During the first weeks of this term much has been happening in the School. We have marked Mother’s Day with a special breakfast, have enjoyed student performances at the Scholar’s Concert and have held our own Cross Country Carnivals and hosted others. All this highlights the wealth of opportunities available to our students both to be involved in different activities and to appreciate the skills and talents of others. This weekend we will host the participants in GATEway Quest and we hope they will enjoy their learning opportunities.

I do hope all mothers enjoyed their special day and that your children cared for you with enthusiastic love and affection. Our Mother’s Day Breakfast was delightful and from the many mothers I spoke to it was both appreciated and enjoyable. Each year more of the Middle School students come along to the breakfast to add to the lovely sense of family the day occasions. It was a wonderful beginning to a very mother-centered weekend. I love the story in the Gospel of Matthew where we read of the mothers bringing their children to Jesus, who blessed them. How often it is that our mothers are the ones who gently lead their children to a love of Jesus.

Last week an advertisement calling for applications for the position of Head of Macarthur Anglican School was placed in the Sydney Morning Herald, The Australian and Southern Cross, the magazine of the Anglican Diocese of Sydney. I thought you would be interested in the process for the appointment. Applications close on 23 May. The Association of Independent Schools of New South Wales (AIS) is assisting our School Council in the initial stages of the search. From these applications a number of candidates will be interviewed, after which a short list will be prepared and second interviews will commence. The School Council hopes to make an appointment either towards the end of this term or early next term with the announcement following shortly afterwards.

Do keep the School Council in your prayers over this important time and pray too that the right person will apply.

RILEY WARREN
Headmaster
**FROM THE HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL**

It was wonderful to see so many mothers at the School last Friday taking part in our annual Mother’s Day Breakfast with their children. This event is one of the highlights on our calendar and it is great to celebrate the special nature of motherhood in such a spirit.

The Mother’s Day stall was a hit with the children and I would like to thank the PFA for organising and conducting the stall again this year.

I attended the conference of the Australiasian Association of International Baccalaureate Schools in Sydney during the April holidays and was able to conduct some significant research into the curriculum development and teaching methodology being implemented in other Junior Schools. This experience was invaluable in our efforts to consistently enhance the teaching and learning opportunities available to our students.

Last week we hosted a visit by a group of teachers from Trinity Grammar School who were researching our teaching of the THRASS programme. They were suitably impressed by the focus that all of our children had on their learning and by the professionalism and thorough preparation of our teachers.

Congratulations go to a number of students who have performed exceptionally well on the sporting field. All of the students made a good effort in the Junior School Cross Country Carnival, striving to achieve their best. I also want to acknowledge the students who have been selected for the Macarthur team to represent our school at the NASSA Cross Country Carnival. Jordan Parker (Hockey), Lachlan Roberts (Soccer) and Joshua Simit (Swimming) have represented Macarthur at the CIS level in their chosen sports this year and I congratulate them on this achievement.

**WILLIAM WALLACE**

**Head of Junior School**

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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

Mike, Chantelle and Rachel Keith who work for the Bush Church Aid Scoiety in Lightning Ridge

mckeith@westnet.com.au
In 1997 Timothy McVeigh was convicted of bombing the United States Federal Building in Oklahoma City, killing one hundred and sixty eight people. During the trial one of McVeigh’s old army friends testified in court and made a revealing observation about human nature.

According to Jo Thomas of the New York Times, the friend said, “I’d known Tim for quite a while. If you don’t consider what happened in Oklahoma, Tim was a good person.”

Most of us have a similar outlook about ourselves as we consider the prospect of standing before the Judge of all the Earth someday. No, we likely have not been found guilty of murder, but we can downplay our sins and judge ourselves by what we have done right. We think, if this or that is not taken into account, I’m a good person.

The problem for us is that these failings of ours are gravely serious in the sight of a Holy God, whose standard is perfect righteousness. He does not overlook any sin. Without a Saviour, every person faces eternal judgment and condemnation.

As it is written,
‘There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God.’

and

‘Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people.’ (Romans 3:10) (Hebrews 9:27)

If we can assist with any questions regarding the Christian faith or you may like to undertake a course in Christianity contact Steve or Ros at Chaplaincy on 4629 6225 or email church@mas.nsw.edu.au

STEVEN DAVIS
Chaplain
Silver Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Adventure

The beautiful Coast Walk in the Royal National Park was the location for this year’s Silver Duke of Edinburgh’s Award practise hike. Despite the inclement weather, nineteen Year 10 students participated in a thirty kilometre hike, improving their skills in bush cooking, camp craft and navigation.

Our first big descent was into the Palm Jungle, passing through the coastal shack communities of Burning Palms, South Era and Little Garie. The students found a sheltered campsite at North Era, doing their best to avoid the unwanted advances of a persistent band of leeches.

The hike was significantly more demanding on the second day, with students hiking twenty kilometres from North Era to Bonnie Vale at Bundeena, via the physically taxing Garie Hill. The usually sedate waterfalls of Curracurang and Currajong were majestic in strength and power as they dropped into the ocean, and the students had to navigate a safe way of crossing these creeks without getting wet — an impossible task!

After arriving at the coastal village of Bundeena, students had to once again set up their sodden tents and prepare for dinner. On Friday morning, we awoke at 5.00am to attend the Anzac Dawn Service at Bundeena RSL. It was great for the students to witness first hand the importance of this national day in the community.

Before departing Bundeena via the ferry service to Cronulla, the students participated in an exploration of Cabbage Tree Basin, tucked away behind the hustle and bustle of Port Hacking. In this activity, students were required to circumnavigate the Basin and attain the signatures of two teachers hidden away on a log and up a tree. This honed their teamwork and navigation skills.

The students returned to Macarthur by rail, exhausted, sodden and ready for some quality time on the couch. The test walk is scheduled for September.

I would like to thank the Year 10 students for their exceptionally mature behaviour on this expedition and also Mr Clarke and Mrs Watkins for accompanying the students.

Nathan Alterator
Adventure Leader

Second Hand Instrument Register

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

Enquiries:
Mrs Hadiwibawa
46 475 333
AN ASTRONOMICAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MACARTHUR STUDENTS

Last week the Headmaster and Head of Faculty of Science, were invited by Associate Professor Frank Stootman of UWS Macarthur, to witness a demonstration of software that is designed to remotely control telescopes. Professor Beryl Hesketh, Dean of the College of Health & Science and a number of UWS students involved in the project were also present.

Macarthur has been invited to join a partnership with UWS Macarthur to develop the means to remotely control telescopes and to take images of astronomical objects via the internet. This will enable Macarthur students to access and control the telescope at UWS from school. This can also lead to collaboration with schools across the world.

This is a very exciting opportunity for Macarthur and will provide our students with a unique opportunity to be involved in a cutting edge piece of research.

PAUL LOOYEN
Faculty Head

A LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE

On a Monday morning, most people ask their friends what they did on the weekend. On the Monday after the Rypen Leadership Camp, I had a few options when asked this question: I could say I had a life changing experience, I had to work extremely hard or I could talk about all the great new people I met. Such choices! Rypen, the Rotary Youth Programme of Enrichment is a programme for students aged from 14 to 16 years and aims to provide young people with the opportunity to develop their leadership potential, alongside their peers in a supportive environment.

Rypen encourages participants to explore their ideas in problem solving, team and group activities, and gain experiences that will assist them in forming their own values and moral standards. As a part of this, Rypen is about building confidence and developing skills to cope in a range of situations.

On Friday 2 May, Rhys O’Shea and I, went to Deer Park Conference Centre, to learn more about leadership and being successful in life. The main leader was Allan, an international corporate trainer, and he was a man of great insight. He taught all 80 people who went about the best ways to achieve success in your life. He also put up with a fair bit of teasing from all of the teenagers who attended.

Allan also had other people come and talk to us, such as the great Susie Maroney (world record holder for long distance swimming) and Maz from MTV. They told their own stories, and offered advice for us in our lives. There were also talks on our eco-footprint, money handling, interviews and public speaking, all of which were very informative.

In all, my weekend was great. I learned a lot about life and also about myself. I met people from all different walks of life. I found out I would not do terribly well at a boot camp, and that I am a terrible dancer!

Rhys and I are grateful to Narellan and Camden Rotary who gave us the opportunity to attend this event.

MATTHEW COWPER
Year 9
**YEAR 5 RUSH FOR GOLD**

To support their study of the Australian Gold Rush, Year 5 students were recently involved in a virtual reality activity, ‘The Rush For Gold’. The focus was to replicate, on a small scale, some of the joys, woes and challenges the early pioneering gold ‘Diggers’ would have experienced.

The students dressed in the clothing of the 1850s era, and the ‘gold’ to be discovered was in the form of gold foil wrapped lollies scattered in grass at the back of the classrooms: quite valuable to the average 10 and 11 year old!

Throughout the frenzied search for ‘gold’, it was most interesting to observe in the students many of the same behaviours and emotions such as greed, joy, frustration, excitement and dismay that would have been experienced in the search for gold during the Gold Rush. A pleasing Macarthur attitude to note, however, was one of sharing - a characteristic that certainly was not common back on the 1850s diggings.

The students, still in digger character, then had individual portrait photos taken for their Digger Diary, in which they will recount their experiences from the ongoing in-class ‘Gold Diggings’ game.

**JOLYON HORDERN**
Exchange Teacher

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**NEWS FROM HUNGARY**

Mr Hordern is currently in Hungary, teaching classes and enjoying some opportunities for sightseeing. Here are some excerpts from a recent letter.

“During the school day here, there is no recess or lunch break. There is a ten minute changeover break between each lesson and you just grab food in any period you have off it seems. Today I am teaching until 2.20pm and so will eat after that. Other days I get off at 12.30pm.

I am teaching English to students here and they seem to be enjoying it. Teaching here is generally very formal and the students have commented upon the amount of humour in my lessons.

My wife and I have had the opportunity to travel to Budapest and learn more about the history and culture of Hungary. We visited many museums and buildings in the city, but one of the most special parts was walking along the banks of the Danube River at night and seeing all the monuments lit up.

I can highly recommend Budapest as a tourist destination, especially if you love history and music.”

**JOHNNY HORDERN**
Exchange Teacher

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**REMINDER**

Café Macarthur is proving a popular spot for parents and students after school.

Please remember that once students are collected from the staff on duty, your children are in your care and they should be with you.

The classroom areas and transition play area are not available to students after school.

**DAVID NOCKLES**
Deputy Headmaster
Senior Study Night is a wonderful programme that has been available to our students for a number of years now. Each term students in Years 10, 11 and 12 have the opportunity to take advantage of school resources and supervised private study outside of regular class hours. This term Senior Study Night is being held over three evenings, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Sessions begin at 4pm and run through to 7.30pm, with a half hour meal break. The evening aims to assist students and their families by providing a supportive work environment in which students are safe to undertake their homework, examination and assignment preparation. I would highly recommend it to any student wishing to spend more time focused on their studies. Please call me for more information on the programme or to organise an application form to be sent home.

Quentin Hordern
Co-ordinator

Student Achievements

Daniel Robinson (Year 7) in Go-Kan-Ryu Karate. He came third in his heat in Kata at the NSW Regional Tournament on 16 March. He was awarded his Red Belt during April.

Lachlan Roberts (Year 5) was selected into the CIS Primary Boys Football team. He was part of the NASSA team which went through the CIS Football Gala Day undefeated and one of four NASSA boys selected into the team.

Jordan Parker (Year 6) was selected into the CIS Primary Girls Hockey team. She attended the trials on Monday and was selected from girls all over the state.

Both these students will compete at the NSW PSSA Championships in June representing Macarthur Anglican School and Combined Independent Schools.

Vacccinations

Department of Health vaccinations for girls in Year 7 to Year 10 will occur on 29 May. This will involve the second dose of HPV for all students and Varicella (Chicken Pox) for Year 7 girls. Consent forms for Varicella injections will be sent home shortly.

Jacqualyn Cameron
Sister

Gateway Quest

Saturday
17 May, 2008
8.30am-3.30pm
Parents at some stage are faced with the dilemma of having to leave their children on their own. ‘At what age can my children be left at home by themselves?’ is a common question asked by many parents. Given that there is no clear direction in the law you need to use your own judgment taking into account your own family circumstances and the age and maturity of your children. Parents are expected to make ‘reasonable’ decisions about their children’s safety.

**What does the law say?**
There is no actual law that states at what age children can or cannot be left alone, but the law is clear about the responsibility of parents to look after their children.

In many cultures it is usual for children to care for brothers and sisters. While some societies have different customs, in Australia there is a legal obligation for parents to make sure that children are properly looked after.

- Parents are expected to provide food, clothing, a place to live, safety and supervision (Family Law Act).
- The Police or the Department of Community Services can remove children from situations where their safety is in serious danger and there is no guardian present (Children [Care & Protection] Act 1987).
- Parents can be charged with an offence if children are left in a dangerous situation, are not fed, clothed or provided with accommodation (Children [Care & Protection] Act 1987).

**Questions to ask yourself**
*(If you’re thinking of leaving your child at home)*

Can parents leave older children in charge?
When a child or person under the age of 18 years (for example, an older brother, sister or teenage friend) cares for children, the question of negligence or liability could arise. As a parent you may be held responsible for the carer as well as your own child if something goes wrong. For these reasons it is better that carers should be adults. A person who is still legally a child would not be judged against the standards of responsibility expected of adults.

If you do leave your child in the care of an older brother or sister or other young person, you must be sure that they are reliable and mature. Ask yourself: ‘Could this child cope with an emergency?’ for example, a fire, an accident or break-in.

If your child is left alone without a carer they must be old enough to take action in an emergency and know what to do and where to get help.

How safe is our home?
Accidents happen so quickly and most parents know how easily a child can fall into a pool, pull saucepans off the stove, swallow objects or play with matches. Parents always have to be on the alert, especially with young children. There is an even greater need to check that dangerous things are out of reach if you’re not going to be there.

Are the ground rules clear?
Every family has its own ground rules. It is important to be clear about what children can and cannot do and these rules may be different when you are not there or when someone else is minding your child. For example, making a hot drink, turning on the heater, running the bath, using the toaster may seem simple tasks when you are there but may not be allowed when you’re away. It is not advisable to leave babies or toddlers alone under any circumstances.
Who will be in charge?
It is not fair to expect an older child to take on the full weight or responsibility required to care for younger children. Their lack of experience may make it difficult for them to find ways of trying to control others. They may be harsh and might use very different methods from what you use. If you have no choice then it is important that the child left in charge is capable and responsible and that the other children feel safe. This child should be able to handle any disagreements or fights and know what to do if the other children ‘play up’, disobey the ground rules, or are ill. The oldest child is not necessarily the most capable to care.

A child with a disability requires additional care which may be too much for another child to handle.

Am I sure that my child knows…?

- Where I’m going and when I’ll be back.
- How to get in contact with me.
- How to use the telephone.
- Where emergency numbers are listed (put next to the phone).
- Their own telephone number and home address (police or fire will need to know where to go).
- The telephone numbers of trusted friends, neighbours or relatives.
- Where to find the first aid kit and how to use it.
- How to use deadlocks.
- What to do in case of fire.
- What to do if someone knocks on the door.
- Whether or not they should answer the phone if it rings.
- How to judge if another child is unwell and help is needed.
- How to contact the doctor, hospital, police or fire brigade in an emergency (e.g. how to use 000 number).

Family rules:
- How many friends are allowed?
- Can they play outside?
- Can they use the swimming pool?
- Can they go to the shop or visit a neighbour?
- What are the rules about the family pets?
- What is the special family password that they can say if I phone and they need help, or a code to use if I phone to check on them. For example, 3 rings, hang up and ring again before they pick up the phone.

When the time is right
There comes a time when your teenager will start pleading with you to let them stay home alone without someone to look after them. This is a normal part of adolescence when young people are trying to feel more adult and independent. Once again, the age and maturity of your child will make a difference. For example, you may feel very confident with a 13 year old who is very responsible and quite worried about a 16 year old who may try to take risks. Letting go of the reins gradually might mean giving your child a chance to practise being by themselves and to make mistakes.

What about leaving children in cars?
Leaving your child in a car unsupervised at any time is extremely dangerous and not recommended. It may also be an offence, depending on the circumstances.

- In summer the temperature in a car is much hotter than outside and your child can quickly suffer heat exhaustion and become seriously ill.
- Children get bored and will explore the car’s knobs and buttons which can lead to dangers.
- Children can become distressed or may try to struggle free from their seatbelts and become injured.
- Children may be in danger of someone trying to steal the car or they may be taken away by someone.

Source: www.community.nsw.gov.au

REMEMBERS
- Be sure that you have no other choice but to leave your child alone.
- Be very careful who cares for your child.
- Place someone in charge who is able to handle any emergency and knows where to get help.
- Check the safety of your home.
- Test your child on the ground rules.
- Check that each child feels safe.
- Phone regularly to check on your child.
- Return home when you said you would.
DADS AND DAUGHTER CAMP

The first weekend of this term was the date for the second annual Dads and Daughter Camp. The camp was held at Chaldercot, Port Hacking and provided the opportunity for Junior School girls and their fathers to spend a weekend talking, sharing experiences and enjoying one another’s company.

During the weekend the dads and daughters had the opportunity to be involved in several discussion groups and in many of the activities offered at the site. Canoeing, archery, rock climbing and sailing all provided a level of challenge and satisfaction for parents and girls. It was particularly wonderful to see the dads and daughters encouraging one another and laughing together.

One of the highlights of the weekend was the Saturday night date, where father and daughter were able to share a meal and a bit of fun. Many dads and daughters chose to travel to Cronulla where each couple enjoyed a meal. Others chose to take their dinner and have a cookout on the camp site. All enjoyed the trip down the river on the punt taken during the evening.

Many fathers commented on how much they enjoyed the time with their daughter. “This has been a very significant time for us,” said one. “I have really appreciated the opportunity to spend time with my daughter and with other dads.”

REX HARRIS
Camp Co-ordinator

HOW MANY BUSINESSES HAVE YOU CALLED?

Don’t forget... you help build a stronger Macarthur Anglican School Community by supporting our business networks. Look in your Directory first!

 Didn’t get a copy? Call the Office of Advancement on 4847 3333 or email: advancement@nas.nsw.edu.au

Enter to Learn  Go out to Serve
**Scholars Recital**

A wonderful evening of entertainment was enjoyed by many families this week during the recital by the Music scholarship holders from Year 7, Year 9 and Year 11. Featuring performances on violin, ‘cello, double bass, oboe, piano, acoustic and electric guitar, drums, saxophone and voice, the evening showcased both the talent of the performers and the musical development to be achieved as talented musicians progress through the school.

“It is a real pleasure to watch the students grow in confidence and skill as they move through the School. Having the older students perform on the evening helps to inspire those who are younger. I want to congratulate all the performers,” said the Headmaster.

Ines Marrable

Faculty Head

**Peer Support Draws to a Close**

After a busy programme of activities throughout Summer Term, the Peer Support activities for Year 7, 2008 came to a close last week.

During the final session each group had the opportunity to present a little of what they had learned. The students were confident in their presentations and keen to be involved. It was good to watch the interactions within the groups and see how the relationships between Year 11 and Year 7 have grown.

The closing session concluded with a special morning tea which was greatly enjoyed by all involved.

Annette Fitzgerald

Head of Year 7

**Visit our new Website**

www.macarthur.nsw.edu.au

**Meet the Head of Middle School**

Year 6 parents are reminded of the upcoming opportunities to meet with the Head of Middle School, Mr Tim Cartwright.

The Meeting will be held on 22 May in the Cafeteria at 4.30pm

Please call Mrs Hadiwibawa to book 46 475 333

**Would you like to receive your Newsletter by email?**

Contact us:
advancement@mas.nsw.edu.au
**STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS**

**Mr Owen Sinden** recently competed in the FINA World Masters Championships in Perth. All swimmers had to meet qualifying standards in order to compete. There were nearly two hundred swimmers in his age group, mostly from North America, Europe, SE Asia and Australia.

Mr Sinden competed in the 100m and 200m breaststroke, 200m, 400m and 800m freestyle. He also competed in the World Open Water Championship (3km swim). He achieved a place in the top twenty in the 200m breaststroke (3 min 19 sec) and had four top twenty five results with 4 personal bests achieved.

**Mr Peter Toovey** visited New Zealand during the recent holidays as a guest of the Rotorua Education Network. This organisation have commissioned him to prepare a broadsheet of activities for use in secondary schools and central schools across NSW on the Roturua region, which they hope will promote interest in the study of this region of New Zealand and bring students and their families to visit the area. Mr Toovey was recommended for this work by the Geography Teachers Association based on his previous work with broadsheets.

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**FOR YOUR DIARY**

**May**

20  Junior School Recital, 6.30pm  
22  Year 6 Parent Forum  
24  Music Scholarship Auditions  
28  Year 11 and 12 Musical Recital  
29  Vaccinations

**June**

4   Year 12 Luncheon  
12  Middle School and Senior School Athletics  
12-15 Scots/Redlands Cup Ski Competition  
13  Junior School Athletics  
14  PFA Trivia Night  
16  Middle School and Senior School Public Speaking Finals  
20  Foundation Day  
27  End of Autumn Term  
27-29 Year 10 - 12 Snowsports Camp

**July**

8-12  Interschool Skiing/Boarding Competition  
12-15  Scots/Redlands Cup Ski Competition  
14-16  Oliver! full day Rehearsals

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**ANGLICARE AUSTRALIA**

**Survival Skills for Healthy Families**

**Dates:**  
Tuesdays 6.30pm - 8.30pm  
13th May to 24th June, 2008

**Location:**  
Centacare, 35a Cordeaux St, Campbelltown

**Enquiries:**  
Raya Newell 4621 6666

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**Frequent Sipper Cards Available Now**