



**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

As part of our ongoing strategic planning process Mac.Rob is reviewing all aspects of our VCE provision and on Curriculum day on Tuesday teachers were involved in data analysis sessions with Mr Peter Congdon a data analyst with the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority. We are learning to drill down into the information we receive about student performance in VCE to better understand its implications and assist us refine our program delivery and better support our students.

My thanks to Dr Fiona Broderick, one of our parents and a GP, who gave her time to come to the school and provide flu injections for the staff during the curriculum day. This preventative health measure is much appreciated.

I would like to congratulate our Head of Middle School, Ms Bronwyn Moline on being selected for one of the Department of Education's most prestigious leadership development programs, The Eleanor Davis School Leadership Program. Ms Moline will be involved in a shadowing program with a principal mentor, attending professional development and developing a project as part of her work in the program over the year. Selection into this program is very keenly sought and it is a real recognition of the calibre of the participants.

Jane Garvey

National Literacy & Numeracy Tests for Year 9 Students

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests for Year 9 students will be held next Tuesday 13, Wednesday 14 and Thursday 15 May. The NAPLAN tests are conducted by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) on behalf of the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA).

The results of the tests provide diagnostic information for parents and teachers about a student's performance in Literacy and Numeracy. This information can be used to support teaching and learning programs and improve student achievement.

Later in the year, parents will receive their daughter's personal report. This report will describe the student's particular skills in reading, writing, language conventions and numeracy and also show how she performed in relation to national benchmark standards for students across Australia. These benchmarks describe the minimum acceptable standards for students across Australia.

For more information about the tests, please visit the VCAA website at: www.vcaa.vic.edu.au or the NAPLAN website at www.naplan.edu.au.

Year 9 students have been given a test timetable which will indicate the times they need to arrive at school next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to sit these tests. The tests will be conducted in the morning, during the periods before lunch. There are three Literacy and two Numeracy tests spread over the three days and there are rest periods between sessions. Students will attend their normal afternoon classes and be dismissed at the usual time each day.

If parents have any questions regarding the arrangements next week please contact me on 9820 0788.

Rebecca Vasper
Assistant Principal

Debating and Public Speaking

The debating season has commenced with an immense display of talent and enthusiasm. Firstly we would like to congratulate all the Year 9 girls successful in attaining a place on the school debating team; we wish them the best of luck throughout the year and sincerely hope that they relish such a valuable opportunity. We would also like to extend an enormous thank you to our coaches for this year; ex-Mac.Rob School Captain, Ellie Kulas (coaching Year 9), Australian Captain, Vivienne Jones (Year 10), ex-Debating Captain, Amelia Sully (Year 11) and current School Captain, Kellymaree Butler (Year 12). We are so fortunate to have mentors with such an astounding degree of aptitude and achievement; with current achievements providing a source of inspiration; we are thrilled with the invaluable opportunity presented by provision of their time.

We would also like to briefly acknowledge a new initiative undertaken by debating and public speaking this year, the hosting of guest speakers. To date, three speakers have delivered presentations.

On the 18th of March, Sonia Randhawa (the Director for the Centre of Independent Journalism in Malaysia and presenter for 3CR community radio) spoke about women and politics, presenting an apt introduction characteristic of debating and public speaking, the presentation of an objective argument. Her inspirational speech focused on furthering the empowerment of women through societal development, (from eliminating barriers that range from architectural structures in Middle Eastern Universities, to subtle remarks made throughout the US election), as well as through self empowerment, a value reflected in debating and public speaking at Mac.Rob.



Associate Professor David Wright-Neville (the Deputy Director of the Global Terrorism Research Centre and a former senior terrorism analyst in the Australian intelligence community) also attended, on the 7th of April. A well sought after commentator on terrorism related issues, Mr Wright-Neville's discussion centred upon 'Dispelling the Three Myths of Terrorism,' an analysis that has often manifested itself in debating and public speaking. Furthermore, Mr Wright-Neville exemplified the vast avenues of opportunities engendered in public speaking; participation in the United Nations, lecturing at both Monash University and ANU and most recently, accepting an invitation participate in the 2020 Summit.

His vast experience enabled him to demonstrate the power of public speaking and the assertiveness it develops.

On the 17th of April, Robyn Eckersley (lecturer at the University of Melbourne, specialising in international relations theory and environmental politics) spoke about Australia's evolving role in climate change negotiations and its impact on the US alliance. Importantly, the issues involving environmental politics and policy form an important basis for many debates and indeed, related to the first C grade topic pertaining to commercial whaling, and the second A grade topic in relation to environmental terrorism.



Moreover, we would also like to thank Caitlin McInnis, Safiyah Muyeen and Umada Attanayake for their outstanding performances in the Ern Ainger Public Speaking Competition. This prestigious event, hosted by the Rotary Club of Richmond, involved approximately 100 students from 40 schools to speak in four heats held at the NHP Electrical Products Conference Centre. Contestants had four minutes to speak on a subject of their choice and our subject matter ranged from the nature of fear, smiles and human rights. Congratulations to Caitlin McInnis who was awarded first place in this heat and achieving a place in the subsequent round, and to Safiyah who was awarded an encouragement award.

Finally, we would like to extend 'colossal style' congratulations to all the girls who participated in round one of the Debater's Association of Victoria's Schools Competition, in particular to D, B and A Grade teams who won three of four debates on each level. All debaters fervently addressed important issues, ranging from banning solariums (D Grade), lifting the international ban on commercial whaling (C Grade), government funding of the arts (B Grade) and compensation for the Stolen Generations (A Grade). A specific thank you to Aditi Panth who debated with less than 24 hours notice, performing magnificently for the first time in A Grade. Good luck for round 2.

Saira Bhal & Christine Carder Rice

Chorals Night Raffle

On Wednesday, 16 of April, the night of chorals, Yr 11I held a raffle to raise money in order to buy school supplies for girls at the Sri Yasodhara Devi Balika Nivasa Orphanage in Sri Lanka. Congratulations to Ai Peng, the winner of the grand prize of a beautiful pot plant and a jar of lollies. We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who bought a ticket and also to 'Flowers of Distinction' for donating this wonderful pot plant.

*Nayomi Naranpanawa,
Year 11J Social Service Representative*

School Tours for Prospective Students & Parents

- 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 & Parents

- Wednesday, 21 May 7pm—School Hall

Entrance Examination for Year 9, 2009

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

Entrance Examination for Years 10-12, 2009

- Friday, 6 June (times to be determined) at The Mac.Robertson Girls’ High School

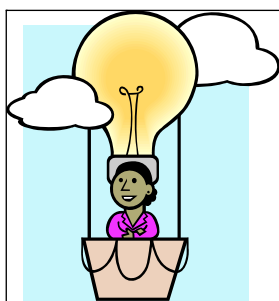
Forthcoming Events

Tuesday, 13 May to Thursday 15 May	Naplan testing (on literacy and numeracy). All Year 9 students—mornings only
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— 7.30 p.m.
Wednesday, 21 May	Information Evening for prospective parents/students, Hall—6.30 p.m.
Thursday, 22 May	* Premier’s Awards * Science Competition
Friday, 23 May to Sunday, 25 May	Philosophy Camp
Monday, 26 May to Friday, 30 May	Health Week

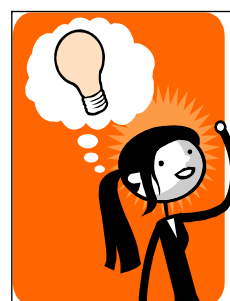
Small Grants 2008 – A Parents’ Association Initiative (Ends Friday, 13 June 2008)

Dear brilliant Mac.Robians (Yes, students AND teachers) !!!

Did you want to organise on a Mac.Rob Activity? Can you think of one?



- Debating
- Arts
- Music
- Sports
- Community building
- Cultural
- (Insert your ideas here!!!)



Here is your chance to create and lead your own opportunity and take others with you on the journey!!!

Parents@Macrob Small Grants support, through financial assistance, projects which –

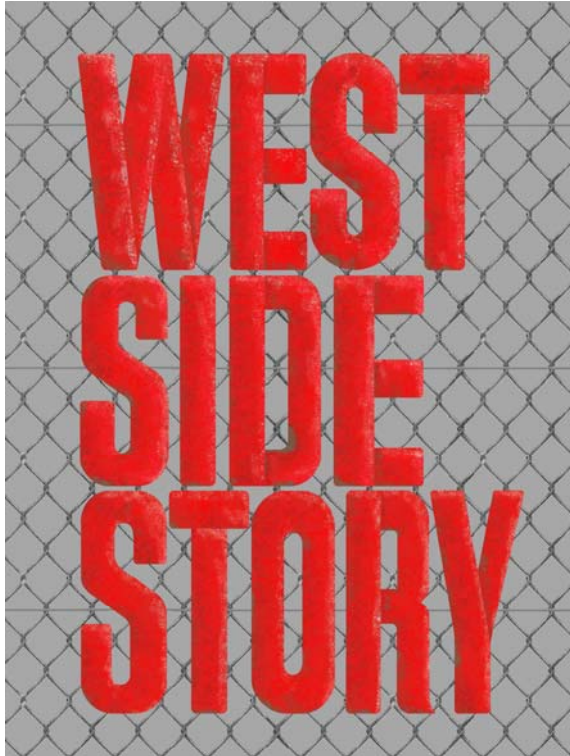
1. Bring new experiences of learning – something you would like to do but isn’t available yet.
2. Involve additional exploration of knowledge – e.g. through attending external events and conferences
3. Extend participation by students, teachers and parents
4. Will not become operational without this assistance

Please contact the General Office in term 2 for application forms and detailed criteria.

When you have completed your application:

1. Make a photocopy for your record
2. Lodge the original at the General Office
3. Make a note of the name and person who dates and signs your form.

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".

******* Please note: Online bookings require credit card payment.**

Cash or cheque payments can be organised by contacting the Booking Office on telephone No. 9824 0480.

Tickets can also be purchased at the door.