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Girls' High School**
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PRINCIPAL NEWS

Student Reports—To be Sent Home to Parents Early Next Term

The teachers are currently in the middle of writing reports for the end of the first semester. This year we are required to report against the Victorian Essential Learning Standards, which has called for the implementation of a completely new report writing system. It has been an extremely complex and challenging process for everyone and all of our teachers are to be commended on the professional and determined approach they have displayed under the most difficult circumstances. In particular, we would like to thank Mr Tim Tisdall and Mr Chris Drayton who have worked tirelessly to provide IT support for the staff and to Mr Leigh Howlett, who has taken over the administration of the program.

Congratulations to Marina McAlpine, Registrar and to Kelly Robinson, Assistant Registrar, for the flawless organisation of Saturday's Entrance Examination at the Exhibition Buildings. Approximately 1250 girls sat for the examination and with parents and siblings in attendance it is a huge event. Everyone there would agree that the attention to detail, the creation of a stress free and supportive atmosphere for girls and their parents and the considerate catering for the staff made the event a real pleasure to be part of.

A sincere thank you to the staff who gave up their own time at this fraught stage of the semester—Mr Dean Allan, Ms Yvette Arnott, Ms Gillian Baldock, Mr Geoff Campbell, Ms Kylene Cook, Ms Sheba Gurm, Ms Chris Kelly, Ms Lesley Meredith, Ms Bronwyn Moline, Ms Judy Rimington, Ms Vivian Scarpino, Ms Noelene Smith, Ms Deb Stringer, Ms Rebecca Vosper and Mr Russell Webber.

Devotion to Music

On Monday The Education Age published an inspirational article on our Director of Music, Ms Jane Elton-Brown, and her career devoted to music. Ms Elton-Brown continues to inspire our young musicians supporting them to achieve at levels beyond all expectations and the school is very proud of her. Yesterday she left to lead a student music tour in the UK. She is accompanied by Miss Margaret Akins, Assistant Principal and instrumental teacher, Miss Mary Johnston. The Principal, Ms Jane Garvey, will join the tour in the UK. The Education Age article can be read on our website www.macrob.vic.edu.au

Philosophy Camp

The annual Philosophy Camp also took place in Parkville last weekend. A challenging program was again undertaken and thanks go to Ms Purcell, Mr Walsh and to Ms Rebecca Vosper, Assistant Principal, who, demonstrating the fine multi-skilling of our teachers, also assisted at the Entrance Exam. There is a report of this camp included later in the Newsletter.

Duke of Edinburgh Program

During these last two, extremely cold, weeks our adventurous students have been braving the elements on camp as part of the Duke of Edinburgh program. Once again members of staff have given up their time to lead these activities and our thanks go to Ms Erin Lambert, Ms Michelle Pride, Ms Sarah Ward and Ms Susy Puszka for their intrepid leadership.

The Place of History Teaching

A final thank you to Mr John Stewart, Head of Humanities, who led a discussion for Parents@mac.rob on the place of History teaching at The Mac.Robertson Girls' High School last Tuesday evening. We hope that this initiative leads to many occasions for parents to be involved in discussions regarding the education provided by the school for their daughters.

Visit by Consul– General of Japan

This Wednesday the school was honoured with a visit from the Consul-General of Japan in Melbourne, Shisei Kaku. He came to observe a class taught by the Head of the LOTE Faculty, Mr Shungo Sawaki. Mr Sawaki is recognised as an outstanding teacher of Japanese, who has earned for Mac.Rob the reputation of producing many of the finest Japanese student speakers and essayists in the country.

Marilyn Smith
Assistant Principal

THE INAUGURAL 1 VS 100 STUDENT SPECIAL

Great excitement was generated back in May when the school was contacted about a special school edition of Channel 9's 1 vs 100 show. Students aged 12-17 were invited to participate as members of the '100 Mob' to take on the challenge of beating the adult "1" and winning money for their school.

They were required to fill out a comprehensive application form and answer a quiz. Students from all sorts of backgrounds, disciplines, interests and talents were encouraged to apply.



Out of the many applications from schools across Melbourne we were fortunate to have ten of our students selected to participate. **The Student Special will be screened on Monday, 9 July at 8.35 p.m.** Once the program has been to air the production team will send a DVD copy of the show to the school for distribution to the students who were either in the Mob or in the audience.

THANK YOU TO OUR YEAR 10 AND 11 FORM CAPTAINS

The Communications Division of the Department of Education has expressed their thanks to our Year 10 and 11 Form Captains who assisted as ushers at the recent Premier's Awards.

Our students' contribution was "extremely valuable and very much appreciated." I would also like to thank them for representing the school so well at this prestigious event.

Rebecca Vosper
Assistant Principal.

THE 2007 PHILOSOPHY CAMP

In conjunction with our studies on "How do we live a good life?" students from the VCE Philosophy classes, attended a three day camp held last weekend at Urban Camp Parkville. This matter is the subject of Unit 3 of the VCE Philosophy course, and not only is of great significance to our own lives, but provides great scope for studying various influential philosophers; from Aristotle to Murdoch. In answering this question, students have explored a ranges of philosophical contributions; everything from "Nietzsche" to "Death is nothing to us, since when we are, death has not come, and when death has come, we are not" (Epicurus).



The camp consisted of a series of sessions aimed at furthering our understanding of the texts set for study; as well encouraging our active participation in Philosophy. Friday night's session on argument mapping, run by Nicole Saunders from Deakin University, provided useful techniques for students in recognising the premises and arguments of some of the more complex texts, such as those of the existentialists in particular. The entire group was then impressed by the presentation on logic as well as advertising and politics run by Matt Carter, Fellow of the Philosophy Department at the University of Melbourne.



Later on Saturday, students attended the annual VAAPS lectures for VCE Philosophy students at Melbourne University, in which three of the major texts of Unit 3 were examined by leading lecturers and academics. The question of “how to live the good life” was discussed in relation to the views of Epicurus, presented by Emmanuel Skoutas, the ever challenging and avant-garde Nietzsche, presented to us by Dr Robert Miller from RMIT and finally by Dr Christopher Cordner, Head of Philosophy, University of Melbourne through a comparison of the philosophies of Iris Murdoch, Jean-Paul Sartre and Emmanuel Kant. Saturday night saw the group return to Urban Camp, for the viewing of ‘Priscilla Queen of the Dessert’, which, we assure you, is of philosophical interest.

During the final session of Sunday morning we were talked to by Ania Dutka, a former Philosophy student and in Year 12 at Mac.Rob this year, concerning strategies for Philosophy study, with hopes to emulate Ania’s success in Philosophy last year. This was followed by a presentation from VCE assessor and VAAPS member Del Thompson, concerning the exam this year, and the texts to be set for next year’s VCE ¾ Philosophy class. We finally returned home, with many happy memories and perhaps a few slight headaches.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Purcell, Ms Vosper and Mr Walsh for organising the camp, as well as Urban Camp and all of the presenters and lectures that spoke to us. Not only was the camp an enjoyable release from the exams, but inspired students to continue their VCE philosophy studies with added enthusiasm.

Hannah Gould
11C Student

WITHHOLDING STUDENT REPORTS DUE TO OVERDUE RESOURCES

Dear Parents,

It is that time of year when we clear any overdue resources students may have. The library is a community resource and requires students to adhere to circulation procedures to ensure the fair circulation of resources amongst the whole school community.

A number of measures are taken to promote responsible use of the resources, which include:

- While students have overdue resources their borrowing rights are suspended;
- Each week overdue notices are placed in form rolls. Students are asked to respond to these notices by returning the book or replacing the book if it has been lost or damaged. In the case of a discrepancy students are asked to see one of the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) staff;
- At the end of each semester students who have overdue books and who have not responded to the overdue notices have a letter sent home to their parents; and
- Students need to return or replace these resources or have their reports withheld.

The LRC has been impressed with the recent level of students’ civic responsibility in regard to adhering to circulation policies. Statistics show that in 2003 on average there were 480 items overdue at any one time. Since this time incidence of overdue resources has dropped to 180 items overdue at any one time while concurrently borrowing of resources has increased by ten per cent.

We hope you support our endeavours to provide a rich and responsible learning culture.

The LRC Staff

YEAR 12 SAFE PARTYING

On Friday 15 June Year 12 came together after the exams in the rather chilly Hall on a very cold day to listen to the advice from Sonya Karras, a speaker with many years experience in crowd control. Sonya is licensed in crowd control and has worked for several years as a security officer at nightclubs and bars in Melbourne. Her talk was delivered with many fascinating, funny and sometimes very sad stories. The message was how young people can keep safe at parties or licensed venues.

Sonya explained standard drinks and blood alcohol content. Several students were very interested in how long the body takes to remove the alcohol from their system—1½ hours for every standard drink after the last alcoholic drink was consumed.

Safety tips were provided on many topics relevant to young people out socialising:

- how to be assertive and not get into the car of someone who has been drinking;

- how to be safe in a taxi;
- what to wear at a party or nightclub to avoid problems;
- first aid tips for looking after friends who have had too much to drink; and
- how to avoid drink spikers.

And, my favourite is:

- how to get a person who is not driving safely to stop so you can get out of the car. Answer "Pretend you are about to be ill"!

As the Year 12's move closer to adult lifestyles including university and increased socialising these suggestions of how to manage in difficult situations will hopefully keep them safe and healthy. I hope Year 12 enjoyed the seminar.

Thanks to Mrs Kelly (Head of Senior School) for organising Sonya to come and speak.

Gillian Baldock
Student Welfare Coordinator

BELL SHAKESPEARE PERFORMANCE

On Thursday, 7 June, a small group of actors from the Bell Shakespeare Company visited the Year 10s at Mac.Rob. They are part of a tour group who go around to schools and act out several scenes from a Shakespeare play, and help the students to analyse the play and get a grip on what the story is really about. This year, Year 10 is studying 'Macbeth' or 'the Scottish Play' so the actors went through the main scenes in the play, showing us different interpretations of the text and how important that can be to a performance. The actors were animated and funny, and the many questions we were able to ask afterwards made Macbeth seem slightly less daunting to study. All of us thoroughly enjoyed the performance and we appreciated the opportunity we were given to see Shakespeare explained.

Georgia Kiley-Lamont & Thuy Ngo
Year 10 Students

VIOLIN/VIOLA TUITION OPPORTUNITY

There is an opportunity for a small number of students to begin violin/viola lessons at the school, commencing in semester 2.

Students could be girls who already play violin/viola, or perhaps did play violin previously and

would like to resume tuition, or they could be beginners.

The Music Faculty has instruments available for hire.

If you are interested in taking up this opportunity, please contact the Music Director on 9864 7730, or send an email to Ms Elton-Brown at the school, or a Fax to her on 9864 7777.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday, 22 to Wed, 27 June	Cadets Bivouac (Mt Disappointment)
Monday, 25 June	Combined Play callbacks, 4.00pm to 6.00pm.
Tuesday, 26 June	All Year 10 Excursion to University of Melbourne.
Wed, 27 June	Youth Leaders International trip departs. Years 10, 11 and 12 Entrance Exams, 1.30pm to 4.00pm.
Friday, 29 June	End of Term 2.
Monday, 16 July	Beginning of Term 3.
Wed, 18 July	Australian Language Competition.
Thursday, 19 July	Year 9 Red Day 8.30am - 12.30. Alliance Francaise Yr 11& 12 (9.00am to 12.30pm).
Friday, 20 July	Year 12 Formal, Plaza Ballroom, Regent Theatre - 7.00pm. Year 12 Students will be dismissed end of period 4.
Wed, 25 July	House Drama. UMAT. Australian Mathematics Competition (8.30am to 10.45am.
Thursday, 26 July	National Chemistry Quiz (10.55am to 12.35pm.)
Saturday, 28 July	Japanese Exchange Students arrive.
Monday, 30 July to Fri, 3 August	Social Service Week.
Thur, 2 August	Year 9 Red Day (8.30am to 12.30pm.
Saturday, 5 to Wed, 8 August	Adelaide Exchange