New Initiative: MGHS SRC website

Congratulations to all SRC members and Ms Auon, SRC co-ordinator, for creating such a vibrant communication tool for the student, staff and parents of Macarthur Girls High School. The website is located at http://mghssrc.wix.com/mghssrc or can also be accessed through a link on the school website http://www.macarthurg.h.schools.nsw.edu.au/

The aim of having a student managed SRC website is to communicate the various school events organised by the Student Representative Council. This website is great for

- being informed about upcoming activities and keeping track of dates of events with a calendar on the Home page
- viewing details of past events
- obtaining information about how to volunteer in their local community and
- communicating to the SRC via email (mghssrc@gmail.com).

Literacy and numeracy

Our literacy and numeracy online enrichment program located on Moodle is an extremely important component of our students learning at Macarthur Girls High School. It is paramount that all students in Years 7 to 10 complete these learning activities, with integrity, by 9 am Monday morning each week. These programs will support your daughter’s learning across all courses and enable her to achieve outcomes that reflect her capabilities. The school has implemented procedures for those students who continue to demonstrate a lack of commitment to their own learning. These procedures which include after school detentions, are non-negotiable.
Outstanding 2013 Achievements

The 2013 Annual School Report for Macarthur Girls High School has been completed and submitted to the Department of Education and Communities as well as being published on our school website. The report illustrates a variety of school initiatives and highlights student outcomes in the academic, sporting, cultural and welfare arenas as well as providing information on school performance and academic achievements. The report also contains progress on our school targets, data from a number of sources, in depth evaluations and future directions for the school. It is a very comprehensive account of school life in 2013 with a multitude of examples showing significant programs, achievements in arts, sports, welfare, awards and progress thus far on school planning 2012 to 2014. The report is located at http://www.macarthur-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/

ZoosnooZ

Congratulations to Year 7 students who attended the ZoosnooZ at Taroonga Park. I have been told by those staff who attended that the students impressed with their enthusiasm, exploration and commitment to their learning as well as bonding as the newest cohort at the school. Please refer to their articles on page 10 to find out what the 108 students and 8 staff members got up to during their overnight stay at this world renowned zoo.
Uniform

As the weather becomes a little cooler, a reminder that school jumpers, vests and cardigans can be purchased from the uniform shop which is open every Monday. The official school uniform needs to be worn at all times and families need to ensure that students are in school uniform each day. The safety of students is paramount and wearing the school uniform enables all staff to quickly identify who should be on school premises. Students and families are requested to ensure the uniform is worn as per school policy and with pride, meeting all health and safety regulations. Examples would include the correct footwear and hijabs being tucked into shirts and/or jumpers. Please refer to pages 16 and 17 of your daughter’s diary for detailed information.

Wet weather also creates problems with student uniform as some students appear to only have one blouse and skirt. Please consider purchasing a second uniform to assist with these issues. If for some reason your daughter cannot attend school in the correct uniform, then you need to provide her with a signed note and she needs to see her Stage Leader and request a uniform pass before school starts. If families are experiencing financial difficulties, please contact the school to make an appointment with Ms Gobbe on 96831866 to discuss options.

Muslim scripture group donation.

The MGHS Muslim scripture group consists of Year 7 to 12 students. The students have been collecting donations each Thursday scripture session. During the last few years, this large group of students have been involved in making significant donations to projects they are passionate about. During Term 1, the scripture group made a presentation of $1680 to the Sayidah Fatima Girls Education Centre at Gabra, Kenya through Muslim AID Australia. These funds will help the 200 girls who attend this orphanage to receive educational support, school uniforms, nutritious meals, immunisation and shelter. Congratulations to all involved with this initiative.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) - now available to whole school

After a successful pilot of the Bring Your Own Device initiative with Years 9 and 10, the school community has decided to extend it to include students from all years. It is paramount that parents/carers refer to the particular specifications required for devices to be connected to our network, as per DEC instructions. This information is available on the schools website at http://www.macarthurgh-schools.nsw.edu.au/documents/27841848/27848137/byod_checklist_-_parents.pdf

Before any student can become a participant in this initiative, parents and students must:

- Read Student Bring Your Own Device Guidelines
- Read and accept by signing and submitting the MGHS Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Student Agreement. Students are advised to see their stage administrative officers to collect this form or visit our website under News to find these documents.

Our students have a positive impact in the community

Congratulations to the Entertainment students for the way in which they undertook their roles at the recent Premier’s Senior Concert at the Entertainment Centre. The school has received many favourable communications via email and phone highlighting not only what our students did but how they did it.

Your wonderful students helped all of us who were fortunate to attend....As a past student I felt so proud of the girls who were cheerful and respectful.......I just wanted all the girls to know what an excellent job they did.......All at the school deserve credit for the values instilled in your students.

A special thank you to their teachers. The girls involved have demonstrated our PRIDE values at the highest level.
Resilience

I believe one of the most important skills to teach children is resilience. It is known to be a common trait amongst successful adults. The ability to bounce back from disappointment is something parents have the opportunity to teach children every day. You may have heard your daughter say, *this isn’t fair.*

So, how do we teach children to cope and succeed in the face of unexpected challenges?

The School A to Z website has some great tips for parents on developing resilience. The information includes a video and transcript of Developing resilience in your child.

Tips on resilience include:

- Resilience doesn’t come naturally to all kids - those skills need to be specifically taught.
- Always saving your child from failure doesn’t give them the opportunity to learn better skills.
- To interact effectively with their peers, our kids need to develop resilience.
- Commend your child’s strengths, be positive about their abilities to improve their other skills.
- Self-esteem comes from conquering challenges, not from constant praise that everything we do is brilliant!
- Kids notice how well parents handle stress and challenges and then copy those behaviours.
- Extracurricular activities help develop social skills.
- Life isn’t always fair. Teach your child how to accept and adapt to challenging circumstances.
- Create opportunities for your child to talk about their problems - teens often open up more if you’re doing some activity together.

Term 2 information

A reminder that Mondays during Term 2 and 3 see a change in the structure of the day to accommodate grade sport. Period 1 Mondays starts at 9:05 am after a 5 minute roll call with DEAR time scheduled for 1:00 to 1:25. Students representing in grade sport participate from 1:00 onwards.

Remember, the last day of Term 1 is 11 April and students return on Tuesday 29 April at 8:55 am which is a Week B. Therefore, the Wednesday of week 1 is a Wednesday B, an early finish day with the school day concluding after period 3 at 1:25pm. Please refer to your diaries on page 5 for all this information, including the week A and week B schedule.

Finally, a huge thank you and congratulations to not only the students who have applied themselves with diligence and commitment to their learning throughout Term 1 2014, but also to the teachers who consistently plan and deliver high quality teaching and learning activities that enable our students to achieve their personal best. On behalf of the school community, I would like to personally thank our incredible administration staff for enabling our school to function so effectively and for the support and assistance they so willingly give to staff, students and parents.

Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday.

Ms Cluff
Deputy Principal’s News
Stage 6

It has yet again been a very busy four weeks since our last Newsletter. I know students and staff are looking forward to their holiday break.

School for the term concludes on Friday, 11 April, 2014. This year, both the Easter celebrations and ANZAC Day fall in the school holiday break.

School Staff return on Monday 28 April, 2014, and all students return on Tuesday 29 April, 2014. This term the school starts on a ‘Week B’ timetable.

Term 2 and 3 School Organisation
In Term 2 and 3 we change the school’s day structure on a Monday, to accommodate Grade sport, with sport competition for Year 9 and 10 with other schools in our sport zone.

The Monday structure changes to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.55 am</td>
<td>Warning bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.00 - 9.05 am</td>
<td>Roll Call</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.05 - 10.17 am</td>
<td>Period 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.17 - 10.36 am</td>
<td>Recess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.36 - 11.48</td>
<td>Period 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.48 - 1.00 pm</td>
<td>Period 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.00 - 1.25 pm</td>
<td>PRIDE Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.25 - 2.03 pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.03 - 3.15 pm</td>
<td>Period 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This means that Year 12 students who would have normally finished their classes at 1.25 pm will now complete their classes at 1.00 pm.

Parents have previously given permission for their daughters to leave the school, to commence study at home, due to early leave home study. I remind all parents that students who leave are in the care of their parents as of 1.00 pm.

Students who wish to remain at school to study need to attend PRIDE Time, and will need to sign back into the school at the Reception Office, and will need to sign into the Library as a ‘visitor’ in the appropriate book.

School Reports
Years 7 and 11 Interim reports went out earlier in the term to parents, to advise them how their daughters have settled in to high school (for Year 7) and the senior school for (Year 11). The majority of senior students received a praiseworthy letter, but I am concerned that some girls in Year 11 have received a letter that expressed concern about student progress. If you have received one of these letters of concern, please contact the Head Teacher of the subject.

Year 12 Half Yearly Reports have now been completed and will be issued to Year 12 next week, on Thursday, 10 April 2014. I have enjoyed reading all reports provided by your daughter’s class teachers, across all Faculties and courses. Please read your daughter’s report and discuss with her ways to improve her study and application.
Term 2 is the busy term of assessing, marking and reporting for the rest of the school, starting with Year 11 and then all other years. Year 11 students have commenced many of their assessment tasks across many of their Preliminary Courses, and their reports will be issued to them in Term 2, Week 3, on Friday, 16 May 2014.

Parent Teacher Night
We look forward to meeting parents and carers at our annual Year 11 and Year 12 Parent Teacher Night, which will be held in Term 2, week 4 on Wednesday 21 May, 2014 in the school Hall. This is a three way conversation, and I encourage you to attend with your daughter to meet her teachers.

Next term your daughters will receive a booking sheet. I wish to organise a range of interpreters across a number of languages to facilitate these meetings this year. I have discussed this with Year 11 and Year 12 students, and asked them to inform the school if you wish to book an interpreter, so please liaise through your daughter.

Essential safety and security
One requirement of essential safety and security in schools is that we need to put in place strategies to evacuate the school in the event of an emergency, or ‘lock down’ in the event of a serious incident.

We recently practised a lock down procedure with the whole school. Your daughter may have mentioned it to you. Please discuss with your daughter this important activity and also impress upon her the need to quickly comply in any drill or real emergency. We also urge all students to not use their phones in such a situation, as with a student body of over 1040 students, it can be quite disruptive if students are trying to communicate with their families.

Each year we like to keep parents informed of the process:

LOCKDOWN Procedures
The LOCK DOWN order is a continuous ringing of the emergency SIREN (we call it the ‘whoop whoop’ bell!!)
- LOCK - Lock up your space
- DOWN - Get down and out of sight
- Remain still, calm and quiet
- Remain in LOCK DOWN until the siren stops
- Wait five minutes after the siren stops for an announcement
- Students and staff will be directed to the quadrangle for a roll call and debriefing.

EVACUATION Procedures
The evacuation order is a continuous ringing of the SCHOOL BELL.
- Students leave the classroom under the direction of the teacher.
- Bags are to be taken UNLESS instructed otherwise.
- Students leave the building by the nearest exit UNLESS instructed otherwise.
- Students are usually directed to ASSEMBLY AREA A, (bottom oval) UNLESS instructed otherwise.
- If safety allows close windows but leave doors open.
- At the assembly area students line up in roll class order according to signage.
- At the conclusion, students and staff will be directed to the quadrangle for a roll call and debriefing.

The school Leadership Teams
Congratulations to both the Sport Council and the SRC for the initiatives they have conducted over the term. The Swimming Carnival and the Harmony Day strategy both come to mind. I congratulate our school leaders for their excellent work.

Mr D Melville
Deputy Principal
Stage 6 Leader
Deputy Principal’s News
Stage 5

Bring Your Own Device Program
This term has seen the implementation of the Bring Your Own Device program for Years 9 and 10. Since week 5 students have been bringing their own laptop or tablet devices to connect to the school network. This allows students to access the internet at school which enhances the classroom learning experience provides teachers with a greater range of teaching strategies.

The pilot program of Years 9 and 10 has been successful with the vast majority of students able to connect to the school’s network. We remind parents and students that if you are purchasing a new device it is very important that the specifications are of a certain standard. These specifications can be found on our school website at http://www.macarthur-ghs.schools.nsw.edu.au/documents/27841848/27848137/byod_checklist_-_parents.pdf

It is very important to meet the wireless connectivity standards which are outlined in this document. Unless the device meets these standards it will not be able to connect to the school’s network.

Those Year 9 or 10 students who have not brought in their own device to school, but still wish to do so, should consult Ms Salian the Technical Support Officer who is located opposite the library in order to connect.

Students and parents are also reminded to be aware and mindful of the Bring Your own Device and Code of Practice policies which were signed at the beginning of the year. These policies provide very important guidelines and expectations in the correct use of student devices. This ensures that the welfare of our students is maintained and that the focus remains on teaching and learning in the classroom.

‘N’-Award warning letters (Year 10)
‘N’ determinations are issued to students who do not complete the requirements for a course. Schools issue ‘N’-Award warning letters to students who are in danger of not meeting course completion criteria, giving the student time for the problem to be corrected. Your daughter may receive a ‘N’-Award warning letter for a number of reasons including: failure to submit assessment tasks, failure to complete classwork, failure to attend regularly and therefore not achieve course outcomes. If you receive a letter, it is critical that you encourage your daughter to remedy the issue outlined in the ‘N’-Award warning letter as soon as possible.

If a student has been given an ‘N’ determination in a mandatory course, they will not be eligible for the RoSA. If they leave school, they will receive a Transcript of Study that will list the mandatory course(s) for which an ‘N’ determination was given. The words ‘Not completed’ will appear next to each ‘N’ determined course.

If a student is given an ‘N’ determination in a non-mandatory course, the course will not appear on their RoSA or Transcript of Study.

If you have concerns about your daughter receiving a ‘N’-Award warning letter please contact the school and speak to relevant subject Head Teacher.

Academic Letter of Concern (Year 9)
Parents of students in Years 7-9 may receive an Academic Letter of Concern to inform them if their daughter is not applying herself to her potential. These letters are used as a method of communication in order to keep parents informed when student do not complete assessment tasks, classwork, bring required equipment to class or do not behave in a manner that upholds the Macarthur GHS PRIDE values. Please contact the relevant subject Head Teacher if you wish to discuss an Academic Letter of Concern issued regarding your daughter.
Write to Bite and Read to Succeed Literacy Programs
This term we are continuing our flagship literacy programs which have led to so much student success in past years. The Write to Bite and Read to Succeed initiatives aim at improving the reading and writing skills of our Year 9 students. For each subject every student will complete a reading comprehension and application activity, as well as a persuasive writing task. Your daughter should be able to show you these activities from all of her subjects as they are completed during Terms 1 and 2. These tasks supplement and strengthen the weekly literacy activities which our students complete online.

Ms Nadene Kennedy
Deputy Principal
Stage 5 Leader

Deputy Principal’s News
Stage 4

As the first term of 2014 draws to a close and our thoughts drift towards a well-deserved holiday after a very busy eleven weeks, I would like to remind all parents/caregivers of a number of our school processes. In our last report, I made mention of the importance of students completing their on-line literacy and numeracy activities on Moodle. There are still far too many students who are not completing their work on time and are being issued with afternoon detentions. This can be easily avoided if a study plan is organised and students complete work at a designated time each week. Effective use of the school diaries would help in this matter. If there are any technical issues, these must be brought to the attention of Mr French before the due date of completion. It is expected that all detentions are completed or more serious action may take place.

Attendance and uniform are other aspects of school policy that require constant attention. There have been a significant improvements this term in both areas, however, many students do not follow the correct procedure. With cooler months approaching, wearing the correct uniform will be very important. This also applies to subjects that require specific uniforms such as PE, dance and drama. When a student arrives late to school without an acceptable reason, a lunchtime detention is issued. Parents need to be aware that it is their responsibility to ensure their daughters arrive to school on time.

On a more positive note, The Year 7 ZosnooZ Camp was an outstanding success. The students enjoyed the experience of Taronga Zoo from a whole new perspective, and gained valuable knowledge about many different animals. Our students represented Macarthur Girls High School with integrity and presented themselves in a very positive light. I would like to thank the attending staff Ms Harris, Ms Aoun, Mr Parkes, Ms Edgar, Ms Torr, Mr Johnson and Mr Walden for taking the time to provide our girls with this wonderful opportunity.

Finally, I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Easter holiday.

Mr Karl Berthold
Stage 4 Leader
#Give Up Social Media Challenge

Friday 21 March was *National Action against Bullying Day* and *Harmony Day*. This year the two initiatives were combined to promote acceptance of difference while encouraging the positive use of social media. In order to do this the SRC has led a challenge to students to give up their use of social media for a period of up to five and a half weeks.

It is hoped that this initiative will help raise awareness of the impact bullying can have in an online environment. It will also provide participants with the opportunity to reflect on the advantages and disadvantages of social media.

During week 8 of this term participants made a pledge as to which social media forms they would give up and the length of time they were willing to abstain. In total 125 students made pledges which varied from one social media form for 24 hours up to 12 forms for the full five and a half weeks. Year 10 led the way with the largest number of pledges. This challenge is now well under way having begun on Friday 21st March and ending on Tuesday 29 April at 3:15pm.

Not only are students being asked to give up their favourite forms of social media, but they are also being asked to raise donations to support their commitment. These donations will be given to ReachOut by the Inspire Foundation which provides support to adolescent victims of bullying. These donations may potentially support themselves, friends, family and peers. For more information you can visit their website [http://au.reachout.com/](http://au.reachout.com/).

Additionally, the student who raises the most money and lasts the longest amount of time will receive a voucher. Other students who may have lasted till the end could also receive prizes. The winner will be announced on Friday 2nd May in our assembly.

This initiative also coincides with the launch of the SRC’s new website. This interactive website provides informative and important details about school events and fundraisers which the SRC is leading. If you want more information about the #Giveup social media challenge or any other event you can visit the website at [www.mghssrc.com](http://www.mghssrc.com).

This website will also provide a running tally of donation totals of the #Giveup participants and will no doubt encourage students to raise as much money as they can.

Congratulations to all participants who have pledged and made it this far in the challenge.

*Miss Aoun - SRC Coordinator*
**Year 7 ZoosnooZ Excursion**

Year 7 recently went on an excursion to Taronga Zoo. We stayed there overnight and participated in various activities incorporating the animals. We got to explore the zoo after the visiting hours were closed and we went on a night safari.

We saw farm animals as well as traditional ‘zoo animals’. We got to learn about nocturnal animals and saw the animals sleep and eat.

We first got a briefing of what was going to happen. Then by groups we went to dinner. While some were having dinner others were on a night safari and some of us were having a one on one with animals such as possums, snakes and stick insects. We then had some fruit and made our way to bed. Some people slept in small rooms with some of the animals, while others slept in a hall.

The next day we woke up and got ready. Then we went to breakfast and went for another one on one with the animals. We went for a little walk around the zoo and saw the animals wake up.

We went and had lunch and then made our way back to school.

*By Leila Zraika and Emily Minter*

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**Taronga Zoo Adventure**

The epic adventure began with a meal that matched it; a buffet of cordial, hotdogs and pasta was served accompanied by a tour of our sleeping quarters. When we first entered the room we were greeted by a mass of frightening reptiles including a 50ft snake (actually 50 cm but seemed like 50ft), a lizard and a stick insect.

The night safari was next on our quest and we explored the different scenarios of nightlife, in the wild. The snow leopard was beautiful although hard to see in the dimly lit enclosure. The snores of the lions scared us as we passed their habitat, heading straight towards the Komodo dragon that had previously escaped its enclosure. The three hours of nightmares were dampened with a good nights sleep.

We woke up while the sun was rising. We were served with a yummy breakfast, a variety of cereal and toast with butter, jam and vegemite. When the delicious breakfast was over we entered a classroom and were introduced to the adorable quokka and Richey Rich the ringtail possum. When we finished this educational class, we visited the birds. We saw wonderful species including the black cockatoo and the powerful owl. We were also told stories about them.

The keepers said goodbye and left us to explore the wondrous zoo filled with adventure. All the groups discovered some animals they had never met before and found out a lot of fun facts about them. Michi, Lexie and Marlin welcomed us to the seal show with all their skills and tricks. Their trainers also told us how these wonderful seals are becoming extinct very quickly and told us to take care of the ocean.

After this journey we all took our bags and were ready to head back to school. The trip back to school was very tiring after that adventure. We all hope you too can enjoy this experience one day.

*By Labiba Hossain*
As a Drama teacher, one of my favourite school experiences is to hear the voices of my students – rushing down the corridors at lunchtime, as the busy rehearsal rooms burst and pop with the sounds of their excitement and creative explorations. This year, it has been a goal of mine, to foster a culture of creative leadership amongst our students in Drama. An example of this is the exciting work that our Year 10 Directors are doing with our new Year 8 Drama Ensemble. I would like to congratulate the following Year 8 students who successfully auditioned for the two plays - one an improvised piece, and the other a scripted play:

Year 8 Actors

I would also like to extend big congratulations to the following Year 10 Student Directors:

Ayisha Hayat, Nudrath Rahman, Radhe Bavada, Simone Marks, Shahd Sumrain, Hadia Yosufzai, Vishnu Yellapu, Hailey Prats, Ayat Mohamed, Elizabeth Thomas, Kellie Culpan, Luckshika Arivalagan and Pulak Rawat

Students are working together over 2 lunch times per week and we look forward to sharing with you, the fruits of their creative labour later in the year! Please see below the student reports on this new initiative from our Year 10 Directors and Year 8 Actors (with pictures attached).

I would like to take this opportunity to direct you to the following link to the school website where you will find a short (9 min) documentary that was created with the help of our wonderful Year 12 Drama students. I used this mini-documentary as part of my presentation at the recent NSW State Drama Conference as an example of the specific process that we use in HSC Drama to unpack syllabus texts. It was very well received from Drama teachers from across the state, many of whom commented on the commitment and dedication of our wonderful MGHS 2014 HSC Drama girls.


Practical examinations are well underway, as Drama Rooms 15 and 17 are turned into a Black Box Theatre Spaces, complete with lights and sound for performances. I would like to publicly thank Mr Vic McKeown the school’s General Assistant, for the hard work he did over the Christmas to transform Room 17 into a more practical teaching and performance space.

See the student report from Bushra and Yara in Year 9, as they report on their recent performance exam experience. Finally, I would like to congratulate our Year 11 students on their first performance exam as seniors. Ms Lawton and I were extremely impressed with the outstanding quality of the exams that we had the pleasure of co-marking this week. We look forward to sharing some of this excellent student work with parents and friends at the up-coming Drama performance evening in Term 2. Stay tuned for more details!

By Ms P Jackman
Year 10 Director’s Studio Drama Report

At the beginning of the year we, students of Year 10, were given the opportunity to create and direct our own drama pieces with a bunch of talented Year 8 students. We have two fantastic groups: The improvisation group which involves on the spot thinking and directing, and the scripted group which involves memorising and learning a script. We have thirteen amazingly gifted directors and a handful of enthusiastic and hardworking Year 8 students who were chosen by these directors. The scripted piece revolves around a story of a clever thief, whereas the improvisation groups piece depicts the story of six interestingly different characters who encounter a unexpected situation at the airport. You can look forward to enjoying these wonderful performances later in the year.

By the Yr10 Director Studio

Year 8 Drama Ensemble Student Report

This year Ms Jackman put together a Drama Ensemble directed by Year 10 drama students. There are two companies including the scripted and improvised in the drama ensemble. We auditioned a few weeks ago and we were either placed in the scripted or improvised company.

Improvised Company
The improvised company is where drama students have to just act on the spot. It is a great experience and a way for students to be creative. The Year 10 Directors are easy to talk to and make the lesson more fun. I’m having a great time acting together with the other Year 8 students and making them smile. I have always enjoyed acting and making people laugh and so this is a great way for not only people who like acting but for everyone to be themselves.

Scripted Company
The scripted company is where drama students are given a character which they have to learn by script. I am having a great experience in the scripted company because it is very enjoyable. The scripted company meets up every Thursdays and Fridays to rehearse our scripts. In our rehearsals we start off with a warm up game to get into the mood. The Year 10 Drama Directors are very helpful and they try their best to improve our skills. They are all fun in a different way and make the rehearsal very enjoyable. I can be free and be myself when I act so being in the drama ensemble is a great experience.

By Sharani and Hai Di
Year 9 Drama Student Report

The past few weeks in elective Year 9 Drama we have worked on bringing our emotions into the act using Stanislavski’s method ‘the magic if’. These include emotional memories and putting ourselves into our character’s shoes. The knee knocking feeling of standing in front of our peers was quickly driven away as we used Stanislavski’s four rules to manipulate the audience and create a meaningful atmosphere. We were taken out of our own bodies, put into our character’s body and for just a few moments we blocked everything out and brought our character to life. With the help of Ms Jackman and the support of our peers we were able to transform and mould ourselves into the person we desired to be. The feeling that I had inside after everything was over was a nauseous stomach, knees trembling, sweaty palms type of feeling, but deep down accomplishment and achievement was still there. We were proud of ourselves, our peers and our amazing teacher. Yes it was hard, but it was worth it!

By Bushra Raja and Yara Moh’d

Knockout Soccer

14 Girls, One team, One goal!

On Friday the 21 of March 14 girls made the trek to North Curl Curl to take on Mosman High School in the annual NSW State Knockout Soccer Tournament and there were a few weary eyes as we had an early morning start. The girls played a 90 minute game in less than ideal conditions but the game went on.

Experience ranged from girls who have played for years to those that made their first soccer debut for the school team but regardless of experience the team played with spirit, skill and above all else true grit. Never giving in when they were knocked to the ground, never showing weakness when a goal was scored against them, holding Mosman High scoreless in the second half and holding their heads high when the final whistle was blown. As captain I couldn’t have been more proud to lead these girls out and play alongside them but in the end the score didn’t go our way. Nevertheless all the girls gained some valuable lessons from the game and made new friends along the way.

I encourage all girls to try out next year and continue to wave the flag high for Macarthur Girls. It is a great day and to be honest who doesn't want to play the world game !

And a big thank you to Mrs Anagnostopoulos for taking the time to coach us and also Miss Milford for coming accompanying us on such short notice.
The Seniors Week Premiers Gala Concert

Last week on Wednesday 19 March, Mr Johnson and I took 37 students from Years 10, 11 and 12 Entertainment and Drama classes to volunteer as ushers at the 2014 Premiers Seniors Week Gala Concert featuring performers Rhonda Burchmore and Leo Sayer.

The students were required to work in small teams, assisting elderly and disabled patrons to their seats. For those of you who have never been to the Sydney Entertainment Centre, the venue is very big, with lots of steps that ascend at a very steep grade.

Not only did our students have to assist elderly patrons up and down these steep stairs to and from their seats, but often they had to make executive decisions such as making last minute seating changes and negotiating with other members of the public to swap seats with each other to help out the less mobile. They did this professionally, politely and respectfully and on several occasions during the day, Mr Johnson and I were praised by the full time staff at the Entertainment Centre at how independent and hardworking our students were.

Since the event, the school has been flooded with positive feedback from audience members at the concert about our students, commenting on the outstanding way in which their role was executed with politeness, care and with integrity. Many of the audience members at the event were ex - Macarthur Girls, and they made special comments about how they were impressed to see the school so well represented by its students.

The school has been presented with a framed certificate of appreciation from the Premier’s Office and each of the student volunteers will receive their own personal certificate, and we will hand those out to you on an assembly at a later date when they arrive from the Premier’s Office.

To our amazing students who represented our school at the Seniors Week Gala Concert, we say thank you and keep up the excellent work.

Mr H Walden and Mr C Johnson
A Day at the Opera

On Wednesday the 26 March, Mr Walden’s Entertainment class plus two Year 11 Entertainment students studying music, went to the Sydney Opera House to watch a new Opera Australia production of Mozart’s, *The Magic Flute*.

We caught public transport and our senior students demonstrated the Macarthur Girls PRIDE values to the fullest, often offering their seats to parents with prams and elderly passengers. As always, being excellent representatives of the school.

The Opera itself was incredible. The singing was unbelievably perfect, and unique to this production was the use of large scale puppets controlled by dancers, including polar bears and serpents.

At the conclusion of the event, the school groups were invited to stay for a 20 minute Question and Answer session which included the two main actors, Jonathan Abernethy (Tamino) and Leah Thomas (Pamina), the Director and Choreographer Matthew Barclay and Stage Manager Eugenia Farrell.

The students had an opportunity to ask one question, however, many more where asked by other students and answered by the crew, making for an extremely valuable learning experience in the area of Entertainment and also in Music.

The students enjoyed a short lunch break by the harbour before returning to Parramatta. The Year 12 Entertainment students will use this experience to get ideas for their major holistic event assessment coming up next term, such as the use of special audio visual effects and staging pieces such as trucks and revolves.

By Mr Harrisen Walden
(Music and Entertainment Teacher)
2014 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (Science)

On Wednesday 4 June 2014, Macarthur Girls High will be holding the annual International Science Competitions and Assessment for Schools in the school hall.

The competition provides the students with an opportunity to test their skills and knowledge of science in a non-threatening environment. Most questions have been designed to test essential skills, in a different way to usual classroom tests.

All students receive a certificate and an individual student report indicating which questions they answered correctly and their score compared with the rest of the students tested. The certificate and individual student report are also suitable for your child to include in a portfolio.

Certificates are awarded for each year level as follows:

♦ High Distinction to the top 1% of entrants
♦ Distinction to the next 10% of entrants
♦ Credit to the next 25% of entrants
♦ Participation to all other participating students

A UNSW medal is awarded when the highest score in each year level in each state in each subject is judged to be sufficiently meritorious. Students must sit on the official sitting dates to be eligible for a UNSW medal.

If you would like your daughter to participate in this competition, permission notes are available from their science teachers. The cost is $8.80 and must be paid to the school office by Friday 4 April. It is not possible for refunds to be given.

Mrs A Mercado
Organising Teacher
Yes! There is an Elephant in the Room

Business Services students engage in a range of Industry Standard learning activities, preparing them for working in an office environment. Apart from the usual tasks of learning to type correctly, make and take phone calls and create and file reports, they are also expected to work in teams to achieve the goals of the enterprise they are working for.

As part of their competency achievement, Year 12 students were required to work together in small groups to create an elephant out of newspaper, adhesive tape and other easily obtained materials to demonstrate their teamwork abilities. This entailed them designing, sourcing materials, experimenting with different styles, and finally producing an elephant which met the approval of the manager or other people who requested its manufacture.

Students had fun completing this activity, and as a result, there was more than one “elephant in the room”. Well done to all Business Services girls on completing this task - the elephants were a welcome addition to your learning space.

Also, congratulations to Lucianne Gerges, who successfully completed all the competencies required for her Certificate II in Business during March - a fantastic achievement and well done.

Ms B Bruen
WHY DO WE NEED SPEECH PATHOLOGY SERVICES IN SCHOOLS?

- Proven better outcomes for students.
- Improved parent satisfaction.
- Improved relationships and sharing of skills between educators and therapists.
- Opportunities for students who would not usually have access to Speech Pathology intervention.
- Improved continuity of care for students.
- Inclusion of students with special needs into mainstream settings successfully.

Speech Pathology Services for Secondary Schools

Educate to Communicate
Speech Pathology Services

Contact us today

The Terrace Executive Suites
Suite 3B/ 40 Panmure Street
Rouse Hill, NSW 2155

PH: 0401 937 626
Comprehensive Speech Pathology Services to Secondary Schools

Teacher Inservices/Staff Development Sessions (School Funded):
We can tailor a staff development session to meet the needs of your teachers. We have successfully run full and half day courses, as well as short in-services (during staff meetings or staff development days) on topics such as:

- Voice Care for Teachers
- Identifying Communication Disorders in the classroom
- Incorporating communication goals into the curriculum
- Working with students with special needs

Assessment and Therapy Services (Usually parent funded):
For interested schools, our Speech Pathologist can attend for a morning, a day (or as many days as needed) to provide services to individual students by withdrawing them from the classroom. This is often what is considered a ‘traditional’ approach to therapy in schools. Having a Speech Pathologist on site allows for more feedback/collaboration with teachers and Learning Support Teams. If interested, a school will usually give an expression of interest to parents to identify whether there is a need and preference to have a Speech Pathologist based in the school.

Student Unit Model (School Funded or via parent contribution):
**Why this option is cheaper:**
The school only needs to pay for the services of the qualified Speech Pathologist/Educator who runs the unit. All of the student therapists that provide individual and group services to students are at NO cost to the school.

**How does it work?**
A Speech Pathologist is allocated to the school for a number of hours (determined based on need). The Speech Pathologist trains the student therapists (who are arranged through local universities by our organisation) and assists them with developing intervention plans for students. The student therapists administer the intervention programs.

**How many children could receive services?**
We have run successful student units with up to 4 student therapists. The student therapists can provide a full school day of intervention with only 2 hours of facilitation by the Speech Pathologist. This means, you could pay for 2 hours of the Speech Pathologist’s time, and receive 20 hours of Speech Pathology services (4 therapists x 5 hours each)! That could mean that 40 individual children are seen in one day for Speech Therapy.

Small Language Groups (Parent or School Funded):
Schools identify an ‘at risk’ group of students. Our Speech Pathologists attend a meeting with relevant teachers to develop goals and plan intervention.

The Speech Pathologist then attends weekly to run the small groups. Some groups that have been run with a secondary school population include:

- Reading texts for meaning
- Essay Composition
- Social Skills for Adolescents
- Study Skills and organisation
Help Your Child Succeed at School
Literacy Workshops for Parents

Session 1 | 14 April 2014 | 10am-12pm
Wondering how to prepare your child for learning to read?
This is for you.

Session 2 | 15 April 2014 | 10am-12pm
Is your child a ‘reluctant reader’?
Work out strategies to help foster a love of reading.

Presented by Olivia Holland,
literacy expert & educator from The Australian Literacy Academy
Children are welcome and will be supervised by library staff.

FREE | Bookings Essential | 9806 5159

Parramatta City Library
Participate Connect Learn

parracity.nsw.gov.au/library
Want ideas on raising healthy, active and happy kids?

FREE healthy lifestyle program for 7 – 13 year olds
Term 2 enrolments close 18th April
Parramatta & Holroyd locations

1800 780 900
go4fun.com.au
Sydney’s largest school holiday program returns this summer, with over 50 fun-filled activities to keep your kids active, outdoors and entertained. A range of activities are free or under $20, making it affordable to discover Sydney’s most exciting playground this holidays!

Archery – Kids on Target & Little Archers
All Day Holiday Recreational Program
Art, Cooking and Drumming Workshops
Cheerleading & Gymnastics
Circus Skills & Flying Trapeze

Fizzics Science Workshops
Martial Arts for Kids
Sport & Adventure Camps
Space Racing for Kids
...and lots more

Full details at www.kidsonthepark.com.au

It would be greatly appreciated if you could include the above activities in your school newsletter.

Sydney Olympic Park
## Upcoming Dates

### Term 1
- **10 April**: Year 12 Reports issued
- **11 April**: Last day for Term 1

### Term 2
- **29 April (Tuesday)**: Students return to school for Term 2
- **1 May**: Year 7 Vaccinations
- **21 May**: Year 11/12 Parent/Teacher night
- **22 May**: Athletics Carnival

### 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 2
- **Tuesday 20 May, 2014**
- **Tuesday 17 June, 2014**

## Information

Workshops running on the day:
- Music / Beat Making,
- Video / Editing & Logo Designing

**Hurry BOOK Now! Limited Places**

Morning Tea and Lunch will also be provided!