Students of all ages have been involved in many activities during the last two weeks. These include:

- The commencement of rehearsals for a range of musical ensembles
- The casting and first rehearsal for Oliver!
- Swimming Carnivals
- Parent meetings

and many other events have brought families together and seen students achieving their best. Tonight we will hold the Year 3 Dad’s and Children Camp on the school site and I am sure those involved will enjoy it immensely.

I would also like to commend to you the upcoming Parents and Friends Association Annual General Meeting to be held at 8.00pm on 4 March. This body works hard for the school and I hope you will become involved in its work.

As I write to you this week my thoughts are tinged with a sense of sadness that separation will ultimately bring. By now families should have received a letter from the Chairman of the School Council, Dr Allan Beavis, informing you of my plan to retire at the end of this year. By then I will have spent twenty years serving this community and I know that when I reach my final days here it will be with mixed feelings.

My decision also brings with it much anticipation for the future. The School Council will begin the process of appointment of a new Head shortly. While much of what makes Macarthur the fine school it is will continue, such an appointment will bring with it both new ideas and perspectives.

Macarthur has a very exciting future ahead. While much has been achieved there is much still to be done in both developing the site and in the ongoing development of the various programmes and curriculum that enhance our boys and girls schooling. The end of the year is a long way off and so it is business as usual, however over the coming months I will be working to ensure that Macarthur is in excellent shape for my successor.

RILEY WARREN

Headmaster
Swimming Carnival

On Tuesday 19 February, the Junior School held our 16th Annual Swimming Carnival. It was certainly a colourful spectacle with many of the boys and girls turning out in their house colours. There were a number of very successful swimmers and some very close events.

Macarthur has a philosophy of active participation and striving to achieve one’s best in all endeavours. Sport is one way boys and girls can develop these values and as such we encourage students to “be their best” and encourage others. It was pleasing to see students just getting in and having a go during the Carnival. It was pleasing to see students supporting and encouraging one another during the day. Particular congratulations go to Joshua Simat (Year 5) and Thomas van der Velde (Year 6) who broke records on the day. A Macarthur squad will be selected to compete at the NASSA Carnival on Wednesday 5 March at Homebush. Congratulations to Marsh House which won the House competition this year.

Tennis

Congratulations are also extended to Tahlia McCroary (Year 5) who was selected to represent NASSA in Tennis at the CIS Carnival. Congratulations to all those students who were successfully chosen to represent Macarthur in this sport at the recent NASSA Gala Day on Monday 18 February.

Car Park

I would like to remind all families of the requirements for dropping off and collection of students by car. When collecting students from the drop off zone, please ensure that you move to the far left hand side of the pedestrian crossing and follow the directions of the supervising member of staff. All students who are being collected in the afternoon must be sitting on the grass near the footpath in this area with the teacher on duty. Please do not use the bus bay on Lone Pine Drive to collect students.

William Wallace
Head of Junior School

Please continue to support this missionary family 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 am always learning from the Bible.

Among the best-known, best-loved stories of the Bible is Jesus series of lost and found stories in Luke Chapter 15: he lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son.

The Parable of the Lost Son (a must read Luke 15:11-24) gives a vivid account of human lostness. It’s everybody’s autobiography. The son made a deliberate bid of independence. Demanding the inheritance was as good as wishing Dad was dead. Degenerating into self-indulgence the son’s ‘out of country spree’ ended in bankruptcy, hunger and loneliness.

What is impressive about the story, and the heart of Jesus’ message, is the father’s love for the son. It never falters. He missed him and longed for his return. Here is pure unsolicited and unmerited love mirroring God’s love for us. But what’s even more breathtaking is that God’s love suffers for us. Where do I see that?

In Middle-Eastern culture, the whole village would have known that the son was in disgrace, deserving to be punished. But, instead of inflicting suffering on his son, the father bears it himself. A man of his standing and age would always walk with slow, dignified steps and would never run. Yet here he is racing down the road, risking the ridicule of the whole village, and taking on himself the shame and humiliation due to his son. I put it to you that this humiliating spectacle in the village street hints at the meaning of Jesus’ cross! Why not consider ‘this meaning’ over the coming week!

If you would like to know more about the meaning behind this story or about the Christian faith, or would to like receive an free Bible, contact Steve or Ros at Chaplaincy Office 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

Chaplain’s Chat
Sunday:
9.30am Family Worship, Sunday School, Creche
6.00pm Contemporary Worship Service
Friday:
7.00pm Blaze Youth Nights, Cell Groups

Enter to Learn
Go Out to Serve
From the Head of Middle School

As in previous years, students in the Middle School and Senior School can access the Study Skills Handbook online. The ELES Online Study Skills Handbook provides a comprehensive, interactive online guide for the school community (students, parents and teachers) as to the study skills needed for success in Middle School and Senior School studies. Using the online guide taps into students’ affinity with technology to increase awareness of new and effective ways to improve study skills.

This is a valuable online resource which offers advice regarding study skills issues and concerns and enable students to learn new ways to improve their results. The handbook uses interactive activities to provide information.

To access the handbook, go to www.studyskillshandbook.com.au and login as a subscriber with these details:

Website: www.studyskillshandbook.com.au

user name:  formasonly
password:  27success

The topics currently covered by the handbook are:

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<th>At Home</th>
<th>At School</th>
<th>Specific Skills</th>
<th>Tests and Exams</th>
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<td>6. Overcoming Procrastination</td>
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<td>6. Presentation Skills</td>
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<td>7. Developing Motivation</td>
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Please note:
The above user name and password is for the use of the Middle School and Senior School parents and students AT MACARTHUR ONLY. Please do not pass our school’s details to students or parents from other schools or other individuals or organisations as this is a breach of copyright and also will result in frequent password changes for our school. Please also ensure you read the terms of use the first time you access the handbook.

I encourage all parents and students to take advantage of this opportunity to further develop their students’ study skills abilities through this online resource.

Timothy Cartwright
Head of Middle School
FROM THE ACTING HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL
GETTING FOCUSED

Year 11 and 12 students recently had the opportunity to hear two seminars presented by Michael McQueen, a highly-regarded motivational speaker.

Michael spoke on a range of topics important to senior students, including effective study habits, goal setting and perseverance. Using powerful illustrations, he encouraged students to look to the future and to recognise the factors that can stop them from achieving their potential. The feedback we have received from these sessions has been very positive, with students appreciating Michael’s entertaining speaking style. With the Half-Yearly Examinations fast approaching we hope that this information will help the students with their preparation.

Michael has also written a handbook which will definitely be of interest to parents and teachers wishing to better understand the members of “Generation Y”. The book combines research findings with Michael’s personal insights as a member of this generation.

Year 11 students have now received their Assessment Calendars and Manuals, outlining the school’s assessment task procedures for the Preliminary HSC. You should also have been given a Board of Studies newsletter, which contains advice on a wide variety of issues relating to assessment tasks. One of the topics highlighted in this newsletter is assessment task malpractice (cheating). This has become an increasing problem for schools across the state in recent years.

It is now mandatory for all Year 11 students to complete a Board of Studies programme called “All My Own Work”. Mrs Gould-Drakeley and Mrs Low have given lectures to Year 11 students dealing with topics such as plagiarism, copyright and working with others to ensure that they understand their responsibilities in this area.

It was wonderful to see so many parents in attendance at the Board of Studies Information Evening. We hope that this helped to demystify the HSC. If you were unable to attend on the evening or if you have further questions relating to the HSC please do not hesitate to contact either Mrs Gould-Drakeley or me.

JOANNE FENTON
Acting Head of Senior School

PARENT-TEACHER EVENINGS

Parents of students from Year 8 to Year 12 are invited to attend the upcoming Parent-Teacher Evenings on

Thursday 13 March 2008 and
Monday 17 March 2008

Please book interviews with teachers using the Booking Sheet provided to each student.

All Enquiries: Mrs Gould-Drakeley
46 475 333

Please Note: Year 7 Parent-Teacher Interviews will be held on Thursday 8 May 2008.
FROM THE HEAD OF INFANTS SCHOOL

We have had a wonderful first few weeks in the Infants School. Thank you to everyone who contributed so generously to Pancake Day. The children enjoyed the pancakes immensely and we raised $240 to help support Simon Katema’s education in Tanzania.

The gymnastics programme at Alive Sports has been very successful and exciting. All the children are being challenged to achieve their potential in a safe environment.

I would like to remind you of the matters I spoke about at the Meet the Teacher evening:

- Please be on time. Consistent lateness has a very negative impact on your child’s learning.
- Please leave as soon as the bell rings. The teachers need to start work straight away and parents who are still standing outside the classroom after the bell prevent this from happening.
- Please only discipline your own child whilst on school property. We are aware that children do have problems with each other at school so please contact the staff if your child has an ongoing problem.
- Please remember that directly before or after school are not good times to speak about big issues. The teachers have duties and after school meetings most afternoons and so do not have time for long conversations. If you need to speak at length make an appointment that is suitable for both of you so we can give your problem the attention it deserves.

SUSAN ASH
Head of School

DO YOU HAVE A CHILD IN YEAR 7 OR 8 AND WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE SCHOOL COMPUTERS?

For the first time, we are offering an after-school one hour orientation session for parents of Year 7 and 8 students who would like to understand better the computers their children are using at school. This session will be particularly helpful for parents whose children are new to the school but is open to all parents of Year 7 and 8 students.

**Date:** Thursday 6 March  
**Time:** 2:45 for a session from 3 – 4 pm  
**Venue:** The Stoddart Centre (Library)  
**Afternoon tea Provided**

Year 7 students are welcome to accompany parents at this session or parents may come without students if they prefer. Younger children must be booked into After School Care from 2.45 – 4.10 pm.

Places are limited to 28 so bookings are necessary.

To book:  
Email: nnorris@mas.nsw.edu.au  
or telephone (02) 4629 6229  
and leave a message with your name (and the name of your Year 7 or Year 8 child if they will be attending with you) and your contact details.

NOLA NORRIS  
**ICT Integration Co-ordinator**
**WOK in the KWOD**

On Thursday March 13, nine students from Year 11 will be flying to Thailand to join eight students from Pacific Academy School, Vancouver, to take part in an outreach programme for the Hill Tribes people of Northern Thailand.

Students from Macarthur will also teach classes at the Varee Chiang Mai School as part of the English camp for Thai children. To raise funds to supply toys for the children of the Northern Hill Tribes, all students from the Middle School and Senior School will have the opportunity to buy hokkien noodles on Friday March 7 in support of **WOK in the KWOD**.

The cost will be $3.00 and orders should be placed through Tutor Groups. Please consider supporting this unique opportunity as an outreach into the lives of the people of Northern Thailand.

**Tim Cartwright**

**Head of Middle School**

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**Library News**

**Overdue Books**

Both the Stoddart Centre and the Junior School Library are experiencing difficulties in retrieving overdue books, many of which were overdue last year, some as far back as June 2007!

It would be very helpful if parents of all students, no matter the age of their child, checked bookshelves, under beds, backs of wardrobes to see if there are any library books lurking there and sent them back. Students may think that they have returned the books long ago and we are happy to check whether this is the case.

Returns are important to allow us to ensure that everyone has equal access to resources. If there is a difficulty, please telephone me at school.

**Patricia Low**

**Head of Libraries**

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**Champ Camp**

The pre-HSC study camp conducted by the school for Year 12 students will take place from Monday 29 September to Friday 3 October (the first week of the September holidays). Please set these dates aside.

The cost for the 5 days will be approximately $250, including transport to the camp site by bus. More details will be available later.

Any questions about Champ Camp may be directed to Mrs Low in the Stoddart Centre.

**Patricia Low**

**Head of Libraries**

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**Second Hand Instrument Register**

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

**Enquiries:**

**Mrs Hadiwibawa**

46 475 333
Mrs Sandy Thompson is currently working in the Heads of School office, but will soon take up her permanent post as Manager of the *The Cottage Coffee Shop*. With a background in catering spanning over 25 years, Mrs Thompson brings a rich background in hospitality and catering to this new venture. “I love to plan, create and serve food,” she said, “I also enjoy meeting people and I am looking forward to getting to know many school families through the coffee shop.”

Mrs Thompson is married with three children and her interest include cooking, reading, squash, movies, watching her children play sport, going out with friends and being involved in her local church.

Mrs Rebecca Ibrahim has over nine years experience and is returning to the staff of Macarthur after an absence of about 5 years. This year she is teaching Year 3.

Mrs Ibrahim loves teaching. “I love the variety of my work and the opportunity to work alongside talented teachers. It is wonderful to watch children working hard and achieve their best.”

Mrs Ibrahim enjoys making handicrafts and shopping for her twenty two nieces and nephews. She has two children, Katelyn who is in Kindergarten and Mark. She and her family attend a local church.

Mr Ben Davis is a former student of Macarthur, having completed his studies here in 2003. Since then he has completed a BA(Asian Studies) with Honours in Indonesian Studies at the University of Sydney. As part of his degree Mr Davis studied in Yogyakarta and Padang. He conducted extensive in-country research into the work of non Government organisations and was personally involved in the work undertaken in the recovery from the earthquake which rocked central Java in 2006.

While he was a student Mr Davis tutored many Extension Indonesian students at Macarthur, focussing on assisting them with their spoken Indonesian. He is now teaching Indonesian to students from Year 7 to Year 10.

Mr Adrian Kruse recently commenced at Macarthur as a teacher of Mathematics. He brings over nine years teaching experience to his classes, most recently through his work at Sherwood Hills Christian School in Bradbury, where he is a regular member of the congregation with his wife and young son.

Mr Kruse is a committed learner. “I love teaching because there is always room to grow and learn more as a teacher. It is also important to me that I can make a difference in the lives of students.” Mr Kruse is very pleased to be working at Macarthur and is looking forward to becoming more involved in the school community.

Mr Kruse has an interest in Basketball. He also loves to try out new computer gadgets.
Miss Carolyn Watkins has joined the staff of Macarthur this year to teach Science from Year 7 to Year 10 and Year 11 and 12 Chemistry.

Prior to coming to Macarthur, Miss Watkins has taught at John Therry Catholic High School and Chevalier College in Bowral.

Like many of our students, Miss Watkins loves science. “I enjoy working with children and watching them explore scientific concepts in hands on experiments.”

In her spare time Miss Watkins enjoys reading, watching movies and playing sport.

PREPARING FOR THAILAND

As part of their preparations for the Thailand Outreach, the Year 11 students showed 4B how to paint stencil designs onto material bags. They put the Canadian flag and the Australian flag onto the bags. The Thailand team will take the bags, filled with gifts and stationery supplies to village children, when they visit Thailand. It’s a lovely link between the two countries, cultures and child to child.

LEANNE BLAKE
Year 4 Teacher

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LEANNE BLAKE
Year 4 Teacher

Macarthur Parents and Friends Association
Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 4 March, 2008
8.00pm Macarthur Chapel
All Welcome

A Timely Reminder

Air bags and seat belts save lives. But air bags can cause permanent injury and death especially in children and anyone short in stature who sits in the front seat of a car, close to the steering wheel and dashboard.

In a car crash, massive rates of deceleration occur in a fraction of a second. Larger vehicles offer more protection as their mass absorbs more of the energy when a vehicle is crushed. Small, lighter vehicles offer less passenger compartment protection.

The speed at which a vehicle is travelling also contributes to the potential for harm to the occupants of a vehicle. Travelling even at 70 kph rather than 50 kph doubles the energy to be dissipated and requires a vehicle to travel further for longer to come to a halt.

Follow these rules to minimise injury:
• Children under 12 years and short adults should travel in the rear seat
• Infants and small children should ride in the rear seat
• Everyone should buckle up before the vehicle moves
• Drivers should sit as far back as possible from the steering wheel - at least 25 centimetres
• Be sure to travel at the recommended speed, particularly within the school grounds
Middle School and Senior School
Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to Broughton House with a 1-point victory over Hassall at last week's carnival. Other placings were:

Congratulations to the following Age Champions. They will be awarded a trophy at the 2008 Sports Dinner in September.

12 Years Boys: Tynan Williams
12 Years Girls: Kaylee Ekinci
13 Years Boys: Alex Borojevic
13 Years Girls: Jessica McGuiness
14 Years Boys: Mark Borojevic
14 Years Girls: Amanda Zenkis
15 Years Boys: James Murdoch
15 Years Girls: Courtney Alchin
16 Years Boys: Nathaniel Oliver
16 Years Girls: Laura Page
17 Years Boys: Ben Page
17 Years Girls: Alana Drew
18 Years Boys: Justin Holbeck
18 Years Girls: Rosalie Baldwin

Thanks to the staff, house captains and student helpers who worked so hard to make the day a success.

Erica Looyen
Sports Co-ordinator

Spectacular Spellers

The Year 10 Spelling Bee was held on 15 February, with eight finalists participating from 10Eng1, 10Eng2 and 10Eng3.

After a tumultuous seven rounds of competition, Sarah Menzies (10Eng1) was crowned Champion, with Zachary Brown (10Eng1) runner-up and Michael Kennard (10Eng3) taking out third place.

Nathan Alterator
Teacher
2008 has seen the commencement of co-curricular Preparatory Orchestra and Preparatory Band for students from Year 5 to Year 8 students. The groups rehearse on the same afternoon as the Orchestra (Monday) and the Concert Band (Thursday). The Preparatory Orchestra is conducted by String tutor Miss Joanne Toouli and the Preparatory Band by staff member Miss Nerida Bartlett.

The Preparatory Orchestra and Preparatory Band are designed to provide our young performers with an enhanced experience of performing, and to assist them in honing their talents. The two groups have commenced the year with an excellent number of students.

The majority of students are receiving peripatetic lessons or are involved in the Year 5 and Year 6 music curriculum Band and String programmes. Year 7 and Year 8 students who are at the early first to third grade stages of playing their instruments are encouraged to join prior to being invited to join the Orchestra or Concert Band. Both groups have students who play a wide variety of instruments. They are practising exciting pieces and plan to perform them during the year.

Last week the string musicians from the Orchestra joined the Preparatory Orchestra for their rehearsal. These more experienced students were able to encourage and help our young string players with their new music.

This is an exciting initiative and one I am sure will assist our young performers to grow in confidence and skill when performing.

Ines Marrable
Head of Music
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to the Camden Rams Cricket Team (Under 14’s) of which Joshua and James Sawyer (Year 8) are part. Thanks to the help of Joshua and James the team were minor premiers at the end of the season. Well done!

NEW BCA WORKERS IN LIGHTNING RIDGE

Michael and Chantelle Keith and their daughter Rachel took up their new post with the Bush Church Aid Society in Lightning Ridge in December. They have replaced the Maude family with whom the Macarthur Community were linked and we look forward to learning more about the family and their work over the coming months.

Lightning Ridge is a small township in northwest NSW. The town is renown for its opals and is a popular tourist spot. With over sixty three nationalities represented in its small population, this is a town built on the hope of a fresh start and the opportunity to become rich.

The Keiths will work with individuals, in the small hospital and through the local schools as well as with the existing congregation. They aim to present the hope only God can give to those in Lightning Ridge and they ask that we continue to support them with our prayers and gifts through the BCA boxes.

If you would like to learn more of their work, their prayer notes can be downloaded from:


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