

Aaron's top dog for a day

GREYSTANES

TOM WESTBROOK

HAVING \$16.7 billion at your fingertips is not a bad feeling – just ask Holroyd High School student Aaron Narayan.

Last week Aaron filled the shoes of Greg Prior, the deputy director general of the NSW Department of Education and Training.

As it happened, Mr Prior was acting director general on the day and so Aaron slipped into the role of head-honcho.

"It was such an amazing experience," he said.

"It has been a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Aaron spent the day being chauffeured across town to various high-level meetings in Mr Prior's "flashy car".

"The thing I found very amusing and surprising was that everyone treated us as actual senior staff," Aaron said.

Alas, before long the time came to go back to school.

"The only thing that I wish that could have improved was



the duration of the program, which could have extended to a couple more days because I really loved and enjoyed the hands-on experience," he said.

■ Another local student, Sharon Mo, of James Ruse Agri-

cultural High School in Carlingford, was also chosen to participate in the program and she stepped into the shoes of director general Pam Christie on the same day, sharing top-dog duties with Aaron.

Swavika Prasad, from East Hills Girls High School, Aaron Narayan, of Holroyd High School, and deputy director general Greg Prior.

RULING THE ROOST

■ Just 20 students statewide were selected to be part of the director general for a day program, so only the best and brightest in NSW were chosen.

■ Both Aaron Narayan and Sharon Mo are exemplary students and aspiring leaders at their respective schools.

@ Guildford West Public

GUILDFORD West Public School student John Venditti in year 6 was named public education ambassador for the Granville area at a ceremony at Club Marconi during Education Week this month. The role recognises a model student, says Guildford West principal Poppy Cassimatis. "John is an absolute gentleman – he is always helping out," she said. "He is an all-round good kid who does his best every day."

@ Our Lady of Mercy College

OUR Lady of Mercy College's year 9 debating A team of Imogen King, Annaliese Matthews, Anita Donovan and Jasmine Noud won the grand final of their division of the Catholic Schools Debating Association. The year 12 team were runners-up in their division. Jasmine also won the Parramatta Rotary Club's Clift public speaking competition with a speech on privacy.

Be a Green Champion energy saving tip #2

Heat yourself not the planet

An empty room doesn't need light or heat. Close the door. On cold nights use a hot water bottle to keep warm.

LITS Institute for Sustainable Futures



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About Parramatta High School

Parramatta High School is a partially selective co-educational high school offering excellence and innovation in a supportive environment. We have a strong culture of learning and a tradition of academic achievement. Since its establishment in 1913, Parramatta High School has maintained its reputation for outstanding academic results with high expectations for student achievement. Our highly qualified and experienced teachers are dedicated to ensuring that students reach their full potential. Our students are inspired to explore their individual interest in a varied curriculum. We offer innovative student wellbeing programs that promote a healthy lifestyle. Our students access a wide range of sporting activities. We celebrate the achievement and personal success of our students regularly throughout the year. Parramatta High School provides a comprehensive curriculum that caters to the interests of our students and the unique opportunity to study a variety of languages from Years 7 to 12. Our challenging and innovative programs for Gifted and Talented students are designed to extend and enrich their learning experience. We offer excellent support programs for students with special needs. Our experienced learning support team, develop individual programs for student improvement. We are a national leader in the Positive Behaviour for Learning approach to student wellbeing. Our school operates on the core values of Respect, Responsibility and Honesty. Our welfare programs are designed to promote resilience, self-confidence, personal development and social skills. We are a welcoming and friendly school that encourages and promotes parent and community involvement. Parents are welcome to contact the school to discuss their child's progress and our Parents & Citizens are a welcome voice in school governance. Term 3 Events – This is a very busy time for all the students especially Year 10, who are choosing subjects for Stage 6 and finding out about their future careers. The culmination of this time is during Week 3 when we hold a Subject Fair for parents and students on August the 3rd. Year 11 are involved in our Crossroads Camp at Morrisset – learning about age relevant issues. This term we will continue our preparation for leadership opportunities with training in Peer Support and Peer Mediation. Our SRC will continue our fine tradition of supporting charities and Westmead Hospital with fund raising activities. If you would like more information about the exceptional educational programs we offer please contact us or visit our website.



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PARRAMATTA Advertiser

CATCH THEM BEFORE THEY FALL

Five hundred Australians are required for a world-first study to pinpoint the causes of bipolar disorder. The focus is on 12 to 30 year-olds who have at least one relative with bipolar disorder or who are suffers themselves.

One in 50 Australians suffer bipolar disorder yet there is still no way of identifying a person in the very early stages, or, who is at high risk.

Researchers from the Black Dog Institute and the University of NSW (UNSW) are undertaking the study in collaboration with major universities in the USA. They will look at all the factors that may contribute to the illness, including a patient's DNA, brain imaging and psychological testing.

Participants will be reimbursed for their time.



BLACK DOG INSTITUTE

To participate: Please phone 1800 352 292
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