From The Principal

Welcome to the first Melville Matters for 2013 and of course welcome to the start of the new school year which promises to be yet another great one for Melville SHS. Our students are in class, on task, smiling and looking both splendid and proud in their uniforms. Minor works from around the school over the Christmas period are largely complete and our four new Science classrooms are about to come online (see separate article). A special welcome to new parents, new students and of course new staff (who are listed elsewhere in this edition of Melville Matters).

It has, as is the norm at Melville, been a busy start to the year and as I write I have just walked in from the fifth of seven parent meetings for the year (Year 8 parents, School Board, P&C, Aviation parents and Music parents. A Gifted and Talented briefing and Year 11/12 parents are still to come). We have also had Year 8 students on two separate camps all of Week 4.

Over the next few weeks the school will be conducting three separate swimming carnivals in the school pool and will again compete at the inter-school swimming carnival after our promotion into B division.

Interim progress reports for students in Year 8, 11 and 12 will be posted home on 15 March. There will then be a parents afternoon/evening meeting on 27 March where Year 8, 11 and 12 parents can make an appointment to meet with the relevant teachers in these three important transitional years. More information on this will be posted home separately.

Of course with all of this activity in the foreground, teachers have also been setting up their students for success by issuing course outlines and assessment programs (in some cases available online, using the student portal login which will be explained in more detail later in the term), assessment policies as well as discussing classroom and study expectations etc.

However, if your child’s head is spinning a little and they are confused about what our expectations are – please don’t hesitate to contact their individual teacher (email, phone or note in their student diary), the relevant Head of Learning Area or the Year Coordinator (if possible in that order please).

The Melville SHS Information Handbook posted earlier this year contains the contact details of all key staff (Deputies, Heads of Learning Area, Area Managers etc) and should be kept close at hand throughout the year as it also contains the key information needed to make your child’s time at Melville as successful as possible. If for some reason you didn’t receive a copy of the Information Handbook please contact Mary Pallotta or Kate Main and one of them will send another one home.

In addition to getting off to a flying start, the first few weeks of 2013 saw the school celebrating the many academic successes of the Year 12 Class of 2012. This success culminated in me representing the school at a “High Achieving Public School Awards” ceremony hosted by the Minister of Education and the Director General at UWA, where Melville SHS was presented with a “Top Public School” Award which now hangs in pride of the place along side the six others from 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 in the front foyer of the school.

This prestigious award was earned by our Class of 2012 for achieving 17th place in the VET achievement table, 100% Graduation for the fifth year in a row, an Attainment Rate of 98% (i.e. 98% of our students received an ATAR of 55+ and/or a Certificate II or III - the second highest in the state) and 8 State wide Certificates of Commendation.

These results show me that Melville SHS is routinely able to graduate 100% of our students with a WACE and that these same students are well set up for entry into university, TAFE or the work place. This is something I am very proud of, not only because it tells me that we are doing a good job with your children academically, but it also suggests to me that Melville SHS is a worthy school of choice for our local and wider community. A more comprehensive list of our 2012 WACE achievements is shown on the last page.

In closing, remember, that you are always welcome to drop into the school at any time. I love showing people around our magnificent buildings and grounds and frankly, showing off our great students. Please feel free to join in on one of the monthly school tours or simply sign in at the front office and someone will let you take a
quick peek at the great things that are happening inside YOUR school. We are looking forward for another great year for your son and/or daughter at Melville and of course for the whole school team in general.

**New Staff**

Melville welcomes the following new or returning staff: Adianna Sanzone (Chaplain), Liz Houwen (Dance and Drama), Mark McLeod (Music), Diana Evans (English), Robyn Carroll (English), Lynn Sawchuck (IEC), Robyn Austin (Maths), Jane Ayres (Maths), Tracy Thillainath (Library), Damien Fawkes (BUILD) & Clay Woolcock (D&T)

**Minister’s Visit**

In Week 3 the Minister for Education Peter Collier MLA had a tour of the school. The first port of call was the brand new science labs that were refurbished over the school holidays (one is pictured top right).

The three labs now have all the equipment and fittings to allow students to conduct experiments in bright modern surrounds. They will have air conditioning upgrades that are being completed in existing systems throughout the school this term.

The Minister visited a variety of classrooms and areas of learning including the Aviation Centre where he was impressed by the flight simulator (bottom right).

A quick visit to Mr Adams English class involved an impromptue Mr Collier who reminisced about his time as a teacher in various schools in the area. As you may be aware Mr Collier is a former teacher who taught just down the road at John Curtin SHS (he in fact taught Linda our velvet voiced receptionist).

He then headed to the staff room where he met the 2013 student councillors and gave some pointers on being leaders in the community.

He was very impressed by our school during his visit and was keen to pop into as many classrooms as he could where he was happy to chat with our students who were all in uniform and on task - just as you would expect them to be. All very impressive.

As he left the school Mr Collier said he would advocate for the toilet upgrade requested by myself. While he, of course couldn’t make a commitment given the government’s care-taker mode, I believe he meant what he said and will keep my fingers crossed.

As always, kind regards,

Phillip White AM, RFD, BA, Grad Dip Ed, Med (Man)
Principal
Sculpting the Arts
A template for a series of sculptures designed by the art students in Year 12 at Melville SHS has been accepted into the popular City of Melville Sculpture Walk. There are going to be 26 outstanding sculptures created by WA artists whose temporary artworks will reside at Deepwater Point. Melville is the only school exhibiting in the exhibition.

Sculpture Walk is open to the public from 23 March to 7 April. The Year 12s are busy finalising their sculptures for display but visit the real thing to see the final product.

Artists’ statement:
Students have been studying the Deepwater Point Reserve. The use of water is integral to the area and students have looked at the use of the waterway right back to the early 1900s. They have designed a range of watercraft or water pursuits from contemporary and historical canoes, ski boats, sculls, jet skis, yachts, ferries, swimming and sailboats. A sample is pictured below.

Each sculpture will tell a story. Look carefully to find the row boat with a picnic basket in it representing the social aspects of Deepwater Point, the ski boat with the donut being towed behind, and the canoe with a prawn net in it.

Year 12 student participants are Gabrielle Barham, Talisha Bell, Isabella Borrett, Yazmin Bourke, Tanika Callister, Amber Capaldi, Jessica Coleman, Robyn Cooper, Letisha Deane, Kelly Doyle, Bridget Emery, Chelsea Forte, Sally-Anne Frezza, Amy Haden, Georgia Hagan, Ethan Hartill, Rachel Hird, Claudia Rault, Kelsey Regel, Amelia Robinson, Yi-Lin Tang and Isha Watson.

Music Success
Congratulations to Charlotte Williams (pictured below) who was accepted into WAAPA at the end of last year - Charlotte is going to study voice in the Bachelor of Contemporary Music course. Charlotte joins classmate Casey Fitzpatrick who will be studying classical guitar at WAAPA.
Writing with Talent

In Week 3 Mr Adams and Ms Tedeschi took the Year 8 and 9 gifted and talented classes on an excursion to UWA for the Writers Festival. Students got to listen to authors such as Isobelle Carmody, Ambelin Kwaymullina and Mike Bartlett discuss their craft and share their inspiration and love for writing.

Students learnt that inspiration for writing comes in many different forms, that you should write for yourself and not try to follow any rules. The students were also lucky enough to visit The Lawrence Wilson art gallery and see the Luminousflux exhibition, which is part of the festival of Perth. The curator was so impressed with our students that she has invited them all back!

Year 9 gifted and talented students are currently crafting their short stories for the All Saints short story writing competition. We wish them all luck.

Lab Luxury for Science

Work finally began on the science laboratory upgrade in Term 3, 2012. The old rooms were all sound old teaching spaces but after over 50 years they were desperately in need of a make-over to meet the expectations of a modern lab. (Fans of the TV series Mad Men could easily imagine one of our rooms used as a set for this 60’s based drama)

Four laboratories were selected for total refurbishment and we now have two upgraded general science laboratories, a dedicated chemistry laboratory and a unique multiple use science lab in the old lecture theatre space. Two of the labs have the latest in fume extraction cupboards and one has a double sided design that allows for better student observation.

All labs have full wireless Internet access and are due to have the latest in interactive digital board displays. The architects Taylor-Robinson were very willing to take on advice from our science teachers so all the labs reflect improved design aspects that are unique and will enable safer practical work and hopefully better educational outcomes. All labs also have new glazed entries that make them far more bright and welcoming spaces and students will have the comfort of backed stools rather than the old plastic pedestals.

These new refurbished laboratories combined with our implementation of the new Australian Curriculum and support materials means our students will be wonderfully supported by the science staff to achieve their very best educational outcomes.

Before and after shots of one lab are right.

Kim Rosenthal
Head of Science
New Students Welcomed

Melville Senior High School has over 1000 students, the most the school has witnessed in over 25 years. The school is near capacity and has increased in size by about 30% in the last five years.

Our new students were welcomed at an all school assembly in Week 3 and the Year 8s enjoyed a camp in Week 4 with a huge array of activities, team building activities and opportunities to make friends. Fun and games included those pictured right and the giant water slide down the hill on plastic was a big success.

Chaplain’s Happenings

Dodgeball

In Week 3 the school was fortunate to again host a Dodgeball Tournament at lunch time run as a community event by Nations Youth (pictured below in blue and red). Teams of five students from different year groups dodged balls and tried to catch others on-the-full to defeat opponents. Both girls and boys were valiantly competing and the atmosphere was electric.

Changes in the Chaplaincy

At Melville SHS there is a YouthCARE chaplaincy service as part of the Student Services team, which is chiefly to provide pastoral care. A chaplain is available for students, staff and parents 4 days per week. For the past 6 years Anni Crouch has been the Chaplain, but in 2013 Anni has reduced to 2 days and taken on 2 days per week chaplaincy at Palmyra Primary. Anni will be here on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Another Chaplain, Adrianne Sanzone, will now be here on Mondays and Fridays.

Meet the New Chaplain

Hi everyone,
My name is Adrianne (aka A.J.) and I am your other School Chaplain.

Firstly, my professional background is nursing and I wear this hat 2 days per week on the palliative care unit at Bethesda Hospital. My nursing background is diverse and includes work in many country hospitals, a busy GP clinic, short and long term drug rehabs, the needle exchange, a methadone clinic, a detention centre and a youth service in East Perth working with teenagers who had serious drug and alcohol issues.

Eleven years ago, I found myself a single mum with 4 kids. I love my kids dearly and we get on pretty well but we have been through some tough times together. This was one of the reasons that in 2005, I made a decision to pack us up and go south in pursuit of a more relaxed lifestyle. It was a good decision and we spent a wonderful 7 years in Busselton, enjoying having more time in each
day, the amazing beaches for me and landing a job 4 years ago as the School Chaplain at Cape Naturaliste College. Since then I have met a wonderful Perth man whom I married last year - so here I am in Perth!

As far as my work as a School Chaplain goes, I love working with teenagers and helping them to find their strengths and to maintain perspective. I often think that teaching is about helping kids solve things and answer questions, whereas a Chaplain deals with the kinds of questions that don’t have clear answers - like feelings, grief and mystery.

I also love to encourage ‘social justice’ and think our teenagers are an amazing resource when it comes to humanitarian issues. My life philosophy basically comes down to kindness and the idea that we all have something to learn from each other. My favourite quote is from Gandhi, “Be the change you wish to see in the world”...

Thank you for the friendly faces that have welcomed me to Melville so far, and I look forward to meeting more of you.

Adrianne Sanzone
School Chaplain

Flying Friends

Melville Senior High School has donated $2300 to the Royal Flying Doctor Service (Western Operations), which was raised from students participating in outdoor education camps in 2011-12.

Fundraising was linked with participation in camps lead by Year 12 outdoor education students and amounts raised from each camp were set aside until a significant donation could be accumulated.

Some of the outdoor education camp leaders were also enrolled in the specialist aeronautics program at Melville Senior High School, which added motivation to contribute to the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Since Melville Senior High School conducts outdoor education programs in remote locations, the school considered the Royal Flying Doctor Service should be supported as it, in turn, provides emergency medical aid for remote adventures.

Photo of Randall Brink (Aviation Teacher), Louise Wood, (Royal Flying Doctor Service Donations Manager) and Evan Floyd (Deputy Head Master).

Sports Stars

Congratulations to Melville Senior High School Australian rules football star Jarrad Pickett who was selected as Best Player in the Australian school boys team that played NZ over the holidays.
Singapore Netball Tour

Diary of a Netball Team on Tour

On 30 November a select group of 12 players from the Specialist Netball program travelled to Singapore to play teams from around the world. Here is a day-by-day diary of their fantastic trip.

Day 1
Well it has been a very long day! The flight took forever but we arrived safe and sound. Our morning then started with breakfast waiting for us when we arrived at Singapore Sports School, followed by a tour of the school, then into the auditorium for an hour of netball training, morning tea, recovery swim, a little relaxation time, lunch, some shopping and back to some down time before dinner being served. I’m thinking there are a few girls who will be in bed before the scheduled time tonight.

Day 2
We were in the good books as we allowed the girls to sleep in until 7.20am in time for breakfast. One room didn’t have an alarm so they had another 5-10 minutes extra sleep. The first half of the day was purely for everyone to relax and have some down time, rest the legs and mentally prepare for our first game. We had the opening ceremony, which was very well conducted with cultural and hip hop dances. We then began our preparation of the tournament, which happened to be the official opening game. Yes, we were scheduled to play Singapore and had all the other netball teams watching, it was definitely a great experience for the girls to play in front of a crowd.

Game 1 result: Singapore (20) drew with Melville (20) - you got it, we drew!!! We were happy with this result (obviously a win would have been good) but given that we were 3 down with 3 minutes to go and the girls played hard to come back and draw the game, it was enough to be very proud.

Day 3
Well today started with shopping on Orchard Rd and that meant taking the trusty public bus and train. Then it was time to chill and mentally prepare for a hard game.

Game 2 result: Unfortunately the result didn’t go our way, so we are sitting with a draw and a loss.

Day 4
A day spent on campus!
Shooters and defenders practised this morning for an hour followed by an hour of dance choreography for our end of tournament performance. Then lunch and more shooting practise. To end the day it’s early bed and prep for our last game of the round before finals. Go hard tomorrow girls, play like you did today and you will get the result you deserve!!!
Game 3 result: We played against MAGS from NZ (top team) and unfortunately we lost. The girls played a great game - apparently it was NZ's toughest game and we had them worried - well done girls a much better game today and you all should be proud of your efforts!

Day 5
Not quite the day we had hoped for but the girls fought hard!!!
Our morning began with soothing a few painful bellies - yes something they ate but for some it only lasted half a day, others are still average! We have to give credit to a couple of them who rose above it and still stepped on the court and played.

Result first semi-final: At 3/4 time we were 14-21 down but the girls dug deep to end the game only losing by 2 goals. We won the second half 17-10 but unfortunately we let it slip too much in the first half.

Day 6
A day of rest and catch up...
As we were not in the top 4 in our division, we got the day off...so this gave the shooters time to practise and the whole team organised their dance performance for the Saturday night closing celebrations. We went to the zoo night safari to watch an animal show, which was quite funny and the animals were very cute. So tomorrow is officially a day off from the competition and we will be heading to the Universal Studio to have lots of fun...

Day 7
What a great day....
We were up-and-at-it early to head to Sentosa Island where Universal Studios is located. First stop (for the thrill seekers like Mrs Gerrard & Mrs Soltoggio) was the 2 rollercoaster rides of the Battle Galactica, followed by transformer 3D, Revenge of the Mummy which was totally unexpected yet fun, The Rapids where some people got very wet, along with a few more lower-end rides and shopping! Everyone had a fantastic and tiring day but definitely a good choice for our day off.

Day 8
Final day of competition....
Results in the Playoffs: The girls played two games today - the first was against Singapore Sports School 2 and we won 41-14; this meant that we continued our journey to the next game on a high and beat Thailand 45-18, a great finish for the competition.

Unfortunately we didn’t make it into the top 4 but it was definitely not to do with skills, they definitely matched it with other teams. For that girls well done, you have done the school proud both on and off the court with your netball skill, manners, behavior and discipline - we thank you!!!

Day 9:
Closing Ceremony...and one more sleep!!!!
We watched the top four playoff for final positions; 1st Hunters NSW team, 2nd MAGS NZ team, 3rd South African Team and 4th Malaysia. The night finished up with the closing ceremony, presentations and dance performances. A short disco dance time was followed by the customary swap of team shirts.

Day 10
A day of goodbyes...
The morning was spent packing and tidying up our dorms along with farewelling new friends from other countries. There was laughter and tears with those that grew close! Once again. There were many tears when we had to say farewell to Shar and Emily, our two wonderful Liaison officers that spent the whole week looking after us and showing us around Singapore. Thanks to both of you!! Finally we boarded the plane, and with a little shuffle of seats we settled in for our journey home. The flight went really quickly and before we knew it we were home on Perth soil.

Congratulations to the girls who received the following awards:
Most Valuable Player - Chelsea Fraser (Year 9)
Runner-up Most Valuable Player - Tayla De Valle (Year 10)
Sonia Soltoggio and Sue Gerrard
Netball Specialty Program Teachers

World Challenge - Borneo

The call was put out and the mission, if you chose to accept it, was to travel through Malaysia and wilds of Borneo for 25 days. 15 students and 3 teachers accepted the challenge.

18 months ago the journey began for the intrepid explorers from Melville SHS with fundraising, a training camp and meetings - all to help us to work as a group while away in a foreign land.

On 19 November at 3am we met in the car park of school ready for our journey. (The bodies were there but not the minds; this is a ridiculously early hour for teenagers). Of course Mrs Daley was her usual cheerful self laughing at our distress and deliberately smiling in our faces and saying ‘good morning’.

We boarded the bus for the airport with our Expedition Leader Krystle, who we had met the day before and was also very cheerful for that time in the morning. Five and half hours later we arrived in Kuala Lumper and headed for the city on another bus trip. Over the next 25 days we would ride buses 9 times and fly 6 times in both large and small planes. I lost count of how many train rides, although I am sure Jo Whennen could probably tell you the exact number.
Part of this adventure was the residential project where we spent 4 days with a community group set up to educate children from the jungle tribes. During the days we worked on the site that was being prepared for dormitories and a school house while in the evenings we played games with the students. On our last night we handed over the money we had fundraised for the project to our hosts Co and Du, who along with some of us took the children into town to buy them their very first Christmas present. Many of these children had not been in a city centre before and were very excited when they returned home that night. Co also told us the extra money would pay for the new roof for the school house.

We then entertained the children with our rendition of the song Home Amongst the Gum Trees and Advance Australia Fair - very moving. They in turn sang a few songs for us and tried to teach us one of their songs.

We then trekked through the Cameron Highlands for a day in preparation for the 5 day walk through the jungle of Borneo. It is a very hilly area and was quite a challenge for all of us, but we had amazing views from the top of the mountain. The trek that was encountered in the Borneo section was also a challenge but in a different way for some, such as having to make shift toilets in the jungle, leeches and of course the mud.

After 5 days in the jungle even a cold shower back at the guest house was a welcome relief along with a real bed not a hammock.

There were also many opportunities to sight-see along the way:
- Buta Caves, the home of the Monkey King, where we first encountered the Macaque monkey and were told to hold onto our valuables as they have a habit of borrowing them permanently.
- White water rafting with thrills and spills (deliberate and otherwise).
- Barko Island the home of the proboscis monkey - the largest nose you have ever seen.
- And finally, not to be forgotten Kuala Lumper: Time Square, China town, Twin Towers and the astronomy museum.

We ate the local food, were confronted with poverty, snatched sleep when we could, squabbled, laughed, and generally had a good time.

Each of us who took part on this trip went through a personal journey but we were also lucky to have the companionship of good company.

A special thank you to our teachers Mr Slade, Ms Clune and Mrs Daley for being with us. Their continued support and understanding was greatly appreciated even though they had their own challenges to face.

Liam Robinson
Participant (Year 12)
Year 12 Achievements 2012

In 2012 Melville Senior High school again had great success with our Year 12 graduating class both at the individual student level and as a cohort. For our efforts in 2012 we were presented with a Top Public School Award for the seventh time since 2006. Following is a snapshot of our success in 2012:

• Top Public School Award 2012
• 100% WACE (graduation)
• 98% Attainment  (Like School = 66%; State = 65.5%) – 10th Best in State
• 14th in ‘First 50 VET Schools’ - Participation (83%)
• 17th in ‘First 50 VET Schools’ – Achievement (96%)
• 83% Certificate participation rate
• 96% attainment of Cert II or higher
• 40% attainment of Cert III
• Median ATAR of 73.5 - 25th best Public school (Like School = 70.8;). NB: Median ATAR of Melville TISC applicants – 76.4 (above state average)
• 23% of our students received an ATAR in top 10% (90+)
• 23% of our students received an ATAR in top 20% (80+)
• 48% of our students received an ATAR in top 30% (ATAR 70+)
• 91% of our students achieved a ATAR sufficient to make them eligible for university entrance
• 8 School Curriculum and Standards Authority Certificates of Commendation
• 51% ATAR participation rate – 12th highest public school in state
• 41% ATAR students applied to TISC (‘Like’ School = 37%)
• Top ATAR student received an ATAR of 96.25
• 3 students in 95 Club (95+ ATAR)
• Melville students were the highest performing in the state in Design
• Students in all Stage 2 and 3 ATAR subjects achieved within the statistically ‘expected’ range for Like Schools’ in ATAR exams
• 11 (48%) of our ATAR courses had an average mark higher than all public schools (AIT, Aviation, Chemistry, Chinese Background Speakers, Design, Human Biology, Italian, Maths 2C/D, Maths 3A/B, Media Production & Analysis & Visual Arts)
• 12 (55%) of our ATAR courses had an average mark higher than like public schools (AIT, Aviation, Chemistry, Chinese Background Speakers, Design, Human Biology, Italian, Maths 2C/D, Maths 3A/B, Maths 3C/D, Visual Arts & Physics)

NAPLAN Testing.

Year 9 students will take their national NAPLAN tests on May 14 to 16. By now all English and mathematics classes will be well into the preparation phase for these tests – so parents you can help by ‘talking up’ the need to succeed with your child. If you have any questions about the testing please feel free to contact your child’s Year 9 English or Mathematics teacher or the Curriculum Manager, Mr David Combe.

Student Council 2012/13

Pictured below is Emergency Cadet Louis Moncrieff (left) with the Student Council for 2012/13. They are pictured with the Minister for Education Peter Collier MLA (right). The council from left to right is:

Tia Sandhu
Deni Campbell
Ignasius Krisnanta Setiaputra
Benjamin Chochrane
Iuyfa Amir
Toby Goor
James Montague
Isobel Bartlett
Alide Trees
Brittany Sanders
Liam Robinson
Natasha Pearson
Caitlan Drown-Sloan
Rhianna Brims (Head Girl)
Aidan Jolly (Head Boy)