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The Principal's Address

John Elton

2013 has been another great year for all who attend Penrith Selective High School. What has impressed most has been the level of commitment both within and outside the classroom. One only has to look at the long list of personal and school achievements to realise we are part of a special school. Every single classroom I have been in this year has been characterised by students working productively and co-operatively. It is particularly noticeable when I take visitors on tours around the school that students enjoy their learning.

It helps that we have some outstanding teachers at the school, including Social Sciences Head Teacher, Stephen Duclos, who was recognised this year with a Minister's Award for Excellence in Teaching. This has translated into some exceptional achievements. These include students achieving first in Australia and NSW in History and Geography competitions.

In debating, our senior team of exceptional debaters were finalists in the Hume Barbour (Premier's Challenge) debating competition, with Natalie Buckett also representing as third speaker in the CHS team.

In Drama, our Year 11 students made the State Drama Festival and we received two nominations for HSC OnStage. A student who deserves special mention is Rachel Gibbons of Year 12, who was awarded the Order of Australia John Lincoln Community Service Award. This prestigious award is a fitting reward for the selfless community service provided by a student who did not seek such an accolade.

In this election year it was pleasing to see the next generation of leaders step up at Penrith. Our Political Summit was well attended. We had strong representation in both the Junior and Senior Youth Parliaments, we were again represented at the Australian Constitutional Convention in Canberra, and two of our students had the opportunity to interview politicians standing for the seat of Lindsay in the Federal election. The leadership shown by these students was outstanding and indicative of the quality of students at Penrith High School.

The SRC again provided opportunities for the student body, with the Multicultural Day being a

standout event. This year also saw the inaugural Junior Representative Council for Year 7. Based on the work of the JRC, leadership is alive and well and I look forward to their experience making a difference in the years ahead.

I would like to thank our dedicated staff and our wonderful students for making 2013 such a positive one for Penrith High School.

John Elton
Principal



Penrith High continues to be a thriving, productive and educationally engaging environment nurturing the very best in students. Throughout 2013 our community has continued to engage in a variety of student-centred strategies providing a holistic approach to their physical, emotional and intellectual development, providing for well-rounded citizens of the future. From Mock Trials, to debating; to sports and chess; to parliamentary committees and university challenges; the school continues to boast proven results that mark our students as outstanding achievers not just in NSW but Australia.

In the areas of students wellbeing we continue to trial new strategies such as Global Ripples & High Resolves programs, as well as the proven and tested Mind-Matters focused on student wellbeing, promoting problem solving, opening vistas to broader understanding of the wider community and the world. Student engagement in these areas further strengthened their resilience and capacity to think broadly on a variety of issues. Our Welfare staff continued to create opportunities for their students in whole-year activities, forums and experiences like the Duke of Edinburgh program testing stamina, initiative and developing opportunities for students to engage in challenging experiences.

Deputy Principals

fires at Springwood and Winmalee. Occurring at the time of the Higher School Certificate, it saw our students under severe pressure. Students from Springwood and Winmalee joined us for a time to complete their exams with us. We can take pride in how we accepted these students and made them feel welcome at PHS. We can be proud of the generosity of our community in raising more than \$5500 for the victims of the fire. As just one example of the many charitable works our students commit to, the Penrith High community continues to shine as an example to all others.

Glenn Robertson
Deputy Principal



Captains

As we reflect on 2013, we do so with a complex swirl of emotions.

Fondness, as we recall the great moments of another amazing year at PHS. The Athletics Carnival, the Walkathon, School Spirit Week and Multicultural Day were days in which you all displayed your blazing school spirit, and we celebrated our school's diversity. In charity fundraisers for the World's Greatest Shave, the 40 Hour Famine and the Bushfire

Appeal our strong school values were on display, as you all raised enormous amounts of money for people in need.

We feel gratitude, as we remember the enormous efforts and contributions made by so many teachers and students throughout the year, which has made our time that much more enjoyable. To the school executive, Mr Elton, Mr Robertson and Mrs MacPhail, thank you for your hard work and constant commitment to our learning and wellbeing.

Thank you to the SRC, with Jessica Faccin as President and Tyrone Floro succeeding her, have been integral in bringing many of the events that have been the highlights of this year.

We feel sadness, that we will be leaving this all behind. We hope that, reading this magazine in your old age, your octogenarian selves will remember this year as one of the best of your lives, as we surely will remember it as the best of ours.

From Ross, Grace, Josh and Kelsey, good luck to everyone and all the best for the future.