan Baskonyali, Avan Abduljabbar and Jason Vo. Jason was declared the winner of the competition.

It was a great experience and we enjoyed it very much!

“It was a fun day out, where we got to enjoy ourselves and, at the same time, extend our knowledge on what we had been taught in class. I think it was a great way to end the year!”

Hayden Davis

“The trip was an enjoyable experience that has allowed us to comprehend the different strategies used by businesses to sell products in semi-rural and urbanised coastal areas.”

Brendon Wu and Sladjana Kuridza

We would like to thank Mrs Kim and Mr Kishore for organising the educational, but fun day for us.

Sylvia El-Chammas and Jason Vo
Year 9 Commerce

Mock Trial Competition

In 2015 Hoxton Park High School will enter a team in the Mock Trial Competition. The Mock Trial Competition is conducted by the Law Society of NSW and is a practical means of introducing students to the law and to increase understanding of the basis of our judicial system.

The competition also helps students to enhance core skills such as; listening, speaking, writing, reading, as well as teamwork and working under pressure. The goal is not to win for the sake of winning, but to learn and understand the meaning of good citizenship through participation in our system of law and justice. All who participate in the Mock Trial Competition are winners in this sense.

The Mock Trial Competition is open to students in Years 10 and 11 up to the age of 21.

How the mock trials are conducted:

Each team consists of six students who play the roles of barristers, lawyers and witnesses. In most cases the Law Society will assign a coach to each team, who is a qualified barrister or solicitor. The coach provides information about court procedures and advocacy techniques.

The Law Society also provides ‘the case’ for the mock trials. The cases are confined to simple criminal and civil matters heard in the Local or District Court. A team may act as either the defence or prosecution during a trial, with each team member taking on the role of a barrister, solicitor, court officer or witness, pitting their skills against the opposing side – a team from another school.

Each trial is presided over by a Magistrate (a solicitor or barrister), who awards marks to each team based on a range of criteria, such as opening addresses, closing submissions and cross examinations. The team with the highest mark wins the trial.

Our team for 2015 consists of:

Year 11 student “Bryson McMartin”.

Year 10 students “Hayden Davis, Sylvia El-Chammas, Steven Ha, Sladjana Kuridza, Lachlan Lay, Jason Vo and Brendon Wu”.

Ms C. Cinque
Mock Trial Coordinator

Australian War Memorial in Canberra Excursion

One of the first official perks of being student leaders for 2015 was being invited along to a Fowler Electorate all expenses paid excursion to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra on Monday, 24th November 2014. This unique excursion was open to local primary and secondary schools, both government and private, in recognition of the ANZAC Day Centenary in 2015.
When we arrived, tour guides led us around the many awe-inspiring sections of the War Memorial and we immediately felt the deep-rooted respect for the great Australian men and women who fought in all wars for our freedom and values.

In particular, the causes and effects of World War I was showed and explained to us through the amazing artifact displays, paintings, sculptures and photographs, many of them primary sources originating from the soldiers themselves. We also had the opportunity to hear the personal stories of different servicemen and their experiences of war, which moved us all through the power of empathy and at that moment the reality of war was seen through new eyes.

We lunched with MP Chris Hayes, who spoke to us about the importance of commemorating the servicemen and women who fought for our country throughout our young history as a nation. Overall, we felt that participating in this great experience was incredibly significant to learn as both a school leader and also as a young Australian. It was also very interesting to meet and discuss matters with other student leaders from schools close to us. (We found helping and leading the local primary school students very fun and cute!)

The underlying importance of the day was to understand that we should not be taking peace for granted and by doing so through broadening our knowledge of our country's history and the sacrifice of our countrymen, both past and present.

Lest We Forget

Stefani Rnjak, Despina Veleski, Jordan Ieremia and Rami Katlan
Student Leaders for 2015
How To Ace Mathematics

Facts on how to become a better Mathematics Student

1. Show up for class
   When you miss class you have to learn the concepts either from a classmate or from your textbook. You’ll never get as good of an overview from your friends or from the text as you will from your teacher.
   - *Come to class on time.* In fact, come a little early and open your exercise book to the right place and take out your calculator so that you’re ready to start when your teacher is ready to start.
   - *Only skip class if you are sick.* When you do miss class talk to a classmate to find out what the teacher talked about and what homework was assigned.

2. Work along with your teacher
   If your teacher works through problems in front of your class, then work along with the teacher in your exercise book.
   - *Make sure that your notes are clear and easy to read.* Don’t just write down the problems. Also write down anything that the teacher says that increases your understanding of the concepts.
   - *Work any sample problems that your teacher posts for you to do.* When the teacher walks around the classroom as you work, ask the teacher questions to test your understanding.
   - *Participate while the teacher is working a problem.* Don’t wait for your teacher to call on you. Volunteer to answer when you know the answer and raise your hand to ask questions when you’re unsure of what is being taught.

3. Do your homework the same day as it is assigned.
   When you do the homework the same day the concepts are fresh in your mind. Sometimes, finishing your homework the same day isn’t possible. Just make sure that your homework is complete before you go to class.

4. Make an effort outside of class if you need help.
   Go to your teacher during your break times.
   - Attend the Homework Centre at school to get some help.
   - *Form a study group.* Good study groups usually contain 4 or 5 people at a good mix of ability levels. If you’re a “C” student in mathematics, then join a group that has 2 or 3 “A” or “B” students so that you can raise your level. Avoid joining a group full of students whose grades are lower than yours. Get advice from your teacher before forming this group.

Mr J. Mendez
Mathematics Teacher

Careers Report

It has been a very eventful year in the Careers Office at Hoxton Park High School. 2014 saw Hoxton Park students participate in a number of careers activities from work experience to University open days, industry discussion panels, guest presentations and mock interviews. It is always a very full careers program as we want to ensure that students are making educated and informed decisions about their future pathways. Deciding is often the hardest part!

Hoxton Park Careers continue to build strong relationships with local businesses as well as strong ties with tertiary education providers. These relationships provide our students with opportunities for work experience, part-time and casual employment, industry specific mock interviews and expert presentations and exploration sessions held at school.

Some of the Term 4 Careers activities have included:
   - UWS Day (Liverpool)
   - Year 11 HSC and Career Information Day
   - Year 10 Work Experience
   - Year 10 Mock Interviews
   - Year 7 Onwards and Upwards Performance
   - Year 9 Work Readiness Workshop

As this will be my first and last addition to the school newsletter, I am going to leave you all with a few final career tips and my favourite quote…

   - Personalise every cover letter you send out as though it is the only job in the world that you want.
   - When applying for jobs always follow the standard online application process and follow up by visiting the store/employer and handing in your resume in person.
   - Build your resume whilst in high school. Many of the awards, achievements and experiences will also be useful for University and scholarship applications in Year 12.
Explore, stay curious, challenge yourself and find work you love!

"Don’t ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive and do that, because what the world needs is people who have come alive.” – Howard Thurman

Thank you Hoxton Park students, I have loved working with you all throughout 2014! I wish you all the very best in your future endeavours.

Kate Murray
Acting Careers Advisor

Year 11 Advisor’s Report

As part of the Hoxton Park High School’s Careers Program a Careers and HSC Information Day was organised for all Year 11 students on Thursday, 11th December 2014. This information day was held in the Hoxton Park High School Hall.

The incursion provided an opportunity for students to explore and understand the different pathways beyond school and looked at university, TAFE, private colleges, apprenticeships and traineeships and full-time employment. Information was provided regarding courses, career choices, admission, ATARs and many other options and pathways on offer.

The students also participated in HSC studies. Most students seemed to be well engaged in their studies and were already completing their first assessment task in their subject areas. Students were encouraged to continue doing regular home study and revision and catch up on any missed work.

Ms K. Murray  Mr B. Kishore
Acting Careers Advisor  Year 11 Advisor

Year 8 Advisor’s Report

2014 has been a rich and fulfilling four terms for Year 8 and I congratulate them for their hard work and positive attitudes all the way through. Although they have encountered some challenges along the way, such as adding an extra subject to their workload, which is to learn a new language, Japanese, as well as having to step up to the plate and admit that they’re not babies anymore.

With this in mind, Year 8 have been involved in many encouraging and affirmative activities this year. A highlight being the Camp at Adventureland Forster, combined with Year 7 and senior student leaders.

Students of Year 8 have also risen to the challenge of being active members of the Hoxton Park High School student-body, through various initiatives such as the dance ensemble, Gala Day, Tiger Tag Gala Day, the junior debating team and more.

I congratulate all students of Year 8 this year for their continued efforts and encourage them to prepare over the holidays for their final NAPLAN exams in Year 9, 2015. Happy holidays and I await to see you all return bright and eager in the new year!

Miss C. Campbell
Year 8 Advisor

2014-2015 Prefects

In Term 4 the 2014-2015 School Captains, Vice Captains and Prefects officially commenced their role as the new leaders of Hoxton Park High School. These students have entered this leadership role with enthusiasm and diligence and have each contributed greatly due to their unique personalities.

As Prefects these students are required to commit to a range of duties throughout the school and within the community. This term these students have represented Hoxton Park High School at various events where they have exceeded all expectations and demonstrated maturity, responsibility and strong leadership skills.

As one of their first official duties as School Captains and Vice Captains, Jordan Ieremia, Despina Veleski, Rami Katlan and Stefani Rnjak, represented the school at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra in recognition of the ANZAC Day Centenary in 2015. They were provided with the opportunity to reflect on the significance of this day, as well as have lunch with local members of parliament and meet other student leaders from schools within our community.
The Prefects were actively involved in Orientation Day, where they were required to usher parents around the school and provide guidance and mentoring for the Year 6 students. They also represented the school at Hinchinbrook Public School's Fete, where they talked to parents and students and also answered the questions of future Year 7 students. They participated in both of these events with enthusiasm and were proactive in ensuring that they fulfilled their role to the best of their ability.

The School Captains, Vice Captains and Prefects should be commended on their efforts this term.

Miss M. Smith
Prefect Coordinator

SRC Report

Throughout Semester One our SRC representatives have been actively involved in a number of fundraising activities to support our local charities, such as: Stewart House, Cancer Council and The Red Cross. They have also been very busy coordinating the Hoxton Park High School's Recycling Program in line with our school philosophy on maintaining a clean learning environment.

In Semester Two the SRC has focused their attention on supporting whole school events such as: PBL campaigns, Year 7 Orientation Day and the annual Presentation Ceremony. The initial stage of the 2015 election process has also been finalised and Years 7-10 SRC Elections will take place early next year.

In November, Mrs Jackson and I had the pleasure of attending an SRC’s Coordinators Seminar, where we were provided with a variety of engaging resources which we are looking forward to presenting to our new members in 2015, with a greater focus on leadership and whole school projects.

Mrs Jackson and I have enjoyed working with our SRC representatives and we would like to congratulate them for their commitment and hard work throughout 2014.

Mrs H. Kim
SRC Coordinator

Library Report

Minecraft Server
Christmas has arrived on our Minecraft Server.

Nick and Nick worked tirelessly creating the Minecraft Server for our Library. The Year 9 Photographic and Digital Media Class have already booked it for Term 1, 2015. They have decided to create film sets in Minecraft to later film.

The Library has many areas for students to work with classes or individually on programming. Research shows society has a shortage of trained computer programmers. During the year the Library has offered many opportunities for students to learn programming.

Three dimensional printing has been introduced as another activity available to students at Break 1 and Break 2. Students create 3D rendered objects using Google Sketch up and are able to print in the Library.
Discovery
Discovery is the new HSC area of study of English. The Library is a great place to find related text and study guides for Discovery. I encourage students to visit the Library before the end of the school year to pick up a related text to read over the holidays.

Lexile
Hoxton Park High School is using the Lexile reading system starting 2015. Our Library is ready! The Library staff have Lexile reading levels on most of the fiction collection. Students are now able to locate material with ease and be assured that they will find the content suitable to their individual needs.

Ms M. Jensen
Librarian

Teacher's Report
It has been a big year for Café Hoxton and the students that have been involved in the program. Café Hoxton has extended to not only catering coffee and tea to staff but also an array of snacks and breakfast options. The students have driven ideas such as: Breakfast toasties, Milkshakes, Banana bread, Raisin toast. There has been a phenomenal improvement in the quality of coffee being sold and the students, partnered with Angelo (owner of Cucina 105) have refined their skills as baristas. The students have also catered for staff functions, network meetings and parent information nights. It is so exciting to see them not only learning skills that are transferable to the workplace but also collaborating and team teaching with each other.
We have big plans for Café Hoxton in 2015 and look forward to involving more students.

Mrs H. Kempton  
Events Coordinator

Student’s Report
Café Hoxton is open every Monday and Wednesday, where we come in to make coffee, hot chocolate and breakfast for students and teachers.

Our Year 12 Industrial Arts Class made us a new café this year. We are all extremely proud of their efforts and are so thankful for what they have achieved. The new café has made it easier to run orders smoothly, which makes us feel more professional.

Last month we had Angelo come in. Angelo owns his own business and he came in to teach us the basics and then further our skills. He watched how we made the coffees for the teachers and gave us great feedback on our skills and how well we handle pressure.

We have also started making milkshakes for teachers and students and we have many breakfast options. We recently started catering for school events, in which we prepare coffees and cook meals.

Café Hoxton is a great opportunity for us in case we decide to pursue a career as a barista or working in a café/restaurant. Volunteering at Café Hoxton has made me want to pursue this career. I, along with the rest of the Café Hoxton team, enjoy working in the café.

Jessica Hawker  
Year 9

School Spectacular – Stage 5 Music Excursion

School Spectacular is an event that comprises Australian students of all ages to dance and sing in front of large audiences. This year, Stage 5 Music students had the opportunity to attend the 31st School Spectacular. Each year, School Spectacular adopts a new theme to showcase the talents of many young people, primarily students from primary to high school. This year’s theme was “This is Australia”. It explored a wide variety of Australian music, many Australian music icons and Indigenous dance and music that are all unique to Australia.

This year approximately 3600 students from over 400 NSW public schools were involved in the production, management and performance of many dances and song pieces that were broadcasted by Channel 9 nationally.

The majority of performances were primarily focused on appreciating the music and dance of previous Australian musicians, artists and performers. Many of the songs that were performed by the various schools included music that was studied and performed at school by the students of Hoxton Park High School. Some of these pieces included:

“Happy” by Pharrell Williams

“Never Tear Us Apart” by INXS

“Let It Be” by The Beatles

There were also a few guest performers and artists at the showcase which made the program enjoyable and added variety. These included the winner of The Voice Australia, Anja Nissen, the winner of The Voice Kids, Alexa Curtis, and Soprano singer, Julie Lea Goodwin.

A FEW Indigenous dance ensembles, supported by the Bangarra Youth Program, also performed a song in the Indigenous language, which was accompanied by Indigenous dancers. This corresponded a great deal with what Year 9 students were taught earlier in the year about how Aboriginal music is used to express stories through dance. The performance of the Indigenous dance ensembles was greatly connected with the School Spectacular theme.

A whole segment of the School Spectacular was aimed at illustrating Australia’s heritage and how multiculturalism has evolved to compose the Australian population. This was primarily illustrated by a flag march of which many flags were used to showcase the flags of the world on the stage. The flags were used to perform illusions with the flag colours and flag motions.
Overall, the day was highly enjoyed by the music students and Ms Beck, as it was very well-planned and masterfully presented by all the involved students and schools all across Australia.

“It was very encouraging and amazing to see that School Spectacular was wonderfully pulled off by all the involved students and teachers and will one day help all the young performers to achieve their full musical and creative potential.”
Daniel Jabur, Year 9

“School Spectacular just really is spectacular!”
Jasmine-Renee Faumuina, Year 10

Sylvia El-Chammas
Year 9

War and the Cuban Missile Crisis in particular. Rebecca was drawn to this subject matter during her studies in Modern History and was able to express her ideas about the potential of contemporary conflict resolution practice to change world history.

Over the past few years artworks by earlier HSC Visual Arts students from Hoxton Park High have been selected to be part of NEXT, as it showcases ‘up and coming’ creative talent from South Western Sydney.

NEXT 2014 is on from 31st January 2015 to 15th March 2015, at the Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, Casula. More information is available at: http://www.casulapowerhouse.com

Mr S. Hanly
CAPA Teacher

Japanese Tanken Centre Excursion

The Year 9 elective Japanese class and two Year 11 Japanese Beginners students were accompanied by Miss Wang on Friday, 7th November 2014, to the Japanese Tanken Centre at Kirrawee High School. Their objective was to apply their Japanese communication skills and knowledge of the culture in a Japanese environment.

The students were amazed at the spectacular beauty of the centre, which resembled a traditional Japanese style house and was decorated with attractive items. On arriving, we were warmly welcomed by Ms Shida and another teacher.

Soon afterwards Mount St Benedict College’s Year 9 students also arrived. We then were all divided into four teams named after the seasons, with each team consisting of students from both schools. We all then posed for our team photos. We introduced ourselves to each other in Japanese and worked together to earn points from winning activities.

Throughout the day we acted out real life scenarios, such as being families, eating out at restaurants and common daily routines. We also had interviews on our interests and hobbies and played a variety of fun games to actively use our reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. The teachers were hilarious actors and supportive as well.

Later on we went outside to the picturesque Zen Rock Garden to eat lunch. We all had delicious Japanese “lunch boxes” containing various food such as rice, fried meat, vegetables, egg and sushi. Miss Wang also generously brought a sweet carrot cake for us all to share. It was also two students’ birthdays during that weekend. The food and the trip were great presents!

Year 12 Visual Arts Student’s HSC Artwork Selected for Exhibition at Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre

Rebecca Fitzpatrick’s HSC artwork has been selected for the NEXT 2014 Exhibition at the Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre. The exhibition features selected artwork by HSC Visual Arts students from schools in the Liverpool region and is curated by the Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre and funded by Liverpool City Council.

Rebecca’s artwork (below) is titled “Childish Diplomacy” and uses the conventions of children’s book illustrations to highlight the dramas of the Cold
We then all went to explore the centre. There were many images of popular anime in the computer room, as well as many magazines and Japanese comics.

Our last activity was to have a large quiz with many challenging questions and activities. At the end the Summer and Winter teams won, but we all had fun. To end the day we were all given certificates with photos of us on it. It was unanimous that the day was the perfect opportunity to reinforce our knowledge of Japanese learnt in class and was thoroughly enjoyable. The excursion also strengthened our passion in the pursuit of fluency in Japanese.

The general consensus amongst all of us was that we hope to return next year again.

Students’ thoughts:

“The day was extremely enjoyable; the interaction with the other school taught me new skills.”
Lachlan Lay

“It was a fun experience and I hope I can go back next year.”
Earl-Christian Sabarre

“I really enjoyed the atmosphere.”
Steven Ha

“Interacting in Japanese with other students was a pleasant experience.”
Tyson Cai

“It was a very fun and amusing experience. I would like to go there again next year!! The teachers were funny.”
Tu Minh Huynh

“It was fun interacting with the other school – it was great.”
Kevin Phan

“I really enjoyed the experience and the other school was nice.”
Hayden Davis

Jason Vo
Year 9

Kosuge Junior High School Visit

General Overview of the School Visit
On Wednesday, 7th May 2014, four students and four teachers from Kosuge Junior High School in Japan came to our school in the afternoon to be officially greeted and introduced to their buddy, whom they would be living with and following over the course of a few days. During their visit they were able to experience Australian school and family life with their buddy. When they were not with their buddy they attended English language lessons to further their understanding of the language, which they understood fairly well, despite their limited practice of it.

Our school was chosen as one of the places for their study tour in Australia. They were made to feel welcome by everyone in our school. This program offered them various Australian educational, cultural and social experiences.

During their visit I had the privilege of taking the Social Science teacher during an IPT lesson. He acted respectfully and courteously towards me. During the lesson I communicated to him that we were making a multimedia presentation intended for primary school students. He was fascinated and intrigued by our work.

Their visit was not only a great experience for them but also for their buddies, who are currently studying the Japanese Beginners course at school. This was a great opportunity for them to practice their speaking skills with a native speaker. This was important for students as part of their HSC examination is to converse in Japanese, which they were able to experience with their Japanese buddy.

The last outing between students and their buddies was to Aquacotta Restaurant on Friday night. The following morning they were picked up from school by their bus, heading to Port Stephens. This was a great experience for both schools. Kosuge Junior High School enjoyed the experiences of Australian life and I am sure that they will return again.
Ted Lindsay  
Year 12 Japanese Elective Class

Hosting Students’ Perspective
I had the privilege to host Yuichi Fujiki, a gentle and pleasant young man who had an interest in history. His politeness and adequateness was adored by both my family and our school students. His origami and crafting skills were very superior and unique. He enjoyed light activities and worked very hard for whatever goal he had envisioned.

During his visit we visited many different locations from parks to shopping centres and different suburbs of Sydney. Yuichi was overwhelmed over every little thing, as it was a completely different environment and experience. His favourite thing from our visits was nothing spectacular, which really appealed to me. His fascination was a tiny brown sparrow that flew at aerial speeds through the air. His perspective on life has given me a new outlook on life to appreciate the little things that happen in our everyday life.

Our delightful visitors had English classes in the morning with our lovely teacher, Ms Joseph, to further improve on their studies. Surprisingly, it was not hard to understand our visitors, despite the language barrier that was present. Through shared communication both Yuichi and I learnt how to communicate through hand gestures and pictures whenever the language barrier was present.

Their visit was a grand experience for them as you could see the shining golden look in each of their eyes, however, the true gift was the experience our school received when we were given the chance of a lifetime to conduct a home stay.

Erick Luu  
Year 12 Japanese Elective Class

Hoxton Park Dance Ensemble

What a great debut performance from the Hoxton Park High School Dance Ensemble!

On our recent Year 7 Orientation Day, the girls in our ensemble, under the great leadership of Ms Murray and Ms Pupovic, brought the house down with a great jazz/lyrical routine to Fergie’s “Little Party Never Killed Nobody” from “The Great Gatsby” soundtrack.

Our Dance Ensemble was introduced to provide the students of Hoxton Park High School with more opportunities to take part in extra-curricular projects of their interest and to develop dance at our school. This program aims to empower the students of Hoxton Park High School and provide them with the artistic, social and performance skills which they can apply outside of the school context.

The ensemble is comprised of nine dedicated students (Laxmiphim Tim, Aaliyah Lupo-leota, Anna Vo Le, Jeneen Warwar, Alicia Zappia, Hayley Anson, Sarah-Marie Horton, Selina Cabrera and Rocío Valiente) who have been rehearsing every Wednesday after school in preparation for the Hoxton Park High School Orientation Day.

A big thank you to everyone who has shown their support throughout this term and we are all looking forward to auditioning for many more performances in the year 2015.

Well done ladies!!!

Mrs H. Kempton  
Head Teacher PDHPE
Sports Report

2014 was a busy year for sport at Hoxton Park High School with many students representing our school at a variety of sporting events and levels of competition. Below are highlights from 2014:

Rugby League
Hoxton Park had mixed success this year on the football field. Our Opens Rugby League team made it to the second round of the University Shield, where they came up against a strong Eaglevale High School team, who were just too strong for them.

The West Leagues Cup teams had good success this year. Our Under 15s team made the quarter-finals of the competition with a team that was made up of new players who don’t play rugby league outside of school.

Our Under 13s team, made up of a majority of Year 7 students, showed enthusiasm and courage when they ran onto the field and this was shown in their results. The Under 13s team made it to the semi-finals of the West Leagues Cup competition. They were undefeated in the pool games and convincingly defeated Casula High School in the quarter-final. Unfortunately, injuries and a much bigger opposition in Leumeah High School stopped Hoxton Park’s dream run.

Individually, congratulations to Joshua Smith in Year 10 who was selected in the Bernera Zone Under 15s Rugby League team.

A big thank you to all students who put on the green and gold and represented Hoxton Park to the best of their ability.

Knockout Sport
In 2014, Hoxton Park High School students represented our school in a number of Sydney South West Region knockout sports:

Football
The Boys’ and Girls’ Open Soccer teams had mixed results this year. Hurlstone Agriculture High School defeated the boys’ team in the first round in a tough game played at Marconi Stadium. The girls’ team made it to the third round central venue for their competition, where they played Bass High School and unfortunately were outplayed.

Basketball
The Girls’ Open Basketball team showed enthusiasm and teamwork but unfortunately went down to Holsworthy High School in the first round.

The two Boys’ Basketball teams played with effort and commitment and it was fantastic to watch. The Opens team came up against a very strong and disciplined Fairfield High School team and it was a tough match, with Fairfield coming out on top. The Boys’ Under 15s team again made it to central venue after a hard fought win against Holsworthy High School at Minto Indoor Centre. At the central venue round Hoxton Park’s first opponent was Macquarie Fields High School and they were just too good for us. Our second game was against Elderslie High School and it was a hard fought battle with Elderslie winning in a close match. There are great signs for the future for Hoxton Park with such players as Sebastian Parraguez, Aleks Strinic and Stefan Vidic playing in both teams and showing excellent skills against quality teams.

Boys’ Cricket Team
After winning a classic in their first game against Casula, Hoxton Park then met the previous Sydney South West champions, Hurlstone Agriculture, in the next round. After a great start, Hurlstone Agriculture then showed their quality and took control of the game. Great effort by all players involved.

Girls’ Netball Team
The Girls’ Netball team took part in the Bernera Zone Netball Tournament at Cecil Hills. The girls tried their best and represented Hoxton Park with honour.

Thank you to all students who represented the school and to all the teachers who gave up their time and took a sport.

Athletics
Hoxton Park students this year demonstrated some quality results in the sport of athletics. From our School Carnival to State Athletics Championships there were some fantastic results. The following students made it to Regional Athletics:

Joseph Dinapoli
Laurans Hanna
Wainona Lilo
Aston Vaiotu
Emily Lopamaua
Falealii Falefata

From Regional Athletics, Aston Vaiotu (Under 14s Boys’ Shot Put), Emily Lopamaua (Under 16s Girls’ Discus) and Falealii Falefata (Under 12s Girls’ Discus) made it to State Athletics. Aston finished fifth and Falealii and Emily finished in the top twenty for their age competition, which is a fantastic achievement for them and our school. Congratulations to all students who competed.

Swimming
Congratulations to all students who dived in and made it to the end of the pool. A big congratulations to Brendon Anson, who once again made it to the State Swimming Championships in the Under 16s 50m Breaststroke.
Grade Sport
We have had another successful year in Grade Sport. It was great to see each Tuesday students getting out there and participating in different sports throughout the year. In the Winter competition, Hoxton Park had two winning teams – Mixed Volleyball A Team and the Girls’ 7-A-Side Soccer A Team. A great effort by both teams to win their final, after being ranked 1st throughout the competition.

In the Summer competition, Hoxton Park had four teams make the final – Girls’ Opens Table Tennis, Boys’ Volleyball A Team and Boys’ 7-A-Side Soccer Teams both A and B teams. The Girls’ Table Tennis team played fantastic, but unfortunately went down by one game to Cabramatta. The Boys’ Volleyball team were affected by work placement and, unfortunately, unable to play the final. The Boys’ 7-A-Side Soccer B team went down 1-0 to Cecil Hills High School in a tough match. The only premiers for the Summer competition were the Boys’ 7-A-Side Soccer A team, who had a good win against Cecil Hills. Well done boys!

For Grade Sport to continue to be successful all students must continue to participate each week and wear the correct uniform to perform at their best. When that occurs, Hoxton Park will be one of the strongest schools in the Bernera Zone.

I would like to personally thank all of the teachers who took a sporting team throughout the year each week. Without your help, sport would not run and I am very grateful for your help.

Go Hoxton!!!!!

Mr J. Harris
Sports Organiser

Dates to Remember

Term 1, 2015
Tuesday, 27th January 2015 – Staff Development Day for Term 1.

Wednesday, 28th January 2015 – First day for students in Years 7, 11 and 12.

Thursday, 29th January 2015 – First day for Term 1 for students in Years 8, 9 and 10.

Thursday, 2nd April 2015 – Last day for Term 1.

Term 2, 2015

Tuesday, 21st April 2015 – First day for students for Term 2.

Friday, 26th June 2015 – Last day for Term 2.

Term 3, 2015

Tuesday, 14th July 2015 – First day for students for Term 3.

Friday, 18th September 2015 – Last day for Term 3.

Term 4, 2015
Tuesday, 6th October 2015 – First day for students for Term 4.

Wednesday, 16th December 2015 – Last day for students for Term 4.

Thursday, 17th December 2015 – Staff Development Day for Term 4.

Friday, 18th December 2015 – Staff Development Day for Term 4

Paid advertising in this Newsletter represents the claims of the advertising companies. These claims are not necessarily endorsed by Hoxton Park High School.
TRAIN WITH CHAMPIONS

Learn alongside world class athletes, owned and operated by the Australian Olympic Taekwondo Head Instructor

JOIN NOW 1 MONTH FREE

PROGRAMS
- Olympic Taekwondo
- Kickboxing
- Martial Arts
- Self Defence
- Olympic Wrestling
- Ladies Fitness Classes
- Martial Arts Tricking
- Acrobatic Tumbling

(02) 9607 5960
28/340 Hoxton Park Road, Prestons NSW 2170
info@globalmartialarts.com.au

www.globalmartialarts.com.au