

March 2008



MAITLAND GROSSMANN HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

"Providing Quality Education in a Caring Learning Community"

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Issue 2

March, 2008

PRINCIPAL

Thank you to those parents and caregivers who have paid for their students' fees and costs. We have limited funds and your assistance allows us to provide the sort of resources that our children need to achieve their very best. 2008 has begun in earnest and all students have been issued with a school diary to organise their homework/study and learning time. Please encourage your child to carry their diary and use it daily.

Year 12 are consolidating of their work in preparation for their half yearly examinations. Phillippa Young from the Board of studies provided comprehensive information to students and parents regarding the Higher School Certificate this week. If you have any concerns about your child and HSC studies, please contact Brooke Bower the Year 12 Year Adviser so that issues are immediately addressed.

Senior students are role models for the school and as such are required to wear full school uniform at all times. This includes black leather shoes for boys and girls. Shorts are not part of our uniform for girls. Please encourage your child to present in correct uniform so that the school has a continuing high standard of uniform and dress.

Parents are reminded that attendance at school sport is a requirement for the award of a School Certificate. Students who leave early every week on a Tuesday are placing the award of their School Certificate in jeopardy.

PERMISSION TO PUBLISH STUDENT IMAGES & INTERVIEWS

Dear Parent or Caregiver,

During the course of the school year there are situations where students are photographed or interviewed for the local newspaper, the school magazine, our newsletter or other public forums.

It is the Department of Education and Training's policy to obtain permission from the parent/caregiver for these situations.

In the past we have sort permission on an individual basis, however, this a very time consuming, especially when there is a large group being photographed e.g. school musical.

This year we are asking parents/caregivers if they do not wish to have their child's picture published, the NSW Department of Education and Training respects your right to refuse to allow your child to be photographed and Published.

If you do not agree to your child being photographed and published, you are asked to provide notification in writing to the school within two weeks. After this period it will be assumed that your child has parental permission.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us on 49342066.

Yours sincerely

Dr Di Soltau.

SOCIAL SCIENCE

Research & Communication Tasks (assignments)

All research and communication tasks (assignments) for students studying Geography in Years 7 to 10 have been placed on the school internet site – www.mghs.com.au.

This is a new innovation and a first for MGHS. Students have been instructed on how to access the site and associated resources through the hyperlinks.

Online access is available through school library, computer rooms at school, the Social Science computer hub, libraries throughout the city of Maitland (Maitland, East Maitland, Thornton and Rutherford).

Parents and care providers are urged to assist students with their research work.

Due dates for the completion of work appears on the school calendar on the website –

Year 7	14 th March
Year 8	25 th March
Year 9	19 th March
Year 10	25 th March

Excursions & Study Days

Year 7 Geography field trip to Port Stephens originally set down for late February had to be postponed due to inclement weather. The new date is Thursday 13th March. All arrangements will stay in place and previous permission notes and medical forms signed by parents will apply. Refunds are available to parents whose child will be unable to attend because of the change of date.

Year 12 Society & Culture will participate in a study day in Sydney on Friday 7th with a focus on research techniques and report writing.

The following week, Year 12 Economics will also be in Sydney to hear from some of the nation's leading economists about current trends and changes to government policy.

Students studying Year 9 and 10 Commerce and Economics, Business Studies and Legal Studies in Year 11 have been issued with an expression of interest (EOI) or information sheet about a three day study tour of Canberra planned for 2nd to 4th April. Strong initial response is evident and would suggest the study tour will run.

All students in Year 8 will experience an overnight excursion to the Blue Mountains in the second week of term two. Information sheets will be given to students shortly on this most enjoyable and educationally beneficial field study.

Tony Keating
Head Teacher

MATHS

The term is well underway! All students studying Mathematics should have developed for themselves a homework routine and now be organised with their maths equipment and what is expected of them by their class teacher. Students should bring to school everyday their pens, pencils, rulers, books and text. Year 7 will need to purchase a scientific calculator very soon – a letter will come home with the specifications. Year 8 will need one shortly afterwards. Once calculators have been purchased they should be brought to school for each lesson. Parents who have older children in the school may have noticed that we have traditionally waited until Year 8 to begin using calculators. The reason for this change is due to the National Assessment Program which begins this year and takes the place of the SNAP and ELLA exams. The NAP tests will be sat by students in Years 7 & 9 and they will take place during Week 3 of Term 2. There is a calculator section in the exam so it is most important that Year 7 students purchase their calculator when requested so they have time to familiarise themselves with its functions. More information about the NAP testing will be sent home closer to the time.

Parents are reminded that the Numeracy Challenges are placed on the website at the beginning of each month. They are particularly targeted at Years 7 & 8 but are certainly relevant to all the junior school. Students submit their answers online and all students who participate each month receive a merit (which counts in the school commendation system) which lists the Numeracy skills they have used and the Employment Related skills they have used in that months challenge. Please encourage your child to take part in these challenges as they will go a long way towards helping them see where we use maths in every day life as well as building their numeracy skills. Mathletics payments are still being accepted. This program costs \$10 per student and provides 24 hour a day access to online "tutoring" help, revision and practise questions as well as mental arithmetic drill. It is well worth the investment for all students, including those studying Mathematics and General Mathematics in Years 11 & 12.

Please remember that most of the information relevant to the Mathematics Faculty is placed on the school website. It is kept updated and both parents and students are encouraged to have a look!

Zoe Cox
Head Teacher Mathematics

PD/H/PE FACULTY

PDHPE is one of the six key subjects in which students are required to meet a set standard in order to obtain a School Certificate. Year 10 students have been provided with information concerning PDHPE assessment for the School Certificate. An outline of the assessment schedule and Performance Descriptors were included.

The PDHPE faculty encourage all Year 10 parents to make themselves familiar with the assessment schedule which includes the nature of the tasks, due dates and weighting for each task. The PDHPE Course Descriptors describe standards of knowledge and skills that students are required to demonstrate in order to be awarded a specific grade.

Over the remaining terms all Year 10 students will be participating in lessons which will include assessable work. The PDHPE faculty advises parents to ensure their son/daughter attends lessons and encourage them to complete work to the best of their ability so that the School Certificate grade is an accurate representation of their achievements this year.

PDHPE faculty would like to congratulate all students for their compliance with changing for practical lessons. There has been a marked improvement in participation and uniform compliance – keep it up, and a reminder to parents the PDHPE uniform is listed in your son/daughter's diary.

March 19 National Youth Tobacco Free Day, so if you were looking for a day to quit smoking and are looking for a specific day why not make it this date. The health consequences of smoking have been well publicised but if you require further encouragement look at this web site www.adf.org.au (Australian Drug Foundation) and follow the links to tobacco. Non smokers and smokers can also participate in the online movie review at www.OxyGen.org.au – there are prizes for some respondents.

**CAREERS**

It was a pleasure to take 45 interested students from Years 9 to 12 to the Singleton Mining Expo. Mr Sleep and I were proud of their presentation and of the way they asked interesting questions to representatives and exhibitors.

Year 10 students are starting to think about the optional Work Experience Program. Dates have been allocated in the school calendar providing students and employers with a choice of suitable times. Dates are Term 2-2-6 June, Term 3, 25-29 August, Term 4, 24-28 November. Students are to talk to me about their proposed placement and all paperwork is now available from the Careers Office.

Well done to the students who recently completed the OHS Induction Course for the Building and Construction Industry. The trainer, Jim Batey, commented on the attentiveness and enthusiasm of our students.

Many students from Yr10-12 and their parents attended the information session called Plan Your Career at East Maitland Bowling Club. TAFE, Newcastle Uni and Hunter Valley Youth Express were present to offer career advice.

The Regional University Roadshow, with representatives from Southern Cross University, University of New England and Charles Sturt University, will be held in our school Hall on Monday 17 March from 2.45pm. Interested students in Years 11 and 12 from district schools will take the opportunity to talk to the representatives about scholarships, entry, accommodation and special entry schemes.

The annual themed Careers evening has again proved popular. The Careers Departments of Maitland Grossmann High and Maitland High, have worked together to provide an evening of information and entertainment on Tuesday 11 March, 7.00pm. This year's theme 'A Healthy Career' will be compered by ABC radio personality Garth Russell. There are an unprecedented number of support personnel from Newcastle University, TAFE, Hunter Valley Youth Express and the Careers Reference Centre attending to offer careers and course advice. Thank you to the guests Tim Stork, Nick Newton, Craig Boettcher, Larissa Lenton, Bree Brooker and Doreen Holm for participating and sharing their career experience. This is the sixth year of our careers evenings and their success and popularity continues to grow.

Lee Osborne
Careers Adviser

March 2008

Step Up

The mentor program with Maitland Business and Professional Women is under way again and is in its fourth year. Fifteen Year 12 girls volunteered for the program and are meeting with their mentors each term.

Thank you to the mentors who are giving up their time to support our students. Jennifer Leslie from BPW is coordinating the mentors and has developed an interesting selection of guest speakers to complement the program.

Lee Osborne

Entertainment Books

Year 7 and 8 students will receive Entertainment books on Friday 4 April. The cost of the book is still \$60 and \$12 of this will go towards school programs and projects. All families, friends and students may also purchase Entertainment books directly from the school canteen from 7 April. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

P&C Fundraising Committee

Friday's Breakfast

This program provides an opportunity for students to have a light breakfast on a Friday morning or come to the Hall for a friendly social space.

An eager team of volunteers including SRC members set up early and look after all aspects of the breakfast program.

The breakfast program operates around school exams and other Hall bookings.

We always appreciate any donations and must thank the staff and families who donate items for breakfast.

Marg Smart and Lee Osborne

SRC

Half way through the term and the SRC is progressing rapidly.

This year's Valentine's Day played out perfectly. All chocolates were bought anonymously by star crossed lovers and friends. The SRC had fun wrapping, labelling and distributing these chocolate hearts. It was a welcome surprise to receive a tasty treat in morning roll call.

Once again we are holding the Year 11 Auction Day, on the 12th of March. This is a fun day when willing Year 11 students are auctioned off to the highest bidder in return for their assistance in class and other duties. This is one of the main fundraisers for the SRC, so we hope for another financial success.

The prefects have been visiting their Yr 7 mentor classes. The prefects represent Yr 7 in SRC meetings until Yr 7 representatives are elected later in the year.

Representatives from the SRC will be assisting Mr Endacott, and other staff at the school Cross Country event, to be held later this month.

Tom Boak, SRC Public Relations Officer

ENGLISH

Wednesday, 19th March is the day when all students at MGHS have the opportunity to experience Actors at Work, the educational section of Bell Shakespeare, deliver live performances of selections of Shakespearean plays at school. They will present three one hour shows.

For Years 7 and 8 Love's Magic Scenes from Romeo And Juliet and A Midsummer Night's Dream

For Years 9 & 10- Macbeth Intensive

For Years 11 & 12- The Conspirators

Scenes from Othello and Julius Caesar

(Please note that Year 10 students may attend the Year 9 & 10 session and/or the Year 11 & 12 session.)

All students are urged to attend. Shakespearean studies remain an integral part of Stage 4, 5 and 6 English programs at MGHS.

Plays, of course, are designed to be performed and the opportunity to be in the audience of such quality acting enhances students understanding of the texts and the staging of plays, providing a culturally enriching experience for all.

Tickets to all sessions are \$10.00.

Please encourage your child to attend.

Preliminary Extension Show their Talent

Congratulations to our Year 11 writers in Extension 1 who showcased their tandem stories for their families on Wednesday, 27th February in the school library. It was a delight to witness the talent and flair of these young writers, and parents were appreciative of the opportunity to see and hear their creations.

The excellent standard attained bodes well for their future success in Extension English over the next 18 months.

Libby Guider

Head Teacher (relieving)

RED CROSS BLOOD BANK

Here at school Thursday 27th March 2008

Any student aged 16years or older encouraged to donate

Must book a time with Mrs Goward in the H.E. staff room before the day of donation.

TAS

We welcome Miss Clarke to the TAS Faculty, she is a new graduate from Newcastle University.

Classes are now well underway for the year and most have received notification of assessment tasks due in Term 1. Could you as a parent please encourage your child to make a regular time to work on tasks to ensure they are completed by the due date.

Week 3 Year 11 Hospitality and Food Technology students watched a demonstration given by Chef Glen from Kitchen and cutlery. Precision cutting of vegetables, garnishing techniques and fruit carvings suitable for displays were the focus of the demonstration.

Year 11 Hospitality students have the opportunity to participate in a Hospitality workplace program at SeaWorld Nara Resort the first week of June. Students will experience the many features of the hospitality industry from the inside. Students who have previously participated in this program have thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Year 10 Child Studies students are now experiencing the demands of caring for a newborn. Each student is given the opportunity to take one of two simulated babies home for a night or weekend. Some parents have become grandparents very early as students have found caring for a newborn very challenging.

Subject contributions are now due. We ask that parents and/or guardians pay the subject contributions before Week 8 as the purchase of consumables is ongoing for practical lessons. Payment will allow for your child to participate in practical activities. Curriculum specific alternatives will be provided if contributions are not received.

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And Introducing in 2008 *Break Dancing *

Enrolment Days Saturday 19th and 26th January 10am-2pm / Studio-479 High St Maitland-Glebe Arcade(next to Peter's Real Estate Or call Miss Leyanne 0409459550-49328960-49347222 Classes Resume Monday 4th February 2008

Listen to 1233, Newcastle radio
 on Wednesday 19th March 4pm and hear three of our Year 12 students
 Anna Shelly, Tom Convery & Kelsey Burraston
 being interviewed by Simone Thurtell.

One click could change you or your child's life 

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If you do not have access to the internet please feel free to call Iolanda on 49612911 or 0421 695590.

Newcastle X-Ray and Ultrasound

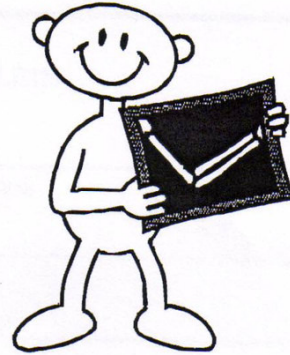
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