2015 has seen a few changes within the Support Unit. Mrs Smith excitedly returned to the position of Head Teacher Support after a period of time away as the Head Teacher Administration. Mr Thurgood joined the Support teaching staff at the beginning of the year when Mr Blaikie made a permanent move into the PDHPE Faculty. Anita Lansom is a new member of the SLSO team and supports students in the Autism class four days per week while Renee Fisher has also undertaken a new role as the Job Coach for 2015. All staff have approached their new roles with an enthusiasm that has been infectious for the students in their care.

The Support Unit facilities have also undergone some major works. The Oasis playground area has had a serious facelift with the construction of new sheltered seating areas and handball courts. New turf has also been laid. The Support staff and students plan to construct new garden beds later in the year so we are able to grow a range of plants and vegetables. The Oasis has been a hive of “busyness” with the students making the most of their new facilities.
Students have been working to the best of their ability to achieve their goals. Many students have accessed the Work Education program involving work placement. The students have been able to apply their learning to real workplace settings. Many students have thrived, with growing self-confidence and independence.

I would like to thank the numerous employers who willingly offer to help the students by giving them access to their businesses. Your time and willingness to help is greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank Renee Fisher who is liaising with the employers and students to ensure placements are successful. This experience is invaluable for students!
Many students have made the most of the sporting opportunities that have arisen throughout the year. Mr Thurgood has been promoting the benefits of a fit and healthy lifestyle with students working in the fitness lab to improve their fitness and monitor their progress.
Students have displayed exemplary sportsmanship at the Indoor Soccer and Netball carnivals with respectful, inclusive and determined attitudes towards all participants and carnival officials.

Support cont.....

Above-Netball Day
Left and Right-Netball
Many of the students have been working hard to develop their independent living skills.

Mrs Smith and Mrs Rouse have been helping the students to cook up a delicious storm in the kitchen.

Our fortnightly creations are tongue tingling with very few leftovers to share!

The students have also been venturing around town to apply their shopping and road crossing skills.

It has been lovely to see their confidence and independence grow.
Thank you
This is my first newsletter since I returned from the Helsinki Conference mentioned by Mr Petersen and also a stint of long service leave associated with the trip to the conference. A huge thank you to Mrs Stirling for her work as relieving principal and Ms Barr, our Head Teacher Science, as she stepped up into Mrs Stirling’s role. Sitting in on the many keynote presentations and workshops in the Helsinki conference and also speaking to colleagues from around the world in informal settings was certainly a wonderful professional experience. In broad terms, the presentations at the conference confirmed that the broad directions of Bathurst High and the policy directions in NSW Public Education are in line with researched best practice.

Parking in drop off zone
Please note that the drop off/pick up zone in front of the school is exactly that—a drop off and pick up zone. Parents must not park in that zone waiting for students but should use it as a “drive in and pick up before moving on” zone. It is a pick up zone from 3.15—4.15 in the afternoon. The morning is not a problem as people are moving through appropriately and dropping off students. In the afternoon, parking in that spot creates a situation where parents double park to pick up and this leads to traffic difficulties. With hundreds of students leaving via the Hope Street gates, frustrations can occur, leading to accidents. If you wish to park and wait for your child, Keppel Street is a better option. Police patrol the drop off zone on occasions and this could lead to fines. Please be aware of the times when that area is a drop off/ pick up zone.

School Website
Our website structure is provided by the Department of Education and they have sent me a note. They are trying to get feedback on the way the website meets the needs of parents and students. Please see below and if you would like to do the survey, go to the link and the information will feed into improvements.

Dear parents,

We are always looking at ways to enhance the quality of communication between our school and our parents. One of the key communication channels is our school website www.bathurst-h.school.nsw.edu.au. The department is looking at enhancing the quality of our school website and would really like to get your feedback as a parent about the type of functionality on the website that would help improve the communication between the school and you.

We would really appreciate if you could take a couple of minutes to complete the following online survey.

The survey is located at:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WSVSCXG

Thank you for taking the time to give us your feedback and help us make our school website even better.

Final Congratulations
To all our new school captains, congratulations —more on them in later editions.
Captains: Emma Warburton and Kieran Lindsay
Vice Captains: Stephen Chapman, Aiden Kilburn, Annabel Meadley and Annabel Tremain

Congratulations to all at Bathurst High on what, I am sure, has been a productive but exhausting term. Have a safe and restful holiday with the exception of Year 12 who should
International Conference
Mr Hastings and I were recently part of a delegation of NSW secondary principals that attended the International Confederation of Principals’ Conference in Helsinki, Finland. Finland has been the centre of a lot of international attention in recent years as a result of their outstanding results in international assessments conducted by the OECD.

Over 1,200 principals from schools all over the world met together to discuss international trends in education. The week-long conference included 8 International keynote speakers and four workshop sessions on a wide range of topics.

Whilst there, I co-presented a paper with other senior executive members of the NSW Secondary Principals’ Council with a particular focus on educational reforms in NSW public schools.

Future Directions
Future Directions interviews have been completed at both campuses and teams are now hard at work on finalising the College shared lines.

My thanks go to Mrs Murphy, Mrs Chapman and Mrs Kissell for their organisation of this major event. Thanks, too, to the many parents and family members who were able to make themselves available to meet with college staff.

School Leaders
It has been an absolute pleasure to be able to see our Year 11 student leaders at both campuses present themselves as candidates for Captain. The quality of the speeches has been absolutely wonderful and the 2016 Captains promise to uphold the exemplary standards set by our current leaders.

Student Enrichment
Denison College participated in the annual Mind Marathon at East Hills Boys’ HS earlier this year and again acquitted themselves extremely well. I was very pleased to help Miss Townend present certificates to the Kelso High contingent at a formal assembly on 1st September.

This activity, along with Kids Teaching Kids and our other special focus College Enrichment Days, provides an outstanding opportunity for our students to showcase their talents. The College team is currently investigating additional extension opportunities for students in the future.

The selection process of students for the academically talented and platinum classes is currently underway. Parents will be notified of placement by the end of this term. Once classes have been profiled, teachers from both campuses will meet early in term 4 to conduct collaborative planning to maximise the impact of this program.

Craig Petersen
College Principal
Year 12 students are in their last week of school culminating in their Year 12 Final Presentation Assembly on Friday 18th September at 10am. Year 12 students have been really engaged in their learning over the past few weeks getting the most out of their last few periods with their teachers. Some teachers will run revision sessions during the holidays and students can visit their teachers at the start of next term before their exams to clarify any concerns they may have with course content for the Higher School Certificate exams which commence on Monday 12th October.

Year 12 auctioned themselves on Friday to raise money for the school. They were “bought” by students and teachers and will spend Wednesday 16th as slaves for the day. They will be working in students’ classes, carrying their bags, going to the canteen for them and any other duties assigned to them. Teachers have many and varied tasks in readiness for their slaves. The money the year 12 raided is being used to support our sister school, Goldie College and various local charities.

Year 12 students are also finalising UAC applications for university and are seeking out scholarship opportunities. Mrs Chapman, Mr Crawford and myself are available if students need assistance with these applications.

The Year 12 Leadership team have worked tirelessly this year to support students and the school. I would like to sincerely thank them for all the work they have done. They have been a committed team and it has been a pleasure to work with them.

Year 11 students will complete their Preliminary course at the end of this term. In Week 1 of Term 4 they will start Year 12 and have an interview with Des Crawford, Sandra Chapman or myself to look at their pattern of study for the Higher School Certificate. They will also be issued with their assessment policy and tasks for their HSC year. Students who want to attend TAFE next year should have already completed their enrolment form and returned it to the school. The school has to submit this information by the end of this term. No late TAFE enrolments will be accepted.

Year 10 students will have the opportunity to complete some Work Experience next term. The weeks set aside for this are weeks starting the 23rd and 30th November. Students will work with Mr Fox if they want to go on Work Experience. They need to seek out their own placement. Mr Fox is available to support them in doing this.
Harmony Day
Congratulations to Yr 7 students on their fantastic displays for Harmony Day Celebrations on Friday 11th September. Students created their displays in class during Integrated Studies. These were then displayed in the Gym as part of celebrating a diverse range of cultures for Harmony Day. It was an invaluable opportunity for students to learn about different cultures in the world as well as to create work which can be shared and enjoyed by the whole school community. A big thank you to the Yr 7 Integrated studies teachers and especially to Miss Cassie Burt for organising the exhibition.

Year 9 Camp
By now all Year 9 students should have received the notes about the camp in Term 4 (18th – 20th November) camp at Milson Island. If you require any additional information please contact the school. The camp requires medical information to be entered online, instructions on how to do this was sent home with the note. If you require assistance with this, please contact Ms Mauricia Withyman via the front office. A reminder that payment plans for the camp are available. Please contact the school if you would like to organize this.

Chill Factor Workshop
On Tuesday the 15th September, 15 of our Yr 7, 8 and 9 students had the opportunity to participate in a two hour band workshop with Geoff Grey. Geoff is a former director of the royal Military College Band and has worked with many of Australia’s leading artists including: John Farnham, Lee Kernaghan, Marino Prior and Guy Sebastian. This workshop was organized by the Bathurst Eisteddfod Society and was a great opportunity for students to fine tune their performance skills.

Traditional Indigenous games
On Friday the 4th September our Indigenous students participated in a traditional Indigenous games gala day at the Bathurst Sportsground. Around 500 students from the Bathurst district came together as part of celebrations for NAIDOC Week. Traditional games included Mel Kolap, Gorri, Wuliji and Kalkadoon Kee’an. As well as the games, students were entertained by Sydney Indigenous rapper BrothaBlack who has played at major events including Big Day Out around Australia. In between the games and entertainment, students had the chance to visit information stalls and discover more about Cirkus Surreal, the Police Citizens Youth Club, Country Rugby League and Headspace. Our students had a fantastic day and represented the school extremely well.

End of Term
As usual it’s been another busy and productive term. I’d like to wish all our students a well-earned rest and I look forward to seeing everyone rejuvenated and ready to learn again next term!

Stephanie Scott
Relieving Deputy Principal
Middle School
Book Week at BHC

Friday 28th August was a fun day to be at school. There were witches, there were clowns, there was Wally and a whole entourage of weird and wonderful fictional characters to celebrate Book Week.

This year was even bigger than last year’s extravaganza, with young and old (some very old teachers) participating and chocolate prizes were well earned. Congratulations to everyone who was involved.
Slam Poet at BHC

Zohab Zee Khan wowed audiences of Years 7 and 9 students in August. He was a little taller than expected and his performance was ‘large’ in every sense of the word. He performed his award winning poems as well as delivering messages to have faith in your own abilities, persevere if you don’t succeed the first time and every individual has strengths.
Year 10 visited Bathurst Regional Art Gallery to meet Richard Bell, an artist who has been a leading force within the field of contemporary art since the 1990's. Bell frequently integrates expressions of political, cultural, social and economic disenchantment emerging out of the uneasy relationship between Aboriginal peoples and colonial migrants to Australia.

The exhibition runs till the 20th of September at Bathurst Regional Art Galley and is worth seeing.

Jennifer Browning, renowned ABC sports reporter and ex-CSU student visited Bathurst High in Week 3, Term 3, to speak with Year 8 Students about her career. The intrigued students listened intently as Ms Browning who is also an ex-student, told of her tales of success, fears, devotion and the highlights of meeting international sporting stars. Jennifer shared some of her glory moments which includes interviewing many high profile sporting stars or travelling to watch big games or covering the entire State Of Origin series. She also spoke about some of her fears and the level of devotion required for the job.

Year 8 are learning about the media and had also investigated the Alex McKinnon story that aired on 60 Minutes and the related media storm that resulted the following week. Students were eager to question Ms Browning on the matter and to find out what it is really like behind the scenes. "There are highs in my career and lows like covering the Phillip Hughes or Alex McKinnon story" she told the students. The students have now gone on to complete interviews on local current affairs and have even taken on the role of a shock-jock in looking at how media personalities can set the agenda.

by Kelly Howard Year 8.
National Literacy and Numeracy Week 31st Aug – 5th September 2015
International Literacy Day 8th September
What is literacy? Essentially it is communication and effective communication is powerful. We live in a world of multi literacies. Students are actually more exposed to literacy than they ever have been before. However, this can be even more confusing for our students as they attempt to choose appropriate texts for communication or navigate the variety of texts that are at their fingertips. Traditional literacies still have an essential role to play in every day communication. It is wonderful to see this celebrated through The Great Australian Spelling Bee on TV recently. Also, a recent YouTube clip of One Direction’s Harry Styles shows him correcting a fan’s grammar on their sign! (He changed your to you’re).
Last Thursday Bathurst High held our Annual Spelling Bee for Year 7, 8 and 9. Twenty students from each year group made the finals on the day after completing spelling quizzes in class during the year. We were very pleased to have Daniel King (Deek) from 2BS B Rock join us as our pronouncer and Books Plus generously supplied book voucher prizes.

Thanks also to Ms Renee Strickland for her organisation of the event.

Yr 7 Winner – Kacey Fox, 2nd Jacob Molkentin, 3rd Luke Furbank
Yr 8 Winner – Saskia Dorsman, 2nd Mitchell Morrison, 3rd Jessica Kennedy
Yr 9 Winner – Josie Hall, 2nd Christopher Sullivan, 3rd Jarrod Gillan
Aspire news

The Year 10 students who participated in Aspire Program during Semester One, were awarded certificates in First Aid, Safe Food Handling and Barista training on the 28th of August. The College Principal, Mr Craig Peterson, the Head Teacher of Welfare, Mrs Bernadette Woods and the Program Coordinator Mr Christopher Bell, were extremely proud to celebrate the achievements of these students with their family members. The Aspire program is an outdoor recreation program that attempts to build team work, self-confidence and new skills through active experiences outside the classroom. The students participated in activities including; raft building, abseiling, canoeing, bush walking and environmental work. The students were consistent in their willingness to try new and challenging experiences and showed tremendous growth throughout the program.

Congratulations to: Annaleigh Burns, Sky Carpenter, Kaleb Clarke, Phoebe Grant, Alex Cochrane, Oliver Dickson, Cody Hobby, Courtney Lawson, Mikaella McLeay and Brandon Pearson.

Below are all the Aspire students and Mr Bell, fresh from a day in