

# Leadership at Beverly Hills Girls High School

Throughout our school, girls display leadership skills in all areas of their school life, whether it is through the School Representative Council (SRC), Sport, and Peer Support or in their classes. Each student is encouraged to take the initiative to become a leader and to acquire skills relating to leadership that will eventually assist them for the future and whilst they are still at school. Beverly Hills Girls High School runs many programs that give the young women of our school opportunities to become involved to better their communication, leadership and social skills and to become valuable citizens.

Our SRC consists of 55 student leaders ranging from Year 7 to Year 12. There are 40 councillors from our house groups, eight houses captains and vice captains and the senior executive council, which includes the School Captain and Vice Captain. Our SRC is recognised around the State as one of the most organised. The SRC is extremely successful and all students involved are supported, encouraged and given a vast range of opportunities to excel as student leaders whether it is at school level, district, and regional and at a state level. Student leaders work very hard to listen to students and to implement their ideas, this ultimately makes our school a place that its students want to attend. Members of the SRC are committed, determined and compassionate with each other and with other students. Our SRC members are positive role models for the other young women at our school. We have also established for new committees dedicated to various areas of our school. Our SRC also has a positive effect on the greater community. We work together with members of the community. We have assisted elderly citizens with operating a computer at a local library. As a part of the SRC, many individuals reach their own personal goals. Within our SRC there is a Regional Public Education Ambassador for the South Western Sydney Region, members of the Hurstville Youth Council, NSW Commission for Children and Young People's Reference Group, recipients of the Ministers Award for Excellence, recipients of the Canterbury Council Citizens and many more. With the new council, we hope for many more amazing opportunities for members.

Peer Support is an extremely successful leadership



program that is run at Beverly Hills Girls High School. The program allows Year 9 students to become leaders for the Year 7 students through a weekly meeting and work, out of a specially designed peer support work book. These weekly lessons are solely delivered by a chosen group of Year 9 student leaders, who in pairs have their own group. These leaders have completed a two day training course and were trained by four Year 10 students and teachers. As a new student starting high school, it can be a very scary and daunting time as students are not sure about their new environment, rules and may be feeling less confident, this is where the peer support program comes into place. It is designed to provide a bridge from primary school to high school. By teaching Year 7 students about themselves, their new school and rules, how to deal with the new work and who to speak to about various issues it eases them into their school. It is also extremely effective due to the Year 9 student mentors. They are the first older students they meet and they feel supported and confident around their leaders, it builds friendships between Year 7 and Year 9. Many become very good friends and continue to be friends through high school. It is a fantastic

feeling when a student from your group greets you every time in the corridor or asks for your help. Peer Support is also an amazing opportunity for the Year 9 students and allows them to become mentors, friends and a source of information about the school for the Year 7 girls. For the mentors there are many benefits that come with such a crucial role. Many will further develop their leadership skills, become much more confident within themselves and their abilities, form new friendships with the Year 7 students in their group, develop or better their communication skills and mature as students.

Another leadership program that Beverly Hills Girls High School founded and runs is SASSY (Successful Aspiring Students Supporting You). It first began in 2005 and was created by the Leadership Coordinator and the Student Representative Council. It is a leadership initiative to create student leaders out of students who are not involved in the SRC, it is parallel. SASSY supports and encourages students to get involved within our school and to make our school a better place to attend. Since SASSY began it has started many programs that have greatly benefited our school. SASSY has created a beautiful garden in the senior playground and also begun an innovative program with the Beverly Hills Intensive English Centre (IEC). Peer Tutoring is award winning and involves students from Beverly Hills Girls High School assisting students from the IEC with their English, through reading, comprehension and assisting newly arrived students to Australia to adapt to their new environment. In 2008 it received the "Red Cross and Energy Australia Most Innovative Award". Peer Tutoring is worthwhile and fulfilling and promotes leadership throughout the school and the IEC.

By Milena Mraovic

**Beverly Hills Girls High School**  
**OPEN NIGHT Wednesday 3rd March 2010 7pm-9pm**  
 Tel: 02 9150 4280 Fax: 02 9502 1280  
[www.beverlyhg-h.school.nsw.edu.au](http://www.beverlyhg-h.school.nsw.edu.au)

## Ancient olive trees surviving on Crete

Greek and foreign artists will take part in an exhibition on the surviving ancient olive trees on the island of Crete. The traveling exhibition, which will first tour Crete and Attica and afterwards Europe, is being organised by the Cultural Association of Crete. The artists will be called to give their own message, through their art, on protection of the environment and particularly on the salvation of the ancient olive trees of Crete which are currently at risk. The olive trees are a landmark of the history and the culture of the island that witness one of the most well-preserved environments and needs to be protected.

The second major target of the Cultural Associations of Crete is to preserve and promote the ancient olive groves which are found throughout the island.

The collaboration of local associations can result in the creation of a network which will be working on the salvation and preservation of the historical and cultural heritage of Crete. The preservation of the trees is the absolute priority for now. The association plans, in coordination with local professional photographers, to organize exhibitions on the olive orchards of Crete;



the exhibitions will move to any place of the country and be used as a means of promotion of the famous Cretan olive oil.

What made the association act like that? According to statistics and facts, Crete has lost a great part of its natural monuments, mostly due to land hungry individuals, the establishment of building plots, and the construction of new roads. Many land owners, also, need to cut down these trees in order to invest in more lucrative means of agricultural production.

The association is trying to respond to the several needs of land owners, asking for the officials and municipalities to intervene, in efforts to preserve and save this important part of Cretan culture.



**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**  
 "More than 100 years of struggle for women's rights"  
 Where are we now?

**SUNDAY 7 MARCH 2010**

4.00pm

GREEK COMMUNITY CLUB,  
 206-210 Lakemba St, Lakemba.

Guest Speakers:

**Marian Baird**, Professor of Work and Organisations  
 Director: The Women and Work Research Group  
 Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Sydney

**Dr. Vasilis Sarafidis**: Lecturer, Faculty of Economics and  
 Business, University of Sydney.

Cultural Program including Poetry and music  
**ALL WELCOME**

Refreshments will be served.

Contact: Dorothy Bassil on 0417 049 358  
 or Martha on 9740 6022