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Welcome to Issue 36 of Melville Matters our second e-version. Remember we can only get this to you if our email database is correct, so please take the time to notify the school of changes of address, contact details, etc as soon as possible. By the time you read this edition, exams will be over, semester 1 reports will have been issued and we will have conducted parent-teacher meetings.

One of the main objectives of reporting to and meeting with parents is to keep them informed about their child’s progress so that you can support them if they need extra help. Parent meetings assist in this communication but you don’t have to wait until the ‘official’ meetings (held twice yearly) to keep in touch with the school or to seek extra assistance. If you have a question or concern it is always best to start with your child’s classroom teacher. If they are unable to assist, their Head of Learning Area (HOLA) is also available to help. A list of subject HOLAs is found in the front of the School Handbook whilst a full list of teaching staff is found on the school website.

If you don’t know where to start looking, contact the relevant person from our Student Services team headed by Mr David Combe (Years 8 and 9) and Ms Sass Vlasich (Years 10 to 12). Mr Rhett Brown specifically looks after Year 8 and 9 students, Ms Felicity O’Sullivan Year 10 and Mrs Heather Anderson Years 11 and 12. Supporting the three Year Coordinators are Ms Deb Manook (School Psychologist), Ms Yolanda Cool (Learning Support Coordinator) and Mr George Tills (VET and Transitions Manager). If you are unable to get in touch with any of these staff members, the relevant Deputy Principal of Middle School (Mrs Kylie Bottcher) or Senior School (Mr Evan Floyd) are also available to help.

The year 2015 sees one of the biggest changes in WA education in many years when Year 7 students will transition to high school. At Melville SHS we believe this is a necessary change noting that Year 7 students are on average six months older than they were when most of us went to school and are, in most cases, ready for the different style of teaching. Also the Australian Curriculum is written at a higher level and by Year 7 students will need access to specialist facilities (such as science laboratories) in addition to specialist teachers.

As you would expect we have been planning for this significant transition since it was announced in 2012. One of the many changes we are implementing to effect a smooth transition is a realignment of executive responsibilities. That will see the Middle School deputy responsible for teaching and learning for Year 7 to 9 students and the Senior School deputy responsible for Year 10 to 12 students. Furthermore, to strengthen the role of Student Services, each Deputy Principal will have a Student Services Manager as well as a number of year coordinators collaborating with them. We are very lucky to have two highly experienced student services managers. One is well known to you - Ms Sass Vlasich. The other is also well known, but more for his role over the past five years as the Middle School Deputy Principal and more recently as Curriculum Manager. This is Mr David Combe who will assume responsibility for managing Students Services across Year 7 to 9 from week 3 term 3 and Ms Vlasich will do the same with Year 10 to 12 students. I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank Mr Combe very much for his work as both Deputy Principal and Curriculum Manager at Melville SHS over the past five years and wish him the best in this "back to the future" role!

One of the consequences of taking Year 7 students in 2015 is that Melville will need to accommodate around 1,300 to 1,350 students with approximately 160 or more staff. As it happens, these are good numbers for us to manage. It is planned that we will have 200 to 210 students per year group. This is an ideal number for effective timetable management, allowing us to sustain and develop our specialist programs, whilst offering an educational program suited to every student.

We have been planning for an increase in overall student numbers for some years and the additional classroom spaces we will need to accommodate this has been negotiated with the Department of Education and Training and budgeted for at the school level.

As it happens, over the past five or so years the school has grown by some 200 families and one of the necessary consequences of this (and in anticipation of the much larger numbers to follow) is that we are in the process of trialling an automated telephone answering system. We are well aware of the risk, that an automated system may lower customer satisfaction, when we are instructed to “press a number” to get to a real person.

With so many families to serve, it has become impossible for one receptionist to manage the phone and we have found occasions when four or five of our office staff have been busy attending to phone calls. This sounds ‘fair enough’ until you realise that only one person is provided in a typical school to answer the phone and the other office staff are employed in other duties such as purchasing, billing, data entry etc.

Accordingly, as from the beginning of term 3 we will be implementing an automated answering service that will require callers to identify which of three options they want. Option 1 is students services (for reporting absences), option 2 will be the Intensive English Centre with option 3 being the main reception. There will be an option to dial the extension you wish at any stage. We regret that we need to implement this trial and will invite parent feedback after the end of a few months.

Before finishing, it is worth sharing with and indeed, celebrating with our community the fact that in the recent Educational Supplement to The Australian newspaper, Melville SHS was identified as one of the top 100 Western Australian schools based on the 2012 NAPLAN results.
Furthermore, we were listed in the top 15 WA public schools. Our 2012 NAPLAN students are now in year 10 and are to be congratulated, along with their teachers, for achieving such a great outcome. Well done.

Finally, a reminder that term 2 will finish on Friday 5 July and recommence on Tuesday 23 July (Monday 22 July is a Professional Development Day for staff). We wish our students and staff a safe and relaxing holiday BUT remind those students preparing for year 11 and 12 ATAR exams that they should be using the two week break to consolidate their understanding of semester one subject content and to study, study, study!

As always,
kind regards,

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

Shadow Ministerial Visit

In Week 5 the shadow minister for Education, Sue Ellery (pictured top right with Principal Mr White) visited Melville SHS accompanied by local MLA Member for Willagee Peter Tinley (pictured right).

The group were shown the science quadrangle, the new science classroom upgrades, the art department in action and a Year 8 Gifted and Talented class.

The politicians were then introduced to a student council representative group (pictured below with P&C President Helen Cobb).
Year 7s in High School

Year 7s will be moving to high school in 2015 and Melville Senior High School has been planning to meet their educational and social needs since mid-2012. Over the last few years Melville SHS has had local primary students attend specialist classes on site studying Science, Maths, Arts and Graphic Design. These students quickly become accustomed to high school and specialist lessons. They have found the classes and the environment to be stimulating, fun and educationally rewarding.

Pictured right are Melville Primary School Year 7s who were busy making paper helicopters for science experiments during Week 6. Attadale, Palmyra, Bicton and Kardinya Primary schools also have specialist lessons and get a sneak preview of what high school is all about.

The Approved Specialist Aviation program at Melville SHS runs the Primary Extension and Challenge (PEAC) course for gifted students who have an interest in aviation. The Year 7 students from six different primary schools (below right) were at Jandakot airport recently to receive hands-on experience. Some PEAC students apply to the Specialist program at Melville SHS after becoming immersed in the course.

Research has shown that in the five other states of Australia and in WA private schools, where they have had Year 7s at high school for some years, the Year 7 students thrive. At Melville, our teachers, the student services team and the school executive have already spent many hours researching and developing initiatives to make the transition process as educationally rewarding and as much fun as possible.

Facilities often not available at primary schools include science labs, graphic design and media programs and computers, art supplies, woodwork and metalwork machinery and sporting facilities.

Each Year 7 student will have a homeroom teacher for two sessions (two hours) a week and they will also be one of their subject teachers. This means the students will effectively have a homeroom teacher for six hours per week, providing a level of continuity and allowing an early bond to form with this dedicated teacher.

The Gifted and Talented program, Approved Specialist programs (Aviation, Netball and Graphic Design Media) and school-based Focus programs (Music and Academic Extension) are all available to Year 7 students upon gaining entry through exams, audition and/or trials undertaken in Year 6. It is likely we will only offer these for two hours per week in Year 7 increasing to four hours in Years 8 to 12.

There will be a dedicated Year 7 coordinator who will closely liaise with the Year 7 teachers and provide a point of contact for parents to assist with the transition. The new Year 8s entering in the same year will have a similar orientation that will be as rigorous as in previous years.
Arts News

Canning Art Awards

Melville SHS students recently exhibited their mixed-media artworks reflecting their impression of the Canning area. The works can be viewed later this month in the Arts foyer at Melville SHS. The Year 9 students are: Alaiazza Dumloa, April Matalog (work pictured top right), Jake Pantinople, Corey Farrell (second right) and Lilly Ford (third right).

Atwell Art Awards

Fifteen entries from across the Arts were entered in the Atwell Youth Awards which ran from 12 to 21 June. Pieces included sculpture, paintings, pencil works and recycled wearable art. Emer Bartley, Elayna Pullan, Kirstyn Hush and Madison Moore received a highly commended award for their collaborative artwork titled ‘Recycled Glamour’ (pictured bottom right). The work was made out of newspaper as a wearable artwork for a Year 10 Fashion class.

Thank you to the art teachers: Ms Jenna Antoniolli, Ms Melissa McCarthy, Mr Lev Vykopal and Ms Beth Glasson for attending the opening night and Emer for bringing her family to celebrate her efforts.

Also displayed in the foyer are other beautiful art pieces (below) including collages and Year 11 Hundertwasser inspired artworks. Feel free to visit the school reception to arrange to view the artworks and the school campus in action.
The Variety Show

The Music in Focus Variety Show was held over three nights in Week 8. It was a huge success and many staff and families came to watch the performances. The students got a lot out of the experience and they performed brilliantly on stage and off. On the final night, the Guitar Ensemble students particularly enjoyed their joint performance with the West Australian Mandolin Orchestra (pictured below right).

A special thank you goes to the following staff: Ms Elizabeth Houwen, Mr Mark McCleod, Mr Lloyd Greenland, Mr Simon Thomson (photographer extraordinaire over the next two pages), Ms Alanna Sherwood, Ms Sandy Olney-Thurstun, Ms Jenna Antonioli, Ms Melissa McCarthy, Ms Beth Glasson, Ms Emily Dawson, Mr Justin Walshe and Mr Paul Hines.

Particular applause must go to Ms Ana Milas, Teacher in Charge of Music who has coordinated this event alongside the Melbourne music camp to be held during the school holidays.
Specialist Aviation Program  
Taking to the Skies

Second Simulator

The Aviation Studies centre is happy to announce that Melville SHS has approval to purchase a second moving flight simulator. This simulator is different to our original one as it has movement in 6 axis which makes it even more realistic. We are hoping to have it ready to use by early 2014. The school’s existing simulator is pictured right.

Training Credit Winners

After asking for expressions of interest for our flight subsidy scheme the aviation team is happy to announce the following students will receive $700 to supplement their flight training costs: Mihaela Herceg, Jack D’Alton, Jacob Van Stroe, Claire Solano, Aaron Read, Trevor Torelli and Marco Cheng. They are pictured middle right with Teacher In Charge of aviation Mr Randall Brinks.

The subsidy is set up to allow students to fly externally at the same rates charged by Melville High School. With the demand increasing, Mr Brink is unable to train all those who wish to learn to fly. This way they can fly outside of school hours with an Air Australia Instructor.

Student Birds Eye View

*James Calvert (Year 8) pictured right gives us a student perspective on the Approved Specialist Aviation course.*

Since a very young age, I have always aspired to become a pilot. When I was told about the Melville SHS Aviation Program, the dream suddenly appeared possible. I applied and went through the process required, and when I was told that I was in, I was thrilled.

The course focuses on a multitude of different fields and caters for anyone who is interested in aviation. Some topics include: aviation history, notable pioneers, aerodynamics, fundamentals of flight and training required to earn your license. I have been in the course for about a semester now and in that short time many doors to career opportunities have opened. Now, I wish to become a pilot and an aircraft designer.

The Aviation program offers a variety of learning tools to offer assistance in whatever part of aviation you may be interested in. The ones that I use the most are the: moving flight simulator, desktop flight simulators, classroom lessons and experience flights. The moving flight simulator is very realistic and replicates the movements and actions of the aircraft you are ‘flying’. The desktop flight simulators are stationary flight using joysticks as the primary control.

There are four lessons per week, which focus on many aspects of aviation. The experience flights involve you and two friends being up in a Cessna Skyhawk 172 with your aviation teacher to experience flying first-hand. I have been up twice and have thoroughly enjoyed it both times. On the second time, we experienced 2Gs of force by doing a steep turn. I felt as if I was 80 kilograms. The next manoeuvre was called a zoom climb. This is where you apply full throttle and dip down and then almost immediately climb vertically. When you exit the zoom climb, you momentarily feel zero gravity. This was rather weird and unexplainable, an experience that I’m sure not many students would have had.

With the aviation program and the help of my family and teachers, I am confident that I will be able to achieve my dream of, one-day, becoming a pilot.
Spelling Perfection

The long awaited final of the Melville SHS spelling bee was held in Week 7 in the Library. A group of 12 very accomplished spellers were slowly eradicated until three students and a teacher were left to spell it out.

Adjudicator Mr David Combes (pictured middle right) dug deep to find words to out-smart the finalists, but they were infallible. The siren went to signify the end of lunch with no clear winner.

The saga continued in Week 8 and this time there was no list of words to learn. The eventual winner was April Matolog (ESL), Heath Adams (English Department) came second and Patricia Deguzman (IEC) was third. They are pictured top right.

An Italian Exchange

Buon giorno a tutti! It’s that time of the year when our Italian exchange students experience a taste of Australian life for two months. We have two students this year who have sacrificed an Italian summer for some colder months in Perth.

Beatrice Verze (Year 11) comes from the romantic Romeo and Juliet city of Verona and Martina Cinelli (Year 10) comes from Ferrari territory in Bologna. Thanks to our host students Isobel Bartlett and Ben Cochrane for providing them with a wonderful place to stay.

Both Isobel and Ben will be visiting Italy and commencing their Italian exchange experience from late November this year to late January 2014. The Italians seemed very enthusiastic on their first day in new uniforms. Pictured below right (L-R) are Isobel, Beatrice, Ben and Martina. Please make our Italian exchange students welcome by saying ‘Buon giorno’ to them.

A Writer in the Library

In Week 6 some Year 8s were lucky enough to hear author Sue Whiting (pictured below) speak and read from her current book ‘Portraits of Celina’. Sue talked about ghosts, haunted houses and interesting family histories. Her presentation was lively and interesting.
Winter Sport Report

Hockey
In Week 6 Melville Senior High School entered a team in the Ross Meadows Shield Middle School Hockey Competition for the first time in many years.

The team proudly competed against schools where hockey has a long tradition as well as hockey specialist school Como SHS. In the pool round they lost to Como (2-0) and won against St Marks (1-0). They then drew with St Joseph’s (1-1) and lost to Bunbury B. Their final placing was 9th out of the 13 teams.

Touch Rugby
A touch rugby house carnival for Year 8 and 9 students was hugely popular in Week 4. The pictures tell the story. Three interschool boys’ teams and a girls’ team were then selected to compete in a carnival against private and state schools throughout Perth. The teams were split into six pools and within each pool were some very skilled opposition.

Final Boys Placings
- Melville 1 - 14th
- Melville 2 - 17th
- Melville 3 - 26th

Final Girls Placings
- Melville - 15th

Year 9 Lightning Carnival Results
- Soccer A Division - 3rd
- B Division - 4th
- AFL A Division - 4th
- Netball A1 - Winners undefeated
- A2 - Winners undefeated
- B1 - 5th
- C1 - 4th
- Basketball Girls A Division - 3rd
- Girls B Division - 4th
- Boys A Division - 3rd

Vision on Poverty
During week 7 a small (but mighty!) group of Melville SHS students attended for the World Vision Global Leader’s Convention at UWA. We joined hundreds of students from schools throughout Perth to learn about severe poverty and the impact it has on people’s lives. We listened to guest speakers who inspired us with their stories and leadership skills. We learnt that there are people in the world who don’t have the same opportunities and privileges as us but that we can help to make a meaningful difference to their lives.

So this year, look out for us. We are determined to inspire Melville SHS students to join us for the 40 Hour Famine in August. Find something important to you and give it up for 40 hours. Simple! It could be food, talking, screens or even all technology (shock, horror!). Contact Thea Maneja, Rachael Rapheal, Caitlan Sloan-Drown or Natasha Pearson (pictured right) for more information. You can even register online. Ask us how! Together, let’s aim to make the world a better place.
School Notices

Second instalment of the School Kids Bonus

The second instalment of the Schoolkids Bonus will be paid in July and eligible families who have not updated their child’s education details with Centrelink have until 29 June to do so to ensure they receive the correct payment in July. Eligible families who have updated their child’s education details with Centrelink do not have to do anything.

This means eligible families will have extra money on hand to help with mid-year and ongoing education expenses, like school excursions, winter uniforms, new stationery and other school supplies.

Flight Training Seminar - 6 and 7 July

Flight Training Adelaide (FTA) is one of the world’s finest airline pilot training schools employing 135 staff and providing flying training and residential facilities for up to 200 airline cadet pilots from many of the world’s best airlines. The FTA College trains airline sponsored cadets from leading global aviation companies, including Cathay Pacific, Dragonair, QantasLink, Virgin Australia, Hong Kong Government Flying Service and China Rescue and Salvage Bureau for helicopter training.

FTA is approved by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) to offer VET FEE-HELP to eligible students enrolled in the FULL TIME Diploma and Advanced Diploma of Aviation course. VET FEE-HELP does not cover training fees for the Private Pilot Licence (PPL). This phase needs to be paid by the student.

Register via the website: www.flighttrainingadelaide.com

For more information on airline sponsored cadetships go to the web sites of the individual airlines.

Information for University-Bound Students in 2014

UWA
The Fairway UWA program offers an alternative pathway into UWA and supports eligible students during their Year 12 studies. Applications are now open and will close on August 30th 2013. For more information refer to the Year11/12 noticeboard

18 July UWA Guided Tour for prospective students
19 July The day in the life of a business school student
11 August UWA Open Day
More information HERE

Curtin University
4 August Curtin University Open Day
More information HERE

Notre Dame
18 August University of Notre Dame Open Day
More information HERE

AQWA - A Marine Life Interaction

Patricia De Guzman (IEC) gives a student summary of a fun learning experience. Photo by Tommy Bui (IEC)

In Term 1 two groups from the Intensive English Centre had an excursion to AQWA. It is the biggest aquarium in Western Australia. The weather was cloudy and everyone really enjoyed and appreciated the stunning fish of Western Australia. We were face-to-face with sharks, sea turtles, stingrays and other colourful fish. We also saw the saltwater baby crocodiles.

The most amazing part was in the touch pool where we felt some star fish and some baby sharks with rough skin.

After that we went to a beach near AQWA and had a picnic where we ate and played SPUD which was really fun. Everyone was given a chance to spend a day discovering an interesting place and to bond with classmates and teachers.
PLEASE SUPPORT THE SCHOOL BY HOSTING A JAPANESE STUDENT

Melville Senior High School is hosting a group of Japanese students aged between 13-17 years old. The students will visit from August 4 to 18, stay with a family from the school and participate in regular classes alongside our students. The aim of their visit is to experience our Australian school and family life and improve their English speaking ability. Thank you to the families who have already offered to host a student. If you would like to support the school and open your home to an enthusiastic Japanese student, please consider hosting a student.

The family’s responsibilities are to involve the student into their routine, including getting them to and from school and to provide breakfast, lunch and dinner. Your don’t need to have a spare room (the student can share with one of your children), nor do you need to change your daily routine – your student will fit-in as a member of your family.

Furthermore, to help you help us support the program each host family will receive a payment of $400 to assists with any associated costs.

If you are interested in hosting a student please return the Host Family Expression of Interest Form below to the front office or contact Jason Hutchinson, the Program Manager of Gold Intercultural Learning (GIL) on 9481 1694 or 0417 773 846 or email at jason@goldil.com.au

The application is HERE

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Solar Power Boost

The National Solar Schools Program provides funding to primary and secondary schools to install solar and other renewable power systems, rainwater tanks and a range of energy efficient initiatives.

We are pleased to announce that Melville SHS received over $30,000 to install solar power. The benefits of this funding include: improving our energy efficiency, educating students about renewable energy through using real data from our solar power system and reducing our electricity costs.

The Australian Government Living Greener website also provides some great tips for households to reduce their energy consumption.

Further information is HERE.

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Community Survey

This is your opportunity to have a say in your health care experience.

The Healthy Voice survey is designed for you to tell Fremantle Medicare Local how you see your own health and if there are any gaps in your health care needs. The information you provide us with will be used to develop a plan with local health care providers to improve access to the right health care services. The survey takes a small amount of time but could make a big difference to your health and that of others. All comments provided remain confidential and no individual will be identified in the report.

In appreciation for your time, we are providing you with an opportunity to win a $50 gift voucher. For more information please see the end of the survey.

Click here to commence the survey