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Diary Dates

P&C AGM Meeting
Tuesday, 17th March
7:30pm - ILC



Principal's Report

On February 25 March the Honourable Minister Piccoli, State Minister for Education visited Merewether High School as part of the rebuild secondary schools program. Minister Piccoli visited a number of classrooms, the Independent Learning Centre and had morning tea with the Principal, Deputy Principals, Captains and P&C President. Minister Piccoli during his visit announced the school will receive \$1.5 million for front of school and classroom enhancement.



Throughout the past twelve months we have conducted consultation and evaluations across many areas, including, school structures and organisation; student performance; attendance and destination data; staffing profile and professional learning needs; student, staff, parent and community satisfaction data; student focus groups; Guidance Program; Year 12 Mentor Program; and parents surveyed using the Quality of School Life survey questions. A full situational analysis of the school was completed at the end of 2014. This analysis has informed our School Plan for the next three years. The three strategic directions of our 2015 – 2017 School Plan are below. A copy of the plan will be on our website at the beginning of Term 2.

Dates to Remember

Tuesday 17th

Photo Catch-up day

Thursday 19th

Y12 Mid-Course Exams commence

Tuesday 24th

Y7 PLG - 9:00am - LC

School Dance - 6:00pm

Strategic Direction 1 – Students success as learners and leaders

Purpose: Develop a challenging 21st century learning environment that promotes creativity and autonomous learning, and embeds cognitive technologies into differentiated curriculum to enhance learning outcomes for all students. Develop a comprehensive whole school approach to promoting emotional intelligence and wellbeing for all students.

Strategic Direction 2 – Staff leading innovative practice and connecting with others

Purpose: Enhance a school culture where staff members take responsibility for their own ongoing learning, strive for innovation and improvement and who make strong connections within and beyond the school. Develop a comprehensive whole school approach to promoting emotional intelligence and wellbeing for all staff.

Strategic Direction 3 – Systems leadership and collective efficacy

Purpose: Establish whole school communication strategies and collaborative decision making practices, whilst enhancing a culture of collective leadership throughout the school community, developing quality organisational practices and ICT infrastructure that supports every student and teacher to excel and learn to their full potential.



The 24th February saw three hundred people come together at the annual Year 7 parent and student welcome BBQ. The opportunity to meet other parents, along with some of the staff, was greatly appreciated by our new parents. After the BBQ many students stayed to enjoy our first school dance for the year. The SRC are to be congratulated for their support of this activity and their continual support of providing outstanding events which help us to celebrate at Merewether High. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the SRC for their work throughout the past twelve months and to those Year 12 students who have been on the SRC for the past six years, thank you for your continued service to the school.

The athletics carnival was another great event on our school calendar. The carnival saw many students challenging themselves and participating in events throughout the day. School spirit and sense of community were very evident to all in attendance. Along with the swimming carnival the athletics carnival was another demonstration of how our students are willing to have a go and build school spirit.

Each year we complete an Annual School Report for the previous year. The report outlines our achievements across the school, academically, culturally, in sport and leadership, along with data analysis of our HSC and NAPLAN results. The report will be available on the website at the end of the term.

Congratulations to Claire Sandhoff who has been invited to attend the UBS Young Women's Leadership Academy, which will be held at Sydney University from Monday, 13 April until Friday, 17 April this year. The objective of the Academy is to introduce Year 11 students to a diverse group of contemporary women leaders, demonstrate the possibilities and satisfaction of a career in business, encourage leadership aspirations in young women and provide leadership skills development. The program is residential at The Women's College, Sydney University. The course is designed to be a creative mix of practical and theory with industry exposure, field visits and syndicate work.

Year 12 will commence their Mid Course Examinations on Friday 20 March. These will continue through until the last day of term, Thursday 2 April. Year 12 participated in a Study Skills session on Ace your Exams on Monday 2 March and have been encouraged to work with a mentor teacher. Any student who has not already done so, can still approach a teacher and ask them to mentor them as we move through to the HSC.

The P&C AGM will be held Tuesday 17th March in the Independent Learning Centre commencing at 7:30pm. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing executive members who have worked with and supported the school over the past twelve months. The difficulty in picking up and dropping students around the school is recognised, but I ask that parents do not use the staff car park for this purpose. The car park is inadequate for staff parking and is not designed to have cars travelling in both directions. For safety, the car park during the morning and the afternoon is not to be used for drop off or pick up. I appreciate your ongoing support in ensuring the safety of all students.

I will be on leave for all of Term 2. During my absence Mrs Harvey will relieve as Principal and Mrs Morrison as Deputy Principal for Years 7, 9 and 11.

Christine Rippon



'MOOS'paper

62 Hours and Counting...*Patrick Wells, Year 12*

They have only spent 10 days (or about 62 hours) to date on the grounds of Merewether High School, but the new 'Sevies' seem to be fitting in very well. They also can be seen following the principle of safety in numbers, as clouds of blue-shirted students can be regularly seen moving around the school to cooperatively find classrooms. Most students have realised the value of the school map in the diary. A few students are still seen with puzzled faces around the school between periods (who are obviously lost). However, they are soon assisted by, hopefully responsible, senior students.

There have been many other challenges for the new students, such as getting used to new teachers, the responsibility to get to class on time and learning a new way of getting to school. One Year 7 boy suggests that Maths has been the most challenging aspect of coming to high school as "there are *lots* of questions, so it makes it kind of boring". It's clear the new students may need some time to become familiar with their new teachers and the very wide range of student personalities that are typically forced together to comprise a typical Merewether High School year group. Year 7 student, Aidan Moulder, described the biggest challenge of starting high school: "Obviously, it's hard to make new friends". However, some of the advantages the new Year 7's have discovered include "Food Tech" and the canteen.

Most Year 7's have also succeeded in claiming an area of the playground to sit at lunch and recess, an extremely difficult feat considering the territorial nature of most Merewether High students. Year 7 students Zachary Cox and Alira Avery describe how they have settled in their new routines by utilising their lunchtimes for "hanging out with friends and handball". As for homework: "we have had some but it's pretty easy", Year 7 student, Oliver Marsh, reports. "[The first ten days of the school year] have gone pretty quickly!".

The Year Advisors for Year 7, Ms Collins and Mrs Allen agree that the new students are adjusting to high school nicely.

"We are so proud of how well the Year 7's are settling in. The teamwork and friendships we have seen being built has been outstanding. We are so lucky to have such an eager and friendly cohort and cannot wait to see them grow and achieve great things at MHS!"

Debating Workshop - *Jacob Gamble, Year 10*

An early start and a long train trip to Sydney marked the start of an eventful day at Sydney Girls High School for a collection of eager debating students on Sunday 1st of March.



Our first workshop was an insightful debate between elite debaters who had represented NSW and Australia in various competitions. The topic was "Prisons Should be Abolished for Non Violent Crimes" and it was interesting to see the different ideas produced by each team regarding the best methods for deterrents and rehabilitation. After each speaker presented their speech, one of the hosts for the day would run through the debating techniques used by the speaker.

The next workshops were conducted in smaller groups where we were able to choose between three different skills seminars that were recommended for first, second and third speakers. I attended the second speaker seminar and found it particularly helpful for structuring unique arguments and formulating second speaker material. The last workshop was again a choice of three different knowledge seminars, most of us chose the International Relations one. It was interesting and beneficial to learn about the questions needed to be asked when arguing in a debate related to International Relations.

Overall the debating workshops were a valuable learning experience albeit a long and tiresome day.

5 Weeks In - *Gabriel Clifton, Year 11*

My first day. After the months of applying; collating years of reports and merit awards; waiting for a letter; the interviews. Finally, it was over. Finally I was standing outside the gates of Merewether High School. Proudly, I strode in, bag on my back, ready to face the next two years of my future.



After this, I promptly realised that I had no idea what to do, so I dawdled around for 10 minutes looking for the office. To my amazement, I later learnt that the office was the large building with “office” printed in huge letters on the front. You can imagine my surprise.

Arriving at the office, I saw that I was late, only just managing to catch the rest of the new Year 11s in a year meeting. Being led by Mr Byrnes and Mrs Johnson, we were given an inspiring speech about academic excellence by Mrs Harvey, before being ushered to class 10 minutes later than everyone else.

5 weeks have passed since then. I’ve wandered corridors, got lost, found my bearings, got lost again, and then saw someone I recognised and followed them to class. I’ve misread my timetable, and sat down in a class of year eights. And now I’ve somehow managed to end up having six tests in one week. To conclude, things are going *great*.

International Women’s Day - Rizina Yadav, Year 10

International Women’s Day. It’s a time to reflect on our progress, call for further action, move productively into the future and celebrate the achievements of women around the world.

Although International Women’s Day is celebrated on 8th March every year (Sunday in 2015), Merewether High School was able to celebrate it on Friday, 6th March, thanks to the amazing work of the social justice group. It was great to see them moving around the school and handing out positive affirmations to girls, from respected women all over the world. There were quotes from Malala Yousafzai, Oprah Winfrey, Emma Watson and Beyoncé, women who have all made a significant contribution to our society.

In Thursday’s assembly, the social justice group also made a presentation where they enlightened us all on the significant gender inequality that exists. The video they showed was especially heartening as it demonstrated that Merewether High School has a positive attitude towards gender equality and actively recognises the work of women within our school.

We currently live in a society where:

- 1 in 3 women across the world experience violence
- Globally, women make up just 22% of parliamentarians
- Women spend at least twice as much time as men on domestic work, and when all work – paid and unpaid – is considered, women work longer hours than men

But we have the power to change that by educating people, celebrating days like International Women’s Day, raising awareness about the issues that exist and lobbying our government and international governments to make positive changes for the benefit of all.

In 2015 we have something to be especially optimistic about. 2015 was a record-breaking year for women on Forbes annual ranking of the World’s Billionaires. In just three years, the number of female billionaires on the list has grown by 90%, with 197 women represented in this year’s ranking. 2015 was also the year where statistics showed that over 65% of Australians felt that the nation would be better governed if more women were elected to office.

Our Australian of the Year Awards also recognised women in all four categories, for the first time in history. Rosie Batty was tragically affected by domestic violence throughout her marriage and even more so, when her husband killed their 11 year-old son, Luke at cricket practice. Her plight and her win has captured our hearts and brought gender issues to the forefront of priorities for the international community.

Though male dominance is prominent and 100% gender equality is far away, women are gaining more independence and respect. So this Sunday, as the MHS Social Justice Group put it, be brave, be empowered, be bossy, be kind, be resilient and be proud.





Year 7 Camp

Year 7 camp was held from the 4th- 6th March at Outdoor Education Camp in Morisset with 179 kids and 10 staff members piling on the buses set for camp.

Activities promoting the formation of new friendships, team work and leadership skills, with a big dash of fun included the giant swing, canoeing, pioneering, archery, mud world, mixed climb and high ropes. In mud world our students quickly transformed from squeaky clean individuals to mud covered adventurers, whilst pioneering saw students create catapults used to try and hit some of our staff who volunteered as targets- fortunately their aims did not cause damage to the teachers brave enough to offer their bodies as targets.

Night time activities included challenge night with our students showing great skills in wrapping themselves around tables, flipping water bottles and balancing acts. Commando night was very popular too with staff dressed in their army greens, armed with torches and spray bottles as the students snuck through the forest to release their captured peers. Depending on who you ask the outcome of this competition is debatable.... We're going with the staff whilst acknowledging the fantastic efforts of the students!!!!

Thank you to Mrs Ravula, Mrs Morrow, Miss Sellers, Mrs McCudden, Mrs Onlsow, Mr Platt, Mr Bell and Mr McBeath for coming along on camp and helping it run so smoothly for the enjoyment of all. Thank you also to our lovely Year 7 students who presented themselves so well, were energetic and enthusiastic and allowed us to get to know them better during the three days. We are very proud of you all for your participation and great efforts.

Mrs Allen & Miss Collins
(Year 7 Advisers)



March
2015

Merewether High School Bulletin





English

It is hard to believe that we are quickly approaching the end of term one. All students in years 7 – 10 have now been issued notification of the first of their assessment tasks. Students needing clarification regarding the task requirements should speak to their class teacher.

Year 12 should be focusing on preparing for their Mid Course Examinations. The Advanced and Standard English paper will examine the Area of Study – Discovery. When revising, students should familiarise themselves with the notes that were distributed at the Karen Yager tutorial at the end of last year. These notes offered a number of practice questions, valuable study tips and exam strategies for the Area of Study paper. In addition to this, students should utilise the BOS website to look at the format of past papers and the markers' comments.

Students in Years 11 and 12 are required to purchase their own texts for study in English. Students in Year 11 recently received an email and note outlining the texts that they need to purchase to complete the study of their set modules. Year 11 students may choose to purchase hard copies or eBooks to download onto their BYOD. All students in Year 11 should ensure that they have a copy of their first text, *Fahrenheit 451* by week 9 of this term.

In 2014 we had a number of successes with debating and public speaking. We are pleased with the high levels of interest shown in the debating and public speaking programs being offered at MHS and we are looking forward to another highly successful year of involvement in a range of competitions. It would be great to win another State final. Coordinators of competitions this year are:

- 7/8 debating Mr Evans
- 9/10 debating Mrs Burdekin
- 11/12 debating Ms Davis
- 7 – 12 public speaking Mrs Wilson.

Information regarding debating and public speaking is distributed through email and daily notices. Students should ensure they check their email regularly so that they are aware of any training workshops, team meetings and upcoming competitions.

Ms Martinez is continuing to coordinate students' involvement in writing competitions throughout 2015. Information on a range of writing competitions has already been distributed via email to students. We actively encourage all students to participate in writing competitions as a way to further extend and develop their skills in writing.

Please remember, **if you enter a competition, send Ms Martinez an email or see her in the staff room** so that we can acknowledge and track your participation and progress.

Esme Corney (HT English)

ICAS tests

Year 7 will participate in the English, Writing and Spelling assessments and the cost for these competitions has been included in their fees.

Year 8 will participate in both the English and Writing assessment and the cost for these competitions has been included in their fees.

Years 9 & 10 will participate in the English competition and the fee for this competition has been included in their fees.

Students in years 9 -12 who wish to complete the ICAS Writing assessment will need to fill in the attached note and pay at the front office. Students in Years 11 &12 who would like to participate in the ICAS English assessment will also need to complete the attached note and pay at the office.



**MEREWETHER HIGH SCHOOL
2015 INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS FOR ASSESSMENTS FOR SCHOOLS (ICAS)**

Dear Parent

ICAS provides an opportunity for students to gain a measure of their own achievement in an external testing situation. It provides teachers, parents and students with comprehensive reporting of results in the areas of English, Spelling and Writing.

All students receive a certificate and an individual student report indicating which questions they answered correctly and their score compared with the rest of the students tested. The tests are an excellent preparation for National tests and the student report is useful for highlighting your children's strengths and areas for development. The UNSW certificate and individual student report are also suitable for your child to include in their portfolio.

At Merewether High School ICAS Spelling is compulsory for all students in Year 7, ICAS Writing is compulsory for students in Year 7 and Year 8, and ICAS English is compulsory for students in Year 7 – Year 10. **Only use this form if your child is in Year 9 – Year 12 and would like to sit the ICAS Writing competition and/or in Year 11-12 and would like to sit the ICAS English competition.**

COMPETITION	COST	DEADLINE FOR NOTES	TEST DATE
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing (Years 9-12)	\$18.70	Friday 15 May 2015	Monday 15 June 2015
<input type="checkbox"/> English (Years 11-12)	\$8.80	Friday 15 May 2015	Tuesday 28 July 2015

Please return this section with entry fee to the Cashier at the Administration Office by the 15th May.

&

To participate in the 2015 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) please tick the relevant competition(s):

Student Name: _____ Roll Class: _____

Tick as Appropriate		Name	Examination Date	Cost	Dissection Code
	2	ICAS Writing (Years 7-12)	16/06/15	\$18.70	054-102
	3	ICAS English (Years 7-12)	28/07/15	\$8.80	054-100
Total Payment Enclosed					

I give permission for my child _____ of _____
Childs name English Class

to participate in the competition(s) indicated above.

Please find enclosed _____ entry fee.
Amount

Name of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

Social Science

Outstanding 2014 HSC results achieved by students in Social Science

The table below summarises the achievements of students studying Social Science subjects at MHS in 2014. A band 5 or 6 results reflects an overall subject mark of 80% or above.

Subject	Band 5 / 6 results (% of students)
Business Studies	83.33
Geography	85.72
Legal Studies	82.35
Economics	80.00



Our results compare very favourably to the state candidature. We congratulate the class of 2014 in their achievements and wish them every success in their lives beyond secondary school. Many Social Science students have accepted university offers into courses such as Law, Business, Commerce, Events Management, Psychology and Medicine.

Opportunities for Gifted & Talented Students

The Social Science faculty has a strong record of providing enrichment and extension opportunities for students studying our subjects. Two examples of the many opportunities provided to Social Science students are competitions and fieldwork.

Current competitions:

- The National Geographic Channel (**Australian Geography Competition 2015**) will be held during Week 9 of Term 1. The competition is compulsory for Years 9 and 10. Students in Years 7 and 8 who would like to take up the challenge of doing the Competition will be able to do so. Geography teachers will be discussing this upcoming Competition in class time.
- The **ASX Share Market Game** will get underway in early March 2014. Students in Year 9 Commerce will test their financial skills in this competition. The students are in the process of spending up to \$50 000 on shares in Australia's leading public companies. This is part of the study of Personal Finance and Investment. The game runs for 10 weeks and although very difficult to win, it provides students with an excellent insight into the issues associated with investing.
- Year 7 Geography students are involved in designing a poster for the **Hunter Water Catchment Poster Competition 2015**. Entries close on 2 April 2015.
- The **Mock Trial Competition** is underway for 2015 under the guidance of Mrs. Tonks. Mr. Gill will also be providing some of his expertise and knowledge to the team.
- The **Model United Nations Assembly** (MUNA) Competition will take place in May 2015. Mr. Berry will be organising this extra curricula activity.



The **UNSW Business School Australian Economics and Business Studies Competition** will be held in May. All Economics and Business Studies students are involved in this competition.





HSC Geography Melbourne Fieldtrip

From February 16 to 18 HSC Geography students undertook their major fieldwork trip to Melbourne. Students studied changing urban dynamics in the city of Melbourne such as, urban decay and renewal. The focus of the fieldwork is to evaluate the success of the renewal of the Docklands area. The excursion also provides some additional case studies for the Ecosystems at Risk topic. This part of the fieldtrip involved a study of management strategies used in the protection of Port Phillip Bay and a talk from rangers at Melbourne Zoo on endangered species programs.



The new classroom within the lion exhibit at Melbourne Zoo



Etihad Stadium Tour, The Docklands, and learning about homelessness and marginalised people in the city at The Big Issue classroom, Melbourne CBD.

Year 7 Blackbutt Geography Skills Day

On Tuesday of Week 9 - Year 7 Geography students will be visiting Blackbutt Reserve to experience the real work of geographers in the field. Students will complete a range of activities throughout the day which focus on applying the geographical skills learnt in class to the field. Skills such as measuring the gradient of a slope and erosion, weather forecasting, orienteering and identifying vegetation types will be covered. Permission slips have been issued to students and payment for the excursion is currently due to the cashier's office.

Hospitality

It may only be Term 1, but our two Hospitality classes have already managed to have a busy year so far!

Work Placement

Congratulations to all of our students who have recently completed 35 hours of mandatory work placement in industry. Employers and supervisors have been very impressed with the skills and enthusiasm shown by each student. We would like to thank the support of Merewether High following venues for their Hospitality students.

Silo Lounge
BWP Warners Bay
HS Caterer
Café Bon Oz
Goodness Me Organic Café
2 Blend Café
Chaddies on Regent
Nelson Bay Golf Club
Seraphine Café
Suspension Café
Maxi's Café
Rock Lobster
The Little French Café
Cupz 'n' Crepes
Fernleigh Café
The Essential Ingredient
Depz Restaurant
Worn Out Wears Café
Caves Beachside Resort
Tall Tree's Café
Hippo Espresso
Lexies on the Beach
Longbench on Darby
The Vital Method





Coffee Course at Crema Coffee House

Throughout the last fortnight the HSC Hospitality cohort have undergone a practical skills barista course at Crema Coffee House with Jenine Cahill. Aside from learning about coffee extraction and milk texturising, we were provided with the unique experience of watching the coffee beans roast, and get packaged for distribution. Jenine, the instructor and espresso expert, gave us invaluable information regarding how to grind, dose and tamp correctly, as well as how to extract the perfect desired espresso. Finally on to texturising the milk, we learnt how to make the standard cappuccino, latte and flat white, as well as their standard decor. To finish we ended with a latte art competition, where everything from hearts, flowers, and leaves to smiley faces and ghosts were displayed. Ultimately the barista course was invaluable and provided us all with insightful information regarding coffee preparation and presentation.

Jessica Tyler Y12

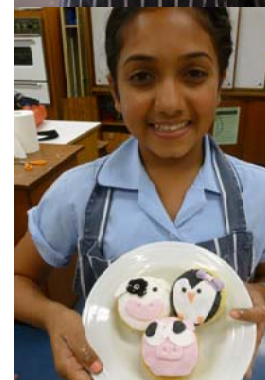


Food Technology

Year 8 Food Technology

Mrs Johnson and Mrs D'Amico's Year 8 elective Food Technology classes have made an amazing start to the course and have shown great enthusiasm during our practical lessons. We would like to thank Cathy Price from Cake Decorating Solutions at Belmont who on February 10 came to school to demonstrate her expertise in cake decorating and the latest equipment and techniques available. She showed us some quick and easy tips and brought in cupcakes for everyone. The students were all suitably impressed and implemented their new skills when they decorated their own cupcakes. The design brief was to make animal cupcakes, filled cupcakes with meringue and chocolate ganache and vienna iced cakes. Results were outstanding.

Next was the first invention test - a bolognaise invention. Students had to create a new dish using a basic bolognaise sauce with some original and very creative ideas. We have served stuffed capsicum, pikelets, nachos, pizzas and pies just to name a few. We even had a visit from Ms Harvey who couldn't believe how clever our students were. Keep up the great work Year 8.

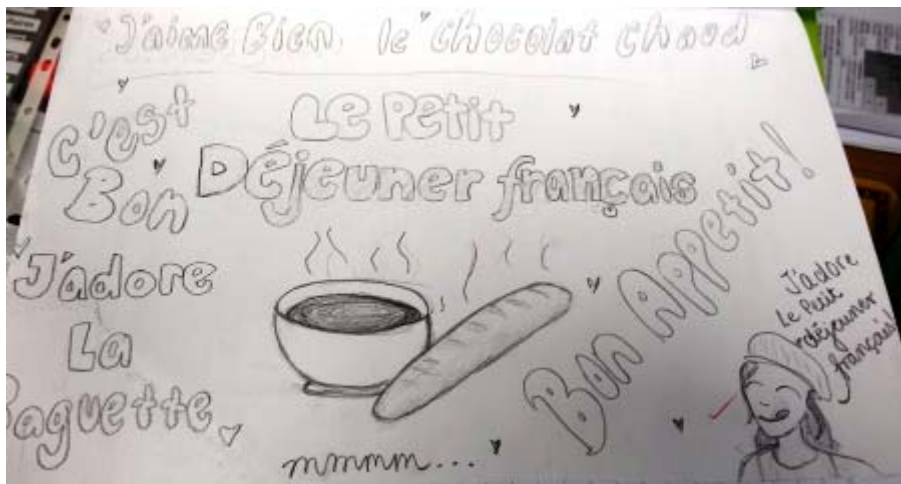


LOTE

LE PETIT DÉJEUNER

As part of their introduction to a unit of work about food in France, Year 8 French classes had an opportunity to try a traditional French breakfast. Students dunked slices of baguette into bowls of hot chocolate. After their tasting experience they were able to give their opinions on the meal.

Their next unit of work will involve describing personality and physical characteristics of the characters in the movie, *Ratatouille*. They are already using language to describe the ingredients of ratatouille and will be able to build on language used in the food unit when they sample the dish.



FRENCH EXCHANGE STUDENTS

A reminder that we still have a couple of places left for families wishing to host students from France this year. As in past years Merewether High School will again be hosting 3 - 4 French students through the TDL program. Students arrive in the last week of the July holidays and attend school for the first three weeks of Term 3. The aim of the program is to provide French students with an opportunity to experience Australian family and school life. In addition, the company will organise homestays for our students in France over the Christmas holidays for stays of between 3 and 8 weeks.

For further information please collect a brochure from the Languages staffroom.

YEAR 8 JAPANESE 日本語

Year 8 Japanese have been learning how to introduce themselves and others in Japanese, mastered reading the hiragana script and have shown their creative talent in drawing manga versions of themselves.

がんばってくださいね！





CAPA

MUSIC ENSEMBLES

The Music Ensembles at MHS have started well for 2015. There is still an opportunity for students to join an ensemble. There are vacancies in the Concert Band for trombones and horns. Students who play other wind and brass instruments are still welcome to join the Concert Band. All you need to do is turn up to rehearsal with your instrument.

These are the rehearsal times for ensembles this year:

Jazz Ensemble - Monday lunchtime in KM1

Percussion Ensemble - Monday lunchtime in the Learning Centre

Vocal Ensemble - Tuesday lunchtime in KM1

Saxophone Quartet - Tuesday lunchtime in KM2

Clarinet Quartet - Wednesday 8.00am in KM1

Concert Band - Thursday 8.00am in the Learning Centre AND Thursday lunchtime in the Learning Centre **String**

Ensemble - Thursday lunchtime in KM1

FEES FOR ENSEMBLES

Concert Band \$60 per semester

This covers tutoring costs and the purchase of music and equipment. The Director of the Concert Band in 2015 is Charissa Ferguson.

All other Ensembles \$30 per semester

This covers the purchase of music and equipment

If students are in more than TWO ensembles, a **maximum fee of \$90 per semester** is to be paid.

MEET THE MUSIC CONCERTS

The first two Meet the Music excursions have been held. Music 2 students saw the Sydney Symphony play music by Lentz and Debussy in February, and Elective Music students saw James Morrison and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra give a concert titled "The History of Jazz" on 5 March. There are still some seats for the remaining concerts in the series 30 April, 27 August and 5 November. Please note that only Year 9 and Year 11 students are permitted to attend the November concert as exams for Years 7, 8 and 10 will be held at that time. The concerts cost \$47 each. Please see music staff for more information and permission notes.

STAR STRUCK

Congratulations to the groups selected for Star Struck this year. Merewether HS will be well represented in the event, with Dance, Drama and Choir groups, along with featured artists and orchestral players.

There are currently vacancies for the choir group. Members of the Vocal Ensemble who wish to be involved in Star Struck should see Ms Sutherland and put their name on the list. All students involved in Star Struck should listen carefully to Period 1 announcements for information regarding rehearsals. Mrs Scollay will be supervising the Dance group, Miss Sellers will supervise the Drama group and Mrs Tenorio will supervise the Vocal Ensemble.

YEAR 8 VISUAL ARTS EXCURSION TO LUNA PARK

Students in Year 8 study Visual Arts for a semester and visited Luna Park to take photographs and make sketches for one of their artwork assessment tasks. The excursion was held on Friday 13 March for all Year 8 students, even those who will not be doing Visual Arts until Semester 2.

Kim Sutherland OAM

Head Teacher, Creative & Performing Arts

YEAR 8 VISUAL ARTS EXCURSION TO LUNA PARK

On Monday, 9th March, all Year 8 students travelled to Luna Park as part of the Visual Arts program. They experienced the Park first hand, taking photos, collecting memorabilia and completing drawings that capture the excitement, history and fun of Luna Park. Back in class, they will create a poster based on their Luna Park experiences, using their drawings and photos as inspiration. It was a fantastic day, all students enjoyed themselves immensely, although the Rotor and Ranger rides did collect their fair share of victims!



CONGRATULATIONS DANIEL CLARK

Daniel Clark, of Year 12 has won the Maitland Show High Schools' Art Prize. He submitted a very large self portrait completed with a thick, impasto technique, similar to the technique he used on the portrait of Frank, our MHS General Assistant which is hanging up in the library foyer. Daniel won \$250.00 for his talents and effort and deserves this wonderful recognition.





Support Unit

Mrs D'Amico, Mrs Onlsow and the Support Unit have been cooking up a storm this month. We have been looking at safety and hygiene in the kitchen and implementing these important skills into our practical lessons. Our topics studied include the importance of a nutritious breakfast and lunch to fuel our bodies for busy days at school. We have made in our practical lesson – bacon egg and cheese sandwiches, caramel cupcakes with chocolate ganache and pizzadilla. All students have thoroughly enjoyed these lessons.



PD/H/PE

Lunchtime Futsal Competition

The lunchtime Futsal competition is well underway with a huge number of teams entering this year's competition. Teams have come out sporting their tribal colours and the hotly contested competition has inspired skilful play and hard-hitting play.

The competition will continue until the end of this term when the coveted title of 'winner' will be announced.

Good luck to all the teams taking part!



University of Newcastle Physical Activity Study



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY



Research Study and Professional Development



NEAT
NUTRITION AND ENJOYABLE
ACTIVITY FOR TEENS



RESISTANCE TRAINING FOR TEENS: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH PROJECT

Improving health-related fitness and well-being in adolescents

Next term, students at Merewether High School will participate in a physical activity study conducted by the University of Newcastle.

Why is this research being done?

Physical activity declines sharply during adolescence and data from the 2010 NSW Schools Physical Activity and Nutrition Survey revealed that 40% of adolescents are not accumulating sufficient activity to accrue the associated health benefits.

Who will participate in this research?

Students in Year 9 will be invited to participate in this study.

For more information about the study, contact Mrs Ridgeway in the PDHPE Department.



Prefect's Report

The prefects have been very busy this semester working on many projects around the school. Coming up, Be Brave and Shave will see some very brave souls up on assembly having their heads shaved for The Leukaemia Foundation. Last year this event was a resounding success and managed to raise a substantial amount of funds for this charity. This year we hope to increase our contribution, so on 19th March we encourage all students to bring in a donation for this worthwhile cause. Money will be collected on assembly during the shave.

On Friday 8th May our annual Merewether High short film festival "MOOFEST" will be held at the Learning Centre at 6.30pm. The signature item this year is "bucket", and the prizes include \$150 JB's gift voucher plus a booklet of 10 movie tickets for the People's Choice. We will have guest judge Kristi Street who ran Newcastle's 'Shootout' film festival and other surprise judges too. It's always a fun night so make sure you put it in your diary!

Lastly, the prefects and Year 12 are running an Easter egg raffle for the Year 12 gift to the school. Tickets will be sold at school and prizes include huge Easter Egg hampers and chocolates. Keep an ear out in the Daily Notices for more details.

Humanities

The Australian History Competition – Open to all Year 8 and 10 students

The Humanities Faculty would like to invite all interested students to take part in this year's Australian History Competition. The competition is available to all students in Years 8 and 10 and is designed specifically to evaluate and develop student's understanding of historical skills and concepts. We consider it an excellent extension opportunity for students of Merewether High which will provide valuable feedback on each student's capabilities in these essential areas.

The competition is a 45 minute examination comprised of 50 multiple choice questions based primarily on student's ability to interpret sources. The competition will take place on the 27th May 2015. Entry forms can be found at the Humanities staffroom and are available electronically on the Year 8 and 10 Humanities MOODLE and through the recent notes section of the school website. Competition entry costs \$7 per student to cover registration with the external organisers.

For more information grab an entry form or talk to Miss Miller in the Humanities staffroom.





Congratulations to Sam O'Sullivan who was selected in the CHS 15's cricket squad and invited to attend the NSW All Schools 15 Years Cricket Trials in Auburn on 2nd and 3rd March 2015.

The 48 participants from around the state played a 30 over game, a T20 and a 50 over game.

Sam opened the bowling in each game and his stats were:

30 over - 1 for 20 off 6

T20 - 1 for 5 off 2

50 over - 0 for 28 off 10

Unfortunately he didn't make the cut from 48 to 26 for the final trial in a few weeks but it was great experience for him.

Well done Sam!





P&C & Canteen News

Thank you to all new and returning parents, carers and others who have volunteered to help in the Canteen! We can only provide this service to our students with your generous contribution of time and effort. If your availability has changed, please advise your Canteen Manager at merewetherhighpandccanteen@gmail.com, so that we can accommodate your preferences. Please be aware that we may also ask volunteers if they have the flexibility to change their canteen day, to ensure that we have sufficient volunteers on each day.

Painting: The canteen self-serve area needs to be repainted in the April holidays. The P&C would like to support members of our school community, so if you are a professional painter and interested in quoting for the job, please contact the Canteen Convener on the email above to register your interest.

Order Ahead – Save Time: Does your student know that they can order their recess and lunch each morning from 8.30am at the canteen “order window”? This allows them to order exactly what they want and avoid the queues at recess and lunch.

Next P&C Meeting: The MHS P&C meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month (excluding school holidays) at 7:30pm in the Independent Learning Centre – enter via the main gate on Chatham St, turn right to ILC, situated on the street side of the library. **Tuesday 17th March** will be the AGM, followed by a general meeting. **All parents and carers are welcome to attend.** At the AGM, all positions on the executive and canteen committee are declared vacant, and financial members may nominate and vote. If you are interested in nominating for a position, please contact the P&C Secretary at MerewetherHighPandCSecretary@gmail.com.

Hamilton Anzac Day Dawn Service 100th ANZAC Day Anniversary Invitation Gregson Park

Merewether-Hamilton RSL Sub Branch would like to invite students, parents and staff to attend the 100th Anniversary of Anzac Day at the Hamilton Dawn Service at Gregson Park on 25th April, 2015. Anzac Dawn Services have been held in Gregson Park, Hamilton since 1922.

Everyone is welcome to participate in the march from Beaumont St to Gregson Park.. Those wishing to march, will need to form up on the corner of Tudor and Beaumont St at 5.00am. Marshalls will be in attendance to assist.



If you just wish to attend the service please make your way to Gregson Park prior to 5.15am.

The service begins at 5.30am and is completed just on sunrise.

A sausage sizzle along with tea and coffee will be served, for a gold donation, at Hamilton PS which is just across the road from Gregson Park at the completion of the service.

If you have any questions please call David Jack on 0447902352.



2014-2015 Family Energy Rebate

Apply before Midnight
16 June 2015



\$150*
TOWARDS
ENERGY
BILLS

2 MINUTES TO FILL IN A FORM

<https://applications.fer.trade.nsw.gov.au/>

* eligibility criteria apply

WHAT IS THE FAMILY ENERGY REBATE?

The Family Energy Rebate helps to cover the cost of energy bills for NSW households with dependent children. In 2014-2015 the rebate gives:

- Up to \$150 credit on electricity bills for eligible applicants who hold an account with an electricity retailer
- Up to \$165 direct payment to nominated bank accounts for eligible applicants who live in a residential community (caravan or mobile home park) and receive electricity from the park operator.

AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE REBATE?

To be eligible you MUST:

- Be a NSW resident; and
- Have been assessed by the Federal Department of Human Services (DHS) as being eligible for the Family Tax Benefit (FTB) A or B at any time during the 2013-2014 financial year, and have received an FTB payment in respect of that eligibility; and
- Be an account holder of an electricity retailer, or a long-term resident of a residential community (caravan or mobile home park), whose name appears on the electricity account for supply to her or his principal place of residence.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO BEFORE I APPLY?

Before you apply, here's a quick checklist. Have you:

- Lodged your tax return for 2013-2014 with the Australian Taxation Office or informed the Department of Human Services (DHS) if you are not required to lodge a tax return?
- Received confirmation from DHS as to your eligibility for Family Tax Benefit A or B for 2013-2014?

HOW TO APPLY

- **ONLINE** – it takes just two minutes to submit an application. Processing starts immediately.
- **PAPER** – download a form from the website, complete and submit by email, fax or post. Use this form if you receive your electricity from the operator of the residential community where you live.

**APPLY
ONLINE
NOW!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

PHONE Service NSW 13 77 88

EMAIL fer.program@trade.nsw.gov.au

WEB www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/info/familyenergyrebate

NMJHA

Modified Hockey Competition

2015 Information Day



Saturday 21st March
8.30 – 9.30am



Come along and join us for an hour of fun
at the Hockey Centre.

You will be able to meet other players
and club officials.

All players in the Modified Competition and any new players
wishing to "have a go" are welcome to come along for an hour
session on the field with some great coaches.

During the fun, parents and club officials will be receiving some
important information about the upcoming 2015 season.





EVENT DIARY

	March
Mon 16/3	Y11 English Orals
Tues 17/3	Y12 PLG - 9:00am - LC School Photograph Catch up day P&C AGM - 7:30pm - ILC Y11 English Orals
Wed 18/3	Y11 English Orals Red Cross Ambassador Program
Thurs 19/3	Y12 Mid-course exams commence
Fri 20/3	Y9 Science Assessment Y12 Mid-course exams
Mon 23/3	Y7 & 8 Wollotuka - I Believe Y12 Mid-course exams
Tues 24/3	Y7 PLG - 9:00am - LC School Dance Y7 Geography Fieldwork - Blackbutt Reserve Y12 Mid-course exams
Wed 25/3	Y12 Mid-course exams
Thur 26/3	Y 8 - 10 PASS - Howzat Y12 Mid-course exams
Fri 27/3	Y8 The Hurting Game - Brainstorm Productions Y12 Mid-course exams
Mon 30/3	Y9 Food Tech Excursion - Beaumont Street Y7 Science Assessment Task Y12 Mid-course exams
Tues 31/3	Y10 Geography fieldwork - Merewether Beach Y12 Mid-course exams
	April
Wed 1/4	Y12 Mid-course exams
Thur 2/4	Y12 Mid-course exams conclude
Fri 3/4	GOOD FRIDAY - No School
Mon 20/4	School Development Day - No Students
Tues 21/4	All Students return
Wed 22/4	MHS Cross Country Carnival Y12 Music 2 - Meet the Music
Thu 23/4	ANZAC ceremony ELEVATE Parent Session Night
Fri 24/4	TRIVIA Night - 2016 Sports Tour Fundraiser ELEVATE Session - Y10 - p2 ELEVATE Session - Y11 - p3
Tue 28/4	Y11 & 12 Wollotuka UAC Talk - LC
Thu 30/4	Careers - BIG DAY in IT - Newcastle Uni Y9 - 12 - Meet the Music City Zone - Cross Country - Racecourse



	May
Tues 5/5	Y7 PLG - 9:00am - LC Y12 Reports issued
Thurs 7/5	Y12 Parent Teacher Interviews
Fri 8/5	Y11 Blackout period commences
Mon 11/5	Y12 Academic Review commences
Tues 12/5	Yrs 7 & 9 NAPLAN Y8 PLG - 9:00am - LC
Wed 13/5	Yrs 7 & 9 NAPLAN
Thurs 14/5	Y10 & 11 Biology Wetlands Excursion Yrs 7 & 9 NAPLAN
Fri 15/5	Y11 Mid Course exams commence Yrs 7 & 9 NAPLAN Catch up day
Mon 18/5	Y11 Mid Course exams
Tues 19/5	Y11 Mid Course exams P&C Meeting - 7:30pm - ILC
Wed 20/5	Y11 Mid Course exams
Thurs 21/5	Yrs 10, 11 & 12 Careers Expo 2015 Y11 Mid Course exams
Fri 22/5	Y11 Mid Course exams conclude
Mon 25/5	Yrs 7 - 9 Semester 1 exams commence
Tues 26/5	Y10 PLG - 9:00am - LC Yrs 7 - 9 Semester 1 exams
Wed 27/5	Yrs 7 - 9 Semester 1 exams
Thurs 28/5	Yrs 7 - 9 Semester 1 exams
Fri 29/5	Y12 Academic Review concludes Yrs 7 - 9 Semester 1 exams conclude
	June
Mon 1/6	City Zone Athletics Carnival Y12 HSC English Task Y10 Blackout period commences
Tues 2/6	Y12 HSC Economics Day - Sydney
Mon 8/6	Queen's Birthday Weekend Holiday - No Students
Tues 9/6	Red Cross Donormobile Starstruck this week
Fri 12/6	Y11 Reports issued
Mon 15/6	Y10 Exams commence Y12 HSC English Ext 2 - Draft Major work due
Tues 16/6	Y7 PLG - 9:00am - LC Yrs 7, 11 & 12 Vaccinations - LC Y10 Exams P&C Meeting - 7:30pm - ILC



Wed 17/6	Y12 HSC English Ext 1 Tutorials - all day Y10 Exams
Thurs 18/6	Y11 Parent Teacher Interviews Y12 Physics & Chemistry ExperimentFest Lizottes Performance by senior students - 2:00pm Y10 Exams conclude
Fri 19/6	Y7 Verbal Combat - Brainstorming Production
Mon 22/6	Y8 Medieval Day Support Unit Disco - MPC
Tues 23/6	Green Day Y11 & 12 Wollatuka Insight Day - UNI
Thurs 25/6	NAIDOC Assembly Yrs 7, 9 & 11 ROSA Assembly - 11:00am Yrs 8, 10 & 12 ROSA Assembly - 1:30pm Y12 Newcastle Uni
Fri 26/6	Yrs 7, 8 & 9 Reports issued
Term 3 - July	
Mon 13/7	School Development day - No Students
Tues 14/7	Students return Y11 Jindabyne Trip
Wed 15/7	Y11 Jindabyne Trip
Thurs 16/7	Y7 (2016) Tour & Information session - 4:00pm Y11 Jindabyne Trip
Fri 17/7	Y11 Jindabyne Trip
Mon 20/7	Y12 HSC English Task
Tues 21/7	Yrs 7 & 9 Parent Teacher Interviews P&C Meeting - 7:30pm - ILC
Wed 22/7	Opportunity Class Placement Test - 8:00am - 1:00pm Y12 Music 2 - Meet the Music
Mon 27/7	Y12 Blackout period commences Y10 Reports issued
Tues 28/7	Y9 Surfing Scientist - LC
Thurs 30/7	Yrs 8 & 10 Parent Teacher Interviews Australian Maths Competition
August	
Mon 3/8	Y10 (2016) Course Information Evening - 4:30pm Y11 (2016) Course Information Evening - 6:00pm
Tues 4/8	Y8 (2016) Course Information Evening - 4:30pm Y9 (2016) Course Information Evening - 6:00pm Y11 Advanced English task
Mon 10/8	Y12 HSC Trial exams commence
Tues 11/8	Y10 Science - Case of Conspiracy Y12 HSC Trial exams
Wed 12/8	Y12 HSC Trial exams



Thurs 13/8	Y12 HSC Trial exams
Fri 14/8	Y12 HSC Trial exams
Mon 17/8	Y12 HSC Trial exams
Tues 18/8	Y12 HSC Trial exams P&C Meeting - 7:30pm - ILC
Wed 19/8	Y12 HSC Trial exams
Thurs 20/8	Y12 HSC Trial exams
Fri 21/8	POSH Concert - Newcastle Conservatorium Y12 HSC Trial exams conclude
Mon 24/8	Y11 Preliminary exams commence
Tues 25/8	Y11 Preliminary exams
Wed 26/8	Y11 Preliminary exams
Thurs 27/8	Yrs 9 - 12 - Meet the Music Y11 Preliminary exams
Fri 28/8	Y9 Cheap Thrills - Brainstorming Productions Y11 Preliminary exams
Mon 31/8	Y11 Preliminary exams
September	
Tues 1/9	Y11 Preliminary exams
Wed 2/9	Y11 Preliminary exams
Thurs 3/9	NSW CHS Athletics - Homebush Y11 Preliminary exams
Fri 4/9	NSW CHS Athletics - Homebush Y11 Preliminary exams conclude
Mon 7/9	Y10 Wired - Brainstorming Productions
Tues 8/9	Y7 PLG - 9:00am - LC
Thurs 10/9	Y12 (2016) Extension Course Information - 4:30pm
Tues 15/6	P&C Meeting - 7:30pm - ILC
Wed 16/9	Sports Presentation Assembly - 9:00am Y12 reports issued Y12 Formal
Fri 18/9	Y12 Presentation Assembly - 9:30am - MPC Fri 25th - Sun 27th - Book fair - Sports Tour Fundraiser
Term 4 - October	
Tues 6/10	Y12 (2016) Learning Conference
Wed 7/10	Y7 (2017) Information session - 4:00pm
Thurs 8/10	Y7 (2016) Challenge Day
Mon 12/10	HSC exams commences
Tues 13/10	HSC exams
Wed 14/10	HSC exams
Thur 15/10	HSC exams
Fri 16/10	HSC exams



Mon 19/10	Y11 Reports issued HSC exams
Tues 20/10	Y7 PLG - 9:00am - LC HSC exams P&C Meeting - 7:30pm - ILC
Wed 21/10	Y9 Camp HSC exams
Thurs 22/10	Y9 Camp HSC exams
Fri 23/10	Y9 Camp HSC exams
Mon 26/10	HSC exams
Tues 27/10	Y8 PLG - 9:00am - LC HSC exams
Wed 28/10	Yrs 7 - 10 Blackout period commences HSC exams
Thurs 29/10	HSC exams
Fri 30/10	HSC exams
November	
Mon 2/11	HSC exams
Tues 3/11	Y9 PLG - 9:00am - LC HSC exams
Wed 4/11	Yrs 7 - 10 exams commence HSC exams conclude
Thurs 5/11	Yrs 9 - 12 Meet the Music Yrs 7 - 10 exams
Fri 6/11	Yrs 7 - 10 exams
Mon 9/11	Yrs 7 - 10 exams
Tues 10/11	Y10 PLG - 9:00am - LC Yrs 7 - 10 exams
Wed 11/11	Y12 Music 2 - Meet the Music Yrs 7 - 10 exams
Thurs 12/11	Red Cross Donormobile Yrs 7 - 10 exams
Fri 13/11	Y7 Vaccinations Yrs 7 - 10 exams conclude
Mon 16/11	Y7 - 10 Semester 2 exams overflow if needed
Tues 17/11	Y7 - 10 Semester 2 exams overflow if needed Y11 (12 - 2016) PLG - 9:00am - LC P&C Meeting - 7:30pm - ILC
Thurs 19/11	Y11 Assembly - 11:00am
Fri 20/11	Prefect's Investiture - 11:00am
Mon 23/11	Support Unit Disco - MPC



	December
Wed 2/12	Y7 (2016) Orientation Day
Fri 11/12	SSSA Blues Presentation
Mon 14/12	Y10 Assembly - 9:00am - MPC Y9 Assembly - 11:00am - MPC
Tues 15/12	Y8 Assembly - 9:00am - MPC Y7 Assembly - 11:00am - MPC
Wed 16/12	Presentation Assembly - 9:30am - MPC
Thurs 17/12	School Development Day - No Students Y12 BBQ - 11:00am
Fri 18/12	School Development Day - No Students



The Uniform Shop
0401 725 885
merewetherhigh@alinta.com.au

Uniform Shop opening hours during school terms are:

Monday 8.00am – 12.00pm
Thursday 1.00pm – 3.30pm

The uniform shop can be contacted during these hours by phone or email:
Ph: 0401 725 885 merewetherhigh@alinta.com.au .

Payments can be made direct to Alinta Apparel on the day of purchase. Alinta will take payments in the form of cash, credit card, or debit credit card.

Uniform price list & online shopping available at: www.alintaapparel.com.au