

Principal's Report

Year 9 Camps



The two Year 9 camps, one for each half of the year level, were again held at Valley Homestead near Myrtleford and once again they provided the girls with challenging experiences both physically and mentally and created the ideal context for them to get to know each other and form friendship bonds. Each camp is a whole week in this beautiful bush setting and offers a significant opportunity to introduce the students to our Mac.Rob culture of encouragement and support. The activities extend into the evenings as well as the day and offer variety and fun. This year there was also the novel experience of battling on through heavy rain! The talent quest on the final night demonstrated how far the groups had developed through the week and how well all the students got on together. This year I joined them on Thursday and Friday of the first camp and Monday /Tuesday of the second and enjoyed the weekend in the bush. It cannot be overestimated how important this camp is in establishing the relationships which are so crucial to our learning community and I was very pleased to see the girls throwing themselves into the activities and enjoying themselves. This is a demanding camp for staff members who spend the week away from their families, engage in a range of physical activities and are on duty 24 hours of the day so I would like to thank **Ms Michelle Pride, Year 9 Coordinator** and **Bronwyn Moline, Head of Middle School** especially, for their overall responsibility and organisation for the camps and each of the teachers who worked with them so effectively.

Making the Most of Monash

Monash University last week ran a special orientation program under the aegis of **Professor Adam Shoemaker, Deputy Vice Chancellor Education**, for the 200+ 2007 Year 12 students of both **Melbourne High School** and **Mac.Robertson Girls' High School** who are starting at the university this year. The students were given information sessions and some lectures from distinguished academics which emphasised the need for deep questions and linking of ideas, besides being very entertaining. A number of former students of the school who are already undergraduates also conducted an information session and the **Principal of MHS Jeremy Ludowyke** and I also addressed the students. This was the first year this has been done and was very successful.

Jane Garvey

macrob

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School Council Election Ballot Papers

Ballot papers and candidate statements for the School Council election are being sent home as part of this week's newsletter. There are two ballot papers, one for each parent or guardian, and four envelopes attached to the newsletter. Please read the following instructions to ensure that your vote is valid.

Voters must cast their vote by mail or hand deliver their vote. Each voter must complete a ballot paper by placing a mark next to the name of each candidate standing for election for whom the voter wishes to vote, up to the number of vacancies available.

Postal voting and hand delivered votes:

To cast a vote, the voter must:

- * place the completed ballot paper in a blank envelope and place the blank envelope in a second envelope with the voter's name and address printed on the back of the second outer envelope. The voter must mail or deliver the envelope so that it **reaches the Principal by 4.00 pm** on the day of the **closure of the ballot**, which is **Friday 29th February 2008** or
- * deliver, or arrange delivery of the completed ballot paper to the school between the hours of 8.00 am and 4.00 pm on any school day up to and including the day fixed for the closure of the ballot, and place the completed ballot paper in a blank envelope and place the blank envelope in another envelope with the voter's name and address written on it and deliver the envelope to the person authorised to receive and register the votes (**Mrs Noelene Smith** in the General Office) ; **or**
- * place the blank envelope in the ballot box provided in the General Office and print the voter's name and address in the register of voters.

Careers:

Careers Newsletter

Every fortnight an extended version of the Careers News is placed on the school intranet. It contains information about Open Days and information sessions, careers, seminars and so on. The first volume has been posted and contains information about the UMAT, nursing, workplace rights, internet sites and more

Parent Career Development Lectures

An invitation to attend a series of lectures for parents hosted by the Inner Melbourne VET Cluster, of which Mac.Rob is a member, is attached to this newsletter. Bookings are via the website www.imvc.com.au or by ringing 9686 2354

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Marsha Illinova** who completed Year 12 in 2007. **Marsha** was the recipient of the Mary-Jane Lewis Scholarship for 2007. The scholarship, provided by Melbourne University, is worth \$10,000 a year over the course of her degree. **Marsha** was the one and only recipient in the State. It is based on academic achievement, an interview and a written application.

The University of Melbourne is hosting 'Access All Areas' an on campus event in March and July, offering students and parents in Years 10-12 the opportunity to visit the university. The day long program offers campus tours and two detailed study information sessions.

Registration is now open on www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/about/meetstaff/vic/allareas

Irene Serpless, Careers Advisor

The Singapore International Mathematics Challenge 2008

The Mac.Robertson Girls' High School has been invited to participate in the inaugural Singapore International Mathematics Challenge (SIMC) organised by the National University of Singapore High School of Mathematics and Science.

SIMC 2008 is an international mathematics event that provides opportunities to fuel students' interest in mathematics and spur them to reach for greater heights. The event aims to bring together bright mathematics students from around the world to pit their skills in a rigorous competition where they will demonstrate their creativity and mathematical skills through a mathematical modelling challenge.

We have been invited to nominate 3 students to participate in this event. A mathematics teacher will accompany the students, as well as **Ms Garvey**. The event runs from the 20th – 24th May 2008.

Whilst accommodation, all meals, local transport and hospitality are provided, students will need to pay for their own return airfare to Singapore. It is anticipated that we will leave Melbourne on Sunday 19th May and return on Sunday 25th May. At this point we are asking that all interested and talented Maths students from Years 9 to 12 please see **Ms Chandler** for further details of the program.

22nd February 2008

Leadership News - REACH Workshop Day!

On Wednesday February 6th, we attended a Reach Leadership Workshop at the Reach Dreamfactory in Collingwood. The day started with loud music, laughter and new faces, including the Reach crew who were enthusiastic and supportive facilitators.

As the day wore on, our group of eighty students from all over Melbourne explored themes surrounding leadership and leadership qualities. The main discussion topics included authenticity, acting despite judgement, coming out of comfort zones, and delivering under pressure. The support we provided to each other created confidence and pursuit of further involvement. Throughout the workshop, we experienced an emotional rollercoaster ranging from fear to inspiration.

We strongly recommend anyone who wants to meet like-minded leaders, become involved, and work on leadership skills to grasp the opportunity of experiencing REACH! This unique experience is truly valuable for both current and future leaders.

For more information visit www.reach.org.au or www.myspace.com/wearereach.

And check the school bulletin notices for opportunities.

Ishara Fernando, Genevieve Stewart, Sindhu Parthasarathy, Nikita Matchado, Saskia Solopotias and Nicola Kahlberg - REACH Leadership Workshop Participants

Co-curricular Sport Program in 2008

The Co-curricular Sport Program at Mac.Rob is structured around the VSSSA competitions. Teams representing a wide variety of sports compete at District level to earn the right to represent Yarra District in the Northern Zone Competitions. Teams that win at this level then will compete in the State Championships. The nature of this program makes it imperative that this school enters the best available team. To overcome the difficulty of allowing greater participation some sport coaches permit more than one team to be entered at the District level of competition. Wherever practicable, attempts are made to include student involvement in other sport programs as well as that provided by the VSSSA. The other feature of the Sport program is the Adelaide Exchange which will take place in Adelaide from the 3rd of August until the 6th of August.

This term teams will be competing in the sports of Cricket, Tennis, Softball and Volleyball. Also, an opportunity has been provided for students to participate in a Rowing program run by the YWCA Rowing Club and participation in a Taekwondo program has been programmed to commence in Term Two. The Inter-house Swimming Sports will take place at MSAC [note the change in venue] on **Friday 29th February**.

Senior Cricket Team Will Represent Yarra District

The senior cricket team has defeated Melbourne Girls` College and University High School and will now compete in the Northern Zone Competitions. Melbourne Girls batted first and were dismissed for 92 runs. All was not well after 2 overs with 4 dropped catches and balls frequently reaching the boundary and beyond. With 60 runs on the board **Akshita Sundaresh** took the vital wicket and soon the rest of the team was dismissed for 92 runs. All the bowlers took wickets but notably **Akshita Sundaresh, Amanda Jenkins** and **Debra Loughnan**. Mac.Rob opened with a flourish with **Debra Loughnan** and **Ayanthi Weerasooriya** frequently dispatching the ball to the boundary. Mac.Rob was able to reach the required total after 13 overs. All of the batswomen performed creditably with **Debra Loughnan** top scoring with 18 runs and all of the team are commended for their ground fielding. University High School batted first and they were dismissed for 25 runs within 10 overs. All of the bowlers were successful but notably **Vidhya Uddaiyar** who took 4 wickets for 5 runs. A highlight of this match was a brilliant catch taken by **Claire Mc Dermott**. Mac. Rob was able to pass this total after 2 overs, with **Debra Loughnan** scoring 24 not out.

Russell Webber, Sports Co-ordinator

Free Therapy to Treat Student Phobias

Do you know a child/adolescent really fearful of something such as spiders, dogs, school or water? So fearful that they will avoid certain situations? A FREE study is currently being carried out at Monash University using new, time efficient psychological therapy to treat phobias within youth. If you think a youth might benefit from this research and would like more information on this study, please contact **Natalie Flatt** on 99052958, 0400 400 339 or natalie.flatt@med.monash.edu.au.

Asthma Action Plans



As your children head back to the classroom this month we are encouraging parents to make sure that your school is provided with an up-to-date Asthma Action Plan. An Asthma Action Plan assists your school in caring for your child as it provides detailed information on how to manage your child's asthma. This plan should:

- Be completed by the student's parent/guardian in consultation with the student's doctor
- Outline how to care for day-to-day asthma (listing normal medications that have been prescribed and how often they should be taken)
- List key symptoms or special features that indicate the student's asthma could be worsening or an 'asthma attack' is developing and the steps that should be taken to manage it
- List symptoms that are serious enough to need urgent medical assistance (i.e. ambulance)
- List the Asthma First Aid procedure for an asthma emergency
- List the name and contact number of the parent/guardian, emergency contact and student's doctor
- Be easily accessible for all school staff
- Be updated annually or when a student's asthma changes significantly.

If an Asthma Action Plan is not provided, school staff will follow the Victorian Schools Asthma Policy 2006 for Asthma First Aid, which is a standard national asthma first aid protocol.

For a copy of a School Asthma Action Plan or further information, please call the Asthma Telephone HelpLine on 1800 645 130 or visit The Asthma Foundation of Victoria's website www.asthma.org.au or www.asthmafriendlyschools.com.au

Forthcoming Events

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.
Wednesday, 19th March	Unveiling of Donors' Plaque for New Grand Piano at 2.15pm.
Thursday, 20th March	Last day - Term 1. Students dismissed at 2.20pm. Tour to Greece and Turkey commences.

PARENT CAREER DEVELOPMENT LECTURES

HURRY!
Limited
places

The Inner Melbourne VET Cluster (IMVC) will host a series of six parent career development lectures across the inner Melbourne region in 2008. We recognise the critical contribution that parents make in assisting their young people towards making successful career and transition choices. The Parent Career Development lectures aim to explore the concept of career development for young people while showcasing labour market trends and pathway opportunities in specific industry areas.

Lectures are conducted in the evenings.



For bookings go to www.imvc.com.au and click on the parents tab
OR call IMVC on 9686 2354

LECTURE	VENUE	DATE OF LECTURE	CLOSING DATE FOR BOOKINGS
Career Development & the Legal Industry	The Academy of Immaculate Mary	May 21	April 30
Career Development & the Medical Industry	Kew High School	May 28	May 2
Career Development & Engineering Perspectives	Camberwell Grammar School	June 18	May 23
Career Development & Student Transitions Forum	Canterbury Girls Secondary College	July 14	June 13
Career Development in the Automotive Industry	Kangan Batman TAFE – Docklands Campus	July 21	June 27
Career Development & the Transport and Logistics Industry	The Jasper Hotel	August 11	July 25



An Australian Government Initiative



CONNECT TO
YOUR FUTURE
Career Advice Australia



Nominee Statements for Parent Member Category, School Council

Mr Shyam Das

Effective education of our children is of paramount importance to all of us. Working actively in the development of a school has always been of immense interest to me. I have served as a School Councillor for several years in both private and public schools including The Mac.Robertson Girls; High School. I have also been an active member of PFA's for a number of years. Given the opportunity, I will contribute positively to the school's development through the Council and its sub-committees.

Mr Frank Rog

I believe that children are our future and that the students who are privileged to study in the stimulating environment at Mac Robertson have an important leadership role in shaping our future society.

As Executive Director of Human Resources at The Royal Children's Hospital I have a broad range of strategic HR responsibilities including ensuring effective learning and development opportunities are provided for all staff. I believe that I can add value to the School Council at Mac.Rob by contributing to the continuing success of this exceptional school and the ongoing enhanced development of all stakeholders.

I have been actively involved in my local community through a variety of local networks, including sporting and service organisations. The skills, commitment, dedication and contribution I have demonstrated to these organisations will ensure that I add value to the role of school councillor at Mac.Robertson if I am ultimately successful in the election process.

Ms Ruth Healy

During my daughter's time in primary school I was privileged to serve four years on School Council, two as vice president. In addition I was involved in several sub-committees at the school.

I appreciate the opportunity this provided in enabling me to become involved in my daughter's education at a different level, while at the same time giving something back to the school.

I am a registered nurse with qualifications in both paediatrics and renal. In my work in paediatrics, I worked mostly with adolescents and developed a healthy respect for the young people in my care.

As for myself, I am a single parent and understand the complications life can present to families and also the joys.

I would appreciate the opportunity to be further involved in school council as my daughter progresses through her secondary education and to be able to contribute to the Mac.Rob community.

Dr Chris McAuliffe

I am nominating for School Council because I believe strongly that high quality public education must be supported by an imaginative engagement with contemporary culture, changing education policy and funding challenges.

My background in arts and education gives me extensive experience in:

- the tertiary education sector; including participation in the development of the new Melbourne Model degrees
- policy and administration, including a term as a Trustee of the National Gallery of Victoria,
- cultural and community policy, including membership of the Vicurban Public Art Committee
- fundraising, sponsorship and supporter management
- media, communications and publishing

I work for the University of Melbourne as the Director of the Ian Potter Museum of Art and am also a regular presenter for ABC TV's 'Sunday Arts'. My educational qualifications include an MA (Melbourne) and PhD (Harvard).

Ms Pattie Beerens

With a commitment to supporting women into leadership positions in Australia and a daughter having just started at Mac.Rob, I would be pleased to serve on the School Council.

My formative high school years were spent at St Aloysious College in North Melbourne. I was then accepted into a combined Law and Commerce degree at the University of Melbourne, Since then, I have never looked back.

After practicing as a commercial lawyer in Melbourne, I took on senior management roles in retail and strategy with McEwans, Coles Myer, Fauldings and Mayne. At present I am actively involved in representing the interests of member associations in the private health sector to the Federal Government.

Importantly, with the support of my husband Alan, I also enjoy a full and active family life with our children and dog.

**BALLOT PAPER for the SCHOOL COUNCIL OF
THE MAC.ROBERTSON GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL**

PARENTS

Vote using this ballot paper if you are a **parent** of a student at the school, **unless** you are a DEECD employee who is working at and for the school.

There are 3 vacancies to be filled. Therefore, you may mark up to 3 boxes.		Candidates nominated for election to the Parent member category
		Mr Shyam Das
		Mr Frank Rog
		Ms Ruth Healy
		Dr Chris McAuliffe
		Ms Pattie Beerens

**YOUR VOTE WILL BE INVALID IF YOU
VOTE FOR MORE CANDIDATES
THAN THE NUMBER OF VACANCIES
TO BE FILLED.**

To register your vote, you must place the completed ballot paper in a blank envelope; then -

- (a) place the blank envelope in a second envelope that has your name, address and signature on the back of it and post it to the principal in sufficient time for it to reach the principal by **4pm on Friday, 29th February 2008**, the closing date of the ballot, or deliver the envelope by hand to the school on any school day between 8am and 4pm up to the closing date; or
- (b) attend the school, on any school day between 8 am and 4 pm up to the closing date, and place the blank envelope containing your ballot into the ballot box and print your name and address on the register of voters.

**The Mac.Robertson Girls' High School
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