3 May 2016

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Term 1 though short, was intense across all four pillars with Sport featuring heavily in our calendar of events, and most recently the commitment of students in academic, arts and community pursuits were seen to bear fruit by the end of term and the first fortnight of term 2. Our 5 school debating teams are regularly winning and against ‘big name’ independent schools.

Student academic results in Term 1 are on track for further gains this year with a pass rate exceeding 90% across all grades. Particularly pleasing is the school wide results for behaviour tipping past the 98% mark for satisfactory and above and that included about 85% of students receiving an A or B for behaviour and 95% for Effort.

Terrific attendance at our first parent-teacher evening held this week was much appreciated. These interviews focus on progress and perception. Teachers were asked to focus on “what next” in the advice given to students and feedback from parents to me on the evening is that this was clear and consistent. Staff at Mount Gravatt High is committed to student success and our next formal interviews are held on Thursday 21 July. The focus of those interviews is to report on summative results from Semester 1 and again provide advice on what needs to be done to consolidate and go that next step.

Again, we can draw a clear line between attendance and results for those students who excel and/or strive for personal best have very high rates of attendance usually exceeding 95%. This is what sets our school apart – very high levels of commitment, being responsible and valuing learning.

Learning relationships between parents and teachers is proven to improve student engagement and results. Parent enquiry at any time is welcome and we encourage teachers to communicate directly and regularly.

Accolades go to students in our Instrumental Music Program ensembles, who without exception have grown in their technical and performance skills and excelled on recent assemblies and Anzac Day commemoration. Without exaggeration I found this year’s commemoration the best in my memory. Student leaders did a superb job demonstrating their growth in their respective leadership roles, students were attentive and the service conducted with dignity and genuine regard. A special thanks to RAAF Group Captain Jason Agius and Army Lieutenant Matthew Hunt for their attendance and key note addresses. Both officers were impressed by the occasion. Our school Captains Charlie and Phoenix represented Mount Gravatt High at the Holland Park RSL Service on ANZAC Day.

QParents has been a great success since its release with about 75% of parents now accessing the service. If you haven’t done so, we highly recommend this avenue of accessing your child’s school and financial records to make communications with us tailored to your needs. If you have not received an invitation, please complete and return the nomination form below.

Council parking officers will be regularly patrolling the surrounding streets of the school during term 2 to deal with traffic management as a result of issues raised with Council by local residents. To avoid traffic infringement notices or even fines parents need to be aware of limited on street parking, yellow lines etc. I thank parents who respect the ‘closed gate’ to the school each morning and afternoon to ensure student pedestrian safety during peak times. Still cause for concern is some parents driving up to the gates at Loreburn Street, doing a 3 point turn in front of the gate or having to reverse down the street. These manoeuvres are fraught. Teenagers are capable of walking 25 to 50 metres from a drop off point unless
incapacitated. We are looking into feasibility of a drive in drop off zone in Roblyn Street that will be some time away.

P&C is rising to the challenge of defining a strategic plan in how they can support the school and improve learning environment for our students. Out of the plan, next steps are to sort issues of priorities, how each project is to be achieved and a time frame for delivery. Our P&C is looking to providing a short newsletter regularly to parents and build a consultative base to consider a draft plan. The plan is to be released with FAQs/Summary and plan in full by end of term for comment.

All enquiries to Christine Kernke, P&C President: christine@kernke.com.au

I congratulate P&C for their efforts to support the parent teacher evening; the coffee van and raffles were very popular and sign up to receive P&C news very encouraging. It gave a great sense of community to the evening.

**Richard Usher**
**Principal**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 5 May</td>
<td>Year 11 White card course</td>
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<td>Friday 6 May</td>
<td>Year 12 Careers Expo</td>
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<td>Monday 9 May</td>
<td>Year 12 Geography Excursion</td>
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<td>Tuesday 10 May – 12 May</td>
<td>Year 7/9 Naplan</td>
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<td>Friday 13 May</td>
<td>Year 11 Graphics Excursion</td>
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<td>Year 8 INDE QUT Excursion</td>
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<td>Monday 16 May</td>
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<td>Thursday 19 May</td>
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<td>Friday 20 May</td>
<td>Year 9 INDE QUT Excursion</td>
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<td>Wednesday 25 May</td>
<td>Year 7/8 Chicken Pox/HPV Dose 2</td>
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<td>Friday 27 May</td>
<td>Year 10 Careers Expo Excursion Grandparents’ and Special Guests Day</td>
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<td>Tuesday 31 May</td>
<td>ICAS Science Competition</td>
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<td>Wednesday 01 June</td>
<td>QTAC Parent Information Night (6pm)</td>
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<td>Monday 06 June</td>
<td>Year 11 Geography Exam</td>
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<td>Friday 10 June – 17 June</td>
<td>Year 11/12 Block</td>
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<td>Thursday 16 June</td>
<td>Year 10 White Card Course</td>
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<td>Year 9 High Resolves Workshop</td>
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## SMS MESSAGING

Commencing late in term 1 the school began using a Short Message Service (SMS) system to provide a new service for parents/caregivers. The text messaging allows the school to send messages to all parents/caregivers or groups of parents/caregivers for important and timely announcements. The main purpose of the system, though, is to inform parents/caregivers about any unexplained absences for their child.

SMS text messages from the number “0429 317 323“ 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 reply to this new number with the details of the absence, it is a quick and convenient 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 service beneficial.

**Darren Beebe**
**Deputy Principal**

## DEAN OF STUDENTS – SENIOR SCHOOL REPORT

### Attendance

We started this term off by recognising those senior students who had a perfect attendance rate for the whole of term one. These students were identified and congratulated on their respective Year Level Parades and postcards were sent home to parents. Well done to those students – let’s see if you can do it again this term! As of the end of week two, attendance rates for term 2 are sitting at 94.9% for Year 10, 94.8% for Year 11 and 94.7% for Year 12. Remember the school goal is a 95% attendance rate.

### Year 12 Non-QCS Program Days

During the last week of Term 1 whilst the Year 12 OP students were sitting their practice QCS tests, the Non-QCS Year 12 students participated in an alternative program. This program included:

- Visit to TAFE Queensland at Southbank
- Talk at school from MIGAS about apprenticeships and work readiness
- Defective Vehicle Presentation by RACQ

On Tuesday 22 March the students visited TAFE Queensland at Southbank. The purpose of this visit was to provide the students with valuable information to help them make informed decisions about their plans for next year. Students received a detailed talk about the different courses that are available for study at that specific campus, and were taken on a guided tour of the facilities and grounds. Students were able to see what was happening in different faculties and speak with TAFE
teachers about areas they are interested in. Overall, students had a good day out and at the end of the day were aware of more options available to them.

**Year 12 Jerseys/Jackets**

Those students who missed out on placing an order in term 1 now have the opportunity to order their jacket or jersey providing they have been given the okay by Mr Beebe. If students are wanting to place an order they must ensure they pay their $85.00 to the payment window by Thursday 5 May 2016 and see me regarding their order details. Please note that this will be the last order of the year and if payment is not received in time, students will miss out.

**Year 11 Camp**

The Year 11 Camp preparations have begun and students are starting to hear about what happens on camp. Year 11’s will receive their camp letter and information package on Tuesday 24 May at the Year Level Parade. The cost of the camp will be $139.00 and spaces are limited to the first 150 students, so please ensure you return the forms and money to the office as quickly as possible once receiving them to ensure students don’t miss out. The camp will run from Tuesday 11 to Friday 14 October.

**Year 12 Formal**

Whilst Year 12 Formal is a long way off, I understand that some parents and students may like to start making arrangements early. For that reason, I would like to provide you with the following information, with more to come later in the year:

**Venue:** Stamford Plaza, Brisbane  
**Arrival Time:** Between 6:00pm and 6:30pm

**Kellie Anderson**  
**Dean of Students – Senior School**

Students have the option of arranging their own placement. If your student is arranging their own placement they will need to provide the business details and name of the contact in order to complete the necessary paperwork to be covered by Insurance.

If you wish for SCIPs to arrange a placement – go to www.scips.org.au student login or www.studentrego.com by Friday 6 May. Cancellation fees may apply so please read the letter that students have received carefully.

**First Aid Course – 11 August**

Students in Year 11 and 12 have another opportunity to undertake first aid and receive 2 QCE points in the process. Cost is only $70. Expressions of interest are now being sought. If your child is interested they can email me on swils118@eq.edu.au or visit me in D block staffroom to put their name down.

Students who only require the CPR refresher can also complete this on the day. Cost is $40 and takes 2 hours. Please see me also to request a spot.

**Career Information for Mount Gravatt High students**

A number of Universities, TAFEs and Employers will be visiting the school next week to speak to our year 12’s and provide pathway information to them. Stalls will be in the Hall and Parents are welcome to come down and gain some information first hand.

Year 10’s will also be visiting the Careers Expo on 27 May. This will be vital in gaining the necessary information in preparation for subject selection and SET Planning later in the year.

If your child can’t attend these events but are still interested in getting valuable information about Courses, Careers and Open days, then make sure to read a copy of the Career Hub Newsletter attached.

**Sandra Wilson**  
**Head of Department - Student Development**

**DEAN OF STUDENTS – JUNIOR SCHOOL REPORT**

**Year 7 Camp**

Year 7 students enjoyed a 3 day Camp at Tallebudgera Active Recreation Centre in Week 8 of Term 1. 179 students, including 8 Year 11 mentors, along with 10 teachers, headed to the Gold Coast for an action packed adventure camp.

Over the 3 days students experienced an array of activities including surfing, high and low ropes, rock-climbing, team challenges and beach games. The Senior Mentors were matched with an activities group. They supported Mount Gravatt High Teachers and Camp Leaders in activities where height, strength and teamwork skills challenged each student. The photo gallery is a terrific record of those challenges. I thank the Year 7’s for their enthusiasm and participation in the numerous activities experienced over the 3 days.
The night activities included a games night on Wednesday. Great displays of participation made for some terrific competitiveness organised by Mrs Brady and Mr Hollis. The second night’s entertainment was a Disco full of loud music and great dancing.

I am sure that we all learnt something about ourselves. Finding out what we are capable of when we are challenged to do something that we would not normally do, can have very rewarding results. Student endorsement is the best way to promote how rewarding Camp can be. Thanks to the following year 7’s for their Feedback.

Natalie Mead
I learnt that I can push my limits and am capable of a lot more now that I have experienced the Camp.

Dylan Harris
I enjoyed going out on the beach and going body boarding. I learnt that you need a lot of upper body strength to do the high ropes.

Katherine Zhang
The thing that I enjoyed most about Camp is that I got to make new amazing friends.

I learnt that sometimes you cannot just stick to one thing; you have to try everything to know what you are best at.

Juhaim Zaied
I have learnt how to be more confident.

Hope McRae
I learnt that I can climb the high ropes and get to the top of the rock climbing wall.

Johnny Tran
I really enjoyed body boarding.

Mel Lay
I learnt not to be scared of something for the 1st time when doing Camp activities.

Siena Dutson
If I set my mind to it I can do anything I want to do. I enjoyed being able to spend time with other people and making new friendships.

Serani Frisby
I liked the location of the Camp and the activities. I learnt that I enjoy rock climbing and bodyboarding.

Attendance
As we move further into Term 2 it is important to reflect on our attendance achievements from Term 1.

Congratulations to the 348 Junior Secondary students who achieved the 95% plus attendance target. They have all reached the very important ‘Green Zone’.

Attendance
As we move further into Term 2 it is important to reflect on our attendance achievements from Term 1.

Congratulations to Fletcher Reid (7), Nikita Ludwig (8) and Ethan Kerr (9) in winning the attendance draw for Term 1.

There are also many others who were very close to that target and I encourage all students to aim for our Target 95% for Term 2.

155 Junior Secondary students achieved 100% attendance. A ‘congratulatory’ positive postcard was sent home to each student in week 1 of this term.

Overall attendance rates in Term 1 for each year level, highlights that Junior Secondary as a whole has achieved strong attendance rates, however there is always room for improvement. A note of Congratulations must be made to the Year 7’s on their overall attendance in Term 1.
This week I spoke with the Year 9’s about joining the High Resolves program in 2016. In 2015 all year 8’s experienced a day program in High Resolves. Year 9 is a time for students to become a volunteer in this program. There is a day’s workshop in week 8, followed by a group project in Term 3. This project requires lunchtime planning and meetings. It is a great opportunity for any Year 9 student to be involved. Nominations for volunteers can be made on the student noticeboard from week 3 onwards. If you have any questions about the project please feel free to contact Ms Fisher or Mrs Andrews.

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.

YEAR 7

96.1%

YEAR 8

93%

YEAR 9

93.1%

Year 9 High Resolves
The planning begins.....

It is never too late to be who you might have been.

George Elliot

sourceofinsight.com

Once a fortnight, Mr Woodlands presents specific problem solving strategies to every year Seven and Nine Mathematics class. He also employs the whole - school SEE PLAN DO CHECK approach. He models a strategy, works through some examples and then students work through further problems with their classroom teacher. Mr Woodland identifies the problems’ level of difficulty by allocating a one, two or three chilli rating.

As our Junior Secondary Mathematics teachers remain in the classroom during these guest teacher sessions, professional learning is also provided. This maximises teaching learning outcomes across the entire school, as all teachers can adopt a common approach to the explicit teaching of problem solving skills.

Thank you Ms Wiffen and Mr Woodlands for providing our students with an edge in problem solving.

Mentors

A class competition was conducted over four weeks of Term One to encourage relationships between year Seven students and their three Class Mentors. Entitled CONNECT FOUR, each student had to find one of their mentors in the school grounds, perform the weekly set task, and have the mentor sign their Connect Four entry card. At the end of this time period, the class with the most number of completed entries won the competition. Due to the effort of mentors, Grace Yap, Dillon Cockrill and Zoe Bates, 7C were victorious. Well done to the students of 7C and Ms Prescott also, for their overwhelming commitment to the task. Grace, Dillon and Zoe seized this opportunity to demonstrate initiative and leadership.

Our Senior Mentors are provided various opportunities throughout the year to develop their leadership skills. Eight of our mentors accompanied the year 7 students on camp. (See Ms Fisher’s Full Camp Report) Camp participation provided the most challenging of all opportunities in the mentors ‘calendar. Whether these leaders simply modelled participatory behaviours in rock climbing for their young charges, overtly encouraged reluctant year 7 students on the high ropes or talked their team through the strengths and weaknesses of their catapult design; they all challenged themselves. The results were admirable. Feedback from teachers attending camp was overwhelmingly positive. Our year 7 Camp mentors were recognised at our recent year 7 assembly.

JUNIOR SECONDARY

Numeracy Enhancement

To further enhance the numeracy skills of our Junior Secondary students, Head of Department of Mathematics, Ms Rosemary Wiffen has devised a program utilising the specific skills of guest teacher, Mr Sky Woodlands. Ms Wiffen has devised this program based on her extensive experience with the U2B Program.

Ms Wiffen had identified that students would benefit from explicit strategies to assist them with interpreting word problems and then translating these into mathematical algorithms.

Our Senior Mentors are provided various opportunities throughout the year to develop their leadership skills. Eight of our mentors accompanied the year 7 students on camp. (See Ms Fisher’s Full Camp Report) Camp participation provided the most challenging of all opportunities in the mentors ‘calendar. Whether these leaders simply modelled participatory behaviours in rock climbing for their young charges, overtly encouraged reluctant year 7 students on the high ropes or talked their team through the strengths and weaknesses of their catapult design; they all challenged themselves. The results were admirable. Feedback from teachers attending camp was overwhelmingly positive. Our year 7 Camp mentors were recognised at our recent year 7 assembly.
I also wish to thank the members of staff who generously gave of their time to organise and attend the camp.

Thank you to the following mentors:

- Lana Burke
- Charlotte MacCracken
- Dillon Cockrill
- Daniel Collins
- Leila Yahia
- Gabrielle Fletcher
- Taylah Birleson
- Sascha Byrne

Performance Review Interviews

After analysis of Interim Reports, the Junior Secondary Team is conducting short interviews with those students whose reports clearly indicate areas where improvement is desirable. This could relate to achievement, behaviour and/or effort. Mr Paul Kingston will interview year 8 students, Ms Helen Fisher will interview year 9 students and I will conduct those for the year 7 students. Our aim is to assist students to identify and establish achievable goals for the remainder of Semester One; but more importantly, determine HOW the student can achieve these.

Judy Andrews
Head of Department - Junior Secondary

NAPLAN YEAR 7 and 9

This year NAPLAN will be held in Week 5 of this term. Students in Years 7 and 9 will sit tests in language conventions and writing (Tuesday 10 May), reading (Wednesday 11 May) and numeracy (Thursday 12 May). The tests are designed to test general skills taught in the Australian curriculum and these are developed over time.

At various times in classes this year, students will have engaged in preparation for NAPLAN by familiarisation with the style and format of the papers and by ensuring they are equipped with the skills and understandings required to recognise, understand, interpret and complete the tasks to the best of their abilities.

During week 5, please encourage your students to do their best and to prepare for the tests by eating healthily and sleeping well. While NAPLAN is regarded as providing “high stakes” data (as it is to form comparisons between schools and school systems on local, state and national levels) this should not be at the cost of undue student anxiety.

We are used to having a very high rate of student participation in NAPLAN. If you have any concerns in this regard, please contact me at school at your convenience.

Paul Kingston
Deputy Principal

GRANDPARENTS’ AND SPECIAL GUESTS DAY

Grandparents’ and Special Guests Day has been postponed until Friday 27 May (Week 7 of this term) to allow our new coordinator, Ms Beck-Lyon, the opportunity to organise this event following a new format this year. While in the past this event was organised around a luncheon, this year it will be a morning tea in the Hall.

Year 7 students will be receiving more information about Grandparents’ and Special Guests Day to take home on their year level parade this week.

Our apologies for any inconvenience that this may cause in terms of travel arrangements.

Paul Kingston
Deputy Principal

STUDENT COUNCIL - Term 1, 2016

The Student Council took off in 2016 with a record-breaking bang. Over 80 members have joined again this year from Years 7-12 and beaming with eagerness to assist the community. As the voice of the student body the purpose of the Student Council is to continue its legacy for many years through frequent involvement with local and global charity groups and contribution and improvement of school life. As a team, we hold regular meetings where members have the opportunity to discuss ideas and problem solving strategies for school activities, events and agenda items. Our meetings are recorded in minutes; decisions are voted upon and brought to the attention of the School Advisory Council where they are discussed and actioned. New exciting opportunities for this year in the Student Council include the Newsletter Team, organised by Louisa Simpson, Vision Generation under our 2016 V-Gen Leader Brenna Corben and Ms Newland’s knitting group which aims to knit beanies for this year’s ‘Bang on a Beanie’ charity event.

Items such as School bubblers, EFTPOS facilities at the tuckshop, the use of study rooms, environmental management and allocation of funds to charities, have all been actioned through the input of Student Council. This year’s Student Council executives are, Ruben Tefera as the President, Elliot Neal for Vice President, Louisa Simpson and Raphael Tefera for Co-Treasurers and Bethany Bargh and Zoe Harrison for Co-Secretaries. As a cohesive team and democratic student body, the Student Council has held many successful events in Term 1. Those events include the ‘Swimming Carnival BBQ’, ‘Valentine’s Day Rose Sale’ and Cross Country ‘Watermelon Give-Away’ and ‘Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Red Frog sale’.

The Swimming Carnival was the perfect venue for a BBQ. On the day, 20 Volunteers and 15 reserves helped to run the much anticipated event. As predicted, it was a huge success, with 250 sausages and 10 cartons of soft drinks sold out within 30 minutes despite the rain. The most important job on the day was the holding of umbrellas over the chefs! The success of the event was a hot topic for the following weeks.
Welcome to the second term of 2016! My name is Kobe and I am the school’s Sporting Vice Captain and I am Cody, a Year 12 Senior Leader. Together, with the school’s other Senior Leaders and Captains, we demonstrate the values and high standards of Mount Gravatt High School and strive to be well presented and act as positive role models within the student body.

As Student Leaders of Mount Gravatt High, we set ourselves goals to participate in many extracurricular activities. The school has a vast variety of activities for sporting, academic, music and community focused minds. We have strong connections with many of these areas. We have joined the Kokoda Challenge this year where we volunteer to give up 16 hours of our spare time every fortnight for training. In addition to this we are also members of the Strings Ensemble, attend running training, are members of the Student Council, and participate in sporting/academic achieving programs. These are just a few opportunities that are offered to build strong relationships and bonds amongst students.

At the end of term 1, the school held its annual cross country event. It was great to see so many students participating and completing the course. As expected this event was a huge success and Kittani won... however Attunga’s spirit is still strong! We would like to note that this event would not have been possible if it weren’t for the teachers and students who volunteered to help organise and run the day. A special thank you to Mr Murray for coordinating such a successful event.

At the start of this term, the Senior Leaders were asked to run a special Awards parade. This involved us handing out badges and certificates on stage to those students who had excelled in the areas of sport, music, academic or behaviour/effort. We would like to once again offer our congratulations to all those students who received awards. Keep up the hard work!

Anzac Day was also another important moment that we have participated in during this term. The six captains were tasked with the responsibility of running the school’s Anzac Day Ceremony including the raising and lowering of the Australian flag, laying a reef and flowers for those who grow not old, and meeting a Lieutenant and gaining insight on his experiences and duties in the army. Our Captains, Phoenix and Charlie also represented the school at the local Anzac Day Dawn Service.

That’s it from us for now!

**Kobe Pashen and Cody Kwik**
**Sports Vice Captain and Senior Leader**

**HARMONY DAY**

I’m Christy and I am the International Leader for Mount Gravatt High School. On Monday 21 March, Mount Gravatt High School celebrated Harmony Day which was organised by myself with the support of the Senior Leaders. The purpose of Harmony Day is to engage students to appreciate their fellow students in celebrating the multicultural nature of our school. The theme of Harmony Day this year was “everyone belongs”, reinforcing the importance of inclusiveness to all Australians.

On Friday 18 March, Harmony Day trivia questions were distributed amongst all form classes in the school to see which class had the most knowledge of the world. There was great participation and the form class winner, M2, was rewarded with a box of Favourites chocolates for completing the quiz the fastest and having the most accurate answers.
All students and staff were given an orange ribbon to wear during form class and free bookmarks were given out in the resource centre as a gift for students to show support for Harmony Day. Free lollies and biscuits from different countries were also given out during lunch break as an appreciation for participating and engaging in the activities on the day.

I would like to thank Ms Page, Miss Anderson, and my fellow Senior Leaders who helped me with organising Harmony Day, and most importantly all students who supported and engaged Harmony Day. Without all of you Harmony Day will not have happened in our school. Thank you for such a great day.

Christy Liaw
International Leader

CREATIVE ARTS AND INDUSTRIES

Music Extension

Former student Wafia Al-Rikabi (far right) was a guest speaker for students in year 12 Music Extension.

Senior Vocal Ensemble

Senior Vocal Ensemble students rehearse ‘Blackbird’ for their concert on 3 May.

Wind Ensemble

Anthony Pirovich
Head of Department – Creative Arts and Industries

INDUSTRIAL DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Year 11 Construction: Wall Framing

The year 11 Construction classes have been very busy with their framing exercise. In Term 1 they finished framing up the walls with top and bottom plates, studs, noggin and headers.

Emillie Schilling a former student from Mount Gravatt High is now studying full time in Sydney at the prestigious Ettingshausen’s Institute. On 13 April, Emillie came back to school to run a workshop with our Year 12 Dance class.

Senior Leaders distributing sweets from different countries
Harmony Day

Senior Visual Arts

Year 9 Dance students practise their Hip-hop routine.
They are now busy fitting the wall sheets. They will eventually be taped and plastered. By the end of this term they should have finished the architraves and skirting boards. Term 3 will introduce painting skills for the frames.

**Year 11 Bricklaying Excursion**

Year 11 Construction students underwent a training day where they learnt how to lay bricks. Brisbane Block and Bricklaying came out to B block to teach students various techniques and processes involved in the bricklaying industry.

Students engaged in the art of mixing mortar and laying bricks in the form of walls, columns and corners. It gave students an opportunity to gain an insight into the industry and make contact with a company who can help them pursue a career in the industry.

The students who participated in this program had a great day and learnt a little about the bricklaying trade and had the opportunity to work with a tradesperson currently working in the industry.

If any students or parents would like to investigate a career in this industry feel free to contact the IDT Dept. and we will be able to put you in touch with Brisbane Block and Bricklaying. They are able to help the students make connections with this industry.

**Mr O’Neill**  
**HOD Industrial Design and Technology.**

**Year 12 Building Shelters - Senior Construction Project**

The senior Mount Gravatt Construction students are presently building four shelters on the grassed area outside the year 7 building.

Students are learning vital building skills and techniques such as surveying, excavating, concreting, carpentry, drainage and landscaping which are industry relevant. It is hoped that students will gain the necessary skills to obtain pathways into the trade industry.

**Wes Wilson**  
**Industrial Design and Technology**

**SOCIAL SCIENCES AND BUSINESS**

**Year 10 Business Mini Market Day**

On Thursday 17 March at second break Mount Gravatt High was treated to the annual year 10 Business Venture. This year the two classes joined together to design, plan and execute their very own mini Market Day with a collection of 8 stalls, all with their own original products for anyone with a sweet tooth. The market took place on the Old Parade Ground with the purpose of giving the Business students the chance to run a small business and to fully grasp all that the job entails. There was a variety of devilishly delicious sweets available for sale including; cookies, brownies, cans of soda, lolly bags, snow cones, popcorn, cupcakes, and rocky road.

As students, we quickly found out all the hard work involved with small business ownership. With deadlines looming we had to plan everything for our stalls, and when I say everything I mean EVERYTHING! This included making and/or buying the products, product packaging, finances, marketing, and even the staff uniform for the stall. So, we made it over all of these hurdles, met the deadline and found ourselves standing at our stalls on the Old Parade Ground wondering if any customers would turn up. What none of us had realised is how successful our marketing campaigns had been. At 12:40pm the stalls were bombarded with hundreds of hungry customers and it was a new level of chaos unseen by us naïve market owners. When the crowds died down, we packed up and took some time to reflect on the whole ordeal – We had been successful! Many stalls had sold out of their products, fun had been had, and even better, money was made.

**Liam O’Brien**  
**Year 10 Business Student**

**Year 11 Bulimba Creek Field Trip**
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TCUoy-PqHp8

For the 17th year Mount Gravatt High is proud to be working in conjunction with our local community group B4C. The year 11 Geography classes are currently utilising drone technologies to identify, map, collate and target problem areas with the Bulimba Creek catchment. Their task is to devise workable solutions to be implemented via a bipartisan arrangement with B4C. The work by the students has been noticed by other community groups and this has led to an exciting new initiative between Mount Gravatt High School Social Science Department, B4C and Griffith University. Details will be announced once plans are finalised.

Year 7 Archaeological Dig

This year, as part of their studies, the year 7 students undertook an archaeological dig. The students had a wonderful day and learnt the physical skills required to perform such a painstaking task. Students were able to uncover a variety of ancient treasures.

As part of the day they also witnessed a re-enactment of the mummification process. The process was interesting and humorous at the same time.

BCT Event Planning

The students in year 11 BCT recently visited the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (BCEC) to investigate how large events like the Healthy Living and Wellbeing Expo are planned, coordinated and managed. They were surprised with the amount of “behind the scenes” effort goes into planning such a big event.

The show must have been a big hit as all the students were relaxed and in touch with their inner self when they returned.

The Last Word

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff in the department for organising and planning learning experiences like these. Many hours are involved putting these events together and the students not only appreciate the effort but understand the benefit to their learning, these opportunities provide.

These events go hand in hand with the extraordinary effort that is evident in the classroom. The teaching excellence, which happens in every classroom every day, is a real treat to witness.

Coming up:

- Obviously students continue to roll through periods of assessment. Please refer to the assessment overview they received at the beginning of the year for further information.
- Year 12 Geography Story Bridge Climb Monday 9 May
- Pre Service teachers begin practicum placements within the school Monday 9 May

Simon Tucker
Head of Department – Social Sciences and Business

Talk Financial Decision-Making With Teenagers

One way that parents and carers can help their teenage children with financial life skills learning is to have a monthly focus on one financial life skill. This skill can be a conversation topic over one evening meal a week. The same message could be talked about when you go shopping, or when you see a related topic on a television show.

It is important that these conversations are not just one way — i.e. only from parent to child, but that the child can also be the initiator of the conversation.

An easy topic that crosses all age groups is financial decision making. Parents have to make financial decisions daily, many of which involve the children. Talking about the decision and the variables that are influencing that decision, is a good way to develop financial decision-making skills in teenagers. Each month as you or your teenager changes the topic, new knowledge and skills are formed.

Provided courtesy of your H & R Block and The Wealth Academy.

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
SPORT

What a very busy time for sport during Term 1. We have had both Swimming and Cross Country carnivals, district trials and even some regional sports trials.

On 1st March we had the Met East Regional Swimming Carnival at Chandler. Mount Gravatt High had 8 students compete with Zoe Day, Brandon Skinner and Connor Day progressing through to the State Swimming Championships. Well done Zoe, Brandon and Connor.

Our District has currently had 3 Sport Clusters where the following students have made a South District Team. The student’s then trial for a position in the Metropolitan East team.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Sport</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Vivian Bogomiagkoff</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Lana Burke</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Kira Carmody</td>
<td>Netball</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Claire Coles</td>
<td>Touch</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Georgia Cuffe</td>
<td>AFL</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Dane Gadsby</td>
<td>Touch</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Lily Johnson</td>
<td>Touch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Ashan Kumar</td>
<td>Football (Soccer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Georgia Peisker</td>
<td>Touch, AFL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Flynn Lello</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Oscar Munro</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Kousuke Narita</td>
<td>Baseball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Lucy Sproule</td>
<td>Netball</td>
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<tr>
<td>14. Chloe Thornton</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>15. Bailey Tome</td>
<td>AFL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Cameron Valiantis</td>
<td>Football (Soccer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Casey Walsh</td>
<td>Basketball</td>
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<tr>
<td>18. Marquez Walters</td>
<td>Touch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All students performed exceptionally well with the following students gaining representation in a Metropolitan East Team in their respective sports. Congratulations. A great effort.

Mount Gravatt High is going into its 8th week of Interschool Sport. Mount Gravatt is performing really well. There are a number of teams who are still in the running to make District Finals. Well done students and coaches and best of luck.

The District Cross Country is fast approaching. It is on Thursday 28 April for 13 -19 year olds and on Wednesday 20 April for the 12 year olds. More details will be coming out in the next week.

The last district trial for 2016 for the 13-19 year olds is on Monday 9 May and Tuesday 10 May. More details will be out at the end of April.

Mrs Johnson
Sport Coordinator

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

P & C Executive 2016

President: Christine Kernke
Vice President: David Heape
Secretary: Sharon Kwiatkowski
Treasurer: Helen Koppenol

We hope you all enjoyed the coffee van at the Parent/Teacher night last week. Thanks to those that became members and volunteered for tuckshop on the night.

We are looking for volunteers to help on the night of the disco Friday May 13. If you are free and can spare some time between 5-9pm can you please email me on christine@kernke.com.au . It would be great to have lots of helpers. Many hands make light work.

We would also love if you could bring in your donations of 12-24 soft drinks or water bottles in this week, as we are relying on them for the disco. You can bring them into the hall kitchen on Vocal Night tonight or otherwise drop them into the uniform shop this Wednesday or Friday between 7:45am – 9:30 am.
The Year 7, 8 & 9 Glow in the Dark Disco is set to be a blast…at only $10 for the night (including ¼ pizza and a drink) tickets are selling fast. Don’t let your child miss out. Please send your child’s disco payment into the Uniform Shop in a sealed envelope with your child’s year level and form class. You may also purchase tickets on the night at the door for $15.

Proceeds from the disco will be going towards two main strategies of the P&C….How to further “Cool our school” and how to upgrade our hall for Performing Arts/Drama nights.

Thanks for your support.

Christine Kernke
P&C President