5 March 2014

Principal’s Message

Swimming Carnival

One of the highlights of last week was the school’s swimming carnival. These school events go from strength to strength with high levels of student participation. Our Year 12 students did an excellent job helping to run different activities throughout the course of the day. There will be a full report in the next newsletter.

Year 12 Exam Preparation

Although we are only in the middle of Term 1, the school is already preparing for the Year 12 examinations. This will mark the half-way point for the HSC year. I would encourage all of our year 12 students to prepare and revise early for these examinations as they will make a significant contribution to the school based assessment component of their HSC results.

Interim Reports

As part of our school procedure we provide interim progress reports for students from year 7 to year 12. These reports provide a quick snapshot of how the student is progressing across all subjects. The reports will be mailed out in the last week of term.

Parent Teacher Evening

Our first parent teacher evening is scheduled for early in term two. However, if parents want to make contact before this date, they can contact the school via phone, email or by using the school app.

This year for our parent teacher evening we are moving to an online system for bookings. More information will be available later in the term.

Calendar Highlights

- 11 March: Year 7 2015 Information Evening
- 14 March: Shave for a Cure
- 19 March: Camden Mayoral Reception for 2013 Achievers
- 21 March: National Day of Action Against Bullying
- 21 March: Taste of Sydney Excursion
- 31 March: Year 12 Examinations begin
- 9 April: Year 11 and Year 12 Camp

P & C Fundraising

Another fantastic Bunning’s BBQ was held on Sunday 23rd February.

The P&C would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who assisted in making it a success and a fun filled day. Without your assistance the event could not have happened.

Our sincere thanks are extended to - Joanne & Peter Archer, Zac Bruce, Josh Carter, Danika Davis, Michelle & Brad Delaney, Brooke Groat, Amber, Mark & Tracey Groll. We raised $702.00 on the day which will be allocated to future funding requests.

CAPA NEWS

MAHS 2014 SCHOOL PLAY - this year the Drama department has decided to produce a play rather than a musical to provide Drama students with a different performance experience. The play is Catherine Zimdahl’s FAMILY RUNNING FOR MR WHIPPY: a sentimental and symbolic look at a girl’s memory of growing up in an Australian suburb. Rehearsals have begun, and take place on Tuesdays after school in the Movement Studio. The production will be performed for audiences in Term 2 on the 19 and 20 June.

INTERSCHOOL CHOIR - this year, in collaboration with Currans Hill Public School, Mount Annan High School students will be forming a choir under the leadership of Mrs Hunt and staff from Currans Hill Public School. The choir began rehearsals this week. Mrs Hunt will provide updates about the choir’s progress in the next newsletter.

CLASS VISITS - in my role as Head Teacher Creative and Performing Arts and Languages Other Than English, I have been enjoying a number of class visits to ensure our students are making a positive start to this new year. I have been very impressed by the engagement of our students in their learning and the professionalism and dedication of our teachers. Some memorable moments have been: Year 12 Music with Mrs Hunt busily preparing their performance pieces for the HSC practical exams; Year 10 Photography with Mr Castillion completing very interesting digital narrative tasks where they create narratives to match a series of loosely related images; Mr Lim in Year 8 Japanese demonstrated how the use of a Smart Board integrated with verbal and literacy exercises enhances
and engages students in their understanding of Japanese; Mrs Williams Year 9 Visual Arts class creatively and dextrously creating original and fascinating Dada style Curiosity Boxes. Just another ordinary, but fascinating, day in our faculty at Mount Annan High School!

Ms Kerrie-Ann Ridge
Head Teacher

NAPLAN 2014

The NAPLAN tests will be conducted from 13-15 May 2014 for students in Years 7 and 9. There are five tests which students will complete: Language Conventions, Reading, Writing and two tests in Numeracy, one with a calculator allowed as well as a non-calculator test.

Calculators can be purchased from the school office for $20 and are suitable for students throughout their school life.

A parent information brochure is attached to this newsletter. If you have any questions about NAPLAN please contact Ms Harris (Deputy Principal) on 0246480111.

YEAR 10 REPORT

Year 10 has come back with a positive attitude and it is pleasing to see that a number of students are taking part in the Department of Education’s TVET Scheme. The TVET scheme offers students the opportunity to study a course at TAFE. Some of the courses that were offered to Year 10 students in 2014 were Automotive, Construction and Hairdressing.

Upcoming Events

- In Term 2, Mrs Hicks and I will be starting a mentoring group for girls in Year 10. Information regarding this group will come later.
- A camp for Year 10 has been booked for Term 4. The camp is called “The Great Aussie Bush Camp” and is situated near Tea Gardens. An invitation to the camp will be sent out by the end of Term 1.

Reminder

- All students are required to wear black leather covered shoes. Canvas shoes or synthetic covered shoes are not appropriate. Students will not be allowed into the Science Laboratory or TAS rooms without correct footwear.
- Please send a note if your child is not wearing the correct uniform.

If you have any problems with purchasing uniform items or need to make any other enquiries please contact me on 4648011.

Kim Dawson
Year 10 Advisor

Information on School Attendance

ATTENTION PARENTS & CAREGIVERS

Information from the Home School Liaison Officer about School Attendance

Good attendance at school by all students is a high priority at Mount Annan HS.

The law in NSW states that all children between six and seventeen years of age are required to attend school regularly, and it is the responsibility of the parent/caregiver to make sure that their children attend each day the school is open for instruction.

Regular attendance at school enables students to develop a sense of belonging to a peer group and build important coping and friendship skills. These children are less likely to engage in anti-social behaviour. All children have a right to an education and regular attendance at school allows them to make the most of educational opportunities leading to a happy and successful future.

At various times throughout the year, the executive teacher in charge of attendance and/or the HSLO will interview students with identified concerns in their attendance.

Concerns with attendance may include-
- An attendance rate lower than 85%
- Unexplained or unjustified absences
- Regular lateness / part day absences
- Extended periods of illness.

The purpose of an interview is to promote and support improved attendance at school. Please contact the school if you have any concerns about this.

Parents are encouraged to work with the school to resolve any attendance concerns to ensure the best outcomes are achieved for all students at school and in their future opportunities. If you are having trouble with your child’s attendance please contact the school as soon as possible.

Tom Pastor
Home School Liaison Officer
Mount Annan High School
4648 0111

Mount Annan High School Modern History Tour of Europe 2014

Mr Backhouse and Nathan Archer (School Captain), Tracey Lewis, Kirsty Marshall and Bethany Archer (Nathan’s sister and Year 12 student in 2011) are preparing for the trip of a lifetime. Our fearless representatives will join students from Brisbane Water Secondary College, Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College and Kincumber High School, on a 21 day odyssey of fun and
learning. They will depart from Sydney Airport on Thursday 10th April and return on Thursday 1st May 2014. The inaugural Europe excursion will take our travellers to London, Berlin, Strassbourg, Nuremberg, Ypres and Paris.

The excursion is designed to support the learning of HSC Ancient and Modern History students with visits to many famous sites associated with World War 1 and World War 2 as well as the Cold War. A copy of the itinerary is posted in this e-newsletter with complete details, as well as photos of some of the sites we will visit, taken by Mr Backhouse on a similar tour in 2010.

Some of the highlights include: the British Museum and Churchill’s War Rooms in London, Checkpoint Charlie, the Reichstag, Brandenberg Gates and the Holocaust Memorial, Bebplatz square in Berlin, Cecilienhof Palace in Potsdam, Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp and Hitler’s Command Centre Obersalzburg near Berchtesgarden in Bavaria and Nuremberg Zeppelin Fields. We then head to Ypres in Belgium for extensive visits to WW1 Western Front sites such as Hill 60 and Hill 62 Museum, the Menin Gate, the Platoon Experience at Passchendalne and Tyne Cot Cemetry. We will visit the battlefields of Frommel, Beaumont Hamel, Theipval, Pozieres and attend the ANZAC Dawn Service at Villers-Bretonneux. Our tour will conclude in Paris with some art history in the Louvre, a visit to the Palace of Versailles and a final celebration at Euro Disney for some contemporary popular culture.

It will be a memorable journey and wonderful learning experience for our students and Mr Backhouse.

**I. Backhouse, Head Teacher HSIE 2014.**

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**TAS Report**

The new school year has begun well for TAS. All classes are working very well and are doing significant and engaging work in the classroom.

It is important for the school community to realise the value of working safely in the workshops and kitchens and indeed all classrooms. Safety features significantly in our introductory programmes for a reason – it is mandatory for students to know how to work safely and, equally importantly, responsibly. An accident in the workshops, kitchen or classroom can happen very quickly. Safety continues to be a focus throughout all programmes. Students work with materials, tools and equipment. The safe use of materials, tools and equipment extends to footwear compliance – a sturdy leather black shoe must be worn at all times. The tying back of long hair, the wearing of safety glasses, the wearing of an apron and the adherence to personal safety and environmental safety cannot be stressed enough. A footwear letter has been issued by the class teacher to classes. There is a sign off section that should be returned to the class teacher for record keeping purposes only.

The payment of course fees across all stages including elective classes is encouraged. The course fee for the elective subjects in TAS is compulsory. Course fees can be paid in full, or part payment per semester, or regular payments throughout the year. Each TAS teacher has issued a course fee schedule letter for 2014 to all classes. If you need another letter please ask the class teacher for a letter or ask your child to see me, Mrs Maher HT TAS.

Stage 6 Food Technology students are working on a unit called Food Manufacture. This unit provides significant insights into the manufacture of a variety of food processes. The unit extends knowledge from the preliminary Food Technology course and helps students gain deeper knowledge of the Australian Food Industry. To enable stage 6 students to improve their learning outcomes, students are encouraged to submit tasks prior to the due date to the teacher. Indeed the expertise of any of the stage 6 FT teachers can be accessed. The stage 6 FT teachers are Mrs Gross the current teacher of Year 12 2014; Mrs Woolley the current Year 11 FT teacher and myself, Mrs Maher HT TAS (2013 HSC marker). I have also set up an edmodo.com account for students in Yr 12 to use. On this account are various extension activities for stage 6 FT to access, including resources from other HSC markers across the state.

Stage 6 Industrial Technology Timber and Furniture Products students are well into the construction phase of the Major Design project for this course. This project is at student expense and can be costly. The guidance and the support of the teacher is necessary for the successful completion of this project. There is also an accompanying portfolio to be developed – the portfolio addresses the construction documentation necessary for the project. The teacher, Mr Goodsell has extensive expertise and knowledge in this area and will allow time for students to focus on developing a quality document.

The curricula of the TAS faculty now includes stage 6 TVET courses taught on site by staff at Campbelltown TAFE. This innovation of the curriculum team at MAHS in 2013 has now enabled students to access TVET courses – Construction and Landscaping. The partnership between the TAFE staff and TAS staff and students is welcome. The extension of the curriculum is very important to students as we cater for the many and varied learning styles within the school. The outcome for students is that they will be able to obtain dual accreditation.

The newly established VET Information and Digital Technology course (IDT) has been a popular choice for our current Yr 11 stage 6 students for 2014. Mr De Gruchy, the VET teacher for IDT has the essential VET qualifications to teach this course. Mr De Gruchy started with the TAS faculty in 2013 and has a clear vision in regards to providing quality learning outcomes and opportunities for VET students doing the course. His strong industry background and educational background will enable students to access significant and engaging and relevant information and digital technology skills.
Mrs Woolley and Mrs Gross continue as the highly qualified VET Hospitality teachers to students in Yr 11 and Yr 12 in 2014. The teachers provide high quality learning experiences for students in the courses. It is important that students pay course fees for these courses in order to maintain the high quality learning environment – the practicals experienced by students enable students to perform the necessary competencies of the course.

Mrs Woolley has organised the annual excursion event in 2014: the Taste of Sydney excursion will happen this month. Letters and permission notes have been given to students across all stages of the FT and Hospitality courses. This is a wonderful opportunity to experience the world of food and meet many celebrity chefs and retailers exhibiting food in all its glory. The wearing of school uniform will be expected. Students this year receive a picnic basket of goodies provided by Mrs Woolley and transport to the event will be by bus. All enquiries can be directed to Mrs Woolley.

An excellent opportunity for girls will be offered to stage 5 girls in TAS during the year. The University of Technology, Sydney, Women in Engineering and IT program will be offered to our girl students. Traditionally these career paths have a strong male representation. This opportunity will hopefully break down barriers and encourage girls to consider a wide range of careers. The program features hands-on workshops, a speakers program and scholarships. Mr De Gruchy and Mr Goodsell will be in charge of this initiative in TAS for 2014. Scholarships, if successfully gained, are worth up to $14,000.

We have a busy year ahead. Parents are asked to assist with student learning in TAS and in general across the school. Assessment tasks and homework are issued regularly and in each and every TAS classroom students are expected to be well prepared for lessons by having the necessary equipment.

The new school merit system has been extremely popular in TAS. Students are striving to do their best, working in a respectful manner with their fellow students and with the teacher and students are co-operating. It is an exciting year in TAS and our Gifted and Talented students in TAS are also being given additional assistance to further develop and our HSC students are also accommodated.

Mrs N Maher
HT TAS

School Uniform Policy

Like all public schools in New South Wales there is the expectation that students wear a school uniform. We greatly appreciate the level of support and cooperation that we have from parents who ensure that their children have the correct uniform. Not only are you supporting the school and our school values, but you are also preparing our young people for when they leave school because most industries and workplaces have a dress code as an expectation or a condition of employment.

The link below has information on the school uniform.

Rotary Youth Exchange Program

Rotary clubs across New South Wales support an international student exchange program. The link below will provide you with more information about this program and how to apply.

The Next E-Newsletter

The next E-Newsletter will come out on Wednesday 19 March 2014.

Assessment Schedules for Years 10, 11 and 12

Term 1

Year 10

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<th>PDHPE, HSIE, CAPA</th>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td><strong>Maths</strong> Stage 5.1 – Topic Test</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td><strong>Science</strong> – AT1 - Student Research Project</td>
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<td><strong>English</strong> – Critical Response</td>
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<td>Maths Stage 5.3 – Topic Test</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td><strong>History</strong> – In class essay – Changing Rights &amp; Freedoms Music – Listening exam</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td><strong>Geography</strong> – Research Essay – Geographical Issue Music - Solo</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td><strong>Maths</strong> Stage 5.1 – Topic Test</td>
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<td>Photography – Task 1</td>
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### Year 12

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### Year 11

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<td>SLR – Ongoing practical assessment</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Maths Extension 1 – Assessment Task 1 Class Test Advanced Maths – Assessment Task 1 Class Test General Maths – Assessment Task 1 Class Test Biology - AT1 – Research and Writing Task Chemistry – AT1 – Research &amp; Writing Task Physics – AT1 – Research &amp; Writing Task Ancient History – Topic Test - Archaeology</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>English Studies – Personal Career Dossier</td>
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<td>Standard English – Area of Study Exam Paper Advanced English – Area of Study Exam Paper</td>
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<td>History – Half Yearly Exam</td>
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<td>English Extension 1 – Writing Portfolio</td>
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<td>Standard English – Speech Advanced English – Viewing &amp; Listening Task</td>
<td>CAFS – Leadership Assessment</td>
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**Faculty**
- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- HSIE
- PDHPE