



Education

PUBLIC EDUCATION
FOUNDATION



2018 MINISTER'S AND SECRETARY'S AWARDS FOR

Excellence



Institute of
Public Administration
Australia NSW

Welcome

It's with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 2018 Minister's and Secretary's Awards for Excellence. These Awards showcase the best of NSW public education - our finest students, our most impressive schools and teachers, and our most committed employees and parents.

The Public Education Foundation's mission is to celebrate and support public schooling, and today's Awards do this in spades. The Foundation is delighted to manage the Awards on behalf of The Honourable Rob Stokes MP, Minister for Education & Mr Mark Scott AO, Secretary of the NSW Department of Education.

You'll hear today about many extraordinary achievements and initiatives from across the state, from the Sydney Story Factory in-residence program at Canterbury Boys High to a new model of HUB Learning at Kurri Kurri High in the Hunter Valley.

We will also show you something we're very proud of – a short clip from our new public education campaign, “Building Great Australian Lives”.

And finally, it would be remiss of me not to remind you that our 2019 student scholarship round is now open. We've got hundreds of scholarships to give away, and you've got to be in it to win it – so jump online and take a look!

David Hetherington
Executive Director,
Public Education Foundation



We are grateful to the IPAA NSW for sponsoring these awards.

IPAA NSW is the not-for-profit professional association for people who work in or with the public sector. Our members include staff from all current NSW Clusters, the NSW Public Service Commission, a range of Agency partners and individual members. We have more than 3,000 members and deliver services directly to a community of more than 12,000 customers across the NSW public sector. IPAA NSW facilitates high quality public administration and capability development across the public sector. We have strong partnerships with universities, training organisations and private sector organisations with specific public sector focused expertise. For more information visit: www.nsw.ipaa.org.au



Education

Order of Proceedings

Wednesday 29 August 2018
4-6pm
Lower Town Hall,
Sydney Town Hall

MC

Jane Caro

Acknowledgement of Country

Jaime Ribeiro – Northern Beaches
Secondary College, Mackellar Girls Campus

Opening Remarks

David Hetherington

Minister's Remarks

The Hon Rob Stokes MP,
Minister for Education

Presentations

Minister's Award for Excellence in Student
Achievement

Minister's Award for Excellence in Teaching

Performance

Your Song (Elton John)

Performed by Lachie Wheeler,
Orange High School

Secretary's Remarks

Mark Scott AO

Presentations

Secretary's Award for Excellent Service

Co-presented by Madeleine Culbert
CEO IPAA NSW

Secretary's Award for an Outstanding
School Initiative

Secretary's School Achievement Award

Parent of the Year Awards

Student Speech

Chloe Lawler and Callum Trethowan –
Galston High School

Performance

Smooth Criminal (Michael Jackson)

Performed by Marlena Stanhope (viola),
Conservatorium of Music, and Mina Scaratt
(cello), Newtown High School of the
Performing Arts

Afternoon Tea served

The Public Education Foundation thanks
students from Elderslie High School who have
volunteered their time as ushers at this event.

Award Recipients

2018 Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement

Recognising outstanding year 12 students who have excelled in their secondary years across academic excellence, sporting, cultural, community and leadership.

Mary Adams

St Johns Park High School

Vedant Agrawal

Prairiewood High School

John Bekiaris

Cumberland High School

Michelle Cheung

Fort Street High School

Vannia Coquis

Northern Beaches Secondary College - Mackellar Girls Campus

Riordan Davies

Lambton High School

William Dousha

Canterbury Boys High School

Eleanor Drury

Ulladulla High School

Ben Ellis

Inverell High School

Patrick Gleeson

Glenwood High School

Nathan Haurissa

North Sydney Boys High School

Georgia Hollens

Girraween High School

Hannah Jenkins

Elderslie High School

Abu Kebe

Wagga Wagga High School

Chloe Lawler

Galston High School

Clarissa Lazzaro

Strathfield Girls High School

David Long

Canterbury Boys High School

Dylan Maclou

Elderslie High School

Niamh McAdam

Denison College, Bathurst High Campus

Aidan McBurney

Denison College - Bathurst High Campus

Aleksandra Najdovska

Cumberland High School

Emily Parkes

Lambton High School

Ricky Rangra

Penrith Selective High School

Jaime Ribeiro

Northern Beaches Secondary College - Mackellar Girls Campus

Kireth Sandhu

North Sydney Boys High School

John Schnelle

Corowa High School

Elijah Smyth

Orange High School

Maxwell Sullivan

Kirrawee High School

Jessica Szakacs

Plumpton High School

Vignesh Thavalingam

Girraween High School

Callum Trethowan

Galston High School

Aidan Turner

Merrylands High School

Zali Van Der Veer

The Forest High School

Julian van Gerwen

Fort Street High School

Tarje Whitford

Ulladulla High School

Vivian Zhu

Sydney Girls High School

Sarah Grace Zia

Wagga Wagga High School

2018 Minister's Award for Excellence in Teaching

Recognising teachers who deliver the highest quality education to their students and contribute to their professional communities.

Kristie Banfield

Oran Park Public School

Penny Baxter

Revesby Public School

Zoe Crossingham

Elderslie High School

Brydie-Kate Cullen

Strathfield Girls High School

Kerrienne Fallon

Lansvale Public School

Julian Floriano

The Forest High School

Vanessa Jegers

Revesby Public School

Katrina Joss

James Fallon High School

Kerri Lacey

Kirrawee High School

Peita Mages

Orange High School

Jenny Perry

Campbelltown Performing Arts High School

Renee Pettit

Warilla High School

Kate Rogan

Orange High School

Julie Swain

Bulli High School

Jacqueline Thompson

Dubbo College - South Campus

Neil Thompson

Dubbo College - Delroy Campus

Scott Trenaman

Wagga Wagga High School

Alice Walters

Rutherford Technology High School

Vita Williams

The Hills School



2018 Secretary's Award for Excellent Service

Recognising NSW Department of Education employees who have shown outstanding effort in improving the quality of teaching and/or learning outcomes in the NSW Public Education Sector.

Solange Cruz

Merrylands East Public School

John Hambly

Warilla High School

Stephen Lidbetter

Thomas Reddall High School

Russell Lieschke

Mulwaree High School

Matthew Little

Forbes High School

Olivia Mackay

Hampden Park Public School

Tam Phan

Lansvale Public School

2018 Secretary's Award for Outstanding School Initiative

This award is presented to NSW public schools demonstrating, via a discreet program, event or initiative their commitment to teaching and learning outcomes, leadership, supporting the students and/or creating a sustainable learning environment.

Auburn North Public School

High Impact Teaching Strategies (HITS)

Campbelltown Performing Arts High School

Transformative Learning at CPAHS

Canterbury Boys High School

In-residence Partnership with Sydney Story Factory

Chifley College Shalvey Campus

Learning for Life

Condell Park High School

Daily Talk Time – an Autism Support Unit Initiative

Elderslie High School

Common Writing Platform

Glenmore Park Public School

Using Data and an Inquiry Mindset to Cater for the Whole-Child

Holroyd High School

Positive Parent Engagement Program

Kurri Kurri High School

HUB Learning at KKHS

Perthville Public School

Numeracy Continuum Groups

Revesby Public School

Growth Mindset Project

Revesby South Public School

Life Skills Program

Sir Joseph Banks High School

Power Up: An Explicit Course in Literacy

South Coogee Public School

Whole School Focus on Visible Learning

The Hills School

The Communication Passport

Thomas Reddall High School

Boyz 2 Men

2018 Secretary's School Achievement Award

This prestigious award recognises NSW public schools that have successfully created a sustainable learning environment through a project. Schools receiving this award must demonstrate significant improvement in learning outcomes and opportunities, excellence in student learning, maximising learning opportunities for all students as well as community leadership.

Auburn North Public School

Maximising Learning, Social and Emotional Outcomes for Refugee Students and Parents

Aurora College

Science in Stages 4 and 5

Dapto Public School

Quality Teaching Equals Successful Students

La Perouse Public School

Improving Identity within the Community

Lansvale Public School

Creating a Culture of Excellence

Sir Joseph Banks High School

SJBHS Student Services Team



2018 Public School Parent of the Year

The Public School Parent of the Year Award is a prestigious award presented to parents, guardians and caregivers who have made a significant contribution to their local NSW public school community.

Jo Finnelley

Kincumber Public School

Donalee Gregory

Wagga Wagga High School

Michael Hovey

Elderslie High School

Sam Hyratt

Campbellfield Public School

Kellie McFarlane

Revesby South Public School

Michael Nguyen

Harrington Street Public School

Michael Strugnell

The Forest High School



Building Great Australian Lives

The Public Education Foundation's 'Building Great Australian Lives' campaign underscores the importance of a strong public education system that delivers equal opportunity for all children to develop their abilities and reach their potential.

We are grateful to the NSW Department of Education and the Arts Unit for their contribution to this campaign.

"At the Public Education Foundation, we believe that public schools are an essential pillar of Australian society. Tens of millions of Australians have benefited from public education as a springboard to successful lives. We want to shine a light on this great national institution."

David Hetherington,
Public Education Foundation Executive Director.

"No matter how many times I watch this I still breathe deeply at a certain point and express my gratitude that as a public school teacher I get to make this impact every day."

Julie Ross, Principal NSW Department of Education

"Whatever I do is a testament to the quality of the NSW public education system. I wouldn't be where I am if it weren't for the government support I had for my education. We have to protect that same opportunity for every Australian #PublicEducation #ProudlyPublic"

Jen Robinson, International Jurist,
Human Rights Advocate

"I'm publicly educated and my kids are publicly educated. Happy #EdWeek18 to all the wonderful teachers and staff who work in #PublicEducation"

Verity Firth, Former NSW Education Minister



"I love watching your evolution Craig – from a rather naughty boy to a deep thinking "waste guru" still retaining that edge of naughtiness. What an inspiring lesson to others!"

Barbara Elkins (Facebook)

"I love the last comment. Spot on about values. If we want leaders who really get inclusion, choose people who went to public schools. If you want your kids to understand diversity, choose a public school"

Sonia Mussawir (Facebook)

"Thanks for being a wonderful ambassador for public education, Justice Michael Kirby."

Heather (Facebook)



Please continue to share on social media:
publiceducationfoundation.org.au/campaign
#ProudlyPublic #PublicEducation

Schools Spectacular: The Greatest 2018

Schools Spectacular is an outstanding showcase of the talent in NSW public schools. In terms of sheer size, scale and scope, Schools Spectacular is unequalled in the world with a 2700-strong choir, 2300 diverse dancers, an 80-piece symphony orchestra, a world-class stage band and a huge number of outstanding solo performers.

This iconic cultural event engages and showcases students of varying ages, cultures, skills and socio-economic backgrounds; from metropolitan, rural and remote regions of NSW.

Schools Spectacular 2018 will be held at Qudos Bank Arena, Sydney Olympic Park on the 23rd and 24th of November.

Tickets on sale now:
www.schoolsspectacular.com.au/the-show/tickets



The Arts Unit provides students and teachers with highly motivating and engaging opportunities that inspire their creative potential. The Unit delivers programs throughout NSW in dance, drama, music, visual arts, debating, public speaking, reading, spelling and special events.

Our arts and literacy programs aim to:

- enhance student achievement in and beyond the classroom
- build teacher capacity and leadership
- showcase excellence

Every year more than 44,000 students and 6,000 teachers directly participate in Arts Unit programs across NSW, and an additional 433,000 students benefit from associated teaching and learning resources and activities.

For more information telephone (02) 8512 1100
or visit www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au





MINISTER'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

RECIPIENT CITATIONS

Mary Adams

St Johns Park High School

Mary is an outstanding student who has demonstrated excellent achievement and motivation to succeed. She is the 2018 School Captain. Mary is ranked first in all her subjects. She has received The University of Sydney Outstanding Academic Excellence award in year 10 and The Western Sydney University Academy Access Award: Recognising Academic Excellence, Leadership and Commitment to Community in year 11. She is kind natured and participates enthusiastically in all aspects of school life including athletics, cross-country, swimming carnivals, multicultural day celebrations. She is highly ethical and is always guided by her personal integrity and strong values in carrying out her responsibilities as school captain.

Vedant Agrawal

Prairiewood High School

Vedant is a 2018 School Prefect of Prairiewood High School. He has achieved excellence across multiple areas of his school and sporting life. Academically, he ranks first in Biology and PDHPE within the cohort, and has achieved outstanding results in Extensions Mathematics and Advanced English. Sporting-wise, Vedant is an elite cricketer competing at State and National levels. To be able to perform to such a high standard whilst undertaking the HSC demonstrates his dedication to task and drive to achieve his goals. Vedant is an active participant in the school's leadership programs, where he demonstrates a strong focus on whole school community engagement and 'service beyond self'.

John Bekiaris

Cumberland High School

John is an outstanding student who has excelled in leadership, the attainment of academic excellence, sporting and cultural achievements. John has performed in the top 5% of students across all his subjects of study including a 3rd in Modern History, 2nd in Chemistry and Mathematics and 1st in Modern Greek. In addition

to his outstanding academic successes, John has also excelled in sport. In 2017/2018, he was awarded the position of School Captain in recognition of his outstanding academic achievements and commitment to extra-curricular activities. He is a driven young man who is also involved in the broader community and is a strong advocate for humanitarian causes.

Michelle Cheung

Fort Street High School

Michelle is a remarkable young woman who has demonstrated excellence across a wide range of academic and co-curricular activities. She has been a consistently outstanding achiever, a very active member of the school's SRC and was voted by her peers to be the school's voice on the governance committee. She also represented NSW secondary school students as part of Secretary for a Day and participated in the Education Department's Senior Executive Leadership Development Program. She is involved in a number of mentoring programs and has achieved distinction as a pianist. Michelle demonstrates the highest levels of public education values: integrity, resilience responsibility and cooperation.

Vannia Coquis

Northern Beaches Secondary College, Mackellar Girls Campus

Vannia is a strong and intuitive leader, a highly valued team player and an outstanding role model in her community. She is well known for her ability to lead in a friendly, fair, caring and inclusive manner. Vannia has demonstrated her exceptional leadership skills in numerous leadership positions both at school and in the broader community. She has led the school and Prefect body as School Captain with absolute distinction. Throughout Years 7-12, she has attained the highest academic accolades, for excellence and her commitment to giving of her personal best. Vannia consistently displays the strongest integrity and responsibility.

Riordan Davies **Lambton High School**

Riordan is a highly motivated student who approaches his work with dedication and an enquiring mind. He has received the Lambton High School Academic Excellence Medal, every year since year 7, for commitment to learning and academic excellence. He was elected School Captain because of his leadership skills and ability to foster positive relationships. His many achievements include a member of the Senior Debating Team, a member of the Model United Nations for Rotary 2017 and a member of the Newcastle City Youth Council. He's also the school's 2018 cross country age champion, has held various SRC leadership roles and was selected for Secretary for the Day Leadership Program in 2017.

William Dousha **Canterbury Boys High School**

William is an extraordinary young man. He is the School Captain at Canterbury Boys High School and has excelled across all areas. William is involved in a range of school, sports and community activities. He has been active as a Prefect and in the Student Representative Council, involved in White Ribbon and ANZAC Day initiatives, volunteers for Aged Care in Ashfield and helped raise funds for the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal. He has taken an active role in various school and community multicultural events and is an excellent ambassador for Public Education. William consistently demonstrates fairness and compassion, ensuring all students have the ability to succeed.

Eleanor Drury **Ulladulla High School**

Eleanor is the 2017-18 School Captain, a timely recognition of the incredible contribution she has made to the school as a female leader. She achieves in the top 10% of her cohort across her academic subjects. She has worked with the SRC team since year 7 and contributed to a number of initiatives including RUOK Day, White Ribbon Awareness, Sorry Day and Clean Up Australia Day. She was a member of the winning 2017 NSW Naidoc Public Speaking and Debating competition last year and was awarded a Shoalhaven International Women's Award for her contribution to anti-bullying campaigns. She also has a passion and strong ability in Rugby League and Surf Lifesaving.

Ben Ellis **Inverell High School**

Ben is an outstanding student who has maintained an excellent standard of achievement in all his subjects. He has been the top ranking student in his year group in every year since year 8 and has always had a keen interest and aptitude for the sciences and technology. Ben was awarded a High Distinction in the Royal Australian Chemical Institute, Australian National Chemistry Quiz in 2017. He is a keen sportsman who has represented the school in cricket, softball, basketball, table tennis and chess. He currently holds the office of Vice Captain. He is an excellent role model for other students and displays a deep understanding of the principles of democracy.

Patrick Gleeson **Glenwood High School**

Patrick is a born leader who has demonstrated outstanding academic and sporting success. He is the 2018 School Captain, a gifted public speaker and debater and has been an active member of the SRC since Year 8. He is an exceptional representative athlete and demonstrates great sportsmanship, culminating in his recipiency of Blacktown Council's Junior Sportsperson of the Year. A Blacktown Youth Ambassador of the Year in 2017, Patrick performed his role with distinction and extended his already unswerving commitment to local charities. He has also been recognised by the NSW/ACT Young Achievers Awards for his contribution to community service.

Nathan Haurissa **North Sydney Boys High School**

Nathan is an outstanding individual and a true all-rounder. Academically, Nathan has thrived. As a learner, Nathan is collaborative and collegial, working with other students to boost their confidence and understanding of the content being studied. Nathan has also shown his ability as a sportsman, notably as a long-distance runner and an avid hockey player. He has been an active member of the Charities Committee from years 8-11 where he organised a number of fundraising events. He was elected by his peers to be the school's Vice-Captain. Prior to this he was the Vice-President of the SRC and a Sports Vice-Captain. These leadership roles reflect the respect and admiration Nathan's peers have for him.

Georgia Hollens

Girraween High School

Georgia has consistently applied herself to her studies with dedication and enthusiasm. Her commitment to her studies has allowed her to achieve outstanding results even though she has had to overcome many personal hardships. This dedication has been extended to her sporting achievements where she was elected the Girraween High School Senior Sportswoman of the Year in 2017. Her dedication to the school and her peers is evident through her commitment to her varied roles and, in particular, as Prefect in 2017, President of the SRC for 2017-18, and as Peer Support Leader in 2016 where she assisted younger students with challenges encountered in daily school life.

Hannah Jenkins

Elderslie High School

Hannah is an outstanding student who displays excellence in academic and cultural achievements and has been a valued school leader for six years. She is a quite achiever who has achieved first place in Science, Agriculture and Textiles for four consecutive years. Hannah was selected as one of 54 female scientists across the country to attend the ANU's Curious Minds Camp. She's an accomplished musician, an excellent textile designer and a keen student of Agriculture. She has volunteered countless hours and mentored students at the high school's animal nursery at Cobbitty Markets and received numerous awards for poultry handling and breeding.

Abu Kebe

Wagga Wagga High School

Since his arrival in Australia in 2013 from Sierra Leone, Abu has consistently strived for excellence as a student and a performer. He is consistently a positive role model for all students, including the approximately 100 students of a refugee background at Wagga Wagga High School. As 2018 School Vice-Captain, Abu has been a role model and an inclusive leader who is highly regarded by students, staff and members of the community. He has a passion for the performing arts and was one of three students to be awarded a John Bell Scholarship in 2018. Abu has maintained his impressive academic record while immersing himself in all areas of school life.

Chloe Lawler

Galston High School

Chloe is, foremost, a wonderfully well-rounded individual who enjoys and excels at all she attempts whether this be in the classroom or sporting field, as a leader of and role model for her peers or within the

wider community. Chloe readily and enthusiastically dedicates herself to her commitments. Academically, Chloe is currently ranked within the top five of all her subjects. As School Captain she represents the school in a multitude of community events such as Anzac Day Ceremonies and other community events. Her ability to incorporate others' opinions and views into her own ensure she is a respected leader and effective agent for change.

Clarissa Lazzaro

Strathfield Girls High School

Clarissa is an outstanding student who is a quiet achiever with a focus on perfection. She has achieved outstanding results through high school and has developed deep understanding of her HSC courses as evident by her achievement of an extraordinarily high standard in her subjects. Clarissa has outstanding leadership skills, demonstrating initiative, strong organisational skills, superior communication skills, especially in public speaking and an ability to generate enthusiasm which strengthens team work. As an exemplary role model, she inspires her peers and encourages them to strive for their best and pursue values such as respect, responsibility and integrity.

David Long

Canterbury Boys High School

David displays excellence and integrity in all he attempts. He participated in the Compressed Curriculum mode of HSC, achieving Band 6 in HSC Mathematics as an accelerated Year 10 student. In 2017, David achieved 1st place in Advanced English and Extension 1 & 2 Mathematics. He is a natural leader and displays core values in all he attempts. He's a well-respected role model to students, staff and the community. As a prefect he demonstrates the core values of participation, care and compassion. David represented the school in soccer across the junior years 7-10. He also displays cultural connectedness through his participation in Cantervale, the school's multicultural festival.

Dylan Maclou

Elderslie High School

Dylan demonstrates high standards of excellence in his academic achievements, in his commitment to public education and through his outstanding qualities as a school leader. He conducts himself with exceptional maturity and ethical principles in all of his endeavours. As School Captain, he can be relied upon to carry out his responsibilities above and beyond all expectations. Academically Dylan excels and was ranked the most outstanding student in Year 11. He has represented the school at regional and state debating championships

and was selected to participate in the Department of Education's Secretary for a Day program. He has also been a strong voice and advocate for LGBT students within the school.

Niamh McAdam

Denison College - Bathurst High Campus

Niamh has consistently been placed in the top bands of achievement throughout her years at Primary and Secondary School. Her dedication and positive attitude to school, community, her music pursuits, debating, academic learning and sport life are exceptional. As Captain of Denison College of Secondary Education she has lead and managed her peers with outstanding application and commitment. She participated in the NSW Department of Education's Secretary for a Day program and was one of 200 delegates to attend the prestigious Space Program in Alabama. She has a strong sense of social justice and fair treatment at both school and in the community.

Aidan McBurney

Denison College - Bathurst High Campus

A highly capable and diligent student, Aidan is able to apply himself to his studies across all levels whilst balancing his many leadership roles and extra curricula activities. He has demonstrated sporting excellence, representing the school at swimming, cross country, cricket, AFL and athletics at regional and state levels. He also plays multiple instruments and has participated in the School Spectacular, State Wind Ensemble and the Australian Institute of Music Studio Youth Orchestra. He's a born leader with passion, fairness, ethical and moral standing. As School Captain he consistently goes above and beyond the normal leadership duties, carrying out tasks in a calm, cooperative and respectful manner.

Aleksandra Najdovska

Cumberland High School

Aleksandra is an exceptional young Australian who has demonstrated that success flourishes not just from achieving academic excellence but also from outstanding character and consistent contribution to school culture and community initiatives. As School Captain, Aleksandra's dynamism, integrity and exceptional leadership skills in areas such as school representation, music, sport and dedicated community service have enabled Aleksandra to emerge a highly respected leader. She coordinates community-based fundraising initiatives, demonstrates excellent sportsmanship, is involved in mentoring younger students and contributes to the school's positive reputation within the community.

Emily Parkes

Lambton High School

Emily is a highly motivated and capable student performing at an exemplary level in her HSC studies. She has received the school's Academic Excellence Medal and Recognition of Student Excellence Awards from year 7 – 12 and numerous other academic accolades. She's a talented sports person who has represented the school at rowing, AFL and soccer. She is also an accomplished musician and artist who volunteers her time at school and community events. As Prefect and peer support leader, she consistently displays cooperation, care and fairness in many group roles and tasks. She cooperates with other prefects and students to ensure fairness and effective teamwork.

Ricky Rangra

Penrith Selective High School

Ricky is an all-rounder whose contribution to Penrith Selective High School through his leadership, community involvement, sporting accomplishments and academic performance have been of high value. He has been a Peer Support Leader and involved in the High Resolves Leadership Program, raising awareness about racism. He a skilful public speaking and has won numerous debating and public speaking competitions. Ricky has also represented the school in cricket, orienteering, netball and cross-country. He founded a charity named 'The Care Package Project Sydney' with 16 friends from schools around NSW, raising \$926 for homeless people. He has volunteered for the Cancer Council, Anzac Day and Legacy and actively encourages youth advocacy.

Jaime Ribeiro

Northern Beaches Secondary College, Mackellar Girls Campus

Jaime is a truly outstanding student. As School Captain, Jaime consistently demonstrates the strongest leadership, integrity and responsibility. Jaime has the distinction of being the recipient of the NSW Student Leadership Award for indigenous students in the Nanga Mai Awards. She's an elite sportswoman who excels at swimming, cricket and surfing. As a skilled public speaker, she has been called upon to represent the school at community events and she is involved in various charities including UNICEF and Aboriginal Literacy. She continually gives back to her peers, her school and her community while demonstrating all the values of NSW Public Schools.

Kireth Sandhu

North Sydney Boys High School

Kireth is a diligent and conscientious student who has maintained consistent academic achievements during his high school years. He has upheld academic excellence whilst being wholly engaged in the life of the school. Kireth has distinguished himself in hockey, both as a player and captain of various teams, during his 6 years at the school. He is an accomplished debater and drummer. He displays outstanding leadership qualities and was voted Senior Prefect for 2018. He consistently serves his school and community and over the years he has taken part in various community events including the Red Shield Door Knock Appeal, Anzac and Remembrance Day Services and Daffodil Day.

John Schnelle

Corowa High School

Throughout his time at Corowa High School, John has proved himself to be an outstanding ambassador and role model for public education. He has consistently endeavoured to achieve at the highest level in all aspects of his school life. John is a member of the SRC and was chosen by his peers to be the 2018 School Captain. His hard work and dedication have brought him many accolades including the Victor Chang School Science Award and the LaTrobe University Young Writers Award. He has passion for all sport and has represented the school in swimming, cross-country, athletics, AFL, cricket and tennis consistently since year 7.

Elijah Smyth

Orange High School

Elijah is an exemplary student who has demonstrated excellence across many areas during his 6 years at Orange High School, including academic excellence, school and regional sports representation and leadership. Elijah has been a recognised leader, culminating in him being elected School Captain in 2018. He is an excellent role model for sports people in his school and community and has excelled particularly in Rugby League. He has been recognised as an outstanding young leader by the Orange Aboriginal Education Consultative Group and contributed to “The Deadly Times” a school initiated Indigenous newspaper that showcases the achievements of local Indigenous students.

Maxwell Sullivan

Kirrawee High School

Max has shown himself to be a motivated, confident and empathic student who actively supports school values and social justice issues. He is currently the school's Vice Captain and has represented the school

in basketball and zone athletics. He has a very strong work ethic, which is clearly evident through the high standards of achievement within and beyond the classroom. For his mid-year report, Max was ranked first in Physics and in Engineering Studies. He has planned and implemented numerous events and fundraisers for school and community. He believes that it is important to build resilience in younger students and has assisted in welfare programs to achieve this goal.

Jessica Szakacs

Plumpton High School

Jessica is an exceptional student and leader within the school and the wider community. She actively displays the values of integrity and respect within her work with juniors and the SRC. She has shown her qualities of participation and cooperation with her work as the Blacktown Youth Advisor. Academically, Jessica has attained Dux of her grade for years 7, 9, 10 and 11. She is a keen public speaker and was selected to speak at a symposium in front of school principals and CEOs about the future of education. Jessica was also awarded the Victor Chang science award for her high achievement in biology and chemistry.

Vignesh Thavalingam

Girraween High School

Vignesh is an enthusiastic and conscientious student who has applied himself diligently to his secondary education. His dedication is reflected by his outstanding results in different subject areas and achievement of prestigious Year Adviser Awards throughout his schooling. Vignesh is House Sports Leader and a Prefect at Girraween High. He has represented the school in various sports including cricket, soccer, touch football and running. He displays exceptional leadership skills in organising whole school events and leadership initiatives. Vignesh has strongly demonstrated his ability to balance his academic studies with his roles in both the sporting and leadership domains in this highly competitive selective school environment.

Callum Trethowan

Galston High School

Callum is an energetic young man who shares his enthusiasm for all he undertakes with those around him, inspiring both himself and others to work towards their personal best. His tenacity of spirit translates into an individual who relishes challenge and brings his competitive drive to achieve to the classroom, the sporting field and the wider community. He is a keen sportsman, excelling across a variety of athletic

pursuits, particularly swimming and triathlons. He is deeply engaged in the school and wider community, performing valuable service as this year's School Captain and upholding the school values of respect, responsibility, resilience and excellence.

Aidan Turner **Merrylands High School**

Aidan is a dedicated student who has maintained impressive outcomes in his studies since commencing high school. He has always shown impeccable leadership skills and is involved in numerous leadership program such as the Women's White Ribbon Leadership Program and the Digital Leaders Program. His election as School Captain is a clear symbol of the respect his teachers and fellow students have for him. He has represented NSW at the men's netball competition and raised awareness that any sport can be played by any gender. He has featured on TV programs such as Q&A and Insight providing effective feedback on improving the education system for future generations.

Zali Van der Veer **Forest High School**

Zali is an outstanding young woman who possesses strong leadership skills and a likeable and caring personality. Her involvement in a wide range of school activities and excellent communication skills resulted in her election to the important position of School Captain for 2018. She consistently strives for excellence in her accomplishments, whether in her academic studies, leadership roles or her drama and music endeavours. Her high moral compass is the cornerstone of how she conducts her life. Zali embodies the values of respect, compassion, generosity and cooperation in her ability to engage with those in the school community.

Julian van Gerwen **Fort Street High School**

Julian's academic results are outstanding. He was Dux of his year last year and as a Year 11 accelerant, Julian came first in the state for HSC Mathematics and Mathematics Extension 1. He is heavily involved in initiating and leading charity work including raising over \$25,000 for the World's Greatest Shave. He also mentors junior students and supports his peers in HSC study groups. Julian plays French horn and is a member of the Fort Street Chamber Choir. He is genuinely collaborative and democratic and instinctively knows how to bring out the best in others. He is an extraordinary role model for his peers and younger students.

Tarje Whitford **Ulladulla High School**

Tarje is an outstanding young man. He is the 2017-2018 School Captain. He was voted by both Students and staff to be the school leader and he has been on the SRC since he joined the school in Year 7. He has a kind, caring and authentic demeanor which has been invaluable in achieving a positive impact across the school. He is consistent, committed, highly supportive and able to build leaders within the school. In 2017 Tarje was named Young Shoalhaven Sports Person for his dedication to his sport, his school and Surf Life Saving.

Vivian Zhu **Sydney Girls High School**

Vivian Zhu is an exceptional student at Sydney Girls High and has been consistently outstanding over her six years in the school. She has established a reputation as a young woman who values opportunities afforded to her and accepts the challenges for growth and learning through a range of different endeavours: Music, Debating, Classical and Modern Languages study in Latin and Chinese and Public Speaking. Vivian has shown strength and courage to address the under representation of women of Chinese heritage in positions of influence. As a person of integrity who holds high concepts of social justice, Vivian is a collaborator who works for the good of the whole group.

Sarah Grace Zia **Wagga Wagga High School**

Sarah Grace is a highly respected student who has been elected School Captain for 2018. She is a committed student who has worked hard to balance her academic aspirations and her service to the school and the community. Her outstanding leadership skills have been evident since involving herself in the SRC, the United Nations Youth Program and leading a bullying awareness video. She is an active member of the local community and has been involved in numerous funding-raising activities including Daffodil Day, Shave for Cure and mental health charities. She believes that small gestures of kindness can have a large and long-lasting impact on those around you.



MINISTER'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

RECIPIENT CITATIONS

Kristie Banfield

Oran Park Public School

Kristie has a passionate commitment to public education. She has been pivotal in the development and growth of a school culture that celebrates a love of learning, positive and productive relationships and a passion to provide excellent outcomes for students. She has initiated and led a whole school literacy program. Her teaching and leadership skills are exceptional. She achieved accreditation as a Highly Accomplished Teacher in 2017. Her ability to program for a wide range of students and to cater for their various needs is commendable. Her delivery of curriculum is innovative and engaging. Kristie's teaching is regularly show-cased for new and visiting teachers.

Penny Baxter

Revesby Public School

Penelope is an inspiring teacher who draws upon her professional experience as a former speech therapist and her Master of Special Education training to provide the highest quality learning experiences for all students. Highly respected by her colleagues and the wider schooling community, Penelope has led professional development on disability legislation, writing 'Personalised Learning Plans and Differentiation in the classroom' and coordinated the Learning and Support Team. Her classroom is a beacon of best practice in special education for the innovative ways curriculum is delivered and differentiated for the range of student abilities. She is regularly visited by prospective parents new to the concept of special education and other teachers to learn from her expertise.

Zoe Crossingham

Elderslie High School

Zoe is an outstanding classroom teacher who uses her deep understanding of curriculum content to develop engaging lessons and programs. She has high-level leadership skills and has strategically led all staff at Elderslie High School (over 60 teachers) to generate commitment to the school's assessment

policy and practice. This has resulted in improved student participation and engagement. Her work in creating inter-school partnerships has helped staff to form effective networks to share practice. Through her leadership, teams of teachers have developed and shared assessment tasks and prepared Australian Curriculum PDHPE syllabuses. Her outstanding relationships with students have helped her champion diversity not only in her classroom but also within the wider school. Zoe's work has resulted in a consistent and highly organised framework that creates excellent outcomes for students.

Brydie-Kate Cullen

Strathfield Girls High School

Brydie-Kate has demonstrated and fostered innovative teaching and learning practices and displayed exemplary leadership qualities. As a History teacher, Brydie-Kate has implemented strongly differentiated and pedagogically sound units of work, which cater for a variety of learners and ensures that each is able to fully access the curriculum. In particular her development of blended learning environments has led to improvements in rates of absenteeism and literacy rates. She has a keen ability to adapt and innovate, a skill aided by her highly developed technological skills. Her strong focus on collegial sharing has increased teacher confidence and expertise and encourages collaboration within the school.

Kerrienne Fallon

Lansvale Public School

Kerrienne has demonstrated exemplary pedagogical knowledge and proven ability to deliver effective programs that ensure every student achieves their absolute best across all key learning areas, with a particular focus on learning in literacy and numeracy. She has a thorough understanding of the diversity within the school community and always aims to improve student outcomes by finding the 'brilliance' of every student and then empowering them to reach their full potential. She consistently 'goes over and beyond' to create a quality learning environment delivering rich learning experiences, and she captures student achievement using a plethora of formative and summative assessments. In the Stage 1 Team, Kerrienne plays a pivotal role in setting high expectations for teachers, parents and students which raises the bar across the entire school community.

Julian Floriano **The Forest High School**

Julian Floriano, HSIE Teacher and Year 10 Adviser, is an outstanding teacher, who uses a range of teaching strategies to meet the learning needs of all his students. Students in his classes achieve well above state average, with high achievers attaining Bands 5 and 6 in the HSC. Julian has been recognised by various professional associations for his deep content knowledge and successful teaching. As a Year Adviser, Julian has shown initiative in engaging with his colleagues and parents/carers and the community to implement proactive wellbeing programs to support individuals and groups of students. In 2018 he was selected to develop and teach an innovative curriculum to re-engage a group of Year 9 students who were underachieving. This program has seen a 60% reduction in negative referrals for these students.

Vanessa Jegers **Revesby Public School**

Vanessa is an exceptional teacher, with highly developed interpersonal skills, emotional intelligence and empathy. She is a sensitive, thoughtful and insightful leader who empowers staff and students to reach their potential. Vanessa uses her technological skills to develop programs in coding and robotics and has contributed enormously to the school and its professional and innovative learning culture. Vanessa's capacity to engage students in future- focussed learning has provided students with skills to work collaboratively, problem solve and think creatively. She has been a leader in innovation and provided extensive experiences to support students in being future learners and global citizens.

Katrina Joss **James Fallon High School**

As Head Teacher Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA), Katrina is an expert in developing curriculum in Visual Art and Dance, and supervising curriculum in Music, Drama, and Photography. Her leadership has resulted in the CAPA faculty achieving the best average Higher School Certificate performance in the school over the last five years, giving the school special recognition in CAPA. Katrina is not only an outstanding teacher, she engages professionally with colleagues, parents/carers and the community. She has developed the Riverina Dance Festival, creating an opportunity for all students in the Riverina to engage in performance each year. Every year, this program gains strength, seen in the number of students participating and the number of students selected for State Dance Ensemble.

Kerri Lacey **Kirrawee High School**

Kerri, the Music Coordinator at Kirrawee High School, is described by her Principal as “an educational/arts maestro, an extraordinary educator, a transformative colleague of enormous integrity and reaching intellect, who builds trust, bolster's self-esteem, ignites the disengaged, thinks strategically, and encourages the creative risk taking that fosters the teaching profession.” She is a highly talented musician with multiple Aria awards and is an outstanding classroom practitioner. Kerri is seen as an innovator at her school, she has developed a large co-curricular ensemble program, including levels of wind orchestras, string orchestras, jazz orchestras, vocal groups, percussion ensembles, and many smaller combinations. Students are given innumerable performance opportunities, from school to the Town Hall, Opera House, through to venues in New York, South Australia, Thredbo Jazz, and many more.

Peita Mages **Orange High School**

Pieta Mages, Head Teacher English, is an exemplary classroom teacher whose ability to build rapport and challenge students to achieve their best, is reflected in outstanding HSC results. In 2017, three students achieved a Band 6 in Standard English which is 4.1% compared to 0.86% of the state. Her passion for English, her insight into how students learn, as well as her ability to target her teaching informed by evidence, ensures that all students experience significant growth in her classroom. Pieta is an outstanding instructional leader, supporting her staff to master their craft as well as their subject knowledge, and uses evaluation to modify teaching programs. She is innovative in her approach to leadership, strategic in her planning and this has resulted in her building a high performing faculty where excellence is at its core.

Jenny Perry **Campbelltown Performing Arts High School**

Jenny is an outstanding teacher and educational leader who has demonstrated deep intellect, strong commitment to highly effective and equitable learning for all students. She is accredited as a Highly Accomplished teacher and has led significant initiatives across the profession to build teacher efficacy and drive improvement within and across schools. This includes developing curriculum resources for the NSW Department of Education, establishing and leading teacher networks, and delivering professional learning at a regional and state level. As a classroom teacher, Jenny is committed to improving learning outcomes for every student, designing learning that is engaging, challenging and personalised for every student. She has built strong relationships with the community and is highly regarded by parents, students and colleagues alike for her dedication, ethical approach and empathy.

Renee Pettit **Warilla High School**

Renee is Head Teacher, Teaching and Learning. She is an outstanding educator and contributor to the school, to public education and to the broader community. She has led a revival of professional learning that is targeted and focussed. As a PDHPE teacher, she has made important contributions in PDHPE programming and assessment planning. She is passionate about Indigenous student outcomes and the NAPLAN results are evidence of her effectiveness in this area. Renee mentors beginning teachers and teachers seeking higher accreditation at the school and her leadership of professional learning extends to her role as chairperson of the Curriculum Network Illawarra T&L.

Kate Rogan **Orange High School**

Kate Rogan is an exceptional and inspiring teacher. Her classroom is recognised for being a place of high expectations and expert teaching practice. In her first year of teaching, her students achieved outstanding Higher School Certificate Physics results, with 0.20 points above state average. Knowing students and how they learn is one of her strengths, aligned with her extensive curriculum knowledge, exemplary assessment practices and her ability to differentiate the learning experience to ensure all students' learning needs are met. She is highly respected by her peers, students, parents and the wider community. Her passion for student wellbeing has resulted in her developing innovative programs and structures to ensure students have equitable access to education.

Julie Swain **Bulli High School**

Julie Swain is a committed, dedicated and motivating science teacher who has the respect of students, staff and parents. She makes lessons engaging and relevant, ensuring she meets the needs of students within her own classes and across the science faculty. She has high expectations of herself, students and her staff, resulting in teaching and learning excellence. She leads the professional development of science teachers in the Curriculum Network Illawarra, where she delivers and coordinates practical sessions which enhance teachers' capacity to deliver quality learning resources and programs. Her organisational skills are exemplary. Her commitment to improvement is illustrated by her interrogation of student attendance data which is bringing about positive change.

Jacqueline Thompson **Dubbo College – South Campus**

As Head Teacher and Deputy Principal of a school with over 700 students, of which 34% are Aboriginal, Jacqueline has worked to create a safe and supportive learning environment for all students where they can connect, thrive and succeed. She recognised that within the student body there was a culture of intolerance and seemingly the students had no connection to their school. She has changed this attitude to one that is more positive in nature where genuine partnerships with the indigenous community have been fostered and fully developed. She initiated and wrote, in consultation with staff, students and parents, the Anti-Bullying and Anti-Cyber Bullying Implementation Plan, and organised workshops for students and parents that created clear management process for dealing with bullying. Her efforts have culminated in a reduction in suspensions, additional community participation and increase in student school satisfaction.

Neil Thompson

Dubbo College – Delroy Campus

Neil has excelled as a teacher. His whole school initiatives have improved the learning outcomes for all students, but particularly for Indigenous students. Neil's dedication in creating a holistic approach in closing the gap for the school's Aboriginal students is outstanding. He initiated a whole school review of Aboriginal Education and implemented the 'Turning Policy into Action' audit for Delroy Campus. In a school with over 500 students (of which 53% are Indigenous) this has resulted in the school having a clear strategic direction as to how to 'close the gap' for Indigenous students. He includes the wider community in many different aspects of the students' lives; whether it be in assessment tasks, reconciliation or NAIDOC week, he always finds innovative ways to showcase the school. His guidance and leadership of staff is inspirational and, as Deputy Principal, he ensures that he takes time to nurture the careers of staff at the school.

Scott Trenaman

Wagga Wagga High School

Scott is an outstanding teacher who demonstrates personal qualities of collaboration, inclusivity, and empathy with all members of the school and wider teaching community. He is an accomplished teacher who has consistently achieved outstanding HSC results in Design and Technology and he has inspired a generation of young adults to pursue vocations in technology and teaching. One of his students won the ABC's New Inventors Australia's Young Inventor of the Year with his stage 6 Design & Technology major design project. Scott engages students using his vast knowledge of his subject areas and by incorporating new and emerging technology, such as 3D printers, in the classroom. Scott's involvement with the World Skills competition has ensured that the students at the school are achieving to a high level in all their vocational courses.

Alice Walters

Rutherford Technology High School

Alice is not only an exceptional classroom practitioner, but a leader in professional development and inclusiveness within the school. She believes that too many children are falling through the gaps in the education system. As Head Teacher Literacy and Numeracy, Alice has implemented literacy and numeracy strategies across the school, provided professional learning based on the latest research, and mentored faculties and individual teachers to lift the numeracy and literacy outcomes of students. She models and supports staff in differentiating teaching practice and the development of personalised learning plans for individual students. Alice models and shares with colleagues strategies for classroom management to ensure all students are engaged in purposeful activities.

Vita Williams

The Hills School

Vita is a passionate and innovative special education teacher and leader, with a highly successful record over 34 years of teaching students with complex learning needs. She has deep knowledge and great skill in quickly understanding individual student's specific support needs and implementing programs to assist students to learn and grow. Many families have acknowledged their gratitude for Vita's involvement in their child's life, as her teaching and involvement has had immeasurably positive outcomes for their entire family. As Assistant Principal, Vita is a key leader in the development of an innovative teaching and assessment framework, called the Communication Passport that supports complex learners to access the curriculum and tracks their progress over time. Vita displays exceptional inter-personal skills, empathy and understanding as she supports the families of students, both in her class, and across the wider school.





SECRETARY'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENT SERVICE

RECIPIENT CITATIONS

John Hambly Principal, Warilla High School

As a Principal John's commitment to public education generally and the students, staff and families of Warilla High School specifically, is unparalleled. He is a highly experienced school principal and former School Education Director who has demonstrated his exceptional leadership skills across a range of diverse and challenging educational settings. He treats every student as if they were his own, and believes each child can achieve their own version of excellence. John has led the development of a school culture that looks to continuous improvement, self-reflection and evaluation so as to create quality teaching and learning environments. By creating a supportive and nurturing education environment John has demonstrated his commitment to the school community and public education.

Stephen Lidbetter General Assistant, Thomas Reddall High School

Stephen has diligently served the Thomas Reddall High School community for the past decade. His knowledge and skills are exemplary and have saved the school significant amounts of money over the years. Many of the spaces that have been created around the school have come from Stephen's vision and expertise. He works in collaboration with our Construction teacher and students on course projects; providing advice and fulfilling the role of critical friend. Stephen goes above and beyond, every day, for our entire school community. He is highly regarded and well respected by his colleagues. He is very much a part of the TRHS learning community and truly is an asset.

Russell Lieschke Deputy Principal, Mulwaree High School

Russell is an outstanding asset to Public Education, with 32 years of extraordinarily dedicated service to students, 26 of those at Mulwaree High in Goulburn. As a teacher, Head Teacher and Deputy Principal he works above and beyond to support students and staff in learning and wellbeing by promoting mutual respect for all. He was instrumental in establishing initiatives including the Concert Series – 3 nights to encourage music, dance and drama performance - and the Primary Links program where students assist local primary schools at their sports events. Russell is an exceptional educator setting high expectations for all students who respond and proudly achieve exceptional results. He is held in high regard by the whole school.

Solange Cruz Relieving Assistant Principal, Merrylands East Public School

Solange is the current substantive Stage 3 teacher and Relieving Assistant Principal at Merrylands East Public School. She is a highly experienced, outstanding teacher who has led Stage 3 teams in Project Based Learning and the transition of all students and staff into open and agile learning spaces. She co-ordinates the Social Ventures Australia National Powerhouse Schools program and conducts regular school-based workshops about learning spaces/ project based learning and other school based initiatives for local, national and international educators. She is always willing to share her knowledge and skills, allowing her wisdom to impact other teachers and their students.

Matthew Little

General Assistant/School Learning Support Officer, Forbes High School

Matthew is the General Assistant and a School Learning Support Officer (SLSO) at Forbes High School. His role as a SLSO is to re-engage disengaged students through assistance with classroom tasks as well as teaching them valuable life skills which will encourage them to participate in school-based activities in the short term, and in the long term become productive and sustainable members of the community. He has a patient and kind manner with the students he works with and continually endeavours to empower these students to be self-sufficient. Matthew aspires to further his knowledge in helping students to meet their educational and social outcomes hoping eventually to work in remote communities.

Olivia Mackay

Deputy Principal, Hampden Park Public School

Olivia goes above and beyond to ensure equitable outcomes for all students. She is deeply passionate about supporting the most vulnerable members of the Hampden Park School community, in particular those who come from refugee or asylum seeker backgrounds. Thanks to her dedication and efforts, staff now have an overwhelmingly positive and proactive approach to supporting these students and their families. Her tireless work to highlight both the needs and strengths of refugee and asylum seekers in our community has resulted in a marked culture shift within the school. Through her initiative and inspirational leadership she has grown a school-wide culture of high expectations and support for these families.

Tam Phan

General Assistant, Lansvale Public School

Tam is a dedicated and committed member of staff at Lansvale Public School who carries out his duties with flair and enthusiasm. He is skilled and resourceful in the way he supports the teaching staff, administration team and general community to simply get things done. Tam was an integral part of the redevelopment of the Preschool Setting in the school and created exceptional outdoor and indoor learning environments. He undertakes the role of General Assistant with great pride and due diligence looking after the school like it is a most prized possession.

SECRETARY'S AWARD FOR AN OUTSTANDING SCHOOL INITIATIVE

RECIPIENT CITATIONS

Auburn North Public School

High Impact Teaching Strategies (HITS)

The High-Impact Professional Learning Project was designed to promote quality and innovation learning opportunities; and enhance leadership and teaching capacity. School leaders participated in a leadership development, mentoring and coaching programs. They also conducted research to identify teaching practices that have the greatest impact on student learning and programs and improved teaching pedagogy. The HITS initiative contributed to improved skills and capacity among school leaders and an increase in teacher efficacy. NAPLAN results showed that Year 3 outperformed 'similar' schools in all 5 areas, and students in both year 3 and year 5 achieved in the top 5% for value-added learning.

Campbelltown Performing Arts High School

Transformative Learning

The key focus of pedagogical transformation is to build leadership capacity and ensure innovative and highly effective practices through design principles (personalised, connected, co-created and integrated learning). This is driven by strategic, collaborative and highly effective professional learning practices that include action learning teams, disciplined innovation and design thinking, cross-discipline curriculum design and personalised professional learning plans.

Canterbury Boys High

In-residence Partnership with Sydney Story Factory

The school was selected to receive support in 2017 from the Sydney Story Factory, a not-for-profit writing centre for young people. A storyteller-in-chief and trained volunteers from the Factory ran writing programs for boys in Years 7 to 12. These ranged from scripting and fictional memoirs to monologues and slam poetry. Students participated in various arts

events, notably 'Year of the Novella' at Bankstown Arts Centre, where CBHS students wrote two of the seven novellas published. Objective evaluation showed 80% of students enjoyed and valued the program and there were significant improvements in fluency and creativity of the students' writing.

Chifley College Shalvey Campus

Learning for Life

The College has, over the last four years, developed a curriculum structure to address the needs of low SES students. The structure emphasises General Capabilities (as defined by ACARA) through syllabus content. A new staffing structure based on stages, not faculties, and new timetabling place students' needs first. An assessment tool facilitates consistent teacher judgement and there is a programming guide that links the stages of development of students to syllabus outcomes. Increased student-teacher engagement has been accompanied by an increase in attendance, a reduction of over 50% in suspensions and increase in Year 7 enrolments.

Condell Park High School

Daily Talk Time – an Autism Support Unit Initiative

Condell Park High School established a Support Unit for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder in 2009. More recently, with the assistance of the school counsellor, a 10 minute daily talk started between the Support Learning School Officer and several non-verbal students. The students quickly progressed to speaking with selected main stream students. The process expanded by selecting mainstream students who volunteered, or were invited, to participate in Daily Talk Time. They became peer buddies of students with Autism and were given strategies to encourage communication. Daily Talk Time now runs daily with a total of 30 students participating.

Elderslie High School

Common Writing Platform

The project developed a system for teaching students to write in a range of styles from persuasive writing to factual reports, personal responses and literary descriptions. The Common Writing Platform focuses on Audience, Planning, Organising and Writing. The writing component was subdivided into Topic, Reason Evidence and Ending. This platform, using the acronym APÖW TREE, was applied to Stage 4 teaching across the KLAS. There has been a 10% increase in student writing ability in comparison with baseline Year 9 data from 2015 and an improvement in 2017 Year 9 NAPLAN Writing scores.

Glenmore Park Public School

Using Data and an Inquiry Mindset to Cater for the Whole-Child

Every student at Glenmore Park Public School is tracked against all critical aspects of the literacy and numeracy continua. Achievement levels data are collected on all students including those with special needs. The current school plan has key themes of formative assessment, student engagement and achievement, a sense of belonging for each student, and an inquiry model of professional learning referred to as Spirals of Enquiry that gives the staff class-free time each fortnight to review data and plan collaboratively. There has been, for the school, a significant growth in value-added data and for staff, a deeper understanding the constructive use of data.

Holroyd High School

Positive Parent Engagement Program

The tailored program for parents has three components: Weekly English conversation classes with childcare and morning tea provided; almost 60% of attendees go onto further study; two formal Parent Meetings per term to discuss anything related to their children's education; and social activities such as swimming, first aid and cultural 'meet and greets' across Sydney and excursions to places they would not normally visit (e.g. Floriade, Clovelly Surf Club). The contribution of local agencies, translators and CLO's has been invaluable to the program's success; parents are much more engaged with the school and are regular visitors.

Kurri Kurri High School

HUB Learning at KKHS

Hub Learning is an initiative designed to involve students in the planning and monitoring of their own learning development and career pathway goals. The 'Hubs' comprise of 50-60 students in Stage 4 led by two to three teachers. An increase in professional learning and external partnerships have seen improved leadership skills and pedagogical practice to include co-teaching, co-planning, station learning and intervention teaching. For students, year 7 reporting data shows a 100% increase in Mastery of Future Focused Skills such as collaboration, critical thinking and communication. There has also been a significant increase in positive behaviour and a reduction in truancy and suspension.

Perthville Public School

Numeracy Continuum Groups

The school had average NAPLAN results in numeracy. Lacking funding that could be directed towards a specific program, staff analysed four years of results

and adapted the whole school Mathematics planning to include seven topics of focus. Teachers engaged with the Numeracy Continuum in ways which would produce demonstrable improvement in numeracy skills, provided individual feedback to students and reported to parents every four weeks. NAPLAN numeracy results have been on the increase since 2015 and in 2017, the school out-performed the state and statistically similar schools in both Years 3 and 5.

Revesby Public School

Growth Mindset Project

Students at Revesby Public are encouraged to attempt something challenging everyday - to push their limits. A new attitude of 'everything doesn't need to be perfect' has been adopted and students realise that mistakes are a vital part of learning. They are encouraged to work on belief statements and apply a 'growth mindset'. They recognise their intelligence is not fixed and with effort they can improve and develop new skills. Students see their brain as a muscle that will grow with use and, as a result, have become more persistent and resilient.

Revesby South Public School

Life Skills Program

The program combines financial literacy with enterprise education. Students learn about financial matters in an engaging way. They work in "businesses" making craft items in breaks and are paid for each shift they attend. They organise and manage stalls on Market Days to sell their products; all payments are in "Buckaroos". The Lifeskills Program gives students opportunities to explore new ways of thinking, develop leadership skills and work as team members. The Commonwealth Bank supports the program and has funded a chicken coop, beehives and a garden shed. The school plans to install a large greenhouse in 2018.

Sir Joseph Banks High School

Power Up: An Explicit Course in Literacy

NAPLAN data and internal testing revealed some low literacy levels in the 2016 Year 8 cohort at the school. Power Up, an internally designed literacy course, using John Hattie's 'Visible Learning' approach, was introduced for 4 lessons per fortnight. Pre- and post-testing during Term 1, 2017 showed average growth of 0.69 in Hattie's 'Effect Size' compared with a typical teacher's value of 0.40 over a whole year. Year 9 NAPLAN results that year showed a relative upward trend in the Writing category compared to Reading. There are now 22 staff literacy experts to deliver the program to Years 7-10.

South Coogee Public School

Whole School Focus on Visible Learning

Visible Learning is based on John Hattie's research into evidence-based methods of improving learning. SCPS has four focus areas: Improving teacher clarity through the use of learning intentions and success criteria; developing student capacity as visible learners through the use of growth mindset and learner qualities; improving feedback to students using Hattie and Timperley Four Levels of Feedback Model; using data to evaluate the impact. Teachers evaluate teaching and learning programs by calculating Hattie's "effect sizes". As a result of the whole school focus on Visible Learning, South Coogee has been recognised as a leader in building teacher clarity.

The Hills School

The Communication Passport

The Communication Passport project was commissioned because the principal and staff at The Hills School wanted better outcomes for their students who usually have complex communication needs and to ensure successful, confident and creative learning. The project was developed in collaboration with speech pathologist, Ylana Bloom, over a five year period. The success of The Communication Passport in supporting teachers of complex learners has resulted in The Hills School acting as lead school in a three year cluster project. The cluster includes schools and support units for specific purposes in both city and rural areas.

Thomas Reddall High School

Boyz 2 Men

Boyz 2 Men is a welfare program to support young men at risk of dropping out of high school. Those in the program are taught skills in building positive relationships as well as study habits and research, interview and resume writing skills. In its first two years of operation, the attendance rate of its members increased above the average and all of the members achieved an HSC. The program has evolved to drive positive relationships with feeder primary schools. The students work as mentors with disengaged younger students, modelling positive behaviour as a part of their own personal development.

SECRETARY'S SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

RECIPIENT CITATIONS

Auburn North Public School

Maximising Learning, Social and Emotional Outcomes for Refugee Students and Parents

Since 2015, the school has developed and implemented a broad range of programs for refugee students who comprise 20% of enrolments. Teaching practices shown to have the greatest impact are used and strategies to assist the emotional and social development of students are employed. The engagement of refugee parents has been a high priority as research shows that increased parent engagement increases students' academic, social and emotional development. Success of the program is evidenced by students' improved national test results and by greater parent participation in numerous school activities.

Aurora College

Science in Stages 4 and 5

Classes at Aurora College operate in a virtual environment. The science faculty has led the school in establishing best practice in this milieu. Faculty members also made a valuable contribution to the online professional learning program, through sharing their expertise on the collaborative tools of Office 365. The Masterclass program of the faculty connects Aurora students with scientists from various organisations and universities. Year 8 students excel in the state-wide VALID science assessment and significantly, 93% of students who studied science in Year 10 at Aurora elected at least one science course in year Year 11.

Dapto Public School

Quality Teaching Equals Successful Students

The project aimed to increase the capacity of teachers to assess students' progression through the continuum of key concepts in literacy and numeracy. A Quality Teacher Leader was employed to assist teachers to gather and record valid evidence in the focus areas of Reading, Comprehension and Early Arithmetical Strategies. Evidence of student achievement at each benchmark in the relevant continuum was evaluated and recorded. Teachers analysed this data to plan for individual students. Those identified as needing extra support benefited from the additional support staff employed. At the end of the year, teachers' reported greater use of data analysis.

Lansvale Public School

Creating a Culture of Excellence

The aim of this initiative is to have students perform at their individual best. Assessments are framed around three-week learning cycles, so that teachers can, if necessary, use the results to modify content. Teachers meet regularly to share student performance data and there are opportunities to engage in workshops with teachers from other schools. Parents are encouraged to participate in parent-teacher forums held to discuss particular topics and there is a "parents as teachers and classroom helpers" program. The school executives participate in professional development and all teachers are encouraged to be part of leadership networks outside the school.

La Perouse Public School

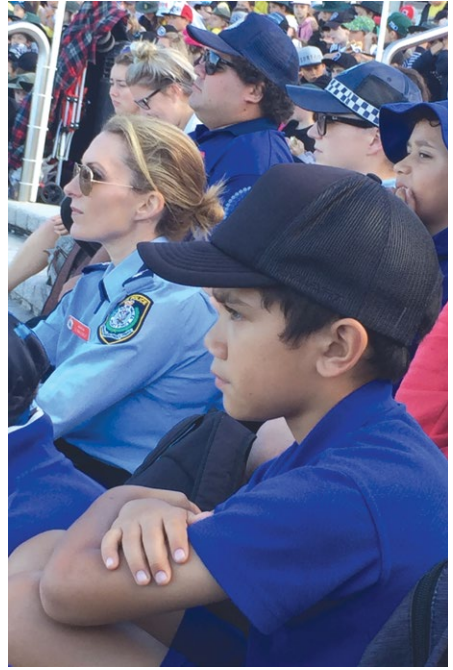
Improving Identity within the Community

This project was designed to raise the profile and reputation of La Perouse Public School in its community. The staff purposefully increased contact with local parents and actively engaged with a wide range of community groups. Among other successful outcomes, students now read with Aboriginal Elders, facilities are shared with The Junction Neighbourhood Centre, a breakfast club is run each morning, a new playground was built with donations, and 22 students received GO Foundation scholarships. Enrolments have increased and, for the first time in many years, there will be a stand-alone kindergarten class in 2019.

Sir Joseph Banks High School

SJBHS Student Services Team

Through the Student Services Team Program the school connected students with learning through the development of a strong sense of self, their teachers and the broader community. To achieve this, equity funding and resource reallocation were used to employ three additional head teachers of Transition, Learning Support and Wellbeing and an adjunct Administrative Officer. The Community Liaison and Student Support Officers worked with the three new teams. An effective structure now ensures that all identified students are case managed and given individualised care from the point of entry to their exit. The school has hosted professional development for interstate teachers and the project was showcased on SBS television.



PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENT OF THE YEAR AWARD

RECIPIENT CITATIONS

Jo Fannelley

Kincumber Public School

Jo is a strong supporter of NSW Public Schools and Kincumber Public School in particular. Although a full-time working parent, she is visible at every P&C and school-run event and is a member of the school's Positive Behaviour for Learning committee. Her strong advocacy for well-being for the students, staff and wider community is second to none. She has been a member of the school's P&C for many years becoming President this year. Jo's big heart, big smile and sense of community have been instrumental in increasing the sense of connectedness that many families feel at the school, and her daily smile is highly valued by all.

Donalee Gregory

Wagga Wagga High School

Donalee has devoted endless hours of her time to designing and creating exceptional costumes for public school students in the performing arts. Her magnificent skills as a seamstress and her ability to design and create innovative costumes not only enabled thousands of students to perform in a professional manner but also gave meaning and significance to the work being presented. Furthermore, Donalee is perceptive and empathic towards student needs, both on and off the stage. She is valued tremendously by staff and students alike who are grateful for everything she has done in their school community.

Michael Hovey

Elderslie High School

Mick has been an outstanding public school parent for Elderslie High School. He has been the P&C President for many years, and speaks from the heart and with great eloquence about the value of public education. Mick leads the P&C to contribute a strong parental voice in the school planning process and in reviews of key issues. He generously gives enormous amounts of his own time for fundraising events and authoring grant submissions that have seen the school obtain funds for the installation of air-conditioning and resurfacing of sporting courts. His leadership has resulted in a much better level of parental participation within the P&C.



Sam Hyratt

Campbellfield Public School

Samantha is an inspirational woman who has a significant positive impact on the lives of students, staff and families at Campbellfield Public School. She successfully forged a partnership between the school and FoodBank NSW to implement Campbellfield Shines café which serves breakfast to over half of the school community, including staff. This has resulted in improved attendance, better concentration levels and a greater sense of community. Sam secured a Community Partnership Grant for \$60,000 to assist the school in establishing a large sensory room and mobile sensory kits. She has also been actively involved in sourcing sensory equipment and researching the benefits for students with disabilities, trauma and learning difficulties.

Kellie McFarlane

Revesby South Public School

Kellie is the current P&C President at Revesby South Public School and for the past 6 years has been an extremely active and committed supporter of the school as a parent volunteer in class, the canteen and uniform shop and as a fundraiser. She has actively demonstrated the values of public education, showing exemplary community leadership qualities and communication skills that improve the school community. In all that she does for and at the school, she shows concern for the wellbeing of others, demonstrating empathy and acting with compassion, and is an outstanding role model for other parents, teachers and students.

Michael Nguyen

Harrington Street Public School

Michael's contribution to Harrington Street Public School is exceptional. He promotes and volunteers at all fund raising activities. He has been involved in workshops, organising sausage sizzles, setting up special event stalls and leading discussion at the P&C or "Coffee and Chat" meetings. Through his efforts and enthusiasm Michael has been able to improve the learning and community life of all the students at the school. His passion as a parent in the public education system has increased the parental involvement in all aspects of school life. His tireless work is very much appreciated by all who are part of the school community.

Michael Strugnell

The Forest High School

Michael has been an active member of the Forest High School P&C for eight years and President of the School Council for the last four years. As President of the School Council he has worked with the school Principal to build strong community partnerships and seek funding to ensure that students have access to innovative technologies and well-resourced learning spaces. He encouraged the School Council to establish a Community Liaison position on the Council to ensure ongoing consultation and community collaboration with the new Northern Beaches Hospital. He has been vocal in his insistence on student safety being the highest priority during this project, and the school community is grateful to him.



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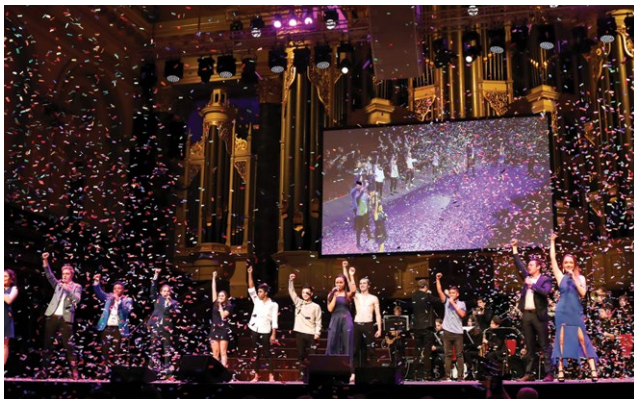
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- Scholarships for students with curriculum interests in music, STEM, trades and social studies
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