

August 2008



MAITLAND GROSSMANN HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

"Providing Quality Education in a Caring Learning Community"

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PRINCIPAL

This term has had a very exciting beginning with visits from students from our sister schools in Italy and in Japan. Twelve students and two teachers visited us from the Istituto Roncalli in Poggibonsi in the Province of Siena and enjoyed being in classrooms and a hospitality offered by the students and families of Maitland Grossmann High School. This weekend we are looking forward to the arrival of students and teachers from Sukagawa in Japan. A special thankyou to the school community, and particularly the host families, for making the stay of our visiting students so memorable.

The Trial Higher School Certificate is fast approaching and students need now to manage their time very effectively and work with Mrs Breese and Miss Bower to ensure that they are focussed and on task to achieve their very best.

I would encourage all parents to keep a close eye on the school website as it is constantly changing and contains a lot of vital information about the school, the students and future directions from the Department of education and Training.

A reminder that all students who intend to attend school social functions such as the Year 10 Farewell or the Year 12 Formal must have met all their school commitments, including the payment for fees for consumables, in order to be eligible to attend.

Dr Di Soltau

CAREERS

During Term 3, Year 10 will be considering subject choices for Year 11 2009. Students will participate in an Information Day on Monday 11 August. Workshops will include VET/School based Apprenticeships and Traineeships, Board of Studies requirements, Head Teacher Expo and subject selection at MGHS. Parents will also have the opportunity to attend a Senior Subject Information session that evening in the Hall at 6.00pm.

The best advice for Year 10 students is to choose subjects based on three criteria-**Ability*-subjects you are good at; **Interest*-subjects you are interested in and **Motivation*-subjects you want to learn.

Students entering Yr 11 have a broad range of subject options including VET courses delivered by school or TVET courses delivered by TAFE. TVET applications must be signed by Mr Heaney and received by the TAFE campus by 10 September. This applies to Yr 11 students wishing to do a TVET course in 2009. The Hunter TAFE website www.hunter.tafenswedu.au has a list of proposed TVET courses and details.

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Year 9 students participated in Career Explorer day on Thursday 24 July. Thank you to representatives from the ATO, Hunter Valley Youth Express and employers, and Companion Credit Union who provided information to Yr 9. A highlight of the day was the Drum Beats workshop-noisy, fun and delivering a powerful message about teamwork.

Some Year 9 will also have the opportunity to participate in our district's Try a Trade on 15 August. Career pathway decisions will soon be made by year 12. On-time UAC (University Admission Centre) applications close on 30 September. Students considering TAFE courses must check entry requirements. Students applying for apprenticeships or training will have the opportunity to participate in a Career Choice workshop on 5 August. This will be open to interested Yr 11 and 12 students.

L. Osborne
Careers Adviser

ADOPT-A-RESIDENT

Year 10 students now have the opportunity to volunteer for this year's program. Students will be visiting residents at Benhome and Largs Lodge over the next few months. The program concludes with a morning tea and concert at school for residents of all local aged-care facilities. This very successful program has become apart of the culture of Maitland Grossmann High School and is now in its 8th year. What a success! We know the residents are eagerly anticipating meeting their new students and exchanging experiences.

Lee Osborne and Prue Campbell

P & C FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Almost \$1500 was made from the sale of Entertainment Books. Thank you to all who supported this annual fundraiser.

The P&C's first Bunnings BBQ was a great success. Thanks to the volunteers who braved the winter weather to cook and sell sausage sandwiches and drinks on 28 June. Over \$1000 was made and will go towards supporting school activities and programs. A fantastic effort by all involved.

Term 3's fundraiser is the much anticipated Hunter Singers Concert at St Peters Church, Williams St, East Maitland on Sunday 17 August. (see separate article). Please come along and support these talented young people from all district schools, many who attend Maitland Grossmann High School.

CAPA

On Sunday 17 August at 2pm, St Peter's Church, William Street East Maitland, will be the venue for a concert by Hunter Singers and Hunter Kids Sing.

The concert is a combined fundraiser for Hunter Singers, Maitland Grossmann High School P&C, and St Peter's Church.

This outstanding venue will provide the perfect backdrop for the entertaining, talented and world travelled young singers.

Tickets will be on sale from Monday 21 July from Maitland Grossmann High School, Cumberland St, East Maitland or by contacting Kath Reynolds on 49 335408. Tickets will also be available at the door.

The ticket price of \$10 includes afternoon tea.

This is a much anticipated concert.

Mr Mark Parker HT

PDHPE

Year 10 PASS students and Yr 11 PDHPE/SLR students should be preparing for the Ski/Snow Field Trip. On August 27th participating students will travel to Cooba Education and Recreation Centre for 2 days of skiing/snow boarding. Students are reminded that all permission/information notes need to be returned by the due date and all monies finalised by 11th August. Staff are anticipating an action packed 3 days (and usually nights!) and are looking forward to the opportunity to ski and spending time with a lovely group of young people.

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Further camp news Year 9 PASS students are invited to submit an Expression of Interest in attending a camp at Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre later on this year. Parents are advised that students selected to attend need to meet the criteria set out below. The PDHPE faculty believe it is important to provide students who have met the responsibilities of being an attentive student and who generally try their best all the time the opportunity to participate in extra-curricula/off site camps.

To secure a position on PDHPE camp students must meet the following criteria.

1. Maintain an acceptable level of effort, participation and application to all components of the subject
2. Support previous excursions held by PDHPE faculty for that specific subject
3. Have consistently demonstrated that they are a reliable student i.e. attend meetings, permission note and money submitted by the due date, all assessment tasks completed and submitted by the due date, attend class punctually, have equipment when appropriate.
4. Have not had an Incident Report written on them during the current term
5. Have not been suspended during the current semester

If there are more applicants than places after the criteria has been applied then positions will be offered to students who have been in the subject the longest.

If there are still more applicants than positions vacant then students will be drawn out of a hat until all positions are filled.

If after applying the criteria more positions become vacant students will be selected according to how well they satisfy the first three criteria.

A quick reminder about PE uniform – throughout winter for PE practical lessons - students are able to wear navy track pants to school and only need to change into their white polo shirt and appropriate shoes. Parents could we encourage you to ensure your son/daughter has the correct PE uniform and packs it ready for PE.

Mrs L Matthews HT

TAS

The 2008 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) will be held on **Wednesday 27th August 2008.**

The competition is open to students in Years 7 -10 and provides an opportunity for all students to gain a measure of their achievement in an external assessment situation.

All students receive a Certificate and an individual Student Report indicating which questions they answered correctly. Certificates are also awarded for each Year level in the rankings of:

- High Distinction
- Distinction
- Credit

The entry fee is **\$6.00** and is payable to the front office by **11th August.**

Entry forms are available in the TAS staffroom.

A reminder that all fees are due. Students are unable to participate in practical lessons if their fees have not been paid. Students need to also ensure they have the correct equipment for each lesson.

Year 10 Textile Technology students are currently working on their Fantasy costumes ready for the Apex Young Designer Awards held in September. The designs are looking very interesting.

All Textile students are being encouraged to enter the Hunter Student Fashion Designer Awards 2008, 29th October. See Mrs Bowen or Mrs Malinowski for an entry form.

Mrs D Bowen HT

SCIENCE

From the Science Lab

Science will be promoted during National Science Week, August 16 – 24. There will be various demonstrations throughout the week and students are encouraged to check the Daily Notices for these activities. Recently, Year 7 classes made cell cakes and some photos of these can be found on the web site. Some upcoming events that won't be held during National Science Week but are designed to celebrate this event are a Year 9 excursion to Luna Park early in term 4 and Science Magical Shows to be held during week 10 of this term.

All Junior students have recently received their Term Test results and I take this opportunity to invite all parents to ask to view the results of these tests and discuss any difficulties, or more importantly the fine results many students achieved. There will be awards for students that obtained 100% in any assessment area presented on assembly during National Science Week.

Senior students are busy doing final preparations for the Trial HSC that will commence on week 5 and continue during week 6. We wish all our Senior students luck with these (however we know that hard work produces results).

As we go to print, a class of Year 10 students are attending the Science and Engineering Challenge held by the Science and Engineering departments of Newcastle University. The challenge consists of a set of fun and competitive activities involving principles of science, engineering and technology. The day is primarily aimed at allowing students to identify the relevance of science and engage in activities that ensure students explore scientific concepts for themselves rather than being guided to a predetermined answer.

I find Science to be a journey, an exploration into the building blocks of our universe. I already have a passion and a love for understanding those things that I see but don't really understand. Our job as the teachers of Science at Maitland Grossmann High is to allow the experiences the Year 10 students are participating in at the Challenge to be presented in all lessons. An important way we do this is to show the relevance of the knowledge and understanding of concepts to the application of this knowledge in real life examples. Experiments and using scientific equipment in Laboratory classrooms is also integral to the reinforcement of knowledge and understanding. Unfortunately, some equipment has been misused and damaged in recent times in Science Labs. I gently remind everyone that we all have a responsibility to ensure that the facilities that we have remain at the standard they are in and I expect that no further damage is incurred in the future.

Mr M Evans HT

ENGLISH

Term 3 has begun with the usual flurry as all students gear up for a solid term of effort and skill enhancement, building upon a broad range of literacy skills and consolidating assessment performances.

In Stage 4, Year 7 have embarked upon a close study of a novel, followed by descriptive writing skills, whilst Year 8 are focusing on a film and novel study chosen to enhance their understanding of culture and values.

Thank you to parents who have so willingly supported our new book policy and have paid \$13.00 for the purchase of *Walking the Boundaries* by Jackie French, a narrative rich in cultural and perennial generational issues that will enhance students' understanding of these themes and foster a love of literature by building personal libraries! I encourage everyone who has not yet paid for the novel to do so in order for the transition from the film unit to the novel study to be smooth for all students. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if there is any difficulty in fulfilling this requirement.

In Stage 5, Year 9 is venturing into the world of *Drama and Protest Poetry and Songs* during Term 3. Once again, I encourage parents to support full participation in the Speaking Task that is scheduled for mid term and try not to project any negative attitude you may associate with speaking onto your child's attitudes to speaking tasks. Speaking for a purpose to an audience is a life skill that

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will equip young people to cope in a broad range of social situations. If you would like to discuss ways to support your child as a reluctant speaker, please contact your child's teacher so that we can team up to help students produce their best.

This brings me to the fact that a disturbing number of Year 9 students are not handing in class and across the form assessment tasks at the end of Term 2 and are attempting to evade their assessment commitments. Failure to complete assessment tasks in Year 9 will result in N warning letters, endorsed by the Board of Studies and may jeopardise School Certificate prospects. Chasing up these students is hugely time consuming so complying in the first instance is the best option. Parents, please be aware that students are given an outline of their term assessment schedule at the start of each term, so please take the time to look at your child's workbook to stay in touch with what is required each term so that you can help with time management and organisation.

Furthermore, Term 3 is a very important time for Year 10, who is experiencing a broad range of texts, with a focus on poetry and visual literacy in exploring *Representations of Australia*. Students and teachers will use this time to focus on School Certificate skills as students build toward their Yearly Examinations at the end of the term and the external exams in November.

In Stage 6, Year 11 is really starting to sort out what is required for success in the Senior School. They will undertake a specialised unit of study this term with an assessment task preceding their Yearly Examinations, in which all Preliminary work will be retested. It is essential that students plan and organise for this so as not to become overwhelmed in the latter part of the term.

Finally, Year 12 are approaching the end of their Module studies and will need to review all work undertaken since the HSC course began in Term 4 of last year (ie the Area of Study- Journeys and Modules A-C). The Trial HSC closely mirrors the two examination papers of the HSC Examination and one of the most essential skills is students' ability to manage their time under exam conditions. Practising past HSC questions in 40-minute time frames is imperative as students prepare for these exams.

Looking forward to a fruitful term,
Libby Guider
Head Teacher English

Hunter Singers and Hunter Kids Sing

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