This is my last message to you as Principal of Blackburn High School. I have very mixed feelings. While I am excited to be entering a new and different phase of my professional life I am sad to be leaving Blackburn. I have really appreciated the joys and challenges that came with being the Principal of Blackburn High School.

Blackburn enjoys an outstanding reputation and is currently the school of choice in the Region. This is due to the quality of our community members – staff, students and families.

It has been a privilege to lead our talented staff and students and to work with you as a member of the extended Blackburn community. In particular it has been a privilege and a pleasure to see our students develop wide ranging, different skills and capabilities through their Blackburn experiences.

I encourage our students to continue to develop the values that our school holds dear. To be self aware, to be honest with themselves, to face reality. Know what your strengths are and be prepared to continuously improve yourself; be open to new ideas; have opinions and state them but be willing to modify them for a better suggestion; and get out of your comfort zone. The greatest learning occurs when you’re not comfortable because you don’t know it all. Push yourself. Be willing to take a chance with something new. To be a participant not a spectator. Be results oriented and strive for your goals. If you want to get ahead or to get what you want you need to accomplish something. Work hard. Don’t be discouraged by failure or rejection – it happens to all of us – learn from it.

Enjoy work- it is fulfilling. Set your goals at school and work hard to achieve them.

As my final days approach I extend my best wishes to the staff, students and families of the wonderful Blackburn High School.

It has been a privilege to be your Principal.

Sandra Woodman
We have had a smooth start to the school year with a number of events to welcome our new Year 7 students as well as develop community spirit.

Farewell
As we have no newsletter next week, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the school community, to thank Sandra Woodman for her leadership of the school for the last five years. Our programs are exciting and our numbers have grown. We wish Sandra all the best in her new position.

Year 7 BBQ
We had a wonderful evening spent getting to know each other and with families having an opportunity to meet teachers. Such events take lots of effort and a big thank you goes to the Chaplaincy Committee for their work cooking a very large number of sausages and working on the barbeques on a hot night.

Year 7 Music Expo
Our Year 7 students then had the opportunity to try various instruments and find out about our Music Program. Thank you to the music staff for the time and effort they put in to make this such a successful event.

Swimming Sports
The Swimming Sports was a great day with a huge participation rate from students. Congratulations to Hollows House for their overall win of this event and thank you to Nadine Roche and Karen McLean for their organisational role.

Reminder
School Council nominations close at 4pm Monday 23rd February 2015.
SPORTS DATES - TERM 1

Term 1 sport is already up and running with our swimming carnival and two round robin days already taken place.

A huge congratulations to all of the students that participated in our Swimming Carnival on Friday. It was a fantastic day had by all with some terrific results.

Results will be published in our next newsletter and I look forward to putting together a strong team to take to the Division Carnival in March.

With round robins already underway, students will notice that there have been changes to the Whitehorse Division in 2015. We no longer have Mullauna or Forest Hill in this division, leaving only ourselves, Koonung, Box Hill, Box Hill Senior and East Doncaster.

Mon 16th Feb
Year 8 Tennis & Cricket

Tuesday 17th Feb
Intermediate Tennis & Cricket

Friday 27th Feb
Senior Hockey, Cricket & Netball

Tuesday 3rd March
Intermediate Volleyball, Softball & Baseball

Thursday 12th March
Whitehorse Division Swimming & Diving

Friday 13th March
Year 7 Softball, Baseball & Volleyball

Monday 16th March
Year 8 Softball, Baseball & Volleyball

Thursday 19th March
EMR & State Final Diving

Wednesday 25th March
EMR Swimming

Friday 27th March
House Athletics

Nadine Roche & Karen MacLean
Sport Coordinators

roche.nadine.nr@edumail.vic.gov.au

Community News

Parents/guardians of students, who do not have student accident insurance, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance/transport and any other transport costs. You can purchase insurance policies from commercial insurers. The Department does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property.
House Swimming - Go Dragons!
The House Swimming Carnival was a fantastic day. Congratulations to all the Dunlop students and staff on finishing in 4th place at this year’s carnival. Well done to all the students for coming in a fabulous array of red dress and house t-shirts. It was terrific to see the high number of attendees. Well done to the Dunlop Student Leadership team who did a tremendous job leading the House for the day. We wish those students who placed 1st in their age group events the best of luck when representing BHS at the Whitehorse Division Swimming. Finally a big thank you to Mrs Roche and Mrs Maclean for working hard to organise and facilitate fantastic event that was enjoyed by all.

Mentor Program — Student Goal Setting
The mentor sessions are a valuable learning tool and also the means of communicating with students of all year levels. This week’s focus is student goal setting.

The aim of this learning activity is for students to familiarise themselves with checking learning task feedback and analyse progress on their reports for each cycle. Students need to be able to unpack their results and understand how to read and interpret this information to develop future learning goals. Students then think and discuss strategies and develop action plans to achieve goals that are aimed at improving their effort and achievement towards their learning. New Year 7 students will learn how the learning task cycles work via the Compass system and how to develop learning goals.

Students work with their Mentor teacher and peers over a number of sessions to reflect and develop their goals. We encourage parents to engage in conversations with their child about their learning goals on a regular basis to help support their child to achieve their semester goal.
DUNLOP HOUSE NEWS

Claire Greve
Dunlop House Leader

“I have a conviction that it is only when we are put at full stretch that we can realise our full potential” Sir Edward ‘Weary’ Dunlop.

Housekeeping matters

Being on Time: Managing your time
We would like to acknowledge the cooperation of Dunlop students who are meeting the school expectations and arriving at school on time, ready for Mentor Group at 8.40am. Time Management is an important life skill and an underlying factor to being punctual.

We do understand that on occasion there are external factors that are beyond our control that impact on a student arriving on time to school; such as public transport issues and road conditions. It is important to communicate such issues by providing your child’s Mentor Teacher with a note of explanation or logging onto Compass to approve your child’s late arrival or absence. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Time Management Tips for being on time:
- Organise your school bag, lunch, uniform and breakfast the night before school
- Get a good night’s sleep. Try to go to bed at the same time each night.
- Getting up 15 minutes earlier might help your morning go more smoothly
- Place your alarm away from your bed so you have to get out of bed to turn it off!
- Cut down on distractions, like the TV, games, your phone and apps!
- Have a morning routine
- Be positive. Think about something that you are looking forward to doing.

House Music Update!
Dunlop lunchtime and afterschool rehearsals have been in full swing. Thanks to everyone’s hard work, commitment and effort everything has been going smoothly and according to plan. As we get closer to the performance the excitement and nerves are really setting in. We have had the best time working together to put on this performance and looking forward to performing. A huge thank you to Mrs Roberts and Mr Bate for giving up their time last Sunday to supervise our rehearsal, we really appreciated it. The props are looking amazing thanks to our props team and Ms Angus’s support. We hope to see everyone on Thursday night to support Dunlop and all the other houses performing.

Student Leadership – SRC
Congratulations to Annaliese Hughes (Year 7-8 rep) and Olivia Severn (Year 12 rep) for the successful nominations as Dunlop Student Council Representatives for 2015. We look forward to the girls sharing their ideas and feedback about student matters at house assembly.

We are still looking for a year 10-11 rep to join the SRC. Application forms are available at the house office.

House Captain
Sarah Turner
**House Music**

Students have been busy preparing for their performance. By the time you read this the event and performances would have occurred. Once again, students across all year levels have worked as a team to put a fabulous performance together. Thanks to staff and students who have given their time and energy to such a wonderful occasion.

**Swimming Sports**

Student participation was high and students and staff looked colourful in their attire. The spirit on the day from all students made it a successful carnival. The Freeman area looked vibrant and energetic which translated to impressive performances in the pool. The organisation for the event was successful and congratulations to Ms Roche and Ms Maclean for leading the planning. I look forward to the Athletics Carnival on the last day of this term. Please use Compass to authorise your child’s attendance at this upcoming carnival.

**Student success**

Congratulations to Zoe Britto-Babapulle for winning the 400 and 800 metre races at the Victorian Junior Track and Field Championships. Well done again.

**Year 7 Camp**

Freeman students will be attending the Briars Outdoor Education camp at Mt. Martha between Monday 23rd to Wednesday 25th February. We wish them an enjoyable camp where they build on existing friendships and make new friends.

**New student lunch**

Student leaders will be hosting a lunch for new students on Friday 20th February. The aim is to welcome new students, get to know them better and hear how they have settled into Secondary School.

**Year 7 Leadership**

Leadership application forms for the two Freeman Year 7 positions have been distributed during Mentor Group time. These are due in at the House office by Friday 27th February at 3.15 pm. If we receive more than two applications, interviews will be conducted.

**Mentor Program**

This week in the Mentor Program we have run a quiz to highlight Chinese New Year. Goal setting has been conducted and on Thursday 26th February we will have our first House breakfast for the year. Student leaders will be organising and running the House breakfast.

Geoff Vezey.
Freeman House Leader.
Friday 13th February—Swimming Sports
WELCOME TO HOLLOWS HOUSE YEAR 7s
Welcome to all new families to Hollows House for 2015. It was great to see many of the new families at our year 7 BBQ last week as well as the Music Expo night. Our 50 new Year 7s seem to have settled in extremely well. May your time at Blackburn High School be enjoyable.

WELL DONE TO HOLLOWS AT SWIM CARNIVAL
A huge congratulations to all of the students who participated so strongly at our Swimming carnival last Friday. It was great to see house and school spirit on display with many races filled to overflowing. Well done to Hollows House for retaining the aggregate points title this year.

CONGRATULATIONS TO HOUSE MUSICIANS
I would like to extend a very big thankyou and congratulations to all of the students who have been involved in our House music production of Tarzan. As I write I look forward to seeing the final production on Thursday night. It has been a lot of work in a short space of time and all students involved should be proud. Further details will follow in the next issue.

HOLLOWS SRC REPRESENTATIVES
Congratulations to the following students who have been nominated as our Hollows SRC reps for 2015. They are:

Year 7 — Amy Dowler
Year 10-11 — Emilia Albinelli
Year 12 — Lawrence Leung

The students are pictured below with Ms Penell. There is still a vacancy at the Year 8/9 level.
YEAR 7 CAMP
We hope our year 7s will enjoy their camp next week at the Briars in Mornington. The camp should be a great way to get to know each other and share some fun experiences. The students will be on camp from Monday Feb 23rd to Wednesday Feb 25th.

CONGRATULATIONS LAWRENCE
A big congratulations to Lawrence Leung who recently participated in the Lions Youth of the Year Competition. Lawrence performed extremely well and did the school proud.

LUNAR NEW YEAR QUIZ
As part of celebrations for the Chinese New Year we have been holding a series of quizzes in assemblies this week. Pictured below are some of our quiz winners from Monday with their prizes. Thanks to Isobel Zhou for organising the quiz and prizes.
Checking the Parent Portal

All parents of students have access to the Compass Parent Portal and it is an excellent and efficient way for parents to keep up to date with their son/daughter’s progress at school. Through the Parent Portal, you can:

* view up-to-date class and school attendance information;
* pay for excursions;
* approve past or future absences;
* access your child’s reports;
* book your Parent/Student/Teacher conferences;
* download course information;
* access information regarding upcoming events and news.

Parents are reminded they must not share their Parent Portal password with their son/daughter.

If you have had any difficulty accessing your Parent Portal account or using it, please contact the our House Assistant, Sally, on 8804 6407.

Physical Education (PE) uniform

Please remember that all students are required to wear the PE uniform for PE classes, Sport classes and interschool sport.

For Sport, students must wear the PE uniform for the entire day and so may wear it to and from school. However, for Physical Education students must wear full school uniform and change into and out of their Sport Uniform at the conclusion of their class. The only exception is when students have a Physical Education class in period 4, then they may wear the PE uniform home.

Thank you to all of the parents who have supported the school in ensuring these procedures are followed.

Planners

One of the key focus areas for students, as they commence the school year, is to ensure that they are organised and ready for class. This includes ensuring that they have all of the correct textbooks and that they bring their school planner to every period. The planner is an essential tool that supports parent communication between parents and the classroom teacher and, along with the COMPASS Portal, allows parents to monitor homework and assist with student planning for assessment tasks.

M Baxter
Melba House Leader
Year 7 Camp

This year the three Year 7 classes from Melba are heading down to Anglesea for three days at the scenic Coastal Forrest Lodge from Monday March 2 to Wednesday March 5. By now you should have received all necessary information regarding what students need to bring and details of the travel arrangements.

The students are sure to have a great time with many outdoor activities such as archery, ropes courses, mini golf and kayaking and exploring the local environment on bush walking and rock pooling adventures.

The camp runs early in the year as it is a fantastic opportunity to make lots of new friends. They will be spending time with students from all three Melba classes and many of the teachers that will be taking their classes for this year and the years to come.

David Coulter
Camps Coordinator

House Swimming Sports

As a House Captain I find myself having to make an embarrassing admission ........ this year was the very first time I’ve ever attended a swimming carnival. At first, I was too conscious about my body and worrying if I was going to be too slow in the events and whether people would make fun of me. However as the hours went along, I started to not care about what people think, “got out of my comfort zone” and began to just enjoy the day.

Although it took a while getting there, it was worth the wait. The moment you walked out to the outdoor pools, blues, reds, yellows and green were scattered everywhere (this really got everyone pumped for it). There were strict rules such as: no water guns and no swimming in the pool unless you’re in an event. The mood was lifted with the many events that was organized and pool was packed with competitors. The very first race I competed in was the 50m freestyle and I ended up getting 2nd place. No one was more surprised than me!

In the end, Hollows came in 1st place, followed by Freeman in 2nd place, Melba came 3rd and Dunlop came 4th. It’s a great way to have fun with all your friends and get to know one another. Overall, we all had such an eventful and enjoyable time I regret not going to the carnival in my previous years as I find it now so much fun. I can’t wait for House Performing Arts and the House Athletics. Go Melba!!

Graziella

“Being new to Blackburn High has made our first few weeks of school pretty crazy, but we enjoyed the Swimming Carnival enormously! It was great to get involved with the events and get to know people from all year levels. We are looking forward to next year’s Swimming Carnival and hope that we will enjoy it as much as I did this year.”

By Hannah and Eboni M7B
Last Minute Reminders.....

TIME IS RUNNING OUT..........  

WORK EXPERIENCE YEAR 10s - By now, all Year 10 students should have made enquiries with employers about a work experience position and be handing those details into Mr McGann. For those struggling to find a place, use your parents & friends contacts first (they love helping out) and as a last resort, there is an employer list on the Pathways noticeboard to spark some ideas.

Get those yellow forms with employer details to Mr McGann asap—ask an employer before someone else gets your spot!!!

AVALON AIRSHOW – Students interested in a career in the aviation industry might wish to attend the Avalon Airshow. Among other things, you will be able to find out about RMIT’s flight training program, aerospace and mechanical engineering programs. **When:** 24 Feb – 1 Mar, 2015; **Where:** Avalon Airport; **Info:** [www.airshow.com.au/airshow2015/](http://www.airshow.com.au/airshow2015/).
WHERE CAN I STUDY IN VICTORIA?

After completing Year 12, there are many options. If you are considering university, hoping to get a degree, these are the universities available in Victoria:

- **Australian Catholic University (ACU)** with campuses in Melbourne (Fitzroy) and Ballarat
- **Deakin University** with campuses in Burwood, Geelong and Warrnambool
- **Federation University** with campuses in Ballarat and Gippsland
- **La Trobe University** with campuses in Melbourne (Bundoora), Bendigo, Albury-Wodonga, Mildura and Shepparton
- **Monash University** with campuses in Melbourne (Clayton, Caulfield, Berwick, Parkville)
- **RMIT University** with campuses in Melbourne (City, Brunswick, Bundoora)
- **Swinburne University** has a campus in Melbourne (Hawthorn)
- **University of Melbourne** in Melbourne (Parkville, Burnley, Southbank, Werribee), Creswick, Dookie and Shepparton
- **Victoria University** is in Melbourne (City, Footscray, St Albans, Melton, Sunshine)

You can check out their facilities and courses by attending their Open Days, usually held in August.

If you plan a VET course (pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship, certificate, diploma and a limited number of degrees), institutes offering courses in the Melbourne area are:

- **Box Hill Institute**
- **Chisholm** (Dandenong, Frankston, etc)
- **Holmesglen** (Moorabbin, Chadstone)
- **Kangan** (Broadmeadows, Richmond, etc)
- **Melbourne Polytechnic** (formerly NMIT) (Collingwood, Epping, Preston, Prahran, etc)
- **RMIT** (City, Brunswick)
- **Swinburne** (Hawthorn, Croydon, Wantirna)
- **Victoria** (Footscray, City)

There are also independent institutions offering degrees, diplomas and certificates. Examples are:

- **Academy of Design** (Port Melbourne)
- **Australian Institute of Fitness** (Bendigo, City, etc)
- **Footscray City Films**
- **JMC** (South Melbourne)

Independent colleges are full-fee paying institutions, whereas the government generally offers financial assistance to study at universities and VET providers like Box Hill Institute.

**NOTE**: The government will only fund courses of study that are at a higher level than what they have funded already. For example, if you have a bachelor’s degree, the government will not fund you to complete a VET diploma as it is at a lower level than the degree.

**VETERINARY NURSING ASSOCIATE DEGREE**

Melbourne Polytechnic (formerly NMIT) (Epping campus) is offering a new 2-year associate degree, the first para-professional veterinary nursing qualification in Australia. It is designed to produce highly skilled clinicians with exceptional levels of practical skill, knowledge and in depth understanding gained through a stimulating exploration of the academic underpinnings of the field.

Graduate employment will be in the private and public sectors, including veterinary practices as veterinary nurses and practice managers and in large organisations (veterinary pharmaceutical, veterinary nutrition companies and animal research facilities).

**Prerequisites**: Successful completion of Year 12 VCE or recognised equivalent with a study score of at least 20 in any English and a study score of at least 20 in one of any Mathematics, Chemistry or Biology; OR successful completion of a Diploma course in Veterinary Nursing or a related area; OR at least two years of related industry experience.
21st Century Teaching and Learning Platform

We are continuing to develop our 21st Century Teaching and Learning platform through the purchase and implementation of Edrolo for our Unit 3/4 VCE students. Educational academics, Peter Hill and Michael Barber highlight the elements changing education in the 21st century. One of these elements is the way the “opportunity to learn” has changed in the 21stc. In the past schools were bound by 9.00—3.15 school hours whereas the digital revolution has led to 24/7 learning opportunities for our students. Edrolo is an online learning program that enables VCE students to study at their own pace, at any time, and on any device. Teachers in English, Maths Methods and Chemistry will be running “flipped lessons’ regularly to consolidate our students’ knowledge and skills and their engagement with these subjects. Our Year 12 students had an Edrolo training session this year.

Literacy and Numeracy

At Blackburn High School, we continue to focus on improving all our students’ literacy and numeracy skills. Reading at Blackburn High School is very important and there are many opportunities for students to borrow and read from the Library and within their English classes. Our Library has a range of Young Adult fiction for our Years 7—9 students and there are audio books for the reluctant reader. Apart from the academic benefits of good reading skills, the process of reading increases our empathy and compassion and helps us to experience “the other”. As the novelist Jean Rhys says: ”Reading makes immigrants of us all, it takes us away from home, but more importantly, it finds homes for us everywhere.” Regular reading is on-going homework for all our students. If you have any enquiries about Literacy, please contact Maddie Taylor, our Literacy Coordinator. If you have any enquiries about our Corrective Reading Program, please contact Val Weber, our Corrective Reading teacher.

Numeracy is very important at Blackburn High School and there are a range of teaching and learning initiatives being implemented by the Maths Department, which is led by Steve Thompson, and our Numeracy Coordinator, Pamela Eaton.

English as an Additional Language (EAL)

We have specialist EAL support classes at school. The EAL Support programs develop your child’s reading strategies across the curriculum and helps your child to develop his/her grammar, punctuation and writing skills. Speaking and listening are an essential and integral part of this program. If parents wish to have ideas on how you can support your child’s English language learning at home, please contact Marina Kourelis, our EAL Coordinator at the school.
Year 7 Art & Technology
THANK YOU!

Thanks you to all who came to the Year 7 BBQ and Music Expo last Tuesday night. It was a great night and I hope you enjoyed meeting other parents and getting to know the staff here at Blackburn. A huge thanks to the Blackburn High School Chaplaincy Support group who put on the BBQ and worked tirelessly to cook many many sausages. Thanks also to all the staff who pitched in and helped us with the cooking and clean up on the night. It was a great team effort and a great way to welcome our new Year 7s and their families.

Second Hand Uniform Shop

The second hand uniform shop is open every **Tuesday morning from 8:15—8:45pm**. If you would like to donate any uniform items you can leave them at reception at any time.

At the moment we are in need of **Sports Uniform, School Ties, and Short-Sleeve White Shirts** with the Blackburn Logo.

Thank you to all who have already donated clothing. It is greatly appreciated.
I’m very excited about another year of great achievement by student leaders at Blackburn High School. Remember, if you would like to be involved with student leadership or community events, or if you know about a great event, please come and see me in the Hollows office.

**Student Representative Council (SRC)**

As always at this time of year, we are putting our SRC together. It’s always fantastic to see students getting involved especially when they will be representing the views and interests of their peers.

SRC Reps

Year 7  Annaliese Hughes
Years 8-9  Geena Chan, Mark Whyte
Years 10-11  Nicholas Hugo, Emilia Albinelli
Year 12  Olivia Severn, Lawrence Leung, Callum Gibson

There are casual vacancies at all year levels! So please come to see me in Hollows office if you are interested in becoming a representative. The SRC is there to represent all students so make sure you know who the rep for your House and Year Level is and let them know if you have any ideas, or issues you would like raised at meetings. Student voice is about you!

**Lions Youth of the Year Competition**

The Lions Youth of the Year Competitions are underway for 2015. This year we were proud to have Year 12 student, Lawrence Leung competing for BHS in the Blackburn South branch competition. Lawrence attended an interview at which he spoke about his leadership experience, academic achievements and extra curricular activities as well as his views on social issues.

On the night of the public speaking competition Lawrence delivered a passionate speech about language learning in Victorian schools and, along with his fellow competitors, answered two impromptu questions.

Well done Lawrence!
Community Notices

The school is publishing the above community notices because they may interest some students or community members, but the school is unable to endorse or recommend any of these advertisements.

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Teachers, Parents and Students are invited to an evening with Sharon Witt

Developing Resilience in Adolescent Girls!

This is a Public Event Everyone welcome!

Tuesday March 3rd, 2015
7pm to 9pm
CANTERBURY GIRLS’ SECONDARY COLLEGE
Mangarra Road, Canterbury
$20 per person (at the door) No EFTPOS

Secure your place!
Email rick@criticalagendas.com.au
Include your name & number of tickets required.
Collect and pay for tickets on the night.
No EFTPOS
Enquiries: 0433 616 771

Testimonials
It is rare to find a person with both a clear understanding of today’s teen issues and also the ability to effectively communicate that knowledge to teens and their parents. Sharon is that person! Through her books and spoken presentations, she has touched the lives of many thousands of teens, offering clarity and hope, and real life strategies to help navigate through an increasingly complex world.
Pastor Tony Knight, Event coordinator- CHOSEN
National Teen Leaders Convention

Sharon is an energetic and vibrant speaker, a gifted communicator, who shares her passion and heart with her audience. It is easy to see Sharon’s passion and enthusiasm for young people and the issues they are dealing with in their world. Sharon provided many practical suggestions in how we can help teenagers navigate these important years. I would recommend Sharon as a speaker to parents, youth workers, teachers and teens.
Amanda Cain, Girls Brigade Victoria

Sharon is a phenomenal guest speaker. She has facilitated a variety of sessions for our youth organisation, and always does a fantastic job! Her sessions are fun, interactive, and relevant and the young girls love them! Sharon’s heart and passion for empowering young girls is an inspiration. I highly recommend Sharon for any girl’s session.
Back Mitchell, Bridge Builders Organisation

Sharon Witt is passionate about promoting growth and change in young people. She recently presented her Bully Busters programme to our year 7-9 students. Sharon’s presentation was full of interaction and she continually encouraged student feedback and participation. Sharon demonstrated her ability to engage with students and at times, literally have them hanging off her every word. Sharon aims to equip young people with skills in dealing positively with real life issues.
Nicolle Laurie
Malton Christian College

We all want to see our girls reach their best outcomes and mature into healthy, strong resilient girls. Resilience involves the ability to ‘bounce back’ or recover when things go wrong or negative experiences impact us. By giving our girls key strategies to develop resilience, we prepare them for life.

During this 2 hour presentation (including time for discussion and questions), Author and Educator Sharon Witt, will provide key skills and strategies our girls need in order to be resilient, strong and capable young women.

Key topics include:
- Developing Emotional Intelligence
- Navigating difficult relationships
- Conflict management skills
- The personal values and attitudes we want to foster in our girls
- Developing positive relationships
- Strategies for coping in traumatic or difficult situations
- How to foster optimistic thinking and self-talk
- Coping with Academic Stress

About the Presenter
Sharon Witt has been immersed in teen girls world for over two decades in her role as an Educator, Author and Presenter to educators, adolescents and their parents around the country.
She is also a regular media commentator on issues impacting girls, parenting and education.

Sharon currently appears on Channel 7’s Sunrise program and The Daily Edition as well as having two weekly parenting segments on radio in Melbourne and the Gold Coast and writes for various magazine publications.
Sharon is the author of best selling series of books Teen Talk and the recently released Girlwise series, which are written to help guide younger girls through many of the issues they face in early years.

Copies of Sharon’s best selling books will be available for purchase at the conclusion of the presentation (No EFTPOS).
Numeracy is an important part of our daily activities and often we don’t even realise it; for example in developing a budget or altering recipes.

We have started the year by giving all Year 7 students a general fluency test to ascertain their numeracy level and to identify simple misconceptions that students may have. Maths staff will use the results to inform their planning. Similar tests will be undertaken by students in Year 8 and 9 in the coming weeks.

One focus of Numeracy this semester will be ‘Order of Operators’. This is the order in which mathematical operators should be applied. Students often incorrectly think that the Mnemonic BODMAS is the order that should be applied. Students often do not remember the ‘equal’ and ‘working left to right’ components.

If we evaluate the expression \(16 - 5 \times (4 + 5) / 3\) correctly applying the order of operator the answer will be 1. Students that incorrectly use BODMAS will get 33.

**Order of Operators**

- **B** Brackets
- **O** order or exponents e.g. \(x^2, \sqrt[3]{a}, \sqrt[3]{b}\)
- **DM L→R** division and multiplication are equal and are done working from left to right
- **AS L→R** addition and subtraction are equal and are done working from left to right

The first whole school numeracy activity (in mentor group) will be based on ‘Order of Operators’. We will also be running a competition based around ‘Order of Operators’. More details to follow shortly.

**Community News**

- **NO WORRIES? Helping Anxious Kids**
  - How can we help children and teens to reduce their anxiety?
  - What skills can we teach them so that they know how to calm themselves?
  - Explore stories, books, workbooks, CDs, cards and other useful resources that enable anxieties and worries to be discussed and addressed.
  - With Don Groose, psychologist
  - Rosemary Allen, teacher and librarian
  - **BOOK NOW**
  - 9813 2533
  - **BOONINGS ARE ESSENTIAL**
  - Wednesday, 18 March 2015
  - 7.00 - 9.00 pm
  - Angioma
  - 47 Castella Street, Lilydale
  - PRICE $20.00

**Community Notices**

The school is publishing the above community notices because they may interest some students or community members, but the school is unable to endorse or recommend any of these advertisements.
# School Calendar

February—March 2014

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**Year 7 Camp 1—Hollows & Freeman**

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- Year 9 & 10 Intermediate Volleyball, Baseball & Softball

**Year 7 Camp 2—Dunlop**

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- Senior Volleyball, Baseball & Tennis
- Whitehorse Division Swim & Diving
- Year 7 Baseball, Softball & Volleyball

**Year 7 Camp 3—Melba**