Principal’s Message

Striving for excellence

Two year 11 students, Srishti Aggarwal and Kathleen Rome have won a place in the prestigious National Youth Science Forum at Canberra.

The National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) is a program dedicated to exposing and assisting year eleven students who are thinking about a career in science, engineering and related disciplines to major scientific institutions and researchers, to make more informed choices for their future endeavours. The Forum is fully residential and takes place during January in Canberra. The network of friends, colleagues and support groups throughout Australia will be of value to Srishti and Kathleen for the whole of their lives. Well done girls, the school is very proud of your achievements and looks forward to hearing more about your experiences.

Daisy Pineda of Year 12 has been accepted into the 2014 Salvos Ambassador movement program. Daisy had to go through an application process which included an online questionnaire and a group interview. 22 students were chosen out of 60 applicants to become Salvos Ambassadors. Responsibilities of Salvo Ambassadors include being a spokesperson for the Salvos and social justice issues, helping those in the community who are doing it tough as well as attending fortnightly meetings in Sydney CBD. Congratulations Daisy.
The AusSIP Employability Awards for 2014, saw a number of our students nominated by both employers and the school for their outstanding skills and competencies. The Awards Evening was held on Tuesday 12 August, at Riverside Theatres. Congratulations to the following students.

Kundap Tanmayi for her achievements in Hospitality. Shakile Alapati (Business Services) was nominated by Ray White Real Estate.

Four Year 11 hospitality students were nominated by business for their work placement. Nut and fancy nominated two students for awards Jahida El Kheir and Mariam El-Dhaibi. Amy Lin was nominated by Bella Wrap and Najwa Alameddine by Total Nutritional Services.

Congratulations to students but also to staff teaching these vocational educational courses.

Welcome and congratulations to our newly appointed Deputy Principal - Mr D French.

Since his arrival in 2011 as the Head Teacher Teaching and Learning, Mr French has focussed on the education and development of students at Macarthur Girls High School, demonstrating his passion for teaching and learning and the provision of the best possible learning experiences for our students. For the past 18 months he has also undertaken the shared role of Deputy Principal with Ms Kennedy, becoming an integral member of the executive and senior executive teams. He has developed strategies and initiatives that have resulted in enhanced students learning outcomes at Macarthur Girls High School as well as sharing high quality teaching practices across the school.

Congratulations to Mr French on being the successful applicant for the position of Deputy Principal Macarthur Girls High School through the merit selection process and I know that the whole learning community looks forward to working with you in your new role.

Eid Mubarak!

At the time of writing this newsletter, we have just come to the end of the holy month of Ramadan. The school wishes all members of our extended school community Eid Mubarak! At our recent whole school assembly, students explained how Muslims spend the ninth month of the Islamic calendar observing a community-wide fast. The annual fast of Ramadan is considered one of the five “pillars” of Islam and that Muslims who are physically able are required to fast each day of the entire month, from sunrise to sunset.
Raising funds for RSPCA through our SRC organised PUPcake day

A huge thank you to all students and staff involved in the creation of those wonderful PUPcakes. I know that many students and staff enjoyed the end results of your hard work and most importantly the school was able to raise funds and awareness to support the RSPCA’s fight against cruelty to animals. Well done everyone!

Multicultural Week

Week 5 sees many activities organised for our students for our bi-annual multicultural week. A huge thanks to the SRC and Ms Aoun for all their work and organisation. There will be much more to come in the next newsletter and of course on the SRC website at www.mghssrc.com
Assistance with educational related costs

The Schoolkids Bonus was paid to eligible families and students in 2 installments of $410 each in January and July 2014. The $820 Schoolkids Bonus secondary student payment aims to help eligible families and students with the education related costs of secondary school studies, such as school fees, uniforms, books and sports, music or other lessons. Families receiving Tax Benefit Part A, as well as young people in school receiving Youth Allowance, and others receiving certain income support or veterans’ payments are eligible for the Schoolkids Bonus. For details about the Schoolkids Bonus and other Government payments, visit human-services.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus

Online payment available for parents

An on-line payment system is now available for parents using either a Visa or Mastercard credit or debit card. The system is accessible from the front page of the school website at http://www.macarthurg-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/ and the $Make a Payment$ is located in the top pale blue bar, next to the search site tool.

For a full explanation on how to use this convenient method of payment, please refer to page 9 of this newsletter or read the information provided in the latest news and features http://www.macarthurg-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/news/parents-online-payments

Online surveys

In the coming weeks, each student and parent will be invited to participate in a school wide collection of information through survey monkey. Students and parents will be asked to complete an online survey on coaching and tutoring. The school is trying to canvass data on the number of students attending coaching or tutoring, in which subjects and what outcomes or results are achieved. This data will enable the school to informatively review our current practices and possibly identify areas for further development to meet the need of our learning community. The school is very excited to gather as much information from parents as we possibly can around the topic of coaching and tutoring, so please complete the survey when you receive it via your nominated email.

Ms Gail Cluff
Principal
Deputy Principal’s News

I am very excited and appreciative to be appointed as Deputy Principal at Macarthur Girls High School. I would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to congratulate me. I look forward to continuing to work with the senior executive, executive, classroom teachers and SASS staff in delivering quality learning opportunities for all MGHS students.

School clubs

This year has seen the creation of a number of exciting new school clubs, as well as the continuation of those which have been running for a number of years. These school clubs provide students with opportunities to pursue their passion or interest, make new friends, and learn new skills. We encourage all students to take the opportunity of joining one or more of these clubs to increase their participation in the school community. These clubs may run before or after school and during lunch. Below are just some of the clubs which are running this year and the teachers to see for more details:

- Homework club (Ms Hudson, Mr Ocampo, Ms Prasad)
- Film making team (Ms Latimore)
- Theatre sports (Ms Jackman)
- Mosaics club (Ms Saldivar)
- Robo Cup (Mr Tardiani)
- Deep and Meaningful club (Ms Aoun)
- Bloodbank (Ms Freckman)
- Knitting group (Ms Gartrell)
- Debating club (Mr Nowicki)
- Badminton club (Mr Bhattacharya)
- Historical appreciation society (Ms Grima)
- Film appreciation club (Mr Nowicki)
- Philosophy club (Mr Bhattacharya)
- Anime club (Ms Luo)
- ADELPHE Christian group (Ms Gartrell)

Max Potential students

During Terms 2 and 3, five of our Year 11 girls have been participating in the Max Potential leadership project. Srishti Aggarwal, Tanmayi Kundap, Winnie Lau, Sarah Swaid and Isha Vadhavkar have been working one on one with a university coach who has been supporting them in completing a number of projects and presentations. All of our girls delivered a creative presentation to show their newly acquired skills and what they have learnt in the program. They are currently working on their community projects which they will showcase next month to a range of community leaders and organisations. These projects include raising student awareness of volunteering opportunities, supporting the elderly in nursing homes in communicating with loved ones, assisting newly arrived refugees with their literacy and numeracy skills, supporting students in leadership opportunities and leading other Year 11 students in the coaching of junior students. The ongoing commitment of each girl and the quality of their work has been exemplary and very well received by the Max Potential coaches.

Information on RoSA and increase in school leaving age

The Record of School Achievement (RoSA) is the new credential for students who leave school after Year 10 and before they receive their Higher School Certificate (HSC). The number of students who leave Macarthur GHS before they receive their HSC is very small.

The RoSA is designed to record and credential all of a secondary school student’s academic results up until the HSC. While all students currently receive grades for courses they complete at the end of Year 10, this system will be extended to also capture grades for courses a student completes in Year 11. The RoSA also coincides with the raising of the school leaving age.
All students must remain in school until 17 unless they receive a TAFE RoSA equivalent (Certificate II) and have ongoing education, or are employed in full time work. If a student leaves school before receiving a grade in Year 11 or 12 courses, their RoSA will record the courses they commenced. This measure acknowledges the fact that many students begin senior secondary study but then leave school for employment or other training opportunities before receiving their HSC.

Mr French
Stage 5 Leader
Deputy Principal

Deputy Principal’s News

School Processes
At the conclusion of Term 2, I reminded students and parents/carers of the need for all students to have their school diary in their possession at all times. One major purpose of the diary is to assist students in organising and planning their time effectively, especially in regards to assignments or other assessment tasks. Now that we are half way through the term, this reminder is even more important, as the assessing of student’s progress is a continuous process.

Year 8 Subject Selection
Due to a recent internal evaluation of the Stage 4 and Stage 5 curriculum structure, the Curriculum Handbooks for Year 8 students have been delayed. These will be issued and available on the school’s website very shortly. Discussions with Head Teachers and their class teachers will take place at this time if students wish to ask more specific details to assist them in making the right choice once the booklet is provided.

School Video
Throughout the last few months a number of staff and students have been developing a video which presents a few moments in the life of students at MGHS. This video is nearing completion and will be on display for the next newsletter. I am certain everyone will be impressed with how our school has been represented.

Examination Periods
Term 3 is examination time for Stage 6 students. Year 12 recently completed their Trial HSC Examinations and Year 11 will be sitting for their Preliminary Examinations from Week 8. I would like to commend the Year 12 students on their conduct when sitting the exams and managing their time effectively during a period of changed routine. Hopefully they will learn from the processes that were in place when their final exams occur next term.

Good luck to all Year 8 and Year 7 at their respective Games Days over the next few weeks. Let’s hope the weather remains kind and MGHS students have fun and compete to the best of their ability.

Mr Karl Berthold
Relieving Deputy Principal
Year 12 students and parents

Year 12 completed their Trial HSC Examinations at the end of week 4 and many have or are about to commence their HSC practical examinations and submit their HSC projects. On behalf of all staff, I wish them the very best of luck as they enter the final stage of their MGHS journey.

The post-trial period is extremely important for our Year 12 students as it gives them the opportunity to get valuable feedback in relation to their HSC Trial performance, revision and refinement of examination technique. Teachers will be using the trial examination to provide explicit feedback to your daughter about what she specifically needs to do to enhance her results. Our teachers have many years of experience in marking HSC papers and know how to guide students to achieve their best. Teachers at MGHS have a deep understanding of what the HSC examiners are looking for. They know what students need to do and what students need to be able to demonstrate in their answers to optimise their marks.

Attendance at school for all Year 12 students in accordance with DEC is compulsory until 19 September, 2014 which is the date for the 2014 Year 12 Graduation. Details of this will be sent to all parents/caregivers of Year 12 students. Year 12 reports will be issued on Friday 19 September.

Year 11 students and parents

Year 11 Yearly Examinations will commence Week 8 and 9 of Term 3. It is strongly advised that students and parents become familiar with the examination dates and students prepare themselves well in advance for these examinations to ensure their performance truly reflects their ability and effort throughout their preliminary studies. Students will receive their examination schedule shortly. Parents and students are also advised to refer to the Macarthur Girls High School HSC Assessment Policy 2014-2015 handbook to ensure they fully understand the policies and procedures around assessment.

Ms Gail Cluff
Principal
On Friday 25 June, I was taken on a journey; the day was full of inspiration, motivation and dreams. I was honoured to receive the Pierre de Coubertin award as well as an Academy day. The Olympic Academy was held at the NSW Institute of Sport, Sydney Olympic Park and it was divided into four sessions.

The first session; 30 students and I were shown a presentation as well as spoken to about the basis of the Olympics, its value and position in the world amongst society.

Our second session was ‘Citius, Altius, Fortius’ My Olympic Journey, we had 3 inspirational, driven athletes who talked about their Olympic journey: Marieke D’cruz a World Record holder for 50m Butterfly, Stephanie Magiros, an Olympic Snowboarder and the third was a two time Hockey gold medallist and three times Olympian, Katrina Powell OAM. Katrina in my opinion was one of the most inspirational talkers who really kept going back to the point of you can do whatever you set your mind and heart to. Katrina was also very kind in bringing her gold medals in order for everyone to get a great look at it; they were really heavy!

The third session was about Youth and the Future of Olympism in a Digital Future - - we again looked at statistics and how the countries were going about promoting it. Then we talked about Olympism and what it is - to me personally Olympism is no discriminator, Olympism is harmony, Olympism is an Educator. It omits the conflict of nations; it is the universal language of sport and has the ability to unite people and nations, acting as a mediator and facilitator of positive global relations. The displays of sportsmanship in Olympism serve to remind us that while our race, appearance, belief or geographical location may separate us, we are all member of the human race and are unified by the Olympics because of our interest in sport.

Session four was a really fun session as we quickly spoke about the acronym of A.S.P.I.R.E - standing for Attitude, Sportsmanship, Pride, Individual Responsibility, Respect and Express Yourself. This acronym is highly regarded amongst the Australian Olympic Committee and the Australian athletes as they are obligated to respect and perform it.

We were put in groups and got one word to talk about which had to be presented by one female and male - and the best female and male presenter would get the privilege of saying a speech in front of parents, teachers, special guests, and Australian Olympic Committee members. For my group I was privileged enough to be the female speaker and our word was ‘Individual Responsibility’. I was honoured to be the female speaker, as well as receive an official Australian Olympic Scarf which was a part for the Australian Olympic team uniform for the Commonwealth Games, this scarf cannot be purchased or given anywhere else so it is a great admiration.

We then walked down to the Hall of Legends, Sydney Olympic Park Centre. I had two amazing teachers, who I thank from the bottom of my heart - Ms Aoun and Mr French who came and supported me when receiving my Pierre de Coubertin award, a book with Australians who have won Gold since 1896 and a congratulations letter, as well as watching me and another student present our speech.

Thank you to Mrs Torr and Ms Coop for nominating me.

By Rayanne Alameddine (Year 12)
**Make Online Payments**

It is now possible for parents to make online payments to the school for amounts owing for students, via a secure payment page hosted by Westpac. Payments can be made using either a Visa or MasterCard credit or debit card. The payment page is accessed from the front page of the school’s website by selecting $Make a payment$

Items that can be paid include voluntary school contributions, subject contributions, excursions, sales to students and creative and practical arts activities (these include band, drama and dance). There is also a category called Other this to cover items not covered in the previous headings, Other can be used to make a complete payment of a school invoice.

When you access the $Make a payment$ you must enter:
the students name, and
class and reference number OR
the students name, and
date of birth

These details are entered each time you make a payment as student information is not held within the payment system. There is also the option to enter the Student Registration Number and Invoice number if you are aware of them, these are optional fields

This is a secure payment system hosted by Westpac to ensure that your credit/debit card details are captured in a secure manner, these details are not passed back to the school.
You have the ability to check and change any details of the payment before the payment is processed. Receipts can be emailed and/or printed.

Details of the payments are passed daily to the school where they will be receipted against your child’s account. As a receipt has been issued from the payment page a further receipt will not be issued by the school.

For any enquiries regarding the Online Payment process please contact the School Administration Office.
Human Society and Its Environment Faculty (HSIE)

Humanities Websites

As part of the means of keeping parents informed about what each of the subjects delivered through the HSIE faculty involves, two Web sites have been developed. These sites provide a number of pages containing the outlines of each course offered and how it is to be assessed. We are frequently asked a range of similar questions about each of the subjects, and answers for these regularly asked questions are provided. The websites are organised into the junior courses and the senior courses. The links are provided here, and are also now available on the school website. Each website is still undergoing some final editing, and so you may find changes from one visit to the next. The faculty would appreciate any feedback you may have on these sites, especially where something needs correcting or links need fixing. You can do this by either completing the contact form at the end of the site, or by contacting the faculty at the school directly.

http://humanitiesinfo.weebly.com/  Years 11 & 12  http://juniorhsie.weebly.com  Years 7-10

As identified from these pages, the Humanities faculty certainly provides a wide range of learning opportunities for students in all years.

Our HSC Students

As you read this, please remember our HSC students. They have just completed their trial examinations, and for most students, this examination has allowed them to identify areas where they need additional effort. Early reports suggest their performance in the Humanities subjects has been very pleasing. It is now time for all students in all subjects to begin their serious study programs. Humanities faculty teachers are always available to assist students with those areas of concern. We commend the revision sessions being run in Business Studies, Studies of Religion, Economics and Legal Studies to all students in these courses. These sessions will provide a good opportunity to ask the questions yet to be answered, gain advice about answering questions on examinations and obtain final hints on being successful. Thank you to all staff who give their time in preparing and presenting these activities.

To all students preparing to sit the HSC this year, we wish you the best and hope that you achieve results which reflect fully the overall effort you have made since entering the Preliminary course. Please remember, the teachers are able to assist you right up until your exams, but they are not mind readers, so you need to approach them with any issues you need assistance with.

Staff Change

As noted in the last newsletter, the Humanities Faculty said farewell to Mr Davison at the end of term 2. He has provided continuity and stability over the past 5 years at this school in providing ongoing quality teaching to the students in the faculty. His role in filling a range of positions in a temporary capacity when permanent staff have taken extended leave for family reasons provided stability to the learning of students, a familiar caring face and his dedicated approach to his work has
been appreciated by students and colleagues alike. He is sure to be missed by both the students and his colleagues both within and beyond the faculty. In his place, we welcome Mr Tusa to the faculty.

Social Science Subjects

Welcome to term 3. This promises to be a very busy term for our students and staff as we move closer to the end of the school life for our year 12 students, and the completion of the course for many other students.

Students in Geography in years 7, 8 & 9 have just commenced their course after having spent the first semester studying History. Year 7 students have begun their study of the “Geographer’s Tool Kit and will soon commence an in depth study of a World Heritage Area. It will be essential for all year 7 students who have their own devices to bring them to each class as this will allow individuals to carry out online research for the task.

Those students entering year 8 have begun to study Globalisation as a feature of the modern world, and the geographical aspects related to this activity. Year 8 classes have the opportunity to develop a clearer understanding of the aspects which benefit Australians and how there will always be winners and losers in the global economy.

In year 9, classes in the Geography course have commenced their study of the physical nature of Australia. Like their peers in semester 1, students this semester will be working on producing a ‘Children's Story book’ as a means of demonstrating their understanding of what Australia is like. It is anticipated that these books are both interesting for the students to create, and would allow much younger children to develop an increased understanding of what Australia is like.

Geography in Year 10

Year 10 Geography has moved from the managing issues in the Australian environment section of the course to the aspect which looks at some of the links we have with our Regional and worldwide stage. As a result they are looking at the main links of trade, tourism, sport, defence and Aid as the interaction mediums for the foreign entities involved. This leads students to develop a greater empathy for people who are caught in areas of war, poverty and exploitation. It also alerts them to how we play a role in growing ties with countries through sporting events, defence activities (especially peace keeping) and tourism.

Year 9 Commerce

As part of the opportunities offered to students in Year 9 Commerce, they participate in the ASX “sharemarket game”. This is a realistic, real time activity where students form teams of up to 4 players, are given some nominal capital to invest through trading stocks and bonds on the share market, with the hope of making a profit over the period of the activity. This uses the actual share prices for companies listed on the ASX. The competition runs for about 8 weeks and at the end there are significant.

Legal Studies Lecture day

Early in term 3 a large group of students in the HSC Legal Studies cohort spent a precious Saturday at Westmead Hospital Education Centre attending a series of Legal Studies lectures. These lectures provided an opportunity for all attendees to have expert input into their preparation for the HSC coming up in October.
The speakers provided up to date commentaries on each of the core and elective units being presented for the HSC, as well as tips and hints on how to complete the HSC examination. This was seen as a valuable exercise for all. A big thank you to Ms Stolk & Ms Bruen for organising this event and accompanying these students on this day.

Pyrmont Excursion Year 10

Year 10 undertook a fieldtrip to Pyrmont on 12 June 2014. A fine, sunny day (although a little cold to start) greeted the 170 students in year 10 who attended this trip. As the trip was part of the assessment process for year 10 Geography, these students were well on the way to meeting all field-based course requirements of Geography - who said that it was not possible to enjoy your learning at the same time as meeting the assessment requirements. As part of the activity, the two groups walked around the Pyrmont area, investigating the different aspects of the peninsula. The journey took students past the front entrance of the Star City casino, through parts of the city dominated by new high rise housing, the redeveloped wharf areas and the Sydney Maritime Museum. Investigations included seeking knowledge about the past land uses of the area - as a seafaring point, the operation of a sugar refinery, the changes in the housing style of the area, and the redevelopment occurring in both housing and industrial land uses.
New Syllabus Coming

July saw the release of a new draft syllabus for Geography. Much has been said in this forum and elsewhere about the implementation of English, Mathematics, Science and History syllabuses for the National Curriculum, while subjects such as Geography have been waiting to commence their implementation of their new syllabus. For Geography, it will mean a very different set of teaching and learning experiences for students than currently exists. It is exciting to begin work on developing teaching activities for a new syllabus and we are looking at developing a wider range of tasks which will enhance the development of 21st century learning skills - communication, collaboration, ICT, creativity with authentic learning activities. As the syllabus becomes more definitive, we will keep you informed of our progress. A final implementation date is not yet known, but be assured the quality of education provided will not be diminished by the challenges this new syllabus provides. It is anticipated that there will be greater opportunity to work in cross faculty activities as a result of this implementation.
“Those who do not remember the past, are doomed to repeat it.” – George Santanay

The beginning of Semester 2 in the History world has once again been a very busy one for both staff and students. We farewelled many of our junior classes at the end of last term and welcomed a whole new set of classes this term as students transition from History to Geography and vice versa as we begin a new semester. Last term, we also farewelled one of our pre-service teachers, Ms Cox and would like to thank her for her hard work throughout the placement. We have also welcomed one more pre-service teacher into our faculty this term, Miss Tilley and she is really enjoying getting to know all the students in her classes.

It has been fantastic to watch so many of our students working so hard at this time of the year. In particular, year 12 are currently sitting their Trial Examinations and we wish them luck as they progress through their last term of school. Just a friendly reminder that in all our subjects - Ancient History, Modern History, Society and Culture, Studies of Religion and History Extension - we are still completing course work so in order to be fully prepared for the upcoming HSC, students still need to be attending classes. Our year 11 Preliminary students are fast approaching the end of their Preliminary year and we encourage all students to work hard and prepare as much as possible for their upcoming exams.

Throughout the end of last term and the beginning of this term, many of our students have been looking at the Aztecs. Year 11 Studies of Religion students have been examining Aztec religion, as part of their study of ‘Religions of Ancient Origin.’ Students undertook a self-guided differentiated activity for which they were given a variety of task options based on the various syllabus outcomes they must achieve by the end of the unit. Working in pairs or groups, students were given four lessons to complete their chosen activities. In the fifth lesson students displayed and presented their efforts to their peers by setting up stations around the classroom, and exploring the quality work produced by their peers. There were posters, graphic organisers, books, games, and diaries created about the various features of Aztec religion which contributed to the peer-assisted learning component of the task.

A special segment in the second half of the lesson was dedicated to tasks which used the incorporation of ICT and multimedia presentations about the importance of Aztec rituals.
Memorable presentations included Alaa and Maissa’s PowerPoint presentation which incorporated traditional Aztec music and Ami and Fereshta’s animoto presentation followed by a class quiz about Aztec religion. Students did well in the quiz, as many even scored multiple prizes during the session. To find out about Ami and Fereshta’s work please visit the following link:

http://animoto.com/play/aPUs11PGoDvHs07ZesYSpg.

You can also find other student work samples from the task displayed in D9 - so make sure you check it out!

Year 8 students have also been examining the Aztecs but haven’t just been looking at their religion but other aspects about their everyday life. In groups, students created presentations where they taught the class about their chosen topic. The presentations were fantastic - check out some of the shots below:
The History Appreciation Society

“Wisdom begins in wonder” - Socrates

The History Appreciation Society comprises of a number of students from all grades who meet together in Room 40 every Friday at lunch time to discuss aspects of history. We have presentations that talk about all sorts of historical events from different time periods: ancient, modern and anywhere in-between. So far we have examined Aztec civilisation, the French Revolution and even the Indus Valley! We discuss topics that aren’t covered in class and also have opportunities to clarify any questions we may have relating to our curriculum classes. We have great plans ahead of us such as stalls and activities for Multicultural Day and our own events in the future. Keep an eye out for our “This Week in History” board outside the HSIE staffroom. The best thing about the History Appreciation Society is that all the things we talk about, plan to do or discuss are chosen by us, the members of the society!

Although we’re always having fun, we do have an aim. We aim to broaden the knowledge of everyone, not only in the society but the school on history! This society gives us students freedom to educate others and share our knowledge, whilst also gaining it ourselves.

“I joined the History Appreciation society as it provided an opportunity to be the ‘teacher’ ... by organising presentations, debates and discussing aspects of history that aren’t part of the school curriculum.” - Zohal, Year 10

Sometimes we may not always get to learn what we want in our history lessons in class and may want to extend our curiosity and that is exactly what this society aims to do! One of the most exciting aspects of this club is “the freedom of being able to talk and learn about whatever we want.” - Aliye, Year 10. This club also facilitates leadership skills, confidence in public speaking as well as fostering both creative and critical thinking.

We exchange knowledge and build upon ideas, student can talk freely about any topic they wish. The society is open to 7-12 and is not restricted to any age group so whether you’re a fresh new mind or a wise Year 12, come along and see for yourself the amazing opportunities in the History Appreciation Society.

For more information visit the HSIE Faculty or alternatively join our Edmodo group with the access code: ni828g

By Misari Mehta and Elena King, Year 9
Year 9 Advisor’s Report

During our PRIDE sessions this term we have decided to look beyond the walls of our own classrooms and school grounds, and ask ourselves what we can do to contribute to our wider community. We have launched a new program for the first five weeks of Term 3 on Refugee Awareness and our approach to this unit is three fold:

- On Tuesday’s during PRIDE time, all Year 9 classes are learning about refugees, looking at myths and facts, case studies and our national and global situation.

- On a practical level, we have decided that the Year 9 community of MGHS will contribute to the SIMPLE LOVE ESSENTIALS FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS program that is being run across many schools, churches and other institutions in Sydney. This program involves collecting groceries from a list provided by SIMPLE LOVE and dropping these in September at the local Parramatta collection point on Sorrell Street. Follow this link if you would like to read more about SIMPLE LOVE in Sydney:  http://www.simplelove.com.au/

- Finally in Week 3 we welcome a guest speaker Mr David Baker to talk to Year 9s. Mr Baker is a refugee advocate and educator about refugee causes in schools and he will share his experiences working alongside refugees in Sydney.

We are also looking for students who have come from refugee backgrounds themselves, or have family members who have refugee experience, to share their stories so that we can learn from each other. We are lucky to have such a rich and diverse community here at MGHS, and it is rewarding to hear one another’s stories and for a range of students to take up leadership roles in promoting understanding and education around refugees. Students can see Ms Jackman if they would like to become involved in sharing their story.

Please remind your Year 9 daughter to bring in groceries from the SIMPLE LOVE list to her PRIDE class this term, in order for us to make a worthy contribution to our wider community on this important cause.

Ms P Jackman
Year 9 Advisor
Drama Report

As we rapidly approach the HSC practical examinations on Monday 18 August 2014, we undertake one of the busiest times of the year in Drama. We launched our brand new series of lunch time concerts this term called the ‘Drama Lunchbox Series’ featuring our HSC students and we have further achievements to celebrate across different year levels. Below are some details about our latest news in MGHS Drama.

HSC Parent Evening: This public examination took place in Week 9 Term 2, as the only opportunity for students to perform their Group and Individual pieces for family members. Snuggled into our freshly renovated ‘black box theatre’ in Room 17, parents, siblings, teachers and fellow students were treated to a fantastic showcase of the work students have been rehearsing all year. The marking panel comprised of two HSC markers - Ms Jackman and Ms Simon from Nepean High School of the Performing Arts. The evening was an opportunity for students to understand the procedures and protocol of the HSC examination as well as an opportunity to share their work. Thanks also go to Mr Johnson and his Year 11 Entertainment Crew who provided technical support.

Theatre Sports Company: If you wander down towards the Drama rooms on a Thursday afternoon afterschool, you will hear a hive of activity, laughter and giggles as our new MGHS Theatre Sports Company rehearses. Students from Years 8 - 11 are tutored by Mr Edan Lacey - a national theatre sports champion, actor and director who has trained with improvisational companies in New York. Theatre sports is a wonderful opportunity for young performers to develop their fast thinking, quick timing and sense of comedy as they work as a team to create spontaneous and often hilarious scenes (in the style of Whose Line is it Anyway). Well done to the girls for their on-going commitment to developing their performance skills beyond the classroom. See below for Hayley Prats report on her involvement in the company and a snap shot of some Year 10 Theatre Sports company members.

Sydney Theatre Company Work Experience Scholarship: A huge congratulations goes to Kellie Zhao-Culpan in Year 10 who won, one of only twenty scholarships from across the state, to work for a week at Sydney Theatre Company in the September holidays. Focusing on Macbeth, their main stage show in September, Kellie will work with other students and industry professionals to go behind the scenes looking at directing, acting, set design, programming, costume design, promotions and programming. This is an outstanding achievement and we are proud to have Kellie representing MGHS. Read below for her report on her application process.

Drama Lunchbox Series: This term we launched our new initiative - the ‘Drama Lunchbox Concerts’, in order to share our Drama performances with the wider school community. On Thursday and Friday of Week 2, HSC Drama students performed extracts of their work for a fabulous student audience, who gathered in the hall, with their lunch to enjoy the entertainment. Congratulations performers and a big thank you to staff and students who supported our first Drama Lunchbox Concert. See pictures from the event below.

Finally, Kruti Patel in Year 9 shares some of her reflections from her recent Mask and Theatre of the Absurd Units in her report below.

By Ms P Jackman
Year 9 - Student Reflections from Drama

We have just finished our mask unit which was quite a different experience for all of us. The mask that I used became my friend. As if I knew it from ages, it was a completely new experience. I was lost in my world. We learnt to use our physicality to express our character and emotions. Our imagination took us through this spectacular journey of time with the masks. We have lately started a new topic “Theatre of the Absurd”. My first experience in this topic was tremendous. This was one of the things we have never done before, because it is theatre that is unpredictable, odd and wacky! It reminded me of being a child. Acting as a 2 year old is not easy; it made me think how I changed overtime! My stressed mind took advantage of the free space. It was a remarkable experience.

By Kruti Patel

Theatre Sports Review

It all started in the beginning of term two when our Ms Jackman proposed the idea of ‘theatre sports’. This was not just any theatre sports like previous years but instead would be held on Thursday afternoons after school from 3:15 to 4:45, alongside a professional acting coach. This idea struck numbers instantly and girls from all years were automatically drawn to the idea. Those who wanted to get in had to go through a process in order to get in. This involved an expression of interest and permission for parental approval. We began in the middle of term two and everyone was buzzed and excited to begin. We began immediately and with a warm welcome too. First we were introduced to our acting coach, Edan, he told us about his acting ventures, experience and aspirations. This excited us all as most to all of us wanted to become an actor or work in that field. Next, Edan suggested we start of with a ‘name game’ so we could introduce one another as some of us in the group had never spoken before. A couple of weeks had passed and our theatre sports team were really close, we became more supportive of one another and strived to help each other and work cooperatively and as a team. Throughout the weeks we have played numerous games to help us achieve our best and get our knowledge up to date about the ‘theatre sports world’, with the hope that our group or us as individual actors could participate in a theatre sports competition. All in all theatre sports is a great opportunity to learn and grow as actors and develop our theatrical skills.

By Hailey Prats—Year 10
Sydney Theatre Company Work Experience Scholarship Report

The Sydney Theatre Company has provided a work experience opportunity for 20 lucky students around New South Wales. This program is enabling students to learn the different aspects of a professional theatre company.

As a lucky recipient of this opportunity I get the chance to experience the theatre lifestyles. I get the chance to watch a matinee performance of STC’s *Macbeth*. I also get the chance to work with industry professionals and talented young students just as eager as I am.

When Miss Jackman had first told our class about this fantastic opportunity I thought to myself that this was too good to be true. Sydney Theatre Company has always been something I have aspired to get into and when this chance arose, I just couldn’t say no. They understand theatre and people’s passion for theatre.

To be accepted, I had to fill in a range of different forms about myself and film a quick video answering several questions.

Why I wanted to join STC?

STC is a fantastic theatre company enabling students like myself to really delve into the theatre world. They provide insight to what theatre is really like and how a team of people, whether it be set design, costume or even the actors can come together and create a play.

What I liked about theatre?

Theatre has always been a passion of mine. My passion for theatre started as a child when I found myself having an ability to lie. I could lie and make up a believable story with ease. Ever since I have always known I wanted to have a part in theatre. Even if it was scrubbing the toilets in a theatre company, I would gladly do the job.

What was my dream theatre job?

Acting would be my main priority in a theatre company, as it is my chosen career path. However I wouldn’t say no to going down a directing path. I believe it is important for a director to know what they want and it even more important for an actor to able to given the director what they want. This is where acting and directing go hand in hand. I am also quite interested in the aspects of set design. I have seen several plays where the sets create a whole new level of magic. They really help set the mood of the play and this is something I would love to be involved with.

I am so grateful and lucky to be given this opportunity. Being one of twenty lucky students out in New South Wales simply amazes me. I will be counting down the days till I get to start my work experience at the Sydney Theatre Company.

By Kellie Zhao-Culpan
Highlights in TAS Faculty

Staff change

The head teacher of TAS, Mr Tardiani, is currently on leave for this term. Mr McGuire is the relieving head teacher during his absence.

“Pupcake” Day

Year 11 Hospitality students recently collaborated with the SRC to hold a fundraising activity called “Pupcake Day” to raise money for the RSPCA. From 7am that morning, our students were busy making and decorating over 200 cupcakes which were sold to staff and students at lunchtime. Special mention should be made of our creative genius, Zainab Alasadi (Year 11 Hospitality student), who designed and supervised the decoration of the cupcakes. The students benefitted greatly from being involved in the real-life situation of creating a food product for customers. Congratulations also to Ms Aoun (SRC), Mrs Krishnan and Mrs Sheppard (Hospitality) for their support of our students. Students have participated in several catering events including the PCYC Art Expo, nursing home visits, Rotary breakfast and Presentation evening.

HSC Major Projects

Congratulations to year 12 students in the completion of their major projects. Industrial Technology students were required to produce a multimedia presentation demonstrating a range of skills and techniques over the year. Projects included educational animations, spine chilling short films and exciting game designs. Our Textiles and designs students have created a range of impressive fashion items with Mrs Best dedicated support. Thanks also to their parents for providing support during this time.

Year 8

With spring around the corner students and the TAS staff have been busy planting seeds and maintaining the TAS herb garden. Year 8 students are given the opportunity to grow their own herb ingredients. These herbs are used for their food technology lessons in the kitchen to give students experience in developing skills in sustainability.
Year 10 Woodwork

Did you know that Macarthur offers Woodwork to students in year 9 & 10?

Mr Tardiani carried out a “renovation rescue” on the school’s woodwork room and with the support of Ms Cluff has transformed woodwork at Macarthur. It is great to see the school supporting a wide range of elective subjects available to our girls.

Traditionally seen as a boys’ subject the enthusiastic year 10 girls have excelled beyond such barriers. Their dedication and attention to detail have produced some impressive award winning results and high quality timber products. Congratulations to Farida Syed and Pulak Rawat in their Castle Hill Show success.

By using a range of exciting new timber tools and machinery students are producing a sturdy table to call their own. Class members have a great sense of accomplishment and pride in building timber products that they can use and cherish for years to come. After seeing their tables’ people often ask surprisingly “did a student make that?”

Congratulations to the girls and thanks to their parents for their encouragement.

Mr S McGuire
Relieving TAS Head Teacher
A Visit to UNSW

On 24 June 2014, a windy and sunny day, international students had a wonderful excursion to the University of NSW. The day started off with the students and Ms Luo meeting up at Parramatta Station, and about one and a half an hour later, we entered the university campus and was greeted by Mr Kay Chew, the university’s international students’ coordinator. He took us on a tour of the enormous campus - the university was said to be the perfect place for students who want a modern ambiance. There were lots of prestigious restaurants, mini supermarkets, study and meeting rooms and modern accommodations for the students. In addition, they said that modern devices and designed rooms were also created to help the students improve more in their studies and skills.

After the tour around the campus, Kay has also spent his time to give us a special presentation. From his introduction we learnt that the Kensington Campus is suited at a great location. It’s only 15 minutes by bus from Sydney’s city centre and what’s more exiting is, there are 3 beaches nearby. They are Bondi, Coogee and Maroubra beach. This means that the UNSW students have the privilege to go surfing between classes. How exciting is that! However, life in university is obviously not only ‘play hard’, but also ‘work hard’. The UNSW faculty of engineering ranked 18th in the QS World University Rankings by subjects 2014. 23 of the top 100 most influential engineers in Australia are UNSW graduates. Suddenly, we are looking forward to becoming a university student, but the first thing we have to worry about is the accommodation. Kay gave us a good tip that if we are doing a long term course, it’s better to live off campus and contrarily, if we are doing a short term course, living on campus would be a better choice.

Followed by Mr Kay Chew’s introduction, there’s another presentation from Australian College Information Centre (ACIC). ACIC has been a helpful agent to us for a long time. The unbelievable thing is, their service is completely free as they are funded by universities and government to assist international students in studying in Australia. After the presentations, we visited the modern library and were amazed by the size and facilities there. It was almost 10 times larger than MGHS’s library. Thousands of books and maps are offered therefore it is easy for the students to research for more information.

‘Soo Hungry…’ Kreeshana from year 9 muttered to herself. The busy morning at UNSW really made us tired and hungry. However, our spirits went suddenly high again when we were heading towards a nice Chinese restaurant for lunch and it’s only a few minutes’ walk away. We rushed to the restaurant and seated down quickly. When the menu was lying in front of us, we were totally in awe of the amount of choices we have comparing to the cost of the dish. Suddenly, the table became noisy because no one could decide what they are going to order. Everything sounds delicious and it’s just too hard to pick a favourite dish, but we have to make a decision. Then, we indulged ourselves into the meal and there was only the sound of spoons and chopsticks hitting plates. It seems like we finished the dishes in 5 seconds. Everyone became so full that walking back to a bus stop sounded like an impossible task. So we started discussing where we are going next term for the Year 12 farewell and eventually, we had to walk back to the bus stop for our return journey home.

The day went very well for MGHS international students. We were very honoured to experience a day at the University of New South Wales. We will treasure that moment and it will serve as an inspiration for us to exert more effort in our studies for our success in the near future.

By Yr 11 Christelle Aliasas & Yr 12 Diane Liu

Photographer: Tara Tan
Careers Lunchtime Talks Series 2014
This term Years 12, 11 and 10 have been invited to bring their lunch and spend some time in Room 44 (The Careers Room) to listen to presentations from a variety of sources to assist students with their Course and career options.
We began with a couple of ex Macarthur Girls students.

Shahd Hassouneh, who is in her 3rd year the Bachelor of Engineering (UWS) and still can’t believe she is following her dream course after doing really well in Mathematics for her HSC!

Minnie Zhu, did the 2013 HSC and won a UTS $50,000 Co-op Scholarship. She is studying for a Bachelor of Information Technology. The scholarship has given her a lot of confidence and of course has been financially very rewarding. Minnie came and shared her experiences with our students.

Rafiya Harun, another 2013 MGHS HSC student, also won a Co-op Scholarship at UNSW in Business Information Systems, I have invited her to come along and explain the process of applying for this scholarship.

As we go to print, we have many more presentations to come, so please do come along to Room 44.

Macquarie University (MU) gave out their Information booklets with all you need to know about their courses, scholarships and pathways to Macquarie University.

Sydney University (USyd) will be next to come out and present. They have already sent out their information booklets including Early Entry, Scholarships, Alternative Pathways and Faculty booklets.

The University of Western Sydney (UWS) has been booked. They had an evening packed full of information at Parramatta Leagues Club.

The University of Western Sydney College (UWS College) are also coming to explain the various entry pathways to university if your ATAR is not sufficient.

UWS College provides an excellent pathway to university who anyone who wishes to attend!

The University of Technology (UTS) is sending a presenter and booklets soon. UTS INSEARCH has alternative pathway entry methods if your ATAR is not sufficient to gain entry into your chosen course.

The University of NSW (UNSW) - date for presentation to be confirmed.

OPEN DAYS 2014-15
OPEN DAYS and/or special INFORMATION DAYS or EVENINGS are important to attend! Universities, TAFE (Apprenticeships and Traineeships) and Private Colleges all have Open Days. Please ensure you check your emails for the information.

Careers Interviews
Please book in for Courses and Career Interviews! There is a blue folder outside the Careers Office to record your name in for an interview. Even though Year 12 will be doing their HSC examinations and then leaving our school - please check your DET EMAILS into next year, as information will be forwarded to you as I receive it!

Best wishes, Ms Latimore, Careers Adviser
Attention, Behaviour, Cognition

ADHD
WE CAN HELP!

Let'sMove
is the award winning remediation program to help children with learning difficulties

FREE INFORMATION EVENING
Thursday 14th August
Parramatta City Library
Civic Place, Parramatta. NSW 2150
5:45pm for 6pm start. Finish 7pm

To reserve your seats please call
1300 LETS MOVE (1300 5387 6683)
or email : enquiries@letsmove.net.au

www.letsmove.net.au // /letsmoveaus
NEW JUNIOR COMPETITION
Good Referees. Good Fields.

Junior Competition Commences:
Boys: Tuesday 2nd September
Girls: Wednesday 3rd September
Location: Doyle Park Macarthur St, North Parramatta
Girls & Boys Under 9s (Tuesdays)
Girls & Boys Under 11s
Girls & Boys Under 13s
Girls & Boys Under 15s
Girls & Boys Under 17s

NEW ONLINE REGISTRATION

You can register your team online to receive your team code. Then each player would need to register online as well with this team code.

Just go to the Parramatta Touch website and click on Junior Competition/Individual Registration

Cost: (Under 11 to 17s) $51.95 Per Player & Under 9s $41.56 Per Player

Playing Singlet Numbered Package available $200.00

ENQUIRIES CONTACT:
Pam Hetherington: 0407 928 308  Rod Hetherington: 0402 268 375
Website: www.parra.touch.asn.au Email: parratouch@hotmail.com
CanTeen can help you cope with the impact that cancer is having on your life if you’re 12-24 and dealing with:

- having cancer yourself
- a parent, brother or sister being diagnosed with cancer
- the death of a parent, brother or sister

If you want to find out more
CALL: 9007 0190
VISIT: www.canteen.org.au
Upcoming Dates

Term 3
2 September - Year 7 Vaccinations
10 September - Years 10, 11 & 12 Measles, Mumps & Rubella Vaccinations
19 September - Year 6 Transition Day 1

Term 4
6 October - Term 4 begins
13 October - HSC begins
21 October - Year 6 Transition Day 2
3 December - Year 6-7 Orientation Day
17 December - Students final day for 2014

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 3 Tuesday 2 September, 2014
Term 4 Tuesday 28 October, 2014
Tuesday 25 November, 2014

Information

Parramatta Little Athletics Club

Parramatta Little Athletics Club is holding registrations for Friday night competitions to be held at Barton Park, North Parramatta.

Registration is on 22 August and 29 August from 6-7:30pm at Barton Park. Proof of age is required during registration.

Competition will begin 5 September.

For further information, please visit their website at www.plac.com.au