



**MOUNT GRAVATT HIGH SCHOOL**

Let us seek worthy things

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14 August 2017

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



**Unleashing talent** is a core value and goal in state schools. Each weekly whole school assembly there are numerous points of celebration and recognition of achievement of students across all of our 4 pillars of learning. It seems there is no stopping Mount Gravatt High students from taking up opportunities presented in curriculum and

co-curricular activities and the joy and enthusiasm this generates in the school community.

**Senior Drama Club** recently presented this year's production to two packed audiences in our Dance Studio. An original work by Ms Arthur was brilliantly directed, staged and acted. Congratulations to Ms Pulsford and Ms Sterling for direction and production and our wonderful students. The depth of talent of our Arts Department seems boundless.

**NAPLAN results** were made available last week with Mount Gravatt High students returning excellent scores in both Years 7 and 9. I have said many times NAPLAN is a narrow slice of learning measure and we take every step to ensure NAPLAN is not a high stakes, high anxiety time for students. We have very high participation rates of about 98% in the tests. Their lives do not depend on NAPLAN. We develop student literacy and numeracy skills through the curriculum and the best teaching we can muster and apply as our daily business.

**Reading and writing** proficiency improvement has been our focus and students realised gains. The better our students are at these skills, the better equipped to engage in their curriculum work and assessment. Not coincidentally we have also experienced a boost in academic results over the past two

semesters, in particular where two thirds of students achieve A or B across all subjects.

**Our students in Year 9** were above nation by comparison in every test element – Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy. This is an improvement on their Year 7 literacy and numeracy tests in 2015 where this cohort was above nation in Writing, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy and at nation in Reading and Spelling. It's great to see the colour green on our test tables that are indicators of relative performance to like schools, all of Queensland and Australia. We are a great school by any measure. For those interested in 'rankings' our school has moved well up into the top decile or 10% of state secondary schools in the metropolitan Brisbane Region by this measure.

**In Year 7 NAPLAN**, our students were above nation in all tests of Reading, Grammar and Punctuation, Writing, Spelling and Numeracy. Overall, this year is our best on record and a terrific "set of numbers". It's great "being green". What next? We keep looking to improve learning and achievement for each and every student.

**A final word on 'that test'**. Though few of our students have little learning disadvantage and expect to see good NAPLAN scores, we have seen real learning growth with most students exceeding the peer/age appropriate rate of progression.

NAPLAN comes and goes. The real work and will of teachers is to overcome relative disadvantage and to teach students where they progress in these skills no matter their starting point. Being an educator for some 37 years, long before NAPLAN, and having led schools of less advantage where a lot of red appears on NAPLAN tables, teachers and I simply want students to be able to "do better" and be encouraged by their improvement.

The real story of teaching and learning success is in the improvement in test scores of individual students as a result of great teaching and that teaching having impact and application to their success in their curriculum studies; an alignment between NAPLAN and A-E achievement.

I have had reported, on very rare occasion, because parents overwhelmingly agree and support our endeavours together, comment that when we support, encourage and insist that students apply themselves and give of their best to gain credit in their studies that it's "all about the data". No, it is about caring enough that every student succeeds. It's actually living and breathing state schools ethos. Coming to school, being respectful and participating in class, being active and taking up opportunity, not making excuses and seeking help when it's needed. It's the Mount Gravatt 'way'.

**Richard Usher**  
**Principal**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday 14 – Friday 18 August	Science Week
Tuesday 15 August	ICAS Maths Competition
Wednesday 16 August	EKKA PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Tuesday 22 August	Year 10 Immunisations P1
Wednesday 23 August	Year 10 SET Plan Interviews 1:30-3:00pm
	Years 11/12 Japanese Excursion
	Years 11/12 Drama Rehearsal 1pm-3pm
	Senior Drama Night 6pm
Thursday 24 August	Year 7 Edge Night
Monday 28 August	Year 12 Assessment Period Begins
Tuesday 29 – Wednesday 30 August	Year 12 QCS Test
Wednesday 30 August	Year 10 SET Plan Interviews 1:30-3:00pm
Monday 04 – Friday 08 September	Year 12 Block Exams
Wednesday 06 September	Junior International Excursion
Tuesday 12 September	Year 11 Legal Excursion
	Year 12 BCT Excursion
Wednesday 13 September	Sports Breakfast 7:00am
	ESD Excursion
	P&C Meeting
Thursday 14 September	Planning Day P1-3
	Year 8 High Resolves Day

## SCHOOL OPINION SURVEY 2017

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, parents/caregivers, school staff and a random sample of students are encouraged

to provide feedback in this year's *School Opinion Survey* by providing their opinions about what this school does well and how this school can improve. Each of the online surveys is currently open and will remain so until Friday 25 August 2017.

Letters containing access details for the *Parent/Caregiver Survey* online have previously been mailed out. These letters gave details of the web address of the survey, and individual log on codes.

If you have misplaced or haven't received the survey access details, or would like to access a computer at school to complete the survey, then please contact Paul Kingston on 3291 5222 or email pking6@eq.edu.au and suitable arrangements can be made to address this.

We are hoping for a very strong response to completion of the survey from our parents so that our School Opinion Survey data reflects as fully as possible the levels of satisfaction of our parents to a whole range of important issues.

Sincere thanks in anticipation of your involvement in this year's survey!

**Paul Kingston**  
**Deputy Principal**

## SENIOR SCHOOLING

### Year 12 QCS Test

QCS is nearly upon us again with the test covering two days from Tuesday 29 to Wednesday 30 August. Students should be well prepared and results from our previous practices are promising. Students have been fortunate enough to have specialist lessons in the writing task with Lindsay Williams from Wordsmart Consulting and also motivational sessions from the author of their QCS text, Bill Gilmore.

The Student Council will once again put on a breakfast on the mornings of the QCS test. Year 12 OP students can find pancakes and fruit available on the old parade ground. Thank you to Ms Ryalls, Ms Wissa and the Year 11 Student Council students for your assistance.

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. Students can still purchase the QCS stationery packs from Flexischools or from Mrs Wilson before the big day.

Session	Essential Equipment	Forbidden
Short Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pens (black ink)</li> <li>• 2B pencil</li> <li>• Protractor</li> <li>• Drawing compass</li> </ul>	any other items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• e.g. mobile phone, iPod, translator, computer</li> </ul>

Session	Essential Equipment	Forbidden
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eraser (white gum)</li> <li>Coloured pencils</li> <li>Ruler</li> <li>Approved calculator</li> <li>Transparent container to carry equipment</li> <li>Fluorescent marker</li> <li>Set square</li> <li>Correcting fluid/tape</li> <li>Pencil sharpener</li> </ul>	
Multiple Choice I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2B pencils</li> <li>Pencil sharpener</li> <li>Eraser (white gum)</li> <li>Ruler</li> <li>Approved calculator</li> <li>Fluorescent marker</li> <li>Transparent container to carry equipment</li> </ul>	any other items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e.g. mobile phone, iPod, translator, computer, protractor, drawing compass</li> </ul>
Writing Task	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pens (black ink)</li> <li>2B pencil</li> <li>Pencil sharpener</li> <li>Eraser (white gum)</li> <li>Correcting fluid/tape</li> <li>Transparent container to carry equipment</li> </ul>	any other items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e.g. mobile phone, iPod, translator, computer</li> </ul>

## First Aid

A big thank you to Embark Training who provided some of our students and staff with their First Aid qualifications on Thursday 10 August. Not only did students learn some lifesaving skills, but they also acquired two QCE points for their efforts.

## Year 11 Pathway Interviews and OP Estimates

Year 11 students have received their first OP estimate based on their Semester One results. If you feel that your child is not on track with their current pathway, they can make an appointment to see one of our Guidance Officers or alternatively parents can speak to one of the Senior Schooling team to discuss options to help students achieve their goals.

### SET Plan Interviews

The online booking system (sobs) is now open to take SET Plan interview bookings. The SET Plan interview is an opportunity to not only talk with a staff member about the subject selection process for your child, but also to provide the necessary career information so that they can find success in their senior phase of learning. The SET Plan interviews are held on both Wednesdays 23 and 30 August in the school's Resource Centre.

<http://www.sobs.com.au>

**Sandra Wilson**

**Head of Department – Senior Schooling**

## JUNIOR SECONDARY

### Recognition Certificates

The efforts of Junior School students who go above and beyond within any of the four pillars of Mount Gravatt High – Academic, Arts, Sport and Community – are being celebrated at our weekly assemblies.

This week our Junior Sound and Lighting experts will receive recognition for their ongoing work they do every Tuesday behind the scenes at our assemblies. Thank you Joseph, Safet, Jaidyn, Meghan, Daniel and Aimee for providing this service to our community.

### NAPLAN

Mount Gravatt High's 2017 NAPLAN results are amazing. Congratulations to all teachers and students!

Ongoing teacher commitment to ensuring quality pedagogy, rigorous learning experiences and assessment tasks plays a huge part in our ongoing improvement. Of course students work hard at their learning at Mount Gravatt High. To further enhance this high quality teaching and learning, students across the Junior School also receive lessons with guest teachers in both literacy and numeracy skills.

Our focused Numeracy teacher Sky Woodlands visits all Mathematics classrooms and focuses on the skills required for successful completion of rich tasks. These tasks have been set to complement the Maths Pathways Program and Sky is currently working with Year 7 students on Probability.

Catherine Millsom is our focused Literacy teacher and is currently working with Year 8 students on editing and proof reading their initial assessment drafts to the absolute best of their ability, before they submit for teacher feedback.





## Year 7 Hats

Year 7 students should be wearing their hat to and from school and in the school grounds each day. Staff are encouraging students to place their hat in their bag as they remove books, laptop and pencil cases for their classes.

Once they leave class and place their books back in their bag, out comes the hat. This will reduce the risk of leaving their hat behind.

## Year 9

The annual Junior School Celebration Assembly will take place on Friday 1 December. As a symbol of their transition into the senior school, Year 9 students will receive their senior tie at this assembly.

We arrange for all ties purchased to remain in the uniform shop, clearly labelled, so that all students can participate in this ceremony. Students who will be wearing older siblings' senior ties can bring these in after siblings have left school in November.

**Judy Andrews**

**Head of Department - Junior Secondary**

## DEAN OF STUDENTS – JUNIOR SCHOOL REPORT

### Year 9 Camp

In week three this term we ran a Year 9 camp for the very first time and travelled to the Sunshine Coast Recreation Centre at Currimundi. Over 100 students spent three days challenging themselves and developing their leadership skills. It was great to see so many students attempting new activities from the High Ropes to Canoeing and Caving. Students, teachers and senior mentors all had a great time. We also received feedback from the staff at Currimundi that our group impressed them with their behaviour, attitude and friendliness. Great job Year 9 Students!



*Students enjoying their time on camp*

### Sausage Sizzle

A BBQ was held at school on Tuesday 1 August to reward all students in Years 7, 8 and 9 who had 100% attendance in Semester One. This is a huge achievement for students. Well

done and we hope they all enjoyed their sausage sizzle and soft drink!

A special thank you goes to Mr Robke and the music students who provided live entertainment during this time:

**Year 9 Jaidyn Edwards** - soloist vocal and guitar

**Year 8 Trio:** Gil Binnie on drums, Celina Lituri on guitar and Amelia Ellis on vocals.



*Students enjoying the 100% Attendance BBQ*

### Arriving on Time

It's that time of year when it is cold and hard to get out of bed in the morning. Traffic can be congested and family life can be busy. Congratulations to the many students and their families who support them to be at school on time, ready to learn each day. If your child is late for any reason, please phone the school and let the office know why, as we can assist your child to get to school on time.

**Anita Brady/Carla McConnell**

**Dean of Students – Junior School**

### 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](mailto:absence@mtgravattshs.eq.edu.au)**

## TEACHING AND LEARNING

### Conducting Research using Infiniti

The Resource Centre at Mount Gravatt High is an essential starting point for students undertaking research. It may be simple for students to summarise a gaggle of Google searches, but rigorous research relies on formulating clear inquiry questions and iterating through a process of obtaining and

interpreting evidence, making connections and developing and justifying arguments.

While we have a wealth of information at our fingertips, it cannot be understated how important it is for students to work with reputable sources, such as the books in our Resource Centre. Furthermore, research indicates that there are tangible benefits to reading hardcopy resources. (For more information, see F. Jabr (2013) "The Reading Brain in the Digital Age: The Science of Paper versus Screens", *Scientific American*,

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/reading-paper-screens/>

We use a system called Infiniti to provide students with access to our resources. Infiniti is an extensible library management system. It already connects directly to other systems, such as ClickView, that are deployed at Mount Gravatt High.

To access Infiniti, students can log on at the following link. If they have forgotten their password, they can have a new one emailed to them by following the *Forgot password?* link.

<https://mtgravattshs.concordinfiniti.com/login>



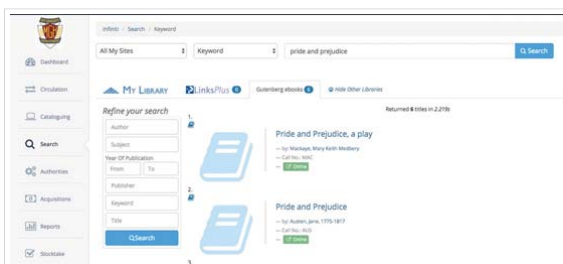
*Infiniti can be easily accessed by students at school or home.*

## Free eBooks

At Mount Gravatt High students can access Project Gutenberg eBooks through Infiniti. Project Gutenberg offers over 54,000 free eBooks that are in the public domain. These books can be downloaded and read on students laptops or loaded onto eReaders, such as Kindles.

<https://www.gutenberg.org/>

To access Project Gutenberg eBooks, students should click on "Search other libraries" in the Infiniti search results. Any students who require assistance loading Project Gutenberg eBooks onto their devices are welcome to see Mr Miles in the Resource Centre.



*It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single person in possession of a computing device must be in want of an eBook.*

Here are three free classics to get you started:

1. *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen
2. *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
3. *Dracula* by Bram Stoker

## Book Week (August 19 to 26)

Writing about reading segues neatly in the next topic: Book Week! The theme for 2017 is 'Escape to Everywhere'. This theme invites us to wonder about the world and the wide variety of humans who live here. The theme also captures why we read – to escape – to live inside someone else's mind for a while and to see and feel what they do. To celebrate Book Week in the Resource Centre we are having a competition for students to design a display for our entryway. If any interested students have not yet entered, please nominate your idea to Mr Miles or Ms Whitmore as soon as possible!

The ultimate goal of Book Week is to remind students that reading is fun, and to encourage reading as a valued activity. For the month of August I would like to encourage students to come and share with us the best books they have read in 2017. To get them started, here are the top three books by Australian authors that I have read so far this year:

1. *Ghost Empire* by Richard Fidler
2. *Their Brilliant Careers* by Ryan O'Neill
3. *The Family Law* by Benjamin Law

What are *your* favourite books?

## Books for PNG Kids

For the second year running, the Resource Centre is collecting books to donate to children in Papua New Guinea as a part of our celebration of Book Week. Last year we were able to donate over a dozen boxes of books to Books 4 PNG Kids

<https://www.books4pngkids.org/>

If you would like to contribute, we welcome any donations of books that you might no longer need around the house. Books 4 PNG Kids focus on books for children aged from 0 to 14 years. Donations can be dropped off in the Resource Centre.

## Australian Curriculum update

The Australian Curriculum has been designed by the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) to set the expectations for what all young Australians should be taught, regardless of where they live in Australia or their background. At the heart of the Australian Curriculum are content descriptions, which outline what students should be taught, and achievement standard, which describe what students should be able to do. You can access the Australian Curriculum at:

<https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/>

Mount Gravatt High is committed to implementing version eight of the entire Australian Curriculum by 2020. Our timeline is to implement the Australian Curriculum in all learning areas by:

- **Years 7 and 8:** 2018
- **Year 9:** 2019
- **Year 10:** 2020



Under the Australian Curriculum there are eight Learning Areas: English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, Arts, Design and Technologies, Health and Physical Education and Languages. Each of these learning areas is compulsory in Years 7 and 8.

## Pedagogical Framework

As you would be aware, Mount Gravatt High has adopted the *Art and Science of Teaching (ASoT)* pedagogical framework for a number of years. ASoT organises good teaching practices into clear segments. These segments are then split into questions that teachers and schools should ask when approaching teaching and learning. I have recently read the revised and expanded text *The New Art and Science of Teaching* and it is heartening to read about so many practices that are already embedded by our teaching team.

As an example, design question three prompts us to ask what we do to help students practice and deepen their understanding of new knowledge? Marzano writes about the students interacting with knowledge to deepen understanding. One method that we implement is the Cornell note taking system. Taking Cornell notes is more than using a template. It is a system for revisiting and revising knowledge over time.

Our students have received templates to assist them with taking Cornell notes. For a one page refresher, you can visit:

[http://lsc.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Cornell-Note\\_Taking-System.pdf](http://lsc.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Cornell-Note_Taking-System.pdf)

**Dan Miles**  
**Head of Department, Teaching and Learning**

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



Tim Richards, Year 9 has been selected to represent Queensland in cycling at the upcoming Junior Road National Championships to be held in Davenport, Tasmania at the beginning of September. Tim is one of four Under 15 boys that were selected after recently competing in the hotly contested State Championships. This selection is a result of a lot of hard work and training – waking up to train at 4.40am is definitely challenging in winter!

We wish Tim all the very best!

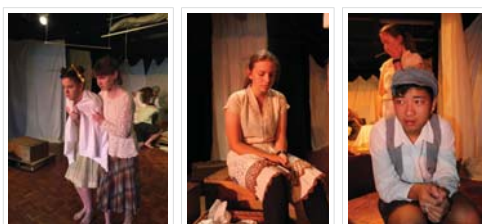
## CREATIVE ARTS AND INDUSTRIES

### Year 11 Dance



L-R: Erin Shortt and Sophie Milner

### Senior Drama Club

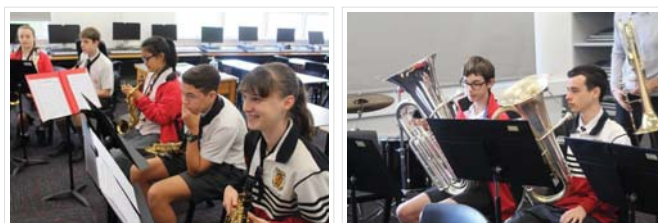


### Year 8 Music



Celina Lituri (guitar), Amelia Ellis (vocals) and Gil Binnie (Drums) rock out!

### Instrumental Workshop Day



## 7a Visual Art



**Anthony Pirovich**  
**Head of Department – Creative Arts and Industries**

## INDUSTRIAL DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

### Year 12 Construction: Picnic Shelters

Students in Year 12 Construction classes have made fantastic progress this year on the picnic shelters. These shelters are located in the student parklands. Four shelters are nearing completion with only the picnic tables themselves to be fitted. It has been a very important learning experience for the class. Some highly effective hand skills and construction methods have been learnt. These students should be proud of the standard of work that they have achieved. They leave behind a lasting legacy for the Mount Gravatt High student body.

The shelters have provided much needed undercover eating areas, meeting places and alternative classroom options. Eight shelters in all have now been constructed. It is intended that the program will continue for at least another five years, adding at least another twenty shelters to the school grounds.

Students have learnt how to work as a team, read and follow working plans, concreting, roofing and timber frame construction techniques. Students are very proud of their efforts as the staff of the Industrial Design and Technology Department are.



### Year 12 Engineering: Aspinall Trailers

Aspinall Trailers have visited the workshop and are very impressed with the progress and the standard of workmanship the students have accomplished this year. Students are working methodically towards finishing the four trailers for Aspinall by the end of this term. The attention to detail this year is exceptional. Classes have been very dedicated and committed to achieve this high standard. The new workshop has been highly beneficial to the working environment for the trailer construction-light, airy and more spacious.

The trailers will be used in the yearly rotary raffles, in time for the christmas season. The rest will be sold in a retail capacity which is a real testimony to the Engineering classes efforts. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to experience what is required from industry standard. The realization of the commitment and effort necessary to complete work to an industry standard, under the watchful eye of Aspinall trailers cannot be underestimated.

Again as always, we would like to thank Aspinall Trailers for the ongoing support and commitment to Mount Gravatt High and the IDT Department in this joint venture.

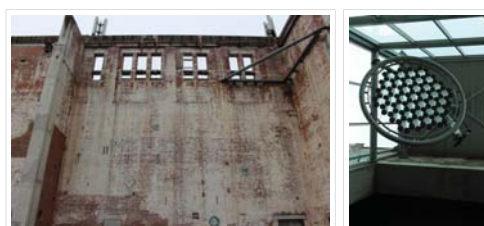


### Year 11 Graphics

Not long ago the Year 11 Graphics class was taken on an excursion to New Farm and Teneriffe where we looked at the gentrification of Brisbane precincts. We were on the lookout for old industrial buildings and how they have been repurposed, whilst maintaining the heritage associated with an historical suburb.

Students were dropped off at New Farm Park and walked to the Gasworks at Teneriffe. We stopped along the way to investigate the Powerhouse Sugar Refinery and we were shown through McTaggart's residential building, one of the old wool stores. Students were amazed how these old buildings had been converted into modern functional spaces, whilst retaining their heritage, through the use of bold architecture and creative design concepts.

The day finished with lunch at Gasworks where 'new truly meets the old.' A great day was had by all. The experience was paralleled to our current design unit. This class will be able to use their findings in the built environment unit they are studying for the rest of the year.



**Jim O'Neill**  
**Head of Department - Industrial Design and Technology**

### 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.

## CERTIFICATE II IN SAMPLING AND MEASUREMENT



Last week on Assembly the 28 students who participated in the Certificate II in Sampling and Measurement course during the first week of Term 2 were presented with their certificate by Tim and Sharyn Quinlivan from Leichhardt Education and Training. The following students successfully passed this course: (Year 12) Caleb Ang, Stephen Brown, Macy Chui, Raian De Guzman, Connor Heseltine, Ashley Hoult, Martin Lei, Yousef Nowrozi; (Year 11) Ryan De Bellis, Jessica Hardman, Ben Jackson, Harry Jackson, Kimberley Lee, Kate Luke, Joseph Manahan, Kelly-Anne Meyers, Daniel Min, Liam O'Brien, Jonathan Pringle, Jade Quach, Lachlan Smit, Lauren Thomson, Emily Ung, Cheri Li Van Zyl, Meenakshi Velmurugan, Jayden Webster, Declan Weir and Trinity Wong. Staff who also received their certificate were Mr Lakie and Mrs Perkins.

Congratulations everyone!

**Sue Perkins**  
**STEM Coordinator**

## SCIENCE

National Science Week is a program developed by 'Inspiring Australia', a national strategy for getting Australians engaged with the sciences. The strategy was established in order to provide opportunities for industry partnerships and to continue the collaboration between schools and tertiary institutions by engaging our future scientists and innovators. This year, National Science Week is being held from Saturday 12 to Sunday 20 August and Mount Gravatt High is once again on board for the festivities. The theme for this year is 'Future Earth' and students will be immersed in a world of possibilities for a more sustainable future.



Students can collect a science passport from the science staffroom on Monday 14 August and use it to accumulate stamps from the various activities provided during the week. At the end of the week they can pick from the variety of great prizes we have available.



Our school STEM Ambassadors have been actively involved in the planning of the week's activities and are now promoting them during the school parades. Activities to look forward to include: team challenges such as the 'Marshmallow Towers Challenge', Chemistry Showcase Experiments such as 'Elephant's Toothpaste', 'Balloon-powered Car Races', the famous Form Class Science Trivia Quiz and an outdoor 'Edible Science' stall. This year we are also encouraging students to collect an entry form and participate in the 'Recycled Couture' competition wherein they can design a wearable item and have it judged at our Recycled Couture Fashion show, or they can submit a masterpiece to the 'Recycling Sculpture' competition. We have also joined forces with the Robotics Club and the Year 10 extension Physics classes to bring you a 'wearable electronics' showcase and a Robotics demonstration.



We look forward to seeing all students getting involved!

**Andreea Ryalls**  
**Science Acting Head of**  
**Department**

**Sue Perkins**  
**STEM**  
**Coordinator**

**REMINDER: Please notify our school office of any changes in email or contact details.**

**Email:** [admin@mtgravattshs.eq.edu.au](mailto:admin@mtgravattshs.eq.edu.au) or **Phone:** 3291 5222

## DEBATING

### Year 7

The Year 7 debating team has now completed round two of the QDU's Junior Secondary School competition. While they have not yet recorded a win, the team is putting in a fantastic effort! Their next debate is at 7:15 on Wednesday 30 August. They will be debating the Brisbane Islamic School and the topic is "That students should be required to work in paid employment before graduating from high school."





The Year 7 Debating Team

## Year 10

The Year 10 debating team recently competed in round three of the QDU Secondary competition finals against Churchie. The short preparation topic was "That teachers should be paid more for good NAPLAN results". While the team was unsuccessful on the night, it was a very close debate and they all gave their best. Well done! Congratulations to the team and coach Ms Millsom for a successful year.



The Year 10 Debating Team

**Dan Miles**  
**Head of Department, Teaching and Learning**

## ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB

The new Mount Gravatt Environmental Club is establishing the 'eco-warriors' of the future. Every Monday at lunchtime, twelve students ranging from Year 7 to Year 12 meet to join their efforts and make a significant contribution to the school. The Eco-centre provides opportunities for the students to engage in learning about water systems and native vegetation through hands-on activities such as mulching and planting native greenery. Another big event for us in Term 3 was a tree-planting day on Friday 28 July which saw the service of 22 students planting trees near the bottom oval, led by representatives from the Mount Gravatt Environment Group. We also have Friday morning rubbish collection opportunities to help our hard-working cleaners by keeping the school clean and green. Everyone is always welcome to join our awesome group in the great work we do, making a difference, one act towards a green future at a time.



**Selena Ferguson**  
**Environmental Club Coordinator and Student Council Treasurer**

## KOKODA CHALLENGE 2017

### Brisbane and Gold Coast Event

Continuing our school's fine tradition in these events, a significant number of Year 11 and 12 students and teachers participated this year.

In the Brisbane 30km event we had 40 students and 10 teachers compete over a punishing course from Brookfield up to Mt Nebo and return. All teams finished with all students in times ranging from 5hr30mins through to 7 hours.

For the first time we entered one team of four students and one teacher into the Brisbane 48km event. This followed a similar course to the 30km event but included an extra 18km of deceptively hard ascents and descents. This team used the event as a training race for the Gold Coast 96km. Following a sensible pacing strategy, they worked their way through the field, and after being in 19th place after 18km, moved into a podium finish with a mighty third place in 8hr23mins.

16 of the students and four teachers then continued their training to prepare for the Gold Coast 48 and 96km events in July. Following Cyclone Debbie's destruction earlier in the year, there were some significant course changes. The 48km students were now greeted with a 54km course and the 96km students were presented with a couple of extra climbs. This meant that this year's edition would prove to be the events toughest ever course.

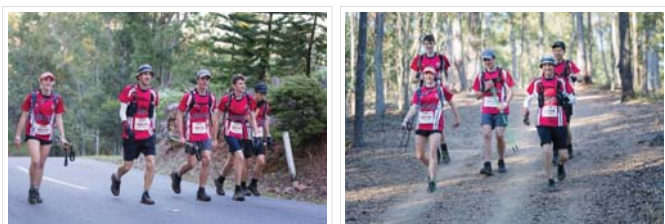
Due to an unseasonably warm day, storms wreaked havoc on the event. Three storms rolled through from 5pm on the Saturday and the previously dry course turned into a classic Kokoda mud heap. In our six years of doing this event, at least half of them have involved significant mud.

The three 48km teams performed remarkably well and all crossed the line in a speedy fashion. Even more impressive was

that we finished with all our students. This event traditionally has a significant drop out rate of close to 30%.

The 96km team was tracking towards a 22hr finish until the storms hit. Due to the 1500 48km competitors churning up the last half of the course, this time was thrown out the window. A battle of attrition began as steep inclines became a matter of digging poles in and taking a step, then repeating for close to an hour at a time. The downhill became a matter of staying upright! The team showed remarkable tenacity and crossed the line 24hr30mins in a third place finish. Again, the most pleasing aspect was that we finished with everyone.

I would like to thank all the students, parents and teachers for their support and involvement with this event. I am biased, but the Kokoda Challenge is the ultimate team challenge and I highly recommend any younger students to consider it in their senior years.



**Craig Toomey**  
**Kokoda Challenge Co-ordinator**

## SPORT

The last month has seen another busy time for staff and students involved in sport at Mount Gravatt High. Our Interhouse Athletics Carnival was held over the last two days of Term 2. What a great way to end the term! Congratulations to Attunga for being the winning house! The weather was great on both days which saw a successful and enjoyable carnival. Our students were dressed in their respected house colours and participated well in all events. Our super hero theme created some very fun and imaginative costumes. Thank you and well done to all who participated!

Our age champions for 2017 are:

	BOYS	GIRLS
12 Years	Ace Tinlin	Sarah Houtl
13 Years	Angus Goh	Jahmelia Walters
14 Years	Clayton Moore	Anna Hawkins
15 Years	Max Bennett	Asima Suliman-Ali Rachel Alfred
16 Years	Marquez Walters	Alyssa Hawkins
17+ Years	Jeramier Summers	Denae Moore

Well done and congratulations to the 2017 Age Champions! A big thank you goes to Mrs Everingham for all her time and hard work in organising a successful carnival!

The South District Track and Field Championships were held on Monday 31 July and Thursday 3 August at QSAC Stadium. Once again our students participated well with 14 students making the South District team to compete at the Met East Athletics on Thursday 31 August and Friday 1 September. Congratulations to Amelia Campbell, Dane Gadsby, Jack Gadsby, Aaron George, Alyssa Hawkins, Erin Hawkins, Aimee Kernot, Michael Mather, Clayton Moore, Henry Nguyen, Asima Suliman-Ali, Raijeli Vereti, Mayukh Verma and Marquez Walters. Mount Gravatt High finished 5th place which is a great achievement. Well done students!

The winter interschool sporting competition is coming into its last two weeks of the competition. Mount Gravatt High is doing very well and have had some great wins. Well done to all teams and teachers for their efforts to date. The teams in the finals will be determined later in the week.

The interhouse sporting competition will commence on Tuesday 12 September. This is a competition between form classes where students in Years 7, 8 and 9 compete each week against other form classes in different sports. Points are allocated each week to see which house will be the overall winner. Prizes are also awarded to the winning form class.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff and students who have given up their time and who have participated in sport at Mount Gravatt High.

**Mardi Johnson**  
**Sport Coordinator**

## GUIDANCE OFFICERS

### School-Based Courses at TAFE and Skillstech

School-based courses for Years 11 and 12 students in 2018 will be running at TAFE Queensland Brisbane and Skillstech. Courses are offered at TAFE campuses for one day per week over one to two years to achieve a Certificate qualification. They can be a strong pathway into skilled work or used as an alternative pathway to gain entry into university or a trade. Course guides are now available online (refer to the link below).

Applications are now open: please make an appointment with a Guidance Officer or Mrs Wilson who will assist you to complete your application. Please apply before the end of Term 3 so that you do not miss out on your preferred course.

<http://tafebrisbane.edu.au/resources/pdf/tafe-at-school/tafe-at-school-guide.pdf>

### Year 12 University Applications and Scholarships

QTAC applications are now open and Mr Wilson is meeting individually with each Year 12 student to discuss career pathways and applications for tertiary study. Students are welcome to drop in and visit before school and during lunch breaks if they have further questions following their appointment.

Students lodging a QTAC application will leave their guidance appointment with their preferences and an instruction sheet for the online application. TAFE options may be considered



as a preferred or backup study option and information will be provided to students if applying directly through TAFE.

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.

<http://studyassist.gov.au/sites/StudyAssist/>

<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/>

**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 visit:

<http://studyassist.gov.au/sites/studyassist/studentincomesupport/pages/scholarships-and-awards>

<http://www.qtac.edu.au/applications/application-resources/assistance-schemes/financial-assistance>

**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://studyassist.gov.au/sites/StudyAssist/>

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

## University Open Days

There are a number of Open Days scheduled in the coming months. These provide students the chance to visit the facilities and ask questions about courses they are interested in. Please check the QTAC website for further details.

<http://www.qtac.edu.au/courses---institutions/open-days-expos>

**Mr Wilson/Ms Budge  
Guidance Officers**

## FINANCE NEWS

### Cashless School as of Term 3 2017

Over the past 18 months Mount Gravatt High has been reviewing our payment procedures and as from Term 3 we will no longer accept cash payments.

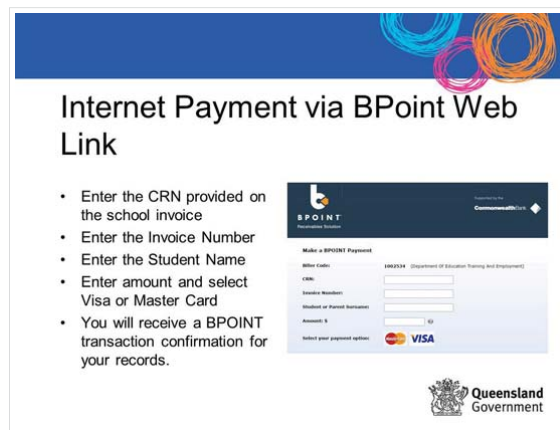
Our preferred method for payment of all school invoices is BPoint. BPoint is an internet web link you can use as a method of paying school invoices securely from your own computer or mobile phone.

### BPOINT offers several payment options as below:

Internet Payment (single payment) via Web Link. (*this link is on Mt Gravatt High School Webpage under Quicklinks*)

<http://www.bpoint.com.au/payments/dete>

Re-occurring direct debit (payment plan) - Authorise to have your credit or debit card in a secure environment for approved payment plans (e.g. text book, school fees, etc.)



Mount Gravatt High School is providing real time electronic communication to parents and we have reduced the schools environmental footprint by sending out the majority of our correspondence, account statements, excursion information and invoices via email.

If you have any queries in relation to payment procedures please contact Kylie Elms, Accounts Receivable Officer on 3291 5213 or email [kelms6@eq.edu.au](mailto:kelms6@eq.edu.au)

### How to make a Payment

**BPoint** (preferred payment method)

Click on the link below to take you to the secure BPoint site and use the CRN (Customer Reference Number) located on the bottom left hand side of your invoice.

<https://www.bpoint.com.au/payments/dete>

### BY PHONE with a Credit/Debit Card

Phone 1300 631 073 and have your invoice at hand to provide your CRN (Customer Reference Number) and invoice number.

\*\*\* Mount Gravatt High School will no longer take Credit/Debit card payments over the phone (this is required as part of the Department's compliance with PCI DSS) \*\*\*

### DIRECT DEPOSIT into school bank account

BSB: 064 118

ACC No: 0009 0265 using Student Name and Invoice Reference

(e.g. John Smith – Junior Ice Skating)

### In person at Mount Gravatt High School

Payment via EFTPOS, Cheque or Money Order made payable to Mount Gravatt High School.



Accounts Office is open from 7:30am to 3:30pm Monday to Friday and CLOSED THURSDAY

**Sam Jeffs**  
Business Services Manager

### 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 (Closed Thursdays)

## P & C NEWS

### P & C Executive 2017

**President:** Michael Sawbridge  
**Vice Presidents:** David Heape and Simon Rofe  
**Secretary:** Joseph Kapeleris  
**Treasurer:** Helen Koppenol

E: pandc@mtgravattshs.eq.edu.au  
P: PO Box 2515 Mansfield DC QLD 4122

### P&C Parent Update

The P&C encourages active participation in meetings and all events throughout the year, so we look forward to seeing parents at the next meeting on Wednesday 13 September 7pm in the Administration Block.

**Michael Sawbridge**  
P&C President

### 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.

### Old Stock

We have a surplus of plain white socks to clear. As these socks have no MGH logo, they do not form part of the current uniform and cannot be worn to school. Clearance for these socks are \$3.00.

### Opening Hours

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

If you have any enquires or wish to place an order, please phone 3291 5209 or email mghsuniform@hotmail.com. I also do credit card orders over the phone.

**Gayle Brown**  
Uniform Shop Convenor

## LOST PROPERTY

The amount of lost property that we have on hand continues to grow and it is overwhelming how many hats, clothing and other items we have mounting up. We are confident parents do not want to continue to pay for the same items over and over again. Please **NAME** your student's items. If named, we are able to return the items to students through student notices and emails to parents. If you do receive an email from the school advising of lost property being held, please ask your student to come and collect the item as soon as possible. The school will hold the items for two weeks after the email is sent. If it is still uncollected, the item will be used for general distribution to all students. We do not have the space to keep items indefinitely.

We're fundraising with *entertainment* and here's what's in it for you...

Still just \$65 giving you over \$20,000 of value!

"I love this Book! I'm discovering places I have never been before."

"I have the Entertainment™ Digital 'Book' on my smartphone and I love it!"

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300+ Casual Dining Offers!	VAPIANO \$25 value	MONTAZZINI'S \$30 value	STELLAROSSA \$25 value	IGAS \$30 value	PLOUGH INN \$40 value and many more...
220+ Takeaway and Attraction Offers!	SUBWAY 2 for 1	BOOST 2 for 1	SEA-LIFE 2 for 1	COFFEE CULT 2 for 1	Baker's Delight 2 for 1 and many more...
2,000+ Retail and Travel Offers!	Australia Zoo	WATERWORKS	CHEMIST DISCOUNT	Emirates	Woolworths mantra

Up to 50% off Hotels, Travel, Luggage and Accommodation

Every sale contributes to our fundraiser, so purchase yours today!

**Mt Gravatt High School P & C Association**  
Contact: Helen Koppenol Phone: 0732915222 Email: hkopp1@mq.edu.au  
To order your Book or your Digital Membership securely online visit: <http://www.entbook.com.au/221d557>  
Alternatively, please complete your details below and return to: PO BOX 2515 MANSFIELD 4122

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_  
Brisbane, Sunshine Coast & Surrounds \$65 (incl GST) # \_\_\_ Books # \_\_\_ Digital Memberships 221557  
Gold Coast Edition \$60 (incl GST) # \_\_\_ Books # \_\_\_ Digital Memberships TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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(Credit Card payments will incur a 1.25% processing fee)  
Credit Card number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV\*: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cardholder's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
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