A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Our Annual Planning Day comes around again on the last Friday of term from 8.30 with a 9.00am start until 12.30pm. This is an opportunity for parents, students and teachers to work together across our school community to get information and to have input into our strategic and operational directions in 2016. Forums in curriculum teaching and learning, resource management and school community provide areas of focus and interest. Morning tea is provided and registrations prior are appreciated for catering and seating. Register by emailing office@mtgravattshs.eq.edu.au or telephone 32915222.

QParents is coming to Mount Gravatt High. In term 4, parent access to our school and importantly your child’s school records, academic history, course information and financial information will be rolled out through a new application. A flyer will go home in the first week of term 4 explaining how QParents goes well beyond the QSchools mobile application that many parents now use to receive real time notifications. Parents who haven’t downloaded the QSchools application to their mobile are encouraged to do so as refinements are also planned. The application can be found in iTunes or Android store.

School Opinion Survey results are just in for our school and we maintain very high rates of satisfaction. Important to note that for all stakeholders with a satisfaction of about 97% to 98% of parents, students and staff - Mount Gravatt High is a place we like being in, it’s safe and where expectations and teacher support for learning is high. Our school would be recommended to others as a good school. Once the “like” schools and state schools data has been released I will be able to better identify priorities for improvement that will make their way into plans and strategies for next year. Thank you to the approximately 140 families who responded, as this is a big enough sample to provide guidance in the next steps in our school improvement and things we keep on doing that result in high yield success.

Senior students are on their run to the finish and the levels of support and encouragement are reaching a peak. Our senior school team has calculated likely outcomes for each student and plans are still being executed to optimise the end result for every year 12 student. I have said before I have no drive alone to have “good data”. We get “good data” by assisting every student get the best outcome for them alone. The “data” is simply a measure of how well we did our job for every young person. Teaching young people is our vocation and is not just a job.

Keeping standards. Never a big issue for us at Mount Gravatt because we have great families and well behaved students. Out rate of suspensions this year would be one of the lowest in the state and many students have been acknowledged for good behaviour and effort as well as a host of school activities. Nonetheless a silly season seems to have occurred - not serious - but needs to be kept in check. Social networking may be with us to stay but so it seems, on occasion, antisocial behaviour, as some individuals don’t understand social graces or that the world is bigger than the need of an individual to vent through the relative anonymity of Facebook or other social network venue. The end result when things go wrong is the playing out in real life of conflicts in or around school when protagonists meet up. Our rule is simple. Safety and respect for all and where any association of antisocial behaviour or where our school community standards are offended there are consequences for all involved.

Parenting is probably the most challenging job on the planet. Parenting Ideas is a publication the school subscribes to as a resource for parents and is made available to parents free of charge. I have found over the years some great articles and advice for parenting and often insights in how to manage and keep our children on track, engaged, respectful and happy are some of these informative and realistic “tips”. None of us has all the answers, not even this publication. But knowledge is power and applying it successfully is an art. Parents are welcome to copy and paste the URL below into your web browser:

Term 4 looks to being a great term and I have reminded student to focus needs to be on the end game.

Richard Usher
Principal
UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<td>ESD Camp</td>
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<td>Wednesday 16 September</td>
<td>Edge Music Night</td>
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<td>Friday 18 September</td>
<td>Final day of term 3</td>
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<td>Monday 5 October</td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
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<td>Tuesday 6 October</td>
<td>School resumes for term 4</td>
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<td>Tuesday 13 - Friday 16 October</td>
<td>Year 11 Camp</td>
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<td>Monday 19 October</td>
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<td>Monday 26 October</td>
<td>Year 12 Geography Excursion</td>
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<td>Tuesday 27 October</td>
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<td>Tuesday 27 October</td>
<td>Year 8 into Year 9 Night</td>
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<td>Wednesday 28 October</td>
<td>Year 12 Biology Excursion</td>
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<td>Thursday 29 October</td>
<td>Dance Performance Night</td>
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PRESENTATION NIGHT

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 and Junior 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.

Information and invitations have already been distributed to award winners.

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

DEAN OF STUDENTS – SENIOR SCHOOL REPORT

What a term we’ve had! Year 12 students have been busy completing major assessment items and sitting the QCS test. Year 11 students received their estimated OP predictions based on semester one results, have been preparing for camp, and have started to consider their 2016 jersey design. Year 10 students have attended their individual SET Plan meetings and selected their subjects for Years 11 and 12.

YEAR 12 FORMAL

The Year 12 Formal is quickly approaching and the students are starting to talk about what they’re wearing, who they’re going with and how they’ll arrive. This year the Formal will be held at The Landing at Dockside at Kangaroo Point on Thursday 19 November. Students will receive a letter explaining more in the last week of this term and invitations will be distributed after the holidays.

YEAR 11 CAMP

The Year 11 camp will take place at Maroon Outdoor Education Centre (MOEC) from Tuesday 13 - Friday 16 October. Those students who have returned their money and forms are now locked in and committed to attending. Whilst on camp students will participate in a variety of activities including hiking, ropes courses, rock climbing, canoeing and camping out. Those students who have elected to be in the advanced groups will be either hiking up Mt Maroon for a day or taking a nice two day hike through Mt Barney National Park. These students will be carrying expedition packs and should be physically fit and have no ankle, knee or back injuries, or any other serious medical issues.

Students should have received an “Essential Clothing and Equipment” packing list with their camp forms at the start of this term and should pack all items on this list. In case lists have been misplaced you can access the document by clicking on the link below:
Please note that students have been asked to leave their mobile phones at home, as there is no signal at the campsite. Students can be contacted on MOEC’s landline (07) 5463 6333 if necessary. If you have any questions about camp please don’t hesitate to contact me.

**YEAR 10 PATHWAYS**

At the Year 10 into 11 Information Evening the three possible senior school pathways were explained by the Guidance Officer. Now that students have had their SET Plan meetings and selected their subjects for 2016, I would like to take this opportunity to discuss some options for those students who have chosen the VET pathway.

VET pathway students are usually interested in attending TAFE or gaining full time employment upon the completion of Year 12. For this reason it is recommended that students start building their work and employability skills as early as possible. This might include:

- Starting a school-based traineeship or apprenticeship (See Miss Anderson)
- Completing a TAFE course (See Mr Wilson)
- Participating courses or programs that are advertised through the year
- Doing work experience when the school offers it
- Obtaining casual employment

These are just a few of the options students can start thinking about before they reach Year 11 and can be very beneficial. For example, the five Year 12 boys who are participating in the AccelR8 Certificate II in Automotive Underbody Technology program this year now have real work experience in the industry. They have made contact with employers who are looking to hire full time apprentices in 2016 and a number of them have confirmed that this is what they would like to do upon graduating. In addition to this, the students will also receive 4 QCE points upon the completion of the course later next term. We also have a number of current Year 12 students who have completed a Certificate III through TAFE or a traineeship and will gain a ranking that could lead to direct university entrance if the students desire to do so.

The message I want to get across to students and their parents is that there are many options available to students these days. Students are welcome to come and have a chat with me about their pathways and parents are welcome to contact me regarding traineeships and apprenticeships. The sooner the better!

*Kellie Anderson*

**Dean of Students – Senior School**

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**SENIOR SCHOOLING**

**Careers News**

To assist students with their Career Pathways a new Careers Hub Newsletter has been designed to inform them of all the opportunities available to them. The Career Hub provides information on school based traineeships and apprenticeship vacancies, University and TAFE school courses, career events and work experience opportunities.

Check out and download the Newsletter and if you would like to receive this directly, simply email Mrs Wilson on swils118@eq.edu.au All students in years 10-12 will receive this newsletter via their MIS webmail each fortnight. Brochures and posters advertising these opportunities are also available next to my office in the Resource Centre.

**TAFE in Schools**

Students in Years 10 or 11 wishing to study at Mt Gravatt or Southbank have a number of course options available to them. A full list is available in the Career Hub Newsletter. For students who are interested, make sure you make an appointment to see Mr Wilson, Guidance Officer as the application process is now open.

**USI**

Students in Years 10, 11 and 12 have all been provided with information for creating their USI numbers. This number is necessary for the school to be able to print any VET Certificates or Statements of Attainment. If your child has not provided the school with this USI – please ensure they do so before the end of term so that there are no delays in issuing certificates.

For the USI website and for more information go to:


**Year 12 Year Level Meeting**

Now that QCS is over for another year, students will be able to participate in a number of talks designed to assist them with the transition beyond high school.

The term 4 program consists of a variety of talks from Universities and private providers, Red Frogs talks regarding Schoolies Week and the RACQ talk on driver safety awareness. The program will be posted on the Learning Place for students to download.

*Sandra Wilson*

**HOD Student Development**

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**DEAN OF STUDENTS – JUNIOR SCHOOL REPORT**

Term 3 is coming to an end but that has not stopped activity within the Junior Secondary School.

**HIGH RESOLVES PROJECT: ‘Many Hands make GREAT work’**

It has been a productive time meeting twice a week organising our project. In the last newsletter I explained that the 30 students were planning a Commemorative or Remembrance Garden in the new K block precinct. The team has been very busy in their subgroups organising their tasks to make our garden a reality in term 4.
School Community Involvement in this project has not just come from the High Resolves students themselves. We are very lucky that the Mount Gravatt High School community are all happy to put their hands up to help and support this worthwhile project. Thank you to everyone who has purchased a guess in the lolly number competition, donated their small change at the canteen or helped in the construction of items we could never have completed ourselves.

The fundraising team have been very active at morning tea and lunch times raising money for their project. Fundraising has been moving along well and we are aiming to raise $150 to put towards the plants for our garden.

A special mention needs to go to Miss Harris’s Year 9 Foundation English class who rose to the challenge and brought in their spare 5, 10 and 20 cent pieces to donate to our Remembrance Garden. They raised $11 in small change and donated it for our plant purchases. It proves that ‘small change can create greater change’. We thank them very much for their wonderful response to our project.

The plaque group has been working with Mrs Rochow from the IDT department in the development and creation of the remembrance plaque which will be placed in the garden. They have already planned designs and have used the IDT Department’s new laser printer to produce plaque examples for critique.

The research team is busy developing a presentation which remembers the personal sacrifice made by so many Australians over the last 100 years during conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

The garden group has made a plan for the types of plants they would like to see in the garden.

At present the garden group are watching with interest the foundation works for the garden being completed by the Year 11 construction class led by Mr Wilson. This group of students have been working in class time to set up the boxing for the concrete that will allow the garden seat to be placed neatly within the garden itself. The garden seat has been built by the construction class this term from recycled wood. The images highlight the workshop skills that have gone into the making of the seat. The concrete slab is being poured by this class and is expected to be completed by the end of term. This class is also building the wooden sculpture which will support the presentation and placement of the plaque within the garden.

We would like to thank the IDT department, Mr Wilson and the construction students for donating their time, skills and materials to this worthwhile project.

The High Resolves Team look forward to term 4 and the completion of the Remembrance Garden. A lot of work has to be done before this is becomes a reality, but the team is up for the challenge.

Helen Fisher
Dean of Students – Junior School

**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.
PERFORMING ARTS

New York Trip

At 4:45am on Saturday 12 September, twenty Mount Gravatt High students met with Mr Pirovich and Ms Sterling at the airport for the trip of a lifetime. In the 10 days that follow, these students will experience all the sights and sounds of the Big Apple. Their itinerary will be jam-packed with Broadway workshops, museum visits, live theatre experiences and much more. We wish this group a safe journey and look forward to seeing their photos and live updates on the school website. Bon Voyage!

All New York-bound students – including Anishka Shenoy - generated funds for the trip through a massive chocolate drive.

Elly Plowman
Year 12 Dance Student

10 Drama – Physical Theatre performances

Year 10 Drama student present their Physical Theatre performance Facing The Hidden.

Anthony Pirovich
HOD – Performing Arts

Elite Dance Team

Throughout 2015, Mount Gravatt High’s Elite Dance Team have been passionately preparing for a range of competitive events. Since the beginning of term 1, this talented group of students have trained four days a week. These rehearsals have included lunch times, after school sessions and even additional training on weekends. After training for hours on end, the team of 22 dancers ventured to four eisteddfods. These eisteddfod events included the Brisbane eisteddfod, Ipswich eisteddfod, Beenleigh eisteddfod and Gold Coast eisteddfod. Support from the teachers, choreographers and peers lead the team to placing an astounding 11 times across the four competitions. Overall the team received two second places, two third places, five fourth places, one fifth place and one sixth place. Each time the team performed a sense of power and unity inspired us. This helped us to win these many awards, even when competing against 27 other teams. Passion, talent and support characterise the Elite Team’s success.

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

SPORT HIGHLIGHTS

The last month has been a very busy time for sport. We saw the end of the Winter Interschool sport season with 4 teams becoming District Champions. Congratulations to the Open Boys Basketball, Year 10 Girls Soccer (Football), Year 9B Girls Netball and Year 7 Boys AFL. Well done students. From here only 2 teams went through to the Metropolitan Finals. Both the Open Boys Basketball and the Year 10 Girls Soccer made it through to the second round to only just miss out on winning their games. Both teams played hard and well. A great result. These teams will be recognised at the Sports Breakfast this week.

The last week has seen some outstanding individual results for our students. The Metropolitan East Athletics Championships were held recently with 12 of our students competing. Congratulations to Jordan Do, Jack Gadsby, Aaron George, Ben Jeffery, Ben Hardman Kate Morris, Zac Munro, Brandon Skinner, Rhianna Southgate, Asima Suliman-Ali, Mayukh Verma
and Marquez Walters for competing at these championships. All students performed exceptionally well. Jack Gadsby, Aaron George, Ben Jeffrey, Ben Hardman, Zac Munro, Mayukh Verma and Marquez Walters qualified for the Metropolitan East Team to compete at the State Athletics Championships at QSAC Stadium in mid-October. Well done boys and best of luck.

Mardi Johnson
Sport Coordinator

INDUSTRIAL DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

As Term 3 draws to close, students of the Industrial Design and Technology department have been working hard to complete their work for assessment.

Year 7 IDT

The year 7 students have almost finished their key ring rack. They have made some amazing designs on Corel Draw. The students work is then engraved by the laser to complete their project.

The accompanying photos show how good their work is.

Year 9 IDT

Students in the year 9 IDT class have begun to operate their mouse trap racers. The cars have been designed and built from scrap material from around the workshop and from home. The cars are powered from a traditional sprung mousetrap. The project helps students appreciate the environmental challenges that we face every day as well as design processes.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JJ8QMiLgFd0

The aim of the activity is to see whose car can travel the longest distance. So far one car reached 15m.

Jim O’Neill
Acting HOD – Design and Technologies

SOCIAL SCIENCES AND BUSINESS

Cool Australia’s EnviroWeek

It is with great pleasure to announce, Mount Gravatt High School as the 2015 recipient for the People’s Choice Award.

>PEOPLE’S CHOICE LEADERBOARD

Support Australian kids doing great work for their school and our environment by casting your vote for your favourite Enviroweek 2015 teams.

To vote, view participant profiles and click ‘VOTE’ when you are inspired by great action for our environment. Every Australian can vote once per team. Voting closes on September 1st. Terms and conditions.
As I mentioned in the last newsletter, the students have been doing some wonderful work with the local environmental group. Much of the time, this work goes without notice, but occasionally hard work is recognised by a wider audience. The Cool Australia Enviroweek Awards provide an opportunity for the general public to applaud the hard work of groups like this. There are a number of categories in which schools can enter. One of these is the People’s Choice Award. This is a national award with over 350 schools and 269,000 students across Australia vying for the coveted title.

I would like to acknowledge the great work Mr Walsh and his ‘eco warriors’ do around the school and community and congratulate them on their achievement award.

Tourism Excursion

Did you know: The top end of the Queen Street Mall was originally the site of the Convict Prisoners’ Barracks in 1829 or Brisbane’s oldest public toilets are situated under Customs House? Well the tourism students know.

Recently two of the Tourism classes visited Brisbane City and Southbank to complete their Tour Guide Assignment. The premise of the assignment is that students plan and conduct a walking tour of Brisbane City. The students researched the history of Brisbane and delivered their new found knowledge in the role of a tour guide.

The students did a wonderful job educating their tour group. It always amazes me how they find the most obscure information.

The University of Queensland Economics Competition

Each year, Economic students participate in the UQ Economics competition as part of their course. This provides students with the opportunity to see how their knowledge and understanding of Micro and Macro Economics, stacks up against the rest of the state.

This year, the students have performed extremely well. They all should be very pleased with their efforts with a number of students achieving Distinctions and High Distinctions. The students will be awarded their certificates on parade in coming weeks.

Queensland Foodbank: The Facts

It has reached the time of year where the Year 11 Economics students study and gain an insight into wealth distribution and inequality. As part of our studies, we are raising tins of food to donate to Food Bank. Food Bank is a non-profit organisation that collects cans of food to donate to charities and community groups to feed those who are less fortunate and unable to provide food for themselves and their families. Last year, Food bank Queensland distributed the equivalent of 15.75 million meals to those in need; accordingly, it is a very important organisation to those who are in need.

We would like to kindly ask for donations to contribute to this cause; anyone wishing to donate can do so by placing the can of food in the trolley in the office. Every single can counts and every single can is greatly appreciated.

Many thanks

Year 11 Economics classes

Donations can be non-perishable or food with a long shelf life. Foods in cans are always a good option. Please help and donate before the end of the term.

The Facts:

- 21,000 - people are currently homeless in Queensland
- 580,825 - Queenslanders live below the poverty line
- 10.9% - of children live in poverty
- 1 in 4 - pensioners live in or close to poverty
- 25% - of households located in disadvantaged areas of Brisbane are food insecure

Simon Tucker
HOD – Social Sciences and Business

School-Based Courses at TAFE and Skillstech

School-based courses for Year 11 & 12 students in 2016 will be running at TAFE Queensland Brisbane and Skillstech. Courses are offered at TAFE campuses for one day per week over 1-2 years, to achieve a Certificate qualification. They can be a strong pathway into skilled work, or used as an alternative pathway to study at university. Course guides are now available online or from the Guidance Officer and applications are now open. To apply, or to discuss how these courses might complement a student’s senior schooling, please make an appointment with the Guidance Officer.

Yr12 University Applications & Scholarships

QTAC applications are now open and the Guidance Officer is meeting individually with each Year 12 student to discuss career pathways and applications for tertiary study. Students are welcome to return before school and during lunch breaks if they have further questions. Students lodging a QTAC application will leave their Guidance appointment with their preferences and an instruction sheet for the online application.

Following the application process, students should start exploring the scholarship opportunities available to them. Financial support is available at three levels:

- Department Human Services (formerly Centrelink): Austudy, Abstudy and other allowances, such as the Student Start-Up Scholarship, are managed through this Department. For more information, visit:
  - http://www.humanservices.gov.au

GUIDANCE OFFICER
Universities: Each university has a range of scholarships for academic excellence and financial equity. It is important to note that the "equity"-type scholarships are not only for students from low socio-economic backgrounds or who receive government payments. Equity scholarships are intended to support students in their studies and reduce the imperative for them to work while they study. Universities are keen to encourage students to focus on study, without the distraction of long hours of work. Each year, many equity scholarships go unclaimed – you are encouraged to apply.

For a summary of the scholarships available at each university, visit: http://studyassist.gov.au/sites/StudyAssist/ScholarshipsAndAwards or the university websites.

Faculties/schools: As well as university-level scholarships, many faculties within universities offer scholarships to encourage students to take up studies in their area (e.g., Science, Engineering, Business). Once you have checked the university scholarships page, you should investigate what is offered on the faculty websites.

Additionally, many scholarships are offered by private companies, organisations, and funds. A good summary of these can be found on the MyFuture website: http://www.myfuture.edu.au/assist-your-child/help-your-child-with-courses-and-training/awards-scholarships-fees-assistance-and-youth-allowances

Any queries regarding the QTAC process and university entry should be directed to Mr Wilson.

**Griffith University Engineering Pathways**

For Year 12 students wanting to pursue a career in engineering, but lacking the prerequisites or grades to qualify, Griffith University offer pathways into a range of engineering careers through the Aptitude for Engineering Assessment (AEA) exam. For more information, visit:


Griffith will also run a ‘Girls' Day’ on Monday 19 October, where girls in years 10–12 can get a taste for life as an engineer. More information is available at:


**QUT Scholarships**

The Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship program is QUT's premier scholarship offering for high-achieving students, including academic, sporting and creative industries scholarships. Applications are online and close on Friday 20 November 2015. See https://www.qut.edu.au/study/undergraduate-study/undergraduate-scholarships for more information.

Daniel Wilson
Guidance Officer
Account office hours for parents are between 7.30am – 3.00pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. The accounts office is NOT open on Thursday.

Sam Jeffs
Business Services Manager

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 you 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.

P&C NEWS

Canteen

The Canteen has a new pie oven allowing the students to access pies easily from the queue which is proving very popular – as is the coffee machine! Staff and senior students enjoy the various types of coffee, and the junior students have been enjoying hot chocolate over the winter months. Hot food is now available at second break as well, and by pre-ordering their meals the students can make sure they always get their choice. The new dishwasher machine is a welcome addition for the wonderful staff and volunteers – if anyone can spare some time to help in the canteen this would be very much appreciated as we are short of volunteers at the moment. Please leave a message for the convenor, Christine, at reception and she will contact you as soon as she can. It’s a great way of finding out more about the school, as well as being very social!

Uniform Shop

The uniform shop has been very busy over the past 6 months with the increased student enrolment numbers. Thanks to Gayle for all her hard work. We are now keeping additional stock on hand, so hopefully the days of waiting for orders are reduced. However, we do sometimes run into problems with suppliers that are beyond our control. The new supplies of shorts are due to arrive soon so apologies if you have been waiting for those.

General News

The P&C at their recent meeting wanted to thank the staff for all the hours they give up at weekends and evenings for various sporting and cultural events – a special mention was made of Mr Toomey and his fellow staff members who took part in the recent Kokoda challenge (giving up many hours for training) as well as the more recent Robotics day at the University of Queensland. Feel free to come along to our monthly meeting if you’d like to participate (third Wednesday of the month at 7 pm in the Admin block) or email any ideas and feedback to PandC@mtgravattshs.eq.edu.au