

## Principal News

The VCE Examinations are in full swing this week and the Kings Way building is very quiet. Many students are seeking opportunities to have consultations with their teachers as they prepare to sit their final papers and we wish them all the best at this stressful time.

The Department of Education is preparing to put in place a new initiative as part of its Innovations and Excellence in Schools program commencing next year. It has advertised 44 Teaching and Learning Coach positions across the Southern Metropolitan region. The Department is seeking outstanding teachers to take on leadership roles in developing pedagogy and in assisting to implement the Ultranet, a comprehensive software pack which will draw together all the key school functions and records in one package. These Learning Coaches will receive intensive training prior to undertaking the support roles and will be appointed at Leading Teacher level, initially for two years. The region will be divided into three sub regions to administer this program and we are part of the Bayside, Kingston, Glen Eira and Inner South Sub Region. As network chair for Inner South Network I will be part of the selection process and am looking forward to being part of this exciting new development.

*Jane Garvey*

## Science News

### Olympiads Success

In August and September this year over 3000 Australian students sat the Australian Science Olympiads National Qualifying Examinations.

Four Mac.Rob students - **Keshinie Rasaratnam, Marion Tissera, Rachel Stott** and **Hong Le** have been invited to become Australian Science Olympiad Scholars, which involves a residential training program in January.

Seven Mac.Rob students received a 'High Distinction'. To earn a 'High Distinction' students had to be in the top ten per cent of candidates: **Hespera Henzell, Hong Le, Keshinie Rasaratnam, Laura Chen, Marion Tissera, Rachel Stott, Maria Selvadurai**. Nine of our students received a 'Distinction' (the next 20 per cent of candidates) - **Dasha Vorobieva, Sudili Peiris, Syeda Saief, Hong Le, Jenny Phong, Laurie Zhong, Sarah Blundy, Su Ying Xie, Tania Troung**. Another six students earned 'Credit' in the Olympiads.

The four scholars will be eligible for selection into the Australian Olympiad team to compete in the world Olympiads.

### Students Work With Scientists

Two Mac.Rob students - **Rebecca Dang** (Year 11) and **Joanne Britto** (Year 12) have been awarded certificates to mark their successful completion of original scientific research under CSIRO's 'Student Research Scheme'.

**Joanne** worked with **Professor Morsi** of **Swinburne University of Technology** to study Tissue Engineering of Heart Valves. **Rebecca** and **Doctor Veith** of **Melbourne University** worked to identify proteins from bacteria that cause gum disease in humans.

Both students used a range of sophisticated scientific equipment in their studies, and presented their findings in written reports and posters. The posters were on display at Swinburne University during a presentation evening on Friday, 19th October 2007.

### National Youth Science Forum

The National Youth Science Forum is a residential 12 day program in which students meet scientists and researchers, visit them at work and debate issues in science and engineering.

This year 2000 applications were received and 288 Year 11 students have been selected to travel to Canberra in January. Mac.Rob student - **Emily Davies** will be part of this elite group.

The school congratulates **Emily** and thanks the **Rotary Club of Melbourne (Rotary District 9800)** for sponsoring **Emily's** application. We look forward to reading her report early next year.

*Andrew Rennie, Science Coordinator - Curriculum*

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## Creative Arts Festival Songwriting Competition

This year a Songwriting Competition was held as part of the annual Creative Arts Festival. Ten entrants presented their songs at two packed lunchtime concerts. The Monday concert was opened by a performance of *Sonny* by the Mac.Rob Stage Band directed by **Mr Vlad Goncharov**. We were then presented with solo piano pieces by **Aarti Desai** and **Sadia Karim**; a vocal duet titled *No Matter* by **Sarah Seah** and **Jaclyn Fisicchia**, **Lianne Bernardo** performing her song *The Morning After* and a piece for piano and drums played by **Amee Miranda**.

It was standing room only for the Tuesday concert which opened with performances by the Symphonic Winds directed by **Ms Claire Nicholson**. The performers for this round mainly presented vocal pieces - **Lydia Bao** with *Fate*; **Carolyn Tran** and **Frances Pham** with *Beautiful*, **Sophia Dacy-Cole** with a capella *Folksong* and **Eunice Low** with *A light at the end of the tunnel*. **Jenny Hu** and **Scarlett Luk** presented **Jenny's** piece for flute and piano *Ode to MB*.

Although I thought all entries deserved a prize for their creativity as well as for the enthusiasm with which they presented their music, two prizes only were available for this competition. **Carolyn Tran** and **Frances Pham** were clear winners of the Popular Choice Award as voted by the audience over the two days. The Judges Prize was awarded to **Lydia Bao** in a very close contest. Prizes and Certificates will be awarded at a future assembly and we hope to put together a recording of all the performances before the end of the year.

**Andrew Blyth, Instrumental Teacher**



## SECOND HAND BOOK SALE - BOOK COLLECTION CAN YOU HELP?

Saturday, 8th December is the Mac.Rob Second Hand Book and Uniform Sale. To make this event, our only fund-raiser for the year, a success we need help - and lots of it.

Parents@macrob would appreciate your assistance for:

### BOOK COLLECTION DAYS

Tuesday, 20th November	12 p.m – 2 p.m
Monday, 26th November	12 p.m – 2 p.m
Friday, 30th November	12 p.m – 2 p.m
Friday, 7th December	9 a.m – 3 p.m

### BOOK and UNIFORM SALE DAY

Saturday, 8th December, 8 a.m to 1 p.m

Please ring Marian on 0409 800 358, or e-mail to [parents@macrob.vic.edu.au](mailto:parents@macrob.vic.edu.au), if you can help.

**Marian Bierenbroodspot, President, parents@macrob**



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>November 13th to<br/>November 15th</b> | - | Duke of Edinburgh Camp  |
| <b>November 14th</b>                      | - | Links Leader Training   |
| <b>November 19th to<br/>December 7th</b>  | - | 2008 VCE Orientation  |
| <b>November 20th to<br/>November 22nd</b> | - | Duke of Edinburgh Camp  |
| <b>November 22nd</b>                      | - | Links Leader Training   |
| <b>November 23rd</b>                      | - | Japanese Exchange departs   |
| <b>November 27th</b>                      | - | Speech Night  |
| <b>November 28th</b>                      | - | Report Writing Day<br><b><i>Students NOT required at school</i></b> |
| <b>November 29th</b>                      | - | Peer Support Training<br>French Exchange departs                    |
| <b>November 30th</b>                      | - | Year 10 - last day  |
| <b>December 3rd to<br/>December 14th</b>  | - | Year 10 Work Experience   |
| <b>December 4th</b>                       | - | Orientation Day for 2008 - new Year 9 students                      |
| <b>December 8th</b>                       | - | Parents' Association Second Hand Book and<br>Uniform Sale           |