Congratulations Melville SHS Swim Team 2012

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From the Principal

Issue 26

Welcome to the second edition of Melville Matters for 2012. I know that you will agree with me when I say that under the new editorial direction of Mrs Sid Cox, the first edition for 2012 was of the high standard we have come to expect. I also know that under Sid’s direction Melville Matters will just get better and better.

As I write we are about to commence week 8. By now all students should have well and truly settled into their classes and while there may still be a bit of shuffling based on the year 11 and 12 Interim Progress Statements this will also settle soon. Accordingly each student should now have received Course Outlines and Assessment Programs for every course (subject) in year 8 – 12. Course Outlines should be thorough enough to give students (and parents) a general idea of what is being taught and while the Assessment Program (which may in fact included in the same document) should indicate what assessment tasks are due and their relative weighting. We all know that outlines and programs will change but I expect staff to keep students and their parents updated with these as well. Broadly speaking if you look at the Course Outline and Assessment Program and, if necessary, after asking your child you still have no idea what they are studying and when they have assessments, it may be that you need to get in touch with the teacher concerned and ask them to explain the situation to you.

Course Outlines and Assessment Programs are but one way the school tries to keep you informed about the study requirements for you child at school. Another important way is of course using the format of the traditional parent/teacher meeting night. By the time you read this we will have had the Year 8, 11 and 12 Parent/Teacher Night held on Tuesday March 27th. Thank you to the many parents who were able to attend this important meeting aimed at providing an early snapshot into the extent to which students have settled into: (1) their first year at High School (Year 8); or (2) their first year in Senior School (Year 11) or (3) their final year of school (Year 12). I need to of course also thank the teaching staff at Melville SHS for their ongoing commitment and professionalism. The next Parent/Teacher Night will be held on Tuesday July 3rd between 12.30 – 6pm (to give parents more opportunity to meet with teachers across each year group 8 - 12). Obviously to facilitate this extended meeting time, students (less those in the IEC) will be dismissed at 12.30pm and we will continue with the very successful ‘on line’ booking process.

Talking about up coming events ANZAC Day will be celebrated at Melville SHS this year on Friday, 4 April at a ceremony in the gym between 10 – 11 am and as usual all parents and friends of the school are welcome. The special guest speaker will be our very own Lieutenant Colonel Peter Count.

Since I last wrote our swimming team have competed in the ‘C’ Division of the State Swimming Carnival and I am proud to report that they WON by a massive margin of 112 points from the nearest school. Not only did the swim team perform well as a unit in the water but it was also noted by many officials that as spectators our students were proudly dressed in Melville green and barracked with friendly enthusiasm. In addition to a great result as a team six of our students featured as champion or runner up champion boy or girl. Specifically, our heartiest congratulations go to: Rhiannon Houston who was champion girl 13 years; Isobel Scherini who was champion girl 14 years; Lachlan Price who was runner up champion boy 15 years; Ashdyn Kawana who was champion girl 15 years; Brendan Peters who was champion boy 16 years; and Hannah Price who was runner up champion girl 17 years. While this was a great result for school I am even more heartened by the significant improvement between 2011 and 2012. For those of you with a good memory you may recall that our 2011 swim team performed well as a team six of our students featured as champion or runner up champion boy or girl. Specifically, our heartiest congratulations go to: Rhiannon Houston who was champion girl 13 years; Isobel Scherini who was champion girl 14 years; Lachlan Price who was runner up champion boy 15 years; Ashdyn Kawana who was champion girl 15 years; Brendan Peters who was champion boy 16 years; and Hannah Price who was runner up champion girl 17 years. While this was a great result for school I am even more heartened by the significant improvement between 2011 and 2012. For those of you with a good memory you may recall that our 2011 swim team performed well as a team six of our students featured as champion or runner up champion boy or girl. 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Finally, for the last two years or so I have been reminding parents that the attendance of their child at school is one of the biggest contributing factors to achievement at school. As a rough guide, it is considered that a minimum of 90% attendance is essential for academic success. My teaching staff in general and of course my Manager of Student Services (Mrs Vlasich) and her team are monitoring the attendance of your child on a daily basis and reporting to you if their attendance is causing concern (and they will do this even if you have given permission for your child to be away). Typically, our attendance is worse in Years 10 and 11 than other year groups. This said so far this year there seems to have been a significant improvement over 2011 and I hope this is because students and parents are getting the simple message that ‘it is NOT ok to stay away’. Remember, we really need parents to stand firm when their child asks to stay home when they are not really all that unwell. We also ask that parents understand that taking their child on an extended holiday throughout the school term is not ok either and they risk considerable academic hardship if they do (please use the school holidays, not the school term, for holidays – that is what they are there for).

As always, kind regards

Phillip White AM, RFD, BA, Grad Dip Ed, Med (Man) PRINCIPAL

BooBoo’s Back

Melville SHS’s most talked about resident has had a couple of moves in the past few weeks but appears to have selected a favourite hang out in the Senior School Quadrangle.

Believed to be a Boobook Owl, BooBoo as he has been affectionately nicknamed seems to have made himself at home and appears to be quite comfortable with the noises emanating from within the school grounds.

As the smallest of all Australian owls the Boobook is a carnivore and feeds primarily on rodents, small bats, frogs and birds. BooBoo is assisting in keeping our school grounds free of vermin.

Students have been extremely respectful of BooBoo with many expressing concern for his well being. Given that BooBoo is now very much part of our school community, daily checks and updates regarding his welfare seems to be how many within our school start their day - both students and staff alike.

To date there have been no signs of a mate for BooBoo but given that he is a regular visitor to the school and appears quite happy with his chosen abode, we’re anticipating a population growth in the near future.

BooBoo’s Back

www.melville.wa.edu.au
Swimming Carnivals are over for another year. Melville SHS has had a successful 2012 in the pool with our swimmers performing exceptionally well, both in our House Carnivals and the Inter School Swimming Carnival.

Our Year 8 students showed great enthusiasm and house spirit. There was a high level of participation in this year group which stands us in good stead for future success.

2012 Swimming Carnivals

Melville SHS competed in the C Division Inter School Swimming Carnival. Our swimmers performed exceptionally well and have catapulted us into B Division for 2013. Final results as follows:

Melville SHS - 745 points
Greenwood - 633 points
Kalamunda - 561 points
Warnbro - 444 points
Moore Districts - 399 points
Como - 351 points
John Forrest - 302 points

Several outstanding individual performances must be made mention of:

Rhiannon Huston
13 Years, Champion Girl

Kieran Peters
14 Years, Runner Up Champion Boy

Isobell Scherini
14 Years, Champion Girl

Ashdyn Kawana
15 Years, Champion Girl

Lachlan Price
15 Years, Runner Up Champion Boy

Brendan Peters
16 Years, Champion Boy

Hanah Price
17 Years, Runner Up Champion Girl

Thanks and congratulations must go to Lesley McNeil and Phil Farmer who coordinated the team and Sue Gerrard and Wayne Brooks for their much needed assistance on the day.
Winning 13 and Under Girls Freestyle Relay Team
L-R: Ruby, Rhiannon, Sabrina, Jamee Lee

Winning 14 and Under Boys Medley Relay Team
L-R: Kieran, Cullen, Jayden, Solomon

L-R: 16 and Under Champion Boy, Brendan
14 and Under Runner Up Champion Boy, Kieran

Winning 14 and Under Boys Medley Relay Team
L-R: Kieran, Cullen, Jayden, Solomon
On 29 February the Year 11 and 12 Art students set off to the Perth Cultural Centre to take part in the Perth Fringe Festival, viewing the current exhibition HijackedIII at the Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts, checking out the Perspectives exhibition at the Art Gallery of Western Australia and spending some time taking inspiration from the surroundings to complete set drawing tasks for their folios.

The Perspectives exhibition is held in the Art Gallery of Western Australia every year and features work from some of the best and the brightest Year 12 Art students from 2011 across the state. Melville students got a chance to find inspiration viewing the work of their contemporaries, giving them an insight to what level to aspire to if they are to be a part of this prestigious event.

Students were split into groups and taken on a guided tour, giving them the opportunity to see the large variety of artworks in the collection. The tour guides also helped students understand ways to analyse and interpret work which will be of great benefit in the upcoming exams.

The HijackedIII: Contemporary Photography from Australia is the most contemporary of artwork being created by the artists of today, particularly useful to the Year 12 3A/B class who are working with the Postmodern art theme.

Students had a small amount of time in the afternoon to draw upon their newly inspired art practice to work on their various art making tasks, taking photographs, sketching and in some cases going back into the galleries to have more time taking it all in.

The day quickly came to an end and the students were ushered back onto the bus back to Melville SHS. Thanks to the teachers Ms Mellissa McCarthy, Miss Jenna Antoniolli, Mrs Alanna Sherwood, Ms Beth Glasson and Ms Gerry Adams for organising and supervising the excursion.

The Arts Department is currently running after school Master Classes on Tuesday afternoons for the upper school Arts students.

The Master Classes provide expert training from specialists in a variety of art areas. We are currently running a Print Making workshop with Emily Dortch that is providing students with training in dry point printing, etching and a number of other printing techniques.

The Arts Department is running these workshop in support of the Stage 2, 3 Visual Arts courses and for those students also undertaking a Certificate 1 and 2 in Visual Arts.
City of Melville, Sculpture Walk

Fifteen site-specific sculptures visually captured the history of Wireless Hill when the City of Melville’s popular annual Sculpture Walk exhibition was held at Wireless Hill Park in Ardross, marking the 100 year anniversary of the location. Melville SHS Year 12, Stage 1 Visual Arts students created a ceramic and mixed media sculpture based on their research and designs inspired by Wireless Hill Park.

The Students’ designs include images involving Australia’s oldest standing telecommunications site, the Indigenous history and the wonderfully diverse natural environment. This year’s sculpture was a collaboration of Year 8 and 9 ceramics and sculpture students work with texture and lead by Year 12 students.

Graphic Design Media Specialist Program

Melville SHS is delighted to announce that a new Specialist Program will join our existing portfolio of programs and courses. Commencing in 2013 the Graphic Design Media Specialist Program is already in high demand.

Led by Mr Lev Vykopal the program is designed to foster the creativity of students and open a wide array of opportunities beyond secondary school.

Students will be able to take advantage of our excellent purpose built facility along with a core group of highly experienced teachers who have not only considerable teaching experience in this field but also substantial work place experience.

Our exceptional teaching staff have established excellent networks within a wide range of tertiary institutions. These networks will provide our students with the opportunity of attending specialised workshops and Master Classes at some of Western Australia’s leading universities.

A unique benefit of the Graphic Design Media Specialist Program offered at Melville SHS is that unlike many other secondary schools we offer this exciting program from Year 8 entry level, thus ensuring creative primary school students are fostered and mentored throughout their entire secondary school life.

Applications are invited for program entry in 2013. Details are available on the school’s website along with an application form.

Alternatively please don’t hesitate to contact:
Mr Lev Vykopal T: 9330-3295 E: lev.vykopal@det.wa.edu.au.

First round testing is scheduled for 11 May 2012. The test will comprise of an aptitude test and equal consideration will be given to students’ portfolios.
Year 8 Italian Excursion

Garlic bread. Pizza. Gelato. Couple these gastronomic delights with Italian music, art and ambience, what more could one want from an excursion to Sandrino’s in Fremantle!

On Thursday 22 March, our Year 8 Italian students along with their teacher Mrs. Gangemi, enjoyed a relaxing and exquisite lunch in the heart of the Italian district in Fremantle, whilst appreciating the Italian atmosphere around them.

A gentle introduction to Italian cuisine and culture is part of the Year 8 Italian program. Sandrino’s double woodfired ovens worked very hard to prepare 30 delicious pizza’s. Students took note of the ‘afresco’ craze the Italian’s have introduced to Australia, as well as the terrazzo paving and tuscan rendered walls.

The gracious thanks to Sandrino’s staff was evidence of an enjoyable day and impeccable manners our Melville SHS students posses. Bravi!

Lions, Youth of the Year Quest

Aisha Dixon has become Melville SHS most successful public speaker.

Competing in the Lions Youth of the Year Quest, Aisha was successful in the local zone competition, the regional competition and competed on Saturday 24 March in the District Final, for a chance to take part in the State Final later in the year.

Aisha narrowly missed out on qualifying for the State Final but her performance in this competition has been outstanding. Aisha received high praise from the judges.

Hannah Sorrell also performed exceptionally well throughout the competition.

Both Aisha and Hannah have been outstanding ambassadors for our school. With performances like this, future success is assured. Congratulations Aisha and Hannah.
On Wednesday afternoon, 14 March a group of 29 innocent Year 11 and 12 Biology students gathered for a camp to remember.

Their journey began with a slight hic-up as the school’s very fine outdoor education trailer fused the Budget hire bus circuits. Luckily, the bus was hired from Budget so they rushed one of their “top men” to our aid. After an hour and a half of patiently waiting in the hot autumn sun, the expedition resumed, heading off to where rising sea levels will never be a threat.

Upon dusk the convoy of two buses arrived at rustic Camp Woody in Stoneville. Accommodation that was not up to the “five star” standard some of our students are used to in Bali, but perfect for a Biology camp. Shortly after arrival a range of animal species were discovered in and around the dorms. Sure there were spiders in the dorms, but what more could you want, to enable young biologists to get to know our local fauna?

After an invigorating night in the cooler mountain air, the group set off at sparrows for The Hills Centre, east of bustling Mundaring city, to begin our first full day of biological learning. The day was hot and so was the topic of “Fire in the Jarrah Forest”. Led by the excellent DEC officers, the day included a lecture and the exploration of a handful of local forest locations to learn how the local fauna and flora respond to fire and general fire management. During the lecture students discovered the fire fighting potential of year 12 student Bryce Bost. (A calendar with Bryce in various dynamic poses will be released in time for Mother’s Day)

That evening, with only the stars as their guide, students were taken on an exciting ramble through the Jarrah forest by another DEC officer. During the 90 minute stagger over ant nests and small shrubs, students spotted and learnt about ring-tailed possums, insectivorous bats, tawny frogmouths, glowing eyed spiders and a mob of western grey kangaroos. Under the light of the Milky Way, a satellite was spotted whilst learning all about the hazards of a snotty-gobble tree. It was a beautiful night for a walk and miraculously no sprains or breaks as everyone returned to Camp Woody safely.

Friday began early as everyone had to have breakfast, clean, pack up and farewell the ram-shacked old camp site. With tears in their eyes (probably due to dust), they headed back for another day of quadrat study in the Jarrah forest. On this day the emphasis was on discovering the biodiversity of the local forests. The afternoon session was a highlight for many as they were presented a range of animals from a local wildlife refuge. A wilful echidna proved to be a favourite.

Throughout the camp our student’s behaviour was exemplary, with the DEC officers commenting on their good manners and work ethic.

Particular thanks goes to Mrs Daley who put the camp together and wonderfully catered for all our meals.
2012 is set to be another exciting year for netball at Melville SHS with the Netball Specialist Program now extended from Year 8 through to Year 12 thus allowing 8 teams to represent our school.

The year got off to a hectic start with all Netball students being put through their paces. Fitness testing and swimming training have got the girls into peak physical condition. The swimming training was in preparation for the House Swimming Carnival which many of the Netball squad were involved with. The swimming training has clearly helped with the girls’ overall fitness levels.

The first tournament of the year was the Aranmore College Tournament, held on 19 March. Our girls were eager to perform and even though it was a warm, sunny day which proved a little taxing on some, our girls soldiered on and claimed a successful day.

Results as follows:
Year 10 - 100% games won  
Year 8.1 - 50% games won  
Year 9.1 - 80% games won  
Year 8.2 - 80% games won  
Year 9.2 - 50% games won with 1 draw  
Year 8.3 - 80% games won

Congratulations is also extended to the following players who were nominated by their team mates as Best Players at the Aranmore Netball Tournament:-
Year 10 - Shairah Dick, Briana Williams, Deni Campbell  
Year 9.1 - Caitlin Kerr, Johnnie-Deshay Ngatai, Mackensie May  
Year 9.2 - Ellen Cundy, Rachel Lee, Chloe Woodall  
Year 8.1 - Jaimie-Lee Elliott and Ashley Robson  
Year 8.2 - Alex Bontempo, Shannon Hevron, Ruby Kawiti, Courtney Guardio  
Year 8.3 - Julia Poutsma, Maleka Hourani, Kiara Templeman

The annual Parent Information Evening was held recently with guest speakers from both Netball WA and the Fremantle Netball Association. The presentation outlined the vast array of pathways available to our students both at secondary school and beyond.

As one of only four schools within Western Australia to be accredited by Netball WA as a provider of Netball Specialist Education we are in the unique position of having a host of additional opportunities available to our students, specifically designed to assist them achieve their goals.

Testing for entry into the Specialist Netball Program for 2013 has already commenced. However, vacancies still exist and we encourage anyone interested in joining the program to contact:  
Ms Sonia Soltoggio  
Netball Coordinator  
T: 9330-3336  
E: sonia.soltoggio@det.wa.edu.au  
Details regarding the program are available on the school’s website.

Through our partnership with Netball WA some of our netball students will be attending an ANZ Championship, West Coast Fever Match on 2 April 2012.

Another benefit of our partnership with Netball WA is the access we have to specialist coaching clinics. Catherine Cox is the current Captain of the West Coast Fever and is the fourth most capped player in the history of the Australian National Team - the Australian Diamonds. Catherine is a legend of the game and is without doubt one of the game’s most high profile players. We are thrilled that Catherine will be holding a two-hour coaching clinic with our Year 11 and 12 High Performance Squad on 29 March 2012.

Congratulations to all those that participated and gave their best efforts (despite the heat) throughout the tournament. The Year 11 and 12 netball girls did a wonderful job fulfilling umpiring duties and represented Melville SHS in a courteous and professional manner.
Community Matters

Career and University Presentations

Each week Year 11 and 12 students are presented with the opportunity to attend a presentation from various tertiary institutions along with representatives from the corporate sector. The presentations are designed to enlighten our students as to the many opportunities available to them once they graduate from Secondary School.

Recently a representative from the University of Western Australia spoke to a group of 40 Year 11 and 12 students. The response from our students was very positive and they thoroughly enjoyed being exposed to such beneficial insight.

Upcoming presentations are scheduled to include Curtin University, University of Notre Dame, The Australian Defence Force, WAAPA, Challenger TAFE, Becoming a Physiotherapist and Becoming a Teacher. Many more presentations will be held as the year progresses.

These regular events are an ideal opportunity for students to gain a glimpse of what life is like after Senior School. Details can be obtained from the Daily Notices and on the school’s website (as of Term 2). We strongly encourage our students to participate in this worthwhile program.

Special Exam Arrangements

Year 11 and 12 students who have a temporary or permanent disability which could disadvantage them in demonstrating their knowledge and skills in any subject during a timed-assessment (test or exam), may apply for special arrangements to assist with tests and examinations. This allows those students sitting for WACE exams to sit them under special conditions.

Parents who wish to obtain relevant forms for school special examination arrangements should contact Deb Manook, School Psychologist. The deadline for application is 27 April 2012.

WA Solar Schools Program

Melville SHS has recently become a WA Solar School. The solar power system was installed with funding assistance from the State Government’s Solar Schools Program.

Our students will take a hands on approach and will be involved with monitoring the output of the solar power system along with assessing the factors affecting that output. Students will also be involved in conducting a basic whole -of-school energy audit, performed by students and identify opportunities for reducing energy use.

Health News

The Community Health Nurse works part-time on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Outside of these hours, first-aid trained staff within Student Services will attend to students in the Health Centre.

A traffic light system of attending the Health Centre has been implemented to reduce students presenting to the Health Centre during class time with minor conditions. Ideally students are encouraged to attend the Health Centre during recess or lunch time.

By law the Health Centre can not dispense any medication, including painkillers such as Panadol without parental permission. It is advised that your child carry a single dose should the need arise. This will allow parents to monitor the use of such medications by their children.

Entertainment Book

Mrs Gail Hayes has very kindly offered to coordinate the implementation of the Entertainment Book as a fund raising tool for the Music Department. Funds will be used to assist in the maintenance of the school’s musical instruments and hopefully depending upon the success of the project to ultimately purchase some new instruments.

The Entertainment Book can be purchased online for $65.00. In order for the fund raising component to be directed to Melville SHS please log on via the following link:


Should you have any questions regarding the purchase of the Entertainment Book or wish to complete a hard copy application form please contact Gail directly on:

M: 0400 199 662
E: fabfive@bigpond.net.au

The Entertainment Book is a great way to access some wonderful discounts at a whole host of establishments whilst supporting our school.
School Matters
Staff and Student News

Melville SHS extends congratulations to:

Kaitlin Barnes
Selected to represent WA in the 2012 State Softball Team

Matthew Pallotta
Competed at the WA Junior State Championships and achieved the following results:
Mens U16 100m - 2nd
Mens U16 200m - 1st
Mens U16 400m - 2nd
Congratulations Matthew on your outstanding achievements.

Gifted and Talented Education

How can $1 + 1 = 10$? A Year 8 student from the Gifted and Talented Education program could explain.

Learning about different number bases and their links to computer science is an example of the mathematical enrichment that students in the Gifted and Talented Educational program experience.

Students have also seen how mathematical modelling is used in real life situations. One model, using an equation called the logistic equation, showed how a small change in initial conditions can mean the difference between sustainability and extinction for a wild fish stock.

Overall, the enthusiasm, maturity and cooperation amongst the students has been truly outstanding this term. Listening to students passionately debating the accuracy of an answer or the validity of a method is both a joy and an illustration of the benefits of the Gifted and Talented program.

Specialist Program Enrolment

Entry into our range of Specialist Programs for 2013 has commenced, testing dates and requirements vary between programs. We strongly recommend that you view the school’s website for specific details along with regular program updates.

Aviation Studies, Testing Scheduled for 11 May 2012
Graphic Design Media, Testing Scheduled for 11 May 2012
Netball, Trials Scheduled for 7 May 2012
Music Focus Program, Auditions Scheduled for 11 May 2012
Academic Extension Course, Testing Scheduled for 11 May 2012

Please contact the school and a 2013 Prospectus will be forwarded to you which outlines all relevant information in relation to the Specialist Programs along with the other programs and courses offered at Melville SHS.