19 March 2014

Principal’s Report

It was very busy last week with the Year 6 into Year 7 Information evening, the Shave for a Cure and the Taste of Sydney Excursion. All of these events proved to be very successful and all involved high levels of student participation. I continue to be extremely impressed with the very positive attitude and involvement of students in shaping the culture of our school. At the Year 6 into Year 7 information evening students were among the presenters, while the Shave for a Cure is a student initiative lead by the SRC. I have not got the final figure of funds raised by the shave but I know it is well over $3000.

Over 80 students also took part in the Taste of Sydney excursion, which is one of the highlights of Term One.

This week we are involved in the National Day of Action against Bullying. This is another student initiative. The student leaders wanted to make a strong statement that bullying is not acceptable in our school. The day includes workshops for Year 7 run by the SRC, a BBQ, stalls and live music at lunchtime.

Dr Phil Reece

Calendar Items

- Friday 21 March: National Day Against Bullying
- Tuesday 25 March : P&C AGM and Normal Meeting
- Monday 31 March: ½ yearly Year 12 Examinations
- Wednesday 9 April: Year 11 and Year 12 Camp
- Wednesday 9 April: Interim reports mailed home
- Friday 11 April: Last Day of Term
- Monday 28 April: Staff Returns for Term Two
- Tuesday 29 April: Students Return for Term Two
- Wednesday 7 May: Parent Teacher Night
- 13 May, 14 May and 15 May: NAPLAN Tests
- 19-29 May: Year 7-10 Examination Period

Shave for a Cure Friday 14 March

Mount Annan High School SRC leadership team have been very busy this term organising and encouraging participation in this fundraising event. Students had the opportunity at recess to have their own hair sprayed and coloured at a cost of $1.00 fringe, $2.00 whole head colouring. The real fun began at lunch with several teachers and students volunteering to have their whole head shaved by two of our local hairdressers or students. In our next newsletter we will have the photos and the amount of money raised by the SRC.

Thanks to all of our students who participated in this great event for a great cause.

National Day of Action "NO BULLYING NO WAY" Friday 21 March

The SRC leadership team will be co-ordinating the National Day of Action to inform students about this initiative. Year 7 will participate in workshops in the morning session. At recess there will be an SRC fundraising Cake Stall and soft drinks will be available. We are also holding a sausage sizzle lunch $1:00 per sandwich, and concert from our talented music students.

School Captains visit Parliament House Sydney 27th March

Our School Captains Nathan Archer and Ashley Middleton have been invited to attend the annual student leaders’ visit to Parliament House. Here the students will be welcomed by our local member Chris Patterson. Both Nathan and Ashley will be involved in discussions and activities, have lunch in the Waratah Room and listen to some of Question Time in the NSW Parliament.

Fiona Watts
SRC Co-ordinator
Girls Coordinator News

A brand new year and already we have had great successes in both the Plan It Youth and Girls Group programs.

The Plan It Youth program is a mentoring program that supports students in our school and provides guidance and goals to students who participate. This program is supported by the community and although it is run by the school is made up of trained volunteers who take time out of their busy lives to come to the school and support our students.

In addition, Camden Council provides an invaluable program to the school in the form of the Girls Group. This group is run by youth worker Maria Esma and takes place every Wednesday for a group of year 9 and 10 girls. These sessions provide our girls with skills, guidance and team work structures which help them navigate through their school days. In addition, the girls are involved in external activities like the Camden High Tea on Monday 24 March, which will see our girls work together as a team to complete tasks associated with the day.

MAHS Peer Mentoring and leadership has begun activities around the school, and with peer mentoring occurring later this term with year 7. All in all a wonderful start to the year with much more to look forward to!

Mrs Fares
Girls Coordinator

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The annual MAHS swimming carnival was held last Thursday on the 28 February, at Camden Pool. As for the last three years, the weather was not promising; however this did not deter students from attending. It was the most well attended swimming carnival to date, with 440 students on the day!

The Year 12 Sport, Lifestyle and Recreation class ran the novelty events, which gave all students a chance to participate in a variety of events in order to earn points for their Houses. As with all carnivals, it is often the amount of participation, rather than the level of success, that can determine the overall winning House.

The final point score for the carnival was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>BOYS</th>
<th>GIRLS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Snowgum (530 points)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Bluegum (483 points)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Ironbark (472 points)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Wollemi (454 points)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Wattle (438 points)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>Waratah (436 points)</td>
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It was pleasing to see that Wollemi has made a move up to 3rd place, and that Bluegum achieved its highest position yet in a swimming carnival.

Our Age Champions are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>BOYS</th>
<th>GIRLS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Corey Barnes</td>
<td>Jaymi Bateman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Nicholas Molluso</td>
<td>Susannah Fryer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Jake Fear</td>
<td>Danica Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Sebastian Molluso</td>
<td>Brooke Dagg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Ben Powers</td>
<td>Heidi Midcalf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17+</td>
<td>Bradley Dagg</td>
<td>Courteney Marsh</td>
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</tbody>
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Congratulations also to Jaymi Bateman for breaking three school records in 50m Breaststroke, Backstroke and Butterfly, and to Brooke Dagg for being the 15 years Girls’ Age Champion at the Zone Carnival.

A successful carnival cannot occur without the support of all staff. A big thank you to the staff, Year 12 SLR and particularly to the PD/H/PE staff for their work on the day, and to Mr Garland for his work as the Carnival Organiser.

POWERCHAIR SOCCER

On Tuesday 4 March, one of our year 12 students organised a Powerchair Soccer game to be held in the school hall.

Jordan Crane plays Powerchair Soccer for NSW, and he arranged for his teammates to come to MAHS to play a demonstration match as part of an assessment task for Sport, Lifestyle and Recreation. MAHS was very fortunate to have these six other players come to our school, as they travelled from all over Sydney to play in the match.

The game was well attended by our students at lunch time, with the hall filled to capacity and indeed overflowing.
Well done to Jordan for organising the game and thank you for providing us with such a wonderful opportunity to experience your sport. Thank you also to Jordan’s parents, Mr and Mrs Crane, and to all the other players and their carers for all your efforts on the day.

P&C Meeting

The next P&C Meeting will be held on Tuesday 25 March at 7:30pm in the library. This meeting also incorporate the AGM.

2013 Excellence Awards Publication

In order to both recognise and celebrate the students’ achievements for 2013 the school has published a book listing all of the award recipients. The names are drawn from the Year 12 Graduation, HSC Results, Night of Excellence, the Sports Award Evening and the student leadership team. Copies of the booklet are distributed as part of the school’s information package. There are some additional copies still available for interested parents. There is also a pdf version of the booklet you can download either from the e-newsletter or the website.

SUPPORT UNIT

Welcome to all the new Year 7 students to the Unit. It has been a very busy start to the year so far.

Work Experience Programs

Year 11 and Year 12 Work and Community students have already started their work experience blocks on Wednesdays.

Year 10 Work Education students have also started their work experience program through the supported EXCEL Program at Macarthur Square Big W, Woolworths Market Fair, Campbelltown Spotlight and Mount Annan Sustainable Living.

Congratulations to Hamish Gibson, Alexander Dempsey and Darcy Robens who were successful in their application to attend TAFE 2014 as part of their program of study for the HSC.

Review Meeting

Parent meetings have already begun addressing student needs in the transition from school to work and developing educational programs for students in Stage 4 and Stage 5. These meetings will continue throughout Term 2.

Students enjoyed the Swimming Carnival at Camden Pool and their participation was enthusiastic.

Year 9/10 Science Lessons (Mrs Dawson)

Students have been revising the Scientific Method. Students have had the opportunity to participate in the following experiments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adam Bashford</th>
<th>Lauren Cislowski</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adam Foster</td>
<td>Madelyne Cooper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ashleigh Middleton</td>
<td>Marcus Compton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bradley Hasiuk</td>
<td>Nathan Archer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brandon Shaw</td>
<td>Prema Kumar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Briana Melville</td>
<td>Sam Gardner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brodie Magyar</td>
<td>Samantha Kable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Derrick Luuhrze</td>
<td>Sebastian Mulluso</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hamish Gibson</td>
<td>Shaye Bellamy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hayden Fisher</td>
<td>Tayah Cockroft</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacinta Van der Mast</td>
<td>Tiffany Spink</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jessica Khalil</td>
<td>Vanessa Fryer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Josh Maxwell</td>
<td>Zac Bruce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kandra Ogden</td>
<td>Zac Demenzes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiarnee Holmes</td>
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Year 6 into Year 7 Information Night

On Tuesday 11 March the school held its Year 6 into Year 7 Information Night. Prospective parents and their children had the opportunity to take tours of the school and view presentations from the different faculties. There were also presentations from the Principal, Dr Reece, the Deputy Principal, Mrs Kovac, the Transition Co-ordinator, Mr Ulrich, and the 2015 Year 7 Adviser, Mrs Woolley. The Captains, Nathan Archer and Ashley Middletown, chaired the evening. Other student speakers included Briana Melville, Sam Gardner and Tayah Cockroft. Nathan Archer, Marcus Compton, Hamish Gibson and Bradley Hasiuk performed a musical item. The P&C provided a B-B-Q.

The names of students who assisted with the Information Evening are listed below:

Ms Sara Bos
Head Teacher PDHPE (Relieving)

Zac Demenzes
Zac Bruce
Vanessa Fryer
Tiffany Spink
Tayah Cockroft
Tiffany Spink
Vanessa Fryer
Zac Bruce
Zac Demenzes
Chemical Reactions (impact of coke with mentos)
Can something as soft as rain dissolve something as strong as a rock?
Can filter paper remove twigs and dirt from muddy water?
What happens to the temperature of water as it changes state?

During these experiments students have been learning how to write an aim and a hypothesis as well as how to record results using different methods. As part of their assessment, students will be working in small groups to conduct a scientific investigation.

Courtyard Area

During the Christmas school holidays the area between E Block and G Block was concreted, to become a new activity area. We have secured the area outside the Unit classrooms to create a passive playground. Students have enjoyed landscaping the courtyard with potted plants and trees. New seating is in order to complete the landscaping project.

I Backhouse
Head Teacher HSIE

Educational World Travel Cultural Exchange January 2015

Mount Annan High School is participating in the EWT’s January 2015 tour of America. There are 21 students travelling from the district. We will be visiting many locations during our 20 days in America.

At our parent information meeting last week we decided our preferences for our host city. We are busy organising passports and documentation required for our trip.

A typical cultural exchange of 20 days includes the following opportunities

• A home stay with an American family from a selected American High School
• Attendance at an American school for two days as a group
• Host city sightseeing
• Los Angeles sightseeing and theme parks in Anaheim
• San Francisco sightseeing
• San Diego sightseeing

Seeing some of the major American attractions as a group. Living with an American family provides young Australians with a greater awareness of the differences between cultures. This program provides students with a greater sense of responsibility, self-reliance and self-esteem.
For travelling students and parents please contact me if required on the school phone number 46480111 for any assistance or questions you may have.