7 December 2015

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Successful, safe and happy are three words that ring true at Mount Gravatt High School and I wish all families the salutation to the upcoming festive season and summer holidays. We have had a ‘cracker of a year’ with Mount Gravatt High School ‘moving up’ a further notch in excellence recognised in many ways. Student outcomes continue to ‘head north’ and our “Headline Indicators” of school performance is exceptional confirming we are one of those “great schools down the road”.

Most recently, our school was ‘re-banded’ from a Band 10 to a Band 11 school and is ‘on par’ in our standing and status now as a large school. Reaching this point was an ambition and undertaking I gave upon my appointment as Principal in mid-2014; raising the profile of the quality of our school and sharpening our school performance measured by outcomes for students. The fact our school has doubled in enrolment since 2006 is a credit to long serving staff and previous leadership teams who tirelessly worked for quality and community that reversed a trend and sustained and grew the school over the last decade. School leadership and continuity remains unchanged and if not 2016 but in 2017 we should surpass the 1200 enrolment mark where further teaching staff are allocated. Parents can be assured that our Enrolment Management Plan will ensure enrolment will not exceed our capacity.

The pictorial of the life of our school each year is no better chronicled that in our annual year book and magazine. For a number of years Mr Michel has invested much time and an eagle eye on the content and quality of our annual school magazine while teacher-aide Mrs Ivett has expertly collated and composited. It is a big task and the end product is exceptional. I thank Mr Michel and Mrs Ivett for ‘above and beyond’ and hope that you enjoy our school magazine for 2015.

Uniform updates for 2016 including dress uniform hats for Year 7 and a blazer option for seniors are on hold. Due to fabric supply chain issues hats cannot be supplied on time. We weren’t prepared to go ahead with an alternative and change again once the supply problem was resolved, potentially exposing parents to further cost and too a mismatch in uniform. A date to be endorsed by the P&C to adopt the compulsory hat will be communicated with plenty of lead time for parents. Further work needs to be done as the changing nature of senior secondary school identity is better communicated and understood to warrant the introduction of blazers. Clothes might not “maketh the man” however status achieved is well worth recognition.

Dress standards as well as dress code are complementing principles of being a uniform school. I believe parents who seek enrolment at Mount Gravatt High School believe in, and want their child to be well presented and to respect our high standards. I cannot overstate the impact such a uniform statement makes for high morale, a level playing field for all, and pride and belonging. Our student’s successes rightfully take their place amongst the best. Generally our students present well and compliance to dress code is expected and monitored. Our uniform policy for 2016 will have greater clarity around standard which refers to presentation in uniform and a pride in personal appearance. With so much happening and opportunities to be out in the community to represent the school across the 4 pillars of learning, it’s time for a ‘polish’. Our school uniform in both dress code and standard reflect more than an image. Dress standards also apply to staff to meet professional minima.

Technology – Laptop upgrades are planned for early term 1. As we may have encountered with home computers, the more programs, applications and files we add can slow down responsiveness and productivity when multi-tasking. To ensure student productivity isn’t frustrated by slowing or breakdown of student devices we plan to do the following upgrades on the acer 1830t laptops portion of the student fleet. A simple check of your child’s laptop make and model will identify if the device is required for the upgrade in the New Year. The upgrades include:

- Upgrade the hard disk drives to faster, more reliable and battery friendly SSD drives
- Increasing the memory from 4G to 8G

Parents will welcome the flow-on effect resulting from installing more robust solid state drives which may lower the reduction in accidental damage. Insurance excesses for these devices that were up to $150 will be reduced to a flat $50.

Great state. Great opportunity.
The Advancing Education initiative of State government is already well underway at Mount Gravatt High. Coding is the new language of the future with the obvious application to Robotics applications. Recently State member Joe Kelly visited Mount Gravatt High School to see the work of our Robotics Club students.

Joe Kelly was so impressed with his visit that he made mention of it in Parliament.


Search page: 2687-8 Greenslopes Electorate, Education at p.2688

Parking regulations are to be enforced by Brisbane City Council officers in Term 1 2016. Local resident complaints have resulted in this anticipated response from Council. Parents dropping off students at school next year in Bentham and Loreburn Streets need to be aware that fines may apply if parking across driveways, too close to corners or in no standing zones. See the fact sheet at:


No parking or entering school grounds. A safety issue only and no intent to cause inconvenience, parents should also note that driving into our grounds – with narrow access and only enough room for staff, is prohibited. Parents should also be aware, that unless a student has temporary or permanent disability, are the ONLY exceptions.

Mrs Campbell returns in 2016 as Deputy Principal after 3 terms of maternity leave supported 1 day per week by Mrs McCarthy. Teaching and learning professional practice and aligning student wellbeing to learning is the core portfolio for this formidable team in 2016.

Richard Usher
Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 7 December</td>
<td>Year 7 and Year 8 White Water World excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 8 December</td>
<td>Year 9 Wet n Wild excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9 December</td>
<td>Junior Secondary Celebration Assembly</td>
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SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES 2016

I am pleased to announce the inaugural scholarship awardees for 2016. Scholarships were awarded to applicants on merit alone without allocation of a number of scholarships to each year level. Please to see is that all year levels in 2016, from Year 7 to Year 12, are represented. As there are a limited number of scholarships expected to be offered each year they are necessarily competitive. Scholarships are for one year and awardees need to maintain high standards. Without exception all students have based their applications on very strong academic performance. With 4 pillars to learning at Mount Gravatt I would encourage students with strong sporting, arts or community commitment credentials to apply next year to “round out” the scholarships awarded to reflect all areas of excellence in our school. I congratulate the awardees.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vivian Bogomiakoff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethan Morrison</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kyara Jessop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gemma Dixon</td>
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<td>Ella Hackshall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sophie Milner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Selena Ferguson</td>
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<td>Shakira Martins</td>
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<td>Trinity Wong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jade Lawrence</td>
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<td>Taylah Birleson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leesha Thoong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quanrong (Wilson) Yu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alexander Curtis</td>
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<td>Georgia Hawkins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anna Hawkins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Casey Gilbert</td>
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<td>Morgan Gilbert</td>
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Parents should note that our P&C also re-invests in our students and in 2016 P&C Bursaries will be available to applicants. I refer to previous newsletters and our website for
information and communications from our P&C very early in 2016.

Richard Usher
Principal

QPARENTS

QPARENTS is here

Our school now has QParents. Parents should have received an invitation email or letter by now and it’s great to see that so many parents have registered already.

If you have not received an invitation, please complete are return the below form.

Over time, QParents will become an integral part of how we communicate with parents. Get on board now to enjoy the ease and convenience that QParents offers.

IMPORTANT NOTICE – SEMESTER 2 REPORTS

As SEMESTER 2 REPORTS are being emailed, it is imperative that the school has your correct email address. If your email address has changed, please notify our office as soon as possible.

As a number of service providers saw the report card mailed out as spam, the email with the report card was delivered into people’s junk/spam folder rather than their inbox. Please add OneSchool.application@dete.qld.gov.au to your list of safe senders list to ensure the report email is not sent to your Junk folder.

On Thursday 19 November our Year 12 students celebrated their completion of Year 12 with a graduation ceremony at the school in the morning and their Formal at The Landing, Dockside in the evening. The students were so excited on the day and didn’t let the extremely hot weather dampen their mood.

Students arrived at the formal venue in a variety of vehicles including private cars, limousines, party buses and more, to a crowd of onlookers including parents, teachers and friends. The girls looked absolutely beautiful in their formal attire, and the boys very handsome. Throughout the evening the students enjoyed a three course dinner, had professional photographs taken and danced the night away. Overall, a fantastic night was had by all!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the graduating students all the best for the future. My parting message to them is “work hard, believe in yourself and never give up”.

The Year 10 and 11 students have now also finished for 2015 and I would like to wish them a safe and relaxing holiday. Could I please remind the 27 Year 10 Senior Mentors that they are required to assist with the running of the 2016 Year 7 Orientation Day on Tuesday 8 December.

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

2016 Senior Leaders

The House Captains and Senior Leaders took part in a range of activities that allowed them to develop their leadership skills through their “Maximising the Badge” experience run by Ylead. Students have already started to map out how they can increase student wellbeing within the Mount Gravatt School Community.

Last Career Hub for the Year

Pathways and opportunities for career development will continue into 2016. Students interested in finding out more information about how to “learn while they earn” will be able to find out about School Based Traineeships and Apprenticeships through the Career Hub Newsletter. Alternative educational pathways may also offer a solution to students who are career focused or want more from their educational experience. I look forward to seeing any students who may want to discuss these options and identify ways to improve their attainment of QCE points or to meet their career needs through the different learning pathways here at Mount Gravatt. Join the mailing list
to receive this directly by emailing Sandra Wilson email: swills118@eq.edu.au

USI Numbers

All students who have studied VET in 2015 have been required to create a USI number from the USI website at http://www.usi.gov.au/Students/Pages/steps-to-create-your-USI.aspx

If you child has completed this process but not provided the number to the school, please download the attached USI handout and return to school in the new year. Private RTOs, TAFE and schools can only print VET certificates such as Certificate I & II in Information Technology, Certificate I & II in Business, Certificate III in Fitness and Children’s Services once the USI has been provided.

I wish everyone a happy end to 2015 and an enjoyable holiday. See you all in 2016.

Sandra Wilson
HOD Student Development

DEAN OF STUDENTS – JUNIOR SCHOOL REPORT

10 memorable moments of 2015

1. Seeing 350 plus x Year 7 and 8 students eating morning tea in the student parklands with their new mentors and Teachers in Week 4, Term 1 at the BIG WELCOME MORNING TEA.

2. Every year level in the Junior Secondary Department achieving above the 95% attendance rate in Term 1.

3. Handing out 88 x 100% attendance certificates in Term 1.

4. 32 Year 9 students volunteering their time to participate in the High Resolves Global Leadership project from Term 2 onwards.

5. Jennifer Mai naming our attendance mascot ‘The Green Dart’ because the DART is ‘Determined About Reaching Targets’. Are you in the GREEN ZONE?

6. Seeing the Remembrance Garden come into fruition through the dedication of the High Resolves Team and sub committees.

7. Mr Hellier, President of The Holland Park-Mount Gravatt RSL sub branch speaking to our High Resolves students. Showing his medals and talking to us about his service in the Navy.

8. Junior leaders representing Mount Gravatt High at the 100th Anniversary service on Anzac Day, as well as participating in the Remembrance Day Service at Holland Park.

9. Fantastic participation and attendance at the Year 7 and 8 camps at Tallebudgera in Semester 1.

10. Citizenship Day for all Year 8 students through the High Resolves Program. Strong commitment and active participation in the events of the day.

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

2016 Senior Mentors

A team of enthusiastic Year 10 students met last week to prepare for their senior mentoring roles in 2016. After clarifying the role description, they experienced first-hand the complexities of organising a large group of peers into completing meaningful activities. They should be proud of their efforts. The Mentors then reflected on how the organisation of the activities could be improved when working with their allocated Year 7 classes.

Students then worked in teams of threes to plan similar sessions to help Year 7 students get to know each other on Orientation Day on Tuesday 8 December. This will be their first official duty.

27 students have been appointed as mentors. Their priority is to ease the transition of the 9 classes of Year 7s into the Mount Gravatt High School Community.

I look forward to working alongside this team of passionate young people.

Junior Secondary Celebration Assembly

I remind all parents and carers of the invitation to attend the inaugural Junior Secondary Celebration Assembly on Wednesday 9 December, 8:30 am in the School Hall.

We will be acknowledging the transition of our Year 9 students from their junior phase of secondary learning to their senior
phase. These students will be presented with their senior school ties as a symbol of this progression.

A celebration of the contribution made by our very first team of Junior Secondary Leaders will be held, followed by the announcement of their successors.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Fantastic Mr(s) Fox
What an enjoyable performance of a Roald Dahl classic! Congratulations to the staff and students of the Mount Gravatt High School Junior Drama Club for their commitment to the Arts. You captured the little people in the audience delightfully.

Judy Andrews
Head of Department - Junior Secondary

PERFORMING ARTS

Music Café

INDUSTRIAL DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Heli cars
The year 9 IDT students are completing the 2015 school year making “Heli Cars”. Through the use of vacuum forming and Power Anchor equipment they are able to design, test, and evaluate the different dynamics associated with vehicle design. Notably the effects of overpowering are of most interest to our students.

Students have again personalised their designs with the other technologies available namely the laser cutter/engraver, and Stika cutter.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeIBfcj6mGY

IDT in review
2015 saw the introduction of new projects in years 7, 9 and 10. A measure of the success of the program is seen through the eyes and smiles of the students. The pictures say it all.

Year 8 IDT
Year 8 students have been working hard to complete their toy trucks this term. This project has gone through some development this year including the new technologies in the work shop. The laser cut wheels have created a new design feature but the body of the truck still allows students to have some hands on experiences with tools and machine within our technology workshops.

Year 10 CDT
Year 10 Creative design students have had a very successful year within the workshop. Our final unit of work was a set of 3 mirror acrylic frames. The students got to develop their skill of working with and manipulating acrylic. These students also improved on their CAD skills by drawing their mitre frames in CorelDraw to print/cut from the laser cutter. The final product demonstrates the students understanding of design and production within the creative industries.

Jim O'Neill
Acting HOD – Design and Technologies

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

2016 STUDENT RESOURCE SCHEME AND LAPTOP PROGRAM
Mount Gravatt High School has commenced preparations for Student Resource Scheme (SRS) and Laptop Program in 2016.

Invoices for the Student Resource Scheme (SRS) Levy for 2016 have been completed and in most cases have been sent by email. For operational efficiency and to ensure quick service, please be aware that we bulk invoice the Resource Scheme levies prior to receiving the signed participation/non-participation forms. Invoices will be credited/adjusted
accordingly once the participation/non-participation forms are received.

The cost of the Laptop Program in 2016 is $250. We are offering families the opportunity to pay for their child’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 has been generated for SRS, which we would like to stress is NOT required to be paid until 2016.

What to sign and return:

1. Student Resource Scheme Participation Agreement form completed and signed by Parent/Caregiver - ONE PER FAMILY REQUIRED
2. Student Resource Scheme - Laptop Program Participation Agreement form completed and signed by Parent/Caregiver - ONE PER FAMILY REQUIRED
3. Student and Parents to sign - Student Laptop Program Agreement - understanding the responsibilities outlined in the Acceptable computer behaviour and internet use - ONE PER CHILD REQUIRED

We accept payment via CentrePay Deductions, EFT, EFTPOS, Cash, Cheque or Bpoint. For further details about any of these payment types please contact our accounts receivable office on 3291 5222, option #2 accounts.

If you choose not to participate in the Student Resource Scheme (SRS) and Laptop Scheme, a copy of the resource requirements for each year level is available from the office. Please note that these payments are for the hire of textbooks and other school issued requirements not general stationery; ie: pens, pencils, exercise books, etc.

The payments office is open from 7.30am to 2.30pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

We encourage online payments made either by EFT into our bank account:

BSB: 064-118 ACC: 00090265 or by BPoint.

Your personal reference number is located on the bottom of your invoice or monthly statement.

BPOINT is an internet web link you can use as a method of paying school invoices securely from your own computer. BPOINT offers several payment options as below:

www.bpoint.com.au/payments/dete This link is also on the School Webpage under Quicklinks.

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 Jefts
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 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.

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 3:00pm

SAVE TIME BANK ONLINE:

For all your bill payments please deposit to:

Mount Gravatt High School
BSB: 064 118
Account Number: 0009 0265
Reference: Student Name

P&C NEWS

Canteen

For the last two weeks of school only Pre-order food will be made as the Canteen is running down its stock. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped in the Canteen during the year, you have saved the P&C $20,000 in wages by helping. To you and your families, Merry Christmas, have a safe holiday and see you all back next year.

Christine, Lynn and Donna
Uniform Shop

If you have any second-hand uniforms that you wish to sell, please wash and iron them and complete the form with your name and details, and we will sell them for you. The Uniform shop takes 30% of the sale and you will receive the balance in a cheque.

Students in Years 11 and 12 that require a Graphic calculator can order online through Abacus calculators. Orders must be placed by Friday 8 January 2016. See the attached flyer for more information.

Thank you to all the new, year 7 families who have purchased their 2016 Uniforms. We look forward to seeing you at school next year. We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and all the best for 2016.

Please address any queries to Gayle Brown Uniform Shop on 3291 5209 or email mghsuniform@hotmail.com

Gayle and Tanya

On behalf of the P&C Executive, thank you to all the parents for their support during 2015. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a bright and Happy New Year for 2016.

The P &C Association Executive

Oral Health Services

As the school year is coming to an end, Metro South Oral Health would like to ensure those children in need of oral care have access to our free dental service.


The School Dental Service still provides free dental treatment to all students up to Year 10, as well as those in Year 11 &12 who are holders of Health Care Cards or recipients of the Child Dental Benefit Scheme. (We can also see children younger than school age where they are holders of Health Care Cards or recipients of the Child Dental Benefit Scheme.)

We are especially focusing on young children commencing their school journey, Prep’s and grade 1 children, to help build and maintain healthy mouths and bodies.

We are also focusing on those children completing grade 10 or completing their schooling, as this is for some the last time they can access free oral care. Maintaining a healthy mouth and developing healthy practices in the teenage years is critical to improving the oral and general health of young adults.

We have a large number of clinics in the local area and our clinics are open and available to all eligible children over the school holidays.

Seeking employers for school-based apprentices

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 trade 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 Sally Anderson
SAT Coordinator
Phone: 07 3294 5223
Email: sally.ands@gsd.edu.au
Or visit: apprenticeships.qld.gov.au