Presentation Evening...
I would like to acknowledge the Dharug People who are the traditional custodians of this land on which we hold this ceremony today and pay my respect to elders both past and present and extend that respect to other Aboriginals here today.

It is my very great pleasure to welcome our distinguished guests, parents, families, staff and students to Galston High School this evening to formally acknowledge the achievements of students who have attained excellence across a wide range of academic and extra-curricular activities.

2014 has certainly been a year of many challenges - great highs and terrible lows. From the celebration of Galston High School’s 40th Anniversary to the devastating loss of our library to fire and everything in between, 2014 will be remembered for many years to come.

On Monday 19th May 2014 the school community woke to the terrible news that the Galston High School library had been destroyed by fire during the night.

The fire had been so intense that not one thing was able to be salvaged. Student lockers had “vaporized”, the school’s server and major photocopier were molten blobs, and book shelves and structural beams were twisted into unrecognizable shapes. The only recognizable things were the stairs and the toilet.

Everything was gone – including all of the school’s memorabilia which was to be used for the 40th Anniversary celebrations in October.

The work of the Rural Fire Service had ensured that we only lost the library. Their expertise safeguarded the adjacent buildings from catching alight, despite the fact that the surrounding trees were ablaze and were brushing against the upper timber structures.

But the loss of the library brought with it many more issues for our school to deal with. Telephone lines, the internet, computers and computer cabling, servers and the security system, were all housed in the library. Over the ensuing months we struggled with power outages, lack of internet connectivity, replacement servers dying twice, phone lines disappearing and the school’s alarm system not operating.

The outpouring of sorrow and support from our local community, as well as from others further afield, was truly amazing. Offers of books, fundraising and computers from individuals, book companies, schools, local businesses and the Dural Chamber of Commerce, are just some examples of the wonderful support that was offered to our school. Our heartfelt thanks go to everyone who assisted us in any way during the weeks following the fire.

On a happier note, Galston High School celebrated its 40th Anniversary in October with a dinner in the hall and a Back to School Day.

What a fabulous weekend we had. Both functions were well attended by past students and staff and we were very fortunate to have perfect weather on both days. The generosity of past students and staff ensured that Ms Pieper had a variety of memorabilia to display on the day and we thank everyone for their donations.

EDFEST also proved to be a highpoint in the school year, showcasing student achievement and performances. Families and friends visited our school to view the magnificent work of our students across the school curriculum including Year 12’s bodies of work and major works for HSC Visual Arts, Drama, Music and Industrial Technology.

I look back on 2014 and I am truly amazed at the breadth of opportunities that Galston High School provides for its students. Our students are engaged in a diverse curriculum that is rich in its offerings. Our teaching team is exceptional, highly qualified and passionate about their profession and their students.

Our students have excelled in academia, music, agriculture, sport, vocational education and the creative and performing arts.

Some of the highlights of 2014 have included:
• Six students travelling to Griffith for a week to take part a farm experience sponsored by the school and Rabobank
• The celebration of our High Achievers from the 2013 HSC
• Ongoing success at the Annual Castle Hill Show – 21 times!
• Harmony, Exo and Valentine’s Days;
• The Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country Carnivals;
• The Battle of the Buskers;
• Hosting gifted and talented students from our Partner Primary Schools in the Debating Challenge;
• Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
• Anzac Day Ceremonies;
• The success of the Equestrian Team

In 2015 we are looking forward to:
• Our special education faculty (known as The HUB) increasing from three to four classes, catering for 28 students with moderate intellectual disability, autism or mental health disorders.
• The school being hooked up to the new sewerage system and I thank Member for Hornsby Matt Kean, for ensuring that our school has been included in these plans;
• The building of our new library that will cater for the needs of our students well into the 21st Century at a cost of over $3 million;
• The upgrade of our Science Laboratories to the value of $500,000 and
• The refurbishment of some of our toilet blocks to the value of $40,000 and;
• Creating a playground area to cater for our special needs students, designed by Elizabeth Swane-Trotter and sponsored by Bendigo Bank and the P&C association valued at $20,000.

Our school is served by highly qualified, enthusiastic and dedicated teachers whose professional expertise provides our students with the knowledge and skills necessary to become active 21st century learners. Under their tutelage our students are consistently guided to outstanding results at the Higher School Certificate. This was evidenced in the 2013 HSC results with 20% of our students gaining an ATAR above 90 and 50% of students gaining entrance to University courses and the remainder of students gaining full-time employment, trainee or apprenticeships or enrolling in TAFE.

At the conclusion of this year we will be saying good-bye to two members of staff. Samantha Lee from the English and Ms Pauline Wong from Mathematics have both been
successful in securing Head Teacher positions for 2015 – Ms Lee as Head Teacher English at Northmead HS and Ms Wong Head Teacher Mathematics at Masada College.

We thank Ms Wong and Ms Lee for their outstanding contributions to Galston High School, their commitment to our students and for all the extra-curricular activities they have undertaken to enrich the lives of our students. We wish them both well in their future careers.

We also farewell Mr Patrick Cigana and thank him for his work as a temporary teacher in the English Faculty during 2014, replacing Ms Boland who will be returning in 2015.

I would like to thank our year advisers and their assistants for the wonderful work they have done with their year groups over the past 12 months and the personal support they have provided to individual students and their families.

Thank you also to our teaching staff for their hard work and dedication in providing quality teaching and learning programs to our students, our incredible Head Teachers for their leadership of their faculties and to our extraordinary deputies, Ms Petrulis and Ms Peiper, for their diligent work in making Galston High School an exceptional school.

I’d also like to personally thank my primary principal colleagues from the Galston Community of Schools for their ongoing support of Galston High School, especially for how they have joined with us in promoting our magnificent school to future families. These efforts have positively impacted on increasing Year 7 enrolments from 110 students in 2011 to 143 students in 2015 – an overall increase of over 25%.

Galston High School has built collaborative partnerships with our wider community that provides our students with enriched learning experiences. I would like to acknowledge two organisations in particular that have supported our school throughout 2014.

Firstly - Our Parents and Citizens Association is second to none. Their commitment to the students and teachers at Galston High School is greatly appreciated. Our P&C Association continues to provide financial support to the school through profits from the canteen and uniform shop. This year they have provided funding or personnel for:
- Sponsorship of the Year 7 Scholarship Program
- Students who represent the school at a state, national or world level in their chosen fields.
- Supporting the SRC in constructing shade shelter at the front of the school in 2015
- Tools to be used in Industrial Arts classes
- Spot lighting for the school hall
- New shade structure in the main quad
- Welcome BBQ for incoming Year 7 students and their families
- Chatter Over a Platter welcoming new and not so new parents to the school
- Open Days and Year 6 Orientation Days and
- Working Bees to maintain our beautiful gardens

We are immensely grateful for the ongoing backing of our P&C Association. This level of support is extraordinary and is testament to the wonderful parents we have in our school community. Please join me in thanking our brilliant P&C under the leadership of President Ray Seguna.

Secondly – We continue to enjoy the exceptional support of the Galston Branch of the Bendigo Community Bank. I’d like to introduce and welcome to Galston High School, my new best friend and Manager of Galston Bendigo Community Bank, Mr Gary Mangan. What can I say to describe the gratitude of our school community? Words are simply not enough.

Gary has informed me that over the past four years The Galston Bendigo Community Bank has supported Galston High School Projects to the tune of $344,000! In addition, the Board of Directors has allocated an additional $30,000 for the current financial year – a total of $374,000.

Since 2011, The Bendigo Bank has provided funding for two annual academic scholarships, one annual Young Endeavour Youth Scheme Scholarship, installation of a commercial kitchen, a fitness laboratory which includes a weights room and a cardio room, a dance studio, fenced the Ag plot, built the tractor shed, hothouses and the Taj Mahal of chook sheds for our farm.

However, this can only happen if, as a community, we support the bank by opening savings accounts and taking out housing and personal loans. The Galston Bendigo Community Bank is one of the most successful Bendigo Bank branches in Australia. Eighty percent of all profits are returned to the community and Galston High School is by far the biggest beneficiary. No other bank does this. By banking with the Galston Branch of The Bendigo Community Bank you are directly supporting our school and our community.

Our deepest appreciation goes to the Galston Bendigo Community Bank for their generous support of Galston High School and its students and staff.

I am very proud to be leading Galston High School. Your children benefit from learning in an outstanding academic environment that celebrates and rewards personal success.

My congratulations go to all of our students who have performed to remarkably high standards and achieved their personal best throughout the year.

On behalf of the students and staff of Galston High School I would like to thank our families and wider community for their ongoing support of Galston High. Best wishes to families who may be leaving us and we look forward to welcoming our returning families in 2015 for another dynamic and fulfilling year.

May you all have a festive Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.
## Upcoming Events

### Week 1A
- **Monday 26 January**  
  Australia Day Public Holiday
- **Tuesday 27 January**  
  School Development Day
- **Wednesday 28 January**  
  Years 7, 11 & 12 commence  
  Welcome Assembly  
  WHS Committee Meeting  
  P&C Welcome BBQ
- **Thursday 29 January**  
  Years 8, 9 & 10 commence  
  Welcome Assembly
- **Friday 30 January**  
  House Assembly - Pd 4

### Week 2B
- **Monday 2 February**  
  PBEL Meeting  
  Swimming Carnival
- **Wednesday 4 February**  
  Year 7 Camp
- **Thursday 5 February**  
  Year 7 Camp
- **Friday 6 February**  
  Year 7 Camp  
  Music Excursion - Phantom

### Still to Come
- **Tuesday 10 February**  
  High Achievers’ Assembly 2015  
  Baseball Trials  
  Swimming Carnival IM 400m 7-8am
- **Wednesday 11 February**  
  Year 11 Assessment  
  Information Evening  
  Year 7 Club Italia Excursion
- **Friday 13 February**  
  House Leaders Training Day 2
- **Saturday 14 February**  
  Silver Duke of Ed
- **Sunday 15 February**  
  Silver Duke of Ed
This term Year 7 went to the beach to have a day of surfing and learning about the ocean.

When we got there we got split up into groups based on ability; in my group we did body boarding, I think we did it for about an hour and it was really fun, I enjoyed it because we got a mixture of theory and practical lesson, the best part about it was the swimming.

The next thing we did was boogie boarding; I really enjoyed this one and was probably my favourite because of the independent things we got to do like swimming around on our own.

We then went on to surfing and I enjoyed that too! We got instructors and a board each, they led us onto a wave and we surfed on the back to shore

Overall it was an amazing day and I would take the chance to do it again any day!

It was an awesome opportunity and I enjoyed it so much.

Thanks to the teachers who took us!!

Eloise Fuller
On Monday 24th November in excess of 100 Year 7 students headed to Long Reef beach to enjoy the many and varied water activities that the beach has to offer. In preparation the students had spent three days the previous week at Riverstone pool honing their swimming and water safety skills. In combination with six staff members namely Mrs Prior, Mr Cigana, Mrs Arnold, Mr Van Baarle, Miss Ciferson and Miss Smidt and the following Year 9/10 assistants including Harry Trethowan, Matt Clark, Jye Galainy, Shane Adorini, Shivana Mudaliar, Sam Thomson, Sarina Randoja, Claire Byrne and Abby Rust the groups had worked enthusiastically through the Lifesaving awards. On the final day an aquatic obstacle course was undertaken by all students as a fun and challenging way to conclude the program.

……….but back to the beach. After a quick stopover at Dee Why beach so the bus driver could remove a large amount of paint from the front of the vehicle as he tried unsuccessfully to negotiate a tight roundabout we were assembling at Long Reef beach doning our rash vests and collecting our surf and boogie boards. The troops were in high spirits as they headed down to the northern sections of the beach. Bags were placed on the nearby dunes and tips were delivered by a wide variety of instructors from the Manly surf school. The day was already very warm and everyone was keen to hit the refreshing water.

Our surfboard riders were soon paddling vigorously and trying to “pop up” successfully on the short shore break which wasn’t ideal for beginners. Grace Waters was one of the first to master the full stance with Sam Wright soon to follow. While waiting for their next ride most were frolicking in the water which was a beautiful temperature.

After what seemed like a very short duration our group was travelling down the beach to the Surf Awareness activities. Revision was undertaken pertaining to Water Safety and in particular “rips” before the group had some body surfing practice between the flags. Unfortunately the waves weren’t very big or powerful so catching them was proving difficult although one of the fuller waves managed to submerge Sarah Cairn’s ear which was a shame as she had bravely mastered the surfboards and was looking forward to the prospect of Boogie boarding. Sarah certainly deserved the courage award after perforating her eardrum the previous Wednesday she had used a combination of a swim cap and bluetac to enable her to be part of the day. Our group culminated their activities with a number of ambitious riders including Ben O’Leary and Lauren Mansfield. The fact that the instructors had to repeatedly blast their whistles to get us out of the water, it was testimony to the fun that the students were having, but, rehydration and refuelling was needed prior to reboarding the bus and taking the long haul back to school.

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Literacy & Numeracy Tips for Home

Tip #7 – Holiday Special

Travelling can be entertaining and educational. For this week’s special, we have Numeracy and Literacy tips.

Numeracy:

After finding out the distance to your destination, have your child calculate the fuel consumption and the total cost of the return trip. If flying, have your child calculate the cost per thousand kilometres.

Have your child compare the costs of driving and flying to see which one is more economical. This could lead to a discussion of cost and saving.

Literacy:

Listen to news broadcasts or a chat program on the radio with your child and discuss the issues raised.

Discuss advertising on billboards and in magazines, and their effect. What was the purpose? What ideas and points of view are presented?

Play word games by using number plates to create words and/or sentences.

We hope everyone has a safe and happy break!

- Literacy and Numeracy Team
On the 25th of November 2014, 5 local primary schools came and joined Galston High School to compete in the Galston Community of Schools Debating Challenge. As the children piled in at 9:15am, the excitement rose to a new level. Along with the local primary schools students, all the Galston High students that were participating were excited to get the day started.

The first topic of the day was that 'contact sport should be banned'. Many of the students were very passionate about this topic as a lot of them play a contact sport outside of school. With every team being so passionate about this topic it was a great round of debating.

After the first debate the teams went outside and had a recess break before they came inside to start preparing for their second debate of the day. This topic was 'that country life is better than city life' and many students who attended this day lived near or on acreage. This was a challenge and with this being the final decider, it was even more exciting. Every team enjoyed this debate and it was hard for the adjudicators to choose the winners, but in every round there can only be one winner. By the end of the second round, we found out who were our finalists: Kenthurst and Glenorie.

After we found out who was the finalist we had lunch. This was the first time the primary students got to walk around the school and talk to Galston students. After lunch, Kenthurst and Glenorie started preparing their debate. While they were preparing, all the other teams were talking to one another and cleaning their area. Everyone took their seats and the debate was opened by our chairperson, Claire Byrne in Year 9.

This was an amazing debate! Both teams put everything into this debate and in the end Kenthurst took the winning spot on the podium, declared by our two adjudicators Rae Borton and Ebony Norton. Even though Kenturst won, I think both teams were fantastic! After we found out who won, we had the awards ceremony which was great as everyone went home with a certificate. All in all, I think it was an amazing day and I know that I enjoyed it and I hope that all the students did too!

Paige Dowd
Year 10 Summer Dance Highlights...
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