I wish to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the school community - the parents/carers, the teachers, the administrative staff and the students - for the way in which you work together and support each other to create our unique learning environment. This encouraging and engaging environment enables our students to achieve to their best and our team of educators design learning opportunities to assist students develop the knowledge, capabilities, skills and values to become productive members of a rapidly changing society.

I would like to thank all staff members for their commitment and contributions throughout this semester. I would also like to thank the students for the way in which they have applied themselves to their studies. After reading many of the reports that have been recently distributed, I am very pleased with the progress and growth students are making in their learning. Every student now needs to reflect on the constructive feedback and insight provided by their teachers both in their reports and at parent teacher night and implement learning strategies to further develop their knowledge, skills and understanding in Semester 2.

For parents unable to attend the recent Parent Teacher interviews, you can contact the school on 9683 1866 and organise a phone interview with your daughter’s teacher by speaking to the relevant Head Teachers, or by contacting the Year Advisors. The following information may assist you:

Stage 6 Leader: Mr French; Stage 5 Leader: Mr Jackson; Stage 4 Leader: Ms Kennedy/Ms Youssef

Year Advisors and Head Teachers:

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<th>Year</th>
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<th>Mathematics HT</th>
<th>Ms Spinos</th>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Mr Walden</td>
<td>Science HT</td>
<td>Ms Driscoll</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Ms Harris</td>
<td>Social Science HT</td>
<td>Mr Ford</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Ms Saldivor</td>
<td>PDHPE HT</td>
<td>Ms Mumford &amp; Ms Torr</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Ms Smyth</td>
<td>CAPA HT</td>
<td>Ms Edgar</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Ms Mercado</td>
<td>TAS HT</td>
<td>Ms Best</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Ms Lawton</td>
<td>Languages HT</td>
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The students at Macarthur Girls High School continually make us proud through their participation in a wide range of classroom activities, in whole school initiatives and also community, regional and state activities. To celebrate and acknowledge student achievement and excellence, the school will hold Recognition Assemblies for Stages 4, 5 and 6 students during Week 10. This year, letters will also be sent to parents of award recipients acknowledging their daughter’s success.

The beginning of term 3 sees a number of important dates and processes:

**Year 10 to 11 Subject Selection process:** The subject selection online process will be available from Tuesday 14 July until Tuesday 22 July. If you or your daughter have any questions, please contact the school. People you may wish to talk to include subject Head Teachers, our Career Advisor - Ms Latimore, Year 10 Advisor - Ms Smyth or Stage 5 and Stage 6 leaders - Mr Jackson and Mr French. Please make sure your daughter completes this process by the due date if her proposed subjects choices are to be considered in the development of our lines for the HSC 2017.

**Year 12 Trial HSC examinations:** Weeks 3 and 4 of Term 3 from 27 July to 7 August. Year 12 will be issued with their Trial HSC timetable before the end of this term, including information regarding expected behaviours and also procedures for illness/misadventure. Students and parents need to be familiar with this information. Student also need to utilise the term 2 vacation period to plan their study preparation.

I remind all parents that school for Term 2 concludes on Friday, 26 June, and Term 3 commences for staff on Monday 13 July, with School Development Day and students return on Tuesday 14 July.

Wishing all a safe and enjoyable winter break with your family and friends. Please take extra care on our roads if you are travelling. I am looking forward to seeing all students in full winter school uniform on 14 July at 8:55am.

A huge thank you to Ms Kennedy and Mr French for doing such a wonderful job as Principal during my absence this term.

Gail Cluff
Deputy Principals’ News

Student Learning Initiatives

This year we have been very lucky to be awarded two grants from the DEC for our student learning initiatives. We applied for a grant to implement our whole school literacy programs which are outlined in our School Management Plan. With this grant our literacy team will be working on identifying the literacy capabilities of our students on the Literacy Continuum and devising explicit teaching strategies to develop students’ literacy skills. Students will also be provided feedback on their current capabilities and given strategies they can use at home to improve.

The school was also awarded a grant for the ongoing integrated curriculum initiative. The school has been given funds to write and implement a STEMS unit of work in Stage 4. STEMS is the integrated teaching of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. There will be a pilot of this unit in Term 4 with full implementation for 2016. The aim of this unit will be to develop and enhance the 21st century learning capabilities of our Stage 4 students and provide them with exciting learning opportunities.

Year 12 Major Projects

Many of our senior students select to study courses which require the submission of major projects. These are individual pieces of work which are completed over a number of terms and make up a significant contribution towards the HSC mark of those specific subjects. These major works are due throughout Term 3 and are the culmination of the hard work and dedication of the students who complete them. We wish them all the best in the next few weeks as they complete and submit these projects.

Trial Examinations

On Monday 27 July (Week 3) Year 12 will begin their Trial HSC Examinations. This exam period will run for two weeks and conclude on Friday 7 August (Week 4). The examination timetable will be issued to students on Thursday 25 June in which students will also be reminded of the rules and procedures for exams. These examinations will assess the work from the beginning of Term 4 2015 up until their final lesson before the exams. It is very important that students use their time from this point onwards to complete study notes, submit practice tasks for feedback and make appropriate adjustments to course notes. Students should consult their teachers if they require clarification on any specific information relating to the exam of that course. We wish Year 12 good luck with preparation and completion of these exams.

Year 11 Work Placement

During the school holidays our Year 11 VET students will be completing their work placement. Students work for a business or organisation relating to their course industry. It is at this time that they gain the practical skills which they will require when they officially enter the workforce. Every year we get extremely positive feedback from students and their workplace employer about how positive the experience has been. We hope that our current students enjoy this placement and find the time valuable to their future aspirations.
Stage 5 Report

As Term 2 comes to an end I am very pleased to be able to say that a very large majority of students have worked very constructively and taken every advantage of the opportunities presented to them. With the conclusion of the Parent / Teacher nights I hope that all parents were able to gain good feedback from all the teachers.

Over the past few weeks Year 10 have been thinking about their subject choices for Year 11, 2016. It is very important that the girls select subjects that appeal to them and also suit their abilities. The selections will occur during the first and part of the second week next term.

Graham Jackson
Stage 5 Leader
A Valuable Cultural Exchange
Tsurukawa High School’s Visit from Japan

Our names are Anna Chernyshova and Lauren Ilano. We were two of the chosen buddies who represented our school at the Tsurukawa High School visit.

On Tuesday, 19 May 2015, 175 Japanese students and 8 teachers from Tsurukawa High School in Tokyo, Japan visited Macarthur Girls High School during their trip to Australia. Students across all year groups have been chosen to become ‘buddies’ of these special guests and also to accompany them on their tour around the school. When the school day officially started, we waited outside in anticipation as each Japanese student entered the school. In utter excitement, we gave each visitor a warm welcome with our biggest smiles and a large applause.

To begin the fun-filled day, an assembly was held in the school hall for all Year 8 students, the buddies of our visitors, a number of our school staff, the executive staff from Tsurukawa High School and most importantly the students of Tsurukawa High School. The assembly began with a special entourage consisting of every buddy and every visitor. Once everyone was seated, there were a number of speeches given to the audience from both our school and theirs – and even before each translation was given, we knew both speeches delivered the same message: the unity and relationship of both our schools would stay strong.

Our school showed the guests a number of performances involving dance and music which showcased the talent that many of our students have in creative arts. After each stunning performance, a dance group from Tsurukawa High School performed a very lively Japanese folk dance, called “Yosakoi” to the audience. It kept each audience member thrilled and captivated.

After the assembly, each guest and buddy shared morning tea under the cola. We introduced the guests to some famous Aussie treats, like lamingtons and sausage rolls. Shortly after enjoying our food, we started planning a tour of the school. Each buddy and Japanese student split into their own individual groups for the tours. Our groups showed our guests the classrooms in A Block, the Library, the pool, the agricultural farm and one of the school’s art classrooms.

Soon, we concluded our tours and met every other group out in the quad to introduce the Nutbush to our fellow Japanese friends. Once they got the hang of the steps (they did so quite quickly!), we all joined each other in unison in a big dance of the Nutbush.

After our Nutbush dance, we spent our last few minutes with our new friends by awarding them with an individual gift pack and a certificate from our school (signed by us buddies!) stating how lovely it was to have them visit. We took a couple of photos as a group and socialised with others - and soon enough, our time was sadly over, and it was time for our friends to go. We bid our last farewells to them as they left our school - and us buddies were extremely happy to know that we have made some great friends over those three hours, but sad, simultaneously, because we will definitely miss them. We wish the students from Tsurukawa High School all the best for the future.

By Lauren I and Anna C (8H)
Athletics Carnival

It was an extremely dazzling and scorching morning, I was hyper-active waiting in line for the bus to arrive. It is my first athletics carnival at Macarthur Girls High School and I was so ardent and euphoric.

As I was getting onto the colossal bus, I saw the exuberant and keen faces of my affable friends. Once we arrived at our destination, I sat down with my friends at my house group and we listened to the teacher’s instructions. Then, we received a participation card, which teachers can tick off the activities we participated in.

The first activity I participated in was high-jump, where you had to jump over a pole set at a certain height. It was my first time doing high-jump so I was very anxious. I was perplexed that I succeeded till the last round.

After high jump, I returned to my amiable friends who were resting on the picnic mats, devouring moreish chips. We nattered about what activities we were going to participate in until it was time to get back on the field for another event.

The next event in my mind was long jump. This is where you have to jump in a pit of sand and they measure the distance you jumped and note it down to see who can jump the longest. I did long jump before in primary school and this time I managed to succeed till the last few extremely proficient people were against me.

Then, I sprinted like an electronic razor to the 200 metres race and waited for my heat to commence. Just before it started my heart was thumping so fast, and the signal has gone. I raced like the wind as I came to the finish line, a river of perspiration dripped from my forehead; I was huffing and puffing, ‘phew!’

It was lunch time and my friends and I were starving, we grabbed our food and sat down, we shoved the sapid lunch in the middle, it looked delectable and by the resplendent aroma of it travelling through the motionless air, I felt ravenous. I felt like we were having a banquet.

After lunch, we went to javelin, I adore this game. In this event, you have to aim and throw a long pointed metal stick called “the javelin.” The person’s which flies the furthest, with the javelin landing with its point down, wins.

Finally, we were back at school. It was a very tiring and exhilarating day, and my friends and I relished and adored it.

By Usha Makkena in Year 7
Year 9 & 10 Grade Sport Report - Term 2

This term saw Year 9 and 10 students compete in Grade sport on a Monday afternoon. The three teams included Netball, Soccer and Softball. We competed against North Sydney, Asquith, Riverside and Hornsby Girls High Schools throughout the term. Our students represented the school with outstanding enthusiasm and sportswomanship each week.

Finals were held in Week 9 and Macarthur produced some pleasing results! Macarthur soccer team A won their game against North Sydney with a result of 2-1, whilst our Macarthur netball team A won by a huge 23 points against Hornsby with a result of 26-3. Softball team A also had a win against Hornsby with a score of 5-4.

Well done to all students and teams who participated in Grade Sport this term, and we look forward to another great term of Grade Sport in Term 3. Thank you to the supportive teachers of the respective teams - Mrs Salvador, Ms Goldsworthy and Ms Scott for your time and effort put into these teams.

By Ms K Coop

Zone Athletics Carnival

The Zone Athletics Carnival was held on Friday, 5 June at Homebush Athletic Centre in Sydney Olympic Park. This year was one of the largest Zone Teams to have represented Macarthur Girls and this was due to the high participation rates at our school carnival. Congratulations to all team members who participated at the Zone, we are very proud of your efforts on the day. A special mention and huge congratulation goes to Jana Abdul Hussein, Joanna Airhumwunde, Vaimoso Teo and Tahlia Alexander who came 1st or 2nd in their events and will be competing at the Area Athletics Carnival in July. Well done girls!

By Ms K Coop
Welcome to this month’s careers information update from Macarthur Girls High School. I have been relieving for Mrs Latimore during her recent long service leave. She will be returning on Monday 22 June. Her excellent resources and organisation have been tremendously useful and it has been wonderful to work with our students as they prepare for their subject selections (Year 10) and future careers (Years 11 and 12). Please find an outline of some of the many opportunities available for you and your daughters.

Eve Kiernan
Relieving Teacher Careers

INFORMATION SESSION FOR STUDENTS WISHING TO STUDY IN THE USA

**Education USA** is holding information sessions about study opportunities in the USA, during the June-July school holidays. There are two combined general undergraduate and sports scholarship information sessions. There are several sessions:
- Monday 29 June Time: 1:30 for 2:00- 4:00pm
- Wednesday July 8 Time: 1:30 for 2:00- 4:00pm
- Friday 10 July Time: 1:30 for 2:00-3:00pm

Location: Education USA, US Consulate General, Level 10, MLC Centre, 19-29 Martin Place, Sydney

Register go to: [www.trybooking.com/89936](http://www.trybooking.com/89936) Original photo ID is required for entry to the Consulate.

COURSE & INSTITUTION INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR STUDENTS & PARENTS

**Applied Fashion Information Session** - Monday 22 June.

It’s a terrific opportunity to learn more about the industry, the course, meet the course coordinator and learn about the entry requirements; 5.00 - 7.00pm; Ultimo College, Building H, Level 2, Room 30 (H2.30), Mary Ann St, Ultimo. [http://sydneytafe.edu.au/newsevents/events/information-session-applied-fashion-design-and-technology](http://sydneytafe.edu.au/newsevents/events/information-session-applied-fashion-design-and-technology).

**SCA will hold an Information Evening and two Portfolio Days this year to assist students with preparing to study the Bachelor of Visual Arts. Our Information Evening will be held on Thursday 2 July, 4 - 8pm. We recommended anyone interested in studying the BVA attend this session, as it covers admissions information and portfolio preparation.** [www.sydney.edu.au/sca/portfolio_days](http://www.sydney.edu.au/sca/portfolio_days).  

**Pre-Law Pathway at Macquarie:** Register your interest

Are your students interested in studying law but not sure whether they’ll get the right ATAR? **The Pre-Law Pathway** allows students who have been admitted to a Macquarie non-law degree with an ATAR of 93 or more (including bonus points), to undertake the first four units usually taken by Macquarie law students in their first year.

For this and other pathways into study at Macquarie University search; entry schemes and pathways - Macquarie University.

**University of Sydney Scholarships Information Evening**

To maximise your students' chances of receiving a scholarship, we are hosting a Scholarships Information Evening for Year 12 students. The evening is hosted by the Scholarships Office and will share insider hints and tips on completing the Sydney Scholars application. Register now: [www.sydney.edu.au/future-students/high-schoolstudents/scholarships-information-evening](http://www.sydney.edu.au/future-students/high-schoolstudents/scholarships-information-evening/)
COURSES & WORKSHOPS FOR STUDENTS

Discover Contemporary Art

Sydney College of the Arts is a place for ideas and experimentation. Week-long workshops program will offer an insight into studying the Bachelor of Visual Arts. The workshops are also a fantastic opportunity to build a portfolio that demonstrates a depth and diversity within your contemporary art practice. You will learn new skills, how to experiment, use chance and just play around with new approaches and theories. The lecturers teaching the workshops are skilled in the practical outcomes, but are also there to support your artistic direction and where it fits within contemporary art. For more information, visit: sydney.edu.au/sca/events/winter_workshops

Discover Digital Design

The Design Lab at the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning is a place where design and creative technologies meet. Our workshops in interactive digital product design and web and mobile app design are a great opportunity for you to experience what it’s like studying the Bachelor of Design Computing. This undergraduate program is the only one in Australia that provides specialised training for a career in the emerging fields of interaction design and creative technologies. The Design Lab winter workshops will provide you with the opportunity to develop new skills, learn to recognise and use tools that address specific social and commercial challenges, to solve real-world problems, and also build a portfolio that demonstrates a depth and diversity within your design and creative technologies practice. For more information, visit: sydney.edu.au/architecture/events/winter_workshop

HSC Exam Preparation

There is still time to get in some last minute HSC revision with our Kickstart Workshops. These hands-on workshops will run in the July school holidays in the disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics at the University of Sydney Camperdown Campus. Students can register individually to attend the sessions at http://sydney.edu.au/science/outreach/highschool/kickstart/school-holidays.shtml

Holiday Workshop: Career Skills.

Turning Point Consulting, in Lewisham is holding Holiday Career Workshops for students on 29 June, from 9.00 am - 12.00 pm. Hear about where to find a job, how to make your resume look great and what happens when you go to an interview, from an industry professional. Have the option to have your resume reviewed and suggestions made to support your job hunt. http://www.turningpointconsulting.com.au/wpcontent/uploads/2013/09/Holiday-Career-Skills-forStudents-2015.pdf

School Holiday Trial-A-Trade

William Angliss Institute Sydney will be providing a unique, hands-on look at what a career in the exciting fields of coffee, cookery or patisserie would entail. These seminars are to be held on Tuesday 30 June, 10 am - 12 noon at their Surry Hills Campus. Register on www.angliss.edu.au/register-for-trial-atrade?country=syd.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Undergraduate Allied Health Scholarships

Are you intending to enrol or planning to apply to study an ALLIED HEALTH university course in 2016? Applications for 2016 Nursing and Allied Health Scholarship and Support Scheme (NAHSSS) Undergraduate (Entry-Level) Allied Health Scholarship funding open on 1 September 2015. For more information go to http://sarrah.org.au/content/undergraduate-entrylevel
Applications Open - Scholarships and Cadetships available to HSC students
The NSW Department of Education and Communities have launched a range of scholarships and cadetships for HSC students interested in becoming a teacher. Successful applicants receive financial incentives whilst studying and a guaranteed permanent job upon graduation.
http://www.teach.nsw.edu.au

EARLY ENTRY
Macquarie’s Global Leadership Entry Program
Applications are now open for Macquarie’s Global Leadership Entry Program. Designed for the best and brightest Year 12 students, it will develop and inspire students to be a global leader of tomorrow. We’re looking for an all-rounder who’s not only achieving great academic results, but also involved outside the classroom or in the community. Applications close 15 August. Apply at mq.edu.au/glep.

OVERSEAS OPPORTUNITIES
WEP Student Exchange - 2015/16 Programs
WEP Australia is a not-for-profit student exchange organisation registered with the Education Department in NSW. Applications for short and long-term programs commencing in November 2015 are open now. To request program information, visit www.wep.org.au, email info@wep.org.au or call 1300 884 733.

JOBS & CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS
Healthy Information Manager and Clinical Coding Careers and Jobs
As a new personal member of the Careers Advisor Association, I would like to invite members of the association to contact my profession, the Health Information Management Association of Australia, for background on careers: www.himaa2.org.au or ceo@himaa.org.au or phone Cassandra Jordan on 02 9887 5002.

Defence Careers Night in Canberra
Defence Careers Night on Tuesday 30 June 2015, 5.00pm, at Level 1 64 Northbourne Avenue, Canberra. Students are invited to an Information Session; Defence Force Recruiting Centre, Canberra. Learn more about roles in the Australian Defence Force. To RSVP please email captact@dfr.com.au.

Affinity Accounting Cadetship
Affinity Accounting Service, based in the Norwest Business Park has a fantastic opportunity commencing in early 2016 for an Accounting Cadet. This is a full time position where the cadet would work in the office 4 days per week and attend university on a part time basis. More details are available at an information evening that we are hosting on Monday 6 July 2015. Questions: Should be directed to Megan Martin on 02 8850 0777 during office hours.
My High School Experience

The first semester of high school was an impeccable experience for all the Year 7’s. Before I commenced high school, I was very perturbed and anxious because I thought it was going to be very harsh and strict. Even many of friends and peers were very afraid. But after we came here our opinions completely changed. High school was indeed the opposite of what we thought, it was so impeccable that we cannot ask or expect for more.

I later realised that it was a very exuberant and euphoric place and time just flies by. You get to meet new friends, have new subjects and teachers, become more mature and have new relationships. Also you decide and plan what you are going to become strive to reach your goals in high school.

My first few days were some of the most memorable days in my life. And till this day I felt like lot has past by in a little time. I wonder if I can go back in time and experience the great adventure once again, but is out of my hands now. I don’t have to tense too much because I still have Year 12. Which is a long way away.

My first day, I was very anxious and nervous. I entered the school with a very melancholy face. I stepped into the hall and saw many innovative faces I just felt like I didn’t belong. But those are the people who I hang out with now!

Now I understand the truth: That I love high school and those of you who read this, will too.

Written by Usha Makkena - Year 7
**Upcoming Dates**

**Term 2**
- 26 June  Last day of Term 2

**Term 3**
- 14 July  First day of Term 3
- 27 July - 7 August  HSC Trials
- 1 September  Year 7 Vaccinations
- 18 September  Last day of Term 3

**P & C Meetings**

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

- **Term 2**  Tuesday 9 June
- **Term 3**  Tuesday 4 August
- Tuesday 1 September

**Information**

[Image of NSW Teacher of the Year 2015 award]

**NSW Teacher of the Year 2015**

Every nominee receives a Certificate

**Find. Nominate. Recognise.**

We are searching for NSW’s best high school teachers to be part of an exciting new project that will change the face of teaching resources.

To nominate your teacher, fill out the entry form at www.nswteacheroftheyear.com.au and answer in 100 words or less why you believe your teacher should win the title of NSW Teacher of the Year.

Competition closes: Friday 19 June 2015 at 23:59 AEST. Our ABN: 261 939 077 91. Full terms and conditions can be found at www.nswteacheroftheyear.com.au/competition-tcs