PRESENTATION EVENING
On a very steamy Wednesday evening St Ives High School celebrated the academic, sporting, creative and leadership achievements of the 2015 outstanding students. The evening’s masters of ceremony, Natasha N and Christopher W directed the proceedings with decorum and precision. Mr Watson’s opening address used the Prime Minister’s Innovation Statement as a springboard to focus on evolutionary and revolutionary innovations at St Ives High School, such as the launch of BYOD in 2016 with Year 7s and the development of new VET (Vocational Education and Training) courses for senior students. This was followed by the presentation of academic awards to each year group. Audiences were delighted and entertained by the PAU musical theatre students, the school choir and a very witty drama performance. Finally, the sport and special awards wrapped up the night. Congratulations to all the amazing students whose hard work and mastery was acknowledged for 2015.

NS5 DEBATING GALA DAY
It was exciting to see our junior debating team succeed as they competed against the NS5 schools (Chatswood, Turramurra, Ku-ring-gai and Killara High schools) in a knockout debating competition. Our first debating topic was, ‘That junk food packaging should be banned’ and we were on the negative side. The students convincingly won the first round to proceed to the next. In the second debate we were the affirmative arguing that ‘Parenting classes should be mandatory’ and our clear reasoning, supported with strong evidence won the debate. Our students enjoyed the rigor of the day as they were coached and mentored by Master Academy Debating experts and mixed with the students from the other schools. Congratulations go to Kurt T, Matthew B, Abigail B and Georgia B who were the victors of the NS5 Debating Challenge.

MATHS COMPETITIONS AND STEM NEWS
Australian Maths Competition
Congratulations to the 122 students from Years 7 to 11 who sat the Australian Mathematics Competition. The results were wonderful with 16 students achieving Distinctions and 65 achieving Credits. The students achieving Distinctions were: Year 7: Leo D, Raymond Z, Paul K; Year 8: Daniel P, Kasra P, James C, Josh B, Angela C, Mina K, Camille W, Felix W; Year 9: Ann Y, Andrew, Emily W; Year 11: Will G and Brendan S.

APSIMO (Australasian Problem Solving Mathematical Olympiad) Results
Congratulations to the 39 students in years 7 and 8 who participated in the APSMO this year. Congratulations in particular to: Trophy winners: Raymond Z (top 10%), Mel S (top 10%), Kasra P, Josh B, and Hugh J (top 20%), Kate T, Hannah J and Hilary R (top 25%) Kate F (top 30%).

AIMO (Australian Intermediate Mathematical Olympiad)
Congratulations to Laura Grime (Year 9) who achieved a Credit in this highly prestigious (4-hour) competition.

Mathematics Challenge
Congratulations to the following students who achieved excellent results in the Maths Challenge. This was a three week competition focussed on problem-solving. Year 7: Hugh J (Distinction); Year 8: Kris S (High Distinction), Mel S (Credit); Year 9: Laura G (High Distinction), Annette C (Credit).
VISIT TO THE ST BAKHITA CENTRE
On 4 December a group of students went to the St Bakhita centre, a Sudanese Australian Catholic community near Flemington Station. An amazing woman named Sister Maria who ran the centre welcomed them. She reminded them that war was never an act on the behalf of a religion but rather a fight for power, or political/economic advancement, religion was not to blame. During their time there the students played and bonded with children, holding the youngest in their arms, reading stories and playing games with them. They met incredible mothers, Sudanese women who had sought refuge, now building families in Australia. On this day it was their end of year Christmas celebration, and the mothers cooked up a delicious traditional Sudanese feast, sharing this too, with the students. It was a fun, insightful experience and Ms Khalili and the students are looking forward to visiting again next year.

FINAL DUKE OF EDINBURGH TREK FOR 2015
Eighteen students and two teachers completed the Final Adventurous Journey earlier this week, completing a section of the Six Foot Track in the Blue Mountains. They hiked a total of 18kms and crossed Bowtell's swing bridge to the camping ground situated on the beautiful Cox's River. All the students who participated showed fortitude and perseverance, whilst having a smile on their face. A big thank you to parent, Eric Tse for driving students to and from the Blue Mountains.

REPORTS EMAILED TO PARENTS
Reports for Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students will be emailed out to parents next week. Check your email inbox for the reports and reminders from the school. If your email has recently changed please advise the school as soon as possible.

STUDENT ACCOUNTS
As the end of the school year is approaching we would appreciate payment of any outstanding subject fees and contributions before Wednesday, 16 December.

Best wishes
Nathalie Bodley
Deputy Principal
Presentation Evening
Never let it be said that the Year 10 class of 2015 don’t know how to enjoy themselves. The mood as they boarded the buses destined for the Central Coast was festive to say the least.

On arrival at the camp students were fed and watered. Then, in groups of twenty-five they launched themselves into the various afternoon activities; sea kayaking, sailing, high ropes, the giant swing, raft building and the Crossroads program.

The formal dinner and dance was undoubtedly the high point of the camp. The room was beautifully decorated by the girls on the Year 10 Formal Committee, Skye, Karishama, Gabi and Ashleigh, with hundreds of fairy lights, paper lanterns, coloured tablecloths and artistic centrepieces. On entry, students had professional photos taken of themselves in their formal finery. Parents and students can access these here: http://underatreehouse.com.au/clients/ using this as the password: formal2k15. Students will have free access to a CD of photos that will be sent to me. Everyone enjoyed a delicious three-course meal…with the teachers acting as (tired out, weary) wait staff. All that food was quickly worked off with some very enthusiastic moves on the dance floor, and by the last few songs of the evening every single student and many teachers were crowded onto the floor, sweating and singing along loudly to the DJ’s musical stylings!

Throughout the three days, the students participated admirably in everything that was asked of them. Not only were they enthusiastic and a lot of fun to be around, but they also were very kind and polite to each other and the staff. As far as I was concerned, it was an amazing experience and it made me feel lucky to personally know so many lovely young people.

Julie Baxter
Year Adviser, Year 10
HEARING AND SUPPORT FAMILY BARBECUE – WRITTEN BY THE YEAR 7 HEARING STUDENTS

On Wednesday, 9 December, we held our annual family barbecue in the LOLA. We catered for about 50 people. As well as current students and their families, we had a past graduate, Cameron Brown, join us for dinner. And Ms Jones, our SLSO, came too.

Ms Joynes welcomed everybody to the barbecue. Mrs Lamb and Mr Ryan were busy at the barbecue and all the students had brought something to share for the dinner. It was good for the parents and teachers to chat with each other. A lot of the students also liked to talk to Mr Watson, Mr Walker and Mrs Bodley who came along too. The TV screens displayed photos taken throughout the year. It was great to see how everybody had grown and changed through the 2015. Mrs Gambrill, Ms Caffin and Ms Fraser had a good time as well.

Everybody had a good time, even though there was a storm in the middle of the event. It is a great way to the end the year. Some students and families went to the presentation night after the barbecue.

LOOKING FOR TWO WEEKS HOMESTAY FOR VISITING STUDENTS

A group of 20 students from China will be visiting our school in early March. An external company is organising homestay accommodation for the students while they are in Sydney. They pay families who host students $500 per student. A maximum of four students can go to one family. Single room or double share accommodation is acceptable. Students would be staying 13 nights from the 6 - 19 March.

If you are interested, please contact Mrs Patel in the Language Staffroom on 9144 1689 extension 117 or khushnam.patel@det.nsw.edu.au

REMINDER
FAREWELL BARBECUE FOR YEAR 12 2015
THURSDAY, 17 DECEMBER 2015

Outside the Assembly Hall at 12 noon.
No matter your results, we want to see you. Come and farewell teachers and get some last minute advice from Mr Holmes, the Careers Adviser.
Enjoy a sausage sandwich and soft drink.

Rebel Sport is supporting our school by providing 5% of all our purchases back to us!

All you have to do is:
1. Become a member of Rebel Sport (just ask at any store, it only takes 2 minutes to register)
2. You will then receive a LOYALTY CARD
3. Show your LOYALTY CARD when you purchase anything at Rebel Sport and ask that your points are allocated to ST IVES HIGH SCHOOL

Every 4 months our PE Department is notified advising how much money they can spend in-store.
So come on parents, this is an easy way for our school to have more sporting equipment at no extra cost to any of us.

The Athlete's Foot
St Ives Shop
Located in St Ives Village Shopping Centre
St Ives Athlete's Foot supports our school.
When you make a purchase from the St Ives shop, they will give 5% of that purchase to St Ives High School. Just make sure you ask them about it (you must be a member of Athlete's Foot, but if you aren't, it only takes a few minutes to join).
Please note that only the St Ives Athlete's shop supports St Ives High School and other local schools in this area.
CAREERS UPDATES

Online free Career Testing Tool
I would like all students to complete the My career profile at the myfuture.edu.au site this year as it is no longer free from next year. It has been updated and is easy to complete. You will need to sign up for a free account and then sign in. We are currently trialling a paid career testing tool called Career Voyage and three students have been given free trials of the test. The students trialling the test have given positive reports about it so we’ll make a decision which tool to use in 2016 with Year 10 students.

Applying for university timeline
17 December - ATARs released and Year 12 Barbecue at school starting at 12 noon.
End January - Main round university offers released.

For more information on any of these or other careers matters visit the Careers Adviser or email Mr Holmes at neil.holmes@det.nsw.edu.au or call the school on 9144 1689 ext 116.
Visit my free careers website at http://www.careeradvicensw.com to view career videos, take career tests, view subject selection resources, links to all universities on bonus points, scholarships, elite athletes schemes, alternate entry to university, the job market, SRS and more. The site is available 24/7.

IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES

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<th>2016 Term 1</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 16 December</td>
<td>Wednesday, 27 January</td>
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<td>Thursday 17 December and Friday 18 December</td>
<td>Thursday, 28 January</td>
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<td>Friday, 29 January</td>
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<tr>
<th>Term 2</th>
<th>Term 3</th>
<th>Term 4</th>
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<td>Monday, 25 April</td>
<td>Monday, 18 July</td>
<td>Monday, 10 October</td>
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<td>Tuesday, 26 April</td>
<td>Tuesday, 19 July</td>
<td>Friday, 23 September</td>
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<td>Wednesday, 27 April</td>
<td>All students return to school</td>
<td>All students and staff return to school</td>
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<td>Monday, 13 June</td>
<td>Queen's Birthday (Public Holiday)</td>
<td>Friday, 16 December</td>
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<td>Friday, 1 July</td>
<td>Last day Term 2</td>
<td>Last day Term 4 for students</td>
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