Principal’s Message

Over 70 students from Ono Gakuen Girls High School arrived for an international visit on the morning of Monday 19 May. Our students, under the guidance of Ms Luo and Mr Jackson, arranged a program of performances and games, along with some English lessons for our international visitors. Ono High students had the opportunity to learn about an Australian school and to practise their English language skills. Macarthur students had the opportunity to share cultures and develop friendships. Many students and staff played a significant role in making this short cultural exchange a success. Congratulations to all.

On 22 May, the sun shone very brightly for our 2014 Athletics Carnival. Student participation was high. A special thank you to the PDHPE faculty for their expert organisation along with staff House Patrons and Sports Council students. Look on the school website for all the results in addition to many photos of our students and staff enjoying one of Macarthur Girls High School special annual events. A wonderful day, demonstrating participation and striving for personal excellence. Well done everyone.
Student Leadership Opportunities:

Selected senior students have been involved in two new leadership programs this semester. Four students attended the first of three Parramatta Futures Female Leaders Forums. Students were involved in discussion and debate with the Hon. Pru Goward, MP, Minister for Planning and Minister for Women. I would like to thank Dr Geoffrey Lee, MP, State Member for Parramatta for organising the forums and providing such wonderful leadership opportunities for female students.

Five year 11 students were successful in their application for the Parramatta Max Potential 2014 Scholarship, an initiative of ClubsNSW and the University of Western Sydney. This is a 22 week personal leadership development program for young leaders to help them maximise their potential during the final years at school and beyond. Students have the opportunity for accelerated personal growth through coaching and collaboratively impact on the broader community through the identification and completion of an extensive community project. Congratulations to Tanmayi Kundap, Srishtri Aggarwal, Winnie Lau, Sarah Swaid and Isha Vadavkar. Usually, schools only have one applicant accepted into the program, so the school is extremely pleased that five of our students were given this valuable opportunity.

Teaching and Learning:

External testing for NAPLAN occurred during week 3 of this term. The school believes our results will again demonstrate the value of consistent sequential development of literacy and numeracy skills over both Stage 4 and Stage 5, particularly through the MGHS Literacy and Numeracy Online Enrichment Program for all Year 7 to 10 students.

Strong literacy and numeracy skills are the foundation of success. Providing students with the skills and knowledge to succeed throughout their lives is the focus at Macarthur Girls High School. Students who consistently complete all set tasks will reap the rewards during their secondary education, including their HSC results and also during their future learning endeavours. Please support your daughter’s learning by ensuring the completion of quizzes each week.

Reforms to Parent and Citizen Federation:

The NSW Parliament has introduced legislation to reform the NSW Federation of Parent and Citizens Associations, which has suspended operation pending Supreme Court action. While these reforms will not affect the day-to-day operation of individual school P & Cs, they will introduce a new executive structure which will ensure the Federation operates as a modern and representative body on behalf of school P&C Associations.

Each school’s P&C Association will be asked to vote for councillors and delegates who will represent their electorate at the Federation’s Annual General Meeting and councillors who will serve on the Federation’s Board of Management. More information will be available on the Department’s website at http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/gotoschool/a-z/involvement.php.
Reporting

At Macarthur Girls High School we believe the reporting process supports teaching and learning by providing feedback to parents and students. It is how we communicate information about your daughter’s achievements and progress gained from the assessment process and class activities.

Our reports comment on what your daughter knows, what she understands and what she can do. They also provide information about your daughter’s strengths, her areas for further development or attention and how to support the next stage of her learning. Please ask to see your daughter’s report and spend time with her going through her achievements for Semester 1.

Reports for Semester 1 will be distributed at the following times.
Year 8 reports: Friday 30 May
Year 10 reports: Friday 6 June
Year 9 reports: Friday 12 June
Year 7 reports: Friday 19 June

Parent Teacher Meetings provide an ideal opportunity for parents, students and teachers to discuss each student’s progress to date and how we can work together to support your daughter. A booking sheet and information letter will be given to each student prior to these meetings to allow appointments to be made with your daughter’s teachers.

The following meeting times have been organised for Semester 1. Year 8 and 10 parent teacher meetings will be held on Tuesday 10 June. This night also contains the 2015 Year 11 Subject Information meeting for our current Year 10 students and parents. This information meeting is scheduled for 5:30pm to 6pm. Years 7 and 9 parent teacher meetings will be on Wednesday 25 June.

Changes to staffing:

In the first five weeks of Term 2, there have been some staff changes. Our vacant full time English position has been filled through the appointment of Dr Sofatzis. This is the position made vacant when Ms Hickey retired at the beginning of the year. I would like to officially welcome Ms Sofatzis and I know she will be a wonderful asset to our school, bringing a wealth of knowledge to support your daughter’s learning.

Many thanks to Ms McCracken for her contributions and we wish her well in her travels.

The school farewelled two staff members early this term.

Our computing teacher Ms Ramsey has been an institution at Macarthur Girls High School. She was appointed in 1982 and her contributions over her 32 year tenure as a teacher at the school have been vast. The school community wishes her well in her new position as maths and technology teacher at James Ruse High School.

Our much loved general assistant, Mr McKeown worked tirelessly for the benefit of our students and staff. He prided himself in maintaining and developing the school environment to the highest standard. Macarthur Girls High School will certainly miss his warm personality and helpfulness. Thank you Mr McKeown.

I am looking forward to speaking to you and your daughter at our scheduled parent teacher meetings in June.

Warm regards
Gail Cluff
Principal
Monday, 28 May saw staff return from their holidays and focus on a very busy School Development Day. The plenary sessions were very beneficial, with staff reporting back on progress on the new Australian Curriculum in English, Maths, Science, and History, and the writing of new teaching and learning programs. Other Faculties reported back on their assessment and reporting initiatives.

Students returned to school on Tuesday 29 May, with a moving ANZAC Day commemoration, co-ordinated by Ms Grima and Year 10 History students. It was a poignant and memorable ceremony, and I congratulate all involved.

Term 2 and 3 School Organisation
We commenced our Term 2 and 3 bell times in week 1, with a change to 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>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>10.36 - 11.48 am</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>

As advised last term, 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 Year 12 students 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. They will need to sign back into the school at the Reception Office, and will also need to sign into the Library as a ‘visitor’ in the appropriate book.

Year 11 School Reports
Year 11 Half Yearly Reports have now been completed by class teachers and were issued in week 3, just prior to the Parent Teacher interviews on 16 May. 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.

Parent Teacher Night
Year 11 and Year 12 Parent Teacher Interviews were held on Wednesday 21 May. Thank you to all the parents and carers who were able to attend and thank you to our wonderful class teachers who met with parents, and discussed the progress of our senior students.

If you missed the night, or wish further follow up with the Head Teacher of your daughter’s class, please contact the school by phone on 9683 1866 to organise an appointment.

Mr D Melville
Deputy Principal
Information Seminar for Parents and Students of Year 11 2015

We will be holding an information seminar for parents/caregivers of Year 10 students regarding the upcoming Year 11 Subject Selection process as part of Parent Teacher Evening.

**Date:** Tuesday, 10 June, 2014

**Time:** 4:00pm-7:00pm

Parent Teacher Interviews
Please do not schedule and Parent/Teacher interviews between 5:30pm and 6:00pm.

**5.30pm-6:00pm**
A meeting for parents and students will be held in the hall to provide information about Preliminary subject and course selections for Year 11 2015. It is strongly recommended that you attend this meeting with your daughter to discuss any questions you have about the HSC.

**Venue:** Macarthur GHS Hall.

Your daughter has had the Senior Curriculum Handbook Year 11 2015 and Year 12 2016 emailed to her and it will also be available on the school website.

We look forward to seeing you then.

**Report distribution**

A reminder to parents that Year 10 reports will be distributed on June 6, and Year 9 reports will be handed out to students on June 13.

**Student conduct when travelling**

When travelling between home and school, students must adhere to various regulations regarding passenger behaviour and the Code of Conduct for travel by bus and rail developed by the NSW Ministry of Transport.

To ensure their safety and the comfort of other passengers, students will:
- behave safely at all times
- respect the needs and comfort of other passengers
- behave appropriately at all times (e.g. no use of offensive language, fighting, spitting, placing feet on seats or throwing things in or from the bus/train/ferry)
- protect all property and report any vandalism
- show their travel pass or ticket when requested
- only use the travel pass for its intended purpose
- maintain possession of the travel pass at all times
- follow instructions about safety
- adhere to the law that bans smoking
- not eat and drink in prohibited areas
- keep arms, legs and other parts of their body inside the bus/train/ferry
- only attract the attention of the driver in case of emergency.

The NSW Ministry of Transport's website contains more information concerning managing student behaviour on public transport.

Mrs Nadene Kennedy
Deputy Principal
Stage 5 Leader
Stage 4 Leader

Term 2 is traditionally a very crowded term as the school approaches the midway point of the year and the first academic progress reports are created for parents to view. As Term 2, 2014 is of 9 weeks duration, this situation is even more pronounced. All students have been heavily engaged in completing final assessment tasks and examinations in order for an accurate appraisal of their progress to be formed. It is important for parents to realise that homework and other forms of assessment is an on-going exercise. If your daughter indicates that she has no work to be submitted, then further questions need to be asked!
It is unusual for a student to have no activities to complete for any length of time.

Year 8 and Year 7 Half Yearly Reports are nearing completion and will be issued shortly. Parent Teacher interviews will take place on Tuesday, 10 June for Year 8 and Wednesday, 25 June for Year 7. Please endeavour to make a booking to see your daughter’s teachers as this personal feedback on her progress is very important in establishing a sense of value around her education. If you miss the night, or wish further follow up with the Head Teacher of your daughter’s class, please contact the school by phone on 9683 1866 to organise an appropriate time for consultation.

Recently, Senior Constable Dakic, the School Liaison Police Representative, addressed the school on how best to travel safely to and from school. This important message reinforced the need for students to travel with awareness and responsibility at all times. Stage 4 students will also be addressed at the next Stage Assembly on the appropriate use of social media and what measures to take if cyber-bullying takes place.

I would like to extend my congratulations to Year 7 on the manner in which they approached and executed their responsibilities during the recent NAPLAN Week. Our students performed wonderfully and displayed tremendous maturity throughout the week.

It was fantastic to witness the participation and colour during the school athletics carnival last week. As to be expected, Stage 4 students represented their House with enthusiasm and performed to the best of their ability. Well done girls!

A New Splash of Colour!

Visitors, students and staff who pass by the Science Block when they enter the school will notice a change in the colours of the surroundings. Room D01 has had a major make-over!

During Term 1, a competition was presented to the students of MGHS to design a mural that represented the ‘Vis Viva’ or ‘Living Force’ of the school. An eclectic array of designs was submitted to Mr Walden and Ms Dykgraaf from the CAPA Faculty, which made a final decision very difficult. Ultimately, Ami Surti from Year 11 was given the honour of having her design selected. It most successfully represented the concepts of change, movement and growth, with flower motifs used as an integral representation of the school’s imagery. After a tremendous amount of preparation from Ms Dykgraaf and Mr Walden, plus expert brushwork from Ruponti Atiq, Joanne Vuong, Angela Pavlovic and Ami plus numerous other helpers, the mural was completed on Friday the 23 May. This beautiful example of a student’s vision being expressed in such a vibrant manner has caught the eye of all who pass by.

Congratulations to everyone involved!

Mr K Berthold
Stage 4 Leader
Young Leader Youth Forum

On Friday the 23 May, three prefects Jan Chen, Tanmayi Kundap and Aye Soe attended the Parramatta Young Leaders Forum which was held at University of Western Sydney. The six hour forum involved motivating key note speakers, stimulating workshops and insightful presentations on the value of leadership. It was both inspiring and heart-warming knowing the Parramatta Council has given the ‘youth’ a chance to voice our opinions on the possible changes that could happen within Parramatta area. The events that took place that day enabled us as young people to ultimately broaden our knowledge and understanding on how we can become a better leader and taught us the basic foundations of being a young leader in our community.

The following topics that we discussed were Future Technology, Liveability and Lifestyle, Inspiring Careers and Future Leaders, Government and Media and Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Selected people from each group then made a presentation in front of the panel who took down important ideas that could be acted upon. This in turn, allowed us as a young person to expand our horizons within the wider community and to relay the knowledge learnt to those around us.

Overall, by attending the Parramatta Youth Forum we were able to gain a deeper understanding on how to become a successful leader. The forum left us with a determined mind set to continue our leadership roles, both within school and the wider community. With many inspiring local leaders and a broader network established, all of us involved aspire to stay committed and to get involved within the wider community. By Aye Soe and Tanmayi Kundap

The female leaders of today...

‘No one can make you feel inferior without your consent’ Eleanor Roosevelt was left resonating in my head after the forum. It was those words which inspired me to achieve for more and feel empowered in my school community.

On Wednesday 21 May, two Year 11 Prefects (Aye and Winnie) and two Sports Council vice captains, (Jennifer, Marwa) attended the Parramatta Female Leaders forum at the Deloitte Business Building. The forum aimed to encourage young leaders of today to participate and become involved in leadership role within business, media, politics and government.

Many successful and inspiring women attended this event, and as representatives of Macarthur Girls High School, we couldn’t feel more proud. Shortly after some great and delightful food, the Honourable Pru Goward inspired us with her amazing leadership journey and passion for making a change.

We had a chance to speak with aspiring female leaders from other schools and listened to an astounding speech from a woman with an impressive resume. We were also honoured to ask her about the barriers and stereotypes woman are labelled with today, especially in a male dominated industry. We also learnt that not only was she a business owner, economics student, lawyer, journalist, she was a politician and she taught us a valuable lesson, that every job was a stepping stone to the next one.

We also met the honourable Geoff Lee, MP who was the organiser of the forum and he commended Macarthur Girls for our participation and involvement in the wider community.

Overall, it was a great experience for the Year 11 students and we look forward to many other leadership opportunities in the future. By Winnie
On Friday the 16 May, myself and five girls (Srishti Aggrawal, Sarah Swaid, Winnie Lau, Isha Vadavkar participated in what was to be the start of one prestigious scholarship program: MaxPotential. The program runs over 22 weeks wherein each participant is to design and implement one project for their communities.

With one-on-one coaching sessions from CEO's and experienced individuals in businesses from the Parramatta district, the opportunity to participate in this scholarship is highly beneficial.

The day began with several activities that required us to introduce ourselves and get to know various students from schools around the area as well as many different coaches. These ranged from owners of small businesses to lecturers from UWS and members of parliament. Following on, we were told to really reflect on ourselves as individuals by drawing our biggest achievements, problems, goals and obstacles in the way to achieving them. It was a time for us to see where we would like to be after the 22 weeks of the MaxPotential program. We then had a team challenge competition. After multiple tries, we were told to change or refine our strategies and methods. It was from this simple activity that we learnt the key to problem solving: when something isn't working out the best for you, you don't continue trying to refine it over and over and over, find new ways, be innovative.

The day was an inspiring and exciting way to start the scholarship program. Meeting inspiring coaches, such as The Honourable Geoff Lee, was the highlight of the morning. We are all extremely keen to begin our one-on-one coaching sessions from the exquisite Veronica de Paoli from the University of Western Sydney and begin our personal community projects.

By Tanmayi Kundap (Year 11)
English Faculty Report

The Philosophy Club
Since its inception at Macarthur Girls High School around end-April 2012, the Philosophy Club has been convening every week during lunch time under my supervision. It is an open forum for Yrs 9-12. The attendance to the club is left deliberately fluid, as the aim of the club is to treat students as young adults who have the right to choose attending. This entry structure has been welcomed by all students, as is evident from the rapidly increasing popularity of the club. In fact, the response of the students to this initiative has been amazing. Typically, the sessions attract over 20-odd students every week. Over the weeks, students have engaged in discussions on a range of topics. Here is a sample of some of the issues and ideas discussed in this forum:

**What does it mean to be ‘good’?**
This question has taken up a number of sessions and its discussion has introduced the students to the moral philosophy of eminent philosophers such as Confucius, Thomas Hobbes, David Hume, Jeremy Bentham, Immanuel Kant, and Peter Singer. It has also resulted in intensive discussions on complex moral problems scaffolded around model thought-experiments.

**What is the value of ‘like’ in a world of social media?**
Social media is not just changing the way we communicate, but the very fundamental process of language. In this session, we discussed how the overtly simple act of ‘liking’ on social media sites has affected our view on what it means to 'like' anything. As a consequence, it has affected our personal understanding of relationships as well.

**What is justice?**
From the classical interpretations of a just society encapsulated in the works of Plato to the more contemporary work on the philosophy of justice by American philosopher John Rawls, the discussions on this topic have engaged students with the diverse notions of justice. These theories have then been connected to present-day issues of justice, taken from the day’s newspaper headlines in order to help connect the knowledge gained by students to their own world.

Public Speaking and Debating
Throughout Terms 1 and 2 Macarthur Girls High School has been running a Public Speaking and Debating Club, drawing upon students from Years 7 to 12. Students have been given the opportunity to practise and develop their public speaking and debating skills, through prepared speeches, impromptu speeches, and debates.

In Term 1 we held trials for the NSW Plain English Public Speaking Awards, which were hotly contested and involved a number of our senior students. Palak Gupta (Yr 12) and Emaan Alamgir (Yr 11) were selected to represent the school in the local final, which was held at Glenwood High School. After a gruelling day of competition, Emaan won a place in the NSW Plain English Public Speaking Regional Final. Palak came very close to making it through to the next round, missing out by one place.

We look forward to continuing our Public Speaking and Debating program throughout the coming terms and will be organising Junior and Senior Debating Teams to represent MGHS in interschool competitions.

Mr M Nowicki
Public Speaking and Debating Coordinator
“The world is a book, and those who do not study history and experience adventure, only read a page.” - Anonymous

The beginning of Term 2 in the History world has been a very busy one for both staff and students. This term, we welcome Ms Koparan to our Faculty. She is covering Ms Blackwell’s leave and is a wonderful addition to our faculty. In addition, the History department has welcomed Ms Cox, a pre-service teacher from Macquarie University into the faculty this term. She is really enjoying working with so many different classes.

Years 11 and 12 are currently in the middle of completing a number of assessment tasks and investigations and we wish them good luck. We hope they are organising their time well to maximise their overall results. Remember: being organised and well prepared reduces stress and improves overall performance.

Year 11 Modern History students have just completed their investigation into the Decline and fall of the Romanovs and completed some very engaging short videos about why they were overthrown.

Make sure you check them out:

Kaldiye Zreika: http://animoto.com/play/keUhl9XpNu4RsBQGQTG10g
Taylor Roodhouse-Hill: http://animoto.com/play/Hb8N9ioPzl9TsnMRdKuRhg
Angela Pavlovic: http://animoto.com/play/GDWiA7xYCkhfQPyzU1DqbA
Georgia Kelly: http://animoto.com/play/8vAgVgSEPGFx2JSAs1Tq9w
Zoe Davison: http://animoto.com/play/xAJkM86Ubo0bAWIbmzVJTg

Our Stage 5 students have been working hard in their studies of history and it was particularly fantastic to see so many involved in our ANZAC Day ceremony. A big congratulations to the following Year 10 and 11 students on their involvement and preparation in the ceremony: Zohal Arbabzada, Diana Barzani, Radhe Bavada, Lakshmi Gudipati, Rachael Harris, Helen He, Meenakshi Kumaran Vadivelu, Aashini Patel, Heer Patel, Hsu Phyu, Shan Rawanduazy, Mesha Reddy, Anoushka Rehan, Zainab Rehman, Kathleen Rome, Mirro Saadie, Uzma Sirguroh, Joanna Vuong and Khadeja Youssef. A big thank you and congratulations also goes to Ms Grima for her hard work and leadership in ensuring the ANZAC Day Ceremony was a huge success.

Year 10 Mandatory History students have been busy investigating the waves of migration experiences in Australia since WWII and recently created a 1950s advertisement to promote migration in Australia. Below are some links to some of the best ones. Have a look:

Year 10 students Paola and Lily with their ANZAC Day artwork
Year 10 History Elective students have been busy investigating the struggle for Civil Rights in both USA and South Africa this semester. As part of a recent assessment task, students were required to adopt the personas of a South Africa family and share the impact that apartheid had on their family. Students did a fantastic job and presented both engaging and historically detailed presentations. In the photo of the family we see Ayat, Kaydee, Stephanie, Yumna and Nilakshy.

Stage 4 students have also been kept busy as they have been investigating the worlds of Ancient Egypt, Medieval Europe and Australia before colonisation. It has been fantastic to see our students participating in a wide variety of class tasks. View some of the photos below for what’s been happening in our History classrooms.

By Ms E Mansfield
Social Sciences delivers Geography, Economics, Commerce, Legal Studies and Business Studies courses, as well as Business Services and Retail Operations for the VET courses delivered across the school. The VET courses are covered in another part of this newsletter.

Year 7 and 8 Geography (Stage 4) cover topics on World Heritage areas, deserts and mountains, globalisation, unequal availability of food, shelter and water and managing Global issues such as waste, desertification or global warming. These topics allow students to develop a range of skills related to the subject and learning skills such as collaboration, communication and creative presentation of work.

Year 9 and 10 Geography covers Australian Geography and Australian involvement in global issues. This is focused on developing a range of skills and understandings about the Australian environment and how we interact as a nation with other parts of the world. During the Year 9 course, students prepare a storybook for children as a means of demonstrating their learning. The students find this is engaging and allows them to use their creativity skills in presenting a document which is prepared for a specific audience. Some of these will be displayed for viewing in the school library.

Year 10 cover work on managing Australian environments, including a mandatory field trip to Pyrmont. This trip is scheduled for early June, providing students with the opportunity to see the theoretical aspects of Geography in a real life situation. Year 10 Geography students recently completed a “Superhero” assignment related to their topic on Air Quality or Coastal Management. This allowed students to demonstrate their knowledge of the topics in a creative manner and incorporate ITC skills into their learning. Some of the materials presented are available for you to view by scanning the QR link on appropriately configured devices. Or, follow the links provided below. The work of some students was truly outstanding.

Commerce and Business Studies students will have the opportunity to participate in the share market simulation activity later this year, allowing them to see how the stock market operates in a realistic manner. Students in Commerce have covered topics on Consumer Choice in year 9 and Law or Employment Issues in Year 10. Again, there has been some excellent work completed to demonstrate learning, and students of all commerce classes should feel proud of their efforts and achievements.


In The Dock!

Our Legal Studies students have visited the police museum and the Downing Centre courts to develop their understanding of the criminal law processes operating in NSW, as well as to provide them with the option of seeing the criminal process in action. This is beneficial for their knowledge of the Crime topic for the course a core unit of study. The students were able to participate in several role plays to enhance their knowledge of the criminal processes.

A Trip to the Altar?

The Rose Garden recently was the venue for some unusual events – a series of “weddings”. This was part of our HSC Legal Studies program on Family Law. The students were required to spend time researching marriage in Australia, and then script and act out a marriage service to demonstrate their understanding of a marriage and what constituted a valid marriage under Australian Law. The students find this to be an enjoyable, yet challenging activity. For many of the participants in the activity, they took their individual roles seriously with some of the participants getting ‘dressed for the occasion’ as part of their learning, signifying their understanding of the importance of marriage in our society.
We have recently hosted a number of preservice teachers, including Ms Rebecca Belobrajdic, who has worked with Ms Tresidder. We will shortly be extending this to include preservice teachers from UNSW, who will be working alongside our very capable and experienced staff to develop the skills necessary for successful work in classrooms of the 21st century. We are anticipating this to be a very valuable and rewarding time for both the pre service teachers and Master teachers concerned.

Social Science staff continually update their skills and content knowledge to ensure students have access to the latest pedagogy and information relevant to their course. On a recent Thursday Evening, 3 teachers attended a session with Nicholas Cowdery AM QC (and former DPP) for legal studies. This session provided up-to-date information on Crime and the issues covered in the syllabus for this part of the course.

As we are now getting towards the busy end of the courses in Social Sciences for both the Preliminary (50% completed) and HSC students (75% completed). Early Term 3 will see all Year 12 students sitting their Trial HSC examinations. For all students, particularly those in the social sciences subjects, remember that you need to spend quality revision time now, to maximise your results in the remaining assessment tasks. Your teachers are happy to assist you in those aspects of your course you are finding difficult to master. Students need to make an appointment with their teacher if they are seeking this assistance.

Ms Stolk, Mr Nicholas Cowdery and Ms Bruen

*a helpful hint* - reading a quality newspaper daily and/or watching a non-commercial station news bulletin most days should help build a stronger general knowledge of matters relevant to you current studies.
Vocational Education & Training (VET)

Business Services, Entertainment, Hospitality and Retail

Vocational Education and Training continues to provide excellent opportunities for students to obtain a wide range of skills preparing them for direct entry into the workforce on the completion of their educational journey. The 2014 group of over 100 students in Years 11 and 12 are working diligently towards attaining a Certificate II or Certificate III in their respective courses of Business Services, Entertainment or Hospitality Café Skills. For a significant number of these students, they are working towards a Certificate in more than one of the subject frameworks identified. There are also several students who are completing their Certificate II, as part of their HSC, through an external provider.

In 2013, one of our current Year 12 students, Vanessa Lu (pictured left), completed her Certificate II in Retail Services, sat the HSC Examination and achieved a Band 6 result in that course. A truly remarkable achievement and one worthy of commendation—she also now has this result to add to her achievements in this year’s HSC. This result could easily be used to calculate her ATAR, meaning it provides her with the opportunity to enter a course higher on her choices list than might otherwise have been the case. Also, Lucy Gerges (pictured) of Year 12 has completed all required competencies for the award of Certificate II in Business. Macarthur Girls students are currently engaged in a wide range of topics as part of their training, each having a practical and theoretical component. Students are undertaking units of competency in their chosen course or courses. These units focus on the key skills and competencies identified as being industry specific requirements for people entering the area of work for which they are training. All frameworks have completed a unit of work on safety in the workplace which provides them with both the theory behind the WHS legislation and some practical applications.

The recent visit to our school by the Japanese School students from Ono demonstrated the skills, ability and professionalism of the students in Hospitality. The students were at school early (7.30am) to prepare a wide range of Aussie foods for our guests. They then presented them in a highly professional manner and served guests in a way which showcased the skills they have learnt.

Apart from events such as these, the Hospitality students regularly operate, under the expert guidance of Ms Krishnan, a ‘coffee shop’ at school. At this, they prepare cakes and/or sandwiches for staff (for a modest price) and prepare various styles of coffee to complement the fare on offer. The staff appreciates the opportunity this affords them to enjoy a fresh bite to eat and coffee, as a break from the busyness of being a teacher in a modern high school.

Business Services students completed safety audits of several areas of the school as part of their course. They used the same processes as the school WHS committee use when they are inspecting safety within the school. Students in Hospitality completed a series of inductions to safe working in a commercial café environment.
The two Entertainment classes have been busy in Term 1 and 2.

Our Year 11 students have been learning about their role in creating and maintaining safe Entertainment Industry work environments in their WHS unit. Students have been completing their first assessment task where they have been conducting safety audits and risk management plans for events that occur on our school calendar including Recognition Assemblies and the Ono Girls High School visit that occurred on Monday 19 May, 2014.

Year 12 students have been building skills in the use of hands tools and the operation of staging during the past term and a half. The girls are now putting all their theory into practise as they plan and produce their own mini production at the end of the term. As they approach the end of the course, students have been practising their customer service and complaints handling skills, completing a series of role-plays testing their understanding of quality communication and how to resolve common conflict situations in the Entertainment industry.

Events:
Macarthur Girls High School hosted its annual welcome ceremony for our visiting school from Japan, Ono Girls High School. This was the first opportunity Year 11 Entertainment students have had to run a show. The students handled their roles professionally and followed verbal and written instructions effectively and efficiently. The students involved in the production were, Aye Soe (lighting), Zoe Davison (vision and sound), Yagavi Somasundaram (vision) and Stephany Caamano (staging).

Macarthur Girls is proud of the tradition we have developed in the local business community for having well trained students as part of the VET course program. This training involves both the at school components (demonstrations practice activities and practical applications of workplace skills) and a mandated Work placement program where each girl is required by BOSTES to complete 70 hours of work placement over the 2 year duration of the course. This year, all students in Year 12 completed their work placement in 2 sessions – a midyear session followed by another session in Term 4. Work placement is carried out over 2 separate 1 week periods each counting 35 hours. There will shortly be a work ready session on a Wednesday afternoon (period 4) for VET students about their work placement sessions.

For our current Year 11 Students, the work placements have already begun for students in Entertainment framework, and will involve all other students at the end of term 2. Work placement is mandated by BOSTES, and provides our students the opportunity to show how skilled they are in the real world of work. Many of our students return to school with glowing reports about the skills they have developed, and in some cases, the offer of employment either on a part or full time basis again demonstrating the value of learning in the VET environment.
Creative and Performing Arts Report

Dance News

The Dance teachers have been very busy with both their classes and their ensemble groups. They are currently rehearsing before and after school on two items (Pandora’s Box and Revolting Children) that they successfully auditioned for the Sydney West Dance Festival in June. Both groups will attend a dress rehearsal at Penrith Panthers and then perform during the evening of the festival week. Congratulations dancers and we wish you all the best for your performances. Ms Lawton (Chairperson of the Sydney West Dance Festival) will be overseeing the organisation and running of the festival and Ms Rigg (Audition co-ordinator of the Sydney West Dance festival) will assist with the rehearsals and backstage stage area.

On Tuesday 10 June, both ensembles will be auditioning for the Celebrating the Arts Festival at the Riverside Theatre. We wish you good luck for your auditions.

Year 12 Dance students performed a lyrical dance for the Japanese visit. The girls performed to the Japanese version of “Let it Go” from the popular movie “Frozen”. Congratulations on a beautiful performance.

All Dance students from Year 7-12 are currently rehearsing items for the Dance Showcase on Tuesday June 17. The evening will consist of class items, ensemble items and student choreographies and will be performed in the school hall.

Year 7
Year 7 Dance students have been learning the basic concepts of dance technique, a range of dance movements and choreography techniques. They are currently exploring Jazz as a style, learning about the historical context and different styles of jazz dance. Each Year 7 class is working on a class choreography which will be performed at the Dance Showcase.

Year 9
In Year 9 the Dance students are exploring the Essential Skills for Dance: alignment, co-ordination, flexibility, strength and endurance, the elements of safe dance and Focus Kinesthetic Awareness and Performance Quality.

They have been studying the pioneers of modern dance such as Isadora Duncan, Ruth St Denis, Ted Shawn, Loie Fuller, as well as the greats such as: Martha Graham, Doris Humphry.

Year 10
In Year 10 this semester the students are studying and exploring: The Components of Safe Dance and the Sydney Dance Company work ‘Two One Another’ by Rafael Bonachela. The work ‘Two One Another’ is explored as a group, couple and individually, until at the end their knowledge is worked collaboratively to structure a new piece by linking and manipulating the sections of movement they have choreographed over the last four weeks. Currently Year 10 is working on a Hip Hop Dance unit where students learn about the various styles and then present a workshop to the class. Year 10 students will perform a class item at Dance Showcase based on one of the units studied in class.

Year 12
Year 12 students are preparing for their HSC and practical examinations which commence on August 5. As part of the course they are learning a performance piece called “Arise”. Each student is required to choreograph a 3 - 4 minute dance based on a concept which is then performed by another student at the school. Year 12 also study Alvin Ailey’s Cry (1971) and Nacho Duato’s Jardi Tancat (1983). As part of the course, students must complete a Major Study work and this year students have elected Performance and Composition in which they must perform or choreograph another work.
Year 12 have been attending extra rehearsals before school, lunch and after school to work with Ms Lawton and their dancers on their HSC pieces. We wish you good luck for your HSC dance evening.

Drama News

Students in Drama have been working hard both within and outside of the classroom in Term 2.

Year 7
A big congratulation goes to 7G students who were heard on the Weekend Arts Program on the ABC Radio National over the holidays. Ms Jackman was invited as a guest for the “Happy 450th Birthday Shakespeare” segment, to share some of the innovative ways MGHS Drama makes Shakespeare relevant for students in the 21st century. Please visit the link below if you would like to listen to the full interview and listen to extracts from our classroom activities: http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/weekendarts/shakespeare/5409058

A highlight for Ms Jackman and 7G was to receive a letter of appreciation from a past student of Macarthur, Mrs Love from Tasmanian, who is 81 years of age. Mrs Love personally wrote to Ms Jackman and the students after she heard this interview on the radio, as it brought back many happy memories of her days at Macarthur in the 1940s, when she also, was a student of Shakespeare. It is fantastic to be a part of the ongoing history and living force of Macarthur Girls High School Drama! A copy of Mrs Love’s letter is included below.

Year 9 and 10
Year 9 students have been developing their physical theatre skills as they are introduced to the wonderful world of masked performance. Meanwhile, Year 10 students are developing the masked skills they learnt last year and are now exploring the historic performance style of Commedia Dell’ Arte. This form of masked performance uses half mask, so students develop vocal skills as well as physical and comedic improvisations through their exploration of character archetypes.
Year 11 and 12
Senior students are working hard on Group Devising processes in Preliminary and HSC Drama courses. As a practical subject students have committed to rehearsals beyond the classroom as they grapple with the demands and challenges of creating original theatre from scratch. The extraordinary opportunity for skill development in this creative process involves group collaboration, determination, creative risk taking, substantiative communication, higher order thinking and problem solving.

Year 12s also recently engaged in a theatre excursion to *Parramatta Girls* by Alana Valentine at Riverside Theatre, to inform their HSC essay responses in their current unit on Verbatim Theatre. Congratulations also goes to the girls who, in the role of dramaturges, directors and actors, engaged in research tours at the historic Parramatta Girls Training Home, which has recently been the focus in the Royal Commission.

Extracurricular Drama Activities include:

- Year 8 Drama Club and Year 10 Director’s Studio continue to work together during lunch time rehearsals to develop their performance skills and create an original comedy scene.
- Week 6 will see the launch of the new MGHS Theatre Sports Company. For the first time, the MGHS Drama Department has enlisted the support of an external tutor who is a specialist in improvisation, in order to give our students the best possible opportunities in developing their improvisational performance skills. As places are limited, students need to submit an Expression of Interest approval slip from parents. Positions in the company will then be offered depending on contribution students make to Drama at MGHS, as well as balancing student numbers so that all year levels are represented in the mixed ability company. The 10 week rehearsal block will commence in Week 6 Term 2, on Thursday afternoons from 3.15pm—4.45pm after school.
- Ms Jackman recently presented the new HSC Drama prescriptions for teachers from around the state for the Department of Education. As part of her presentation she used the mini-documentary our current Year 12 students created to demonstrate the methodology used at MGHS Drama for HSC written components of the syllabus. See the link below if you would like to view this documentary which can be found on the school website:


Music News

Year 7
Year 7 students have been working hard to develop their skills on guitar, learning to perform the Beatles classic, *Yellow Submarine* and a range of classic riffs including *Smoke on the Water*.

Year 8
Year 8 students have been developing their keyboard skills this term, learning to perform chords using both hands. They have also been busy composing their own pop songs using the theory knowledge that they have built up over the past year and a half.

Year 9
Year 9 students have just finished studying Australian Music and have started looking at Small Ensembles, specifically, the roles different instruments play in bands. Students have also been busy forming their own small ensemble groups in the class, working together to develop their skills.
Year 10
Year 10 students have been exploring pop music and music for small ensembles. They have been performing in groups, and also developing their own compositions. They have also been practising their aural skills, which require them to listen to a piece of music and answer questions based on musical concepts.

Year 11
Year 11 has been learning about Jazz music this term, specifically composition techniques. Students have been composing simple melodies using the blue’s scale.

Year 12
Year 12 Music students are very busy preparing for their Core Performance and Aural Listening examination and also their three electives which as either Composition and/or Performance and/or Musicology. A number of students have chosen to do three performances for their electives. Hopefully they will have a chance to perform some of these pieces for the school later in the year.

Young Women in Harmony

Real live Pitch Perfect! On Sunday, 18 May, 15 girls from Macarthur Girls performed at the Sweet Adelines Convention Showcase. We were part of the chorus which was the opening act at the Olympic Park Sports Centre.

It was exhilarating to perform in front of such a large and supportive audience of Sweet Adelines (female barbershop singers) who had come to the convention from all over Australia.

For several months we have been rehearsing every week to perfect our a cappella performance of two songs - One Fine Day and Hey, Soul Sister. We only had 3 rehearsals with young women from other schools, so we have had to work hard at school and home.

Those of us who were able to participate were:

Year 11 - Kathleen Rome
Year 10 - Helen He, Heer Patel, Ananya Gautam, Anthea Hui, Andrea Thomas, Jessica Lau, Charvi Mamidi, Holly Lay
Year 9 - Nandini Sharma, Anshika Sharma, Misari Mehta, Ruponti Atiq, Fafi Shoniwa
Year 7 - Phoebe Hill

Interested in joining us? Keep listening for future notices.

Harmony Singers
Visual Arts News

The art world at Macarthur is always a hive of activity. The students are finishing off works they have been working on all this semester. Thanks again to Ms Saldivar for running the Mosaic Club.

Year 7
Year 7 students have been producing ceramic platters based on animal Dreaming stories from Australia's Indigenous culture. The platters were made using a slab construction with incised and painted decoration.

Year 8
Year 8 students have been exploring the world of Alice in Wonderland creating teapots and cups based on the characters in this story.

Year 9
Year 9 Visual Arts students have studied the work of Escher, with students producing detailed drawings that create their own highly decorative cities.

Year 9 Visual Design has been exploring Pop Art and PopCculture producing a range of design products such as logos and brand name bags.

Year 9 Photography and Digital Media have been working with pinhole cameras (the very earliest form of photography) and digital cameras (the latest form of photography), and realising the massive technological changes that have been made.

Year 10
Year 10 Visual Arts have been busy designing and producing another group of murals for the school environment. Keep your eyes peeled for when they are hung.

Year 10 Photography are in the middle of an animation unit. Having produced digital flip books, they are now working on clay animations. We are looking forward to seeing them finished and hope to post them on the website.

Year 11
Year 11 Visual Arts are studying Portraits for both their studying and art making. They have explored many different drawing and painting materials and techniques.
Year 11 Visual Design students are working in the Textile area. They have designed and made Koinobori (windsocks) which were based on native animals and was decorated using a lino printing technique. They are currently designing and producing scarfs, one on cotton (printed using a silkscreen technique) and one on silk (silk painting technique) and inspired by the Arts and Craft movement and Art Nouveau.

Year 12
Year 12 Visual Arts have been busy developing their Bodies of Work for the HSC. They are working in a variety of forms and themes. In their studying they have been learning about Feminist art, New Technologies in art and Aboriginal art. We wish them all the best in their endeavours.

Year 12 Photography, Video and Digital Imaging have been working on self-directed projects based on digital photography under the direction of their teacher.
Year 12: Your last year at Macarthur Girls High! A year to remember!

At this stage of the year students should be used to organising their time appropriately and following a study and revision timetable. Congratulations to those students who stayed back after school on Monday to listen to the speaker from UTS Insearch on how to study effectively and have a realistic study plan.

During a PRIDE session last term I explained how the ATAR is NOT calculated on marks but on position in the course. I would like to thank Mr Jackson for giving his time to express it in a mathematical manner. Students received a short presentation on navigating the University Admissions Centre (UAC) site and hopefully are familiarising themselves with the UAC site.

I urge Senior students to look at your school emails regularly as I am sending a lot of information through to you. Please do not feel that you need to read every email, just scan the topic and if it appeals to you read it, but do not forget to share information with your parents/caregivers.

Each student will be receiving her own copy of the UAC book to keep. International students will also receive a special edition for International students. These will arrive into the school next term towards the end of July/ beginning of August. Once the UAC books are distributed all Year 12 students will have a one to one personal careers interview to assist you plan your future pathways. Year 12 students not seeking an ATAR, will also be interviewed to assist you with pathways into apprenticeships, traineeships, TAFE and/or private college provider courses.

Please do NOT panic at this stage....... remember, no-one can expect more than your personal best!

Year 11: You’ve tried it - senior school - and now’s the time for decision making!

Your pathways, whatever they are, are ALL valuable and important! The actual ‘road’ you take may differ, that's all! Some of you will take the expressways directly to where you wish to go, e.g. M1, M4,M5, M7 etc. Others may have to take e.g. the highways, Victoria Rd, Parramatta Rd - with 2-3 lanes and all the traffic lights. And some of you may need to go the ‘back roads’ e.g. Park Rd Auburn or Park Rd Rydalmere - with all the roundabouts and single lanes etc. Eventually, you’ll get there too!

What is very important is to be realistic about the courses you are enrolled in. Have you the aptitude as well as the ability to achieve in them? Remember, I do NOT want to hear anyone saying ...."She dropped out". That is an incorrect term to be using! Many people change courses and careers as it suits at a particular time in their lives - it should NOT be seen in such a negative light! What is important is to be REALISTIC about yourselves!

Year 10: It’s almost decision time!

We have spent time analysing your career interests and skills. This is essential groundwork and very important if students are to make realistic subject choices next term for senior schooling!

Students need to begin to organise their portfolios now starting with writing a resume. The resume will be quite simple in Year 10, but by making a start with it, students can add to it as they become more involved in activities in school and out of school. Many assume that a resume is only needed if seeking work. That is incorrect! A resume will be invaluable when applying for scholarships. It will demonstrate your involvement, interests and skills and in the long term assist the scholarship providers make decisions!

Best wishes with your course and career decisions,

Ms L Latimore
Konnichiwa, Macarthur!

Hosting Ono Gakuen Students from Japan

Konnichiwa! Remember Monday, 19 May, when those adorable Japanese girls came? They were students visiting our school from Japan! They’re from Ono Gakuen in Japan, and these students shared so much culture with us. I got to know so many new things from this experience. Even if we did have two broken languages at play, we did have electronic dictionaries and Google Translate. I love technology; some very cautious students also brought their textbooks. Well, I’m sure you’re reading this to know what actually happened.

At 9:05am after roll call, the Japanese elective students and SRC excitingly and impatiently lined up in groups near the tennis courts, ready to meet our buddies! When the bus arrived, we all cheered! We wore name tags, written with our buddy’s name on it, that is why we could be matched up so quickly. When Ayumi (my buddy) came to me, I was thrilled! Her first words were “Hi” and a sweet giggle. Their uniform, I’m pretty sure, was the first thing that impressed us all.

After simple greetings, we headed over to the hall to participate in the welcome assembly. Ms Cluff gave the Japanese girls a very informative and encouraging speech, with a screen presentation, which made it easier for the Japanese girls to understand. It was awesome to see how close Japan and Australia are. Macarthur Girls gave Ono Gakuen a $100 gold plated Australian note and in return, every Macarthur buddy received a cute, uniquely designed A4 folder with Ono mascot and an awesome origami piece. After the speeches, we went off to the area outside the gym to enjoy an Aussie style morning tea with our buddies. I wish everyone could’ve seen what an excellent job the Year 11 Hospitality students did. There were sausage rolls, lamingtons, ANZAC biscuits and a bunch of other things that were finished really quickly. While we were eating I got to know my buddy more, she really was fun. She knew how to sing, loved music, liked learning about new things and she liked pink. We got along fairly quickly because we had a lot in common and we did do a lot of joking around. To be honest, sometimes when she spoke in Japanese, I didn’t really understand what was going on but laughing was a good way to cover that problem up. It was interesting to learn about her school life and what she loved to do.

After morning tea, we returned to the hall for performances. The first item by our school was a dance to “let it go” in Japanese, by our Year 12 dance class. Lots of the Japanese girls were singing along with the performance, and felt quite nostalgic. Apparently the dance was very touching to them.

Then came the Mask Play by Year 10 drama. It was hilarious and won huge applause. Awesome job girls, don’t ever stop performing! Last came the Macarthur Jazz Band, I felt like I was in a hipster coffee shop waiting for my soy latte. I loved how chilled and relaxing it was. This school can perform!
Our visitors decided to showcase something special of theirs: origami!! First they came up to the stage and demonstrated how to fold a colourful origami ball; then the announcers from Ono Gakuen revealed that we would be participating in making it with our buddies. So all of the groups split and went to their different stations. It was an interactive and challenging activity with our buddies - really hard. The first step in creating the pieces was easy, but then we had to join all the pieces together. I think you can guess what happened to most of us. But there were buddies that did successfully make it. Even though I didn't successfully complete it, I got to socialise with a whole bunch of new people. I felt so accepted because barely anyone here knows Kyary Pamyu Pamyu, a J-Pop superstar who has crazy hairstyles, but all these people did know her and liked her. I found myself feeling like a celebrity because I kept taking pictures with everyone! My hairstyles are inspired by her and everyone seemed to realise that. Anyway, after that the Year 8's had to leave, I'm so glad I'm finally in Year 10! Then we cleared the room and stepped into the centre to do our traditional Bush Dance, in a massive circle we all faced our buddies and started! Heel, toe, slide, slide, heel, toe, slide, slide, right now, left now both, knees and turn! Switched to the next partner and kept going until the song stopped. Ahh, so many screams, we all bumped into someone else in this dance. It was heaps of fun! Then we bowed and took our buddies to the ESL lesson which was taught by Ms Aoun and Mr Ocampo. Teaching them new fruits and vegetables to the visitors was awesome along with the ‘guess what it is?’ A girl from Ono Gakuen put a blindfold on and had to say, in English, the name of the fruit or vegetable that was given to her. They were then presented with a certificate of completion. Thank you to Ms Aoun and Mr Ocampo for delivering such a lesson full of fun. I wish I could've recorded the whole thing.

After that we guided our visitors on a school tour and showed them the farm, pool, pond, pretty much everything there is to see in our school. They thought the sheep, and chickens were adorable. Our last pit stop was the Rose Garden, where we all put our bags down and took photos. Heaps and heaps of photos with whatever device we had. After the school tour, we took them to lunch. The Japanese students got to line up first (to be served) while the rest of us started to chat with each other and exchange what we had learnt from the whole day and who our buddy really is. Our buddies seemed to like the best of the Aussie foods: meat pies, sausage rolls, wraps, etc. and Tim Tams for dessert!

When lunch came to an end, we gave each of our buddies a gift bag containing a fluffy coin purse, with an Aussie animal on it, and a Macarthur Girl's USB bracelet. We told the buddies to open the wrapped gift straight away as this is what we do in Australia. Before departure, in the hall, we sang the farewell song ‘If You're Happy and You Know It’ in both Japanese and English with our buddies. We all felt sad to say goodbye and walked our buddies over to their buses. We waved to the bus, waved and waved…., wishing our buddies a safe journey back home that night.

I hope to stay in contact with my buddy, Ayumi, because I really treasure the opportunity to get to meet and know her. I also made other friends that I want to keep. As buddies of the Japanese visitors, we were grateful to have such a wonderful experience of cultural and language exchanges. Special thanks are given to all the teachers who were involved, especially to my hard working Japanese teacher - Luo Sensei! It was an educational and memorable day.

Reported by Year 10 Belinda Saha & all buddies
The International Students Term 1 Gathering

On 20 April in Term 1 this year, our school organised a lunch gathering for 15 international girls ranging from Year 9 to Year 12, coming from several countries, but mainly from China. In addition, we were allowed to invite a buddy to attend, sharing more happiness with everyone during the enjoyable time.

In the very beginning of the party, Diane in Year 12 spoke about the 4 girls joining our big international student family. They are Cindy, Eva and Sherry in Year 10 and Christella in Year 11. After the introduction, they started talking about their experience, feelings and lives in Macarthur Girls High School. Especially Cindy Ye, Year 10 student who is doing Drama as an elective, showed a little part of her lines vividly. Basing on the discourse they mentioned, we can tell that everyone is pleased to be educated in Macarthur Girls, their dreams, ambitions, hopes can be perceived easily.

At the gathering, we had our outstanding organiser, Ms Luo, and our school principal, Mrs Cluff, and Head Teachers Miss Best and Mr Jackson present throughout the party. It was full of happiness and warmth, making the gathering unforgettable. Mrs Cluff, representing all staff at Macarthur Girls, encouraged, and expressed her expectations to all the international students. I think all the international students in our school will try their best to make progress and exceed in their education and win honor for our school.

By Yanyun ZHANG - Year 10
On 28 March, some MGHS students went to the Castle Hill Show. We got onto the bus and off we went, enjoying the pleasing scenery and talking with our friends.

When we got there, we went into one of the display pavilions where there were demonstrations of people making candles, grinding wheat into organic flour, doing honey tastings and carving leather. A lot of us made candles then walked along and saw the delicious cakes, of which there were rainbow cakes, chocolate cakes and many more. We also saw some of the dresses that the Year 10 Textiles students made, and they won 1st place and other prizes. We also saw many colourful tote bags made by Year 8 Technology students which also won prizes.

We then went to the Animal Nursery and saw alpacas, little baby chicks, fish, puppies and ducklings. There was one duck that was making loud and funny noises which sure did make us laugh! There were students at the show from other high schools, with displays of what they do in Agriculture classes at their schools.

Our students were also really successful in the competitions with their art works. Year 10 Art students won prizes for their Mosaic pieces, and so did students from the Anime Club and Graphic Design class who had entered their own original drawings. We all enjoyed looking at the historical display of an old classroom. What a lot of differences we saw!

After lunch we went to the Poultry section where there were so many chickens - there were fat, small, skinny, all types of chickens. We also went to the Horticulture section and saw many different types of herbs and vegetables, including a massive pumpkin. Our Year 8 Technology class entered our tomatoes which we grew in the herb garden near Room 20, and they won 1st place!! Our Year 9 Agriculture students entered their hen eggs, which looked wonderful, and won 2nd place! (You can see a display of all the prize winners in the corridor outside Ms Cluff’s office).

It was soon time to go, so we headed for the bus to come back to school. On the way back it was very noisy because of the excitement from having such an adventurous day.

Thank you to the teachers who organised this wonderful excursion.

By Bushra Raja
### Upcoming Dates

**Term 2**
- 9 June - Queens Birthday Holiday
- 10 June - Years 8 & 10 Parent/Teacher Night
-  10 June - Year 10 into 11 Subject Selection evening
- 25 June - Years 7 & 9 Parent/Teacher Night
- 27 June - Last day of Term 2

**Term 3**
- 14 July - School Development Day
- 15 July - Students return to school

### 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 17 June, 2014

**Term 3**
- Tuesday 5 August, 2014

### Information

**Parramatta City Band**

**Invites you to**

**Come along to our Brass Band Open Day!**

**31 May 2014**

Do you play a brass or percussion instrument? OR Would you like to learn ... ?

... Trombone ??
... Baritone ??
... Tuba ??
... Tenor horn ??
... Cornet ??

Which of these brass instruments would you like to play?

For more information, please contact Jennifer Howell
Email: howell.jaa@gmail.com
Phone: 0404 948 860