Hawk Spirit at the Interhouse Swimming Carnival
By Hawk Reporters and Photographers

Our Senior Hawk Reporters and Photographers captured the words and images for the Interhouse Swimming Carnival, providing context to the events being chronicled. Hawk Reporters are volunteers dedicated to reporting on events that matter to Hawks, using words to capture memories of the year. They are ably assisted by Hawk Photographers who view events through the camera lens.

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<th>Bronze Leaders</th>
<th>Team Members (so far)</th>
<th>Teacher in Charge</th>
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<td>Hawk Reporters</td>
<td>Hawk Photographers</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Olivia Russo</td>
<td>Khirsten Adla On; Nyakuoy Yak</td>
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<td>Callan Young, Jacinta Taylor, Maddison Barnes, Myra de Smet, Kathryn Pamogas,</td>
<td>Khirsten Adla On, Nyakuoy Yak, Chloé Dalamaras, Sharee Muller and Callan Young</td>
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<td>Mrs Trelawor</td>
<td>Ms Dalton-Strong</td>
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Hawk Reporters and Hawk Photographers are welcoming new team members so if you are keen to dedicate time to these important duties ask the Bronze Leaders or Teachers-in-charge about the next step.

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<th>Swimming Carnival Roar, Brings Our Hawks to Soar</th>
<th>By Callan Young</th>
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<td>The 2014 Inter-House Swimming Carnival tipped to be another amazing event for our school, and it sure did not disappoint. The Friday morning drizzle blew over as our four very proud houses arrived at the Milne Bay Aquatic Centre. Enthusiasm spread across the staff and students, as they got ready to endure the exciting day ahead.</td>
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House spirit proved to be a major factor this year as countless staff and students showed their house pride by dressing up and supporting our swimmers. At 9:45 am, the swimming official sounded the whistle as the first eight swimmers dived from their blocks, commencing the start of swimming carnival events. The action never ceased as the swimmers poured their heart and soul for victory while the Milne Bay grandstand orchestrated mighty house spirit.

As the warm and sunny day went past, signs of passion, integrity and participation turn up a notch. Records were smashed, students kept to their best behaviour and a large amount of students and staff from each house participated in the annual 25-metre free swim to gain extra points for their houses. The atmosphere at Milne Bay continued to be alive throughout the day thanks to the staff and student’s contributions.

This year’s carnival proved again our school’s adversity. Barang’s open girls relay team demonstrated their superiority in the pool by beating their rivals by one lap! Smiles still shined on student’s faces, as they got ready for the concluding swimming carnival results. Principal Mr Ken Green congratulated all of the staff and students in making the carnival the very best it can be. He then announced the winners of the House Swim and House Spirit awards, both won by the Balkuin house in style. Balkuin House Captains accepted the Interact Club House Spirit Shield with tremendous pride as Zachary Bruggeman and Georgia Abbott gave their emotional victory speeches, thanking everyone for participating in the swimming carnival.

Balkuin Basks in Glory
By Maddison Barnes

Friday the 7th saw Harristown State High’s annual Interhouse Swimming Carnival hosted at Milne Bay Aquatic Centre. The day was a raging success with vibrant demonstrations of Hawk PRIDE, namely elements of participation and enthusiasm from all four houses.

So while the 2014 Inter-House Swimming Carnival has passed, the memories embedded will never pass away. This year’s carnival would not have been possible without the necessary help from our sports co-ordinator, staff and student volunteers, swimming competitors, lifeguards and everyone else who came out on the day to support our school’s annual swimming carnival. Your enthusiastic contribution this year has really shown our school’s pride and we look forward to seeing more this year and beyond.

Hawks Roar with Swimming Pride
By Jacinta Taylor

Competitiveness filled the air on this year’s overcast Swimming Carnival; however the clouds didn’t stop Harristown’s mighty Hawks from showing pride in their houses with roaring chants and inspiring tunes.

Dherwain and Balkuin kicked the day off with the spirit mantra, where both houses put up a good fight to see who would succumb first. But this wasn’t the only display of enthusiasm for the day. Students from all four houses celebrated their themes: Bonda’s pirates making a splash with Barang’s lifeguards on duty, amid the Dherwainian Rio Carnival performers dancing to Balkuin’s magical music. Caitlyn Patterson described the tradition, “It’s awesome … so fun and exciting, everyone gets pumped up.”

Swimmers from each house competed in the classic freestyle and backstroke, and of course the daunting butterfly, with all results adding to the house and participation swims to calculate the winner of the day.

The students kept their spirits high, especially Balkuin, the winner of the Spirit Award, who all through the day cheered and hollered for their team members who obviously felt the love, for they also succeeded in acquiring the greatest number of students in the House Swim. This victory wrapped up another spectacular Swimming Carnival, and prepares the school for what is sure to be an even better one in 2015.

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Hundredsof students screamed themselves hoarse in the stands in the bid to win the House Spirit awards, whilst numerous students competed to the best of their ability in the swimming heats.
to gain points for their house in the overall inter-house competition, and an abundance of determined team players took a dip in the 2nd annual House Swim in the hope their house would take the title of House Swim Participation Champion.

The day was thoroughly enjoyed by the student body, with many senior students declaring it an amazing experience. “It was definitely one of the best swimming carnivals to date”, said Emity Bayntun, School Captain for 2014.

Balkuin House, much to their excitement and pleasure, took out House Spirit and the House Swim Participation Awards presented on the day by school Principal, Mr Ken Green.

Balkuin’s ‘Mystical Creatures’ theme seems to have inspired this ‘fairy tale’ ending. The overall House Champion, as well as the Age Champion awards are due to be conferred next week. Nerves are running high, and the best of luck is wished upon Balkuin, Barang, Bonda and Dherwain.

“Winning the house swim and spirit awards was just a wonderful way to finish the day and hopefully the fairy tale story will finish with an overall win,” Zac Bruggeman, male House Captain for Balkuin.

The vibrant spirit of Hawks was not only fuelled by the uplifting House Captains and brave swimmers but also the unique themes of each house.

“I think that they have given out the best themes so far in a long time,” Katrina Herning chirped.

Barang were the heroic lifeguards of the day and showed a rescue demonstration with their team mascot at the beginning of the carnival, fuelling the student’s excitement for the carnival.

The red house channelled their inner “Captain Jack Sparrow” of the movie, “Pirates of the Caribbean” and had transformed into Bondi Buccaneers with their enormous wooden ship, ready to snatch the gold medals in every race.

Balkuin, the winning Spirit house, went as the magical, mystical creatures ranging from fairies and leprechauns and even a few unicorns, elves and mermaids. Bondi was all aboard with their fearsome pirate theme and Dherwain whipped up a party as a Rio Carnival. Even the starting guns were hard to hear over the crowds roar as everyone cheered for their house. Balkuin created a storming beat on the African drums and staged a fake surf rescue before the swimming events began to get their house in the spirit.

Students and teachers alike got into the spirit of the day, dressing up with their house themes. Balkuin dressed appropriately for the occasion as the Bondi Rescue lifesavers. Balkuin added a magical touch as mystical creatures, with lots of fairies and leprechauns and even a few unicorns, elves and mermaids. Bondi was all aboard with their fearsome pirate theme and Dherwain whipped up a party as a Rio Carnival. Even the starting guns were hard to hear over the crowds roar as everyone cheered for their house. Balkuin created a storming beat on the African drums and staged a fake surf rescue before the swimming events began to get their house in the spirit.

Bonda and Dherwain gave it a huge effort in creating a ruckus but as it turned out it was Balkuin’s constant, overpowering war cries that won the House spirit award for the day.

As well as serious racing of future world champions during the day, each house was given their chance at a House Swim. Five minutes to get as many house members into and through the pool as possible, with extra points awarded for teachers, Heads of Departments and Deputy Principals. Every house had an excellent number of students and teachers swimming and spectators definitely got to see the participation value of Hawk PRIDE demonstrated. When the tallies were counted though, whether it was sheer number of students, extra teachers or the speedy swimming, Balkuin once again took the cup as the winner of the House swim with Dherwain 2nd, Bondi 3rd and Barang 4th.

Age Champions and the overall Champion House will be announced on Assembly. The day was a success with an excellent show of participation and cooperation from the students and smiles from all the staff. Balkuin House Captain, Zac Bruggeman said, “It was a fairy tale of a day that will be in grade 12’s memories for ever. Winning the house swim and spirit awards was just a wonderful way to finish the day and hopefully the fairy tale story will finish with an overall win.”

Whether it was your first or your last it was a day of happy memories.

High-spirited Hawks make whooping splash at Milne Bay
By Kathryn Pamogas

Harristown Hawks battled it out at the Interhouse Swimming Carnival on Friday at Milne Bay Aquatic Centre.

The typical wet Toowoomba weather had unluckily struck on the Friday morning of the annual Interhouse Swimming Carnival. This did not dampen the Hawk spirit of students as they proudly cheered on their houses and their swimmers while battling out for the House Spirit award.

Mr Ken Green, Principal of Harristown State High School, was faced with the tough decision of who was going to win the best house. “In my opinion, the winner of the House Spirit Award goes to...the Balkuin House!”

Not only did the Balkuin House win the House Spirit award but also the House Swim award making them the most triumphant house of the day.

Maddison Barnes, a proud Year 12 Hawk from Balkuin house believed all the loud cheers that resulted in her having a sore throat were worth winning the awards. “I am glad to have won both the House Spirit and House Swim awards,” Barnes celebrated. “It pays off all the hard work and the sore throat that I have.”

Spirited Swimming Carnival
By Myra De Smet (G17)

Milne Bay Aquatic Centre was awash in a sea of blue, green, red and yellow as the Harristown hawks cheered on their swimmers on Friday the 7th of February. It was a full day of spirited competition as Barang, Balkuin, Bonda and Dherwain raced their best against each other to see which house could claim this year’s Swimming Championships.