I am delighted to be at Balmain Campus as Acting Principal for this term. I am enjoying the opportunity to work with staff and students as we move towards the close of the 2016 academic year and plan for the year ahead. Ms Julianne Beek has been appointed as the new Principal and she will take up the position at the start of 2017.

We have had an extremely busy start to Term 4. In week one we had the highly successful fund raiser for our new bus for the Support Unit with over $50 000 raised for this cause. Special thanks to Kim Moddel and Effie Milos for their efforts in the organisation of this event. MAD Night was held in week 2 and with the combined efforts of the CAPA Faculty and P & C it was once again a fantastic community event. The addition of our local Primary Schools’ involvement added to the talent on show. Teachers and parents were very proud of the art works displayed around the school and of all the amazing performances from our Drama and Music students. Thanks to the P&C for all the delicious food sold at the event and for contributing to the funds raised on the night. By the end of the term, the visual arts works will be displayed in the corridors of the school and will allow all visitors and students to admire these works on a regular basis.

Term 4 is also a big term for transition, both for our Year 10 students exiting to Blackwattle Bay Campus and to our new intake of year 7 students. We are expecting up to 245 students in year 7 in 2017. We have already held our Singles Days and in the coming weeks students from our local primary schools and our selective students will be at Balmain Campus experiencing their Day at High School. Family interviews will be held in week 7 and Orientation Day for Year 7 2017 is on Tuesday 6 December. I would like to acknowledge the great organisation of Catrina Tricase in ensuring our new year 7 have a smooth and successful transition into our campus.

Year 10 students have completed their final exams for Year 10 and now need to continue to focus on course work displayed around the school and of all the amazing performances from our Drama and Music students. Thanks to the P&C for all the delicious food sold at the event and for contributing to the funds raised on the night. By the end of the term, the visual arts works will be displayed in the corridors of the school and will allow all visitors and students to admire these works on a regular basis.

Year 10 students have completed their final exams for Year 10 and now need to continue to focus on course work displayed around the school and of all the amazing performances from our Drama and Music students. Thanks to the P&C for all the delicious food sold at the event and for contributing to the funds raised on the night. By the end of the term, the visual arts works will be displayed in the corridors of the school and will allow all visitors and students to admire these works on a regular basis.

Year 10 students have completed their final exams for Year 10 and now need to continue to focus on course work displayed around the school and of all the amazing performances from our Drama and Music students. Thanks to the P&C for all the delicious food sold at the event and for contributing to the funds raised on the night. By the end of the term, the visual arts works will be displayed in the corridors of the school and will allow all visitors and students to admire these works on a regular basis.

Year 10 students have completed their final exams for Year 10 and now need to continue to focus on course work displayed around the school and of all the amazing performances from our Drama and Music students. Thanks to the P&C for all the delicious food sold at the event and for contributing to the funds raised on the night. By the end of the term, the visual arts works will be displayed in the corridors of the school and will allow all visitors and students to admire these works on a regular basis.

Exams for Year 7 to 9 finish in Week 5. Soon teachers will commence preparing academic reports for all years. These will be distributed to parents towards the end of Term 4.
Balmain Campus is focused on improving the attendance rates of all students and also reducing the number of students who arrive late for school without explanation from their parents/carers. We are now fully operational with our new student welfare web-based system Sentral and both teachers and office staff have easy access to informing you when your son or daughter is not signed into school or have not attended a particular class. They will contact you via mobile phone or your email address.

The school has been allocated a new SMS for attendance communication. If your son or daughter is away from school, please use the landline 98100471 or send an SMS to 0427833350 before 8.45am.

Jan Cuke

The new BALMAIN WAY

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) is an extensive range of systematic and individualised strategies with the main aim of achieving important learning and social outcomes whilst preventing problem behaviour. PBL involves clearly defined and positive school rules/expectations in all classroom and non-classroom settings. Here at Sydney Secondary College Balmain Campus PBL has gone through an exciting revamp. Previously PBL was known around to campus as “The Balmain RAP”.

Term four has seen the introduction of “The Balmain Way”.

This new slogan has come with fresh signs that have been placed in all classrooms and non-classroom settings around the school. They are used by our staff as a point of reference when communicating with students about what is expected of them in relations to the Balmain Way.

Although the slogan has changed, our core values remain the same:

-Respect yourself, others and the community

-Act responsibly

-Participate productively in learning
Australian School Orchestral Festival 2016

On Sunday the 30th of October our college symphony orchestra and chamber orchestra performed at UNSW for the Australian School Orchestral Festival 2016. It was a great day and our students performed a complex program of music in the highest division for both orchestras and string ensembles. The symphony orchestra played a demanding 20 minute set of four pieces and received a silver award. Not bad for a group that only started this year. The college chamber orchestra also performed a challenging program of original manuscripts of Death of Aase by Grieg and Divertimento K. 138 by Mozart. These originals are the professional versions of the music that are not simplified for school students. They also received a silver award.

The Adjudicator for the festival was Loreta Fin who is a very well respected Australian composer and strings educator from Brisbane. After our performance the symphony orchestra were incredibly fortunate to have an impromptu master class with Loreta who demonstrated some of her feedback through rehearsing with the group! This was one of the unique benefits of entering music festivals with young ensembles and an opportunity that wouldn’t have happened in any other setting.

Congratulations to all our IMP musicians who performed on the day!

~Mark Stevens
I get great satisfaction in witnessing students demonstrate personal qualities including using initiative, being proactive and taking responsibility. These qualities are highly regarded outside the school community.

It is always good to see students taking initiative and taking control of their learning. This is a skill which will help you after school in any field you choose.

This term a number of students have seen me with enquiries on obtaining a Tax File Number (TFN). Unfortunately, the Secondary Schools TFN Program was discontinued in 2015. Students can now apply for a TFN online and have their identity verified through an interview at a participating Australia Post office.

A good time to obtain a TFN is after the completion of the exam period. After the exams is also a good time for students to start or update their resume and if interested to start looking for a casual job. I have seen a number of shop windows displaying signs stating work is available over Christmas. Another good source is the internet. Be prepared and be proactive!

On the first day of December TAFE Ultimo is the venue for three one-day Taste of TAFE workshops. The workshops that will be offered on this day are: Fashion Design, Music Creation, Studio photography – shoot/print/create

This is a fun day and interested students (15 years or older) should see the Careers Adviser, Mr Floriani to register their interest.

**WORK EXPERIENCE** - Another avenue for career exploration:

A reminder to students who have elected to undertake Work Experience in Week 9 (5-9 December) I will be conducting a short meeting during week 8. During this meeting I will be returning the completed documentation and answering questions.

Remember there is no one way. If you are travelling and the road to your destination is blocked you find an alternative path.

The same applies to your career - explore every avenue.

I can be contacted on 9810 0471 (Ext. 127) or email hugo.floriani@det.nsw.edu.au I look forward in meeting you at upcoming school events and activities.
Trips to Balmain Woolies

S1 students travel to Balmain Woolworths every Tuesday to help purchase goods required from the family shopping list. Students learn to navigate the environment and become familiar with our local community. Money and communication skills are developed within this program according to student ability.

The best part of the day is morning tea at the park!

Museum of Contemporary Arts

Our students attended the Bella program provided by the MCA on Thursday, 13th October. It was a fantastic ‘hands on’ and intellectually challenging experience for our students. They viewed various artists such Louise Hearman and the ‘Today, Tomorrow and Yesterday’ exhibition. Activities included creating sounds through visual images and using an ipad to create an animated artwork based on a selected artist using collage.

After lunch at the Rocks we returned to our bus stop via ‘The Big Dig’ (an archaeological site). Ms McLachlan provided interesting historical information which further enhanced our day. It was a great day for our students both socially and educationally.

By Mr Stewart (Support Unit HSIE teacher)
It is hard to believe that in a matter of weeks, Year 7 will have officially completed their first year of high school – and with great success! I have no doubt Year 8 will be an even better year with students older, wiser and ready to tackle any challenges that come their way. Being in Year 8 also means there will be younger students in the school; students who are just as shy, nervous and unsure of themselves as Year 7 once were and so, it is now our turn to welcome them with open arms and support them in this huge transition.

Our Year 7 students have been staying busy and continue to amaze the school with their talent. It is an absolute privilege to sit in the crowd, watching enormously talented students like Florence Collins, Rosie Innes, Poppy Christo, James Wetton, Henry Wheeler, Alex Parker, Libby Smith, Milo Taylor-Westermann, Harley Nador and Manu Van Ogtrop perform confidently for massive crowds and make it look incredibly easy. I hope you know how proud we are of you!

I am writing this report as Balmain Campus has embarked on the challenging but inevitable journey that is the Yearly exams, and I thought it is fitting to include some information about test anxiety. Have you spent your time studying for your exams and feel like you know your stuff until test day when suddenly, you blank out, freeze up, zone out, or feel so nervous that you can’t get it together to respond to those questions you knew the answers to just last night? If this sounds like you, you may have a case of test anxiety — that nervous feeling that people sometimes get when they’re about to take a test. It’s pretty normal to feel a little nervous and stressed before a test. Just about everyone does. But for some people, this normal anxiety is more intense. The nervousness they feel before a test can be so strong that it interferes with their concentration or performance.

What can you do to overcome this anxiety?
- **Use a little stress to your advantage.** Reframe your thinking — a little stress can help motivate you and keep you writing for as long as the test requires. Just make sure you avoid thinking or talking about the test too much — both before and after — with your friends.
- **Ask for help.** Come and speak to your Year Adviser — me! — Ms Anderson, Ms Hinchey or your classroom teachers about the way you are feeling. We’re here to help!
- **Be prepared.** Being prepared gives you confidence even before the test begins which will help you approach the exam more positively. Try and avoid cramming the night before — this is a great recipe for high stress levels.
- **Watch what you’re thinking.** If expecting to do well on a test can help you relax, what about when people expect they won’t do well? Watch out for any negative messages you might be sending yourself about the test. They can contribute to your anxiety. If you find yourself thinking negative thoughts (“I’m never any good at taking tests” or “It’s going to be terrible if I do badly on this test”), replace them with positive messages, such as “I’ve studied hard and I know the material, so I’m ready to do the best I can.”
- **Accept mistakes.** Another thing you can do is to learn to keep mistakes in perspective — especially if you’re a perfectionist or you tend to be hard on yourself. Everyone makes mistakes, but all mistakes are learning opportunities, so make sure you reflect on the mistakes you have made and what you could do to avoid them in the future.
- **Take care of yourself.** It can help to learn ways to calm yourself down when you’re tense or anxious. You might like to try meditation, gentle exercise, hanging out with family and friends or reading a book. It is also crucial that you eat well and sleep at least 8 hours a night. Our brains don’t function at their best if we are not giving them nutrients and rest!

I hope that helps! Remember to stay positive and if you don’t do as well as you had hoped, there’s always next year. Good luck!

It is important to mention that during and after exams, classes will run as normal so it is important that students continue to bring the right equipment, come to school on time every day and engage with their schoolwork. I’m now even more excited for what’s in store next year as my little Year 7s are growing into adolescents. Let’s continue to follow the Balmain Way (even when we are at home) and respect ourselves and each other, act responsibly and participate productively. All the best for the rest of the year!

Mila Markovic
Year 7 Adviser
On Friday the 21st October, a group of year nine elective Art, Photography and Visual Design students, and a few selected year eights, went to the Sculpture by the Sea exhibition at Bondi Beach. At the exhibition, we examined and looked at the amazing artworks that were on the rocks, the headland and the sand at Tamarama beach. Good timing as a few days later some sculptures were destroyed by soaring waves.

The sculptures were unique and spectacular. Each one was eye catching with a different tone, texture and design to it. There was no sculpture you wouldn’t want to look at or examine. A wide variety of materials were used from the regular stone and bronze, to unusual materials like old toys and one completely made of red woolly pompoms. Lots of photos were taken and good discussions were had about possible meanings of some artworks and speculation about the ways they had been made. We have included a selection of photos taken on the day.

Jordan and Jasper, year 8
Year 10 Food Technology

On Friday 21st October, Year 10 Food Technology went on an inspiring excursion to The Apprentice Restaurant Sydney, where the menu is designed by aspiring young chefs who prepare, cook and serve the food under the supervision of professional teaching staff.

Our morning began with a tour of the award-winning hospitality training facilities, including a look at the industrial kitchen, where students witnessed the buzz of the training chefs as they prepared for service. It had a very Masterchef challenge feel! Following our tour, students sat down to a delicious three course alternating meal. The students all navigated through the array of cutlery perfectly, effectively putting their table setting knowledge and etiquette into practice in the fine dining setting.

AIME

Friday the 28th of October some Balmain students were lucky enough to be invited to AIME’s annual Year 7-8 mentoring day held at Sydney Uni. AIME stands for the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience. The Year 7 group had a fantastic day looking at different aspects of science, this included building their own water bottle rocket that was propelled into the air, all of the rockets got off the ground and were very impressive. The last activity of the day required the students to work with other schools to create their own cultural dance, the students were all brave enough to perform their dances in front of the Year 8 group!

Year 8 had a different experience, they created their own script for a computer game, TV show or animation series. The mentors engaged the students in the activities all day and the students came away with an incredibly positive attitude.

The highlight of the day would have to be the AIME hats that each student received for their hard work and dedication.

A big thank you to all the AIME crew for making the day so successful!
In English Elective during term 3, Mr Adamson decided that we should study the film craft of British director, Alfred Hitchcock, especially how he used elements of mise en scene, camera work and sound to create suspense in his films and impact his audience. We studied *Psycho* in particular, and how Hitchcock created built suspense, tension and anticipation using those elements.

After hard work studying particular scenes in detail, Mr Adamson announced that our assignment for the term was for us to create a “Hitchcockian” style short film, so we formed our groups and got to work. Together we started to formulate our ideas to try and figure out how to make a scene as suspenseful as possible, and some brilliant ideas were produced. Slowly but in great detail, we started to plan our scenes. We wrote treatments and screenplays, and drew up storyboards and shot lists. We also created production schedules to plan out the production process, and determine who would do all the final details. After a long process of putting it all together, everyone in English Elective had produced a short film, and created some outstanding results!

Then Mr Adamson had this brilliant idea to showcase our films in a mini film festival, so he got the night planned, and encouraged us to invite as many people as we wanted. Suddenly, it was the night of “The Festival of Hitchcockian Delights” and everyone was excited. Families and friends started rolling up to the drama room (thanks Ms. Campbell!) and we got underway. Each group got up to introduce their film, and then the chilling and nail-biting screening got underway, the audience on the edge of their seats. The evening was a great success; even College Principal, Ms Judy Kelly turned up!

On behalf of the English Elective class, I would like to thank Mr Adamson for helping us create these films. We all really appreciate how much work you put into our class in the classroom and outside of it. You have made the class interesting by introducing us to new topics, and you are always up to helping us in whatever way we need it. Honestly, we can’t thank you enough.
At the request of educators, parents and students across the globe, multi-award winning movie ‘A Girl Like Her’ is now being made available to middle schools, high schools, colleges and universities to use as a change-agent in the bully epidemic that plagues so many of our communities. The film’s content has been edited to a middle school appropriate audience*.

Sydney Secondary Collage - Balmain Campus will be hosting a school screening, where we will ignite a new dialogue on the bullying issue, while offering a perspective that is often overlooked.

The event will be hosted by Balmain’s Girls Club, where we will begin with the movie, followed by meaningful discussion from guest speakers to conclude the evening. Any girls who want to be involved are welcome! Bring your sisters, aunts, mothers, best friends, cousins!

**A GIRL LIKE HER Synopsis:**
16-year-old Jessica Burns has a secret that she’s afraid to share with anyone – except her best friend, Brian Slater. For the past year, she’s been victimised by another girl – her former friend, Avery Keller, one of South Brookdale High School’s most popular and beautiful students. What can you do when the world sees the image of a person but not the reality? With Brian’s help and a hidden digital camera, the evidence of Avery’s relentless harassment is captured and finally exposed—bringing both girls and their families face to face with the truth.

**WHEN: 30th November 2016, 6.30pm - 8.30**
**WHERE: Sydney Secondary Collage, Balmain Campus Library**

*For Educational purposes, this film has been edited to a school-appropriate version. (Ages 10 and up)
FAST! FUN! FRIENDLY!

DRAGON BOATING!

Sydney’s only Junior Youth Dragon Boat Team

Sydney Zodiacs
OPEN DAY
November 12 10am -12pm

Where: 5 Bank Street Pyrmont  (just near the fish markets)
Bring: Closed in shoes you can get wet.
RSVP: sydneyzodiac@gmail.com

For more information call Mary 0410 655 764
Tweens Stepping Up

Connecting with your tween
Workshop for parents/carers of tweens (10-12 years)

- Understand how to best support your tween through this developmental stage
- Develop practical communication techniques to engage your tween
- Strategies for managing conflict effectively

Contact
T: 9367 9271
E: matthew.balane@innerwest.nsw.gov.au