2 June 2015

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We are delighted to have The Honourable Kate Jones MP, Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games open our Junior Secondary Precinct on June 11.

The investment of over $3 million into this new facility to accommodate increased and sustained enrolment in our school and the Minister’s attendance is a sound indicator of the future of our school. We look forward to greeting the Minister and celebrating this significant event in the history and life of our school.

The last couple of weeks have been delightful in the communications had and received from community, parents in their appreciation and acclaim of our school, teachers and students. Many “thank you” notes and emails in response to Grandparent’s Day, Parent-Teacher Interviews, the conduct of our students in the public gaze are great to receive and testimony to the spirit of community in our school, and that high standards are not ‘old fashioned’ and hence redundant.

Richard Usher
Principal

“1%” increments in moving our school’s performance from “good to great” I spoke about in our last newsletter. For parents, as we edge towards and through the next and final 4 weeks of this term and semester, it is a good time to sit down with your child and review the work and progress to date over the past 16 weeks of school this year. Have they had conversations with their teacher of not only where they “are at”, but what understanding is there to go that bit further? What habits have been established to ensure not only success, but the best result at end of semester grading time? Great things come by degrees, doing what needs to be done, and striving for that bit extra.

Kokoda challenge training is well under way and I commend Mr Toomey for his continued leadership of our teams this year. The challenge epitomizes the strive to do better and it is no accident of fate that schools where we have committed teachers to inspire in all or any area of school life, ‘rubs off’ in the academic successes of our students.

UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 03 – Friday 05 June</td>
<td>Year 8 Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 08 June</td>
<td>Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 10 June</td>
<td>QTAC Parent Information Evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 12 June – 19 June</td>
<td>Year 11/12 Block Exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 16 June</td>
<td>Year 7/8 Readers Cup Competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17 June</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 22 June</td>
<td>Year 11 Geography Excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 23 June</td>
<td>Year 12 QCS Practice 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 23 June</td>
<td>Junior International Excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 23 June</td>
<td>Year 9 Evening of Eminence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 25 June</td>
<td>School Field Events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 26 June</td>
<td>School Athletics Carnival and last day of term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 13 July</td>
<td>School resumes for Term 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Great state. Great opportunity.
YEAR 9 GIRLS TOUCH FOOTBALL

DISTRICT PREMIERS

After the heartbreak of losing last year’s district grand final by one try, the Year 9 girls made a pact that they would try to avenge this agonising defeat.

Coming into the last game of a very close season, the girls needed to have a substantial win over Citipointe to advance to district finals. The girls responded magnificently to win 15-2 assuring themselves a spot in the grand final; finishing the regular season in first place.

The grand final was played against Rochedale and the girls controlled the game from the outset, cruising to a 5-2 victory.

This was the first time in at least 10 years that Mount Gravatt High has won a district premiership in touch football. The girls were now to move into unchartered territory playing the metropolitan finals series. Our first game was played against Wavell High – a traditional north side powerhouse. In one of their best displays in two years, the girls crushed the opposition triumpthing with a 9-1 result.

This meant that the team was now in the top 4 teams in South-East Queensland and were to play their semi final against Tullawong State High School. Unfortunately, despite playing a quick brand of touch football, the girls went down 4-2.

The girls are to be congratulated for their commitment to the team. The sacrifices they have made, including giving up their Friday afternoons to train, have resulted in a team that is playing a great brand of touch football.

The next step for them is to play at Queensland All Schools in October.

Craig Toomey
Coach

DEAN OF STUDENTS – SENIOR SCHOOL REPORT

There are four areas I would like to focus on in this edition of the newsletter: Attendance, Year 12 pathways interviews, Try-A-Trade Day and upcoming assessment period.

Attendance

As you are aware we are aiming for a 95% attendance rate for 2015. As of the end of week 5, Years 10, 11 and 12 attendance rates are sitting at 94.2%, 94.9% and 93.8% respectively. This is just under our target and we ask that you work with us to ensure that your child is attending school every day. Research shows that there is a direct correlation between attendance and results. As we enter the winter season, students should be doing everything possible to remain healthy, allowing them to attend school every day.

Year 12 Pathways Interviews

The Acting HOD of Senior Schooling, Sandra Wilson and I have started our one-on-one interviews with the non-QCS Year 12 students. During these interviews we are asking the students about their plans for 2016 and providing them with appropriate information that might help with their decision making. Those students who express an interest in a TAFE course for 2016 are being referred to the school Guidance Officer for assistance with their QTAC application. It is our goal that every Year 12 student has a pathway for next year, as well as a back-up plan if their first preference doesn’t work out. Hopefully the Year 12 Careers Morning provided students with some back-up ideas.

Try-A-Trade

On Thursday 21 May a number of our Year 10 and 11 boys attended the Try-A-Trade Day at the Careers Australia Salisbury campus. The day allowed the boys to try a number of trades including automotive, construction, engineering and logistics. Industry experienced educators discussed the industry sectors, job opportunities and were there to answer any questions the boys had. It was then time for the boys to get their hands dirty – and try the tools of the trades! The boys left at the end of the day with a greater understanding of the four industries.
Assessment Period

Senior students should be, if they haven’t already, entering their assessment period. This means that students should be working hard at completing assignments and ensuring they submit full rough drafts and assignments to their teachers on time. Students should be starting to prepare for their exams by revising work from class and seeking clarification from their teachers if they don’t understand something. Now is the time to get moving on this, not the day before the exam.

Kellie Anderson
Dean of Students - Senior School

YEAR 10 INTO SENIOR UNIFORM

Year 10 students will become “Senior” students in both name and appearance from the start of Semester 2 when they start wearing “Senior” uniform. With Year 7 joining high schools, we have structured our school in a Junior Secondary (Years 7, 8 and 9) and Senior Secondary (Years 10, 11 and 12) sub-schools. These sub-schools have their own leaders (both student and staff) and meet as sub-schools once a week, Junior on Tuesday mornings and Senior on Wednesday mornings.

As a result of consultation with the Year 10 students, teachers and the P & C, all agree that Semester 2 would be great time for Year 10s to join the “Senior School” with their uniform as well.

The uniform shop is stocked with the extra items (blouse/tie for girls and long grey socks/tie for boys) and can be purchased anytime this term. As this brings expenditure forward by 6 months for parents, our Uniform Convenor Gayle Brown, is happy to work with parents to make arrangements for payment.

The first day that Year 10 students are to wear the Senior Uniform is Monday 13 July.

Darren Beebe
Deputy Principal

STUDY LEAVE FOR BLOCK EXAMS YEARS 11 AND 12

It is a school goal that all students receive the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) by the conclusion of their Year 11 and 12 studies. OP and NON-OP students who are on-track to achieve the QCE will be granted study leave during the upcoming examination block. The remaining students will attend school each day and work to improve or catch-up work so that they return to being on-track to achieve the QCE. The students will work under the guidance of Mrs Wilson, Head of Department Senior Schooling, and Ms Anderson, Senior Dean of Students. These students will be given a letter to take home which details their responsibilities and the school’s expectations.

The remaining Year 11 and 12 students will be granted study leave for the upcoming examination block. Commencing next week on Friday 12 June and extending to the following Friday 19 June, the end of Week 9 of term, students given study leave will be able to stay at home to prepare for exams and then attend as required. Students will be given the block exam schedule this week at which time they will be informed of the associated procedures and expectations during this time. All examinations will be located in the school Hall.

It is the responsibility of all students to ensure that they are in attendance at the correct time, on the correct date for examinations. Students are still expected to wear full school formal uniform during the exam block.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Parents and carers, please note that students granted study leave should attend school only for those sessions in which a timetabled exam occurs for them. Students are not to remain at school unsupervised during an exam session in which they have no examination. Their options are to undertake supervised study in the Resource Centre or to go home.

It is also important to note that students who are absent for a timetabled examination must ask a parent or guardian to contact a member of the school’s Administration on the day of the examination to explain their absence and during this contact arrange a date and time for the paper to be done. Heads of Department will give this result due consideration in the assessment process. Explained absences should be supported by a doctor’s certificate.

Darren Beebe
Deputy Principal

SCHOOL SAFETY

Mount Gravatt High School prides itself on providing a safe environment for all members of our school community. It is timely to remind all members of our community of a few important expectations that allow us to maintain this safe community.

Drop off and pick up times are particularly busy in the streets surrounding the school. Please be aware of Brisbane City Council signage in these streets to allow a smooth flow of
traffic and safe parking. Similarly, please be considerate of our neighbours and do not block driveways and other access points to private property. Sometimes it is better to organise a slightly later pickup time and avoid the major congestion around 2:40pm.

The gates and driveways into the school grounds are for the use of staff and delivery vehicles only. Parents should not use the front turnaround area to deliver or pick up students during busy times. The only exception to this is for students with mobility difficulties or large musical instruments. These roads have heavy student foot traffic and there have been a few near misses in recent weeks. We want to make sure that the school grounds are as safe as possible for our students.

Students waiting for buses must wait inside the school gates and wait for the teacher on duty to release them to the bus. At all times, students should be aware of their surroundings and use careful observation when crossing roads. Where available, students should use controlled crossings to cross roads. This is particularly important on Logan Road at the end of High Street. Students need to use the controlled crossings at Invermore Street or Shire Road to cross Logan Road.

Your cooperation in helping us maintain a safe school environment is appreciated.

Catherine McCarthy
A/Deputy Principal

SENIOR SCHOOLING

NON OP PATHWAYS

Our Senior Schooling team have met with a number of students to discuss their pathways for next year. Many have plans in place for entering the workforce or further education and training. I encourage all parents to be aware of their child’s plans and have the careers talk with them. If you need some assistance go to the My future website and read the Parents talking Career Choices article.

Students have been provided with a guide which outlines useful websites that will help them in their journey. I am happy to talk with parents who may want to find out more about options available for their student. Feel free to email me at swils18@eq.edu.au.

QCS Program

All students sitting the QCS test later in the year are now well into their preparation program. Students who sat the practice test at the end of Term 1 have received their feedback from this test. Weekly workshops are provided by; Daniel Wilson, our Guidance Officer on the QTAC process, Lindsay Williams from Wordsmart Consulting on how to sequence and structure the writing task and from teachers regarding numeracy, visual literacy and strategies for generating writing ideas. We have more practice tests coming up in Week 10 after exam block.

USI Numbers

At the beginning of the year students were asked to register for a USI number. This is a unique number which all students will need to register for before they can receive a Certificate or Statement of Attainment for any nationally recognised training they undertake. All students need to do is go to www.usi.gov.au and create their USI using one of the forms of ID mentioned on the site. Students then need to provide this number either to myself or to their YLM Teacher (Year 12) or English Teacher (Year 11).

Sandra Wilson
HOD Student Development

DEAN OF STUDENTS – JUNIOR SCHOOL REPORT

Are YOU in the GREEN Zone? … is a new question being posed to all students in the Junior Secondary Department. In other words… are you in the 95% or better range for attendance? Posters displayed on the Junior Secondary noticeboard are a constant reminder of the 95% plus attendance expectations of students at Mount Gravatt High School. It is how we can get from being GOOD to being GREAT.

It is easy to check whether a student is in the GREEN ZONE, The data is clearly visible on the Junior Secondary noticeboard in F Block every Monday morning. Students only need their ID card to find their personal attendance record.

Attendance for the whole of 2015 in Junior Secondary is close to the Target of 95% or greater.

Year 7 is achieving 95.9% attendance, Year 8’s are at 94.4% and Year 9’s at 94.3%.

However, if we look at Term 2 by itself, Year 7 is currently achieving over the 95% mark for attendance. We are seeing a slight dip in Year 8 and 9 attendances after 5 weeks of Term 2. We must remember that IMPROVEMENT begins with ‘I’ and individual efforts make a great difference in the long term.

I would encourage every Parent/Caregiver to make time in asking your child whether they are in the GREEN ZONE.

Competition

The only part that is missing from our ‘Green Zone’ promotion is a name for our ‘Frog mascot’. Entries close Friday 12 June and can be delivered to Ms Fisher in F7 with your name and form class. Please provide a maximum 25 word explanation for your choice of name.
Year 7 Parade Week 5

Our last parade included a number of news items.

Students were congratulated by Mr Kingston on their commendable behaviour and efforts during the recent NAPLAN testing days.

Mrs Buchanan, HOD of Junior Secondary, spoke about the importance of students taking care of laptop devices throughout the school day, especially during breaks.

I was very pleased to be able to congratulate the Year 7’s on their Term 2 attendance. The 100% attendance lucky door prize of writing equipment/stationary was won by Jaidyn Edwards in 7D. Well done Year 7.

Term 2 moving along...

Four weeks to go of Term 2 and Semester 1 will come to a close. I urge all Junior Secondary students to have their planners organised and ready for upcoming exams and assignment due dates. Keep checking your attendance every Monday and most importantly........

Be Here, Be on time and Be Organised.

Helen Fisher
Dean of Students – Junior School

JUNIOR SECONDARY

High Resolves Leadership Training

31 potential student leaders will be ‘in training’ on June 11 at Mount Gravatt High. Students have previously completed a 1 day intensive workshop (in Year 8) and are now ready to face a new global citizen challenge. High Resolves provides a dedicated training program for school students of all ages. Mount Gravatt Junior Secondary students are now working towards a community project to support global citizenship initiatives at the school. We have a fine selection of students willing to participate – what a great investment in the future!

Students involved:


Baseball News

Samuel Harrison, Junior Secondary leader for Turramurra, represented Met East in the recent Baseball state titles at Surfers Paradise.

Sam has played for Redland Bay for the past six years. As a Met East representative he scored 5 runs and played in both catcher and outfield positions. The boys came third overall, a fantastic effort!

Well done Sam, we are so pleased for you. You are an excellent ambassador and leader for Mount Gravatt High.

OZTAG State Representatives

Two talented Mount Gravatt students recently played Oztag for Queensland in the annual Qld v NSW State of Origin at the Sunshine Coast. Reilly Plowman and Jack Gadsby, both in Year 9, represented the state in the 14 years division. Well done to both of you, we are proud of your efforts!
Rostrum Voice of Youth
by Erin Hawkins and Meghan Sawbridge, 7E

On the 2 May, seven Year 7 students from Mount Gravatt High participated in the annual Rostrum Voice of Youth public speaking competition. These students had to write a 6 minute speech on the topics that they were given (Rewind, The price of progress, community spirit, a light bulb moment and a lucky escape) and the speech had to be perfected and tweaked, ready for the presentation. Writing our speeches was the hardest part because we either didn’t have any ideas at all, or we had too many. This process was stressful for all of the students competing as we had to prepare our speech and on top of that we still had a whole heap of school work.

On the day of the competition I can guarantee you that we all were nervous and had more than the slightest sliver of excitement. Walking into the room, facing the people who we were about to compete against was intimidating. One by one our names were called out to present our speeches, and little did we know we were the youngest students there. All of the speeches were constructed and delivered beautifully. The adjudicators decided who would make it through to the regional competition. 2 of our 7 students Shakira and Meghan won their heats were chosen to participate in regional finals on the May 16.

Overall the Rostrum experience was amazing and we will definitely be participating again next year. Although none of us won we aren’t upset because everyone was truly amazing and deserved to win. Rostrum actually felt comfortable, because everyone was kind and cheerful. I know for sure I will never forget it and will continue participating in it.

Sincere thanks to Mrs Brady and Ms McKenzie for taking on this activity – you have made such a difference in our lives. We appreciate it.

Special thank you

Thank you to all staff and students who were recently involved with Grandparents’ Day at Mount Gravatt High. Not only were our youngest students happy to take their invited guests around the campus, but our Junior leaders and Senior Mentors were working frantically behind the scenes to support Mrs Atache, Mrs Austen and Mrs Beck-Lyon. It was a fantastic sight – parents, grandparents and special guests all excited to be a part of our community, milling around on the parade ground. The whole day ended with a delicious lunch and some light entertainment by the Junior Vocal Ensemble. Thank you to all who contributed to such a special occasion.

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.

SOCIAL SCIENCES AND BUSINESS

The last few weeks have been very busy for the students in the SOSE and Business Department. The Year 11 Geography students have been taking education beyond and above the classroom walls by exploring Bulimba Creek and analysing the impacts development has had in its catchment area. As usual the students finished the day by diving into the creek with the aim of clearing out water hyacinth. This was an even greater achievement this year as the top temperature of the day was about 19 degrees.

The Year 12 Geography students also had the opportunity to gain a different perspective of the city, by climbing the Story Bridge. The students have been trying to solve the congestion and traffic issues which face Brisbane today and into the future.

The Business students have been busy visiting the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre and the ABC studios. The students found all of these opportunities extremely worthwhile to their current studies.

Simon Tucker
HOD – Social Sciences

Important Assessment Dates

Assessment Week 7
Year 11 & 12 - Ancient History
Year 12 - Accounting
Year 11 - Geography

Assessment Week 8
Year 9 - History
Year 10 - BEC
Year 11 & 12 - Accounting

Assessment Week 9
Year 8 & 10 - History

PERFORMING ARTS - MUSIC

Senior students are currently working on performing tasks as part of the Homebaked - Australian music unit.

Ali, Mekaela, Mia and Nick

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

GRAPHICS EXCURSION

The May 12 saw the Year 11 and Year 12 Graphics’ students go on their excursion to inner city suburbs to investigate urban renewal, high density living and the integration of new and historical architecture.

The students arrived at New Farm Park in the morning and walked to the suburb of Teneriffe. Points of interest along the way were New Farm Park itself, the Power House, the Sugar Refinery development, the Wool Stores, new apartment buildings and the Gas Works development at Teneriffe/Newstead.

Interest was taken in the re-purposing and design of buildings such as the Power House, Sugar Refinery and the old Wool Stores. Were these developments successful? Did the Architects/Town Planners achieve their brief of incorporating the cities industrial history into vibrant modern residential communities? Was any of the architecture controversial?

Some students spoke with local residents and learnt what it was like to live in the area. They found that their views were very interesting and that some of the architecture was indeed polarising. In general the inner-city developments have been a welcome addition to the Brisbane skyline.

Each student was asked to identify and photograph examples of repurposing, high density living, urban renewal, user-centred design, form and function, and the principles and elements of design. The area presented many opportunities to gather this information. Year 12 students have been studying these concepts extensively in Semester 1 and Year 11 students will begin their studies into Architecture in Semester 2.

The day finished with students eating lunch at the Gas Works. The weather was very favourable and a great day was had by all.

INDUSTRIAL DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

The long awaited CNC laser cutter has finally arrived. Mr O’Neill and Mr Raftery were in serviced by technicians the day of its installation. The rest of the IDT staff, and indeed some of the Visual Arts staff, will begin training immediately. Thanks to Mr Raftery’s prior experience with this technology the in servicing should go quite smoothly. The machine is already working hard and the student’s interest is growing.

This machine is capable of doing some amazing design onto a range of materials and is set to impact the way students work and think about their workshop projects. It is envisaged that students will incorporate design into their work in a greater capacity than they have done previously.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Ol2rO2oF6k

The laser cutter in action.

The machine was purchased from Trotec Industries for the sum of $35 000 and is capable of engraving stainless steel, granite, anodised aluminium and glass. It is capable of cutting and engraving materials as delicate as paper right up to 10mm cast Acrylic and Timber.

This technology is set to change the way students and staff approach design in our subject and truly represents an exciting future for Industrial Design and Technology.

Jim O’Neill
Acting HOD – Design and Technologies

SCIENCE NEWS

Students at Mount Gravatt High are able to participate in a range of science activities both within and outside the classroom. The following is just a little ‘snapshot’ of what has been occurring.

Term 2 commenced with our Year 11 Biology students heading off to Hastings Point in NSW for their two day Biology Camp. This enabled them to study three different types of ecosystems – mangrove, sand dune and rocky shore – all in the one location.

Last Friday, our Year 12 Earth Science students had a perfect day in which to study beach health in theCurrumin Creek area with Griffith University scientists from CoastEd.

Activities in the classroom have ranged from Year 9 students growing some very impressive sunflowers as part of the UQ Sunflower Competition to Year 12 Science21 students learning how to make cheese with their camembert being entered into this year’s RNA Food & Wine Show Cheese-Making Competition.

Finally, on Monday 25 May our Year 9 students took part in the Griffith University Science & Engineering Challenge and were placed 3rd – a wonderful effort considering that the teams from the other schools were predominantly made up of Year 10 students!

Sue Perkins
HOD – Science

On Thursday 7 May the excited and enthusiastic Year 11 students, accompanied by Mr Kleoudis and Mr Drilly, travelled to UQ to explore a wide range of sport and fitness-related technologies and complete a series of physical performance tests. They took a short bus trip from the scenic heights of Mount Gravatt to the lively riverside suburb of St Lucia, where they spent the day in the physiology labs at the School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences.

Brandon Skinner made a superb effort in the ‘VO2max Treadmill Test’, achieving an aerobic capacity result that ranked him above an elite level middle distance runner! (68mL/kg/min)

He was required to run continuously whilst breathing into a machine that analysed how much oxygen his body needs to produce energy.

Lily Johnson performed the ‘Marathon Speed Test’, which gave the class a real-life example of the pace that elite marathon runners must maintain for 42 kilometres!

Both Gab Nahabia and Ben Hardman were buckled into the Cybex machine to test their leg strength, power and endurance.

The ‘Wingate Bike Tests’ were quick, but tiring, measures of peak anaerobic power that most of the class had a chance of completing, even including both teachers! Mr Kleoudis was particularly keen, deciding to skip the warm-up completely!

YEAR 11 PHYSICAL EDUCATION – EXCURSION TO UQ

This term, the Year 11 Physical Education class have been learning about the human body’s three energy systems and the physiological fitness requirements best suited to playing Touch Football.

8
At lunchtime they were given a break to explore the campus to gain a glimpse of university life. The students were amazed at the size of the campus and the huge grass area surrounded by the sandstone Great Court. Some said it reminded them of something from Harry Potter! However, at this point of the day most of the students were more interested in what the food court had to offer.

The class were very thankful to the HMNS staff, Ilaria & James, who conducted an engaging and highly-practical learning experience. The session was designed to help the students’ to progress their knowledge throughout the day; from describing how the human body is like, ‘A car that needs fuel to work’ to discussing the physiological processes of energy production during physical activity.

**Patrick Crilly**  
Pre-Service Teacher

---

### STUDENT PROFILE

**Jenna McGraw – Year 7**

During the Easter School Holidays Jenna played in the Queensland State Basketball Championships at Ipswich Cotton-on Stadium.

Her team, the South West Metropolitan Pirates - Under 14 Girls Division 1 played in the QLD State Basketball Championships Competition and came second overall in the competition obtaining a silver medal.

This means Jenna and her team will be traveling to Gosford in September to play in the Australian Basketball Competition representing Queensland. Only 3 teams from each state are eligible to go.

We are just so proud of Jenna for what she has achieved in the sport she loves Basketball.

Congratulations Jenna!

---

### JUNIOR MEDIA MAKING A SPLASH!

Junior Media is a brand new subject introduced as an elective to Year 9 students. We commenced our study with *Living in a Digital Age* by exploring a historical overview of the evolution of media. Starting with Gutenberg’s invention of the printing press in 1455, we then progressed through a number of media innovations covering several hundred years and finishing with the most cutting edge forms of contemporary media production techniques. These included *animatic*, a highly sophisticated form of digital story boarding that is key to modern animation films such as *Frozen*. Currently, students are presenting their production pitches within our unit of work *Pitch Perfect*. This focus of study requires students to conceptualise a children’s television program and formulate a ‘production pitch’ to a panel of experts. We have certainly been impressed with the calibre of creativity and educational values embedded into students’ program ideas.

---

Our guest speaker Matt Meersbergen gave a thoroughly captivating session about the media industry to the year 9 junior media class.

We were very fortunate to have a media student’s parent come in and speak to the Year 9 and Year 12 media classes. Matt Meersbergen works in the media industry by managing his own production company ‘Photo Media’. This two hour session was full of amazing ‘on the job’ anecdotes, focussing on pre-production, production and post-production phases. Matt also brought in examples of his production work which was incredibly impressive for both the staff and students to experience. Furthermore, this session gave our media classes the opportunity to hear first-hand about the real world context in which the subject’s learning focus can be utilized. It is wonderful to have parents come in and share their professional experience with the students. A very rich learning environment indeed!

**Sarah Mijatovic and Juliette Sterling Teachers**

---

**REMINDER:** Please notify our school office of any changes in email or contact details.  
Email: admin@mgravattshs.eq.edu.au or Phone: 3291 5222

---

**ARDUINO ADVENTURERS CREATING CODE AND LEARNING LOGIC**

Students today are often classified, in contrast to their parents’ generation, as being *digital natives*. It is supposed that, given their immersion in technology that has existed since their birth, they are fluent in its use in a way that can only be artificial to
those who came to technology later in life (the so-called digital tourists).

However, it is arguable that this immersion does not of itself help students develop logical or technological skills. Mitch Resnick, Professor of Learning Research at the MIT Media Lab, states that many of the ways digital natives use technology is shallow. For example, communicating using social media or using digital devices to passively consume content. To unlock the pedagogical potential of technology, Resnick argues that coding is a valuable skill for students to master. Not only does coding teach students to use deductive and inductive logic, skills that they may not master elsewhere, it also opens up the potential to use technology in ways that the students themselves can design, rather than blindly using apps someone else has created. Analogously to how reading and writing open a world of possibilities to students ingesting and expressing ideas, learning to program opens up a world technological possibility that they might otherwise be unaware of.

In term two at Mount Gravatt, we are building on our students’ nascent understanding of programming. Our Year 9 INDE students have encountered fundamental coding concepts (such as conditional statements and loops) using the GameMaker software. While this has been unfamiliar territory for many, it is the foundation from which we encounter for the first time C-style code using the Arduino development environment.

The Arduino Uno is a small microprocessor that can be connected to a breadboard of sensors, allowing students to quickly prototype hardware without the use of solder. Students are learning to program the hardware to respond to input from the environment (through light sensors, buttons etc) and output (to LEDs, sound buzzers) etc. Our students have been enthusiastically programming Uno-compatible devices, and quickly improving their coding skills.

The interest from participating students has been overwhelming, and we are now starting lunch-time sessions for interested students to build on these skills. These out-of-class lessons will be expanded later in the year to use the Hour of Code challenges (check out http://hourofcode.com/au).

We are fortunate at Mount Gravatt that we have such a high participation rate in the laptop program – it gives us the flexibility to innovate with our curriculum. We are aspiring this year to maximise the use of our laptops. By inspiring our students to code and create, it is hoped that they will see their laptop as more than a note-taking machine that can connect to the internet.

If you have any questions about, or suggestions for, eLearning at Mount Gravatt, please feel free to email me at dmile3@eq.edu.au.

**Dan Miles**

**Digital Education Co-ordinator**

**INFLUENZA SEASON**


Our school is helping to prevent the flu from spreading by:

- encouraging children, staff and visitors to cover their mouths and noses when they sneeze or cough
- making tissues readily available and ensuring used tissues are disposed of immediately
- ensuring children and staff wash their hands regularly
- cleaning our facilities and resources regularly
- encouraging staff and children with flu-like symptoms to stay at home
- strongly urging staff and children who arrive with flu-like symptoms to instead stay at home and encouraging them to seek early medical advice.

If your child catches the flu, please seek medical advice and keep them home until they are feeling well again.

**GUIDANCE OFFICER**

**QTAC**

This term, I have been speaking to Year 12 classes in detail about QTAC applications, which will open in August. The application and preferencing processes are important, changing, and sometimes complex. Therefore, I will also run a QTAC parent information evening, to give parents and guardians first-hand information on what their student needs to do, and when.

**Parent Information Evening: Applying for University and TAFE**

Where: Administration Building - Sorensen Centre
Rooms 1 and 2
When: Wednesday 10 June 6-7pm

**Year 12 Careers Expo**

The Year 12 expo, held in the school hall, was a great success and was attended by nearly 30 institutions. University, TAFE and training representatives said that they were very impressed with our students’ maturity, insight and thoughtfulness in seeking course and career information.

**Griffith University Experience Days**

A number of Year 12 students have also participated in Experience Days at various campuses of Griffith University.
These days, along with open days and the Tertiary Studies Expo are an important part of students’ decision making about tertiary study options.

National Careers & Employment Expo: Year 10

Year 10 students travelled to the Brisbane Convention Centre last Friday to attend the National Careers & Employment Expo. The aim of this excursion, which replaced the school - based expo of previous years, was to expose students to a much broader range of employment, training and education options and to provide them with comprehensive information on pathways and qualifications. Their experiences will help to inform the Senior Education and Training Plan development and subject selection processes next term.

University Courses for Secondary School Students

Each university in southeast Queensland has its own programme offering courses to senior school students. For the latest information and instructions on how to apply, please visit the university websites (some links are provided below). Please note that whilst these courses can enhance a student’s chances of acceptance into the same university, they do not contribute to a student’s OP score. Students should be confident that they will be able to manage the additional workload without compromising their achievement levels in authority school subjects.

University of Queensland Enhanced Studies Program:
http://www.uq.edu.au/schools/esp

Griffith University Early Start to Tertiary Study Program:

START QUT
http://www.scholarships.qut.edu.au/commencing/start/

University of Southern Queensland Head Start program
http://www.usq.edu.au/school- liaison/head-start

FINANCE AND FACILITIES NEWS

Canteen

Our Canteen has now installed Eftpos facilities with Pay Wave. This allows for a more efficient food delivery service for all students and staff at Mount Gravatt High. The service has been a great success.

We would love more volunteers for our canteen. If you can assist in any way, on any day please contact our canteen on extension number 225.

Facilities

Our P & C have had yet another success with their application to the Community Benefit Funds Unit. We have been successful in securing over $30,000 toward the installation of industrial fans in our Hall. The installation of the fans took place on 18 - 20 May 2015. The fans have been on our “wish list” for many years, and our wish has come true.

On the 19 May we experienced loss of communication to our telephone system. We consider this to be a critical incident and we immediately put our critical incident plan into place. In such instances we report the fault immediately and have our phone lines diverted to a mobile number so that communication can remain open for emergencies. We also encourage Parents/Caregivers to utilise our email system for non-urgent communication until we can re-establish telephone communication admin@mtgravatshs.eq.edu.au. This email is monitored regularly.

PARKING: Please remember to utilise road rules when parking on our grounds. Please do not park in designated parking spaces and always ensure that safety of our school community. Please utilise the surrounding streets and always ensure you are parking legally.

Cash Payments

By the end of 2015 we would like all payments to Mount Gravatt High School to be either directly deposited into our account or via a credit/debit card payment. In communication with our local branch of CBA they will no longer provide teller service for our daily banking in the near future.

To assist our school, we are asking all Parents/Caregivers to make all payments via the direct deposit or credit/debit card method. We hope you can understand our situation and can endeavour to make your payments non-cash based.

Bank Account Details:

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

Please use the invoice number provided or the student’s surname when depositing into our bank account.

Sam Jeffs
Business Services Manager

AFTER SCHOOL IMMUNISATION CATCH UP CLINICS

Brisbane City Council’s Immunisation team will be conducting after school catch up clinics for students who missed their vaccinations at school this year and 2014. Year 8 and 9 male and female students (HPV, Boostrix and Chicken Pox), Year 10 and 11 male and female students (Boostrix, HPV male students only) are eligible to be caught up through these special clinics.
Please find below our clinics, dates and times:
Carindale Library: Westfield Carindale, 1151 Creek Road, Carindale - 18 June 2015 5-8pm
Indooroopilly Library: Holy Family Church Ward Street Indooroopilly - 25 June 2015 4-6pm
If you do not have a consent form please download a consent form at:
If you are unable to download a consent form they will be at the after hour’s clinic.

P & C NEWS

We apologise for the current delay with the school jackets as there is an issue with the material from the supplier. Please be patient as we are working tirelessly to rectify the problem. The school jumper is available for purchase.

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.

Thank you 
P & C Association