Welcome back to Woniora for Term 4, our last and often busiest term of the year.

As most of you are already aware, Craig was placed in the role of relieving Learning & Engagement Officer at the Miranda Office in week 8 of term 3 and will remain in this role until the end of the year. In the interim, Joe and myself are sharing the role of relieving principal, and both Rani and Tilly will be sharing the role of relieving Assistant Principal. Craig will return to his position as Principal of Woniora Road School at the start of next year. He will still be popping into school during the term to visit the students, and he will also be taking part in our graduation ceremonies at the end of term.

Term 3 was a productive term (as this newsletter will attest to) in what has been a great year so far, and we will look to continue this trend right through until the end of the year. We have a busy calendar ahead with all the usual term 4 events: HSC exams, school camp, SDEHS graduation events, and our own graduation formal, as well as transition for all our graduating students, subject selections for next year and TAFE preparation. Naturally with all these events there will be many letters and permission notes, so keep an eye out for our notes and emails throughout the term.

There are no major changes to our academic and support program, and engagement programs are all running on their regular days. Last term we saw the visual arts and volunteering programs combine in the making of portraits of some of the residents of Fairmount Retirement Village. This culminated in an excursion with the residents and the students to see these works hanging in the Seaview Gallery at Dulwich Hill. This term will see further collaboration between engagement programs with the music, drama and Room 13 programs all teaming up for the creation of the spaceship ‘Woniora Cruiser’.

Finally, I would like to thank parents and carers for their continued time and support, whether it be in parent-teacher meetings or at the end of the phone. It is always a great way to share the progress of the students and plan together for their futures.

Danny Callaghan
Relieving Principal
Sydney Distance Education High School Awards (Term 3)

**HSIE:**
Michael M., Nick x2, Alecia x5, Andonis, Angela, Genevieve, Michael C., Paul B. x3, Finn x2, Reem, Alyssa x3, Georgia, Emily, Finn

** Maths:**
Nick, Alecia x3, Angela x2, John B. x4, Michael C., Genevieve, Paul B., Alyssa

**PDHPE:**
Alecia, Emily, John K., Genevieve, Michael C., Jazmin

**Food Tech:**
Angela

**English:**
Nick, Alecia x6, Andonis, Paul B. x3, Finn x2, Alyssa, Jasper, Anna

**Science:**
Michael M. x2, Andonis, Genevieve, Alyssa, Georgia

**Careers:**
Genevieve, Alyssa

**Visual Arts:**
Grace

**Building Construction:**
Michael M., Paul B.,

**Economics:**
Angela

**Biology:**
Amy

**Society & Culture:**
Natasha

**SLR:**
Sam, Jasper x3

**Bronze Award:**
Michael M., Andonis, Paul B., Finn

**Silver Award:**
Alyssa

**HSC Exams**
The much-anticipated HSC exams will begin in week 2 and conclude in week 5. Listed below are the dates on which exams for subjects our students are studying will take place at Woniora. Our presiding officer of the last few years, Richard Banner, will be returning to administer the exams. As always, we ask that others be respectful and keep their noise level down during the exams. Signs will be posted around exam room to remind everybody.

Our 6 students who will be sitting the exams have worked hard and have overcome significant challenges to be so near to the finishing line. We are proud of their efforts and wish them the best of luck in their final exams.

**HSC Exam Dates**
Monday 13th Oct: English 1 (10:20AM)
Tuesday 14th Oct: English 2 (9:25AM)
Wednesday 15th Oct: Ancient History (9:25AM), PD/H/PE (1:55PM)
Friday 17th Oct: Community and Family Studies (1:55PM)
Monday 20th Oct: Biology (9:25AM)
Tuesday 21st Oct: Modern History (9:25AM)
Thursday 23rd Oct: Business Studies (9:25AM), Senior Science (1:55PM)
Friday 31st Oct: Society & Culture (1:55PM)
Monday 3rd Nov: Food Technology (1:55PM)
Tuesday 4th Nov: Geography (9:25AM)
# School Calendar

## OCTOBER 2014

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<td>Gold Award Picnic Day</td>
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<td>St. George Youth Services</td>
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<td>Drama</td>
<td>Individual Art Session</td>
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Woniora Road School: Support and Engagement Programs Term 4 2014
Parent/Carer Information

For those who often travel by public transport, the NSW government has introduced a digital ticketing system known as the Opal card. Travelling with an Opal card will eliminate the need to queue for conventional tickets (which are still available), and also provides discounts for frequent travelling. Once activated, the card can be linked to a credit/debit card to automatically top up the balance to a preselected amount, or topped up at Opal card retailers. Student’s train passes for home to school are still eligible for travel but not beyond the designated stations. It is recommended that if possible parents/carers purchase an Opal card for their child. To purchase an Opal card, visit [https://www.opal.com.au/ordercard/](https://www.opal.com.au/ordercard/) or call 136 725. If you need any help in this matter please contact the school.

A number of parenting courses are being run in October through various agencies. Some of the courses are:

- ‘Making Stepfamilies Work’ ($150 per couple)
- ‘Parents Not Partners’ ($150 per person)
- ‘Talking Together and Fighting Fair’ ($150)
- ‘Being a Parent’ (free)
- ‘Parenting Teenagers’ ($30)
- ‘Tuning In To Teens’ ($60 per person or $80 per couple)

If you are interested in any of these courses or similar ones, please contact the school for more information.

October is Mental Health Month

The National Mental Health Month is in October each year. Mental Health Month is a period when health and community services concentrate their efforts on raising awareness of the depth and breadth of mental health issues that permeate our communities, and to offer education and support where possible. It is timed to coincide with World Mental Health Day, which fell on October 10.

St. George and Sutherland Mental Health Interagency is running a number of events during October, most of which are free. If you are interested in finding out more about these events, please contact the school and we can provide you with a full calendar and information about each event.

Student Representative Council

In term 4, we will begin the process of establishing a student representative council at Woniora Road School. SRCs offer students an opportunity to be active citizens of the school community and will add a formal channel for students to participate in the decision-making process of the school.

Nomination forms were handed out last term, but if you were absent on the day, you have not missed your chance to nominate someone you feel would represent the student population of our school well, be it the person sitting next to you, or even yourself!
Seaview Art Exhibition

In term 3, myself and a couple of other kids went on an art gallery excursion to Seaview Art Gallery. There we saw our art that we had done at Woniora Road School. There was also other kid’s artwork there. It was so cool to look at our art hanging on the walls. There were so many amazing creations made by so many artistic kids.

We also had residents from our local nursing home come visit the art as well. It was so great to see them and their smiles when they all saw the beautiful art. We took lots of photos.

Alecia Gunter, Year 10

Woniora Girls’ Day

On the 9th of September, Tilly and Joanne held a Girls’ Day at school with special guest Nina Funnell, who is a prominent commentator on cultural and gender issues and a state finalist of the Young Australian of the Year award.

The day began with icebreaker activities, including identifying similarities among everybody. Afterwards, Nina took over with a very informative workshop on body image and media manipulation.

Following a break for lunch, they relaxed with some yoga, and then took part in an interesting activity where each student pulled the names of two other girls out of a hat and selected a coloured ribbon which they felt best represented the qualities of those girls.

Some feedback from Nina and Joanne about the day:
“It was such a delight to have the opportunity to work with your wonderful students. It was so enjoyable for me to hear their perspectives and opinions and I was really delighted by how much knowledge there was already in the room. Wow! What a special group!”
“I personally was so impressed, the girls were so kind to one another and generous with their feedback. Their outlook and perspectives were so interesting! I felt as though they enjoyed the day and gained something from the discussions, not just from Nina but from one anther which was so great to see! I also received feedback from students about the workshop: ‘interesting and compelling’, ‘really relevant to my life’. Also, as always, group work seems to promote more work, discussions and ideas for future work; during the day the boys approached Tilly and myself many times requesting a boys group. Hope you all had a lovely and refreshing break!”
3-on-3 Basketball Tournament

On the last Thursday of term 3, the students of Woniora Road School played in a basketball tournament. At the end of every term, we split up into teams and play basketball against each other. The stage was set, teams made and named, and at about 11am we played our first game. Each team played 3 group stage matches with four of the five teams going to the semi-final. After our last group match, we put down the ball and had sausage sandwiches and drinks. After we had replenished ourselves, we started our first semi-final the winners of which would progress to the grand final. After we finished our two semi-finals, we were gearing up for the grand final. It was a good match, and as the final whistle blew the Gladiators (Nick, Grace and Adam) had won it by 5. It was a great day in which we had fun and got fit by running around all day.

Finn Durston, Year 9

School Planning

2015 marks the beginning of the next three year planning cycle for Woniora Road School. Our school community extends far beyond the boundaries of the school grounds, and we are looking to consult with all our community members to give them a say in our planning process. On the next page is a questionnaire asking parents/carers and community supporters for their vision for our school moving through the next few years. Your input is highly valued, so if these forms could be completed and returned to the school some time during this term, it will be greatly appreciated. If you are receiving this newsletter digitally and would like a hard copy of the forms, please contact the school. Alternatively, you can email your responses to woniorard-s.school@det.nsw.edu.au
We are currently undergoing a school evaluation and planning process in preparation for the 2015 School Plan. Woniora Road School values the support of parents, the school community, and partners, so we would like to invite you to contribute to our planning process.

Please respond to any of all of the following questions if you would like, so that we can include your ideas in our plans. Again, your contributions are highly valued and help to guide us in a direction that includes the perspectives of the wider school community. Once completed, please return the form to school.

What sort of school do you want Woniora Road School to be?
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What sort of students do you want the school to produce?
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What do you want our students to experience?
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What context are the students headed for beyond school, and are we currently preparing them for that?
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Are our teachers able to provide experiences that prepare our students adequately for life beyond school in the 21st century world?
________________________________________________________________________________________________
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Name: ______________________________________________________
Bunnings one day gave us wood and other materials to make billycarts with. When we started, Carly and Chris came out and helped us build the carts, which took 3 weeks to do. After that we got ready to paint them, and left them to dry. On the day, we got the billy karts out to race. I went first and not many people even considered racing. Heaney and I stacked it in the dirt but none of us got hurt. We weren’t racing for very long because they started to fall apart.

By Andonis, Year 9
**Bush Tucker at The Royal National Park**

On Thursday the 11th of September, 5 students from Woniora Road School went on a Bush Tucker excursion to the Royal National Park. We arrived at the education centre in the Park at about 10:30 where we met our Aboriginal guide Dave. Dave then took us to look at taxidermy animals to see if we could identify them. After that we learnt how to make rope from the plants and trees around us. We then went to the lookout, and along the way he explained what plants we could eat and their names and what not to eat.

After a nice walk to the lookout, we then went down to Audley to have lunch. After lunch, Dave (our very informative guide) took us on another walk where we ate bush currants and sarsaparilla leaves. We also learnt how to make “Bush Shampoo”. All in all it was a great excursion, very fun and informative.

Finn Durston, Year 9

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**Work Experience Report**

Working for Bunnings was a great experience and gave me a taste of how the workplace operates. I learnt how to serve and speak to customers, which boosted my confidence. I learnt about some building products and their uses which helped me out.

Starting there, I felt nervous as expected, but the friendly employees made me feel welcomed and comfortable. From the second week onwards it was a breeze. I would be more than happy to work there again.

Paul Bakas, Year 10
Girls’ Day Out

On the 15th of September, my fellow female peers and I attended the Girls’ Day Out for a bowling break in Darling Harbour. After an initial confusion with the location, we found the venue right at the waterfront, overlooked by the Spring sunshine and clear blue sky. It was perfect weather to have an event such as this!

Believe it or not, it was my first time bowling in my entire sixteen year old life—my first time ever. I began with continued gutter balls and sore, misplaced fingers. It was a skill to get around to the positioning of the three fingers in the bowling ball. After several attempts, I worked out which ball suited me the most and stayed with it. The bumpers were added in the second round, which really helped me achieve first place on the leader board. We had soft drinks for refreshment and pizza for lunch, which kept me in a lively mood. The girls and I bonded over either an astonishing strike or disappointing swerve to the gutter, but in the end it was always great fun.

I really enjoyed Girls Day out for 2014, as I have missed out on last years for an ‘important’ orthodontist appointment. It was a day full of excitement and I am already looking forward to next year’s Girls’ Day Out! 😊

Angela Shi, Year 10
For more information about our service, contact:

Craig Smith, Principal
Phone: 9580 6818
Fax: 9580 6376
Web: www.woniorard-s.schools.nsw.edu.au
Email: woniorard-s.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Address: Woniora Road School
83-85 Woniora Road
Hurstville, NSW 2220

Woniora Road School
Mission Statement

To provide a positive, supportive and engaging learning environment by promoting quality educational, student well-being and transition opportunities in which all students can develop academically, socially, and emotionally.

Woniora Road School is a place of learning that values and develops each student’s unique talents and academic potential. The school community relationships are built on mutual respect, tolerance, and understanding. We develop cooperative, social and problem-solving skills for students to become lifelong learners, and encourage students to develop a sense of responsibility, personal worth, and independence, so they are empowered to reach their full potential.