Our Autumn Term began with our annual ANZAC service and some superb addresses by an army chaplain and Macarthur student Emily Mackie who had just returned from the WWI battlefields of France on the School's Europe tour. We were delighted that State member for Camden, Chris Patterson and Mayor of Camden, Lara Symkowiak were able to join us for the ceremony.

There are a number of staff changes to report. This week we welcomed the return of Mrs Rhodes and Mrs Laird from maternity leave. Mrs Davis has also returned as a teacher’s aide to our two-day Transition class. In August Mrs Abdoo will begin her maternity leave and Mrs Karen Williams will replace her. Mrs Williams, also a Macarthur mother, comes to our school with a wealth of classroom and library experience.

A special thank you to the parents who joined me on the recent Headmaster’s Golf Challenge. It is at least five years since I have played a round of golf…and it showed. Fortunately, I was not alone. The Headmaster’s Golf Challenge is not a super-serious competition, so much as good fun followed by a great meal and lots of laughs. As my experience shows you don’t need to be an Adam Scott to take part so please join us next year if you are interested.

I would like to sincerely thank the History Faculty for their dedication to the bi-annual tour of Europe that has been a great success again and a wonderful learning experience for our senior students. Likewise, Mr Horne and the Duke of Edinburgh team continue to provide outstanding hiking experiences for our students in the vacation period. Lastly, I want to congratulate the Robotics team who has returned from St Louis in the USA after another exciting international Lego Robotics Competition. Well done to all students and staff involved in these outstanding programmes.

Andrew Kokic
The other day I asked child number two what he wanted for lunch. Just like the last time I asked him I had to go through the agonising ritual of listing things he could possibly eat - noodles, a sandwich, an egg etc, with the same dismissive response – ‘um, no thanks Dad.’ Then the penny dropped. Why am I doing this? Since when did lunch become a meal HE had to choose? Why was I treating it like a major democratic right? My own parents would have simply dished up a melted cheese on toast or something else they were eating – if I didn’t like it I could go without. Instead, I was standing like a waiter in the kitchen reciting the day’s menu specials. It was then I decided to invoke the parental right of deciding for him…and amazingly he happily ate what I prepared.

Unlike my son, I was the victim of a terrible tyranny growing up. My parents usurped some critical decisions I wanted to make. I wanted a bike but we lived on a busy road and so I was ten years old before I received one. They insisted that I looked smart when I went to school and so it was black leather shoes and grey trousers for me while ‘everybody else’ wore Levis with desert boots (obviously I didn’t have an Independent school education). Add to that the Stanley Stanford Globite case for a school bag and you can imagine how damaged my childhood was. I was even nicknamed ‘Stanley’ thereafter. Then, one Christmas holidays at the tender age of fifteen I was sent out to find a part-time job…which I hated…except for the money part. I felt like Oliver Twist that Christmas.

And yet somehow I still love my Mum and Dad. Would I change things? Sure, I wouldn’t brutalise my own children with a Stanley Stanford case and I would have managed the bike issue differently, but I am confident that my parent’s motives were pure and they did for me what they thought was right at the time. I don’t feel the need to seek counseling about my childhood or curl into the foetal position on my bed at night and cry myself to sleep. Too many times as parents we defer the decisions we should make as adults to our children. It astonishes me how often parents defer important decisions to their children…even very small children. Do students in Year 5 or even Year 10 really know what’s really best for them? If you sat in some of my enrolment interviews you would think many of them knew which would be the best school for their education…‘It’s their choice’, the parent tells me, proud of their democratic spirit. Really? I would have been married eight times between thirteen and fifteen years old if I had been left choosing a wife for myself!

Naturally, the older the child the more input we should seek from them regarding important decisions that affect them. But in the end if we are the parents, the decision should ultimately be ours. Issues such as schooling, subject selection, use of electronics and social media – these are parent decisions that should not be forfeited. And if our decision turns out to be wrong, it was still our decision to make.

A former parent of an older child once said to me about an unpopular decision she made for her daughter, ‘I am the parent…I have the right to be wrong.’ As a guilt-ridden parent of younger children I found her philosophy immensely freeing. The decisions we make as adults may occasionally be wrong, but if they’re made with loving motives our children will forgive us…though the Stanley Stanford case took a bit longer.

Andrew Kokic

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**Year 7 Enrolments for 2014**

If your child is currently in Year 6 at another school and you have forgotten to register for Year 7 at Macarthur in 2014 please contact the School Registrar, Mrs Karen Alchin, on 4629-6256 or email her at registrar@macarthur.nsw.edu.au
Hard Work Pays Off

Some students love learning and love working hard whereas others require the motivation to get started, let alone complete what they need to do. Many students are motivated by getting good marks and so make sure that they complete their assignments and prepare for tests. Some of these students, however, don’t see the point of working hard in class if what they are doing isn’t related to a mark, test or examination.

It is important to encourage students to look beyond simply focussing on marks and thinking more about focussing on learning. Teachers are keen to foster student engagement to help students develop an intrinsic love of learning in their classes and will prepare rich and meaningful work for students. These class activities give students the necessary skills to help them achieve all of their learning outcomes. It is important for students to recognise that learning for the sake of learning is worthwhile and that working hard is rewarding.

Success at school, especially in the HSC, does not come from being naturally gifted. It comes from hard work. David Brooks, in the New York Times cites an example of a girl with a driving ambition to be a writer. Equipped with “a desperate need for success,” she makes an established author her role model, devours books, and begins “painstaking and error-focussed” writing practice. A mentor provides intense scrutiny. “The primary trait she possesses is not some mysterious genius … it’s the ability to develop a deliberate, strenuous, and boring practice routine.”

Student Reports - Quartiles, Outcomes and Grades

Reports will be issued this term for students in T-6 and 8-12. These report on student’s application in class and achievement. More detailed reports are provided for students in Transition.

Students in K-6 are grouped according to quartiles, which is a government requirement. It must be remembered that the quartile is a rank based on comparative student performance. Students can achieve very good results but still be in the second quartile. For small cohorts, this is particularly evident.

For students in Years 3-12, teachers also provide information about a student’s organisation. This refers to aspects such as:
- bringing correct equipment to class
- keeping their book/ipad files well organised
- remembering homework, assignments and other tasks
- listening to teacher instructions and directions in class

A-E grades are used to comment on how well students in K-6 have achieved a range of learning outcomes for areas of each subject. For students in 7-12, the grades refer to overall student achievement in all aspects of each subject, including performance in examinations.

Melissa Gould-Drakeley

The key factor separating geniuses from the merely accomplished is not a divine spark. Instead, it’s deliberate practice.
The Award of Colours

It has been a number of years since the introduction of Colours for the recognition of student commitment and striving for excellence in all aspects of the School. It has been a pleasure to see the pride in which students wear their blazers with the Colours signifying the merit bestowed upon them within their particular area of strength. Likewise, staff find the nomination of students in this way a significant and worthy recognition of the deserving nature which students demonstrate under their supervision.

It has always been the case that Colours are not simply awarded to students for participation in an activity or role. As we are aware, there are varying levels of participation and often varying levels of success. For instance, a student may have a degree of enthusiasm and commitment but not achieve the most impressive result as compared to the student who may only grudgingly participate in an activity yet achieve a very high level of success. The Colours system awards commitment, attitude, and persistence and will more often than not be awarded to students that have these qualities often resulting in high levels of success whether in sports or academic pursuit.

Two major changes have been introduced in 2013 and have been communicated to all students.

Firstly, students representing NASSA at an AICES carnival will be awarded a Sport Faculty Award at the conclusion of their event. This can be used to contribute towards a Certificate of Excellence. If a student represents NASSA in a variety of fields, nomination will be made for the award of a NASSA Sports Half Colour. No changes have made for students representing AICES at CIS level.

Secondly, the award of Colours for Scholastic Achievement is now based on the GPA of students at the conclusion of each Academic year. Students achieving exceptionally high GPA’s will be nominated for Full Colours with Half Colours awarded to students who have achieved significantly high GPA’s across all subjects. Students who demonstrate an ongoing pursuit of academic achievement without attaining the very highest GPA’s may well be considered for Full Colours in recognition of their commitment and consistently high levels of personal achievement over a number of years.

It is the expectation that the existing Merit system outlined in the School Diary continues and is not replaced by the Colours system. Both of these are aimed at encouraging students to pursue their interests and their strengths with recognition along the way to encourage their continued dedication and high levels of attainment. Further discussion of these matters should be directed to myself if clarification is needed in any way.

Timothy Cartwright

From The Clinic

A reminder that the next round of NSW Health School Vaccinations will take place on 22 May at the beginning of the day. All Year 7 will have the second dose of HPV and Hepatitis B and Year 9 boys the 2nd dose HPV.

Only those students who have already returned consent forms and received the first dose will be vaccinated.

Any queries please contact Sister Cameron on 4629-6214.
Parents & Friends

Men at Macarthur (M@M) held a successful BBQ Breakfast last Friday. Welcome to all new members. Thank you to Michael Banks, RAMS Macarthur Home Loans for providing all produce for this event. M@M will be hosting a State of Origin event Wednesday 5 June. Watch this space for more information.

Successful Mother’s Day stalls were held this week. These stalls are a highlight for our students. Thank you Mrs Sandra Pash for all your effort in co-ordinating this event. Thank you to all mums and grandmothers who helped out. Photos of these stalls will be in the next edition of the Bulletin.

The Women at Macarthur High Tea will be held Saturday 18 May. We only have a few tickets left which can be purchased online.

Community Chat

Woolworths Earn and Learn is back. If you shop at Woolworths please collect the Earn and Learn stickers. You will find boxes marked as Macarthur Anglican School located in some of the local supermarkets. If one is not located in the supermarket marked Macarthur Anglican School please drop stickers into the School. Collection boxes can be found in the Heads of School office or down in the Administration area. Alternately, give them to your child who should pass them to their teacher.

Macarthur Playgroup members celebrated the first Playgroup birthday. Congratulations Lilly on turning two! The event was celebrated by sharing Cookie Monster and Elmo cupcakes.

There seems to be a little confusion within our school community regarding our Friends of Macarthur Programme. At Macarthur we appreciate the generosity of parents so a programme called Friends of Macarthur was commenced to acknowledge such generosity. Donors to Macarthur can fall into one of five categories. The first category of recognition is the Annual Affiliate who is recognised for the generous donation of $1,500 annually either financially or in-kind. A Green level has donated cumulatively to the sum of $4,500. Donors move through levels with the final level of recognition being Crown. This level refers to an individual, group or organisation that has donated in excess of $20,000 either as a one-off donation or accumulatively.

All donations to Macarthur are important, please accept my personal gratitude to all who continue to support Macarthur and of equal importance to our financial contributors are our in-kind supporters. For more information regarding ways in which you may be able to support the School, please contact me.
Headmaster’s Permission for Student Absence

Parents are reminded that only the Headmaster may grant an exemption from attendance at school and only for a small number of reasons. Parents must apply directly to the Headmaster using the official application form for an Exemption from Attendance which is available on the School’s website.

If successful in applying, the Headmaster is required to provide parents with a ‘Certificate of Exemption from Attendance at School’. The Certificate is only valid for the specified period and it cannot be issued retrospectively. Absences without this approval will be recorded as ‘unexplained or unjustified absence’ without the ability to change it retrospectively.

Macarthur Anglican School Equestrian Team

The Macarthur Anglican School Equestrian Team is open to students across all year levels. Team members have the opportunity to represent the School at interschool equestrian competitions and to participate in the Macarthur Anglican School Equestrian Gala Days.

In 2011 and 2012, the Equestrian Team scooped up the prestigious first prize in the Primary Section of Camden High School - Interschool Equestrian Competition. Team members have also achieved many excellent results at other events held over past years and look forward to continued success during this year and in the years to come.

During 2013 the School will hold two Equestrian Gala Days. The purpose of both days is to give team members instruction in five different disciplines, which enables them to develop or improve their equestrian skills. Team members who participated last year, found the day to be extremely rewarding. It also gave them a great thrill to be able to have their horse/pony with them at school.

For further information about the Macarthur Anglican School Equestrian Team, or, to request an Expression of Interest form, please feel free to contact Mr Timothy Cartwright at tcartwright@macarthur.nsw.edu.au or 4647-5333.
**Student Achievements**

Daniel Robinson (Year 12) and Mitchell Robinson (Year 10) competed in the Regional GKR Karate Tournament on 24 March with great results. Daniel received silver medals in the 16-17 years Kata and Kumite events and Mitchell received silver medals in the 14-15 years Kata and Kumite events. Congratulations Daniel and Mitchell!

![Daniel Robinson and Mitchell Robinson](image1)

Congratulations to Jessica Tripp (Year 10) on her outstanding performance at the Royal Easter Show where she became Overall Champion, Female Junior Showjumper. Well done Jessica!

![Jessica Tripp](image2)

Congratulations also to Sophia Seton (Year 8), Adam Ebeling (Year 8), Nicholas Masjuk (Year 11) and Kaylie Ekinci (Year 12) on their results at the CIS Swimming Carnival recently. Special mention should be made of Kaylie who became the CIS Record Holder 2013 Girls 17 and Over 200 Metre

**Overseas Student Opportunity**

Since 2001 Macarthur has hosted a study tour from Nihon University the Third High School from Toyko, Japan. This year the students arrive on Tuesday 6 August and depart Monday 19 August. Students spend fourteen days at Macarthur learning English and enjoying making new friends in our school.

![Overseas Students](image3)

Opportunities exist for families to host a student for the fourteen day visit to Macarthur. You would need to provide a room for the student and meals each day. Families may host two students if they prefer. Previous host families have reported very positive experiences and many host again in subsequent years.

Interested families are encouraged to contact Mrs Trish Cartwright on 4629-6229 to obtain more information.
Agriculture Show Team Summer Term Report

Thirty-three students from Years 7–12 participated at shows in Kangaroo Valley, Moss Vale, Goulburn, Camden and the Sydney Royal preparing and exhibiting the animals and parader and judging competitions. For many this was their first show season and the experience they gained will be invaluable in the years ahead.

Early starts were required departing school at approximately 6.00am and returning approximately 7.30pm. The students were great ambassadors for the School especially when chatting to the public about what we do and what we have to offer. Students were accompanied by Mr Gower (steers and goats) and Mr Baker (steers).
AUTUMN TERM BEGINS
It has been a very smooth beginning to what is sure to be a term that will go by very quickly. I have been most impressed with the students as they have settled back in to the term. It is nice to see the routines and procedures already established and classes able to begin learning on Day 1. It never fails to lift my spirits as I walk through our school to be greeted so warmly by students from Transition right through to Year 12. To observe the students caring for each other and interacting with their teachers and other staff is a wonderful aspect of each day.

FOCUS ON LITERACY UPDATE
Year 2 continue to participate in the Pause, Prompt, Praise oral reading programme. Year 1 and Kindergarten will begin next week. It has proved to be a great start to the morning and children are able to have lots of opportunities to read aloud to a parent.

INDONESIAN WORD OF THE WEEK
As part of our focus on Indonesian across the school T-12 we will be concentrating on certain Indonesian words each week during this term. Bu Fenton (Head of English and Languages) will present the ‘Word of the Week’ in assembly. Below is a list of the words we will be looking at so that you can use them at home with each other.

Week 2 - pandai! = You are smart / you are good at (an activity)
Week 3 - met ultah! = Happy birthday
Week 4 - sama-sama! = You're welcome
Week 6 - mari makan! = Let's eat
Week 7 - masa sih! = No way! I can't believe it!

DANCE 326 - Friday 17 May
Dance 326 will be here again very soon for students in Years 3–6. Our annual dance party in the Gymnasium will be on Friday 17 May from 6.30pm–8.30pm. This is an event run by the School and Middle School Prefects with an aim to providing a fun and energetic social evening for our younger students. Students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their special dance moves and take some advice from the older more experienced dancers among the prefects and staff. Music is provided by a student DJ, with drinks and snacks available for sale. A note has been sent home earlier this term outlining further details.
Dr Jane Gray speaks with Year 3

Last term, Dr Jane Gray came in to speak with Year 3 as part of their unit of work on the Human Body.

Dr Gray talked about how she became a doctor. She donned her stethoscope and showed Year 3 a 3D book that detailed the human body from the skin inwards. i.e. muscles, skeleton, digestive, respiratory, circulatory and brain.

Dr Gray fielded comments and questions as she went, and handed out additional models to demonstrate the importance of each bodily function. She often talked about the body being wonderfully designed by God.

Dr Gray also talked about the problems that smoking and alcohol create for the body and for families as a whole and why good eating habits and exercise are so important.

We would like to thank Dr Gray for her informative talk. There are many Year 3 children now wanting to work hard to look after others and become a...

Mr Byron Phillips talks to Year 1

Year One are learning about "Workers in the Community". On Thursday 2 May we were fortunate enough to have a visit from Mr Phillips, Harmony's Dad, who spoke about his work teaching people about dinosaurs. It was interesting to look at the fossils and replicas of dinosaur bones. The children thought Mr Phillips work sounded very exciting. It was a very enjoyable and educational visit.

Thank you Harmony and Mr Phillips for your enormous preparation and enthusiasm!

Paul Kelly - Isaac Fry's grandfather shares his knowledge with Kindergarten

On the first day back this term, we had an Anzac Day service to remember the men and women who have died in wars and those who are currently serving in Australia. We were very privileged to have Isaac's grandfather at school on the day. He visited Kindergarten after the service and spent time telling us about his time in the armed forces.

Mr Kelly showed us his medals and explained why he received each one. (Isaac's Dad is currently serving in Timor and his mother was also in the army.

We were able to hold the medals and write about what we had learnt.

Mrs Kirsten Hey
Excursion to Narellan Town Centre
At the end of last term, Kindergarten took the Macarthur school bus to Narellan Town Centre. Our goal was to buy the ingredients needed to make our own healthy lunches. We even had a tour through the Bakers Delight bakery. We had fun finding the items on our shopping list in the supermarket and we enjoyed selecting our own fresh fruit and vegetables from the fruit shop. Back at school we made our own healthy sandwiches and finished off with yogurt and fresh fruit. Yum!

Cross Country Races
We were blessed with a beautiful day for the annual Cross Country Carnival last term. We had a lot of fun preparing for our race with some Year 10 students showing us some pre-race stretches. Congratulations to Matilda Jackson (KH) and Harrison Neumann (KP) who were the winners of the Kindergarten races. These students will be invited to the annual sports dinner later in the year.
BASICS ABOUT FOOD ALLERGY

A food allergy is an immune system response to a food protein that the body mistakenly believes is harmful. When the individual eats food containing that protein, the immune system releases massive amounts of chemicals, triggering symptoms that can affect a person’s breathing, gastrointestinal tract, skin and/or heart.

It is estimated that up to 2% of Australians, including one in ten infants* suffer from food allergies and some of them will experience a life-threatening (anaphylactic) reaction.

There are more than one hundred and seventy foods known to have triggered severe allergic reactions. Examples include kiwi fruit, banana, chicken, mustard and celery. Currently, there is no cure for food allergy. Avoidance of the food is the only way to prevent a reaction.

Food allergy is the leading cause of anaphylaxis outside the hospital setting. Approximately ten people die from anaphylactic reactions each year in Australia and some of these may have been triggered by food.


A reminder about the procedures and practices we have in place to help keep students safe and healthy:

- We encourage parents to avoid sending foods to school that contain peanuts or tree nuts including peanut butter, muesli bars, nutella and packets of nuts.

- Students are encouraged to wash their hands before and after eating.

- Students are not permitted to share their food with others.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation for your support and understanding of this potentially life threatening matter and thank you for your support of our procedures. Please feel free to contact Sister Jacki Cameron or myself if you have any further questions.
Welcome Back

A very warm welcome is extended to everyone as we return for the start of a new term. It was wonderful to see the children so happily returning to school last Monday, joyfully sharing stories with friends of the events they enjoyed during the holiday period.

ANZAC Day

We commemorated ANZAC Day for 2013 at our School Service 29 April where Chaplain J presented a message that enabled the students to sense the loss and importance of this day. This day of reflection provides a perfect opportunity to take a few minutes to give thanks for those men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice in days gone by and to also think about those who currently serve our country in places beyond our shores.

It is overwhelming to consider the sacrifice that the original ANZACS made at Gallipoli almost one hundred years ago - putting themselves before those they knew would come in the future. Lest We Forget.

Year 7 Study Skills and Parent Teacher Interviews

Parent/Teacher Interviews for students in Year 5, 6 and 7 have formed a main focus this week and I trust that those families who had the opportunity to meet with teachers on Monday 6 May found these sessions valuable. I would encourage parents to use the diary to assist in the ongoing communication with teachers. In saying this, every day is a potential opportunity for a meeting with staff should the need arise and appointments can be made by contacting the Administration Office.

NAPLAN

NAPLAN testing will be conducted for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 on Tuesday 14 May (Language Conventions and Writing), Wednesday 15 May (Reading) and Thursday 16 May (Numeracy). Students in Year 5 will sit these tests in class during Periods 1-3 whilst Year 7 and 9 students will receive examination timetables.

A ‘make up day’ will be conducted for students who were absent from one or more of these tests earlier in the week due to illness and the like on Friday 17 May.
To improve your handwriting, you need to first assess how healthy you are in the four elements of legible handwriting: letter formation, sizing, alignment on the line and spacing between words. Then use the steps below to start to improve your handwriting:

- **FIND BEST PEN**: Experiment with different pens to see which is the easiest to write with and which one gives you the neatest handwriting. Use the same pen all the time.
- **GOOD GRIP**: Hold the pen/pencil gently and do not grip too tightly or push too hard on the paper.
- **USE ARM MUSCLES**: Always write with your forearm and shoulder NOT with your fingers or wrist. This way your strokes will flow much better. It may take you some time to retrain your arm and hand but be aware of these movements when you practise. The muscles in your forearm and shoulder tire less easily than your fingers.
- **BEGIN WITH LARGE STROKES**: Practise initially on a whiteboard (or even tracing letters in the air) using large strokes until you feel comfortable with using your forearm and shoulder muscles. When you feel you have conquered this, it is time to begin practising on paper. Keep using large strokes, gradually reducing them in size as your control of the muscles increases. Once you have accomplished this it is time to begin practising in your exercise book forming normal sized letters.
- **POSTURE**: Ensure you practise your handwriting skills at a desk or table. Sit up straight using a good chair.
- **RULED LINED BOOK**: Buy a ruled exercise book (like a primary cursive pad) for practice use. Always write on lined paper and take note of how you are writing and how your work looks on the page.
- **COPY STYLE**: Look for an example of a handwriting style that you like and can use to copy from. Keep this in front of you at all times to inspire you towards improving your style.
- **INDIVIDUAL LETTERS**: Begin with individual letters and practise writing at least one letter per day concentrating on the four elements of legible handwriting.
- **WHOLE WORDS**: Once you have worked your way through individual letters in the alphabet practise writing whole words. Be aware of the flow from one letter to the next as well as spacing between each word.
- **TEST SENTENCE**: Choose a test sentence for yourself and write it at the top of your first practice page. Each week write this sentence at the top of a new page to check for improvement in your writing.
- **SPECIAL SENTENCE**: Frequently practise writing the sentence ‘the quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog’ in small and capital letters. This sentence contains all the letters in the alphabet and gives you good overall practice of each letter.
- **WRITE SLOWLY**: Write slowly when practising.
- **REALISTIC GOALS**: Don’t set impractical goals for improvement. Improvement will take time and is a matter for persistence – it all comes down to practice, practice and then more practice!

Once your handwriting style has improved, you can then focus on improving the speed of your handwriting. Every day, practise writing at speed. Choose a particular passage and write it out neatly. Time yourself. The next day write it out neatly again but try and speed up a bit and time yourself again. The goal is to get to the point where you can write the passage out quickly but still maintain neat handwriting. Doing this for just 5 minutes every day will really help you to improve your handwriting. If your cursive (running) writing is really bad, you may find it easier to learn to print really fast in examinations rather than focus on improving your cursive style.

You can also try writing with a pen that is weighted on the end to build up the muscles in your hand used for writing. When you get to the examinations take the weight off the end and feel the benefits of a lighter pen! And for people with serious handwriting issues, check out this amazing pen: www.ringpen.com.
AROUND THE SCHOOL

Dance 326 will be held in the gymnasium will be on Friday 17 May from 6.30pm – 8.30pm. This is an event run by the School and Middle School Prefects. It is sure to be a fun and energetic social evening. Music is provided by a student DJ, with drinks and snacks available for sale. Notes were sent home last week in relation to this occasion.

NORTH QUEENSLAND OUTREACH

Deposits for those Year 6 students who wish to avail themselves of this opportunity are due as soon as possible. Plane tickets will be booked very soon. Please contact Mr Davies if you wish to be a part of the Outreach but have yet to return your Expression of Interest and pay your deposit.

IPSHA PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL

Rehearsals have already commenced each Friday at lunchtime for students performing in the Drama performance at the Festival next term. Parents are reminded to purchase their tickets through Flexischools for the evening.
Congratulations to Cate Ward who won the competition and the other finalists Julia Kokic, Rebecca Mortier and Kaitlin Taylor.

At the end of Summer Term, Macarthur students competed in an Indonesian speaking competition in which they described their ideal holiday. Students in Year 8 spoke for one to two minutes. The finalists presented their speeches for a panel of judges at our Sister School MTSn3 in Jakarta via Skype. The Indonesian judges were highly impressed with the speeches and commented on the students’ pronunciation, fluency and ideas.

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**ROBOTICS**

On the 24 April 2013, Stuart McIntosh, Jeffrey Hartono, Grace Barrett, Mitchell Biggart, James Tegel, Julian Jankowski, and Joseph Hartono competed in the Robotics World Championship with 128 other teams from around the world in St Louis, USA. This year the ‘ring it up’ game required a robot to be designed to lift round rings from pegs and move them to a rack similar to the game of tic tac toe.

Our team was responsible for designing, building, and programming ‘Marvin’ our robot to compete in an alliance format against other teams. The Hon Roger Price, Consul-General in Chicago, United States of America came to visit our team and spoke with Stuart McIntosh about our robot design.

The team was required to talk to a panel of judges and present their engineering notebook that documented the journey of designing, building and programming the robot. The team received excellent achievements on the presentation of their journal.

The team competed confidently and the drivers controlled Marvin to be a strong alliance with other teams.

This was a fantastic opportunity to represent Macarthur and Australia in a world robotic championship. The team have also now lifelong friendships with students from around the world.
Autumn term 2013 is only eight weeks long and as you are reading this there are only six weeks to go. As always at Macarthur there is a lot to do over the next few weeks including multiple assessment tasks for Year 10 and 12, Half Yearly Examinations for Year 11, Athletics Carnival, Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition and so much more. Therefore, it is vital that students in the Senior School keep themselves as organised as possible and have a plan to follow in their study times to ensure everything gets done in a timely manner.

**Half Yearly Examinations**

Students in Year 10 and 12 will have the majority of examinations back now. I encourage students and parents to look past the marks and delve into what the result highlights about their progress. Students should not see a half yearly examination as an end point but as a check up along the way. I also encourage students to discuss with their teachers what this means in regards to their strengths and weaknesses in order to improve into the future. Year 11 should be well underway with their study for the half yearly examinations that begin in Week 4.

**Careers Expos 2013**

Students in Years 10-12 have the opportunity to apply to attend either the SMH Careers Expo on Thursday 30 May or the Western Sydney Careers Expo. The purpose of the expos are to give students the opportunity to research possible careers paths and tertiary options beyond school. Students will travel by bus to and from the venue and there will be an opportunity to purchase lunch. Students need to give a brief reason as to why they wish to attend the Expo to ensure that they do not wander aimlessly around and are attending just to get a day off school.

Applications are to be made online and a link from either the Senior School Portal > Academic Excellence on the Intranet or from the Senior School at Macarthur facebook site. Successful applicants will be notified by Mr Bedingfield.

**CIS Swimming**

Particular congratulations must go to Kaylie Ekinci and Nicholas Masjuk who represented Macarthur at the CIS Swimming events on 1 May. Kaylie finished first in the 200m 17 years butterfly with a new record, third in the 400m Freestyle and fourth in the 100m Backstroke. She also competed in the 50m butterfly. Nicholas competed in the 50m Breaststroke. Both students should be well proud of their efforts at this high level of competition.
FROM THE SCHOOL CAPTAIN

It is hard to believe that we are over half way through our academic year! Looking back, Summer Term was full or hard work but was also one of the most fun and rewarding terms.

On Valentines Day, a group of Year 12 students decided they wanted to make a difference for women all around the world. The organisation is called “1 Billion Rising” and was a chance for men and women all around the world to rise up to end violence towards women worldwide. The group of Year 12 students choreographed a short dance routine, and performed the flashmob during recess. The message we wanted to convey was “1 billion violated is an atrocity, but 1 billion dancing is a revolution.” It was a successful day, and we hope we truly made a difference in raising awareness for women’s rights. This fitted in perfectly with this year’s campaign the prefects are pushing - “Where is the love?”. The campaign is encouraging students to care for those around them, their self and their school. It has been great to see an improvement in the uniform last term, which was the targeted area.

Happy Day 2013

Another year, another successful Happy Day. This is one of the most enjoyable days for the students in which everyone has the opportunity to send a flower or chocolate to brighten someones day. Over 1100 flowers were wrapped on the Wednesday afternoon before Happy Day. Happy Day this year also coincided with the Year 7 2014 Open Day giving our future students an opportunity to get a little taste of the colourful and fun spectacle of the event. The Prefects ensured that each future Year 7 child also received a gift. I would just like to extend my thanks to Mr Hordern and the prefects who organise this successful day each year.

LINDSAY JONES, POPPY TEGEL, VERONICA O’NEIL AND AMY BARTLETT
Prefect Radio

Happy Day also saw the launch of the Macarthur Radio station, which was another success. This gave students the chance to dedicate songs to friends, and just enjoy some music in the playground at lunch time. We hope that there will be more opportunities for the Macarthur Radio Station - for this I would like to extend my thanks to Emily Mackie and Adrian Guy who ran this, and made it a very enjoyable lunch time for everyone.

Anzac Day 2013

The first day back saw us commemorate the ANZAC’s with our annual Anzac Service. Another great service, where we were treated to an address from Reverend J, who gave a very encouraging and inspiring speech on ANZAC Day, as well as being treated to a speech on ‘The Significance of ANZAC Day’ by Year 12 student Emily Mackie. It's always lovely to hear from different people, on what ANZAC Day means to them. It is a privilege to take this day to truly recognise the courage and bravery of our soldiers, both past and present. The genuine sacrifice they make encourages us to think and reflect on our decisions, and how we can better care for those around us. As we read in John 15:13 - “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends”

Katherine Harris
School Captain
**OTHER HAPPENINGS**

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**INTERСHool INdoNesIAN SPEаking CoмpeTITIoN**

At the end of Summer Term, Macarthur students competed in an Indonesian speaking competition in which they described their ideal holiday.

Students in Year 10 spoke for three minutes. The finalists presented their speeches for a panel of judges at our Sister School MTSn3 in Jakarta via Skype.

The Indonesian judges were highly impressed with the speeches and commented on the students’ pronunciation, fluency and ideas.

Congratulations to Suzanne Purvis who won the competition and the other finalists Roberts Archer, Nikhil Goyal, Ryan Gregory, Ellen House, Victoria Kennett-Smith, Tahlia McCroary, Grace Murphy, and Kate Thomas.

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**WHAT’S STEAMPUNK? YEARS 9 AND 10 ARE ABOUT TO FIND OUT!**

Steampunk is a sub-genre of science fiction that typically features steam-powered machinery, especially in a setting inspired by industrialized Western civilization during the 19th century. Therefore, steampunk works are often set in an alternate history of the 19th century’s British Victorian era or American "Wild West", in a post-apocalyptic future during which steam power has regained mainstream use, or in a fantasy world that similarly employs steam power.

Examples of Steampunk may be seen in many movies, some episodes of Dr Who, or the TV advertisement for Canberra which features a black vision of machinery floating across a background of Canberra landscapes.

Successful author Richard Harland, who has written a number of Steampunk novels which have been published here and overseas, and has lectured in Creative Writing at the University of Wollongong, will be visiting Macarthur on Friday, May 24, to talk to Years 9 and 10 about his books and the process of writing. He will also conduct a workshop for budding writers.

His works include Worldshaker, Liberator and his latest novel Song of the Slums was released only this month. To get a taste of what the novels and the Steampunk genre are about, you can go to the following links:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ATZ8Z1Nmxo Worldshaker trailer
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLugL-GhcOA Liberator trailer
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kO46j2 Hh73Y Song of the Slums trailer