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Photo by Damien Smith Photography
From the Principal

Welcome to the 40th edition of Melville Matters – the last for 2013. It just seems like only yesterday that I sat down to write my first article for 2013. I suspect that because Melville SHS is such an exciting and busy place explains why time just seems to fly by and we are at the end of yet another year of school.

It has been another wonderful year at Melville SHS and in addition to the core business of learning and teaching (our recent WASME results in Year 9 Society and Environment and Science were above state and ‘like school’ average).

Just one of our many highlights included the success of our Year 8 – 10 debating teams who performed very well across every category in a highly competitive field of elite public and private schools. It was always a treat to watch our teams excitedly ‘suit up’ in the front office under the watchful supervision of Mr Robert Delves and Mrs Elaine Vardy. Old fashioned as it may sound, learning how to properly wear a jacket and tie, as well as how to shake hands and look adults in the eye, while holding a polite conversation are as important now as they ever were and we take every opportunity to make sure our students learn and practice these essential social skills.

On the subject of our recent successes, it was great to hear last week that one of our Year 11 Aviation Studies students, Phillip Hawkins (top right) won the Minister of Education’s Aviation Award, which has a value of $3000. Well-done, Phillip.

Last week we also learnt that we have a World Record holder in our midst. Many of you will have read this in the West Australian but it is well worth reprinting the fact that Year 8 student James Gallaugher (bottom right) won the 200m in his age group at the All Australian School Championships in Darwin. His time was a WORLD RECORD 21.73 seconds, which is apparently FASTER than Usain Bolt at the same age! James is not only displaying extraordinary potential as a world-class sprinter but he is also a delightful and modest young man – just the sort of student we love to have at Melville SHS.

Finally, in a visit to a Year 9 English class the other day I heard that Dylan Barwick will represent WA at the National BMX championships in January 2014. Best of luck Dylan. On this note, may I remind parents and students that we love to celebrate the successes of our students, both in and out of school – so please don’t hesitate to tell our Marketing Officer Mrs Kate Main of significant achievements.

The other thing that has been particularly gratifying for me over the past few weeks is the fact that we have another two of our Italian language students on exchange in Italy. Isobel Bartlett (Year 11) is currently in Verona and Ben Cochrane (Year 10) is currently in Macomer, Sardegna perfecting their Italian.

Parents should have received Semester 2 reports, posted home on Monday 16 December, which hopefully was enough time for you to contact the school with questions for teachers before the end of the year. Having read through quite a few reports at the time of writing, it is pleasing to note so many successful students. There are, however a small number who will be disappointed with their results. In almost every case this is the consequence of not applying themselves; and/or not completing their assignment work; and/or not attending school regularly. If your child has underachieved in their results for 2013, please have a look at the percentage attendance figure shown on the last page of the report above my signature block. If the attendance is less than 90%, not only is your child attending school less regularly, on average, than their mates but they are also placing themselves at risk of underachieving. While the overall attendance pattern at Melville SHS is better than state average (in fact our attendance rate is 91%), there are still a significant number of students who are not regularly in class. Success at school and attendance go hand in hand, so please look at what you can do as a parent to get your child to school for an average of at least 90% of the year in 2014. I promise you that their performance will improve if they attend classes and complete their work.

I can’t write my last communication to the Melville Community without acknowledging the impact on the school of the cuts to funding forced on the DoE and passed onto the school by State Government cost-
cutting/cost-recovery measures. Whatever your personal views about the need for ‘belt tightening’ (and I accept that prudent financial management at every level of spending is important) there is no doubt that we, just like EVERY public school, have had to make cuts to services in 2014 that not only are directly linked to the funding reductions but also had to be made over a very short space of time (we were only informed on 23 August after having already completed a 2014 time table).

The fact that Melville SHS has always been able to manage a number of smaller classes, while providing a significant number of teachers with additional time to run our many special programs (and not just the ones that are “officially” specialist), has been one of the many advantages we have been able to pass on to our students. While I still genuinely believe we have a much better package of services to offer parents than most other public schools, it cannot be denied that some parents have been disappointed at how I have been forced to manage the loss of over one million dollars from our budget and for this I am sorry, despite having had no choice about finding savings across all areas of Melville SHS.

In managing the school finances over the past 3 to 4 months and in planning and making the difficult decisions for 2014, I would like to acknowledge the significant support and guidance I have received from the School Board in general and the Board Chair, Mr Paul Richards, in particular. Our School Board is made up of intelligent, sensible and caring members of the Melville SHS community and they have proven their worth to me many times over – thank you.

Finally, on behalf of our students and indeed the wider community, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff at Melville SHS for their outstanding efforts throughout 2013. The school has achieved some amazing successes while providing a comprehensive education to all of our students from Year 8 to 12. In 2014 we anticipate a similar student population to this year with approximately 1,030 to 1,050 students. Staying at around 1,050 was always our plan as this will provide us with another year to get ourselves ready for the 1,300 students we expect in 2015 when the Year 7s come on board.

In closing I would like to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a safe, prosperous and happy new year. Next year promises to be another very exciting, if not challenging year, so until then, please have a great break and I look forward to working with each of you again next year.

Kind regards

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

Melville SHS is the only high school in WA to have one, let alone two SIMs, so our students are very privileged.

Triathlon

Congressations to Year 9 student Jeremy Shaw (pictured) who finished sixth in a field of 41 athletes in the School Sports WA Triathlon in the 14/15 years boys category. What a great result!

Arts

WAPPA Offer

Once again, a former Melville SHS student, Guiseppe Rotondella (Class of 2011) has been offered a place in acting at the prestigious West Australian Academy of Performing Arts next year. Congratulations on this great achievement Guiseppe.

Music Offer

Congratulations also to Year 12 Morgan Remaj who has been accepted into UWA’s School of Music to study Classical Guitar. He has applied for WAPPA and will find out when the results are posted next month.

Design Award Winners

The CPTED Awards were established by the WA Police in conjunction with the Sellenger Centre for Law at ECU. The purpose was to encourage designers to look at different ways of tackling crime in a preventative manner, usually at the design stage.

Our Year 12 Design class took on this project and chose from four tasks. These included the re-design of a vandalism proof bus stop, the design of a crime free social housing estate, a system of public awareness signage and also an anti-drink driving campaign. The students not only had to create a thorough design process showing alternate designs but also how current design against crime theories are used. Often the students developed their work in 3D visualisation software such as Google sketch-up.

Melville SHS was the only high school that received awards at the ECU ceremony where government departments,

New Aviation Simulator

The Aviation Centre has just powered up its new Simulator (SIM). It has been purchased after five years of saving, with the majority of funds being raised by voluntary fees from Aviation participants as well as school funds.

Students will practice flying on the $27 000 device, which simulates a plane with physical movement on three axes, one more than the original SIM. The extra axis also allows students to learn to fly a helicopter. The SIM uses a state of the art Liquid Cooled computer.

Melville SHS was the only high school that received awards at the ECU ceremony where government departments,
local council, university and design businesses were represented. Two of our students, Saskia Lange and Michelle Maretha picked up the coveted ‘Best Design’ category awards, winning a cash prize for their work.

No doubt Melville SHS shall be entering the competition again next year. It proved to be a fascinating and highly relevant area of the subject which is often overlooked by designers and made the students much more aware of the environment around them.

Lev Vykopal
Teacher in Charge - Graphic Design Media

Year 10 Transition Week

During week 7 the Year 10 students were involved in Transition Week, a great initiative that runs every year. The week this year consisted of two excursions and various guest speakers. During the Math classes Commonwealth Bank presented Start Smart workshops, which had a main focus on spending.

On Tuesday the students attended East Fremantle Football Club for a Jobs Seeker Seminar, which was presented by Attadale Rotary Club. The students were asked to come dressed for success. They put in a tremendous effort and looked great. During the day the students learnt about job interviews, phone calls and how to present well to an employer. The Attadale Rotary Club selected four standout students from the day: Troy Kelly, Cecy Ekeng, Amanda Cheng and Ben Cochrane (pictured centre). These students were invited to Attadale’s December Rotary meeting. Cecy and Amanda gave a short speech on how they enjoyed the seminar.

The students participated in the RYDA (Rotary Youth Driving Awareness) program run by the Melville Rotary Club. Again, this was an invaluable experience for the students, who were split into small groups and rotated through different activities. The interactive activities included stopping distances, hazards, distractions and risks, Plan B: Alcohol, drugs and fatigue, road choices, My Wheels and a powerful presentation from a crash survivor. This was rated highly by participants as one of the most effective excursions.

Lev Vykopal
Teacher in Charge - Graphic Design Media

In Week 8 the Year 10’s all sat their Learner’s driving test. Those who passed will receive a certificate and can gain their L’s when they turn 16. During the following session the RAC sent out a guest speaker who addressed the students on what it takes to be a safe passenger. After lunch PBF (Paraplegic Benefit Fund) coordinated a talk by Bridget, who is a paraplegic due to a horrific car accident when she was 17. During these presentations, the students were fantastic. I believe they gained valuable life changing information needed for when they hit the roads.

The Year 10’s (pictured below left) should be extremely proud of the way they presented themselves throughout all the activities and excursions during Transition Week. I know they gained knowledge to assist them in the future and wish them the best of luck in upper school.

Felicity O’Sullivan - Year 10 Coordinator

Gifted and Talented Team

The Gifted and Talented selection through the Education Department has been completed for 2014. We have 21 students starting next year. These students will study Maths, Science, English and Society and Environment together over the next three years with lots of accelerated extension and activities. Four students gained Melville SHS scholarships. They were:

Liam O’Brien  Shelley Primary School
Isabel Stanley  Oberthur Primary School
Molly Clegg  Bletchley Park Primary School
Dylan Welsh  Melville Primary School

Other class members:
Randy De Guzman  Aubin Grove PS
Nur Adibah Hashim  Australian Islamic College
Rachel Crook-Rogers  Beeliar PS
Jay Grimston  Bull Creek PS
Hamish Tambling  Darwin NT
Wai Lee  Divine Mercy College
Jesse Dart  East Fremantle PS
Mathew Beck  Melville PS
Thomas Camporeale  Melville PS
Lara Laffont  Melville PS
River Verhoeven  Perth Waldorf School
Eliza Lock  Samson PS
Liam O’Brien  Shelley PS
Gifted and Talented programs will be extended to Year 7s in 2015 and testing is being held early next year for this intake. There is also Top Up Testing for Years 7-10 students who can sit the test for vacancies in existing classes.

Applications close on 10 February 2014 and academic testing will be held 15 March. More information can be found HERE.

Risky Business Day

The Risky Business day for Year Nine students was well received by all. Seven guest presenters spoke to the students on issues such as smoking, caffeine, sexual health, over-the-counter medications (pictured right), alcohol and risk taking, illicit drugs, and safety at the beach. Tips for protecting adolescents from unsafe risk-taking were discussed. They also learned how to face up to the consequences of their actions. This open forum in small groups of 15 students was the perfect opportunity for a healthy dialogue between the presenters and the students.

Jill Dykes - Community Nurse

House Report

Aquila and Gryphon were the two best Houses in Term 4 in terms of House Point Stamps, as the table shows ... but was it enough?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Aquila</th>
<th>Cygnus</th>
<th>Gryphon</th>
<th>Pegasus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IEC</td>
<td>639</td>
<td>387</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>415</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Congratulations to all students who contributed to their House by getting house stamps, especially those who won chocolates at the last assembly. Congratulations to these classes: Ms Julie Gordon’s Year 8 class, Ms Melissa McCarthy’s Year 9 Art class and IEC B1, who won a class party for having the most House Stamps.

Thank you to all the teachers who took the time to give out house stamps and to the form teachers who collected the results.

The final scores for House Points for 2013 are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Gryphon</td>
<td>9011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Aquila</td>
<td>9779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Pegasus</td>
<td>10417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Cygnus</td>
<td>10973</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Congratulations to all Cygnus students!!! Those of you who participated in the winning team at the athletics carnival deserve much credit for maintaining the lead. Well done!

Fran McCarthy - House Coordinator

The IEC Graduation

In Week 10, the IEC Graduation Ceremony was held in the Carly Smith Studio. The Intensive English Centre runs an integrated program for students new to English, who graduate from the program after a year or 18 months. On graduation students enrol in their local high school or enter mainstream classes at Melville SHS.

The graduation performances included We are the Young and Christmas Carols by the T Choir (conducted by Mrs Morais), My Guardian Angel sung by students Farzana Syed, Abdul Ahmed and Angelica Cendren with Mike Li on piano and Kilian Albrecht on guitar, and Parallel Lines by the IEC Dance Group (choreographed by Mrs McCarthy).

Guest Speaker for the event was Mr Blamo Qua Qua, a Perth Glory Player, who inspired the many budding football players in the cohort.

Due to the professionalism and dedication of the IEC staff and the deserving nature of the IEC students, the graduation is always good, but this semester we had an added incentive to make it extra special: this graduation is probably the last for our deputy principal of the IEC,
Ms Hanscom (pictured centre). Mr Derek Fenton read a lovely poem dedicated to Ms Hanscom to close.

The program demonstrates the range of talent in the IEC and the number of people involved. Thanks to Ms Jenny Belair who coordinated the whole exercise, Ms Kirsten Evenson who was back stage and the Ed Assistants who did so much in the preparation. Thanks should also go to the Arts Learning Area, particularly Ms Ana Milas, Mr Simon Thompson and Ms Liz Houwen and also Mr Lloyd Greenland for their support and cooperation.

Fran McCarthy - IEC Teacher

Important information for 2014

Uniforms Reminder

Correct uniform bottoms are to become compulsory in 2014 and must have MSHS embroidered by the uniform shop. Existing Nell Gray uniform bottoms (shorts, skirts, pants) can be handed to the uniform shop to be embroidered before term starts at a cost of $5. Extended uniform shop hours are HERE.

School Calendar

The calendar on the school website gives an up to date listing of important events at the school. This is the best way to find out dates that, unfortunately sometimes change. If you click into the calendar section it can be browsed ahead of time. Go to: www.melville.wa.edu.au

Some key dates for the beginning of 2014 are:

- Front office opens 28 January
- First day for students 3 February
- Student Free Day 7 February

BYO iPad

A reminder that students in Year 8 and 9 are invited to BYO an iPad in 2014. The instructions for this are on the website HERE. Questions on this exciting new initiative should be directed to Mr Nye Smith our ICT Manager.

Information Handbook 2014

Each family will receive an updated copy of the Melville SHS Information Handbook for 2014 at the beginning of first term next year. This booklet is designed to provide the latest information about the school and should be stored somewhere in your household for future reference. Please try not to lose it as it will be relevant to your child’s studies at Melville SHS for the whole year. If you do lose it, please call the school and have another one sent home. As an example, the Information Handbook contains the contact details for all staff (except those appointed after the date of printing) as well as information on everything we can think of that you might need to know from ‘Absences to Session Zero classes’.

Finally, we are always working to improve the contents of the handbook and to make it more user friendly so if you have any suggestions for improvement please don’t hesitate to contact Mrs Kate Main in the front office (Catherine.Main@education.wa.edu.au).

Course Outlines

Your child should receive a Course Outline and an Assessment Program from teachers for every subject they study on Day 1 of 2014. If the course is one term long they should receive another one on day one of term 2.

To be useful, a Course Outline must provide enough detail to the student and their parent/guardian to know what topics/objectives/outcomes are being studied and when they will be studied. It must also advise when assessments are being held and what topics/objectives/outcomes are being covered. It is also a requirement of an Assessment Program that it advises students what weighting of the final mark an assessment is worth and students must know at all times what grade they are currently heading towards achieving. In other words there must be no surprises.

It will once again be a requirement that all Course Outlines be signed by parents/guardians, so we know you have actually seen them. In 2014 we also hope to have ALL teachers placing their Course Outlines and Assessment
FAMILY LAW NETWORK AUSTRALIA (FLNA)

FLNA have recently launched the website Family Law Network Australia. The website is a free information resource and referral service for family law matters.

Some of our useful initiatives include:
- Family Law Compass – submit a question and have it answered by one of our VIP lawyers.
- Your Financial Future – our VIP financial planner offers a free financial health check (suitable for anyone seeking to secure their financial future).
- Family Law Lingo – definitions of commonly used family law terms.
- Family Law eDirectory – search and find family law professionals.
- And many more helpful resources and downloads.

For more information click:

http://familylawmattersaustralia.com.au

Family Law Network Australia - A free referral service where you find information on separation and divorce, parenting arrangements, property settlement and child support.

2014 P&C Meetings

The first P&C meeting for 2014 will be on Monday 24 February (week 4). This is a committee meeting (but new members are welcome to attend anyway!). The date of the P&C AGM is Monday 24 March (week 8). Please put both of these dates in your diary and try and attend if at all possible.

The P&C meet twice a term (only once if there is no business to discuss) and if nothing else the meetings provide the opportunity to meet with the principal in a relaxed forum and tell him what a great school he has! The P&C are responsible for running the school canteen and our swimming pool and use all profits to provide additional resources for students throughout the school. New members are always welcome and there are never enough interested parties so grab a friend and become involved!

2014 School Board Meetings

The School Board meets on the same nights as the P&C with meetings commencing at 5.30pm and running for no more than 2 hours. There is one designated Board meeting per year which is open to the public on 23 June 2014. Board positions fall vacant every year and nominations for interested parties will be called for in early 2014.

Programs on-line for your convenience. You will receive more information on this in 2014 from Mr Nye Smith our Manager of ICT or your child’s teachers.

Finally teachers will be available to answer questions, if you don’t understand the Course Outline. Please ring, email (often easiest) or otherwise contact (e.g. through the homework diary) the teacher concerned. This is being mentioned at the end of 2013 so you know to ask your child for the Course Outlines to read, discuss and sign at the beginning of 2014. It is strongly recommended that you contact the Head of Department of any teacher who has not managed this school requirement by the end of the first week of school (just to allow time for things to get home in school bags etc!). All Heads of Department are listed on the Melville SHS website.