11 May 2015

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Partnership with parents is paramount to ensure success for our students with parent teacher interviews after each reporting cycle a key point of contact. Last week’s Parent Teacher Evening was again very well subscribed with the vast majority of teachers fully booked. Please remember that parents are welcome to contact us for a face to face or telephone conference with teachers and many “catch up” meetings unable to be accommodated on the night are welcome. A simple fact check; if only 50% of students’ parents seek interview we would need over 3200 time slots and we can accommodate “only” 1300 on the night. This year we are offering a second opportunity on Thursday 23 July. While last week’s interviews were to report interim progress, student summative achievement for Semester 1 is the subject of interviews in July.

I thank those parents who took a moment to speak with me and the complimentary comments of the professionalism of teachers, how their child enjoys coming to school at Mount Gravatt High and pleased with their child’s progress in caring hands. Nice to hear and encourages us to help every child reach their next step in potential. We always do an analysis of ways to improve as well.

That 1% extra in attendance, performance and achievement is my school-wide agenda. I always encourage teachers and my team to not only celebrate our students’ successes but then to look to see what can be done to improve – go that extra step. This year I set a school wide achievement rate of 90% pass rate (A to C) and attendance at 95%. We achieved both. The former has us good or better than the “good school down the road” and latter, one of the highest in the State. Attention to detail of already very good systems and being responsive and proactive to student needs at both ends of the scale I believe is a moral imperative in our practice. Two-thirds of our students do not miss one day of school – 100% attendance. Parent interest in their child’s education and schooling are proven factors in student success and amplifies the effectiveness of classroom instruction. Let’s both keep up the interest and investment in our students and I anticipate those extra 1% improvements to add up.

Principal professional development and quality has never been more of an agenda in school leadership and improvement. This week alone I have read 5 books (in my own time). Some of the titles include: “What Principals need to know about Teaching and Learning Reading”, “How to Innovate: The essential guide for fearless school leaders”, “You Don’t Have to be Bad to Get Better”, “Enhancing the Art & Science of Teaching with Technology” and “Shifting the Monkey”. Parents can anticipate where I’m going with the strategic direction of the school with these in mind. The last title is about responsibility and making sure it stays where it needs to, not allowing others to make excuses, looking after the good people and treating everyone as if they are good – but ensuring everyone is accountable for their work.

Another view of the world was fortunate to come my way by taking some of a very large amount of accrued long service leave spending 2 weeks in Japan. Having returned I find I must have been the last person who has been there being able to share stories. Natural beauty, polite and respectful people, wonderful food and clean and efficient public transport were on another scale. High school students attend school on Saturday
mornings and extra-curricular activities on Saturday afternoons and sometimes even on Sunday. I was fortunate to run into a number of groups of students keen to help, give directions, assist with luggage up train station stairs and be naturally inquisitive of where we were from. Mount Gravatt students wouldn’t be out of place with those cultural mores I thought to myself.

Lastly I share a couple of quotes from significant source. At the outset I profess that my own experience and qualification would defend me from any accusation of being ‘anti-intellectual’ and I never stoop to sarcasm, being the lowest form of wit. Firstly, a lot of contemporary discussion and education system ideology of recent years talks about teacher quality and now I start to hear emerging voices that the discussion needs to be about quality teaching. I am pleased to see the agenda shifting to the nub of the matter. Secondly, some profound research pronounces the most significant means to improve student outcomes (quite surprisingly it seems) is directly the result of classroom instruction. I think at Mount Gravatt we have known that for some time.

Richard Usher
Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 12 – Thursday 14 May</td>
<td>Year 7 and Year 9 NAPLAN Testing</td>
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<td>Wednesday 13 May</td>
<td>Year 11/12 Graphics Excursion</td>
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<td>Thursday 14 May</td>
<td>Year 11 Geography Excursion</td>
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<td>Friday 15 May</td>
<td>Year 12 Careers Morning</td>
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<td>Monday 18 May</td>
<td>Year 12 Engineering Excursion</td>
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<td>Wednesday 20 May</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting</td>
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<td>Thursday 21 May</td>
<td>Academic Edge Night</td>
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<td>Friday 22 May</td>
<td>PAN Night</td>
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<td>Tuesday 26 May</td>
<td>Year 8 Altitude Day Excursion</td>
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<td>Wednesday 27 May</td>
<td>Year 8 Vaccinations Dose 2</td>
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<td>Friday 29 May</td>
<td>Year 10 National Careers Expo Excursion</td>
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<td>Wednesday 03 – Friday 05 June</td>
<td>Year 8 Camp</td>
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<td>Monday 08 June</td>
<td>Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday</td>
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DEAN OF STUDENTS – SENIOR SCHOOL REPORT

We started this term off by recognising those senior students who had a perfect attendance rate for the whole of term one. These students were presented with certificates on their respective Year Level Parades. Well done to those students – let’s see if you can do it again this term! As of the end of week two, attendance rates for term 2 are sitting at 94.7% for Year 10, 95.7% for Year 11 and 94.3% for Year 12. Remember the school goal is a 95% attendance rate.

In the last newsletter I spoke about five of our Year 12 boys who are participating in the AccelR8 program. These boys commenced their theory learning during term one, and are now off to get some hands-on experience in a mechanic workshop during term two. Good luck boys!

AccelR8 boys – Jacob Gilding, Ash Millard, Joe Ginns, Alex Fontana and Dhanuja Sampatha Waduge

The end of term one was a busy time for school-based traineeships and apprenticeships with many students applying for positions. This saw a number of our senior students attending interviews and work trials over the Easter Holidays, and starting term two with the offer of a school-based traineeship. Well done to these students.

Finally, during the last week of Term 1 on Tuesday 31 March the Non-QCS Year 12 students visited TAFE Queensland at Southbank and Careers Australia at Bowen Hills. The purpose of these visits was to provide the students with valuable information to help them make informed decisions about their plans for next year. At TAFE Queensland, students received a brief talk about the different courses that are available for study at that specific campus, and were taken on a guided tour of the facilities and grounds. At Careers Australia, students also received a brief talk about the courses on offer, but were also provided with a “show bag” of course pamphlets and other relevant information to take away and read. The tour of the Careers Australia campus allowed students to visit the Engineering workshop, the Electrical Workshop, the Nursing room, regular learning rooms and the highlight, the Logistics section where a forklift demonstration took place. Overall, students had a good day out and at the end of the day were aware of more options available to them.
DEAN OF STUDENTS – JUNIOR SCHOOL REPORT

Year 7 camp

Year 7 students enjoyed a 3 day Camp at Tallebudgera Active Recreation Centre in Week 9 of Term 1. 173 students, including 8 x Year 11 mentors, along with 10 teachers headed to the Gold Coast for an action packed adventure camp. Over the 3 days students experienced an array of activities including kayaking, surfing, high and low ropes, rock-climbing, team challenges and beach games. The weather was hot and humid, but this did not stop the enthusiasm of our Year 7s over the 3 days.

The night activities included a games night on Wednesday. Great displays of participation made for some terrific competitiveness, especially in the ‘knights, mounts and cavaliers’ game. The second night’s entertainment was a Dance. Judging by the light show, loud music and spectacular dance moves, everyone had an enjoyable night.

Each evening after dinner Mrs Austen presented a video of the day’s events. We were able to see what each of the 9 activities groups had experienced that day. By the end of day 3 the bus trip back home to Mount Gravatt High School was somewhat quieter than our trip down. A great time was had by all. I am sure that we all learnt something about ourselves and what we are capable of when we are challenged to do something that we would not normally do.

YR 11 Mentors

Eight (8) Year 11 Mentors volunteered to attend the Year 7 Camp in week 9 of Term 1. Their role was to be a support and a mentor to the Year 7 students in their activities group. They also provided assistance to the teacher assigned to each activity group. The leadership displayed by these senior students over the 3 days was exemplary. Their maturity and initiative made for a great camp. They had a great time in getting to know the Year 7’s and led by example. Ms Prescott recently organised a ‘Thank you Morning Tea’ in K block for the mentors.
Thank you to the following students:

**Year 8 Camp date reminder**

Year 8 Camp will be held 3 – 5 June, week 7 this term. A reminder letter will be sent out week 5 highlighting the necessary items to bring on camp. Like the Year 7 Camp, Year 8s are also off to Tallebudgera Active Recreation Centre. If you have any questions please contact Mrs Buchanan or Ms Fisher.

**100% ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATES**

Congratulations to the 81 Year 7 students, 50 Year 8 and 67 Year 9 students who achieved 100% attendance in Term 1. Certificates have been presented in Year level meetings. This is a total of 198 students in Junior Secondary who have received attendance certificates. What a tremendous result.

The outcomes of striving to achieve our 95 plus % attendance target rate are numerous. Only great results can be achieved when we are present and ready to learn.

Our aim in Term 2 is to improve on the overall number of students who achieved 100% attendance. To do this requires diligence and perseverance. Individual students need to strive to make a concerted effort in either maintaining their perfect record or challenging themselves in improving their personal attendance data from Term 1.

Weekly data will continue to be displayed on the Junior Secondary noticeboard every Monday. I ask that all students check regularly and track their progress.

**Final attendance % for all Junior Secondary levels in Term 1**

We are doing well in our overall attendance rates and our 95% plus target is on track. However, it is also important to recognise that improvements can always be made and that is our CHALLENGE.

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<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8</th>
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<td></td>
<td>96.22%</td>
<td>95.44%</td>
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**JUNIOR SECONDARY**

**ANZAC Parade 2015**

Mount Gravatt Junior Secondary leaders proudly represented the school at the 100th Year ANZAC parade at Holland Park. As one of their first ‘official’ duties, the leaders were part of a strong contingent of local schools in the march. Thank you to Will, Tahlia, Sam and Kimberley, along with a core of Senior leaders and staff, for being the face of Mount Gravatt at such an important milestone event.

Junior Secondary Leaders – Will, Sam, Tahlia and Kimberley with Ms Fisher and Ms Buchanan. Laying the wreath and walking in the parade.

**NAPLAN reminder**

Due to our large numbers this year, the Year 7 and 9 students will sit NAPLAN in different venues. The 9s will be in the hall and the 7s will be in their classrooms. We have the facility to ‘open’ classrooms into double spaces, so students will be in groups according to their teaching pairs.

Make sure your child has the necessary stationary (2B pencils, eraser, sharpener, calculator) and eats a good breakfast each day. We have prepared our students appropriately and trust they will do their best at all times.

**Year 7 news**

A big thank you to our Year 7 teachers for their fantastic efforts in Term 1. Our youngest cohort has survived the transition to high school, and they are really starting to find their feet. This is due to the support and care provided by our core teachers, our support teacher, Mrs Budge, our Junior Dean, Ms Fisher, the Senior Mentors and the ongoing supervision of Mr Kingston, our Deputy Principal.
On top of the challenges of new curriculum, our 7s also went to camp in Term 1. This was a monumental effort from all concerned. Thanks to Ms Fisher for the hours of organisation, as well as our intrepid core teachers: Mrs Austen, Mrs Beck-Lyon, Miss Prescott, Mr Laconi, Ms McKenzie, Mrs Ashford, Mr Hollis and Mrs Brady.

We look forward to Term 2!

Robyn Buchanan
HOD Junior Secondary

EARLY DEPARTURE PROCEDURE
If you need your student/s to leave school before 2:40pm, please give them a note of explanation to be signed by a Deputy Principal before school. Students will then be issued a leave pass showing details of the leave time. This must be shown to their class teacher and then carried with them when they leave the school grounds.

Due to school security, teachers cannot allow students to leave class without written approval.

ART NEWS

Term 1 saw the Year 7 cohort starting high school at Mount Gravatt High. They do Art for one term only and their focus was to study the Principles of Design and Elements of Art culminating in creating two artworks which reflect what they had learned. Here are some examples of the work from students in Mr Rudolph’s class:

Year 7 ‘3D Pattern in Warm and Cool Colours’ (Task 1) by Safet Mujic

Year 7 ‘Pop Art Girl – As If’ (Task 2) by Caitlin Pieters

The Year 9 Art students learned about acrylic painting techniques and their task was to create an acrylic Still Life using the skills they were taught.

Mr Rudolph is very proud of the quality of work produced by his class and below are two examples:

Year 9 ‘Acrylic Still Life’ by Hannah Payne

Year 9 ‘Acrylic Still Life’ by Krissandra Lau

The Year 10 Art students revised what they had learned last year about drawing the face and creating portraits, and rose to the challenge of their task to create a Self Portrait that captured an essential part of their personality. Here are two examples of exceptional work done:

Year 10 ‘Self Portrait in Colour Pencil’ by Sarah Brown

Year 10 ‘Self Portrait in Chalk Pastels’ by Jia Chin

Mr Rudolph’s Year 12 VAS students created wonderful artworks in response to their task to create a composite image fantasy-themed artwork based on three photographs they took themselves, and using PhotoShop CS6 as their digital medium. Here are two examples:

Year 12 ‘Flower Fairy’ by Skye Heather

Year 12 ‘Fairies’ by Neve Robinson-Parmenter
PERFORMING ARTS

DANCE TROUPE

The 2015 Boys Crew are working hard this term workshopping a variety a Hip Hop phrases and routine. Well Done Boys keep up the hard work.

Katie Wight
A/HOD – Performing Arts

STUDENT ABSENCES
Please ensure that you contact the school on the day of your student’s absence.
Absence Line: 3291 5266
Email: absence@mtgravattshs.eq.edu.au

INDUSTRIAL DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Brick and Block laying Excursion

On 30 and 31 March, 24 Year 11 Construction students had the opportunity to participate in a Brick and Block laying course which was conducted by an experienced tradesman from the Australian Brick and Block laying foundation.

The training was conducted on campus at the Industrial Design and Technology site. The course gave students a unique and practical experience in bricklaying and exposed them to situations they may encounter in an industry environment.

VOCAL ENSEMBLE

Congratulations to the Vocal Ensemble students who did a wonderful performance at Southern Cross Care – Duhig Village on Monday 27 April.

VOCAL NIGHT

Late in term one our talented students invited family and friends to enjoy the first vocal night of 2015. This year, we welcome our new grade 7 and 8 students to Mount Gravatt High and formed both junior and senior vocal ensembles, conducted by Ms O’Callaghan. Our vocal night began with the junior performance of a well-known piece, “Fireflies”, charming the crowded audience in the school studio. The growth in vocalists allowed the older students to study more challenging pieces. Family and friends experienced a variety of musical styles such as pop, theatre and comedy. This particular night is held twice every year to showcase the talent we have at Mount Gravatt High and to demonstrate each student’s passion to sing and perform.

The students performed a series of exercises and tasks which, no doubt, have helped to develop their skills and confidence in relation to bricklaying. For some students the experience
has given them an insight into bricklaying as being a possible vocation for them. “It was lots of fun. The course was worthwhile and challenging. It was different to anything I’ve done before” said Kira Carmody, “I would definitely like to do some more”.

We are looking at organising a two week project at the end of the year to reinforce the good work that has been started. The students will also receive a Certificate of Completion from the Bricklaying Foundation.

Wes Wilson
Senior Construction Teacher

YEAR 12 BCT EXCURSION

On Tuesday 28 April the three Year 12 BCT classes ventured out and visited the Brisbane Convention Centre and ABC Studios at Southbank. Students were given a guided tour of both sites. At the Convention Centre students were able to see the many rooms they have available for use and hear about the different types of events and functions that are hosted at the convention centre. Students were excited to see where Obama sat when he visited for the G20 Summit. The tour of the centre provided students with the opportunity to ask many questions relating to Human Resources and the Management of People – our current unit of work. This allowed the students to gain a real world understanding of how the content they are learning in class gets implemented within the workplace.

At the ABC students received a talk about the archiving process and were then taken on a guided tour of the site. Students visited the ABC News Studio and learned how the weather gets done with the use of green or blue screens and computers. The Triple J Radio studio was also visited where students were given a detailed explanation of how things all work.

Students visiting the Brisbane Convention Centre and ABC Studios

Overall, it was a great day and the students said it was interesting and helpful.

Kellie Anderson
BCT Teacher

SPORT NEWS

The last two weeks has been a very busy time in sport for Mount Gravatt High. The school Cross Country was finally held on Wednesday 22 April for the Year 7s and Monday 27 April for the rest of the school. From there a school team was selected and competed at the District Cross Country on Monday 30 April for the Year 7s and Thursday 30 April. The students competed well with 10 students making the District team to compete at the Met East Cross Country on Tuesday 19 May at John Paul College. Congratulations to Ariel Jonas, Natalya Brown, Bronte Bateman, Brandon Skinner, Charlie Moore, Brooke Aspinall, Jonathan Pringle, Denae Moore, Aimee Kernot and Oskar Clare.

The Interschool Summer Season has come to an end for this year. Mount Gravatt performed really well with the following teams making District Finals: Year 8 and 9 Boys Touch, Year 9 Girls Touch and Year 8/9 Girls Futsal. Well done to the Year 9 Girls Touch and the Year 8/9 Girls Futsal for becoming district Champions for 2015.

The Winter Interschool Sport Season selections have been happening over the last two weeks in readiness for the start on Tuesday 12 May and Wednesday 13 May. Permission forms will be given out to those students selected and will need to be returned before the start of the Winter Season. Thank you to those students trialling for an Interschool Sport.

The last District Sport Cluster for 2015 is being held on Monday 11 and/or Tuesday 12 May. Good luck to those students who have nominated to trial.

Mount Gravatt High has also seen some great performances in sport outside of school. Special mention goes to Jenna McGraw who played in the QLD State Basketball Championships over the school holidays. Her team came second overall in the competition obtaining a silver medal. Jenna will be traveling to NSW in September to play in the Australian Basketball Competition. Well done Jenna.

Also Jacob Toia Year 12 competed at the 2015 U19 Gridiron Nationals where Queensland took home the championship. He was also named in the Australian U19 B squad which still gives him a chance to move to the A squad. Great work Jacob.

Once again, thank you to date to teachers, students and parents who have given up their time in participating, supporting or assisting in sport at Mount Gravatt High.

Mardi Johnson
Interschool Sport Coordinator

REMINDER: Please notify our office of any changes in email or contact details.
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 online. 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

P & C NEWS

At the recent P & C AGM held 18 March, Christine Kernke was elected to the position of Chairperson, with the previous Chairperson, Peter Kambouris kindly agreeing to remain as Vice-Chairperson along with Pieter Demmers in the same role. Thanks to Peter Kambouris for all his hard work over the past few years.

We are pleased to announce that “Pay Wave” is now available in the school canteen with a minimum payment of $5.00. The new winter menu is now available on the school’s webpage, and a reminder that pre-ordering before 8:30am each day ensures that you get your preferred choice and don’t miss out.

We are in urgent need of volunteers, please contact Christine Dombrowski on 3291 5225, even if you can only help out once a month, it will be greatly appreciated.

Entertainment books are now on sale $65.00 (cash or cheque made out to MGHS P&C). Please order online at www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/221d557 or contact the school office.