5 February 2015

Principal’s Report

Welcome back to 2015! Congratulations to all students who successfully completed their HSC in 2014. Our DUX for 2014 is Nathan Archer, closely followed by Jordan Thompson. I wish to congratulate these students in particular for their achievement and to all Year 12 from 2014 for their excellent efforts during their HSC. Much praise and thanks should go to all teachers of Year 12; in an analysis of results it is obvious that this cohort has attained high band results in a number of subjects due to the combined efforts of teachers and students.

I wish to welcome new members of staff to the Mathematics Faculty: Mr Bikram Bhogal and Ms Jady Walker, who is returning to us from a secondment of many years to take up the role of Relieving Head Teacher Mathematics. In another Mathematics achievement, I would like to congratulate Mrs Danniya Ravindran for her son’s excellent results in the 2014 HSC. Mrs Ravindran coached her son in 2 Unit Mathematics, and Extension 1 and Extension 2 Mathematics, which I am sure was a big part of his 99.4 ATAR. He will now be taking up an offer to study Medicine at university, and we wish him well in this.

I would also like to welcome Mr Dave Arthur, who has taken up the role of Head Teacher PD/H/PE. Mr Arthur has worked in Macarthur schools for many years and comes to us with a huge amount of experience in our area. I would like to thank Ms Sara Bos for supporting us as Relieving Head Teacher PD/H/PE until Mr Arthur could take up the position. She has put in a sterling effort, and all of us in Mount Annan High School community appreciate her dedication and work supporting all our students, as well as her colleagues in the faculty.

Thank you for your contribution to our data for development of our new school plan. All DEC schools are currently working on their plans to provide direction for their schools from 2015 – 2017. Our whole community has been surveyed to support this development and we have reached the point where we have developed three strategic directions as part of the requirements. Mrs Nancy Maher, Head Teacher TAS, has been leading this team and we will be continuing to work on this during Term 1, 2015.

Dr Reece gave his last Principal’s Address at our Night of Excellence in the last week of Term 4, 2014. He was very happy to receive his gift from staff, which was a signed and framed Canterbury Bulldogs jersey. Dr Reece is a very big Bulldogs supporter, but more than this he was particularly pleased that it was purchased in a silent auction at Lizzie’s Luncheon, a fundraising lunch for the Australasian Tuberous Sclerosis Society. This organisation raises funds to support children and their families who have Tuberous Sclerosis. Dr Reece will remain on leave until his retirement in July, 2015.

I would like to wish you a happy, healthy and successful 2015.

Mrs Maree Kovac
Relieving Principal

Outstanding Student Achievement

Staff and students at Mount Annan High School congratulate Lillian Chan on coming fourth in the state in the Human Services Examination as part of her Certificate III in Health Services Assistance (Assisting in Nursing work in Acute Care) course. This is an outstanding achievement.

Lillian plans to continue her nursing studies at university in 2015. Lillian has a particular interest in midwifery but will consider other opportunities she encounters in her tertiary studies. Lillian’s calm demeanour and outstanding work ethic will assure her of success in whatever field she endeavours to pursue. Well done Lillian!

2014 Award Recipients

Attached is a full list of our award recipients for 2014. These awards were presented at the Year 12 Graduation and Night of Excellence. Congratulations to all of our students on their achievements last year.

HSC Achievers

Congratulations to Nathan Archer who is our Dux for 2014. Below are the list of students who achieved Band 5 or above in one or more subjects

- Nathan Archer (Distinguished Achiever)
- Matthew Ash (Distinguished Achiever)
- Serena Barsby
- Bonnie Chamberlain
- Lillian Chan (Distinguished Achiever)
- Luke Cockcroft (Distinguished Achiever)
- Brendan Groot
- Cody Darby
- Adrian Darr

Please note: Due to limited space, please visit our website at http://www.mountannan-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/ for a full list of the award winners.
Deputy Principal’s Report

Welcome to the 2015 school year.

Year 7 students have settled into their new learning environment with ease, and they seem to be very excited about all the new opportunities ahead. I would like to commend the Year 7 students for their excellent behaviour during their first week of school. They have been consistently positive, cooperative and well-mannered.

By now, all Year 7 students will have received their school diaries. All homework and assessment tasks are to be written in the diary, so it is worthwhile for you to look through your child’s diary on a regular basis to help them organise their workload and to monitor their progress. Coordinating homework and assessment tasks from a range of subjects can initially be overwhelming for Year 7 students, so they may need your assistance to break large tasks down into chunks and to allocate time accordingly.

Year 9 students are now moving into a new phase of their schooling and are very keen be able to undertake some subjects of their own choosing. It’s great to see them return with enthusiasm and with positive attitudes. They seem very well-prepared for the year ahead.

Year 11 students have been issued with their Preliminary HSC assessment booklets. This booklet outlines the policies and procedures around Year 11 assessment tasks and lists all assessment tasks for all subjects, including the weighting for each task. It is important that students read and understand all the information in the booklet to avoid any possible problems with assessments throughout the year.

Most students have returned in full school uniform and I congratulate them on this. We appreciate your support with our uniform code and hope that our students continue to do the right thing with regard to the wearing of uniform.

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

ATTENTION PARENTS & CAREGIVERS

Information from 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, it is the responsibility of the parent/carer 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

Next P&C Meeting

The next P&C meeting is on Tuesday 10 February at 7:30pm in the school library.

Upcoming Events

- Year 12 UOW Discovery Day: Tuesday 3 February 2015
- Year 7 ID Cards: Tuesday 10 February 2015
- P&C Meeting in Library at 7:30: Tuesday 10 February 2015
- Year 10 Geography Excursion: Tuesday 24 February 2015
- Swimming Carnival – Camden Pool: Thursday 26 February 2015
- Macarthur Zone Swimming Carnival: Tuesday 3 March 2015
- Year 7 Vaccinations: Tuesday 10 March 2015
- Year 6 into 7 Information Evening: Tuesday 10 March 2015
- SSW Regional Swimming Carnival: Monday 16 March 2015
- Year 12 Half Yearly Examinations: Wednesday 25 March 2015 till Thursday 2 April 2015
- Last day of Term 1: Thursday 2 April 2015
- Good Friday: Friday 3 April 2015
- First day of Term 2 for students: Tuesday 21 April 2015

Sarah Davey (Distinguished Achiever)
Bradley Hasiuk
Noor Jafar
Zhi Yi Khoo
Tracey Lewis
Joshua Maxwell
Ashley Middleton
Katelyn Mills
Cameron Milroy
Ainslie Mulquiny
Rhonda Phrakaysone
Nicole Seymour
Sonika Singh
Ryan Sneesby
Tiffany Spink (Distinguished Achiever)
Akhila Sunimon
Jordan Thompson (Distinguished Achiever)
Briannan Triggs
Katrina Vo
Sarah Whitehead
and through regular attendance at school can 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.

Conferences 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.

**TAS Faculty**

The TAS faculty plan for 2015-2017 will focus on three key areas:

1. Teaching and Learning
2. Student engagement and Achievement
3. Community Participation

The TAS faculty consists of:-

- Mrs N Maher Head Teacher
- Mr M de Gruchy 2 I/C
- Mrs M Woolley
- Mr T Goodsell
- Mr J Bates
- Mrs J Gross
- Mrs F Watts

It is very important for parents to communicate with teachers. If you have a question, it is wise to contact the class teacher or speak directly with myself.

TAS teachers set regular homework for students. Please help us by regularly checking to see what homework has been given. On average, students should be doing 30 mins – 1 hour of homework in TAS. As HT TAS, I check homework diaries regularly — at least 3-5 times per term. It is expected that homework diaries be brought to school each day. For each TAS lesson, the diary must be out on students’ desks to enter in the homework and when it is due.

Some TAS teachers will use Edmodo.com for the setting of homework. If your child’s teacher uses Edmodo.com, then your child will be invited to join the group. They will need a code that will be given to them by their classroom teacher. Teachers will instruct students on how to join. It is very easy and user-friendly. This powerful tool teaches students effective time management skills, as a calendar can be published by the teacher to let students know of important class lessons, for example, or when demonstrations and practicals are due in TAS.

During the first few weeks of the new school year, your child will be issued with:-

1. Course requirements
2. Course Fees sheets – all TAS courses have a fee. This fee can be paid in full or in instalments. I respectfully ask that TAS fees be paid as soon as possible. It is important for parents to realise that TAS course fees enable us, as a faculty, to purchase food, timber and textiles for students to work with in practicals. Many practical projects are completed throughout the year and our theory lessons relate to practical work.

Students enjoy working on their practical projects. Unfortunately, students are not allowed to take their completed practical work home if they have not paid their course fees.

3. Safety and Footwear Information
4. Assessment schedules
5. Assessment tasks

The TAS faculty wishes students to have a very successful year. We look forward to working with all students and helping them achieve the outcomes of the course.

**Mrs N Maher**

**Head Teacher TAS**

**CAPA and LOTE**

Welcome back to the school year for 2015 from our faculty.

We are still excited about our achievements from last year, including our beyondblue Concert, our Japanese exchange visit, our first school play - *Family Running for Mr Whippy*, our consistently high standard of Visual Arts Exhibitions, and the pleasing 2014 HSC results attained by the CAPA/LOTE students.

Planning is underway for a number of extra-curricular events:

**Music**

F.Rock, the Rock Band initiative for girls only, will continue this year on Monday afternoons, after school in the Music Block.

Rock Band, also an after-school activity, for both girls and boys, will be held on Wednesday afternoons after school.

Musicianship and Theory Tutorial will be offered on Wednesday mornings at 8.30am.

Parental information and permission notes will be distributed for these programs this week.
Visual Arts
The Visual Arts Workshop will be continuing in 2015, on Thursday afternoons after school from 3.00 until 4.30pm, in C12.

Drama
Year 12 Drama will be attending OnStage, the Board of Studies exhibition of exemplary works from the 2014 HSC Drama exam, at The Seymour Centre in The University of Sydney. The excursion is on Friday 13 February. Students are reminded to hand in their permission slips and ticket money to the office.

Japanese
Following the successful participation of Mr Lim and two of our students to the CIFA Japanese Exchange Visit in 2014, interested MAHS students are invited to attend the CIFA Information Evening at Elizabeth Macarthur High on Tuesday 3 February, at 7.30 pm, to learn about the 2015 Exchange Trip.

Flying start for Year 7
I am very pleased that Year 7 settled into their first day of High School and by the end of the week they were flying from class to class. It has been delightful to meet our new Year 7 students and to watch them settle in and work hard in their classrooms. Mr de Gruchy and I are looking forward to a positive year with Year 7. We will guide, watch and support them into creating a strong foundation at high school, not only from an academic perspective, but with their sporting achievements and social interactions also.

On the first day they received their timetables and were off to period 1 without any dramas. At recess and lunch they were very settled and some were already playing handball, eating lunch on their steps, visiting the canteen and going to the library to begin assessments.

Please feel free to contact me with any of your concerns and questions.

Mrs M Woolley
Year 7 Advisor

We would like to extend a warm welcome and introduce ourselves to our new Mount Annan families and welcome back our existing families.

Mount Annan High School Office is led by:

- Mrs Margaret Burns – Administration Manager
- Mrs Tracey German – Enrolments
- Mrs Linda Green – Finance
- Mrs Brooke Groat – Absences
- Mrs Lynette Cresniki - Receptions
- Mrs Maureen Willacy – Print room
- Mrs Wendy Brennan – TAS
- Mrs Gail Chambers – Science
- Mrs Julie-Anne McGrath – Library
- Mrs Kathleen Wigan, Mrs Brenda Gaskin, Mrs Denise Markus - SLSO Special Education Unit
- Mrs Toni Jones, Mrs Sharon Gorman, Mrs Tracey White – SLSO Integration.

The Mount Annan High School Office is here to assist our students and families in any way we can. Please feel free to phone us or come in with any enquiries. Statement of accounts will hopefully be sent out to families by the end of Term 1.

We are hoping for a wonderful 2015.

Margaret Burns
Administration Manager

G’day USA 2015
On 29 December 2014, a group of 27 students and 4 teachers departed Sydney Airport on a 13 ½ hour flight to Los Angeles, California. The trip was kick-started with a free day to explore the local area and look at the views by the beach.

We spent 4 nights and 5 days in LA. We went to many places like San Diego Zoo, Disneyland, Hollywood and Knott’s Berry Farm Theme Park. We had an absolute blast at these places and the experience has given us lasting memories for years to come.

On Friday we left our first hotel and went to the airport to depart for Portland. It was a 4 hour flight (not including the switch-over) to Portland airport, from where we collected our luggage and met the bus that was taking us to meet our host families.

The 10 day hosting was nothing but amazing. We spent two free weekends with them and 6 school days. Monday to Thursday we went on a tour while our host students went to school. This would go from 7:40 am until 2:40 in the afternoon.

We went to places like the Columbia River Gorge, the famous Shanghai Tunnels (underneath downtown Portland) and Skibowl, which is operated at Mount Hood for a day of skiing. There were lots of slips and falls but it went well for our first lesson.

We left Portland on Tuesday 13 January. Saying goodbye to our hosts was very sad. We went to the airport and boarded the plane. Within 5 hours, we arrived in San Francisco late that afternoon.
The rest of the day was given up to exploring an area near our last hotel. We had lunch and had heaps of fun looking at what things the stores had for sale (well, most of them anyway) and the time (over 2 hours) flew like it was nothing.

The next day we went down to Pier 39 in Fisherman’s Wharf, and also went to Union Square which was located nearby. We went on a tour of the bay and got to sail under the Golden Gate Bridge and right past the famous Alcatraz Prison. After the tour we spent a few hours looking around, enjoying our second last day in the States.

On our final day we went to the Golden Gate Bridge and got the exciting opportunity to walk across the 6km walkway. The walk took us about 50 minutes as a group and we then continued up to another bridge next to it, which is the only one of its kind in the world to have a design which allows it to lift two levels without disturbing much traffic.

We also went past places like Little Italy, Chinatown and Treasure Island.

After we visited the city we went to the Airport and boarded the plane for our flight back to Australia. This trip was a fantastic highlight in my life and hopefully….just hopefully, I’ll be lucky enough to do it next time.

Zac Bruce

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The Next E-Newsletter

The next E-Newsletter will come out on Wednesday 18 February 2015.

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Term One Assessment Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th>Year 10</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>CAPA, English, HSIE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
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<td>English – Critical Response</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Music – Technical Work</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Music – Listening Exam</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Music – Solo Japanese – Task 1 History – In Class Essay</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Music – Theory Test Geography – Research Essay</td>
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Term 11

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<td>Faculty</td>
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| Week 5 | Music – Core Performance & Aural Exam  
English Extension 1 – Tutorial Presentation |
| Week 6 | English Extension 2 – Viva Voce  
Modern History – Research Essay |
| Week 7 | Music – Musicology Viva Voce  
Ancient History – Oral Present/Written Report  
Society & Culture – Research Essay |
| Week 8 | Japanese – Task 1 – Reading  
Standard English – Listening/Short Answer  
Adv English – Viewing & Representing Task  
Legal Studies – Research Essay |
| Week 9 | Standard English – Area of Study Half Yearly Exam  
Advanced English – Area of Study Half Yearly Exam  
English Studies – Essay  
HSIE – Half Yearly Exams  
Mathematics – Assessment Task 2  
Mathematics – Half Yearly Exams  
PDHPE – Half Yearly Exam  
CAFS – Half Yearly Exam  
Science – Half Yearly Exams |
| Week 10 | Drama – Task 3  
Japanese – Task 2 – Writing  
Standard English – Area of Study Half Yearly Exam  
Advanced English – Area of Study Half Yearly Exam  
HSIE – Half Yearly Exams |