



NEWSLETTER

Mount Gravatt High School

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

It has been an excellent start to 2009 in every area of our school. Currently we have 878 students enrolled with 67 teaching staff and 60 international students to whom we extend a warm welcome. Mount Gravatt High School continues to lead the way presenting a supportive, safe and fun-filled learning environment where young people are assisted to achieve the very best they can. As educators we are entrusted with the responsibility of "raising the crossbar and closing the gap."

My sincere thanks again go to parents/caregivers who work so hard in supporting our school. Whether your support extends to membership of the P&C, being a tuckshop volunteer or spectating at sporting events, your input and efforts are greatly appreciated. If your commitment to the school cannot extend to any of the above, one of the greatest achievements that can be made is to work with our school, and support and help nurture the teaching of the values I believe are so important to young people in today's society.

As Theodore Roosevelt said "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."

Some recent school highlights include:

- The purchasing of 115 new industry standard computers
- Lions Youth of the Year Competition
- Second place in the Somerville House Chess Tournament featuring 150 teams.
- Expansion of the school's wireless and fibre optic network to yield 100% school coverage
- Open Day extremely successful - 180 attendees



Open Day 2009

Tuesday 17 March marks the official opening of the Sorensen Centre. The Sorensen Centre is three classrooms which have been refurbished using school funds and a Federal Government "Investing in Our Schools" Grant (\$150 000.) This electronic innovation centre features state of the art equipment and is named in honour of Mr Kev Sorensen who passed away in October 2008. All parents, caregivers and students are invited to this function at 3:00pm on Tuesday 17 March. Please RSVP to the office by 9:00am Monday.



Sorensen Centre

We have begun an initiative where we award a monthly sport achiever to a male and a female student. The recipients for March of a \$25 sports voucher are Sam Jordan and Anar Amini for commitment and outstanding achievement to their sports.

Reminder to all parents - the next AGM for the P & C will be held on Wednesday 18 March 7:00pm, Administration Building

Scot Steinhardt
Principal

DEPARTMENT IN PROFILE: YEAR 8 PRACTICAL ARTS

Year 8 have the opportunity to discover hidden talent as they experience the world of design technologies at Mount Gravatt High School. Students received instruction in the use of hand tools to produce the practical part for the Toy Truck but explore their creative side when designing their cartoon character. In the world of design, computer skills are now a must as students are immersed in C.A.D. (AUTOCAD)

Mr J Talbot - HOD Design Technology



Mr Sharpe in the workshop



Another successful outcome, toy truck in production.

TRIVIA QUIZ

The first trivia quiz for 2009 has come and gone, and it is the members of Ms Overduin's form class W7, who are the winners of round 1. The question that seemed to be the real stumbling block was the 8th question: Which 2-word expression can be found in TEK CIT? Only one class was able to give the correct answer. (Return ticket). The trivia quiz has become an established part of the school routine and creates a short opportunity for form classes to work together in a fun way.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

One of the best things about being a Deputy Principal is that I am regularly afforded opportunities to visit classrooms and see excellent lessons underway. Last week, I dropped into Mrs Christy's Year 10 Art class where the students were learning still life drawing skills. As you see from this photo, the still life took quite a bit of effort to set up. Many of the students showed real talent and focus with this activity and I look forward to seeing the finished products.

Mrs A Cameron - Deputy Principal



SPORT NEWS

Interschool Sport - Interschool Sport for 2009 is up and running. After three weeks of competition, Mount Gravatt High School has had some great results.

Our Year 8 Boys Volleyball are undefeated while our Open Boys Touch Football and Open Boys Futsal have had only one loss. The girls have also had some convincing wins. A big thank you to all students and teachers in Interschool Sport for your efforts and participation to date.

We have also had some great success with the following students making South District Teams. Emma Lane – U15 Girls Netball, Megan Ryan – Open Girls Soccer, Paul Joseph – U15 Boys Rugby League, Michael Drew – Open Boys Volleyball, Sam Jordan – Open Boys Cricket, Jake Knezevic – U15 Boys AFL, Daniel Beale and Josh Beale – Open Boys Hockey. Congratulations and all the best at the Metropolitan East Regional Trials.

Ms M Kelly - Sports Co-ordinator

LIONS YOUTH OF THE YEAR

The Lions Youth of the Year is a quest run with the view to giving young people a platform on which to display their leadership and public speaking process. This year Larissa Marchant and Brittany Cotton, two senior leaders, represented the school at a lunch on Sunday 22 February. We were delighted that Brittany was chosen that day as the entrant to proceed to the next level, and on Saturday 28 February, she competed in the zone final. Brittany was not selected on that occasion to continue onto the regional final, but we can certainly say that both girls enhanced the reputation of Mount Gravatt High by their articulate speeches and mature demeanour.

Mrs C Christy - Resource Teacher



Larissa Marchant, Brittany Cotton and Mrs Hay (English Head of Department)

PERFORMING ARTS NEWS - Quality arts experiences everyday



Year 10 Drama students

Zen Zen Zo 'Zaps' Year 10 Drama Students! - During two dynamic workshops last week, Year 10 Drama focussed on the many skills involved in exploring our current unit of study 'Physical Theatre'. Peta from Brisbane's Zen Zen Zo Theatre Company, provided our students with an in-depth experience of the highly skillful theatrical form of Physical Theatre, where students focussed their learning on storytelling, primarily told through the language of the body. This workshop set the foundations for students to commence work for their assessment, which is to create a group piece of Physical Theatre ready for our performance night on Tuesday 7 April. Well done year 10 Drama students!

Miss Sterling

Woodwind Ensemble – In order to cater for the growing numbers of woodwind players at our school this year the Wind Ensemble has been replaced by a Woodwind Ensemble. The Woodwind Ensemble gather for their weekly rehearsal every Tuesday in H5 from 12:50pm.

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



Ensemble students with Ms Stock

SEMESTER 1 DATE CLAIMERS:

Year 10 Music – African Drumming Workshop – Thursday 26 March

Year 10 Drama - Performance Evening – Tuesday 7 April

PAN (Performing Arts Night) – School Hall – Friday 29 May

Year 11 Film, Television & New Media Excursion – Tuesday 23 June



And All That Jazz – Mrs Mijatovic's Year 10 Dance class explore the performance demands of Tap Dancing.

2009 Performing Arts Staff - Anthony Pirovich, Ethan Arnow, Gloria DeSouza, Brock Germain, Sarah Mijatovic, Nick Robke, Natalie Richards, Juliet Sterling, Nicole Stock and Michael Wray.

Guidance News

CYBER BULLYING

"Cyberbullying involves the use of information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behaviour by an individual or group, that is intended to harm others." (Bill Belsey: www.cyberbullying.org)

It seems that on a daily basis we hear about bullying in the community in one form or another. Incidences of cyber bullying in particular have been raised in the media recently. Bullying of any kind has the potential to cause great damage to all concerned – including the perpetrator. As parents, there are steps we can take to protect our children. Following are some good websites which contain tips, strategies and real life stories of incidents that have occurred to children and teenagers. Please take an opportunity to check out these websites and discuss this important issue with your children.

<http://www.netalert.gov.au/advice.html>

<http://www.wiseuptoit.com.au/>

<http://www.netalert.gov.au/> (for free content filters)

<http://www.bullyingnoway.com.au>

<http://www.cybersmartkids.com.au/cyberbullying.htm>

For students, some suggestions for dealing with the bullying:

Ignore it – often this is enough to make the bully go away

Block the bully

Tell someone – tell your Mum or Dad, or another adult you trust. Or you can call a helpline (like the Kids Helpline on 1800 55 1800)

Keep the evidence – this can be useful in tracking the bully down

Report it -

- To your school - policies are in place about bullying and cyberbullying
- To your ISP/phone provider – there are actions they can take to help
- To the police – if there is a threat to your safety the police will help

(source: <http://www.cybersmartkids.com.au/cyberbullying.htm>)

Ms M Huestis - Guidance Officer

DATES TO REMEMBER

Mon 16-17 Mar	Yr 12 Maths A Excursion
Wed 18 Mar	P & C Meeting
Thurs 26 March	Yr 8 Health Talk 1
Thurs 02 April	Yr 8 Health Talk 1
Fri 04 April	Met East Swimming
Fri 04 April	Yr 8 Prac Arts Rotation 1
Mon 06-07 April	Yr 11 Biology Camp
Tues 07 April	Yr 10 Drama Night
Thurs 09 April	School Cross Country
Tues 21 April	Students resume

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS

During the school terms:
Wednesdays & Fridays - 7:45am to 9:30am

TERM DATES 2009

Term One:

Tuesday 29 January to Thursday 09 April

Good Friday 10 April

Student Free Day - Monday 20 April

Term Two:

Tuesday 21 April to Friday 26 June

ANZAC Day - Friday 24 April

Labour Day - Monday 04 May

Queen's Birthday - Monday 08 June

Term Three:

Tuesday 14 July to Friday 18 September

Student Free Day - Monday 13 July

RNA Show Holiday - Wed 12 Aug

Student Free Day - Thurs 13 Aug

Term Four:

Monday 06 October to Friday 12 December

Student Free Day - Monday 20 October

Mount Gravatt High School Canteen

Urgently needs helpers on Mondays and Fridays. Lunch provided. Please phone Anne on 3291 5225 if you are able to help.

Anne Henry - Canteen Manager