Principal’s Report

One of my great regrets as an educational leader has been seeing the large number of students with special learning needs who are unable to access a placement in a Support Class. These classes, which provide more individual and specialised attention and smaller class sizes, are in high demand by families across the state. At Mount Annan High School we are extremely fortunate to have a high quality Support Unit, led by Ms Wallace, which has been providing individualised learning for special needs students since the school opened. When we were asked if we would open up an extra class for students with Autism in 2016, I was more than happy to do so, knowing that we would be providing an invaluable service to an extra seven students and their families. I look forward to welcoming these new students to our school community next year and I thank Ms Wallace and her dedicated staff for their ongoing work in supporting our students to achieve their best.

As I mentioned in my last newsletter report, we are in the process of setting up a Learning Centre at Mount Annan High School, which will provide support and assistance for our Year 12 students to complete their assessment tasks and homework, as well as helping them to study more effectively. After an expression of interest process, Ms Brinley Hasson was successful in gaining the position of Co-ordinator for 2016. Ms Hasson brings a wealth of experience to the role and she will shortly be visiting a Learning Centre at another school with some of our Year 12 students, to provide a further insight into how it can best serve the needs of our HSC students. I know that Ms Hasson will do an outstanding job as our first Learning Centre Co-ordinator but I would also like to thank the rest of the staff for their interest and support of the role.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate one of our outgoing Year 12 students, Rachael Gibson, who has been awarded a Combined High Schools (CHS) Blue for the sport of squash. Rachael competed in the Australian All Schools team, where she was ranked 1st. She is currently ranked 1st in NSW and 3rd in Australia in the Under 19’s age division and she has recently competed at the Squash World Championships in the Netherlands and Youth Commonwealth Games in Samoa. I would like to wish Rachael all the best on behalf of the school, for both her sporting endeavours and for life generally and congratulate her on being given such a prestigious award.

Brad Mitchell
Principal

Coffee for a Cause Fundraiser

Coffee has now arrived and selling fast. GET IN QUICK.

We only have 17 bags of Espresso and 1 bag of Plunger left.

Coffee can be purchased from the front office.

Bag size is 450g. Cost per bag is $20.00. Each bag will have a Mount Annan High School logo on it.

Great for Christmas gifts.

The company is a small artisan coffee roaster, Bliss Coffee, located in the Hunter Valley, NSW.

Brooke Groat
P&C Parent Liaison Officer

Next P&C Meeting

The next P&C meeting is on Tuesday, 1 December at 7:30pm in the school library. Please come and support your P&C.

Upcoming Events

- Musical Production Week: Monday 23 November 2015 till Friday 27 November 2015
- Year 8 G&T Science Excursion: Wednesday 25 November 2015
- Year 10 Senior School Preparation Talk: Thursday 26 November 2015
- Year 10 Skills Day: Monday 30 November 2015
- P&C Meeting 7:30pm in Library: Tuesday 1 December 2015
- Year 10 Taster Lessons: Wednesday 2 December 2015
- Sports Presentation Evening: Wednesday 2 December 2015
- Year 6 into 7 Orientation Day: Thursday 3 December 2015
- Jamberoo Sports Reward Excursion: Friday 4 December 2015
- Year 10 Excursion Day: Tuesday 8 December 2015
Deputy Principal Report

Congratulations must go to our Year 11 students, who have approached the start of their HSC course with enthusiasm and commitment. The behaviour of this year group is exemplary and it is easy to see that they are very mature and conscientious in their attitude to senior schooling. One of the keys to success in the HSC is consistency in terms of revision and home study. Students who commit to a program of regular revision and study right from the beginning of the course (and who maintain that program throughout the year) will have an excellent chance of success and will minimise their stress around examinations.

Year 11 students will have by now started their program of HSC assessment tasks. It is extremely important that all Year 11 students and parents are familiar with school and BOSTES rules regarding the completion and submission of assessment tasks. All students in Year 11 will have a copy of our 2016 HSC assessment booklet, which outlines tasks from all subject areas and which provides information on procedures for assessment tasks. The BOSTES website is another source of information on HSC assessments.

Our junior students are to be congratulated on completing their yearly examinations. Examinations are now being marked by teachers, and final reports are being written. While there are some exciting activities being organised for students as the end of the year approaches, all students should be aware that there is still learning to be done and our expectations of students' work ethic will remain high. Many subjects are beginning new units of work and are preparing students for their next year of learning.

Our annual Boys and Girls Day has been organised this year by Mr Arthur and Mrs Wellington. On this day a range of exciting activities were on offer for our students and I thank Mr Arthur and Mrs Wellington for all their hard work in organising this event.

Thank you for your continued support of our uniform policy. Our expectation is that all students are in full school uniform at all times. The wearing of uniform is often a reflection of a student’s attitude to the learning environment and it is important that all of our students continue to show pride in our school through the wearing of full school uniform. Please remain strong on uniform and consider our uniform requirements carefully when making purchases in preparation for the 2016 school year.

Regards

Mrs Donna Pooley
Deputy Principal (relieving)
Years 7, 9 and 11

Support Unit

Senior Program

This term the Support Unit senior students have been developing their team building skills with the maintenance of the Courtyard garden. The garden provides an opportunity for students to develop their landscaping skills as well as actively participate in providing Mount Annan High School with a greener environment. These activities also enhance learnt knowledge from their ‘Work and the Community’ program of study.

The senior students continue to excel at their Work Experience program. Mitchell Pond (Macarthur Sustainable Living) and Bradley Lee (Coles, Mount Annan) have illustrated a high level of commitment and dedication to this opportunity.

Reward Excursion.

Our reward excursion planned for Go-Karting at Minto had to be suddenly changed due to the large amount of rain just prior to the day. Following some quick phone calls a change of venue was soon established to avoid any disappointment by students.

The day started with excitement at the Macarthur Bowling Centre. Fun was had by students playing Laser Skirmish followed by some very skilful bowling. The excursion finished with lunch at the Food Court.

Students were to be congratulated on their adjustment to changes on the day and behaviour was exemplary.

Bird Rescue

Every year we are visited by ‘Welcome Swallows’ who nest above the entry of G2. After arriving one morning to find one of the baby birds on the ground and the stressed Swallow parents swooping in and out of the nesting area we decided to call ‘WIRES’. Due to the height of the original nest a temporary nest was made by Support Staff and attached to the wall. Tracey from ‘WIRES’ arrived and was impressed by the nest we had made. She checked the tiny bird and relocated it to our new nest. Soon after, the Welcome Swallows were reunited with their baby which made students and staff very happy.
News from the Office

Hello from all the SAS staff at Mount Annan High School. We have had a great 2015.

Thank you to all the parents who have paid their fees. These fees are important to our school, especially for the electives that your child chooses. There are items that need to be purchased for students to complete these electives. We have several options for payment - eftpos, cash or cheques. If you are having any difficulty paying fees please contact me in the office as we may be able to provide assistance.

Good luck to all our Year 12 students on their future endeavours. They should all be very proud of their achievements and the great people they have become.

I’d like to take this opportunity to thank all the SAS staff and Teachers Aides. They all do a great job. The office staff are the front line for Mount Annan High School and do a fantastic job on welcoming visitors and promoting our School. Our Science, TAS, printroom and Library assistants are an asset to their faculties and work tirelessly helping these teachers. Our SLSO’s (teachers aides) do a great job in supporting our students with extra needs. The School Administrative and Support Staff all do a fantastic job. They are all proud to work here and are proud of our Students and School.

Wishing you all a very Happy and Safe Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

Margaret Burns
School Administrative Manager

Mount Annan Working with the Community

Narellan Men’s Shed working with Mount Annan High School and giving back to the community as this is the core of the group’s activities.

Recently Ms Robyn Hunt from the CAPA Faculty at Mount Annan High School was involved in trying to access services to build a new trolley for the CAPA Faculty. This was to assist with the moving of equipment from rooms around the school when setting up musical productions, assemblies and events in the school hall.

All the efforts that were put into finding a service were exhausted and on the off chance a phone call was made to the Narellan’s Men’s Shed to see if they could assist in any way. To our delight we were told that if we sent the specifications to them it would be considered at their next meeting.

Two days later we were told that it was possible to build a trolley for us and work commenced almost immediately. The trolley was completed in around a week, due to the commitment from the members and the hard work they put into completing it for our next school function.

We would like to thank all the members of the Narellan’s Men Shed for the wonderful contribution in building our trolley, it will save endless hours of manually taking equipment to different areas of the school.

The Narellan’s Men Shed is built next to the Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living at Mount Annan, the shed has linked with Narellan Lions and other organisations in the community for a number of projects. Narellan Rotary helped raise funds for the shed’s construction.

The shed’s philosophy was to assist those in need. "We focus on giving back to the community, but in between that we make things to sell in the future to raise money for more shed equipment.

Narellan Men’s Shed
Next to the Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living
WHEN: Meets Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8am-2pm
DETAILS: 0488 347 585

Mark de Gruchy

Technology Upgrades at Mount Annan High School

Over the past three years Mount Annan High School has been very active in establishing up to date technology and resources to bring our students into the twenty first century. We have done this by looking at new technologies that will assist students in completing literacy and numeracy initiatives and ensuring they have the skills to take into the work environment after school life.
Recently teachers were given Microsoft Surface RT Tablets which enables them to bring current events, school procedures and new ways of teaching to ensure student engagement is maintained. Other initiatives like the use of Dragon Speaking software, Interactive projectors and TV’s has helped with bringing important content to the classrooms.

Mark de Gruchy

School Opal Card 2016

Please see the attached information regarding the introduction of School Opal cards which will be replacing travel passes next year.

Cobbitty Village Markets

Cobbitty Village Market is a vibrant well-known country-style craft market that has been run by local community volunteers since May 1982. It provides quality unique crafts and produce, drawing large crowds of visitors from local and wider Sydney/NSW areas. As a non-profit organization, the market also functions as an important local fundraiser, typically raising $40-50,000 each year that is distributed to local community groups, charities, and the disadvantaged.

The markets are held on Cobbitty Public School grounds on the first Saturday of each month except for January and February, and are open to the public from 8am-1pm. There are a large variety of stalls providing predominantly homemade art and craft, delicious foods and beverages to take home or eat at the market; some of which are provided by local groups including Lion’s club, School P&C, and Scouts, for their own fund-raising. There is also entertainment, including local bands and groups. There is parking for 1,000 cars behind the school/along Cobbitty Road. We warmly welcome all visitors to our market, and encourage anyone interested in joining our volunteer market committee to contact us on 0438 512728 or visit our website www.cobbittymarkets.com.au

Cobbitty Village Markets Committee

SaverPlus

After 12 years, Saver Plus has been refunded again to assist low-income families, and individuals who are studying, to

1. Develop a savings habit,
2. Further their money skills and
3. Receive up to $500 free matched savings to spend on education expenses – uniforms, computers, subject fees, after-school activities, camps and much more!

We are NOW OPEN for new people to join and start saving for a better future.

Anyone who ticks the boxes of eligibility is welcome to join –

1. 18 yrs and over, and
2. Centrelink Healthcare or Pension Card, and
3. A child in school or studying themselves (2015 or 2016 ok), and
4. Some income from ‘work’ – them or their partner or even a child’s income – part-time, full-time, casual or even cash in hand is eligible.

Information is attached. Any questions, call Liz.

Liz Tinney

Phone 46 333 722 or Mobile 0407 310 205

Japanese School Excursion

The annual student exchange between high school students from Camden and Narellan areas and students from Kashiwa City in Japan is planned for the October holidays 2016.

If you are interested in finding out more details about this exciting opportunity, please contact Jay Lim from MAHS on 4648 0111.

There will be an information evening early in 2016.

Macarthur No Interest Loan Scheme

Macarthur NILS lends up to $1200.00 for a variety of essential household items such as refrigerators, washing machines, household furniture and computers. We also lend for essential services such as green slips.

Our loans can also help families with children take part in school camps, major sporting representation, and to have complete school uniforms.

Repayments are tailored to suit your budget and start at around $30 a fortnight.
All of our loans have no interest and no charges.

You can apply for a loan if you have lived in the Macarthur area for the past three months, have a Health Care Card or a Centrelink Pension Card, and have enough in your budget to easily repay a loan.

To apply please call us on 4625 6487 or email us at admin@macarthurnils.org.au. We are located at 22 Iolanthe Street, Campbelltown.

We have also attached our service’s brochure for your information.

Camden Youth Outreach

Please find attached information on an assortment of activities offered through Camden’s Youth Outreach program.

P&C Fundraising News

As a P&C fundraising initiative, we have joined the Quickbeds Grassroot Fundraising Program. For every hotel accommodation that parents book through Quickbeds, using our unique club code and link, our school will receive a percentage of the booking cost.

For more information, please collect a leaflet from the office or contact Brooke Groat on 4648 0111.

Michelle Delaney
Fundraising Co-ordinator

The next E-Newsletter will come out on Wednesday 9 December 2015, the last for 2015.

Term Four Assessment Schedule

TERM 4
Year 10

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<td>Mathematics Advanced</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
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<td>Senior Science – Assessment Task 1</td>
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