16 February 2016

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Barely have we had time to celebrate the achievement successes from last year; with an OP 1, a big improvement in OP scores 6 to 10, 94% increasing to 97% including mid-year intake for first round tertiary offers, 99.5% of Year 12 with a QCE and pass rates in excess of 90% across the school, English results topping 96% for we don’t rest on our laurels. How can we do even better in 2016? What could we have done better? Our school plan for 2016 can be found on our website.

2016 is off to a cracker of a start with a very calm and settled school right from day 1. We welcomed 239 Year 7 students this year taking our census day enrolment to 1180 students affirming continuity of staff and ongoing programs. This is an historic milestone for our school as this is the largest enrolment for over 25 years. Year 7 students are noticeably less apprehensive about high school and have integrated well into the school. School spirit is alive and well with by all accounts the best Swimming Carnival on record for attendance, participation and House enthusiasm.

There are three themes this year: I will be pursuing for students: Citizenship, Equity and Accountability.

Citizenship. In the last year or so we have bolstered student leadership and development grounded on the quality of community built into the Mount Gravatt ethos over the years. This greater depth starts from Year 7 where students learn life skills as global citizens working on a local project, identifying leaders and organisers and through activities and student management directed by the Junior and Senior Secondary Deans our goal is to provide life skills that help our young people be resilient and aspirant.

Equity isn’t about one-size fits all but to make reasonable adjustment to ensure inclusiveness, recognise talents and provide opportunity to stretch and challenge. Our ‘Edge’ program continues to evolve this year with my firm belief that ‘Edge’ experiences should take place in every classroom. The first ‘Edge’ foray to enrich and stretch through depth and not extra work, 7E students will be invited to participate in Writers’ Workshops facilitated by Ms Tara McKenzie. Writing is a key skill we intend to target this year for improvement for the ‘flow on effect’ to success across the curriculum. We have applied the bulk of our ‘Investing for Schools’ (4S) funding (formerly the Great Results Guarantee) which is Queensland’s ‘version’ of Gonski federal funding, into extra teaching staff. This allows us to create smaller class sizes where all students benefit, differentiate teaching at both ends of the scale and innovate in emerging areas. Just great teaching targeted to learning need. As there seems to be some uncertainty of the continuation of this funding floating about the media I assure parents I take a conservative approach to the application of the funding, investing in sustainability that enrolment growth presents to keep great teaching staff should the funding landscape change.

Accountability for one’s own learning: is a skill that matures over time if given the right conditions. Teachers at Mount Gravatt have taken to our school’s teaching and learning framework of the Art & Science of Teaching. While teachers develop and share their mastery of great teaching that gets results, which after all is the purpose of schooling, our school sets a framework of expectations and a scaffold of support for students to be in the right ‘head space’ to succeed, set goals of personal success and monitor and measure their journey. Teachers at Mount Gravatt are in the business not only of giving instruction, but opportunity for every student to learn in a structured, expectant and disciplined environment; two sides of the same coin.
Thank you to parents/carers for attending to Student Resource Scheme (SRS) participation and uniform requirements. An exceptionally high participation rate is indicative of value parents place on learning and we respond by being flexible in tailoring how to meet those costs of schooling. I understand that starting the school year can be expensive investment for parents. We employ very close scrutiny to how school resources are applied and put resources into student hands as quickly as possible. Our Business Services Manager, Samantha Jeffs, can answer SRS enquiries.

The only competition is oneself at Mount Gravatt High. Parents should note that we maintain very high expectations of school attendance to aim to exceed 95%; to have 0% unexplained absences and every student from Years 7 to 12 has a personal goal to improve on last year. To quote our new Australian of the Year, General David Morrison: (that to) “not set goals and targets gives us nothing to aim for”. The message is to have a strong sense of purpose, direction and commitment to see through to the better end. I speak not only of results, but in personal bests where targets can often be exceeded. Not only were A to E results impressive last year, but more than 96% of students received an A-C result for behaviour and effort in Semester 2, 2015. I look as much to those scores as any other.

The pool of student leadership talent continues to deepen at Mount Gravatt High. Senior and Junior student leaders and mentors selected late last year were inducted at school assembly on Monday, 1 February with special guests Nikki Spathis, our School Captain of 2015 and Councillor Krista Adams and MP Joe Kelly presented badges of office.

Innovation and great teaching is what sets a great school apart and parents recognise this. While a number of schools across the State elected to go the Independent Public School (IPS) road this year I have read school community consensus that this path offers no further opportunity that we aren’t already exploring and gaining improved outcomes. It would for us be just a title. This year we venture seriously into STEM education by planting seeds. While a new Digital Technologies curriculum has been released we will be going cautiously ensuring that aspiration doesn’t exceed teacher and resource capacity to deliver quality learning. I take the view we make sense of curriculum for relevance and rigour, and not introduce new things unless pre-conditions are in place and quality outcomes can be predicted. We are just quietly and confidently ‘ahead of the game’. This year Mr Woodlands is being ‘shared’ with Warrigal Road State School to innovate in Mathematics education and its application in Robotics which are Mr Woodlands’s passion. This complements our foray into this field for some time and our Mathematics Department led by Mrs Wilfen continues to deliver better Maths results for our students. Warrigal Road continues to have a strong connection to Mount Gravatt High through increasing numbers of students enrolling in Year 7 from that school and hence a logical partner. Our Science Department led by Mrs Perkins is also playing a part, championing Girls in STEM in 2016.

Technology in learning equals $. Parents will know of my wariness not to be trapped by the planned obsolescence. The concept isn’t new. I understand in a fire station in New York City a single light bulb has burned since the early 20th century. Light bulb manufacturers determined decades ago their product was too well made and long lasting and determined to ensure a light bulb had a limited life. Associated climbing costs of having individual take home ‘devices’, great though they are to provide 24/7 connectivity to learning are here to stay and as consumers we are conditioned to accept it. In some ways our 1:1 Laptop Program has been “too” successful. Equity across year levels and burgeoning costs concern me. Let us keep a balanced view that these are tools, life continues and there’s always something ‘new’. Who remembers having an iphone 3, 4, 4S, 5 and then a 6 or was that a 6S or Plus? Yes, I can do all sorts of great and entertaining things, if I cared to, and willing to pay the added costs and data plans that go with “keeping up”. Like King Canute, I can only say that I also cannot hold back the tide. I love technology as much as the next person. But I can live without Snapchat. As tactile loving beings I hope that SMS messaging doesn’t last, for humans will evolve with huge thumbs and only pay attention to a screen in front of them. Maybe we are already there.

While most of us love a new device, we also need to keep a life balance and not be slave to technology. It needs to be to the contrary. Teachers accept that ‘things happen’ with technology. Just don’t use it as an excuse too often. Moving to a BYO for Senior students ONLY over the next 2 years should go some way to make our commitment less onerous, provide parents with more control over capital costs while still providing access to digital resources. In coming weeks Year 11 students will receive upgrades to their older laptop, bringing them ‘up to spec.’ with the newer devices. We always maintain an immediate ‘hot swap’ for faulty machines and very quick turn around with most IT issues solved ‘on the spot’.

Richard Usher
Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Wednesday 17 February P & C Welcome to New Parents
- Thursday 25 February Year 7/8 Vaccinations
- Tuesday 01 March Open Day
- Thursday 03 March School Photos
- Friday 04 March School Photo catch-ups
- Monday 07 March Year 11/12 Economics Excursion
- Thursday 10 March Year 11 Civil Construction Excursion Year 11 BCT Home Show Excursion
- Friday 11 March Year 7 History Excursion
• Monday 14 - Wednesday 16 March  | Year 7 Camp
• Thursday 17 March  | Year 11 Civil Construction Excursion
                       | Year 11 Geography Excursion
• Monday 21 - Tuesday 22 March  | Year 11 Biology Camp
• Monday 21 March  | NAPLAN Practice
• Tuesday 22 - Wednesday 23 March  | QCS Practice 1
• Thursday 24 March  | School Cross Country
• Thursday 24 March  | End of Term 1
• Monday 11 April  | School resumes for Term 2

CARS NOT TO ENTER SCHOOL GROUNDS

Safety has priority over convenience

As of Monday 15 February vehicle entry into school grounds at either Loreburn or Creighton entrances is restricted to Staff, Delivery and Emergency vehicles and disability access only.

Traffic Management Warning

Brisbane City Council (BCC) and Police have received complaints from local residents of illegal parking, cars blocking driveways and poor driver behaviour in the before/after school times. BCC and Police indicated that officers will be attending and issuing fines for parking or traffic breaches.

QPARENTS

QPARENTS

Our school now has QParents. Last year parents received a letter to return with whom would be the nominated account holder. It is great to see that so many parents have registered already.

Parents who have signed up have already seen the benefits of being able to interact in “real-time” and stay informed of their child’s learning, personal and financial accounts.

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.

Parents who are new to us in 2016 will receive some information shortly about the process.

DEAN OF STUDENTS – SENIOR SCHOOL REPORT

2016 is off to a flying start for the Seniors at Mount Gravatt High, with all students in classes and working hard on their first day back. It is my role as Dean of Students (Senior School) to provide Years 10, 11 and 12 with support and encouragement to achieve their best in their senior program of study. This includes monitoring their attendance, tracking their progress in classes and organising key events such as camps and celebratory events including the Year 12 jerseys and formal. I am also a great point of contact for parents who have questions or concerns regarding their child.

The first few weeks have been busy with:

- Year 11 Senior Mentors being inducted, helping the Year 7’s get settled into life at high school, and assisting Ms Fisher to host the Year 7 Welcome Morning Tea
- Year 12 Senior Leader induction
- Senior leaders signing up for tuckshop duties
- Those students in Years 11 and 12 who had perfect (100%) attendance for 2015 being presented with their gold attendance badges
- The swimming carnival where senior student participation was fantastic and the Year 12’s enjoyed their last ever school swimming carnival

OPEN DAY
TUESDAY 1 MARCH
9:15am-11:00am

All interested parents and students are invited to attend our Open Day which provides an excellent opportunity to view classrooms, facilities and be informed about our great school. We are enrolling now for Year 7 in 2017 and out of catchment enrolments are welcome.

For further information: 3291 5222
Email: admin@mtgravattshs.eq.edu.au
www.mtgravattshs.eq.edu.au
This year the Year 12’s have the option to purchase a Year 12 jersey, jacket or both. A small committee of students decided on the design during 2015 and the Year 12’s have been trying sizes and are currently placing their orders. It is hoped that students will receive these in the early weeks of term 2.

This year, I will be closely monitoring those students who had an attendance rate of 85% or less in 2015 and providing them with support to improve their attendance at school. If a child is away from school it is important that a call be made to the office, or a letter sent with the child upon their return to school. If any senior student wishes to take an extended period of leave from school must seek permission from a Deputy Principal.

2016 is going to be a fantastic year for the senior’s at Mount Gravatt High and I look forward to working closely with all of them.

Kellie Anderson
Dean of Students – Senior School

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

SENIOR SCHOOLING

Key Roles in Senior School

Now that we have a new group of students entering the Senior School (welcome year 10s) I would like to promote the services that key teachers can provide for students in the senior school. Apart from Teachers and Curriculum HODs that will work continually with students in the subjects they study, there are additional support services available. Here are just a few that can assist your student in the senior school.

Mr Daniel Wilson is our Guidance Officer. He is able to offer students career advice as well as counselling. He conducts talks with students on careers, QTAC and school life balance. Students can make individual appointments to see him to discuss issues. He also organises a number of career trips to Universities and visits to Expo’s to help students make informed decisions. Students who are interested in applying for TAFE programs can also see Mr Wilson to apply.

Ms Kellie Anderson is our Dean of Students - Senior School. She will work with students to ensure they meet their attendance targets and provide leadership and mentoring opportunities for students. She can also help look after the wellbeing of students. Kellie also co-ordinates the Senior Jersey’s, Year 12 Formal and Year 11 Camp. Make sure you read her regular report in the newsletter to keep up with what is going on in the Senior School.

Our Year 10 Deputy is Mrs Sally Campbell and Year 11 and 12 Deputy is Mr Darren Beebe. They look after a range of issues in order for students to achieve success and meet their Statement of Expectations.

Then there is Mrs Sandra Wilson and I have taken on the role of looking after students seeking alternative pathways through VET in School, School based Traineeships and Apprenticeships and Work Experience. Together with the rest of the Senior Schooling team, I monitor QCE progress and oversee the year level meetings and OP predictions. I can also assist students with career questions they may have and produce the Career Hub Newsletter you will find below. This newsletter contains information regarding Universities and TAFE, vacancies for Traineeships and Apprenticeships and information regarding career open days and events. This newsletter is emailed out to all students in Years 10, 11 and 12. If you wish to receive this Careers Newsletter simply email the subject Line “Career Hub Newsletter” to me at swils118@eq.edu.au.

Work Experience Year 11/12 11-15 April

Year 11 and 12 students will have the opportunity to take part in work experience in week 1 of Term 2. This is the only opportunity that year 12s will have this year for a work trial. Students have already received a letter outlining the details of how they can arrange a placement. If you wish to arrange your own place for this Work Experience week, please contact the employer to arrange a placement for 11-15 April. Once they have confirmed they are happy to assist, simply provide the details by filling in the attached work experience application form to Mrs Wilson ASAP. I will then be able to provide the necessary Insurance paperwork required.

QCS Test and Year Level Meetings

Year 12 students have received a letter explaining the QCS Test preparation program that will occur during year level meetings every Friday. All students have the opportunity of preparing and sitting this exam in September in order to provide them with an OP (OP eligible) or improve their rank (NON OP).

Students who nominate not to sit the test will be involved in a career education program that will assist them with their future study options as well as preparing them for the workforce. If your student has not returned the slip with their program choice, they will need to do so in order to be enrolled in the correct class. Mrs Catherine McCarthy is the QCS Test Program co-ordinator. If you have any questions regarding whether sitting the test is right for your student, you can contact either Mrs McCarthy or Mr Wilson (Guidance Officer).

Student Connect – How to Track your own QCE


I have already received a lot of questions from students keen to check on their QCE progress. The Senior Schooling Team will regularly discuss QCE tracking with students, especially those that may be at risk of not receiving their QCE. We aim for 100% of students to complete year 12 with a QCE.

Students in year 12 can plan and track their QCE on the QCAA website at student connect. Students use their LUI number to log in and can use the QCE planner to enter their subjects and results to see whether they have enough credits to gain their QCE.

Parents can also log on as a guest (or if you have forgotten your LUI number) to add the subjects for a student’s school
Congratulations to Casey who last year received the highest score in Queensland in the 2015 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) English Competition. She was presented with her gold medal at the University of New South Wales Awards Ceremony held at the Brisbane Convention Centre.

DEAN OF STUDENTS – JUNIOR SCHOOL REPORT

It has been a busy and positive start to my role as Dean of Students (Junior) in Term 1. I have met so many new faces in Year 7, as well as welcomed back familiar ones in Years 8 and 9. It has also been great seeing the Year 9 students from 2015, who have moved up from Junior Secondary into the senior school, looking ready to take on the responsibilities of Year 10.

In my role as Dean of students (Junior) at MGHS I want to encourage as much family involvement in sporting, cultural and curriculum events as possible, and look forward to your involvement in our school community.

I actively work in unison with the Junior Secondary Deputy Principal, Mr Paul Kingston and the Junior Secondary Head of Department, Mrs Judy Andrews, to make the time spent at school the most productive for all students. We provide some highly rewarding experiences and opportunities for all Junior Secondary Students throughout the school calendar and we encourage every student to take part in numerous leadership and community programs on offer.

I look forward to working with the Senior Mentors and Junior Leaders in 2016 in making our Junior Secondary Department at Mount Gravatt High a positive and supportive place to be.

‘Big Welcome’ Morning Tea

Certificate II in Horticulture

Students in years 10-12 who are interested in a career in Horticulture or Landscaping may be interested in the following. We are running a Vet in Schools program in partnership with Axiom College at school every Thursday for 18 weeks. Students can successfully complete a Certificate II in Horticulture and receive 4 QCE credits by working on various projects around the school. If your child is interested and has not brought home an information pack – please ask them to see me in D Block staffroom or email me at swils118@eq.edu.au. The course will begin during Term 1 so please be quick.

Sandra Wilson
HOD Student Development

STUDENT PROFILE

Casey Gilbert
There was a hive of activity at first break on Tuesday February 9, when all Year 7’s were welcomed to Mount Gravatt High School with a free morning tea of muffins and juice. The Senior Mentors worked well together in organising the event, setting up and serving over 240 students their morning tea. It was great to see the ‘Student Parkland’ full of students from Junior Secondary, Senior Leaders, Mentors, Teachers and Administration meeting up and getting to know each other. What a terrific way to start 2016.

TARGET 95% PLUS ATTENDANCE

Research confirms that there is ‘a strong link between attendance and outcomes’...the more you miss, the less you learn. At MGHS we want the best outcome for all students and strong attendance levels are an important part of giving students the best possible start in life. 2015 saw over 30 Junior Secondary students attain a 100% attendance for the entire school year and receive a ‘Gold Attendance’ badge. Over 250 Junior Secondary students achieved the 95% plus target over the same period. A great result.

We now want to improve on our attendance in 2016 and make our academic results the best they can be... and ACHIEVEMENT starts with ATTENDANCE.

In Junior Secondary in 2016 we will have the same target FOR EVERYONE to ASPIRE to. Our attendance motto in 2016 is ‘EVERYDAY, ALL DAY, and ALL THE WAY’. The rewards that come with attending above that 95% plus target are abundant. Whilst highly beneficial academically, participating fully in school life can also promote a strong and vibrant school community, great friendships, rewarding challenges and teamwork skills. Our Big Welcome Morning Tea photographs are clear examples of these experiences.

What a great start to the year with a terrific Junior Secondary turnout at the swimming carnival on the 5 February. Years 7, 8 and 9 attendance achievements are over or very close to the 95% attendance target rate as we move into week 4 of Term 1.

Attendance in my words....all day, every day, all the way’. In the words of another .... ‘I am not telling you that it is going to be easy, but I am telling you that it will be worth it’ (Art Williams)

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

Connectedness

85% of our new Year 7 cohort took the opportunity to learn about our school at the Orientation Day last year. This gave them the ‘edge’ right from day one. Thanks to our teachers and the Senior Mentors assigned to each class, all Year 7 students were in classes and learning in Period Two on day one, alongside the remainder of the school. Teachers from all over the school are commenting on how well this cohort has transitioned to high school. Students are particularly comfortable at break times, venturing out to access all areas of the school grounds.

Our 27 Senior Mentors underwent training late last year and were well equipped for their roles in ensuring that the Year 7 students felt connected to Mount Gravatt High.

Commitment

Both the Senior Mentors and our Junior Secondary Leaders were presented to the school at the Leader’s Investiture on Monday 1 February. The Junior Secondary Leaders were put straight to work the very next day, charged with conducting the year’s first Junior Secondary Assembly. They are to be congratulated on their efforts. This assembly was unusually lengthy, to ensure that policies and processes were clarified; in particular, Mount Gravatt High’s values - respect for self, respect for other people and respect for the school.
Mount Gravatt High Junior Secondary students are provided with an exciting range of opportunities to give them the edge: Ms McKenzie has called for nominations for the Rostrum Public Speaking Competition and the AFL Lions Cup Teams, Ms Pulsford has invited students to join Drama Club, Ms Janke has invited students into the Robotics Club, Ms Budge has advertised her Work Help lunchtime sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays... to name just a few. Parents, I urge you to discuss these opportunities and encourage your child to commit.

The Junior Secondary Leadership Team, comprising of Mr Paul Kingston (DP), Ms Helen Fisher (Dean) and myself, are currently conducting a small number of Performance Review Meetings with students in Years 8 and 9 whose 2015 Semester Two results need attention. Levels of achievement, along with effort and behaviour ratings will be discussed and plans put in place to ensure better outcomes this term.

**Judy Andrews**

*Head of Department - Junior Secondary*

**TEACHING AND LEARNING IN 2016**

In 2016 Mount Gravatt High teachers are continuing their work with the Art and Science of Teaching (ASOT) model. The Art and Science of Teaching is a framework that organises what we know are good teaching practices into clear segments. The segments are then split into questions that teachers and schools should ask when approaching teaching and learning.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LESSON SEGMENTS INVOLVING ROUTINE EVENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Design Question 1</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LESSON SEGMENTS INVOLVING CONTENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Design Question 2</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Design Question 3</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Design Question 4</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LESSON SEGMENTS ENACTED ON THE SPOT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Design Question 5</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Design Question 7</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Design Question 8</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Design Question 9</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Over the past 3 years we have been focussing on lesson segments involving routine events. This has seen staff clearly articulating the learning intentions of each lesson or the “Know” and “Do”. Both teachers and students have been more closely tracking progress and improvement and we have seen a range of new ways to acknowledge success.

This year, on the student free days, the staff starting reviewing the second segment, those involving content, in particular, interaction with new content. There are so many different ways to help students interact with new content including: identifying critical information, group organisation of students, previewing, chunking, processing and elaborating, record and representing knowledge visually and reflection. What is really positive about working through ASOT in this way is that we as a whole staff get to share and discuss what we do. So many teachers say, “It’s great to revisit and remember the range of techniques I can consider”. Ultimately this continual reflection and sharing amongst our staff benefits all our students. As John Green said, “We are greater than the sum of our parts” and by drawing on the breadth of skills, experience and knowledge of our teachers we become stronger as a whole.

If you would like to read further about the Art and Science of Teaching:


http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhB_R_FT9y4

**Catherine McCarthy**

*HOD – Teaching and Learning*
**CYBERSAFETY INFORMATION EVENING**

It is wonderful to be back at Mount Gravatt High after taking some maternity leave. I could not believe how much the students had grown and matured. This year Mrs McCarthy and I are working with the grade 10 students, the indigenous students and the Welfare and Learning Program. As part of the Welfare and Learning Program we are organising a Cybersafety talk for parents and students. This is a free presentation by the Department of Education and Training. If you are unsure of the amount of information you should have about your child’s internet access or would just like some advice please RSVP and come along with your child.

Venue: Mount Gravatt State High School Resource Centre  
Time: 6:00pm Wednesday 11 May, 2016

Topics include:
- Social Media and trending apps/websites
- The Law and social consequences of online behaviours
- School Policy
- Cyberbullying
- Online privacy and security tips/advice

Please RSVP to Sally Campbell at admin@mtgravattshs.eq.edu.au by Tuesday 3 May.

I am looking forward to what 2016 brings.

**Sally Campbell**  
**Deputy Principal**

---

**PERFORMING ARTS**

**Visual Arts**

Mrs Christie’s Year 11 VAP and Year 12 VAS started their term to enriched learning in Art by ‘playing’, collaborating and owning their creative space. In preparation for their final work for their Unit ‘Concept of Illusion’, they chose an object from a plethora of objects and in enthusiastic discussion with each other composed their own Still Life, with the most creative outcome!

**Mrs Christie**  
**Senior Art Teacher**

**7M – Music Edge**

7M are busy in music this term as they have begun to learn the keyboard for their first performance task of the year. They have settled into class well and are always eager to jump onto the keyboards to practice. Students will then be moving on to learning to play and perform on the guitar before doing some composition studies to finish the term.

**Ms Sarah Fry**  
**Classroom Music**

**Drama Club**

We welcome all student to participate in Mount Gravatt High School’s Drama Club. The objective of this program is to provide students with the opportunity to engage in creative activities outside of the mainstream curriculum and develop confidence and performance skills. This year students will participate in improvisation, theatresports and process drama based activities, while honing voice and movement skills. Students may also elect to be involved in a stage production, presented by Drama Club in second semester.

There are two streams of Drama Club (Junior and Senior,) to be held on a weekly basis after school, on the following days:

- Junior Drama Club: Thursday, 2:45pm – 4:00pm
- Senior Drama Club: Friday, 2:45pm – 4:00pm

Ms Pulseford eapul0@eq.edu.au and Mrs Brady abrad53@eq.edu.au

**Instrumental and Vocal Music**

Auditions for instrumental and vocal music are now complete and all lessons and ensembles are in full swing. Should you wish to know more about your child’s participation in the school’s music programs, we welcome your contact.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mr Anthony Pirovich</th>
<th>Head of Department</th>
<th><a href="mailto:apiro1@eq.edu.au">apiro1@eq.edu.au</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms Vivien Tawse (Tuesday and Friday)</td>
<td>Instrumental teacher (Woodwind) Concert Band Director</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vtaws2@eq.edu.au">vtaws2@eq.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Grace Liang (Monday and Tuesday)</td>
<td>Instrumental teacher (Strings) String Ensemble Director</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gliang1@eq.edu.au">gliang1@eq.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Robyn Forshaw (Thursday)</td>
<td>Instrumental teacher (Brass) Brass Ensemble Director Wind Ensemble Director</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rfors2@eq.edu.au">rfors2@eq.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mr Nick Robke
Classroom and Instrumental Music Stage Band Director
nrobk1@eq.edu.au

Ms Katie Simmons (Tuesday and Wednesday)
Vocal Ensemble Director

Ms Sarah Fry
Classroom and Instrumental Music

Ms Maggie Chen (Monday)
Instrumental teacher (Strings)

Mr Caleb Colledge
Instrumental teacher (Percussion) Percussion Ensemble Director

Mr Jared Proellocks
Instrumental teacher (Bass)

GRAND DESIGNS

At the end of 2015 a great deal of work was completed in the practical workshops. A new teaching space has been created to cater for the growing numbers of students who are electing to participate in our subjects. An extra classroom now accommodates both CDT and IDT classes in B Block. It is hoped that the workshops will undergo a renovation some time later this year to accommodate for our growing subject area.

Our students have made a wonderful start to 2016, even with the hot February heat. Our workshops have been very busy with new projects in wood, metal and plastics being introduced.

CONSTRUCTION CAPERS and ENGINEERING MARVELS

Year 12 Construction has started on the outdoor picnic shelters in the student parklands. They are currently engaged in a concreting exercise in readiness for the real activity. We envisage that four new shelters will be built by the end of term 3 with Mr Wilson as foreman. Year 11 Construction, under the guidance of Mr Sharpe, are learning the practicalities of house framing in ‘hands on’ exercises. Year 12 Engineering students will be constructing four trailers this year for Aspinall Trailers. We look forward to seeing these projects come into fruition.

GIRL POWER

Welcome back all students taking IDT and Graphics in 2016. It is great that you have chosen to take one or more of our courses. A big welcome back also to the staff of the Industrial Design and Technology Department. This year we are very lucky to have the return of Ms Victoria Rochow and Mr Allan Osgarby who are team teaching their classes. Mrs Glenda Penzo and Mr Scott Herbert are again our teacher aides in 2016 and we look forward to the great contributions that they provide to our department. Mr Geoff Holter has returned as a volunteer on Wednesdays. Geoff has become a valued member of our department sharing his trade expertise in the workshops. We look forward to seeing some fantastic new projects being produced out of our workshops.

The staff of IDT would like to welcome all students who are choosing to do CDT. This year we have 110 female students enrolled in the subject, an increase of around 45 students from 2015. Our first job will be oversized decorative letters in Year 10 and the popular tiled coasters in Years 8 and 9.
PRACTICAL PRODUCTIONS in Junior Secondary

2016 has proved a popular year for Junior Industrial Design and Technology with 131 students choosing the subject. The students have already begun their projects and are currently constructing their ‘carry-all’ in Years 8 and 9 and a camp chair in Year 10. **Quality of construction** is our aim for all projects in this subject in 2016.

HELP US TO HELP YOU

We wish all the students in Industrial Design Technology and Graphics the best for 2016 and hope your year is full of positive learning experiences. All staff are available at breaks for course work questions and Graphics help is available at lunchtimes in G10 with Mr O’Neill on Thursdays and Fridays.

**Jim O’Neill**
Acting HOD – Design and Technologies

ANNUAL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The 2016 Mount Gravatt High annual swimming carnival was bigger and better than ever before! This year we had nearly 900 students attend the carnival with nearly all of the students participating in either competitive events, novelty events, cheer squads or helping to raise funds for the Student Council.

Turramurra finished on 965 points with a slightly higher representation from the boys (530 points) than the girls (435 points). They tied in first place in the first novelty event gaining 67 points and they came third in the Nemo race which gave them an additional 20 points. Turramurra might have come fourth overall but their house spirit on the day was excellent. They finished in second place for the house spirit awards and their cheer squad led by Tom Lobb was a force to be reckoned with.

In third place was Manooka, finishing on 1,054 points (which was a little down on 2015). Their points were almost evenly split between the boys and girls on 532 and 522 points respectively. They came second in the first novelty event but unfortunately they struck a few technical problems keeping their jockey on Nemo in the Nemo race which caused them to finish fourth. Despite this, they brought the house down with their house spirit claiming a landslide victory in the house spirit award. Without doubt they had the largest cheer squad of all four houses.

Attunga led up until the last event, but unfortunately could not hold onto the lead. They finished on a massive 1,353 points (well up on their 3rd place points of 1,273 last year) dominated by the boys on 796 points which was the highest gender based house group. The Attunga girls brought in 557 points and placed fourth (out of eight) of all of the gender based groups.

Sadly Attunga couldn’t muster much participation for the first novelty event placing them fourth. They made up for this by placing second in the Nemo race. Unfortunately, they got off to a slow start in the house spirit awards seemingly unable to start their cheer engine. They eventually revved into action but not before the judges nearly fell asleep!

Winning in the dying minutes of the carnival and by only 10 points was Kittani finishing on 1,363 points! They placed equal first in the first novelty event and they also convincingly won the Nemo race. Despite a sea of blue, like Attunga they struggled to inspire the judges for the house spirit award placing them equal last with Attunga. Their girls dominated on 705 points giving them the second highest gender based house group (only 91 points behind Attunga boys). So congratulations to of Kittani for a well-deserved win in 2016.

**Brett Murray**
Carnival Co-ordinator

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

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – JUNIOR STUDENT RESILIENCE PROGRAM

Parents are invited to express an interest in their child attending a Resilience Program that will be delivered in Term 1 and Term 2. This will run for 8 weeks during second break on Thursdays 12.40 p.m. until 1.30 p.m. The My Friends Youth Program targets students between the ages of 12 -15 years and is suitable for years 7, 8, 9 and 10.

The program will benefit individuals who struggle to form good relationships with parents and peer’s, may suffer from excessive stress, anxiety or depression or alternatively who are interested in gaining strategies in helping individual’s cope with the transition between primary to high school.

This program was developed in Australia by leading clinical psychologist Professor Paula Barrett and assists individuals to develop strategies, highlight thoughts and actions that build positive relationships that can help reduce the incidence and severity of stress, anxiety and depression.

This program is the only program that has been endorsed by the World Health Organisation and has evidence to suggest that early intervention can assist individuals to help with thought patterns that lead to a more productive life. The program can also help improve overall quality of personal and school life. Recent research suggests that, “children who are emotionally and socially skilled are more successful at school!” (Durlak et al., 2011). This program has been delivery in schools in Australia and around the world and has had more than 100, 000 children completing this with successful outcomes.
Over the next few weeks your child may be invited to join the program or alternatively you may express an interest in your child to attend. This program will be delivered by a Guidance Counsellor who is also a Teacher at this school. If you are interested in being involved and would like more information about the program please do not hesitate to contact Penny Budge via email pbudg2@eq.edu.au.

Penny Budge
STLaN Teacher

GUIDANCE OFFICER

The Guidance Officers at Mount Gravatt High, Mr Daniel Wilson and Ms Penny Budge, would like to warmly welcome returning and new students to the school for 2016.

For those who are starting at the school, please find below a description of the Guidance services available here. Due to the continued growth of the school, 2016 sees two Guidance Officers at Mount Gravatt High for the first time. Mr Wilson continues to be full-time, with a focus on Years 9-12. Ms Budge will work in Guidance on Fridays, with a focus on Years 7 and 8. Appointments for Mr Wilson and Ms Budge can be made at the school office.

Mr Wilson will again take students on a range of career excursions, including a full Year 10 excursion to the National Careers and Employment Expo (27 May), the Allied Health Careers Forum at the PA Hospital (13 April), and university excursions to UQ, QUT and Griffith on a sign-up basis. The Year 12 Careers Expo in the school hall will be on 6 May.

Mr Wilson will also manage Year 12 QTAC applications for university and TAFE entry. Individual student interviews run in term 3, but senior students are encouraged to make a guidance appointment early in the year to start exploring their options. Information sessions for Year 10 students also run in term 3, to assist with subject selection and career planning. These students are also encouraged to see Mr Wilson to discuss their pathways through senior schooling and beyond.

Mrs Budge will be organising and running the school’s resilience program, which will be delivered over Term 1 and Term 2, starting later in Term 1 on Thursday lunch breaks. Expressions of interest are sought from parents who believe their child may benefit from the program. The program may benefit students who struggle to form good relationships with parents and peers, may suffer from excessive stress, anxiety or depression or who are interested in gaining strategies in helping them cope with the transition between primary and high school.

All students have been registered into the “Mount Gravatt Guidance Office” community on The Learning Place which we will use to post important dates, vacancies lists, career and personal development information, contacts, scholarship application forms and much more.

Kind regards and all the best for term one!

Daniel Wilson and Penny Budge
Guidance Officers

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

FINANCE NEWS

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.

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.

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.

Sam Jeffs
Business Services Manager

SCHOOL HEALTH NURSE

Hello – My name is Megan Smith and I am the School Based Youth Health Nurse at Mount Gravatt High School. The Youth Health Nurse works with the school community on issues that may affect the health and wellbeing of young people and the community as a whole. Young people learn best and are able to manage their life if they are healthy - physically and emotionally. I am available for individual consultations with students every Monday and Tuesday from 8:00am – 3:00pm to talk about anything that affects health and wellbeing. This covers a broad range of issues such as:

- Healthy eating and physical activity
• Relationships
• feeling unhappy or stressed
• Personal and family problems
• Smoking, alcohol and other drug
• Sexual health
• Growth and development
• Healthy skin

All consultations are voluntary and confidential. Parents and other members of the school community are also very welcome to contact me during these hours if there are issues of a health nature with students that you would like to discuss or for general information. Please call me directly 3291 5258 (Monday and Tuesday) or via the school administration 3291 5222.

Megan Smith
School Based Youth Health Nurse
Children’s Health Queensland

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.