

NEWSLETTER

Issue 14

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The Mac.Robertson Girls' High School

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Principal News

This week we have had the first set of national NAPLAN tests conducted each morning on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. The testing is designed to give a national picture of student achievement levels in Year 3, 5, 7 and 9. The tests were in Language Conventions and Writing, Reading and two Numeracy tests, one with and one without calculators. Thank you to Ms Vosper and the supervising teachers for their work in enabling the testing program to run so smoothly.

Next week I am joining our team of three Year 12 Specialist Mathematics students and Ms Glenda Romeril at the International Mathematics Challenge in Singapore. The students have been very busy preparing their off site challenge activity which they will present at the conference. Ms Romeril will give a presentation on our maths program to the teachers attending and I will also be giving a presentation on our school and its curriculum to the international principals attending. We are looking forward to seeing how the competition unfolds and wishing the team all the best. Miss Margaret Akins will be acting as Principal in my absence.

Jane Garvey

Volvo International Final—Sweden

Following her success at the World Environment Day Awards, Kate Charters (current Year 10C student) and her friend Millicent Burggraf (student of Melbourne Girls Grammar) were selected to represent Australia at the Volvo Adventure International Final in Goteborg, Sweden last week.

Their entry, *No Plastic Bags For Armstrong Street*, which the girls have been working on for a number of years impressed judges enough to have the girls selected to attend the International Awards ceremony in Sweden out of a pool of 400 entrants.

Their initiative, to eradicate plastic bag use from commercial premises along Armstrong Street, was a huge success and earned them a place at the World Environment Day Awards in 2007.

In the initial judging for the Volvo International Competition the girls have been ranked number one out of 15 internationally, an outstanding effort by two young ambitious girls.

This initiative of Kate's reflects her strong environmental ethics and her perseverance to achieve such a significant goal, one which the federal government is currently grappling with. We wish to acknowledge Kate's good community service and outstanding leadership in this area.

Michelle Pride
Year 10 Coordinator

United Nations General Assembly

On Thursday last week, 120 Mac.Rob and Melbourne High students studying International Studies, National Politics and International Politics attended a model United Nations General Assembly, facilitated by the United Nations Association of Australia at Melbourne High School. The focus of the conference was "Terrorism—A Threat to International Peace and Security? A Global Response", a very topical issue in today's society. The students of the two schools formed groups and each group was assigned a country to represent.

The day was opened by two speakers, Dr Hussein Tahiri (Research Analyst, Victoria Police Counter Terrorism Unit) and Federal Magistrate Murray McInnis who has a special interest in anti-terrorism legislation and who also took on the role of Secretary-General for the day. A resolution was proposed to the Assembly and the day was spent negotiating, speaking, passing heated notes and voting on amendments to the resolution, with many students enthusiastically taking on the characters of their assigned countries. Tensions arose which very nearly led to the resolution being scrapped completely, but in the end a compromise was reached.



The conference was enjoyed by all and confirmed our long held belief that Mac.Rob students can resolve a major world issue in less than seven hours.

*Dorota Korab & Eleanor Everist
Year 11 Students*

Mac.Rob at the Mothers Day Classic

Over 30,000 participants ran and walked their way around the Botanical Gardens on Mothers Day to support Breast Cancer research, part of whom was a number of girls and teachers from Mac.Rob. Our girls ran in the 4km fun run, braving the early morning cold start to give their best efforts around the undulating course. The teachers involved then embarked on the 8km run.



A great day was had by all involved, and it was wonderful to see everyone supporting a worthy cause, and also striving to stay fit and healthy by being active. Thanks to all those involved.

*Ryan Mannix
PE/Health Teacher*

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Careers News

Police Force

On Thursday, 8 May four Year 10 students attended a “Careers in the Police Force” induction program.

The day began at the Police Recruiting Branch in Flinders St where we heard from speakers



from the Media Unit about pathways and opportunities within policing. This was followed by a visit to the Mounted Branch in South Melbourne where students toured the stables and learnt of the work of the horses and their handlers in special events and emergency situations. Following lunch they travelled to the Police Academy in Glen Waverley where they studied the functions of the academy and toured the Firearms Training Complex and the Fitness Track and Gymnasium.

A second Careers in the Police Force day will be held in October for other Year 10s who would like to attend.

Guest Speakers

University of Sydney: On Monday, 5 May, Krystal Mauropolos and Amber D’Souza from the University of Sydney spoke about the generous scholarships for interstate students—\$15,000 per year and the many study options available. Both speakers were completing their Masters at Sydney and were able to provide first hand accounts of its many advantages.

Monash Speakers: On Thursday, 8 May Dr Liz Davis from the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences provided students with information regarding selection, interviews and details of courses offered. Rosemarie Johnston from the Faculty of Education also gave a presentation.

On Monday, 12 May Alannah Moroney from the Faculty of Law spoke to students about undergraduate and post graduate law options.



Year 12 students—GAP Australia

Is offering new placements for 17 year olds in the United Kingdom, Schools (Boarding), Community and Care and Outdoor Education.

Exploring Careers in Archaeology

Sunday, 25 May from 9.30am – 4.00pm, morning tea provided, Prince Phillip Theatre, Architecture Building, Melbourne University. Hear about recent discoveries in archaeology and an open forum featuring archaeologists and other heritage specialists discussing training, trends and careers further information www.archaeologyweek.com

La Trobe University

Invites all Year 10,11 and 12 students to experience careers in the Police Force.

Also, you can choose three workshops where you will get hands on experience of different courses, have time to talk to the university staff and students and tour the campus. Courses offering workshops include dentistry, arts, marketing, linguistics, archaeology, law, media, psychology, physiotherapy, international development and relations, economics and many more. It will be held on Tuesday, 1 July and is free, register at www.latrobe.edu.au/register.

Irene Scarpless, Careers Advisor



Specialist secondary education programs
advanced reading study skills
essay skills

Advanced Reading Skills for Year 12 Students to be held at Mac.Robert Girls' High School

The popular "Advanced Reading Skills" program will be held at Mac.Robertson Girls' High School for year 12 students who intend to sit for UMAT at the end of July.

Students will require a reading speed of at least 400 wpm in order to get through the reading of the paper. This 9hr course will help students achieve the desired speed.

The Advanced Reading Skills course puts in place skills that will assist students to increase their reading efficiency with more speed, improved comprehension and retention. Places in the course are limited to 18. Save time, book on line at: www.skillscentre.com.au

Dates : Wednesdays 4, 18 & 25 June

Time : 2.00 to 5.00 pm

For more information, phone ICS on 9818 3888

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



School Tours for Prospective Students & Parents

- 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
at 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



PORT PHILLIP

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND SAFETY

The school has been asked to make the following request of parents:

Parents dropping off their daughter in the Albert Road Service Lane are requested not to block access to:

- other vehicles wishing to drive into or out of the parking bays
- the 2 way through traffic in this lane



Forthcoming Events

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—7.00 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

Monday, 26 May

Senior Students Music Soirée

Thursday, 5 June

Writing Competition—Yr 11 & 12 Students

Monday, 9 June

Queen's Birthday (Public Holiday)

Tuesday, 10 June

- * VCE Study Day
- * Year 9 Red Day—9A to 9E

Wednesday, 11 June to Friday, 13 June

Year 12 Exams & GAT

Thursday, 12 June

Writing Competition—Year 9 & 10 Students

Friday, 13 June

Report Writing day—students **NOT** required at School

Mac.Rob
Senior Music Students
present a
Soirée

Monday, 26 May
from 7.30-9pm
in the Hall

Admission is free!

**Parents, students and friends are
warmly invited to attend.**

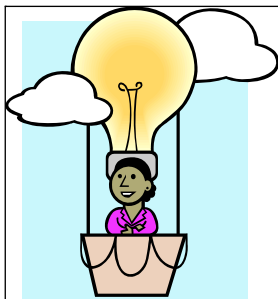
**There will be a raffle on the night, with a
\$100 Westfield voucher as 1st Prize and an
Avon products basket as 2nd Prize.**

**Tickets will be \$2 each or 3 tickets for \$5.
Supper by gold coin donation.**

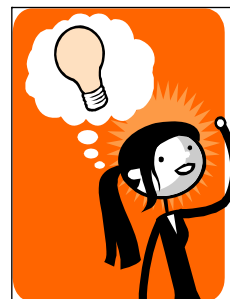
Small Grants 2008 – A Parents’ Association Initiative (Ends Friday, 13 June 2008)

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
5. Would benefit from up to \$200 financial support.

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.