10 March 2015

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Our first enrolment Open Day was held on Tuesday, 3 March with very good attendance of approximately 300 future parents and students attending. It was a pleasure to meet the many delightful young people and their mums and dads. More than a “Cook’s Tour” or to hear presentations from the leadership team, our intention is to have parents have worthwhile and real “take away” impressions of our school. In every conversation had during the tours, follow up and morning tea the positive feedback was strong and over 80 enrolment interview commitments were made. I am pleased for our school as its clear that our best advocates are current parents who over the years have spread the word that Mount Gravatt is a great school with the ‘right’ balance of care, high standards and opportunity. I expect enrolment enquiries to be strong for 2016 and encourage parents to book enrolment interviews early. Parents need not be concerned of the heightened interest translating to stiffer ‘competition’ for places. Though our Enrolment Management Plan guides the offers of placement, the fact we have a ‘half cohort’ of Year 8 this year provides some room within our school capacity to take a greater enrolment over the next three years. Our next Open Day is on Thursday, 7 May.

Great Results Guarantee strategy devised by the school to further improve literacy and numeracy and QCE results has been devised and submitted to the P&C for endorsement late last year and is currently awaiting endorsement by the Director-General. Mount Gravatt will receive in excess of $330,000 this year and these funds are being used to employ extra teachers, teacher-aide time and resources to extend and stretch our results from “good to great”. Once the endorsed plan has been returned to us, the 2015 Great Results Guarantee Plan will be up on our website.

I encourage parents and carers to download the QSchools Application on their smartphone. The app is available in Apple or Android and links to our web page which is now under re-construction. We intend to keep our website “real time” and the application channels information from the website to your phone. Parents can elect to receive notifications, look up school information, access newsletters and much more.

I am taking 2 weeks leave prior to the Autumn Vacation and return beginning of week 2 in term 2. In that time Mr Beebe will be Acting Principal. Mrs Campbell will be taking her maternity leave from the beginning of term 2 for the remainder of 2015. We wish her all the very best in the coming months and look forward to her return at the start of the 2016 school year. A recruitment and selection process for Mrs Campbell’s replacement is now underway and will be announced in the next few days.

Richard Usher
PRINCIPAL

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Wednesday 25 – Friday 27 March**  
  Year 7 Camp

- **Thursday 02 April**  
  School Cross Country and last day of term

- **Monday 20 April**  
  School resumes for Term 2

- **Monday 20 – Friday 24 April**  
  Year 11/12 Work Experience

- **Thursday 23 – Friday 24 April**  
  Year 11 Biology Camp

CATCHING UP ON STUDENT PROGRESS

Parents of Mount Gravatt High students are able to enquire about and/or discuss the progress of their students at any time by contacting the school (phone or email) and asking to speak to the relevant Deputy Principal.

Parents are reminded of the protocols that apply to on-site visits to the school. We ask that parents enter through the front visitors’ entrance to the school’s Administration Block and to check in at the front counter. Our office staff will make suitable arrangements from that point.

Term 1 Interim Reports will be emailed on Tuesday 21 April during the first week of Term Two. Our first Parent-Teacher
Interviews for the year will then take place in the second week of Term Two on Thursday 30 April, from 3:00 until 6:00pm. Parents will receive information about how to book interviews and other matters in the mail quite soon.

Paul Kingston
Deputy Principal

DEAN OF STUDENTS – SENIOR SCHOOL REPORT

It is hard to believe that we are already half way through term 1! Our senior students are settled in and well under way with their assessment. My tip here would be to ensure that students are submitting complete drafts to their teachers on time and implementing the feedback given before final submission, and of course – study, study study!

We are monitoring attendance closely this year and I am proud to report that Year 10, 11 and 12 attendance rates are sitting at 94.2%, 96.3% and 95.6% respectively. These are great, but let’s aim for better in the coming weeks. I would like to see all three year levels above our 95% target.

We currently have a number of students enrolled in TAFE courses, school-based traineeships and apprenticeships (SBATs) and even University subjects. Those students who are out of school for one or more days a week due to Certificate courses and SBATs are required to catch up on the work they miss. They must take responsibility and see their teachers to ensure they are staying up-to-date with the classroom work. If students are struggling or parents have concerns, please contact me.

Kellie Anderson
Dean of Students -Senior School

IMPORTANT NOTICE – TERM 1 REPORTS

Term 1 Interim Reports will be emailed on Tuesday 21 April. Please read carefully as it gives a current ‘snapshot’ of progress so far in Semester 1. The Achievement column will be from various numbers of assessment items but the Effort and Behaviour columns give a clear picture of how well students are applying themselves to achieving and improving.

Thursday 30 April is an important date. This is the day of our Parent/Teacher Interviews. Information will be mailed out regarding booking on-line and how that day will be organised. If an interview is requested please make every effort to book in as soon as you can.

Student Cards will also be mailed out next week. As we rely on these for a variety of purposes could you please update and return this information to the office as soon as possible.

SOCIAL SCIENCE and BUSINESS

Year 11 Legal Studies

This week, the Year 11 Legal Studies students conducted a mock trial. The details which were recorded by the courtroom reporter were as follows:

Jack stands trial for the murder of Mr Giant at the Beanstalk Markets. The trial was heard in the Supreme Court room of F10, presiding Justice Fereshta Kakayee. Both the Defence Counsel and Prosecution submitted well rounded arguments. However, after hearing expert testimony from several witnesses, the accused was found guilty by a jury of his peers.

Sentencing will take place at a later date.

The students relished the opportunity to take on the variety of roles and really got into the spirit of the lesson. I am sure that when they visit the Court Precinct in the city they will now have a much better understanding of the process.

Excursions

Last week the year 11 BCT classes attended the Courier Mail Home Show at the Brisbane Convention Centre. The students were there to see how major events are planned and coordinated. The students enjoyed the day and took away some handy renovating ideas also.

The Year 11 and 12 Ancient History students are off to dig up the past, when they attend their archaeology excursion on 19 March.

Important Assessment Dates

Assessment Week 7 - Year 7 Geography Exam

Simon Tucker
HOD – Social Sciences and Business

PERFORMING ARTS

Year 7 Dance

2015 is a great year to be starting Year 7 at Mount Gravatt High School. Our youngest students engage in a practical dance course where they are introduced to the choreographic devices of shape, level, space, locomotors, canon, size and direction. Students then form groups for assessment, creatively develop
the choreography and finally perform for the class. 7D have enjoyed their dance classes, participating with energy and enthusiasm.

**Year 10 Drumming Workshop**

The Year 10 African drumming workshop was definitely time well spent! On 26 February, 32 musically talented students attended a drumming workshop down at the newly renovated Studio. Students acquired new knowledge about the ‘Djembe’ drum and learnt rhythms by breaking words down into their syllables. The two rhythms that were played included: “Soro” and “Sori.” These two rhythms were then played in a much more complex song which sounded sensational. We also learnt about the three Dun Dun drums; *dundunba* (the biggest, Grandpa, drum); *sangbun* (the next smallest) and *kenkeni* (smaller than the *sangbun* but bigger than the djembe). Being a hands-on workshop everyone, including the teachers, played drums together. When the students were asked how they felt about the workshop they replied, “It was fun, exciting and interesting,” and if they had the chance to do it again, they would. – Caleb Ang

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=st4RiWhygMA

The drumming workshop was a very worthwhile experience as we learnt a lot about African culture and music. The instructors were very enthusiastic, inspiring us to all get into it and have a great time. For most of us, it was our first time playing djembe drums. We made many mistakes, not to mention a lot of noise. Mr and Mrs Robke also joined in on the Dun Dun drums to complete the polyrhythmic African rhythms we were learning. This music experience showed us that when simple, repetitive rhythms are combined, the resulting music is very catchy and effective. This first-hand knowledge will really help us with the rest of our World Music unit this term. – Selena Ferguson

**Drama Club**

Drama Club has started up again for the year. We have had record numbers of interested students and as a result Mount Gravatt High will run two clubs this year. Junior students will have the opportunity to attend a session on Thursday afternoons and seniors on Fridays. Drama Club provides opportunities for students to improve confidence, have fun and polish performance skills in a supportive and creative environment. Students can meet like-minded friends and use up some energy playing games and taking part in performance workshops in these sessions. Drama Club runs from 2:50pm till 3:50pm. – Ms Fry

**Stage Band**

**Anthony Pirovich**

**HOD - Performing Arts**

 المسلحة للتعليم والثقافة السعودية: نحن نعمل على تطوير التعلم في التعليم من خلال استخدام الأدوات الفنية والتقنية والتعليمي وتطوير النماذج التعليمية. نحن نتعاون مع المدارس والمؤسسات التعليمية لتطوير برامج تعليمية مبتكرة ومستدامة للتعليم والمعرفة. يهدف هذا التعاون إلى تحقيق التماسك التعليمي والاقتصادي والاجتماعي وتقديم تعليم متكامل ومثير للانتعاش بطرق جديدة ومبتكرة. نحن نعمل معاً على تأهيل أفراد التعليم والتعليم وتطوير القدرات الفنية والتقنية لتحسين التعليم والتغيير. نحن نعمل على تطوير التعليم في جميع المجالات وتحقيق التقدم المستدام في التعليم والثقافة. نحن نعمل على تطوير التعليم الرقمي والتعليمي في جميع المجالات والبرامج التعليمية، ونعمل على تحسين تطوير التعليم والتعليم وتطوير النماذج التعليمية. نحن نعمل على تطوير التعليم من خلال استخدام الأدوات الفنية والتقنية والتعليمي وتطوير النماذج التعليمية. نحن نتعاون مع المدارس والمؤسسات التعليمية لتطوير برامج تعليمية مبتكرة ومستدامة للتعليم والمعرفة. يهدف هذا التعاون إلى تحقيق التماسك التعليمي والاقتصادي والاجتماعي وتقديم تعليم متكامل ومثير للانتعаш بطرق جديدة ومبتكرة. نحن نعمل معاً على تأهيل أفراد التعليم والتعليم وتطوير القدرات الفنية والتقنية لتحسين التعليم والتغيير. نحن نعمل على تطوير التعليم الرقمي والتعليمي في جميع المجالات والبرامج التعليمية، ونعمل على تحسين تطوير التعليم والتعليم وتطوير النماذج التعليمية.
Girls who aspire to enter the trades or design and construction professions should consider enrolling in our program and, where enrolment numbers permit, “all girl” classes are a possibility.

SENIOR CONSTRUCTION

Senior construction students are normally more intent on using a hammer, saw, or drill to produce a finished product. It is less common for the students to investigate and analyse written text. In the lead up to their major practical assignment the students viewed a recently published article about do it yourself renovators. The students used a literacy tool called a four level reading guide to engage with the curriculum material at different levels. The article focussed on inexperienced household renovators – the feedback from the construction students was very informative and interesting.

Leo Sharpe
Design Technology Teacher

CHANGES TO THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS TAX FILE NUMBER PROGRAM

As of January 1 2015, the Australian Taxation Office has changed the way people can apply for tax file numbers. The school will no longer be a part of this process. In order to obtain a tax file number you must go to the tax department website, which is www.ato.gov.au/individuals/Tax-file-number/ and complete the application form on line. Your identity must be checked. To do this you can either send your original documents directly to the tax department or take them to an Australia Post Office who will then verify your documents with the completed on line form and complete the process so that the tax department is able to create a number for you. For further information check the taxation website or see your local post office.

Mardi Geleijn
Teacher
PRE-ORDER WINTER JACKETS

All Winter jackets and jumpers need to be pre-ordered. The Uniform Shop is currently taking orders until Friday 20 March. This is necessary as it takes 8 weeks for orders to be filled and delivered.

We apologise for the current delay with the sports uniform for the junior school as there is an issue with the material from the supplier. Please be patient as we are working tirelessly to rectify the problem.

Thank you
P & C Association

YEAR 11 INTERNATIONAL CAMP

The Year 11 international students at Mount Gravatt High School recently returned from an exhausting 3 days at the Noosa North Shore Retreat Camping Ground.

This camp is included in the year’s activities to allow our international students to experience challenging activities in an unfamiliar environment before they are swept off on the Year 11 Leadership Camp later in the year. Most of these students had never been camping or participated in activities such as the giant swing and rock climbing. Several had a deep fear of insects, others of heights. Two of these students had never set foot on a beach and none had seen the star-filled night sky without the interference of city lights. This was an opportunity for these children to get a taste of the great outdoors, face some challenges and learn more about themselves and each other.

As well as the physical demands of camp these students were pushed to practise their English. There was a lovely mix of nationalities and by the end of the three days we noticed an increased respect for each other and saw new friendships blossom. It is easy to forget how draining it can be for some of these individuals to constantly be translating every instruction and comment. They all worked really hard and we were very proud of their efforts.

18 tentative individuals boarded the bus on Monday morning, many carrying apprehension, reluctance and doubt along with their luggage. Upon their return we saw dramatic transformations had occurred within most of these students. Some had faced deeply ingrained fears and all had pushed themselves beyond their comfort zone. Although exhausted, there was a feeling of new confidence in each individual and a group cohesiveness that had been previously lacking.

Tricia Page and Alice Clarke
International Student Co-ordinators

STUDENT PROFILE

Introducing Rachel Liang: International Student Leader

It is nice to see all the returning students and the new international students in school this year. Also it is my responsibility and pleasure to help our new international students get involved in school and get comfortable with everything at school. In the completely new year, 2015, as an international leader, I would like to assist as much as I can with the international staff, like keeping track of international students’ personal development and performance at school. My role also requires me to be concerned about the majority international students’ needs or issues. The bond between international students and school community will be boosted through communications. Furthermore, as the representative of international students, my effort and enthusiasm will be dedicated in any school general businesses and activities.

Rachel Liang
Year 12 Student – International Student Leader

GUIDANCE OFFICER

This term, Year 12s have received a Career Planning Handbook, which is intended to kickstart their consideration of post-school options. The handbook contains a range of information on work, training and tertiary education pathways, including QTAC application, resume preparation and career planning. For those students who are still unsure of their direction, there is a set of guided career activities using the MyFuture website (www.myfuture.edu.au) and other resources. This is an excellent starting point for career planning, as it allows students to log on, complete personal surveys and then explore career areas according to their preferences. It is recommended that Year 12s complete the activities prior to their guidance interviews later in the year.

A group of Year 12 students also recently attended the Queensland University of Technology for a full day excursion called ‘Explore Uni’. Students spent a day on campus, where they were hosted by current university students, and had the opportunity to learn about life as a university student, explore the campus and participate in interactive workshops. Every student received a bag with information to take home and Subway for lunch. These excursions are funded by QUT as part of our school’s partnership with them to help students think about their future options. A Year 10 “Explore Uni” excursion will run in June. Most universities have support programs to help people get in and give them a boost if they’ve experienced tough times or haven’t got much money. If you want to know more, visit http://www.qtag.edu.au/Applying/SASHome.html.

Students in Years 10-12 have also been invited to the Allied Health Careers Expo, at the PA Hospital on April 29. This event includes information sessions from allied health professionals and interactive displays professions and education providers.
**Upcoming Events:**

**Allied Health Careers Expo**

Metro South Health is hosting a Careers Forum to help students work out if they want a career in allied health and how to get in. The forum is open to years 10, 11 and 12 students. Applications to attend the school excursion are through the Guidance Officer. To attend privately, register through www.health.qld.gov.au/paohospital/ah-career-forum.asp.

**Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) Information Session**

ADFA combines military and leadership training with a degree from the University of New South Wales for the future leaders of Australia’s Navy, Army and Air Force. The next information session is on Thursday 12th March, at 6:00pm, at Defence Force Recruiting, East Level, Level 11, 410 Ann Street. To RSVP contact Alayna Bullock 07 3016 2425 or email abullock@dfr.com.au.

**Daniel Wilson**  
Guidance Officer

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**SCHOOL BASED YOUTH HEALTH NURSE**

You can help your child establish healthy behaviour, eating and activity habits from birth. If these habits are established early as part of your family’s lifestyle – a natural part of the way you do things – you won’t have to bring in unpopular “rules” later.

Maintaining healthy habits from the start can help your whole family avoid lifestyle problems that can occur later in life, such as overweight and obesity, type-2 diabetes, types of cancer and high blood pressure.

**Promote healthy eating in your home**

Children are more likely to develop healthy eating behaviours when they’re given a choice of healthy foods at home. Having fewer unhealthy foods (like soft drinks, chips, lollies and snack bars) in your cupboard means you won’t have to police what your children eat.

**As a family remind yourself of the basic foods**

These are fruits, vegetables, wholegrain cereals, lean meats and fish and low fat dairy foods. Make your shopping list from these groups so it will be easier to prepare family meals that include them.

**Be aware of serving size**

Preparing the right amount discourages you from coming back for seconds or putting too much on your plates.

**Make a distinction between “everyday” and “sometimes” foods**

“Everyday” food is the healthy stuff, whereas “sometimes” food is the not so healthy stuff that’s high in fat or sugar and doesn’t have many essential nutrients.

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**Establish healthy eating routines**

Healthy eating isn’t only about food choices – it’s also about eating on a regular predictable basis in a social way. For example, it’s important to eat breakfast every day and eat meals together at the table or kitchen bench, rather than in front of the TV.

**Praise children when they choose healthy foods**

Try to avoid nagging or making eating a battle or power struggle.

**Make physical activity part of everyday life**

Many people think being active means playing sport or doing strenuous exercise, but that’s only one way of being active. For example, walk the dog instead of watching TV. Be a role model and choose being active to show your child how easy it can be.

**Enjoy physical activity as a family**

Talk about these as fun activities rather than exercise. Outdoor play is generally more active than indoor play, so make the most of outdoor time.

**Give children – older children especially-opportunities to try different sports and ways to be active**

This could include various sports or activities at school or outside school hours.

**Limit the time your child spends on screen based activities**

This includes time spent watching TV and DVDs, and playing computer and other electronic games.

**Encourage your child to value his body for what it can do, rather than what it looks like**

Try not to draw too much attention to your child’s weight, even if they are worried about it. If you discuss weight with your child, use terms like “healthiest weight” rather than “overweight”, “obese” or even “fat”. A healthy body image is especially important for teenagers, who may be thinking about how their body looks.

**Set a good example**

Parents who have a healthy diet and are physically active are much more likely to encourage the same habits in their children. Keep in mind the power of modelling – your child learns mostly from what you do yourself, not from what you tell them to do.

If you would like more information about the Australian Dietary guidelines visit www.nhmrc.gov.au

**Megan Smith**  
School Based Youth Health Nurse  
Children’s Health Queensland
FACILITIES AND FINANCE

We have seen many students arriving at school recently with large amounts of cash. We would like to remind you that our preferred method of payment for all fees, excursions and sports is via direct deposit into our bank account or via credit card payment. I have listed our details below:

Name: Mount Gravatt High School
BSB: 064 118
Account Number: 0009 0265

Mount Gravatt High School cannot take responsibility for the loss of cash sent with your child to school.

Please remember that the school payment window is CLOSED each Thursday.

Sam Jeffs
Business Service Manager

Could YOU host an international student?

Bringing a new perspective to your life.

MT GRAVATT STATE HIGH SCHOOL
International Students Homestay Program

An allowance for hosting a student is provided if you are able to offer:
- A separate bedroom with a bed and a desk
- Three meals a day plus morning and afternoon tea
- Internet access to assist study requirements
- A friendly, supportive environment
- English is the primary language spoken at home

Involvement in the Mt Gravatt International Student Homestay Program can offer a range of benefits to your family including:
- Learning about another culture’s customs and traditions
- Encouraging your family to do things together
- Helping your children to learn and grow
- Encouraging your family to explore your own state and country
- Developing lasting friendships with the student and their family
- Providing your children unique advantages and experiences to refer to on applications for employment, colleges and universities

For more information please contact:

Alien Davis
International Homestay Coordinator
Phone: 07 3291 5500
Email: aliendavis@msb.edu.au

Tricia Page
International Student Coordinator
Phone: 07 3291 5524
Email: triciapage@msb.edu.au

Chase No.: 000008

Seeking employers for school-based apprentices

MOUNT GRAVATT HIGH SCHOOL
School-based Apprenticeships and Traineeships

Do you have your own business?
Have you ever thought about employing a school-based trainee or apprentice? We are looking for employers in the trade industries – plumbers, carpenters, electricians and mechanics.

School-based apprenticeships and traineeships (SATS) allow students on a vocational path to work for a business as paid employees and undertake training to gain a qualification, all whilst studying towards their Queensland Certificate of Education.

A growing number of businesses are using apprenticeships to:
- Train future workers and supervisors
- Develop productive workers in a short space of time
- Develop loyal and motivated workers
- Train new staff to do things the way the business does
- Create employment opportunities for young people in the local community

For more information please contact:
Ms. Kellie Anderson
MT Gravatt High School
Phone: 07 3291 5300
Email: kellic@msb.edu.au

OR visit: apprenticeships.qld.gov.au