Welcome to our first newsletter for 2008: a year I expect will be filled with new challenges and opportunities. The year has begun well with students enjoying many positive experiences both in the classroom and during camp.

Last Friday, as part of our new year, the students of Year 7 and their families gathered with staff for the Year 7 Barbeque. This was a happy evening enjoyed by all. It was wonderful to see families getting to know both staff and other families. The highlight of the evening was the singing by Year 7 and Year 11, which truly demonstrated the positive relationships that have already developed between these students. This morning, the P&FA have hosted the New Parent Breakfast which brought together other new parents.

Another first for this term has been the launch of our new bus. The forty seater bus has begun its run from Sandy Point to Macarthur and is already approaching a capacity load each day. The continued growth in the number of families coming to Macarthur from Wattle Grove is very exciting.

Auditions for Oliver!, our Middle School and Senior School musical, have also begun this week. I sat in on some of the auditions this week and was impressed by the quality of preparations the students had put in for these. I look forward to watching the cast grow through their rehearsals.

On Saturday we will host our first Twenty Year Reunion. It will be a great pleasure to greet these former students and to hear of all they have achieved since leaving school in 1988. They have helped to build the traditions and culture of Macarthur and are Going out to Serve every day.

Ahead of us this term are many activities which will allow students to enjoy new experiences. I look forward to all the term will hold.

Riley Warren
Headmaster
2007 HSC Achievements

Year 12, 2007 continued the strong academic tradition of Macarthur, achieving solid results in the Higher School Certificate. Overall, one of the largest groups in Macarthur’s history gained UAI in the 80s and 90s and approximately 75% received first round offers for positions in universities across NSW and the ACT. These students are about to enter courses in Architecture, Engineering, Law, Business, Industrial Design, Psychology, Marine Science, Music, Arts, Biomedical Science, Education and Nursing. The Dux for 2007 was Zachary Brown who will be studying Arts/Law in 2008.

Some parents have been concerned that, after many years of being listed in the top 200 schools across NSW, Macarthur missed out on this honour in 2007. It is important to remember that this ranking is based on the number of ‘distinguished achievers’ who received Band 6 in 2 unit courses (or an E4 grade – the equivalent in extension courses), proportional to the number of examinations sat. Such a ranking will inevitably vary from year to year, often dependent upon the performance of just one student! Importantly, the published ranking does not influence and is not reflective of whether our students gain entry into the courses they want.

Macarthur does not offer low challenge subjects, but does seek to maximise a student’s UAI. Consequently, our students have to compete more rigorously in challenging subjects to achieve results in the high bands. In 2007 more students at Macarthur were attempting extension courses than ever before. Such courses have a greater degree of difficulty and consequently achievement in the highest bands is more difficult to attain.

Each year we analyse our results in order to seek out and correct areas of underperformance. Parents can be sure that this will happen again in 2008 so that students will achieve the highest grades of which they are capable.

Andrew Koric
Acting Deputy Headmaster

From the Head of Junior School

The Junior School has had a wonderful beginning to the year. The classes have settled in very well and it has been pleasing to see the positive approach taken to the lessons I have watched in every classroom. The school is alive with activity and the playground has been a place of positive relationships and enjoyable games. Sport has begun with trials for IPSO Cricket, T-ball, Softball and Basketball. It has been very good to see the students showing pride in themselves and the school by wearing the uniform correctly. We need to keep a high standard at all times.

In regard to uniform issues I must reinforce the school policy that no jewellery apart from a watch should be worn. This means there should be no sleepers or studs of any type. Hair is to be the one consistent colour, as close to their natural hair colour as possible. Please refer to the student diary or the information book for uniform details if you are uncertain.

Thank you for the very warm welcome that has been extended to all of the staff as we have commenced the 2008 school year. I am looking forward to building on this great start and to having the motto ‘Be Your Best – Make Excellence a Habit’ guide all we do.

William Wallace
Head of Junior School
FROM THE HEAD OF INFANTS SCHOOL

“Sharing the joy of books with your child is the best gift you can give them.”

Nick Galvin SMH January 31 2008

As we commence another busy year in the Infants School no more salient words could be spoken. Learning to read is a complex and, for some children, difficult task. It involves the understanding of the interplay between sounds and letters, an understanding of how sentences and punctuation work and an understanding of what the writer is actually trying to say to you. Galvin observes in his Sydney Morning Herald article, “Without being able to decode collections of symbols on a page and construct meaning from groups of words it is nigh on impossible for any child to go on and to participate fully in society. Reading is a really big deal.”

Teaching your child to read is something the teachers in the Infants School take very seriously. The majority of our teaching time is devoted to the various aspects of reading. We have a very strong emphasis on teaching decoding and phonic skills. Without these tools no child can learn to read. We take time and care to teach comprehension and spelling but above all we want to fill our students with a love and enthusiasm for reading. It is in this aspect that the role of parents is crucial.

Our home reading programme is designed to encourage parents to spend time reading quality literature. Jackie French, a noted children’s author, makes a number of observations about reading at home in Galvin’s article. She comments that just because a child is reading on their own it does not mean that the parent should stop reading to the child. Further she states that, “adults repeatedly underestimate the type of book and subject matter that interest young readers, tending to dumb down the choices.” This is one of the reasons we do not send home basal readers for our young ones to read. We want to encourage you to read to your child every night and to use the Library to select high quality literature to read to your child. Most children will begin to read along with you as you engender excitement and interest in the text that is in front of you.

We look forward to an exciting year of learning to read and trust that you will join us in this experience.

Susan Ash
HEAD OF INFANTS SCHOOL

MUSICAL NEWS

This week we begin our work on the musical, Oliver!. On Tuesday 12 February and Friday 15 February auditions were held. The students performed a song and monologue and demonstrated their dance skills. They were measured for costumes and they had an audition photo taken.

On Monday 18 February a cast list will be published with the first rehearsal occurring the next day, for both the cast and the orchestra. The parents of the cast and orchestra are asked to attend a brief information session on Tuesday 19 February from 5.30 – 6.00pm.

Nadine James
DIRECTOR

Please continue to support these missionary families with your donations and your prayers.

Jono, Amy, Lili, Isaac, Brie and Abe Vink
who work with the Church Missionary Society in Tanzania
javink@cms.org.au
During the vacation I was reminded again of the precariousness of human life even in our
great country of Australia where, with so much education and so many advances in technol-
ogy you would think there would be little loss of life because of stupidity or accident.

The day was stunning. The sun was shining. The air was clear, crisp. No humidity to speak
of, a refreshing breeze gently caught you as you arrived. Only a few families in the picnic
area quietly and slowly getting on with holiday stuff. The ‘inlet’ water was a picture perfect
Fiji look-alike. How good was it!

Suddenly the wail of sirens; people running in all directions. Two swimmers had been
wrestled out to sea and were now being swept against the rocks by the pounding waves.
Within a short time Police, Ambulance and a compliment of lifesavers from the south end of
the beach turned up to carry out a rescue.

One very brave young bloke could see the need, had jumped in and somehow managed to
save them both. Bruised and battered they made it across a channel, through gigantic surf
and up onto the beach; the helicopter arrived and rushed them to hospital. Life at the brink.
So close to major injury if not death.

James writes, “… you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life?
You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.” For me as a Christian and
a Chaplain, these situations beg the question: “Have you made peace with your creator?” We
cannot afford to be complacent and must be ready.

If you would like to know more about making peace with your creator or about the
Christian Faith, contact Steve or Ros on 46 296 225 or email church@mas.nsw.edu.au. We
would be very glad to be of assistance if we can.

Steven Davis

CHAPLAIN

Sunday:
9.30am Family Worship, Sunday School, Creche
6.00pm Contemporary Worship Service

Friday:
7.00pm Blaze Youth Nights, Cell Groups
2008 Snowsports Programme

After an extremely successful 2007 season, it is time to start thinking about the Macarthur Snowsports Programme for 2008. The programme is open to all students from Years 3 to Year 12 and is designed to meet all students’ individual needs. The programme caters to all levels of ability, from first timers to advanced. The purpose of the programme is to enable students to develop their snowsports skills and/or give students the opportunity to compete in the NSW Interschools Snowsports Competition.

Due to accommodation being very limited in the snow fields we need to know numbers by the end of February to ensure there are enough beds for all interested students. Students should have already received the notes regarding the programme. A Parent Information Night is to be held on Tuesday 19 February from 7.30pm in the Chapel. Permission notes and deposits will be due by Friday 22 February.

Should you have any questions regarding the programme please contact me at the school.

Scott Bedingfield
Co-ordinator

Gold Duke of Edinburgh Adventure
New Zealand 2008

During the recent school holidays twenty two students and four brave teachers headed to New Zealand for a seventeen day adventure of a lifetime. The purpose was to explore the South Island of New Zealand and participate in a range of challenging outdoor pursuits. Students and teachers were definitely pushed to their limits as they challenged both their minds and bodies.

These activities included a one hundred and twenty kilometre mountain bike ride on the Otago Rail Trail, a sixty kilometre hike in Te-Anau on the Kepler Track, a thirty kilometre sea kayak in the Abel Tasman National Park, a twenty kilometre white water rafting trip on the Shotover River near Queenstown, cruising Milford Sound, luge riding and Shotover Jet boating, visiting Lord of the Rings sites and glaciers, blackwater caving in Greymouth and a visit to Hamner Springs thermal reserve.

One of the many highlights of the trip was meeting Macarthur MP Mr Pat Farmer on the first night of the Kepler Track hike at Mt. Luxmore Hut.

The students on the trip were a credit to Macarthur as they travelled and challenged themselves. Particular thanks to Mrs Gould-Drakeley, Mrs James and Mr Jones for their support and encouragement throughout the trip.

Scott Bedingfield
GoDuke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator

Second Hand Instrument Register

The Parents and Friends Association has established a register for selling second-hand instruments.

Enquiries: Mrs Hadiwibawa
46 475 333
What an exciting time of the year it is in the Library, with so many new arrivals and so much beginning!

**The Golden Compass**

In this month’s Book Club the *Golden Compass* is on offer. As a result of the film recently released, there has been some concern expressed about its inclusion. The books of this trilogy have been on the shelves in the Stoddart Centre for at least five years and have been little read or commented upon. It is not really suitable for Junior School readers, as it is long and complex with advanced vocabulary.

While Philip Pullman is an avowed atheist, and puts into the mouths of his characters long (and boring) speeches which put forward his views, the first two books in the trilogy (Northern Lights and The Subtle Knife) have relatively little in them that is objectionable. The third volume, The Amber Spyglass, is more overtly anti-Christian.

Many books of the fantasy genre in particular explore philosophies which are subtly anti-Christian and the values presented in many books of other genres, television programmes and computer games will conflict with a Christian world view.

Some parents may choose not to allow their children to read these novels, and that is their right. However, you may also consider reading the novels with your child (or at the same time) and discussing and deconstructing the world view presented in them. It is important to realise that these are fantasy novels and that students regard them as such and are not likely to adopt their philosophies. A wise parent will try to keep up with what their child is reading or viewing and offer rational discussion of the issues involved.

**Headmaster’s Reading Awards**

The Headmaster’s Reading Awards will recommence in March, but students should have begun keeping a log of their reading for this year already. We hope to increase the level of participation in 2008, especially in Years 7 to 11, and are planning some further incentives, which will be announced shortly.

**Resources for Senior Students**

The library subscribes to a number of databases which offer a wide range of excellent resources for students in Years 11 and 12. Most students have been shown how to use these databases, which are accessible through the school’s intranet. They provide information at a higher level appropriate for senior students who should be discouraged from using Google and Wikipedia as their main avenue for research materials. The Senior Study Room also contains a large selection of resources pertaining to the HSC: study guides, past examination papers and study helps, as well as career guidance resources and information about tertiary institutions.

Patricia Low

**HEAD OF LIBRARIES**
HSC INFORMATION EVENING FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Parents and students of Year 11 are invited to attend the HSC Information Evening to be held in the MacArthur Chapel at 7.30pm on Monday 18 February 2008.

Ms Cheryl Russell, the Board of Studies Liaison Officer for our region has been invited to explain the intricacies of HSC assessment, marking, scaling and the Universities Admissions Index (UAI). There will be opportunities for parents and students to pose questions to Ms Russell or any of the experienced HSC markers from our own teaching staff who will also be present. This night promises to be an informative evening that helps demystify the HSC marking process and the requirements needed to maximise HSC and UAI results. I strongly encourage all parents of Year 11 to attend.

Melissa Gould-Drakeley
ACTING DIRECTOR OF STUDIES

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

During the first week of school all Middle School and Senior School students and staff headed off for their camp week. From Morisset (Year 7 Camp) to Jindabyne (Year 12 Camp) students challenged themselves with a wide range of outdoor pursuits including group skills, canoeing, abseiling, rock climbing and hiking.

Students and staff should be very proud of their achievements at camp. Students who completed their time at camp will receive a certificate outlining their achievements in the coming weeks.

Junior School camps are being held from the 5 March to the 7 March and forms for this need to be returned as soon as possible. I am sure that Junior School staff and students are looking forward to their time away.

Scott Bedingfield
OUTDOOR EDUCATION COORDINATOR

YEAR 9 CAMP NEWS

Year 9 camp was held at the Rathane/Telford site. The Year 9 students completed many activities, like high ropes, archery, sailing, rock climbing, swimming, canoeing and an overnight hike and sleep out. All the students took on these challenges with great enthusiasm. The storm on the Thursday afternoon meant that we had to evacuate some students who were meant to camp out but they took this in their stride, being very mature and sensible about the difficult situation.

The Christian discovery aspect of the camp was well presented by the staff of Rathane and gave the students an opportunity to ask questions and open their minds and hearts to the message of Christ.

Nadine James
HEAD OF YEAR

DID YOU GET YOURS?

Help build a stronger Macarthur Anglican School Community...

• Keep your Directory near the telephone
• Reach for the Directory before the Yellow Pages
• Mention you found them in the Directory when contacting one of the advertising businesses
• Encourage others to use their Directory by sharing your experiences
• Advertise your business in it next year if you missed out this time!

If your family did not receive a copy in your eldest enrolled child’s bag over the last two weeks or you would like a second copy, please contact Kate Jones on 4647 5333 or email: kjones@mas.nsw.edu.au
**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS**

Rhys O’Shea (Year 9) participated in a fundraising event over the holidays. He cycled from Sydney to Wollongong raising money for the MS Society. He came 104 out of approximately 12,000. More importantly he was the highest money raiser for the under 18 age group - $1620.00.

Claire Koski (Year 12) had been selected to tour India with the NSW under 19s Women’s cricket team. She will play in a combination of 20/20, one day and two day matches in Bangalore.

Jonathan Nash-Daly (Year 7) was successful in his audition for the Opera Australia production of ‘Un Ballo in Maschera’, (a Masked Ball). He has been accepted into a juvenile role and will appear in several scenes in the opera.

Padriac Kearney (Year 9) is presently NSW State champion for Under 16s in his weight division in Judo and represented NSW at the 2007 Australian National titles.

Justice Massaad (Year 6) has been offered a scholarship with Sydney Children’s Choir/ Gondwana Voices. She will be in the Stephen Leek Choir, which is the highest level for her age, and will be performing at various concerts during the year.

Emily Thomson (Year 7) travelled to Brisbane in January to compete in the 2008 Summer Trophy for Ice Skating and Le Patinage Artistique at Iceworld. She achieved first place in Le Patinage (Division E, 12 years and over) and second place in Skate School Level 2, 11 years and over.

Joshua Wallace (Year 11) had a letter published in a recent addition of ‘Drum Media’. Joshua plays in a small local band and in his letter points out the injustice of having to ‘pay to play’ in certain gigs. He attributes this in part to the onset of ‘Australian Idol’ in our culture.

Performances with Opera Australia have begun for Jayden Sierra (Year 8). He is performing in the opera, Carmen.

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**Academic and Music Scholarships for Year 7, Year 9 and Year 11 2009**

Macarthur Anglican School
PO Box 555, Camden 2570
Tel: 4647 5333 • Fax: 4647 5444
Email: registrar@mas.nsw.edu.au

*Apply online: [www.macarthur.nsw.edu.au](http://www.macarthur.nsw.edu.au)*

*Applications close: 11 April 2008*
NEWS FROM HUNGARY

Emily Wheeler and Ben Nicastri have arrived in Miskolc to commence their 9 month exchange at our sister school, Lévay József Református Gimnázium.

Their first two weeks have been spent settling into the school’s boarding house, meeting their classmates and spending several hours each day attending intensive Hungarian lessons.

A new experience has been the very cold weather and the snow that has been falling. Ben has already played soccer and has been chosen in the school’s rugby team that will be travelling to Slovakia to compete. We look forward to hearing from them and following their adventures.

Annette Fitzgerald

HUNGARIAN EXCHANGE CO-ORDINATOR

ROWING

On Saturday 2 February Gabrielle Leahy raced in the under 17 women’s single sculls and was placed fifth. She also raced in the under 17 women’s double scull and came third.

These are great results given that the race was over 2000 metres and it was the first time that Gabrielle has raced over the distance. Gabrielle has been training at the Regatta Centre three times per week over the Christmas holidays. She will be competing in the NSW Rowing Championships on 16 and 17 February 2008.

Jonathan Oliver

COACH

For your Diary

February
15 Alumni 20 Year Reunion
18 Year 11 Parent HSC Information Evening
19 Junior School Swimming Carnival
21 Middle School and Senior School Swimming Carnival
29 Junior School Parent Meeting - Camps
29 Year 3 Camp over at Macarthur

March
4 P&F Annual General Meeting
5 - 7 Junior School Camps
8 Alumni 10 Year Reunion
11 International Music Tour Information Evening
13 Thailand Outreach departs
Year 8-12 Parent Teacher Evening
17 Year 8-12 Parent Teacher Evening
18 David Helfgott visit to Macarthur
20 Easter Service
21 Good Friday
24 Easter Monday
28 Music Festival
Thailand Outreach returns

April
4 - 11 Year 8-12 Half Yearly Examinations
11 Grandparent’s Day
School Holidays commence

MACARTHUR PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 4 March, 2008
8.00pm
Macarthur Chapel
All Welcome
Families that work well

Just as a loving, caring family can help a child develop good self-esteem, so an unhappy, fearful family can lead to low self-esteem and a range of problems for a child. Sometimes unhelpful ways of doing things, habits and patterns, form in our families without us realising that this has happened. We often just know that life seems harder and not enjoyable anymore as a parent. You may find it useful to think about how your family works.

Make time for talking and listening

• Families where a wide range of feelings are expressed seem to be healthier: feelings such as joy, excitement, anger and fear.
• Often parents forget that talking with children can be difficult and that they think in different ways from grown-ups. Try to remember how it was for you. The people you liked were probably those who listened to what you had to say.
• Listening means not only hearing the words but working out what your child is feeling behind the words.
• Listen without jumping in with answers or lecturing or criticising. Remember what it feels like when you want to talk and have someone just listen.
• Check that you’re hearing your child correctly by repeating what you have heard but in different words. Show you are interested with brief fill-ins like "Mmm, go on" or "Really!"
• ‘Put down’ messages, threatening and blaming are likely to make your child feel bad or hopeless.

Show affection, encouragement and appreciation

• Children and adults feel good when they are encouraged and appreciated. Let your child know what you love and like about him.
• Show affection, give hugs, be thoughtful and kind.
• Teenagers who remember being praised, kissed or hugged during the previous week are likely to do better at school than those who don’t have this experience.
• Take time to ask what each family member has done each day and show interest in each other’s lives.
• Most people find it easier to criticise than praise, so make an effort to think about the positives and tell your child what you have noticed.
• No one should be left out or made to feel the odd one out in a family.
• Allow each person to be excited about her personal interests, and show respect and tolerance.
Share the chores and the power
- Help children to take on responsibilities so that as they get older you allow them to have more say over their own lives.
- The younger the child the more you should be in control, but begin early, giving them chances to do things for themselves with careful watching.
- Use adult power wisely. Keep control through humour and encouragement, not with punishment or threats. In less healthy families there is a never-ending fight for control which is unhelpful to children.
- When children have a real say in what happens and where everyone feels their views are listened to, a very special relationship with trust and intimacy helps build a healthy family.

Keep in touch with friends and relatives
- The more a family is isolated from others the more chance there is of having problems.
- Knowing that there are people outside to turn to when things get tough or in a crisis will make a difference to your child’s happiness and chances of having friends.
- Apart from family and neighbours, share day to day problems with the parents of your child’s friends, (but don’t do it in front of children).

Make family time
- Plan so there is time to discuss things that affect the whole family.
- Create a sense of belonging - sharing ideas, values and beliefs.
- Find some way to spend time together as a family group. Make fun times together.
- Shared mealtimes (without television or phone calls) allow everyone to share information, and to know what is happening to each other.
- Do things together – play cards or games, take holidays, go on outings or walks, go camping, play sport, share hobbies.

Commitment
- Put the well-being of your family as a first priority.
- Show loyalty to your family. Stick up for each other so that each person feels confident in the family’s support.
- Pull together to form a united front and to find solutions.

Family rituals and traditions
The little special things (daily rituals) that you do every day and on special occasions help build a sense of belonging, inner security and contentedness. Daily rituals can be how you say goodbye, what you do at mealtimes and bedtime. Families benefit from coming together to celebrate special occasions (eg birthdays, Christmas and Name Days) and of having traditions about what happens at these times.

Spiritual values and beliefs
Many families have spiritual beliefs which give a sense of meaning and direction to the ordinary events of the day. They can also add strength and hope in times of crisis and difficulty.

Resilience
Strong families are able to withstand setbacks and crises with a positive attitude and shared values and beliefs that help them cope with challenges.

Source: www.cvh.com
Extract: Parent Easy Guide # 36 with permission © Parenting SA, Government of South Australia
FROM THE SCHOOL FARM
This term brings with it much adventure and a wealth of opportunity!

Macarthur has two steers, a Simmental and a Square Meater. These animals are currently being prepared for the annual Camden and Sydney Royal Agricultural Show. The steers are currently being trained by students from the show team.

The steers are taught how to stand and be led around a parade ground. They are on a special diet to ensure they are growing at optimum rates. Each steer currently weighs 400 kilograms. The heavy rain over the past weeks has delayed our preparation as the training area is too wet and boggy for safe student access.

We will be also entering our Angora Goats in both shows. Mr Gower will soon be selecting students to be in this year’s show events.

Geoff Kibblewhite
FARM MANAGER

YEAR 12 CAMP