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Photos by Simon Thompson, Amelia Robinson and Kate Main
Welcome to the Term 3 ‘hard copy’ of Melville Matters. Our apologies for it being late but Kate Main, our trusty editor, has been on leave. This is the only hard-copy version of our school newsletter for Term 3 as the second version, due out in week 10, will be another electronic copy. If you haven’t been getting the electronic copies it is likely that we don’t have your correct email – so please email Catherine.Main@education.wa.edu.au if you think our address for you may be incorrect or missing in action!

Our ability to contact you electronically will become more and more important over the coming months and years. You may not be aware but the Department of Education is in the process of introducing a new school funding model. Commencing immediately, schools will be required to pay for their own postage. We estimate this will amount to over $20,000 per annum at Melville so we will be looking at ways to reduce the large volumes of mail that we post on a daily basis in our efforts to communicate with you effectively. There will be more on this later but in the meanwhile please ensure that we can communicate with you by email.

On the topic of government funding reductions, like all public schools in WA, Melville SHS will be affected by both the cap on staffing levels and the implementation of the new Student Centred Funding (Teese) model very recently announced by the Minister for Education. The changes are complex to explain and I am in the process of briefing the School Board, the P&C, other parent support groups and of course staff. However, whatever the impact of the changes to school funding, Melville SHS will continue to provide a world-class education and there is no suggestion that the education of your child will be in any way compromised. What is certain is that in 2015 Melville SHS will have around 1,300 students and we will need more staff than we currently have.

I have said before that each term in a school has a ‘seasonal’ rhythm to it. Term 3 is very much a ‘down to business’ term with the Year 12s in particular working hard in their final 10 weeks of school to finish off the last of their course work and to study for the ATAR exams that are now only a few months away.

Each of the other year groups also get a largely uninterrupted 10 week period in which to consolidate and expand on the skills, knowledge and understanding of the courses they are studying. By Term 3 they should have well and truly settled into the routine of their timetable; they should know their teachers, classmates, classes and what is expected of them from their course outlines and assessment schedules. Accordingly, as I said at a recent whole-of-school assembly, Term 3 should be used by all students (particularly Years 8, 9 and 10 students) to confirm and demonstrate a commitment to develop home study skills by focusing their attention not just on completing any assignment work, but also by developing a pattern of study and revision.

Despite exams being conducted from Year 8, we are still finding that many students are quickly left behind in Year 11 simply because they don’t have the necessary commitment to work at home. Unfortunately, without practice in middle school it is not easy to find the necessary self-discipline to do this in senior school. I encourage students, supported by their parents, to work hard at developing the necessary study skills in Years 8, 9 and 10 and not rely on picking these up in Year 11 when it is generally too late.

As a guideline, it generally takes 10 to 15 minutes to revise what was learnt in a 60-minute academic lesson. This includes organising study notes and identifying areas to clarify with teachers the following day. Accordingly, at least an hour should be set aside each night of the week, with a bit more over the weekend, to revise what has been done in class that day, noting that this will build up by 12 to be considerably more. Note this is not “homework” but “study”. The Melville homework diary addresses study skills and is a useful reference point for parents wishing to help their children with this process. If you want more information on study skills please contact your Year Coordinator or Mrs Manook.

Having said that Term 3 is largely about “getting on with the job”. One of the welcome co-curricular activities that make the business of schools more pleasurable for our students and staff is the after-school sports program organised by the Interschool Sports Coordinator Ms Leslie McNeil and conducted by members of the PE and other staff.

As I write, we have one team still in the running to win a grand final, but we know winning the finals is not the only reason why we play sport. I would like to congratulate and thank the staff and students involved in the junior and senior football, soccer, netball and basketball teams who have all performed very well over the past 15–20 weeks,
playing after-school sport across the metropolitan area (indeed as far afield as Bunbury) and to wish the boys’ basketball team the best of luck in their upcoming finals.

Another co-curricular activity that Melville has rightly become renowned for is our Music In Focus program. Much as sport culminates in the opportunity to perform in public while competing with other like-minded people, so does our music program. Over four weekends our senior and intermediate concert bands, our swing band, our classical guitar ensemble and our choir perform in a formal environment where they are assessed against their peers. Needless to say our bands (especially the classical guitar ensemble) all perform very well and are to be congratulated, together with their teachers Ms Ana Milas, Mr Mark McLeod and Mr Paul Hines for their efforts – well done.

Not to be outdone, our visual arts teachers and students have worked very hard to get artworks selected in highly regarded art exhibitions such as the Young Original (ECU), the Saint George’s Art Exhibition (Saint George Cathedral) and the Black Swan Portraiture Exhibition (City of Perth). These are prestigious exhibitions with only the best work in the state selected, so a big ‘thank you’ to our visual arts teachers Ms Mellissa McCarthy, Ms Jenna Antoniolli, Ms Beth Glasson and Ms Alanna Sherwood for taking the time to prepare their students.

Each of you will be aware that Year 7 students will attend high school from 2015. At Melville we are well into our implementation plan for making the transition as smooth as possible, which will be very smooth! Part of this plan has seen the teaching of Australian curriculum math and science to Year 7 students from Kardinya, Melville, Palmyra, Attadale and Bicton Primary Schools. We will soon commence a series of Year 5 parent briefings at Melville so please keep an eye on our red sign and pass on the details to any friends who might be interested in what to expect in 2015. With over 1,300 students on our campus in 2015 we are looking at how we can make the physical environment more ‘user friendly’ for Year 7 students. Accordingly we have commissioned a study of playgrounds suitable for 12 year olds and allocated around $100,000 from our building reserves to modify and extend our Middle School and Science quadrangles to suit our new students when they arrive.

On a separate note I was delighted to interview six of our finest students a few weeks ago for the important positions of Head Girl and Head Boy in 2014. It was a very difficult decision to make but I am delighted to announce that Demi Campbell and Toby Goor will be our Head Girl and Head Boy in 2014. Congratulations.

Finally, towards the end of Term 2 I was fortunate enough to travel to the beautiful city of Hangzhou in Zhejiang Province in China. It was a whirlwind tour during which time I was privileged to assist in judging an English speaking competition with 25 of the best and brightest students winning a trip to Perth. Four students (pictured below) were in fact hosted by Melville SHS families. However, my main purpose in travelling to China was to meet with three schools who might be suitable as a ‘sister school’ in support of our rapidly growing Chinese language program. Each of the three schools I visited (unoriginally named School Number 2, 7 and 13) were in fact world class.

China clearly values education and has poured billions of dollars into thousands of so-called ‘lighthouse schools’, each of which has facilities that would rival the best Australian schools. Zhejiang Province has a sister-state relationship with WA and is keen to encourage exchange programs through sister schools across the world. I have approached a special arts school which I think will complement our strength in the visual and performing arts, but note that every student at Senior School Number 7 takes physics, chemistry and the hardest maths, as well as the arts subjects they specialise in! All very impressive and with much more detail to follow.

As always kind regards,

Phillip White AM, RFD, BA, Grad Dip Ed, Med (Man)
PRINCIPAL
Mass Music at Melville

Melville Senior High School was the venue for the joint primary school band workshop in Week 9 Term 1. This was an opportunity for students to extend themselves and was run by the School of Instrumental Music (SIM). The experienced SIM teachers work locally and are specialists in their instrumental area. It was obvious that the students were inspired by playing in such a large ensemble and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Students who play flute, clarinet, brass or percussion experienced being in a large instrumental band and performed at the end of the day in front of their parents.

There were mainly Years 6 and 7 students (but also some Year 5s). The Year 7 students had a separate group and performed their piece first followed by the Year 5 and 6s. This was followed by a joint performance.

Hopefully, this will inspire primary school students from the many different schools in the local area to continue their music into high school after experiencing the joy of performing together in a large ensemble.

The Music in Focus course at Melville SHS may be welcoming many of these students, as to date 30 Year 7s are enrolled for 2014. Due to these large numbers the department is inviting additional applications with the aim of running a second class.

If you would like to find out more about the music program contact Ms Ana Milas on 9330 0290 or see the website for more details and an application form.

Sketchbook Touring Art

A Melville SHS sketchbook showcasing work from Years 8 to 12 was accepted into the Travelling Sketchbook Exhibition.
Sketchbook Art exhibition. Various libraries throughout WA will display the sketchbooks in turn.

**Music Tour to Melbourne**

After many months of planning and fundraising by students, staff and parents, all of the hard work was realised when 34 students and four staff members arrived in Melbourne for the 2013 music tour.

They jumped on the bus which took them to the accommodation in Melbourne’s CBD, where they would stay for five days.

The purpose of the tour was to promote the Music in Focus Program at Melville Senior High School within a wider community and for students to establish stronger connections amongst their peers and staff.

Apart from having the opportunity to explore a city with a thriving arts culture, including visiting galleries and theatres, students took part in intensive workshops and rehearsals at Kindred Studios.

One highlight for students was watching the musical “Sunday in the Park with George” at Melbourne Arts Centre. Another was performing to eager audiences young and old, firstly at Carlton Gardens Primary School and then at Alphington Aged Care Nursing Home.

The students are to be commended on being perfect ambassadors who represented their school, themselves and their families admirably.

A fantastic time was had by all and we can’t wait to do it all again in 2 years time.

**Ana Milas**
Teacher in Charge of Music
Graphic Design Media Printing in 3D
At the parent night at the end of Term 2 there was a demonstration of the new 3D printer in the Graphic Design Media area. Parents were impressed as it printed out their children’s work. The system has been purchased by the school P&C.

Three-dimensional printing is now a fairly well-established technology, although the cost, until recently, has been prohibitive for schools to pursue this fascinating technology. The idea is relatively simple. The print media is normal ABS plastic (the type that most of our household appliances would be made from) and is also recyclable. The printer head super heats this material and very slowly ‘spits’ it out. The resolution can be adjusted to suit either very fine printing or rather coarse work. The resolution can go down to about 0.15 microns - much finer than a human hair.

Our specialist Graphic Design Media students were the first to test the new technology, printing creature head design work they had created for their Hollywood creature SFX project that Mr Vykopal had developed with ex-industry professional Mr Mr Will Huntley. Will was very impressed with the final product created by the students. They not only worked digitally, but also in plaster and clay, using his sculpture techniques to create full-size versions to be cast in Latex.

Of course, other classes have also been busy working in 3D, with some excellent results from Year 8 and 10 mainstream Graphics student groups. Mr Vykpol stated ‘The ability of our students to work in 3D gives a whole new dimension to what is achievable for us in design. Students like to have something tangible that they can look at and hold. The trend up to this point has been the other way, with everything becoming digital (think of how many of us download digitally our books or news!). This goes the other way. Students designing on the computer having the ability to print a physical object. That is the most exciting development I have seen in design since I started teaching almost 20 years ago’.

It is hoped that 3D printing will also see its way into other areas of the school curriculum as teachers see the potential.

World Refugee Day Art Contest

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) held the contest for Australian and New Zealand school children, with the aim of promoting greater awareness of the plight of refugees, as well as a culture of respect and tolerance toward the refugee population.

The art contest is part of UNHCR’s global ‘1 campaign’, to create works of art illustrating the simple statement, ‘1 family torn apart by war is too many’, which is also the theme for World Refugee Day, which was held in June.

UNHCR Regional Representative Mr Richard Towle said: “the focus encapsulates issues such as family separation during flight, family reunification, the impact of detention, the special vulnerability of unaccompanied children seeking protection, single mothers as heads of households, and diverse or extended concepts of family. For a school child to participate in such a simple initiative is a great way to engage in a discussion, through their works of art, and to make people think about what they can do to help refugees rebuild their lives.”
UN Assembly

Congratulations to Melville SHS student Cormac Power (right) who has recently been selected to represent Australia at the United Nations Assembly. He is one of only 18 in Australia.

Gifted and Talented Robotic Display

A team of three Curtin University Engineering Students visited the Melville SHS Year 9 Gifted and Talented class with their 50 kg robot 'Taurus'.

The Curtin Robotics team mentors spoke to the class about mentoring a group of 11 WA high school students through the process of designing, testing and building their robot Taurus. The team entered Taurus into the National Robotics Competition and won the national title.

Students were shown a video of the design brief for the nationwide competition and were encouraged to brainstorm ideas for a robot design. The mentors also spoke to the students about the importance of engineering in the design process, the engineering skills that are learned through the process of building a robot and how it helps prepare them for university.

The team then demonstrated the capabilities of Taurus the Robot by shooting frisbees in the lower school quadrangle and showing off the robot's speed and manoeuvrability.

Students were encouraged to join the Curtin Robotics Team, where they would have the opportunity to further develop their robotic skills.

Australian Geography Competition

Geography students from the Melville Gifted and Talented classes and Academic Extension classes tested their geographical skills and knowledge against students from all around Australia in the 2013 Australian Geography Competition.

Society & Environment staff recently received the results and were pleased at how well the students performed.

This year we have a number of student geographers at our school who performed to a very high level in the competition, with 17 gaining high distinctions, 18 gaining distinctions and 40 gaining credits.
Students gaining high distinctions were:
Year 8: Cian Butler, Alyssa Davies, Godfrey Huen, Kathryn Thorpe, Jordan Lukas, Matthew Murphy, Georgia Woodall, Mathilde Wurm, Damian Gregory, Louis Richardson, Mikael Setiaputra
Year 9: Jake Pantinople, Paul Omodunbi
Year 10: Maximillian Wickham, Connor Deaville, Kynan Behan, Sahil Pradhan

Approximately 75,000 students entered the Australian Geography Competition so the results give us an external benchmark as to how our students are performing in certain aspects of geography.

Taking PEAC Students to the Skies

Melville SHS has a PEAC program in Aviation conducted by Mr Randall Brink, who is the Teacher in Charge of the school’s Approved Specialist Aviation Program. PEAC is a program that extends and challenges selected primary school students, who can choose from a wide variety of subject areas including Aviation.

Twenty two Primary School students (pictured below) from 16 different schools in the southern district took to the air in August as a part of the course.

The students were divided into groups and given the opportunity to ride in five aircraft supplied by Air Australia at Jandakot Airport. The aircraft took off simultaneously in a ‘Blue Angel’ style formation in perfect clear-blue skies.

The Specialist Aviation Program at Melville SHS has a full-motion flight simulator and the PEAC students had very realistic flights that gave them lots of practice safely on the ground.

Sport

State Cross Country Representation

Congratulations to Sander Lundergaard, who has been selected in the State Cross Country and competed at the National Championship in Symmons Plains in Tasmania in Week 6.

Netball State Team Wins Silver

The Girls School Sport WA Under 15 Netball team broke a 22 year hoodoo and made it through to the grand final of the championship, where they won silver.

Melville SHS Year 10 student Jessica Smith was a member of the team and the coaching staff were Melville SHS teachers Ms Sue Gerrard (Coach) and Ms Sonia Soltoggio (Assistant Coach). These teachers run the Specialist Program at the school.

The team finished fourth after the regular rounds of the National Championships in Launceston, Tasmania. This meant that WA got to play NSW, reigning premiers, for a spot in the Gold Medal playoff. WA beat NSW in the semi-finals to advance to the grand final where they played Queensland. Unfortunately, Queensland beat WA over the line but WA were happy to come home with a Silver Medal.

Congratulations to Claudia Parry (Year 9), Kirsten Young (Year 9) and Alicia Pumfrey (Year 10) on their selection in the WA State Under 16 Indoor Netball Team. They will travel to Sydney in December to play in the National Championship.

Athletics

The 2013 House Athletics carnival was another huge success this year, albeit in less than ideal conditions.
The students came prepared to battle in the rain but were rewarded with sunshine most of the day - amongst a few showers. The 100m runners were lucky to have the strong winds at their back - the 400m runners not so lucky with a strong headwind around the bend. Despite this, we witnessed some truly outstanding talent this year with these adverse elements not hindering runners’ performances. There were 45 records broken by 23 students.

Students who have broken records will be recognised with a certificate of their record at the next whole of school assembly. Congratulations in particular to the following students for breaking multiple records on the day.

James Gallaugher Year 8 4 records
Jessica Smith Year 10 3 records
Alliance Pommet Year 11 3 records

Congratulations to all Champion and Runner Up Champion competitors. All winners will receive an invite to the Sports Dinner if they haven’t already received one for another Interschool Sport. The medals will be handed out on the night so it is important, if invited, that you attend. The winners will be published in the next edition of Melville Matters.

The oval was looking perfect with new Melville-coloured bunting lining the track, giving it a real-race day feel. A huge thank you to the Melville SHS P&C for their donation to purchase this. Thank you also to the staff for assisting with various tasks and roles throughout the day. Without your support this day would not be a success.

Finally, another huge thank you and well done to the Physical Education Department coordinated by Mr Paul Cooke, who all worked tirelessly throughout the term to ensure a successful and well organised carnival.

Good luck to the Interschool team who compete in the Zone Athletics Carnival on Wednesday 25th September (Years 8-10 only) and Tuesday 22nd October (Year 8-12) in the B Division SSWA Interschool Athletics. The team and event competitor list has been placed on the gym doors for all to see. Relay training is on Session 5 Thursdays and general athletics training is after school 3-4pm Thursdays.

Athletics House Points:
1st Cygnus
2nd Pegasus
3rd Aquila
4th Gryphon
**MYST**

During Week 9 the MYST students organised an ‘Amazing Race’ for Year 8 students. The race was made up of fun activities that were completed in teams, with many of the activities based on drug and alcohol awareness.

This is the first MYST event for 2 years and students worked hard in their own time to plan each activity, with Year 12 students taking a lead role and mentoring younger group members.

*Photo of competitors (top) by Amelia Robinson*

**IEC**

**Graduation**

The Intensive English Centre at Melville Senior High School exists for foreign language students new to Australia who need intensive English before joining their local high school. After intensive lessons, the students graduate, usually after six months or a year.

There are four levels within the IEC system (T1 to T4) linked to a student's grasp of English, rather than their age. In Week 9 a ceremony was held for students graduating from these four classes. A morning tea for the IEC staff, parents and graduating students followed. It was also an opportunity for the students to perform for their parents. After the graduation, students were rewarded with an excursion to Cicerello’s in Fremantle.

**Soccer Competition**

Over one hundred IEC students participated in an inter-house soccer carnival at the end of June. The oval was set up with four pitches and the teams (boys and girls) played in a round robin against the other three houses. There was a great carnival atmosphere with lots of colour, action, noise and energy. Friendly competition and team spirit were clearly evident.

The students were able to show off their skills developed in Physical Education classes and some teams were very strong. Top points for Best and Fairest player were awarded to Paulina Botero Gomez (Cygnus), Rae Moore (Gryphon) and Shan Shan Choi (Cygnus) in the girl’s competition. For the boys the best and fairest players were Brian Rutagengwa (Pegasus), DM Rucyana Intwali (Gryphon), Roy Terepai (Cygnus) and Moses Mulemera (Aquila).
With enthusiastic players, excellent support from the IEC staff and great umpiring from some specialist soccer players, the afternoon was a great success. Many thanks to these soccer students: Filip Kavocic, Daniel Pommet, Filmon Gebru, Jake Sardelic and Sajad Ali for helping out. Thanks also to Happiness Uwingabire for helping with the Pegasus girls and Abu Deulleh for timing and recording the results.

In the girls’ competition, Cygnus came first and Gryphon came second and for the boys it was Pegasus first and Cygnus second. The final results, based on points and goals, were Cygnus first followed by Pegasus in second, Gryphon third with Aquila in fourth place. This carnival gives Cygnus a real boost in terms of the school’s House Point competition.

1st  Cygnus  
2nd  Pegasus  
3rd  Aquila  
4th  Gryphon

Lev Vykopal - Artist in Gallipoli

Over the July break, Mr Vykopal, our teacher in charge of the Graphic Design Media program, went to Gallipoli to conduct an art residency endorsed by the Australian War Memorial. Many of you will know Mr Vykopal through his design work only, though he in fact started at Melville Senior High School ten years ago as a visual arts teacher and remains busy with both sides of his creative career, occasionally exhibiting his work.

The Australian War Memorial in Canberra recently acquired some 40 pieces for their national art collection. Mr Vykopal created these while he acted as a resident artist with the Army in the Northern Territory on two residencies in 2001-2002.

His first residency was in the Tiwi Islands off the coast from Darwin, where he worked with an engineer regiment to document their infrastructure work in a remote Aboriginal township called Milikapiti. His second residency took him on foot, boat and four-wheel drive patrol through the ‘top end’ with a special-forces surveillance unit called ‘Norforce’.

Mr Vykopal describes his Gallipoli trip: “Gallipoli is a place that everyone should visit at least once. Try to do it at a quiet time away from Anzac Day. I was fortunate to be there during the Ramadan period when almost all Turkish people are fasting and not going out during the day, so most of the places I visited were very quiet.
not be buried, so you need to be careful where you
tread as human remains are still in evidence.

I was fortunate that an Australian archaeological
team had just uncovered a section of Australian
trenches at the Nek. If you have seen the film
Gallipoli this is where the final, tragic charge at the
end takes place. I was able to sit here for hours and
draw almost undisturbed. People in Australia think
of Gallipoli as an Australian campaign but it was
in fact much larger. I met descendants of British,
New Zealander, French, Turkish and even Indian
soldiers who had come to visit graves or see where
a great uncle had fallen. I was also able to make a
series of portraits of some of the Turkish villagers
who were descendants of those who had fought
against the ANZAC forces. It was interesting and at
times humorous to communicate with them in my
limited Turkish!

Turkey is a developed country and the towns often
have a slightly grimy and polluted look. However,
the battlefields sit in a National Park where they
have some level of protection. To any student
wishing to know more about what it is we celebrate
on Anzac Day, it is not victory but sheer sacrifice,
stubbornness and power of the will to overcome the
challenges of not just of being shot at and shelled
without break for months on end, but also in dealing
with the harsh, tortuous landscape that is Gallipoli”.

Mr Vykopal is currently working on his series of
paintings and sculptures for a 2015 exhibition to
mark the centenary of the Gallipoli campaign.