22 August 2016

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Competition and the ‘universe of one’ seem to be prevailing themes in contemporary society and the notion that 2nd place is the first ‘loser’. Olympic Games commentary and professional sport in my mind seems to be leading this phenomenon. I applaud athletes who have trained for years to compete at international level and on the day come away with a medal but jingoism seems to be alive and well. What is disturbing is the idea that if one doesn’t come away with expectations met, that somehow they have failed themselves or others or they succumbed to ‘pressure’. I would have thought that if one enters a race or a competition, there’s a chance that another athlete could put in their personal best as a result of their training and dedication and win on the day. Not everyone has their 15 minutes of fame. That’s life. We should give credit to running the race and personal best. The world is in need of people who are resilient to challenge, who go about their endeavours with grace and humility, and celebrate wins with respect and gratitude and perhaps even some charity towards others.

I anticipate most parents and carers know where I am going with this theme and I suggest these values have a lot to do with why our school is sought after as a school of choice.

NAPLAN results were returned to the school recently and parents of Years 7 and 9 students should have received personalised reports in the mail. As in previous years I say to parents NAPLAN isn’t our “game”, but is a snapshot reflecting the combination of able students, solid work ethic and great teaching across the curriculum.

This year our Year 7 students demonstrated skills above nation in every aspect of the standardised test and Year 9 above nation in 3 of the 5 aspects and at nation in the remaining two. It is great to see we have such results, but more importantly and for every teacher, whether our graphs and reports in next year’s MySchool are green, blue or red – they will be green and blue by the way - it’s the relative gain for each and every student that really counts.

Did we make a difference? In all dimensions and in both years 7 and 9, approximately 85% of students had positive gain on their previous NAPLAN. In spelling, grammar and punctuation we had an incredible and creditable greater than 40% in the top 20% achievement. While about or less than 2% of students were below national minimum standard. This equates to about 1 to 3 students. The question is “what could we have done for each of these students?” This sums up our moral purpose to student performance. Clearly, the teaching for the vast majority of students is “on the money”. By keeping our attention on targeted and tailored teaching for every child, the results will speak for themselves for the school result is an aggregate of every child’s performance.

Special mentions this month to Year 7 Edge English whose anthology of short stories was published by Lillypilly Press as product of their writing young author’s project and to Drama Club cast, crew and staff for this year’s production of Animal Farm that played to a packed house each performance. Both are examples of authentic learning and skills that such experiences have brought to these students. Well done to them.

Richard Usher
Principal
UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Monday 29 August**  
  Year 12 Assessment Period Begins

- **Tuesday 30 August – Wednesday 31 August**  
  Year 12 QCS

- **Thursday 01 September**  
  Year 9 into 10 Subject Selection Night

- **Friday 02 September**  
  Years 11/12 Hospitality Restaurant Night

- **Monday 05 September – Friday 09 September**  
  Year 12 Block Exams

- **Monday 12 September**  
  Years 11/12 Engineering Excursion

- **Monday 12 September – Friday 16 September**  
  US Dance Trip  
  Ski Trip

- **Tuesday 13 September**  
  Year 10 Leadership Day  
  Year 11 Legal Studies Excursion

- **Tuesday 13 September – Wednesday 14 September**  
  Year 12 BCT  
  Tangalooma Camp

- **Wednesday 14 September**  
  ESD Excursion  
  Sports Breakfast

- **Friday 16 September**  
  Planning day  
  Last Day of school

- **Tuesday 04 October**  
  School Resumes

DEAN OF STUDENTS – SENIOR SCHOOL REPORT

**Attendance**

As you know we have been closely monitoring student attendance this year with the school’s goal being 95%. The students started off the year well and we came very close to that target during Semester 1. This term, however, the senior school attendance rates have dropped with Year 10 sitting at 93.3%, Year 11 on 94.4% and Year 12 on 94.1% as at the end of week 5. These are clearly below the 95% target.

I ask that students make every effort to attend school each day unless they are sincerely ill or need to tend to an urgent family matter. Good attendance is linked to student performance and therefore it is important that students are at school every day, in classes and learning. Please remember that if your child is away, the school must be informed via phone, email or note as soon as possible.

**Y-Lead Workshops for Years 10 and 11**

Students in Years 10 and 11 recently received a letter inviting them to attend a one day leadership/teamwork workshop to be run by Y-Lead and held at Mount Gravatt High. These programs will allow students to develop a stronger sense of their self-awareness, a greater understanding of their peers and motivate them to make a leadership contribution to the school.

The Year 10 workshop will be held on Tuesday 13 September and will cost students $20.00 to attend. The Year 11 workshop will be held on Monday 10 October (the day before camp) and will cost students $20.00 to attend. Please see the links below for the letters that were sent home with the students providing more information. I encourage every child in years 10 and 11 to sign up and get involved.

**Year 11 Camp Update**

Year 11 Camp is quickly approaching and will be held from 11 to 14 October (week 2, Term 4). Last Wednesday students received a visit from their Maroon Outdoor Education Centre Camp Coordinator who provided the students with some great information about what to expect on camp and what to bring. Students were also given the opportunity to have their many
questions answered. I thought now would be a suitable time to re-issue the packing list so preparations for camp can begin – please see the link below. Students will also be provided with another paper copy prior to the September/October holidays.

**Year 12 Formal**

The Year 12 Formal is quickly approaching and this year it is being held at the Stamford Plaza, corner of Edward and Margaret Streets, Brisbane. Students should arrange for their arrival to occur between 6:00pm and 6:30pm and they will need to be seated for the welcome speech by 6:45pm. The evening will end at 11:00pm, with all students to vacate the premises by 11:30pm. A photographer has been arranged for the evening and students will be provided with online access to all photos from the night. More information will be distributed to all Year 12 students in the last week of this term, with invitations going out during the first week of term 4.

*Kellie Anderson*

*Dean of Students – Senior School*

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## SENIOR SCHOOLING

### Year 12 QCS Test

With the QCS test approaching on Tuesday 30 and Wednesday 31 August, most Year 12 OP students have had expert lessons on all aspects relating to the test. Sessions on Numeracy, Visual Literacy, Extended Writing and Short Response have been covered throughout our Year Level Meetings and during the Master Class workshops. They have also been provided with detailed feedback on how they performed during both practice tests. If students wish to view these resources again prior to the test they can view all activities on the Learning Place.

Prior to the test, students must also declare that they have the correct calculator. This can be battery or solar powered but must not have a memory, spell check or thesaurus. If students are unsure they need to bring their calculator to their Year Level Meeting teacher or their Maths teacher for checking.

Students will also need to be prepared with the approved equipment which is to be carried in a clear see through container, plastic bag or takeaway container. It is vital to your child’s performance to be prepared on the day and have all the equipment permitted. Please see table below for these items.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Essential Equipment</th>
<th>Forbidden</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Short Response</strong></td>
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<td>any other items</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2B pencil protractor</td>
<td>e.g. mobile phone, iPod, translator, computer</td>
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### Writing Task

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<th>Writing Task</th>
<th>Essential Equipment</th>
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<td>transparent container to carry equipment</td>
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### First Aid

![First Aid Image]

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A big thank you to Embark Training who provided some of our students and staff with their First Aid qualifications on Thursday 11 August. Not only did students learn some lifesaving skills, but they also acquired 2 QCE points for their efforts. If your child would like to express interest in participating in First Aid, please ask them to email Mrs Wilson at swils118@eq.edu.au.

Sandra Wilson
Head of Department – Senior Schooling

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

JUNIOR SECONDARY

Year 7 Edge Showcase

Students in the Year 7 Academic Edge class proudly showcased their extension work on Thursday 11 August. The evening was expertly hosted by the students themselves and both current and prospective Edge students and their families were impressed with the Edge Program outcomes thus far.

The highlight of the evening was the launch of their co-authored book of short stories. In conjunction with children’s author, Samantha Wheeler, and the Moreton Bay Environmental Education Centre, teacher Ms Tara McKenzie has fostered a desire in students to put their concerns for the environment into the narrative genre. Samantha was so impressed with the students’ passion, motivation and ability, she arranged for the stories to be collected and published. The end product, 7 Edge Green Stories, includes a bio and short story from each class member.

As an aside, Samantha Wheeler’s latest book, Mister Cassowary, has been shortlisted for the Readings Children’s Book Prize and the Wilderness Society’s Environmental Book Awards.

Three students shared extracts of their stories with our guests, followed by an invitation for all to view/interact with the students’ individual Mindset Projects located around the perimeter of the Resource Centre. Ms McKenzie informed us that these projects had been independently created from students’ own interests and research questions.

I would like to thank Ms McKenzie for her passion to extend and enrich the learning of this motivated high achieving group of students.

The Edge Showcase Evening allowed me the opportunity to meet current appreciative parents and welcome excited prospective students from our feeder schools.

Year 7 Debating Team

A talented and engaging team of Year 7 Debaters took on Brisbane State High School arguing that Science is better than Studies of Society. Although narrowly being defeated, the students continue to develop their techniques in this second of four debates this year. Congratulations to Alan Thankachan, Sofia Marosi-Keir, Emily Fogarty and Emily Ashford. We again thank Ms McKenzie for guiding this young, enthusiastic team. Neither a black out or the accidental alarming of the building detracted our team from finishing strongly.

Judy Andrews
Head of Department - Junior Secondary

Blankets for Brisbane

Our Year 9 High Resolves Team has begun collecting ‘Blankets for Brisbane’ through ‘Vinnies.’ The students are encouraging all members of our school community in helping make a difference. Their Global Project is focusing on the issue of ‘Homelessness in Australia’, specifically in Queensland.
The team of 17 students has so far collected over 40 blankets. These consist of both new and second hand blankets, as well as a number of sleeping bags. The students have promoted their cause on student notices, parades, posters around the school and in the newsletter. They are planning a display in the Resource Centre. Their aim is to highlight the plight of homelessness and to show how we as citizens, can be proactive in helping this cause.

Blankets can be dropped off at F10 classroom before school or at morning tea. The High Resolves Team has organised a roster for the collection times. Donations of blankets can also be dropped off at the front office. Thank you to everyone who has donated a blanket so far. The response has been very positive and encouraging.

**High Resolves ‘Blankets for Brisbane’ Collection**

**Attendance**

As we move further into Term 3 it is important to reflect on our attendance levels. Our goal is 95% plus attendance for all Junior Secondary students.

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<tr>
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<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8</th>
<th>Year 9</th>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td>94.4%</td>
<td>93.7%</td>
<td>92.1%</td>
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Overall attendance rates in Term 3 after week 5, is listed in the table above. It highlights that Junior Secondary students have to be very aware that ‘every day counts’ and aiming for the ‘GREEN ZONE’ is just as important in Term 3, as it was in Terms 1 and 2.

If we look at the attendance for the entire school year, Year 7 is at 95.3%, Year 8 is at 92.7% and Year 9 is at 92.1%. It is clear that these percentages are below expectations in two of the year levels. There is time to consolidate each and every student’s attendance percentages. It is never too late. There is five weeks of Term 3 and all Term 4 left to improve individual attendance rates. With a little persistence, our Junior Secondary students can make a difference.

**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.

**GUIDANCE OFFICER**

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

School-based courses for Year 11 and 12 students in 2016 will be running at TAFE Queensland Brisbane and Skillstech. Courses are offered at TAFE campuses for one day per week over 1-2 years, to achieve a Certificate qualification. They can be a strong pathway into skilled work, or used as an alternative pathway to study at university. Course guides are now available online or from the Guidance Officer. Applications have been delayed but are expected to open on Monday 22 August.

**Year 12 University Applications and Scholarships**

QTAC applications are now open and the Guidance Officer is meeting individually with each Year 12 student to discuss career pathways and applications for tertiary study. Students are welcome to return before school and during lunch breaks if they have further questions. Students lodging a QTAC application will leave their Guidance appointment with their preferences and an instruction sheet for the online application.

Following the application process, students should start exploring the scholarship opportunities available to them. Financial support is available at three levels:

- Department of Human Services (formerly Centrelink): Austudy, Abstudy and other allowances, such as the Student Start-Up Scholarship, are managed through this department. For more information please go to the links below

**Universities:** Each university has a range of scholarships for academic excellence and financial equity. It is important to note that the "equity"-type scholarships are not only for students from low social-economic backgrounds or who receive government payments. Equity scholarships are intended to support students in their studies and reduce the imperative for them to work while they study. Universities are keen to encourage students to focus on study, without the distraction of long hours of work. Each year, many equity scholarships go unclaimed – you are encouraged to apply. For a summary of the scholarships available at each university please click on the link below: or the university websites.

http://studyassist.gov.au/sites/StudyAssist/ScholarshipsAndAwards

**Faculties/Schools:** As well as university-level scholarships, many faculties within universities offer scholarships to encourage students to take up studies in their area (e.g. Science, Engineering and Business). Once you have checked the university scholarships page, you should investigate what is offered on the faculty websites.

Additionally, many scholarships are offered by private companies, organisations and funds. A good summary of these can be found on the StudyAssist website:

http://www.studyassist.gov.au

Any queries regarding the QTAC process and university entry should be directed to Mr Wilson.

**TAFE Brisbane Degree Information Evenings**

Two Information Evenings are coming up giving students the opportunity to learn more about TAFE degrees, speak to the lecturers and find out about degree pathways. Registrations are on the TAFE Brisbane website.

**Wednesday 7 September 6pm – 7:30pm**

Bachelor of Dental Prosthetics Information Evening. Learn where a career in oral health can take you. Meet the lecturers, tour the dental lab/clinic and learn about the latest technologies.

**Thursday 8 September 6pm – 7:30pm**

Associate Degree of Civil Engineering Information Evening. Meet course lecturers, learn about the advanced design technology software, and find out how a career in Civil Engineering will help you shape the future of Australia’s infrastructure.

**Daniel Wilson**

**Guidance Officer**

**RESILIENCE PROGRAM FOR YEARS 7, 8 AND 9**

**SenseAbility Program developed by Beyondblue**

A resilience program delivered by Accor as you.nique will be offered for Term 4. Accor is a government-funded service that supports the positive Mental Health and Wellbeing of children and young people. The program was developed by Beyondblue and will run over a seven week period starting in Term 4. A staff member from Mount Gravatt High will also assist in the co-ordination and delivery of the program during this time.

Each week a different skill set is covered to assist in developing techniques that a young person can use to help them cope with the stressors of daily life. The group is limited to 12 students so that they feel supported during this process. The program is free of charge.

**The skills covered include:**

- Essential Skills
- Sense of Self Worth
- Sense of Belonging
- Sense of Self Control
- Sense of Purpose
- Sense of Future
- Sense of Humour

If you are interested in your child attending and would like further information, please email Penny Budge on pbudg2@eq.edu.au by Monday 5 September.

**Penny Budge**

**Guidance Officer – Learning Support – Teacher**

**TEACHING AND LEARNING**

**Griffith University Visit**

On 8 August seven Mount Gravatt High students visited Griffith University to participate in an interactive lecture with approximately 100 pre-service students. Along with Mr Tucker and myself were Liam O’Brien, Casey Gilbert, Akupa Kaonga, Tazmin Thomson, Shakira Martins, Gemma Dixon and Clayton Moore.

Dr Paul Reitano, a lecturer in History and Geography Education, hosted the students at an afternoon tea in the School of Education and Professional Studies where we had an interesting conversation about school in general and studying at
university. We then toured some of the Mount Gravatt campus facilities, spending some time in the newly refurbished Science laboratories. After this, it was on to the lecture, where the students moved on to the lecture theatre. While this was a new environment for our students, they handled themselves with aplomb and were able to forthrightly answer questions about student expectations of teachers in the classroom.

I thank the students for the way in which they conducted themselves and hope that they found the experience valuable. Connections like this with Griffith University are valuable, not only for the experience that the students receive, but also the understanding of our students that pre-service teachers receive and the subsequent effect that this understanding has on early career teachers who come to our school.

eLearning

At Mount Gravatt High we have been using the Blackboard content management system for a number of years. We are fortunate that we have a near universal uptake of our laptop program and this has meant that students and teachers have been able to use services like Blackboard (provided by The Learning Place) so widely.

Last year I started a process of consolidating and centralising our Blackboard sites into single Faculty sites. This not only reduces the administration for teachers, but provides a consistent experience for students across subjects and across year levels. (Please feel free to ask your student if you can see how they are using The Learning Place.)

On 8 August (yes, it was a busy day!) I was invited to Bracken Ridge State High School to share how we use our Blackboard with a number of their staff. While I am always professionally curious to know how other schools are using technology, it is great to see how far we have come down the eLearning road at Mount Gravatt High.

Dan Miles
Acting Head of Department – Teaching and Learning

STUDENT ABSENCES
Please ensure that you contact the school on the day of your student’s absence.
Absence Line: 3291 5266
Email: absence@mgravattshs.eq.edu.au

BILL TURNER CUP - FOOTBALL

Last term, Mount Gravatt High entered the Bill Turner Cup Football (Soccer) Competition which is an Australia-wide knock out competition for the junior schools. We were placed in a pool of 32 schools making up the South/West–Gold Coast district which proved to be highly competitive. Mount Gravatt High started off very well with conclusive wins over MacGregor High School 6-0 and Shailer Park High School 3-0. The boys then faced the top tier groups that included the football academy schools and top GPS private schools. The boys drew a high ranking. After arriving at St Joseph’s Gregory Terrace, the boys duelled with a very well-engineered team. Both teams reached half time at 1-1 and after some restructuring from Mount Gravatt High, we began to dominate the second half with constant shots at goals and dominant possession in Gregory Terrace’s half. Mount Gravatt High soon took the lead at 2-1 but a resurgence from Gregory Terrace managed to put a second ball into the net four minutes before full time taking both sides to extra time. In the first half of extra time no teams scored and in the second half it looked certain that the game would go to a penalty shoot-out where Mount Gravatt High looked to be in a more comfortable position due to an outstanding performance by our goal keeper Jack Gadsby. However, the unbelievable happened with literally less than three seconds to go, Gregory Terrace managed to score off a Mount Gravatt High rebound to secure the win. They call football the ‘Beautiful Game’, but sometimes it can be a cruel game.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of our boys for such a highly skilled and entertaining game and who nearly defeated a highly ranked GPS school. Well done boys!

The Mount Gravatt High Bill Turner Cup Squad for 2016 included: Sam Harrison (c), Isaac Green, Sam Strenks, Vedh Neeli, Benjamin Richmond, Alvin Ngo, Dane Gadsby, Jack Gadsby, Jamshid Kakayee, Kai Meersbergen, Callan Pashen, Graydon Vowels, Marquez Walters, Sanjay Wadiwel and Ahmad Swadi.

Theo Kleoudis
HPE Teacher

INDUSTRIAL DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

School Crest

The Industrial Design and Technology Department has contributed to the new crest on the front gates of our school. Making use of the laser cutter, new crests have been constructed using UV rated acrylic (donated by the IDT department). The crests look great as you can see by the pictures. Not only has it been a great learning experience for the department, it has also proved very cost effective for the school.
Many thanks to the following: Alan Osgarby for the drawing of the crest; Mick Watson, the Facilities Officer for further refinements to the drawing and Scott Herbert, the IDT technical aide who spent considerable time on the laser cutter to produce the sign.

**Mr O’Neill**  
**Head of Department - Industrial Design and Technology**

**Senior Construction Project - Shelters**

This year the Year 12 and composite Year 11 and 12 Construction classes have undertaken a year-long project to construct a series of picnic shelters adjacent to the Year 7 building. The task has been quite an intensive but rewarding experience for the vast majority of students involved. They have developed skills in excavation, surveying, concreting, basic carpentry, roofing construction and painting. Students are currently working on picnic benches to provide seating for students. Down pipes and storm water drains will be added to complete the shelters. The experience has been invaluable to the construction cohort as it has allowed them to simulate industry practices and develop skills that are not possible in most other schools. Students have also learnt the relevance of sun safety and the need for correct safety procedures and personal protective equipment. The shelters have no doubt improved the appearance of the school environment. It has also provided the student body with much needed covered eating areas. The students should feel very proud of the contribution they have made to the school community.

A big thank you to our Industrial Design and Technology volunteer Geoff Halter. Geoff gave invaluable advice, help and instruction to our students during the construction of the metal roofs. Geoff spent his working life as a plumber and drainer. The advice and knowledge he has given our students is priceless. It was a great opportunity for students to work with such a tradesperson. Thank you Geoff!

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

**Mouse Trap Racer**

Snap! This term in Year 8 IDT we have been designing and constructing mouse trap racers. This is a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) based unit which encourages the use of recycled materials. Students have been tasked with designing two different mousetrap vehicles – one for maximum distance and the other for maximum acceleration over a short distance of five metres.

Some of the concepts covered in this unit will include use of gearing, length of wheel base, reducing weight and minimising friction. Design requirements are fairly simple. Students are only limited by their own imagination. Students will test their completed prototypes in the school hall in Week 9. Based on some of the students work created already, we are in for a treat.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qm1W5RqZhi0

Mr Hollis
Industrial Design and Technology Teacher

CREATIVE ARTS AND INDUSTRIES

Year 8 Media

This term, Year 8 Media students have been exploring the key
filar conventions of children’s television and how effectively
these conventions allow young children to respond and react
through the medium of traditional and new media forms. We
have examined the role of children’s media as serving both
educational and entertainment purposes. In addition, we have
explored the research surrounding the effects on children and
their learning as they’re exposed to various media forms. A
study has also been undertaken exploring successful and
unsuccessful filmic languages in creating engaging and
meaningful media programs for children.

One of the major class activities undertaken in preparation for
assessment was to devise characters for a children’s television
show. Students were provided with craft materials and a brief
to create an engaging character for a pre-school audience. Once
the students had manifested these characters, they then
introduced them to the class, explaining their educational
purpose and entertainment value. As you can see from the
photos, the hands-on lesson made for a highly creative
atmosphere of learning.

Instrumental Music Workshop Days

Dance and Media – Los Angeles 2016

We wish the Media and Dance students a safe journey travelling
to Los Angeles in September. The dancers will be participating
in a range of performance and workshop opportunities in
California. The school has just received confirmation that the
dance troupe will be performing on the main stage at
Disneyland. Meanwhile, the Media students will be
documenting the tinsel-town experience as well as participating
in film workshops in Hollywood.

Back row (L-R): Preston Cardona, Keshna Newland, Erin
Shortt, Ben Karlsson, Patterson Hill, Abby Gear, Michael Lui.
Front row (L-R): Morgan Gilbert, Caitlin Murphy, Sophie Milner,
Luci Alder, Stella Zografos, Karen Meersbergen, Hannah
Payne, Casey Gilbert.

Anthony Pirovich
Head of Department – Creative Arts and Industries

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

LOTÉ UPDATE

Japanese Recitation Contest 2016

In Term 2, five Year 7 students prepared oral recitations of
the poem ‘Ikiru’ by the well-renowned Japanese poet Shuntaro
Tanikawa. The recordings of their recitations were entered into
the 2016 Japanese Recitation Contest administered by the
Japanese Speech Association and the NGO ‘Education
Guardianship Group.’ This contest provides a great opportunity
for students to extend their skills in Japanese as a second
language. Please note students needed to be of non-Japanese
heritage to enter.

The participants were: Eva Kotzur, Isabelle Liew, Emily Liu,
Daniel Szilagyi, and Catharine Yuen.

These students took up the challenge at very short notice,
only having 2 days to practice the reading and reflect on the
meaning of the poem before we prepared the recordings and
uploaded to the contest submission website. The efforts by
all students to improve their pronunciation and verse timing
was most commendable and we hope more students will take
on the challenge next year. In recognition of their efforts, the
five students were awarded a Certificate of Recognition and a
Japanese gift.
Japanese Cultural Incursion 2016

In Term 3 the Year 7 students were treated to performances by Japanese Martial Arts Master Tomikawa Sensei, traditional dance by Junko-san and musical pieces on the traditional instrument of Koto (Japanese harp) by Kashi-san, to increase their understanding and develop an appreciation for some of the skills and artistic disciplines in Japanese culture.

Some students volunteered to receive some basic instruction in Kenjutsu, sword handling and the body movement, while others revealed the complexities of the single-handed fan manipulation in classical Japanese dance and previously unrecognised muscle power that is needed to play the Japanese koto.

Mardi Geleijn and Rachel Uematsu
LOTE Teachers – Japanese

ROBOTICS

On 13 and 14 August, the Mount Gravatt High Robotics team went to UQ to compete in the RoboCup 2016 State Championships. The Robotics team meets every Tuesday afternoon (and most lunches) and enter two major competitions in the year: RoboCup and First Lego League. Four teams completed challenges in the Rescue competition where they had to rescue an item from a chemical spill. Two teams were entered in the soccer GENII division. All teams were amazing and as a school, we showed great community spirit amongst the many competing teams, even helping them when robots had minor hiccups.

This was the first year that we have entered Soccer teams and had great success. The Soccer teams were MGH Cosmic Bananas (Declan Brown, Sam Karlsson, Isaac McDougall and Angus Trevithick.) MGH Error 404 team Name Not Found (Jin Wei Lai, Ethan Morrison, Alan Thankachan). The Rescue teams were: MGH 1 (Aaron Butler, Eric Hart and Ian Lee), MGH Magedk (Dylan Kevern, Mitchell Simmonds and Joseph Gutman) and MGH 2 (Lachlan Hayes, Ben Jackson, Jayden Webster and Joshua Gray). Ben Karlsson was the team’s mentor. The team MGH Evolution (Jade Lawrence, Misaki Matsu and Jacob Ash) came second in the Rescue competition with an outstanding effort put in by the team. This team has been invited to the national competition in Sydney at the UNSW on the first weekend of the school holidays. We wish them even more success at the Nationals.

Sue Janke and Sky Woodlands
Robotics Co-ordinators

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

SPORT

Interschool Sport for 2016 at Mount Gravatt High has come to an end. We would like to congratulate our four teams (Open B Girls Netball, Year 10A and 10B Girls Netball and Year 10 Boys Rugby League) who made the District Finals. Well done students. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all staff, students and parents/guardians for their continued support of Interschool Sport here at Mount Gravatt High. If your student has any outstanding sport uniforms please return to the HPE staffroom as soon as possible.

Mount Gravatt High also had 14 students gain selection in the South District/Mount Gravatt High District Athletics team
to compete at the Metropolitan East Track and Field Championships on Thursday 1 and Friday 2 September at the QSAC Stadium (QEII). Congratulations and good luck to Amelia Campbell, Jack Gadsby, Aaron George, Ben Hardman, Alyssa Hawkins, Tarique Hipertur, Clayton Moore, Zac Munro, Brandon Skinner, Asima Suliman-Ali, Tazmin Thomson, Raijeli Vereti, Mayukh Verma and Marquez Walters. An outstanding effort.

As Interschool Sport this year has concluded, Senior students (Years 10, 11 and 12) have the opportunity to go home to study while all Year 7, 8 and 9 students are now involved in the Interhouse Sporting Cup or an elective of their choice. This is a competition between our four houses where students compete each week against each other in different sports. Points are allocated each week to see which house will be the overall winner. Students will continue competing in this Interhouse Cup until the end of the year.

Mrs Johnson
Sport Coordinator

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Science Week

Mount Gravatt High is once again celebrating ‘National Science Week’ and this year the theme has a strong STEM focus with ‘Drones, Droids and Robots’. On Monday 15 August we began our celebration by awarding our ICAS Science Competition participants with certificates at assembly. The year 7 students, together with Mr Reddy, tested their engineering skills with the Balloon-powered Car competition and the Solar Car competition. Students used their knowledge of balanced and unbalanced forces such as air resistance, weight and friction to test and upgrade their designs in the classroom and have gained valuable problem solving and creative skills in the process.

Last Tuesday night provided a group of senior students with the opportunity to demonstrate their extensive science trivia knowledge at the Griffith University ‘Science Trivia Challenge’ held at the Gold Coast. Mount Gravatt High was the only school to travel down from Brisbane in order to attend the event, with Group 1 consisting of Elliott Neal, Stella Zografos and Nicole Carter and Group 2 comprising of Liam O’Brien, Jayden Webster, Macy Chui and Selena Ferguson. The trivia rounds were also themed around STEM with a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics round. The competition was fierce, with over sixty-five groups from various schools participating. Our groups came away with fifth and twelfth place after three hours of collaborative group work and strategy. Students and teachers had a good time and came away with some great prizes.

Other exciting activities yet to occur are the ‘Spaghetti and Marshmallow Tower’ competition, the ‘Lego Kinnex’ competition the Robotics demonstration held by Mrs Janke and her robotics team, the famous form class Science Trivia Quiz and a host of other science challenge activities held in the Science block during lunch times. I would like to thank all teachers involved in organising and carrying out our Science Week activities and all the students for their participation.

Andreea Ryalls
Acting Head of Department Science

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

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
pandc@mtgravattshs.eq.edu.au
P O Box 2515 Mansfield Qld 4122

Uniform Shop

If you are interested in selling your unwanted uniforms, please bring in freshly washed and ironed items to the uniform shop. A 50% commission is deducted from sold items and cheques are issued twice a year.

Opening Hours:

Monday 8:00am - 10:00am
Tuesday 8:00am - 10:00am
Wednesday 7:45am - 9:30am
Friday 7:45am - 9:30am

In the month of October the Uniform Shop will be opening late for those parents that cannot make it throughout the day. The hours are.

Thursday 6 October 4:00pm - 7:00pm
Thursday 13 October 4:00pm - 7:00pm
Thursday 20 October 4:00pm - 7:00pm
Thursday 27 October 4:00pm - 7:00pm

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

Gayle Brown
Uniform Shop Convenor

Canteen

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