



**The Mac.Robertson  
Girls' High School**

350 – 370 Kings Way,  
MELBOURNE 3004  
Telephone 03 9820 0788  
Facsimile 03 9864 7777  
office@macrob.vic.edu.au  
www.macrob.vic.edu.au



## Principal News

### House Chorals

The House Chorals last week was the culmination of many hours of rehearsals and was a real entertainment for the audience. Oreads won the madrigals with a superb performance which they repeated at school assembly on Monday morning. We then enjoyed four energetic musical theatre productions. It is stunning that our students are able to produce not just one but four musicals of such quality and entertainment value. I congratulate all the wonderfully creative students who were involved in the writing, directing conducting, singing and acting on a truly splendid effort. Congratulations to the Naiads on their victory, Candice Colman on being awarded best conductor, Bebe D'Souza and Nagida Clark as best directors and the stage crew for a really smooth schedule on the night. This was one of the great House Chorals and I know that others enjoyed it as much as I did. Thank you also to Ms Kylene Cook, Mr Michael Sharkey and the Coordinator of House Activities, Mr James Richards for their work in supporting and coordinating the student productions.

### Legacy ANZAC Ceremony

Melbourne High School and Mac.Rob will jointly participate in the 77<sup>th</sup> Legacy Annual ANZAC Commemoration Ceremony for students on Thursday, 24 April where the choir is formed by Year 10 students from both schools and the cadet corps provides the guard of honour. Both schools have been involved in this ceremony for 55 years.

*Jane Garvey*

## House Chorals Report 2008

Wednesday, 16 April was the evening of the 71st Annual House Choral Festival. A packed and appreciative audience was provided with a fine evening's entertainment by the four Houses.

The Madrigal section was beautifully performed by all Madrigal groups and was won by Oreads.

In the Theatre section, Dryads were the first to perform with *Maid Marion*. This was a twist on the well known "Men in Tights" theme. The musical adjudicators Ms Jane Elton-Brown and Margaret Knurek noted a tight performance with lots of energy. The theatre adjudicators, Ms Kylene Cook and Mr Jamie Robertson commented on some fine acting and good use of orchestra.

Naiads were next with *The Addams Family*. Here the 'family' finds new friends despite their 'spooky' appearances. Judges commented on impressive arrangements of music, excellent set design and great characters.

*Righting the Wrongs* was performed by Oreads. The theme of this theatre item was that every work of poetry or prose can be attributed to a very unique literary "factory". Everything ever written is put at risk when the owner leaves for Paris. A good sense of rhythm, dynamic sound and great use of space were the highlights here.

The final item was *The Magic Faraway Tree* from Nereids. A combination of the famous story and 'Topsy Turvy Land' lead to an adventure to save the tree from a strange illness. Comments from the judges included excellent solo performances, good sense of style and use of the stage.



Congratulations to all involved in the production of an outstanding House Chorals.

The best conductor was awarded to Candice Coleman and Best Directors were Bebe D'Souza and Nagida Clark, all of Naiads. The Chorals section and best house overall were also won by Naiads.



Special thanks to our MCs—Hespera Henzell and Umanda Attanayake, Stage Manager—Emma Witlock, and Ms Kylene Cook and Mr Michael Sharkey for their magnificent contribution. Thanks also to all the Choral Reps, House Captains, Madrigal Singers, Conductors, Cast, Stage Crew and Staff who helped make such a fine production run so smoothly.

*James Richards*  
*House Activities Coordinator*

## **Australian Science Olympiads Scholar School**

In January this year, along with Marion Tissera, Rachel Stott and Hong Le, I was selected to go to Canberra for the Australian Science Olympiads Scholar School. We met sixty students from around Australia, and together we were put through an intensive course in the fields of Biology, Chemistry or Physics. It was a huge change from high school science, as we were taught our respective subject at a university level.

For 15 days we had classes from 8 30 a.m. to 9 30 p.m., with an hour break each for lunch and dinner. Although it was rigorous, I began to appreciate the level of detail involved in studying Biology. I could finally see how the interactions within a cell could affect the entire organism, something left out of the VCE course due to its complexity. Not only did we learn a lot more theory, we also did many practical activities using hi-tech equipment that we had only read about in textbooks. Of course there was more to the Scholar School than just expanding our knowledge.

The aim of the Scholar School is to select four students for the Australian team for each subject. These three national teams then go on to compete at the International Olympiads later in the year. After sitting a series of three exams I was lucky enough to be selected for the Australian Biology team. During the Easter holidays I met my three team mates in Canberra once again for an even more gruelling training session. I'm now looking forward to the International Biology Olympiad which is held in Mumbai, India in July, where our team will represent Australia as we take on some of the world's brightest students. I advise all Year 11 students to take the opportunity to sit the National Qualifying Exams which will occur later this year, as I believe it is a truly rewarding experience.

*Keshinie Rasaratnam*  
*Year 12 Student*

## **Mac.Rob Senior Sport Teams Excel**

The senior softball and volleyball teams have won the Yarra District Competitions held recently at Melbourne Girls' College. The softball team defeated University High School, 25 runs to five and the volleyball team defeated Melbourne Girls' College after accounting for all other teams easily in the preliminary rounds of competition. These teams will now compete in the Northern Zone Competitions to be held on Wednesday, 30 April 2008. The senior tennis team defeated Glen Eira College but was defeated by Melbourne Girls' College. Thank you to Mr DeLosa, Ms Lambert, Mr Stephenson, Ms Pride and Mrs Smyth for preparing the teams for competition and for supervising on the day. Thanks also to Claire Fitzpatrick and Yve Clerehan-Tyndall for assisting with the umpiring during the volleyball competitions.

*Russell Webber*  
*Sport Coordinator*

## **Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)**

Semester 1 EMA cheques are now available for collection from Mrs Baldock in the Student Welfare Office.

*Gillian Baldock*  
*Student Welfare Coordinator*

## **Harmoniously Edible Treats**

A Cake Stall is to be held at recess on Wednesday, 30 April by *Friends of Music @ Mac.rob*.

Music students, please bring cakes and slices. Students and staff please come and delight in them.

*Friends of Music*

## Letter from the Prime Minister

On Wednesday, 13 April, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd made the Apology to the Stolen Generations. We decided that, on behalf of Year 10A, we would write a letter of thanks to convey our appreciation. A number of weeks later, we received this letter from the Prime Minister's Office.



PRIME MINISTER  
CANBERRA

17 April 2008

Class of 10A  
The Mac.Robertson Girls' High School  
350-370 Kings Way  
MELBOURNE VIC 3004

Dear Students

Thank you for your letter about the apology to Indigenous peoples. I always appreciate young people writing to me about important issues. I apologise for the delay in replying.

As you know, I, on behalf of the Australian Parliament, made a formal apology to members of the Stolen Generations on 13 February 2008. The Australian Government is committed to reconciliation as a tool for healing and justice in Australian society. I hope that such an apology will help to heal the wounds of the past.

The government's priorities for Indigenous communities are: closing the 17 year life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a generation; halving the gap in mortality rates for children under five within a decade; and halving the gap in reading, writing and numeracy achievements for Indigenous children within a decade.

The government engaged in discussions with members of the Indigenous community and other Australians committed to reconciliation to get the wording of the apology right and to progress our shared goal of acknowledging the past and working towards a better future together.

I hope you continue to take a keen interest in the situation of Aboriginal people in Australia.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Rudd

Our class was elated to obtain a response and we anticipate the government's future efforts for reconciliation within our nation.

*Alice Kennedy & Katherine Jaworski, Year 10A Students*

## Careers

On Tuesday, 15 April six VCE students travelled to the MCG to attend the Institute of Chartered Accountants Meet the Leaders program, which was designed to introduce them to careers in high profile accounting firms. The students heard from guest speakers, both



cadets and executives, and were also able to discuss careers opportunities on a one-to-one basis as the accountants were rotated amongst the tables of students. This provided information on local, national and international career opportunities available in the industry. It was pointed out that currently 28 per cent



of all graduate positions are in the accounting area. The median starting salary for graduates is \$47,000. Hopefully, the students who attended will have an advantage when applying for cadetships either this year or in the future.

On Monday, 21 April, I attended a morning tea for careers advisors at Deloitte, one of the big four accounting firms. When discussing their recruitment of Year 12s or undergraduates for cadetships they emphasised that they, along with many other large employers, are seeking a balanced candidate. A candidate who is not only successful academically but one who also shows evidence of personal development and a history of work experience. Specifically they sought out candidates who were team oriented (as evidenced in sporting and non sporting

activities and who took on activities that stretched them.) Leadership as demonstrated by initiative, motivation and being proactive was also sought. Finally involvement in school, social and community life was expected.

At Mac.Rob all students are encouraged to participate in extra curricular programs and it is good to hear that this is in fact what employers are seeking.

### Careers in Sports Medicine and Science

Seminar: Sunday, June 1 from 9 am – 1 pm Sports House, 375 Albert Rd, South Melbourne. Seven practitioners will provide presentations about their profession and associated education pathways. Cost to students is \$35. To register please visit [www.smavic.org](http://www.smavic.org).

### Lunchtime Guest Speakers Program and other Careers Activities this Term

During the next few weeks there will be a range of speakers primarily aimed at Year 12 students who will begin making their tertiary selections in Term 3. However, students from other year levels may also wish to attend. These are:

Monday April 28	ANU Australian National University Canberra
Tuesday April 29	Bond University Queensland
Monday May 5	University of Sydney
Thursday May 8	Monash, Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences
Monday May 12	Monash, Law and Pharmacy
Tuesday May 13	Monash, IT and Business and Economics
Thursday May 15	Monash, Science and Arts
Friday May 16	Monash, Art and Design and Engineering
Monday May 19	University of Melbourne Arts and Environments
Tuesday May 20	University of Melbourne Business and Sciences
Thursday May 22	University of Melbourne Health Sciences
Friday May 23	University of Melbourne Engineering, Music, Visual and Performing Arts
Tuesday May 27	KPMG
Thursday May 29	Adelaide University

On Wednesday May 21<sup>st</sup> all Year 12 students will be attending a Tertiary Information Service Event at the University of Melbourne where they will receive information about application and selection from a range of Victorian University and TAFE providers and many interstate institutes.

During the last week of term Year 10 students will take part in a Careers Week featuring a visit by the whole year level to the University of Melbourne, and a number of guest speakers and workshops.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> April I attended a careers advisors seminar at The University of Adelaide, our third oldest university, and one of the prestigious Group of Eight universities. A “sandstone” university, Adelaide is impressive for its imposing colonial architecture but more importantly for the quality of educational programs offered. These include medicine, dentistry, arts, commerce, science, law and a new veterinary science course that commenced this year. Students can obtain more information about Adelaide university from the careers room.

*Irene Serpless*  
*Careers Advisor*

### **School Tours for Prospective Students and Parents**

Wednesday, 30 April	12.15 – 1.15pm	Tuesday, 13 May	11am – 12 noon
Friday, 30 May	2 – 3pm	Tuesday, 10 June	11am – 12 noon

*(Bookings are essential for all School Tours (contact Registrar’s office 9864 7755))*

### **Information Nights for Prospective Students and Parents**

Wednesday, 21 May 7pm—School Hall

### **Entrance Examination for Year 9, 2009**

Saturday, 14 June Royal Exhibition Building Carlton 12.30-4pm

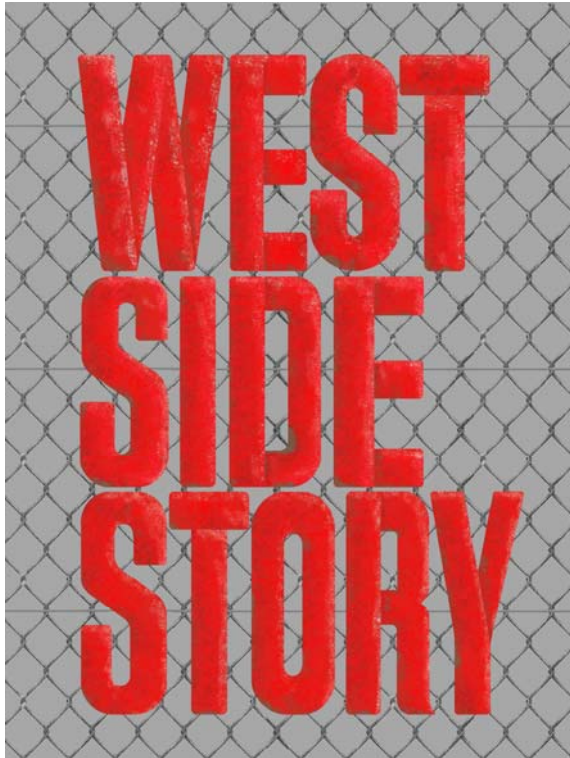
### **Entrance Examination for Years 10-12, 2009**

Friday, 6 June at The Mac.Robertson Girls’ High School  
Morning session: Year 10                      Afternoon session: Years 11 & 12

## **Forthcoming Events**

Friday, 25 April	Anzac Day—Public Holiday.
Thursday, 1 May	Parent/Teacher Interviews—Surnames Commencing from M - Z, 2.30 - 8.00 p.m.
Tuesday, 6 May	Curriculum Day—students not required to attend school.
Wednesday, 14 May to Saturday, 17 May	Combined Musical with Melbourne High School—’West Side Story’.
Monday, 19 May to Sunday, 25 May	International Maths Challenge—Singapore
Tuesday, 20 May	* School Council—6.00 p.m. * Parents Association, Function Room— 7.30p.m.
Wednesday, 21 May	Information Evening for prospective parents/students, Hall—6.30 p.m.
Thursday, 22 May	* Premiers Awards * Science Competition
Friday, 23 May to Sunday, 25 May	Philosophy Camp

**The Mac.Robertson Girls' High School and Melbourne High School**  
are proud to present their annual musical production of



Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* is transported to modern-day New York City, as two young idealistic lovers find themselves caught between warring street gangs, the American "Jets" and the Puerto Rican "Sharks". Their struggle to survive in a world of hate, violence, and prejudice is one of the most innovative, heart-wrenching, and relevant musical dramas of our time.

*West Side Story* will be performed in Memorial Hall at Melbourne High School each evening from Wednesday, 14 through to Saturday, 17 May at 7:30 pm, with a Matinee on Saturday at 2:00 pm.

Ticket prices are as follows:

Adult: \$20 each

Student Concession / Child: \$12 each

Family Ticket (2 adults & 2 children): \$52

The MHSOB have set up MHSTix to handle all online bookings for the whole school community. All tickets must be ordered and purchased on-line at **<http://mhstix.com.au>**.

For booking enquiries, please telephone: 9824 0480

Unsold tickets will be available at the door for each performance, but seating will be limited.

You may find out more about the show by visiting our website:

**<http://resources.mhs.vic.edu.au/westsidestory/>**

"The world's greatest love story takes to the streets in this landmark Broadway musical that is one of the theatre's finest accomplishments".

"A superlative musical; a chiller, a thriller, as up-to-the-minute as tomorrow's headlines".

"There has never been a happier integration, a more sensitive blending of story, song and movement".