

NEWSLETTER

Issue 21
27th July 2007

Principal News

House Drama

Wednesday night this week saw the 57th House Drama Festival which is one of my favourite school events. As usual the excitement was palpable and the audience was treated to four original plays performed with skill, wit and verve. The adjudicator, **Professor Peter Fitzpatrick** was given a huge task in selecting a winner from so many outstanding performances. His comments indicated that he felt that the standard of the night was higher than ever and he awarded the best actor to two girls, **Marizta Sibanda** and **Sharon Chua** both of whom were hugely recognized by the audience for their excellent work. The best director went to a team of 4 (**Jessica Terrill, Ari Brown, Danielle Panaccio, Kirsty Kearney**) from Dryads who demonstrated excellent team work in realizing the creation of their talented scriptwriters **Jessica Terrill** and **Ari Brown** and the big cup for Best Drama went to Dryads. The excitement of the houses who indulged in a little team bonding and some loud war cries prior to the adjudication was infectious and a great night was had by all.

Big Day Out

Friday of this week is the annual event when the Deputy Secretary of the Education Department, Darrell Fraser, call the state's primary and secondary principals together for a professional development day at the Melbourne Convention Centre which he calls 'The Big Day Out'. Principals interact with internationally recognized educators to explore best practice for Victorian Schools. I will share my insights with everyone next week.

Jane Garvey

Semester One Reports Posted Home

Reports for all students have been posted home and should arrive in the early part of next week. As well as the students' reports parents will receive a copy of the school's Annual Report for 2006 and a brochure from the Victorian Minister for Education explaining the changes the Government has introduced for all schools in the way student achievement is to be reported. Parents of Year Nine students will also receive the results of the AIM Test which the students undertook earlier this year.

For all students undertaking a VCE study, be they in Year 10, 11 or 12, the overall report format has not changed from previous years, although the appearance of the reports is a little different as we are required to use new software this year.

For our Year Nine and Ten students Mac.Robertson Girls' High School has in the past used letter grades (A+ - E) in reporting on Assessment Tasks. We can no longer do this and have changed to rating these tasks as Very High, High, Medium or Low. This is because all schools in Victoria are now required to report to parents using letter based ratings that relate to the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS). A further explanation and a legend have been included with the students' reports.

This semester report is the first using the Victorian Essential Learning Standards. The school is committed to phasing in the system to ensure that student reports conform to government requirements but also give parents the most accurate information on their daughter's achievement.

There will be Parent/Teacher interviews on Monday 27th August and the Semester Two reports will be distributed at the final assembly at the end of Term Four.

Marilyn Smith, Assistant Principal

Adelaide Exchange - 5th August - 8th August

Adelaide High School students and staff will arrive at midday on Sunday 5th August at The Mac.Robertson Girls' High School to compete in the annual exchange of sporting and cultural events. Competitions will take place in the sports of Badminton, Basketball, Chess, Cross Country, Debating, Football, Hockey, Netball, Rowing, Soccer, Softball, Tennis, Table Tennis, Theatre Sports and Volleyball. Most of the competitions will take place during the school day with the Monday evening, the occasion for the Debate which will commence at 7.30pm and conclude at 9.00pm. Tuesday afternoon will include an early evening meal at school which will commence at 4.30pm and conclude at 6.00pm.

These exchanges do not take place without the support of parents and families and on behalf of both schools I thank those families who have provided this support by accepting the Adelaide students into their homes. I anticipate keen competition and expect the exchange to be another opportunity to establish friendship and bonding between the cohorts of the two schools.

Russell Webber, Sport Co-ordinator

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Australian Geography Competition 2007

Earlier this year students in Years 9 and 10 sat the Australian Geography Competition, sponsored by the National Geographic Channel. The competition draws upon the student's ability to interpret a range of seen and unseen data in variety of formats - maps, aerial photographs, satellite images, diagrams, graphs and other statistical depictions. It was pleasing to see that some 60 percent of the students achieved results beyond the Credit level in both the intermediate and senior divisions; 16 percent of the students achieved Distinctions and 16 percent of the participants achieved a High Distinction.

Congratulations to all of the participants.

Felicia Aulia
Piyumi Balasooriya
Madeleine Barrow
Anika Baset
Hilary Bowman
Catherine Bui
Sharline Cheng
Samantha Chow
Stephanie Choy
Nagida Clark
Elizabeth Davies
Linda Doan
Viv Dunn
Mary Duong
Janet Egan

Louise Fewtrell
Jaclyn Fisticchia
Greer Forrester
Aisling Grey
Chiu Wei Ho
Lydia Holt
Wendy Hu
Hilary Hunt
Phoebe Imms
Nisha Iyer
Devinie Jayaweera
Megan Jennings
Nicola Kahlberg
Hanna Kapuscinski-Evans
Sadia Karim

Alice Kennedy
Madeline Kiel
Rachael Leng
Eunice Low
Philippa Malone
Caitlin McCoy
Semonti Modak
Dana Morrison
Diana Munteanu
Linda Nguyen
Michelle Nguyen
Helena Pasztetnik
Anna Pejnovic
Georgina Peters
Shriya Rattan

Rachael Rodrigues
Louisa Selvadurai
Kate Senior
Maritza Sibanda
Harshi Singh
Gabrielle Stokes
Oshi Swarup
Natalie Tham
Vy Tran
Tina Trinh
Shuyu Wang
Isiri Wickramarachchi
Anna Williams
Eunice Wong
Lillian Wong
Lily Wong

Susy Puszka and John Stewart, Geography Teachers

Careers



During the holidays I attended a presentation ceremony conducted by the Dean of Engineering, **Professor David Shawcross**, at The University of Melbourne for **Varshini Ganeshapillai, Year 11**, who was awarded a certificate for her participation in the "Women into Engineering Program". **Varshini**, was one of sixteen students from across Victoria chosen to take part in the 5 month program. She had to complete an extended response on the future of engineering before being selected. **Varshini** attended a number of full day seminars and worked with a female engineer as her mentor. They investigated study and career paths and what the job of an engineer involves. **Varshini** is to be congratulated for her motivation and initiative in taking part.

VET Hospitality Excursion



On Wednesday July 18th eighteen Unit 1 and 2 Hospitality students accompanied by **Mrs Dean** and **Ms Serpless** attended the Langham Hotel in Southbank for a tour of the premises and to enjoy lunch at a five star hotel. The students saw both front and back of the house operations and were shown rooms, kitchens, spa, swimming pool and much more. The tour was conducted by the Manager of Security and Safety at the hotel. Lunch was a buffet and incorporated both Asian and Western cuisines. A highlight for many of the students was the 'all you could eat' nature of the dining experience, particularly the dessert menu which featured a chocolate fountain!

Irene Serpless, Careers Co-ordinator

Dear Parents,

The Premier's Reading Challenge will be ending for our students on Tuesday, 31st July.

Students have responded to the challenge enthusiastically, with over 7011 books being read across Year 9. To complete the challenge students were required to read 10 books from the Premier's Reading Challenge booklist and 5 of their own choice. Students who complete the challenge will receive a certificate from the Premier and their names will be published in 'The Age.'

The school has also organized an internal competition among the forms. The form which reads the most books will not only win a trophy, but will be taken on an all expenses paid literary excursion. There will also be a prize for the student who has read the most books.

Before the 31st of July parents will be required to verify the number of books their child has read by signing their reading list. Students should only include books which are of a Year 9 (or above) reading level. The reading list then needs to be handed to the Premier's Reading Challenge Captain who will give them to **Mrs Fitzgerald** no later than Tuesday, 31st of July.

I would like to congratulate the Premier's Reading Challenge Form Captains and all Year 9 English teachers for their enthusiastic assistance. The winner will be announced at a Year Level assembly on the 13th August.

Lisa Fitzgerald, LRC Manager and **Deborah Stringer, English Co-ordinator**

40 Hour Famine



Guest Speaker, **Elliot Costello** from World Vision spoke at last Monday's School Assembly about Mac.Rob's very impressive contribution to last year's 40 Hour Famine when our students raised \$8,000 to fight world poverty. This outstanding effort placed Mac.Rob in the top 1% of schools in Australia fundraising for this event. This year's focus will be to assist children living in poverty in Laos, East Timor, Mozambique and Tanzania. The weekend of 17th - 19th August is when the 40 hour Famine officially takes place from 8.00pm on the Friday until noon on the Sunday. Students are invited to give up something they value for 40 hours and receive donations for doing this to go towards development projects in the targeted countries. Our 40 Hour Famine Student Group leader, **Justine Carey** and her team are doing a marvellous job organising meetings for interested students and distributing information and

sponsorship booklets. She has set a target that exceeds last year's total and we wish her and all students who take part success in achieving this very worthwhile aim.

Rebecca Vosper, Assistant Principal

Student Welfare

Included in the Newsletter this week is the second instalment of 'Parenting Information' from **Michael Grose**. The focus this week is on friendships in adolescence. Peer relationships are a major component of a young person's life. A much greater amount of time is spent with their peers as young people become older and more independent of their families. I hope that the information is useful.

Gillian Baldock, Student Welfare Co-ordinator

Sport Report

Senior teams have represented Yarra District in the sports of Badminton, Hockey, Netball, Soccer, Squash and Table Tennis. The teams have had mixed success with the Badminton and the Netball teams winning and the other teams finishing in 2nd place. The coaches and the students are commended for their achievements as at this level competition is keen and challenging. The Badminton and Netball teams will now represent Northern Zone in the State Championships in August. Intermediate teams have competed in the sports of Netball, Badminton and Hockey in District Competitions and have not achieved the same level of success. Three Badminton, two Netball and two Soccer teams have competed which enabled more students to engage in competitions with other schools. Most of the matches were closely contested. The Badminton team was successful and will compete in the Northern Zone Competitions and the Netball and Soccer teams finished in 2nd place. Congratulations to the students and the coaches for their achievements.

The Athletics team will complete the Northern Zone Competition this week and the Aerobics and Cross Country teams will compete in the State Championships on the 3rd of August.

Russell Webber, Sport Co-ordinator

Forthcoming Events

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| Saturday, 28th July | - | Japanese Exchange students arrive. |
| Sunday, 29th July | - | Winter Concert rehearsal. |
| Thursday, 2nd August | - | Year 9 Red Day. |
| Saturday, 4th August | - | Winter Concert rehearsal. |
| Sunday, 5th August -
Wednesday, 8th August | - | Adelaide Exchange. |
| Sunday, 12th August | - | Winter Concert rehearsal. |
| Monday, 13th August | - | Japanese and French Exchange students depart. |
| Thursday, 16th August | - | Curriculum Day - students not required at school. |
| - | - | Winter Concert rehearsal - all day. |
| - | - | Winter Concert—Dallas Brooks Hall - 7.30pm. |
| Monday, 27th August | - | Parent/Teacher interviews, 2.30pm - 8.00pm. |
| Tuesday, 28th August | - | Later start at 9.20am. |
| Tuesday, 28th August -
Friday, 31st August | - | Ski Camp |

An invitation from

**Mac.Robertson Girls' High School
and Melbourne High School**

Winter Concert

**Dallas Brooks Hall
Thursday, 16th August 2007 at 7.30pm**

The Winter Concert is a testament to the exceptional commitment and talents of our combined music faculties.

Items will include the combined Concert Band, Stage Band, Brass Ensemble, Symphony Orchestra & String Orchestra, as well as Choral items from each school. The evening will conclude with a massed choir of over 250 voices from Mac.Robertson Girls' High School and Melbourne High School with a 120 piece orchestra performing selections from *Les Miserables*.

Tickets will go on sale on Monday, 30th July
Adults \$15, Concession \$10, Family \$40



**The Mac.Robertson Girls' High School
and Melbourne High School
Winter Concert Ticket Order Form**

Name: _____ Form: _____

Please supply _____ Adult _____ Concession _____ Family

Total \$ _____

Adults \$15, Concession \$10, Family \$40

Payment can be made in either cash or cheque, made payable to Mac.Robertson G.H.S. Tickets may be purchased from Mrs Lion in the Music Office at Recess (please see notices in the daily Bulletin).