In This Issue:
Athletics Photos
Book in a Day
Art Winners
and much more

Photos by Kate Main and Toby Goor
Front Cover:
Year 7 Gifted and Talented - Australian Champions in Word Mania

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An Independent Public School Awarded Top Public School

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As term 3 draws to a rapid end it is important to note the school year is drawing to a close for our class of 2016. It is a time that is a cause for celebration and reflection for many students, parents and staff, while it can equally be a time of stress for the many students and their families as students head into their final school exams and then subsequent WACE exams. It is important to have some perspective around the hard work and effort that not only the students, but staff and certainly parents have placed in the education of these students and a time to realise that hard work and preparation will pay off. I know I speak for the many staff at Melville SHS in wishing these students the best of luck for their coming exams and remind them that we are here to assist them through this time, whilst also issuing our best wishes to those that are completing their secondary schooling at the end of this week.

During term 3 Melville SHS certainly experienced many successes and it is exciting to share this with our school community. Week 8 saw the annual Sports dinner, when all our students who have competed in our interschool and school sports teams are given a chance to celebrate and acknowledge the students who have achieved at

ATHLETICS
A fabulous day was had by all in week 7 at the athletics faction carnival. There was a record student attendance and the photos show the effort that went into creating colour on the day. It was a huge effort by the Physical Education team led by Kylee Coonan. Well done to the champion runners who will represent the school at the A grade Interschool carnival next term.
the top of their chosen sports. It was also a time for the many coaches to award and recognise improvement, persistence and leadership. We had the opportunity to acknowledge our sporting teams that had competed at such a high level and also acknowledge the achievement of our senior boys netball team in winning the High School Cup. The 230 students gathered, had a great evening during the awards, dinner and dancing, but we also need to acknowledge the fantastic work of not only our Health and Physical Education department but also the work of other staff around the school. Well done to everyone - it certainly was a fabulous evening.

In addition to the performances of our Music in Focus Program and ensembles earlier this term our Vocal Ensemble once again performed at the WA Government Schools Make Music at the Crowne. This was led by Ms Stephanie Ryan and Ms Ana Milas and the feedback and praise from this performance was, as always outstanding. There has also been a culmination towards final performances at the Year 12 soloist evening. Well done to our very tired but brilliant students and staff.
In other news our Year 7 Gifted and Talented English class took out the National Championship in the Word Mania competition. It is wonderful to see a group of students so enthusiastic about spelling and the challenges they were given. It came down to the last day when we regained the lead and won the overall competition. Well done to Ms Madeleine Jennings for leading this initiative.

Within this edition of Melville Matters there are once again many examples of such leadership shown by staff and the successes of our students. This was recognised when we received the news that we are one of the four finalists in the WA Education Awards for 2016 Secondary School of the Year. Friday 16 September was the judging day and it was amazing to see staff, past and present students and parent representation at such a level. Two hours was certainly not enough to tell the judges our story at Melville SHS and to share what makes the school so unique and wonderful. We now have to wait until 28 November to find out the final result.

Kylie Bottcher
Principal
SCIENCE LINKS WITH ART AND TECHNOLOGIES

MURDOCH STEM PROJECT
Students and teachers from Science, Music in Focus, Media and Dance descended on Murdoch University in week 7 to collaborate together on a STE(A)M project. The aim of the project was to produce an education music video on how to balance ionic compounds. Sounds boring! Well it won’t be when you listen to and watch the final product according to the writer of the music and lyrics, Mr Stapleton. The aim of the day was for media students to begin the process of planning and story-boarding ideas for the film and music students to record the song. The song has now been recorded in the recording studios at Murdoch University ready to be mixed down. The media students have come back to school enthused about planning and filming.

The dance group will soon be assembled to provide some dance moves. The filming will take place in term 4 and we hope to have the project launched next year during Science Week. Mr Stapleton wishes to thank Murdoch University for providing such great resources and people to work with, the teachers; Ms Milas, Ms Glasson and Ms Curillo for giving up their time to work with the students and all the students involved for their help with this project. It promises to be a very exciting venture for everyone. Watch out 2017!

3D CREATIONS
Also in week 7, The Year 7 Gifted and Talented class were given a three dimensional view of invertebrates when the 3D printer was used to create very realistic copies of their chosen animal. Some of the fiddly small creatures were hard to finish but the patient students were well rewarded.

APOLOGY
In Melville Matters 61 a G&T article said that Ashley and Morgan Ure won the international competition, held in Hong Kong, last year. They gained entry after winning the Australian National final but were unable to attend the event.
ENGLISH

LITERACY WEEK
In week 7, students and staff participated in Literacy and Numeracy week with gusto. On the Monday, staff encouraged some reading enthusiasm by dressing as their favourite character in a novel. There was then a hush over the school as everyone concentrated on 15 minutes of silent reading at the beginning of session 3.

On the Wednesday at recess, various students participated in a Slam poetry workshop in the Carly Smith studio. Then at lunchtime on Friday the Great Debate was held in the gym with the title “Films are better than books”. Staff competed against the students on this tricky topic.

WINNERS
Melville SHS has won the national Word Mania competition finals for Year 7. The Gifted and Talented class had to race against the clock on their iPads to build as many words as possible in three minutes. The class competed with more than 2,000 other schools around the country. During the competition some 63 million words were built Australia-wide.

The class, with teacher Ms Madeleine Jennings were very excited to receive a $1000 cheque and trophy from Paul Hughes from LiteracyPlanet, who presented the award in week 9. Pictured above left are our winning Year 7’s with their proud English Teacher Ms Jennings and representatives from Literacy Planet.

SPELLING BEE
Buzzy the Bee is back in the hive. Queen Bee is once again Le Ann Yap with second place going to Honeylaine Branzuela and third place to Tejal Ganesh (the three are pictured right). $125 was raised from the event towards the Ride to Conquer Cancer.
Spelltastic Spellers were off to a flying start with 125 students signed up and ready to out-spell one another. Spectators looked on spellbound as Spelltastic Spellmasters armed themselves with words such as *annihilate, equilibrium, unparalleled, rhythm* and *voyeuristic*. To their credit, competitors fought back with a fusillade of correct spelling much to the awe of Spellmasters and audience alike.

The series of knockout lunchtime round matches was not just fun, it also achieved the goal of strengthening staff and student bonds. Team Spelltastic staff are all to be commended for their generosity in relinquishing many lunch breaks to pick up the gauntlet of raising literacy standards in the school. How could we have done it without the enthusiasm of Ms Julie Gordon, who buzzed over the loudspeaker and organises the whole event?

**BOOK IN A DAY**

In week 6, 50 of our Year 8 to 10 Gifted and Talented students took over the school library for twelve hours to complete five 4000 word, illustrated story books for the National Book in a Day competition. This competition raises funds for the Kids Cancer Project and the completed books are placed in the Princess Margaret Children’s Hospital for patients to enjoy.

The commitment (from 8am to 8pm!) and team work displayed by the students, who must work through the project independent of teacher input, was exemplary with each team member working to share their skills towards the completion of a common goal. The competition allows students the opportunity to develop their talents in creative writing, illustration, graphic design, planning, organisation, editing, negotiation and much more. Everyone comes out a winner in this competition (though we are also keen to see what the judges think!) and it is one that our school is happy to enter annually. Teams are pictured with their blue certificates.
ART AND TECHNOLOGIES

NEISHA’S NAN IS THE PEOPLE’S CHOICE
With Melville City’s 40th Art Awards exhibition now over and the votes counted, the Murdoch University People’s Choice was awarded to Melville SHS Year 12 student Neisha Phipps for her artwork Nan. Visual Art teacher, Mellissa McCarthy (picture A with Neisha) praised the quality of Neisha’s work, noting the “maturity of technique used to capture the cheeky personality of her Nan”. Neisha isn’t sure exactly what she’ll do with the $1000 prize money provided by sponsor Murdoch University but said it would somehow be used to support her on-going development in Art.

CITY OF FREMANTLE 25 UNDER 25 2016 ART AWARD EXHIBITION
Neisha’s work was multi-winning as it was also in 25 Under 25 2016 that features the work of 25 emerging West Australian artists aged 14 to 25. See it at the Moores Building Contemporary Art Gallery, 46 Henry Street, Fremantle.

BLACK SWAN PRIZE FOR PORTRAITURE
Year 12 student Kaleb Gibb has been accepted as a finalist in the youth section of the Black Swan Prize for Portraiture. 44 youth finalists from 39 schools throughout Australia have been announced in the prestigious awards. This year 167 entries were received for WA’s only portrait prize that is celebrating its tenth anniversary. The artworks will be on show at Brookfield Place, 125 St Georges Terrace, Perth from Monday 3 October for three weeks. Kaleb’s work is titled inner self (picture B).

metaMORPHosis
This is a new art and design exhibition for senior secondary school students being presented by the Central Institute of Technology. The exhibition has been developed to acknowledge and promote the excellence and originality achieved by senior secondary school students in their art and design studies. Central also sees the exhibition as a complement to our prestigious art and design programs and as a
reflection on the shift (or metaMORPhosis) from student to artist/designer. Exhibitors were Year 12 ATAR students Neisha Phipps (C), Crystal Long (D) and Graphic Design student Levi McCombie pictured with his dad (E).

**ST GEORGE’S ART AWARDS-WINNER**

Year 12 student Carla Genovesi (pictured in F and I) has won the 3D works category at the St George’s Art Awards. Kaela Gibb (G) and Crystal Long (H) also exhibited. St George’s Art has become a premier annual event in art education in WA, attracting schools from all sectors. Participation in this exhibition provides an outstanding opportunity for schools to present work by students in Years 10, 11 and 12. Each year, up to 1,500 visitors flock to the cathedral to view the exhibition, as the standard of art on display continues to reach new heights.
GOLD ACADEMIC AWARD WINNERS
Congratulations to those students pictured above who were Gold Academic Award winners and were presented certificates at the last whole-of-school assembly late in term 2.

MATHS
PRIMED - NUMERACY WEEK
What a Prime week for Numeracy in Week 7. It was actually Literacy and Numeracy Week but English have their own section because so much happened! The staff and students have been engaged with problem solving, puzzle of the day competitions, Mental Marathon, and a Reach for the Stars activity (pictured right). These were fantastic ways to celebrate numeracy across the whole school. Many thanks to the numeracy committee and Maths teachers.

OUR WINNER OF MENTAL MARATHON
Congratulations to our Year 7 student winner of the Mental Marathon Phoebe Ko and well done to all participants and contributors. The competition involved solving mathematics questions using number mental calculations skills as well as problem solving strategies.

SPORTING STARS
NETBALL SPECIALIST PROGRAM
Congratulations to Georgia Woodall, Charlotte Terry and Leah Ishmael who were selected in the government schools All Star netball team that played against the ACC All Star team before the WA netball league grand finals. Our very own Ms Sue Gerrard was the coach.

STATE SWIMMING GOLD MELDALLIST
Year 8 student Sean Beck (pictured bottom right) was a true winner at the State Short Course Swimming Championships in week 8. He won a gold medal in the 13 year old 200m Butterfly (making him the State Champion for that age group) and a bronze medal in the 200m backstroke.

TEACHERS IN CHARGE
Our new Sport teacher Mr Justin McDougall has been selected in the State Thundersticks Hockey Team. They play the National Championships at Perth Hockey Stadium in October.
BOARD PROFILE

SALLY NORTH
BSc (Chemistry), Grad Dip OHS, MBA, MOcHygTox

Having parents who were primary school teachers, and a father who was a school principal, are just two of the reasons why Sally has an interest in education.

Sally attended public schools in Marble Bar, Bremer Bay, South Hedland and Perth and believes that each school prepared her very well for university. Sally attended The University of Western Australia, Curtin University and Edith Cowan University to attain qualifications in science, business administration and occupational health, safety and hygiene. Currently, Sally is a public servant working in the area of occupational health and safety, though she has previously worked the same role in the private sector.

Sally and her husband have two boys, in Years 5 and 7, with her eldest currently attending Melville. Their decision to enrol their son at Melville was influenced by the academic and specialist pathways offered and Melville's values.

Sally joined the Melville School Board this year as a way to contribute to maintaining the school's standing as a school of choice for the local and wider community. Sally believes that “The Board plays an important governance role in helping review the performance of the school, reviewing financial information, and from time to time, reviewing the broader priorities of the school.”

STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) are the basis of many life skills according to Sally, as well as being fundamental to a variety of interesting and crucial careers.

Sally hopes that her experience in both the public and business sectors will help her with both understanding and enhancing the processes involved in shaping the strategic direction of an Independent Public School.

NOTE FROM THE NURSE

There are many support services available for Parents. Some of these may be helpful for you. Please check them out.

**Parenting WA Line**: Support service on parenting that is available 24/7. (08) 6279 1200 or 1800 654 432
- Parenting WA [HERE](http://parentingwa.org)
- Raising Children Network [HERE](http://raisingchildren.net)
- Child and Youth Health [HERE](http://childandyouthhealth.wa.gov.au)

**Kids Helpline** is a free, private and confidential telephone and online counselling service specifically for young people aged between 5 and 25 years. You can phone the helpline anytime on 1800 55 1800, or visit the website at [www.kidshelp.com.au](http://www.kidshelp.com.au).

**Somazone** is a safe space for young people to ask questions, share stories and get help for mental health issues, sexual health, relationships, abuse, body image, and drug use. Visit the website at [www.somazone.com.au](http://www.somazone.com.au).


**Parent Drug Information Service**: 08 9442 5050 - Information and support for Parents and families.

Drug use is illegal, as is use of alcohol for children under the age of 18 years. Alcohol and other drugs are not good for your child's brain development and can have a negative impact on your child's long term physical and mental health. If you suspect that your child is using alcohol or other drugs, you need to act. Drug and alcohol use isn’t always the same thing as a drug and alcohol problem but there is no safe level of alcohol and drug use for children. Their brains and bodies are still developing and can be easily damaged.

As a parent, it is difficult to stop your child from experimenting with alcohol, but you can be a role-model for safe habits and you can reinforce safety and moderation messages by talking with your children about alcohol. Remember, no matter how big or small your problem is, there is help available and it is important to seek help as soon as possible.