Welcome back to the new school year! I trust everyone had a peaceful and relaxing Christmas and New Year break and that our students are prepared for another big year ahead. I’m personally really looking forward to 2016, as my first full year at Mount Annan and the year that we will implement some of the exciting initiatives we have developed to support your children to reach their potential and ‘be the best they can be’.

Firstly, I would like to welcome a number of new staff to the school who will all bring a great deal of experience and enthusiasm to Mount Annan. Mr Dale White was successful in securing the Head Teacher Administration position at the end of last year after seven years in the same role at Leumeah High School. Besides his important whole school role, Mr White is also a PDHPE teacher and has worked as a Home School Liaison Officer, so we look forward to the expertise and leadership he will bring to the school. Ms Sharon Murphy is a highly experienced Science teacher who comes to us from Camden High School, where she was very highly regarded by the school community, so we are very fortunate to have her joining us as a permanent member of staff. Also in Science, we welcome Mr Peter Lowry who comes to us after working at Miller High School. Ms Stefanie Peiris is an excellent early career teacher who has joined the Mathematics faculty after being appointed in Term 3 last year. Finally we also welcome Ms Rosie Russell and Mr Christian Gillett who are joining the Creative and Performing Arts faculty as Drama teachers from Endeavour Sports High School and Robert Townson High Schools respectively. Both are highly skilled classroom practitioners who have already made a positive first impression at the school. We wish all our new staff a long and very happy stay at Mount Annan.

As I mentioned at the start of this report, 2016 will be an exciting year because of the programs and initiatives we are looking to introduce to support student learning and staff professional development. These include the Learning Centre, where our Year 12 students are given additional assistance to meet the demands of their HSC courses by Ms Sheetal Krishnan, our fulltime co-ordinator, our Learning Partners program, which provides students from our partner primary schools of Mount Annan, Currans Hill and Oran Park the chance to access a range of opportunities that the high school can offer and the programs offered by ABCN (The Australian Business and Community Network) where staff from the corporate sector mentor and guide our students in a range of career and study focussed areas. Our staff will also have access this year to a range of high quality professional learning as well as leadership development under the Aspire program. All in all, it will be an extremely busy year ahead but a really important one for the school.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Luke Bellamy from Year 10 for his achievements as a member of the NSW Under 17’s Softball team, who defeated Queensland 5-4 to win the National Title during January. Luke was the first recipient of our Elite Athlete Scholarship and represented his family, his school and his state with great pride, so I wish him all the best for his ongoing sporting endeavours. Well done Luke!

Brad Mitchell
Principal
2015 Award Recipients

Attached is a full list of our award recipients for 2015. These awards were presented at the Year 12 Graduation and Night of Excellence. Congratulations to all of our students on their achievements last year.

Coffee for a Cause Fundraiser

Coffee has now arrived and selling fast. GET IN QUICK.
We only have 14 bags 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.
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, 9 February at 7:30pm in the school library. Please come and support your P&C.

Upcoming Events

- School Swimming Carnival – Camden Pool: Thursday 4 February 2016
- P&C Meeting 7.30pm in the Library: Tuesday 9 February 2016
- Macarthur Zone Sport Trials: Wednesday 17 February 2016
- Year 7 Library ID and New Enrolment Photos: Wednesday 17 February 2016
- Macarthur Zone Swimming Carnival – Camden Pool: Tuesday 1 March 2016
- Europe 2016 Parent Meeting 4-5.30pm: Tuesday 1 March 2016
- Year 6 into Year 7 Information Evening: Wednesday 2 March 2016
- SSW Regional Swimming Carnival: Monday 14 March 2016
- Year 12 HSC Half Yearly Examinations: Monday 21 March 2016 – Friday 1 April 2016
- P&C Meeting 7.30pm in the Library: Tuesday 22 March 2016
- Good Friday: Friday 25 March 2016
- Easter Monday: Monday 28 March 2016
- School Photo Day Years 7-11: Friday 1 April 2016
- NSW CHS Swimming Carnival: Monday 4 April 2016 – Tuesday 5 April 2016
- Year 7 Vaccination: Monday 4 April 2016
- School Photo Day Year 12 and Make-up Day: Wednesday 6 April 2016
- LAST DAY OF TERM: Friday 8 April 2016

Deputy Principal Report

Welcome back to all our families for the 2016 school year. It was wonderful to see all of our students in full school uniform, back safe and eager to start the year. Year 7, 11 & 12 had a brief assembly and welcome back before beginning their classes immediately on Thursday and Year 8, 9 & 10 followed the same process on Friday. Walking around the playground it is lovely to see how well our students have settled in.

We have both been busy interviewing our new students and their families to ensure that our new students are placed in correct classes and are orientated to Mount Annan High School.

Uniform is important for not only Work, Health and Safety reasons but also shows pride in the school community. Our new uniform procedures are continuing in 2016 with Mrs Villanueva and Mr Goodsell monitoring uniform. Students who cannot wear the school uniform for any reason need to bring a note from home and see Mrs Villanueva or Mr Goodsell in the uniform office before school. Students who do not present to the office in the morning may receive a detention.

Our welfare team at Mount Annan High School work closely with the senior executive to ensure that your child’s needs are met. Our team are your first point of contact if you have any questions about the learning or social needs of your child.

The Welfare Team for 2016 is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of Responsibility</th>
<th>Staff Member</th>
<th>Faculty Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 6 – 7 Transition Coordinator</td>
<td>Mr Castillon</td>
<td>CAPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervisor Girls</td>
<td>Mrs Wellington</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Representative Council</td>
<td>Mrs Watts</td>
<td>TAS/Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>Ms Bos and Mr Garland</td>
<td>PDHPE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>Mrs Woolley and Mr De Gruchy</td>
<td>TAS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>Mr Murray</td>
<td>PDHPE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td>Mr Hughes and Ms Coluccio</td>
<td>HSIE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 11</td>
<td>Mrs Savage and Mr Johnson</td>
<td>HSIE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 12</td>
<td>Mrs Dawson and Mr Allen</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We also have responsibilities for different year groups. In 2016 it is as follows:

Mrs Kovac – Years 8, 10 & 12
Ms Harris – Year 7, 9 & 11

We look forward to a great 2016 for all our students and families.

Ms Kristie Harris and Mrs Maree Kovac
Deputy Principal

**TAS News**

The TAS staff at MAHS would like to welcome all students back for the 2016 school year.

It is timely to introduce the TAS staff to parents. The TAS staff includes:-

- Mrs N Maher Head Teacher TAS
- Mr M De Gruchy Teacher (2 i/c)
- Mr J Bates Teacher
- Mrs J Gross Teacher
- Mr T Goodsell Teacher
- Mrs M Woolley Teacher and Year 8 Adviser 2016
- Mrs F Watts Teacher

The TAS curriculum for 2016 includes Stage 4 Technology Mandatory for Year 7-8. In Stage 5 we are fortunate to have classes in Food Technology; Industrial Technology (Wood and Building & Construction); Textile Technology; Information Software and Technology. This year we were successful in establishing Design and Technology into our curriculum. In Stage 6 we were successful in establishing courses in Information Digital Technology; Hospitality and Industrial Technology Multimedia.

Students must come prepared for all lessons. The TAS teacher will explain what equipment is required in regards to stationery.

It is imperative that for students to be successful in TAS that they maintain a record of all classwork. Many TAS teachers use Edmodo.com and Moodle or some other DEC package designed for independent learning and completion of class work ie homework.

All TAS courses have course fees to be paid. Students are to bring money to the office and a receipt will be issued. This receipt is then taken to the class teacher to record the course fee number. Course fees cover expenses incurred during the effective delivery of the course. In some instances school assistance can be applied for at our school office. It is also possible to pay course fees in instalments.

Students must wear closed in black leather shoes in our workshops at all times. Safety is a primary concern for all TAS teachers. During the first lessons of the term students will have the opportunity to participate in a number of safety orientated lessons. These include safe use of materials, tools and equipment. It is paramount that students work safely in our workshops.

In many courses an apron must be worn during practical lessons. Please ensure that an apron is purchased for any course eg Food Technology where the teacher requires the wearing of an apron. In some courses the faculty supplies the apron for student use.

During the first few lessons all TAS students will receive a course outline and assessment schedule. Please ask your child to show you these. Students will be given regular homework by their TAS teacher.

Achievement of all students’ skills and talents is recognised in the TAS faculty. Students should aim to do their personal best at all times. Students are awarded certificates for STRIVE, RESPECT and COOPERATION - the schools core values. Students must also ask their teacher for assistance if required if they do not understand any aspect of their course work - particularly assessment tasks. On that note assessment tasks should be given at the start of the unit and then students will work through the task with teacher guidance and support at all times. Students in TAS are taught specifically to PLAN and ORGANISE assessment tasks. It is important for students to have a homework diary as well.

It will be a busy year for TAS students and I would like to wish all well for a personally successful 2016.

Mrs N Maher
Head Teacher TAS

**Science News**

Welcome back to a new year. We hope that you all had a wonderful break and are happy, healthy and ready for another year of learning.

**Science Dictionaries**

As an initiative to support learning Literacy in Science and to complement the new National Curriculum for Years 7 – 10 , a Science Dictionary has been produced and provided to your child for use at home. The definitions in the dictionary match those in our new programs and all of our tasks – so that students are able to reinforce concepts at home. There was considerable cost in producing these dictionaries and the payment of fees helps to support this. Your child is only going to be issued with the dictionary ONCE for Year 7 through to Year 10 and if they lose it, a $5 payment to the office and then the receipt brought to Mrs Villanueva, to purchase another one. Year 7 dictionaries will be distributed in week 4.

**Course outlines for 2016**

Please see the attached Scope and Sequence documents for an outline of all junior courses and refer to the Board of Studies website to access the Senior Syllabi if necessary.

**Fees**

Thank you to those families who have paid the Science fee. If you were unaware, each Science course from Years 7 - 12 has a fee which is used for student consumable items only.

The Office will be issuing an invoice for fees in the next few weeks.

Year 7 - 10 fee is $15 per year.
Year 11 fee per subject - Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Senior Science is $20 each.
Year 12 fee per subject - Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Senior Science is $20 each.

By paying this Subject fee, your child will experience more exciting and fun filled experiments as the Science Faculty can spend more money on consumables, one off use, experimental and class use items. For example – glue, pencils, chemicals for experiments, jars and bags for bringing home ‘slime’, cups and popcorn for making popcorn, plasticine and toothpicks for making models, cardboard and Textas for mind maps and posters, Plaster of Paris for making fossils, items (kidney, heart etc) for dissection – the list is endless.

Not all junior classes will perform all of the practicals that are possible. Each junior topic has three Mandatory practicals and then additional practicals are at the discretion of the teacher and the availability of funds. Senior classes will of course, perform all Mandatory Practicals as set out in the Syllabus for that subject by the Board of Studies.

The fee also covers the replacement of accidentally broken glassware/equipment to keep the Laboratories stocked and prevent us asking parents to pay for accidental breakages in the Laboratory.

The Science Faculty would like to thank the students for a wonderful start to the year and look forward to a lot of learning. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me or your child’s class teacher.

Yours sincerely
Mrs Villanueva
Head Teacher Science

French Consulate Visit and State Library of NSW - 15 December 2015

Members of the Mount Annan High School (MAHS) and Elizabeth Macarthur High School (EMHS) Europe Tour 2016 party and some school captains, were invited to attend a reception with the French Consul General after meeting with him at the United Nations Commemoration Wreath laying in October 2015.

Mr Backhouse was accompanied by School Captains Vanessa Fryer and Zac Bruce and Vice-Captain Samantha Kable as well as tour party members; Anita Watene, Karla Dinclik, Lauren Cislowski, Derrick Luvuhte, Allysah Poletti and Layce Thompson. Ms J Bowring, PE teacher from EMHS was accompanied by Connor Gilmore, Lyana Nabaro and Katie Scharfe.

At the reception Consul-General Nicolas Croizer was happy to share information about the places we will be visiting in France and spoke at length about the shared common values between France and Australia of Liberte, Fraternity and Egaltere which is translated as Freedom, Friendship and Equality. Monsieur Croizer introduced us to Mr John Mac Coll a third generation French man whose Grandfather was a Scottish soldier who married his French sweetheart after World War 1. Mr Mac Coll is coordinating the celebration of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Battle of Poziers in 2016. He has offered to arrange another reception for us by the Mayor of Poziers when we visit there in April 2016 during our Tour of the Western Front.

The students shared their expectation stories of France and outlined the highlights of our wonderful visit. Our students presented Monsieur Croizer with a school tie and mug from MAHS, and a champagne flute and pen from EMHS lasting mementos of our visit. The morning at the French Consulate will long be remembered by all those that took part. Both Mr Mac Coll and Monsieur Croizer were happy to pose for some photos when we finished which are included with this report.

We then went and had lunch and took a walk through the streets of Sydney in training for the walking we will be required to do on the Europe Tour next year. It was clear that some students may need to do some training so that they can keep up with Mr Backhouse and Ms Bowring!

We arrived at the State Library of NSW with minutes to spare and were guided through a visit by Prudence a friendly library staff member. She showed us the main parts of the library and the students were able to pick up their State Library of NSW library cards which will give them access to the best research library and eResources in Australia. Prudence explained how to use the search engines and the students still had time to visit the Mitchell Library and have their photo taken in front of the biggest book in the library … a huge atlas. Then it was a quick exit to catch our train from St James Station and back to Campbelltown by 3.15pm.

I Backhouse
Head Teacher HSIE

Aboriginal Education

We would like to welcome all of our new and current Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students back to another exciting year at Mount Annan High School. We look forward to working with them and their families in 2016.

At the end of 2015 we nominated a number of students for KARI Awards and one of our students was successful in winning an award. Hamani Tanginoa was awarded the KARI all-rounder award in 2015 for the second consecutive year.

Our Aboriginal student of the Year 2015 was Emily Backhouse. She was presented with this award at the Night of Excellence.

During Term 4 the NRL School to Work program started for willing participants in Years 10-12. The program aids students in working towards their career and higher education goals. It also provides students the opportunity to participate in other courses run in conjunction with the NRL such as first aid courses.
Kirinari Homework Centre is holding a BBQ for all our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families on Tuesday 16 February 2016 in the school’s library. During the event students and their families will be able to have a look through the homework centre and talk with a number of staff who are involved as tutors for the centre. During the BBQ families will be able to register their children as members of the homework club.

Renee Eagles
Co-ordinator

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


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

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.

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

The next E-Newsletter will come out on Wednesday 2 March 2016.