Principal’s Message

What an absolute pleasure it is to be back at Macarthur Girls High School after an extended period of sick leave. Mr French and Ms Kennedy have done a wonderful job in sharing the principal’s role in my absence as have Ms Edgar, Mr Jackson and Mr Ford relieving in the deputy positions. This seamless transition of personnel and roles demonstrates the depth of leadership at the school and the effectiveness of our structural organisation and teams approach.

It has been a busy return to work with last Wednesday night being the Year 12 Formal where our incredible HSC cohort came together at La Montague for their very last time. This was followed on Wednesday afternoon by an Old Girls meeting of students from MGHS in 1961 where our Hospitality students displayed their skills and abilities under the guidance of our TAS staff. On Thursday we had our Orientation day for our 2016 Year 7 cohort where our next group of macarthur girls and their parents familiarised themselves with the school and our structures and processes so ably assisted by the student wellbeing team and our year 10 peer support students.

Macarthur “Old Girls” Afternoon Tea
Some of the schools student leaders from Orientation Day and Transition Days

Back Row Rucha Bhagat, Rayan Abdul Hussein, Makereta Mataitini
Middle Isabel Angulo, Komali Loneru, Silsla Siddiqi
Front Riya Manandhar, Fatema Jinnat, Joya Chowdhury

Year 12 Formal
Paulin Tan, Mrs Lawton, Stephany Caaman, Jennifer Ng, Aye Soe
Senior Executive Message:

Macarthur Girls High School has once again experienced another outstanding year with many successes across a wide range of areas. It has been a tremendously rewarding year and we thank the dedicated teaching staff for their professionalism, guidance and support of your daughters learning and development. The rapport they build with your daughters along with their passion and commitment is one of the reasons Macarthur Girls High School attains such excellent results.

The senior executive would like to express our appreciation of the excellent work done by our executive team who have lead and managed their faculties so effectively. We would also like to acknowledge the incredible role the administrative staff play at Macarthur Girls High School as they support the students and staff of the school. They are simply irreplaceable!

Estimated student numbers for 2016 sees the school at capacity with basically no positions available to offer new students. Our reputation in the larger community as a provider of high quality learning opportunities for students means our waiting lists for places at the school continue to grow.

In 2016 we have some teachers who are taking full-time or part time leave for the year. As a result, a number of temporary teaching positions have become available. After advertising these positions and using the merit selection process, we would like to congratulate the following staff who will be teaching at MGHS next year:

- Mr Peter Tusa - Social Science
- Ms Jacinta Prasad - Social Science
- Ms Stephanie Goldsworthy - PDHPE
- Ms Shay Scott - PDHPE
- Ms Melika Kavoossi - EAL/D
- Ms Hoda Abou - TAS
- Mr Mark Nowicki - English
- Ms Melika Kavoossi - TAS
- Mr Susan Torr - Relieving Head Teacher PDHPE (Thur-Fri)

We would also like to thank those staff who applied for relieving executive positions for 2016. The following staff will be members of the school executive:

- Mr Saurabh Bhattacharya - Relieving Head Teacher English
- Ms Natalie Aoun - Relieving Head Teacher Administration/Learning Support
- Ms Kaye Spinos - Relieving Head Teacher Mathematics
- Ms Sue Torr - Relieving Head Teacher PDHPE (Thur-Fri)

Recognition of whole school excellence:

You may have seen the recent article in the Sydney Morning Herald on Sunday 15th November, where Macarthur Girls High School has been recognised as one of the seven schools with the highest value adding for student performance. The report which was originally produced by the Department of Education’s Centre for Statistics and Evaluation, has identified students in our school as having recorded the greatest improvement growth in literacy and numeracy over a number of years.

The initiatives and focus of the school in the past 6 years has been teacher professional learning, online literacy and numeracy, literacy and numeracy initiatives, integrated learning and student literacy profiles. These initiatives which have been diligently delivered by all teachers have undoubtedly contributed to these outstanding results. These initiatives will remain as the focus for our School Management Plan for next year and beyond. We would like to thank all staff and students for these fantastic achievements. If you would like to read the article, please visit:

Teacher excellence
Recipient of a Professional Teacher’s Council NSW Outstanding Professional Service Awards

In recognition of the voluntary work undertaken by association committees the PTC introduced, in 2002, an annual award known as the “Outstanding Professional Service Award”. The award recognises individual committee member’s outstanding professional contribution to education in NSW made through a professional teachers’ association.

Mrs Torr has been an active member of ACHPER NSW since 2005. During that time, she has made an outstanding contribution to the quality of professional learning materials and workshops for ACHPER’s Community and Family Studies (CAFS) teachers. She has written and presented HSC CAFS Enrichment Days on behalf of ACHPER NSW, aimed at improving students’ learning outcomes in the Stage 6 course. She has reviewed and edited the materials prepared by others for presentations as well as presenting professional learning workshops to CAFS teachers which are always highly evaluated due to her in-depth knowledge and engaging presentation style.

Her outstanding contribution to the PDHPE profession through her work with ACHPER and other organisations makes her a very worthy recipient of the Professional Teacher’s Council Outstanding Professional Service Award. The PDHPE Faculty and PDHPE and Community and Family students at Macarthur GHS are very fortunate to have Mrs Torr.
Final Report Distributions

Final year reports for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will be distributed on Friday 11 December 2015. This is a fantastic opportunity to discuss your daughter’s achievements with her and support her to set new learning goals for 2016. If you have any concerns, please contact the relevant subject Head Teacher.

Important Dates

The last day of schooling for students is Wednesday, 16 December

We look forward to seeing Years 7, 11 and 12 on Thursday 28 January 2016 with Years 8, 9 and 10 joining them on Friday 29 January. Remember to be at school ready to start your first day of learning by no later than 8:55 am.

Next year the first week of school will be Week B

School begins at 9:00am with a warning bell at 8:55am and finishes at 3:15pm on all days except Wednesday week B where students will be able to leave school at the beginning of lunch, if they have written parental consent. Relevant forms will be sent home during week 1 Term 1. It is expected that families organise any appointments for this time.

The school expects every student to be in full school uniform. The uniform shop will be open during the school holidays for the whole on the week before school start - Monday 18, Tuesday 19, Wednesday 20, Thursday 21, Friday 22 and Wednesday 27 January and Thursday 28 January (week 1 of school ). Please do not leave purchasing your uniform to the last day. Also note correct school shoes must be worn each day otherwise students will not be able to participate in learning activities due to safety issues.

We thank all community members, staff, parents and carers for your support and encouragement of our students throughout the year.

Wishing you and your families a joyous, safe and relaxed holiday season.

Felix Navidad

Gail Cluff          Mr French          Mr Jackson         Ms Kennedy/Ms Youssef
Principal          Stage 6 Leader      Stage 5 Leader      Stage 4 Leader
Students in our Year 11 had successfully completed their CROSSROADS module. The CROSSROADS program is a Stage 6 course designed to help senior students address issues of health, safety and wellbeing at a time when they face significant changes and challenges in their lives. It is a twenty five hours module and it was delivered by Year 11 roll call teachers during Term 1 to Term 3 PRIDE lessons. The implementation of the course in personal development and health education has been mandatory in NSW government schools for Year 11 and/or 12 students.

This module also aims to help prepare senior students to lead, and contribute to, healthy, safe and meaningful lives which promote respect, responsibility, enjoyment inclusion and social justice for self and others. This program is a combine content from across focus area and learning contexts to provide students with learning experiences that meet their needs, interests, abilities and local settings.

This Term 4, Year 11 students have engaged in exploring unity - united in giving. Each roll call class is divided into four groups and each group explored charity organisation as to how they help others. Being part of the community, each group brainstormed unity projects such as embroidered handkerchief, a creative book mark, anything they can crochet/knit for baby or even for elderly. These projects are to be donated to their chosen charity organisation they had investigated.
English Faculty Report

**Year 11 & 12**
Year 12 has finally finished. Well done to all Year 12 students for a fantastic effort this year, and good luck to the incoming Year 12 cohort.

**Year 10 Wall Zine - Have You Zine This?**

By Dharni Patel

Maybe it was the smell of delicious foods wafting from the stall. Maybe it was the joyous sounds of laughter and excited chatter that echoed around the gymnasium. Or maybe it was the light-hearted relief of revealing weeks of hard work. Whatever it was, we were all on cloud nine.

Weeks of perseverance, planning and preparation paid off in the highly successful running of Year 10 English’s Wall Zine Launch. Each class worked hard to produce a ‘wall zine’, which is essentially a magazine displayed on a wall. The magazines contained articles, short stories, book and movie reviews, fashion tips, DIY tutorials, recipes and artworks that screamed of passion, dedication and diligence.

After being printed, Year 10A’s magazine will be graciously distributed to the adolescents at Westmead Children’s Hospital, along with a love-filled care package. We sincerely hope reading our work will bring out a bright smile and a loud laugh in the youths there.

Accompanying the wall zines were class stalls filled with mouthwatering food and drink. Classes sold refreshments such as colourful cupcakes, lollies and chocolates, cakes, jellies and chilled soft drinks — welcome friends on a hot summer’s day. There was even a guess-how-many-lollies-there-are-in-this-jar competition (350, by the way), which was won by none other than the cheery Ms Harris! All proceeds from the event will be donated to beyondblue, an organisation educating, promoting and supporting Australian’s with mental health issues.

The launch of the wall zines were an immediate success. Wall zine trailers were highly impressive and truly showed the immeasurable time and effort that went into them. Our presentations for the Wall Zine will be held on the 8th of December. This will be a chance not-to-be-missed for each class to stand in the limelight and show off their magazines with a formal presentation. The hot temperature, food, laughter and amazing displays all contributed to making this a memorable moment for the last racing of weeks of year 10.

An electronic copy of English 10A’s zine can be found at

[www.macarthurgirlshighschoolvintage.weebly.com](http://www.macarthurgirlshighschoolvintage.weebly.com)
English 10M’s wall zine is now displayed in the library

English 10G, Miss Harris’s class
Year 10 Poetry Day

In line with International Literacy Day on 8 September, Year 10 classes participated in a Poetry Day. Students chose an object or location in the school and wrote a poem about it. Many poetic forms were chosen, including, odes, sonnets, haiku and free verse! Students then displayed their poems around the school for others to read and view during lunch time.

The initiative was taken from ‘International Put your Poem in a Shop Month’ where eager poets in the community post up their own poems in shops for later customers to find and read at their leisure.

The Poetry Day was a great success! The students had the opportunity to experience the ordinary in a new way, and interact with the school landscape. We anticipate our next Poetry Day in 2016!
My Sky

My sky, the kingdom of clouds,
My sky, look yonder and bow.
My sky, the gateway to Elysian Fields,
My sky, desire thou yields.

My sky, the battleground of thunder,
My sky, watch the rats go under.
My sky, the breath of Zeus,
My sky, ruination of roots.

Composer of mortality
My sky
Year 9 E-book

Congratulations to our Year 9 students for their wonderful work on their e-book project this term. Students completed a short unit of work on creative writing where they wrote a short story on a theme chosen by the class. Students then collated or chose stories to become part of their class e-book. The project involved students learning about how to manage their own ‘e-book company,’ with students taking on roles such as manager, editor, designer, video production, legal officer, finance manager and marketing and customer service. Students had a launch party and presentations of their e-book in the Hall in Weeks 9 and 10 to celebrate.

To view English 9G’s e-book called The Unknown, please visit: www.mghsyear9ebook2015.wix.com/anticipation

Year 8 Radio Program
Year 8 was engaged in a thrilling ride creating their own small group radio podcasts this semester. Students listened to radio dramas and current news stories in order to craft their own project. They created their own jingles, spooky Halloween dramas, news stories, commercials and even weather reports! The end of the term saw students present their radio podcasts to the class. Congratulations Year 8!

Year 7 Heroes Speech
This term, Year 7 completed a unit about fictional and real heroes that inspire them in their lives. They wrote three-minute speeches and presentations on a hero of their choice, and delivered them to their class. Now it’s their turn to be the hero in others’ lives!
Dr Edith Chow senior scientist from CSIRO visited Macarthur Girls High School during Term 3 as a guest speaker for the Lunch Career Talk Series to senior students. The girls had the opportunity to hear from one of Australia’s youngest and brightest scientist in the field of Nanotechnology about career prospects in the Science field. We are proud to announce that recently, Dr Chow was awarded with the Young Tall Poppy Award in 2015. The prestigious annual Young Tall Poppy Science Awards aim to recognise the achievements of Australia’s outstanding young scientific researchers and communicators.

As a Young Tall poppy winner, Dr Chow aims to do more school visits to reach out to students in her community. Having been born and bred in Western Sydney herself, she is excited and happy to visit Macarthur Girls High School to continue to provide career or science talks so that students are able to speak one-on-one with her about her work, how she got started, and career pathways as well as research directions for the future.
MGHS Students with Dr Edith Chow after the Lunch Careers Series Talk

L-R: Ms Mercado, Ex-MGHS student Tricia Lal (current 3rd year Medical student), Dr Edith Chow & Ms Cheah

Teachers are able to take the presentation from all Tall Poppy winners and integrate it in the classroom throughout the year, helping to bring the science to life and give it real people and real world connections for the students.

Australia Institute of Policy and Science- Website: http://www.aips.net.au/tall-poppies/tall-popy-campaign/tall-poppies-reaching-students-program/

Ms Cheah
Science Teacher
The History/LOTE World

“A special kind of beauty exists in language, for language tells us of the history of the world and what is beauty without history.” - Gaston Bachelard

As always, the end of Term 4 has been a busy and exciting time in the History/LOTE faculty. We welcomed back Ms Sheridan and Ms Luo with open arms and are enjoying having all staff members back to our constantly buzzing faculty. Throughout this term, we have had exciting experiences both within and outside the classroom and it has been fantastic to watch students engage in their learning.

Farewell Year 12

Term 4 saw the commencement and subsequent conclusion of the HSC Examinations for 2015, and we are very proud of the way all of our Year 12 students approached them. It was fantastic to see our students work so hard throughout the year and even students’ attendance at our after school ‘History workshops’ was indicative of their commitment to success in our History courses. From frantically sending draft essays and last minute responses, to the knock on the staffroom door, we know that students worked as hard as they could and we excitedly wait to share their successes in the coming weeks.

Year 11 Students

Our Year 11 students have transitioned smoothly into the HSC course and are working steadily to engage in their studies. They are hard at work as there are still assessments to be completed before the end of the year.

Some of the assessment tasks that have been completed have showcased outstanding results for our students. Ancient History students completed an assessment task in Week 6, and we compared results of a similar question from the Preliminary Examination with a question in their first assessment task in the HSC course. On average, students improved their results by 2 marks. In fact, 40% of students improved their marks by 2 and 10% improved by 3 marks. 8% of students even improved their results by 4 marks! To improve by at least 2 marks in a 10 mark question is outstanding, and even more so is phenomenal. It is a 20% improvement and an indication of students’ hard work and diligence throughout the term!

This term has also seen the commencement of the History Extension course for 2016. Seven students have begun the journey and are learning totally different approaches to studying history. They are not simply studying what happened in the past, but did it happen? In fact, they have even begun questioning their very existence and the existence of what they have known to be ‘true’. Students will be kept very busy throughout the January holidays researching their topics for their ‘HIP’ (or History Extension Project). We cannot wait to hear some of their ideas upon their return to school in Term 1
This term also saw the introduction of the ‘Homework Club’ in the school and the History/LOTE staff have enjoyed being a part of it. It has been fantastic to be able to tell students that there will always be a History/LOTE staff member at the session to help them with their upcoming History tasks. Next year, we will also continue with our year 12 after school History Writing sessions, and Term 1 will see us introduce our Studies of Religion workshops to Year 12 students once a week. Keep a look out for more information to come.

Students in Years 7-10 have also been busy in the faculty. In particular, students in Years 7-9 have been consolidating their understanding of past civilisations and time periods, eagerly awaiting the next instalment of the ‘History Story’. Our year 10 students have been working particularly hard, and after analysing many of their achievements, we are so pleased with their results. On average this year, 41% of students in year 10 improved their achievement of historical skills throughout the year by one grade (A-E) and 16% improved their achievement by 2 grades which is amazing! A huge congratulations to both staff and students on this amazing results.

Quarantine Station Excursion

On Friday the 13th of November, all of Year 10 went on an exciting excursion to the Quarantine Station in Manly as part of their Stage 5 site study, which is a compulsory aspect of the History syllabus. The students had a wonderful day exploring the site and learning about the history of Sydney's Quarantine Station. They were involved in activities such as using timelines, primary sources and contextualising different buildings and facilities on the site. The students had an amazing time learning about different phases throughout Australian history and it was an enriching and enjoyable experience for all (and the storms held off until we returned to school!). A massive thank you to Ms Frihy who expertly organised the event as well as Ms Ranjit, Mrs Gartrell, Ms Grima and Ms Issa who accompanied the students.
Year 8 French

Students in Year 8 French enjoyed a fantastic lesson this week, where they tasted many of the French foods that they had been learning about. Students delighted their tastebuds with baguettes, fromage, croissants, pain au chocolat et limonade rouge! What a fantastic end to a great unit of work and a big thank you to Mrs Anderson for organising such a magnifique feast!
TAS Faculty Update

3D printing at MGHS: Great opportunities for technology students

Students in year 9 graphics technology have been enhancing their CAD (computer aided design) skills by using MGHS only 3D printer. The girls have been developing their skills using Tinker CAD to design various different objects. Using the 3D printer the students have been able to bring their drawings to life and alter their measurements based on the printed objects. There has been a real buzz and excitement each lesson. The girls will have additional opportunities next year to complete more challenging objects to gain the design skills of the future. There is a growing demand for these types of innovative skills and the TAS faculty are helping our students reach their goals.

The 3D printer in action

3D Printed ring by Joanne Sparkes

“Frank” The 3D printed bunny
Computer Programming is Fun at MGHS: Technology students get into a flap.

At MGHS year 10 IST students don’t just play games they make them. Traditionally a male dominated field, the girls are experimenting with their coding skills. Using precise coding allows them to build a range of games such as basic versions of “flappy birds”, “angry birds” and “star wars”. By using Code.org the students can develop a range of higher order thinking skills combining from a range of subjects to successful code computer games. The highlight of these lessons is when the students can post their completed games to the class’s Edmodo page to share their success with other students. With other students playing their game and giving them feedback our game developers can build even better games. Playing and developing your own games is the way to the future. More and more everyday item rely on computer software and therefore coding. See [https://code.org/](https://code.org/) for more details.

![Year 10 IST students coding their own games](image)

The Robots Have Arrived

Robots are improving people’s quality of life and are helping to changing our world for the better. This term year 10 IST students have been working in teams to build and program robots to successful navigate different courses and complete various tasks. The girls are able to develop innovation, collaboration, critical thinking and problem solving skills. Specific coding instructions that are created by the students are transferred to their robots to complete a series of tasks. Once successfully completing an obstacle challenge some groups cheer their achievements. Great teamwork!
HSC Industrial Technology Major Projects

Congratulations to the year 12 industrial technology students on their efforts to produce a range of interesting projects. This year saw the first HSC graphics technology class at MGHS. Students completed their own project topic by producing a design folio, a variety of technical drawing, computer drawings and some built models. Despite architecture being the most popular area of study, Melek Al-Faraj produced many detailed sketches and an exceptional crafted 3D concept car with a comfortable interior and a sleek finish. Other projects included an experimental redevelopment of Parramatta library, a creative “teenager’s tree house” and a dollhouse amongst many others. Ami Surti’s multipurpose performance studio consisted of a vast array of stunning drawings, animation, video tours of her construction and an impressively assembled model it was enough work for two major projects.
Not to be outdone, the multimedia students also produced a collection of digital media projects. Their work included the use of animation, web development and video editing software. Zainab Alasadi was able to combine sophisticated web development tools with 2D and 3D animation to complete a highly creative and graphically intense website. Angela Pavlovic applied her experience and video editing skills to present a highly entertaining video showreel.

Zainab Alasadi’s 3D animation

Angela Pavlovic’s video production

Mr. McGuire
Technology Teacher
CUSHIONS:

At the start of the semester we began making cushions. The design brief: The task is to use 4 patches that are samples of fabric decoration. They will be sewn together to form a cushion:

- STENCIL PRINTING
- HAND EMBROIDERY
- TIE DYING
- APPLIQUE

Many techniques were used in the making of the cushion and we learn’t many things including understanding how to do stencil printing, applique, tie dye and hand embroidery. The hand embroidery was tricky as it took me a long time to understand the chain stitch. The rest of the patchwork was quite easy to handle.

As we came to the end of the patchwork we had to connect all the different patchwork pieces together which was also hard. Making sure you had the right skills and knowledge to control the sewing machine was useful, as we had to receive licenses to begin. At the end our cushions were done and it was obvious our class had successfully made the cushions and we were astonished at the final result as we all enjoyed the making the patchwork cushion.
The design brief: To make pyjamas (pants or shorts) with material and from scratch. Also make a matching singlet top decorating it with techniques and with the same material as the pyjama pants or shorts.

I made pants and used black and white material.

We used straight stitch for most of our work.

At the end of the semester and the year we began making pyjamas. We were all excited and it seemed easy, but was quite hard. We had to make sure that all the machines we used, we knew how to use and control. The machines we used were the overlocker and sewing machine. We also used materials like elastic, pin’s and needle etc. techniques like folding and unpicking stitches were important. The skills I learnt were learning how to use the overlocker and to add elastic and cutting fabric too.

One difficulty was using the overlocker. The second time using it I accidently cut a big piece of fabric off my pants. Later this was successfully fixed with the sewing machine. Most of the time the machines were occupied but we were all able to use the machine with the help of Miss and her support.
Year 8 textile article

Judy Tuameh

At the beginning of the semester we started making cushions and then once we had finished our cushions we then started making our main focus right now which is “pyjamas”. To make pyjamas we needed a bunch of skills and we needed to know what we were doing. The skills needed to make the pyjamas are:

1. Knowing how to use a sewing machine
2. Knowing how to thread a needle
3. Knowing how to measure the fold line and sew on the edge
4. How to measure how long you need your pyjamas to be
5. Straight stitching
6. How to thread up a sewing machine
7. Knowing how to use an overlocker

These skills are very important in textiles, they are very important because if you want your pyjamas to look professional you at least need to have some skills or learn some skills so that you know what you are doing and what is the outcome of your skill.

In textiles you might have some problems and at the end you might overcome these problems. One of the problems I had was not knowing how to use the overlocker, and not knowing how to thread up a sewing machine but after a bit of practice and help from the teacher, I eventually have learnt how to use the overlocker and how to thread up a machine. My classmates maybe had problems as well, like maybe not knowing how to thread up a sewing machine and had trouble with threading the elastic through the top of the pyjamas.

Some things I would like to learn in the future
Many people dream of making their own pillow, or even making their own bed sheets. Well in my opinion I think that everyone can make whatever they want and can reach their dreams and goals. In the future I would like to learn how to make my own jump suit, my own hand bag and maybe my own t-shirt. I think that anyone can reach their dreams no matter how hard they are or how boring they seem to others. What is important is to just keep going on with your passion for textiles and not let anything in your way 😊

Some images
Term 4 has seen many students diving into our wonderful swimming pool for PDHPE and Sport classes. Students have had great fun developing their stroke technique, lifesaving skills and creating pool games. With the summer holidays approaching it is important for students, and their families, to develop their aquatic skills and be safe in the water.

Students will be taking part in swimming lessons during Term 1 2016. I would like to take the opportunity to ensure all swimmers are participating in correct and safe swimwear. Please check the adjacent equipment list for swimming.

Mrs J Mumford
Head Teacher PDHPE

**Equipment list for swimming:**
- One piece swimming costume (colour blue or black) or all-in-one Burquini
- Swimming cap (silicon)
- Towel
- Sunscreen
- Goggles (optional)
- Rash shirt (colour blue or black, optional)

Students may be permitted to wear the school PE shorts in the water; however, it is not encouraged due to mobility and safety issues.
There are many benefits when doing woodwork. You can learn to use hand and electronic tools if you do not know already. These tools include:

- Disc Sander
- Scroll saw
- Hammer
- Saw
- Pliers
- Bench vice
- Try square
- Bench hook
- Pincers etc.

It helps you focus on your own work. But it can also benefit you helping others in some sort of way. You can learn many things while doing woodwork.

When doing woodwork, safety comes first. Before you even start to use wood you must make sure that your hair is tied back so it will not get in your way. And you must wear leather shoes for the safety of your feet. Also you should wear safety glasses and dust mask. This would help so that sawdust does not go in your eyes or nose.

If you are about to use a hand tool you should ask the teacher before you start. This way you will not make any mistakes and you don’t have to start again. You should do the same if you are going to use an electronic tool. If there is something broken inform the teacher immediately so the damage does not increase. Do not run around the class if there are other students working. If you are done, clean up your area so other students can use it.

Doing woodwork improves your art and maths skills. It improves your art skills as you are designing and painting your piece of wood. And it improves your maths skills because you are measuring your wood.

These are the benefits when doing woodwork.
**Music News**

**MGHS Instrumental Ensemble**

This year, The MGHS Instrumental Ensemble has been working hard to prepare two pieces of music for performance. “Minuet” by Johan Sebastian Bach and “Test Drive” from the DreamWorks animated movie, “How to Train Your Dragon”.

The students performed “Test Drive,” at the Dance and Music Showcase earlier in Week 6 and at the Year 6 Orientation Day in Week 9.

The students efforts throughout the year were formally acknowledge at the Stage 4 Recognition Assembly, where two members; Usha Makkena (Year 7) and Alyssa Baker (Year 8), provided background instrumental music for the event on Piano and Guitar.

**MGHS Trio**

The Trio has worked hard this year preparing a wide repertoire of songs from film, classical and jazz genres. The students recently performed background music for the Rotary Club of Parramatta “Daybreak” - Breakfast at Macarthur Girls High School.

These students were also formally recognised for their efforts and achievements, at the Stage 6 Recognition Assembly this term. Sally Nguyen, the pianist from the ensemble, performed a number of times during the ceremony, providing background music for the award recipients.

The students are currently preparing for their performance at Presentation Night on 9 December 2015.
Visual Arts News

We would like to congratulate Uzma Sirguroh and Zijun Chen who were both nominated for consideration for inclusion in ARTEXPRESS 2016.

We are delighted to announce Uzma Sirguroh’s work Epilepsy - A stitch in time has been selected and will be exhibited at the Art Gallery of NSW and Blue Mountains Cultural Centre.

Uzma Sirguroh’s work Epilepsy
Careers in Medicine Talk

On the 17 June, Macarthur Girls High School was greatly privileged to welcome an honourable young doctor, Dr Juliana Lim from Liverpool hospital, to provide interested students an idea of what it is like to be a medical doctor. The talk was held during the whole of lunch, comprising of a brief presentation that outlined the key steps to achieve the best possible marks for acceptance into medical school. Dr Lim engaged us with her personal experiences; from being a well-rounded high school student to a now a successful professional medical doctor. Her bubbly and charismatic approach made us all feel comfortable to ask questions in which she gave us interesting and effective advice. Dr Lim also advised us of what to expect while in university medical school. She described her experiences with working in a hospital through humorous stories of her first days as a trainee. However, she also depicted the stark reality of a medical career, and the stress and trauma related to dealing with patients varying in severity of sickness. All of the students who attended this informative meeting can definitely conclude that Juliana provided us with a range of information on everything we need to know when pursuing a medical career and her advice and experiences were greatly appreciated. A big thank-you to Ms Sofatzis who organised the talk and Juliana, who took time out of her busy schedule to talk with our eager students.

By Agnes Augusthy
Community Service Club

Year 11 & 12

By Cherry Katyal, Year 9

Community service is defined as voluntary work intended to help others without expecting anything in return. It is a way of giving back to our community as a gesture of sincerity and respect.

Here at Macarthur Girls High School, we are fortunate enough to have a Community Service Club which is run by Ms Sofatzis once a fortnight. This club allows students from all years to participate in many activities and sessions which allow us to have a thorough understanding of what it means to serve others.

The Community Service Club began in Term 3, with sessions on the importance of serving others, and the different volunteering opportunities in the local community. We had a guest speaker from Lowana Learning Centre who discussed her experience in community service with refugees in Wagga Wagga. Catherine, Vinogi, Pranavi, Jhanavi, Agnes, Nastaran and Diana from Year 10 all contributed to produce an Evolve Newsletter that outlined the numerous upcoming volunteer opportunities for us to participate in.

In Term 4, we had talks on the habits of highly effective volunteers, and on inspirational leaders in history, such as Mahatma Ghandi, Mother Teresa and Martin Luther King Jr. From these talks we were taught the values and morals we would need to make a difference in others’ lives. We were informed about the NSW Premiers Volunteering Awards for Years 9 and 10, and many students are in the process of applying for over twenty hours of community service completed over the last two years to be recognised. In Week 5 we put our creative skills to the test, and made get-well cards for the sick people in hospital. As this was our first practical in our club, everyone was quite excited and put in their all! In Week 9 we all got into the Christmas spirit and made Christmas cards and pine cone Christmas tree decorations for the elderly. This was such an enjoyable session, as all of us sat around a big table and shared smiles as we created our masterpieces.

Week 9 also saw Macarthur Girls High School visit Parramatta Nursing Home with a select group of Year 10 students. It was a very moving and enjoyable experience. We chatted to the elderly and handed out our pine cone Christmas trees for the residents to enjoy! We hope to continue these visits next year.

The Community Service club is truly inspirational and enlightening, as it not only teaches us to be good volunteers, but true human beings. On behalf of everyone in this club, I would like to extend a huge thank you to Ms Sofatzis for organising this club. Congratulations to all of the students who have also been attending and making a difference in others’ lives. See you all next year at the club!
Why does the Anime Club cosplay?

In Term 3 and Term 4, the Anime club members worked together on a few cosplay projects. The Anime Club cosplayed in a fun way to appreciate our favourite characters of anime movies. We not only wanted to entertain ourselves but also to share with everyone else of the school community! Through cosplaying, we were able to develop a deeper understanding of and to express our interest in the favourite anime and manga in a more hands-on way. We felt, by performing cosplays, our dreams have come true!

Can you find out who is doing which character in the pictures below?

Answers are on the next page!
Looking forward to 2016

We have made some plans for 2016, one of them is inspired by “Ponyo” – Sōsuke's contact with old ladies in the nursing home. We plan to:

- Work on a Ponyo dance, to be choreographed by Angela Chen
- Cosplay: ponyo – Watch out! We will all turn into a pink gold fish!!!
- Present our final product to the nursing homes in Parramatta and bring joys to elderly
- Our aim is to contribute to our community representing Macarthur Anime Club

What is “Ponyo”?

“Ponyo” is the character’s name of the anime called “Ponyo on the Cliff”.

Brunhilde is a fish-girl who lives with her father Fujimoto, a once-human wizard/scientist who now lives underwater, along with her numerous smaller sisters. One day, while she and her siblings are on an outing with their father in his four-flowered submarine, Brunhilde sneaks off and floats away on the back of a jellyfish. After an encounter with a fishing trawler (the net of which is scraping the trash-strewn bottom of the harbor), she ends up stuck in a glass jar.

She drifts to the shore of a small fishing town and is found and rescued by a small boy named Sōsuke. Shattering the jar open with a nearby rock, Sōsuke cuts his finger in the process. Brunhilde licks his wound when he picks her up and the wound heals almost instantly, much to his surprise. After taking a great liking to her, and thinking her merely a goldfish, Sōsuke renames her Ponyo and promises to protect her forever. Meanwhile, a distraught Fujimoto searches frantically for his taken daughter. Because of his own bad memories of the human world, he believes that Sōsuke has kidnapped her and is in great danger, he calls his wave spirits to recover her, but do the spirits recover her?

By Anime Club 2015
On Tuesday, 24 November, 30 students from Year 9 and 10 attended an excursion to Bankstown Sports Club hosted by the GWS Giants AFL Club. The excursion was a presentation on the topic of ‘Real life, real stories’ - a topic to create awareness about domestic violence, resiliency and empowering young women to overcome challenges in their life. The presentation linked in perfectly to the PDHPE syllabus, to address the issue of family and domestic violence. Students viewed an audio-visual presentation about a young girl and the struggles she has faced to overcome adversity. They were then involved in a Q & A panel discussion hosted by Melissa Doyle where they could ask questions on challenges that young women may face and how to deal with these issues. The students thoroughly enjoyed attending this day, with some students providing testimonials from the day:

“The highlight of my day was without a doubt listening to the women talk about their experiences and pass on their advice to us”. - Divya Year 10

“We were fortunate enough to meet lots of very motivational women who gave important life advice that we will keep with us forever. We were told stories of brave women whose journeys inspired us.” - Metra Year 10

“Macarthur Girls High school was one of many schools who were lucky enough to be invited to the forum Real life, real stories. We met inspirational women, such as Angela Barker who has encountered a traumatic experience, and now is using that experience to empower and educate young women” - Anna Year 9

Karen Coop
Excursion Organiser
MGHS Science Excursions - November 2015

MGHS SENIOR CHEMISTRY EXCURSION TERM 4 - 2015

All senior Chemistry students attended a mandatory excursion to University of Western Sydney (UWS) on Monday 23rd November 2015 with their Chemistry Teachers Mr Johnson, Mr Reza & Ms Cheah. They were there for a polymer lecture as part of the Year 11/12 Chemistry Course. The lecture was presented by the current Director of Research at UWS- Associate Professor Gary R. Dennis. The students were given the opportunity to do fun experiments with different type of polymers during the lecture and have the first-hand experience to speak to an actual chemist and be involved with the work of a real life chemist.
YEAR 8 GIFTED & TALENTED UWS SCIENCE EXCURSION - 26th November 2015

Fifteen Year 8 students were selected to attend an excursion on Thursday, 26th November to the Lachlan Macquarie College, University of Western Sydney (UWS) Gifted and Talented Science Day. The purpose of this excursion is to extend student experiences in science, and provide them with an opportunity to experience university science by conducting experiments in university laboratory settings.

Ms Driscoll (Head Teacher) with Year 8 students

Year 8 students looking excited in their white Lab coats
L-R: Students were able to perform many different types of fun and exciting experiments using dry ice and white carnations.

They were also given a Nitrogen Ice Cream treat by an actual chemist demonstrating the use of Nitrogen gas in freezing and making ice cream.
This excursion had provided students the opportunity to experience university and further develop their understanding and knowledge of science beyond stage 4 curriculum requirements. The students had a great time and were very enthusiastic working on all the exciting activities led by real world chemists from University of Western Sydney.

Ms Cheah
Science Teacher
Premier’s Reading Challenge 2015

Eighty-three students successfully completed the NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge this year. These year 7, 8 and 9 students read the required twenty books in the specified time frame.

All students entering and successfully completing the Challenge receive a Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC) certificate, appear on the Premier’s Reading Challenge Honour Roll and receive a merit certificate from the school. A list of all students who completed the reading challenge is shown below.

Within the group who completed the reading challenge there were some outstanding readers who have participated over a number of years. Their commitment to reading is acknowledged with special certificates from the NSW government. These are:

- Gold awards which are presented to students for 4 years of successful participation.
- Platinum awards which are presented to students for 7 years of successful participation.
- The Premier’s Reading Challenge Medal which is presented to those students who have successfully participated for more than eight years.

This year we had five Year 9 students receive a Premier’s Reading Challenge medal:

- Devashree Veerappan
- Emily Butterfield
- Amelia McCann
- Charmi Kacha
- Sandra Moshi

This is an impressive achievement and shows a great commitment to reading. Only 360 medals were presented across all NSW schools so it is a great achievement for our school to be in receipt of five of these medals.

Year 9 Medal Winners- Charmi Kacha, Emily Butterfield and Amelia McCann
Other special award winners included:

**Year 7**
- Tahsin Chowdhury - Platinum Award
- Tasneem Mattar - Platinum Award
- Mary Shiju - Platinum Award
- Lale Kaya - Gold Award
- Pallavi Palakkil - Gold Award
- Deeva Sood - Gold Award
- Jasmine Zeng - Gold Award

**Year 8**
- Dhvani Bathia - Platinum Award
- Mahanoor Fatima - Platinum Award
- Vagerra Jeyaranjan - Platinum Award
- Mahvash Maryam - Platinum Award
- Sophia Sarwary - Platinum Award
- Debika Thirukodeswaran - Platinum Award
- Dipsa Patel - Gold Award
- Diya Patel - Gold Award
- Simran Sidhu - Gold Award
- Karishma Thevathasan - Gold Award
- Srishti Yadav - Gold Award

**Year 9**
- Charmi Kacha—Platinum Award and Medal
- Sandra Moshi—Platinum Award
- Devashree Veerappan—Platinum Award
- Samiksha Vaidya—Gold Award
All students who successfully completed the Premier’s Reading challenge in 2015

**Year 7**
- Avanisha Adhikary
- Anne Augusthy
- Tahsin Chowdhury
- Meryem Dernaika
- Eesha Divi
- Amaya Gunathilake
- Sudiksha Hosur
- Lale Kayal
- Usha Makkena
- Vanessa Mathew
- Tasneem Mattar
- Shweta Mishra
- Nidhi Nair
- Rakshana Natarajan
- Sakhi Nimballkar
- Pallavi Palakkil
- Delcy Pandya
- Jahi Patel
- Jil Patel
- Tisha Patel
- Riya Raizada
- Mary Shiju
- Jasleen Singh
- Swetha Sivakumaran
- Deeva Sood
- Tania Sutiono
- Avanthika Vannan
- Zeenat Wahedi
- Jasmine Zeng

**Year 8**
- Hazel Alptekin
- Aayushi Aayushi
- Akshita Arora
- Dhvani Bhatia
- Urja Bhatia
- Sarrah Barodawala
- Florence Chan
- Nandini Dhir
- Anh Doan
- Mahanoor Fatima
- Mehrnoosh Garoosi
- Sia Gupta
- Amilia Hooshmand
- Labiba Hossain
- Vagerra Jeyaranjan
- Harriet King
- Vaidehi Kothari
- Lauren Ilano
- Viveka Kanchan
- Rievangeline Mariathasan
- Mahvash Maryam
- Vidy Mural
- Himani Nandedkar
- Hajar Nevres
- Drashti Pandya
- Khushi Parekh
- Kopal Parmar
- Dipsa Patel
- Diya Patel
- Ramya Rajeevan
- Sophia Sarwary
- Yashvi Shah
- Minal Shahid
- Sumaiya Sidiq Ali
- Sheereen Sidiq Ali
- Abha Sood
- Karishma Thevathasan
- Nidarshini Thiruvannan
- Ganuja Vasan
- Simran Sidhu
- Debika Thirukodeswaran
- Srishti Yadav

**Year 9**
- Emily Butterfield
- Jerlin Dominic
- Charmi Kacha
- Pahul Preet Kaur
- Sakshi Kelaiya
- Amelia McCann
- Sandra Moshi
- Felicity Ng
- Devanshi Patel
- Samiksha Vaidya
- Devashree Veerappan

Congratulations to all the girls who have participated in the reading challenge.

Happy reading,
Ms Jean Rhodes
Teacher Librarian
Imagine seeing your friends in 50 years time!!!!!!!!

On Wednesday 2\textsuperscript{nd} of December, the year 12 Hospitality students hosted an Afternoon Tea for a 50 year reunion of ex-students of Macarthur Girls High School. Some of their teachers who are in their 80’s and 90’s also attended. This group of ex-students contributed money towards the construction of our swimming pool by throwing coins in a bin which paid for the pool we enjoy today. They were very enthusiastic and absolutely delighted to be escorted on a tour of the pool by the Principal and the rest of the school by the Hospitality students.

Hospitality students have participated in several catering events including the Rotary breakfast Year 12 Graduation, executive lunch and Presentation evening.
Year 10 Leadership Day

On Tuesday 17 November, students from Year 10 participated in a Leadership Day. The day was a chance for them to grow in skills and maturity as they become senior students, and therefore role models for the junior students next year. Activities conducted included team games, like ‘Murder Winks’, ‘Fruit Salad’ and the ‘Line Drawing Game’. Students learnt communication skills like collaborative goal setting, listening skills and working as a team.

The highlight of the day was the newspaper dress competition, where each class dressed up a student in a newspaper design dress of their choice. A huge thank you to Mrs Eager, who organised the event from start to finish! Without her tireless efforts, this day would not be possible. Thank you also to the participating teachers - Ms Harris, Mr Johnson, Ms Chea, Ms Vaux, Ms Scott, Ms Lawton, Ms Dygkraaf, Ms Sofatzis and visiting teachers, Ms Solimon and Ms Boule.
This year Macarthur Girls High School was fortunate to receive two nominations for OnStage, a showcase of exceptional performances from the HSC drama exams.

Susmitha Gunaratnam was nominated for her Individual Performance: Radiance and Zoe Davison, Jamie Whitford, Shannon Svatsa, Mesha Reddy and Susmitha Gunaratnam were nominated for their Group Performance: Wedding Slammers.

Unfortunately both performances were unsuccessful in gaining a position in the showcase, however, Susmitha Gunaratnam has been selected to perform at OffStage- a selection of nominated individual and group performances. Susmitha will join 12 other performances on Saturday 30th January, 2016 at PLC Croydon commencing at 7pm.

This is a huge achievement for Susmitha and she would greatly appreciate your support. Tickets are only $5.00 and can be purchased via the link below.


We hope to see you there!

Ms Knowles
Integrated Curriculum Report

Throughout the remainder of this term, Year 7 and 8 students have been busily working on completing their projects and it has been fantastic to watch so many students engage in the work they are doing.

In Year 7, students have been working hard to investigate an issue in Parramatta, and groups have completed almost 34 different activities throughout the term! Students have been uploading all their completed work to their group’s collaborative folder on Google Apps, which not only allows them to keep track of their work, but also allows all group members to play an equal role in the work that is completed.

Just look at the number of activities that each group is completing!
Year 8 Integrated Curriculum students have also been working hard in their ‘Feeding the World’ unit. Students have been learning about the importance of eating sustainable foods, and as a result, students made bread the old fashioned way - no kitchens and no technology! Have a look at some of the photos from the break making class!

Students are looking forward to completing their ‘Salad of the Imagination’ during this week!
Integrated Curriculum will once again be a pivotal aspect of the pattern of study for Year 7 and 8 students in 2016. In these classes, students explicitly learn about how to enhance and improve their understanding of 21st century skills! We are very excited to launch the units once again next year, and as you can see below, we are ready and raring to go:
Macarthur Girls High School
Uniform Shop Special Opening Hours

2016

JANUARY 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>18th Jan</th>
<th>9.00am–3.00pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>19th Jan</td>
<td>9.00am–3.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>20th Jan</td>
<td>9.00am–3.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>21st Jan</td>
<td>9.00am–3.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>22nd Jan</td>
<td>9.00am–3.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>27th Jan</td>
<td>9.00am–3.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>28th Jan</td>
<td>9.00am–3.00pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Then Every Monday 8.00am – 4.00pm

PRICE LIST / ORDER FORM ON THE BACK
MASTERCARD, VISA & EFTPOS ACCEPTED
## Macarthur Girls High School UNIFORM SHOP

### Tax Invoice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
<th>SIZE</th>
<th>QTY</th>
<th>TOTAL INCL GST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Girls</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarten Skirt</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Tarten Skirt</td>
<td>65.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jnr White Short Sleeve Blouse / Piping</td>
<td>30.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Srn Sky Short Sleeve Blouse / Piping</td>
<td>30.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jnr White Long Sleeve Blouse / Piping</td>
<td>32.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Srn Sky Long Sleeve Blouse / Piping</td>
<td>32.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macarthur Racing Speedo Children</td>
<td>68.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macarthur Racing Speedo Women</td>
<td>68.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jumpers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool jumper</td>
<td>73.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardigan</td>
<td>73.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNR Vest</td>
<td>65.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports Polo</td>
<td>36.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L/Sleeve Sports Polo</td>
<td>37.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports Shorts</td>
<td>27.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports Pants</td>
<td>30.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance Polo</td>
<td>28.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Tights</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Short Socks (Pack of 5)</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cap</td>
<td>11.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Caps</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Blazer (Special Order)</td>
<td>110.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Head Bond</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Ties</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

☐ CASH  ☐ CREDIT CARD

TO PAY: $__________________________

PER ................................................................

50
This summer Parramatta Library has a great range of activities and programs to keep children and parents entertained. They offer summer programs in Literacy Workshops - 3 to 12 years and many more for more information click on the link below.

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
Upcoming Dates

2016 Dates

28 January 2016 - Years 7, 11 & 12 return to school
29 January 2016 - Years 8, 9 & 10 return to school

2016 Term Dates

Term 1 Wednesday 27 January - Friday 8 April  (SDD 27 January)
Term 2 Tuesday 26 April - Friday 1 July  (SDD 26 April)
Term 3 Monday 18 July - Friday 23 September  (SDD 18 July)
Term 4 Monday 10 October - Tuesday 20 December (SDD 19 & 20 Dec)

* School Development Days (SDD)

Students do not attend on these days

Information

SCHOOL ONLINE PAYMENTS

Please be advised that any school payments made via our website prior to 6pm will be processed by the bank the following business day. However payments made after 6pm will take two business days to be processed. This may result in your daughter missing out on a particular sport, class or excursion.

If your daughter has a deadline to pay example 12pm, then payments need to be submitted before that time. We strongly advise early payments to avoid disappointment.

Thanking You