A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Professionalism in action

Research shows that the home influence has the greatest single impact on student learning. In terms of the school’s role, it is widely recognised – and pretty much common sense - that the variable which has the greatest impact on students’ learning outcomes is what happens in the classroom. At Mount Gravatt High, we overwhelmingly have positive classroom learning environments where teachers are able to teach and students are able to learn free from unwanted disruption due to inappropriate attitudes or behaviours.

Mount Gravatt High teachers are dedicated to continuous improvement in the classroom. We are using a pedagogical framework based on the Art and Science of Teaching model developed by an American academic, Robert Marzano, to this end. Over the last two weeks, students may have noticed the presence of other teachers in one or more of their classes. One of the best ways that teachers can develop aspects of their practice is through a collaborative approach based on engagement in professional learning teams and participation in peer visits and observations in the classroom. The aspects of classroom practice being observed include questioning techniques and the use of graphic organisers in introducing new knowledge, and a range of other targeted literacy and numeracy strategies.

One of the best ways that teachers can develop aspects of their practice is through a collaborative approach based on engagement in professional learning teams and participation in peer visits and observations in the classroom. The aspects of classroom practice being observed include questioning techniques and the use of graphic organisers in introducing new knowledge, and a range of other targeted literacy and numeracy strategies.

I commend our great teachers for their professionalism in engaging in continuous learning, and their enthusiastic and thoughtful participation in these peer observations. Successful teacher learning means more effective teaching and better outcomes for students.

Student engagement

Fantastic engagement by Mount Gravatt High students can be seen in at least two areas at the moment.

One is the tremendous take up by students for work help at different times. Work Help in all subjects is provided by our STLaN Mrs Budge in Monday and Wednesday lunch breaks. Wednesday afternoon Maths tutorials for junior students, organised by our HOD Maths Mrs Wiffen, are consistently drawing in excess of 100 students, and the Thursday Senior tutorials about thirty students per week. This participation is voluntary, and it is a very positive sign that our students are focussed at school on learning. Thanks to all staff assisting with work help for students.

I would also like to mention the growing interest in debating by our students. This year we are fielding seven teams (two each from Years 9, 10 and 12, one from Year 11) in the QDU debating competition. While winning is rewarding, and there have been several wins by our teams, it is the experience and growing confidence and courage in public speaking that are of most benefit to students. Thanks to all teachers who are coaching debating teams this year for giving our students such a golden opportunity for self-development.
Communication

Mount Gravatt High takes seriously the duty of care we have for our students. Later in this newsletter, Mr Beebe will explain the details surrounding a system that we will introduce soon for texting parents and caregivers to advise them of apparent unexplained student absences. We hope that this timely communication will assist in identifying any attendance issues.

It is a privilege and pleasure to be acting as the school’s Principal while Mr Usher is on leave during the last three weeks of term.

Paul Kingston
Acting Principal

| UPCOMING EVENTS |  |
|-----------------|  |
| **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 |
| **Monday 11 – 15 April** | Year 11/12 Work Experience |
| **Friday 15 April** | Year 12 First Aid Certificate |
| **Monday 18 – Tuesday 19 April** | BCD Brick and Block laying |
| **Friday 22 April** | ANZAC Day Ceremony |
| **Monday 25 April** | ANZAC Day Public Holiday |
| **Tuesday 26 April** | Parent/Teacher Night 3-6pm |
| **Thursday 28 April** | Open Day 9-11am |
| **Friday 29 April** | Grandparents Day 11:30-1:30  
Year 11 PE UQ Excursion |
| **Thursday 5 May** | Year 11 White card course |
| **Friday 6 May** | Year 12 Careers Expo |

IMPORTANT STUDENT INFORMATION

TERM 1 REPORTS

TERM 1 REPORTS will be emailed on Tuesday 12 April. If you do not have a current email address on file, reports will be mailed on Monday 18 April. To ensure you receive your student’s electronic report card, please add OneSchool.application@dete.qld.gov.au to your list of safe senders to ensure report emails are not sent to the Junk folder. It is important to keep your contact details current with the school office and if your email address has changed, please notify the office as soon as possible.

Please read your student’s report carefully as it gives a current ‘snapshot’ of progress so far in Semester 1. The Achievement column will be from various numbers of assessment items but the Effort and Behaviour columns give a clear picture of how well students are applying themselves to achieving and improving.

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

TUESDAY 26 APRIL is the day of our Parent/Teacher Interviews. Information will be mailed out shortly regarding booking on-line and how that day will be organised. If an interview is requested please make every effort to book in as soon as you can.

STUDENT PERSONAL DETAILS FORM

STUDENT PERSONAL DETAILS forms will be mailed out shortly. As we rely on correct information for a variety of purposes, if there are any changes, could you please update and return the form to the office as soon as possible.

INTRODUCING SMS MESSAGING

All efforts are being made by teachers and support staff to ensure roll marking is accurate and that information to parents is also accurate.

SMS messaging to parents of student daily absences will occur from Monday 21 March. This is an enhancement to our daily roll marking system to ensure parents are informed as early as practical on the day of a recorded student absence. Telephone and email follow up will still occur where we have not received such advice from parents of student absence.

We anticipate this enhancement will better serve parents in providing timely notice of an unintended absence and absences not communicated with the school can be followed up on the day reducing the number of unexplained absences.

When the school commences using the system, the SMS text messages from the number “0429 317 323” (not currently active) will be automatically sent to the mobile phones of parents explaining that our records show that your child is absent from school. Please save this number to your phone. The message will show:

- That the message is from Mount Gravatt SHS
- The date of the unexplained absence
- The name of your enrolled student
A message asking you to reply with the student name, absence reason and absence date (eg Taylor Swift sick, 11 April) if you have not already notified the school.

Please continue to use the existing methods of informing the school of the absence of your child by phoning the school absence line (3291 5266), emailing absence@mtgravattshs.eq.edu.au or using the QParents App. Texting this new number the details of the absence is another method available for you. The system will only respond to mobile numbers contained within the database (ie: parent/guardian mobile numbers).

The message will be sent to one mobile per family. If you receive a message and wish to then change the number for future messages, please contact the office.

We hope you find this new service beneficial.

Darren Beebe
Deputy Principal

OPEN DAY
THURSDAY 28 APRIL
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: Tel 3291 5222
Email: www.mtgravattshs.eq.edu.au

DEAN OF STUDENTS – SENIOR SCHOOL REPORT

It’s been a busy term 1 with lots going on in the Senior School...

2016 Lord Mayor’s Youth Advisory Council (LMYAC) Representative

This year Tahlia Johnson from Year 10 will represent Mount Gravatt High School on the LMYAC. This program “aims to develop young people as leaders, and is specifically designed to provide an opportunity for young people in Brisbane to participate in decision-making at the local and citywide level”. Tahlia will be working with the Lord Mayor at four meetings throughout the year and will be asked to provide her opinions and ideas on some Council initiatives. Tahlia will also have the opportunity to voice her opinion about issues that affect young people in Brisbane.

Year 12 Senior Badges

All Year 12 students received their “Senior 2016” badge on Tuesday 16 February at the Year Level Parade. The students were excited to receive these and are wearing them with pride.

Year 12 Senior Jerseys and Jackets

The first order has been placed with an expected delivery of Week 2 in term 2, providing all goes according to plan. Those students who missed out on this round will have another opportunity to place their order early in Term 2.

Senior Leaders

Our Senior Leaders have been very busy this term, distributing tuckshop orders at morning tea, attending meetings, preparing speeches, participating in Student Council activities, assisting on Open Day and presenting badges to the Year 6 Leaders at Mount Gravatt State School. Christy Liaw, our International Student Leader, with the assistance of the rest of the Senior Leaders, is currently organising Harmony Day to be held on Monday 21 March.

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.

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

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.
Thank you leaders for all that you are doing.

On a final note, I would like to share the current attendance rates for the Senior School:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Year 10</th>
<th>Year 11</th>
<th>Year 12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rates</td>
<td>94.2%</td>
<td>95.1%</td>
<td>96.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Well done Seniors! Keep up the fantastic work.

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

School Based Apprentice – Seeking Worthy Things

Congratulations to Girls in the trade - Britney Muller from Mount Gravatt SHS, who is enrolled in a school based Certificate III Carpentry with Leckton Constructions Pty Ltd. Britney is enjoying the benefits of onsite training. Britney was recently a feature on the TAM (Training and Assessment Mentor) Facebook page and has made an impressive start to her Apprenticeship.

WORK EXPERIENCE 11-15 April

Placements for students undertaking work experience should be out in the next day or two. Students are excited to finally experience some Real Life situations in the workplace. Whether they are interested in finding out about their future pathway or hoping to gain future employment, Work Experience is a great opportunity for all students.

Make sure that your student makes contact with their employer in order to introduce themselves and to also arrange for the Employer’s signature on the Work Experience Agreement paperwork. This will then need to be returned to school.

If your student is arranging their own placement and have not provided me with the necessary paperwork they need to do this shortly otherwise they will not be covered by Insurance.

Queensland Training Awards

Nominations for the 2016 QLD Training Awards are now open.

If your student is currently participating in a School based Apprenticeship or Traineeship, or is studying TAFE and would like to nominate, please see me for more details. Find out more at:


First Aid Course – 15 April

Expressions of Interest are now being sought from year 11 and 12 Students interested in participating in a First Aid course being offered here at Mount Gravatt in partnership with Embark College. Cost of the course is $70. If your child is interested they can email me on swils118@eq.edu.au or visit me to put their name down.

VET in Schools programs

Tafe courses have now started for the year and only a few VET in schools programs have flexible arrangements for the enrolment of students. To find out which courses are available now please make sure you read the Career Hub Newsletter or subscribe so you don’t miss out on any important dates.

Sandra Wilson
Head of Department - Student Development

DEAN OF STUDENTS – JUNIOR SCHOOL REPORT

The weeks have flown by as we move into the latter part of Term 1. It was lovely to meet many parents on the ‘New Parent Evening’ on the 24 February.

There has been a great deal happening in the Junior school in Term 1. A strong start with the involvement of our new 2016 Junior Leaders on Parades and Open days. Terrific attendance results across Yrs. 7, 8 and 9. Students also learning the importance of checking the Junior Secondary noticeboard for regular attendance data updates and general information for all things Junior Secondary.
Year 7 Camp 2016

Week 8 will be a big week for Year 7’s as students head off to Tallebudgera for camp. We look forward to hearing about and seeing the terrific opportunities afforded to them in both physical adventures and mind challenge activities. Camp is a terrific way to forge new friendships and to get to know each other. 8 x Year 11’s are also attending as mentors over the 3 days.

‘A if for ATTENDANCE ‘

We have had a wonderful response from all year levels in Junior Secondary this year with attendance data. I have visited a number of classes to check that students know their attendance percentage for the first 6 weeks of 2016. The Junior Secondary noticeboard has been a hive of activity as students look to see whether they are in the “Green zone”. Thank you to those students who have asked for their data to be double checked. It is a good process to see what 2 or 3 days off can do to the 95% plus attendance data of an individual student. This shows that students are thinking about their accountability to their attendance, and in turn, to their school work.

The table highlights not only each year level, but also how both males and females are achieving in each year level. Remember that our TARGET is 95% plus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>97.2%</td>
<td>97.5%</td>
<td>96.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>93.8%</td>
<td>92.5%</td>
<td>95.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>95.9%</td>
<td>92.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thought of the Week

‘Learning from our mistakes’

Thomas Edison tried two thousand different materials in search of a filament for the light bulb. When none worked satisfactorily, his assistant complained, “All our work is in vain. We have learned nothing.”

Edison replied very confidently, “Oh, we have come a long way and we have learned a lot. We know that there are two thousand elements which we cannot use to make a good light bulb

Finally, all the best to students in the Junior School for your end of Term 1 exams. Remember to be prepared and to do the very best you can.

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

The Year 7 EDGE Writer’s Workshop

This term, 7 EDGE has been partaking in a young writers’ workshop conducted by the amazing children’s author, Samantha Wheeler. A Moreton Bay Environmental Education Centre initiative, this wonderful experience will culminate in the publication of a short story book written by Mount Gravatt High School students. The first part of this incredible opportunity involved Samantha visiting our school to reveal some of the deepest secrets of writing a narrative. 7 EDGE is now in the progress of writing a “green” story inspired by current environmental issues.

During Phase Two of the process, 7 EDGE and Samantha Wheeler sought motivation for writing by exploring Moreton
Bay. We toured the Bay on a boat called “The Inspiration,” a fitting name for its passengers and purpose. On the boat, Samantha introduced some new writing techniques, and even took us out on St Helena to motivate ideas for our green stories. We had such an amazing time that we were reluctant to leave!

This week, under Samantha’s invaluable guidance, we have planned and begun writing our stories, armed with inspiration and writing techniques that will make us amazing short story writers.

This experience has been a blast, and we can’t wait to spend more time with Sam. We feel so privileged to be able to work with her. We will be working hard to complete our stories and have them compiled into a professionally published book.

We thank Ms Tara McKenzie for arranging these enriching experiences for our students.

**Jasmine, Victoria and Myah**

**Year 7 Edge Students**

**Year 8 Literacy Development**

As part of our 2016 Junior Secondary Literacy Enhancement, each Year 8 class has been allocated two Writing Workshops with Writing Coach, Ms Catherine Millsom. These hands - on sessions focus on analytical writing skills, which are used for formal assessment in most subject areas. The sessions were high energy and high yield; as well as a whole lot of fun.

Many of the Year 8 classes jointly composed a formal analytical essay to explain why Star Wars is so popular. The process of brainstorming was visually demonstrated through the creation of a Mind Map which incorporated ideas from all class members. Then the important process of grouping similar ideas and themes together, to come up with the three most powerful points, was experienced. For each point a PEEL paragraph was created. Effective language for both introductions and conclusions was expertly drawn from student ideas by Ms Millsom.

The Year 8 Edge class took this a step further and also created an informal spoken piece which would also be suitable for a blog. Rather than focussing on the Star Wars theme, 8E utilised an Indigenous text as their stimulus.

At the end of each session students walked away satisfied with their contribution to the group process being acknowledged; and with the necessary skills to tackle their first Analytical Essay in English next term. Every Year 8 English teacher walked away with new ideas on how to further engage their students in analytical writing. Thank you Ms Millsom.

See the 8A/B English Foundation classes’ Mind Map and listen to 8F English final essay. Also attached is the PEEL Paragraph Placemat.

**Junior Secondary Debating**

Eight super keen students in the junior school have dedicated themselves to debating this year. The two teams have had outstanding success in their very first competition. Congratulations students, on taking on this extra commitment. You will have an edge, the skills and confidence, each time you are asked to complete an oral assessment task. See Mr Dan Miles’ comprehensive Debating Report in this edition.

Also note that a Year 7 competition will be run in Semester Two. Stay tuned for details.

**Junior Secondary STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)**

Another exciting opportunity for students is the 2016 Year 7/9 STEM Horizons for High Achievers. Eight Junior Secondary students have been accepted into this sought after program. Select organisations, including Griffith University and the University of Queensland, have collaborated to develop an intensive and varied STEM program to engage young minds. Congratulations students.

Year 7 students, Rhiannon Duigan, Fatiha Alam, Erin Davis and Katerina Eglezos will be engaged in four one-day workshops entitled:

- The Water We Drink
- Energy at the Bottom of the Bay
- Freshwater CSI
- Xtreme Detective - Who Killed Stan the Strawberry?

Similarly, Year 9 students, Krisztina Kovacs, Isabella Hart, Casey Gilbert and Morgan Gilbert, will be involved in the following:

- Energy Transformations
- The Mud is Alive
- Campus Scene Investigators
- A View Inside a Cell.

We thank Mrs Camille Newlands for sourcing and organising participation in such programs.

I encourage all Junior Secondary students to step out of their comfort zones and commit to an extra - curricular program on offer here at Mount Gravatt High.

**Judy Andrews**

**Head of Department - Junior Secondary**

**TEACHING AND LEARNING IN 2016**

In 2016, the management of the Resource Centre has been moved into the Teaching and Learning portfolio. The Resource Centre is a clear hub of activity in our school with students accessing it for IT Help, Robotics Club, School of Distance Education classes, general study space, collaborative assignment preparation and just a quiet spot to read. We are fortunate to have the services of Mrs Lorretta Whitmore who has been hard at work this year already purchasing new fiction titles, removing and donating old resources and investigating our online search catalogue. At the start of term 2, we are going
to launch to the school community the online resource hub that allows students to search for physical materials in our collection as well as providing access to a range of high quality online resources. We are also investigating digital “books” and how we can loan books to students for use of laptops.

The Resource Centre has been a busy place in term 1 with the attraction of the cool air during the hot weeks meaning we have reached capacity on a number of occasions. With this in mind, it is important to highlight to our school community some of the expectations around using the Resource Centre. We require all bags to be left outside on the racks. During peak times, there is a small storage space inside the centre to assist with the overflow and keep bags out of the way. The standard in the Centre is that the volume be reasonable and respectful. We want to ensure that students who wish to read or study in a quiet environment can, while still allowing those who may be working collaboratively to discuss their activities. Now is also the time to remind students of the need to leave plenty of time to access the printing room when assignments are due. There are additional printing facilities available for senior students in E block and junior students in K block.

I am also delighted to announce that Mount Gravatt High will again be competing in the statewide Readers’ Cup competition. Students from the year 8 English Edge class have nominated to be a part of this team and are looking forward to starting their reading of the set books later this month. The competition will be held at Mount Gravatt High this year in June. For further information about Readers’ Cup visit the website:


Catherine McCarthy
Head of Department – Teaching and Learning

FREE CYBERSAFETY PRESENTATION

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.

Date: Wednesday 11 May
Venue: Mount Gravatt High School Resource Centre
Time: 6:00pm

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.

Sally Campbell
Deputy Principal

NEWS FROM THE SENIOR LEADERS

Hi! We’re Phoenix and Charlie, the 2016 School Captains of Mount Gravatt High School. Over the past five years, this school has given us hundreds of opportunities to learn and grow both as students and as people, and to have been entrusted with this privilege is an honour that we are both humbled to hold.

As the School Captains this year, we hope that our actions and goals will not only add to the ever-growing school community here at Mount Gravatt, but that they can help every student realise and accomplish their goals and dreams too. We intend to achieve this by actively involving ourselves in as many Mount Gravatt programs and initiatives as we can, something we have already begun doing this year. The Senior Leaders have been active participants in both the Student Council and the School Advisory Council meetings, ensuring our voices are always prevalent and productive.

Along with our Community Vice Captain, Ruben Tefera, we have also taken part in the annual Lion’s Club Youth of the Year competition, a public speaking and community involvement program run by our local Lion’s Club. This gave us a great opportunity to expand our speaking skills, as well as meeting prominent student leaders from other high schools in our community.

We look forward to 2016 and all of the challenges and successes it brings. We encourage students to share their opinions and ideas with us by approaching us in the playground. Remember, Milton Berle once said that “If opportunity doesn’t knock, build a door.” At Mount Gravatt, we have a lot of doors. A lot!

Phoenix and Charlie
2016 School Captains

PERFORMING ARTS

Vocal Concert - Term 1 Vocal Night postponed

Due to a very busy schedule for the last two weeks of this term, the Vocal Concert planned for Tuesday 22 March will now be held on Tuesday 3 May.

Juliet Sterling
Acting Head of Department – Creative Arts and Industries
The Art Excursion to the 8th Asia Pacific Triennial at GOMA and Queensland Art Gallery, offered in February this year to Year 11 and 12 Visual Art students, was a great success. The excursion treated these eager students to an experiential, multifaceted map of sensory and visual experiences. These artworks, both two dimensional and three dimensional (interactive) posed viewpoints, forms and materials that related to the fluctuating changes in identity, from cultural, religious and physical landscapes. The artworks acted as an inspiring catalyst for self-reflection, material and form exploration. A rich day of learning was had by all.

Ms Sue Christie
Senior Art Teacher

Congratulations to our 2016 Music Captains!

L-R: Akupa Kaonga (Junior Vocal Ensemble), Evie Kernke (Senior Vocal Ensemble), Catherine Yuen (Stage Band), Alex Curtis (Brass Ensemble), Joshua Jeffrey (Wind Ensemble), Mikaela Leworthy (Senior Vocal Ensemble), Sarah Jeffrey (Concert Band, David Ngo (Strings), Herini Kumaresan (Percussion Ensemble), Sascha Curtis (Junior Vocal Ensemble)

Senior Drama Club students sharpen their improvisation skills with Theatresports games.

Percussion Ensemble

Percussive techniques can come in all shapes and sizes.

Year 12 Music Extension

Year 12 Music Extension is an exciting subject offered to students already enrolled in Senior Music and involves students choosing one of two specialisations — Composition or Performance. The focus is on self-directed, independent learning, so students are able to plan and implement their own course of study by choosing their specialisation, instrument and style. Students are currently practicing and composing works for the Music Café late this term and Performance night in term 2. We hope to see you there!

Nick Robke
Music Extension Teacher
Year 7 Industrial Design and Technology

As Term 1 quickly draws to a close students are beginning to complete their first pieces of assessment. The Year 7 Industrial Design and Technology students are completing their practical assessment for their first subject rotation.

This year a new project for the students was devised. It is a bedside lamp which incorporates the new technologies purchased by the IDT department in 2015. Students use the laser cutter to design the top of the lamp out of acrylic. Inspired by the world’s city skylines, students designed their lamps.

The base of the lamp was constructed from plastic and vacuumed formed on our new machine from a pre-made mould. The project was finished off with a simple electrical circuit consisting of a 9 volt battery, a resister and LED for the light source. Students became very creative and some incorporated four different city skylines in their design.

Their work attracted the attention of the Deputy Principles Mrs Campbell and Mr Kingston who visited Ms Rochow’s Year 7 class. They were very impressed with the standard of student work.

Congratulations to all Year 7’s who challenged themselves in the design process of this project. It has been wonderful to see students proudly taking their jobs home.

Year 10 Creative Design and Technology

CDT students have been busy designing and constructing their decorative letters. The girls started with letters cut from 12mm ply and decorated them with a range of materials and techniques. These included materials ranging from aluminium cans, to upholstery and wallpaper. Some wonderful pieces of work have been produced for themselves, as well as gifts for family members. The students should be very proud of the quality of work produced.

Construction

It has been an extremely hot start to the year. Work conditions out in the grounds have been difficult. This is a great learning curve for the class to understand the reality of working in the construction industry. Good progress has been made on the framing activities undertaken by the Year 11 students. The ground work for the outdoor shelters by the Year 12 students is well underway. We are looking forward to these projects coming into fruition and classes retaining quality construction skills from these projects.

Our work on display

A large picture board has been constructed to help celebrate the success of the students in IDT. This 3 metre by 4 metre display in the workshops, highlights the wonderful work presently underway by students and teachers since the start of 2016. It is a great feature and was a great talking point on our recent Open Day.

Jim O’Neill
Head of Department - Design and Technology

STUDENT ABSENCES

Please ensure that you contact the school on the day of your student’s absence.
Absence Line: 3291 5266
Email: absence@mitravattshs.eq.edu.au
2016 Mount Gravatt Debating Program

In 2016, the Mount Gravatt Debating Program has significantly expanded, with seven teams across most year levels being entered into two different competitions. It is a credit to our Debating students that many of them are engaging in this challenging activity for the first time. I look forward to watching their progress throughout the year, and hope that they find Debating to be rewarding.

The following teams are competing in the Queensland Debating Union (QDU) competition:

Year 9.1, coached by Ms Millsom
- Casey Gilbert
- Morgan Gilbert
- Isabella Hart
- Alex Rofe

Year 9.2, coached by Ms Millsom
- Jack Carter
- Joshua Heape
- Akupa Kaonga
- Herini Kumaresan

Year 10.1, coached by Ms Macintyre
- Ned Binnie
- Woody Campbell
- Harry Jackson
- Hunter Jensen
- Lauren Ockendon

Year 10.2, coached by Mr Smith
- Bethany Bargh
- Liam O’Brien
- Jake Peterson
- Ian Yuan

Year 11, coached by Ms Arthur
- Taylah Birleson
- Sascha Byrne
- Sarah Clearwater
- Niamh Sharp

Year 12, coached by Mr Miles
- Nicole Carter
- Liz Lang
- Conrad Reeder
- Anishka Shenoy
- Chloe Wisker

For the first time in 2016, Mount Gravatt is also entering a team in the Brisbane Girls’ Debating Association (BGDA) competition. That team, also coached by Mr Miles, is comprised of:
- Nicole Carter
- Brenna Corben
- Evie Kernke
- Lakisha Milley
- Vivienne Tame

Please note that Teams 9.1, 9.2, 10.2 and 11 have room for an additional member. If your student is interested, please let me know. It is a great opportunity for students to improve their persuasive writing and public speaking skills.

Year 7 Debating

The Queensland Debating Union runs a Year 7 competition between August and October. I am hoping that we can also get a team of enthusiastic Year 7 students to fly the flag for Mount Gravatt. If you think that your Year 7 student would be interested in Debating, please watch this space for more information early Term Two.

QDU Round One (progress) Results

As of the deadline for newsletter submissions, we are half way through Round One of the QDU competition. On Wednesday March 2 our Year 9 and Year 11 teams competed.

Our Year 9 teams debated That McDonalds and other fast food chains are in decline. Both the Year 9.1 (affirmative) and Year 9.2 (negative) teams were successful against Our Lady’s College and Redeemer Lutheran College respectively. I was able to watch both of these teams debate and can report that, for first time debaters, they were very polished. Ms Millsom was very proud of their efforts, and I understand that some of the students were treated by their parents to a post-debate research session at a restaurant named in the topic!

Our Year 11 team debated the complex and challenging topic that countries which are the greatest per capita contributors to global warming should be required to cede territory to Small Island Developing States which go underwater due to temperature rises, and were successful against St Joseph’s Gregory Terrace. Ms Arthur has reported to me that the Year 11 team performed very ably on the night, and they she was very pleased with the way they conducted themselves against an experienced team of debaters. Well done!

BGDA Round One Result

On Monday March 7 our Year 12 girls competed in Round 1 of the BGDA competition. This competition combines training with a short preparation debate to provide a supportive environment for students to hone their skills. In Round 1 Evie Kernke and Brenna Corben debated for the first time, alongside Nicole Carter who has debated for Mount Gravatt in Years 10 and 11. The topic was that we should legalise the non-medical use of cognitive-enhancing drugs. Although this was a difficult topic to prepare for at short notice, our team gave a great account of themselves. While our opponent, Brisbane State High School, was successful on the on the night, the team (especially our two debutants) should be very proud of their efforts. The girls will compete in Round 2 on Monday March 21.
Quote of the Month

“McDonald’s will keep making burgers for as long as there are cows to kill.” – Jack Carter.

Well done to all students and coaches for the many hours you spent preparing and practising! If you have any questions about Debating, or would like to register your student’s interest in competing in future competitions, please don’t hesitate to contact me at miles@eq.edu.au.

Dan Miles
Debating Co-ordinator

Once the students completed their booklets and got the work out of the way, they relaxed and enjoyed themselves. Students purchased food and drink from a variety of stalls, trying many different cuisines. At 6pm we boarded the bus with full stomachs and empty pockets to return to school. Overall it was a fantastic evening!

Kellie Anderson
Business Teacher

SOCIAL SCIENCES AND BUSINESS

What a great start to the year. All students are back and in the swing of things. By the end of this week all students in the junior school will have completed their first piece of assessment.

Excursions are aplenty at the moment. The BEC students have attended Eat Street Markets, the geography students are about to attend their Bulimba Creek excursion, BCT students are heading to the BCEC and year 7s are off to dig up the past.

Simon Tucker
Head of Department – Social Sciences and Business

Year 10 Business Excursion

On Friday 18 February at 3pm Mrs Uematsu, Year 10 Business Enterprise and Computing students and I boarded the bus and headed to Eat Street Markets. The students were on a mission to visit a real life market and get ideas for their own market stalls that they will be running on Thursday 17 March at school as part of their assessment. We entered the markets at 4pm and students wandered around in their venture groups, analysing market stalls and identifying key attributes that could lead to a successful stall back at school. Students discovered that clear, but colourful signage can play a big part in attracting clients to a stall.

FINANCE NEWS

Facilities

We applied for a Grant from Community Benefits Fund for additional shade areas and bench seating throughout the school. This project will provide and areas for student to sit and relax in shade and comfort before and after school and during their break times. We have worked in conjunction with the Industrial Design and Technology Department to commence this project and are hoping to be successful in the near future with our application.

Cash Payments

In 2015 we requested that all payments to Mount Gravatt High School be either directly deposited into our account or via Bpoint or a credit/debit card payment. In communication with our local branch of CBA they will no longer provide teller service for our daily banking in the near future.

To assist our school, we are asking all parents/caregivers to make all payments via the direct deposit or credit/debit card method. We hope you can understand our situation and can endeavour to make your payments non-cash based.

Bank Account Details:

Commonwealth Bank Australia
Name: Mount Gravatt High School
BSB: 064 118
Account Number: 0009 0265

Please use the invoice number provided or the students surname when depositing into our bank account.

Sam Jeffs
Business Services Manager

LOST PROPERTY

The amount of lost property that we have on hand continues to grow and it is overwhelming how many hats, clothing and other items we have mounting up. We are confident parents do not want to continue to pay for the same items over and over again. Please NAME your student’s items. If 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.

P & C NEWS

Canteen

Volunteers
The Canteen is always looking for new volunteers, so if you have time to volunteer a day in a month or just for a couple of hours, it would be greatly appreciated. Grandparents are more than welcome to help. Without volunteers we cannot hold the service and prices in the canteen. Please contact Christine on 3291 5225.

Christine Dombrowski
Canteen Convenor

Uniform Shop
If you are interested in selling your unwanted uniforms, please bring in freshly washed and ironed items to the uniform shop. A 30% commission is deducted from sold items and cheques are issued twice a year.

Jackets and Jumpers
All winter uniforms have arrived and are ready for collection.

Music Uniforms
Please pre-order all your music uniforms by 23 March. This is necessary as it can take 8 to 12 weeks for the orders to be filled and delivered.

If you have any enquiries or wish to place an order, please phone 3291 5209 or email mghuniform@hotmail.com.

Gayle Brown
Uniform Shop Convenor

2016 NEXT STEP SURVEY

The Queensland Government is conducting its annual statewide survey of all students who completed Year 12 in the previous year. The Next Step survey is a brief, confidential survey that gains a comprehensive picture of the employment, study and life choices made by Queensland school completers in the year after they finish Year 12.

Between March and June, all our students who completed Year 12 last year can expect to receive instructions to complete a web-based survey or a telephone call from the Queensland Government Statistician’s Office to complete the survey. Please encourage them to take part. If their contact details have changed, please assist the interviewer with their updated details or forward the survey to their new address so they can participate.

Thank you for your support of the Next Step survey in 2016.

Further information on Next Step is available online at www.education.qld.gov.au/nextstep/ or on toll free telephone 1800 068 587.