



NEWSLETTER

Mount Gravatt High School

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

The term is rapidly drawing to a close with many events occurring in a short period of time. Queensland interschool Chess Championships were held recently. Mount Gravatt High was awarded second place amongst some tight competition and now advance to the semi-finals.



Pictured left to right: Ahmed Mahmoud, Anees Ahamed, John Amolat and Ali Mahmoud

Drama performance night on Monday 7 September and Music Extension night Friday 28 August were both very well attended and showcased our very talented Performing Arts students. Over 350 students participate in Performing Arts in this school which is a credit to both them and our Performing Arts department.



Nathalie Lee Year 12 performing on Music Extension Night



Wafia Al-Rikabi during her performance at the Music Extension Night

Results for the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) have been released following the two days of Australia wide testing.

This school's data for 2009 (as it was in 2008) again sees us above the national average in 4 of 5 categories tested. This is an outstanding result and testament to the hard work of all teachers of Year 9 English and Maths and the students.

Year 10 into 11 night was held on Tuesday 8 September and Year 10 students are now choosing subjects for 2010. Year 10 students are asked to return subject selection information by Friday 18 September. At present our Year 12 students are preparing for their exam block following on from the completion of the Queensland Core Skills Test. Our Year 12 students performed admirably during the two days of testing and now embark on school based assessment which almost concludes their academic studies at this school. Best of luck to our Year 12 students with your exams.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday.

NEXT P&C MEETING — 7:00PM IN THE SORENSON CENTRE

Wednesday 16 September

**Scot Steinhardt
Principal**

DEPARTMENT IN PROFILE: SCIENCE

This term has seen lots of things happening in the Science Department. It started with classes moving back in to C13, one of the school's oldest science laboratories, which has undergone a complete refurbishment since the beginning of the year. Students have been able to extend their studies outside the classroom by participating in a number of different excursions – these have included 30 of our Year 10 Science students taking part in an 'Experience Science Day' at UQ; Year 12 Multi-Strand classes visiting the Coca Cola factory to view Resource Management practices; our Year 11 Earth Science students studying coastal erosion & landforms down at Tweed Heads and Senior Physics students investigating the 'Physics of Amusement Park Rides' at Movie World.



Year 11 Earth Science class working at the mouth of the Tweed River



Tahlia Deegan, David Schulz and Nathan Treveton investigating wind power during the STELR Project

The 8 week program allowed for many 'hands-on' investigations as part of the STELR inquiry-based approach to learning.



Participants in the Bottle Rocket Competition



Luke Leadbetter, Neil Buckingham, Ali Mahmoud, Anees Ahamed & Jae Creevey with their slime at the UQ

Just recently we celebrated National Science Week with several special events – these included a Science Trivia Quiz (won by Form Class T8), a Bottle Rocket Competition (winners as shown in the photo above) and an Astronomy Night for Year 8 students. Dr Paul Grieve, QPIF General Manager for Plant Science and Emerging Technologies also presented Vidhi Shah and Aesha Patel, two of our Year 11 Biology students, with the Joe Baker Outstanding Achievement Award for their entry in the 2009 QPIF Hermitage Research Station Schools' Plant Science Competition. Well done Vidhi and Aesha!

Mrs S Perkins - Head of Department Science

PRESENTATION NIGHT - TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER

At our annual Presentation Night, we recognise the academic and sporting achievements of our students. Subject Prize certificates and engraved medallions are awarded to students who gained the highest rating in a subject for their year level, while Honour certificates are presented to students gaining an "A" in a subject. Levels of Achievement are assessed as at the end of Term 3.

Sports award recipients are presented with Honour and Award pennants and medals. Some students are nominated for special awards, for example the P & C Art Prize, Cultural Award and team and community service.

It is during this important evening that our Principal announces the Senior Dux, Junior Dux and the Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year and our school has the opportunity to showcase its talents and achievements through visual and student displays and short addresses.

Invitations are issued to the successful students and their parents. Students wear school dress uniform and attend rehearsal in our hall during the day of Presentation Night.

Mr D Beebe - Deputy Principal

PERFORMING ARTS NEWS



Pictured left to right - Back row: Lauren Collins, Krystelle Sargent, Kirsten La Roche, Charlene Cean, Krielynd Robinson, Rachel Barredo, Ashleigh Nikolich and Steph Wright. Front row: Paige Somerwil, Meechah Catheray, Pauline Ruamyart, Nissah Blanchfield, Holly Alder.

Instrumental Music Camp 2009 – All students have received their Camp letters and are to return payment and permission forms to the office by September 18.

Year 9 & 10 Dance – Congratulations to all the students who earned a Highly Commended in the school's first competitive appearance at the Beenleigh Eisteddfod on 4 September.

Senior Drama Evening – Achan Shiman and Bradette Allen were amongst the performers at the Year 12 Drama evening on 7 September. Students shared with their appreciative audience a program of well-rehearsed pieces from the Theatre Of The Absurd.



DATE CLAIMERS

- Instrumental Music Camp – 14-16 October
- PAN (Performing Arts Night) – School Hall – Friday, 6 November

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

CHESS NEWS

Earlier this year, the chess club entered three teams in the Queensland wide Inter-school Chess Championship run by Gardiner Chess on behalf of the Chess Association of Queensland. After the first round two teams were promoted into the premier division which made them eligible to progress through to the state championships. The latest news is that one of these teams has made it through to the state finals. The team is: Ahmed Mahmoud, Anees Ahmed, John Amolat and Ali Mahmoud. Unfortunately our second premier division team – Kelvin Choi, Harry Roberts, Wesley Tee and Josh Briggs, just failed to qualify. Chess continues to be popular at Mount Gravatt High. Interested students are encouraged to come to the library on Fridays at lunch for a game of chess.

Mr K Botsman - Chess Co-ordinator

ENRICHMENT DAY - QPAC AND HILTON VISIT



Students on tour with QPAC staff

On Tuesday 25 August, 17 Year 8 students were treated to an enrichment day experience. The day began with a behind-the-scenes tour of QPAC. In the 1½ hour tour, the students were taken to the large Lyric Theatre, the smaller Playhouse, and the very intimate Cremorne. Our experienced guide seemed to know just what would be of interest to students of this age. Being shown the huge cavernous space that is behind the stage in the Lyric Theatre was very special.

After a quick dash across the bridge, our second tour was back-of-house at the Hilton Hotel. Watching a huge sheet-folding machine, being allowed to sit on the king bed in an executive room, and enjoying a snack in the Below 7 bar and café were probably the highlights of the Hilton visit.

One of the participants, Joshua Sweeney, offered this comment: "We were able to experience what most people never will: a \$700-a-night guest suite at the Hilton hotel, and being allowed to go backstage at QPAC's Lyric Theatre. It was truly awe-inspiring to see such a great icon of Brisbane from behind-the-scenes, and the hotel visit was amazing. There's not much more I can say."

Mrs C Christy - Extension Teacher

Guidance News

- 24 September, Griffith University School of Criminology and Criminal Justice Careers Exhibition, 5:30 - 7:30pm, Learn about the extensive range of criminology and criminal justice career options a qualification from Griffith can give you. Hear from recent graduates and talk face to face with a range of prospective employers. For more information contact the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice on (07) 3735 1061 or check out our website www.griffith.edu.au/criminology.
 - If you are interested in a pursuing a technical trade, a Defence Technical Scholarship could be a head start. If successful, you would receive \$2000 for Year 11 and \$3000 for Year 12 as well as helping you study for your dream technical trade career. For more information visit www.defencejobs.gov.au/DTS or see Ms Huestis. Applications close 25 September
 - JMC Academy (Film and Digital TV, 3D and Animation and Digital Media, Audio Engineering, Music Performance, Artist and Event Management) are holding their open day on 5 September at 75 Grey Street, South Brisbane, sessions are available from 10 – 1.30. Bookings are essential and can be booked from www.jmccademy.edu.au or 3846 5166.
 - Griffith University is holding experience days during term 4. You have an opportunity to experience Griffith University first-hand. The day will include lectures and tutorials. See Ms Huestis to register
- Business, Nathan, 29 October, 8.30 – 2.15
 - Drama and Applied Theatre, Mt Gravatt, 27 October, 8.30 – 1.30
 - Engineering, Nathan, 29 October, 8.30 – 2.30
 - Environment and Planning, Nathan, 29 October, 8.30 – 2
 - Human Services, Logan, 28 October, 8.30 – 2.30
 - Information and Communication Technology, Nathan, 29 October, 8.30 – 2.30
 - Law, Nathan, 29 October, 8.30 – 1
 - Nursing, Nathan, 29 October, 8.30 – 2.30
 - Pharmacy, Gold Coast, 26 October, 8.30 – 2.30
 - Psychology, Mt Gravatt, 27 October, 8.30 – 2.30
 - Science and Planning, Gold Coast, 26 October, 8.30 – 2.30
 - Teaching, Mt Gravatt, 27 October, 8.30 – 2.30
 - Visual and Digital Media, Gold Coast, 26 October, 8.30 - 3

Ms M Huestis - Guidance Officer

A MESSAGE FROM THE YOUTH HEALTH NURSE

With exams upon our senior students it's important they have a **balanced lifestyle**. A time for study, fun and relaxation, family time, exercise etc. I usually see a lot of students experiencing difficulties sleeping at this time of year. A large majority report drinking caffeinated drinks such as V's, Red Bull, Coke-a-cola etc. In small amounts these stimulants will have minimal effect but drinking them to stay up late for study purposes is counteractive as they disturb the natural sleep cycle. It can be a very stressful time for some but please encourage the students in your life to **maintain a healthy existence**. Take care from Elaine.

REMINDER: YEAR 11 CAMP

Just a quick reminder that the year 11 camp will commence on Tuesday week 2 of term 4. Students are reminded to be at school by 8.30am in preparation for boarding 9.00am. A packing list will be given to each student in the last week of term 3. Thanks for your support and I look forward to challenging and exciting adventure for all.
Mr Sharpe - Year 11 Co-ordinator

DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday 11–16 Sept	Year 12 block exams
Monday 05-09 Oct	Year 11/12 Work experience
Thursday 08 Oct	Year 10 Dance Workshop P3
Tuesday 13-16 Oct	Year 11 camp
Wednesday 14-16 Oct	Instrumental Music Camp
Wednesday 14 Oct	Year 8 HPV Dose 3 (F) and Year 8 HEP B Dose 2 (M&F)

TERM DATES 2009

Term Four:

Students resume - Monday 05 Oct
Student free day - Monday 19 Oct
Year 12's finish - Friday 20 Nov
Year 10/11's finish - Friday 27 Nov
Year 8/9's finish - Friday 11 Dec