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Principal News

Last Monday night the Year 12 Drama students presented their ensemble performances to a most appreciative audience in the theatre. The VCAA requirements for Unit 3 in Drama are quite stringent in the range of theatrical forms that students are expected to understand and incorporate into their original performances and the result was four very complex and varied ensemble performances which derived their inspiration from *Japanese Noh* to *Comedia del Arte* and provided visually stimulating and thought provoking drama. The students demonstrated amazing teamwork in putting their work on stage. Their teacher, **Ms Kylene Cook** was very pleased by their work and this was seconded enthusiastically by Drama teachers from other schools who were present. I am looking forward to seeing their solo performances at the end of the second semester.

Also last Monday we were visited by **Miss Agnes Ng Mien Mien** and **Ms Audrey Ting** from **Nanyang Girls' High School in Singapore** who were interested in our English, Literature and Drama curriculum. They have suggested an Exchange Program for students between the two schools.

On Tuesday, **Professor Brian Caldwell** returned to the school to conduct another forum as part of the school review, this time with the teaching staff, following the successful community forum. Once again the virtues of the Zing technology were evident in that we were able to collect over 500 responses to the questions. Plans are also going ahead for a forum with our students.

Teaching staff are now heavily engaged in mastering the new reporting software which is being used to report assessments against the Victorian Essential Learning Standards. There have been a number of teething problems associated with the software but hopefully all will now go smoothly for the presentation of the semester reports.

Jane Garvey



News from [Parents@MacRob](mailto:parents@macrob)

Want to know more about what your daughter is learning?

[Parents@macrob](mailto:parents@macrob) is organising a series of presentations by school staff, about the different subject areas at Mac.Rob. On **Tuesday, 19th June, at 7.30pm** in the **Function Room** (above the gym) the **Convener of Humanities, Mr John Stewart**, will discuss the subject area of **History**. Remember the 'history wars', debated in the media late 2006/early 2007? Join us on the 19th, to hear how your daughter's school approaches the issues raised in this debate. It is also an opportunity to meet other parents over coffee.

The parents@macrob meeting will take place after **Mr Stewart's** talk.

Student Welfare – Parenting Support

Parenting adolescents is a fascinating and exciting experience. As they grow in maturity and independence new challenges for parents and young people arise. To assist parents in managing some of these issues the Student Welfare Committee will provide parenting information and resources in the weekly newsletter. We hope that this information and advice from Adolescent Psychologist and author, Michael Grose APS M.Ed St. will be informative and helpful about issues that could arise in the family. Over the year articles on Communication, Sleep, Body Image and Parties will be some of the topics covered.

Mrs Gillian Baldock, Student Welfare Coordinator

World Environment Day Awards - Kate Charters - 9C

The United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) recently announced the finalists in this year's UNAA World Environment Day Awards. Held as part of celebrations for the United Nations' World Environment Day (5th June), these Awards acknowledge actions taken at a local level to address global environmental issues.

Kate Charters of Year 9, in partnership with a friend from her previous school, Millicent Burggraf, were announced as being in the top 3 finalists for the World Environment Day Awards for their project on NO Plastic Bags for Armstrong Street in Middle Park.

Part of their project required them to get support from 80% of traders in Armstrong Street which they achieved with the help of businesses such as IGA getting on board. The girls designed aqua coloured reusable bags in an effort to banish plastic bag use from the Middle Park shopping area. Their initiative has reduced plastic bag use by over 34% or over 180,000 in its first year, with a target of 80% reduction with continued effort.

Kate deserves credit for the wonderful initiative and creativity in tackling this worldwide problem. This project was not a school based initiative meaning **Kate** was competing with adults from around Australia to be a finalist in these awards.

UNAA said that "this year's finalists are of a very high calibre, reflecting the growing awareness in business, the community and government of the critical role the environment plays in all aspects of human endeavour".

Congratulations to **Kate** for such an inspiring and community-minded initiative.

Ms Michelle Pride, Year 9 Co-ordinator

Visit to Melbourne Magistrates' Court

On Monday 28th May, 23 students from the Year 10 Legal class and **Ms MacAlpine** attended hearings at the Melbourne Magistrates' Court. We were explained the workings of the courts by a magistrate, **Susan Wakeling**. Then we were allowed to explore the courts and watch trials. It was highly informative, as we saw trials ranging from personal injury to a murder trial, in which the accused defended himself. We saw sentencings and bail applications, as well as lawyers hurling personal insults at each other! Overall, it was an interesting and enjoyable excursion, and now we're all going to be lawyers!

Genevieve Stewart, Year 10

International Visitor at Mac.Rob



Ashleigh Ong, Ms Gilby, Sohyun Kim, Prof. Ishikawa, Stephanie Chan, Jenny Hu

These happy faces were captured on camera at the conclusion of a Masterclass in April by visiting US bassoonist **Professor Yoshi Ishikawa**. **Professor Ishikawa**, Professor of Bassoon and Chair of the Woodwind Department of the University of Colorado at Boulder, took time out of his busy Melbourne schedule to instruct solo Mac.Rob oboe and bassoon players and the Double Reed Trio "Windstruck", and to present a wonderful performance of a Vivaldi Bassoon Concerto, accompanied by **Ms Mik** on the new Function Room grand piano.

Ms Anne Gilby, Chamber/Woodwind teacher

'Young Economist of the Year' Competition

Economists from Years 11 and 12 studying VCE Unit 3 entered a competition called 'Young Economist of the Year', run by the Economics website www.mrwood.com.au. They each wrote a 1000 word essay about the 'viability of nuclear power to generate electricity in Australia'. The competition was open to students throughout Victoria and entries were of a very high standard. Happily one of our Year 11 students, **Katherine Thorn** came second, winning herself \$150. Congratulations!

Ms Fiona MacAlpine, Economics Teacher

GIV - Girls in Volunteering Student Group



GIV was established as a Mac.Rob Student Interest Group last year. This year's GIV group already has an impressive track record with its support of major charity and community events. These range from the Blood Service Youth Ambassador's Program for the Red Cross to the Peter Mac Cancer Foundation and volunteer work for the Brotherhood of St. Laurence. The GIV organisers, **Tasnia Disha**, **Emma Ho**, **Di Lam** and **Anh Tran** are to be commended for their wonderful work in motivating other students to volunteer for these good causes and for their excellent organisation and communication skills. They have been most effective at involving our students volunteer work outside the school and raising public awareness of the school and our students in a very positive way.

Recently GIV was approached by the City of Port Phillip to help run the Little Big Cake Forum. The forum explored themes and issues important to young people living in Port Phillip. Our GIV girls facilitated the workshop and discussion groups for students from a number of local primary and secondary schools. They were complimented by the Mayor and Council staff on the way they were able interact with the young people in their groups, encouraging active participation and eliciting very thoughtful and useful responses.



At Monday's school assembly GIV was also thanked for their involvement in this year's Good Friday Appeal, by members of the Pied Pipers, **Ms Lina Caniva**, **Mr Martin Williams**, and **Mr Richard Williams**. GIV was able to rally over 160 student volunteers along with parent and teacher supervisors and collected over \$18,000 for the Royal Children's Hospital. Congratulations to all who volunteered their time and support and particularly to **Emma**, **Di**, **Tasnia** and **Anh**.

Mrs Vosper, Assistant Principal

Sporting News

Intermediate Teams Experience Success in the Yarra District Competitions

Three Badminton and Netball, and two Soccer teams competed in the Yarra District Competitions on Friday 1st June. All of the teams achieved some success with the A Badminton Team finishing in 1st place and the A Netball and Soccer teams, in 2nd place.

The Badminton team defeated University High School 5 games to 1 in the final. The Netball team was defeated by Melbourne Girls' College 20-8 and the Soccer team lost to University High School 1-0.

Thank you to **Ms Lambert**, **Ms Pride**, **Ms Bush**, **Mr Stephenson** and **Mr Webber** for coaching the teams.

Athletics

A team of about 40 girls travelled to the Duncan McKinnon Athletics Track for the District Athletics Championships during Term 2. We were represented in most events and experienced excellent competition from Melbourne Girls' College and University High School.

The following week, we returned to the Meadowglen Athletics Track with a team comprising the first and second place getters from the previous week for the Northern Zone Metro Athletics Final. Although not represented in every event, we managed some very good places. **Rachael McNaughton** will represent the school at the State Championships in the Under 15 90m Hurdles; **Sally Egan** in the Under 17 100m, **Linda Ho** in the Under 16 90m Hurdles and **Stephanie Dearaugo** in the Under 17 100m Hurdles all finished second. **Lydia Holt** finished third in the Under 15 100m.

Then the drought broke. With an increasingly slippery track and plunging temperatures, the decision was made to abandon the remaining events. These will be conducted in Term 3 on Thursday, 26th July at Meadowglen. Events will start at 9.45 am.

All the girls who participated in these competitions conducted themselves in an exemplary manner and are to be congratulated for ensuring that Mac.Rob maintains its high level of achievement at these meetings.

Special thanks to **Mr Richards** and **Ms Bush** for their support at the championships.

Cross Country

The Northern Zone Cross Country Championships will be conducted at Waringal Park in Heidelberg on Thursday, 21st June.

The Under 21 team will be selected from: **Stephanie Dearaugo**, **Angela Logan**, **Paula Loveland**, **Krystina Emmanouilides**, **Joyce Fok**, **Alice Nagel**, **Alannah Kavanagh** and **Julia Bentley**.

The Under 16 team from: **Vy Vu**, **Saskia Solopotias**, **Genevieve Stewart** and **Piyumi Balasooriya Lekamlage**.

Mr Philip De Losa

Forthcoming Events

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| Monday, 11th June | - Queen's Birthday Public Holiday |
| Tuesday, 12th to Wednesday, 13th June | - Year 12 Exams |
| Wednesday, 13th to Thursday, 14th June | - Duke of Edinburgh Camp |
| Thursday, 14th June | - GAT
Report Writing Day - Students not required at school |
| Friday, 15th June | - Gardasil Immunisation - 2nd Round |
| Friday, 15th June to Sunday, 17th June | - Philosophy Camp |
| Saturday, 16th June | - Year 9 2008 Entrance Examination, Exhibition Buildings
Music Tour Farewell Concert, Hall, 6.00pm to 9.00pm |
| Monday, 18th June | - Bivouac Briefing for Cadets |
| Monday, 18th June to Tuesday, 19th June | - Duke of Edinburgh Camp |
| Wednesday, 20th June | - Years 10, 11 and 12, 2008 Entrance Exam, 1.30pm to 4.00pm |
| Thursday, 21st June | - Music Tour departs
Years 10, 11 and 12, 2008 Entrance Exam, 1.30pm to 4.00pm
Auditions - Combined Play (Theatre), 4.00pm to 6.00pm |
| Friday, 22nd June | - VCAA Plain English Speaking Awards - School Hall
Auditions - Combined Play (MHS), 3.30pm to 5.30pm |
| Friday, 22nd June - Wednesday, 27th June | - Cadets Bivouac (Mt Disappointment) |
| Monday, 25th June | - Combined Play callbacks, 4.00pm to 6.00pm |
| Tuesday, 26th June | - All Year 10 Excursion to University of Melbourne
Combined Play cast announced |
| Wednesday, 27th June | - Youth Leaders International trip departs
Years 10, 11 and 12 Entrance Exams, 1.30pm to 4.00pm |
| Friday, 29th June | - End of Term 2 |