Principal’s Message

The first 5 weeks of 2014 have seen our students demonstrating our PRIDE values in all aspects of school life.

**Participation:** Students participating in our wonderful swimming carnival and peer support activities.

**Respect:** All students are in full school uniform every day. Students treat our learning environments with respect and thoughtfulness.

**Integrity:** Students are well mannered and courteous to all in the learning community. The SRC induction ceremonies were a great example of our student representatives being trustworthy and reliable members of our school community.
**Diversity:** The Year 7 integrated learning initiative has been successfully implemented into the Stage 4 curriculum. The BYOD initiative for Years 9 and 10 begins.

**Excellence:** 2013 saw outstanding results attained by many Macarthur Girls High School students. Distinguished achievers: Karina CHEN and Mei Hua GONG

Highest Atar: 99.2

2013 Top Achievers were:

- Rebecca DUKE, Community and Family Studies 3rd in state
- Iram SIRGUROH, English (standard) 4th in state
- Jessica ZHOU, Community and Family Studies 8th in state

Highest international student ATAR: Vicky (Fangqi) Huang 96.25, also Echo (Qi) Zhao 92.95.
A warm welcome to all parents and students. I trust that the 2014 year has started well for you and your daughter.

2014 has seen a number of new staff at Macarthur Girls High School. Some staff have been appointed permanently while others are employed in a temporary capacity for the year.

I would like to introduce all of our new teachers to you and officially welcome them to the school. I know that the teaching and learning they are providing through their knowledge, skills and innovation will support your daughter’s achievement of high educational outcomes.

Mr Tardiani has been appointed to Macarthur Girls High School as the new Head Teacher Technology and Applied Studies (TAS). Mr Tardiani brings a wealth of experience in the areas of computing, woodwork and industrial technology as well as leadership and management of this faculty area.

Ms Ranjit joins the English faculty and teaches in both the history and English areas. Ms Grima joins the History faculty while Ms Coop has been appointed to the PDHPE faculty.

In a temporary capacity in 2014, due to part time leave situations, the school has employed a number of teachers either part-time or fulltime.

In English, Mr Nowicki and Ms McCracken.
In Hsie, Ms Prasad, Mr Davison and Ms Frihy.
In PDHPE, Ms Goldsworthy, Ms Milford and Ms Scott.
In Maths, Mr Findlay, Mr La Cava and Mr Willis.

Counsellors for 2014 are Ms Bray and Ms Sandalic.
Ms Hudson has also been employed to assist with student learning across classes.

Over the holiday period, Ms Hickey contacted me to advise she was retiring from the Department of Education in late January. Ms Hickey wrote ...... So many of my life’s main events happened whilst at this school....... I am so grateful to have been a part of the day to day pleasure of teaching and of learning. Each student has made my career exciting and challenging, and colleagues have made it such a joy.

To be a part of the school’s compassion, camaraderie and desire to strive to do the best for all students and the wider community has been my great pleasure.

Farewell Ms Hickey, enjoy your new path on your journey!

Ms Hickey

Mr Tardiani
Ms Ranjit
Ms Grima
Ms Coop
Congratulations to all students who have been elected to represent their year as members of the Macarthur Girls High School Student Representative Council (SRC). Each representative has so much to contribute through the initiatives of the Student Representative Council and by being a voice for the student body. A huge thank you to the co-ordinator of our student leadership program, Ms Auon, for organising the Induction Ceremonies this week. And a special thank you to Ms Freckman for undertaking all the selection processes in 2013.

Best wishes to Ms Youssef and her new baby. As Ms Youssef stated their family was blessed with the arrival of a little prince. Malik was born on 16.1.14 weighing 3.7kg and 52cm.

P & C
Parental involvement in our school is very important. One way to become involved in your daughters education and discuss future developments and issues is to come to our Parents and Citizens meetings. Please come along to the staff common room on Tuesday nights. The meetings begin at 7:00pm and usually finish by 9:00pm. P & C meets week 4 and week 8 of each term. The senior executive look forward to discussing any topics, issues or concerns with you at these meetings.

Gail Cluff
Principal
Deputy Principal’s News
Stage 6

Welcome back!
Welcome back to all students and staff to a new year! It has been a wonderful and easy transition to a new year with teachers teaching and students learning! It is very constructive to see such a positive start to the new year. Students are well and truly focused on their learning and are starting to head towards the first of their 2014 assessments.

Fantastic HSC (2013) results
I was very proud to see the fantastic results obtained by our 2013 HSC students. Congratulations to all students and to their wonderful teachers! I would like to particularly acknowledge Ms Sheridan their Year 12 Adviser for the wonderful and dedicated way she led Year 12, and the Assistant Year Adviser, Ms Waring.

Further details can be found in the newsletter.

Year 11 and Year 12 Assessment Schedules
Last year, Year 12 students received their HSC Assessment Policy and schedule when they commenced their HSC Course at the start of Term 4. Year 11 received theirs emailed to them, and I would like to thank Mr Ford for leading the introduction to the Preliminary Course Assessment policy.

These polices were emailed to all Year 11 and Year 12 students, and are also posted on our website - Year 11 at http://www.macarthur-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/years/year-11/assessment-handbook and Year 12 at http://www.macarthur-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/years/year-12/assessment-booklet.

Exits from the school
Following an accident last year, the school has decided to close the Macarthur Street east gates in the afternoon. This is a Term 1 trial. This was explained to students in week 1.

In summary:
The main eastern gate from Macarthur Street (opposite New Zealand Street) will be opened only in the morning for students to enter the school. In the afternoon this gate will be locked.

Students who wish to go to Parramatta Station or head south or east will walk down the hill within the school grounds, parallel to Macarthur Street and exit through the gates at the bottom of the hill, adjacent to the Gasworks Bridge.

Other students who wish to go in a north or easterly direction will need to exit through the Thomas Street gates (next to the tennis courts in the north of the school) and cross either at the pedestrian crossing in Thomas Street, or turn right and cross at the Macarthur Street traffic lights.

The school has approached Parramatta Council, but in the short term we have reviewed student safety when exiting from this side of the school.

Safety around the school
We are greatly concerned at the unsafe driving practice of some of our parent body, and also siblings or friends of our students, who are red and green ‘P’ plate drivers. We request parents obey road rules when driving to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students.

I have communicated with external agencies, and Parramatta Council Rangers have been around the school, booking parents who violate safety and parking regulations. In addition, I am referring our neighbours’ complaints to the police. Please do not park in driveways and on the common property of the units around our school.
Macarthur Street is a very busy, main thoroughfare, with a high degree of traffic. The crossing on the eastern side of the school is not adequate for the large number of students exiting the school at 3.15 pm each day.

Parents at the last P&C meeting of 2013 also expressed great concern at the unsafe driving practice of some parents collecting their daughters when entering and exiting New Zealand Street (next to the pizza store), and the risk to students leaving the school.

This, in part, is why we have closed the eastern gates in the afternoon.

We remind all students and parents to be proactive and take care when crossing any streets around the school. We urge all students to cross at correct crossings and follow traffic signals. It is also important to keep to the left on pedestrian walkways and concentrate on what is going on around them. It is best not to be distracted by music, head phones and mobile phones.

**Preparing for the day - a healthy breakfast**

I frequently speak to students about being prepared for the day, and having a healthy and wholesome breakfast. I use the analogy that just as a car needs petrol to run, a human body needs food. Some of our students do purchase breakfast on the way to school. This is causing me some concern in the morning when they are crossing the very busy Macarthur Street to purchase their breakfast pizzas. Please encourage your daughter to have a good breakfast before she leaves for school each day.

*Mr Douglas Melville*

*Deputy Principal*

*Stage 6 Leader*

Thank you to our Stage Administration Officers for the work they have done at the beginning of 2014. Our administration staff play an integral role in making sure our school is organised and focused on learning. This is the first port of call for most students and parents. Always friendly, providing expert advice and looking after your daughters with care and compassion.

Stage 4: Jan Mackay (right)
Stage 5: Diane Whitfield (centre)
Stage 6: Sylvia Reeves (left)
Welcome to the 2014 school year, parents and caregivers of Year 9 and Year 10 students. We are looking forward to getting to know the Year 9 students who are now part of our Stage 5 group, and would also like to see our Year 10 students mature and maximise all learning opportunities provided by their teachers.

I am continuing to work part time this year, currently Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and share the Stage 5 Leader role with Mr French. We consult with each other on all matters and issues concerning Year 9 and Year 10 students, so please feel free to contact either of us if you have any concerns.

I would like to thank Ms Mercado (Year 10 Adviser) and Ms Jackman (Year 9 Adviser) for their hard work in settling the girls into the new school year. They have also put a lot of preparation into the quality PRIDE lessons that students are undertaking during roll call. Please contact the relevant Year Adviser if you have any welfare concerns regarding your daughter. Mrs Whitfield is the Stage 5 School Administration Officer who can be contacted regarding administrative issues.

We have started to implement our BYOD pilot into Stage 5. Students are only permitted to BYOD if they have returned their information pack which contained the MGHS Student BYOD Guidelines and BYOD Student Agreement, signed by both student and parent. Each class will be guided by Mr French and our Technology Support Officer, Ms Salian through the process of logging on to the DEC internet. Please be reminded that this will only work if the device has the specifications as set out in all information distributed at the end of last year. You can access this information on our school website, BYODevice Specifications.

Parents should be aware that we have implemented a new policy and process to address lateness to school. Any student who is late without a valid written explanation will have to report to detention during lunch 1 on the day they are late. Failure to attend the lunch detention may result in an after-school detention. Parents will be contacted regarding persistent lateness as it is the family’s responsibility to have students at school on time.

Students in Years 9 and 10 have been emailed a copy of the 2014 Assessment Handbook. An informative presentation was delivered that ‘walked’ the students through the Handbook and outlined their responsibilities. A copy of the handbook can be found on the school website under the appropriate year on the School Years tab. Please ensure that your daughter records when her assessment tasks are due in her school diary.

All Year 9 and Year 10 students are expected to complete their online enrichment activities every week on Moodle. A reminder that the program includes both literacy and numeracy activities. Ask your daughter to show you her activities and grades to see how she is progressing. Please be reminded that completion of these activities is included on her half yearly and yearly report.

I look forward to working in partnership with you to achieve Macarthur Girls High School’s purpose which is to encourage young women to achieve their personal best and beyond, empowering them with the necessary skills to be successful citizens in an ever changing world.

Nadene Kennedy
Deputy Principal
Stage 5 Leader
Welcome to the 2014 school year, parents and caregivers of Year 7 and Year 8 students. I would like to congratulate all students in Stage 4 on the manner in which they have commenced the 2014 school year. Our newly arrived Year 7 students are now integrated into school life and Year 8 students have comfortably settled into their routines.

I have been extremely impressed with how our new students in Year 7 have transitioned into Macarthur Girls so successfully and adjusted to the many variations which exist in high school. A whole new environment, different timetables, a variety of teachers and over 160 new friends to make, ensure that no two days are the same. Additionally, Stage 4 have been instructed on evacuation and lockdown procedures, attended or participated in SRC and Sports Council elections, engaged in Peer Support sessions and attended regular whole-school and Stage Assemblies. Year 8 are already demonstrating how much they have matured since last year as they comfortably deal with the everyday routines of school.

I would like to thank our Year 7 Adviser, Ms Harris and her assistant, Ms Parkes for their wonderful work in settling our new girls into their first year of high school. The transition has been very smooth. I would also like to thank Ms Rigg for her continuing support of Year 8 students. Congratulations are extended to Ms Dykgraaf who is the new Assistant Year 8 Adviser and many thanks to Ms Mansfield for her fantastic support of Year 7 2013. Ms Mansfield now works with the current Year 7 cohort as leader of the Peer Support program. Please contact the relevant Year Adviser if you have any concerns regarding your daughter.

I was overwhelmed with the enthusiasm displayed by our students at MGHS Swimming Carnival in our own pool. So many girls displayed the PRIDE example of Participation on a beautifully warm, sunny day and led the way in the famous ‘cheer off’!

Year 7 will soon be departing for Taronga Zoo on the very first ZooSnooze that MGHS has attended. This will be an exciting and unique experience that is sure to provide many great memories for our girls.

As a key component of providing MGHS students with extra learning support, all Stage 4 students are expected to complete their online enrichment activities every week on Moodle. These literacy and numeracy modules are expected to be completed weekly at home and provide parents with an opportunity to observe how your daughter is progressing. Please be reminded that completion of these activities is included on her half yearly and yearly report.

So, with students now settled and increasingly comfortable with the structures of high school, it is of paramount importance that all girls focus on their learning and ensure they commence the year in a positive and rewarding way.

Well done Stage 4 on a great start to the year.

Mr Karl Berthold
Stage 4 Leader
Ami Surti received an award from the Global organisation of people of Indian origin for Arts and Culture on 9 February 2014. It was a great honour for Ami to receive this award as this further motivates the young generation to strive for excellence.

Ami has been performing on the Sydney stage since five years of age. She learnt different dancing styles such as Kathak, Bollywood, Hip hop, Contemporary and Folk dance.

Ami is associated with the Natraj Academy where she is also receiving vocal training. She has exhibited her excellent talent in singing and dancing at Indian International and National concerts. Ami has also performed for charity functions and special functions for the aged population at nursing home.

Ami has simultaneously expressed her interest for Visual arts and Graphic Design. Congratulations Ami, the school community appreciates your talent and commitment to the Arts.

Drama Report

2014 has seen students from all year groups up and active, already ‘sinking their teeth’ into many opportunities for learning and fun through Drama.

Year 7s have started to rehearse their Shakespearean piece, focusing on a comedy speech from Hamlet, as the Danish Prince directs his actors, in how to perform properly.

Year 10s are creating original Brechtian group performances which aim to educate their audiences and instigate change in our world, around social issues including cyber bullying, the cost of war, pressure of the media and feminism. We look forward to bringing you some extracts of their work later in the year.

Meanwhile, Years 11 and 12 Drama students have already journeyed beyond the classroom on an excursion to the Seymour Centre for the OnStage showcase, where they witnessed some of the best performances and individual projects from across the state from the 2013 HSC. Read more about their experience in our student reports below.

Finally, we have commenced a new extra-curricular Drama club this term, called The Director’s Studio, where Year 10 students are working in director teams to select and refine scripts. We will then be able to open our Drama studio doors to enthusiastic Year 8 students to audition as part of the Year 8 Drama Ensemble, ready to create comedy theatre under the direction of their Year 10 peers! Stay tuned for more information on Year 8 auditioning processes and news of the new Director’s Studio club for 2014.

By P Jackman
Anime Club’s Giving Back

In Term 4 of 2013, our school’s aim was to give back to the community for everything that they have done. The Anime Club discussed this aim as well and came to the conclusion that, we too, wanted to give back. We decided to give back to one primary school that our members had attended, which, majority vote, was Parramatta Public School.

In the morning of 22 October Angela Chen, Laurena Ding, Tracy Chau and I, represented the Anime Club and visited Parramatta Public School. We formally presented their Librarian our club’s project of Term 4, 2013. This consisted of a booklet of our club member’s artworks themed around the four seasons, thus naming the project ‘Four Seasons’.

‘Four Seasons’ was a successful project in which many students contributed their time and effort. Each member chose from winter, spring, summer or autumn and drew a picture based on their season. In total, the booklet contains 19 artworks. Some students such as Angela Chen and Aisha Qamar contributed more than one artwork which displays a high level of participation in relation to our PRIDE values. The Librarian of Parramatta Public School gladly accepted our booklet and was extremely impressed by our member’s talented artworks.

Many thanks to our previous president, Ruby Chiang, as this project would have been impossible without her organisation.

By Tracy Chau, President 2014
Macarthur Girls High School Swimming Carnival

The Macarthur Girls High School Swimming Carnival was held on Thursday, 20 February. This year we were lucky enough to hold it at our school swimming pool again. Thankfully the rainy weather cleared to a warm, sunny day with a huge turn out from students. All students demonstrated PRIDE in their outfits, dressing up in an array of house colours. It was great to see so many students participating with enthusiasm on the day. The cheering and chanting continued throughout the whole day! Congratulations to all students for their involvement in the day and especially to Lennox who won the house cheer off!

By Madina Sherzay—Sports Council
Knock-Out Touch Football

On 17 February at 9.35am the Macarthur Girls Touch Football team played a knockout competition against the Cheltenham Girls Touch Football team. The weather wasn’t looking as good as we hoped.

We could smell the earth and feel light sprinkles of rain as we walked to our positions on the field. Both teams played outstandingly with great attacking skills and displayed tremendous sportsmanship.

Macarthur out shone with their defending skills and took great pride in representing their school. Even though we showed flashes of brilliance, experience was a deciding factor, with many girls making their debut in this year’s touch football team. The score reflected this, going 4-0 to Cheltenham. We ended the game with a cheer for Cheltenham, shook their hands and wished them luck with their future games in the competition.

There was some exceptional try saving touches from the following students. They displayed some smart thinking and great analysis of the situation and should be commended on their effort. These students were Vanessa Lu, Aliye Bayhan and Tahlia Alexander. I applaud all players of the 2014 Macarthur Girls Touch Football team on putting in 110% of dedication and commitment, not only into the game but also into the prior training sessions. Thank you to Miss Scott for coaching, training us and organising all the details.

By Rayanne Alameddine - Touch Football Captain

Tennis Knockout

It was a wet and dull Friday morning on the day of the tennis knockout competition between Macarthur Girls High School and Carlingford High School. Luckily, the skies cleared up and the day was able to go ahead. So driving to Carlingford High School, our Macarthur team comprised of:

- Vanessa Lu (Year 12)
- Sude Kayaldere (Year 12)
- Mahima Panesar (year 9)
- Vishwa Jethwa (Year 11)

In total, there were eight sets played: 2 doubles games, then 4 ranked singles games, followed by another 2 doubles game. Although we lost, it was a fun and rewarding experience. Everybody played their hearts out and left nothing in the tank. There was a great show of sportsmanship and friendly competition on the behalf of both schools. There were some unbelievable tennis shots on display, making for six entertaining games of tennis.

Representing your school evokes a sense of PRIDE and you certainly feel honoured playing for your school, which is why I highly recommend any students with an interest or love of tennis to try out next year. It is an awesome day and who wouldn’t want to play the great sport of TENNIS?

By Vanessa Lu — Year 12
A Message for Year 8 Parents and Students
The CSC Study with University of NSW

Year 8 MGHS students have been selected by the University of NSW to be involved in the CSC (Climate Schools Combined) study. The aim of the study is to evaluate an innovative internet-based intervention program which is designed to help prevent mental health and substance use problems in adolescence. The program addresses issues such as anxiety, depression, substance abuse and associated harms.

Year 8 students at MGHS who participate in the study will be asked to complete a short on-line questionnaire which will ask general questions about their mood, behaviour, alcohol and drug use and other related activities. It is estimated the questionnaire will take approximately 15 mins and will be completed in their PDHPE class. Any Year 8 students not participating will be given other work to do during this time. All students participating in the CSC Study will redo the questionnaire a total of 6 times over the next three years. For each questionnaire completed, students will go into a draw to win an iPad.

All information collected is strictly confidential, except as required by law and duty of care. Parent/carers may withdraw their consent for their child/ward to participate in the CSC Study at any time.

MGHS Timeline

Term 1, weeks 3-4 permission notes will be distributed and returned
Term 1, week 6 survey will be completed in PDHPE class

We would encourage students to be involved as the prevention of mental health problems and substance abuse is vitally important for all Australians.

Mrs J Mumford
Head Teacher PDHPE

Year 8 Rewards Day

It was a bright and sunny day and our whole grade was absolutely excited about our excursion to the city. The ferry ride to the city was enjoyed by everyone. We were mesmerized by the view. It was not long before everyone started taking photos of their surroundings. When we got off the ferry we were exposed to the massive crowd filling the city. We then went for a lovely walk until we found a place to have our picnic. Our picnic spot was wonderful. We sat down with our friends while we ate our food. Wanting to walk around for a bit we all went with our friends to look around the place. We soon found out there were eels in the pond which was located in the middle of the picnic area. The eels even became a bit famous from all the attention they are getting from us. We packed up and set off to the train station to get back to Parramatta. We stopped by for ice-cream as a treat. There were plenty of delicious flavors to choose from. After our delightful dessert, we took a train back to Parramatta. Although we were all tired and exhausted, we enjoyed our time together and it made our time as a Year 8 student more memorable.

By Buvvashree Balasubramani and Ruponti Atiq
Year 9 Adviser Report

We are off to a strong start in 2014 for Year 9 and we extend a warm welcome to the new students of Macarthur, who have joined us this year. ‘Integrity’ is the focus for our year group in 2014, and students at our first assembly discussed what the term ‘integrity’ means for Year 9 - terms such as ‘honour’, ‘truth’ and ‘trying our best’ came up. As a year group it was agreed that another way of living with integrity is to ‘be our best selves’ in everything we do.

In Year 9, as friendship groups change and develop, new elective classes are formed and students grow into young Macarthur women, we are reminded every day of how important it is to always strive to be our best selves - in class work and contributions to learning, in relating to each other and staff with respect and integrity, and in representing our school and families in the wider community.

As we roll out the BYOD program at Macarthur this year, I would particularly urge students and parents to discuss again, the importance of integrity and safety involving the cyber world. Students and parents have signed to acknowledge their awareness of the school’s technology policy and it is important that open communication about expectations and safe behaviour and practices regarding technological devices are maintained.

We have introduced new PRIDE Chat Time on Wednesdays, where students will have an opportunity to ‘check in’ with their roll teacher individually. Students are currently in the process of electing one new Welfare Representative in each roll group and we have also started the Moodle Challenge in Year 9 (a competition in which classes compete to ensure all students have completed their literacy and numeracy homework each week).

See below the wonderful pictures and student article about our Year 8 Rewards Day at the end of 2013, which was a big success, as we celebrated the year and looked forward to reaching our new goals and aspirations as Year 9 Macarthur girls.

By P Jackman
Senior Drama Students’ Reports on the OnStage Excursion

Onstage was the most inspiring adventures for our Year 12 Drama Class because not only was it fun to watch but it put challenges and goals for each and every one of us as we saw what it took to get a Band 6. All of us are now driven to do the best we can and to make Ms. Jackman’s mission to send at least one of us to perform at OnStage. We returned to class with fresh ideas and motivations to guide us where we need to head with our future Group and Individual Projects. This excursion really opened our eyes to some of the best Band 6 projects whether it was costume design, performance, set design, or critical analysis, to what we need to do and not to get the best marks possible. The heated discussion in class after the excursion about what we liked, the unique and eclectic concepts and themes enriched the whole experience. The OnStage team made sure that everyone left the theatre with praise on their lips. The chance to see some amazing performances added to the entire package and while it made most of us nervous to see the level of work people all over the state put in Drama, it also provided us with a sense of direction and mateship. I wouldn’t miss out on this opportunity of watching OnStage again because the beauty of viewing the young talent in NSW really makes us feel proud and motivates us to achieve this moment in the spotlight.

By Palak Gupta and Shivani Jain — Year 12 Drama

OnStage was an incredible experience that got me engaged throughout all the performances. We had a whole long discussion in class and we all just wanted to keep talking and talking about all the fantastic performances. I really loved it because it was very interesting, but also because it was a great experience to look back at it to give me an idea about what I have to achieve later. I was very surprised at how WOW! the performances were. I really enjoy going to a theatre that is going to really benefit me for later on in the HSC. We just loved it!

By Rawah Jida - Year 11 Drama
Upcoming Dates

Term 1
11 April      Last day for Term 1

Term 2
29 April (Tuesday)  Students return to school for Term 2
1 May         Year 7 Vaccinations
22 May        Athletics Carnival
27 June      Last day of Term 2

P & C Meetings
All parents are invited to come along to the staff Common room on Tuesday nights in week 4 and 8 of each term. The meetings are from 7.00pm to 8.30pm

Term 1  Tuesday 18 March, 2014
Term 2  Tuesday 20 May, 2014
                    Tuesday 17 June, 2014

Information

Teaching someone to drive can be a happy experience.

You can learn all the simple steps on how to teach a learner driver at a FREE two hour workshop.

The next workshop in your area will be held:

TIME & DATE:
6pm – 8pm
Wednesday 5
March 2014

VENUE:
Granville Youth Centre (room 2), 3A Memorial Drive, Granville

BOOK NOW ON:
Elisabeth Sacco
M: 0449 247 495 or
esacco@saccom.com.au

Helping learner drivers become safe drivers.