Principal’s Message

Welcome to the 2016 school year. It has been a very settled start with all students in class and learning from day one. A huge thank you to Mr French and Mr Bhattacharya for creating our timetable and to Mr Jackson for our school organisation for the first couple of days.

Congratulations to our new Year 7 students who have transitioned so well into this very large high school. The teachers are extremely pleased with how you have focussed on your learning during the first 5 weeks. This is reflected in your interim reports which will be mailed home week 7 of this term.

Enrolment numbers for 2016 are 1035 students, a slight increase on the previous years. Two permanent staff positions are currently advertised through the Department of Education’s merit selection process. One position is for a Head Teacher Science to replace Ms Driscoll and the other is for a History teacher to replace Ms Sheridan. We have a number of temporary positions in the school in 2016, all of which have qualified teachers contracted for the remainder of the year.

Macarthur Girls High School’s PRIDE values have been strongly demonstrated during these first weeks of Term 1 especially participation.
The swimming carnival saw the largest participation rates for many years. Thank you to the PDHPE staff for the organisation and management of this very special day in our school calendar. Congratulations to MGHS sports council representatives who led each of the houses so enthusiastically. A special thank you to Mr Wilson for all the work completed in getting our pool ready for the carnival. A wonderful day was had by all students and staff as can be seen in the photos below.

I am extremely pleased with how our students have been presenting themselves. Nearly all students have been in correct school uniform every day. We all know every school is judged by how students wear their school uniform and their behaviour whilst in their uniform. At Macarthur Girls we expect all students to be correctly and neatly dressed each day and to wear their school uniform with pride, respecting the heritage of this wonderful school and maintaining our reputation in the community. I sincerely thank parents for supporting our school uniform policy.
Our students constantly behave and communicate to staff and to the community in a polite and respectful manner. Unfortunately I am occasionally informed about incidents when a student has not behaved in a way reflective of our school’s standards and culture. I also understand that people are more likely to contact me with a complaint than with a letter of recognition. So, this is just a gentle reminder, especially for those travelling on public transport, of the Code of Conduct associated with your free travel on the School Opal card. Transport NSW has summarised their Code of Conduct as follows:

- Tap on and tap off every time
- Offer your seat to paying customers without being asked
- Respect transport staff, transport property and fellow travellers
- Be mindful of safety at every stage of a transport journey
- Always travel with a valid ticket.

Transport NSW reminds students and parents that free transport is a privilege that can be taken away if students break their behaviour code.

For further information refer to transportnsw.info/school-students.

Macarthur Girls is a very diverse community. A focus of the school is to provide safe learning environments in which our students can learn and succeed. We achieve this by promoting positive social behaviour, providing support especially to vulnerable students and building strong links with parents, carers and school communities. After our Premier announced the Government’s Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism in NSW late last year, all education sectors across NSW collaboratively developed a strategy to address anti-social and extremist behaviour.

There are many facets to this strategy and further information will be disseminated to everyone before the end of the term explaining each individual’s role in building resilience and promoting harmony in the community under the School Communities Working Together strategy.

All students receive a diary at the beginning of the year. The first twenty-two pages have important information specifically relevant to Macarthur Girls High School. For example, the Code of Practice which outlines MGHS school rules. Our rules are based on the principle of students having a right to learn and teachers having a right to teach in a safe, positive environment.

To create and maintain our unique learning environment, every student has the responsibility to:

- Be involved in their learning
- Treat others courteously and with respect
- Make school a safe place by not hitting, threatening or abusing anyone in any way
- Be punctual and attend regularly
- Respect other people’s property by not stealing, damaging or destroying it
- Behave in a manner that earns community respect
- Wear full school uniform each day
- Care for the school environment by keeping it clean and well presented to support both the natural and manmade environments
- Report any damage to school property to staff
- Ensure that no cigarettes/drugs/alcohol are used or brought onto school premises.

I know that all students enrolled at Macarthur Girls will implement our Code of Practice; fostering self-respect and the respect of peers, teachers and the school community.
Once again our HSC students made us very proud when their final external examination results were announced in December 2015. Congratulations to all students and teachers! I would particularly like to acknowledge Ms Lawton, the 2015 Year 12 Advisor for her guidance of this group of young ladies.

The graph below shows the performance of MGHS students (orange) compared to the performance of statistically similar groups (Purple). The state average relative performance is 0. You can see how much more progress students at MGHS have made from their NAPLAN results in 2012 to their HSC results in 2015.

From the year 9 NAPLAN results students were allocated into 3 groups - low, middle and high. Each group of students was then tracked to their results in the 2015 HSC. Students who attended MGHS for those 4 years have performed many times better in their HSC relative to students who attended similar schools. These results are remarkable and reflect a learning culture where students apply themselves with diligence and commitment and teachers consistently plan and deliver high quality teaching and learning.

Our 2015 HSC students achieved 73 Band 6 scores across all KLA’s, a slight increase on 2014 results. Tanmayi Kundap attained Band 6’s for all 10 units, while Melek Al-Faraj was 9th in the state for English as a Second Language and Tanmayi Kundap was placed 12th in the state for Business Studies.
The NSW government has determined that parents, caregivers or persons having custody of a child are responsible for the regular attendance of that child at school. All students who are enrolled at school are expected to attend school whenever instruction is provided. Regular attendance at school is essential to assist students to maximise their potential. The legal responsibilities of parents/caregivers also states that parents are required to explain in writing their child’s absence(s) from school promptly and within 7 school days. Every time your daughter is absent, whether it is for a full day or part of a day such as arriving late to school (after 9 am) - you must write a note to explain her absence. Can you please ensure you provide notes for all absences.

If any parent has concerns, please contact the school on 9683 1866 to discuss these with myself or the relevant Stage Leaders Ms Kennedy/Ms Youssef Stage 4 (Years 7 and 8) Mr Jackson Stage 5 (Years 9 and 10) and Mr French Stage 6 (Years 11 and 12).

I look forward to working in partnership with you and your daughter to achieve Macarthur Girls High School’s purpose of encouraging every young woman to achieve their personal best and empowering them with the necessary skills to be successful citizens in an ever changing world.

Gail Cluff
Principal
Welcome to 2016!

Welcome back to all students and staff to a new year! It has certainly been a busy beginning to the term. Well done to Year 11 and Ms Smyth for your very smooth transition into the senior school. This has set the standard for the rest of the year.

2015 HSC Results

I would just like to reiterate Ms Cluff’s message of congratulations to Year 12 2015 for their excellent achievements. We are very proud to see the fantastic results obtained by our 2015 HSC students with the support and dedication of their teachers. I wish all students the best in their tertiary study, work or gap year.

Year 11 and Year 12 Assessment Schedules

Last year, Year 12 students received their HSC Assessment Policy and schedule when they commenced their HSC Course at the start of Term 4. At the beginning of Term 1, Year 11 were given a copy of the Preliminary Course Assessment policy and schedule during their one of their PRIDE lessons. A presentation was given to both grades so that students have an understanding of the policy and are aware of expectations and responsibilities. It is vitally important that all Stage 6 students and parents have read and completely understand this policy and associated procedures. This policy has been written in accordance with BOSTES requirements and policy for the purpose of ensuring fairness and equity for all students. Students and parents need to ensure that they adhere to these guidelines in order that they are not disadvantaged. Clarification should be sought in cases where there is confusion or misunderstanding by speaking with Stage Head Teachers or myself.

These polices were emailed to all Year 11 and Year 12 students, and are also posted on our website:

Year 11 - All My Own Work

Since the beginning of this term, Year 11 have been working through the BOSTES course ‘All My Own Work’ This short course informs and educates our students on accepted practices regarding assessment, plagiarism and the completion of major works. It is a requirement that all students complete this course in order to continue their study of the Preliminary HSC. If students or parents have any questions, they should contact Ms Faddoul Head Teacher - Teaching and Learning.

Progressive study notes

I often hear from students across all grades that they feel unprepared for exams and assessment tasks. When I talk to these students they usually tell me they have either not completed study notes or have completed them just before sitting the task. To maximise results in these assessment tasks, it is vitally important to complete progressive study notes. This requires devoting time each week or fortnight to write summary notes for the work completed in each subject for that period of time. This enables students to study from these notes in the lead up to tasks, rather than spending all their time writing their notes. This effective use of time is likely to lead to increased performance and a better demonstration of achieving course outcomes.
Plan to Succeed - Academic Advisor Initiative
2016 will see the continuation of our academic advisor program in Stage 6. This coaching program has been designed to develop our students’ capabilities in preparing them for life beyond school. It is designed to support students by working closely with teachers who will help them with developing their writing, study habits, time management and assessment planning. This program runs for 3 periods over the two week cycle.

Compulsory subject fees and textbook fees

This is a reminder for those parents of students who study courses which attract compulsory fees, that payment is now due. In order to deliver subjects such as hospitality, the school is required to purchase consumables so that students are provided with the learning experiences to fulfil the outcomes of the course. These compulsory subject fees need to paid to the office or through the school website as soon as possible. From Monday 7 March students will be provided with alternative work for those subjects where outstanding compulsory subject fees remain. Invoice statements are being posted this week so that parents are aware of those fees which require payment.

Some years ago the school made the decision that students would not be required to buy and supply their own textbooks in different subjects. Instead, the school would purchase all textbooks and loan them to students in return for the payment of the textbook fee. With some textbooks costing more than $150, depending on the subjects chosen, some families save more than $600 a year per student. This textbook fee is used to replace existing textbooks when they are no longer in suitable condition. We request that this fee is also paid promptly in order that students are able to take their loaned textbooks home.

Daniel French
Stage 6 Leader
Stage 4 Report

I would like to congratulate all Stage 4 students on the fantastic start they have made to the 2015 school year, in particular Year 7 who are almost half way through their first term of High school.

I would like to introduce the Stage 4 Year advisors:
Year 7 Ms Dykgraff
Year 7 Ms Abou-Mahmoud (Assistant Year Advisor)
Year 8 Mr Walden
Year 8 Ms Dare (Assistant Year Advisor)

Congratulations to Ms Dykgraff and Ms Abou-Mahmoud for the smooth transition of the Year 7 students into high school. A lot of behind the scenes organisation had taken place to make the Year 6 to Year 7 move effortless.

Ms Kennedy and I have been most impressed with the way Year 7 students have adjusted to their new environment, organised transport, followed a timetable, remembered variety of teacher’s names and have attempted to make friends with over 170 new students. As you may have noticed your daughter will have come home tired and you can understand the reasons for this with all the new changes in their lives.

As Ms Kennedy and I go out into the playground we can see that many students have made friends outside of their Year 6 groups. We encourage the girls to make friends with students that they may not have gone to primary school with.

Year 7 will be busy till the end of term with the following:

- Year 7 will be starting their swimming classes next week, we are very fortunate to have a swimming pool on our school grounds and to offer swimming as part of our curriculum pattern. This will be a great opportunity for the girls to keep cool during the hot summer days.
- Year 7 will soon be departing for Taronga Zoo on the ZooSnooz Camp on the 9th and 10th March. This will be an exciting and unique experience that is sure to provide many great memories for our girls.

Year 8 are already demonstrating how much they have matured since last year as they comfortably deal with the everyday routines of school. I would also like to thank Mr Walden (Year Adviser) and MS Dare (Assistant Year Adviser) for their continuing support of Year 8 students. Year 8 students are enjoying their new subjects and have been working well in class.

Ms Parkes has done a fantastic job coordinating our Year 11 leaders to deliver the Peer Support program for Year 7 students. The peer support program is designed to empower young people to support each other and contribute positively to their school and society. This is an essential school program that supports Year 7 students in adjusting to high school and making new friends.

All students in Year 7-10 at MGHS are expected to complete their online Literacy and Numeracy Enrichment activities every week on Moodle, our online learning platform. These literacy and numeracy modules are expected to be completed weekly at home and provide parents with an opportunity to observe how your daughter is progressing. Please be reminded that completion of these activities is included on her half yearly and yearly report.

A reminder to parents that you need to contact the relevant Head Teacher if your daughter is having difficulty in a particular subject. Please contact the relevant Year Adviser if you have any concerns regarding your daughter, or if there is information that the school needs to be made aware of.

Joumana Youssef  Stage 4 Leader
School Stream App

The MGHS app, School Stream has had a successful launch this term with users now numbering 300+. This is a great communication tool for parents to keep up to date on what is happening in the school. It is easy to install on all devices and enables information to be swiftly delivered to parents and students. The content of the app can be translated into 60 different languages by going into the settings and changing to your language of choice.

We encourage all parents to download the app and receive school information instantly and directly to your smartphone. The app can be customised in the settings so you only receive information relevant to your child’s Year group.

How to download your FREE app

- For your mobile devise go to the App Store (iPhone/iPad) OR Google Play (Android) search for School Stream and download the app to your phone.
- Make sure you agree to push notifications.
- Once School Stream has finished installing, open the app, type Macarthur Girls High School into search THEN select the school

Sue Torr
Community Liaison Co-ordinator
“From History, we learn the true secrets of the world and from these secrets we learn about our own mysteries.” - Unknown

The beginning of 2016 in the History world has once again been a very busy one for both staff and students. At the end of last year, we farewelled Ms Sheridan who was a pivotal member of our faculty for many years. We miss her dearly, but wish her all the best at her own school. This year, we welcomed a new addition to our History faculty; Ms Thornley. Ms Thornley has joined our ever growing family of historians and is really enjoying getting to know all the students in her classes. Already, Ms Thornley is making a fantastic contribution to our constantly growing faculty. In addition, we welcomed back Ms Frihy into our staffroom and know she will continue to be a fantastic teacher to all those fortunate to have her.

It has been fantastic to watch so many of our students settling well into the new term and hard at work in class. Year 7 and 8 students have begun the year by exploring past civilisations and examining the importance of sources for discovering what really happened in the past. In particular, year 7 students have been examining with interest how much evidence is available in a murder investigation. Students have worked as detectives to figure out, ‘What happened to Stan Harrison?’

![The Sydney Courier](image)

Both our Stage 5 and 6 students have settled in well at the commencement of the year and have been producing some excellent work. More than anything, it has been fantastic to watch so many students question the known and look for the shades of grey in what they thought previously was a black and white world. Historical Inquiry is all about questioning what we know about the world...and considering, is it a duck or a rabbit?!

Year 9 Elective History students have been working hard and have begun their adventure exploring the Ancient ‘Classical World’. For a class task, students created these fantastic posters, consolidating the skills they developed about timelines in Stage 4 and summarising what was going on in different parts of the world at different times. Have a look at them below:
The Year 11 Modern Historians have started 2016 with enthusiasm. The first unit ‘Otto von Bismark and the unification of the German states’ has seen them undertake a variety of different learning activities, designed to promote higher order thinking, teamwork and engagement. Below are some examples of student work on the topic which were amazing!

Our Year 11 Ancient Historians have also been working hard and have experienced firsthand how eyewitness testimony can be deceiving, fraught full of bias, exaggeration and deliberate omission. Lesson learnt: be critical of what you read when considering historical sources!

Our Year 12 Students have also been working hard, with Ancient History students beginning their examination of Historical periods. In particular, students have been examining the importance of the interwar period in the Greek-Persian wars.
Our Modern History students, in comparison, have recently been introduced to Leon Trotsky and are learning about his role in the 1917 Russian Revolution.

Our Society and Culture students are busily working on their Personal Interest Projects and have been making fantastic use of the Google Drive software. All students have been given an individual folder which is regularly checked by their classroom teacher and individualised feedback is provided to students. Below is a copy of one of the folders given to students.
Our Studies of Religion students are also busy learning about a Religious Tradition. Just a reminder that for any year 12 Society and Culture or Studies of Religion student, you are welcome to attend after school writing workshops on Tuesday afternoons. You will need to collect a permission note from the History Staffroom if you are interested.

Throughout this term, we have been fortunate to have a ‘Museum Box’ visiting us from the Australian History Museum. Contained in this box were real life artefacts and museum belongings which were fantastic for the students to be able to see and even hold. A massive thank you to Ms Grima for organising this initiative. Below are some photos of the artefacts students studied:

Don’t forget that the History Appreciation Society meets every Friday lunchtime in D09. New members are always welcome!
Upcoming Assessment Tasks this Term:

Please note: your teacher will provide you with a notification with more details about each task.

Week 6: Year 12 Modern History
Year 9 History

Week 7: Year 12 Ancient History
Year 7 History

Week 8: Year 12 Society and Culture
Year 11 Ancient History
Year 9 Revolution of Thought
Year 10 Revolution of Thought

Week 9: Year 12 Studies of Religion 2U
Year 11 Society and Culture

Week 10: Year 11 Modern History
Year 11 Studies of Religion 1U and 2U
Year 9 History
Year 9 Elective History
Year 10 History
Year 10 Elective History
CAPA Report

It has been a very busy start to the year for CAPA. Extra curriculum groups have been organised, auditions have been held and our many talented students are already giving up their time to participate.

In Dance we have
- Dance Company - 13 students (years 8-12) rehearsing Thursday afternoon
- Dance Ensemble - 20 students (years 8-11) rehearsing Wednesday morning
  Dance Group - 21 students (year 7 and 8) rehearsing on Thursday at lunchtime. Run by Year 10 students and supervised by Ms Lawton and Mrs Salvador

In Music
- MGHS Instrumental Ensemble – Students from Years 7 to 10 rehearsing Monday 3:15 to 4:20 pm
- MGHS Stage 4 Trio: Violin/Piano rehearsing at lunchtime
- MGHS Stage 5 Trio: Violin/Piano rehearsing at lunchtime

In Drama
- Year 10 Directors/Year 8 Drama club - Term 1 organisation of directors and planning, Start Term 2

In Visual Arts
- Ms Edgar will be organising an interest group to produce a large mosaic for the school grounds. The group will be meeting in D08 on Tuesday’s at lunchtime. Keep your ears open for the MAC Matters announcement, coming soon

Visual Arts News
Ms Dykgraaf’s Year 10 Visual Arts class have been looking at Impressionism. You will have found them outside in the Rose garden during their lessons doing plein air sketching of the landscape in preparation for their larger paintings.
MGHS Swimming Carnival

On Thursday 18th February, our annual school swimming carnival was held at our school pool. We were blessed with beautiful weather for the entire day. It was so pleasing to see such a huge turnout from our students on this day. Students dressed appropriately and respectfully in house colours and supported their fellow peers and houses through plenty of cheering and chanting throughout the day. Congratulations to Marsden on winning the carnival and to Fitzroy for taking out the cheer off competition. Our annual teacher vs student relay race took place again this year and the teachers are to be congratulated on their convincing win!! All students are to be commended on their participation both in and out of the water. A final congratulations goes to the Sports Council on their efforts with organising the day. Thank you to all staff and students who assisted and participated on the day.

Mrs K McNamara
Parramatta Eels visit to Macarthur Girls High School

On Tuesday 16th February, our school was lucky enough to receive a visit from some players from the Parramatta Eels NRL club. Corey Norman and Cameron King attended the Meet and Greet session and spoke to the students about achieving goals and how to go about reaching these. MGHS students were extremely privileged to be able to ask questions to these players regarding health, wellbeing and achieving their dreams. The visit concluded with a prize giveaway and each student was able to take away a team poster.

Mrs K McNamara
HSC ENGLISH

TUTORIAL series

3 March - reading for meaning (standard & advanced)
10 March - fantastic essays
17 March - jane austen & fay weldon
24 March - rosemary dobson selected poems
31 March - discovery (the motorcycle diaries)

4pm-5pm every thursday - parramatta library

presented by Frances Russell-Matthews
HSC study guide writer

Cover letter
& resume
WORKSHOP

Saturday 19 March
9.30am—1.30pm
Suitable for graduate & year 12 students

Presented by the moderator team,
Bored of studies

Parramatta Library
book online
Upcoming Dates

Term 1
- 2 March 2016  Bicentennial Park
- 9 & 10 March 2016  Year 7 Camp ZooSnooz
- 31 March 2016  Year 10 History Quarantine Station Sydney

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)

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 1  Tuesday 15 March 2016

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