Three terms down, one to go! Term 3 was a particularly busy and productive one at Blacktown Girls High School. Here are some of the key news items for the term featured in this issue:

- Our formal assembly celebrated student leadership and featured the announcement of the new prefect body for 2015-16.

- An impressive number of students continued to earn Mathletics Gold Awards, and over 80 students participated in the Australian Mathematics Competition, achieving excellent results.

- Year 11 Physics students participated in the Great Engineering Challenge held at the University of New South Wales.

- Year 10 science students also visited the University of New South Wales to explore the Museum of Human Diseases.

- Year 10 Drama students travelled to the Sydney Opera House to see the Bell Shakespeare Company perform a dynamic version of *Romeo and Juliet*.

- The school library celebrated Book Week in style with a variety of displays built around the theme “Books Light Up Our World.”

- Year 10 English students participated in poetry slam workshops with award-winning Australian performance artist and poet Candy Royalle.

Also of note, if you have a child commencing Year 7 in 2016, mainstream students will have their Orientation Day on 2nd December 2015. Selective students will have their Orientation Day on 1st December 2015. Information packs will be forwarded home early Term 4 with information regarding orientation.
Formal Assembly: Term 3, 2015

On the 7th August 2015 we held our third formal assembly for 2015 to celebrate the excellent achievement and leadership potential of our students. This was also a special assembly where our incoming prefects, Student Representative Council (SRC) members, Aboriginal Representative Council (ARC) members and BEACON Ambassadors for 2015-2016 were inducted. Parents of our incoming prefects were invited to attend this special assembly and celebrate their daughters’ achievements.

To begin the assembly, the original owners of the land were acknowledged by two of our students, Breanna Smith of Year 8 and Ane Fa'Aui of Year 7.

Our principal, Mr. Flowers, then introduced the incoming prefects, SRC and ARC members and BEACON Ambassadors to the assembly with a short speech on the virtues of leadership, highlighting the example of past leaders in the fields of science and politics. He encouraged the students to establish specific goals and overcome the obstacles that might come their way in order to achieve excellence. The prefect body for 2015-2016 was then announced.

Prefect Body: 2015-2016

Captain: Tanya Shukla
Vice Captain: Olivia Chapman
Senior Prefects: Sara Choudhry
              Nenshi Amin
              Majoory Jeyakumar
Prefects: Madison Brooks
          Danielle Francis
          Telesia Vaoga
          Nisha Richard
          Mona Ajaj
          Juliette Latif
          Hajar Akbari
          Samantha Dolan
Our outgoing captain Stephanie Hall then addressed the assembly for one last time, thanking the staff and her team for their support and wishing the incoming prefect body the best of luck.

Next, our incoming captain Tanya Shukla thanked the school for providing her with the opportunity to serve the school in her current capacity and vowed to do her very best for the student body.

Our SRC members for 2015-2016 were then introduced by Ms. Verma:

**Year 7:**
- Raneem Nasser
- Gurparteet Kaur
- Annisha Yogarajah
- Gaayathiri Shanmugarajah
- Prithika Yogarajah
- Esperance Timms

**Year 8:**
- Jasmine Bautista

**Year 9:**
- Sahar Kazemi
- Sanjana Rana
- Veruska Pather
- Jahanvi Maheshwari

**Year 10:**
- Nupur Patel
- Abigail Webb
- Prerna Vanipriye
- Valentina Pineros Valencia

**Year 11:**
- Sheen Hangloo

Two of the new SRC members, Sheen Hangloo and Jahanvi Maheshwari, explained to the assembly the roles and responsibilities of the SRC within the school community.
Next, our ARC members for 2015-2016 were introduced by Ms. Bloomfield:

Ane Fa’Aui  
Breanna Smith  
Bianca Barton  
Tahla Nixon  
Paige Tutton  
Shanarah Kendall  
Shaye Tutton  
Mikaela Holloway-Nash  

Tashinta Ferguson  
Kellie Thompson  
Kiara Gordon  
Jessie-Rae McDonald  
Tamika Gilmour  
Ebony Smith  
Bianca Holloway  

The BEACON Ambassadors for 2015-2016 were then called onto the stage by Ms. Dayal:

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<th>Year 9</th>
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| Stephanie Bamgbose  
Sanjana Rana  
Anindita Mukherjee  
Mehreen Jamil      | Gelila Workineh  
Gayathri Aranhiyullathil  
Priyanshee Parikh  
Lema Youusufziy  
Bushra Hashemi  
Nikita Kostopoulos  
Aesha Ziad       |

Following the BEACON presentations, Year 10 Elective Music students performed the song “Am I Wrong” by Nico and Vinz.

Next up, Ms. Kaur presented the Excellent Achievement and Leadership Potential awards to the recipients in each grade:

| Gurparteet Kaur  
Jenna Huynh  
Ashreena Oberoi  
Kajel Raina  
Jennifer Latif  
Christel Gonzales  
Gelila Workineh  
Prachi Raichurkar  
Gayathri Aranhiyullathil |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Stephanie Freudling  
Chinnu Anil  
Gabrielle Dolphin  
Navpreet Kaur  
Rida Chowdhury  
Lauren Taylor  
Jessie Ma  
Farrah El-Helou |
The student Tribal Drum group then performed “Rumba” and “Sunguru Bani,” traditional West African rhythms from Guinea and Mali.

The assembly closed with a presentation about the accomplishments of the student robotics team by Salma Malik, Pragyna Dulloo and Ruhama Kabir of Year 10. Their work is a clear demonstration of the excellent achievement of our students and the strong leadership of both our students and teachers.
And the Gold goes to...

Congratulations to the latest Mathletics Gold Award recipients:

- Ninuri Mahagoda (Year 7)
- Renelli Molina (Year 7)
- Adriana Pandazopoulos (Year 7)
- Siya Sachdeva (Year 7)
- Amelia Wilson-Williams (Year 7)
- Hellen Jiang (Year 8)
- Navpreet Kaur (Year 8)
- Nafisa Khondokar (Year 8)
- Hazal Redjeb (Year 8)
- Rida Chowdhury (Year 8)
- Kajel Raina (Year 8)
- Ramneek Thind (Year 8)
- Chelsie Uthayakumar (Year 8)
- Neha Khanom (Year 9)
- Katelin Falconer (Year 9)
- Ghashia Maqsood (Year 9)
- Alisha Prasad (Year 9)
- Niraja Tripathi (Year 9)
- Priyanshee Parikh (Year 10)
- Prenitha Balasubramanian (Year 10)
- Valentina Pineros Valencia (Year 10)
- Sakshi Singh (Year 10)
- Abigail Webb (Year 10)
To receive a Gold Award, students must earn 1000 points or more each week for 20 weeks. Such a fantastic effort on the part of these young ladies!

Ms Julie Whittaker
HT Mathematics/LOTE
Australian Mathematics Competition Results 2015

85 students from BGHS participated in the Australian Mathematics Competition on 30\textsuperscript{th} July 2015 and achieved outstanding results.

The following 4 students ranked in the top 15\% of the state and were awarded a Distinction Certificate:

- **Dahamya Gajanayake: Year 7**
- **Elisha Muthukuda: Year 8**
- **Charlene Melencion: Year 8**
- **Sanjana Rana: Year 8**

The following Credit Certificate winners, 32 students, rank in the top 50\% of the state!

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<td>Melissa Artwoeger</td>
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<td>Shalini Murallee</td>
<td>Divya Dube</td>
<td>Nicole Yol</td>
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<td>Anosua Roy</td>
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<td>Chinmaye Walvekar</td>
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<td>Sheen Hangloo</td>
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<td>Qianbi Yu</td>
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The **Prudence Award** winner for this year is **Dahamya Gajanayake (Year 7)**. (The Prudence score is the number of consecutive correct answers starting from question one.)

We whole-heartedly congratulate all of our participants!

Mrs U. Thangasamy  
Mathematics Competition Organiser
The Great Engineering Challenge

On the 5th August 2015, Blacktown Girls High School was proudly represented in the Great Engineering Challenge held at the University of New South Wales. The BGHS team was mentored by the Year 11 Physics teacher, Mrs Jennifer Papallo, and consisted of the following Year 11 Physics students: Juliette Latif, Qianbi Yu, Nenshi Amin and Chinmaye Walvekar.

The competition consisted of various challenges that are replicable to real-life situations from an engineer’s perspective, including the Bridge Building Challenge, Glider Challenge and Car Obstacle Challenge. The students placed 26 out of 49 overall, with the point difference between the higher placed teams being marginal.

This competition aided in opening the eyes of physics students to their possible future career options. From this event, they were also invited to attend other workshops such as Experience It and the Girls Engineering Camps, emphasising engineering opportunities for women. Overall, the Great Engineering Challenge was a worthwhile and engaging experience that inspired students in the field of engineering.
Know Your Enemy: Year 10 Science Excursion

“Modern medical advances have helped millions of people live longer, healthier lives. We owe these improvements to decades of investment in medical research.”

Year 10 recently had the incredible opportunity to visit the Museum of Human Diseases at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) in order to contextualise their exploration of medical science in society. Mr Choukair organised the excursion to provide students with greater insight into the fields of pathology and epidemiology, allowing them to further appreciate the many fields that biology encompasses.

The Museum of Human Diseases has a collection of 3000 spectacular specimens, varying from 50-100 years old. Students and members of the public are afforded viewing access to these irreplaceable specimens in order to further learn about diseases and the unique history of each specimen. The museum highlights diseases that are caused by major lifestyle issues in Australia such as smoking, obesity and drugs, while also displaying specimens dedicated to the fields of forensic science including, but not limited to, bullet and stab wounds.

This excursion allowed students to appreciate the nature and practice of science, developing an understanding into the causative agents of disease and thus determining preventative measures in order to prolong life.

The visit to UNSW also provided students with greater insight into university life and the type of study involved in medical science. The excursion inspired several students in particular to work harder to achieve their goal of studying medical science at university and to select Biology for study in Years 11 and 12.
Year 10 Drama Excursion: Bell Shakespeare Company’s
Romeo and Juliet at the Sydney Opera House

Earlier this term, Mr. Papa’s Year 10 Drama class attended a live stage performance of William Shakespeare’s classic tragic love story Romeo and Juliet. The play was performed by the Bell Shakespeare Company at the Playhouse Theatre located within the Sydney Opera House. Tickets for the show were provided to our students free of charge as a gift from the WeirAnderson Foundation, which supports a variety of women’s issues, including the strengthening of the education of girls throughout Australia. Deanne Weir, who along with her husband Jules Anderson established and heads the foundation, attended a Shakespearean performance at Blacktown Girls developed by the Year 10 Drama students last term, was impressed with the girls’ work, and wished to further develop the students’ love of the stage by generously offering them tickets to a Shakespearean play.

The day of the performance was beautiful. Clear blue skies and sunny weather made for a picturesque lunch in Circular Quay prior to the play. After lunch, as we walked up the Opera House steps, nerves began to kick in. For many of the students, this was their first time venturing inside of the world-famous Opera House. They were quite impressed with the modern facilities and professional atmosphere of the iconic building, and considered what it would feel like to someday perform live themselves in front of hundreds of people on an Opera House stage.

The Bell Shakespeare production featured a young, energetic cast and incorporated the dynamic elements of street theatre, which we had studied as a class in Term 1. The cast jumped, flipped and twisted on a modern levelled stage that featured several secret compartments housing a variety of props, including chains, bats and swords, used in the captivating, acrobatic fight scenes that helped illustrate the intense violence of the Capulet-Montague feud. Speaking in Elizabethan English but wearing modern costume such as jeans, t-shirts and sneakers, characters also utilised the levelled stage to represent power relationships, with stronger characters parading on the top levels and weaker individuals within the scene marginalised to the lower steps. Mixed in with the fighting and hatred was of course the romantic dialogue between Romeo and Juliet, often punctuated with a powerful kiss, which caused several of the students to cringe! At the conclusion of the play, some students were actually wiping away tears, speaking to the emotional intensity of the cast’s performance. As we said goodbye to the Opera House and boarded our train back to Blacktown, the girls discussed the performance and evaluated the actors, learning from their work and hoping to apply some of the new skills that they observed in their own performances. This excursion was a wonderful opportunity for the students to not only see professional actors and actresses perform on stage, but also to further expand their understanding of Shakespeare and his universal themes and, perhaps most importantly, broaden their horizons, venture into their cosmopolitan city and observe the creative and performing arts in action within our society.
Books can take us anywhere as long as we believe and imagine. Books can light up a new world of imagination for us, simply by being opened and read. When our imagination has no limits the light in our lives shines brighter; if we didn’t express our imagination through reading our world would be dull and lifeless. Books expand our imagination and educate us with precious information brought to life by inspiring authors through their artistic use of language. Many students use books as a way to escape reality, see through a new perspective and enter a fictional realm.

During Book Week this past August at Blacktown Girls, our library gave everyone the chance to look more closely at the plethora of books we have at our disposal which are both educational and entertaining. Our library also allowed students to hone their artistic skills, as they were able to create beautiful, vibrant yellow lanterns which reflect the idea that our library is a bright place that lights up our imaginations with inspirational texts. An abundance of award-winning books were on display for the whole week to encourage students to read and illuminate their minds and world.

By Esperance Timms & Dareen Milman
Slamming Poetry Home

This term, Year 10 English students studied performance poetry and poetry slam events. Performance poetry is just that: poems that are lifted off of the page and performed live on stage. The poet uses his or her voice to breathe life into the poem’s message and capture its emotional intensity. Body language and facial expressions are also used to convey the poem’s ideas. The poet “slams” home the power of his or her words.

Students had the privilege to learn from award-winning Australian performance artist and poet Candy Royalle in workshop sessions held at school in Week 9. Candy discussed her personal experience with poetry and slam competitions, shared some of her emotionally-captivating pieces, and then helped show students how to best present their poems on stage, focusing on tone, volume, clarity, pace, rhythm, timing, gestures, use of space and facial expressions. The workshops were a remarkable opportunity to learn from an actual poet and helped students develop a deeper appreciation of poetry and sharpen the emotional edges of their own poetic writing as they explored critical facets of their lives.