

March
2019

Merewether High School Bulletin



Diary Dates

P&C AGM

Tuesday 19th March

7:00 ILC

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Principal's Report

International Women's Day (IWD) was celebrated around the world on March 8th and was a day to reflect on how far we have come and how far we still have to go to achieve gender equality. Three of our students Zoe, Teza and Evina, Mrs Inglis and I represented Merewether High School at the IWD Breakfast held at Newcastle Wests. Founder of entrepreneurial movement, Inspiring Rare Birds, Jo Burston, presented the keynote address. Jo shared some of her personal story on the day, inspiring us to change the way we work, encouraging diversity, equality, innovation and an entrepreneurial culture in the workplace.

The global theme for IWD 2019 is 'Think equal, build smart, innovate for change', linking with the UN Commission on the Status of Women's focus on social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure. 'More Powerful Together', the theme for the day which is a clarion call to stand in unison for gender equality.

Dates to Remember

Tuesday 19th March

- Y11 PLG - 9:00am

Tuesday 2nd April

- Y7 PLG - 9:00am

Thursday 4th April

- Brainstorm Productions





This year we continue our leadership program to support students from Years 7 to 12. All students have been issued with a passport.

There are five Leadership Challenges which students must engage in:

Challenge 1 – School Carnivals - to attend and participate in the swimming, athletics and cross-country carnivals.

Challenge 2 – Academic Achievement - to attain 20 merit certificates

Challenge 3 – School Representation and Service, which may include activities such as debating, choir, band, SRC, sports, competitions etc. Two areas of service need to be completed for the Junior Challenge, three for the Senior Challenge.

Challenge 4 – Community Service, where students volunteer their time for the benefit of others. This may include Clean Up Australia Day, Red Shield Appeal, blood donations, coaching teams, Landcare etc. One area of service is to be completed for the Junior Challenge and two for the Senior Challenge.

Challenge 5 – Attitude and Commitment, where the Deputy Principal signs off on the student's outstanding work ethic, uniform, attendance and behaviour.

This is just one of the many programs we have in place to support our students. A full outline of our leadership and commendation schemes can be found on the school website.

Year 7 and 9 will sit their NAPLAN tests in reading, writing, grammar and punctuation, spelling and numeracy on 14th, 15th and 16th May. Individual student results will be available early September and will be sent home to parents with our students. NAPLAN is a snapshot at a point in time test, which gives us data to tell us what our students are doing well and areas for development. We ensure all students are familiar with the format and process of the tests but continue our normal teaching and learning programs with the skills to be tested in NAPLAN embedded into our everyday teaching and learning programs. We have many points in time that give us vital data to see where our students are at and NAPLAN is just one of these.

The 19th February saw close to two hundred and fifty 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 helping 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, held on Thursday 7th, was another great event on our school calendar. The carnival was an outstanding day with 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.

Year 12 will commence their midyear assessment period on Tuesday 2nd March. Assessments will continue through until the last day of term, Friday 12th April. Year 12 participated in a Study Skills session on Ace your Exams on Monday 4th 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 19th March in the Independent Learning Centre commencing at 7:00pm. 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.

Congratulations to Sharvil Kesarwani, who has been invited by the Australian Mathematical Olympiad Committee (AMOC), to represent Merewether High School at this year's AMOC Selection School. The school will be held at Naamaroo Uniting Venues in Sydney in March 2019. Twenty-six students from across Australia will be attending the school. The invitation is a particular honour as the principle purpose of this Selection School will be to select the six members of the Australian Team to compete at the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) to be held later this year. An outstanding honour, on which we congratulate him.

Last year 56,997 students sat VALID 8. We are delighted that Daisy Grady, Abby Jones and Benjamin Lathwell all achieved the fifth highest score in the state along with twenty-eight other students, placing them in the top fifty students in the state.

Congratulations to Rohan St Hill who recently competed in the Newcastle Triathlon and came first in his age group and thirtieth out of two hundred and six competitors overall.

Congratulations to Hannah Harrison on being selected to travel to Europe in September as part of the 2019 Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarship. Also congratulations to Saskia Ferguson and Jess Fonti who were runners up in this competition.

Congratulations Ryan Woolnough who has been named in the NSW under 15s hockey team to contest the Australian Championships in April.

Christine Rippon



Deputy's Report

It is with great pride that I acknowledge all staff and students are strongly absorbed in the teaching and learning process at Merewether High and our year is in full swing. We continue to place strong emphasis on organisation and planning with all groups and we actively encourage students to use their school diary on a daily basis for planning, reflection and organisation. These skills are highly valued by our senior students and once embedded in younger years, tend to flourish in Years 11 and 12.

Assessment calendars have been issued to all year groups at year assemblies in week 4 and we strongly suggest transferring assessment dates into diaries and onto home planners as well. Additional copies of these calendars are available for students from Ms Crooks and I, while parents can download a copy from the school website under the 'Learning at Our School' tab. Notifications for all assessment tasks should be issued a minimum of two weeks before a task is scheduled and students are strongly advised to deconstruct the notification on first receiving it. A sequence of steps for approaching assessments appears in the student diary as a guide for all students.

In the upcoming weeks, our annual Pi day, Harmony Day and World's Greatest Shave feature on successive Thursdays. These are great examples of the rich experience of Merewether High School life and I encourage all students to take part and support these events. Pi day will feature a "bake off" a "Pi recital" and a range of games and competitions.

Harmony Day will celebrate the diversity of our school community with focus on the varied culture and native languages of our students. The major Year 12 Fundraiser of the year will see a team of more than 60 students support the Leukaemia Foundation with our annual 'Be Brave and Shave Assembly'. We hope to reach our target of \$30,000 and encourage any families to visit our team page and make a donation. As an additional motivator, I will have my head shaved on that day by the student winner of a raffle we are running to support the cause. We have fantastic community support for this event with hairdressers and barbers donating their time to shave our highest fundraisers on assembly. Please support us at

<https://secure.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/registant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?Referrer=%26Referrer%3ddirect%252fnone&TeamID=112896>

Our 11 week term concludes on Friday 12th April for all students with students resuming on Tuesday 30th April. Year 12 students will complete their mid-course assessment period in the two weeks preceding the holidays from 2nd April to the 12th and a timetable has been issued to all students in the past week.

Ms Crooks and I have enjoyed re-engaging with families at the Parent Learning Groups and look forward to ongoing contact and support. Please contact us if we can assist in any way.

Tony Southward Year 8,10 and 12

Jane Crooks Year 7,9,11



Our **ANNUAL ATHLETICS CARNIVAL** was recently held at Glendale. Overall results are not yet known, such was the tremendous amount of participation, especially in the field events which were full all day. Congratulations to all of the students who contributed towards their houses throughout the day. The carnival culminated in the Year Relays which were a fantastic sight as hundreds of students lined each side of the track to cheer on their houses. A strong team will be selected over the coming month or so to compete in June at the City Zone Carnival and then onto the

Regional Event in July closely followed by NSWCHS Athletics in September. Our last major Carnival for the year is our Cross Country Carnival which will be held at Blackbutt Reserve on 1st May. Details for this event will be distributed later in Term 1.



SPORTS TOUR 2019 UPDATE

We have extended the date for expressions of interest until the end of next week. At this stage we will assess what the interest is and make some decisions as to the form that the next Sports Tour will take. Once decided we will inform all parents via email. Thank you for your interest and your understanding as we try to maximise the opportunity for as many students as possible to be involved in this program.

KNOCKOUT COMPETITIONS IN FULL SWING

The vast array of Knockout teams that we enter have started their competition for 2019. Our Boys' and Girls' Basketball teams both performed very well and narrowly missed out on qualifying for the final series. This is a vast improvement on previous years and both teams should be congratulated on their efforts. Our Open Girls' Netball team has presented a young squad in 2019 but were successful in finishing second in the Zone Gala Day. The team now qualifies for the last 16 KO competition. Our Cricket teams will start shortly as will our Girls' Softball team. Special mention to our Table Tennis team with an easy victory over HSPA and to our U15 Rugby league team for their efforts in the recently held Callaghan Cup competition. It is a very busy time for all of our teams with an upcoming highlight being a Girls' rugby game against a visiting school from Canada. This game will be held on Monday 25th March at midday on our school oval and presents to our girls the opportunity to be involved in an International sporting fixture. Hockey teams will shortly be selected for upcoming matches as will our Boys' Tennis teams. Our Open Boys' Soccer start their quest for another State Championship on Tuesday and our Girls' Water Polo team is through to the second round. Thanks to all the staff involved in coaching and managing these teams.



Term 2 SPORT

Students will shortly select sports for Term 2. Every student in Years 7-10 will be given a Sports Selection sheet which outlines Sports Options as well as costs and other information. If students select a sport that requires bus travel the \$50 bus fee and the completed and signed selection sheet must be returned to the office. If selecting a sport at school then students return the completed sheet to the box outside the Sports Office. There are a variety of sports to choose from, that include non-paying and paying sports both at school and at venues away from school that require bus transport. Below is an example of a sport selection sheet. **Please note NO Online payments can be made for school sport.**

SPORTS SELECTION SHEET – TERM 1 2019 - Years 9 & 10

- Indicate your preferences by placing the numbers 1, 2 & 3 in the space in the column next to your sports preferences
 - Ensure that you name and year are clearly indicated in the spaces provided and that you have a parent signature
- IF SELECTING A SPORT THAT REQUIRES BUS PAYMENT OF \$50, THIS PAYMENT MUST BE MADE TO THE OFFICE AT THE TIME OF HANDING THIS SHEET BACK IN. THE ONLY SHEETS PUT STRAIGHT INTO THE BOX ARE THOSE THAT DO NOT REQUIRE BUS TRAVEL.**
- SELECTIONS MUST BE RETURNED by FRIDAY 8th FEBRUARY**

Sport	Venue	Cost	Pref. No.	Sport	Venue	Cost	Pref. No.
TEN PIN BOWLING	Mayfield Bowl	\$5/week + \$50/term for bus		VOLLEYBALL	School Courts	Nil	
SURFING	Merewether Beach	\$50 term for bus		ROCK CLIMBING	Pulse Climbing Centre – Adamstown	\$10 per week + \$50 term for bus	
HOWZAT INDOOR SPORTS	Howzat - Newcastle	\$6/week + \$50/term for bus		OZ TAG TOUCH	School Ovals	Nil	
TENNIS	District Park	\$4 per week		BASKETBALL	School Courts	Nil	
SKATEBOARDING	Bar Beach	\$50/term for bus		FUTSAL	School Courts	Nil	
BEACH SPORTS	Newcastle Beach	\$50/term for bus		CIRCUS SKILLS	G Block COLA	\$5/week	
CROSS FIT TRAINING	Adamstown Gym	\$10 per week + \$50 term for bus		TABLE TENNIS	PE COLA	Nil	

NAME: _____ YEAR: _____

PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE: (This section MUST be signed by the student indicating that you have discussed your choices and gained approval from your parents to participate in the chosen sports and that the allocated fee will be paid in accordance with school policy)
I state that I have discussed my sports choices with my parent/s and they agree to pay the associated costs and understand that travel will occur under the direct supervision of MHS Staff members.

Signed:(parent)

INDOOR SOCCER COMPETITION

The very popular lunchtime Indoor Soccer competition reaches its conclusion next week with some fierce competition expected this week, especially in the Boys' division where we have a number of excellent and evenly matched teams left in the competition. The Grand Finals will be held next week in the Boys, Girls and Mixed Divisions.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Rohan St Hill of Year 11 for his outstanding debut as a Triathlete in the recent Newcastle Triathlon. Rohan, having his first start in an event of this magnitude was successful in not only winning his age group but was placed in the top 30 overall. An outstanding effort.

Congratulations to Jeremy Thomas as well with his recent Gold Medal success in the Mens' Foil Fencing divisions at the PCYC Championships. Fencing is a little known sport but Jeremy has been very successful in the sport for a number of years. His dedication and hard work in training and competition needs recognition and we would expect further success to come his way over the next few years. Congratulations Jeremy.

🏆 MENS FOIL WINNERS 🏆

- 🥇 GOLD - Jeremy Thomas (Newcastle PCYC)
- 🥈 SILVER - Anthony Birt (Newcastle PCYC)
- 🥉 BRONZE - Brendan Kearns (Penrith Fencing Academy) and James McGilvray (Newcastle PCYC)



Year 9 Design & Technology IKEA Excursion

Earlier this term our Year 9 Design & Technology students boarded a train for IKEA Homebush.

Students undertook a case study on the business and identified the sustainability of products that made it into their product line.

Students have now seen industry practice of the Cyclic Design process and how this has been implemented.

Students drew inspiration from the lighting section in store and are now tasked to complete their own lighting design projects.



Languages

Japan Tour 2019

35 excited travellers are making last minute preparations for our biennial MHS Japan Tour. From April 15th – April 25th we will visit Tokyo, Kyoto, Hiroshima and our sister city of Ube experiencing culture, food, sightseeing and practising our Japanese speaking skills. Merewether High and Keishin High have had a strong relationship for over 10 years so we are very excited to visit our friends from Keishin High during our planned day in our sister city of Ube.

Year 8 Japanese classes have mastered the script of hiragana and are reading and writing sentences in Japanese, preparing themselves to communicate with Japanese native speakers as they start composing self-introductions in Japanese. They have also explored elements of culture with Valentine's Day and Girls' Day celebrations, origami and drawing anime versions of themselves.



THE LIMITS OF MY LANGUAGE ARE THE LIMITS OF
MY WORLD.

~Ludwig Wittgenstein

Year 9 Japanese are developing skills in reading and writing the script of katakana and even beginning to master the kanji characters for time words, preparing them for discussions with native speakers about daily routines and making plans. They have also explored cultural elements of Shichi-Go-San festival and First Birthday celebrations in Japan. Their skills in the art of Shodo brush and ink writing have been very impressive. Our Year 9 students are also preparing to compete in our sister city Japanese contest to be held on April 1st with 4 students from Newcastle region winning trips to Japan. Good luck to all our talented entrants! がんばってね !

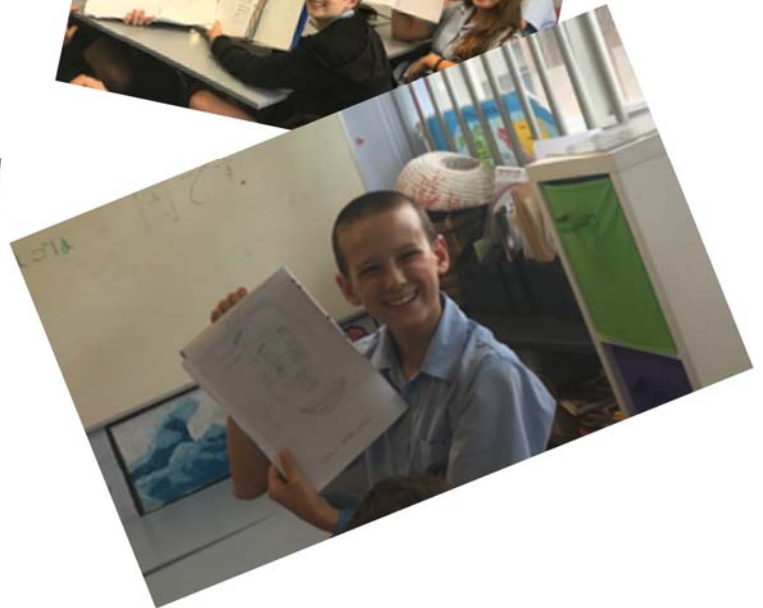
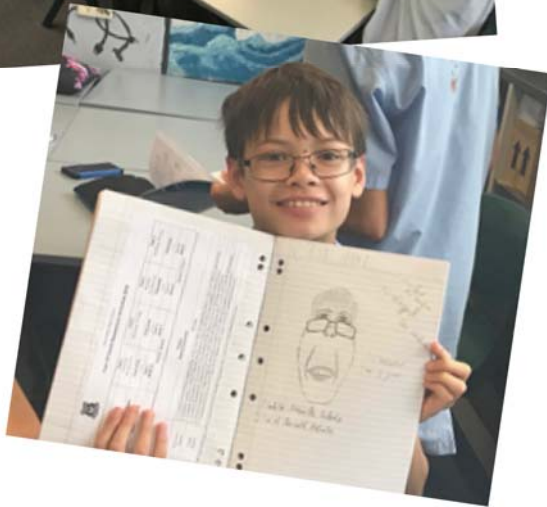


Year 8 French students are mastering self-introductions to share with French speakers and have been drawing French style caricature drawings of themselves. They have also explored Valentine's Day celebrations in France, French written accents, masculine and feminine forms of nouns and possessive pronouns and the French alphabet.

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LEARN TO MINGLE..... BE BILINGUAL!!!!



The Secrets of Learning a New Language

Students have watched the TED Talk by Lydia Machova which has motivated them to explore ways to enjoy learning a new language that are most appealing to them. Some students have enjoyed watching movies and anime, listening to music and podcasts, cooking recipes and reading children's books in French and Japanese.

Others have been engaging in activities on www.quizlet.com to help revise vocabulary and structures learnt in class. These students are gaining confidence and developing skills which will be valuable in communicating with others in our global community and having fun along the way.

The video link is here ... why not explore ways your family can become involved in foreign language learning.... Teach your pets some new tricks, use some of the greetings around your home, watch some movies together and enjoy this wonderful world we live in through a different perspective!

https://www.ted.com/talks/lydia_machova_the_secrets_of_learning_a_new_language?language=en



*"With languages, you can move from one social situation to another.
With languages, you are at home anywhere."
-Edmund De Waal*



Social Science

Term 1 is well underway with all students engaged in a busy program of school based activities and a variety of opportunities for extension and extra-curricular activities. Our HSC students have just completed their second assessment task and will now focus their efforts on preparing for the upcoming Mid - Course Assessment Period in weeks 10 and 11. Year 11 students, including the new accelerated Year 10 cohort in Legal Studies and Business Studies are completing the foundation work for the preliminary course in preparation for their first assessment task later this term. Our senior students are encouraged to complete practice questions and submit these to their class teacher to gain essential feedback to ensure they are able to refine their exam technique and seek clarification of concepts related area of study.

Opportunities for Gifted & Talented Students

The Social Science faculty has a strong record of providing enrichment and extension opportunities. The following activities are available for students to be involved in:

- ♦ **MHS Environment Group:** In 2019 the group is being run by two of our senior leaders Arthy Mukunthan and Biana Arunraj with the assistance of Mrs Green. They plan to focus on sustainability and clothing and will work with Year 9 Geography students on activities associated with their War on Waste course work.

Current competitions:

- ♦ The National Geographic Channel (**Australian Geography Competition 2019**) will be held during Weeks 9 -11 of Term 1.
- ♦ The **ASX Share Market Game** is underway. 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.
- ♦ The **Mock Trial Competition** is underway for 2019 under the guidance of Mrs. Tonks. Mr Evers continues to mentor the team.
- ♦ The **Model United Nations Assembly** (MUNA) Competition will take place on June 1st 2019. Mrs. Burnett will be selecting students for this competition in week 8.
- ♦ 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.

Junior Geography Fieldwork:

- ♦ **Aboriginal Perspectives incursion** All Year 7 Geographers will be engaged in a two period activity on Monday the 1st April with Cultural Education Officer David Newham to learn more about Aboriginal perspectives on landforms and traditional management practices.

Lisa Burnett - Head Teacher Social Science



TECHNOLOGY UPDATES

Communications Survey

In early Term 2, 2019 we will be emailing all parents and caregivers a link to a digital survey with the aim to help us better understand the effectiveness of communication methods currently used throughout our school community and where improvements can be made to further support the Teaching and Learning at Merewether High.

While our current digital methods of communication include the school website, email, SkoolBag and SENTRAL, we would like to ascertain a deeper understanding of how our community engages with this content and areas where we could offer greater clarity and/or functionality.

The survey will open at the beginning of Term 2 and be available for completion for approximately four weeks. This deadline will assist School Plan and Technology Plan directives into the second half of 2019 and beyond.

Please ensure that any changes to your family's primary contact email are updated with the Front Office before the end of Term 1 so that your valued opinion and experiences can be included with our data.

Technology Code of Conduct

As well as the Communications Survey, we will be emailing a revised Technology Code of Conduct document to all parents and caregivers.

This documents aim is to further define the expectations of appropriate use of technology within our school community and the requirements of appropriate use within the scope of Department of Education policy in regards to hardware, software and network infrastructure and systems.

This document when signed by students, parents and caregivers will provide a strong basis for the growth of effective technology learning and interaction within our classrooms and learning spaces.

Scott Cox - Head Teacher - Technology

SRC NEWS MARCH 2019.....



Your SRC has brought a vibrant, fun and positive start to 2019. Already we have celebrated the love and friendship at MHS with Valentine's Day deliveries to all students and staff, welcomed Year 7 and their families to our school with our Welcome BBQ which was immediately followed by our 'The Breakfast Club-High School Stereotypes' whole school dance. This 'detention'ummmm we mean.... dance was attended by 450 dressed to theme students who brought their best groove moves along with them.

The committees of the SRC are currently looking at ways to further enhance our school community and our next event is Harmony Day on Thursday March 21st to celebrate the pride we have in the cultural diversity of our school. This year's Harmony Day theme is 'Everyone Belongs'.

We will celebrate by having a cultural fashion parade, multicultural food stall and traditional games and activities at lunch. The colour for Harmony Day is **ORANGE** and on Thursday 21st March all students are invited to wear something orange with their uniform. Traditionally, orange signifies social communication and meaningful conversations. It also relates to the freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual respect. Students can choose to wear something orange to show their support for cultural diversity and an inclusive community at MHS.

The SRC thanks all students, staff and families for your ongoing support of our events that make MHS the wonderful school community it is.

<https://www.harmony.gov.au/>

OUR OWN MHS STUDENT TO STUDENT MENTOR PROGRAM



Any student who would like support or assistance with any area of school life....

- ♦ ACADEMIC TUTORING IN A PARTICULAR SUBJECT
- ♦ STUDY AND ORGANISATIONAL SKILLS
- ♦ GENERAL SUPPORT OR SOMEONE TO CHAT TO
- ♦ STUDY GROUPS FOR SENIOR COURSES (NEW THIS YEAR)

You can meet weekly, fortnightly, from time to time, when you have assessments coming up..... it is very flexible and up to you.

The Student Guide mentors are students from Years 10 - 12 who have volunteered to help other students for free..... we have so many talented, experienced and organised people in our student body so it makes sense to have you all helping each other.

We have had over 150 students mentored through this program since it began in 2016. If you would like to have a student mentor please complete the survey which can be found at the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/requestamentorALLYEARSfor2019>

Senior Study Groups are also on offer this year, if you are interested please complete the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SENIORSTUDYGROUPS>

For any further enquiries..... if you have applied for a mentor but they have not yet made contact, or if your needs have changed and you are no longer in the program or wish to re-apply for a different kind of mentor please see Mrs Allen in the Language Staffroom or Mrs Chalmers in the Maths Staffroom or email: coreena.allen@det.nsw.edu.au.

Thank you to all the wonderful students already making the most of this program either as a mentor or mentee in this popular student based initiative, and to our Student Guide Student Coordinators, Madi Mulder and Saffron Sabine for their passion and support.

Year 7 Peer Support Program 2019

Our Year 7 students began the Peer Support Program 'Facing Our Challenges' in Week 7. Under the guidance of their Year 10 mentors, students will work through a variety of activities. These activities will assist students to:

- ♦ practise positive self-talk
- ♦ develop an optimistic attitude
- ♦ develop effective coping strategies
- ♦ show empathy towards self and others
- ♦ persevere in new and challenging situations
- ♦ develop resilience

The program is divided into eight sessions, and will run until the middle of Term 2. At the completion of the program, Year 7 students will be asked to complete a survey to assess the success of 'Facing Our Challenges'. If you have any questions regarding Peer Support, please contact Ms Howlett, either through the Office on 4969 3855 or via email at Clare.Howlett@det.nsw.edu.au

Year 11 Textiles and Design Excursion

Year 11 Textiles and Design students attended the Sydney Stitches and Craft show in February. Students were able to ask Textile Artists questions about the creative techniques they use to construct articles. They were also able to observe prize winning quilts from all over the world. The techniques on display will provide them with invaluable ideas for their upcoming projects.



The open girls' Netball team contested the Zone Knockout Gala Day on Wednesday 6th March. In 38 degree heat the girls won six out of seven games. This was an outstanding effort in the very hot conditions and also considering there were a few players with injuries. The girls were determined and fought hard for the wins to ensure they progressed through to the next round. The girls will now progress to the Regional Knockout to be held on Wednesday 20th March at Maitland Indoor Centre.



Vietnam Fundraising

High Tea

On the weekend of the 23rd and 24th of February a High Tea for 200 guests over 4 service periods was held at MHS by Year 10, 11 and 12 Hospitality and Food Technology students. The students planned the menu, prepared the food and served at the function. The function was held as a fundraiser for the Vietnam Culinary and Cultural Tour which is fast approaching these April school holidays. The function also enabled the students to meet assessment criteria in a range of Hospitality competencies that they needed to complete for their HSC. Guests praised the students on the quality of the food and their professional service. I would like to thank Mr. Cox, Mrs D'Amico and Ms Inglis for their assistance in organising the High Tea and for giving up their time on the weekend to work with the students to make this function such a success.

Vicki McCudden - Head Teacher TAS



CAPA

MUSIC

Our Year 11 Elective Music students attended **REPRISE** at Newcastle Conservatorium of Music on Friday 15th February. This event is a concert showcasing outstanding HSC performances from 2018 HSC Public School students around our region. Our very own Adrienne Hanslow, Year 12, 2018, was selected as one of the performers for this year's concert. Students gained an insight into the standard required to obtain a band 6 result for Music performance.



ENCORE

Year 12 Music Elective students have recently had the pleasure of viewing exemplary HSC Music performances from 2018 at **Encore**. Students enjoyed a day out in Sydney viewing outstanding performances at the Sydney Opera House which showcases the best of the best. This year we had the pleasure of listening to ex-Merewether High students Jamie Rea and Brennan Fell accompany a student from a local high school in this concert at the Opera House. This showcase is a wonderful opportunity to experience the high calibre of talent from across the state.

MEET THE MUSIC - SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE

Our first Meet the Music Concert took place on Thursday 21st of February. 20 very excited Year 10 and 8 students boarded the mini bus driven by Mrs Tenorio and headed down the freeway. After having dinner at our favourite Italian restaurant, Eastbank Pizzeria, we headed to our seats in the Opera House. For some students this was their first time inside the Concert Hall of the Opera House, a stunning sight to see. We were treated to a concert hosted by Sydney Symphony Orchestra that featured world renowned trumpeter and musician Wynton Marsalis and the Lincoln Jazz Orchestra. It was truly spectacular to watch Wynton perform in the flesh. Such a moving concert. The next Meet the Music Concert will take place on Wednesday 8th May and is open to Elective Music students.



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CAPA

MUSIC ENSEMBLES NIGHT

This night is designed to showcase each of MHS's Music Ensembles after only 6 weeks of rehearsals. You will be amazed by the talent.

When: Monday 25th March, 6pm

Where: Merewether High School, Bensley Hall

Entry: Free

COMING UP: Term 2

8th May – Meet the Music Concert 2, Sydney Opera House. Elective Music students invited to attend

10th May – Star Struck Choir rehearsal at Newcastle Hall of Industry

24th May – Year 7 (60 students) to watch a concert performed by Sydney Symphony Orchestra at Newcastle City Hall

7th June – Star Struck Choir rehearsal at Newcastle Hall of Industry

12th-15th June – Star Struck Week

1st July - **Senior Music Showcase at Lizottes**

This event will showcase Merewether High School's HSC and Preliminary HSC Music students. It is a fantastic evening with outstanding music and a wonderful menu. Come along and support our very talented students and enjoy a night out. Tickets will soon be available directly from the Lizotte's website.

ELECTIVE MUSIC EXCURSION

All Elective Music students have been given the opportunity to experience this hilarious musical at the Lyric Theatre, Sydney on July 31st. Payments can now be taken at the front office. There are limited seats, so please get in early.



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VISUAL ARTS



The Visual Arts faculty has been very busy since the beginning of the year with our students attending excursions and exhibiting in art galleries both near and far.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ELLA DUNCAN AND OSCAR TURMINE-MINCHISON, THE ARMORY EXHIBITION, ARTEXPRESS 2019

Two more of our very talented HSC student from 2018 are represented in Arterxpress 2019. Ella and Oscar's artworks are on display at The Armory Gallery in Sydney. Opening night was spectacular, with Ella's work featuring on the promotional work online and on billboards. Oscar's photographs on aluminium sheets were also beautifully displayed.



EXCURSION TO MUSEUM OF OLD AND NEW ART (MONA) IN HOBART

Year 12 students were whisked away on February 21st for three fabulous days in Hobart, Tasmania. Our main port of call was MONA, the world renowned private gallery owned and curated by David Walsh. In this mostly subterranean gallery we saw so many art objects that were historical, scientifically and geographically based, from mummified cat heads from ancient Egypt, to light tunnels, mirror mazes, fat cars, Madonna wannabes, video installations, tattooed Tim and rain that spelt out words. A visit to Salamanca markets and the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery rounded out our three day trip.



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Merewether High School Bulletin



NICHOLAS WILSON, SOPHIA SCEPANOVIC AND OSCAR TURMINE – MINCHISON

Three of our very talented photographers donated their artworks for the exhibition 'Young Guns', raising money for the John Hunter Children's Hospital. Sophia's HSC works 'Familiar', based on the relationship between man and their dogs, Oscar Turmine-Minchison's work 'Architectonica' that looks at the relationship between architecture and geometric forms and Nicholas' photographs of sites, scenes and landscapes. It was a great opening with many people commenting on the refinement and sophistication in their works. They are also to be commended in donating their works to a worthy cause.

Please join us for the opening of our next
Art for Waratah Exhibition
14 FEBRUARY 4:30 PM
Organisational Development & Learning Building,
Hunter New England Health, Waratah Campus,
Troon Road Entrance, Waratah

Young Guns 2
Features the work of three young local-acting
photographer artists, Sophia Scepanovic, Oscar
Turmine-Minchison & Nic Wilson, along with
landscapes around Newcastle from Nick Loring

THURSDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2019 4:30 PM

Exhibition to be opened by Peter Reay,
Hunter's Professional Manager,
Greater Metropolitan Health Services,
Newcastle

RSVP: Megan Helen Phone: 0800 3229
HNELOH-OCB, 0800 3229
hneohocb@hneohocb.nsw.gov.au

Art for Waratah
The 'Art for Waratah' initiative aims to provide a
visually stimulating learning environment for
students and staff of the Waratah campus of
Hunter New England Health.

Additionally, the initiative seeks to raise funds for
the John Hunter Children's Hospital and to support
and connect with the local art community.

Curated by Louise Turmine

YOUNG GUNS 2
with Staff and Friends of HNELHD

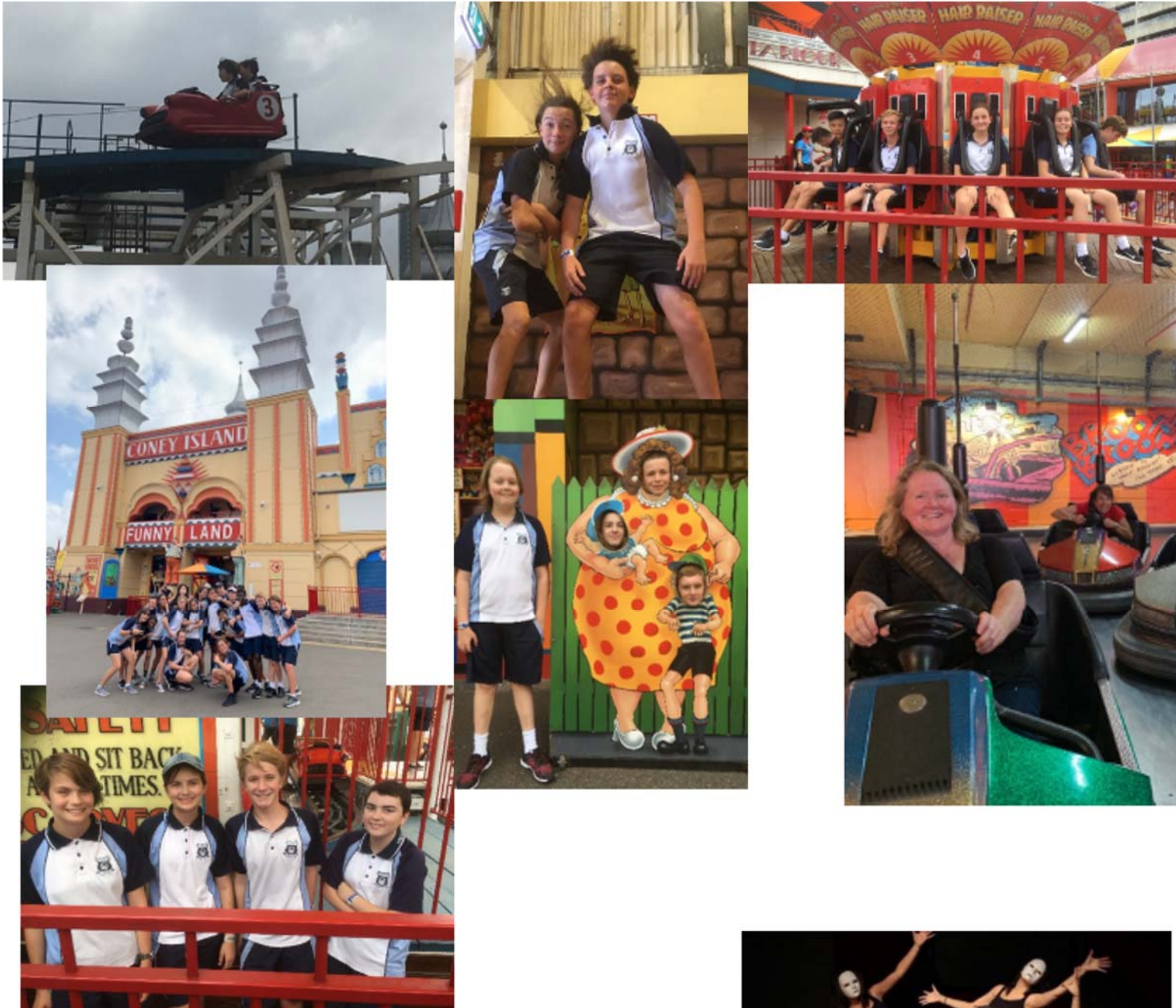
ARTEXPRESS EXCURSION, ART GALLERY OF NSW

On Friday 8th March, 50 elective Visual Arts students travelled down to Sydney to visit the Arterxpress exhibition held at the Art Gallery of NSW. Max Suci-Gleeson's work from our 2018 cohort is one of the works on display so we invited Max to come down with our school group to talk about his work, his practice and his experiences. Students saw some amazing work in the exhibition and have come back inspired and focused on their own artmaking.



LUNA PARK EXCURSION FOR YEAR 8 VISUAL ARTS MANDATORY

Continuing on a tradition that has been established over 5 years, Year 8 students once again travelled down to Luna Park to draw, photograph and experience the joy, fun and excitement that is Luna Park. As part of their Visual Arts studies, students learn about Luna Park's history, it's arts culture and the very strong bond that has evolved over time between the artists such as Art Barton and Martin Sharp and the restoration and conservation of the park. Students had to draw aspects of the park and take numerous photos in order for them to complete their Luna Park poster assessment task. The fruits of their labour will be on show in the 7-10 Visual Arts exhibition later in the year.

**DRAMA**

We are very happy to announce that the Drama Ensemble is up and running again for the year. Members old and new are welcome to come along. Senior Drama Ensemble – Thursday lunchtime and Junior Drama Ensemble - Friday lunchtime.



NAPLAN on paper – information for parents and carers

NAPLAN
NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM
Literacy and Numeracy

2019

Why do students do NAPLAN?

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) assesses literacy and numeracy skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life.

Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in the annual NAPLAN tests in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

The assessment provides parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process - it does not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance.

NAPLAN also provides schools, education authorities and governments with information about how education programs are working and whether young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

What is assessed?

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through their regular school curriculum. All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN materials.

See example NAPLAN questions at nap.edu.au

How can I help my child prepare?

Help your child prepare by reassuring them that NAPLAN is just one part of their school program, and by reminding them on the day to simply try their best. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the types of questions in the tests and will provide appropriate support and guidance.

ACARA does not recommend excessive preparation for NAPLAN or the use of services by coaching providers.

NAPLAN is about assessing learning progress in literacy and numeracy.

Participation in NAPLAN

All students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are expected to participate in the annual NAPLAN assessment.

Students with disability may qualify for adjustments that reflect the support normally provided for classroom assessments. You should first discuss the use of any disability adjustments for your child with your child's teacher.

A formal exemption may be granted for a student with disability that severely limits their capacity to participate in the assessment, or for a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background.

Your school principal and your local test administration authority can give you more information on special provisions or the process required to gain a formal exemption.

Will my child sit NAPLAN on paper or online?

In 2019, your child will sit NAPLAN paper tests.

However, children in other schools across Australia will sit the NAPLAN online tests this year. Federal, state and territory education ministers have agreed that all schools will move online by 2020. State and territory education authorities will determine when their schools move online.

As students are assessed on the same literacy and numeracy curriculum content, regardless of whether they complete the test online or on paper, results for both formats can be reported on the same NAPLAN assessment scale. To find out more about NAPLAN Online, visit nap.edu.au

What if my child is absent from school on assessment days?

Where possible, schools may arrange for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the testing week. Individual students are not permitted to sit tests after Friday 17 May 2019.

NAPLAN 2019 timetable

	Tuesday 14 May	Wednesday 15 May	Thursday 16 May
Year 3	language conventions 45 minutes writing 40 minutes	reading 45 minutes	numeracy 45 minutes
Year 5	language conventions 45 minutes writing 40 minutes	reading 50 minutes	numeracy 50 minutes
Year 7	language conventions 45 minutes writing 40 minutes	reading 65 minutes	numeracy 65 minutes
Year 9	language conventions 45 minutes writing 40 minutes	reading 65 minutes	numeracy 65 minutes

How is my child's performance measured?

Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each test. A result at the national minimum standard indicates that the student has demonstrated the basic literacy and numeracy skills needed to participate fully in that year level.

A NAPLAN individual student report will be issued by your child's school later in the year. If you do not receive a report, you should contact your child's school.

How are NAPLAN results used?

- Students and parents may use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to better identify students who would benefit from greater challenges or extra support.
- Schools use results to identify strengths and areas to improve in teaching programs, and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review programs and support offered to schools.
- The community can see average school NAPLAN results at myschool.edu.au

Where can I get more information?

For more information about NAPLAN:

- contact your child's school
- contact your local test administration authority at nap.edu.au/TAA
- visit nap.edu.au

For information about how personal information for NAPLAN is handled by ACARA, please visit nap.edu.au/naplanprivacy



This month on School TV - Grief & Loss

Grief is a natural response to loss. It might be the loss of a loved one, relationship or even a pet. The more significant the loss, the more intense the grief is likely to be. Children and adults grieve differently due to their developmental stage, and this can prove difficult for parents to understand.

Young children fluctuate in and out of the stages of grief rapidly, as they may not comprehend the permanency death. They express their grief more physically. Teens on the other hand may not know how to express their grief and will need some space to process their loss. Some may choose to grieve alone, not wanting to stand out or be seen as not coping. Whilst others, who may have a greater understanding, can start to question their own mortality.

In this edition of SchoolTV, parents can learn how to acknowledge their child's feelings and the best way to support them through the grief. We hope you take time to reflect on the information offered in this month's edition and we always welcome your feedback.

If you have any concerns about your child, please contact the school counsellor for further information.

Here is the link to this month's edition <https://merewether-h-schools.nsw.schooltv.me/newsletter/grief-loss>

Uniform Shop



Shop Hours
Monday 8.00-12.00pm
Thursday 1.00-3.30pm

Contact Details
0401 725 885
merewetherhigh@alinta.com.au
130 Chatham Street, Broadmeadow
NSW 2292

Merewether High School Uniform Shop Order Form



Order Form Details

Date: _____
Name: _____
Address: _____
Contact Number: _____
Email Address: _____

Payment Options

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Cash (enclosed)

Name On Card: _____
Credit Card Number: _____
Expiry Date: ____/____/____
CVC: _____
Signature: _____

Uniform, Yr7-Yr12	Size	Price	Size	Qty
S/S Blouse 7-9	J8-L20	\$40.00		
S/S Shirt 7-9	J8-3XL	\$38.00		
S/S Blouse 10-12	J10-L20	\$44.00		
S/S Shirt 10-12	J8-3XL	\$38.00		
Tartan Skirt	J8-L20	\$71.00		
Fitted Formal Shorts	J10-L20	\$45.50		
Fitted Pants	J10-L20	\$50.00		
Formal Shorts	J8-3XL	\$49.95		
Formal Trousers	J10-3XL	\$55.00		
Outerwear	Size	Price	Size	Qty
Jumper	10-16	\$84.00		
	18-20	\$91.00		
	22-26	\$101.00		

Sports Uniform	Size	Price	Size	Qty
Sports Polo	J8-3XL	\$45.00		
Sports Shorts Unisex	J8-3XL	\$39.50		
Sport Shorts Girls Cut	J10-L20	\$39.50		
Tracksuit Jacket MF	J10-3XL	\$79.00		
Tracksuit Jacket Heavy	J10-3XL	\$89.00		
Tracksuit Pants	J10-3XL	\$51.50		
Bags	Size	Price	Size	Qty
Swim Excursion Bag	one	\$20.60		
Backpack	Large	\$86.50		
Accessories	Size	Price	Size	Qty
Sport Socks	All Sizes	\$10.00		
White Socks	All Sizes	\$6.95		
Black Socks	All Sizes	\$6.95		
Microfibre Tights	All Sizes	\$10.50		
Leather Belt	All Sizes	\$17.50		
Bucket Hat	S-XL	\$22.50		
Sports Cap	One Size	\$19.00		
Gloves		\$8.50		
Scarf		\$12.50		
Fabric Marker		\$4.00		

Note:

• Sizes not carried are available by custom order. 3 month lead time applies. An additional \$10.00 is applied to custom orders and all sizes above and including a 4XL/L22.

• Online orders are distributed from the Uniform Shop the next opening day of the shop. A postage charge will occur for all orders marked for delivery.

• Payments can be made by Cash, Credit Card or Debit Credit Cards only.

Prices Effective from 1-9-2018 and are subject to change without notice.



IT'S GO-TIME!

The Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards is back for 2019!

Opening 1st March and continuing until 30th June.

We have a new optional theme, which is extracted from a poem called "*The Listeners*" by Walter De La Mare, brand new judges and a whole new design. Have a peek at our website for all the gossip!

While you're there, have another look at our range of categories and prizes for primary and secondary school students - including year group categories, learning assistance, the Multicultural NSW award and now in its second year, the David Maher Award for small schools.

The Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards have updated their Terms & Conditions this year too, so it's imperative you read through them before entering.

To register or find links to helpful poetry tutorials, be sure to visit www.dorothea.com.



dorothea mackellar
poetry awards

T: 02 6742 1200 | F: 02 6742 1435 | PO Box 112, Gunnedah NSW 2200 | E: dorotheamackellar@bigpond.com



March
2019

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	March
Mon 18/3	Year 12 Blackout Period commences
Tues 19/3	Year 11 PLG - 9:00am
Thurs 21/3	SRC Harmony Day
	April
Mon 1/4	Year 12 assessment period commences
Tues 2/4	Year 7 PLG - 9:00am
Thurs 4/4	Year 8 Brainstorm productions - 1:30pm
Fri 12/4	Year 12 Assessment period concludes
	TERM 2
Mon 29/4	School Development Day
Tues 30/4	All students return Year 12 meeting
	May
Wed 1/5	Cross Country
Thurs 2/5	ANZAC Ceremony
Mon 6/5	Reach (ICAS) Digital Technologies Y7
Tues 7/5	Reach (ICAS) Digital Technologies
Wed 8/5	Elevate Parent Session - 6-7pm Years 10-12 Reach Digital Technologies
Thurs 9/5	Elevate Yr10 - 9am Elevate Y11 - 11am Reach Digital Technologies
Fri 10/5	Reach Digital Technologies
Tues 14/5	Y7 PLG - 9am Y7 & Y9 NAPLAN Y10 Vaccinations Y12 Reports Issued
Wed 15/5	Y7 & Y9 NAPLAN
Thurs 16/5	Careers EXPO - Y10 Y7 & Y9 NAPLAN
Fri 17/5	Y7 & Y9 NAPLAN catch-up Y11 Blackout period commences
Mon 20/5	Year Meetings this week Y7 Brainstorm Production - 9am
Tues 21/5	Y8 PLG - 9am Y12 Parent Teacher Interviews
Wed 22/5	Zone Cross Country
Fri 24/5	Y 11 Assessment period Sydney Symphony Orchestra Newcastle

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Mon 27/5	Yrs 7– 9 Blackout period commences Reach Science Yrs 7 - 10
Tues 28/5	Y9 PLG - 9am Reach Science Yrs 7 - 10
Wed 29/5	Reach Science Yrs 7 - 10
Thurs 30/5	Reach Science Yrs 7 - 10
Fri 31/5	Reach Science Yrs 7 - 10
	June
Mon 3/6	Yrs 7 - 9 Assessment period
Tues 4/6	Y10 PLG - 9am
Wed 5/6	National History Competition
Fri 7/6	Y12 Academic Review concludes
Mon 10/6	Queen's Birthday Weekend
Tues 11/6	Y11 PLG - 9am Starstruck Week
Mon 17/6	Y10 Blackout period commences Waste Awareness Week Reach Spelling - Y7 Reach Writing - Y7 & Y8
Tues 18/6	Y12 PLG - 9am Reach Spelling - Y7 Reach Writing - Y7 & Y8
Wed 19/6	Reach Spelling - Y7 Reach Writing - Y7 & Y8
Thurs 20/6	Reach Spelling - Y7 Reach Writing - Y7 & Y8
Fri 21/6	Green Day Reach Spelling - Y7 Reach Writing - Y7 & Y8
Mon 24/6	Y10 Assessment period commences
Tues 25/6	Y7 PLG - 9am
Thurs 24/6	Y11 Parent Teacher Interviews
Fri 28/6	NAIDOC Assembly
	July
Mon 1/7	ROSA Assemblies Y7,9,11 - 11am Y8,10,12 - 1:30pm
Tues 2/7	Y11 Jindabyne day 1/4
Wed 3/7	Y11 Jindabyne day 2/4

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Thurs 4/7	Y12 UoN - all day Y11 Jindabyne day 3/4
Fri 5/7	Y11 Jindabyne day 4/4
	TERM 3
Mon 22/7	School Development day - no students
Tues 23/7	All students return Y12 Meeting
Thurs 25/7	Y7 2020 Tour and Information Session - 4pm
Fri 26/7	CHS Cross Country
Mon 29/7	Reach English - Y7-Y10
Tues 30/7	Y7 & Y9 parent Teacher Interview Reach English - Y7-Y10
Wed 31/7	Opportunity Class Placement Test Regional Athletics Reach English - Y7-Y10
	August
Thurs 1/8	POSH Concert Reach English - Y7-Y10
Fri 2/8	Reach English - Y7-Y10
Mon 5/8	Y10 Reports issued Y12 Blackout period commences Reach Maths Y7 - Y10
Tues 6/8	Y7 PLG - 9am Reach Maths Y7 - Y10
Wed 7/8	Reach Maths Y7 - Y10
Thurs 8/8	Y8 & Y10 Parent Teacher interviews Reach Maths Y7 - Y10
Fri 9/8	Reach Maths Y7 - Y10
Mon 12/8	Y10 (2020) Information Evening - 4:30pm Y11 (2020) Information Evening - 6pm
Tues 13/8	Y8 (2020) Information Evening - 4:30pm Y9 (2020) Information Evening - 6pm
Mon 19/8	Y12 Trail HSC Exams Commence
Tues 20/8	Y12 Trail HSC Exams
Wed 21/8	Y12 Trail HSC Exams
Thurs 22/8	Y12 Trail HSC Exams
Fri 23/8	Y12 Trail HSC Exams
Mon 26/8	Y12 Trail HSC Exams
Tues 27/8	Y12 Trail HSC Exams
Wed 28/8	Y12 Trail HSC Exams
Thurs 29/8	Y12 Trail HSC Exams
Fri 30/8	Y12 Trail HSC Exams conclude

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	September
Tues 3/9	Elevate Y12 - 8:50am ICAS Digital Technologies School Dance
Wed 4/9	CHS Athletics
Thurs 5/9	ICAS Science - Y7 - Y10 CHS Athletics
Mon 9/9	Y11 Final Assessment period commences
Tues 10/9	Y12 PLG - 9am ICAS Writing - Y7 - Y10
Thurs 12/9	ICAS Spelling Bee Y7
Tues 17/9	Y7 PLG - 9am ICAS English - Y7 - Y10
Thurs 19/9	ICAS Maths Y7 - Y10
Fri 20/9	Y11 Final Assessment period concludes
Mon 23/9	Y7 Vaccinations
Tues 24/9	P&C Meeting - 7:30pm
Wed 25/9	Y12 Reports issued Sports Presentation Assembly - 9am Year 12 Formal
Fri 27/9	Y12 Presentation Assembly - 9:30am
	TERM 4
	October
Mon 14/10	Y12 (2020) Information Session - 4pm Y11 Elevate - 10am
Tues 15/10	Y7 (2021) Information Session - 4pm
Thurs 17/10	Y7 GATS Challenge Day - 11am - 2:30pm HSC commences
Fri 25/10	Bandfest
Mon 28/10	Y11 Reports issued
Tues 29/10	Y7 PLG issued
Wed 30/10	Y9 Urban Challenge day 1/3
Thurs 31/10	Y9 Urban Challenge day 2/3
	November
Fri 1/11	Y9 Urban Challenge day 3/3
Mon 4/11	Y7 - Y10 Blackout period commences

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	November
Fri 1/11	Y9 Urban Challenge day 3/3
Mon 4/11	Y7 - Y10 Blackout period commences
Tues 5/11	Y8 PLG - 9am
Mon 11/11	Y7 - Y10 Assessment period
Tues 12/11	Y9 PLG - 9am Last Day HSC
Tues 19/11	Y10 PLG - 9am
Fri 22/11	Prefects' Investiture - 11am
Mon 25/11	IBL Panel Y8 & Y9
Tues 26/11	Y11 (Y12 2020) PLG - 9am IBL Panel Y8 & Y9
Thurs 28/11	Y11 Assembly - 11am
	December
Mon 2/12	Learning Reflection Y7
Mon 9/12	Learning Reflection Y8
Tues 10/12	Y7 (2020) Orientation Day
Fri 13/12	Y10 Assembly - 9am Y9 Assembly - 11am
Mon 16/12	Y8 Assembly - 9am Y7 Assembly - 11am
Tues 17/12	HSC Results Presentation Assembly - 10:30am
Wed 18/12	Y12 BBQ - 11am Last Day of School