Calendar Events

**Week 9**
Monday 8 September - Friday 12 September

**Week 10**
Tuesday 16 September - Wednesday 17 September

**Term 4/Week 1**
Monday 6 October - Tuesday 7 October

**Recipients of PBL Raffle Prize Draw**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>WK/TERM</th>
<th>PRIZE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maheen Imran</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Wk7/T3</td>
<td>$10 iTunes Voucher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Sorial</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Wk8/T3</td>
<td>$25 Sanity Voucher</td>
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FROM THE DESK OF THE (RELIEVING) PRINCIPAL

WELCOME BACK AND THANKS
Next week marks the return of our Principal, Mrs Jan Dolstra from Long Service Leave. She assures me that she has rested well despite her European Vacation and despite making herself available for a number of DEC and school functions while on leave. Welcome back to the last two weeks of Term 3 and for Term 4.

I would like to take the opportunity to formally thank Mrs Heather Costa who relieved for me during Mrs Dolstra’s Long Service Leave and Mrs Veronica Mafi who stepped in professionally and efficiently to fill in while Mrs Costa was involved in other duties – all much appreciated. Thanks also to Mrs Lisa McDermott who relieved as Head Teacher CAPA, for Mrs Costa. Thanks also to Mr Perrett for his support during the same period and to all staff and members of the Executive who have worked extremely hard this term on a variety of projects, events and of course our “core business” - classroom teaching. As always, they inspire me.

YEAR 12 NEWS
Our Year 12 students leave us in two weeks and it is with a little sadness that we say farewell to a wonderful group of hard-working and generally high achieving students. It is also with some excitement to that we bid them farewell as they move on and into the world, a big world filled with promise where I am sure their achievements will align with their expectations and aspirations.

I have included in this edition of the newsletter, and open letter to students in Year 12 and to the parents of students in Year 12. This letter was issued to all students a couple of weeks ago.

PARENTS NOTE

Students Absent From School
Where a student is absent from school, a note explaining the absence must be received by the school within 7 school days. Where a note is not received the absence will be recorded as unjustified. This cannot legally be changed should a note be received after 7 days. Absences both justified and unjustified are recorded on school reports.
ago and outlines the events over the next few weeks and our expectations of students. Parents of Year 12 students should also, by now, have received a letter of invitation to the Year 12 Formal Graduation Assembly on Wednesday, 17 September. If you are not sure about any details or if you have a question, please contact the school on 9605 311 at your convenience.

SCHOOL CAPTAINS’ ELECTION AND COMMENCEMENT

I am very pleased to announce the results of the School Captain 2015 election and congratulate the following students who will lead an outstanding Student Leadership Team.

School Captain (Girls) 2015
Teressa Bernado

School Captain (Boys) 2015
Hamza Butt

School Vice-Captain (Boys) 2015
Dylan Scarborough

School Vice-Captain (Girls) 2015
Amy Huynh

These students will be formally inducted into their roles at our Year 12 Commencement Ceremony next term, Tuesday, 7 October. All parents of Year 11, 2014, are invited to this ceremony and will receive an invitation in the next week or so. This ceremony marks the formal beginning of Year 12 and their Higher School Certificate studies.

At this point, and on behalf of our Principal, Mrs Jan Dolstra and the staff and students of Macquarie Fields High School, I would like to take the opportunity to formally acknowledge and thank the current school captains and vice-captains for their outstanding contributions in school service and in student leadership over the last twelve months.

School Captain (Girls) 2014
Nethanjah Costillas

School Captain (Boys) 2014
Sidarth Autar

School Vice-Captain (Boys) 2014
Alex Abdullah

School Vice-Captain (Girls) 2014
Jaanvi Kapadia

HANDS ON HIGH SCHOOL

This annual event, held for our incoming Year 7 students (2015) and their parents was held on Tuesday, 26 August. The day program involved students who were given some high school lesson experiences in a variety of faculties. The evening program for parents invited parents on a journey of exploration where they too, sat in on lessons and explored how high school today is similar, yet different to when they went to school. Mrs Dolstra was present during the evening program and the feedback from parents and students who attended the day, was, I am told excellent. I would like to formally thank the following staff for their involvement in this event.

Day Program: Carol Fong; Gabby Gonzalez; Lisa McDermott; Stella Vrountzos; Marinda Barnes; Ke Hong Tang; Afzal Ali; Minh-Thi Tran; Manasi Ingali.

Night Program: Melissa Collins; Gaye Lees; Rachel Shakespeare and Perry Celestino; Ray Hicks; Karen Metcalfe and Lisa McDermott; Jayden O'Brien and Nicole Boyles; Andrews Nguyen; Fernando Pingett; Josh Luc and Justin Perrett; Padma Somasi and Afzal Ali.
FAREWELL MRS SNOWDEN
A valued member of our ancillary staff, Mrs Christine Snowden has been successful in her application for a transfer to the south coast. She leaves us for Towradgi Public School and finishes up at the end of this term. I would like to thank her for her contributions to the school and wish her well in her new school.

PBL Tickets – Raffle Prize Draws
You will notice in this issue of the newsletter, a list of students who have won our recent PBL Raffle draws.

Congratulations to the students who have won the raffle prize draws so far and the names of the next group of winners will be published in our next edition of this newsletter.

P&C Meeting
The next meeting will be held on Monday 15 September at 7.30pm. All parents are invited and very welcome.

ANNUAL CELEBRATION
Once again, Macquarie Fields High School will hold its annual celebration day on Thursday, 18 September. Our theme for this year is, “Animation”. Mr Celestino and his team have been hard at work preparing for this exciting celebration and current and immediate past Year 12 students are invited to this event too. Parents and their infant children are also invited to this event but are reminded that there is no parking on schools grounds on the day of this celebration. No students of school age, who are not enrolled at our school can attend either.

END OF TERM
Term 3 ends on Friday, 19 September and all students are expected to attend school up to and including the last day of term. Term 4 begins on Tuesday, 7 October – Monday 6 October is a public holiday.

AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL YEAR 12 AND THEIR PARENTS
Dear Year 12 and parents of Year 12, 2014 at Macquarie Fields High School,
We have arrived at that time now where we begin to say our farewells to Year 12. It is only appropriate at this time to wish you all the very best in your studies as you approach your final Higher School Certificate examinations. Remember though, it isn't good luck that you need it is good hard work and an efficient study program that will lead to success in these important examinations.
You all need to be aware of arrangements for the final weeks of Term 3 and also for Term 4.

YEAR 12 PRESENTS A YEAR IN REVIEW – TUESDAY 16-9-14
• The Year 12 informal assembly is being organised by Ms Stojceva and Ms McKeown and will be held during period 5. The assembly will be held in the hall. The purpose of this assembly is to showcase your talents to fellow students and bid your final farewells. Siblings of Year 12 students will be invited to this assembly along with all of Year 9 and Year 10. Students must wear school uniform. You may wear your jacket for this particular assembly. It is an expectation that all students maintain a mature disposition throughout the assembly and that your material is presented in good taste.
• Students are expected to attend periods 2-3 on this day. During period 4 you will
• have a full rehearsal for your formal ceremony to be held on Wednesday 17-9-14.
• Any video that may be shown as a part of this assembly must have been approved one week prior to the assembly, by Mrs Dolstra, Mr Tishler and Mr Perrett.
• It is important to time your assembly carefully as students must be dismissed on the bell, that is at 3:20pm. If you time the assembly poorly, it will be cut short.

YEAR 12 FORMAL ASSEMBLY – WEDNESDAY 17-9-14
• The Year 12 Formal Assembly is being organised by Mrs Judge and will be held on Wednesday, 17 September, 2014 during period 4.
• All Year 12 students will attend roll call and period 2 and 3 on this day unless otherwise advised.
• Parents of Year 12 students are invited to this function and are advised that they should be seated in the hall by 11:20am on this day.
• Siblings of students in Year 12 are also invited as well as all students in Year 11 who will be seated during period 3 for an 11:28am start.
• Year 12 students are advised that they will be rehearsing for this assembly on Tuesday, 16-9-14 during period 4.
• All students must be in full school uniform including black shoes. Boys must wear long grey trousers. Shirts are to be tucked in.
• No student is to wear their jacket as part of the uniform on this day.
• Year 12 students must leave school at the end of the assembly and before the beginning of lunch.
• Any student not wearing full school uniform including black shoes will not participate in the formal assembly but will be issued with their documents privately. Full school uniform does not mean a shirt that has been signed by numerous students.

ANNUAL CELEBRATION DAY – THURSDAY 18-9-14
• You are expected to attend the Annual Celebration Day on Thursday 18 September, 2014.

YEAR 12 PICNIC – FRIDAY 19-9-14
• The picnic provides you with an opportunity to have some fun and share memories of your time at Macquarie Fields High School.
• The Year 12 picnic is on Friday 19 September, 2014. Students should assemble in the outdoor shelter for a 9:00am departure.
• School uniform does not have to be worn but you should wear sensible clothing including gear that protects you from the sun. You must wear covered shoes, no thongs or sandals.
• All students must travel by bus. No student is to drive to the venue.
• As students of this school you have a responsibility to behave appropriately at all times while on the picnic. You must co-operate with the school and with school staff at all times.
• Students are to conduct themselves in a mature manner when they enter school premises on this day. No wilful damage or vandalism to school or staff property will be tolerated. Inappropriate behaviour will lead to a student being excluded from the picnic. Other consequences will apply as appropriate.
• Absolutely no swimming at the Year 12 picnic.
• No late payments or notes will be accepted. Ensure you meet the deadlines outlined on the permission note issued separately.

STUVAC – 7-10-14 to 10-10-14
• Teachers will be available during your timetabled lessons for each subject. Please do not try and see your teachers while they are teaching other classes.
• The Library is available for private study. The senior area is also available to you.
• It is important that all Year 12 students engage in a meaningful program of
home study and that you have constructed a revision timetable that you adhere to over the break before your examinations begin. Remember, a minimum of 28 hours study per week is recommended in order for you to experience greater levels of success at your Higher School Certificate examinations.

- For safety and security reasons, students entering onto the school grounds for the purpose of studying or consulting with staff must wear full school uniform. You must also sign into the school upon your arrival and sign out when you leave. If you enter onto school grounds and are not wearing uniform you will be sent home. This is non-negotiable.

HSC EXAMINATIONS – 13-10-14 to 5-11-14

- Remember that you are still a student of Macquarie Fields High School. You must act politely and responsibly, following the School Code of Conduct. It is especially important that you extend this courtesy to staff supervising your examinations.
- For safety and security reasons, you must wear full school uniform to all examinations. Your school jacket is acceptable.
- If you intend to arrive very early for an exam, or leave well after the exam has finished, you are required to sign in at the front office. You must then sign out when you leave the premises. This again is for security purposes and it is a departmental expectation of the Principal that she maintain a secure and safe environment.
- You should return your textbooks to staff on the morning of each examination. Staff will be on duty outside the hall to collect textbooks from you.
- Remember to eat well and get plenty of rest during the course of your examinations in order to maximise your potential for success at your examinations. Manage your time carefully to ensure that you have an appropriate emphasis on study, leisure and rest.
- If you suffer illness or misadventure on the day of an examination, please inform the school by phone (9605 3111) and speak personally with Mrs Buckler who will inform the supervisor of the examinations, Mr. John Allen.
- You will be required to submit an illness/misadventure form in detail with supporting documentation from your doctor as relevant to your particular circumstances.

SIGNING OUT FROM SCHOOL – from Thursday 23-10-14

- Please refer to the previous letter sent by Mrs Dolstra in regards to the deadline for paying fees which is 5 September, 2014.
- Signing out from school will occur at specific times. When you sign out, try to sign out in groups. Sign out will commence on 23 October, 2014. Mrs Dolstra, Mr Tishler and Mr Perrett will only be available between 10:00am and 1:30pm on each Thursday. All students must see Mrs Dolstra. Sign out will occur each Thursday at the same time on 30 October, 6 November and 13 November, 2014.
- You must wear school uniform when signing out of school.
- You need to pick a Thursday after you have finished all of your examinations. On the day you choose to sign out report to the front office, sign in and collect your sign out sheet.
- Return textbooks issued to you (in the unlikely event that you have not returned them on the day of your examination in the subject), to appropriate faculties and finalise any outstanding accounts. When you have completed the sign out process, have Mr Tishler or Mr Perrett sign your form. You are then required to meet with Mrs Dolstra (or her representative). Here you will be interviewed briefly about your time at Macquarie Fields High School.
You will be given your reference and your Year 12 Formal ticket at this meeting.

- All students in Year 12 have already received information regarding the paying of school fees before the end of Term 3. This can be done in part payments.
- Please refer to the previous letter sent by Mrs Dolstra in regards to the deadline for paying fees which is 5 September, 2014.
- NOTE: Year 12 Formal tickets will only be issued by Mrs Dolstra, or her delegated officer. Admission to the Year 12 Formal will be BY TICKET ONLY. Tickets will be checked at the door – no ticket – no admission.
- Remember to sign out when you leave the school premises.

YEAR 12 FORMAL – 21-11-14

- The Year 12 formal is on Friday 21 November, 2014.
- The bus for the formal will leave at 5:00pm sharp. (Note the bus will not wait for late students.) The formal begins at 6:00pm and ends at 11:00pm. (A separate note has been issued in regard of your “Formal” organisation.)
- Full payment for the Formal must be received by the due date. No payments will be accepted on the day of the Formal. No ticket = No entry.

YEAR 12 MORNING TEA – 18-12-14

- On this day you are formally invited to a morning tea at the school, beginning at 10:20am. Here we congratulate you on the wonderful achievements you have made in your Higher School Certificate.
- It is important that you attend this day which is the final calendar event for you as our Year 12 group in 2014.
- You do not have to wear school uniform but should dress smartly.
- Ms. Buckler is organising this event for you.

On behalf of the whole school, we wish all of Year 12 every success and happiness in their examinations and for the future.

Mr M Tishler, Relieving Principal
Mrs H Costa, Relieving Deputy Principal
Mr J Perrett, Deputy Principal

Mr M. Tishler
Relieving Principal

SCIENCE FACULTY

This year has seen a lot of work in the Science faculty.

One of the biggest changes has been the physical environment of the science area. Lab 6 is looking better than ever before, with a great effort from Mr Smallman, who has taken it under his care.

Portable 5 is also becoming a great science room, with fresh paint and nice new carpet.

The science hall now has a gallery of famous scientists who have influenced the world we live in. How many do you know? This will be expanded over the rest of the year.

We are also planning, with the help of the University of Western Sydney and Campbeltown Council, to overhaul the agriculture environment. This will focus on UWS students working directly with our students on building sustainable environments. UWS has state of the art facilities which may help feed the very growing world population in the future.

We have also started a project on utilising technology in the classroom. Over Term 4, we will be using iPads in class to help aid student understanding and using similar tools to what scientists across the world are using. This will also allows students to use innovative and creative ways of showing their understanding.

Thanks to Mrs Somasi who, with a small group of students, had a fun and successful day building bridges at the Aurecon BB competition, holding thirteen and a half kilograms.
Thanks also to Mrs Ferris who took a group of girls to the Garvin Institute to hear a talk by Cara Doherty, Elena Tucker and Vanessa Kellerman about women in science and research. These women were holders of the UNESCO L’Oreal For Women in Science fellowship.

Good luck to Year 12, whose hard work and dedication will reach its climax.

One of the keys to success is doing plenty of past HSC questions. HSC science questions need plenty of practice and the markers need to look at key parts of the answer. In particular, they will look that you have addressed all parts of the question.

Read the verb. Is it describe, outline, calculate, etc? These words frame the type of response. A common mistake is for students just to write down what they know about a concept, instead of answering the question. Regurgitation does not mean marks.

Make sure you understand the concepts from the syllabus. Download the syllabus and read through the content sections. Do you understand what each dot point means? Could you explain it to someone else?

It is easy to study what you know well. Of more importance are they areas you are not sure of.

There are plenty of past HSC question books. Get one. Study is like sport, the more training you do, the better you will become.

Another resource is the assessment resource centre.

http://arc.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/
Do these questions until you are dreaming of them at night. That means bonus study hours.

The following links may also be useful.

http://www.hsc.csu.edu.au

Geography Class Mural

The 9C Geography class was involved in a class beautification project at the end of semester one in the Social Science block. The students developed a design for a class mural which represented an ideal landscape and a degraded landscape, polluted by too much human activity. The artists were inspired by Year 9 student Simon Bernado’s amazing tree of life which forms the centrepiece of the artwork. Over two weeks during class time, lunchtimes and recesses, the team took their design from a group vision to a final mural. Special thanks to the following students who contributed their time and talent to the project: Simon Bernado, Sebastion Kelly-Toiava, Lorna Chowdhury, Rosemary Bastian, Luka Jakovljevic, Gaurav Devarkonda, Liam O’Callaghan and Taylah Savage.

Ms M Barnes

Gifted and Talented Student Conference

On Tuesday, 8 August, twelve students (seven Year 9, two Year 7 and three Year 8) participated in Gifted and Talented (G&T) student conference at Cranbrook with several other schools. In university-styled lectures, this excursion for the gifted and talented provided interesting insight into four different topics on philosophical issues.

In the first issue, Julie Arliss in her riveting presentation showed how the logarithmic spiral that can be seen in hurricanes and galaxies, also fits the spiral of the snail’s shell, thus showing that maths and matter of all three demonstrate the consistency of the cosmos. She then showed the students the way consciousness is currently measured in animals and humans and the way philosophers have approached consciousness starting with Plato and Aristotle.

The second session was an interactive discussion session with a community of inquiry approach. The issue discussed was “Is Custom King? Macquarie Fields High School students were put into groups with different schools to discuss whether custom, who or what that is, is really King? Members of the team were encouraged to make quality contributions about their understanding of custom. Teachers from all the participating schools facilitated the student discussion with challenging questions.

The third session was a lecture on nano-technology; how much humanity could achieve if we were able to manipulate DNA strands and what we could change? The sessions examined the nature of this work and outlined its future potential and also some possible future pitfalls.

The day ended with a debate about whether science replaced God. Students heard good arguments from both sides.
Feedback from the students on the whole day was very positive. They expressed their interest in participating in such excursions in the future as well. They thanked the Principal and Mathematics Faculty for giving them the opportunity to be part of such a valuable excursion.

*Ms S Hegde*

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**PARENT NOTE**

**Updating Student Medical Information**

We have been updating our medical records to ensure we have the most up-to-date information on your child’s health.

Medical conditions include Asthma, Diabetes, Epilepsy, Allergies and Anaphylaxis.

We have included in this edition of the Community Newsletter new forms which will help us collect your child’s important medical information.

We appreciate your support and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to call.

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*Gifted and Talented Student Conference*