

# THE SPARK



Newsletter of Springside West Secondary College

Issue 05 - May 2019



## Key dates

29 May	Year 10 2020 Information night	13 June	Year 10 Examinations begin
10 June	Queens Birthday Public Holiday	17 June	Semester Two Begins
11 June	Year 11 Examinations begin	24 June	Year 10 Work Experience begins
12 June	GAT Examination	28 June	Final Day Term 2 - 1:15 pm finish

# Key items in this issue

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# Principal's Report

## Yard Duty

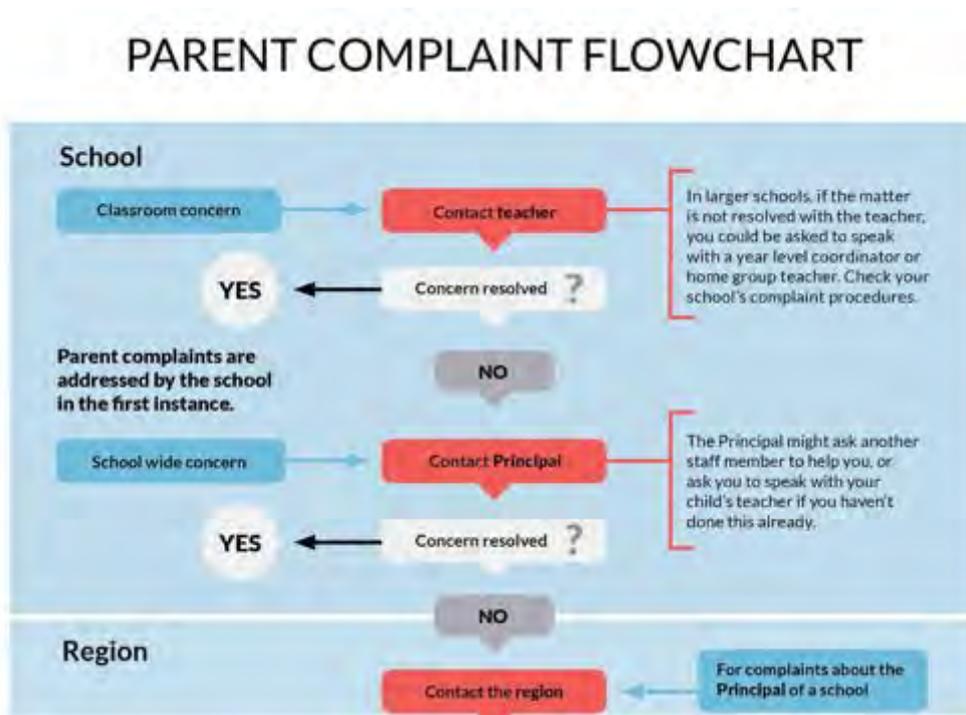
It is a practice at Springside West Secondary College to have two students each day perform yard clean up duties. This involves helping with the moving of the bins to and from the yard; assisting with day to day office tasks; doing general clean up close to the main school buildings; picking up rubbish in the yard(with tongs) and other basic duties to help with the running of the school.

Our value of Community- We treat all members of our community with respect and are responsible for our actions and environment- is something that we work hard to instil each day. By helping in this way students are able to make an important contribution to the smooth running of the school.

## Complaints

As a school we are open to feedback or complaints from parents at any time. Please remember to allow time for the school to investigate complaints and make an appointment if you wish to speak to a staff member.

The basic process is as follows:



In this flowchart, where it states contact teacher this refers to the Head of the Junior School, Jay Koeleman, or the Head of the Senior School, Kait Every.

## Contact with the school

All parents must make an appointment with a staff member they wish to speak to you, unless it is a basic over the counter inquiry. For reasons of occupational health and safety and student safety, no parent is to enter the school grounds without signing in and creating an appointment with the teacher or staff member. Please be aware that it may not be possible to meet with a staff member on the day of your inquiry.

Our priority at all times is the teaching of your child and the effective running of the school. It is not possible for teachers and office staff to respond immediately to all requests. We insist on courtesy, calmness, respect and reasonableness in all communications with staff at all times. If you are advised that the person you wish to speak to is unavailable they are likely attending to one of the many tasks required to keep the school functioning: teaching a class; on yard duty; managing a student behaviour issue; completing administrative tasks; attending professional development; planning lessons; correcting work. It is not possible for staff to simply drop everything to attend to a parent inquiry.

## Email communication

Springside West Secondary College values communication with families as an essential element in the education of students. Where the relationship with home is strong, students have an enhanced opportunity to experience success.

A process with regard to email communication with home needs to be balanced with reasonable expectations for a staff response time. This acknowledges that staff are busy teaching and attending to the many administrative tasks necessary for the school to function while also recognising the importance of prompt communication.

Protocols for staff email communication are:

- Staff will respond to inquiries within a week of receiving an email;
- Staff reserve the right to refer a matter to the relevant Year Level Coordinator or Principal Class Officer where the matter requires this level of response. Staff will advise the sender where this has been the response;
- Emails are subject to the same requirements of courtesy and consideration as would apply to other forms of communication, such as a letter or face-to-face conversation;
- Emails are not private and must be written with the understanding that other teachers, coordinators or wellbeing staff may see them;
- There is no expectation of staff to respond to emails after hours- after 4.15pm on weekdays and weekends.

**John Goodman | Foundation Principal**

# Strategic Review

Dear Fellow Parents,

My name is Yvonne Burgoine and I am your School Council President. I am writing to you today to encourage you to participate in a part of our Strategic Review process.

A Strategic Review takes place once every 4 years. It can be either a Self-Review or a Peer Review. This year we are undertaking a Self-Review. As a part of that process we would appreciate some feedback from our parent community. We are interested in your perception of the school and also your opinion of the school.

We love to hear positive feedback but we also want to hear from parents whose feedback might not be so positive. We need to hear from you. The feedback you give will play an important part in the direction that the school takes over the next 4 years and directly influences how we improve. As does the feedback from Students and Staff.

Please log on to compass and complete the short questionnaire. It will only take 3 minutes of your time.

Please help by participating and giving some feedback. The more people involved the better our data will be and the better our school will become.

I thank-you in advance for your time and participation in our Self-Review.

Kind Regards,

**Yvonne Burgoine | School Council President**  
Springside West Secondary College

# Curriculum News

## 2019 Maths Olympiads



This year, Springside West Secondary College students were given the chance to participate in the Australasian Problem Solving Mathematical Olympiads alongside schools from all over Australia, New Zealand and neighbouring countries. The Olympiad consists of five separate contests held approximately one month apart with the aim to encourage students to develop important mathematical problem solving skills in an enjoyable environment. The first of these rounds took place in Week 5 of this term.

2019 saw 156 teams and 3520 individuals take part. We want to congratulate the 48 Year Seven and Year Eight students from SWSC for signing up and giving the competition their very best. We still have four more rounds of the competition yet to come between now and September.

We are very proud of our students for challenging themselves and attempting this style of competition – this has been a great achievement in itself! We look forward to further participation from Springside West students in the future.



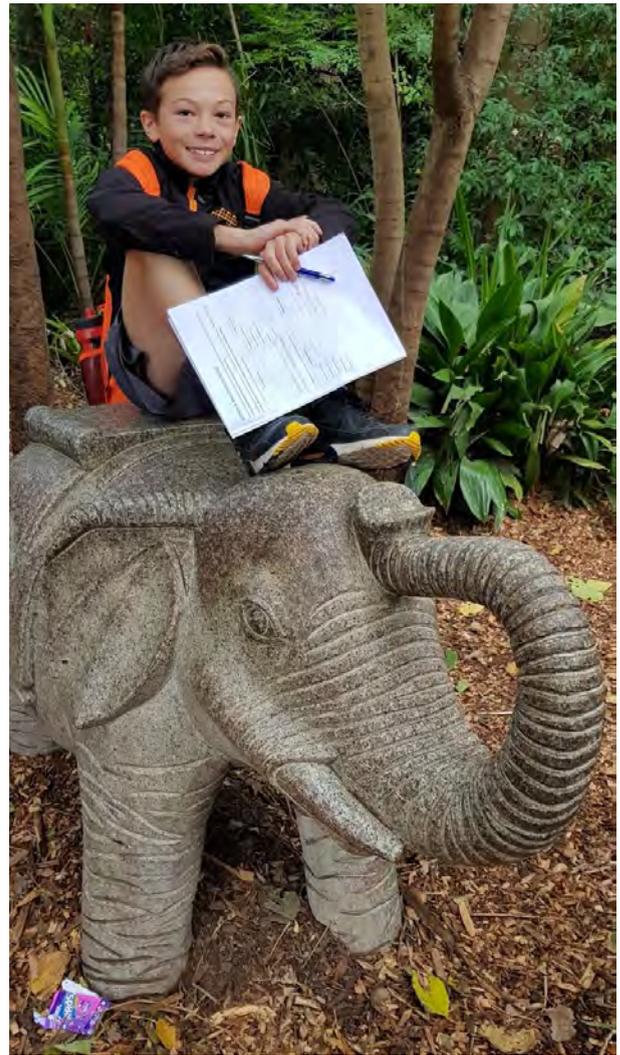
**Duong Nguyen | Head of Maths**

## Year 7 Zoo Excursion

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of April Year 7 students visited the Melbourne Zoo for science. Students visited the zoo to gain practical knowledge about the topic of classification, which was being studied by students in class.

All students reportedly had a great time and learnt valuable information about the animal kingdom and their habitat.

**Madhuri Pahwa | Head of Science**



## Wakakirri



42 students are a part of Springside West's first every Performing Arts Program, Wakakirri. Wakakirri is an Australian national Story-Dance festival for primary and Secondary schools that has been running since 1992. Wakakirri is a word from the Aboriginal Wangaaypuwan people meaning "to dance a story".

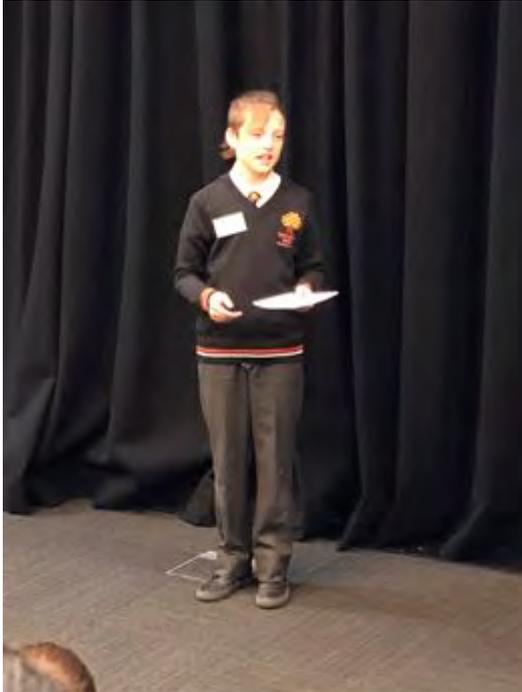
This year, students will be dancing the Dreamtime Story 'Min-na-wee (Why the crocodile rolls)' on July 26<sup>th</sup> at the Clocktower Centre in Moonee Ponds. We have chosen this story because Dreamtime Stories have amazing morals that are directly applicable to our modern lives. When selecting a story to retell, students were looking for something they can relate to. In the case of Min-na-wee, discussions began around retaliating to bullies. Min-na-wee looked different to the others in her tribe and as a result was always left out so she started to retaliate and this escalated tension within her tribe. Min-na-wee would react to being treated differently, then the other children would fight back, then she would cause more trouble, then she was punished and finally she called on the evil spirits to change her into a crocodile so she could get her revenge. Students were immediately able to see connections to this story and their own experiences at high school when dealing with bullies. Telling this story helps strengthen relationships between our school community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by creating an understanding of common experiences of young people.

During our Student Free Day, students gave up their morning to come to school and rehearse their performance showing incredible dedication to Wakakirri. Our backstage crew also came to help start creating our props from recycled boxes. Well done to all involved. We are all eager to see the show!

**Brooke Middleton | Head of Drama**

## WYNSPEAK 2019

On Tuesday the 28<sup>th</sup> of May, the final heat of the regional Wynspeak Competition took place at Lakeview Senior College. This is a public speaking competition that encourages students from the Western suburbs to perform in front of a panel of judges and their peers. There were a high calibre of students from a range of schools, including Bacchus Marsh College, Bacchus Marsh Grammar, Heathdale Christian College, Mackillop Catholic College, Southern Cross Grammar, Lakeview Senior College and Springside West Secondary College.



Ethan Warren from Year 7 and Khushi Randhawa from Year 8 proudly represented the College on the night. They both developed creative and original speeches that engaged the audience. Ethan's speech exploring the all too familiar conversation between parents and teens regarding the use of their technology had members of the Rotary Club approach him during intermission, commenting on how they could imagine the same conversation with their own children. Khushi's presentation expressed her concern about the One Nation party's attempt to soften Australia's gun control laws. In particular her critique of Pauline Hanson's policies resonated with both the audience and her peers. The MC of the night made reference back to her speech on numerous occasions and one of the senior presenters from Bacchus Marsh Grammar also mentioned her during the impromptu section of the evening.

At the end of night both students were excited about their experience and were already talking about being involved in the event next year. They received valuable feedback from panellists that will help them improve their confidence and ability to present in front of the public in the future.

**Megan Dreyar | Head of English**

## Election BBQ



On Saturday 18th May, School Council held an election BBQ to raise funds for the purchase of theatre lighting for our new school auditorium. With sunshine and blue skies, the weather was perfect and as the electoral race began to heat up, so too, did the grills on our barbecue. We cooked up a variety of delicious gourmet sausages accompanied by an assortment of drinks. With the smell of barbecue onions filling the air, steady streams of hungry voters came past to purchase their annual democracy sausage and the days efforts proved to be a success. Our team looked especially dashing in matching orange and grey, school-colored aprons that were lovingly crafted by our own Yvonne Burgoine.

Thank you to volunteers Marti, Sharon, Yvonne, Will, Katrina and Bobby for all their hard work on the day. A special thank you to local businesses, Rainbow Meats Caroline Springs, Coles Taylors Hill and Woolworths Watervale. The support of our local community is greatly appreciated.

**Parents and Friends | Margaret Kruc**

## Staff Profiles

**Brooke Middleton**



**Subject area and role within the school:**

Drama Teacher

**Previous schools you have worked in:**

I have taught ICT at Victoria University; Drama, EAL, BEAL and Media at Maribyrnong College and English and Drama at Staughton College.

**Reason(s) I became a teacher:** I became a teacher to impact students' lives the way my teachers impacted mine. I remember having an incredible teacher in high school who made all students feel important. I want to make others feel the way I did in that class. I truly believe that education is the most powerful tool anyone can possess. I love working with people and creating a culture of care for students. I have such a passion for Drama and English and teaching is the perfect opportunity to share that love and watch that passion grow in my students.

**Favourite foods:** My favourite food is potato in every possible form. I love hot chips, potato chips, roast potato, mash potato, baked potato, wedges, scalloped potatoes, potato skins, potato salad, gnocchi (which I am eating while writing this) etc... Basically, I love potato.

**Anna Henwood**



**Subject area and role within the school:**

Teacher of Italian language and culture, Grade 8 Homegroup teacher

**Previous schools you have worked in:**

Immanuel Lutheran Secondary College (Adelaide, SA) Tenison Woods College (Mt Gambier, SA) North Melbourne Primary School (Vic)

**Reason(s) I became a teacher:** Inspirational teachers have had a huge impact on my life and in many ways they have played a large role in my decision to teach over the years. My first teaching experience was actually as an instrumental music teacher while I was still a teenager, when a previous flute teacher asked me to teach some of her students. I then moved into language teaching a few years later while studying postgraduate music overseas, as a way to support myself in Italy for several years. I have also taught languages in Australia, most recently teaching Italian in a variety of school settings. For me personally, I love that moment when a student 'gets' something that they may have been struggling to understand. That's really a great moment as a teacher.

**Favourite interests away from work:** I love Harry Potter and going to the theatre. I saw Harry Potter and the Cursed Child this term and all I can say is magic is real!

**An interesting fact about you:** I am a published author. I have had four short stories published in literary journals and I have won a writers award for one of them.

**Favourite foods:** I panzerotti from my mum's hometown of Molfetta (Puglia) make it close to the top of my list, although I love all Italian food (except seafood or fish dishes). Palak paneer (Indian spinach and cheese curry) Chicken curry laksa. Strong coffee.

**Favourite interests away from work:** I love to travel and I love to read. Thankfully I can do both at the same time! I have enjoyed supporting and visiting as a volunteer a variety of development projects in Albania, Burma, India, Peru and Bolivia over the past ten years. I also enjoy long chats, walks on the beach and attending music concerts - it is much less stressful when you are not playing on stage!

**An interesting fact about you:** I don't remember ever liking seafood or fish, which is really a shame because there are people in my family with fishing licenses and some who even work in the fishing industry. I choose to miss out on rock lobster most Christmas lunches

\*\*\* MODI DI DIRE (Ways of saying things) in Italian \*\*\*

## 5. Raro come una mosca bianca

**Literally:** Rare as a white fly.

**Meaning:** As white flies do not exist, this expression is used to describe something or someone that is incredibly rare or uncommon.

**English equivalent:** Rare as gold. Rare as hen's teeth. Once in a blue moon.