A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

A Flying Start was had by all year levels this term with all students down to learning and new students inducted almost seamlessly. Our new Year 7 and 8 students are wonderful groups welcomed to our school, and ably assisted by our 30 Year 11 Student Mentors. We have received a number of personal and email messages from parents enthusing over the happy faces returning home each day and the quite unsolicited comments from students that they “love” their new school. It’s a great place to be.

Inclusiveness and representation have long tradition in our school community. Last Monday we inducted our student leadership team at an inauguration assembly. The composition and purpose of Student Leaders has evolved in our school to reflect the changes that have occurred including the introduction of Year 7 to high school and the facets of school life providing leadership opportunity.

This year, we have four school Vice-Captains in addition to the traditional School Captains and House Captains elected from Year 11 and 12 student candidates. Junior Secondary leaders will be elected from Year 9 and the process starts this week. Being committed to inclusiveness, as School Captains Jacky and Nikki are ambassadors for our school and student body while each Vice-Captain carries a portfolio in one field of student endeavour in Academic, Cultural, Sport and Community. Our House Captains continue to develop House spirit and participation and last week’s annual Swimming Carnival realised the highest rate of attendance for many years being a gauge to the level of student enthusiasm.

Our 2015 Senior Leaders Our 2015 House Captains

Our talent pool is large. This year, Year 8 students will have opportunity to participate in the “High Resolves” leadership development and Year 9 in the “Global Leadership Program”. I firmly believe every child has their unique “smarts” or potential and many students have leadership within them that when given opportunity and encouragement develops as a lifelong sustaining skill.

A Wellbeing approach to learning is something our school has done very well for years and is a mainstay for many families who chose Mount Gravatt High in the first instance and stay with us because of the quality of personalised and professional care in a disciplined environment. Being happy and safe are cornerstones to parental concerns. Achievement is stymied in the absence of those two things. We have a clear aspiration of going from “good to great”. Very high rates of attendance at school, working towards clear goals and being supported and encouraged to achieve them are characteristics of a great school. Our Learning and Wellbeing Plan is a central plank in that platform.

Deans of Students were introduced to our student management in 2015 for the purpose of building school culture that is optimistic, positive, happy and high performing. Two outstanding members of staff have these roles. Miss Anderson for Senior Secondary (Years 10 to 12) and Ms Fisher (Years 7 to 9). The main functions of Deans are to track, monitor, support and encourage very high rates of student engagement and this includes attendance, academic goal setting and performance, co-curricular and extracurricular experiences. Parents seeking informal and anecdotal feedback on their child’s progress at school should contact the relevant Dean. Deans will also make contact with parents/carers not only if concerns are held, but to make recommendations where opportunities arise for students to be extended, enriched, challenged or rewarded.

A Student Performance Strategy has been mapped for this year that includes 3 facets; Learning and Achievement, Effort and Behaviour. Standardised testing such as PAT-R, PAT-M and PAT-Science for Junior Secondary students have taken place and this will help us ‘benchmark’ essential reading and numeracy skills and science conceptual understanding. We need to do this so we have real data to “know” each learner and teach for the purpose of developing them to next levels and beyond. In Senior school, students will soon be revisiting learning goals and Years 11 and 12 supported and coached towards their best senior results. Year 12 students have already been given indicators and insights into how current performance may translate to final results for the purpose of
identifying just exactly what they need to do to maximise them. Throughout the year they can expect close monitoring, tailored advice and opportunity to ‘better’ their ‘prediction’.

Richard Usher
PRINCIPAL

UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 18 February</td>
<td>P &amp; C Welcome to New Parents</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 19 February</td>
<td>Year 8 and Year 10 Vaccinations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 03 March</td>
<td>Open Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 05 March</td>
<td>School Photos for Year 9-12 Students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 06 March</td>
<td>School Photos for missed students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 25 – Friday 27 March</td>
<td>Year 7 Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 02 April</td>
<td>School Cross Country and last day of term</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 20 April</td>
<td>School resumes for Term 2</td>
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NEW PARENTS MEET AND GREET EVENING

It has been a great start to the school year. Our immaculately presented Year 7 Block has come alive with the arrival of our Year 7 students and teachers who have already added a spirited new dimension to our school character. Overall, it has been a relatively smooth transition to high school both for them and for our incoming Year 8 students.

While these year levels account for the bulk of our new starts, we have also welcomed a smaller number of students across the other year levels, including those who have joined our International Student Program.

Many thanks to all staff members who have done their bit to support new students to settle in to Mount Gravatt High, and to parents and caregivers who have also done a marvellous job at supporting their students to adjust to a new daily routine.

On the evening of **Wednesday 18 February**, from 7:00pm onwards, we will be hosting our annual New Parents Meet and Greet Evening. This night is sponsored by our Parents & Citizens’ Committee, and presents an opportunity for parents to meet a number of significant adults in the lives of their students this year. After a general welcome, parents of Year 8s will be able to talk to our Heads of Department representing the range of curriculum areas. Parents of Year 7s will be able to visit their students’ classrooms and to meet a number of the Year 7 teachers. Other staff will also be attendance for you to meet.

We look forward to welcoming and meeting as many new parents as possible. A letter about this event will have gone home with students. This letter has a tear off section for return to school indicating numbers of likely attendees for planning purposes. Hope to see you there!

Paul Kingston
Deputy Principal (Junior Secondary)

DEAN OF STUDENTS – SENIOR SCHOOL REPORT

2015 is off to a flying start for the seniors at Mount Gravatt High, with all students in classes and working hard on their first day back. It is my role as Dean of Senior School to provide Years 10, 11 and 12 with support and encouragement to achieve their best in their Senior program of study. This includes monitoring their attendance, tracking their progress in classes and organising key events such as camps and celebratory events including the Year 12 formal. I am also a great point of contact for parents who have questions or concerns regarding their child.

In addition to those tasks listed above, my role also encompasses the coordination of school-based apprenticeships and traineeships. We currently have 16 students across Year 10 to 12 participating in SBATs in areas such as hairdressing, plumbing, hospitality, warehousing, childcare and retail. Any students who are interested in completing a traineeship/apprenticeship whilst still studying at school are invited to see me for available positions and help with writing their applications.

The first few weeks have been busy with:

- Senior mentors helping the Year 7 and 8’s to get settled
- Year 12 senior leader and mentor induction assembly
- Senior mentors assisting Ms Fisher to host the Year 7 and 8 Welcome Morning Tea
- Years 11 and 12 students applying to participate in Work Experience
- Senior leaders and mentors signing up for tuckshop duties
- The swimming carnival where senior student participation was fantastic and we were able to get a quick photo of Year 12 students as a group dressed in their house colours
- In addition to all of this, the Year 12 students attended their first Year Level Meeting. This included:
  - An explanation of the QCS
  - The distribution of estimated OP’s to OP bound students, based on their final results in Year 11. This created much talk amongst the students and hopefully will assist with their motivation levels
- Organising the students into two main groups; those who will be sitting the QCS paper and those who won’t.
  - Those sitting the QCS will participate in QCS
preparation lessons whilst those who have chosen a vocational pathway will be participating in an alternative course

- Non-QCS students meeting with myself and having their course explained to them, as well as the work experience process.
  - These students will be undertaking activities to help prepare them for work and life after school. Students will have the opportunity to listen to guest speakers and visit tertiary education sites such as TAFE Queensland and Careers Australia.

Lastly, I would like to remind all parents and students that if a child is away from school it is important that a call be made to the office, or a letter sent with the child upon their return to school. If a senior student wishes to take an extended period of leave from school (ie: Family holiday) they must seek permission from a Deputy Principal.

2015 is going to be a fantastic year for the seniors at Mount Gravatt High and I look forward to working closely with all of them.

Kellie Anderson
Dean of Students - Senior School

OPEN DAY
Tuesday 3 March 9:15am – 11:00am
SCHOOL HALL
All interested parents and students are invited to attend. This provides an excellent opportunity to view classrooms, facilities and a selection of activities.

DEAN OF STUDENTS – JUNIOR SCHOOL REPORT

It has been a busy and positive start to my role as Dean of Students (Junior) in Term 1. I have met so many new faces in Years 7 and 8, as well as welcomed back familiar ones in Year 9. I have already met a number of parents/caregivers and am looking forward to meeting many more throughout 2015.

As the Dean of Junior Secondary my role is to SUPPORT, ENCOURAGE, CELEBRATE and TRACK progress of all students in the Junior Secondary Department. My role is also to provide a point of contact for Parents. At Mount Gravatt High School we encourage as much parent/carer involvement and support in curriculum, sporting and cultural activities as possible and we look forward to your involvement in our school community.

‘Big Welcome’ Morning Tea

There was a hive of activity at first break on Wednesday February 4th, when all Year 7’s and 8’s were welcomed to Mount Gravatt High School with a free morning tea of muffins and juice. The Senior Mentors worked well together in organising the event, setting up and serving over 350 students their morning tea. It was great to see the ‘Wollemi Pine’ area packed with students from Junior Secondary, Senior Leaders, Mentors, Teachers and Administration. Thanks also to Miss Anderson and the senior leaders in supporting the event with their ‘Welcome’ Banner. It was a terrific way to start 2015.

TARGET 95%

Research confirms that there is ‘a strong link between attendance and outcomes’...the more you miss, the less you learn. At Mount Gravatt High School we want the best outcome for all students and regular attendance is an important part of giving students the best possible start in life.

In Junior Secondary we will be promoting our objective of ‘TARGET 95%’ throughout the year for school attendance of every student in Years 7, 8 and 9. Each student will be able to track their attendance record and aim high to reach Target 95% or higher. Students can spot the ‘Target 95%’ posters on the new Junior Secondary noticeboard in F block as a daily reminder. The first 3 weeks of 2015 for all students in Years 7, 8 and 9 has been a positive one, with an overall attendance of 96%. A high benchmark has been set for the rest of Term 1 and the school year.

Junior Secondary Leadership Positions - Year 9

The selection process for the 8 Junior Secondary Leadership roles will begin in Week 4. Students applying will need to illustrate their leadership qualities and initiatives in academic, cultural, sporting and/ or citizenship areas. It is expected that the successful applicants will represent the Junior Secondary Department and have an active role in parades and formalised occasions throughout 2015. This is a great opportunity to highlight the terrific qualities of our Year 9 cohort.

School Planners

As parents/caregivers there are many small things that can be done at home that can have positive impact at school and in the classroom. Regularly checking your child’s school planner is an easy way to see if homework is being recorded. The inside cover of each planner indicates the hours of study students should be completing at home each week depending upon the year level.

Helen Fisher
Dean of Students - Junior School
**JUNIOR SECONDARY**

Welcome to all of our new Mount Gravatt High families! The start of a new school year is always full of anticipation. The Junior Secondary phase focuses on Years 7, 8 and 9, and we have worked very hard in preparation for the arrival of our newest group, Year 7.

You may have noticed a shiny new building (K Block) on campus, and lots of fresh faces. Along with our youngest students, seven wonderful teachers have made the leap from primary to secondary school. To support this transition from primary to high school, our Year 7 core lessons are all held in K Block. Students then venture to specialist areas for HPE, Home Economics, Manual Arts and Performing Arts subjects, so they are gradually familiarising themselves with all that high school has to offer.

Is your child coping with this period of change? Studies show that some adolescents often take some time to adjust, along with a ‘dip’ in their academic performance. If your child does not seem to bounce back, consider enrolling them in our Resilience Program. Mrs Penny Budge will advertise this each term through newsletters and notices, so stay tuned for the next round. Along with this service, Mrs Budge also provides work help (academic support) to any student at Mount Gravatt; she is in the Resource Centre (library) each Monday and Thursday at second break.

Year 7 camp is just around the corner – students will go to Tallebudgera Beach Camp in week 9 of this term. Our immediate focus is on the return of camp forms. They should have been in by last Friday 13 February. Please ensure your child has returned all forms (permission; medical) with payment so we can progress with the allocation of dorm groups, activity groups and the itinerary. Note that some of the forms are double-sided and are coming back with only one side filled in!

I would like to take this opportunity to please come and meet us whenever you get the chance. It is great to put names to faces, and a privilege to support your child’s journey for the next few years.

**Ms Robyn Buchanan**

**HOD - Junior Secondary**

**PERFORMING ARTS**

**Welcome to Music Edge**

7M are currently developing their practical skills on keyboard and guitar.

**Senior Drama Excursion**

Merry and tragical! Far from tedious and certainly not brief, was Year 10, 11 and 12 Drama students’ experience of a trip to La Boite Theatre at the Creative Industries Precinct at Kelvin Grove. A night out of pure farce was enjoyed by all, as
a delighted audience frolicked in the frivolity of Shakespeare’s playful masterpiece A Midsummer Night’s Dream.

Anthony Pirovich
HOD – Performing Arts

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

SOCIAL SCIENCE AND BUSINESS TERM 1
What a great start to the year we have had. The students are back into things with some great learning happening in classrooms. The term ahead is jam packed with some wonderful “learning experiences” planned.

This term, students will have the opportunity to engage in the following excursions:
Tourism students will have the option to gain their Barista accreditation along with their Responsible Service of Alcohol certificate.

The Ancient History students will go back in time to an Ancient Egyptian burial site by participating in an archaeological dig.

Finally the BCT classes will be visiting the Home Show to see how an event of this scale is planned and executed.

We are all looking forward to another great year.

Simon Tucker
HOD – Social Science and Business

VISUAL ARTS
Principles and Elements of Art
The Year 7 Art students have wasted no time in finding out what Art in High school is all about. They are looking at what constitutes a good piece of art or design, by studying its principles and elements. Students were asked to research several historical pieces of art and reflect on the principles and elements of design found in each individual piece. Students have now begun working on their own piece of artwork incorporating principles of design. These include balance, harmony, proportion and emphasis.

Richard Michel
Art Teacher

INDUSTRIAL DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY
Starting 2015
The workshops and graphics lab have been a hub of activity as the year starts to get into full swing. The IDT department would like to welcome the Year 7 and Year 8 students as they begin their technology projects. The Year 7 students will design a “pencil top toy” and then build it using the 3D printer. It introduces them to the concept of digital design and digital manufacture.

Year 7 Graphics
It didn’t take long for the saw dust to start flying in the workshops with the Senior Furniture and Construction classes getting stuck in and beginning on their first projects for the year.
**CHANGES TO THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS TAX FILE NUMBER PROGRAM**

As of January 1, 2015, the Australian Taxation Office has changed the way people can apply for tax file numbers. The school will no longer be a part of this process. In order to obtain a tax file number you must go to the tax department website, which is www.ato.gov.au/Individuals/Tax-file-number/ and complete the application form on line. Your identity must be checked. To do this you can either send your original documents directly to the tax department or take them to an Australia Post Office who will then verify your documents with the completed on line form and complete the process so that the tax department is able to create a number for you. For further information check the taxation website or see your local post office.

**Mardi Geleijn**  
Teacher

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**SCHOOL BUS ROUTES FOR 2015**

From 27 January 2015 the following school bus services will be:

896 route is unchanged – Departs High Street at 2:50pm. Major roads travelled are Logan Rd, Broadwater Rd, Hillgrove Rd, Wishart Rd, Newnham Rd to arrive at the Garden City Interchange by 3:15pm.

893 routes – The trip numbers of this route has been reduced from 3 down to 2 and will depart High Street at 2:50pm and 2.58pm. The major roads travelled on this route are Logan Rd to the Garden City Interchange, Padstow Rd, Warrigal Rd, Nursery Ave, Nemies Rd & Gowan Rd as far as Honeysuckle Way. Note: These trips follow the same route as the 150 BUZ route from Garden City to ‘The Parks’ stop in Gowan Rd.

892 route – This is a NEW service from Mount Gravatt High School and will depart High Street at 2:55pm. Major roads travelled on this route are Logan Rd to the Garden City Interchange, Padstow Rd, Warrigal Rd, Nursery Ave, Nemies Rd & Gowan Rd then back onto Gowan Rd as far as ‘The Parks’ stop near Honeysuckle Way. Note: This route follows a significant portion of the 893 route but includes a section of the 152 route in Stretton.

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**GUIDANCE OFFICER**

As the Guidance Officer at Mount Gravatt High School, I would like to warmly welcome returning and new students to the school for 2015.

For those who are starting at the school, I have included below a description of the Guidance services available here. In 2015 I will again take students on a range of career excursions, including a full Year 10 excursion to the National Careers and Employment Expo (29 May), the Allied Health Careers Forum at the PA Hospital (29 April), and university excursions to UQ, QUT.
and Griffith on a sign-up basis. The Year 12 Careers Expo in the school hall will be on 15 May.

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

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

**Guidance Officers - Here to Help**

Guidance Officers are registered teachers with special training in personal and careers counselling. You can talk to your Guidance Officer about things like:

- Jobs & Career Pathways
- Entrance to University or TAFE
- Choosing Subjects
- Friends & Relationships
- Teasing & Bullying
- Schoolwork & Stress Management
- Grief, Loss, Anger, Anxiety & Depression
- Drugs & Alcohol
- Sleeping or Eating Problems
- Family Hassles

**What Can We Do?**

Guidance Officers are trained to carry out:

- Confidential counselling for careers and personal issues
- Conflict resolution & mediation
- Meetings with teachers, parents and other professionals to organise help for students.

Your Guidance Officer can also refer you to the right person for expert advice.

**Confidentiality**

Guidance Officer counselling is confidential, which means that we don’t tell anyone else. The only exceptions to this are:

- If you ask us to tell someone else for you, or get someone else to help
- If someone is in danger.

**Making an Appointment**

During most lunch breaks, the Guidance Office is open for walk-in questions and advice. Appointments for other times can be made at the school office. You will be given an appointment slip which must be shown to the teacher whose class you will miss. You may also receive an appointment slip in your roll or from your class teacher – don’t be concerned! The Guidance Officer is constantly contacting students to discuss a range of issues, jobs and opportunities. Before you come to your appointment, please get your class teacher to sign the appointment slip. If you can’t make that time, please let the Guidance Officer know beforehand.

**Upcoming Events**

Want to learn how to assist young people experiencing mental health problems?

Kyabra Community Association is hosting a Youth Mental Health First Aid (MhFA) course on Saturday the 14 and 21 March (10:30am to 5:30pm). The course is free for family members. Participants learn about adolescent development, signs and symptoms of mental health problems, and where and how to get help. To enrol, contact Kyabra on 3373 9499 or krc@kyabra.org .

**Australian Defence Forces Career Information Sessions**

Entry options in the ADF range from paid university degrees, to trade and technical careers, to combat roles, to support and administration positions. For more information on the careers within the ADF, you can attend one of these information sessions:

Wednesday 25 February 2015 - 6pm or 7pm

Defence Force Recruiting, Level 11, 410 Ann Street, Brisbane

To RSVP please call Alayna Bullock on (07) 3016 2425 or email abullock@dfr.com.au .

Kind regards and all the best for term one!

**Daniel Wilson**  
**Guidance Officer**

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**SCHOOL BASED YOUTH HEALTH NURSE**

Hello – My name is Megan Smith and I am the School Based Youth Health Nurse at Mount Gravatt High School. The Youth Health Nurse works with the school community on issues that may affect the health and wellbeing of young people and the community as a whole. Young people learn best and are able to manage their life if they are healthy - physically and emotionally. I am available for individual consultations with students every Monday and Tuesday from 8.00am – 3.00pm to talk about anything that affects health and wellbeing. This covers a broad range of issues such as:

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

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

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

**FACILITIES AND FINANCE**

**Facilities:**

After some ferocious storms towards the end of 2014 we had major damage to our shade structure on the old parade ground outside the Administration building. We have been working closely with BAS to have this structure replaced as soon as possible. We hope the structure will be installed within the next 2 weeks.

**Grant Submission Success:**

We were successful in winning a grant from the Queensland Government and the Gambling Community Benefit Fund in 2014. The fund was established to assist community groups and organisations such as ours to meet the needs of the community.

The installation of a shade sail was completed between B and G Blocks in January 2015 and looks fantastic.

Please assist us to protect our facilities by reporting any suspicious circumstances to School Watch on 131 788.

**Finance:**

Our Bank account details are:

- Commonwealth Bank
- BSB: 064 118
- Account No: 0009 0265
- Name: Mount Gravatt High School

Sam Jeffs
Business Service Manager