HIGH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS IS PUT TOGETHER EACH TERM for parents and friends of the school to gain an inkling of the rich and diverse programme for the high school term.
HISTORY

Year 7/8 HISTORY - CONTACT AND COLONISATION
We begin with the question... *Whose history is visible? And then... Does it matter?* Close to home in Wentworth Falls there is a recent installation of a bronze bust commemorating Wentworth’s contribution to the “crossing of the Blue Mountains.” We also look across to Columbus’ arrival in the Americas. *Who remembers the name of the people he first encountered?* In this way, we explore the less visible perspectives of history.

This term we study contact history in North America and Australia. We identify the patterns and mindsets that are common to both in regard to contact and colonisation. We highlight the stories of resistance and the diverse and persistent ways people stand up against injustice. Students also follow their own choice of inquiry into some aspect of these times.

Year 9/10 HISTORY – CHANGING RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS
We begin by linking our previous study where we traced the ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity from France to the U.S. to Britain. We recall whose rights and freedoms were excluded in this first declaration that “all men are created equal.... “that is enshrined in the constitution. Then we look forward to post world war 2 and the present day to see what changed and what still needs addressing in regard to rights and freedoms for African Americans, Native Americans, women and the working poor. We study rights and freedoms established in the global impulse of the United Nations and the International Declaration of Human Rights. We dive into the exciting and terrible times of civil rights in the 60’s in America (and the refrain in the current Black Lives Matter movement). Then we study the parallel and equally exciting and shocking civil rights movement in Australia, from the freedom rides to the tent embassy, stolen generation to land rights. We highlight the methods, courage and persistence of the many who worked for rights and freedoms in both countries. Students follow an independent line of inquiry and bring their work to the class for peer teaching. We recognise through this study how we all stand in the stream of history making, the choices we make, our mindsets and world views, our actions for change are part of the river of justice making.
ENGLISH

Year 7/8

In English we have commenced the study of the Shakespearian tragedy “Romeo and Juliet”. While students will be working with Georgia on the performance of the play, I will be delving into comparing and contrasting Zeffirelli’s and Luhrmann’s directional versions of the play. We will look a bit more closely at the themes of the play and asking the question “How relevant are these works today?”

Year 9/10

A similar question will be posed with the year 9 and 10’s as we explore the notions of Dystopia, it’s appeal to young people and reflect Golding’s ideas as presented in Lord of the Flies. We are analysing more closely the role of symbolism and the use of archetypes in the novel and having discussions on the philosophy of life. Great term ahead!!

Working on a 2 stroke engine in practical science
**SCIENCE**

**Year 9/10**
This term they are studying how the elemental forces of fire and water work together in the steam engine. Also taking apart a 4-stroke lawn mower engine, and from this coming to a general understanding of how heat engines work. With the telephone we investigate the question of *how does our voice get across to the other side?*

**Year 7/8**
We are studying the circulatory system with its intrinsic rhythms, endocrine system, and skeletal system. With computers, acquiring some basic skills such as editing and file handling; also how graphics programming is able to create a virtual reality on the screen.

Gali designed and made a motorised go kart.
**MATHS**

**Year 7/8**

We will start the term with revision of directed numbers. Then onto geometry – triangles, quadrilaterals and their properties. We will revise percentages and carry on with the algebra topics we visited in term 2.

**Year 9/10**

For term 3 we are trying a different approach to learning. Each student will progress at their own pace through their own course. So there is no class teaching but a tutorial individual approach. At the end of each lesson each student picks questions which will help them to consolidate their new skills, this is their homework. We will cover measurement, algebra and probability.

For both groups we are going to create a learning wall. I always tell the students the best way to learn is to teach and actively encourage peer teaching. Our learning wall will have a small poster designed by each student. On the poster will be a problem that they have found challenging. When a smart phone or ipad is pointed at one of the posters, that image will link to a video, where the student has recorded the answer to the problem. This video is now viewed on the device pointed at the poster, all possible with an App called Aurasma.

**WOODWORK**

A group of high school students will embark on a woodwork project with carpenter Chris McHarg this term. The basic idea is to gain skills in woodworking, an understanding about wood as a precious resource and then turn out a project of their choice.

**MUSIC TUTORIALS**

Students participate in a choice of weekly singing, ukulele, violin and guitar tutes. They contribute their talents and repertoire to school events.

**MARTIAL ARTS**

Scott Brown and colleagues from ESSENTIAL SELF PROTECTION are running this fantastic practical course this term. It will cover present centred awareness and managing the stresses and risks in the adolescent phase of life.
CREATIVE ARTS

**Year 7/8**
This term class 7/8 are looking at how art can change the world! They will be developing either a poem or visual work about an issue of interest to them which they will have the opportunity to submit to the Nancy Shelly Peace Prize.

ART

**Year 7/8**
Drawing skills continuing – working with light and perspective.

**Year 9/10**
Oil painting of landscapes continues this term with an exhibition planned for open day.
VANUATU TRIP YEAR 9/10

This term we travel to Vanuatu, staying in a traditional Melanesian village on Pele Island where we will have the opportunity to visit a school, support a coral replanting project and engage with village life. On the mainland, Efate, we will then build a water tank with a Women’s Cooperative.

FOOD AND NUTRITION

Year 7/8 will focus on preparing delicious and healthy snacks as well learning about the nutritional demands of their own adolescent bodies. Sarah Worboys, naturopath and foodie is sharing her expertise in leading this class.
DRAMA

Years 7/8
Rehearsals are underway for the Year 7/8 production of Romeo & Juliet. We are building physical strength and fitness, developing stage combat skills and looking at new ways to use the performance space. One might not immediately associate Shakespeare with sweaty work, but it is when we do it! Students are currently gathering inspiration for design ideas and next week we will collaborate on the look and location of our story. Our script is an abridged version of Shakespeare’s play, cut down to about 30 minutes, but already students are suggesting pieces of the text that they want to see added back into our cut down version... a sign of a true appreciation for Shakespeare’s words and work.
JAPANESE

Traditional Japanese poetry Tanka --> Learn and create own Tanka. The first Tanka appears in Japan's oldest poetry collection of 4500 poems in 770AD.

Traditional buildings of medieval period; Temple, castle, tea room. Learn history, structure and purposes, significance --> Create their own buildings if time allows.

Tea Ceremony for Jade Friendship Tree Day
MUSIC

Year 7/8
Classical Indian music and its influence on contemporary world music.

Year 9/10
Completion of creative film and documentary edits for publication.
Creative and Nutritious Cooking

Warragamba Dam Field Work
Lorien Novalis School Science Visit