From the Principal’s desk ...........

Taliah King: Young Achiever of the Year
On Saturday 13 July 2013 Wollongong City Council hosted the NAIDOC Week dinner which brought together indigenous and non-indigenous people to celebrate the inspirational achievements and progress made by indigenous people across the Wollongong, Kiama, Shellharbour and Wingecarribee Shires.

Year 8 student Taliah King was named ‘Female Aboriginal Young Achiever’ of the Year. Taliah is a proud Aboriginal who is very active in the community and is an asset to WHSPA. She has been a lead singer at Southern Stars, performed at NAIDOC events, was a cast member of ‘The King and I’, has represented the Aboriginal Community as a Cultural Ambassador numerous times, performs the anthem and ‘Welcome to Country’ at WHSPA events and is an inspiration to both indigenous and non-indigenous students and staff.

Congratulations Taliah!

State Dance Festival
Five WHSPA Dance companies have been selected to perform at the State Dance Festival in September. Congratulations to Senior companies Goderie, Bampton and Richards as well as Junior companies Bampton and Richards. Senior Company Bampton and Richards are getting a second performance on the Friday showcase concerts, which is testament to the quality of our dance teachers and dance students.

Higher School Certificate
Our HSC cohort has just completed their trial examinations. This year we employed Board of Studies supervisors to cover the trial examinations, giving the students a real life taste of what the examinations will be like. This also enabled us to timetable both the written papers and practical examinations into a two week period, meaning that Year 12 will return to lessons much sooner than they have in previous years. This process was very successful and we will look to continue it in the years to come. Our current Year 12 students are a credit to the school. The way they conducted themselves during the examinations was praised many times by the presiding officer.
The Deputy Principals and myself sat in on some Dance, Drama and Music practical examinations. The quality of the performances was exemplary. The way the students were able to apply their knowledge and talent to their assessment was very high order. For example, in Dance the students had to perform their Core Composition (which was a high energy piece lasting six minutes), have two minutes rest, then talk for nine minutes about their understanding of how they applied dance technique and performance quality to the interpretation of their work. The explanation covered concepts such as the context of their work, the style of their movement along with the application of biomechanics, physics and anatomy to performing the movement safely and with control. The dancers that we observed were exceptional.

**HSC Classes in the holidays:** Many of our teachers were coming into school during the last holidays to take students through preparatory lessons for the trial examinations. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated and committed staff and I thank them for giving up their time so freely.

If you are interested in reading more about how the HSC works, there are some very good articles on the Board of Studies site. I have listed these below.

**Step 1 – Getting ready**

**Step 2 – We’re ready for you**

**Step 3 – The people, the papers, the processes**

**Step 4 – Your school assessment marks**

**Step 5 – The exams**

**Step 6 – Marking**

**Step 7 – Moderating assessment marks**

**Step 8 – Judges apply the standards**

**Step 9 – Finally: your results**

**Attendance until the end:** All courses in the HSC year still have units of work to teach prior to finishing the course. Many subjects will have another assessment task before the assessment program is complete. It is imperative that all students attend until the end of Term 3. If you read the articles above (Step 7) you will see how important it is to maximise the examination marks of all students in all courses. The marks achieved in the HSC examination determine every student’s assessment marks. Essentially, the examination has the potential to increase assessment marks if every student in the class performs well. The flip side is also true . . . If the class performs poorly in the examination, assessment marks will decrease for the majority of students. Remember that the HSC mark is derived 50% from assessment and 50% from the HSC examination. It is VERY important that students work together and help each other to achieve the highest mark possible in the HSC examination. Every student will benefit as a result. I will be explaining this to Year 12 in more detail next week.

**Year 10-11 Subject Selection**

We have now completed the Year 10-11 Subject Selection process. This involved faculty information seminars, a parent/student information evening and individual interviews for every student in Year 10. Hopefully all of Year 10 will now be in a position to make informed choices about their pattern of study in senior school. Thank you to Mr Creenaune and Ms Clancy for their organisation to ensure this smooth operation.

**New Science Laboratories**

We are cheering about the news that we are about to have two Science labs renovated. This process will begin at the end of this term and throughout Term 4, with two brand new labs ready to use in 2014. I could say “it’s about time, and what about the other two”, but I am grateful for what we are getting. We’ll battle that one another day!

**Personalised Learning and Support Tool (PLASST) 2013 Trial**

During the next few weeks our school, along with other public schools in the area, will be participating in the trial of a new tool (PLASST) being developed by the Department of Education and Communities for teachers to identify the learning and support needs of their students.

This trial is focussed on the development of a sound and reliable online tool that, when finalised, can be used by teachers in collaboration with parents and carers to identify the strengths and educational needs of students with additional learning and support needs. This information will assist schools in planning and personalising learning and support for individual students who require adjustments in their day to day learning.

The trial will involve teachers completing an online questionnaire about the educational needs of some of their students. Students themselves will not be required to complete any additional work or be formally assessed as part of the trial. This trial will not impact on students’ education provisions.

Further information about the PLASST trial, including the collection and use of data in the trial, will be provided by the school in a letter to parents and carers.

If you have any questions about the PLASST trial, would like to discuss your child’s involvement or would prefer that your child does not participate, please telephone the principal on 4229 6844.

**Tell Them from Me: Student Feedback Survey**

I am delighted that our school has been selected to participate in a Department of Education and
From the Principal’s desk ……cont’d

Communities pilot of the Tell Them From Me student survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW pilot project is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey will provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what our students think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is anonymous and students cannot be identified by their responses. The survey is conducted online and will take around 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 18 August and 6 September.

An information sheet and consent form about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Friday 9th August.

Di Trist
Principal

Doug’s Column

Year 11 Preliminary Course

Term 3 each year is the final term of study for all Preliminary courses. The Preliminary course provides students with foundational knowledge and skills to prepare them for the HSC course of study in each of their subjects. Once each HSC course begins students are only 12 months away from sitting for their HSC exams.

The Year 11 yearly exams will be the final piece of assessment in each Preliminary course. These exams are scheduled for the last two weeks of this term—from Monday 9 September until Friday 20 September. When HSC courses start at the beginning of Term 4 each student will be given an HSC assessment booklet. This booklet contains important information about WHSPA’s HSC assessment policy along with the assessment schedule for each HSC course. It is essential reading for students and parents to gain a clear understanding about HSC assessment.

WHSPA’s Core Values – Safety, Tolerance Achievement and Respect

WHSPA is well regarded for its four core values of Safety, Tolerance, Achievement and Respect. We regularly remind students of these values and their responsibility to demonstrate them in their daily dealings with each other, school staff and members of the wider community. These values underpin many of the school’s policies and procedures such as our welfare and discipline policies.

The essence of WHSPA’s core values are:

- Safety – Look after others, speak up about concerns, make the right choices
- Tolerance – Value others, accept diversity
- Achievement – Whatever you do, do well (school motto), take pride, be proud
- Respect – Yourself, property, environment, others

It is important for each of our students to practise these values daily. We believe this will ensure that all of our students have a happy, safe and positive education at WHSPA. We also believe that developing and practising these values throughout high school will provide an excellent foundation for WHSPA students to become positive citizens who will contribute to a just and tolerant society in the future.

WHSPA website goes mobile

Parents with smartphones and tablets are now able to download a mobile version of the school’s website. If you search for the schools website on your phone or tablet you will be prompted to save it as a shortcut onto your home screen. When you have done this the school logo will appear on your device’s screen. When you click on this icon you will be able to see phone, email and a Google maps link to the school as well as tabs for the school calendar and our Highnotes newsletter. At the bottom of the screen you are still able to link to the full version of our website. This will be a useful tool to keep our community linked to the school in a convenient way.

Doug Hearne
Deputy Principal

Steve’s Column

Year 10-11 Subject Selection

As mentioned by Ms Trist, the 2014 timetable process has commenced. The Year 11, 2014 selections are being sorted into a format that will fit into our current curriculum, teaching resources and rooming constraints. Year 8 will receive a selection booklet and information about the process at their Year Meeting on the 7 August. All our selections are made ‘online’, therefore all students must be able to access their school email (ie. studentname@education.nsw.gov.au). Please insure that all students read the Information booklet and please assist them in the decision making.

Later in the term Year 7 and Year 9 Performing Arts students will also have to make selections.

Library Books – outstanding borrowing

A big thank you goes to the majority of students who use our Library resources properly and return books on
time. This provides the opportunity for others to borrow books. Unfortunately, I have had to interview some students who have not returned library books by the due dates. Students receive a reminder in Roll Call. It would be appreciated by all concerned if they returned their books on time or as soon as they are reminded.

Lost Property - School Uniform

Again, I have accumulated many items of school uniform in my office. If your child has lost uniform, please remind them to see me. Please write your child’s name on each item of school uniform.

Steve Creenaune
Deputy Principal

VACCINATIONS

Public Health nurses attended two clinics at Wollongong High School this term. All of Year 7 and Year 9 boys received their Human Papilloma Virus second dose vaccine. Year 7 also received Adult Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis vaccine and Varicella vaccine.

The nurses will return in Term 4 for the final HPV vaccine and the second Hepatitis B vaccine. There will be a catch-up for any students who missed out on the ADPT and Varicella. Vaccination is scheduled for Friday 22 November.

HEALTH CARE PLANS

All students with a serious health condition require a Health Care Plan. Parents need to make an appointment with Dianne Young who will complete the appropriate DEC forms.

STUDENT MEDICAL FORMS

The Department of Education has introduced enhancements to support schools manage health care needs of students.

During Terms 3 and 4 we will be updating our medical records systems to ensure we have the most up-to-date information on your child’s health.

If you have a child with a medical condition you will receive a copy of the new forms in the mail. You will need to fill them out and return them to us as soon as you can.

The good news is we have already started collecting some of this information, which means less for you to do.

The new forms will help us collect your child’s important medical information and the introduction of new systems will mean we’ll be able to better manage the daily and emergency health needs of your child.

We appreciate your support as we start collecting the information, and if you have any questions, please call the school on 4229 6844.

Dianne Young
HT Welfare

Matthew Hearne—Champion Swimmer in the making.

Matthew Hearne is a Year 8 student at WHSPA who is developing a promising swimming career. Earlier this year Matthew represented WHSPA and South Coast Sport at the Combined High Schools (CHS) swimming championships at the Sydney Olympic Aquatic Centre (SOPAC). This meet brought together the best swimmers from across NSW who attend public secondary schools.

At this meet Matthew won six gold medals in the 12-15 year’s boys multi-class events of 50m and 100m freestyle, 50m and 100m backstroke, 50m butterfly and the 4x50m relay. He was also named multi-class swimmer of the carnival. Based on these results Matthew has now qualified to represent WHSPA and NSW at the School Sport Australia Swimming Championships in Adelaide in September. Matthew’s program of events will be similar to the one he swam at the CHS event.
Matthew is a very proud WHSPA student who always represents WHSPA to the best of his ability. We wish him well swimming in Adelaide later this term.

**CHS Cross Country**

Congratulations to the following girls who have qualified for the 2013 CHS Cross Country Carnival -

Elle Montgomery, Tarni Lynch and Lydia Hince.

**CHS Gymnastics**

Congratulations to the following girls who have qualified for the 2013 CHS Gymnastics Tournament -

Zoe Morrell, Jessica Jenkins, Skye Harris and Tara Smith.

Our south coast trialists: Tara Smith, Chloe Harris, Amelia Eshman, Jessica Jenkins & Skye Budd.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! A special Thank You to the Blencow family for their generous donation of a discus and shot put to the PDHPE faculty.

**2013 Zone Athletics Carnival**

Our school participated in the annual ISSSA Zone Annual Athletics Carnival on the 17th and 18th of June. All of the WHSPA competitors represented our school with pride and determination. At the conclusion of the two day carnival our school placed 4th in the girl’s carnival and 7th in the boys, out of a total of eight schools. Many records were broken at the carnival and I am very pleased to announce that Amy Millwood in Year 8 broke the 14 year’s girls Javelin record with a throw of 21.34m. Well done Amy! A record number of WHSPA students have qualified for the Regional Carnival. The students are listed below. We wish all of our students the best of luck on the 2nd of August in Canberra.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amy Millwood</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Javelin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicolas Brenton</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Javelin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Butler</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>100m Hurdles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simona Connor</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>200m Hurdles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte Cook</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>80m Hurdles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max Cullen</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>High Jump</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jayda Elliot</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Discus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amelia Eshman</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>80m Hurdles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niamh Fallon</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>80m Hurdles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lydia Hince</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3000m, 800m, 1500m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan Linklater</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>High Jump, Long Jump</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandra Liss</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Shot Put, Discus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arlena Mackenzie</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Javelin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Mandic</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1500m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin Maker</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>80m Hurdles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylah Morgan</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>400m, 90m Hurdles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teneal Morgan</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>90m Hurdles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clare Olive</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>High Jump</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Park</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>200m, 90m Hurdles, 100m High Jump</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabella Pergoliti</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>High Jump</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ebony Rutton</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>90m Hurdles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micaela Sacco-Tranter</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>200m, 100m Long Jump</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitchell Velo</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Triple Jump</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tahlia Weibers</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>High Jump</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RELAY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>12 Yrs Girls</th>
<th>Micaela Sacco-Tranter, Grace Mae Green, Isabella Pergoliti, Oceana Silvester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 Yrs Boys</td>
<td>Clare Olive, Charlotte Cook, Karlia Cook, Kaela Weine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Yrs Boys</td>
<td>Jack Butler, John Roberts, Hunter Woods, Floyd Geller</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Edith MacDonald
Teacher PDHPE
SOUTHERN STARS EXTRA!
Parents/Carers have you purchased your tickets yet?
Rehearsals are well underway for this year’s Southern Stars, and with only a month to go until the performances at the WIN Entertainment Centre on Friday August 30 and Saturday August 31, now is the best time to purchase your tickets.

Over 12,000 people are expected to attend the four performances of this year’s show—make sure you are one of them!

EXTRA! is the title of this year’s show, and the theme explores the changing face of media and news and information gathering.

The show incorporates all of the usual elements you would expect in a musical arena spectacular show but there will be a few interesting surprises too, including a circus troupe, swing band, and an unorthodox marching band to name just a few.

You don't have to have a child in the show to purchase a ticket—if you are a fan of great family entertainment then Southern Stars is the show for you.

Tickets are on sale now through Ticketek and are priced as follows: Adult—$45, Pensioner and student over 12—$35, Student/Child under 12—$25 and Family pass—$130. www.ticketek.com.au

Department of Education and Communities

CHINESE LESSONS
A qualified and experienced teacher of Chinese has approached the school about giving lessons to students in Years 7-10 after school one day a week. The lessons would cost $150 a term ($15 per lesson) and each lesson would be 1.5 hours in duration. If you are interested in finding our more about these lessons please contact the principal on 4229 6844.
## SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR TERM 3

### TERM 3

**Updated 27/7/13**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>15/7</td>
<td>16/7</td>
<td>17/7</td>
<td>18/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
<td>10 Reports issued this week</td>
<td>Teacher TARS Interview 2 this week</td>
<td>12 Trials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>22/7</td>
<td>23/7</td>
<td>24/7</td>
<td>25/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Faculty Meeting</td>
<td>Teacher TARS Interview 1 this week</td>
<td>10 into 11 P1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>12 Trials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>29/7</td>
<td>30/7</td>
<td>31/7</td>
<td>1/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Focus Group Meeting</td>
<td>Extended PBS Roll Call</td>
<td>Head Teacher TARS interview 2 this week</td>
<td>12 Trials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5/8</td>
<td>6/8</td>
<td>7/8</td>
<td>8/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Exec Meeting</td>
<td>11 WP Kit Oper</td>
<td>Year Meetings</td>
<td>11 WP Kit Oper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>12/8</td>
<td>13/8</td>
<td>14/8</td>
<td>15/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>QT Meeting</td>
<td>OHS Lunch Meeting</td>
<td>11 WP Multi Skill</td>
<td>12 Reports to HT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>19/8</td>
<td>20/8</td>
<td>21/8</td>
<td>22/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Faculty Meeting</td>
<td>PA 2014 Planning Meeting 2.20 – 3.30p.m</td>
<td>Ski Trip</td>
<td>12 Formal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>26/8</td>
<td>27/8</td>
<td>28/8</td>
<td>29/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Exec Meeting</td>
<td>11 Exams for typing</td>
<td>Southern Stars Rehearsal</td>
<td>11 Report to HT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>29/8</td>
<td>3/9</td>
<td>4/9</td>
<td>5/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Staff Meeting – Captain’s Speeches</td>
<td>11 Exams for printing</td>
<td>HSC Music State Dance Fest</td>
<td>Music Ensemble Showcase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>9/9</td>
<td>10/9</td>
<td>11/9</td>
<td>12/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Faculty Meeting</td>
<td>Finance Meeting</td>
<td>6 Enrichment Day</td>
<td>HSC Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>16/9</td>
<td>17/9</td>
<td>18/9</td>
<td>19/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Exec Meeting</td>
<td>11 Yearlys in P1 &amp; P2</td>
<td>12 Formal</td>
<td>12 Graduation at night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>11 Yearlys in P1 &amp; P2</td>
<td>11 Yearlys in P1 &amp; P2</td>
<td>11 Yearlys in P1 &amp; P2</td>
<td>Morning tea by Science</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
- **19/7:** Vaccination for 9 boys & all 7
- **26/7:** High Notes Items to Office
- **2/8:** Reg Athletics High Notes out Southern Stars Rehearsal
- **16/8:** High Notes Items to Office 11 WP Multi Skill HSC Dance
- **23/8:** High Notes out Southern Stars Rehearsal
- **30/8:** 12 Reports download 12 Assess to HT Admin Southern Stars
- **6/9:** High Notes Items to Office HSC Music State Dance Fest
- **13/9:** High Notes out Southern Stars
- **20/9:** Morning tea by Science 11 Yearlys in P1 & P2