Macarthur has a very proud and long standing tradition of excellence in Musicals and the many Concerts and Recitals that form part of the Annual Music Programme. While there has been, from time to time, opportunities for students to perform in straight out drama productions, it has not been such a regular feature of the School’s calendar.

I am confident that this is now set to change! What an amazing and professional production the Drama Club put on recently of Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol. The staging, direction and performances were simply outstanding. Special thanks must go to Mrs Margin for all of the work she did in directing and producing this show.

Particular congratulations to Adrian Guy, who played Scrooge and was on stage the entire show. The volume of script and the professional acting that Adrian portrayed is testament to his commitment and hard work.

Macarthur has another prime example of performance as a learning experience in the quite extraordinary success of Jayden Sierra as part of the boy band ‘The Collective’ on the X-Factor. We are all well accustomed to Jayden’s at school performances but to see him take his talents beyond Macarthur and do so well is very exciting. I am sure that you join with me in congratulating Jayden and wishing him well!

Having seen the wonderful opportunities music has brought to Jayden it was encouraging to see some of our youngest musicians shine at the recent Year 4 to Year 6 Strings and Band Concerts. Watching our Year 4 and Year 5 students show what they have learnt throughout the year on their Strings or Band instruments respectively, and then having some of our most talented musicians perform showed just how far these students develop during their time in the Macarthur Music Programme.

Performance, no matter the area or level of talent is a truly wonderful way of extending the learning experience.

**From The Headmaster's Desk**

**Talent on Show**
**Performance as a Learning Experience**

Come to Macarthur Chapel on Sunday 25 November 9.30am to have fun with the Quiz Worx puppets.

For more details, contact The Reverend David Hayman, School Chaplain on 4629 6225 or dhayman@macarthur.nsw.edu.au
From the Deputy Headmaster

Why Indonesian?

In my current position as Deputy Headmaster I also oversee the enrolments of new students. I am commonly asked by new parents, “and why does Macarthur teach ‘Indonesian’ as a language?” Perhaps you have wondered the same thing. It is a good question that is increasingly easier to answer.

Historically Indonesian was chosen because the former Headmaster Mr Warren wanted to have an Asian language taught in the school. At that time the Camden/Cobitt area was (and to some extent still is) a predominantly Anglo-Saxon area. It was also more insular than it is today. Headmaster Warren believed as part of developing the School's International focus it was important to open students’ eyes to the world beyond the culture of south-west Sydney. And so, it seemed sensible for an Asian language to be introduced.

The Indonesian language was chosen because Indonesia is our closest neighbour. The Indonesian language uses a Latin script making it a far easier Asian language to learn that the character based tonal languages such as Chinese and Japanese. Travel to Indonesia was also geographically and economically accessible, allowing cultural tours and the development of sister school relationships. The Indonesian Archipelago contains an interesting and complex variety of peoples and cultures, including Malays, Chinese, Muslims, Christians and Hindus. There is plenty of rich cultural material for teachers to draw from.

Fast-forward to today and the reasons for studying Indonesian are even more compelling. In the 1960s the Australian historian Geoffrey Blainey coined the expression "The Tyranny of Distance" to describe the problems of Australia's geographical isolation from the rest of the world (by which he meant North America and Europe). Now, with the economic rise of the Asia-Pacific in the so-called ‘Asian Century’, Australians in government and economic circles are now talking about Australia's “Power of Proximity” to Asia.

Against this backdrop Prime Minister Gillard recently released the government's ‘Asian Century White Paper’. It specifies four Asian languages as needing a priority focus. Indonesian is included among them. Clearly, the White Paper envisions the future prosperity of this country as contingent upon our trade with our Asian neighbours. The reasoning is simple. Of the top six trading partners with Australia four of them are Asian. Our most important partners currently are China, with 13% of our export market, and Japan with 12%. In the last two years Australia’s trade with Indonesia has risen 15% to reach over $15 billion per year. Equally important, though often overlooked, is the need for more intercultural understanding between our two nations. Mutual prosperity depends on peace and harmony between our two peoples. Language study is the conduit for this.

Macarthur is already well-placed for the “Asian Century.” Children are taught Indonesian language and culture from Transition. Students who leave our school having studied the language until Year 12 can leave with great fluency. Macarthur students consistently achieve outstanding HSC results. In 2009 Laura Willmann came first in the State in Indonesian and our recent graduates Christine Purvis and Julianne Mascarenhas (2011) came 5th in the State respectively in the Indonesian Continuers course and the Indonesian Extension courses. Former students, such as Iain Henry (2002) and Benjamin Davis (2003) who continued with their Indonesian studies beyond school have found themselves in exciting and high-powered jobs both at home and abroad. Nicholas Mark (2007), who was placed second in the State in Indonesian Extension has published a well-regarded children’s book in the Indonesian language.

And so why Indonesian? The real question is ‘Why not?’

Andrew Kokic
**Australian Curriculum**
The NSW Board of Studies has recently released syllabuses based on the Australian Curriculum for English, Mathematics, History and Science for students in Kindergarten to Year 10. Many Macarthur teachers have already begun work planning exciting new units of work that will be trialled next year before implementation. While students in Years 7 and 9 will follow the new curriculum in 2014, only English will be mandatory in 2014 for Kindergarten to Year 6. Science and Technology, Mathematics and History will be implemented incrementally until 2015. If you would like further information, the Board of Studies has produced a guide for parents about the implementation of the Australian curriculum in NSW.  

**Indonesian BRIDGE school visits Macarthur classes**
This week, students on exchange from our BRIDGE school participated in a range of classes. They helped teach students Indonesian in the Junior School and shared information about their culture and religion with Year 11 and 12 students in Studies of Religion and Society and Culture. Our relationship with our BRIDGE school, MTSn3 in Jakarta has also provided our students with the opportunity to develop strong intercultural understanding through their online and now face-to-face interactions with the Indonesian students.

**T-6 Reports**
Reports will be sent home shortly for students in Transition to Year 6. These reports will show the students’ progress for Semester 2. If parents would like to discuss these reports further, please contact the relevant Head of School.

**7-12 Homework Help**
Did you know that on various days of the week students can attend Homework Help in Mathematics and English (at no cost to parents). Each week, teachers are available to help students with any problems they may be having in these two subjects. Currently, this is under-utilised, especially in English. I strongly encourage parents to take advantage of this programme. **Maths Help** scheduled for the rest of the year will be on Thursday 15 November, Tuesday 20 November, Thursday 29 November and Tuesday 4 December. **English Help** takes place on Thursdays at 3.00pm.

Melissa Gould-Drakeley

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**UNIFORM SHOP HOURS FOR THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 2013**

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Parents of Year 8 students are invited to attend an iPad information session on Monday 3 December at 7.00pm in the Chapel. This will be a chance to explain the practicalities of the iPad implementation which will take place early next term.
From The Dean of Students

Year 10 Harbour Cruise
A wonderful new initiative took place on the waters of Sydney Harbour during Week 2 of this Term, marking a rite of passage for Year 10 students in recognition of their transition from Middle School to Senior School. Traditionally, students completing Year 10 celebrate their achievement of completing their School Certificate year, however, since this examination period has been abolished by the Board of Studies, there is no longer any logical reason to continue this tradition. Consequently, last week was the final occasion in which this type of function occurred.

It was indeed pleasing to see our students represent their Year group and Macarthur in full School Uniform enjoying a buffet lunch while cruising around Sydney Harbour. While the atmosphere was relaxed, a short formal time of speeches given by current Year 12 students was appreciated and entertaining. There is no doubt that this occasion was a tremendous success and paves the way for our students in future years to undertake this important rite of passage.

Debating and Public Speaking
Throughout the year students from Year 5-12 participate in Public Speaking and Debating competitions. Over the years Macarthur students have achieved exceptional results, our latest being Danielle Santos who delivered an exceptional prepared speech and two minute impromptu speech on the topic ‘A Sporting Chance’. While Danielle was not selected into the Finals of the NSW Legacy Public Speaking reaching the Semi-Finals at this competitive level is an exceptional achievement.

Debating has always been a strength of Macarthur students due to the preparation and dedication of teachers and past students in coaching and mentoring. A recent Year 9 MISA Debating Day hosted at Macarthur involved six visiting schools who took part in training and delivering their arguments and rebuttal. Involvement of adjudicators and speech writers from the University of Sydney and the University of Western Sydney offered valuable advice and encouragement to the students that participated in this worthwhile workshop.
Upper Hunter Beef Bonanza
On the 2 November members of the Macarthur Show Team travelled to Scone in the Hunter Valley for the Upper Hunter Beef Bonanza with many competitions held over the weekend. Our steers Macarthur Levi and Macarthur Olympic were shown in their “hoof” classes on Saturday. Macarthur Levi was placed fourth from nineteen in his class paraded by Nathan Lutiger and Macarthur Olympic was unplaced in his class paraded by Abbey Glover. On Saturday afternoon the senior members of our team competed in the Meat/Carcass Junior Judging competition while the junior team members were competing in Cattle Parader’s competition. Sean McIntosh was successful in being placed second in his parader’s class. On Sunday all members of the team were involved in Cattle Junior Judging and the seniors competed in the Senior Cattle Parader’s competition. Mikaela Micallef was placed first in her parader’s heat, well done Mikaela.

The steers performed well in their “hook” classes as well with Macarthur Olympic being place fifth from nineteen and Macarthur Levi placed eleventh from nineteen. This is an excellent effort considering there were approximately three hundred steers in the competition.

Congratulations to the entire team on their efforts and commitment to the show team program with all members spending their lunchtimes and after school time improving their knowledge and skills in preparing and parading animals for shows. The team included Sean McIntosh, Ellen House, Henry Cartwright, Abbey Glover, Nathan Lutiger and Mikaela Micallef. A special thanks must go to the breeders of our steers Michael and Maureen Rawsthorn “Armenta Farm” Werombi for their support of our team.

Volunteers Please ...
The Junior Canteen is in urgent need of help. Are you able to lend a couple of hours early in the morning? Can you maybe help out on a Tuesday or Friday? Any help would be greatly appreciated! If you can’t commit to a specific day perhaps you would be willing to be on an emergency relief roster.

Please contact Marilyn Rowe on 4629 6244 if you are able to help out. All help is greatly appreciated.
Repair work on the Community Wagon continues. If you have any interest or expertise in this field please contact Mr Tim Cartwright. Women on Wednesday (WOW), continues under the leadership of Debbie Bannister. This will be held in the Cranmer Room until the end of term. All welcome.

If you have volunteered your services at school this year and have not been invited to our Volunteers Morning Tea please contact Sharon Pascoe-Thomas. The morning tea will be held at 11.00am on Tuesday 20 November in the Cranmer Room. Macarthur is grateful for all assistance given by both parents and community members.

Please remember to use our Community Partners where possible. Matthew Chisholm from Chisholm and Turner Travel Associates, Kylie Lyons from Handprint Photography and Angela and Matthew Daley from MAD Excavation and Landscaping are always happy to assist you. Please support those who support us.

If you are interested in becoming a Community Partner in 2013 please contact Sharon Pascoe-Thomas for more information.

News from the Library - Kids’ Lit Quiz Australia
Kids’ Lit Quiz is an international celebration of books and reading in the form of a quiz competition which tests students’ knowledge of books. It is open to students who will be between 10 and 13 years who will work together in teams of four to answer one hundred wide-ranging book-related questions arranged in ten categories.

Macarthur has entered two teams for the heats on February 20, 2013 in Orange. There are book prizes and on-the-spot cash prizes. If successful, the team goes on to the Australian Final in Canberra on 22 February 2013, and the Australian winner will be invited to compete in the International Final in South Africa in July.

Auditions for students in Years 4, 5 and 6 to gain a place in the teams will begin in the Library over the next two weeks.

Congratulations!

Danielle Santos won second place overall in the STANNSW Young Scientist Award with her Science Research Project.

Cameron Parsons

Cameron has just been selected in the NSW under 18 Indoor Hockey Team to participate in the National Titles in Launceston in January 2013. This is an outstanding accomplishment for Cameron given he is only 16! This achievement rounds off another successful twelve months of sporting achievements for Cameron. Well done!
The end of the year is fast approaching. Please ring Marilyn Rowe to book your seats on the Speech Night Bus if you plan to use this service. There will be limited seats for this service so get in early to avoid disappointment. The Bus will leave school at 5.00pm on the 11 December. Cost: $10pp or $30 per family. Cost remains the same whether one-way or return trip. To book your seats please fill in the form sent home with students and return to the Accounts department. For more information please contact Marilyn Rowe on 4629-6244.

A successful Pink Ribbon Luncheon was held at Bistro Calavia on Monday 22 October. Fifty five women came together to support The National Breast Cancer Foundation event raising in excess of $700. Thank you to all W@M for organising this event for us. The day was enhanced by the attendance of Alumni Jacinda Webster. Jacinda bought with her a selection of hats and fascinators created by her. These were for sale on the day with a percentage of sales being directed to the NBCF. Thank you MC, Linda Ebelling and Guest speaker Jennifer Reid for adding to the day’s success. Linda added to the atmosphere on the day by wearing one of Jacinda’s hats.

The final M@M BBQ Breakfast for 2012 will be held on Friday 30 November. Please come along and support this initiative.

Parents and Friends are keen to commence a playgroup on site. If you are interested in helping run this group or are interested in attending please contact me. This will be held one morning a week.

If you would like to be a member of the W@M or M@M team’s for 2013 please contact Sharon Pascoe-Thomas.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of W@M and M@M for all your help in 2012.
BRIDGE Partner School Visit
This week Macarthur Anglican School has been privileged to host the Headmistress, two other staff members and eleven students from our BRIDGE partner school, MTsN3 in Jakarta, Indonesia. In 2011 Macarthur Anglican School was selected for the BRIDGE programme and partnered with MTsN3, a Muslim school in Indonesia, and the relationship between our schools has been developing ever since through a range of activities which have been featured in earlier editions of our newsletter. This visit was undoubtedly the highlight so far. The students and staff spent a week with host families from Macarthur Anglican School, joining in classes and learning about Australian life. The MTsN3 students loved being in a range of classes with Macarthur students, from Maths to ICT to Music and of course Indonesian! They particularly loved being shown around the farm by some of our Year 10 Agriculture students and their visits to Junior School Indonesian lessons. We were very sad to farewell the group on Friday as we have made many new friends through this visit. We have benefited from having the opportunity to practise our Bahasa Indonesia skills and to learn more about Indonesian culture and the Muslim religion, particularly through the teachers’ visit to the Year 11 Studies of Religion class. Last weekend the students did some sightseeing around Sydney, including Bondi Beach, the Opera House and the Harbour Bridge pylon, before returning home.

The BRIDGE project itself is held in high regard by the Federal Government, the Asia Education Foundation and many other stakeholders, including the Australian Embassy in Jakarta and the programme was shortlisted in the final twenty projects in the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations-BMW award for Intercultural Innovation 2011. As the Deputy Headmaster has written in his newsletter comments, Australia’s relationship with Asia is becoming increasingly important and we are very fortunate to already have this relationship with MTsN3 through BRIDGE. We look forward to the continuing development of this relationship and we hope that we will be able to visit their school next year with students from Macarthur Anglican School as part of our proposed Indonesian study tour.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the families who hosted and provided the Indonesian students with so many wonderful memories of their time in Australia.

Joanne Fenton
Faculty Head of Foreign Languages
ORIENTATION DAY

Last Friday 9 November we had many students visiting Macarthur for their orientation day. The day ran smoothly with very few tears from our youngest of students. All of the students left with smiles on their faces, indicating they had a positive experience. Many of our Transition and Kindergarten students were startled as they entered their playground to see the six house mascots awaiting. Some were happy to give them a hug, others found an escape route to their bag. All students were busy during their stay and we look forward to having them join us in 2013.

WATER SAFETY PRESENTATION

Last week ‘Kingsley’ from Kings Swimming Centre visited the K-2 students to talk about water safety. Students were treated to an active presentation with Kingsley and qualified swim instructors. The students learnt some valuable lessons about Water Safety.

HEALTHY HABITS CORNER

Keeping our children active and healthy

Kids love to be active. Making physical activity part of their daily routine is not only fun, but also healthy. Physical activity is important for healthy growth and development. Encouraging kids to be active when they are young also establishes a routine that could stay with them throughout their life.

As parents, it is important to remember the following:

*Children need at least sixty minutes (and up to several hours) of moderate to vigorous physical activity every day.

* Children should not spend more than two hours a day using electronic media for entertainment eg computer games, TV, internet, particularly during daylight hours.
Students in Year 3 had the opportunity to find out about verbal as well as non-verbal communication. They explored and used sign language, semaphore, morse code and many more. One of their favorite activities seemed to be typing their names and then listening as it was played back to them in morse code. As the term progressed they had to make use of the internet to find out more about modern day communication and at present they are hard at work to earn their ‘digital passports’ which would be an indication of how informed they are about using modern day technology including the world wide web.

**Mathematics**

Students in Year 3 are hard at work using the iPads to record an instructional DVD on how to use a Number Cruncher machine they invented themselves.
Year 1 and 2 had a wonderful excursion to Wollondilly Heritage Centre. We learnt a lot about the history of the Macarthur area and the way people used to do things. We painted a story using Aboriginal symbols and had a session in the schoolhouse. We turned the churn to make butter, chopped beans and manually crumbed bread. It was interesting to look at the old Singer sewing machine and wood stove. Doing the washing was the hardest job of the day. We had to use the rubbing board and the mangle, then hang the washing on the line. In the farm shed we had to sort the apples and eggs. These were big industries in the area in the past. It was great to do so many activities that showed us how things have changed.
Light Up Narellan

On Saturday evening the Narellan Chamber of Commerce celebrated a very special event at the Narellan Town Centre... the official ceremony to switch on the 2012 Christmas tree. In this first event of its kind, Macarthur was invited to participate by creating decorative baubles for one of four Christmas trees displayed this year. In addition, students were invited to write a paragraph on what Christmas meant to them. The baubles were created by Mrs Stassen and a group of very enthusiastic Year 1 to 6 students. The special designs were meant to convey the true message of Christmas. Great work was done by the students. The baubles now decorate one of the trees at the Town Centre and several of the messages written by our students were read out during the event.

The following students had their message read out. Each of these all focussed on Jesus’ birthday as what Christmas meant to them.

Harry Hughes (Year 1)
Rose Jansen (Year 2)
Sophie Patterson (Year 3)

Year 4 - Our Final Term in the Junior School

Year 4 has had a productive start to the Spring Term with students taking advantage of the many rich experiences provided in the Junior School before they make the move into Middle School. The start of Spring IPPSO games, Zumba, the Strings assessment and Allwell testing, Maths Online and more recently Word Mania Challenge has been tackled with fervour.

Our Olympic tabloid fitness proved to be fun last term though we are still waiting for the announcement of the winning country. It is exciting using our new PE storeroom and new equipment.

A quick look around 4R and 4N classrooms will give you an insight into the high standard of Visual Arts these very grown up young people have produced.

Exploring our unit on ‘Communication’ has presented opportunities for independent, inquiry learning.

We wish each one of our Year 4 students well as they accept the new challenges 2013 will bring.

Mrs Relyea & Mrs Neaves

Year 4 Highlights

In Year 4 I enjoyed Visual Arts, Handwriting and Spelling. I will miss my teacher but I look forward to meeting my new teacher.

Mae Alden

This year I enjoyed doing Zumba, having a funny teacher and a laugh.

Jonah Veckranges
Excellent Student Progress and Achievement

It was fascinating to view the excellent assessment data that we have recently gained on our students from Year 4-Year 9 through a combination of our academic profiling and NAPLAN data.

I was recently reading an interesting article by Danielle Toon, Chief Executive of the Cape York Aboriginal Academy and 2011 Churchill Fellow, who writes:

“John Hattie, Director of the Melbourne Education Research Institute, uses the concept of effect size to answer this question: what effect has your school had on student progress across the past year? What is the size of the gain they made from where they were to where they are now?

NAPLAN should be supplemented by an effect size score using all available assessment data to report on the effect that has been had on student learning”.

It has been a fascinating journey to apply Hattie’s effect size equation and analysis to student assessment and profiling results in the Middle School. Hattie asserts that an average annual effect size is 0.4 - with students at Macarthur performing well in this context with some effect sizes of progress delineating over 0.8, with a number of students making over double the expected annual rate of progress in literacy and numeracy.

Thank You

It is with both sadness and thanksgiving that I write my final newsletter - sadness with leaving such a fine school and its wonderful students, parents and teaching colleagues, and thanksgiving for more than seven years of growth, friendships and learning that have made Macarthur very special to my family and I. My sincere thanks and appreciation to all for your support and encouragement, not only to me but particularly to the students in their education. We have an outstanding school and I look forward to seeing it continue to grow.

It was a privilege to attend the Year 10 Formal recently and to mark the occasion with a fine group of students I have had the pleasure of overseeing for almost my entire time at the school.

I congratulate Mr. Neil Davies in his appointment to Head of Middle School in 2013. Mr Davies’ enthusiasm and leadership in his various roles in the School to date give great confidence that he will bring a strong and positive direction in the years ahead.
Students from the Macarthur Anglican School Choir and String Orchestra recently undertook community service through performing at the Annual Organ Recital at St. Mark’s Anglican Church, Picton. The String Orchestra played Vivaldi’s ‘Concerto in G Major’ and Greig’s ‘Holberg Suite No. 40’ whilst the Choir sang ‘And the Glory of the Lord’ and the ‘Hallelujah Chorus’ from the Messiah, in addition to the traditional spiritual ‘Little David, Play on Your Harp’.

The large crowd was impressed with the performances of the Macarthur students. Organiser Russell Littlefair, former Deputy Headmaster of Georges River Grammar School, made special note of the quality of the pieces performed by the students, speaking of the significant quality of the music programme and co-curricular offerings to students at the School.

The students additionally enjoyed a range of pieces performed on the organ by guest organist Peter Meyer, who drove directly from All Saints’ Anglican Cathedral at Bathurst, where he had performed that very morning for the retirement service of the Right Reverend Richard Hurford, Bishop of Bathurst. Pieces performed by Peter included Handel's ‘Arrival of the Queen of Sheba’, ‘Pachelbel’s Canon’, Mendelsshon’s ‘War March of the Priests’, and ‘Paraphrase on See the Conquering Hero Comes’ composed by Guilmant.
Students in Year 5 and 6 are continuing to enjoy our participation in the NSW Government's ‘Live Life Well @ School’ programme. The boys and girls are doing a wonderful job of remembering their fruit each day for ‘Munch and Crunch’ time at the end of lunch. There is also a good proliferation of water bottles as I visit different parts of the school.

For the remainder of the term, we are focussing on a key component of the ‘Healthy Kids’ strategy -

- Week 6: Choose water as a drink
- Week 7: Eat more fruit and vegies
- Week 8: Turn off the computer or TV and get active
- Week 9: Get active each day
- Week 10: Eat fewer snacks and select healthier alternatives

Year 5-6 Munch and Crunch Vegie Patch is ready for picking snow peas and carrots. The tomatoes are a little slow.

My thanks to Mrs Purvis for all of her hard work in implementing this programme and to Mrs Glover for her ‘Vegie patch’ endeavours.
Students in Year 5 and 6 recently enjoyed a visit from the CSIRO travelling scientists who conducted a show entitled ‘Gold and the Earth’. Students were able to explore rock formation, the rock cycle and where gold fits in, methods of mineral exploration, mining economics, mining methods past and present, and the properties of gold.

Students also explored features and methods used by the mining industry. These exciting experiments enabled them to pan for gold, remove gold from its ore, to calculate the percentage of metal ore from rocks in a mining simulation and separate different fractions from a crushed up rock mixture using a miner's sieve as well as to use a metal detecting probe to discover the best places to mine.
Students in Year 5 and 6 have also been participating in etiquette seminars recently, conducted by Mrs Cartwright of Winnow Down Consulting. The boys and girls enjoyed the skills that were covered during the seminars which included effective introductions and handshakes, table manners and etiquette for eating out and formal occasions, how to tie a tie (Lincoln Bartlett is an expert at tying Windsor knots!) and correct use of electronic devices. Our thanks to Mrs Cartwright for her enjoyable and engaging presentation style!

### Mental Case Classroom Edition

Mental Case is a flashcard app on steroids. The app embraces a range of diverse forms of media and also organises files effectively. You can take a photo with your iPad or iPhone and place it directly onto a card. It is also possible to embed or record audio, import images from iPhoto, and present flashcards to others as a slideshow. Teachers and parents can also create their own group of flashcards for student use which can be uploaded directly from iTunes. FlashcardExchange.com also enables you to access pre-made files! The possibilities and depth in which this app can function are very impressive. Mental Case will help students remember almost anything!
healthy kids

eat well, get active

5 ways to a healthy lifestyle

Get active each day

Eat fewer snacks and select healthier alternatives

Choose water as a drink

Turn off the TV or computer and get active

Eat more fruit and vegies
Are you feeling the burden of books?

Then seek the experts!

Homework Help on Thursdays @ 3pm

"Fight your fear!" Quoth Shakespeare

I heart English!!!!!
HSC Completed
Congratulations to all of the 2012 cohort of students who have now finished their Higher School Certificate examinations! It seemed like a long time for those students who sat the last examination for Design & Technology and Visual Arts on Thursday 8 November.

All students have settled into their new timetables and routines after six weeks and reports are that they have been working well. The new Year 12 students will be facing their first assessment tasks over the coming weeks - an opportunity to see how they are managing the workload and understanding the courses.

Year 11 students enjoyed the Final Year 10 Formal on Wednesday night 7 November at Belgenny Farm. The students looked wonderful and behaved in a manner that was befitting the occasion. Sixty-four of these students then undertook their First Aid training at school on Thursday and Friday 8 and 9 November, while on Thursday 15 November the year group travelled to Kiah Ridge for a day of activities that are designed to encourage unity and co-operation and will aid them as they face the final two years of school. The Year 11 students have also been undertaking their ‘All My Own Work’ which is a unit that is required for them to complete before they commence their Stage 6 Courses. It educates the students on the importance of following the necessary principles and practices of good scholarship as they produce their own written work.

The term has progressed rapidly and has seen the students engaged and busy.

The events mentioned in Week 2 of the term included the Year 10 Harbour Cruise which was a success and saw the students enjoying not only the location and weather but the company of others and the wise words of two Prefects Lucinda Petchell and Maclean Cowan on how they faced the demands of moving into the Senior School.

The other event mentioned was the Macarthur Ball which was another fantastic evening at the Cube and welcoming the new cohort of leaders as they begin Year 12. The students again looked amazing and danced wonderfully with their partners and their parents through the evening.

Indonesian Masterchef
Twenty four Year 10 Indonesian students recently showed off their culinary skills by winning a Macarthur version of Indonesian Masterchef. Macarthur competed against students from our BRIDGE school MTSn3 in Jakarta, making three different dishes in one hour. Part of the challenge required students to follow recipes in Indonesian! Teams were judged on the overall best taste of their dishes as well as their presentation. The students had a great time and showed off both their cooking and Indonesian skills.

Melissa Gould-Drakeley
Year 10 Indonesian teacher
OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

For more amazing photos view the Intranet under the heading ‘Events’
STUDY SKILLS TIP FOR NOVEMBER:
Independent Learning

Some students take a long time to realise that there are actually two types of work in secondary school. There is the obvious work, the work your teacher specifically tells you to do and that is compulsory: homework, working on assignments, preparing for tests and assessments. But students who get good results in school take a larger measure of responsibility for their learning. This means that the nights where they do not have much compulsory work, they also do independent learning. These are the additional things you do if you have no other schoolwork to do that night, to improve your understanding of your subjects. It is what students who get good marks are doing, they are just not talking about it to their friends!

Examples of independent learning:
Reading
Reviewing what you have been learning at school that week
Extra practise on questions you find hard
Research on an area you are interested in learning more about
Making a mind map about what you have been learning
Making study notes on a topic
Improving your touch typing skills
Reading ahead in your textbook
Improving your study skills (you can complete units on www.studyskillshandbook.com.au)

Some nights you will not have time to do any independent learning. Other nights you will have no homework and will spend the whole time allocated to schoolwork for that night working on independent learning tasks. Your teacher may even give you a sheet that has suggestions of independent learning work for that subject. If you are unsure, you can always ask. This means in secondary school you can never say ‘I have nothing to do’ – this really just means ‘I have nothing compulsory to do at the moment!’.

Our school's details to log in to www.studyskillshandbook.com.au are:
Username: formasonly
Password: 27results

Other Study Skills Tips

For more information and advice on a range of techniques and skills like what is listed below log onto the website listed above.

• Working Better at Home
• Working Better at School
• Improving how you Study
  • Summarising
  • Active Studying
  • Preparation for Exam Blocks
  • Test-Taking Techniques
  • After Test & Exams
University of Sydney HSC Preparation Courses
The University of Sydney holds a wide range of HSC Preparation Courses which cover a wide range of subjects and study skills courses. The courses are run in November, December or January.

Courses on Offer:
- Mega-Trends, Emerging Opportunities and Future Proofing Careers
- Year 10 – Preparing for Success
- Enhancing Your English – Steps Towards Better Writing

http://cce.sydney.edu.au/courses/HSC

ANU Advisory Sessions
Staff from key academic and student support areas are available to meet future students to discuss ANU programmes of study, accommodation options, life on campus, special programmes such as internships student exchange and graduate opportunities and outcomes.

Wednesday 19 December – Canberra Advisory Session: Melville Hall, Ellery Crescent, ANU Campus
Thursday 20 December – Sydney ANU Advisory Session: 161 Elizabeth Street, Sydney
http://students.anu.edu.au/events/advisory.php

UNSW Information Day
Thursday 3 January 2013, 9.00am to 4.00pm
Kensington Campus
Speak with staff and students about undergraduate programmes and life on campus. Discuss programme choices and changing preferences.

http://studentlife.unsw.edu.au/events/unsw-info-day/

Macquarie University Information Day
Thursday 3 January 2013, 9.30am to 4.00pm
University Avenue, Macquarie Park.
Hear from academic advisers about Macquarie University’s multidisciplinary approach to study, and about specific course details. Students can also find out about alternative pathways to studying in the case of their ATAR being lower than expected.
For more information call 1800 351 117.
http://www.infoday.mq.edu.au/

Careers and University Information
For more information about Careers and University please visit the Senior School Portal on the School Intranet. We also access the latest careers information from MHS Careers. The information can be found below.

Go to http://www.mhscareers.com/

For queries or information please contact Neil Davies at ndavies@macarthur.nsw.edu.au