Merewether High School Bulletin



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coming events

P & C Meeting 17 February 2009 7.30pm All invited

Duke of Edinburgh Parent Support Group 17 February 2009 6.00pm

School Council Meeting AGM 17th March 2009 6.00pm Foley Library

student achievements

80 of our students received a UAI of more than 90 and 12 students achieved a UAI of over 99.



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents

Welcome to the new school year. I hope you like our new look bulletin. My appreciation goes to our Head Teacher ICT/Languages, Noel Glover, for his work in organizing this new design. This year will see the introduction of several changes and improvements across the school including the establishment of a new Study Centre for our senior students and the implementation of a new printing and copying system.

Every student in the school has received a Merewether High School diary to assist with course work responsibilities and general organisation. Generous sponsorship from the MHS P&C Association and from The University of Newcastle has made this initiative possible. I wish to express my sincere appreciation to both sponsors for their support and assure them that the diaries will, without doubt, enhance outcomes for all students across the school.

Last year concluded with great excitement and celebration with our Year 12 students achieving the best HSC results since the introduction of the new HSC in 2001. We had many outstanding results with 80 students receiving a UAI of more than 90 and over 12 students achieving a UAI of over 99. Our dux, Samuel Lewin, received an amazing 99.9 for his UAI. Congratulations to Sam and to the many students who produced exceptional results. We look forward to seeing Sam at the Prefects' Investiture where he will be presented with the school's award for outstanding achievement in the HSC.

I extend a very warm welcome to parents of our new Year 7 students. Our teachers have reported that Year 7 classes are working well with students settling into secondary school routine in a confident manner. Whilst our Year 7 students are quickly adjusting to their new school life, our Year 12 students are busy with their final year of studies. We launched our HSC Support Program in the first week of school with several businesses across Newcastle providing donations of various items to support our Year 12 students in this important year. I wish to recognise Coles Supermarket at Marketown, K Mart at Westfield Kotara, Go Lo at Charlestown, Rebel at Charlestown, Teachers' Health Society in Sydney and Mary Mortimer's Hair Design at Charlestown for their generous donations and support of our HSC students.

Our swimming carnival on the 4 February was an excellent showcase of student commitment with greater attendance and student participation than previous carnivals. Congratulations to all students who made the day such a success. It was pleasing to see so many parents in attendance on the day. Our students and staff who attended the school's World Tour during the recent vacation gave a presentation of the trip's highlights at a recent school assembly. By all accounts, the tour was a trip of a lifetime with those who attended expressing nothing but positives about their time away. My appreciation goes to the staff members who made the trip possible and who ensured our students' safety, comfort and enjoyment whilst abroad.

I am confident that 2009 is going to be an excellent year for Merewether High. I congratulate and thank everyone who has contributed to the successful commencement of the school year.

Yvonne Keevers Principal

Diary Dates 24/2 Y9 PLG - LC - 9:00-10:30 25/2 University Links interviews See Event Diary P10 for all events MHS Jazz Ensemble



OVERSEAS TOUR 2009

"It feels like we left Australia 6 months ago!" NETBALL DIARY ENTRY



Time indeed seems to fly when you're crossing 12 time zones on your way to your first sporting fixture! And when your pre-match checklist includes your boots and water bottle as well as your passport, multiple airline tickets, various foreign currency, and full body thermals, you can be excused for being both over-whelmed and a little nervous.

But the 57-strong touring squad from MHS took it in their stride from the moment they pulled away from Chatham Street, and so commenced the *'trip of a lifetime'*. After 2 years in the planning — extensive fund-raising, logistical headaches, and reams of documentation — the 8th International

Sporting Tour was underway. A blitzkrieg of some of the planets most renowned cities, as well as some tough sporting challenges lay ahead of us, and as such anticipation was at its peak



It is hard to pin-point simply one highlight from such a busy schedule however, especially when they include

- shopping on 3rd Street, Santa Monica
- dominating the California Screamin' rollercoaster, overlooking Disneyland
- surviving the coldest English winter in 18 years
- traversing the indoor ski slopes and Luge track in Manchester
- a personal tour of Old Trafford Football Stadium—the *Theatre of Dreams*
- enduring hypothermia during rugby in the snow at Newport, then again at paintball outside Liverpool
- horizontal rain and Hogwarts dining hall in Perth, Scotland
- completing a customised *Amazing Race* through the streets at the foot of Edinburgh Castle, and ghost tour underneath it
- chasing squirrels, white swans and badger through parks in the UK midlands
- the Louvre, Palace Versailles, Archè de Triumphe, Champs Elysées, Basilica Sacré-Cœur in Paris
- Madame Tussauds, Westminster Abby, Big Ben and 'Minding the Gap' in London
- braving the Chinese underground, vertical tramways and crazy markets of Hong Kong













Those who had stayed up to date with the daily blog entries by the students would have read about these and more in depth, as well as being part of a blow by blow depiction of the various sporting achievements.

All members of the rugby, football and netball teams competed wonderfully against some of the most successful schools in Britain. The rugby boys took it to Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, who are currently ranked in the top 8 nationally; the football girls ran away with a match against last year's country-wide runner up, Thomas Telford School; while the netball girls completed their matches in varied formats and rules, and maintained a very impressive undefeated record throughout.

As inspiring as the sporting outcomes were, it needs to be said that those same athletes proved to be the consummate touring party. Not only did they represent Merewether High School in a way that was without blemish, it was especially pleasing to note the way they relished being ambassadors of their families, communities and indeed their nation.



What they gained in life experience, culture and perseverance is immeasurable in nature, as is what they have learnt about looking out for each other on

a daily basis. It has been said already on a number of occasions, but as outstanding as the tourists were in an athletic capacity, they were exponentially tremendous as human beings and displayed an encouraging humility throughout the tour.

Again, something that has become regularly mentioned but certainly not exhausted or without losing its sincerity, was the acknowledgement of the many hours our tour manager invested into the planning and implementation of this unforgettable life experience. It is important that people like Mr Harrison are recognised for their selflessness in running this tour - not that other staff, parents, sponsors and students didn't contribute incredibly - but without his leadership, such a proud school tradition would simply cease to exist. Not only was the recent tour seamless in its day to day running despite various hurdles, the very same manager is already planning in earnest for the very next tour in 2011.

"All in all we enjoyed day after eventful day on tour ... something that will surely remain with us all for our lifetimes, and something for which we are eternally grateful" RUGBY DIARY ENTRY







SPORT

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Our annual swimming carnival was held last week at Lambton Pool and was a tremendous success. Participation was the highest it has ever been and the competition between the four houses was intense form the very first event until the very last relay. For the record the winning House, for the third year in a row, was Baartz House. The closeness of the final scores would indicate that the other houses are catching up and the Cross Country and the Athletics Carnival could see this three year domination broke. Amongst a number of outstanding individual swimmers the undoubted star performers were Cameron Davy and Heath Winning who between them on the day broke every 15 years boys record. Age champions at the carnival were Charlotte Fromley and Daniel Smith, 12 years, Laura Dowling and Odin Macintosh, 13 years, Olivia Gallimore and Jake Rodway, 14 years, Ellen Bailey and Heath Winning, 15 years, Brianna McDiarmid and Alex Gallimore, 16 years , Erin Thompson and Ryan Avery, 17 years and Monica WIlkie and Dean Waterman, 18 years. We have picked a strong team to contest the Zone Carnival and hopefully we will have a number of individuals and teams progress onto Area and State Carnivals.



SPORTS PROGRAM

The weekly sports program has begun with a slight change in arrangements. The two time slots for sport have swapped to facilitate better use of this time in ensuring that senior academic programs and in particular assessment programs operate on a more equitable basis. Years 7 & 8 will do sport during periods 1 & 2 and Years 9, 10 & 11 during periods 3 & 4. The Year 11 program will also incorporate the mandatory crossroads program. A reminder to all that sport is compulsory. Years 7 & 8 complete a set program for the first two terms that is based on developing basic skills and the development of positive attitudes towards physical activity and sport.

BILLETS REQUIRED

We have just returned form an extensive overseas tour and part of that process is to offer return hospitality for some of the schools that we stayed with in England and are coming to Australia during this year. We will host two schools in July this year and are seeking hosts for 86 of our English visitors. It is a great experience to host an overseas student and the friendships that are cemented during this time last forever. Should you be able to help please contact Mr Harrison and he will be able to forward you details of times, dates etc.

PLAYERS OF THE TOUR

Elsewhere in this bulletin is a report on the International Sports Tour from which we have just returned. We offer congratulations to the four students who were the major award winners presented at our Dinner in Hong Kong on the last night of our tour. Outstanding Tourist Award was given to Tom Convery, the Rugby Player of the Tour was awarded to Lewis Penfold, The Football Player of the Tour was Jessica Harrison and the Netball Player of the Tour was won by Dominique Potter. Morgan Campbell was also given a small gift for his work as 'fine master' and a number of students were recognised for their own contributions to making this tour our most successful ever.

Bob Harrison Sports Organiser





TAS

Outstanding 2008 HSC Results

The 2008 HSC results in the TAS faculty were outstanding. Special congratulations to the following students who gained state places in TAS courses.

GRETA DELANEY – Community and Family Studies (CAFS) – 4th in state **ALANA PEDDIE** – Textiles and Design – 5th in state **GRETA DELANEY** – Food Technology – 4th in the state **SARAH HALL** – Food Technology – 8th in state **MEGAN DARBY** – Food Technology – 10th in state

Four talented Textiles and Design students also had their major works selected for "**TEXSTYLE**" - a display of exemplar H.S.C major works. Selection in "TEXSTYLE" indicates a student is in the top 1% of the course. Congratulations to:

Alana Peddie, Emily Khemananta, Lydia Kuczera and Ashleigh Wheeldon.

The "TEXSTYLE" display will be part of the Craft and Quilt Fair which is in Newcastle 20-22 Feb. Overall course results were also excellent with most students scoring a band 5 or 6 and the course mean being significantly above the state mean.

Community and Family Studies – band 6 -57%, band 5 – 29% Design and Technology – band 5/6 – 72% Engineering Studies – band 5/6 – 46% Food Technology – band 6 – 73%, band 5 – 20% Hospitality – band 5/6 – 88% Textiles and Design – band 6 – 82%, band 5 – 18%

Congratulations to all 2008 HSC students, we wish you well in your further studies. On another note I would like to welcome Mr Tony Johnston to our faculty; he replaces Mr O'Donnell who is on leave this year.

Vicki McCudden Head Teacher TAS

SUPPORT UNIT

This week all senior students, Years 11 and 12, in the Support Unit have commenced TVET Access courses at TAFE. The Access course is three hours per week for the four terms. Each course has reduced student numbers, usually 8-10, and a reduced number of modules.

On Mondays Henry Hely is attending Cleaning Operations at Newcastle campus and Jessica Thomas attends Hospitality at Hamilton campus.

On Wednesdays Jesse Swadling is attending Animal Care at Newcastle campus while Heather Mlekus and Ben Andrews attend Furniture Making at Newcastle campus.

Denise Hughes Class teacher



Welfare Report

Hello to everyone in the MHS community. I wanted to inform students, parents and caregivers, as well as the wider school community that I am now permanently in the position of Head Teacher Welfare at MHS. As you would appreciate the concept of student welfare is broad, and inclusive of many different aspects of daily school life. My aim is to continue to work collaboratively with the executive, the Welfare team and other members of staff to ensure that our students are happy and productive at school.

In the role of relieving Head Teacher Welfare in 2008 it became very apparent to me that resilience, organisation and balance are key factors for individual success. Our role in Welfare, in partnership with parents and caregivers, is to develop these qualities so that our students can optimise their gifts and talents.

There is an opportunity for year 12 students to participate in a Pilates group. Charlestown Pilates have offered to come to the school to run Pilates sessions at \$10 a visit (depending on numbers). Pilates is aimed at improving flexibility especially in the back and neck areas as well as alleviating stress. Interested students can write their names on a sheet outside Ms Gillam's office.

For your calendar:

- Year 7 and 10 Immunisation Tuesday 17 February. Letters will be distributed Week 3.
- The letters need to be signed and the students must have them with them on the day of immunisation.
- Year 10 24 February

• Brainstorm Productions performance of 'Wired'. This is a mandatory part of the Welfare program for all of Year 10. Cost is \$5.50. Subject is about setting short and long term goals, planning, study habits, fear of failure, stress and anxiety (and much more). Note will be forthcoming.

• Year 7 – 10 March Brainstorm Productions performance of 'Verbal Combat' which addresses issues such as bullying and harassment. Attendance is mandatory. Cost is \$5.50. Note to follow. Year 9 – 24 March Brainstorm Productions performance of 'The Hurting Game'. Cost \$5.50. Attendance is mandatory. Information and note to follow.

Janet Gillam Head Teacher Student Welfare

Free Graduated Licensing Scheme Workshops for Parents of learner drivers in the Newcastle City area

Young drivers are three times more likely to be involved in casualty crashes. That's why the RTA has introduced a new licensing scheme, with more supervised driving practice for learner drivers.

To help parents in supervising learner drivers, the RTA has set up a FREE 2 hour workshop for parents that offers practical advice on how to help learner drivers become safer drivers.

A FREE RTA parents' workshop will be conducted by David Riches on Monday March 23 at the Kotara Bowling and Recreation Club (Howell Street) from 6.00pm – 8.00pm.

Early bookings are essential, so phone David on 0438 215 323 now to reserve your place, or email parentworkshop@optusnet.com.au



Uniform Shop

Manager: Janette Rodgers Contact Number: 0249 693 855 0413 650 634

> School Ties are now available \$10 ea **cash only** Football Socks now available \$10 pr **cash only**

Cheques for uniform purchases are to be drawn for *Daylight Sportswear* The Uniform Shop is situated at the end of the hall via Pokolbin Street

Uniform Shop Special Opening Hours 2009

CONTACT NAME: Janette 0413 650 634

	FEBRUARY 2009		
MONDAY	2 FEBRUARY	12:00	4:00
THURSDAY	5 FEBRUARY	8:00	12:00
MONDAY	9 FEBRUARY	12:00	4:00
SATURDAY	14 FEBRUARY	8:00	12:00
MONDAY	16 FEBRUARY	12:00	4:00
THURSDAY	19 FEBRUARY	8:00	12:00
MONDAY	23 FEBRUARY	12:00	4:00
THURSDAY	26 FEBRUARY	8:00	12:00
MARCH 2009			
MONDAY	2 MARCH	12:00	4:00
SATURDAY	7 MARCH	8:00	12:00
MONDAY	9 MARCH	12:00	4:00
THURSDAY	12 MARCH	8:00	12:00
THURSDAY	19 MARCH	8:00	12:00
SATURDAY	21 MARCH	8:00	12:00
MONDAY	23 MARCH	12:00	4:00
THURSDAY	26 MARCH	8:00	12:00
MONDAY	30 MARCH	12:00	4:00
APRIL 2009			
SATURDAY	4 APRIL	8:00	12:00
MONDAY	6 APRIL	12:00	4:00
THURSDAY	9 APRIL	8:00	12:00



PARENT EMAIL CONTACT WITH THE SCHOOL AND P& C

The school and the P&C are working closer together to more effectively communicate with parents.

The P&C, as representatives of the parents, does not have a good communication system with the parents.

The P&C intends to improve efforts to keep parents informed of P&C initiatives and decisions, all of which are aimed at benefiting your children). This information will be used for P&C communication purposes **only**. The process of establishing a P&C contact list will enable a more efficient and effective way of sharing with you updates of parental involvement at MHS.

Privacy issues are paramount in this matter. The P&C is therefore proposing:

- 1. that MHS provide its records of your email details to the P&C your permission is required.
- 2. that parents who haven't supplied their email address to the school to do this as soon as possible.

The necessary details to provide are:

- Parent full name Student name/s- Student year/s Email address
- Advise of your agreement or disagreement as follows:

YES, I do AGREE that MHS pass my details (as above) to the P&C contact list, or NO, I do NOT AGREE that MHS pass my details (as above) to the P&C contact list

To enable this to happen would you please preferably, respond to

merewether-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

P&C Association – Statement of Interest

Please fill in the slip below and return it to the school office

I,	
parent /guardian of	(name child)
am interested and would like to volunteer in (more	than 1 box can be ticked):
o Canteen activities	o Families Matter activities
o Tidy up the gardens project	o Future activities
Please contact me:	
o by phone on:	, or
o by email:	(email address)



MHS School Council Annual General Meeting – Election of Parent Community Members

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the MHS School Council will be held on Tuesday 17 March 2009 at 6.00pm in the Foley Library at the school. All members of our school community are invited to attend this meeting.

Two (2) parent community members need to be elected to the MHS School Council for 2009. Any parent from the MHS school community is eligible to stand for the position of parent community member.

Attached to this Bulletin is a parent community member nomination form. Nomination forms may be posted to the school or lodged at the school's administration office. Nominations close for the position of parent community member at 3.00pm on Tuesday 3rd March 2009. A secret ballot will be conducted and ballot papers can be collected from the school administration office after this date for those that cannot attend the meeting. Completed ballot papers must be returned to the administration office at the school by 3.00pm on Monday 16 March 2009.

The election will be held at the School Council meeting on Tuesday 17 March 2009 – all parents in attendance will cast their vote – these votes and all postal / returned votes will be tallied and the successful candidates will be announced at the meeting.

NOMINATION FORM

PARENT COMMUNITY CONSTITUENCY OF THE SCHOOL COUNCIL

PART A: TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINATOR AND SECONDER

CANDIDATE DETAILS

Mr/Mrs/Ms:

NOMINATED by Mr/Mrs/Ms:

Signature:

SECONDED by Mr/Mrs/Ms:

Signature:

PART B: TO BE COMPLETED BY CANDIDATE

I accept nomination for one of the elected parent community member positions on the MHS School Council. I have sighted the MHS School Council Constitution, accepting my responsibility to report regularly to the parent community of the school. I provide the information below for the inclusion with the ballot paper if required.

Signature: Date:

Please supply the information below and any other which you feel will assist in your election. Add an attachment with information if necessary.

PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND INTERESTS

WHAT YOU HOPE YOU CAN ACHIEVE THROUGH THE COUNCIL

09



EVENT DIARY

Term 1		Tuesday 27 January –Thursday 9 April	
February	2009	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Mon	16/02	EX Snr Jazz Band W/shop - LMAC 9:00-2:30	Participating students
		Training 2009 Aerobics teams 3.15-4.15	Participating students
			Participating students
Tue	17/02	EX Snr Jazz Band W/shop – LMAC 9.00-2.30	Participating students
		SP HSSA diving trials	Participating students
		SP City Zone swimming carnival	Y 8 Interested parents
		Y8 PLG - LC - 9:00-10:30	Interested parents
		P & C meeting - library - 7:30pm	DEA parents
		DEA meeting 6:00pm - library	School Council mem-
		School Council meeting - electronic	bers
		SP Zone swimming carnival -Mayfield	Participating students
		HPV dose 1 Y7 females only -Tba all Y10 9:00- 1:00pm	Y 7 & Y 10 students
Wed	18/02	University Links interviews	Participating students
Thu	19/02	SP HSSA boys' basketball trials	Participating students
		Donormobile on site	Participating students
		AT Y12 Chemistry - pd 4 - LC	Y12 participating stu- dents
Fri	20/02	SP HSSA girls' basketball trials	Participating students
		University Links interviews	Participating students
		EX Y12 hospitality - Crowne Plaza - 8:30-11:00	Participating students
		EX Y9-12 T&D - Craft & Quilt Fair - 9:50-12:45	Participating students
		SP CHS Open Girls B/ball 8.30-2.30	Participating students
Sun	22/02	Orchestra workshop LC 1:00-4:00pm	Participating students
Mon	23/02	AT Y9FT – Convict Practical	Participating students
		Y12 Music 2 – Composition W/shop pds 5/6	Participating students
Tue	24/02	Y10 - Welfare - Wired - 2:00pm - MPC	Participating students
		Y9 PLG - LC - 9:00-10:30	Y9 Interested parents
		EX Y11 - Funeral Parlour	Participating students
		AT Y8DT1 textiles- Final design	Participating students
		EX Y12 hospitality—Crowne Plaza—8.30-11.00	Participating students
		SRE 7B –pd4 SRE 7N—pd3	Participating students
Wed	25/02	University Links interviews	Participating students
		AT Y8DT8 textiles—Final design	Participating students
		AT Y7DT8 textiles—Final design -SRE 7C—pd 5	Participating students
Thu	26/02	DEA Y9 - one day training - Awabakel - all day SP HSSA girls' volleyball trials	Participating students
		SP NSW CHS triathlon championships - 2 days	Participating students
Fri	27/02	SP NSW CHS triathlon championships - day 2/2	Participating students



EVENT DIARY

		Tuesday 27 January – Thursday 9 April	
March200	9		
Mon	02/03	ESSA 2008 results due this week	
		AT Y7DT2 food– Practical 1	Participating students
Tue	03/03	SP HSSA swimming carnival	Participating students
		Y10 PLG - LC - 9:00-10:30	Y10 Interested parents
		School Council Close of nominations for parents community members 3:00pm - close	Interested school com- munity
		SRE7E-pd4 SRE 7G—pd2 SRE 7M—pd 6	Participating students
		DEA - parent training evening - Bronze 5:30- 7:30pm	Participating parents
Wed	04/03	Interested students "Cross the Ditch" presenta- tion - MPC 1:30-3:10	Participating students
Fri	06/03	EX Snr Jazz performance - WB Foreshore 6:00- 9:00pm	Participating students
Tue	10/03	Y7 - Welfare - Verbal Combat - 2:00pm - MPC	Y7 students
		Y11 PLG - LC - 9:00-10:30 School Photographs	Y11 Parents Whole school
Wed	11/03	SP HSSA boys' volleyball trials Y9-12 (54) EX Y9-12 Guys & Dolls - Capitol Theatre 9:15-5:30	Participating students Y9-12 Participating students
		AT Y7DT8 textiles-Samples	
		SRE 7G –pd 6	Participating students
Fri	13/03	SP HSSA U16 touch trials - Bulletin on website	Participating students













AN IMPORTANT meeting for all of those students who are interested in going on the 2010-2011 International Sports Tour to the United States, Canada, England, Paris and Hong Kong MUST attend the FIRST MAJOR PLANNING MEETING on:

THURSDAY 19th Feb. 2009 MHS LEARNING CENTRE starting at 7.00pm

The meeting will outline a number of the organizational details of the tour including fundraising commitments, sponsorship requirements, payment schedules,

itinerary, costs and other planning and travel information.

Students and parents MUST be in attendance.

All questions will be answered on the night.







INAUGURAL SPORTS TOUR REUNION

Incorporating:

1991 UK & USA Rugby Tour
1994 UK & USA Rugby Tour
1999 Rugby Tour to Europe
2002 Rugby Tour to Canada & UK
2005 MHS / HVGS Rugby Tour
2007 International Sport Tour
2009 USA, Europe & Asia Sport Tour

Friday 12th June

5.00pm – 7.00pm

Newcastle United Sports Club Bryant St., ADAMSTOWN

- ALL ex rugby & sports tour members are invited to come along to relive memories & catch up with 'old' friends
- commemorative ties, football jerseys and other merchandise will be available to order and purchase prior to the night
- maybe you can stay & support our 2011 Sports Tour Casino Night fundraising event to be held at the same venue, commencing at 7.30pm
- further details & information will be forwarded to individual tour members in March or contact
- Karyn Brooks at MHS ph. 49693855





Fundraising Event Friday 12 June 7.30pm - 10.30pm

Newcastle United Sports Club Bryant St, ADAMSTOWN



All staff, parents & community members are invited to our fundraising evening to raise money for the upcoming sports tour.

Our Casino nights are traditionally fun nights where you purchase MHS 'play money' in order to play a number of games of chance such as roulette, texas hold'em, craps, blackjack & horseraising. If you are lucky, you may win enough MHS 'play money' to bid on and win a variety of auction items at the end of the evening.

Entry tickets will cost \$5.00 per person & will be available from Week 4, Term 1. \$5000.00 MHS 'play money' will cost you \$20.00 'real money' & will be available at the door on the night. For further information, contact Karyn Brooks ph. 49693855

Bring your friends & join us in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere of fun & frivolity while also supporting the students





Sponsoring Merewether High Rugby Team