Calendar Events

**Week 5**
Monday 10 August - Friday 14 August
Yr 12 TRIALS

**Week 6**
Monday 17 August
Yr 7 into 8 Information Evening & Enrich. Expo
P & C Meeting-7:30pm

Thursday 20 August
Yr 12 Graduation Photos

Friday 21 August
Yr 7 Gala Day

**Week 7**
Tuesday 25 August
Yr 10 Road Safety Forum

**Week 8**
Monday 31 August - Friday 4 September
Yr 11 YEARLY EXAMS

**Week 9**
Monday 7 August - Friday 11 September
Yr 11 YEARLY EXAMS

Monday 7 September
Year Meetings Week

From the Principal

Scholarship Award
Congratulations are due to Jimmy Vo of Year 11 who was successful in achieving a Youth Scholarship from the Department of Family and Community Services. Well deserved, Jimmy!

Recipient’s of PBL Raffle Prize Draw

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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.

Year 7 2016: Hands On High School – Thursday 27 August
It’s hard to believe but it is time for our incoming Year 7 for 2016 and their parents begin to explore the new world of learning in high school. To support the transition from Year 6 to Year 7, we invite parents of our prospective students to our Hands On High School event. Hands On HS is an information evening with a difference where parents can experience sample lessons, meet some of our teachers, including our Year 7 Advisors, Ms Hall and Mr Luc, and current student leaders and check out our facilities. It is a wonderful opportunity to find out more about our school and familiarise yourselves as parents, with the demands and requirements of secondary school. This evening is for parents only, as
we have a day time version for the students. All parents who have accepted a place at our school for Year 7 2016 should have received information about Hands On HS in a recent mail out. Please register by returning the form to your child's primary school or directly to the office at MFHS. If you did not receive a letter with the information and your child will be attending our school in 2016, please contact our office as soon as possible. Registrations should be received by 25 August for catering purposes and to ensure we have a seat for you!

2015/6 Captains and Prefects
It is with great pleasure that I can announce the Captains and Prefects for 2015/16! Congratulations to: Charmaine Batulan and Samin Azfar (Captains), Jessica Liang and Jackson Tallon (Vice Captains) and to our Prefects: Emily Cook, Nancy Harb, Pooja Salimath, Queenie Tran, Jesslyn Dang, Emily Le, Richard Shen, Arwin Gomez, Ishan Gupta and Samuel Gonzalez.

Student leadership at this level is a very prestigious position but, more importantly, it is one of responsibility, maturity and commitment. The expectations are high and all members of the Student Leadership Team are expected to abide by a charter which they will sign at a meeting to be held later this term and to which their parents will be invited. They will also be issued with a calendar of school and community events which they will be expected to attend as an integral part of their roles.

The process followed to select the team has been extremely rigorous and included an information meeting and expression of Interest. This was followed by a full application, including a referee. I then conducted a group interview from which the Prefects were selected. Successful applicants who also wished to be included in the ballot for Captain and Vice Captain then proceeded to election, following a successful individual interview with a panel. The entire school community were provided with the opportunity to participate in the elections which were managed by Miss Shakespeare, the SRC Coordinator. I would like to thank Miss Shakespeare and her assistants, Mrs Masters and Mrs Marjarich who undertook the counting of votes. Interestingly, and for your information, teachers' votes had the same value as those of the students'.

The Student Leadership Team will be formally inducted into their roles at the Commencement Ceremony to be held on Tuesday 6 October and I look forward to working closely with them. This is the first time we have had a Prefect body at Macquarie Fields HS and the aim is to expand the leadership opportunities for our students as we are a big school, with many talented potential leaders.

Battle of the Arts
During Education Week, a small team of passionate artists from Year 9 elective Visual Arts supported Mrs McDermott in the delivery of a major arts initiative known as Battle of the Arts which was held at Sarah Redfern HS. The team of artists worked non stop all day, assisting primary students in the creation of scratch foam prints with a monster theme. Well done, Tresinda Hudson, Ryan Tchan and Mabel Truong. This was a major cross network initiative and I am very proud that our students were so willing to be involved in the broader community.

Fire in the Fields
Once again, our students and staff were involved in the annual Fire in the Fields concert series, with our dance and string ensembles performing for a very warm and supportive audience. I am always very proud of our performers but the performances at this event were certainly of a very high standard. Congratulations to all involved and special thanks to Mrs Costa, Mrs Davidson, Miss Tran and Miss Shakespeare for their efforts in preparing the students and their support on the night. Congratulations to: Awen Davidson, Nissa Cheong, Nada Saadat, Candance Crocker, Chloe Ripinskis, Shandini Sheoshker, Nicole Dhungana, Taleah Tallar, Yasmin Mamalicos, Jovitta Chen, Sharon Li, Megan Lam and Amisha Lamba.
Our dance ensemble performs at Fire in the Fields

PopUp Classroom!
As part of Education Week, a team of teachers supported by volunteers from the ranks of our Future Teachers, celebrated Education Week by presenting mini lessons at Macarthur Square in Campbelltown. We had lessons delivered in Science, English, Mathematics, Social Science and Food technology and in addition, our string ensemble performed under the baton of Mrs Davidson! All in all, the staff and students represented our school in an exemplary manner and opened the door to contemporary teaching practice to the local community.

PopUp Classroom at Macarthur Square

In this edition…
We have a very full and interesting report from the Special Education Faculty, as well as a report on our Pink Ribbon Day initiative to raise funds for the Australian Breast Cancer Research Centre. The school successfully raised over $2,000 and I commend Mrs Daniella Fedele for her outstanding work coordinating the endeavour. Our students supported the event through their gold coin muti day with a pink theme. Year 9 Food Technology visited Sydney Tower to inspect a high end commercial operation – they also took advantage of the opportunity to sample the buffet!!

I hope you take the time to read about all the wonderful opportunities available to our students at Macquarie Fields HS!

Mrs J Dolstra
Principal

Special Education Faculty

2015 has been a busy year so far in the Special Education Faculty, with a few changes. In February, we temporarily farewelled our Head Teacher, Mrs Veronica Mafi, who is currently undertaking the role of Deputy Principal at Menindee Central School, in north-western NSW. We wish her all the best, and look forward to hearing all her stories when she returns in 2017. During her absence, Ms Philippa O'Sullivan will be relieving in the Head Teacher position.

We were pleased to welcome Ms Rebecca Kiss and Mr Nathan Antony to our faculty this year. Ms Kiss is currently teaching English and Visual Art, and is also completing her Master of Special Education at Deakin University. Mr Antony, the Learning and Support Teacher at MFHS, has been a valuable source of guidance (and resources!)

It has been a particularly busy time for our students as well. Our two Year 12 students, Jazs Wilson and Joel Weddle, are in the midst of their Trial HSC examinations. We wish them all the best for the months ahead, as they complete their formal education and transition to post-school life.

The Special Education Faculty is currently involved in a number of programs and initiatives designed to assist our students to enter the workforce or further study:
Work Experience Program
Students in our faculty from Years 9 to 11 have had the opportunity to participate in weekly work experience placements this year. Employers have included Premier Vet Care, Afford Industries Ingleburn and Minto, Target Campbelltown, Macquarie Fields Leisure Centre, Fans Computers, Guitar World, Little Buddies Childcare Centre, and the office of Laurie Ferguson, MP.

We greatly appreciate the support of the employers who have provided our students with the opportunity to experience such a wide variety of work environments. Special thanks also go to our wonderful School Learning Support Officers – Mrs Rhonda Harper, Mrs Vicki Weblin, and Mrs Loris Wood, who have been on site to support students while they work.

Community Access Program
In Terms 3 and 4, our students will be participating in Community Access, with a particular focus on travel training. We will be visiting several locations, during which we will be working on using Opal cards and reading a variety of public transport timetables. Students undertaking Life Skills Mathematics will also have the opportunity to practice skills learned in Financial Mathematics, by working with Unit Pricing in the supermarket.

R.A.G.E. Program
The RAGE Program focuses on managing emotions and maintaining a healthy lifestyle, and contains a follow-up component. The program was delivered by Emma, Thomasina and Anela, who are psychologists from ADHC in Campbelltown. It is likely that the RAGE program will be rolled out to a select group of students in mainstream classes in 2016.

Of course, we could not have hoped to arrange any of these placements without the hard work of Ms Melissa Purdon, who has spent countless hours talking to potential employers, embarking on site visits, and organising paperwork! Ms Purdon’s skills are such that she has been accepted into the program to train as a Transition Advisor, which means that she will be able to employ her talents on a whole school basis.
Transition Meetings
Over the next few weeks teachers, parents and Year 10 – 11 students in our faculty will be meeting with the DEC Support Teacher Transition, Mrs Dianna Ames. This is an exciting time, as we will be discussing senior school and post-school options for individual students. A number of our Year 10 students are hoping to undertake TVET courses in Year 11, and a few are also considering School Based Apprenticeships. Some of our students will be increasing the time they spend at work experience, with a view to transition to full time employment. We are also hoping to offer further opportunities for students to undergo White Card Training, as this was successfully attained by one of our students earlier in 2015.

Workplace Related Text Writing
Ms Kiss has been working with the Gold, Green and Blue classes on resume writing, reading job advertisements, and writing job applications. She has also been discussing goal setting on both a short and long term basis. Our senior students have also been working on developing reflective and critical thinking skills.

NOVA Job Club
Year 11 and 12 students were invited to participate in the Job Club during term 2. Students were able to explore a number of employment options with the NOVA consultants, discuss individual goals, and practise their job interview skills. We are hoping to run the program again in term 4 for our Year 10 students.

Other news…
- Green class recently visited Glenmore Dairy with Ms Purdon and Mrs Harper, where they had the opportunity to milk a cow (Ms O’Sullivan was disappointed to miss out on that one!)
- Congratulations to Scott Graham, who was selected to represent MFHS in Javelin at the Zone Athletics Carnival.
- Well done to Jazs Wilson and Rayna Rapo, who have been our SRC representatives during 2015.

As a faculty we acknowledge the continued support of parents and carers, and mainstream teaching staff. We look forward to working with you for the remainder of 2015.

Ms Philippa O’Sullivan
Relieving Head Teacher, Special Education

Pink Ribbon Day
On June 19, 2015 the Macquarie Fields High School staff held a fundraising event for the Australian Breast Cancer Research Centre.

The event was filled with lots of fun experiences, enjoyed by all staff. The BBQ lunch cooked by the wonderful Mr Don Dean our school’s general assistant was delicious and most satisfying.

We also introduced our very first Macquarie Fields “Whose Faculty Rules” blind tasting bake off competition. The amazing variety of options being offered by our staff competitors was mouth-watering. This was the day to forget about our diets! Staff could not wait to taste the varieties on offer.

Entries consisted of chocolate brownies, cheery chocolate swirl cheese cake, chocolate mousse torte,
scrumptious melting moments, walnut and carrot cakes plus many more. The feast of sweets was not only a spectacular sight but a mouth drooling sensation.

During the course of the event our school administrative manager, Mrs Kaye Williams enticed all staff to purchase tickets for the raffles and bid on our silent auctions. Kaye also arranged a lucky door prize for every gold coin entry to go into the money tree prize.

A mufti day gold coin donation was also arranged to involve our students to be involved in. It was great to see so many students pick up on the “Pink” theme.

We successfully raised $2492.15. This would not have been achievable without all the kind donations from the following people, business and companies.

- Club Marconi - 1 $100.00 x dinner voucher for their Asian restaurant and 2 x vouchers for the clubs café
- Macquarie Links International Golf Resort - A day out for two on the golf course
- Trish Papas- Vibes Photography - 3 x photo sessions and photo albums
- Sabrea Corp Joico Hair Products - 4 x hair care product packs
- Ingleburn RLS Club – 1 x week sun seeker holiday resort at Forster
- Tim Cahill signed jersey – Sanitarium Health/Wellbeing
- Dumaresq Street Cinema - Family tickets for a movie session
- Glenquarie Fruit Market - A gift box of fruit and vegetables
- Angel Bell café – Voucher for 2 lunch meals
- Woolworths - $100.00 gift voucher
- Hazme Meats – 100 assorted sausages for our BBQ
- English department – Donation of fresh bread rolls for the BBQ
- Daniela Fedele – Donated 8 hair vouchers

Big thanks to all the staff who created or whose partner created spectacular sweets.

Mrs Judge, Mrs Grech, Mrs Heath, Mrs Fedele, Mr Ralston, Mr Perret and Miss Worthington

Cake Bake off Winners
1st Mrs Grech
2nd Mrs Heath and Mrs Fedele (tied)
3rd Mr Ralston

Thank you to the judges
Benjamin Heavey and Hana Maksimovic, SRC Reps
Mrs Buckler, Head Teacher, Administration
Mr Wilkie, Head Teacher, English
Year 9 Food Technology

The Year 9 Food Technology students had the opportunity to visit Sydney Tower on the 4th of August. During the excursion the students had a tour of the Tower including the main kitchen, store rooms, cool rooms, dry store, prep kitchens, 360 bar and dining and experienced the Sydney Tower buffet.

They were guided by a special tour guide. During the tour the head chef spoke to the students about various important responsibilities when working in Industry, OH&S policies employed by Sydney Tower Dining to ensure a safe working environment, the importance of chef’s uniform and creating and planning a menu. He also explained the types of menus using seasonal ingredients to save the cost of products.

He explained the different types of major pieces of equipment used in the production kitchen including the combination ovens. In addition he explained the importance of cool rooms and maintaining the temperatures to keep food safe and fresh, and also having correct and precise labelling on each food item in the cool room. At the end of the tour the students had time to ask any questions from the chef.

The group of students who went on this excursion had the opportunity to enjoy a variety of multicultural food & desserts at the buffet.

Mrs L Fernando
Parenting children with a Disability

Support and information for issues related to parenting a child with a disability.

It explores:

- Expectations verses reality
- Dealing with feelings
- Behavior management strategies
- Communication skills
- Self-esteem
- Teaching children to care for themselves
- Routine, rules and boundaries
- Coping strategies and resources available

Bookings (essential): Ph: 4628 0044
For more info go to www.catholiccare.dow.org.au

CatholicCare’s Family Support Program is funded by The Australian Government