A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

26 October 2015

Acknowledgement and celebration of effort and achievements are great motivators when timely delivered and sincere. Last term, at the conclusion of the interschool sports competitions we held the Inaugural Sport Award’s Breakfast to celebrate the students sporting successes which have been outstanding. The Mount Gravatt Bowls Club was filled to capacity and the menu was pleasing to all.

Our annual Awards Evening was held on Tuesday 19 October in our hall celebrating high student achievement in academic, arts and community. It was a great night, very well attended by parents and local and state representatives.

See inside for gallery photographs from both celebrations.

At Mount Gravatt High we look to the potential and encourage students to set and work towards personal goals. Our school consistently looks for and seeks to “catch our students being good”; providing tangible recognition for effort and achievement. Last year we adopted the positive postcard scheme that has continued in 2015 just to let parents/carers know how their child is doing at school.

We all like receiving praise. Giving and receiving praise is always a great motivator and a recurring theme in any sound teaching repertoire. It’s an essential ingredient in creating and maintaining a positive culture. I can’t imagine being in any place where people were embarrassed or dismissive of the giving and receiving of praise. The best praise that any teacher can give is to make the connection between the achievement and the value that achievement demonstrates at a personal level; what was learned and what new challenges are planned as a result. A recurring theme in our school is to reflect and develop teaching repertoires of practice in how we give feedback and of course, timely acknowledgement and celebrating success is the most powerful. Potential is accelerated.

Enrolment for 2016 is still underway with numbers firming for next year. As our school grows our Enrolment Management Plan continues to guide new enrolments. We still have some places across all year levels for next year. Parents of students in Years 7 to 11 who are exiting their child to another school or learning option in 2016, need to please advise us. I urge parents contemplating a move for 2016 to contact our Guidance Officer to ensure that any appropriate transition is not only viable, but ensures learning, training or employment is smoothly achieved.

Scholarships and bursaries are being offered for the first time in 2016 to recognise high performing students and assist parents in the costs of schooling. Our school will offer scholarships in 2016 to cover resource fees and laptop hire. I anticipate this initiative will be available to support students across the 4 pillars of learning in our school. More information is on our website. Guidelines for application and application forms will be published in early November, on our website and notice via our QSchools App. I anticipate announcing scholarship recipients in later November. Our P&C is considering the offering of bursaries with details to be confirmed and announced once determined. Bursary applications will be sought in the new year.

School Uniform enhancements for 2016 have been endorsed by P and C. A school dress hat has been adopted to extend our ‘sun safe’ policy. The new hat complements the dress uniform more so than the ‘bucket’ style or cap for sports or play wear and is relatively inexpensive compared to other formal styles. Our girls school hat remains an option where the new style is ‘unisex’. The school blazer is being promoted for senior school, years 10 to 12, and at a price comparable to our winter wear options and provides students with a wearable ‘canvas’ for their school achievements. The rationale for these enhancements is outlined here and questions of cost and phasing in period are also explained. I believe these enhancements are sensible, cost effective, provides distinct identities for junior and senior students and consistent with our school’s growing standing and reputation in the broader community.

Maximising attendance is a recurring theme this year and as more than 65% of students are keen and committed and achieving greater than 95% attendance – well above state and ‘like schools’ average. These students will continue to receive acknowledgement for their commitment. But we have work to do. Any support we can lend to individual issues around student attendance are always dealt with sensitively with best outcomes for students as our goal. Mount Gravatt High has such potential that there is no school ‘like’ Mount Gravatt High. We have the potential to be out there on our own. We are currently investigating the use of technology to engage students with face to face learning where physically unable to attend school for periods of time. I will keep parents posted about innovations we can create and adopt to maximise learning.
QParents is almost ready to be launched. This is a powerful web based access portal to your child’s OneSchool records and allows parents to check curriculum programs, timetables, pay bills, track behaviour and change and update personal details. This application is aimed at further improving streamlining our client service and connection with you. An information flyer link can be found below.

Richard Usher
Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Monday 26 October**  
  Year 12 Geography Excursion
- **Tuesday 27 October**  
  Year 7 into Year 8 Night
- **Tuesday 27 October**  
  Year 8 into Year 9 Night
- **Wednesday 28 October**  
  Year 12 Biology Excursion
- **Thursday 29 October**  
  Dance Performance Night
- **Friday 30 October**  
  Music Performance Night
- **Friday 06 November**  
  Film, Television and New Media Night
- **Wednesday 11 – Monday 16 November**  
  Year 12 Block Exams
- **Tuesday 17 November**  
  International Graduation
- **Wednesday 18 – Tuesday 24 November**  
  Year 11 Block Exams
- **Wednesday 18 November**  
  P & C Meeting
- **Thursday 19 November**  
  Year 12 Graduation and Formal
- **Friday 20 November**  
  Final day for Year 12
- **Friday 27 November**  
  Final day for Year 10 and 11
- **Monday 7 December**  
  Year 7 and Year 8 White Water World excursion
- **Tuesday 8 December**  
  Year 9 Wet n Wild excursion
- **Friday 11 December**  
  Final day for Year 7, 8 and 9

ACADEMIC AND SPORTS WINNERS

Congratulations to all our award winners for 2015!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Essential Studies Department Award</th>
<th>JAMES DEEGAN</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Dimitri and Ros Korkatzis Memorial Award</td>
<td>AYESHA FEARN</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Student of the Year Award</td>
<td>RACHEL LIANG</td>
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Term four already! This year has flown and this term will be no exception with Year 11’s attending camp and applying for 2016 leadership positions, and the Year 12’s attending graduation and formal, and finishing up.

YEAR 11 CAMP

125 Year 11 students have just returned from the annual Mount Gravatt High School Leadership Camp held at Maroon Outdoor Education Centre. Although the days were quite hot, the afternoons a bit rainy, and the nights cool, our students didn’t allow the weather to deter them from participating in all of the activities on offer. These included; rock climbing, canoeing, camping, hiking, high ropes, the leap of faith, and numerous other team activities.

This camp runs every year to allow the Year 11’s to further develop their teamwork skills, show off their leadership qualities, and also to step out of their comfort zones through participating in new experiences. This year was no exception. On the last day of camp students were heard talking about how much they had learnt about themselves and others. They said they had made new friends and had a better understanding of individuals from within their team. I would call this a successful camp!

The Year 11 camp would not take place if not for those teachers who give up their time to attend. I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Mr Drew, Mrs Fletcher, Mr Smith, Mr Toomey, Mrs Wilson and Mr Zemljic for all of their hard work and support throughout the duration of the camp.

YEAR 12

The Year 12 students are now on the home stretch with only four weeks remaining until they graduate. That time will go so fast, so I would like to send out a few tips/reminders to the Year 12’s and their parents:

- Formal invitations have now been issued to those students who have met the requirements. If you have not yet received your invitation you need to see Mr Beebe to identify what you need to do in order to make it onto the invite list. Please note that students are only able to make their payment of $115.00 after they have received their invite. Payment is due by 30 October to the school office and no late payments will be accepted.
- Students who plan on gaining employment in 2016, whether it be an apprenticeship, full time work, or casual work, should have started looking by now. Students need to be reaching out to all of their contacts, updating their resumes, registering with employment agencies, and actively looking for work. Getting a job is not necessarily about what you know, but WHO you know! Students should be asking family members and friends if they know somebody who knows somebody that might have work for them and chase up any leads.
- Performance still matters! All Year 12 students should be continuing to do their best in all of their subjects and continue to conduct themselves appropriately. Now is not the time to “drop the ball”.

Kellie Anderson
Dean of Students – Senior School

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

SENIOR SCHOOLING

Year 10 Leadership and Year 11 Ylead Programs

Students have now taken part in a range of activities that have helped build their Leadership Capacity. Just some of the activities can be seen in the pictures taken from each day. Students worked to acquire the power of common vision, worked on their creativity and innovation and had a lot of fun in the process. Students who become our Senior Leaders for 2016 will also take part in similar events so they can learn how to “Maximise their Badge”.

Senior Dux | TOR DEMMERS
Junior Sportsman of the Year | JACK GADSBY
Junior Sportswoman of the Year | GEORGIA PEISKER
Senior Sportsman of the Year | ZAC MUNRO
Senior Sportswoman of the Year | ARIEL JONAS
Platinum Award – Australian Representative Squash | SOLAYMAN NOWROZI
Year 12 Year Level Meetings for Term 4

Students have already had talks from UQ and Manpower employment regarding their study options for next year. Last week saw the group Red Frogs talk to students about Schoolies Week. The whole program is now available from the Learning Place.

Career Hub and Apprenticeship Interviews

Following on from the job vacancies advertised in the Career Hub, a number of students were interviewed for apprenticeships for next year. Good luck to those students and we hope you are successful in your pursuits. Any student still interested in having an interview with outside employment groups that can arrange job interviews for full time and part time apprenticeships and traineeships – or who wish to arrange work experience can contact Mrs Wilson to arrange a time that suits you. To check out the latest job vacancies and Career Events make sure you download and read the latest Career Hub.

First Aid Course

Students in year 11 and 12 have the opportunity to undertake a First Aid Course for only $70. This course also provides successful students with 2 QCE credits. If your child is interested in undertaking First Aid, please contact Mrs Sandra Wilson at swils118@eq.edu.au.

Sandra Wilson
HOD Student Development

DEAN OF STUDENTS – JUNIOR SCHOOL REPORT

Junior Leadership Applications

The process of Junior Leadership positions for 2016 is underway. Last week on the Year 8 Parade, Mrs Andrews and I spoke to the students about the responsibilities and qualities of being a strong leader in the Junior Secondary School. Applications forms were made available to all Year 8 Students.

Nominations forms must be handed in to the front office by 3:00 pm Friday, October 30. Each application must be supported and seconded by a Teacher.

The 2015 Junior Leaders have been a wonderful role model for the applicants for Junior Leadership in roles in 2016. These junior leadership positions require commitment, participation and representation in whole school functions, events and ceremonies.

High Resolves

Our meetings continue to be productive and well attended, as we start to get into the practical side of our Remembrance Garden. Our group has made contact with the Mount Gravatt-Holland Park RSL Sub Branch. The President, Mr Alan Hellier and Secretary, Mrs Sonja Hellier, have provided us with historical details, facts and individual soldier details for the Holland Park-Mount Gravatt area.

We look forward to Mr and Mrs Hellier attending our High Resolves meeting in late October.

Our Garden committee is ready to plant out the garden and a working bee has been organised for 3pm Wednesday 28 October.

Attendance

Celebratory personalised postcards were sent to every student in the Junior Secondary school who achieved a 100% attendance in Term 3. 86 students achieved a perfect attendance record. Congratulations to those students. That is a great effort.

Attendance rates up to and including Term 3

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8</th>
<th>Year 9</th>
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<td></td>
<td>95.1 %</td>
<td>93.8%</td>
<td>93.8%</td>
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I look forward to Term 4 being a consolidation in attendance over the 2015 school year. As a Junior Secondary Department, it is only advantageous that we strive to achieve our 95% target. Great things can be achieved when we are here and actively involved in our school community.

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 at the office 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 REPORT

Year 8 High Resolves – Global Citizenship

“Great leaders don’t set out to be a leader… they set out to make a difference. It’s never about the role – it’s always about the goal.” (Twain, 2007)

During the last week of Term 3 all Year 8 students participated in the High Resolves Program, focusing on being respectable citizens, not just in our school, but in our community.

“Our World, Our choice” was our motto of the day and we were asked what this meant to us. I started thinking, Just what does this mean to me? It has a deeper meaning than just “Our World, Our choice”; it means we have a choice to either keep repeating history and making more mistakes or making a diverse culture where we respect others and treat people equally regardless of their gender, skin colour, race or family heritage. We participated in various activities which tested our knowledge, strength and ability to work together in teams. The highlight of the day was the “Hacker” game, where we were all students at Greenbank High. Everyone’s social media accounts had been hacked! Our job was to figure out who the hacker was before the end of the day at Greenbank High. We used our detective skills to find clues as to who the hacker was. At the end of the Greenbank High school day we successfully found one of the three hackers.

During this activity we learnt about stereotypes and how we need to get to know a person before we judge them. Based on evidence we gave to the police, members of five clubs at Greenbank were expelled and we only caught one hacker; which was unfortunately me! More importantly we discussed how, if we didn’t just apply stereotypical assumptions to the groups, we could have caught the hackers.

“The program looked at current issues amongst adolescent students and the wider society and used discussion and group activities to alter student attitudes towards these. This was a powerful experience for not only MTGSHS students to be a part of but also for the staff who attended.” (Ms McConnell, Teacher)

It was a day to remember and many lessons were learnt by all. This day enlightened my understanding of what it takes to be a leader. Many students stated they are keen to participate in High Resolves in Year 9 as the lessons learnt were valuable and can be applied to life continuously. It was a perfect platform for nominations for Junior Secondary Leadership positions in Year 9.

Gabrielle Crotty
Year 8 Student

Junior Secondary Leadership Positions

Nominations opened this week for 2016 Junior Secondary Leaders. As Gabby highlighted in her article, many students’ participation in the Global Citizenship Day allowed them to reflect on their potential to be leaders. Nomination Forms were offered to all Year 8 students at their assembly on Wednesday 14 October. Nominations close on 30 October.

Guidance Officer

We have recently secured the services of a Guidance Officer who will work part time with Junior Secondary students. Many of you will know Ms Penny Budge as an experienced Maths and Science teacher, as well as a Learning Support Teacher in Junior Secondary. We welcome Penny into this newly created role.

Judy Andrews
Head of Department - Junior Secondary

PERFORMING ARTS

Year 7 and 8 Music Edge Night

On the last Wednesday evening of Term 3, the Year 7 and 8 Music Edge classes unleashed their performing talent in our very own professional Performing Studio. An audience of friends and family had the privilege of being entertained through a vast selection of repertoire ranging from Bach’s ‘Jesu, Joy, of Man’s Desiring’ through to Lanterns by Birds of Tokyo. Aside from the occasional family concert at home, for many of the students this was their first time performing in front of a real live audience on stage. Everyone stepped up to the challenge and should be proud of the time and effort they put in to produce such an enjoyable evening. On behalf of the Performing Arts Department, thank you to all the parents and staff who helped make the Year 7 & 8 Music Edge Evening a success.

Timothy Morgan
Music Edge Teacher

New York

New York, or the City that Never Sleeps, is a dream destination for countless people around the world. Luckily for twenty of Mount Gravatt High’s performing arts students, this dream became an amazing experience at the start of September. After a long period of planning and organizing, on the 12th of September the group finally departed Brisbane for a ridiculously long flight across the Pacific, spanning 15,500km – though the magnificence we experienced was worth it a hundred times over.

A summary of our time in New York City is hard to keep concise, when a whole novel could be written about the details of our trip. We participated in a number of activities: workshops,
seeing the sights, experiencing the multitude of cultures embodied by New York, going to Broadway shows, to name only a few. In total the group did five workshops, focusing on acting, Broadway dance and singing, Hip Hop and contemporary dance. We learned that: simplicity and taking your time is the key to captivating acting; Broadway performance is as much about your facial expressions as it is your movement and that dance is as much a spiritual process as it is physical.

We visited all the must-see tourist destinations – the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, American Museum of Natural History, Times Square, the Rockefeller Centre, Wall Street, 9/11 Memorial Gardens at the World Trade Centre, the High Line, Museum of Modern Art, Apollo Theatre, Central Park, Alvin Ailey Studio, Tenement Museum, Katz’s Delicatessen, Grand Central Terminal, Bryant Park and, of course, the Empire State building.

Furthermore, we saw a total of four performances: the Broadway shows Matilda and Kinky Boots, as well as Blue Man Group and Amateur Night at the Apollo. What was exceedingly memorable about New York though, was that every corner and every street had some kind of history or importance – one randomly stumbled across famous buildings or sights; or in our case, a camera crew filming scenes for NCIS!

Our hotel, the quaint little Comfort Inn Chelsea, was situated in the heart of – you guessed it – Chelsea, in Manhattan. It’s a street away from the famous Flat Iron building, the charming Madison Square Park (filled to the brim with squirrels) and a strip of delightful markets. Nonetheless, throughout our travels we visited many other parts of Manhattan such as Harlem, Soho, Greenwich Village and everything in between, as well as wandering around the photogenic Brooklyn. The culture of the city itself was a force to be reckoned with: tipping, taxes, accents, subway trips and endless free refills made anyone feel like an American pretty quickly. As a group we experienced the wonderful and the wacky: a waiter at Mama Sbarro’s had never heard of Australia; cars were relentlessly beeping at each other; all taxi drivers might actually be insane and if you went to the right place, waiters burst into song. As individuals we experienced an unforgettable two weeks and made some lovely new friendships. Visiting New York City was like jumping into a thousand movies at once, and though it was flawed in some ways, our trip has been truly and splendidly unforgettable.

Ruby Ingra
Year 12 Student

9 Media

Last term Year 9 Media classes had the privilege to participate in an interactive workshop with an expert in the field, Elliott Deem. Elliott studies film at tertiary level and works at Briz31, a community television broadcaster. This comprehensive workshop enabled students to explore and learn about the Premiere Pro program and how to successfully edit footage to complete their assessment. With movie trailers due for submission shortly the students have had time to experiment with genre and successfully edit a new movie trailer with outstanding and sometimes humorous outcomes.

This term there is much script writing to complete before students get behind the camera to create a montage. We are looking forward to working with our creative students.

Sarah Mijatovic and Juliet Sterling
Year 9 Media Teachers

Anthony Pirovich
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

GUIDANCE OFFICER

Year 12 QTAC Applications

Following the Year 12 interviews last term, 122 students have now completed their QTAC applications for tertiary entry next year. The Guidance Officer will continue to monitor these, particularly to follow up with students who may not have sufficient backup options to be sure of receiving an offer. Students are able to make changes to their preferences throughout term 4, but are strongly advised to leave backup/“safety net” courses in place. If in doubt, contact the Guidance Officer prior to making a change.

Students should now be checking to make sure that any outstanding documentation related to their application is completed, including for EAS (special provisions). Now is also the time to be investigating and applying for scholarships.

Additional Entry Requirements

| Griffith University | www.griffith.edu.au/admissions/entry-requirements |
Students who have not yet applied through QTAC – there is still time, albeit with the payment of a late fee.

**School-Based Courses at TAFE and Skillstech**

Applications are still open for school-based courses at TAFE Queensland Brisbane and Skillstech. To apply, or to discuss how these courses might complement a student’s senior schooling, please make an appointment with the Guidance Officer.

_Daniel Wilson_

_Guidance Officer_

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### Scholarships Information

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<td>Griffith University</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queensland University of Technology</td>
<td><a href="http://www.scholarships.qut.edu.au">www.scholarships.qut.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The University of Queensland</td>
<td><a href="http://www.uq.edu.au/study/scholarships">www.uq.edu.au/study/scholarships</a></td>
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**2016 STUDENT RESOURCE SCHEME AND LAPTOP PROGRAM**


Mount Gravatt High School has commenced preparations for Student Resource Scheme (SRS) and Laptop Program in 2016. Shortly we will be generating invoices for your child to enable you to pre-pay your Laptop Program fees. The cost of the Laptop Program in 2016 is $250.

We are offering families the opportunity to pay for their children’s Laptop Program fees so they can be issued with their devices as soon as the school year starts in 2016. A separate invoice to the value of $260 will be generated for SRS, which we would like to stress is **NOT** required to be paid until 2016.

We can also offer families’ payment plans via Centrepay, BPoint or by direct arrangement with the school to ease the financial strain on household budgets. Please don’t hesitate to contact our accounts office for further information about these options.

Account office hours for parents are between 7.30am – 3.00pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. The accounts office is **NOT** open on Thursdays.

**Internet Payment via BPoint Web Link**

- Enter the CRN provided on the school invoice
- Enter the Invoice Number
- Enter the Student Name
- Enter amount and select Visa or Master Card
- You will receive a BPOINT transaction confirmation for your records.

_Sam Jeffs_

_Business Services Manager_

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### 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.
The P and C would like to thank the teachers, students and office staff for all their hard work at Presentation Night, which was a wonderful showcase for the school.

We would like to wish the year 12 Students, all the best for their futures.

Canteen
Friday October 30 is Halloween Day and spooky things will be sold at the canteen.

Thank you to the school community for supporting the Canteen and Uniform Shop. To the Year 12s we wish you all the best for your future and thank you for your help in the canteen.

Uniform Shop
Please take the time to look at the Book Lists forms.

Thank you to all the year 7 parents for taking the time to come in and try on the uniforms for 2016.

Meetings
Our last meeting for the 2015 year will be held on Wednesday 18 November, 7pm at the Mount Gravatt Hotel. Please RSVP by email to: PandC@mtgravattshs.eq.edu.au

On behalf of the P and C Executive, Thank you to all the parents for their support during 2015. We wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and all the best for the coming year.

Could YOU host an international student?

An allowance for hosting a student is provided if you are able to offer:

- A separate bedroom with a bed and a desk
- Three meals a day plus morning and afternoon tea
- Internal access to meet study requirements
- A friendly, supportive environment
- English is the primary language spoken at home

Involved in the Mt Gravatt International Student Homestay Program can offer a range of benefits to your family including:

- Learning about another culture’s customs and traditions
- Encouraging your family to do things together
- Helping your children to learn and grow
- Broadening your child’s global perspective
- Developing lasting friendships with the student and their overseas family
- Providing your children a unique advantage and experience to refer to in applications for employment, college and universities

For more information please contact:
Alice Clark
International Homestay Coordinator
Phone: 07-3895 9229
Email: aclark@tj2shs.eq.edu.au

Tathe Pagli
International Student Coordinator
Phone: 07-3895 9229
Email: tathepagli@tj2shs.eq.edu.au

Credit No. 096684