Macarthur producers Junior Film Makers

December last year Jack Ridley and Braxton Daley from Year 8 had the opportunity to attend a week long junior film making course at the Australian Film, Television and Radio School (AFTRS) Sydney. This opportunity allowed the boys time to work with industry professionals.

Jack and Braxton experienced life as a writer, actor, director, editor, camera and sound operator. The boys were able to produce a small film during the week. Their film, “We Have to Lie About Kevin” will be submitted into the Junior Tropfest Festival in 2012.

Jack and Braxton enjoyed the experience and look forward to doing it all again this year. We will have to wait to see how their movie faired at Junior Tropfest.
Australian Curriculum

Parents would no doubt be aware that the Australian Curriculum has been written for Kindergarten to Year 10 students in English, History, Science and Mathematics. The Board of Studies of NSW is currently writing syllabuses for these subjects for implementation in NSW schools in 2014. Macarthur teachers are currently reviewing draft versions of these documents. The second phase of the curriculum includes Geography, The Arts and Languages. The remaining curriculum areas will be part of the third phase of development.

The most significant changes will be for students in Kindergarten to Year 6 with a much stronger focus on Science and History. For all year groups, there will also be a greater emphasis on students developing a deeper understanding of the history, geography, literature, and language of our Asian region.

Credentialing and assessment will remain the responsibility of the Board of Studies and there will be no changes to the HSC credential.

Record of School Achievement (ROSA)

Recently Cheryl Russell from the Board of Studies outlined the new format of the ROSA for parents and students in Year 10. This new credential will:
- report moderated, school based assessment, not external tests.
- be cumulative and recognise a student’s achievements until the point they leave school.

- show results (A-E grades) for all courses completed in Year 10 and Year 11 – on their HSC or on their ROSA if they leave prior to completing their HSC
- show the mandatory subjects completed in Years 7 and 8.

It is anticipated that the ROSA will also:
- include results of optional literacy and numeracy tests for school leavers.
- include extra-curricular activities (associated with an approved Merit Framework). For example, Duke of Edinburgh, AMEB certification, First Aid etc.

Essentially this means that the work that students complete at school will take a more prominent role than previously as their Year 10 and Year 11 grades will appear on their final credential. This has come about as employers and tertiary institutions are interested in seeing a student’s complete academic record when they consider applicants for Early Entry and Scholarships. It is, therefore, important for students to try their very best in class and take their homework and assessment tasks seriously. While this has always been the case, some students have not worried as much about Years 10 and 11 and just relied on their HSC effort and achievement.

Melissa Gould-Drakeley
Dean of Studies
Christian Ministry

It is some time since I have reported on the Christian Ministry within the School despite the fact that students and staff consider this a priority and something that is well planned and supported by all. Thursday lunchtimes for example, are entirely dedicated to student Bible Study with no other extra curricular activities to be scheduled during this time. It is during this time each Thursday that groups of students meet to read the Bible and be led in discussion by older students and staff. Often a theme for the Term is chosen and studies are prepared to explore how the Bible instructs Christians to live as His children in our world, or more specifically, in our school. These Bible Study groups provide opportunity for our students to explore Christianity in a relaxed environment and encourage one another in their Christian walk.

Each Monday lunchtime, students from Years 7-12 meet together to form OASIS which combines games, food and a talk from either staff or students. The popularity of OASIS amongst the students highlights our school as a place where Christian faith is openly worked out in the lives of our students and in fact forms the gathering of God’s people in the School – these students are the Salt and the Light as mentioned in Matthew 5. It should also be mentioned that all students in Years 7-12 are invited to a camp organised by the OASIS team to be held on the weekend of April 28-29. Mention should also be made of the Junior Cru group that meets each Friday in the Junior School to encourage our younger students in their understanding of what it means to be a Christian and help them to mature in their faith.

Of course, none of these activities just happen by themselves. Behind the scenes a group of committed students meet each Wednesday lunch to plan and pray for the Christian programmes within the School. The opportunity to serve in either leadership or support of weekly activities allows our Christian students to grow in their understanding of their particular strengths and even explore the option of leading a discussion or preparing games – all without the threat of embarrassment if things don’t go as planned. Learning to serve one another in this way is the foundation of outreach into the wider community through involvement in their local church.

It is truly exciting to see students at Macarthur actively seeking out ways in which they can serve in Christian Ministry throughout the School. With students praying, singing and reading their bibles together and genuinely enjoying their life as a Christian, our school will continue to be a place where the love of God is made evident and His purposes worked out through the lives of His children - staff and students alike.

Timothy Cartwright
Dean of Students
Hungary Student Exchange

Amy Cooper and Tabetha Lane of Year 10 will be spending eight months on exchange at Lévay József Református Gimnázium, our sister school in Miskolc. After a very long flight with a brief stop in London the girls arrived in Miskolc to be greeted by a welcome party that was attended by a number of students. The weather is very cold and they have already seen snow.

Amy writes, “I am loving Hungary, the language and the culture. The snow is amazing and so are all the people! Everyone is so friendly and it is so different to Australia.”

Tabetha writes, “Everyone here is very nice and try very hard to talk to me. Bori (one of the girls who came to Macarthur a couple of years ago) is my room-mate. Hungarian lessons start next week. Amy and I have been to a couple of classes to speak about Australia and ourselves.”

We look forward to hearing about Amy and Tabetha’s adventures and their progress while they are in Hungary.

Annette Fitzgerald
Hungarian Exchange Co-ordinator

Sunday Sounds at Harrington Grove

On Sunday 18 March 2012 Macarthur families are invited to a picnic in the amphitheatre of Harrington Grove Country Club where they will be treated to ‘Sunday Sounds’ – a relaxing afternoon of music performed by our various school groups and ensembles. The concert will take place from 1.00pm-4.30pm.

All families are warmly welcomed to attend the concert. The concert is designed to be a relaxing family event in a picnic atmosphere on the glorious grounds of the Harrington Grove Country Club.

Tickets and further information are available on the School website. Tickets are at no cost, but are limited. Families are welcome to bring their own picnic lunch, however, drinks and light refreshments will be available for purchase from the Country Club if required. Please note that Harrington Grove’s Pool and Barbecues are not available for public use as they are reserved for residents only.

Limited parking is available at Harrington Grove. Car-pooling is strongly encouraged. In case of inclement weather wet weather information will be available after 9.00am on the day of the event by calling the School or subscribing to the School’s Twitter feed.

We encourage you to come along and spend the afternoon as part of the Macarthur family.

Inés Marrable
Head of Music Faculty

Macarthur Students Star in Community Theatre

Three Macarthur students have just completed a season in the CTGi production of High School Musical. Jonathan Nash-Daly (Ryan), Jayden Sierra (Troy) and Alexandra Gawthorne (Sharpay) played principal roles in this production. This production was held at the Campbelltown Town Hall throughout February.

Macarthur Students Star in Community Theatre
Community Chat

Talk Back Thursday recommenced on 9 February. It has been great to see some new members coming along.

Macarthur is always looking for new ways to connect with our wider Macarthur Community. Music students are helping us by performing at Camden Rotary, Narellan Chamber of Commerce and the Camden Show sponsors evening. Thank you to all students and their families for your commitment to this.A special thank you to Mrs Marrable for co-ordinating these events. Early in 2012 we introduced a Community Partner Programme. If you are interested in finding out a little more about this programme please contact me via email.

Thank you to all families who have donated to the Building Fund so far this year. It is always encouraging to see your support.
The Junior School play equipment is almost fully installed. I am sure it will bring much joy to the smaller student’s. Thank you to Grandparents and the Parents and Friends Committee for providing finances for this project.

Commencement of the installation of the new Shade Sails should also start soon. Thank you to all who donated to the 2011 Annual Appeal and those who attended the 2011 Fundraising Dinner for your contribution. I will keep you updated on this project.

The School community garden is flourishing in this wet weather. Anna is making good use of the basil in her cooking. Don’t forget to visit Café Macarthur to sample some of her cooking.

For queries or information please contact Sharon Pascoe-Thomas at spascoethomas@macarthur.nsw.edu.au

Parents and Friends

A “brainstorming” BBQ was held on Saturday 11 February. This was a great opportunity for members of Parents and Friends, Women @ Macarthur and Men @ Macarthur to join together to discuss plans for 2012. The afternoon concluded with a family BBQ. Many new ideas for 2012 are now being investigated. This event created an opportunity to elect the Parent and Friends President for 2012. Mrs. Diane Brinkworth was elected as President for 2012. A special thank you to Mrs Patricia Lorenz for her many years of service as President. We look forward to Patricia’s continued involvement in Parents and Friends.

Men @ Macarthur recommenced their monthly BBQ breakfasts this week. This is a valuable opportunity for the men folk to connect here at Macarthur. It would be good to see as many fathers as possible attend one of these events.

Women@ Macarthur are planning their annual High Tea. This event will be held at Harrington Grove on Saturday April 28. Queenspark will be providing the fashion parade this year. Please place this date into your diaries. Bookings will open online week commencing 12 March.

For queries or information please contact Sharon Pascoe-Thomas at spascoethomas@macarthur.nsw.edu.au
Sporting Achievements

Ryan Macklinshaw (4N), Dylan Offord (4R) and Bayley Gandy (4N) have been selected to represent Macarthur in the Under 11 Boys Representative T-ball Team for 2012. Madison Baker (4R) has been selected to represent Macarthur in the Under 11 Girls Representative T-ball Team in 2012.

Tynan Williams – Has been selected in the U16 Greater Western Sydney Giants team. He will vie for NSW selection in games against the U16 Sydney Swans team.

Alicia Alchin - Competed in the Huskisson Triathlon and placed 2nd in age group (16-17 years), 8th out of females in the swim and 22nd overall, and 30th overall out of all females (285).

Ben Durman - 3S was selected in the U11 Macarthur Teeball team.

Olivia Metua, Bronson Metua, Jacinta Kezelos and Emilija Jez have been selected for NASSA Basketball teams.

Bessie-Lucile Platt achieved two silver medals in the Little Athletics regional championships last weekend. Bessie-Lucile ran 200m at a PB of 26.23s and 400m at 100.26s. Bessie-Lucile has now qualified for the LAs state meet in a couple of weeks. Bessie-Lucile has also qualified for the NSW Athletics state team in the 400m to compete at the national titles next month with a PB of 59.70s.

Robotics Group in International Challenge

Between 25 and 28 April 2012 a team of students from Macarthur will compete with other teams from around the world in FIRST Technology Challenge World Championship at the Edward Jones Dome, St. Louis, Missouri USA. FIRST was founded in 1989 to inspire young people’s interest and participation in Science and Technology. To compete in this event, teams must build and programme a fully automated robot, as well as participate in outreach activities to promote science and engineering. The Macarthur team won the Connect Award for science outreach at the Australian finals and was chosen to represent Australia at the world championships. The team consists of Danielle Santos, Emily Newton, Mitchell Biggart, Jeffrey Hartono, Matthew Egan, and Callum Hanley. The team website (designed and maintained by the students) is http://masrobotics.com/. They are currently participating in outreach activities as well as fundraising to cover costs and this forms part of the competition requirements.

Point Results from the Swimming Carnival

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Marsh</td>
<td>936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Hassall</td>
<td>930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Johnson</td>
<td>722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Barker</td>
<td>666</td>
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<td>662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>Broughton</td>
<td>446</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Swimming Carnivals are a highlight in the School year and they just keep getting better. The students have been putting in a lot of time and effort to learn cheers and dress in their House colour. The extra fifty points for House Spirit was won by Barker House at the 3-6 carnival and Heber House at the 7-12 carnival. The participation was excellent and in the end the results were so close I had to double-check my additions! Thank you to all the parents who came and cheered and who volunteered to assist where needed.

**2012 Swimming Age Champions:**

**From the Junior Carnival:**

8 Years Girls: Rose Jansen
8 Years Boys: Frankie Nesci
9 Years Girls: Lauren Ward
9 Years Boys: Makenzie Kautz
10 Years Girls: Ginger Kennett-McLaughlin
10 Years Boys: Charlie Smith
11 Years Girls: Amelia Giakoumelos
11 Years Boys: Tobias Howard
12 Years Girls: Ruby Kennett-McLaughlin
12 Years Boys: Callum Masjuk

Congratulations to Lauren, Ruby and Callum who won all their races earning fifty points each for Heber, Marsh and Johnson.

**Senior Carnival:**

12 Years Girls: Ashleigh Sherrell
12 Years Boys: Aidan Gandy
13 Years Girls: Sophia Seton
13 Years Boys: Adam Ebeling
14 Years Girls: Ellen House
14 Years Boys: Austen Perich
15 Years Girls: Bessie-Lucile Platt
15 Years Boys: Nicholas Masjuk
16 Years Girls: Kaylie Ekinci
16 Years Boys: Luke Perich
17 Years Girls: Alicia Alchin
17 Years Boys: Alexander Borojevic
18 Years Girls: Ashlee Perich
18 Years Boys: Brandon Lamb

There is a special Age Champion Award for 19 Years Boys this year, awarded to Jeff Lee, the first international student to be awarded Age Champion for Swimming.

Kaylie Ekinci and Nicholas Masjuk share the title of ‘Swimmer of the Meet’, both earning sixty points for Heber and Johnson respectively. Both won every race they entered.

**Macarthur Swimming Representatives**
The following students represented Macarthur at the NASSA Swimming carnivals held at the Aquatic Centre at Homebush.

**Junior Tuesday 6/3/12**

**Senior Wednesday 7/3/12**
### Significant Dates

#### Summer Term

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Junior School (T-4)</th>
<th>Middle School (Years 5 and 6)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>GATEway Quest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 10 and Tue 13  March</td>
<td></td>
<td>Music Scholarship Auditions</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-22 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>Proposed Thailand student exchange visit</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>Year 7 (2013) Open Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 18 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>‘Sunday Sounds’ at Harrington Grove (all welcome)</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>Grandparent’s Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>23-24 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Camden Show</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 April</td>
<td></td>
<td>3-6 Cross Country Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 April</td>
<td></td>
<td>Easter Service (parents welcome) Last day of Summer Term</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 April</td>
<td></td>
<td>First day of Autumn Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 April</td>
<td></td>
<td>T-4 Parent-Teacher Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 May</td>
<td></td>
<td>Uniform changes to Winter Uniform</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Middle School (Years 7-9)</th>
<th>Senior School (Years 10-12))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 – 23 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>Thailand Outreach</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>GATEway Quest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 10 and Tue 13  March</td>
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<td>Music Scholarship Auditions</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-22 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>Proposed Thailand student exchange visit</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 March</td>
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<td>8-12 P/T Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>Year 7 Vaccinations</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>Year 7 (2013) Open Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>‘Sunday Sounds’ at Harrington Grove (all welcome)</td>
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<tr>
<td>23-24 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Camden Show</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 March – 5 April</td>
<td></td>
<td>Years 8, 9, 10 and 12 Half-Yearly Examination and Assessment Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 April</td>
<td></td>
<td>Easter Service (all parents welcome) Last day of Summer Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 April</td>
<td></td>
<td>First day of Autumn Term</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 May</td>
<td></td>
<td>Uniform changes to Winter Uniform</td>
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**Macarthur Students Perform**

Alumni Brendan Hay, and Alexandra Cook along with Jonathan Nash-Daley of Year 11 taken at the Slide Cabaret Festival in Darlinghurst.

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**With grateful thanks to our Annual Community Partner**

[Logo: M.A.D]
REFLECTIONS
As I walk around the Junior School, visiting classes and interacting with the boys and girls in many different contexts, I often reflect on how wonderful it is to be a part of a learning community where students and staff genuinely care for one another and love being here. Our teachers care for each individual student, their social, emotional and academic growth. All of our community look to model lifelong learning and continual improvement to the children and we can see them beginning to take ownership for their learning at appropriate times. As a team we seek to reflect on our teaching practice and to be looking for ways to do our work better so that the outcomes for the children can improve. Thank you also as parents for the significant part that you play in the development of your child as a learner in an ever-changing world.

MATHS ONLINE
In the coming weeks your child will receive a username and password for Maths Online. This is a Maths programme used in different ways throughout our school. In the Junior School it will be trialled as a tool to use at home for those students who need to revise and practise their skills. There will be a masterclass for parents on the use of Maths Online later in the Summer Term. The programme can be used as an online tutor for your child at home if there are specific gaps in their learning. Maths Online allows parents to learn alongside their child. It uses the appropriate Mathematical language that links directly to the primary curriculum.

MARY MARY QUITE CONTRARY, HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?
Much to the Environmental Teams’ delight a box of produce was gathered from the ‘Veggie Garden’ last week. Apart from admiring the beautiful Marigolds and Sunflowers students learnt how to pick corn, gigantic cucumbers and luscious lettuce. The produce was sold to the staff. All proceeds will go towards purchasing equipment for the Environmental Team and for new supplies to keep the garden flourishing. We may also look at providing food for our very own Cafe in time.
WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YEAR 1 WITH MRS ABDOO AND MRS COWPER?

3D Shapes and Numbers Give Us a Reason to

It is our aim at Macarthur to provide appropriate teaching and learning experiences, materials, space, time and other resources to encourage children to engage in their mathematical learning.

Year One made a great start to Maths groups this week. The children are enjoying working together as a grade and improving their Maths knowledge. They have been discussing 3D shapes, working on numeral formation and recognition as well as practising addition.

PLAYGROUND PROGRESS

FROM THIS

TO THIS...

ALMOST READY TO PLAY ON
MUSIC IS SO MUCH FUN IN THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

All of the students have commenced music lessons with Ms Coleman with enthusiasm and a sense of fun.

**Transition and Kindergarten**

Transition and Kindergarten students have enjoyed learning about Hansel and Gretel, a Grimm Brothers fairytale adapted into a children's opera. The boys and girls have enjoyed dancing to and singing some of the songs from the show. They will have the opportunity to see this opera when the OzOpera company come to perform the story for the Junior School later in the year.

**Year 1 and 2**

Stage 1 students have been learning about the concepts of music while studying music about The Sea. They have enjoyed listening to music by Debussy and Saint-Saens and have even written their own class songs about animals in the sea.

**Year 3 and 4**

Children in Stage 2 have been learning about the characteristics of Medieval Music. The students in Year 4 have also begun their string studies with great enthusiasm and eagerness. They play each Monday, learning the basic techniques of holding and playing their instrument and are instructed by our wonderful string tutors.
The prospect of three wet days did not dampen the enthusiasm of eighty-six excited Year 3 and 4 students as they travelled to the Galston Gorge Crusader camp, set in the bushland, North West of Hornsby.

The rain didn’t interrupt the action-packed programme that was planned by the Crusader leaders. The students were faced with many fun-filled challenges when drier moments occurred. The Year 4 students had to overcome the fear of heights in rock climbing and the fear of leeches while bush walking. They had to work co-operatively and think laterally in raft building and ‘Mission Impossible’.

Climbing on ‘The Pole’ was the fear factor for Year 3. They too had to work co-operatively and ‘think outside the square’ as they constructed bush survival shelters and participated in initiative games. The challenge of bursting a balloon on the archery target seemed to enhance their hand and eye coordination with a bow and arrow.

In addition to this, the students were encouraged to help with domestic duties such as dining hall preparation. Once the tables were set we all enjoyed plenty of delicious and nutritional food.
One of the biggest challenges the students were faced with was how to respond to God's purpose for our lives. During the Christian Discovery time each morning, after learning some super-fun songs, games and dances, we were challenged about the potential of Jesus shaping the way we live our lives today.

During the evenings the fun and the learning did not stop. The first evening was a fantastic whole camp game of indoor ‘Spotto’. The second evening was ‘The Big Night of Fun’ in the gym hall where the children were ‘run ragged’ by the Crusader camp leaders with one fabulous action game after another.

Along with the wonderfully friendly and experienced Crusader camp leaders and instructors, Year 3 and 4 were very fortunate to have the energetic contributions of teacher leaders Mrs Stassen, Mrs Dench, Mrs Relyea, Mrs Neaves, Mr Cupitt, Mrs Stanley and former Macarthur student, now teacher, Mrs Vidler.

All Year 3 and 4 campers are to be commended on their positive, enthusiastic behaviour and willingness to learn and have a go, and there was not one complaint about the damp weather!

Mr Andy Wood - Head of Camp
It was Monday 27 February and a host of strange creatures crept through the door of the Cranmer Conference Room at Macarthur Anglican School. Witnesses from the Year 1 and 2 classes saw amongst these strange creatures none other than an arrogant lion, a woeful leopard, a proud sheep (with a diamond necklace, of course!) and a cunning bunny with a terrible secret.

It was not a scene from a new Disney movie – rather, it was a new venture created between the Junior and Middle School – a workshop called ‘Sharing Stories Across Our School’ created in light of the National Year of Reading. The aim of the day was to share stories, teach morals, make friends and have fun while learning lessons about the world around us.

Year 9 English are currently studying a unit on Moral Responsibility and Consequence. As part of this unit they had to create a fable in the vein of the great philosopher Aesop and perform it to the Year 1 and 2 classes. The Year 1 and 2 students were entranced with the special stories that they beheld, and left the room contemplating important moral ideas relevant to their everyday lives in the school playground, including ideas such as stealing is wrong, greed only brings tragedy, and judging others only leads to hurt.

It was a day which the Year 9 students will treasure as a special one in their study of English. It was a day in which the Year 1 and 2 students learnt essential lessons about the world around them.

Thus, Aesop looks on, and is proud.
SPECIAL NEWS TIME IN KINDERGARTEN

PICK-UP DISPLAY CARDS
A reminder to parents that pick-up cards should be displayed in the front window of your car if you are using the pick-up area in the afternoon. Please see Mrs Beggs in the Administration Centre for an application.

TURTLE TIME
News time is a favourite time in Kindergarten and every now and then we are presented with some ‘special’ news. Mr Williams (Jonah and Flynn’s dad) brought in two turtles recently for show and tell. He told us he was ‘turtle-sitting’ them for a friend while they were on holidays. We were amazed by the patterns on their shells and their small eyes keen to take in the sights in our classroom. Kindergarten students were interested in hearing about their habitat and diet. This experience aroused some interesting discussion about keeping animals such as these as pets. We all thanked Mr Williams for sharing with us.

UNSW DATES
Students in Years 3-6 have the opportunity to participate in a number of competitions administered by the University of New South Wales.

The examinations will be held on the following dates:

Science - Wednesday 6 June
English - Tuesday 31 July
Mathematics - Tuesday 14 August
Have you ever wondered how your child views the world? Does your child see things differently to you?

Try this experiment at home. Give your child a camera and let them take photos throughout the day of the things that interest them. Transfer the images to your computer and encourage your child to recount the day’s events. Were you surprised by the results?

Children see their world in a very different way to adults. They are not only closer to the ground but are also constructing new connections between what they already know and the new knowledge before them. Sometimes as adults we perceive that our children will have the same fears and anxieties that we have. Sometimes we may expect them to be able to do things that they may not be ready for developmentally. Our adult concepts about friendships, play and manners, for example, may make us parents worry unnecessarily when we see our little treasures experimenting and learning in the playground before or after school.

In the coming weeks, all parents in the Junior School will receive in the mail a ‘Progress Report’ for their child. It is our way of letting you know how your child is responding to school. If you still have concerns about your child’s beginnings at Macarthur, please contact your child’s teacher. They will be more than happy to discuss your concerns with you.
What a busy time it has been in the School already with students enjoying the Swimming Carnivals, Meet the Teacher Night taking place for Years 5 and 6 and of course a wonderful opportunity for our Year 7 families to celebrate a wonderful start to the year at the Year 7 Welcome Evening.

Year 5 and 6 students participated with commendable enthusiasm in an enjoyable, challenging and rewarding camp at Deer Park in the Youthworks site at Port Hacking.

**GATEway Quest**

The annual GATEway Quest will be conducted by the School on Saturday 10 March. This is a wonderful opportunity for students from Macarthur and surrounding schools in Year 1 to Year 9 to enjoy fast-paced enrichment and extension activities in an area of their interest and choice for the day.

Courses on offer this year include cha cha dance, Lego Robotics, drama, computer programming, exploration of the world of Shakespeare, clay animation, fashion design, finger painting and art, a science-based murder investigation, acrobatics and rocket construction.

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**Study Skills and Half-Yearly Examinations**

With half-yearly examinations approaching for Year 8 and 9, it is important that an effective study routine is in place to maximise the results attained from these assessments. Here are a few helpful tips:

Ensure you know what topics are being tested in each exam. What is the structure of the exam - what types of questions and how much are they worth?

Get together all the material you need to study for each subject. Check that you do not have anything missing.

Sort through your notes from each subject's topic into 'things to learn' (content) and 'things to practise' (revision sheets, past papers etc).

Decide if you are going to allocate equal time to each subject. Do some subjects need more preparation time? Do you need to spend more time on your weaker subjects?

Draw up a table that shows each week and how much time you have left until the exams. Try and study each subject at least once a week but preferably twice a week. Leave some ‘spare’ time each week in case things take longer than expected. Spread your study for the subject out as much as possible. Remember - take a short break every half hour, study contrasting subjects together and do the hardest subjects when you’re most alert.
YEAR 7 FAMILIES ENJOYED THE YEAR 7 WELCOME EVENING ON FRIDAY 10 FEBRUARY. PARENTS AND STUDENTS ALIKE ENJOYED RENEWING AND BUILDING THEIR ACQUAINTANCES WITH ONE ANOTHER OVER A MEAL AND CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF YEAR 7 TO DATE, WATCHING AN ENTERTAINING CAMP VIDEO WHERE FUN WAS CLEARLY BEING HAD BY ALL. PARENTS AND FAMILIES ALSO ENJOYED THE TRADITIONAL DANCE AND SINGING PERFORMANCES THAT THE YEAR 7 STUDENTS PUT ON.
STUDENT LEADERSHIP DAY

It was a pleasure to travel with the Middle School Prefects (Year 9) and Student Leaders (Year 6) to Teen Ranch on Tuesday 7 February for our Student Leadership Training day. Over the day we planned some wonderful initiatives for the School in 2012, grew in our knowledge of leadership skills and styles and developed our cohesion as a leadership group. We particularly focussed on a Christian model of leadership and worked through a range of scenarios the students could expect to encounter over the course of the year. I particularly look forward to the community service and charity work planned for the year. My thanks go to Mr Hordern for his work with the students and organisation of the day.

FOCUS ON INDONESIAN

Students in Years 5 and 6 are studying the topic DI PANTAI KUTA (AT KUTA BEACH) over the course of the summer term. They will learn about verbs including MELAKUKAN, OPINIONS – SAYA PIKIR BAHWA, SEQUENCING WORDS – DAN, Lalu, sesudah itu, expressing whether or not you are good at something – PANDAI / TIDAK PANDAI and also adjectives to describe KUTA BEACH.
Ruedi Holbeck

Congratulations to Ruedi Holbeck who recently received outstanding results in his AMEB examinations for Violin Grade 5 and Trumpet Grade 4.

It is always a pleasure to witness students achieving well in Music and particularly to read through the outstanding comments and feedback that Ruedi received in both of these examinations.

Benjamin Tisdale

Benjamin and his sister Lauren competed in the Regional Little Athletics Meet last weekend at Bankstown. Benjamin competed in the U/12 1500m Walk and won gold with a time of 7.58mins breaking the old record of 8.38.8 by 40 seconds and has now qualified for the State Championships held 23rd-25th March at Homebush.
Students in Years 5 and 6 enjoyed travelling to the Youthworks Campsite at Deer Park, Port Hacking last week. Despite the wet weather, we were able to participate in the majority of activities set down for the camp with students enjoying Canoeing, Hiking, Rock Climbing and Sailing. The Trivia Night and Night Games were fantastic and enjoyed by all!
YEAR 5 AND 6 CAMP
Year 9 students Skype to Indonesia

Year 9 Indonesian students have been involved in real-life learning experiences, speaking in Indonesian via Skype to students in the bilingual Year 7 “Kangaroo class” at our ‘Bridge School’ MTsN3 in Jakarta. It has been encouraging to see how motivated our students have been to ensure their Indonesian is correct and how enthusiastic they have been to get to know the Indonesian students. They have found out that there are probably more similarities than difference between them, especially when it comes to topics like music. The two schools have also been participating in a Class Challenge, answering language and culture questions set by each school. So far MTsN3 are in the lead after singing every verse of our Australian Anthem last lesson! This is a truly exciting endeavour and wonderful use of technology.

Melissa Gould-Drakeley (Year 9 Teacher)
The area of neuroscience and learning is one which I have long found fascinating - particularly in a Middle School context where we know that it is vital to provide students in Years 5-9 with a broad-based liberal education. The neurons in the brain undergo a growth spurt in these years, similar to the growth we all see in toddlers at around the age of two. Thus a broad education helps to develop a range of pathways in the brain over the Middle Years - students grow dendritic connections but the brain also automatically ‘prunes’ these if they are not used or stimulated. Teachers are, essentially, ‘brain changers’, physically altering children’s brains daily.

When students take in knowledge during the day, and the brain makes the decision to keep it, the brain often processes the information as students sleep. This is consolidated when neurons transmit messages to one another and the pathways develop. Eventually the learning is connected to several points within a denser web of neurons, enhancing the information retrieval process.

Therefore a new neural pathway is like a new track in the bush - the more it is travelled the smoother and more efficient it becomes.

Thus we must consistently make connections to student’s prior learning, knowledge and to other curricular areas.

Critical thinking skills are becoming more critical than ever in students. The researcher Tony Wagner asserts that the ‘innovators of the future’ will be students who can formulate the ‘right questions’, work through and consolidate large amounts of information, and clearly communicate this information which they have synthesised in original and creative forms.

When students practise higher order thinking through questioning answers and assumptions and exploring content further, the learning develops an ever-expanding network of neurons in the brain.
Welcome back to another exciting and busy year in the Senior School at Macarthur. I hope you enjoy reading through what is happening in the Senior School.

Still to come this term we have the 8-12 Parent Teacher night on 15 March and Half Yearly Examinations.

Driving
Congratulations to those students who have obtained their Provisional Driving Licence over the holidays. A reminder to parents and students that in order to drive to or from school students will need to apply for approval. Notes are available from the foyer of the Administration Centre or from the Heads of School Office. It will require the note to be returned along with a letter from the parents. Driving is a privilege and it is important that students appreciate the responsibility.

Deposits being taken for the History Europe Tour 2013
Students who are in Year 10 and are considering studying History for their HSC, and students currently in Year 11 studying Modern and/or Ancient History are invited to take part in the History Europe Tour scheduled for April 2013.

The planned trip will provide our students with the opportunity of a lifetime to visit sites and museums relating to their Higher School Certificate studies in Modern History, Ancient History and History Extension.

At this stage we plan to spend time in Rome, The Vatican City, Pompeii, Naples, Berlin, Sachsenhausen, Paris, Versailles, Albert, Villers-Bretonneux, Amiens, Calais, Dover, and finally London.

A letter, information brochure and DVD has been given out to those interested in finding out more about the tour.

An information evening for parents and students will be held on Thursday 26 April 2012 at 7.00pm in the Chapel.

In the meantime, please feel free to contact me with any enquiries regarding the tour.

Mr Paul Stevens
Faculty Head, History and International Studies
The Year 10 Camp this year was held at Action Learning Initiatives, which is located in Jindabyne, at the footsteps of the Snowy Mountains and the Kosciuszko National Park.

The students were divided into four groups and they participated in the following activities:

- 18km day hike from Thredbo to Charlottes Pass via Mt Kosciuszko.
- Full day mountain biking adventure.
- River Sledding down the Snowy River.
- Abseiling at the Jindabyne Dam wall.
- Camping out for two nights and cooking their own meals.
- Camp craft and raft building activities.

The camp was a challenge for both students and staff. Many of the activities were very physically demanding. The students accepted and embraced these challenges with enthusiasm and determination. They should be very proud of what they accomplished as they prepare themselves for the challenges of their senior schooling.

Mrs Nadine James
Head of Year 10 Camp
The Year 11 Community Service Camp at Ulladulla was a wonderful experience seeing the students participating in Community Service through Bush Care which involved removing weeds and the planting of native species in coastal environments. Visiting, playing games and interacting with the residents of Sarah Claydon Retirement Village was also part of the camp. They also helped out the more needy members of the St Martin’s Anglican Church congregation through house maintenance and gardening. All the students participated in these activities and demonstrated a servant heart. In maintaining the theme of outdoor education students were also given an opportunity to broaden their skills through Surfing, Snorkelling and Kayaking. Again the local community appreciated the efforts of the Macarthur Students.
Year 12 Camp

This year’s final camp for Year 12 ventured north to Bonville near Coffs Harbour, where the focus was on recreational and adventure activities, rather than challenging and developing the outdoor skills of the students at camps in earlier years. The anticipation of the students was well met by a high energy and enjoyable programme.

Despite the threat of washed out activities after much well publicised heavy rain in the days leading up to the camp, most of the programme went ahead with little disruption. Half the group were able to complete the white water rafting on the Nymboida River, two hours west of Coffs, on the Tuesday, but this was followed by 120ml of rain lifting the river by five metres overnight.

Consequently the other half of the group missed the much anticipated experience on the river the next day. This was replaced by some time getting up close and personal with the dolphins and sea lions at the local Pet Porpoise Pool, as well as some time at the Big Banana tobogganing and ice skating. Other activities on the first two days included snorkelling off Split Solitary Island, beach walking, wet weather Go Kart racing and time to get wetter in the water park next door. Wednesday evening was finished with a competitive time at the local Ten Pin Bowling alley, with the Headmaster showing another of his many hidden talents.

Thursday was once again full of action, spent at the beach. Students were rotated through four activities which included sea kayaking, surf rescue, surfing and surf rafting. For many who had little or no experience with a surfboard, they were surprised when they finally managed to stand up on their boards, even if it was only for three metres. The biggest adrenaline rush came from the thrill and exhaustion of surf rafting. With paddles working overtime to push the six man rafts out through the waves, it was then an adrenalin rush as we turned and rode the chosen waves in to shore. The occasional collision only added to the excitement and mayhem.

With many tired, but happy, well fed and accommodated it was time to head south on the long return journey on Friday. This gave plenty of time for many to sleep and recover, as well as ponder what lay ahead in their final year at school. The time away was a great opportunity to enjoy the excitement of all the adventure activities but equally importantly to reconnect with others in the year group and further build a feeling of being a part of a bigger team who were ready to face the challenges of the year ahead together.

Mr Joly Hordern
Year 12 Advisor
Congratulations to all, who made it a success.

From the Senior Carnival:
12 Years Girls: Ashleigh Sherrell
12 Years Boys: Aidan Gandy
13 Years Girls: Sophia Seton
13 Years Boys: Adam Ebeling
14 Years Girls: Ellen House
14 Years Boys: Austen Perich
15 Years Girls: Bessie-Lucile Platt
15 Years Boys: Nicholas Masjuk
16 Years Girls: Kaylie Ekinci
16 Years Boys: Luke Perich
17 Years Girls: Alicia Alchin
17 Years Boys: Alex Boroevic
18 Years Girls: Ashlee Perich
18 Years Boys: Brandon Lamb

There is a special Age Champion Award for 19 Years Boys this year, awarded to Jeff Lee, the first international student to be awarded Age Champion for Swimming.

Kaylie Ekinci and Nicholas Masjuk share the title of 'Swimmer of the Meet', both earning sixty points for Heber and Johnson respectively. Both won every race they entered.

Macarthur Swimming Representatives

The following students represented Macarthur at the NASSA Swimming carnivals held at the Aquatic Centre at Homebush on Wednesday 7 March.


Mrs Erica Looyen
Head of Sport K-12
Students have access to a wide range of study skills one of which is available through the Intranet. The following is some things to remember with the year ahead.

**STUDY SKILLS TIP FOR JANUARY: NEW SCHOOL YEAR RESOLUTIONS**

Just like many people choose some new year’s resolutions, it is a great idea to set some targets for school this year. Here’s what you do.

Brainstorm ideas on what you could do this year at school or at home to improve your learning, to make yourself more effective or to improve your results this year. Let all the ideas flow unrestricted. Ask your parents and family and friends for ideas. It might be things like ‘do study notes at the end of each topic’, or ‘work in half hour blocks with no Facebook during that time’. Once you have lots of ideas, it is time to focus. Cross out the ones that aren’t that great – there will be a few. Now read through what is left. Choose the top three ideas that if you implemented them would make the biggest difference for you. But no point just circling these, you need to take action!

Write the three things you are going to try and do and focus on this year on a big piece of paper or whiteboard and place it somewhere in the house where you will see it every day – like your mirror! Or the fridge! Or the toilet!

Tell at least three people what you are aiming to achieve this year. Maybe a friend, a family member and a teacher. Put reminders in as many places as possible, if you have an iPhone you could create an electronic reminder that pops up.