Congratulations:
Helen Eade, Yr 10 and Xannie Gal, Yr 7 selected in the NSW Senior Singers Choral group - this is Helen’s sixth successive year in Singers NSW and Xannie’s second.
Aoi Hallam, Yr 8, selected in the NSW Wind Ensemble for the 2nd year playing the Saxophone.
Gabby Craven who has been selected to be the student guest speaker at the DET Anzac Ceremony on the 8th April.
Year 7 Student Representative Council recently elected: Lauren Brett, Susan Su, Molly Ulm, Torika Cakaunitabua.
All students and staff who contributed to the Red Cross for the Victorian Bushfire appeal - $2087 was raised by CGHS.
All students who made the Swimming Carnival such a big success.
Thanks to:
> School Captains and SRC President who attended the Regional Education Launch on February 26th.
> P and C who have agreed to fund a flat screen TV for the new Gym/Circuit room.
> Ms Jenkins, Ms Mawassi and Ms Fisher for giving up family time to attend the Year 7 Camp.
> SRC for organising the recent International Women's Day Special Assembly.
> Green DEAR for organising a successful Clean Up Australia Day event.
> Family members who supported the Knockout tennis team.
> Ms Hunter for organising a great Swimming Carnival.

A warm welcome to Ms Alice Magoffin, new permanent English Second Language teacher who comes to us from Homebush Boys HS.

GENERAL MEETING
The P & C is pleased to announce that the second meeting for 2009 of the Canterbury Girls High School P & C Association will be held in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting of the association.
Date: Wednesday 25 March, 2009
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Venue: Cantabrian Hall
P & C meetings are a great way of keeping up with what’s happening across the school
Come along and get involved in your daughter’s education.
For more information contact:
Dimity Flowers (Hon. President) 9558 6828 or Karen Goes (Hon Secretary) 9591 2313

EMAIL ADDRESSES
Please ensure your email address is current as email is the preferred communication used by Canterbury Girls High School. Please email your email address to:
Canterbury-h.School@det.nsw.edu.au
Our aim is to email the newsletter to the majority of parents by mid year.

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March, 2009
LEAD THE CHALLENGE
LEADERSHIP>EXCELLENCE>ACHIEVEMENT>DIVERSITY

Sara, Ivy, Ashanthi, Victoria, Amanda and Ms Holden at the Regional Education Launch at Angel Place.
Visual Arts Excursion to Wildlife World & Sydney Aquarium

On Friday 6th March, Year 9 Visual Arts class went to Darling Harbour to visit Wildlife World and Sydney Aquarium in preparation for designing our pots with an animal/aquatic theme. We learnt how art can be created by animals and assisted us in understanding different types of art forms our pots could take.

In Wildlife World my favourite animal was the cassowary, a large colourful bird and in the Sydney Aquarium my favourite was the shark. On behalf of the Year 9 Visual Art class I would like to thank Ms Caprin for providing us with this experience and organising the excursion.

Jasmin Mazloum
Year 9VA

Dance Ensembles

Dance auditions occurred in Week 2 of this term and due to the large number of enthusiastic dancers, two dance ensembles were formed for 2009. On Open Night, the combined ensembles participated in an open technique class conducted by Ms Hunter and Ms Dennis. This was the first of many opportunities the ensembles will have this year to display their skills to an audience. The focus for both the ensembles for the next 2 terms will be to develop a work for performance at the Sydney Region Dance Festival. Audition DVD’s for both the Festival and the Schools Spectacular are due at the beginning of April so, with the pressure on, all of the students have been working extremely hard to master new and challenging choreography set by Ms Hunter and Ms Dennis. Congratulations to the following girls who were selected for dance ensemble:-

Blue Ensemble: Jaz Reynolds, Grace Forbes, Kristie Vranjkovic, Maja Skundric, Barbara Nogo, Jessica Foley, Stella Healy, Rachael Bollard, Barbora Pekarova, Helen Eade, Daniela Kirchgasser, Keely Boyden, Eloise Jennings, Tara Smith, Caroline Badart-Prentice, Olivia Boyd, Jessica Cox, Christina Mitrevski, Paishen Martinez, Christina Schwartz, Natalie Martire


Choir

The Senior Choir has had a very busy start to the year. They were invited to be part of the Sydney Region Combined Schools Choir which performed at the official Sydney Region opening of the school year. For this, some of our girls joined singers from Fort St, Conservatorium of Music HS, Dulwich, Kingsgrove, Tempe and Sydney Secondary College to perform the opening number from Vivaldi’s well-known classic Gloria. They were accompanied by the Fort St HS String Ensemble. They performed at the City Recital Hall, Angel Place, on Thursday, 26th February, to a full house of Principals and education officials from the region. They were complimented by the Sydney Region Director of Education, Dr Phil Lambert, for their commitment, enthusiasm, musicality and inspirational performance.

They have now been invited to sing at the Opera House in August at a special concert involving Sydney Region’s 16 sister schools from China.

Congratulations to Xannie Gal (Yr 7), Rosana Sanchez (Yr 8), Gloria Lumanauw, Aumea Framhein (Yr 9), Helen Eade, Barbora Pekarova, Caroline Badart-Prentice, Eloise Jennings, Ianna Sunwu and Diane Chan (Yr 10) for being excellent representatives of our school.
Straight after the final all-day rehearsal for this performance these singers raced back to school to join the rest of the Senior Choir, who combined with the Junior Choir in an open rehearsal at our Open Night. This was the first opportunity for our new Yr 7 singers to perform for an audience and, despite having only had two lunchtime rehearsals, these girls impressed the visiting parents with their energy and beautiful singing. This open rehearsal was well-received by parents, with many staying longer than the scheduled time to hear the girls sing in 3-part harmony.

Congratulations to our new Junior Choir: Alissa Huang, Maisha Khandkar, Cynthia Nguyen, Jane Shin (7A), Linda Huynh, Angela Sihakim, Jennifer Truong (7C), Scout Eastment, Xannie Gal, Cindy Hoang, Holly Huynh, Sabina Kamarados, Jessica Nguyen, Lydia Qian, Isabelle Robinson, Elizabeth Vu (7G), Nafisa Abedin, Keelly Huang, Cecilia Wu (7N), Lulu Xing (8A), Tonni Natale (8C), Suha Mohamed Khair (8N).

After the success of the Senior Choir in last year’s Schools Spectacular, numbers have grown considerably in 2009, with many more students eager to participate in this amazing experience. We are now working on our audition piece, which needs to be ready by 9th April.

Congratulations to our new Senior Choir: Dimitra Kouris (8A), Rosana Sanchez (8N), Kristy Biuvanua, Justine Burgess, Aumea Framhein (9A), Julie Ann Lopinto, Lucy Panucci (9B), Natalie Gois, Fiona Haidar, Tupou Hui, Mele Kupu, Gloria Lumanaw, Gabby Noun, Raeanne Ruff (9C), Diana Chan, Helen Eade, Barbora Pekarova (10A), Eloise Jennings, Ianna Sunwu (10C), Caroline Badart-Prentice, Diana Jo, Caitlin Jurd, Nicole Salouros, Christina Schwartz (10D), Ria Andriani, Andreia Passos (Yr 11).

It is wonderful to see the interest, motivation and commitment displayed by the members of both choirs. Congratulations to all involved, and good luck for your up-coming auditions and performances.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS
APPLICATIONS FOR SCHOOL CERTIFICATE AND HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

Applications for students to be granted special provisions in these exams must be received at the school by April 5th. The Board of Studies considers these applications and advises schools if the special provisions are granted. The types of special provisions granted can include extra time, rest breaks, breaks to take medication or eat/drink (eg: for diabetics), a reader and/or writer to assist during the exam (for students with diagnosed language disorders), or separate supervision in approved circumstances. To be eligible for special provisions in an exam a student would generally have a physical or intellectual disability, or a diagnosed learning disability, or a medical condition. At Canterbury Girls High School we usually have several students in each of Years 10 and 12 whose applications are granted. Students who may be eligible should contact Mrs O’Sullivan in the Learning Support staffroom immediately for advice on the documentation which should be provided.

The CGHS Concert Band has had a very busy start to the school year. They have performed at the school’s High Achievers’ Assembly and conducted an open rehearsal at the school’s recent Open Night. With a great influx of new Year 7 members, the band has been working hard to prepare for its main performance for Term 1 – the combined schools ANZAC Ceremony at the Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL club on Tuesday, 7 April 2009. At this event, we will be featured alongside performances from Ashbury PS, Canterbury PS, Canterbury Sth PS, Canterbury Boys HS and Yeo Park. We have many more performances planned for 2009 and look forward to the continued support from the school, parents and community.

Any student interested in becoming a member of the CGHS School Band is welcome to join. See Mr. Wilkins for details.
Year 7 Camp

Milson Island, March 4-6 2009

Two busloads of excited girls departed at 7:45 am for their first Canterbury GHS camp. The weather was even better than perfect as we arrived at the Kangaroo Point Ferry Terminal, dragging oversized bags onto the ferry (some of the tiniest girls had the largest bags), where we set sail for Milson Island.

The girls were directed to lodges such as Possum, Koala, Platypus and a few in the Units and divided into Yellow, Orange and Purple activity groups.

The food was delicious and plentiful. Our girls were given opportunities to work in a commercial kitchen helping to feed and serve and wash up after our school as well as a Year Three group of girls also on camp.

Camp provided opportunities for friendships to be made or strengthened, for individuals to be challenged, and for new skills to be acquired. A huge thanks must also go to Ms Mawassi and Ms Fisher for their enthusiasm and commitment to the success of our camp, as well as sincere thanks to all Milson Island Staff.

Cathy Jenkins Y/A

Staff arranged for all girls to complete a swim test before moving off to a variety of activities over the next few days. Our girls took part in Rock Climbing, Kayaking, Low and High Ropes Courses, Initiative and Team-building activities such as Raft building, and Orienteering. Evening activities brought lots of laughter and enjoyment in structured activities hosted by experienced camp staff.
NETBALL AT SYLVANIA
We had a great day (and great weather) and the girls were well behaved. Unfortunately we lost in the preliminary round against Lucas Heights - we managed to pick-up six [6] goals in one quarter, and only ended up losing by two [2]. We played two [2] short games against Kingsgrove North and Alexandria Park (which we won), then a tired team only lost by three [3] points to Blackwattle Bay.

TEENNIS KNOCK OUT
On 19 February, four [4] intrepid girls from Canterbury Girls High School set out to play tennis against Randwick Girls High School. The day was oppressively hot and the opposition had several ranked players and although nervous we held our own. The morning was spent playing two sets of doubles and four sets of singles. After three hours, the score was tied. Samantha and Pearl played heroic tennis to keep Canterbury Girls High School in the match. Pearl again came to the tennis rescue by trouncing the opposition in her singles match. Mariam Hussein was a standout as someone who kept her nerve and never let the opposition into the match. Andrea our fourth seeded player found new aggression and did the team proud. After five hours of tennis the sets were still even! Canterbury Girls tennis team demonstrated all the attributes of young women meeting the challenge.

Team: Samantha Regas, Pearl Dadd-Daigle, Mariam Cheik Hussein and Andria Yaourtis.

The team is now ‘fired up’ and ready for next season’s knock out.

Andria Yaourtis

SCHOOL UNIFORM DRIVE
If you have any shirts, skirt, pants or shoes no longer of use - please consider donating them to our uniform pool. - Hand in at Office A.
Guest Speaker
International Women’s Day -

Judy Playfair

I have felt quite embarrassed and humbled by the SRC’s overwhelming gesture of inviting me to address you as the guest speaker at Canterbury GHS International Women’s Day Assembly.

We celebrate International Women’s Day around Australia with gatherings of women across generations to acknowledge individual achievements and to empower us as women to continue to work hard across all our fields of endeavour for you our future generations of women.

I have always felt ambivalent about it only being one day of the year. But it does help us focus on the history of the women’s movement and how hard those women had to fight to simply gain the right to vote. Further these women across nations were demanding equal pay and improvements in their working conditions.

Up until the early 1900’s women and children worked in appalling conditions in factories. In some parts of the third world still today women continue to work in appalling conditions and are treated as inferior citizens.

I imagine that you here today could not grasp the notion of an election day in Australia where only white males were allowed to vote. Thanks to those brave “suffragettes” way back in the late 1800’s who were at the time branded rat bags and crazy individuals now once you are 18 years old and have citizenship you have the responsibility to participate in our democratic process.

This invitation is indeed a compliment to me and has forced me to focus on my experiences, family and life. Just a short reflection on my life as a student in school and on my formal career in schools and with DET.

I was fortunate to attend a single sex girls school in Sydney. It was quite strict and formal and it had high expectations for all us students. My parents also had very high expectations for myself and siblings.

A lot of your behaviour comes from both family and school so this explains why as the Deputy here I have such high expectations for you all, (staff and students) My work here has been to support you all try your very best. Sadly for those who argue with me on school uniform matters you may be interested to know that as a Prefect at my school in the late 60s Prefects were rostered on gate duty to check uniform as girls arrived at school and then we held detentions for those who breached uniform code. Some things don’t change.

I struggled at times in school particularly because of the amount of time I spent training for swimming and frequently I nodded off in morning assemblies. At times my grades slipped and my reports created great angst at home. Most of my year in 1968 was spent training in heated pools, either in Sydney or then Queensland before we flew to Mexico City for the Olympic Games. This was a very exciting time in my life and I cherish my silver medal.

Ms Playfair still enjoying the pool at the recent carnival
When I was not selected in 1970 for the Commonwealth Games my life fell apart. I still remember vividly that afternoon when Mum picked me up to take me training and she had to tell me the news. The next few months were a blur and I finally retired from international swimming when I was still quite young and in Year 11. It was a controversial decision.

As a 17 year old I had to reinvent myself. My daily routine changed. I put on weight, I lost confidence and I had to learn how to be an adolescent somewhat late in life. I had to make new friends (my former ones were training and travelling overseas to compete) and I wanted to strengthen my family bonds.

Luckily we had some fantastic teachers at school who nurtured my identity and slowly I re-badged myself as a student who could achieve formally. I studied very hard. I had to catch up on so much work missed due to absences with swimming. But I transferred my ability to train hard into a rigorous study time-table and to every one’s amazement I graduated and earnt a place at University.

Across our school, state and nation there are many fine women who are much more high profile and have achieved much more. We are lucky to be living in such times with exemplary role models. Quentin Bryce our Governor General, for example. She’s a woman from rural Queensland, a grandmother who has been able to balance a successful family life with a remarkable public career in law and higher education.

Also too, is Marie Bashir who for years lived in the shadow of her husband a Wallaby and huge leader of one of our ethnic communities in Australia. Marie Bashir has balanced a successful career in Health with her large family commitments. She is NSW Governor and like Quentin is expected to attend many public functions, deliver lots of speeches and visit communities in need.

However even amongst our own learning community - here today we have many individuals who can be acknowledged for the way they work tirelessly for family and colleagues.

To all the staff who are mothers who manage the mornings, the breakfasts, the lunches and transport and then come in and facilitate great learning activities for you all. Then they go home to manage the clothes, homework and dinners, we thank you.

You all come from homes where sisters, aunties or mums carry out all these tasks for you and then in many cases go off to paid work as well.

Lots of you here also carry out these nurturing roles at home for younger brothers and sisters and families. The staff here acknowledge and respect those demands you carry on top of the learning that is expected of you here at school.

For all us women the true challenge is to balance the competing demands of paid work and careers with the most important role of nurturing our families. Its important that we value the diversity of contributions we all make and will continue to.

Women have the capacity to make huge contributions to society via their care for their families, their nurturing natures and their ability to communicate and influence others.

In a country such as our own in this city, Sydney, all of us are in a position to strive for our personal best, to learn well and to succeed in the world of paid work or further study.

As women we can influence the men in our lives to lead peaceful and constructive lives, free from violence and discrimination towards women.

Here at CGHS I am so proud of the culture of this learning community and how we support all of you to become strong, influential and independent young women.

When I leave I will miss you all.
TED NOFFS COUNSELLOR

Sarah Cox, Alcohol and other Drugs Counsellor, comes to the school each Friday from 9:00a.m. - 12.00 noon and is available to talk to students who:

* have questions about alcohol, cigarettes or other types of drugs
* are concerned about alcohol or other drug use of someone they know
* want accurate information

Students can make an appointment by dropping in to the counsellor’s office in the library any time Friday morning. Sarah can talk to students one on one, with a friend, or in small groups, and the service is confidential (*some limits to confidentiality apply which are discussed in the first session).

IMPORTANT DATES COMING UP

24.3.09 LEAPS Introduction Dinner
31.3.09 Parent Teacher Night - Years 7, 11 & 12
  Year 7 vaccinations
2.4.09 Auditions for MADD
3.4.09 Year 7 Egg Day
7.4.09 ANZAC Ceremony
9.4.09 MADD Quest
29.4.09 School resumes for students - Term 2
7.5.09 Athletics Carnival

EARTH HOUR

CGHS Lights OFF 2.10-3.10p.m.
27.3.09
Green DEAR Initiative

Photo’s courtesy of Ms Cateris, Ms Jenkins and Ms Hunter