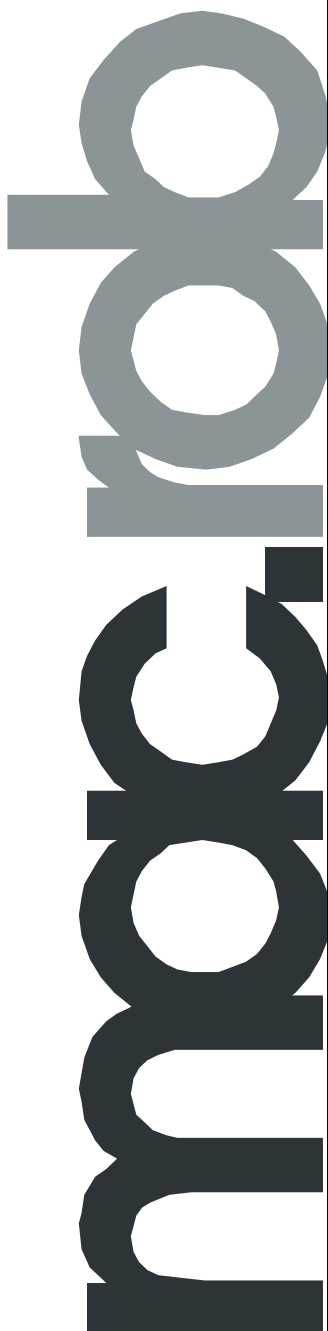


NEWSLETTER

Issue 2

8th February 2008



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Principal's Report

School Council Election – Call for Nominations

All government schools in Victoria are governed by a School Council which makes decisions about school policy within the framework of Education Department guidelines and monitors the performance of the school. It is the key policy making body of the school and provides parents with a say in the direction and oversight of its educational provision, school finances and the physical facilities. We need people who are interested in supporting the development of the school and all its programs to contribute to this Council, **so please consider nominating**. The Council meets nine times each year and the sub-committees, (currently Finance, Education, Property and Buildings and Promotion and Development), usually meet once between Council meetings. Each councillor is expected to contribute to the work of one of the sub-committees. Meetings are held at the school at a time decided by the Council itself. We also welcome community members who are not on the Council to join the sub-committees where a lot of the detailed work is done. Please consider if you can contribute to the school in this way. We know it is difficult to find time in busy lives but the school relies on the parents who volunteer for this important service.

Our School Council has six elected parent members and four elected staff members, each of whom is elected for a two year term; three co-opted community members, one of whom represents the Palladians (former students of the school), a student elected by the student body and a third community member, in addition to the principal who is the executive officer. Half the members retire each year and an election is held to fill their positions, so we have 3 parent vacancies and 2 Department of Education employee vacancies in this election. Parents who work for the Department of Education can nominate in either of these two categories, (but not in both).

This year five of our councillors are retiring because their daughters have finished Year 12 and this will create 2 casual parent vacancies of 1 year which will be filled at the co-option meeting of Council on 11/3/2008 along with the community positions which are filled by a student representative and a representative of the alumni association, the Palladians.

Our Council election process commences with this call for nominations which remains open for seven days and I would like to encourage all parents to consider nominating for the vacant positions. Nominations must be made on the correct nomination form (the forms are attached to this newsletter), there is a separate one for each category. There have been changes made to the process of nomination this year so that candidates for election can self nominate or be nominated by a person entitled to vote in that category. Seconders are no longer required for nominations to be valid. Completed nominations should be returned to **Noelene Smith** in the General Office by **4.00 pm Friday, 15th February**.

Key Dates:

Nominations Open –	08/02/2008
Nominations Close –	15/02/2008
List of candidates and nominators displayed –	18/02/2008
Ballot papers distributed with the newsletter (if more candidates than positions) –	22/02/2008
Close of Ballot –	29/02/2008
Vote Count –	03/03/2008
Declaration of ballot –	03/03/2008
First meeting of the new School Council (to finalise co options) – (prior to Annual Reporting Meeting of Council)	11/03/2008
Second meeting of new School Council	22/04/2008

Jane Garvey

2007 Japan Exchange Program

The 2007 Japan exchange is definitely one to remember. It provided seven Year 11 Mac.Rob students a once in a lifetime opportunity to discover the wonders of a new country as well as provide vital training for the Year 12 Japanese course. As we all boarded the flight to Japan on the 23rd November we were feeling very excited. The idea of taking a break from our own family for 3 weeks in Japan and being able to spend the first and last few days of the trip in Tokyo in a five star hotel was a dream

come true for many of us. The thought of seeing our exchange students or 'host sister' for the second and final time made us feel very excited but also sad. We were also hit with nervous anticipation about what would await some of us in a new and foreign country. Would we settle in to our new homes or experience difficulties? Would it be hard to communicate with students and host parents in Japanese or English? Would the idea of going to a Japanese school for two weeks make us feel in any way insecure and out of place? As these thoughts rushed into our heads, we boarded the flight eagerly without realising that when we came back in 3 weeks time, leaving Japan would make us feel far from eager.



I must say I cannot do full justice in explaining the wonders of the Japanese Exchange in half a page. Staying with our host families was a luxury and we were all very pampered. We also had the opportunity to live life like an average Japanese student which included going to school, participating in classes, club activities and some even accompanied their host sisters to cram school. During school time, we

participated in classes such as calligraphy and were under the care of many students who extended their kindness and caring in helping us to understand words and gladly helped out in any difficulties we had. On the weekends, we were taken sightseeing by our host families or experienced the Japanese student social life with our host sisters. I also had the rare opportunity to travel to Hiroshima with my host family by bullet train, and visited the sites affected by the 1945 bombing. It was truly remarkable and extremely confronting, but definitely an unforgettable experience. As a group along with **Mr Sawaki**, we visited historical cities such as Kyoto which features many temples, castles, shrines and traditional Japanese gardens. The exhilarating beauty of such sights was astounding, and viewing them face-to-face was simply breathtaking.



Throughout the three weeks our Japanese language progressed and improved, to the point where some of us started conversing in Japanese between ourselves! It is truly a pity that the three weeks raced by and we had to bid a tearful farewell to our extremely kind and generous host families and classmates at school. The Japan 2007 exchange has provided us with first hand experience of Japanese culture and customs, as well as an opportunity to improve our Japanese in preparation for Year 12. We extend our gratitude especially to our teacher, **Sawaki Sensei** who was an excellent teacher as well as companion throughout the trip and tirelessly accompanied us to all of our destinations and was always there to assist us in times of doubt and need. I would strongly recommend all Japanese students in Year 11 to take part in the Exchange, as words cannot describe the amount of fun we had.

Keerthi Ravi, Year 12

ATTENTION YEAR 10,11 and 12 PARENTS

Volunteers wanted to welcome new families to the school at the **Year 9 Welcome BBQ on Sunday, 24th February**. If you can help out with setting up, cooking and serving, clearing up or all of the above, between 9.00am and 3.00pm on the day please contact me on 0409 800 358 or email me at parents@macrob.vic.edu.au

Marian Bierenbroodspot (parents@macrob)



8th February 2008



INVITATION to NEW & CURRENT PARENTS

Parents@macrob would like to invite new and current parents to the first parents association meeting for the year on Tuesday, 19th February.

Parents@macrob provides a great opportunity to meet with other parents, as well as staff from the school. It is also a lovely way to be involved with your daughter's school. Meetings are held at 7.30pm in the Function Room (first floor of the gym building) on the

third Tuesday of each month.

Our first meeting will primarily be an introduction to parents@macrob and 'drinks and nibbles.' If you have any queries please contact me at parents@macrob.vic.edu.au

Marian Bierenbroodspot (parents@macrob)

French Exchange

Each year, our Year 10 and 11 students of French have the opportunity to participate in a Hosting and Exchange Program with our two sister schools in Paris and Bordeaux.

Students who participate agree to host and meet the daily costs associated with hosting the French students during their six week stay in Australia, and then return to the family of their host sister in France at the end of the year and spend six weeks there. Costs for the Exchange depend on whether the students go to Paris or Bordeaux. Students who exchange with Bordeaux students travel to Paris and spend six days in Paris seeing the sights (accompanied by a staff member) and then travel to Bordeaux where they spend five weeks.

Students interested in this Exchange program should meet **Ms Akins** in L202 at lunchtime on Friday, February 15th to find out further details.

STS Student Exchange Program

Mr Brian Curley from STS will speak to interested students on Thursday, February 21st at lunchtime in K206 about Exchange programs offered by the company. We have had a couple of students participating in exchanges with this company over the past couple of years and they have enjoyed the experience. If you are considering an Exchange, please attend this meeting to find out about further details.

Education Maintenance Allowance 2008

EMA applications are now available from **Mrs Baldock** in the Student Welfare Office.

The application needs to be returned to **Mrs Baldock**
with a photocopy of a **current Health Care Card attached.**

Applications for EMA are due by **Wednesday, 27th February.**

No late applications can be accepted.

Thank you.

Mrs G Baldock
Student Welfare Co-ordinator

Forthcoming Events

Monday, 11th February - Friday, 15th February	Year 9F-9I Camp
Tuesday, 19th February	School photo 'catch up'; day for students in Years 9A-E and those absent on Wednesday, 6th February. School Council Meeting, 6.00pm Parents' Association Meeting, 7.30pm
Friday, 22nd February	Year 10 immunisation and first round Gardasil for Year 9 and 10 students.
Sunday, 24th February	New Parents BBQ - 11.00am- 2.00pm (lunch provided).
Friday, 29th February	School Swimming Sports - MSAC (students dismissed at approximately 1.00pm).
Wednesday, 5th March	'Friends of Music' Meeting, 6.00pm.
Monday, 10th March	Labour Day holiday.
Tuesday, 11th March	School Council AGM.
Thursday, 13th March - Friday, 14th March	Grand Prix - student free days.
Thursday, 20th March	Last day - Term 1. Tour to Greece and Turkey commences.

8th February 2008

Schedule 4 Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of

The Mac.Robertson Girls' High School

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4 pm on **Friday, 15th February, 2008.**

PLEASE SUPPLY A STATEMENT IN NO MORE THAN 150 WORDS REASONS TO SUPPORT YOUR NOMINATION

The ballot will close at 4 pm on **Friday, 29th February 2008.**

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows –

Membership category	Term of office	Number of positions
Parent member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2008 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2010	3
DEECD employee member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2008 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2010.	2

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.



Jane Garvey
Principal

School Council Elections

Schedule 5A Self-Nomination Form for Parent Member Category

I wish to declare my candidacy for an elected position as a parent/guardian representative on

The Mac.Robertson Girls' High School Council

Name.....

Residential address

.....

Home phone:

Business phone:

Email:

I am the parent/guardian of, who is/are currently enrolled at this school.

I am an employee of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development:

Yes / No (please circle)

I accept the nomination and I am prepared to serve as a Parent member of the above named school council. I hereby declare that I am not an undischarged bankrupt and that I am not currently serving a sentence for an indictable offence.

Signature of Candidate: Date:

You will be notified when your nomination has been received.

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School Council Elections

Schedule 5B Nomination Form for Parent Member Category

I wish to nominate for an elected position as a parent/guardian representative on

The Mac.Robertson Girls' High School Council

Name:

Residential address:.....

.....

Home phone:

Business phone:.....

Email:

I am the parent/guardian of, who is/are currently enrolled at this school.

The person I have nominated is the parent/guardian of, who is/are currently enrolled at this school.

The person I have nominated is an employee of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development:

Yes / No (please circle)

Signature of Nominator:

Date:

Candidate to complete

I am prepared to serve as a Parent member of the above named school council. I hereby declare that I am not an undischarged bankrupt and that I am not currently serving a sentence for an indictable offence.

Signature of Candidate:

Date:

You will be notified when your nomination has been received.