Calendar Events

**Week 4**

Monday February 16
P&C Meeting – 7:30pm

**Week 5**

Monday February 23
DP’s Morning Tea for debaters & public speakers

Tuesday February 24
Year 7 Immunisations

Friday February 27
School Swimming Carnival

**Week 6**

Monday March 2
Year Meetings Week

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**PARENTS PLEASE NOTE**

Students absent from school
Please note changes to School Attendance Policy and Procedures outlined in the Principals report. 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.

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**From the Principal**

Welcome to the beginning of another academic year at Macquarie Fields High School! I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the parents of our new Year 7 students and the parents of any new students in our other years. I hope you and your child enjoy engaging with our wonderful school community. Macquarie Fields High School is a unique blended school and holds the highest of expectations for student achievement in both formal learning and extra curricular activities. The school offers a wide range of co and extra curricular activities and I encourage all students to take advantage of these as they arise.

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**2014 HSC Results**

Congratulations to the Class of 2014 for their overall outstanding achievements in the Higher School Certificate examinations, including:

- Adrian Soo and Jason Sengmany were mentioned in the *All Round Achievers* list,
- Adrian Soo and Guarav Sapre both received the highest ATAR of all our students of 99.05. Adrian is now studying Optometry and Guarav is studying Advanced Mathematics, both at UNSW.
- 133 Band 6 (90+) results achieved by: Zain Afzal, Iqutidar Ahmed, Sidharth Autar, Raimee Bajpai, Cindy Chen, Kao Shiu Michael Cheng, Wendy Cheng, Nethanjah Costillas, Joyesh Das, Myane Dimasangal, Duy Brian Duc Do, Raiyan Faruque, Annie Guan, Faria Hoque, Mandy Huynh, Mandy Huynh, Mahnaaz Iqbal, Harpreet Kaur, Wawei Ke, Nishita Khatter, Brandon Lay, Jenny Le, Kevin Le, Kim Ngan Le, Viet Kym Le, Rodger Li, Katherine Livanis, Jeffrey Luo, Pubudu Mallikage, Davin Nam, Samantha Ng, Dominic Nguyen, Duc Phu Nguyen, Jenny Nguyen, Justine Nguyen, Le Trung Hieu Nguyen, Vivienne Thuy Nguyen, Jessica Pham, Hamzah Qureshi, Guarav Sapre, Shaktthi Saravanah, Rizwan Sayeed, Jason Sengmany, Hamal Shah, Alvin Soh, Shashank Soman, Adrian Soo, Alan Ton, Richie Trang, Ryan Tran, Steven Trieu, Daniel Tu, Amanda Vongratsavai, Ann Vu, Hoanvu Vu, Muriel Yap.

- Congratulations to *Shashank Soman* who was 10th in the state for Engineering Studies.

The school would also like to thank the outgoing Captains and Vice Captains: Sidharth Autar,
Nethanjah Costillas, Alex Abdullah and Jaanvi Kapadia for their outstanding leadership during 2013.

We are very proud of all our students and wish them every success as they move beyond school into their adult lives.

Year 12 2014

Welcome to New Staff
As is usual at the start of the academic year, we have a number of new staff appointed to our school and I would like to formally introduce and welcome them to our school. Ms Rhonda Shakir has joined our Science Faculty, replacing Mrs Rebecca Ferris who received a promotion to Head Teacher Science at Elderslie HS, for which we congratulate her. Ms Serina Duong has joined our Mathematics Faculty, replacing Mr Don McLeod who retired after over 30 years’ service and Ms Helen James is our new Counsellor, replacing Mrs Jane Franke, who was also promoted to District guidance Officer. Congratulations, Mrs Franke.

As a new joint initiative between our partner primary school, Macquarie Fields PS and MFHS, Ms Lara Minassion has been engaged to work across the two schools to support transition from Year 6 to 7 and strengthen the professional links between the staffs of both schools. Much of our work now is K-10 and our students can only benefit from having stronger links and also to make better use of our facilities and expertise.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)
We have extended the BYOD program so that it now includes Years 7 and 8, which means all students in Years 7 – 10 will now be required to bring their own device to school on a daily basis in order to fully participate in the learning activities across all subjects. Years 11 and 12 are the final two years on the old Laptop program and in future, all years will be fully BYOD.

In the last newsletter for 2014, I referred to the BYOD program and included in the newsletter, the device specifications required to align correctly and reliably with our school network. I have included that information again in this newsletter and I am also pleased to provide information about another initiative which you might like to consider for purchasing your child’s device.

JB Hi-Fi Educational Solutions have developed a portal where parents can go online, consider various devices, according to price and durability etc with the knowledge that all devices offered meet our specifications. JB Hi-Fi also have a relationship with an insurance group which may also be of assistance to parents for peace of mind in case of damage and the need for repairs. The company also has a service to support repairs, whether in or out of warranty.

I need to stress that, whilst the students are required to bring their own device, the choice as to which device to purchase is up to parents. Any brand can be brought to school for use in class, provided it meets our technical specifications. The DEC has supplied the required software to schools and we will support the installation of the required software at school.

We will be holding an information evening once the majority of students have their devices. I will send information about the date of this meeting to all parents.

The link to JB Hi-Fi Educational Services portal is now live and is below should you wish to avail yourself of this service. Otherwise, it is expected that all students will have their devices at school by the end of Week 4 (20 February).

Password - MFHS2015
If you have any technical questions regarding the specifications, the devices or the purchase of devices, please contact Mr Matchett, Head Teacher, Science. There is some limited student assistance available in cases of financial hardship. For forms or information about the student assistance support, please contact Mrs Dolstra.

**Overseas Trip**

Our intrepid travellers have returned from their trip to France and Italy and from following their travel blog, know they had a wonderful time. I would like to commend the students for their outstanding conduct during the trip and congratulate them on being such wonderful, respectful ambassadors for, not only Macquarie Fields HS, but also the youth of Australia. Well done! I would also like to thank the team of teachers who gave up a good proportion of their holidays to accompany the students on this adventure. Thanks to: Mr Neale, Mr Hollis, Ms Sullivan, Ms Collins, Ms Fong and Ms Watts. Make sure you take the time to read of their travels! Everyone on this trip had such a great time that we intend to offer this opportunity again, probably on a biannual basis.

**Welcome Night for Year 7 Parents – advance notice**

Parents of students in Year 7 – please keep the afternoon/evening of Monday 16 March free as we are holding a special event to welcome you and your children to Macquarie Fields HS! We are putting together a very special program for the evening and we will have information to you very soon. At this event, parents will be able to collect a short progress report relating to their child and will provide parents with information relating to how well the children are settling into high school, how they are progressing academically and peer relations and so on. The information also informs teachers as to the appropriateness of our class placements and is an opportunity for the school to adjust this before we move too far into the academic year. Ms Sullivan and Ms Tran will also be available to discuss these matters with parents and answer any questions. If there are changes to any class placements, this will occur for the commencement of Term 2.

**Changes to the School Attendance Policy and Procedures**

There have been significant changes to how the school records absences with regard to students being away from school for long periods during school time. The Education Act holds parents responsible for ensuring their child attends school every day the school is open for classes. Parents are encouraged to take family holidays during the very generous school holiday periods to avoid serious disruption to the child’s educational program. Long absences, particularly if they are taken each year, also impact on the quality of peer relations and continuity of learning. Students also potentially miss out on other important educational opportunities and programs if they are absent.

As part of the new procedures, holidays taken outside of school vacation periods will now be included as absences, where previously, they were marked as exemptions. A certificate of exemption will no longer be granted for this purpose.

There is a new form, **Application for Extended Leave – Travel** which now needs to be completed at least 4 weeks prior to date of intended travel. If the Principal accepts the reason for the absence, this is now marked as Leave (L) and a Certificate of Extended Leave – Travel will be issued.

If the Principal does not believe the absence is in the student’s best interests and does not accept the reason, the absence will be recorded as A (Unjustified absence). A Certificate of Extended Leave – Travel **will not** be issued.

If you have any questions relating to your child’s attendance at school, please refer them to Mrs Buckler, Head Teacher Administration.

I hope you enjoy reading the rest of this newsletter and I hope to see many of you at our first P&C meeting of the year on Monday 16 February, commencing at 7.30pm.

*Mrs J Dolstra*

*Principal*
Bring Your Own Device Program
Device Specifications

Hardware Specifications
The BYO device must meet all the following requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Device Type</th>
<th>Laptop; netbook or convertible laptop/tablet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recommended Screen Size</td>
<td>Screen size of 12 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System RAM installed</td>
<td>4GB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ports</td>
<td>USB 2.0 or USB 3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating System</td>
<td>Microsoft Windows 7, Microsoft Windows 8, Apple Mac OS X (Snow Leopard, Lion or Mountain Lion)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wireless Compatibility</td>
<td>Device MUST have 5 GHz wireless capability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battery Life</td>
<td>Minimum battery life of 6 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet Browser</td>
<td>HTML5 web browser installed e.g.: Chrome 22 or later, Internet Explorer 9 or later, Safari 5.1.7 or later, Firefox 16 or later</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antivirus</td>
<td>Up to date antivirus installed (see below)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Functional specifications
Additionally the device will need to have the following software installed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Word Processor</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microsoft Word</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apple Pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OpenOffice Writer (free software)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spreadsheet</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microsoft Excel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apple Numbers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OpenOffice Calc (free software)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Presentation</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microsoft PowerPoint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apple Keynote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OpenOffice Impress (free software)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Security software</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaspersky Internet Security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norton 360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trend Micro Titanium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avast Anti-Virus (free software)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: the security program needs to detect viruses, spyware, malware and phishing/scam emails

Device examples

Windows operating system laptop examples
Minimum performance example:
- Intel Core i3 1.80 GHz processor; 4GB RAM memory; 500GB Hard Disk, 15.6” display; Wi-Fi 802.11n compatible

Higher performance examples:
- Intel Core i5 2.6 GHz Processor; 4GB RAM memory; 750GB Hard Drive; 15” display; Wi-Fi 802.11n compatible
- Intel Core i7 1.8GHz Processor; 8GB RAM memory; 750GB Hard Drive; 15” display; Wi-Fi 802.11n compatible

Apple Mac operating system laptop example
- Macbook Air: Intel Core i5 1.3GHz Processor; 4GB RAM memory; Mountain Lion operating system; 128GB Flash Hard Drive; 11.6 Inch Screen; Wi-Fi 802.11n compatible
- Macbook Pro: Intel Core i5 Dual Core 2.5GHz Processor; 4GB RAM; Apple OS X Lion operating system; 500GB Hard Drive; 13” screen; Wi-Fi 802.11n compatible

Possible device vendors
It is recommended that you carefully research the price of a device between different vendors before making a purchase. Listed below are a sample of well-known device vendors.

Macquarie Fields High School does not endorse any specific vendor.

Online purchasing and physical stores:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vendor</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online purchasing only:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vendor</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dell</td>
<td><a href="http://www.dell.com/au">http://www.dell.com/au</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
History Faculty 2015

European Tour- Travelling historians
During the January school holidays, nineteen lucky students and six teachers travelled to Europe to visits historic sites in France, Belgium and Italy. Some of the many highlights of the tour included a whirlwind visit to Paris, the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre. Students also visited the Somme battlefields, explored British and German trenches and paid their respects to Australian soldiers who lost their lives on the Western Front. In Belgium students also took part in a very moving ceremony at Menin Gate, where they laid wreath on behalf of the school community. Next stop Rome, the Colosseum the Forum and many fascinating and historic sites were explored. Our trip concluded in the Bay of Naples with a fully guided tour of Pompeii by archaeologist Dr Estelle Lazer. I would like to thank all the student for their exemplary behaviour and attitude while on tour, and to the staff for giving up their school holidays to allow student have the trip of a lifetime. Special thanks to Mr Hollis for his organisation and for creating the travel blog. Also, Ms Fong, Ms Sullivan, Ms Collins and Ms Watts, for making the tour a success.

We look forward to our next international adventure.

You can relive the memories of our travelling historians on the travel blog link below.


Mock Trial

Our new Legal Studies teacher, Ms Collins has entered our students into the Law Society’s Mock Trial Competition. This competition give students the amazing opportunity to learn about the law and judicial system allowing students to run a court case in a true-to-life legal setting. We wish Ms Collins and her budding legal eagles all the best with Mock Trial.

Canberra Excursion
To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign, Year 9 students will be visiting the Australian War Memorial in Canberra to explore the newly renovated World War I and Gallipoli exhibition. Macquarie Fields High School will be part of an official wreath laying ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance where students will lay a wreath on behalf of the school community to honour all those Australians who sacrificed their lives in times of war.
S.O.L.E (Self Organised Learning Environment)

This year the History/Languages faculty will piloting a new teaching strategy called S.O.L.E (self-organised learning environments). As part of this innovative project the school has provided funding to order to new furniture and technology to update our classroom to make them much more collaborative and adaptable learning spaces for students. The educational aim is to increase both student engagement and autonomy. Ms Kensett will be overseeing the introduction of the S.O.L.E project and I look forward to seeing how our classrooms can be update to reflect the needs of 21st century learners.

ANZAC Garden update

The school ANZAC garden is taking shape and with the help of Don and Roger our General Assistants and Bunning Campbelltown, an extension has been added to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Gallipoli Campaign. Miss Sullivan organised Year 9 students to plant Rosemary bushes and a Wollemi Pine. Ingleburn RSL President Mr Ray James has provided the school additional funding to purchase a flag pole and plaque to honour the Gallipoli Campaign. Mr James will attending the school’s 2015 ANZAC Day Assembly to officially open the new section of the Garden. I will like to thank all the students and staff involved in creating the ANZAC garden.

Miss Sullivan, Don and students planting new tress in the ANZAC garden donated by Bunning’s Campbelltown

Mr T Neale
Head Teacher History
Welcome back to 2015. The Social Science faculty is ready for an awesome year with enthusiasm, innovation, technology and the most subjects in the school! This year the faculty will consist of Mr Morales who will be teaching Economics and Commerce; Miss Barnes who will have Business Studies and Geography, and is our Year 8 Adviser; Miss Shakespeare who will teach Business Studies, Geography and Psychology and has taken over responsibility for the school’s SRC; Miss Wilson, who will be here two days a week, will teach Business Studies, Geography and Psychology; Ms Wiecek who will teach Business Studies and Psychology; Mr Baker who will teach Geography and Economics and Mr Celestino, the Head Teacher, who will take Society and Culture, Geography and Psychology. He will run the FTC and work with the new Environmental Club.

HSC Results The Social Science Faculty achieved excellent results with our student in this year’s HSC. Business Studies achieved its best ever result with 6 Band 6s and Economics continued its great results with 3 Band 6s and many Band 5s. Both of these subjects showed significant improvement in results this year. Society and Culture and Business Services also achieved good results and the SAC PIPS were all well done, on time and there were some excellent topics.

The Sustainability Club This year will launch the school’s first inter-faculty extra-curricular activity with the new Sustainability Club. It will be jointly run by the Science and Social Science faculties, headed by Mr Matchett and Mr Celestino, they are both passionate environmentalists and musicians so it will be a unique combination.

The group plans to use the Ag Plot and Rainforest areas of the school and will conduct activities and engage students in developing these and other neglected areas of the school. Mr C would also like to develop some tree planting areas and try to grow rice with students in the ag plot. It promises to be a wonderful new initiative at our school.

There will also be a connection with UWS and perhaps other universities as well as Campbelltown Council.

Future Teachers 2015 This year our major initiative will continue with over 180 students submitting applications. There will be a major planning session with students in the first few weeks. All students enrolled in this club must attend this first meeting - more on this to come.

Our activities this year will include; Teach Week in Term 2, the Pop-Up Classroom at Macarthur Square; Sydney University visits; classroom observations; a chance to teach one or two days at Macquarie Fields Primary; a teaching opportunity at the new North Shore High School with only Year 7 students this year and some new ideas such as lab assistants, working as a Teaching Assistant at our school, Peer Tutoring in assignments and research and many more great opportunities.

Another very exciting opportunity is our recent connection with a school in the USA. We will be video conferencing with a school in Cleveland Ohio, USA (where the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame is!). This is the first Future Teachers link between countries. This is another first for MFHS! We will try to establish more of these links this year with other international schools.

Mr C Goes to Egypt and the UAE. Over the summer break Mr Celestino and three of his four children travelled again to the Middle East. They began their travels in Dubai with its great architecture, shopping, dancing fountains and the world’s tallest building. This time they also travelled in Abu Dhabi to visit its attractions. This included the fantastic Grand Mosque, which is one of the most impressive in the world.

The Celestino’s also went back to Egypt. Mr C had been there nine years ago with his oldest two (Blake and Jack) and it was time to bring the two youngest (Mia and Sam) to see the sights. They stayed at the Pyramid View Inn which was
inexpensive and right in sight of the three Pyramids of Giza- what a view! They also travelled to Sakkara to see the world’s oldest pyramid which was built by King Zoser 4600 years ago. They also got to travel to Dashsur to see the strange Bent Pyramid and the Red Pyramid. The Red Pyramid, which is not usually visited by tourists, is actually the second biggest ever built and it was constructed by Cheops’ dad (who built the Great Pyramid)!

The Celestino’s also visited Old Cairo, the Mohammed Ali Mosque, and the Citadel. They also had a dinner cruise on the Nile. Mr C’s youngest son, Sam got up and danced with the Belly Dancer! It was his birthday, too. Travel makes Geography come to life and one can easily see how people, cultures and landscapes interact to produce the unique character of places.

Mr P Celestino
Head Teacher Social Science

The Grand Mosques in Abu Dhabi

Mr C, Sam, Blake and Mia at the Great Pyramid in Egypt

The Stepped Pyramid of Sakkara, the oldest in the world
2014 Year 10 Work Experience Week Report

During the 24-28 November 2014, Year 10 students were given the opportunity of participating in our Work Experience Program. 151 students were involved in this valuable program and they experienced the world of work, gaining insights into the working environment and provided many students with first-hand knowledge of career that they are interested in.

Many of the students were visited during the work experience week by a teacher from the school. I would like to thank all of the teachers that assisted me. A couple of special moments from the work experience week checks include:

- While visiting a young man undertaking work experience at a screen printing business, he showed me a small business that he is developing with help from his parents. He has drawn upon a range of subjects here at school including Commerce, Maths and Art in setting up his business.
- While visiting a young lady at a primary school, she glowed while telling me that she had found her calling - as a teacher. This shows the value of the work experience opportunity that we provide the students.

The final word about the work experience opportunity goes to a Year 10 student “Work experience completely changed my perspective on working. I figured that I could do something worthwhile which includes my passion. Definitely a great experience that anyone would enjoy whilst learning”.

Miss T Wilson
Social Science

2015 Work Experience Week

To give Year 10 students the opportunity to participate in this valuable Work Experience program, we have scheduled the week of 23 to 27 November 2015 as Work Experience week. Early notification is being given of the dates, so that students are able to approach businesses and organisations that they are interested in.

Students will be required to find their own Work Experience placement in consultation with the Careers Adviser.

More information will be provided to Year 10 students at their next year meeting.

Miss T Wilson
Social Science

Tax File Number Applications

As part of the Career Education Program at Macquarie Fields High School, all students aged over 13 have the opportunity of participating in the secondary school students Tax File Number Program.

For secondary school students, this is the quickest and easiest way to obtain a Tax File Number. Applying this way is easy because the school verifies the student’s identity and it is not necessary to provide any evidence of identity documents. Some details from the student’s Australian birth certificate, Australian citizenship certificate, or overseas passport are required.

If you would like to apply for a Tax File Number via this program, please complete the Tax File Number application form. It is important that your son or daughter sign the application form themselves.

This is the last opportunity that students will have to apply for a Tax File Number via this program, as it is being discontinued from March 2015.

Application forms can be collected from Miss Wilson in the Social Science Faculty. All completed forms must be returned to Miss Wilson by Friday 6 March 2015.

Miss T Wilson
Social Science