

February-March 2021



RESILIENT INNOVATIVE SUCCESSFUL

Melville Senior High School acknowledges the Noongar people as the Traditional Owners of the land on which the school stands today and pays its respects to the Whadjuk people, and Elders past, present and emerging.

## From the Principal

Welcome to the first Melville Matters for 2021 and to the start of another fantastic school year for Melville SHS. A special welcome to new parents, new students and new staff. It's been a very busy and vibrant start to the school year (after an interesting week one!) and I have been very impressed with the positive and committed approach of the students towards their learning so far this term.

As I write this article our students are in class, on task and doing us proud. The year has started in a very busy fashion with student achievement assemblies, camps, incursions, excursions, official openings, parent picnics, parent nights and of course engaging teaching and learning. All of this forms part of the fully comprehensive approach to education we aim to deliver at Melville.

Teachers have been setting up their students for success by issuing Course Outlines and Assessment Programs (all available online using CONNECT), as well as discussing classroom and study expectations, which support every child to achieve to their capacity. However, if your child is unsure of the expectations being communicated, or they are experiencing difficulty in managing the expectations we have of them please contact their individual teacher (via CONNECT, email, phone or note in their student diary) or contact the relevant Head of Learning Area or the Year Coordinator (if possible in that order please). The Information Handbook as well as our website contain the contact details of all key staff (Deputies, Heads of Learning Area, Managers etc.) and should be consulted at a point of need. Our website and [Facebook](#) page also contains the latest details on up-coming events and the key information needed to make your child's time at Melville as enjoyable and as successful as possible. A key part of our school purpose is to support every child to be successful with their education and I fully encourage parents/caregivers to work in partnership with school staff to ensure our school purpose is realised.

While you are on our website please take some time to look at the Student Services section for great advice on living with teenagers and tips on managing the typical sorts of issues that ALL parents need to deal with as their child changes from being a totally dependent child, into the world of adolescence where they seek more independence and navigate the challenges and expectations that come with this.

At Melville SHS we will always try and keep you up to date with your child's progress. This is now incredibly easy to do so with CONNECT and as most of you will know, as soon as a teacher places a mark into their marks book you will see it on CONNECT together with the class average and an abundance of other information. We still see the value of a face to face meeting with parents, especially in Term 1, for parents who have a child in an important transition year. To facilitate this, we use the

Photos are of the Chinese Lion Dance Held in Week 2



*Achieving excellence today and building bright futures for tomorrow.*

medium of what are called Interim Progress Statements, which are produced for students in Years 7, 10, 11 and 12 and are made available on CONNECT from Tuesday 16 March. Note that no reports are sent in the mail at Melville SHS, so all parents must be actively using CONNECT to receive a copy. Shortly after the progress reports become available for parents, we have our Parent-Teacher Interview Afternoon taking place on Thursday 25 March, from 12.30pm - 6.00pm.

As CONNECT is now our single most important means of communication it is important that parents ensure we have their correct email address. Accordingly if you have changed your email address or if you know we don't have it, please contact our ICT Manager Ms Dee Lewis at [Deirdre.Lewis@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Deirdre.Lewis@education.wa.edu.au).

In our ongoing efforts to improve communication between school and home (in addition to the use of CONNECT and via our school website, we also have a [Facebook](#) page. Access to Facebook also enables the rapid passage of up-to-date information and photos. If you use the Facebook platform, make sure that you like the school page at the handle 'Melville Senior High School', as there is always lots happening and this is an easy way for us to communicate news with you.

Finally and very importantly, the first few weeks of 2021 saw the school celebrating the excellent academic successes of the Year 12 Class of 2020. Taken both collectively and individually, the 2020 WACE results were outstanding. Melville SHS achieved a very impressive 99% WACE achievement and 100% Attainment (see a complete summary of the highlights [HERE](#)). The collective and individual results of our Class of 2020 show us that Melville SHS is routinely able to prepare our students successfully 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 great job with our students/your children academically, but it also suggests to me that Melville SHS is a worthy school of choice for our local and wider community.



In closing, remember that you are always welcome to pop into the school at any time. I love showing people around our magnificent buildings and grounds and showing off our great students who we are very proud of. Please feel free to join one of the school tours listed on the website calendar [HERE](#). We are looking forward to another sensational year at Melville for your son and/or daughter in particular and more generally for the whole school team.

Kind regards and best wishes to all of you for a happy and healthy 2021.

Paul Cooke,  
Principal



### **The Melville Senior High School Board**

The School Board has an important role in school strategic planning and guidance (including budget setting) as well as some policy ratification within the school. It does not have an operational role and should not be confused with the P&C, which is a parent forum.

If you would like to nominate for the position of community representative or if you know someone who you think would be suitable, please email [elaine.vardy@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:elaine.vardy@education.wa.edu.au) so I can forward the documentation required.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Elaine on 6274 1300.

## Class of 2020

### High Achievers Assembly

In week 4, the school celebrated the achievements of our class of 2020. Two students, Eunice Tan (99.7) and Benjamin Seow (99.65), joined the 99 Club and seven students joined the 95 Club: Maen Dofash, Marcus Robertson-Wall, LeAnn Yap, Esther Tan, Stephen Omodunbi, Harisheni Gopala Krishnan and Zarin Tasneem.

Congratulations to Eunice Tan who received a Subject Certificate of Excellence for Mathematics Applications. 100% of our 95+ club studied a Mathematics course, with 66% of this group studying the top Mathematics courses in Methods and/or Specialist. All students who achieved a SCSA Certificate of Distinction and a Certificate of Merit (and were ATAR eligible) studied a Mathematics course, once again reflecting the strong capacity of our teachers to continually support students to achieve outstanding Mathematics results.

Congratulations to Esther Tan (98.4) who received a Subject Exhibition in Health Studies by achieving the highest examination mark in the subject. The school has a very strong Health and Physical Education program, and this is the sixth year in a row that Melville SHS has won this Subject Exhibition for Health Studies. Esther was a part of our Gifted and Talented program and received 98.4 in her ATAR exams. She plans on furthering her interest in Health by studying Pharmacy at UWA.

Harisheni Gopala Krishnan (97) received a Subject Certificate of Excellence for English (top 0.5% of students in the State), while Eunice Tan achieved a perfect 100% in her ATAR English Literature Exam and Pablo Angel Jaramillo achieved 100% in the EALD practical ATAR exam. Congratulations to Eunice and Pablo on these outstanding achievements.



95 Club Members (L-R)  
Benjamin Seow, Zarin Tasneem, Harisheni Gopala Krishnan, Stephen Omodunbi, Esther Tan, Eunice Tan and LeAnn Yap

99 Club Members (L-R)  
Eunice Tan and Benjamin Seow

### InSTEMsational Futures

STEM subjects at Melville SHS are very popular choices and students often achieve above Like and State averages. The results speak for themselves and are reflected in the future career pathways chosen by many of our students.

Two of our Gifted and Talented students, Eunice Tan and LeAnn Yap will be studying Medicine after receiving a Direct Pathway to Medicine at UWA. Eunice (99.7) also received a Subject Certificate of Excellence for Mathematics Applications. She said "I am extremely grateful for the immense support and encouragement my teachers had given me throughout my ATAR journey. Without their effort and care, I know for certain that I would not be able to achieve this result."

Other top students with STEM futures include Maen Dofash (98.90) and Benjamin Seow (99.65), who are going to study Mechanical Engineering at Curtin; Esther Tan (98.4) - Pharmacy at UWA; Stephen Omodunbi (97.85 ) - Medical Radiation Science at Curtin; Zarin Tasneem (96.45 ) - Mechanical Engineering at UWA and Marcus Robertson-Wall (98.7) - Actuarial Science.

These are just some of the interesting courses the students are studying this year. We wish all our 2020 class a successful future.

### Upper School High Achievers



Alumni Maen Dofash, Benjamin Seow, Stephen Omodunbi and Principal Mr Paul Cooke.



Left Year 10 Students (2020): (L-R) Syed Aljunied Australian Defence Force 2020 Future Innovators Award and Om Sharma Australian Defence Force 2020 Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Award



Above: Year 10 (2020) Term 2 Gold Academic Award Winners



Year 9 (2020) Term 2 Gold Academic Award Winners



Year 11(2020) Term 2 Gold Academic Award Winners

## Gifted and Talented

### Year 7 GAT Camp

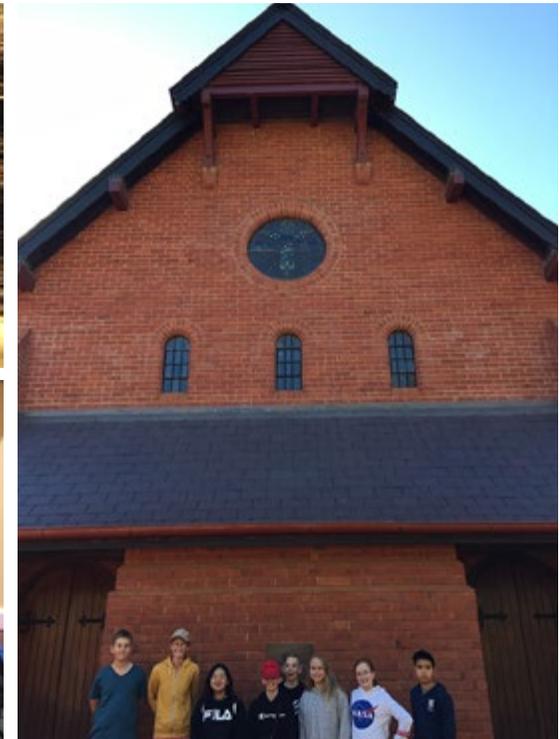
In Week 3, 30 Year 7 GAT students departed for Fairbridge Village in Pinjarra for an overnight camp. The purpose of the camp was to build and strengthen the early bonds between the many students who come from various schools out of boundary. Often these students were the big fish in the little pond. Here at Melville, they can find themselves a little lost; overwhelmed navigating their 'place' not only in the GAT class, but the wider school.

We engaged in a number of getting to know you activities, followed by several Amazing Race style team challenges. Ms Pearson's group of boys brought their 'A' game, particularly (and perhaps not surprisingly) in the Lego recreation challenge, where they bagged 200 points. Lucas proved to be a steady set of hands in the marble challenge whilst Zach was voted MVP for his Silent Opera efforts. Mr Gill's team were tracking nicely in all challenges, leading comfortably at most stages. Unfortunately, and despite the massive commitment and cooperation shown by his team, they ran out of puff. Ms Pearson's boisterous boys, The Pink Fluffy Unicorns, 'did a Bradbury', and came out of nowhere to clinch the win (And no, Mr Pearce did not bribe the adjudicators). At the end of the day however, it didn't matter who won or lost. The students got to know a bit more about themselves, each other and the skills required to work as a team.

A spooky night walk to the old cemetery took an unexpected turn when we literally 'took an unexpected' turn. This added 20 minutes to our evening event (and was to the 'delight' of the students who so desperately wanted to get back to the cabins to eat their junk food). Nonetheless, we managed to find our way back intact.

Cooperation and communication were the key messages we aimed at instilling in this very dynamic bunch of individuals. Camps like this allow for students and teacher alike to see the students shine in an educational domain other than the academic. Mr Pearce said he "was encouraged to see the team-work, respect and resilience demonstrated by our 2021 Year 7 GAT class and look forward to seeing what they are capable of achieving this year, and beyond".

Pictures below show some of the Year 7 GAT Students at their camp



## 2020 Gifted and Talented Awards Night

On a balmy albeit windy Tuesday evening late in Term 4, the annual Gifted and Talented Awards Night was held in the Melville SHS Performing Arts Centre.

Primarily organised and run by the GAT Student Leaders (Farha Marcellus, Bhavya Chaudhry, Dhruv Gehlot and Fariha Asha), the night kicked off with a sumptuous spread provided by our very own Megabites canteen. Parents, students and special guests were treated to the melodic beats provided by Ms. Milas' Year 11 ATAR Music class. Following this, the ceremony commenced with Fariha at the helm as the Master of Ceremony.

The eventing was organised and run by these wonderful individuals. From the night's run sheet and speeches, medal design and even the selection of the award winners, these highly capable students truly delivered in the lead up to, and on the night of the Awards. Thank you.

A full list of the winners is below. Congratulations to all staff and students who managed to secure an award/trophy!

### Academic

'Academic Excellence'- awarded to those who have achieved the highest grade in that subject for their cohort.

	English	HASS	Maths	Science
Year 7	Beatrice Walker	Farah Marcellus	Thu Thu (Christabel) Zin	Thu Thu (Christabel) Zin
Year 8	Sophie Wood	Harry Albrecht	Diya Ravjee	Diya Ravjee
Year 9	Siddhi (Sid) Luhar	Amal Sebastian	Anshul (Ansh) Ramola	Robin Lismann
Year 10	Fariha Asha	Om Sharma	Om Sharma	Fariha Asha

### Teacher awards

Year 7	Mr Jamie Lockyer
Year 8	Ms Kristy Ramage
Year 9	Mr Jamie Lockyer
Year 10	Ms Donna Collins

### Gifted and Talented Academic Excellence

Benjamin Seow

### Gifted and Talented Ambassador Award

Rachael Burns

### Personal Achievement

(consistently demonstrates the school's values)

Year 7	Aeryn Wood
Year 8	Keli Crew
Year 9	Seren Price
Year 10	Kevin Kongo

### Service to School and/or Community

(actively involved in service to the school, peers and community)

Year 7	Rhys DeSouza
Year 8	Jetling Chong
Year 9	Dhruv Gehlot
Year 10	Om Sharma

### We are Unique!

Awarded to a GAT student who embodies this year's theme

Year 7	Elizabeth Moore
Year 8	Genese Provido
Year 9	Charli Edge
Year 10	Morgan Weguelin

# Science

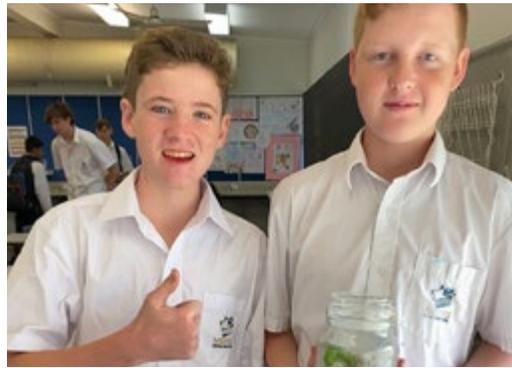
## Lower and Middle School

Year 7s have been getting a crash course on all things Science! Students have been learning how to work in the lab, how to design and conduct experiments and earning their Bunsen burner licences. Year 8s have been immersed in the wonderful world of chemistry this term, learning all about physical and chemical change. Highlights included getting to play with dry ice (an example of sublimation!) and creating density towers to demonstrate how liquids and solids with different densities interact. Our Year 9s have been learning all things ecology – looking at how plants and animals interact with each other through food chains and food webs, and analysing the effects of habitat destruction, natural disasters and invasive species on Australian ecosystems. Students in Ms Rhodes and Mr Cooper's classes had the opportunity to create their own terrariums to demonstrate their understanding of biotic and abiotic factors in an ecosystem. Our Year 10 classes have been hard at work preparing for their first chemistry test, with many students keen to choose ATAR chemistry next year.

## Upper School

After an extra week's break we welcomed back our Year 12s for their final months of secondary schooling, and said hello to our new intake of Year 11s in both ATAR and non-ATAR sciences. Students have had to hit the ground running due to the COVID-19 related short term, and they are all rising to the challenge. Of note are the Year 12 Physics students, who have kicked off their year with a self designed investigation. Students could choose from any of the motion topics they have covered since starting their Year 12 course during term 4 last year. They designed, conducted and collected data to investigate their chosen topic and support a concept using their investigative skills. Ms Woods' Year 12 Biology class have been playing with gel electrophoresis kits, which allow us to generate DNA barcodes in order to analyse relationships between individuals... very CSI! In Week 5, the Year 12 Human Biology students began their investigations into thermoregulation in the human body. We will read about their findings in the next edition of Melville Matters.

Lastly, the Science team would like to welcome back Ms Sally Narvaez who returns to the school after a year's leave, and Mr Adam Henry who has joined the team this year, taking on a number of lower school science classes. Let's have a great year in Science!



## Mathematics

We have been overwhelmed with the response to our homework club/free Maths tutoring on Wednesday afternoons for all students, and now offer an extra session on Thursday afternoons for Years 7 to 10 students. Our enthusiastic caring teachers are keen to help, so why not come along and join in the Maths fun? You can bring a friend too!

Our Mathematics staff had a fabulous time learning about the card game "Numero". We are planning to have a before-school Numero club in the cooler months and train to compete in the Secondary Schools Numero Competition in 2022.

We have enjoyed Miss Kher teaching at our school for three weeks. She has come to us as a pre-service teacher from Curtin University, keen to learn from experienced teachers at a wonderful school. We wish her all the best as she completes her Masters in Education.

We have a lot of events coming up, which will be reported on in our next edition, including Mathematics (Pi) Day on 12 March and wonderful reports from the six teams we have competing in Have Sum Fun in the next two weeks.

### **The Mathematical Association of Western Australia (MAWA)**

In the school holidays, Year 12 student Hashva Chaudrey was invited to attend the WA Mathematical Association Summer School Program held at UWA. The group stayed at Trinity on Hampden Residential College.

The Melville SHS P&C and Gifted and Talented budget helped fund the camp.

Cheryl Praegar is an emeritus professor who has recently been appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia, the highest honour in the Australia day awards. She is one of the first women to become a Professor of Mathematics in an Australian university and a vocal advocate for women in STEM.

Hashva said that "overall it was a very enjoyable experience that was full of learning curves. I would definitely recommend WAMSS to anyone with a keen interest and love for maths because it not only exposes you to advanced maths concepts but also allows for interaction between other students with a passion for mathematics... I definitely wouldn't have attended if not for the support and the support of Melville Senior High School".

I have also attached a picture of all the students and tutors from WAMSS 2021 as well a picture of my own modular origami creations (the triangular pyramid is a module of an unfinished project).

Pictured Bottom Right: Hashva at the closing ceremony with President of MAWA, Mr. John West, and patron of MAWA, Cheryl Praeger.



# Technologies

## Year 7 Connection

In Week 1, the ICT team visited Year 7 Mathematics classes to get devices connected to the school network. It was great to see that the vast majority of students have a device to support the school's BYOD Program. New students in other year groups have also been set up with usernames and passwords. Many thanks to parents/guardians who ensure that students from all year groups bring their device to school every day, charged and ready to use as required.

The Students Online in Public Schools Policy requires parent/guardians to give consent for students to access the school network and have a school email address. Most parents/guardians have responded to our requests to complete the online form via the email sent out recently. The second form to cover use of Third Party Service Providers will be distributed to parents/guardians soon via email.

In February, Mrs Lewis ran several Connect and ICT Information sessions for new families. It was fantastic to be joined by so many enthusiastic parents/guardians keen to have an active role in their child's learning. Parents/guardians are encouraged to view Course and Assessment Outlines in the Library of their child's classes.

If parents/guardians are having log in issues or forgotten your password, or haven't received the link to the Network Services Permission form, please email [deirdre.lewis@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:deirdre.lewis@education.wa.edu.au) so that this can be corrected before Progress Reports are issued via Connect.

## Stem Hub

Melville SHS is a part of the select group of schools supporting the Pre-Service teachers STEM Hub. In Week 5, Mrs Lewis facilitated the first in a series of lectures for Pre-Service teachers and staff interested in the evolution of STEM teaching in WA and the Strategic Directions for STEM Learning at the school. During 2021, Pre-Service teachers completing their practicums at Melville will also be offered the opportunity to complete Online Learning modules to develop their understanding of STEM.

## Learning Resource Centre

Year 7 classes are participating in Orientation lessons with Ms Belotti to learn about all the services and support available in the Learning Resource Centre. Students are able to borrow six books at a time and the staff encourage holiday borrowing as well.

Up to 150 students at a time are accessing the LRC at recess and lunchtimes to play Chess, Uno, read books and ebooks, study, print assignments and meet up with friends. Our clubs will be starting soon. ... Chess Club on Fridays, Warhammer commencing week 7, BookClub coming soon after school and Ted ED starting in Term 2.

Library Lovers Day is celebrated on the 14th of February each year to honour libraries, librarians, library officers, book lovers and lovers of libraries. The school celebrated the enduring relationship between our school community and the library. Students had fun entering the Dynamic Duo competition to match literary couples, took part in *Blind Date with a Book* and told us why they love the library.



A Connect and ICT Information session in action



Library Lovers Day

## Aviation Specialist Program Going Solo

Two Melville SHS students have recently gone solo and received their Recreational Pilot's Certificate. Year 12 student, Michael Henning (pictured top right) completed the exam on the school holidays and Luke Yaxley in Year 11 went solo in week 3. Luke (middle right) was busy practicing over the school holidays and has shown great progress.

Michael's next goal is his private pilot's license. Late last year he received the \$5000 Minister's Aviation Scholarship and said he will be putting this towards these lessons.

To pass this stage of becoming a pilot, students must have passed a pre-solo exam, flight radio exam, English exam, an aviation medical and have trained through a series of lessons. The lessons include Effects of Controls, Straight and Level, Climbing and Descending, Turns and Stalls. They also need to have completed at least five hours flying in the flight circuit, which normally takes between 9 to 15 hours of flying time.



### Do you know anyone in Years 5 or 6?

Melville SHS Specialist and Focus Program Applications are DUE on 29 March

Aviation | Graphic Design Media | Music in Focus | AEC | (and Netball on 14 May)

[More information HERE](#)

## Arts

### Southern Perspectives 2021

Southern Perspectives is an exhibition of thought-provoking artwork from Year 12 Visual Arts students who graduated in 2020 from selected high schools south of the river. The annual exhibition, now in its sixth year, showcases the talent and ideas of some of the State's most promising young artists.

Congratulations to the three Melville SHS Year 12 Visual Art (ATAR) students who were selected for this very competitive exhibition.

Right: Gita Healy with her 'Giada' Oil painting on canvas

Far right: 'Carl at seventeen' Oil on canvas and pencil drawings on paper by Carl Eulogio.

Bottom: Art Teacher Ms Mellissa McCarthy with the work of Ella Daffin 'The Mirror is Said Not to Lie' - coloured pencil on paper Perspex frames.



## Melville SHS has its own original design

Melville SHS has commissioned a design to use in its promotions and for some uniforms. Artist Kevin Bynder's artwork displays a circle in the middle to represent the community and the high school. The arch and straight line around the circle represents the students.

The artwork on the bottom corners represents the hills around Melville and also the Darling Range which is the body and final resting place of the Waagyl (Rainbow Serpent).

The Waagyl is our creator of the land, she created all the hills, lakes, river and other natural surroundings. The wavy triangles represent the winds of change, the students who have come and gone to Melville High school over the years, the Southern Cross, represents guidance. Aboriginal people used the Southern Cross to guide them at night as a compass when travelling.

Pictured right are Shameka Dickie, Artist Kevin Bynder and Jaylah Hansen.



## New Parent Picnic

In week 3, new families were invited to get together for a twilight picnic. There were games and fun for new students and parents could meet each other and staff at the school.

## Extra-Curricular

A group of 15 Melville SHS students are currently undertaking the internationally recognised Duke of Edinburgh program for young people. Most are completing it as part of their involvement with Emergency Service Cadets. It is open to Year 9s and above.

There are three levels: Bronze, Silver, and Gold and each is progressively more challenging. To achieve an Award, each young person must learn a skill, improve their physical well being, volunteer in their community and experience a team adventure in a new environment. They are supported by a network of adult Award Leaders, Assessors, and Supervisors.

There are four sections to be achieved: Physical Recreation, Skills, Voluntary Service, Adventurous Journey plus a Residential Project at the Gold Level.

The award builds skills to equip them for life and work. By creating opportunities for young people to develop skills, get physically active, give service and experience adventure, the Award can play a critical role in their development.

Pictured bottom right are some of the group who are challenging themselves with program.

