



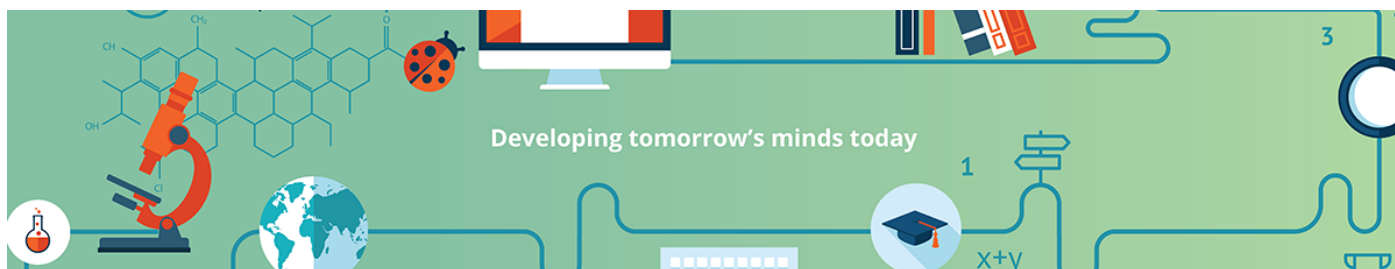
# Blackburn High School

20th December 2019

## ISSUE EIGHT

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# Principal's Report



## PRESENTATION NIGHT

The 2019 Blackburn High School Presentation Night was held last night and marked the culmination of a wonderful year of outstanding academic achievement, effort and endeavour. Congratulations to all the award winners who embody the School values of Respect, the Pursuit of Excellence and Citizenship. There were many highlights and I would like to mention Mr Paul Hamer, the State Member for Box Hill, who presented Lily Collins and James Howlett with the inaugural Box Hill STEM awards. These notable student results have been enabled by the school's positive culture of high expectations and by student involvement in the rich academic, co-curricular and student leadership programs. We also recognize the contribution of the dedicated professional team of teachers and Education Support staff. In addition, parents, carers and families have been active partners with the school by supporting the learning and development of the students.

The 2020 Student Leaders were also introduced last night to the school community.

<b>School Captains</b>	Millie Castor and Nyah Humphreys-Crouch
<b>House Captains</b>	Jasmine Lefebure-Dunlop House, Georgia Miers-Freeman House, Amy Dowler-Hollows House, Charlize Estrada-Melba House
<b>Sport Captains</b>	Bethanie Gray and Luyando Chinganya
<b>Music Captains</b>	Parmida Taheri and Roan Nair
<b>Wellbeing and Social Justice Captain</b>	Dainika Morgan
<b>Environment Captain</b>	Tess Hickey
<b>Debating Captain</b>	Henry Shand
<b>International Captains</b>	Captain-Mona Zhang, Vice-Captain-Yuna Kai
<b>Performing Arts Captain</b>	Eddie Gibson



# Principal's Report

## 2019 VCE Results

We are very proud of this year's VCE results and I would like to announce that Dominic Lei is the 2019 Dux of Blackburn High School and he achieved an ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank) of 99.3 with 14% of students achieving an ATAR of 90 or more and 29% with an ATAR of 80 or more. Students also attained 40 or more in their study scores for a range of subjects. Congratulations to the Year 12 Graduating Class of 2019 and in whatever path they take, post-secondary school, we want them to follow their dreams and make their mark in the world. Thank you to the dedicated Year 12 teachers and all the teachers who have encouraged and supported the students throughout their time at Blackburn High School.



## Year 9 Gold Coast Camp

On Monday 9 December, 152 Year 9 students and 18 teachers flew out of Melbourne to the Gold Coast. The students are to be commended for their exemplary attitude and behaviour during the camp. They enjoyed the flights, the theme parks, the opportunity to be self-reliant and being with their friends and their teachers. I would like to thank Ms Georgia Pashias for organising the camp and the teachers who attended and supported the students.



## VCAA Season of Excellence

I am delighted to announce that Luca Manfield (group) has been selected to perform as part of Top Class Music 2020. Top Class Music features incredible young students who received very high grades for their VCE music performance examinations in 2019.

The Assistant Principals, Ms Jane Richards, Mr Geoff Vezey and I hope that our students, their families and our staff, have a safe and enjoyable Christmas holiday break and best wishes for the coming new year.

*Mrs Joanna Alexander  
Principal*



# D

# Dunlop House

In our 8<sup>th</sup> year we have seen Dunlop House continue to grow and evolve. It has been wonderful to have many new faces join our team, including our new Year 7s and other students across Years 8-12. We also welcomed new staff this year: Lu Bai, Hannah Garganis, Eryn Mitchell, Savini Tennakoon, Megan Dixon and Brittany Milner to our House Team. I would like to acknowledge and thank all our Mentor Teachers for their work and the ongoing support of their mentor students. I would particularly like to acknowledge this year's House Assistants—Anthony McGirr, Scott Conte, Cara Ghiotti and Brittany Milner for their tremendous work.

We will sadly be farewelling a number of Dunlop staff including Mentor Teachers Jessica Casey, Savini Tennakoon and Megan Dixon, and our wonderful House Administration Assistant Romy Bristow. A huge thank you to all of these staff for their hard work and contributions during their time at Blackburn High School. We are so grateful for having them all as part of the Dunlop team and wish them every success in their future endeavours.

A big thank you and shout out goes to the 'beat heart' of our House Team, which is our students. It is their valuable contributions to Dunlop and the wider Blackburn High School community that make Dunlop House what it is today. Congratulations to our Mentor Group Student Leaders for their daily contributions leading their Mentor Groups, as well as their commitment and support as part of the Dunlop Student Leadership Team. We also thank and congratulate our House Captain Emily Rushby and our Year 7 Leaders Elsa Reynolds and Annie Burnet for all their excellent work and a job well done.

Lastly, as this is my last year as Dunlop House Leader, I would like to say that it has been an absolute privilege and pleasure to lead and work with all the staff and students over the past 8 years. I would like to warmly welcome Mark Pasquali as the new Dunlop House Leader from 2020 and also to congratulate Jasmine Lefebure as our newly appointed House Captain for 2020. I look forward to seeing Dunlop House go from strength to strength under Mark and Jasmine's leadership.

On behalf of all the staff in Dunlop House, we wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas, and hope you enjoy the summer break.

**Claire Greve**  
**Dunlop House Leader**





# F

# Freeman House

Well, I was going to write a reflective piece about my four years as the House Leader of Freeman, about the triumphs and sometimes the tears (i.e. that we didn't manage to ever beat Hollows at the Athletics Carnival). However, there were just too many triumphs and highlights to include, and that would be a tad indulgent.

Instead, I would like to introduce you to Georgia Miers who is the 2020 Freeman House Captain, whom I have had the privilege of teaching for three of my four years at Blackburn High School. This is the transcript of the heart-felt and personal speech she delivered at last week's Orientation Parent Information Evening:

*Hi! I'm Georgia Miers and I'm the Freeman House Captain for 2020. I know most of you are worrying that your kids are growing up way too fast because next year they'll be off to high school, but tonight I wanted to reassure you that your kids are going to an amazing high school. Now I'm not saying this just to boost Blackburn's ego; I'm saying this because this has been my experience at Blackburn.*

*Freeman is essentially a part of me now. I always knew that I would come here because of my older brother, but I never would have guessed the level of bonding that would develop between everyone in the House: from seeing each other in Mentor Group to celebrating the historic win against Hollows when we finally beat them at the swimming carnival. I have no idea how to express with words the feeling of hearing your entire House cheer supporting the achievements of one another. And while there may be moments in the year where the Houses do compete against each other, the camaraderie that you develop with one another stays with you for the rest of your time at Blackburn. If Blackburn is my second home, then Freeman really is my second family.*

*Because I love it so much, I wanted to talk to our about our Mentor Program. Personally, I love going to Mentor every morning. The connection each and every student develops with their Mentor Teacher allows us to have another role model, an adult who appreciates each and every student for their own individual worth. Your*





# F

# Freeman House

*Mentor Group ranging from students in year 7 to year 12s are people you see every morning for 20 minutes; these are people you complete mentor activities like semester 2 goals with, and these are people you can just have a chat to. Don't get me wrong, we actually do stuff in mentor like practise lockdowns and read out notices, but this is all made better when you're surrounded by kind and caring students as well as amazing mentor teachers.*

*I hope this has eased your minds a bit and while I can't really think like a parent in this situation, I can think like a kid, and I can promise you that your kid is excited to go to high school and I definitely know that we're excited to have them. Thank you.*



See what I mean? There is no need for me to say any more about what Freeman House means to Georgia, and to me. And no, my move to Hollows has not been inspired by my desire to be with the winning Athletics House!

In addition, I would like to acknowledge one of our Year 7 students, Carrie Brewster, for her volunteer work with the organisation, Impact for Women. It is a completely volunteer led charity that makes a difference to Victorian women and children fleeing extreme violence at home. By helping to create nearly 2000 Bags of Love that will be distributed to women and children over the coming month, she has most certainly exhibited one of our core values of Citizenship.

So, farewell to all Freeman students and families – what a privilege it has been to work with you since 2016. The new Freeman House Leadership Team comprising of Mr Liam Tobin (HL), Ms Bronwyn Roach (AHL) and Ms Melissa McDuff (AHL) will make an amazing and inspiring team.

*Ms Sharon Gardner-Drummond,  
Freeman House Leader*



# H

# Hollows House

## FAREWELL FOR 2019

I would like to wish all of the Hollows students and their families a Merry Christmas and happy holiday.

Next year I will be changing roles and will be House Leader of Dunlop House. I would like to sincerely thank all the Hollows families for the support they have given me over the last 8 years. It has been a privilege to work with such wonderful students and families. I wish everyone every success on their journey for next year and beyond.

Scott Conte will be replacing me as Hollows House Leader. Rod Bate will remain as Assistant House Leader and Rajpal Kaur will join him in this role.

I would also like to congratulate Amy Dowler who has been named the House Captain for Hollows for 2020.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.





# H

# Hollows House



*Mr Mark Pasquali, Hollows House Leader*



# Melba House



Once again, 2019 has been a year of change, celebration and, at times, challenge. We started the year with a bang - welcoming 75 Year 7 students and seven new Melba staff members. The Melba community of staff and students banded together to make all our new members feel welcome and part of the team.

We finished the year with 343 students in Melba. Each and every one of them has contributed to the House in some way - through participation in House Music, Swimming and Athletics Carnivals, Mentor Group activities and being active Blackburn High School citizens. It has been a privilege to lead them this year and watch them grow and strive for excellence.

Finally, an integral part of the House has been the Melba Student Leadership Team. As a collective, this group has tirelessly assisted Mentor Teachers to run Mentor Group activities, designed activities, set up assemblies, taken photos, sought feedback, organised and run the annual fundraiser and met regularly to advance the voice of Melba students. Well done to the following students for their contribution to the team this year:

## VCE Student Leadership Team

Position	Name
School Captain	Daniel Fearn-Wannan
Music Captain	Stephanie Burger
House Captain	Lachlan Ord-Steel
Debating Captain	Parmida Taheri

## Mentor Leaders

Mentor Group	Name
M1	Soh Jin Baek
M2	Jade Peng
M3	Parmida Taheri
M4	Greg Perkin
M4	Isabel De Bruyn
M5	Sunwoo Je
M6	Dainika Morgan
M6	Ashton Hawkins
M7	Caragh Chalker
M7	Fraser Clarke
M8	Ryan Stevens
M9	Gaganpreet Kaur
M10	Elias Kyriakou
M10	Jade Maea
M11	Georgia Ord-Steel
M12	Aiden Lau
M12	Dane Gubb
M13	Lauren Turk
M14	Anthony Malin
M14	Bella Martin
M15	Rory Speirs-Spence

## Year 7 Leaders

Year 7 Leader	Name
7MA	Jack Cotterell
7MB	Lara Gubb
7MC	Pia Tripathi



# M

# Melba House



## Orientation Day

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December was the State-wide Orientation Day for 2020 Year 7 students. This day involves a lot of work from a lot of people - a big thank you to all staff who helped out with the two Melba classes on the day. It is a high energy day and it was fantastic to see so many beaming faces and the enthusiasm with which the staff ran activities. I would also like to acknowledge Charlize Estrada and the Year 7 students who, without hesitation volunteered to help out on the day:

Cyanne Fang  
Jack Cotterell

Pia Tripathi  
Lara Gubb

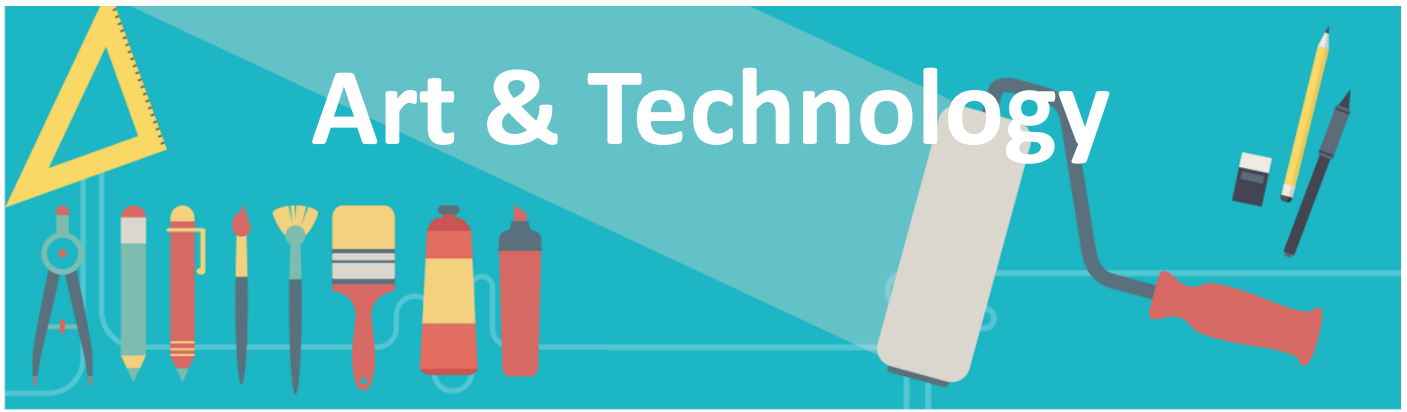
## Thank you

Finally, I want to thank you for all of your support of the Melba staff, students and myself over the last two years. I hand the House Leader baton on to Mr Adrian Ferres in 2020, but will keenly continue to watch the Melba students as they thrive at Blackburn High School. I wish all of you a safe, relaxing and joyful holiday period.

*Ms Jacinta Marcus, Melba House Leader*

# Year 6 Transition in Music





## LIONS INTERNATIONAL PEACE POSTER COMPETITION 2019

This semester the Year 7 Art classes took part in the Lions International Peace Poster Competition.

The Peace Poster competition is one of many Lions Club youth programs that aims to provide opportunities for self-development, education, contribution and achievement for young people.

This year the theme was 'Journey of Peace'. On Wednesday, 6th November, the three finalist's posters chosen by the art staff (Amy Chen, Madison Freeman and Ainsley Dawson) joined other schools for the Regional Judging Night at Blackburn North Bowls Club.

Amy Chen's poster won 1<sup>st</sup> place from Blackburn on the night, she will now move onto District Judging.

We wish her the best of luck!

*Brittany Milner*



Amy Chen 7MA



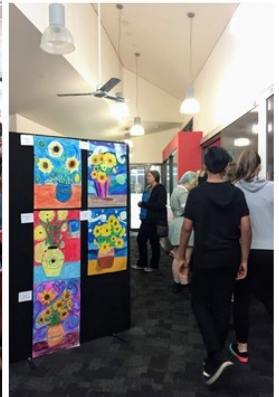
Madison Freeman 7FB



Ainsley Dawson 7FB



Congratulations to the students and staff involved in preparing and presenting the Blackburn Exhibition of Arts & Technology on Tuesday 26 November. It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the work of our talented students. Thank you to everyone who came along to support the event.



*Ms Cheryl Angus, Art & Technology Leader*



To finish off this year in the Resource Centre , with great pleasure I congratulate the students who completed the Premiers Reading Challenge this year and received their DET certificates at House Assemblies earlier this month:

Alana Saunders

Catherine Lammens

Hannah Strandgard

Lauren Baker

Rachel Lau

Sayuri Hioki-Walker

Anna Lammens

David Goddard

Genevieve To

Christopher Jacobs

A special mention to Alana, Hannah and Lauren, each of whom recorded 26 books.

Thank you also to the wonderful Library helpers this year—Alana, Hannah and Sayuri—all of whom were PRC recipients and terrific role models in the Resource Centre.

Best wishes to everyone for Christmas and the coming year.



*Liga Darzins, Resource Centre Manager*



# Presentation Night

