Melville Matters 50
Issue 49 February/March 2015

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to the second edition of Melville Matters for 2015 and our first electronic version for the year. For the benefit of our new parents we produce one hard copy and one electronic copy of Melville Matters per term. Accordingly, if we don’t have your latest email we can’t get you every second copy of our wonderful school magazine.

By now all students should have well and truly settled into their classes and while there may still be a bit of shuffling based on the Year 11 and 12 Interim Progress Statements this will also settle soon. Accordingly each student should now have received Course Outlines and Assessment Programs for every course (subject) in Years 7 to 12.

Course Outlines should be thorough enough to give a general idea of what is being taught and when, while the Assessment Program (which may in fact included in the same document) should indicate what assessment tasks are due and their relative weighting. If the information is confusing or the dates are unclear for you and your child, you may need to get in touch with the teacher concerned and ask them to explain the situation. We all know that outlines and programs will change but I expect staff to keep students and their parents updated with these as well.

To make this whole process of teacher/parent communication easier, the school has adopted the web-based Department of Education Connect software. We have close to 100% of this information from our teachers posted live for you to look at any time and anywhere in the world.

All of our Year 11 and 12 students should have their marks transferred directly from their teacher’s marks books straight to Connect (so you can see how they are doing before they get their work back!) and we expect this same facility will soon extend to Years 7 to 10. To access Connect you need to apply for a parent log-on which is done through the school (but allocated by the Department so there can be some delay). You can get a Connect application HERE. Mr Nye Smith, our ICT Manager is also available to assist if required.

Connect is a VERY POWERFUL and useful program that I think will revolutionise school/parent/student communications so please take advantage of the possibilities presented and log-on. While I expect all staff to be using Connect, some of our new staff (and there are over 23 of these) may be experiencing a few problems getting their materials loaded online, as our network is currently straining under the load of 1,350 students (this is being addressed as we speak by the way). Please contact the teacher by email if you can’t see anything on their Connect site and cc. Mr George Tills (for Years 7 to 9 students), Mr Evan Floyd (for Years 10 to 12 students) and Mr Nye Smith (our ICT Manager) and one of these people will work with the teacher to get them online. All email addresses are available from our web-site.
Course Outlines and Assessment Programs are but one way the school tries to keep you informed about the study requirements for your child at school. Another important way is the traditional parent/teacher meeting night. We had the Year 7, 8, 11 and 12 Parent/Teacher Night in week 8. Thank you to the many parents who were able to attend this important meeting aimed at providing an early snapshot of how students have settled into:
1. Their first year at High School (Year 7 and 8)
2. Their first year in Senior School (Year 11) or
3. Their final year of school (Year 12)

I need to also thank the teaching staff at Melville SHS for their ongoing commitment and professionalism. The next Parent/Teacher Night will be held on Wednesday July 1st and will be held between 9am to 6pm to give parents more opportunity to meet with teachers across EACH Year group 7 to 12. Obviously to facilitate this extended meeting time, students do not attend school at all on this date and we will continue with the very successful on-line booking process using PTO.

ANZAC Day will be celebrated in term 2 on Friday 24 April at a ceremony in the gym between 11.45am-12.30pm. The special guest speaker is likely to be Brigadier Phil White (yes that is me!) and as usual all parents and friends of the school are welcome to attend.

In week 6 our swimming team competed in the ‘B’ Division of the State Swimming Carnival and achieved a creditable fourth plac, making us the 12th best swim school in the state! Not only did the swim team perform well as a unit in the water but it was also noted by many officials that as spectators our students were proudly dressed in Melville green and barracked with enthusiasm. In addition to the great team result, five of our students featured as champion or runner up champion boys (listed in the Sport article). Thanks go to our interschool swimming coaches Ms Fran McCarthy and Mr Nathan Riordan and our Interschool Sports coach Ms Kylee Coonan and Mr Paul Cooke who did an outstanding job commentating on the day.

Finally, every year I remind parents that the attendance of their child at school is one of the biggest contributing factors to successful achievement. As a rough guide, it is considered that a minimum of 90% attendance is essential for academic success. My teaching staff in general and of course my Managers of Student Service (Mrs Vlasich and Mrs Olney-Thurston) and their teams are monitoring the attendance of your child on a daily basis and reporting to you if their attendance is causing concern (and they will do this even if you have given permission for your child to be away).

Typically, absenteeism is worse in Years 10 and 11 than other year groups and worse for girls than boys. This said, so far this year there has been a significant improvement and I hope this is because students and parents are getting the simple message that it is NOT OK to stay away. We really need parents to stand
firm when their child asks to stay home when they are not all that unwell. We also ask parents to understand that taking their child on an extended holiday throughout the school term is also not OK and they risk considerable academic hardship if they do (please use the school holidays, not the school term, as that is what they are there for). Parents cannot expect the school to break the law and give permission to remove their child to go on an extended holiday in school time – so please don’t ask for permission, as refusal might offend!

As always, kind regards

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

NAPLAN TESTING

Year 9 students across Australia will sit NA-PLAN tests in literacy and numeracy early in term 2 (11-15 May). By now all English and mathematics classes will have been well and truly engaged in preparation for these tests. As parents, you can assist by speaking to your child about the importance of these tests and the need to achieve to the best of their ability. If you have any questions about the tests feel free to contact your child’s English or Mathematics teacher.

‘In all things success depends on previous preparation, and without such previous preparation there is sure to be failure.’ – Confucius

CANTEEN EXPRESS
Faster ways to get your lunch & recess:
- Pre-order from 8:15 – 8:40 (cash or eftpos)
- Then just collect from the “pre-order” area at recess or lunch instead of waiting in the queue.
- Order ONLINE before 9:00am at: www.flexischools.com.au
- MSHS canteen now accepts EFTPOS
See the Menu: HERE

YEAR 8 CAMP WAS A SCREAM
FROM THE EDITOR

Happy birthday to Melville Matters. At 50 editions, the school magazine has maturity, longevity and knowledge.

The 50th edition gives reference to Confucius, as Samantha Crane (pictured right and more on page 7) has won a place to travel to China with the Confucius Society. I have included some quotes from this Sage, as we seem to have a theme…(please assume he also means she in the quotes).

Good luck to our Chinese Language student delegation who are also travelling to China on the school holidays to expand their language skills and explore the culture.

‘Hold faithfulness and sincerity as first principles. Then no friends would not be like yourself.’
– Confucius

OUTSTANDING

The following Year 12 students have been invited to participate in the 2015 Purposeful Academic Classes for Excelling Student (PACES) program based on achieving outstanding results during Year 11.
Mathematics
Sahil Pradhan
Yuri Na
Mathematics Specialist
Yuri Na
Geography
Aleksander Ristic
Liam Fiegert
Ben Cochrane
Jessica Smith

ARTS & TECHNOLOGIES

PERSPECTIVES

The Art Gallery of WA recently had the Perspectives opening night and two Melville SHS students Madeleine Waller and Jeaselyn Quintu were selected for the 2014 Perspective Exhibition. Year 12 Perspectives is your yearly taste of art by some of the best, brightest and most talented graduating high school artists in the State. An annual barometer of what our youth are thinking and feeling, it is also a rich celebration of the role the arts play in the development of individual identities.

The exhibition is celebrating its 23rd year and this popular annual event provides the platform to showcase selected works from students graduating from Year 12 Visual Arts. This year’s judging panel has selected 69 artworks, dealing with political, social and personal themes. This exhibition represents a great opportunity to glimpse the world through the eyes of our young people.

You can view the works at the Art Gallery of WA from 7 March to 1 June 2015. Madeleine was interviewed by Channel 7 and the footage is HERE (go to 1min 20).

SCULPTURE AWARD FINALISTS

Year 12 sculpture students have made the finals of 2015 City of Melville sculpture awards at Deep Water Point. Their sculpture Dyarlgaard, Canning River is pictured left. The exhibition is on until 12 April and you can vote for it HERE.
HAVE WOOD - WILL WORK
Year 12 woodwork students pictured top right have been working on their skills projects, one being a shoe rack. This shoe rack is the first task the Materials Wood students have made in the workshop this year and it took two weeks to complete. The next project will be a personally designed small table, where the design must include an element of recycled material.

The Year 7s have been learning how to measure and mark out a project and also used a tenon saw and a coping saw. Students made a box to plan and designed their own handle (bottom photos).

Ms Beverly Wild-Design & Technology teacher

‘Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life.’ – Confucius

HAS S

UPDATE
Over the last 12 months Society and Environment (S&E) has been changing its name to Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS). This name change has happened across ALL of Australia, not just WA.

This year we have some exciting excursions (out of school trips) and incursions (in school visits) planned. The Year 12 Geography class is heading off to the Perth CBD in the next couple of weeks to see urban processes in action and in term 2 we have the Constitutional Centre coming to talk to the Year 9’s about Australia’s Constitution and Federation. They will also be talking to the Year 12 History and Politics and Law classes about the Whitlam Dismissal of 1975, which was a very turbulent political time in Australia’s history.

For the remainder of this term the Year 7 home rooms will be conducting surveys on how people at Melville Senior High School (staff and students) use water. They will then develop advertising campaigns encouraging people to save water based on the results of these surveys. This is a competition and prizes will be awarded to the best campaigns. So expect there to be surveys handed out… and watch this space for the results.

Our aim is to highlight these excursions and incursions in Melville Matters so everyone has an idea of how this most useful and interesting subject in the school can be used in a practical way. If you have any questions please feel free to come and have a chat with a HASS teacher in the HASS office. You can also check our notice board, which is changed regularly with interesting articles, events and competitions relating to the Humanities.

Ms. Beaton, Head of Learning Area - HASS

SAFE MOVES
Year 11 Certificate II Business students are working hard to complete their Occupational Safety and Health unit. Recent changes to the certificate mean it is no longer enough for stu-
dents to complete written work in order to pass the unit. Students are now required to demonstrate their understanding of the requirements and their teacher must record these demonstrations for digital inclusion in their portfolios.

The students (pictured top right) demonstrated safe lifting of a heavy object. They were required to complete a plan of action, which included a risk analysis. Each student was delegated a role to play in the activity. Some students were required to be ‘lifters’, others were ‘communicators’ while some were ‘spotters’. Students then reflected on the success of the activity and identified areas that could be improved upon next time. All students were required to participate in order to pass the activity.

The Certificate II Business students have also been regularly completing OSH reports on various areas of the school and identifying hazards and risks. Students operated discretely and conducted inspections in rooms where there are frequently staff working. Students complete their reports which were then included in their digital portfolios. Watch out staff! If students catch you standing on a chair, it will be documented!

I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand - Confucius

ENGLISH

In Year 7 English classes, students have been writing about themselves. Thinking about purpose and audience, they have investigat-ed ways in which they represent who they are through texts like autobiographies, letters and social media.

Mr Adams’ class (a selection are pictured below) has been writing to students at a remote Aboriginal school called Pia Wadjari. This school only has about 20 students from pre-primary to Year 12. This is a huge difference from our high school of over 1300 students!

The difference between our experiences and those in remote Western Australia have been really interesting to consider. It has really highlighted for students how much their community shapes who they are.

Mr Heath Benjamin Adams
Year 7 Coordinator/English Teacher

LANGUAGES

Samantha Crane (Year 11) has won a Confucius Society scholarship place and will be travelling to China for the Easter Holidays. The Society is a Chinese Government-funded body to promote Chinese culture and goodwill.

Shopping and sightseeing are on the agenda however they will stay and study Chinese at the International College at Zhejiang University. They will also keep a daily journal, visit schools in the area, see Shanghai and visit museums and other cultural activities.

To study and not think is a waste. To think and not study is dangerous. – Confucius
SPORTING SUCCESS

INTERSCCHOOL SWIMMING
Our B Division Swimming team came fourth at the Inter-school Swimming Carnival, which was a terrific result. The students involved in conjunction with the coordinating teachers set a team goal of finishing third prior to the carnival, following our fifth place last year. Therefore fourth was an improvement overall. Highlights were the boy’s teams who were winners in many events and relays. This was clearly demonstrated with the Champions of the day (pictured top right):

Year 7
Champion Boy  Shaun Beck
Runner up Champion Boy  Kieran Smirke

Year 10
Champion Boy  Ben Hopkinson

Year 11
Champion Boy  Cullen Dans

Year 12
Runner Up Champion Boy  Lachlan Price

INTErSCHOOL BASKETBALL
The Senior Boys Basketball team got off to a flying start winning two in a row earlier this term. Now nearing the end of the season the boys have won five out of six games. Their success so far is largely due to their fantastic defensive pressure and ability to work well together as a team! Well done boys!

INTErSCHOOL BASKETBALL
The last of the inter-house swimming carnivals was for the Intensive English Centre. This carnival was a mixture of novelty team relays and 25m races. The Boy and Girl Champion swimmers were Pat Usansa and Kik Bunsoem. Runners Up were Esteban Hoarau and Bella Liu. The winning House was Cygnus with Gryphon in second place. All swimming house points will be combined to decide which House gets the swimming trophy. This will be announced at the next school assembly. See pictures on the next page.

and Long Jump (6.77m) over the last 5 days. See his race HERE.

Megan Hooper has won gold at the state athletics championships (1.61m). She has qualified to compete in Kuala Lumpur later in the year.

Congratulations to Celeste Johns (Year 7) who is on the State Synchronised Swimming Team and will be competing in the Australian National Championships in Sydney in April.

Melville SHS has four State Championships representatives in Dragon Boat Racing in April. They are:
Sarah Cocken (Team Captain)  Year 11
Natasha Cocken  Year 11
Tom Featherstone  Year 9
Kady Sherwood  Year 8

Sarah Cocken is also an Australian Representative travelling to Canada in October.

‘The will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach your full potential… these are the keys that will unlock the door to personal excellence. – Confucius

IEC SWIMMING
THE QUIET LION TOUR

Year 10 student Tom Johnson (pictured top left) has won a competition held by Melville Rotary to attend the annual Quiet Lion Tour. Tom and his father will visit Thailand in April with a group of other school students, teachers and family members. The tour focuses on the story of the WWII Australian PoWs, their camps and the Australian doctors in charge such as Weary Dunlop.

The tour culminates in the ANZAC Day Dawn Service in Hellfire Pass and the Memorial Service in the Cemetery at Kanchanaburi. Many sites are visited including the of Prisoner of War camps, the Bridge on the River Kwai, hospitals sites and other areas of interest. Survivors of the Burma Thailand Railway and experts on the Thai Burma Railway travel on the tour and will provide commentaries in addition to English speaking Thai Guides.

Melville Rotary have allowed Tom and his family to receive the donations gained at the Rotary markets for two weekends. Also they have met some Rotarians to see how they raise money to fund various projects. On his return Tom will attend a Rotary meeting and a Whole of School Assembly to tell of his experiences. Hopefully this will encourage other Melville SHS students to apply.

*Wherever you go, go with all your heart.*
– Confucius

SPONGE BOB

Congratulations to Max Laffont, Marisa Gardinar, Tayla Logan, and Hannah Lindsay for their fabulous team-work, motivation and organisation of the Sponge Throw event held in week 7. The event went spectacularly. Thank you to all the Teachers who participated and got slapped with soaked sponges. Special thanks to Mr White and Mr. Brooks-Crew who took a beating and got completely saturated.

This fundraiser effort earned $215 to go towards Beyond Blue.

*Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in getting up every time we do.* – Confucius

ALUMNI


In December Luke Brandstater received a promotion to Senior First Officer at Bristow Aviation as a helicopter pilot. The photo (top right is of Luke receiving his extra bars). He is now starting to log some time in the Sikorsky 76 Helicopter. He flies out of Karratha and Melbourne to the oil rigs.

*‘To practice five things under all circumstances constitutes perfect virtue; these five are gravity, generosity of soul, sincerity, earnestness, and kindness.’* – Confucius
NOTICES

VACCINATION PROGRAM FOR YEAR 8S

The Department of Health is offering a free vaccination program for children in Year 8 this year. The program offers important booster doses of childhood vaccinations, as well as an additional vaccine for human papillomavirus (HPV).

We have provided all children in Year 8 with an information pack from the Department of Health. It includes details of the program and a consent form for parents to sign. Parents must sign and return the consent form to the school for their children to participate. We encourage all parents to access this free program.

UNIFORM CONCEPTS

Please note the Uniform Shop will be closed from Friday 3 April until Monday 13 April 2015.

Winter stock is now available for purchase.

Opening Hours are:
Monday – Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm
(6pm Thursday)
Saturday 9.00am – 1.00pm

1/9 Yampi Way, Willetton

EXTERNAL PARENTING COURSES

RELATIONSHIPS AUSTRALIA
Building Stronger Families – click HERE
Making Step-families Work – click HERE
Mums Raising Boys – click HERE

DADS RAISING TEENAGE BOYS
Raising teenage boys can be challenging but there can also be exceptional times of fun and closeness.

The Dads Raising Teenage Boys workshop is designed to assist fathers and father figures navigate their way through the teen years so as to help build positive relationships and strong positive young men for the future.
This workshop will discuss:
• How to build effective communication skills
• Developmental challenges that boys face in their adolescent years
• How to support and engage well with your son
• Utilising effective strategies that will foster a meaningful relationship with you son

FREMANTLE
1 Ord Street
Wednesday, 24 June
Time: 6.30-9.00pm
Fee: $25 per person

Places are limited so book now on 9489 6322

Melville SHS Tutoring Discount with Academic Task Force

WACE and ATAR Specialists

TERM 2 (2 May - 28 June)
9 WEEKS Special discount
$270 per subject (Normally $360 per subject).
Application Form HERE

Academic Task Force has worked with schools and families for 28 years. We are one of the longest established and most experienced Yr 11 & 12 education providers in Western Australia.

Whether you are a high achiever looking to get that extra edge or a student who would like additional support to reach your potential, Academic Task Force has a program to suit you. Many of our teachers have experience as Heads of Department, are WACE markers and text book writers, so they know the syllabus well and can help you understand the content.