Welcome to the 2013 school year! I am confident this is going to be another productive and successful year at Macquarie Fields High School. Our teaching staff is comprised of committed professionals who work hard to ensure the best possible learning outcomes for the students in their care. They are supported by a highly efficient ancillary team who will are skilled approachable. We are indeed fortunate that the parents of our students take their role as parents seriously and as a matter of course, ensure their children arrive at school each day in full uniform and work closely with their child’s teachers. As a Principal, I cannot ask for more!

2012 Higher School Certificate
I am extremely pleased to report that our 2012 HSC results were the best the school has attained for several years and this is due to the hard work and dedication of both students and staff. We have had very positive media coverage and even reached the dizzy heights of being in the Top 100. What an achievement!

I would like to congratulate all the students in our Year 12, 2012 and wish them all the best for the future, whatever it may bring. Special congratulations are extended to: Gabrielle Tran, who achieved an ATAR of 99.55 and was Dux of Year 12. Congratulations also to: Natalie Kambouris, Rhonda Pham, Sean So, Eteri Tautua, Guarav Anturkar, Louis Tieu, Romario Nguyen, Royce Zhou, Merna Atia, Michelle Zhang, Vincent Tran, Christine Yang, Jeffrey Wang, Sally Vuong, Brendon Ng, Lauren Pearce, Kelvin Nguyen, Himadri Bhakta and Tyson Keen who were amongst the many students with outstanding results.

Lauren Pearce was also awarded a Future Directions Scholarship which provides mentoring support plus $6,000 per annum over three years! Well done, Lauren. This is an outstanding achievement!

I would also like to thank the outgoing school Captains and Vice Captains for their outstanding leadership: Maejoy Obach, Tyson Keen, Sherene Nararyan and Himadri Bhakta

Welcome to our New Staff
We have a number of new staff joining us this year, particularly in Science, where we had a number of retirements! Welcome to: Mr N. Antony, Learning & Support (new position), Ms S. Sullivan, History (replacing Ms Lyndon), Mr M. Smallman, Science (replacing Mrs Monk), Mr A. Ali, Science (replacing Mr Davies), Dr S. Thayagaran, Mathematics, (replacing Ms Kok), Ms B. Poore, Mathematics (replacing Mr Simmonds) and Mrs R Harper.
I hope all our new teachers enjoy their time here at Macquarie Fields.

Other Staffing Matters
Mr Tishler, our Deputy Principal, is taking some well-deserved leave this term and will be replaced by Mr Ralston. Mr Perrett is DP undertaking special projects relating to curriculum and assessment and Mr Ninopoulos is Relieving Head Teacher, PDHPE. Mrs Ferris is Relieving Head Teacher, Science, following Mr Pollock’s long term leave prior to his retirement later in the year.

Parent Support for Students and the School
Thank you to all our parents. Your ongoing support is demonstrated on a daily basis when you send your son or daughter to school ready to learn, in full school uniform, including black leather lace up school shoes, with all books and equipment. On the subject of shoes, I have included in this newsletter, an information sheet which outlines acceptable footwear and also shows footwear that is unacceptable at school for safety reasons. Our students use laboratories, workshops, kitchens and art rooms and must, of necessity, have the correct footwear. These practical areas mirror those available in industry and the same work, health and safety requirements apply. If you have any questions about correct footwear, please contact Mr Ralston who is relieving Deputy Principal during Term 1 whilst Mr Tishler is on leave.

School Fees and Contributions
Parents would by now have received information about the fees and contributions for 2013. Thank you to all those parents who have paid these funds already. I would ask that those families with outstanding fees please make an attempt to pay any outstanding amount or arrange a payment plan. Please remember that fees can be paid in instalments throughout the year. Families in receipt of Family Tax Benefit A would have received a generous Schoolkids Bonus from the Federal Government of $820 for each secondary student, paid in 2 instalments. This money is paid directly to parents for school fees and costs associated with sending your child to school, including uniform and shoes. Parents facing additional financial hardship beyond that or those who do not qualify for Family Tax Benefit A, can apply for some of the very limited Student Assistance funding. This form is available from the front office. The Schoolkids Bonus has already been paid directly to families. I have included information about this Bonus in this newsletter.

Please note: If your child has chosen an elective course with fees and consumables, these fees must be paid.

P&C at MFHS
I would like to thank the P&C Association for their generous support of our school over many years but particularly for their donation of close to $20,000 which was used to purchase blinds for most of the classroom windows. This allows for easier viewing of projector screens and greater comfort in the warmer weather.

The P&C relies heavily on the P&C contribution which most parents are happy to support. I would like to thank all those parents contribute in this way.

P&C Meeting
The first P&C meeting for 2013 will be held in the Principal's Meeting Room on Monday 18 February, commencing at 7.30pm. On behalf of the P&C, I would like to invite any parent who would like to join us on the night, to do so, particularly the parents of our new Year 7 students.

Mrs J Dolstra
Principal
The Wide World of Social Science 2013

2012 was another great year for the school's Social Science faculty. Our HSC results were excellent with students achieving 23 Band Sixes, Gabrielle Tran placing 5th in Economics the State and all of our subjects placing +3 to +6 above the State averages. Natalie Kambouris also achieved a 97 in Society and Culture. This result was due to hard work and a lot of time spent on revision, writing techniques, literacy work and dedication from the members of the Social Science staff. I am very proud of our achievements!

In the Junior School our revitalisation of the Year 10 Geography and Commerce courses seems to have paid off. We have moved to a fully assessment task oriented curriculum and last year's students posted a 80% average result for the ROSA in both subjects, with over 30 Band Sixes in Geography. Psychology, our school based elective, also has become very popular with four classes in the Junior School. This subject is also task based and gives the student a number of academic experiences during its 200 hour run.

This year the Social Science staff will be made up of:

Mr Celestino: Mr C will continue as Relieving Head Teacher this year, which becomes his 40th Year with the NSW Department of Education and Communities. He began teaching in 1973. He will be leading the faculty through the changes which are coming for the new National Curriculum due to be implemented in 2014.

Mr Celestino with Mia, Blake and Sam-Photo by son Jack, at the famous Treasury in Petra, Jordan, carved out of rock 2000 years ago.
During the school holidays Mr Celestino and his children visited The Middle East, Dubai and Jordan. It was a wonderful experience for all, except for the snow blizzard in Amman!

**Mr Morales:** Mr Morales will continue with his excellent teaching and mentoring this year. He has accepted the position as Teacher Mentor for another year and has many beginning and early career teachers to help with their accreditation. He will also be teaching both Year 11 and 12 Economics after last year’s wonderful results.

**Ms Shakespeare:** Ms Shakespeare will resume her role as LEAPS coordinator. She will also take on new classes in Business Studies for Year 11, Psychology and Years 9 and 10 Geography, Commerce and Year 12 Business Studies. She is a wonderful member of staff and contributes much to our faculty and the whole school.

**Mr Baker:** Mr Baker is back with Social Science as a permanent teacher. He will continue with his love of Economics teaching and be leading the changes in the Year 8 curriculum for the national course soon to begin. He is very passionate about human rights and teaching. We are all very lucky to have him back with us. Mr Baker will also become our new Business Services teacher this year.

**Ms Wiecek:** Ms Wiecek will be us for four days per week. Ms Wiecek is our Behavioural Science specialist and is using her talents to enhance our popular Psychology classes. She has many great ideas and will help overhaul this subject this year. She will also be teaching Business Studies, Business Services, Year 10 Geography as well as Years 9 and 10 Psychology.

**Miss Wilson:** Miss Wilson is with us three days a week. She is a valuable member of staff who excels in Literacy, Commerce and primarily younger students. She is working on her PhD on the days she is not teaching at MFHSI. She is a great organiser, planner and has a lot of great ideas for our faculty. We are glad to have her back this year! She is also a traveller and last year went to Hawaii and Tahiti!

**Ms Barnes:** Ms Barnes is back this year as a valuable member of our team. She is a wonderful young teacher who specialises in Business Studies and Commerce and also contributes a lot of great ideas to our faculty. She will be teaching Years 11 and 12 Business Studies and Year 10 and 9. She is another Social Science traveller who went to Europe last year and had some very interesting experiences in Italy!

We are all looking forward to great year of teaching.

**Mr P Celestino**
**Relieving Head Teacher Social Science**

**WELFARE**

**Year Advisers**
If you have concerns about your child please feel free to contact their Year Adviser to discuss the issue. If you would prefer to meet with them please contact them by phone to organise a time. Year Advisers also are classroom teachers so they may not available immediately, especially if you do come to the school. If the matter is a specific curriculum concern please contact your child class teacher or the Head teacher of the subject involved.

**Year Advisers for 2013 are:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Adviser</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 7</td>
<td>Mr P Hollis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 8</td>
<td>Mrs L McDermott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 9</td>
<td>Mr M Moller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 10</td>
<td>Mr S Buckley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 11</td>
<td>Mrs M Oakley-Cogan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 12</td>
<td>Miss N Boyles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FAMILY LAW NETWORK AUSTRALIA

We have recently launched the website Family Law Network Australia. The website is a free information resource and referral service for family law matters. The information provided on our website could be very useful and of great benefit to the families. We invite you to visit Family Law Network Australia at www.familylawmattersaustralia.com.au

SCHOOL LIBRARY NEWS

Hello and welcome! My name is Miss Hannaford and I am the Teacher Librarian at Macquarie Fields High School. My role as Teacher Librarian is to support all parts of the school community to find, access and use the wide world of information for all kinds of learning as well as to promote and support reading for enjoyment. I am very ably supported by our school library assistants Mrs Majarich and Mrs Masters and as a team we look forward to continuing to work with the school community. Our school library’s vision is:

“Macquarie Fields High School Library is more than just 4 walls; it is the world, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.”

Library Opening Hours and Borrowing Procedures

The Library space is open every school day from 8am until 3:30pm. Students are able and encouraged to access our digital collections at any time of day or night via their student portal link to the school catalogue or access the online databases via the school Moodle. The library staff are available to show students how to access the digital collections during school time.

To borrow books and use the printers/photocopiers, students will need their student ID card. Year 7 as well as students who are new to the school can borrow straight away without their ID card and to access the printer/photocopiers, new students should approach a member of the Library staff who will assist them to print without a library card.

Junior students are permitted to borrow 2 fiction books and 2 non fiction books for 2 weeks. Senior students are permitted to borrow 3 fiction books and 3 non fiction books for 2 weeks. If the student requires the borrowed materials for longer, then that resource can be renewed for an additional 2 weeks.

Students will be notified of overdue Library resources through their roll call teacher. If the item is not returned promptly then parents or caregivers will be notified. If the item is lost, then the replacement cost will need to be paid by the student who borrowed the resource.

Printing of assignments and scanning

The Library has 2 printers which also double as scanners and photocopiers. The cost of printing/photocopying is as follows:

- A4 Black and White printing- 5 cents per page, per side.
- A4 Colour printing- 50 cents per page, per side
- A3 Black and White printing- 10 cents per page
- A3 Colour printing $1 per page

Students who need to scan documents or images should approach a member of the Library staff for assistance.

Premier’s Reading Challenge

The Premier’s Reading Challenge for 2013 is about to commence. Students register and record the books they read online through the Student Portal. The challenge requires students to read 20 books within the time limit of March 5 to September 1. The challenge involves reading 15 books from the nominated list of books and 5 personal choice books. The Macquarie Fields HS Library has well over 1000 of the nominated titles and we are purchasing even more of the titles to expand the collection. Students can access the portal both at school and at home so please ask your son or daughter to show you the student portal.
and the links to the Premier’s Reading Challenge.

**Activities in the Library**

The Library hosts a wide range of activities every day. Activities range from Chess Club, challenging jigsaw puzzles, puppet collection as well as our decorating themes. Our first theme this year in the Library has been celebrating the lunar new year including the Year of the Snake as well as celebrating famous literature through our Lord of the Rings display. Our next theme in the Library is celebrating Library Lovers Day on February 14. The puppet collection in the library consists of puppets from around the world as well as puppets built by me and former students of Macquarie Fields HS. Since the commencement of the school year, it has been wonderful watching Year 7 interact with the puppet collection in the library especially since they have been using the puppets to make new friends with other students in Year 7 as well as older students. As the year progresses, the puppets on display will change to give students the opportunity to experience the way different cultures tell stories through puppetry.

**Happy Reading, Miss K Hannaford**

**Teacher Librarian**
PDHPE Faculty

PDHPE and PASS
We have had an excellent amount of students choose PDHPE 2 unit in Year 11 and Years 9 and 10 Physical Activity and Sport Studies (PASS). Students can look forward to learning Outdoor Recreation with a camp planned at the Basin Reserve Palm Beach and a possible ski trip and many more exciting topics. Our 2012 HSC results were outstanding and we are looking for similar if not greater results in 2013.

Year 7 have begun their unit on anti-bullying (Sticks and Stones) with a visit from the Wests Tigers who presented “Tackling Bullying”. Congratulations to Year 7 on their outstanding behaviour and engagement towards this insightful presentation. Thank you also to the Wests Tigers for taking the time out to present, sign autographs and deliver some prizes and gifts for the students and school.

Sport 2013

Knockout Sport –
This year we have entered our school in a variety of sports ranging from rugby league, football and touch football to basketball, netball, volleyball, softball, cricket and table tennis.

I would like to thank the teachers who will give up their own time to provide these exciting opportunities and complement the boys and girls who will represent our school with integrity and enthusiasm.

Wednesday afternoon sport –
Sport Organisers Mr Day and Mrs Ninopoulos have changed the structure of sport to benefit students and improve participation rates for Years 7-11.

Year 7 will be involved in AFL, Rugby League, soccer, T Ball and other exciting sports.

Year 8 will be participating in an integrated house sport competition which includes t-ball,
cricket, basketball, netball and swim school in term 4.

Years 9 and 10 will be involved in an inter school competition with Hurlstone Agricultural High School as well as recreational sports of weights, circuit, aerobics and school based sports.

Year 11 will participate in recreation sports and an inter year competition.

SPORTS CARNIVALS 2013
2012 was a very successful year for zone, regional and state representatives in swimming, cross country and athletics.

Dates for the 2013 carnivals are as follows:
Swimming- Friday 15/2/13 at Macquarie Fields Leisure Centre.
Athletics-Monday 6/5/13 at Campbelltown Athletics Centre.
Cross Country-Friday 17/5/13 at Macquarie Fields High School.

Mr C Ninopoulos
Relieving Head Teacher PDHPE

Special Education Faculty

The Special Education Faculty welcomes all of our students and their parents to another busy and exciting year.

In particular, we welcome our new Year 7 students Matthew and Ryan and their parents to our school community. We also welcome back Marc (Y8) who was away last term on an extended holiday.

We congratulate Year 7 students for their completion of our comprehensive transition program in 2012. It was a pleasure to meet with the new students and their parents at the end of last year. Thank you to the other students, parents, Principal and the P&C who attended. We look forward to making this an annual event.

At the end of 2012 two of our students Kaitlyn-Rain Trajkovic and Jazs Wilson were winners in their age category in the Campbelltown Council’s MacAbility Poster Competition. The students’ great work has been transformed into greeting cards will be distributed by the council. Students received certificates and prizes presented by the Mayor Ms. Sue Dobson at the Civic Centre on the 5th December, 2012. A framed certificate, presented by the council, takes pride of place in the school foyer. Well done, students!

Card by Kaitlyn-Rain Trajkovic
In addition, our faculty would like to congratulate students who received recognition for their great work at the Semester Awards assembly and Presentation Day in 2012. A great effort was made by all students in 2012. This year students in the Special Education classes will be studying a range of new and interesting subject areas. A number of our students are now accessing elective and enrichment classes. We thank the other faculties for their continued support of students in our classes, as students continue to develop their own particular interests and skills.

MFHS has also made provision for additional Student Learning Support Officers (SLSOs) to assist with transition/integration in the first four weeks. As a faculty, we thank Mrs Dolstra for her support of this initiative. Our team operates with the invaluable work of SLSOs. We welcome Ms Harper as a permanent member of our faculty. Ms Watt and Ms Hunter (SLSOs) are also assisting us at the start of the year.

We look forward to another year celebrating the achievements of our students. We greatly appreciate the support parents and carers have given us. We will also be mailing parents further information as it arises.

Mrs Mafi
Head Teacher Special Education
**Maths Peer Tutoring**
Mathematics faculty is delighted to continue Peer Tutoring during Lunch 2 every day of the week except on Wednesdays. This provides an opportunity for students to enhance their learning through the support and guidance of experienced senior students. Every student is encouraged to join this group at no cost and thus further improve their skills in Mathematics.

**Welcome Dr. Thayagaran**
With the retirement of Ms Kok, the Mathematics faculty was fortunate to get an excellent Mathematics teacher. Dr Thayagaran, previously at Casula High School, brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise. We welcome him to our dynamic faculty and looking forward to his contributions to teaching and student well being.

**Mathematics Key Dates for the Semester:**
**Term 1:**
- Mathematics challenge – Week 11

**Senior Assessment Calendar:**
**Year 11:**
- **Term 1:** Extension 1: 5th April, Mathematics: 2nd April, General: 2nd April
- **Term 2:** Extension 1: 28th June, Mathematics: 25th June, General: 28th June

**Year 12:**
- **Term 1:** Half yearly Examination - Examination period - Weeks 10 & 11
- **Term 2:** Extension 2: 21st June, Extension 1: 20th June, Mathematics: 19th June, General: 19th June, Applied: 21st June

**Junior Assessment Calendar:**
**Year 8:**
- **Term 1:** None, **Term 2:** 20th May

**Year 9:**
- **Term 1:** 19th and 21st March, **Term 2:** 20th and 21st May

**Year 10:**
- **Term 1:** 21st and 22nd March, **Term 2:** 23rd and 24th May

**Mr G Plowes**
**Head Teacher Mathematics**

**Science Faculty**
It’s 2013 and the science faculty is off to an electrifying start. We have seen the retirement and leave of four of our long serving and dedicated teachers. Over the last twenty years, their knowledge and expertise have shaped both the faculty and the many students they have taught. We thank Mr Davies, Mrs Monk, Mr Pollock and Mrs Clatworthy and wish them all the best in this new chapter of their lives.

The faculty also welcomes four new enthusiastic staff members into the faculty. Mr Ali, Mr Smallman, Ms Raheja and Mrs Somasi all bring a broad range of knowledge and experiences which will benefit our students immensely. They have already volunteered
their skills to coordinating several extracurricular science activities and are keen to be active members of our school.

The science faculty was very pleased with the outstanding 2012 HSC results in Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Senior Science. In each subject our strong performance positioned our school well above the state average. Collectively, 28 science students obtained a Band 6 and 79 received a Band 5. These results were well deserved and reflected the tremendous effort put in by both our senior students and their science teachers. As our current Year 12 students commence their second course modules, these very positive results and trends should be inspirational and motivate our students to strive to perform.

In Term 2, 2013 all students in Years 7 to 10 will compete in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS). This is a mandatory examination which will provide information on the progress of our students in comparison to others around Australia. During Term 4, Year 8 students will participate in the Essential Secondary Science Assessment (ESSA) is an interactive multimedia assessment that assists students to see the relevance of science and to make meaning of scientific knowledge, understanding, skills, values and attitudes.

The science faculty has lots of projects and competitions running this year. We will be continuing our linkage program with a local primary school and our partnership with a scientist through the CSIRO’s Scientists in Schools program. We have had some great success from extra-curricular activities in the past, and students are encouraged to participate to further their knowledge and understanding in science and the world around them. The following enrichment activities are open to all students: Science Club, Titration Competition, Science Experience, Aurecon Bridge Building Competition, UNSW Solar Car Challenge, National Science week activities and Space Academy USA.

Mrs R Ferris
Relieving Head Teacher Science

Teaching and Learning Faculty

This year will continue to be a busy one. Indigenous students will be developing their creative side and their collaborative skills by working on a mural on Monday lunch times in Art room 2. Charlie Mundine and his crew from AFL will continue to visit on these days keeping the kids aware of Indigenous and offering other opportunities for development as they

Homework Club will run on Thursdays in our lovely school Library between 2.40 and 4 pm. Any student who is having trouble with their homework is encouraged to come along to this.

Peer Literacy Tutor training has just started. We are training dedicated volunteers from Year 10 so they become skilled in mentoring other students with their literacy. These students will be working closely with Mr Antony and Ms Trieu on this project, in partnership with SWS Institute of TAFE.

Fast Forward programs will continue to run this year. We have established strong relationships with University of Western Sydney in past years and, as a result, we have four school years involved in mentoring programs with UWS and its mentors. Students who get into this program have also been offered the benefits of access to the MyTutor website set up and facilitated by UWS. This enables these students to have special online after school access to a tutor in any subject for those urgent questions and homework help.

We will be responsible for the support and education of our ESL students and providing opportunities for staff professional development in this area.

We are also heavily committed to staff development and training, working alongside teachers seeking accreditation, working with the Teacher Mentor, Mr Morales, in his role as mentor to staff new to teaching and encouraging staff development and ability to use technology in the various key learning areas. We will also be working closely with executive and staff encouraging a collaborative
team focus operating in the school to get the job of teaching done in the best possible way whilst meeting all our school and regional targets. Our focus on whole school literacy development will also continue to be felt.

We will continue to work closely with our key universities helping them to place a myriad of professional experience teachers for their practicum experiences.

We will also continue to work across our school communities. With Leumeah High School and Elizabeth Macarthur High School, we will continue our focus on Gifted & Talented professional development of staff. With our primary schools: Macquarie Fields and St Andrews, we will be continuing our Helping Hand Project with our interschool focus on the information skills process.

Hope you have a very good year assured that your student is in very capable hands at this school with teachers who care!

**Ms Trieu and Ms Judge**

**Head Teachers Teaching & Learning**

### History Faculty

The History/Languages Faculty believe that all students should be encouraged to reach their potential and to achieve their goals. We are working hard this year to develop a love of History and Languages in students so that they become life long passions. We value every student for who they are and we believe in giving all students a fair go. Our aim is to be the best faculty that we can be; building on our combined strengths to work collegially to ensure our students receive the quality teaching/learning experiences. We warmly welcome Ms S. Sullivan to the History Faculty as a permanent appointment replacing Ms N. Lyndon, and Ms T. Harm who replacing Mr Sedrak whilst he is on leave during 2013. If you have any queries please don’t hesitate to contact us.

The History Faculty will be implementing the Australian Curriculum as one of a handful of schools in the State. Years 7, 8 and 9 will be working through the new national approach and these programs are being shared with schools across NSW. With enthusiasm and dedication, the faculty will be working at developing quality lessons that focus on the new demands of the National Curriculum. Furthermore, The History and Languages staff have undertaken technology training in Moodle and our interactive whiteboards that are in every classroom. This initiative will enable teachers in the faculty to embed technology (Including Moodle, Wikis, Blogs, and Podcasting) differentiation, numeracy and literacy strategies in all of our History and Languages programs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Yr 7</th>
<th>Yr 8</th>
<th>Yr 9</th>
<th>Yr 10</th>
<th>Yr 11</th>
<th>Yr 12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lees</td>
<td>7D</td>
<td>8F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vrountzos</td>
<td>7M</td>
<td>8F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Stud Rel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Yr 7</th>
<th>Yr 8</th>
<th>Yr 9</th>
<th>Yr 10</th>
<th>Yr 11</th>
<th>Yr 12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sedrak/Harm</td>
<td>8C</td>
<td>9HG</td>
<td>10S</td>
<td>Leg</td>
<td>Anc Hist</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mazoudier</td>
<td>8D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Stud Rel</td>
<td>Hist Ext</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kensett</td>
<td>7F</td>
<td>9F</td>
<td></td>
<td>Leg Stud</td>
<td>Mod Hist</td>
<td>Legal Stud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holli</td>
<td>7C</td>
<td>8M</td>
<td>9C</td>
<td>10D</td>
<td>Stud Rel</td>
<td>Anc Hist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sullivan</td>
<td>7M</td>
<td>9M</td>
<td>10F</td>
<td>Anc Hist</td>
<td>Mod Hist</td>
<td>Stud Rel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McKenzie</td>
<td></td>
<td>9C</td>
<td></td>
<td>Anc Hist</td>
<td>Mod Hist</td>
<td>Stud Rel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Students in the History/Languages Faculty are consistently achieving personal and academic success. In 2012, in Legal Studies 45% of students received a Band 5 or Band 6 in the HSC. While 62% of our Studies of Religion students gained a Band 5 or 6 in the Higher School Certificate – fine results. In Ancient History 20% of our students gained a Band 5 or 6 and in Modern History, 46% of students received a Band 5 or 6. Finally, in Japanese Beginners 58% of our students gained a Band 5 or 6. We congratulate all of them on their hard work and outstanding efforts. We were very impressed by their dedication and commitment and wish them well in their post-school endeavours. For many students their best HSC results were achieved in courses taught by our faculty. We look forward to more excellent HSC results from Year 12, 2013.

The rest is History …….

Mr G McKenzie  
Head Teacher History/LOTE

English Faculty

The English Faculty welcomes all parents, especially those parents of Year 7 students. No matter what year your child is in please do not hesitate to contact us on any matter that relates to their performance in this subject.

A basic faculty policy is that every student has a workbook in which they write notes and first drafts. This work book is brought to school daily and is an important part of the writing process that allows teachers to quickly and effectively edit student work. This work can then be redrafted using other technology. Parents can also ensure that those students that have been issued with DER laptops bring them to school every day.

Parents can expect that all students will receive homework on a regular basis. This homework may take many forms, however, teachers will ensure that it is always relevant and productive.

Students in Years 7 - 10 will be preparing for their first assessment task which will take place before the end of term. These tasks will be prepared in class as well as at home. Students will be formally notified by week 6.

All parents should ensure that their child is a regular reader and that they read from a wide variety of sources. Students who succeed in English are invariably those who read regularly.

The English faculty continues to organise debating and public speaking. However we are grateful for the support of teachers in other faculties. In 2012 we had a number of successes we hope to continue this year. We have a number of debating teams that have won their local and regional levels. We have some strong public speakers who have also progressed to higher levels; notably Nethanjah Costillas winning the Ingleburn Quota. We have a strong Public Speaking and Debating commitment in this school. Auditions will be held in Weeks 3, 4 and 5 of this term for all levels. If your child is interested in participating please get them to come to the English Faculty to place their names on a list.

We also saw our Year 12 student Lauren Pearce become the SWS Regional representative for the Sydney Morning Herald Young Writer of the Year for a second time and then proudly come second in the National Competition - The 2012 John Marsden Prize for Young Writers. We also had a number of students who received notable mentions in the SMH Young Writer Award. We will continue to offer these opportunities for our budding writers and hope to see some more students successful at these levels.

Mr J Wilkie  
Head Teacher English
Creative and Performing Arts Faculty

The CAPA faculty this year is looking forward to teaching and engaging all the students in our classrooms and in extra-curricular activities. The CAPA staff for 2013 is: Mrs Costa – Head Teacher and music teacher, Mr Cardillo-Zallo – Music, Mrs Metcalfe – Visual Arts, Mrs McDermott - Visual Arts and Mrs Davidson – Visual Arts. We would also like to welcome back Mrs Do who has returned from maternity leave and is currently working on Wednesday’s in Visual Arts.

Look out for the March Newsletter where Creative Arts will be the feature faculty.

Mrs H Costa
Head Teacher CAPA

Industrial Arts and Computing Studies

The Industrial Arts and Computing Studies areas are two very interesting and dynamic areas. Where a fictional book, mathematical formula and even history generally remain unchanged throughout time, the work completed by students in our areas is constantly changing to reflect the current social, economic and environmental values of the time. This makes the study of Industrial Arts and Computing Studies subjects extremely relevant, particularly with the growing need for engineers, skilled tradespeople and the booming information technology industry.

At Macquarie Fields High School, Industrial Arts and Computing Studies are a combined faculty teaching a broad range of technology related subjects. Year 7 students study Technology (Mandatory) as an introduction to both the Industrial Arts and Home Economics areas. As they progress through the school, students have the opportunity to choose areas of study in fields such as: Industrial Technology (Timber, Metal and Electronics); Graphics Technology; and/or Information & Software Technology in the junior school. Senior students may elect to study Industrial Technology; Engineering Studies; and/or Software Design & Development. Our five Industrial Arts and Computing Studies staff include: Mr F. Pinget; Mr A. Prasad; Mr G. Byrne; the Head Teacher, Mr D. Ralston; and Mr G Edgar.

Students in our school are very fortunate to work in modern, well resourced and maintained Timber, Metal and Electronics Technology workshops. These are exceptionally important places of learning, particularly when we consider that the surrounding geographical area is very strong in the Engineering, Timber, Metal and Electrical trades. All of the equipment available for student use is of an industrial standard, with updated and more current tools and equipment purchased as funding allows. These facilities allow students to develop an extensive understanding of industrial processes and acquire knowledge and skills that are useful in both post school education and the workplace. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the study of Industrial Arts and Computing Studies subjects is extremely beneficial to students who go on to tertiary study as they gain an appreciation of what it means to be an autonomous learner.
The 3D printer with examples of the work it can produce

We are also fortunate to have two well equipped Graphics Technology/Computer labs, where our students gain experience using a variety of software tools. The problem solving and analytical skills demonstrated by students when completing tasks in these labs help them to perform well in tertiary study, in the workforce and in the community.

Recent investments in current technologies in the areas of Industrial Arts include a Computer Numerically Controlled (CNC) Router, 3D Printers and high quality Festool Router Table. This is on top of regular updating of portable power tools and hand tools. Our staff takes great pride in being able to provide students with a high quality technology education using a wide range of appropriate resources.

Our Higher School Certificate Industrial Technology students achieve some pleasing results in 2012. For the majority of students it was the subject they performed their best in and all completed practical projects appropriate to their ability level, including cabinets, beds, turned works and tables. The Engineering Studies students produced some outstanding results with most achieving in the top two bands and the average being well above the state average for the subject. Congratulations to our 2012 HSC students!

Mr G Byrne
Relieving Head Teacher Industrial Arts

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Please be advised on what’s happening in the local community:

No smoking at public swimming pools
Section 6A of the Smoke-free Environment Act 2000 makes a number of outdoor public places smoke-free. From 7 January 2013, smoking is banned in open areas within the perimeter of all public swimming pool complexes in NSW. The Act does not apply to swimming pools on people’s private property. For more information - please contact the Tobacco Information Line on 1800 357 412 or visit the NSW Health website: www.health.nsw.gov.au

Kids & Bullying - 2 sessions, 2 ½ hours each, please contact: Booking (essential) Wollongong-4227 1122 or Campbelltown-4628 0044

Compeer Program - to find out more about volunteering with Compeer, head to the website www.compeer.org.au or email compeermacarthur@sydpwgong.org.au or phone (02) 4627 9180

School Kids Bonus – Australian Government - to see if you are eligible contact australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACCEPTABLE FOOTWEAR</th>
<th>NOT ACCEPTABLE FOOTWEAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Excellent</strong></td>
<td><strong>Not Acceptable</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black fully enclosed</td>
<td>Soft vinyl upper (imitation leather) provides little protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leather school shoes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Just Acceptable</strong></td>
<td><strong>Not Acceptable</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black fully enclosed</td>
<td>No pronounced stripes, motifs, logos or colours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leather (soles are too thin)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Acceptable</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black fully enclosed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suede leather</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NOT ACCEPTABLE FOOTWEAR</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Not Acceptable</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not fully enclosed and provides little protection to the upper foot</td>
<td>White trim and white laces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Not Acceptable</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not fully enclosed and provides insufficient protection to the upper foot</td>
<td>Mesh uppers, not black, sport PDHPE only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Not Acceptable</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soft canvas upper provides little protection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Compulsory school attendance
Information for parents

The compulsory years of schooling

In New South Wales, all children from six years of age are legally required to attend school or be registered for home schooling. After they complete Year 10 and until they turn 17 years of age, students then have the following options. They may also be in:

- full-time further education and training (e.g. TAFE, traineeship, apprenticeship);
- full-time, paid employment of an average of 25 hours per week; or
- a combination of both of the above.

Children are expected to attend all school activities, on time. Regular attendance helps your child:

- develop the skills needed to access the world of work and other opportunities
- to learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- make and keep friendships.

What if my child has to be away from school?

If your child has to be absent from school, you must tell the school and provide a reason for your child’s absence. To explain an absence parents and carers may be required to:

- send a note to the school, or contact the school via electronic means such as SMS text message, fax or email, or
- telephone the school, or
- visit the school.

A small number of absences may be accepted by the principal. For example, if your child:

- has to go to a special religious ceremony
- is required to attend a serious or urgent family situation (e.g. a funeral)
- is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness.
What are school Principals responsible for?

Principals help to ensure the safety, welfare and wellbeing of your child. Principals have to keep accurate records of student attendance and the reasons for any absences. Principals are responsible for accepting or not accepting a parent’s explanations for their child’s absences. Principals may request further information from parents for long or frequent absences, even where they are explained by parents as being due to illness.

When absences are unexplained by parents, or the explanations are not accepted by the principal, the school will work with parents to help address the issue. The main aim is to sort out what is preventing the child from getting to school and putting strategies in place to help. Sometimes, the school will ask support staff and other agencies to assist.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department may take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unacceptable absences from school. Some of the following actions may be undertaken.

- Attendance meetings and compulsory attendance conferences

Parents (and sometimes their child) can be asked to go to a meeting with school personnel and other regional officers. The aim of the meeting is to help identify strategies to support the child and family. Other agencies may also be invited along to help, if parents agree.

If the school and other regional officers have tried to help improve a child’s attendance, without success, parents (and sometimes their child) can be asked to go to a compulsory attendance conference. The conference will be run by a trained conference convenor. The aim of the conference is for the school, parents (and sometimes their child) and other identified agencies (“the parties”) to further identify the issues which are impacting on a child’s attendance.

The outcome of a compulsory attendance conference is for the parties to agree to undertake certain actions to improve the child’s attendance. These actions are written in the form of undertakings.

- Applications to the Children’s Court – A Compulsory Schooling Order

Legal compliance can be sought through an application to the Children’s Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The aim is to assist a family and/or child to address the issues which are preventing satisfactory school attendance but has the added enforcement of a Court’s powers.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

If all attempts by schools and regional support staff fail to improve a student’s attendance, action can be taken in the Local Court and the result can be fines up to a maximum of $11,000.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites

Policy, information and brochures:

The school leaving age:

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are provided, where possible, for parents/carers who do not speak or understand English well and for Deaf parents/carers who use sign language. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at the telephone number: 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

See the website address: