



Mount Gravatt High School

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Welcome to 2009 and welcome to what will undoubtedly be another busy, challenging and rewarding year. The school year has started extremely well with students on task and actively learning from Day 1. I have received many favourable comments regarding our high standard of student presentation and dress. I thank all parents and caregivers for your support in maintaining the high standards of this school.

Senior Leader Investiture

I congratulate our School Captains for 2009 Najmah Bahir and Issa Negussie, as indeed I congratulate every member of our school community who accepts a position of responsibility or leadership.

Our Senior Leaders for 2009 are: Najmah Bahir, Wesley Boyer, Brittany Cotton, Larissa Marchant, Isabella Pulj and Joel Steffan. The Student Council President is Michele Quelhurst and the International Leader is Sophea Virak.



L-R: Sophea Virak, Najmah Bahir, Michelle Quelhurst, Najmah Bahir, Issa Negussie, Bella Pulj, Joel Steffan, Larissa Marchant, Wesley Boyer, Brittany Cotton.



House Captains for 2009 are: L-R: Megan Ryan, Winston Nguyen, Melissa Hele, Andrew Lacey, Reegan Stewart, Michael Drew.

As 2009 unfolds and presents us with its inevitable challenges, I would ask our

school leaders to remember one simple message - "Leadership is an action, not just a word."

The aims of Mount Gravatt High School in 2009 are to continue to focus on high standards of student presentation, achievement, safety and learning.



Melissa Hele receives her badge from Cr Mackenzie



Najmah Bahir speaking on assembly



Larissa Marchant receives her badge from Cr Krista Adams

Academic Achievement

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to congratulate our Year 12 cohort from 2008 on their outstanding academic achievements. 12% of our students achieved OP 1-5, 66% OP 1-15 and 95% of applicants being granted a place in a Tertiary Institution.

Scot Steinhardt
Principal

DEPARTMENT IN PROFILE: PERFORMING ARTS - Quality arts experiences everyday



Mrs Desouza gathers the Strings Ensemble for their first rehearsal of 2009

Instrumental Music - Ensembles and lessons are now underway and we thank you for encouraging your child's musicality. Students are to check the H Block noticeboard for specific lesson times with their teacher. Additional practice times for band and ensembles are as follow:

String Ensemble – 7:45am, Wednesdays, H8\9 – Mrs DeSouza

Concert Band – 2:50 – 4:00pm, Tuesdays, H8\9 – Mr Robke

Percussion Ensemble - 12:40pm, Fridays, H8\9 – Mr Arnow

If you have any further queries about the school's Instrumental Music program, please contact your child's Instrumental Music Teacher at the school.

Vocal Ensemble – Auditions for the Vocal Tuition Program and the Vocal Ensemble were held over the last week. Congratulations to all of the students who were successful.

Vocal Ensemble Rehearsals – 12:40pm, Fridays, H8\9 – Ms Richards

TERM 1 DATE CLAIMERS:

11 and 12 Drama - *The Alchemist* at Qld Theatre Company – 6:30pm, Monday 23 February

10 Drama *Zen Zen Zo* Physical Theatre all-day Workshop – Friday 20 February

10 Drama - Performance Evening – Tuesday 7 April



New Performing Arts Staff - We welcome Mr Arnow to Mount Gravatt High School's Performing Arts Department. Mr Arnow is our new Percussion teacher. He is a specialist in Orchestral Percussion and joins Mount Gravatt High School with many years of experience.

2009 Performing Arts Staff - Anthony Pirovich, Gloria Desouza, Sarah Mijatovic, Nick Robke, Natalie Richards, Juliet Sterling, Nicole Stock and Ethan Arnow.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Shemaiah Tahata represented Brisbane region in Queensland Junior Squash Championships in mid 2008. Shemaiah was placed 3rd, but she is currently ranked number 2 in Queensland 14 year old girls division.

She also has represented Queensland in the Queensland Sharks team in the Australian Junior Championships in Perth in September 2008. The Queensland Sharks won the overall championship. Well done Shemaiah!



P & C NEWS

New Parent Meeting (in lieu of P&C Meeting) - Wednesday 18 February - 7:00pm - School Hall at Mt Gravatt High School - **ALL NEW PARENTS WELCOME**

SPORT NEWS

Sport at Mount Gravatt High School for 2009 started with a splash. The school's annual Interhouse Swimming Carnival was held on Thursday 5 February at the Mount Gravatt State School pool.

A great day was had by all students who participated and teachers who helped out.

The winning house this year once again was Banyula on 1426 points. Wirraminna followed closely behind on 1191 and Tangari finished on 722 points.

There were many highlights of the day with the main ones being the enthusiasm and the house spirit that was shown by the students.

Age Champions for 2009

13yrs Girls	Kimberley Skinner	Boys	Thomas Steffan/Josh Beale
14yrs Girls	Georgia Thomas	Boys	Jonathon Mitchell
15yrs Girls	Sarah Mitchell	Boys	Harry Sung
16yrs Girls	Rachel Tenbrink	Boys	Alex King
17yrs Girls	Louize Whitby	Boys	Andrew Lacey



L-R: Back - Jonathon Mitchell, Louize Whitby, Sarah Mitchell, Rachel Tenbrink, Georgia Thomas, Andrew Lacey, Josh Beale, Alex King. Front - Kimberley Skinner, Thomas Steffan, Harry Sung.

The school will finalise its swim team which will compete at the South District Swimming Carnival on Monday 16 February at the Chandler Aquatic Centre. Good luck to those students who make the school team.



YEAR 8 BARBECUE

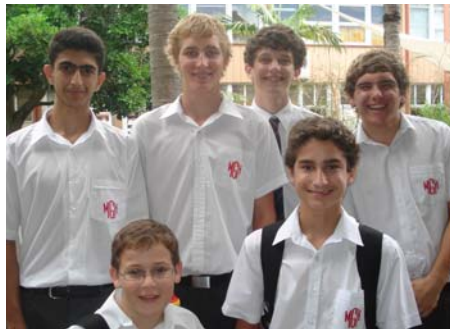
Year 11 students put on their aprons and picked up the tongs last week to cook for 210 new Year 8 students at a special "sausage sizzle" to welcome them to the school.

The Year 11s did a fantastic job under the guidance of Mr Sharpe (Year 11 Co-ordinator) and Mr Pirovich and Ms Atrache (Year 8 Co-ordinators). They cooked, served, cleaned, handed out sauce and friendly smiles all morning tea break. Thank you to all those who were involved.

Mrs Cameron - Deputy Principal



L-R: Nydhal Lus, Mr Pirovich, Natasha Maguire, Mr Steinhardt and Morgan Pratt



L-R: Ahmed Mahmoud, Daniel Beale, Chris Collins, Darius Holliday-Miller



L-R: John Wilson, Andrew Bisset, Josh Phillips, Beau Haupt, Luke Wilson

Front: Hayden Adams, Josh Beale

OPEN DAY

Tuesday 10 March 2009

9:15am to 11:00am

All interested parents and students are invited to attend. This provides an excellent opportunity to view classrooms, facilities and a selection of activities.

Guidance News

- Congratulations to Michelle Mills for being accepted into the Griffith University GUESTS program. Michelle will be studying a university subject during Semester One while she is also studying her Year 12 subjects
- 28 April, Latitude Australia (providing a gap year for Year 12 students in 2010 where you work as a volunteer in an overseas country) is holding their open evening at the Anglican Church Grammar School from 6:30pm-8:00pm

The defence force is offering work experience, for more information visit <http://www.defence.gov.au/workexperience/>

Career Planning

It does not matter what year level a student is in – it is always a good idea to be planning a career path. Career development is now seen as learning and development, not a job title. Career development is not only about developing work skills, but also about getting to know yourself - in particular, your interests, skills, knowledge and beliefs. It is important to be aware of the community you live in, as this community will shape some of your beliefs and identity. Students can be considering ways in which they can gain experience in the world of work. For example, through work experience, a part-time job or simply asking questions to parents and friends about work and the types of work available. By beginning to explore options, students will be better able to make better informed career decisions.

Families that work well together

Success at school is strongly related to families that work well. Just as a loving, caring family can help a child develop self-esteem, so an unhappy, fearful family can lead to low self-esteem and a range of problems for a child. Sometimes unhelpful ways of doing things, habits and patterns, form in our families without us realising that this has happened. We often just know that life seems harder and not enjoyable anymore as a parent. You may find it useful to think about how your family works.

Make time for talking and listening:

Listening means not only hearing the words but working out what your child is feeling behind the words.

Listen without jumping in with answers or lecturing or criticising. Remember what it feels like when you want to talk and have someone just listen.

'Put down' messages, threatening and blaming are likely to make your child feel bad or hopeless.

Source: www.cyh.com Parent Easy Guide #36 with Parenting South Australia

Ms M Huestis - Guidance Officer

From Your Health Nurse

My name is Elaine Latham and I am the School Based Youth Health Nurse (SBYHN) at Mt Gravatt State High School. I am at school on Thursdays and Fridays. I am a Registered Nurse with Mental Health endorsement and have been a SBYHN for over seven years.

My role at school does not include first aid. I provide information to students, parents and staff on matters relating to health and mental health. I conduct individual consultations of a voluntary nature. This service is confidential unless safety and/or abuse is an issue. A large component of my role involves assessment and referral to specialist services if and when necessary. I am also available for class presentations regarding Health Promotion of any kind. Please feel free to contact me on the above days if I can be of assistance. Thank you and take care from Elaine.

Help Required

As most parents would be aware Mount Gravatt High School has had a significant increase in enrolments in 2009. With this increase in enrolments comes an increase in the amount of food preparation in the school canteen. I am sending out an urgent request for people who can spare as little as 3 hours 1 morning per month to assist. This would be greatly appreciated by the students of this school.

Anne Henry (Canteen Convenor) - Ph 3291 5225