A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Our school is picking up steam in our “good to great” efforts in student performance. Enrolment now focuses upon 2016 with a modest increase in enrolment anticipated of 1170 to 1175 students. This leaves us some room in Years 9 to 11 next year for families seeking to make a change for elder siblings. Third round offers have recently been posted and we expect a Year 8 enrolment of 215 students.

As a State finalist in Education Queensland Showcase Awards for Excellence in State Schools, Deputy Principal Mr Kingston, Head of Junior Secondary Mrs Andrews, Junior Dean Ms Fisher and Teacher Ms McKenzie are working with students on our ‘pitch’ presentation to the judging panel. Parents are also invited to provide a testimonial to give our bid the essence of strong broad support on the theme that “success is in our DNA”. Channel 10 as a sponsor and partner are filming background to our bid on Friday 4 September.

NAPLAN results are now published and our Year 7 and Year 9 students have performed particularly well above nation in all dimensions for Year 7 and above nation in all but 2 dimensions in Year 9. In some dimensions over 40% of students are placed in the top 2 bands and reading and numeracy shine. 99.5% of students in both grades are at or above nation in numeracy.

As stated in newsletters up to and following, we have no need or intention to make these high stakes tests for our students. They are however taken seriously to ensure true indication of the level of mastery of these skills is published to the broader community.

Literacy and numeracy skills are best developed in learning context and our school’s “good to great” aspiration is dependent on quality teaching and not drilling our students to do well in standardised testing. NAPLAN this year showed significant improvement on a history of good performance.

A combination of able students and specific practices to support and extend students resulted in significant rates of gain for individual students and hence collectively excellent results for the school.

Setting the bar high we exceeded school targets in all dimensions except writing but in writing continuing to improve and remaining above nation. Continuing our reading skills across the curriculum and how we might improve writing skills, and covering any gaps in literacy and numeracy for current year 8’s are our current priorities. We are attending to this each and every day through direct and explicit teaching, challenging and extending thinking and simply doing the work*.

School planning for 2016 is underway. Annual Planning Day will take place on the last day of term and parents are welcome to attend. Further information via QSchool App and email will be forwarded. Focus for my Principal report are the achievements and progress of school performance in 2015 and for forums to review and identify new priorities for 2016. Our school strategic and annual plans are also open for comment. All stakeholders across school and broader community are invited to participate.

Junior and senior curriculum is currently under review with some changes to occur in 2016-17. How Junior secondary evolves as students move through years 7 to 9 and senior school offerings to deliver rigour, choice and success continue to be a priority. Issues arising include maintaining close relationships for learning in junior school, pathways and connections between primary to secondary and junior to senior school, the emergence of STEM as a connecting theme across subject areas and subjects, and new possibilities for programs of excellence. Any changes are to be well considered and gradual.

Richard Usher
Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS

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<td>Year 12 QCS Test</td>
<td>Tuesday 1 and Wednesday 2</td>
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<td>Year 12 Block Exams</td>
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<td>ESD Camp</td>
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<td>Edge Music Night</td>
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<td>Final day of term 3</td>
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<td>Public Holiday</td>
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*Great state. Great opportunity.
Tuesday 20 October

At our annual Presentation Night, we recognise the academic achievements of our students. Subject Prize certificates and engraved medallions are awarded to students who gain the highest rating in a subject for their year level, while Honour certificates are presented to:

- Year 11 and 12 students gaining an “A” in a subject
- Year 7 - 10 students gaining at least two “A’s”, one of which must be from a core subject

During this important evening our Principal announces the Senior Dux and Year 10 Dux and our school has the opportunity to showcase its talents and achievements through visual and student displays and short addresses.

Levels of Achievement are assessed as at the end of term 3. Some students are nominated for special awards such as the Sorensen Bursary, Cultural Awards and Team and Community Service Awards.

Owing to increased student numbers and students’ sporting success, this year we are giving the Sports Awards its own event. We are very excited to announce that they will be presented at the inaugural Sports Awards’ Breakfast to be held at the Mt Gravatt Bowls Club on Wednesday 16 September. Further information and invitations will be distributed to award winners next week.

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

Darren Beebe
Deputy Principal

ATTENDANCE

As you know we have been closely monitoring student attendance this year with the school’s goal being 95%. The students started off the year well and we came very close to that target during semester one. This term, however, the senior school attendance rates have dropped with Year 10 sitting at 93.6%, Year 11 on 92.9% and Year 12 on 91.4% as of the end of week 5. These are clearly below the 95% target.

I ask that students make every effort to attend school each day unless they are sincerely ill or need to tend to an urgent family matter. Good attendance is linked to student performance, and therefore it is important that students are at school every day, in classes and learning. Please remember that if your child is away, the school must be informed via phone or note as soon as possible.

SCHOOL-BASED TRAINEESHIPS AND APPRENTICESHIPS

School-based Traineeships and Apprenticeships (SBATs) are really starting to take off at Mt Gravatt High. We currently have close to thirty students completing SBATs across Years 10 to 12 in a variety of industries including carpentry, automotive, business, hospitality, warehousing and hairdressing.

There are often questions that arise about the difference between a traineeship and apprenticeship. A traineeship involves being trained in a vocational area such as office administration, hospitality, fitness and beauty services and usually takes students 18 months to complete. Upon completion students receive a certificate. An apprenticeship, on the other hand, involves being trained in a skilled trade such as electrical, plumbing, automotive, building, and hairdressing, and is a long-term commitment. Students who start a school-based apprenticeship will roll over into a full time apprenticeship upon the completion of school whereby they finish their qualification in their chosen trade.

SBATs are open to any student in Years 10, 11 or 12 and are a great way for students to experience hands-on learning and develop work skills, knowledge and confidence. It truly does give them a competitive edge when applying for full time employment upon leaving school. In order for students to participate in a SBAT they must gain support from the school and their parents, and understand that the work and training involved must impact on their school timetable. This usually means that students work one school day per week and attend school the other four.

Any student who is interested in obtaining a SBAT should see me to register their interest. It is particularly difficult to locate employers in the trade areas to take on a school-based apprentice, however if students know an employer who is willing to take them on, they can simply provide me with a business card and I can arrange for the paperwork to be completed.

ACCELR8 AND GENR8 PROGRAMS

The Department of Education and Training is again offering their AccelR8 and GenR8 programs to current Year 11 students for completion during 2016. The AccelR8 program sees students complete a Certificate II in Automotive Underbody Technology and the GenR8 program a Certificate II in Logistics. These programs are a great opportunity for students to gain an insight into these industries through work placements and a certificate II qualification that is recognised Australia wide. In addition to this, students build good relationships with people in the industry and this can lead to full time apprenticeship offers upon the completion of school.

This year we have had five of our Year 12 boys involved in the AccelR8 program and all of them have found this to be a fantastic opportunity and have really enjoyed the work placements in real mechanic workshops. These courses work similar to that of a traineeship or apprenticeship whereby...
students are either at college or work for one day a week. The difference here is that the work is experience only and there is no pay attached.

You can read more about the programs by clicking on the links below:

If students are interested in either of these courses, they need to see me ASAP to register their interest for the upcoming information evenings where parents and students can attend to learn more.

In conclusion, I would like to ask parents to ensure their senior students are staying on top of their assessment, as we are entering the busy period. Students will have assignments due now and should be studying for their upcoming exams. I would just like to remind you that if students are absent on the day assessment is on, they must present a medical certificate to their teacher the next day they are at school and make arrangements to get the assessment done.

Kellie Anderson
Dean of Students – Senior School

Our school is participating in the Woolworths Earn and Learn promotion. You are able to leave stickers at Mount Gravatt Plaza Woolworths or at the school office. Some great equipment is on offer so please start collecting!

**SENIOR SCHOOLING**

**Year 11 Ylead Program**

Year 11 students will receive a letter to participate in a Leadership Opportunity on Monday 12 October (just prior to leadership camp). This is open to all year 11s, whether they are attending Camp or not. Students will take part in a range of fun activities that will build responsibility and effective teamwork skills. If your child has not brought home a letter feel free to download the letter attached and return the permission form and payment by the due dates.

**Year 10 Leadershift Program**

Payments and permission slips are now due. It is strongly encouraged that students attend. This is a great opportunity for students to learn some leadership skills that will assist them in entering the Senior School.

**Year 12 QCS TEST**

QCS Test days are coming up on the 1 and 2 September. Students who missed the QCS Workshop will have the opportunity for catch up sessions over the next two Wednesdays afternoons. Students have been issued with the stationery lists and will be required to have all the correct equipment for each session of the test.

**Year 12 English Communication Mock Interviews**

A big “thank you” to the employers who helped us with our mock interviews last week. They were impressed with the level of maturity our Year 12 English Communication students and would have been happy to employ them. Thanks go to Ray and Eleanor of Manpower, Jasmine from Busy at Work, Brett from MEGT and Nicole from DETE.

**OP Predictions for Year 11s**

Based on Semester 1 results, Students have been issued with an interim OP prediction. It is given as a guide only and is not a guarantee of any final result. This is to assist students with making informed decisions around their study, goal setting for the remainder of their senior schooling and their career pathway beyond school. If your child requires further information about how they can improve their opportunities or are seeking information about options available, please see the senior schooling team.

Sandra Wilson
HOD Student Development

**DEAN OF STUDENTS – JUNIOR SCHOOL REPORT**

**Year 9 High Resolves**

To *commemorate* something means to remember something and by doing so to honour it.

The Year 9 High Resolves team are getting busy developing and organising their Global Project. As a group they have decided on establishing and building a Commemorative garden for Australian Service men and women, specifically from the Mt Gravatt and district area. Considering it is the Centenary of Gallipoli, this is a fitting project.

Thirty students have been meeting twice a week in preparation for the project. They have been divided into five teams responsible for specific aspects of the project. We have research, media promotions, garden development and fundraiser teams. Our selected garden site is at K Block under a large leopard tree.

If families have any information and photographs which would help the students in their research please email me on hfish2@eq.edu.au. We would love to hear from you.

**Attendance**

Attendance rates for term 3 are listed below. Our Semester 1 results need to be maintained. This needs everyone on board striving for our 95% target rate. At present there needs to be a concerted effort by all students in Junior Secondary in being here every day. *ARE YOU IN THE GREEN ZONE?* is even more important, as we strive to finish of the second part of our year as successfully as the first.
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.

JUNIOR SECONDARY

Good Leaders are the First Followers

Before you can lead, you have to be a good follower; in fact the best leader is the person who has the guts to be the first follower.

Our Year Nine Junior Secondary Leaders are currently involved in a Global Leadership Program conducted by High Resolves. Ms Fisher is working closely with this exciting team (see The Dean’s Report).

Our Year Eight students first need to develop good ‘following’ skills and thus will be participating in a Global Citizenship Program, also conducted by High Resolves, at the end of this term. All students will complete a series of activities designed to motivate them to be active citizens and build their communication skills.

The ‘Following’ Day will be held on Wednesday 16 September. Further information will be sent home closer to the date. We will see who has the guts to be the first followers; and perhaps become the best leaders in the future.

Judy Andrews
HOD Junior Secondary

7Edge Writers’ share their published story books with Mount Gravatt Primary School students

On Thursday 30 July, the 7Edge class visited Mount Gravatt Primary School to share their published picture storybooks. Students had put much effort into their creations so were looking forward to sharing them with Year 2/3 students at the school. The books were the product of a three day writer’s workshop with children’s author Katrina Logan. The workshop included 2 days in and on Moreton Bay, where students were inspired by the stimulating environment of the bay to develop creative ideas for writing. Every student produced a unique book that featured a message related to the environment. 7Edge class thoroughly enjoyed showing the younger students what they had created and the young students of Mount Gravatt Primary School were very entertained.

The books were all so different and original and the students loved hearing the pleasurable opinions of the 2/3’s. 7Edge would like to thank Katrina Logan for her ongoing support towards our writing and we would also like to thank Mount Gravatt Primary School for welcoming us into their classroom to share our books.

Owen and Shakira exploring the environment for inspiration for their stories
Lily writing and conferencing her story with Katrina
Raijieli reading her story to a student
Oskar sharing his book with a student
Anna and Erin
7Edge Students
10 Drama Zen Zen Zo Workshop

Film, Television and New Media Excursion

On Tuesday 11 August, Year 11 Film, Television and New Media students travelled to Movie World on the Gold Coast. The day began with a series of workshops delivered by Movie World staff, who perform as actors, dancers and stunt crew. Students learnt about characterisation, basic make-up and what a typical day in the life of a film performer involves. Once the hard work was done students got to explore the park and enjoy some rides too. The acquired skills will be invaluable in completing both the design and production tasks students are currently working on as part of the Silver Age unit.

Mr Robke
Film, Television & New Media Teacher

Stage Band

On Saturday 25 July, the Mount Gravatt High School Stage Band performed to the hundreds of patrons attending the Mount Gravatt Show. The enthusiastic crowd were treated to the band’s characteristic mix of jazz, blues, R&B, rock and pop tunes. The band started the afternoon performance with a rendition of The Family Guy Theme, from the hit American sitcom of the same name. They then took the express line into jazz town with John Coltrane’s Bluetrane, which preceded an instrumental rendition of the late BB King’s famous single, Stand by Me. A slow cruise down the blues highway of Route 66 soon followed, before the closed their performance with the fast-paced jazz number, Rockin’ Robin. The pieces were peppered with near professional performances from a profusion of players, including soloists Sarah Jeffery, Liam Heseltine and Riley Chesterfield. It was an exciting day for one of Mount Gravatt’s smallest bands, who wait with baited breath for their upcoming performances at Presentation and Performing Arts Nights.

Liam Heseltine
Stage Band Captain

Workshop of Excellence

Our Instrumental Music Teachers nominated a number of students for the 2015 Southside Workshop of Excellence. Five were selected to represent our school at the Workshop of Excellence at Holland Park State High School on August 13 – 14, 2015. The two-day workshop allowed our students to experience intensive development of ensemble performance and technical skills on their instruments.

Proudly representing Mount Gravatt High at this year’s Workshop of Excellence.
L-R: Selena Ferguson, David Ngo, Carmen Lasserre and Rachael Eldridge.
Foreground: Isaac McDougall.

Anthony Pirovich
HOD – Performing Arts

Music Edge Night

The Music Edge students in Years 7 and 8 have been working very hard on their project this term which focuses on working in both small and large ensemble groups towards a common musical goal. As part of the unit students have also been learning a bit more about what is involved in putting on a live show, including elements such as lighting, sound and technical requirements, staging and programming.
Their talents and efforts will be showcased at the end of this term in a Music Edge Night performance being held on Wednesday 16 September, in the school’s studio. Doors will open at 6pm for light refreshments before the concert commences at 6:30pm. The students are very excited and would love your support, so we hope to see you there.

Nicole Robke
Music Edge Teacher

Boys Crew
We are now offering free hip-hop lessons with choreographer - and former Mount Gravatt High School student - Daniel Ualesi. All boys from Years 7 to 12 are welcome to participate each and every week.

WHERE: School Hall
WHEN: Every Thursday, 3-4pm
WEAR: Sports uniform or loose, comfortable clothing

Anthony Pirovich
HOD – Performing Arts

INDUSTRIAL DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Year 11 Construction
This term the Year 11 Construction students have been putting their landscaping skills to good use by refurbishing and reconstructing the picnic tables in and around the school grounds. Students have shown initiative and effective team skills while working on these projects. Their sustainable techniques have allowed for an increase in seating and they have worked tirelessly to ensure that their concreting work meets industry standards.

Year 12 Graphics
Graphic students have embraced the latest technology with their 3D printing. They have designed and manufactured a range of articles to use with electronic devices. Students have produced Android, iPhone and IPod cases and have tested these for their effectiveness and durability. Their projects have taken them through the research phase before designing their concepts using the latest Inventor software.

Year 9 & 10 Graphics
The Year 9s have also embraced the use of 3D printing where they have created a plastic handle which is used as an assembly component in their Production Graphics assignment. In addition, the two year levels of Graphics students are using Laser printers to manufacture cardboard packaging for their Business Graphics assignments.

All these technologies reflect the latest techniques used in Industry.

Jim O'Neill
Acting HOD – Design and Technologies
REMINDER: Please notify our school office of any changes in email or contact details.
Email: admin@mtgravattshs.eq.edu.au or Phone: 3291 5222

JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL EXCURSION

Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary

At the end of last term 16 junior international students and the ISP staff boarded a bus headed for Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary. This was a great opportunity for our students to get up close and personal with a number of native Australian animals including koalas, kangaroos, wallabies, dingoes, crocodiles, emus, cheeky parrots and birds of prey, wombats, echidnas, and Tasmanian devils. Each student posed with an animal of their choosing for the obligatory tourist photo. Most popular was the koala, closely followed by the wedge-tailed eagle. We were impressed by the number of students who overcame their fears and stepped up to cuddle a python!

It was a lovely, relaxed day that involved a number of shows and displays, free time to wander and explore, and a visit to the animal hospital where we watched a vet delicately reconstruct a kookaburra’s damaged wing, feather by feather.

On the return trip, conversation was animated and we hope that the experience is something that our students will remember for years to come.

Tricia Page and Alice Clarke
International Student Program

MATHS TEAM CHALLENGE

The teams gush through the double doors, 85 teams, across the whole competition, to be exact. I am already waiting with my team at our table. I am in Junior Division. I guess the questions are going to be hard. What questions are the Stretton staff members going to give us? I check the clock. It’s 10:29, so I guess my answer will here in just one minute time.

On the 31 July, a group of Mount Gravatt students went to Stretton State College to participate in the Maths Team Challenge. Each team had five members. We first conquered the team challenge, containing only ten questions, but they were harder than they looked. Only one team in the senior division got all ten correct. We were all given 45 minutes to finish the given set of questions.

The next battle started. The relay race. In this challenge, only one pair was allowed to work on one question at a time. The other three members had to work on a mega question. Once the pair has completed their question correctly, another pair was given another question to work on. Once four questions had been completed, we rotated positions. This was tough.

We had a great time and really enjoyed expanding our brains.

The food especially was delicious, the best sausages on bread that we’d ever tasted, and a bowl of Mentos for each team. Team 1 in particular finished off their Mentos in the first 5 minutes (middle photo).

Though it was hard, everyone in every team enjoyed the challenging mathematical thinking and problem solving and tried hard to achieve excellent results. The hall was packed full of eager mathematicians, and was a great experience for all involved.

Congratulations to all teams who worked hard, and particularly the Mount Gravatt Senior Team 2, who came third in the senior division.
Mathematics Team Challenge Senior Team achieve third place

Jennifer Mai
7Edge student and keen mathematician

PHOTOGRAPHY HOBBY GROUP NEWS

Congratulations to all the following photography hobby group students who have been successful in the various competitions that they have entered during the last term.

We also congratulate Sarah Bunny, Georgia Hawkins, Elliott Jones-Perrin and Declan Weir for the Encouragement Awards they received for the annual photography awards competition at the Mount Gravatt Show in July. Congratulations to Elliott Jones-Perrin for the Third Place Award in the Nature Photography category at the Mount Gravatt Show.

Likewise congratulations to Declan Weir for his Science Department photography competition award and to all of our students who are honing their photographic skills through participating in our own hobby group competitions and reviews.

The accompanying photo shows Prashant receiving his award from renowned photographer Steve Parish.

Special congratulations to Prashant Singh who won the Highly Commended Award in the Lord Mayor’s Young Environmental Photographer of the Year Awards Ceremony held in City Hall in July of this year.

Elliot Jones-Perrin’s prize winning entry

Sarah and Georgia’s encouragement award entry

Prashant’s highly commended entry

Richard Michel
Art Department
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

SOCIAL SCIENCES AND BUSINESS

Term 3 is well underway and many students in the department are currently completing assessment. If students have any questions they should access their teachers and take advantage of the drafting and feedback process available to them.

Since the last edition, we have hosted the annual Tree Planting Day. The day was a huge success with students planting over 200 native plants in an attempt to stabilise the embankments between the two school ovals. We were joined by Joe Kelly MP and Councillor Krista Adams who were both very impressed with the commitment and work quietly carried out throughout the school, on an environmental front. They made particular mention of our current major project of developing a pollinator link in the local area. This project has been undertaken with the local community members from Mount Gravatt Environmental Group. We are very proud to announce that this project has been nominated for an award with the Brisbane City Council.

L-R Tao Wu, Mr Joe Kelly MP, Nikki Spathis

Simon Tucker
HOD – Social Sciences and Business

We would like to remind you of our office hours
General Administration Office Hours - 7:30am to 3:30pm
Accounts Office for Parents - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 7:30am to 3:30pm

SAVE TIME BANK ONLINE:
For all you bill payments please deposit to:
Mount Gravatt High School
BSB: 064 118
Account Number: 0009 0265
Reference: Student Name

LOST PROPERTY
The amount of lost property that we have on hand continues to grow and it is overwhelming how many hats, clothing and other items we have mounting up. We are confident parents do not want to continue to pay for the same items over and over again. Please NAME your student’s items. If named, we are able to return the items to students through student notices and emails to parents. If you do receive an email from the school advising of lost property being held, please ask your student to come and collect the item as soon as possible. The school will hold the items for two weeks after the email is sent. If it is still uncollected, the item will be used for general distribution to all students. We do not have the space to keep items indefinitely.

Could YOU host an international student?

L-R Tao Wu, Mr Joe Kelly MP, Nikki Spathis

Simon Tucker
HOD – Social Sciences and Business
Seeking employers for school-based apprentices

GIVING STUDENTS A HEAD-START ON THEIR FUTURE.

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 trades 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. Katie Anderson
SAT Coordinator
Phone: (07) 3651 5232
Email: kanderson@bris.qld.edu.au
Or visit: apprenticeships.qld.gov.au