

NEWSLETTER

Issue 1

1st February 2008



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Principal's Report

Welcome back for 2008

I hope everybody has a very enjoyable holiday break and welcome back for the 2008 school year. We were very pleased to start the year with the excellent news that every Year 12 girl from 2007 received a first round offer of a tertiary place. This week the 2008 Year 12 students have had their Orientation Camp at Monash University to get the year off to a good start and the Year 9 students had the school to themselves for their first day before it was business as usual. It has been good to hear the sound of excited girls greeting each other and exchanging news echoing around the school after the quiet of most of January.

New Staff

We have a number of new staff members and I would like to welcome **Ms Tasha Brown** who teaches French, **Ms Leanne Contessa** - Biology and Chemistry, **Mr Barry Launder** - Economics and Business Studies, **Mr Andrew Liarakos** - Philosophy and English, **Mr Tim Shawcross** - Music and **Mr Michael Sharkey** - English and Drama. We also warmly welcome back **Mr Angus Grant** and **Ms Jenny Lowman** from leave.

School Council Election

Next week's newsletter will call for nominations for School Council and I hope parents will consider putting themselves forward to support the school through participation in its key policy setting body. Council meets once a month during term and has a number of sub committees which report to it. We welcome Year 9 parent nominations especially as this year all but one of the six parents currently serving are leaving because their daughters have completed Year 12. Please give consideration to nominating and look for the forms in next newsletter.

Jane Garvey

100% of Year 12s 2007 receive a first round VTAC Offer

All 239 of our Year 12 students from 2007 had received a first round VTAC offer by January 15th. They all received an offer for a Commonwealth Supported Place, which means that the government subsidises their studies. In addition 44 students (18.41%) also received a Fee based offer.

The figures below only relate to offers made in Victoria. Many students would also have received offers from interstate courses, but these offers are not disclosed to the school. A number of students may also receive second round offers for Victoria which are made on January 31st.

Congratulations to the class of 2007 for their well deserved success.

Types of Courses:

Health	59
Arts	47
Commerce	41
Science	34
Law	18
Creative Arts	15
Engineering	9
Arts/Commerce	7
Information Technology	3
Environments	3
Arts/Science	1
Architecture	1
Veterinary Science	1
Total	239

Universities:

Melbourne	108
Monash	92
RMIT	14
La Trobe	14
Swinburne	5
Deakin	4
Victoria	2
Total	239

The category Health includes:

Medicine	14
Pharmacy	14
Physiotherapy	13
Optometry	5
Pharmaceutical Sciences	4
Nutrition	3
Health Sciences	2
Occupational Therapy	2
Speech Pathology	1
Dentistry	1
Total	59

Irene Serpless, Careers Co-ordinator

Library and Information Literacy Induction

As part of the service offered by the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) all Year 9 students will spend an 'induction' day in the LRC. The planned timetable is as follows:

9F	Monday, 4 th February
9G	Tuesday, 5 th February
9H	Thursday, 7 th February
9I	Friday, 8 th February
9A	Monday, 11 th February
9B	Tuesday, 12 th February
9C	Wednesday, 13 th February
9D	Thursday, 14 th February
9E	Friday, 15 th February

Students are required to go to the library at the beginning of Period 1 on their allotted day. They need to bring pen, paper and their school diary. During this day students will be introduced to the skills and stages involved in research. These include

- **defining** the parameters of a research project
- **locating** a range of resources
- **selecting** the most appropriate resources for the task and audience
- **organising** and synthesising the selected information
- **presenting** the research in an effective manner with regard to the type of information, the audience and the purpose of the task
- **evaluating** the learning involved in the research process.

Breaking the research process into these stages provides students with an explicit framework which aids independent learning and provides students and teachers with a shared vocabulary to evaluate the research process. This is particularly pertinent, as Year 9 students will be undertaking an independent research project during the year. The process is also applicable to all subjects and year levels.

The induction will also include activities to ensure students are aware of, and able to access, the range of resources the library provides such as, books, periodicals, DVD's, AV equipment, online resources and the library website.

While the Mac.Rob LRC has an emphasis on supporting and enhancing teaching and learning, we also strongly encourage the school community to use our resources for recreational reading. We have an extensive collection of fiction books, CDs and magazines. To promote recreational reading we will be enrolling all Year 9 students in the Premier's Reading Challenge. During the induction day, we will be explaining this challenge to students and will be selecting Premier's Reading Challenge Form Captains.

More information as to how parents can support their daughter's participation in Premier's Reading Challenge will be forthcoming.

Army Cadet Leadership Courses

With the school year only beginning, the Army Cadet year has already begun!

Leadership courses were conducted throughout the holidays – for junior leaders, senior leaders and higher-ranked leaders. Cadets had the opportunity to do their courses at Melbourne High, Puckapunyal or with Ivanhoe Grammar – some even flew to South Australia in order to fit the course into their holiday plans! This gave all cadets the opportunity to meet other cadets from all over Victoria in a fun and always challenging environment.

All levels of leadership courses entailed theory and focused heavily on the practical aspects of leadership – whether it be leadership of 10 cadets, 40 cadets or up to 100 cadets!

All MHS/Mac.Rob cadets ended their courses with a component in the Mount Disappointment State Forest. Some of the highlights of this camp included fire-lighting competitions with wet wood, swimming across a lake with all your gear [spare clothes and sleeping bag included] wrapped in just one piece of plastic and navigating at night.

Promotions were announced for the Year 11 and 12s, with two Mac. Rob girls selected for prominent positions. **Jo See Tan** is now the Regimental Sergeant Major – in charge of the dress and drill of the entire MHS/Mac.Rob unit. **Bridget Pianta** was promoted to the highest position attainable by a cadet – as the Cadet Under Officer of Ramsay Company, the Year 9 recruits.



1st February, 2008

Within the next month, more Mac.Rob cadets are sure to be raised into positions of high responsibility. Others may choose to spend another year as a cadet attaining more advanced levels in subjects such as Navigation, Drill, First Aid and Field Engineering.

Year 9 Mac.Rob students are encouraged to join the MHS Army Cadet Unit. Home Trainings start on Monday, 18th February and a Recruit Training Day will be held on Friday, 22nd February with a Parent Information session held in the evening. Students on Year 9 camp will be catered for. For any enquiries about joining, feel free to contact **Colonel Colin Axup** at Melbourne High School.

Bridget Pianta, Mac.Rob Cadet 2008

YEAR 9 WELCOME BBQ RESCHEDULED

The Year 9 Welcome BBQ will now be held on

Sunday, 24th February
at the school

11.00am for information session provided by Mac.Rob staff
12 noon to 2.00pm for lunch provided by parents@macrob



This is an excellent chance to meet teachers, some of your daughter's new classmates and other parents.

A notice for parents about the new date for this BBQ was distributed to all Year 9 students this week. There is further information on this notice including a RSVP slip.

Forthcoming Events

Monday, 4th February - Friday, 8th February	Year 9A-E Camp
Tuesday, 5th February	Year 10ABCDE Morrisby assessment
Friday, 8th February	Year 10FGHI Morrisby assessment
Monday, 11th February - Friday, 15th February	Year 9F-I Camp

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