Last week our music students and any staff who could spare the time had the wonderful experience of attending a concert in our Chapel performed by noted Australian pianist, David Helfgott. He played Rachmaninov, Chopin and Listz to the delight of his audience. Parents may remember the film made on David Helfgott's life - 'Shine' - in which Geoffrey Rush won an Academy Award. It was a rare treat for all who attended.

Our Easter Service was both solemn, as we had the story of Jesus' Crucifixion read to us, and joyful, as we reflected on Jesus' wonderful resurrection on the first Easter Day. I hope your Easter break allowed time to remember the momentous events that changed the world forever. It was interesting to hear on the news over the weekend that attendances at church were up significantly on previous years.

This week our School Council met for its annual Planning Day. One of the main agenda items was the preparation of a booklet to distribute to applicants for the Head's position. A number of senior staff brought the Council up-to-date on the strengths and challenges the School faces. Opportunities presented by the huge residential developments we are about to see around the School were also discussed. It was a very successful and worthwhile day.

Technology, the internet, SMS's etc are wonderful resources available to our young people - but they can also be used for much harm. Pray that our students will not use them for harm but for good. God promises to answer prayer and encourages us to pray to Him. Please always keep the School in your prayers - pray for our boys and girls (of all ages), that they will live good, fulfilling and purposeful lives.

RILEY WARREN
Headmaster
This has been a busy and exciting term in which all the students and staff of the Junior School have worked hard. The children are settled in classes and the teaching and learning programmes being presented are stimulating the thinking of girls and boys. Each morning the staff share in a time of devotions and these often highlight the progress of individual and groups within the school. We pray for this to continue and that God will support us all in doing the best for each individual student.

This term we have certainly been blessed with the rain and as a result the grounds look superb. The ground staff continue to do a great job of caring for our environment and this reinforces how important they are as part of the team.

A number of exciting events have taken place in the Junior School recently or are due to occur in the next few weeks. I am particularly pleased to report that the Australian Rules football team were wonderful representatives of Macarthur at the Paul Kelly Cup Gala Day last week, demonstrating great skills and sportsmanship.

The Easter Service was a wonderful event again this year – we were able to commemorate and celebrate the gift of Christ with the whole school last Thursday.

We will hold Doughnut Day next Tuesday 1 April to raise money for the students we are supporting at St Michael’s, Tanzania. I would like to thank the school community for your continued support of our outreach to Tanzania.

Other upcoming events this term include
2 April – CIS Swimming Carnival
3 April – Year 3 and Year 6 CSIRO visit
11 April – Grandparent’s Day and NASSA Netball Gala Day.

The children are looking forward to these special events, particularly to hosting a visit from their grandparents. We hope many will take the opportunity to visit Macarthur and see what the children are doing at school.

William Wallace
Head of Junior School

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
I read this week that shortly after the publication of his controversial book *The Satanic Verses*, Salman Rushdie said in an interview, “Doubt, it seems to me, is the central condition of a human being in the Twentieth Century.” The man of the hour when it comes to doubt has got to be Thomas or as he is sympathetically known, Doubting Thomas.

John, Chapter 20 introduces us to Thomas the absentee: he missed seeing the risen Lord. We also come to know Thomas the skeptic. When the disciples told Thomas of seeing the risen Jesus, Thomas should have believed them. He knew them as honest and sober friends and witnesses. The others had said, “We have seen the Lord” (Verse 20). The reasonableness of faith depends on the credibility of the witnesses.

Most significantly we encounter Thomas the believer. Thomas not only believed but worshipped, saying, “My Lord and my God!” (Verse 28)

The foundation of Christian faith is still the testimony of the apostolic eye witnesses. We believe in Jesus Christ today not because we have seen Him but because they have. This is why the New Testament is so important - it contains the first hand accounts of witnesses of the resurrection. They say to us in writing what they first said to Thomas in speech: “We have seen the Lord.”

Can we give you an easy to read, free Bible? Would you like to know more about the Christian faith? Why not have it explained clearly and caringly in your home?

Contact Steve or Ros at the Chaplain’s Office on 46 296 225 or email church@mas.nsw.edu.au We would be very glad to help.

**STEVEN DAVIS**

**Chaplain**
NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM — LITERACY AND NUMERACY (NAPLAN)

This year National Testing will be introduced for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in all government and non-government schools. This programme, which has the support of all State and Territory Education Ministers, will assess the literacy and numeracy of students in all Australian schools.

In New South Wales the NAPLAN tests will replace the Basic Skills Tests, English Language and Literacy Assessment (ELLA) and Secondary Numeracy Assessment Program (SNAP).

The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do and will be used to support teaching and learning programmes. Parents will receive a report indicating their child’s level of achievement.

The tests will be conducted across Australia on the same days for all students according to the following timetable:

**Tuesday 13 May** — Language Convention test (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) and separate Writing test.

**Wednesday 14 May** - Reading test

**Thursday 15 May** - Numeracy test (Number, Algebra, Function and Pattern, Chance and Data, Measurement and Space)

In the Numeracy tests students do not require any measuring tools such as rulers or protractors. In Years 7 and 9 there will be two Numeracy tests: one where a calculator is allowed and one where calculators are not used. For the calculator test the student should use the calculator that they currently use at school.

**Friday 16 May** - A make-up day is scheduled for students who missed a section of the test or were absent on a particular day.

Additional information for parents about the National Assessment Program can be found on this website:

http://www.naplan.edu.au/parents/parents.html

Please make an appointment with me or the Head of School if you would like further information about your child’s participation in the National Assessment Program.

**MELISSA GOULD-DRAKELEY**

**Acting Director of Studies**

**Scholarship Applications**

**Closing Date: 11 April 2008**

**Scholarship Examination:**

**Saturday 10 May 2008**

**THAILAND OUTREACH DRAWS TO A CLOSE**

Our team of twelve students and staff return today from a two week outreach in Thailand.

During their stay, the students have been involved in painting at McKean Leprosy Hospital, distribution of bags of school resources and toys to children in the remote tribal villages near the Burma/Laos border and have taught English and scripture to Thai children attending the E-camp at Varee School in Chiang Mai.

The annual outreach trip is a joint activity with our sister school Pacific Academy, Vancouver.

News from Thailand has included praise for the ability of Macarthur students to be flexible in the face of cultural differences and foreign circumstances. The team’s morale has remained buoyant throughout the adventure.

Periods of recreational time have allowed the members of the team to enjoy the Chiang Mai Night Bazaar where they were able to bargain with the stallholders. They have also ridden on an elephant, taken a raft ride and had an overnight stay in Bangkok which no doubt involved some shopping before heading home!

We look forward to more news upon their return.
**NEW DATA PROJECTORS A REAL HIT!**

Over the last month students may have noticed the installation of new data projectors in many classrooms, bringing Macarthur to a position where over half our classrooms have these projectors mounted in them.

Data projectors allow teachers to use a diverse range of teaching techniques to communicate with their students. They are able to easily display things from their computer, show DVD’s and take advantage of our online video delivery system “Clickview”.

In the Infants School and Junior School, each year group has one class with a complete installation and in the Middle School and Senior School we now have installations covering all classrooms in Art, Technology, PE, Patrick classrooms, Science, as well as most of the demountable classrooms and two classrooms in Robinson.

The recent installations means that thirty of our classrooms now have access to this technology. Portable projectors are made available to teachers in other classrooms.

It is our aim is to install additional data projectors each year and to have these facilities in each room in the not too distant future.

**PARENT HELPERS FOR EXAMINATIONS**

Students with special needs are sometimes able to access special provisions for examinations, particularly those doing their School Certificate and Higher School Certificate Examinations this year.

Each year a large pool of parent volunteers assist in providing a variety of special provisions. As examinations for all years generally occur at the same time we regularly draw upon a faithful, but small group of parent helpers, who bless the students greatly with their generous donation of time. We would like to expand this volunteer base.

If you are able to assist us at examination times, even if only for a day or half-day, it would be greatly appreciated. Please make contact with Anita Lesmana in the Administration Centre or email her on alesmana@mas.nsw.edu.au if you are willing to assist.

**MELISSA GOULD-DRAKELEY**

*Acting Director of Studies*

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**ENROLMENT IN TRANSITION AND KINDERGARTEN, 2009**

Enrolment interviews for Kindergarten and Transition 2009 will take place from the beginning of Autumn Term. If you have a younger child for enrolment in Kindergarten or Transition in 2009, it is important to check that your child is registered.

If you are unsure about whether we have your younger child’s details, please contact our Enrolments Assistant, Mrs Beth Blench.

T: 4647 5333    E: bblench@mas.nsw.edu.au

Mrs Blench will quickly confirm the details we have, or supply you with an Application for Enrolment if your child is not registered.

**ROBERT SIM**

*Registrar*
**Winter Uniform**
The date for changeover into Winter Uniform for all students is **Monday 12 May, 2008**.

Would boys from Year 7 to Year 12 requiring grey trousers, white shirts, ties, belts and grey socks please come to the Uniform Shop to try on these items which can be put aside for you and payment made at a later date.

Girls in Year 11 would you please come to the Uniform Shop before the end of term to try on kilts and senior blouses which can also be put aside for you and paid for at a later date.

The Uniform Shop will be open on the following days during the School Holidays:

- Monday 21 April 8.45am - 4.30pm
- Wednesday 23 April 8.45am - 2.00pm
- Thursday 24 April 8.45am - 2.00pm

**Grandparent’s Day**
It is now only a few weeks until Grandparent’s Day, 11 April, and I would like to encourage all families to return their RSVPs as soon as possible to allow us to plan for the day.

Registration will begin at at 9.45am. Grandparents should register upon arrival at the designated registration tables which will be located near the Junior School Car Park and receive their Special GP pack.

A concert will commence at 10.15am adjacent to the Kindergarten classrooms. Following Morning Tea, grandparents will accompany their grandchildren to their classroom activity groups. There will also be an opportunity to visit the Book Fair during the day.

We are looking forward to hosting this very special event. It is always wonderful to share our day with our wonderful grandparents.

Rebecca Abdoo
Grandparent’s Day Co-ordinator
EXAMINATIONS FOR YEARS 8 – 12

Years 8 – 10: Friday 4 April to Friday 11 April
Year 11: Friday 4 April to Thursday 10 April
Year 12: Wednesday 2 April to Thursday 10 April. Students are expected to attend normal lessons on Wednesday 2 April unless it is a period in which an examination has been scheduled.

By now, all students will have been issued an examination timetable and should be studying thoroughly.

Examinations are not scheduled on Monday April 7 for Year 8 and Wednesday April 9 for Year 9. Opportunity for silent supervised private study will be made available on those days.

Students are reminded that it is the School’s expectation that they will attend Sport on the Tuesday of the examination period.

If you have any enquiries about the examinations, please contact me or Mr Peter Blake.

MELISSA GOULD-DRAKELEY
Acting Director of Studies

YEAR 4 VISIT THE PLANETARIUM

On Thursday 13 March Year 4 went to the Planetarium and Science Fair at Wollongong University.

It was a fascinating day where all the students enjoyed the amazing range of activities and the bubble show. Some students were able to experience life in a bubble and the students also went on a trip around the planets in the planetarium.

DENNIS SCHAEFER
Year 4 Teacher

SECOND HAND INSTRUMENT REGISTER

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

Enquiries: Mrs Hadiwibawa
46 475 333
This week the Macarthur Show Team have been competing at the Sydney Royal Easter Show with great success.

The team, Lindsay Jones, Amy Milson, Kathryn Milson, Louisa Suleau, Amy Bartlett, Jessica Blachura, Emily Newton, Jonathan Nash-Daly and Veronica O’Neill took out five ribbons in the Angora goat judging - a first, two second places, a third and a fourth place.

The students worked very hard over the term to feed and groom the goats during their lunch breaks.

Students are also competing in the steer judging this week and results of these events will be published in the next newsletter.

Helen Glover
Agriculture Teacher

It is now several weeks since Graham Pascoe returned from his trek to Mount Kilimanjaro and life has begun to return to normal.

“It is hard to believe that only a few weeks ago I was scaling the highest mountain in Africa,” he says. “The trek was a fantastic experience and has given me new insights into the beauty and terror of God’s creation.”

During his trek, Graham set out to raise funds for St Michael Secondary School in Tanzania. To date $1,200.00 of the pledged money has been received.

If you have pledged to sponsor Graham on his trek, or would like to support his achievement of reaching the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, please forward your donations to the Accounts Office before the end of Summer Term.

Timothy Cartwright
Chair, St Michael Committee
Hi from Hungary

In the last newsletter we reported on life in Hungary from the perspective of Ben Nicastri. This time we learn a little of what life is like for Emily Wheeler in Miskolc.

Emily writes, ”Things are going well here. I’m staying at the home of a classmate and have had the chance to visit with other friends.

Our intensive Hungarian lessons are now finished and we have started our regular lessons. On Thursday Ben and I went on a day trip with the Romanian and the Slovakian students who have been visiting the school. We enjoyed a day visiting castles and enjoying the day of snow. We have had class photos taken and I will send a copy when we get it.

I have tried Hungarian folk dancing but I wasn’t very good at it. We saw a big performance of it in the theatre near the school - students from Levay and other schools did the dancing.

Ben and I will change classes soon so that every class has had an Australian in it.

I’m off for a walk now.”

Emily Wheeler

Student Achievements

Congratulations to Nicholas Elisha (Year 4) who captained the successful Camden Rams Cricket team in their recent finals match.

Claire Koski, (Year 12) was Co-Captain of the CIS Girls Cricket team which recently defeated the Combined High Schools First Eleven team in their game at the Lord Tavernor’s Girl’s Cricket Tournament. The team were the undefeated champions for the third year in a row. Claire’s best performance was in bowling where she achieved figures of no wickets for four runs off four overs and one wicket for seven runs off seven overs. In the game against the Combined High Schools First Eleven, she was the wicket keeper and affected a catch and run out while ably directing her team on the field.

Congratulations to Gabrielle Leahy (Year 10), Maddison Brown (Year 8), Katherine Harris (Year 7) and Rachael Mamo (Year 8) who were chosen for the NASSA Netball Teams.

Elliot Altobelli (Year 7) is raising funds for the Leukemia Foundation as part of the Shave for a Cure Campaign. To date Elliot has raised about $400.00.
Easter Service

Last week members of the Macarthur Anglican School community came together to mark the death and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ through the annual Easter Service.

The service, held in the open air, brought together students of all ages. With their eyes drawn to three wooden crosses, students, staff and parents joined together in prayer and song to celebrate the amazing love God has for each of us.

The Headmaster spoke to the school during the service, reminding all those assembled that Easter is much more than chocolate and bunnies - that it is in fact about the special relationship God wants to have with each of us.

Steven Davis
Chaplain

New Committee for the Parents and Friends Association

At the recent Annual General Meeting of the Parents and Friends Association the 2008 Committee was elected.

The Committee is:
- President: Patricia Lorenz
- Secretary: Anne Cusick
- Treasurer: Vicki Scheffer

Committee Members:
- David Simmons
- Joan Morley
- Lynne Nash-Daly
- Noel Hadjimichael
- Elinor Zagorac
- Rosa Mackay
- Matthew Mansell

The committee has a number of events planned for the year ahead, including a Movie Night on 5 April, Trivia Night to be held on 14 June and the Annual Golf Day to be held in November.

The Parents and Friends Association meets once each term in the Macarthur Chapel. Each meeting features a Forum and General Meeting. The dates for the remaining meetings are:

- Autumn Term: 6 May, 2008
- Winter Term: 5 August, 2008
- Spring Term: 4 November, 2008

I hope to see you at one of these events.

Patricia Lorenz
PFA President

Winter Uniform from 12 May, 2008
**Headmaster’s Reading Awards**

The Headmaster’s Reading Awards have begun again. Students from Kindergarten to Year 12 are able to participate in a scheme across the School.

At Macarthur, we allocate points to each book read, giving more points to the books which are more challenging (for example, a novel by Charles Dickens or Jane Austen or a biography written for adults.) Extra points are allocated for the reading of Christian books, and more Christian books have been purchased this year to encourage students to read them. The points are, of course, allocated at a level appropriate to the child’s age. Students in Year 3 to Year 12 have to submit a form and answer a question which proves that they have actually read the book they want counted towards their total. Response forms are available from the Stoddart Centre or the Library Annexe and may be returned there. Students from Kindergarten to Year 2 will have their reading monitored by their teacher through their Home Reading record.

Prizes are awarded at each level reached, culminating in the award of the Champion Reader’s Cup. Last year’s winner, Lucy Pavela, also received an iPod as part of her prize.

The Headmaster’s Reading Awards aim to encourage students to read more and to read widely. The Headmaster is himself a reader and sets a fine example to students in his enthusiasm for reading. Research tells us that reading widely and increasing the range and difficulty of texts is an excellent preparation for students as they move to the higher levels of Senior School, and provides a solid basis for understanding of the challenging texts that are studied. Reading is also a profitable lifelong leisure activity which allows us to experience other places, times, lives and cultures, even to escape into other worlds.

Queries about the Awards may be directed to me.

**Patricia Low**  
Head of Libraries

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**Another Very Happy Day!**

Last week marked the annual Happy Day celebrations in the Middle School and Senior School. Students and staff were presented with flowers and chocolates by their friends.

Happy Day is an annual event organised by the Prefects. Each year hundreds of flowers and chocolates are distributed - just to make those who receive them feel special. This year over 1400 packages were delivered to Tutor Groups.

A highlight of this year’s Happy Day was the appearance of the Smiley Faced Man - a happy character who enjoyed giving away his wonderful gifts.

The funds raised from sales for Happy Day are used to support a range of leadership projects in the school, including sponsorship of the recent Year 3 Dads and Students Campout, leadership seminars held each year and various outreach projects.

**Joly Hordern**  
Prefect Master
**Milkshakes Prove Popular**

Broughton 12 would like to thank everyone who supported their recent Milkshake Day. It was a great success not only in fundraising but also in enjoyment - both for those drinking milkshakes and those making them.

Thanks to all of those students who waited patiently and to the staff who helped in many ways. Particular thanks go to Mrs Golding who provided access to the Canteen and valuable advice.

A very big thank you to Country Valley milk who donated the milk, flavouring, straws, cups and much of the equipment used so that we could raise over $650 for our Tanzanian sponsor child Neema Maliva.

**Freda Laurenson**
**Tutor**

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**FOR YOUR DIARY**

**March**

31  8.30am Anniversary Quilt Meeting, Stoddart Centre, Cobbitty
    8.45am Official opening of Café Macarthur

**April**

1  Junior School Donut Day
2  7.00pm Year 7, 2009 Information Evening
4 - 11  Year 8-12 Half Yearly Examinations
5  PFA Movie Night in Macarthur Chapel
9  4.30pm Year 6 Parent Forum
11  Grandparent’s Day
Year 11 and 12 Europe History Tour departs
School Holidays commence
28  Autumn Term commences
   11.00am Anzac Day Service
30  Infants School and Junior School Cross Country

**May**

1  Middle School and Senior School Cross Country
   4.30pm Year 6 Parent Forum
2-4  Dads and Daughters Camp
6  PFA Term Forum and General Meeting
8  Year 7 Parent-Teacher Evening
10  Scholarship Examination for Year 7, 9 and 11, 2009
13  Scholarship Recital Evening
14  National Testing Day for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9
17  GATEway Quest
22  Year 6 Parent Forum
24  Music Scholarship Auditions
27  Year 11 and 12 Musical Recital

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**GATEway Quest**

**Saturday**

**17 May, 2008**

**8.30am- 3.30pm**

**Enter to Learn**

**Go out to Serve**