

October 2008



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# MAITLAND GROSSMANN HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

*"Providing Quality Education in a Caring Learning Community"*

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## PRINCIPAL

The Higher School Certificate is in progress and our Year 12 will celebrate their graduation at their formal on 19<sup>th</sup> November. The whole school community wishes them a very well earned holiday and best wishes for exciting and promising futures.

Congratulations to the incoming School Captains Jennifer Meggarity, and Eamon Owens and Vice Captains Stephanie Loxley and Thomas Boak who lead a strong contingent of SRC representatives from every year.

Year 11 have begun their HSC studies in earnest and now have the task of consolidating their efforts in the lead up to their final examinations in less than twelve month time.

The school has been given the opportunity to take part in the Enviro Saver Schools Program as an adjunct the Climate Cam Program. Students are collecting the names of all families who are interested in being provided with enviro friendly light bulbs and showerheads **AT NO COST**. For every family who takes up the offer, the school will receive \$5. Students in Science have undertaken the project which will run for the month of November, with individual and group awards for those who are able to get the most contacts for the implementation of this important program.

Please be advised that the school is not able to allow students to bring chocolates, donuts or confectionary to school to be sold as fundraisers. This is due to the increase in obesity levels in young people and the direction from the government to implement strategies to reduce high carbohydrate and fat intake.

Next year will be our **125<sup>th</sup> Year celebrations**. We are developing a sports shirt (for all students) to celebrate this very important occasion. This shirt will be available to all the incoming Year 7 students as a compulsory part of the uniform. All other students will have the option of purchasing the shirt. Any student in a representative team will have to purchase the shirt. We are also investigating a new material for the school shorts to replace the parachute material. We have formed a committee and we are exploring ways of celebrating this significant milestone, so if you have any suggestions for us to explore please let me know.

**Dr Di Soltau**  
**Principal**

**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL- BREESE**

**Time & Energy!**

These two words encapsulate the end of the school year.

**The Presentation Day for Year 11, 9, 8 & 7 will be held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December.**

We are currently in the process of collaboratively planning for the next three years. Our school focus and targets will be developed in consultation with all staff. In order to gain the widest possible database for our focus, all staff will be surveyed using the school map tool provided by the DET. Over the coming weeks our School Continuous Improvement Team will survey a wide selection of students. This data will be collated and analysed by the executive to help steer our planning.

The timetable for 2009 is underway with our team in full swing.

**Year 10**

**University Taster Day**

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of November Ms Campbell and myself have the opportunity to take 50 students to Newcastle University to experience a day on campus. This is also during Work Experience week, so only those not on work experience have the opportunity to attend. We will be catching the train from Maitland and returning by 3.30pm. Please make sure I have your name registered.

**Camp**

Parents of Year 10 students attending the camp, could we ask you to please take some time over the next week to compose a letter to your child? This letter is to be sealed in an envelope and given to Ms Campbell or myself. We ask that you write a letter about your hopes for your child and to congratulate them on what they have achieved in life so far. In one of the sessions at camp, students will have some individual time to reflect on what they have achieved to date and plot a path to towards the future. This is a very powerful session and we invite you to take an active role in supporting your child.

A very big thankyou to the parents who are continuing to make regular payments towards the Year 10 camp. The \$250 needs to be paid by the end of October. A reminder that the **Year 10 State Examinations** will be held from the 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> of November. Student **MUST** sit these examinations in order to be eligible for a School Certificate credential.

A gentle reminder that **all fees will need to be paid** before Formal tickets can be purchased. The formal will be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December in the School Hall.

**Year 8**

**Friends For Life**

For those of you who have been a part of the 'Friends for Life' Program, a very big THANKYOU for giving personal stories, time and encouragement to our Year 8 students over this term. A very BIG congratulations to Ms Cox for her energy, commitment and enthusiasm towards this very worthwhile well being program.

**A reminder about Sport**

All students are expected to participate in sports each Tuesday afternoon. Please do not write early leavers notes if your child is not ill or is pressuring you to do so. Please call me and I am happy to chat with them about the sports requirements from the Department of Education.

**Tracey Breese**

**Deputy Principal**

### CAREERS

At the end of Term 3 all Year 10 received a Careers Diary with important dates for this term. For interested students in Year 10 there is still one more week for Work Experience. This is 24-28 November. Completed paperwork MUST be returned to the Careers Office by Friday 24 October. Any student in Year 10 who has elected the following VET subjects in 2009, Hospitality, Construction or Information Technology, will be interviewed by representatives from Hunter Valley Youth Express on either 12<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> November. The purpose of the interviews is to discuss the compulsory Work Placements over the next 2 years.

The HSC Results breakfast will be held on Friday 19 November, 8.15am -9.30am in the school Hall. This is a chance for staff to congratulate and farewell Year 12. Parents are welcome and thanks must go to the P&C who fund this occasion.

As Year 11 begin their HSC studies, I will be talking to all Year 11 students and encourage each student to set goals for the next 12 months. Most importantly a student, who has taken the time to write down their goals and display them in an easily viewed position, is reminded of the purpose of their efforts.

Lee Osborne  
Careers Adviser

### ADOPT-A-RESIDENT

On the 18<sup>th</sup> September, staff coordinators and Yr 10 student representatives, Stephanie Bloomfield and Paul Wilson, met with Trevor Fletcher (Deputy Director General of Education) and Graham Valler (School Education Director) to talk about the Adopt a Resident program. The success of the program eight years on continues to amaze us. Such a "feel good" program brings personal reward to all involved. The residents and students eagerly await each visit. This year's program will conclude on Friday 29 November with a concert and morning tea at school including residents from all local aged care facilities.

Lee Osborne and Prue Campbell  
Adopt a Resident Coordinators

### SRC REPORT

Our dynamic composition has changed dramatically with the loss of the esteemed Year 12 SRC and former Prefects and Captains. Nevertheless this loss has given way to the swearing in of Year 7 representatives and the recognition of the contribution of SRC in years above, at the SRC/Prefect Induction held at the hall on Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup>. This assembly also saw the induction of Prefects by Hon.Prefect Milton Morris.

National Bandanna Day will be held on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October raising money for Canteen. So in light of this, bring in your money and purchase a stylish head covering from your delightful Student Representatives and help fund continued research and support for cancer patients.

The halls of Maitland Grossmann High School were filled with the nervous laughter of our future Year 7 students on the 16<sup>th</sup> September, when Year 7 Orientation Day was held. The day was a great success, as the Year 6 students got a taste of high school education, and enjoyed the sausage sizzle held in honour of their visit.

SRC Leader Leadership Day is to take place on 19<sup>th</sup> November, and this year our Representatives will take part in Workshops and a multimedia presentation, 'The Power of Everyone'.

And that wraps up another chapter in the SRC log, no doubt with more humorous anecdotal reports to come.

Tom Boak, Head of SRC Advertisement Publications, aided by Jennifer Megarrity, Trainee-Assistant.

**ENGLISH**

As we farewell our 2008 Year 12 students and wish them well in their two HSC English Examinations, we usher in a new group into their HSC studies for 2009. The Board of Studies has changed many of the prescribed texts for English 2009-2011, so this term begins with teachers delivering Area of Study lessons focused on the concept of *Belonging*. We have attended inservices and purchased many new resources to support these changes. They allow us the opportunity to approach our teaching with fresh ideas and the challenge of new core texts. Students will need to seek their own related texts during this term and in their study of the various Modules throughout 2009, so it is good practice to be on the look out for these texts from now on. Thank you to all parents for their ongoing support in purchasing texts for those students in classes who are required to do so and we remind those who have not paid for their texts need to do so immediately.

Year 10 are busily practising skills for the School Certificate in Week 5. The Trial School Certificate in Week 1 offered students a 'real' experience of the demands and rigours of the exam itself. One of the most important lessons to be gained from the Trial is a sense of timing for each section. Students need to follow the recommendations on the exam and ensure they leave enough time to complete the short and long writing sections at the end. Remember, this is a literacy test, so attention to spelling, grammar and the conventions of English are fundamental to a good result. We wish our Year 10's well in those examinations.

Years 8 and 9 have begun work on their Media units- Year 9 are focusing on the print media (primarily newspapers) and analysing the persuasive features of advertising whilst Year 8 are examining the features of television, with the presentation of a news program being the across the form task this term. Year 7 are undertaking a Drama study, beginning with the history and conventions associated with drama, then moving into script writing and performance. Assessment is ongoing throughout Term 4 and, once again, I appeal to parents to positively encourage participation in all assessment tasks. We especially value support with speaking tasks, which are a compulsory part of the English Syllabus and, as I have said before, an essential life skill. Preparation and practice are the keys to effective, assured oral presentations.

Many of the English staff will be involved in HSC marking during and already jam-packed Term 4. We are very lucky to have staff participating in this extremely valuable professional development activity as it provides the faculty with crucial understanding of state-wide standards and performance, which helps to inform our own teaching practice and to create consistent marker judgement, which, of course, flows on to benefit students in all years.

Regards  
Libby Guider  
Head Teacher

**TAS**

The commencement of Term 4 has been very busy. The Trial School Certificate Computing Skills Test was held Tuesday. The Trial gave students the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the test format and questions they can expect in the School Certificate, it is the first year that the test will be done online. Students can access the test for two weeks for revision.

Thank you to the Year 11 Hospitality students James Hingston, Melisa Rumsey and Megan Colby who assisted Mrs Goward and Mrs Bertwhistle in catering for the Prefect Induction Wednesday.

Year 12 Major Textile Projects will be on display in the school foyer for the next two weeks. If you have time it is worth a visit to the school to view the students work.

Last term eight students sat for the NSW University Computing Skills Competition. Congratulations to Emily Clark (10), Ryan Fairhall (10) and Nicholas De Martino (9) for gaining a distinction in the competition.

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The Chinatown Excursion for Years 10 and 11 Food Technology, Hospitality and Textiles Technology students has been changed to Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October. Please remember full school uniform must be worn.

The Australian Museum of Clothing and Textiles is staging a parade and lecture at MGHS 17<sup>th</sup> November. The presentation is aimed at Textiles and Design and Textile Technology students to assist them in their understanding of Historical Design Development through societal and technological changes. We have invited schools in the area to attend.

One of our former students Heather Loxley (Yr 12 2007) has again been successful in the Apex Teenage Fashion Awards. Heather entered her Yr 12 Major Textile Project in the competition and was rewarded with first place in the national finals. Well done Heather.

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When purchasing new school shoes in the future please ensure that the shoes are closed in leather shoes. This is a requirement for all practical classes.

# Purnell Trophies

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## & Giftware

### Why should you use Ritchies Community Benefit Card every time you shop?

Presenting your Ritchies Community Benefit Card to the cashier every time you shop entitles you to:

**Cheaper prices on "C.B." specials.**

Look for the Red 'C.B.' shelf tickets to find out how much you can save on thousands of exclusive specials each week.

**Fundraising dollars for your nominated group!**

1% of the money you spend in either the supermarket or liquor department will be automatically **donated** to the club, school or charity of your choice, on your behalf - **at no extra cost to you**. But, make sure that you are not the only person nominating your group. Encourage the other members of your club, school or organisation to shop at Ritchies with their Community Benefit Card. It only takes 10 members spending \$25 a week for 4 weeks to qualify for the minimum donation of \$10. (That's 1% of \$1000). Naturally, the more members shopping the higher the donation!

**Ritchies Christmas Club.**

Pre-purchasing Ritchies' Christmas Club Gift Cards to purchase groceries and liquor at the end of the year is a great idea and will reduce the expense and stress at Christmas time. Purchase Christmas Gift Cards totaling over \$100 in value and you will receive a delicious Christmas gift with our compliments for the Festive Season. Ask for the Christmas Club application form at your local store."

**For the location of your nearest Ritchies Supermarket or Liquor store**

**Phone Head Office on (03) 9784 2000**

**Or check our web site at [www.ritchies.com.au](http://www.ritchies.com.au)**



October 2008

## **Greenhills Dental**

Suite 7 Mitchell Plaza  
Greenhills Ph: **4934 7877**

### **Medicare Teen Dental Plan**

Annual Preventative Dental Checks  
All teenagers aged between 12-17 years  
who receive the Medicare Teen Dental voucher  
will be fully bulk billed.

### **Appointments available now**

Including Saturday mornings.

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## **SRC Fundraiser**

McHappy Day is fast approaching (15 November,2008) and MGHS SRC need your help!

The SRC will be collecting items as part of The Ronald McDonald House Charity Wish List to support our local Ronald McDonald House which facilities a home away from home for seriously ill children and their families, providing love, hope and support in a time of emotional need. The house provides shelter to over 5800 families annually, whose children are receiving hospital treatment for serious and life threatening illnesses.

The wish list includes:

- ❖ Crockery
- ❖ Packaged and tinned foods
- ❖ Water Glasses
- ❖ Coffee Mugs
- ❖ DVD/Videos
- ❖ Toiletries – toothpaste, razors, shampoo, soap etc.

If you can spare or supply any of these items to support this worthwhile charity, please make a donation to the front office.

