FROM THE RELIEVING PRINCIPAL

Welcome to the start of yet another academic year at Macquarie Fields High School. I wish to extend a very warm welcome to the parents of our Year 7 students, and to parents of our new enrolments. I hope that you and your child enjoy the “world of learning” that the staff has worked hard to create, maintain and develop. As I said to the parents and students in Year 7 on their first day of school this year, Macquarie Fields High School is a little like the “Disneyland” of learning.

Macquarie Fields High School is a uniquely blended school unlike any other school in the state because we have a selective stream, comprehensive stream and a special education unit. We are a truly public school supporting public education values where staff strive to assist all students achieve excellence.

The year has begun well with students now settled in their classes. We are a bigger school this year with just over 1080 students enrolled across Years 7-12. I would like to acknowledge the hard work of the Relieving Deputy Principal (School Management and Welfare), Mrs Heather Costa who has worked alongside of Mr Geoffrey Plowes, Head Teacher Mathematics, to finalise enrolment numbers for submission to the Department of Education. The ladies in the front office, particularly Sheree, Jasmine and Kaye have been instrumental in this process too.

Our Principal, Mrs Jan Dolstra remains relieving as Principal at Ingleburn High School for Term 1
of this year. She will return to us at the end of this term or the beginning of Term 2 at the latest. In the meantime I shall relieve as Principal. Towards the end of term, I will be taking a week’s long service leave and Mr Justin Perrett, (Deputy Principal Curriculum) will relieve as Principal. Mrs Costa relieves in my position as Deputy Principal (School Management and Welfare) and Mrs Metcalf will relieve as the Head Teacher Creative and Performing Arts for four days a week and Ms Minh This Tran will relieve for one day per week. Mr David Ralston is on leave for twelve months and Mrs Vicki Shipley will stand in as the Acting Head Teacher of TAS (Home Science and Industrial Arts) during 2016. I would like to thank these staff for accepting these leadership roles within the school.

NEW STAFF
I would like to welcome to the school this year, Mr Dylan Nguyen who joins the Mathematics faculty replacing Mr Sasa Vujanic who received a transfer. Last term, Ms. Jillian Vella joined the English faculty replacing Ms Vesna Stojceva who also received a transfer. In the front office, Kimberly Dean has replaced Louise Heath who has taken twelve months leave and Tracy Smith replaces Anne Birkett, who was promoted at the end of last year, until the position can be filled on a permanent basis.

2015 HSC RESULTS
Congratulations to the class of 2015 for their overall outstanding achievements in the Higher School Certificate examinations.

In particular, there were some outstanding individual performances:
- Adib Rahman achieved an ATAR of 99.35 and was placed 7th in the state for Economics.
- Amy Huynh was placed 10th in the state for CAFS. Excellent all-round HSC results in all subjects.
- Teressa Bernado scored Band 6 in every subject.
- Raymond Cheng; Joanna Gollon; Matthew Bekkema; Diana Vitale and Chloe Zhou achieved excellent all-round results along with Mark Sorial and Jasmine Schlage.
- It should be noted that students from both the Selective stream and the comprehensive stream achieved excellent results.
- Many students achieved top results in individual subjects with 100 Band 6 results across a range of subjects.

OVERALL ANALYSIS OF 2015 HSC RESULTS
- Some outstanding all round faculty achievements, particularly in Mathematics and English. The Advanced English results were particularly impressive. Excellent results also achieved in Ancient History; Legal Studies; Studies of Religion; Music; Art; Engineering Science; CAFS; Economics; Business Studies; PDHPE and Chemistry.
- Our support students performed with distinction in the relevant HSC subjects they attempted.
- We had a slight decrease in the number of Band 6 scored overall by students (compared to 2014 results) but this was offset by a very strong increase in the number of Band 5s awarded to students across a range of subjects. We continue to look closely at what differentiates a Band 5 from a Band 6 response to develop strategies that can help students to move from the cusp of a Band 5 to a Band 6. I will be meeting with Head Teachers to discuss strategies for improving what are already a strong set of results, for the 2016 Year 12 cohort.
• A very pleasing overall drop in the numbers of students scoring in the lower bands 3, 2 and 1, with more students pushing higher into a Band 4.
• A continued focus must remain on the literacy and numeracy skills development of all students, 7-12 ensuring all students are at or above benchmark.

We are very proud of all of our Year 12, 2015 students and wish them well in their future endeavours. The vast majority of our students have accepted a variety of university positions in a variety of courses while others have graduated into the workforce and/or specialist TAFE courses.

STUDENT LEADERS 2015
I would like to thank our outgoing School Captains, Teressa Bernado and Hamza Butt and Vice Captains, Dylan Scarborough and Amy Huynh for their leadership of the student body in 2015. They performed their duties with distinction and a bright future lies before them all.

STUDENT LEADERS 2016
One of the roles of any good school is to identify and develop the leadership potential in all students. I would like to congratulate, once more, the Senior Student Leadership team for 2016.

School Captains: Samin Azfar
Charmaine Batulan

Vice-Captains: Jessica Liang
Jackson Tallon

Prefects: Nacy Harb; Emily Le; Jesselyn Dang; Ishan Gupta; Queenie Tran; Pooja Salimath; Richard Shen; Emily Cook; Samuel Gonzalez and Arwin Gomez.

and our Student Representative Council (SRC) members:

Year 9
Jasmine Dabestani; Megan Lam; Ashutosh Sharma; Neeraj Subbanna; Alex Seiuli

Year 10
Abdul Kanji Shivaun Narayan; Mable Truong; Susan Wu

Year 11
Melita Duong-Ma; Hana Maksimovic; Ashraf Olife; Ahnaf Rahman; Danielle Esaid

Year 12
Melati Abdullah; Selina Chou; Richard Shen; Brendon Pangnanouvong.

Congratulations to all.

PURCHASE OF A ZOLL DEFIBRILLATOR
All staff at the beginning of this year were involved in face to face training in Asthma Awareness and how to respond appropriately to a person having an asthma attack. Staff was also trained in anaphylaxis awareness and responding with, as appropriate, and delivering an adrenalin injection using an epi-pen. Staff also undertook face to face, practical CPR training.

Anaphylaxis training and CPR training are now mandatory training requirements for all Department of Education personnel and must be completed annually in the form of face to face instruction by a provider that has been approved by the Department of Education (not electronic delivery).

As a result of the CPR training and bearing in mind changes to Departmental policy which now allows NSW schools to purchase a defibrillator, I am pleased to announce that the school has purchased a ZOLL Defibrillator as a precaution in the event of a student (or staff member) suffering cardiac arrest or a heart attack. The chances of survival are much greater where a defibrillator is used on a patient. Some staff have already been
trained in the use of this machine and a further twenty will be trained when the defibrillator arrives on site in the next week or so. It is a machine which speaks the user through the process and will not shock a patient unless it picks up the signal that the heart has gone into fibrillation. It is designed so that even where a person has not formally been trained in its use, they will be talked entirely through the process by the machine, step by step. We hope, of course, that we never have to use it.

The ZOLL Defibrillator has been donated to the school by our Year 12 cohort 2015 and Year 12 cohort 2014. Both cohorts have contributed $1500.00 towards its $3000.00 cost. I was told by the representative from ZOLL, Gary Henry, that we were the first public school in his broad sales area and perhaps the first public school in the state, to purchase a defibrillator to enhance the safety of all of our students and staff.

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.

P&C MEETING
Our first P&C Meeting for the year will be on Monday, February 15th, 2016 in the school Library. It commences at 7:30pm. I hope to see many parents at the meeting and warmly welcome the parents of students who are new to our school.

I hope you enjoy reading the rest of our newsletter.

Mr M Tishler
The Wide World of Social Science

2016 will be another successful year of our Social Science Department. In 2015 the faculty made new learning spaces around our area and some of the classrooms have already been rearranged to maximise our learning areas. This year we hope to complete much of this project with new furniture and new items for classrooms, outside areas and the corridors.

Another big initiative this year will be the completion of the Rainforest area between the Science and Maths blocks. This neglected area is scheduled to be revitalised commencing this term. It is hoped that all subjects can use this new learning space for creative and engaging lessons. There will be reflection, exploration and work areas within this area and new trees and ground cover will be planted to make the ground level even more exciting.

Social Science is also offering a new subject, Earth Science which deals with Meteorology, Human Geography and Oceanography in Year 8. The class is full and we have exciting things planned for this first class. It will be taught by Mr Baker and Miss Barnes and they are very enthusiastic about this new teaching area. We hope to also offer another new Enrichment course next year as well. We are currently looking at Junior Accounting and Finance, World Cultures, International Studies or Politics 101 a junior Political Science class which ran very successfully in 2012.

HSC Results

Social Science subjects continued to do extremely well at our school. Economics led the results with a state ranked student (Adib Rahman) placing #7 in the subject. This is a tribute to Mr Morales and Mr Baker who have built up this subject to an amazing three classes, this is very rare in the entire state. Since 2011 our faculty has produced three state ranks (Economics and Society and Culture) and a top ten (out of 4500) Personal Interest Project (Dominic Pham) in Society and Culture. Business Studies also produced fantastic results again and Social and Culture students achieved 10 Band 5/6 results out of 14 students. We are looking forward to continuing this trend in 2016.

Our Staff

This year Head Teacher, Mr Celestino, will continue to implement new and exciting changes in this subject area. In 2017 we will implement at new syllabus in Geography (the first change since 2000) and this looks to be a great improvement of the existing course structure. Mr Celestino will be teaching Year 12 Geography, Society and Culture, Year 11 SAC, Year 10 Commerce and Year 8 Geography. Mr Morales will continue with Economics and Commerce mainly, Mr Baker with teach Economics, Geography and Earth Science, Miss Barnes, Year 9 Advisor, will teach Years 11 and 12 Business Studies and Earth Science, Miss Shakespeare will teach Years 11 and 12 Business Studies, Geography and Psychology and Miss Bell will teach Ms Wiecek’s load this term until she returns later in the term. Miss Bell also teaches History.

Mr Celestino’s Latest Travels:

This year Mr Celestino went to Melbourne for Christmas and continued on to the island of Tasmania by ferry. There he travelled extensively around the islands geographical and historical highlights. Foremost amongst them was a trip to Port Arthur. Here he went on a Ghost Tour as night, but alas, no ghosts showed up! He also visited Swansea, Hobart, Launceston (with its great architecture) and Devonport. At Devonport he was able to find some original Aboriginal rock engravings which weren’t open to the public. They are over 12,000 years old!
There is always drama when one travels. The Tasmanian Ferry was damaged by violent winds and this disrupted the return trip which had to be rescheduled. However, this was another exciting look are an interesting area of Australia.

Glenrowan, Victoria, on the way to Melbourne. The town were the Kelly Gang had their standoff.

The ruins of Port Arthur, this was once one of the harshest prisons on earth.

The 12 Apostles and great coastal wonder of Australia. The formations are called Sea Stacks. (Photos: Mr Celestino)

Future Teachers Club Teach Week 2
The Future Teachers Club ran its first ever end of year Teach Week 2 during the last three student days of 2015. This was to complement the normal Teach Week mid-year in which students teach lessons, do playground duties with staff, help with Sport and visit the local Primary School. The idea was to enable students to engage their peers in the final days of the year with some meaningful and interesting activities. Students taught in all areas of the school with maths being the most popular area. The fact that over 80 FTC members taught a lesson was very rewarding for all and we hope do this again in 2016.

The Future Teachers Club will be entering its 3rd Year in 2016 and we hope to continue giving our students a look at the other side of their education. There are many opportunities available to FTC members from Uni visits to excursions and the Yanco visit each year. Congratulations also to FTC member Amy Huyuth who won a Teach.nsw scholarship to teach maths which includes all HECS fees and a guaranteed job at the end of the course. Fantastic!

Mr P Celestino
Head Teacher Social Science
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