



NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL NEWS

The spread of the H1N1 influenza virus has been occupying our thoughts over the last week or so, especially with VCE examinations imminent. I hope everyone got the letter we distributed last Friday to families containing advice to schools on containing the disease. The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority which conducts the examinations has asked schools to let students and parents know that the examinations will proceed as normal. The Head of the Senior School, **Mrs Christine Kelly**, who has been in contact with the VCAA this morning, will communicate with all VCE students about the latest advice from the VCAA via email today and students should read this carefully.

We were very interested to find that Melbourne High School was closed on Monday and expected to reopen on Thursday due to a number of H1N1 flu infections, because there is always a fair bit of contact between students of our two schools. Fortunately most of the joint activities like 'Beauty and the Beast' occurred before the key period for infection. With the government moving from the 'contain' phase to the 'sustain' phase in managing the spread of the virus, it is unlikely that schools will be closed in the coming weeks but families should seek medical advice and keep students who experience flu symptoms, either of the normal seasonal type or the N1H1 at home, especially in the lead up to the VCAA midyear and GAT examinations next week.

We have learned that Melbourne High School communicated the news of its closure to families via email as the decision was taken during the weekend. All Mac.Rob students have a school email account and if it became necessary to inform the community of any development out of school hours, we would send information in this way. Teachers and coordinators already communicate with students via their email so all students should check their accounts regularly throughout the year as a matter of course. So that there is no confusion, I am referring to students' individual school email accounts, not 'my messages' on e-workspace. Hopefully, the need for this form of communication in case of crisis will not be necessary. I hope all our students taking Unit 3 examinations and the GAT next week can remain calm, purposeful and in good health in the lead up to the exams and I wish them well.

Jane Garvey

SPORTS NEWS

Mac.Rob Sport Teams win Yarra District Competitions.

Senior Teams competed recently in Yarra District Competitions in the Sports of Badminton, Soccer, Netball, Basketball, Hockey, Squash and Table Tennis. Many of these teams were successful and will compete in the Northern Zone Competitions on June 25th and 26th 2009. The exception is the squash team for which there is no Northern Zone Competition. This team will compete in the State Championships to be held in term 3. The Badminton and Basketball teams had a comfortable win against Melbourne Girls' College in the final, as did the Hockey and Table Tennis teams. The hockey team won by 14 goals to nil with **Caitlin Campbell** scoring 6 goals and outstanding contributions from **Vidhya Uddaiyar**, **Dan Morrison** and **Olivia Rog**. The Soccer and Netball Teams were defeated by Melbourne Girls' College in the final of their competitions.

The Intermediate Badminton, Soccer and Netball teams competed in the Yarra District Competitions last week. The Badminton Team easily accounted for all other teams and the Netball and Soccer Teams were defeated in closely contested finals.

The Intermediate Softball Team competed recently in the State Finals competitions.

They were unable to win any matches however each of their games were closely contested. A special thank you to **Mr Russell** for his contributions toward the success of this team



VCE News - June

The VCE examination period:

This Friday (June 5) marks the end of VCE Semester 1, for Unit 1 and Unit 3 studies. Next week examinations are being held in a number of VCE Unit 3 subjects (timetable below). The new Semester begins on Monday June 15.

A summary of important VCE dates:

June 5	End of Semester 1
June 8	Queens Birthday holiday.
June 9	Unit 3 examinations. No VCE classes.
June 10	Unit 3 examinations. No VCE classes.
June 11	General Achievement Test. No VCE classes.
June 12	Report Writing Day – students do not attend.
June 15	Start Semester 2 Normal VCE classes resume. Students changing course should begin new subjects this day.
June 16	'Regeneration Day' for all Year 12 students

The 2009 June Examination Timetable:

Each examination commences with a 15-minute reading period which is included in the times shown in the timetable.

Tuesday 9 June	9:00 am – 10:45 am Biology Exam 1	11:45 am – 1:30 pm Physics Exam 1	2:45 pm – 4:30 pm Accounting Exam 1
Wednesday 10 June	9:00 am = 10:45 am Psychology Exam 1	11:45 am = 1:30 pm Chemistry Exam 1	2:45 pm = 4:30 pm Environmental Science Exam 1
Thursday 11 June	10:00 am – 1:15 pm General Achievement Test (GAT)		

Please note:

- All June examinations are conducted at MacRob. Room allocation will be posted on the noticeboard close to the Senior School Office, and will also be emailed to all students prior to the exams.
- Year 11 students (and a small number of Year 10 students) are not required to wear school uniform, but must conform to the non-uniform Dress Code published in the VCE Student Guide.
- Any student experiencing illness or any other factor which might affect performance or ability to attend an examination should contact **Mrs Kelly**, Head of Senior School, on these numbers:
School hours: 9864 7770
After hours: 0438 404 867
- Lateness to exams – PLEASE DON'T BE!!!!!!!** There are special rules which apply to late arrival which have been explained to all students.

If you are caught in situations beyond your control please call either **Mrs Kelly**, or the general school number: 9820 0788.

The General Achievement Test

All students currently studying any Unit 3/4 VCE study are required by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) to sit the three hour General Achievement Test on Thursday 11 June. Further information on the GAT is available on the VCAA website:

<http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/vce/exams/gat/aboutgat.html>

We advise all students, but especially those currently in Year 11, to read over past GAT papers. The General Achievement Test is used by the VCAA for a number of purposes, including statistical moderation of school assessed coursework in Unit 3/4 studies, and in assisting the calculation of derived examination scores for students whose exam performance is seriously affected by illness or other unexpected events.

Exam briefing

All Year 11 and 12 students, plus a small number of Year 10 students taking a Unit 3/4 study received an examination guide booklet (*VCE Exams Navigator 09*), and an exam briefing from **Mr Dean Allan**, VCE Co-ordinator, on May 18. The *Exams Navigator* contains:

- the full 2009 exam periods timetables
- examination rules
- use of calculators
- approved exam materials and equipment for each study
- information on performance and oral examinations
- information about the GAT
- information about forms of assistance for students experiencing serious problems during the exam periods

Spare copies of the *Navigator* are available from the bench outside the Senior School Office. It can also be downloaded from <http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/vce/exams/timetable.html#H2N10569>

For students who do not have a Unit 3 examination

No VCE classes at all will be held for Years 11 and 12 on Tuesday 9th, Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th June. Normal classes resume with the start of Semester 2 on Monday 15th June.

Students who do not have examinations in this block are expected to use the time to:

- catch up on all of those tasks which have been put aside as 'not urgent'
- develop summaries of work covered to this point, and which will be examined at the end of the year
- prepare for Semester 2.

Possible impact of swine flu on the examination period

The VCAA advises the following:

All scheduled June VCE examinations and the General Achievement Test (GAT) are planned to proceed.

Concerned parents and students should seek advice from their schools (that is – MacRob!)

Special Examination Arrangements (SEA) and the Derived Examination Score (DES), including group applications will be available for the June examinations.

Schools will be informed immediately if the situation changes.

Course changes in Semester 2 – Year 11 only

Applications for a course change have closed. Semester 2 course changes will be confirmed next week. We are hopeful of meeting all requests, but please note that no new classes will be added for Semester 2.

Students should begin new subjects on Monday 15th June. Parents – please be aware that students may need to purchase a textbook for the new study.

Year 12 'Regeneration Day', Tuesday 16th June

All Year 12 students will attend a very valuable program on this day. The time after the mid year exams has traditionally been a rather flat period in which many students find it very difficult to get back into study, so we are hoping to reverse this! Mark Dobson will be the main presenter on this day.

Careers

Monash Scholarship Winners

Monash University has emailed news of our Year 12 2008 students who have been successful in gaining scholarships. They wrote,

“There were in total 12 scholarship winners from Mac.Robertson Girls High School, an amazing achievement for the school and your girls in particular. They were,

Monash University Scholarship for Excellence*
Amanda Tan

Monash University Scholarship for Excellence and Equity

Christine Demiris
Jenny Phong
Nicole Radzaj
Katherine Tan
Rebecca Dang
Uyen Thy Nguyen
Sophie Tran
Lian Peng Yee

Monash University Science Scholarship
Maria Selvadurai

Monash University Merit Scholarship
Keshinie Rasaratnam
Sophia Fan

Congratulations to all the girls.

Changes to Youth Allowance @ Impact on a GAP Year

The Rudd Government has introduced a package of reforms to student income support to respond to the recommendations and findings of the **Bradley Review of Australian Higher Education**. The package of reforms to student income support aims to increase access to, and better target, support for students who need it most and will be introduced from 1 January 2010.

A number of reforms are to be introduced and details can be found at the links on the following page.

One major change to be introduced is the eligibility to apply for, and receive **independent Youth Allowance**

Current Criteria	Criteria from 2010
Work part-time, at least 15 hours a week	Work on average 30 hours per week
Work for at least two years since leaving	Work for at least 18 months – 2 years
Earned in 18 months about \$19,532	

So, from 2010, students will have to demonstrate employment of at least 30 hours per week for at least 18 months during any period of two years, in recognition that young people who have established this work pattern are no longer financially dependent on their parents.

The tightening of the workforce participation criteria for independence under **Youth Allowance** and **ABSTUDY** has been introduced to target assistance more effectively to students from low-income backgrounds.

Find out more @ <http://www.deewr.gov.au/HigherEducation/Pages/TransformingAustraliasHESystem.aspx>



Information Evenings @ National Institute of Dramatic Art

Are you interested in studying at the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) in 2010 or in the future? Are you considering a career in the Arts/Entertainment industry?

If so, don't miss an opportunity to learn more about NIDA's full-time undergraduate and postgraduate courses. Attend an **Information Evening** where a member of the teaching staff at NIDA will speak and answer questions about the *course content, the application process and studying at NIDA*.

When: Tuesday 9 June
Time: 7:30pm – 9pm

Where: ACMI Federation Square, Cinema 2

Registration is essential! To register your attendance, visit <http://www.nida.edu.au/info-evening>. For any other enquiries, please contact Priscilla Hunt on (02) 9697 7564 or email marketing@nida.edu.au

Ms Irene Serpless
Careers



HOYTS
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SUPER SAVER

MOVIE PASS PACKS

SAVE UP TO A MASSIVE 32% (= \$26) ON REGULAR PRICES PER PACK !!

HURRY!

Please support this fundraiser by returning your order to the General Office by Wednesday 10 June

MY ORDER

.....MOVIE LOVER PACK/S

.....CHILD FUN PACK/SBARGAIN PACK/S

Please pay by cash or cheque to MacRobertson Girls' High School. I HAVE ENCLOSED \$..... to cover the cost of my purchase.

NAME..... CLASS:.....

NUMBER/S.....



Fundraising for your group?
Visit www.easyrun.com.au for more info

5 ADULT PASSES
Unrestricted and valid for a full 9 months!
ONLY \$69
(Regular Adult box office price is \$80)

5 CHILD PASSES
Unrestricted and valid for a full 9 months!
ONLY \$54
(Regular Child box office price is \$57.50)

5 MON-THURS PASSES
For Adult, Student, Concession or Child admission Mon-Thurs and valid for a full 9 months
ONLY \$54
(Regular Adult box office price is \$80)

*Each pass may be exchanged at the box office for one admission. Child passes valid for 15 years of age and younger. (Passes can now also be redeemed for both Xtreme screen & The Hallpipe)

HOYTS MOVIE TICKETS

As a major fundraiser for Friends of Music, Hoyts booklets consisting of 5 movie tickets are available to be purchased at fantastic discounted prices.

In order to take up this great offer, forms can be obtained from the school newsletter (above), or collected from the Music Office.

Payment and forms need to be handed into the General Office. For further enquiries contact **Jenny Pedler** on **9864 7730**.

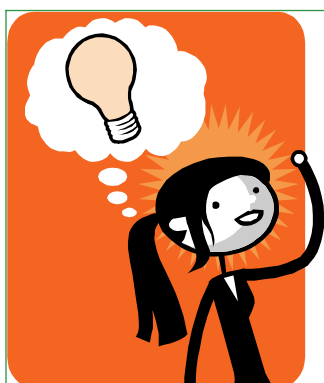
The closing date for orders is **Wednesday 10 June**. Purchased tickets will be available for collection from the Music Office at the end of Term 2.

Ms Jenny Pedler
Music Secretary

SMALL GRANTS 2009 – A Parents' Association Initiative
Ends 26 June, 2009

Dear brilliant Mac.Robians — Yes, Students AND Teachers!!!

Did you miss out on a Mac.Rob Activity?
Or can you think of a new one?



For Example:

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 –
Bring new experiences of learning – something you did not get to do because of it not being available

Involve additional exploration of knowledge – e.g. through attending external events and conferences

Extend participation by students, teachers and parents

Will not become operational without this assistance

Please download application forms and detailed criteria from the Parents Association web-site.

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

4.) Submit the application to the General Office by Friday 26 June

Forthcoming Events

Term 2

2009



Week 8:

Monday 8 June

Queens Birthday Public Holiday

Tuesday 9—Wednesday 10 June

Year 12 Mid Year Exams

Thursday 11 June

GAT

Friday 12 June

Student Free Day—No School

Semester 1 Concludes

Saturday 13 June

Year 9 Entrance Exam for 2010—Royal Exhibition Building and Royal Melbourne Showgrounds

Week 9: Semester 2 Commences

Monday 15—Friday 19 June

Environment Week

Tuesday 16 June

Year 12 Regeneration Day

School Council Meeting 6.30 pm

Parent Association Meeting 7.30 pm

Mezzanine

Week 10:

Monday 22 June

Shortened day for report collation—Students dismissed 1.10 pm

Tuesday 23 June

English Writing Competition

Soloists Music Recital, Theatre 5—7 pm

Friday 26 June

Last Day Term 2—students dismissed 2.30 pm

Week 1: Term 3

Monday 13 July

Term 3 Commences

Whole School Assembly

Wednesday 15 July

Year 10 English Macbeth Presentation 8.30 am Theatre

Thursday 16 July

Year 9 English Presentation Romeo and Juliet 8.30 am Theatre

Friday 17 July

Year 12 Formal