



# Macquarie Grammar School

## *OctoberBluey*

*'Truth and Virtue'*

### *Activities Day*

Volume 12,  
Issue 8  
Spring Term, 2016

### *Girls competing in Tug-a-War*



### *Musical Performance*





# Macquarie Grammar School

## October Bluey Newsletter

*'Truth and Virtue'*

Volume 12 Edition 8

CRICOS No: 03330B

ABN: 67 796 481 099



### Spring Term

Years 7 - 11 Camp, Collaroy 5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> Nov  
Basketball Inter-School Comp, 12:30pm Thur 17<sup>th</sup> Nov  
Winter Term Examinations for Yrs 7-11 21<sup>st</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> Nov  
Speech Day Assembly, 9:30 - 11:30am Wed 7<sup>th</sup> Dec  
Lessons conclude for Years 7 to 12 Wed 7<sup>th</sup> Dec  
Staff Professional Development Day Thur 8<sup>th</sup> Dec  
Staff Professional Development Day Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Dec

### Summer Term

Professional Development Day & Orientation Mon 30<sup>th</sup> Jan  
Lessons commence for Years 7 to 12, 8:30am Tues 31<sup>st</sup> Jan

**School Office Hours (During Term)** 8:30am-5:00pm

**School Office Hours (During Term Breaks)** 9:00am-5:00pm

**Uniform Ordering Hours** 9.00am- 5:00pm

### House Points

BRADMAN	FRASER	FREEMAN	THORPE
1234	1005	1092	1009

*Winter Term House Champion is Bradman House!  
Congratulations to Bradman House for a magnificent result.*

### Motivational Quote

*"What we hope ever to do with ease, we must first learn to do with diligence."*

*Samuel Johnson*

### Message from the Headmaster

#### Spring Term

Winter Term concluded with an awards assembly that highlighted the wonderful talents of our students and I am sure everyone who was present would concur with my sentiments, that our students are truly capable of succeeding in any challenge. We are now well into Spring Term and as our final term of the academic year, I am sure we will continue to see our students excel across a number of areas of the curriculum. The school has planned activities for the students to partake in and grow with the experiences that they will be exposed to. These will include a strong and challenging academic programme, an extended co-curricular set of activities, increased sporting diversity and a camp to name just a few.

Therefore, I welcome our new staff and students with their families to Macquarie Grammar School and I challenge the students to be involved in as many programmes as possible and seek to grow as an individual in every facet of the school's curriculum. I wish students and staff all the very best for the term ahead and look forward to congratulating our students during their educational journey. To our parents and guardians I thank you for encouraging your children to be involved in the various programmes that the school is offering, this year.

### Macquarie Grammar School

When I interview prospective parents who wish to enrol their child at the school I refer to Macquarie Grammar School as a boutique school that is unique and has many benefits that go with this title. In particular, students have easy access to their teachers for assistance, whether it be academic or pastoral. I ask students to utilise this wonderful school trait as our teachers are committed to their overall wellbeing.

### Farewell to Year 12

It is always a sad time of year Winter Term, as we vale our wonderful Year 12 students and wish them well for the future. They have been an outstanding group of mature students who have played an important role in setting high levels of academic commitment and values which

depicted their utmost respect for Macquarie Grammar School.



On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at the Valedictory Assembly and Graduation, we honoured our Year 12 students for all their good work, presented them with a gift from

the school and thanked their parents and the teachers for guiding them with their studies, throughout their school life. We also had the privilege of having Mr Elbannawho made the Special Address on behalf of the Year 12 parents and his words of wisdom I'm sure resonated well with the students. I





thank him for making the time to be with us as he is an amazing motivational speaker.



On behalf of everyone at MGS, I wish our Year 12 students all the very best for the future and I'm sure their performance in the HSC will make them, their parents and us very proud.



#### **Farewell Mr Sinclair**

Mr Sinclair joined us in Winter Term and made an impressive impact both inside and outside the classroom in the short time he was with us. He will be greatly missed as the students enjoyed his lessons and were most impressed with his sporting ability. On behalf of the school I thank him for his good work and wish him well in his professional endeavour.



#### **Welcome Mr Sotiropoulos**

After an extensive process in securing a quality English Teacher, Mr Sotiropoulos joins us for Spring Term. He is a thorough professional with an extensive Curriculum Vitae who specialises in teaching junior and senior students in the art of building their vocabulary and harnessing the foundations of good writing and expression. On behalf of the school community I welcome Mr Sotiropoulos and wish him well.

#### **Co-Curricular Activities**

In Spring Term (T4) the School's Co-curricular Programme has broadened its selection of activities and Year 11 students have now joined the programme making it inclusive for Years 7 to 11. This will assist our students to be exposed to greater skill options and prepare them for their HSC Examinations and future career skills. So far, the students are enjoying their involvement enormously. I thank Mrs Cawood for taking up this task and I am sure under her stewardship the programme will provide our students with enormous benefits.

#### **Parent-Teacher Interviews**

It was wonderful to see the large number of parents and guardians who were present at the last Parent-Teacher Interviews for the year. The teachers commented on the great opportunity they had to pass on some valuable advice to students and to update parents and guardians on the progress made up to the end of Winter Term. I thank all the

parents and guardians for attending and look forward to seeing our students improved results.



#### **Message from the Director of Curriculum & Compliance Subject Selections for 2017**

Year 10 students have finalised their subject choices for 2017 and I thank them for making the process operate so smoothly. This year the school offered more subjects to choose from and Information Processes and Technology has now been added to the timetable. Mrs Cawood will be the teacher and I thank her for taking on this task. Also an Extension 1 English Class has been created and it's a credit to Mr Gates who is a passionate English Teacher and has enthused our students in partaking in this very stimulating course. I look forward to seeing our Year 10 students working diligently in their subjects in 2017.

#### **Academic and Sports Awards Winter Term 2016**

At the conclusion of every term the school holds a presentation assembly where our students are awarded with certificates for either an exceptional or most improved academic performance. I would like to congratulate all the worthy recipients and encourage all the students to work hard throughout Spring Term.

<i>Kesov Raphael</i>	<i>Bradman House</i>	<i>Year 7</i>
<i>Ryan Annalise</i>	<i>Bradman House</i>	<i>Year 8</i>
<i>Hayden Clift</i>	<i>Bradman House</i>	<i>Year 9</i>
<i>Dai Kewen</i>	<i>Freeman House</i>	<i>Year 10</i>
<i>Khondukar Tarin</i>	<i>Thorpe House</i>	<i>Year 11</i>
<i>Cheung Deirdre</i>	<i>Freeman House</i>	<i>Year 12</i>
<i>Su Yihang</i>	<i>Bradman House</i>	<i>HSP 1</i>
<i>Luo Jenny</i>	<i>Thorpe House</i>	<i>HSP 2</i>

#### **Student of Winter Term**

Dai Jessica	Freeman House	Year 10
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#### **Sports Champions**

Zheng Sam		Year 10
Sheppard Amy	Bradman House	Year 10

#### **Australian Mathematics Competitions**

Over the years the school has built a strong reputation as being exceptional in the learning of Mathematics with students attaining high distinctions and distinctions. This is due to the undying commitment of the students under the professional guidance and watchful eye of their teacher. This year our results continue to be outstanding and I congratulate the students listed below on their achievement under the brilliant tutelage of Mr Alexandru.

#### **Australian Mathematics Competition**

##### **Year 10**

SHAO, Wenkun (Joy)	Distinction
WANG, William	Distinction
DAI, Kewen (Jessica)	Credit
FU, Maorui (Rick)	Credit
YE, Han (Evan)	Credit

### Year 11

CHEN, Keyu	High Distinction
LI, Jiarong	High Distinction
WANG, Letian	Distinction
XU, Yong Yang	Distinction
KIM, Hyerim	Credit

### Year 12

VU, BaoAnh	Distinction
KIM, Soolim	Credit

### ICAS Mathematics Competition

#### Year 10

LIN, Ling	Distinction
MA, Shixuan	Distinction
LI, Fang Ni	Credit
SHAO, Wenkun	Credit
WANG, William	Credit
YE, Han (Evan)	Credit

#### Year 11

CHEN, Keyu	Distinction
WANG, Letian	Distinction
KIM, Hyerim	Credit
LI, Jiarong	Credit

#### Year 12

VU, BaoAnh	Distinction
LYU, Yifeng	Credit

*Put love in your hearts.*

*Mr Hagan*

*Director of Curriculum and Compliance.*

### Message from the Director of Welfare and Operations

Congratulations to Daisy Chen, Vicky Cheng, FarahEsse, Eden Gordon, Ellie Kim, Tarin Khondukar, James Paterson, Rohan Rana and Laura Rose on nominating to be a School Monitor and may lead to being appointed as a School Prefect. This process has started what will be a new tradition at Macquarie Grammar School. Each student has been recognised for their personal leadership characteristics, intelligence, integrity, loyalty, humour, self-sufficiency and confidence.

On behalf of the school community I congratulate our Monitors on their appointment and I wish them well in enhancing their leadership skills throughout Spring Term. May they develop into individually responsible leaders who promote independence, reward success and build upon their confidence that will lead to them being responsible citizens who will make us proud. May they progress to the appointment of Prefectship.

### MGS Prefectship

Objective:

- Provide opportunities for Prefects to gain leadership experience using a range of mechanisms in the Homeroom including the Student Representative Council (SRC)
- Develop key issues for action plans relating to student welfare
- Recognise student diversity within the school community, support and acknowledge difference and promote harmony
- Provide opportunities for Prefects to make a useful contribution to the life of the School
- Derive enjoyment from their learning

### Outcomes

- Prefects will be active participants in the learning process
- Coordinate prefect services that will provide effective support to their leadership practice
- The learning experiences of Prefects will affirm their individuality and be positive and satisfying
- Establishing networks to support students and making sure that students and teachers know about, and have ready to make a tough decision for the Captain position

### Results for Prefects

- Prefects will participate in decisions about their own learning
- Prefects will pursue a weekly program of learning relevant to their needs and aspirations
- Prefects will develop an understanding of themselves as well as skills for positive socially responsible participation
- Prefects will develop competencies which enhance the quality of their relationships with others
- Prefects will feel valued as learners and leaders

Together the MGS Prefects will participate in identifying student needs, raise awareness of school priorities to enhance student well-being and represent student ideas and opinions, but above all, they uphold their office with respect, responsibility and personal best.

### A Goodbye Message to Year 12

*I feel excited and happy for the journey that you are on, but it is also really sad because I have spent all this time watching you grow up and I am very pleased in your growth.*



*Congratulations on your graduation! Each and every one of you has made a big difference in my life. I wish you every success and happiness in everything that you do!*

*I ask that you go out into the world and amount to something. Set your own value on life, set your own standards and goals.*

*Mrs Sun*

*Director of Welfare and Operations*





## Handwriting

We are caught now in an age where we are required to ensure that students are ICT literate, ready for the real world, but at the same time, well prepared to write for hours in the Higher School Certificate (HSC) Examinations. How long it will be before students are able to use a keyboard, or other technology that may replace it, in the HSC is unknown at this point. Computers have been able to mark multiple-choice responses for years. The Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards has recently been trialling software that is capable of marking essays without human intervention.

Whilst students are required to undertake handwritten HSC Examinations the School will continue to require students to complete tasks requiring handwritten responses. In addition students should ensure that, as they approach examinations, they put in plenty of additional practice to build up their handwriting muscles. This will assist students to write both quickly and legibly.

To ensure consistency across the School and to highlight the importance of handwriting legibility, School Assessment Tasks will need to be prepared and submitted in their Handwriting, during Spring Term.

When a student's handwriting in an assessment task is deemed illegible, the marker will make every effort to decipher what they can, including with the assistance of another staff member, and mark accordingly. Students will not be permitted to interpret their assessment task unless there are exceptional circumstances approved by the Director of Curriculum, Mr Hagan.

Any student concerned that their handwriting may negatively impact their performance in an assessment task should make contact with the Director of the Curriculum Mr Hagan. Mr Hagan can advise students on strategies to improve handwriting and can assist with handwriting practice. It is vital that students are proactive in seeking assistance if their handwriting is poor.

*Mrs Sun*

*Director of Welfare and Operations*

## Year 11 Japanese Excursion to NihongoTanken Centre

The Year 11 Japanese Beginners class travelled to Kirrawee to visit the NihongoTanken Centre, where they experienced a day of learning in a Japanese language immersion environment.

The centre is built in traditional Japanese style with tatami floors, paper screens and a small Japanese style garden outside, which gave students a truly authentic feel of the culture. Two teachers who we had as instructors were both native Japanese speakers and all activities were carried out in Japanese.

The students were divided into two groups for competitive tasks that included Japanese language quizzes and games which contained vocabulary and grammatical structures that they have learnt in the past three terms. It was an excellent opportunity for them to revise what they have learned and also to realise which parts they still need to work on.



For our lunch the students made their own "onigiri (Japanese rice balls)". As they always do, they loved having the cooking lesson and tasting their own creation.



We enjoyed our time at the centre and we would love to go back again if we have a chance next year.

*Mrs Yamashita*  
*Japanese Teacher*

## Visual Arts Skin and Bones



The Kaldor Public Art Projects and the Royal Botanic Gardens presented 'BarrangalDyarra' (skin and bones) by Sydney-based Aboriginal artist Jonathan Jones at the Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney. Our students visited the site to view the artwork and learn more about the history of Sydney.

The excursion included a short address by the artist, Indigenous Education Officers and Kaldor Public Projects Art Educators. It was a wonderful opportunity to explore a very special site specific artwork and peel away the layers of history and meaning behind it.





*Learning about Bushtucker (that was not displayed in the garden palace).*



*Learning about the history of the site and the importance to Aboriginal people.*



*Imagining what the "Garden Palace" would have looked like.*



*Viewing photos of the Garden Palace, before and after the fire.*



*Immersed in the kangaroo grass and sounds, that forms part of the installation artwork by Jonathan Jones.*

## **Art and About**



Year 10 Visual Arts students were out and about to view and analyse photos displayed in Hyde Park. They will use their observations to inform and inspire their next art project, which is about Image and Identity.



## **Mathematics Faculty**

It is a tradition at MGS that our best Mathematics students have been involved in national and international competitions at the highest level. Once again, we can say that this year was no different and some outstanding results have been achieved in both the AMC and the ICAS Mathematics Competition. This year, 16 of our senior students participated in the ICAS Mathematics Competition and 12 in the AMC Competition, making us proud of their performance.

### **The 2016 results were:**

11 Credits, 10 Distinctions and 2 High Distinctions, which indicates clearly our students' commitment and passion for Mathematics. Students like Bao (12), Daisy and Devina in Year 11 consistently achieved outstanding results for the past two years and a whole new and very promising group in Year 10 are coming through and includes; Mark, Ling, Joy, William, Frances, Evan and Rick, who would make any school proud. Our students' stellar performance adds to similar previous successes and follow in the tradition, proving that while the rest of the country may be falling behind in mathematics, our students aren't going to be part of that equation. Our school is proud to have such a great group of students who build upon the MGS reputation in two of the most prestigious national and international competitions that attracts every year the brightest minds in the country and overseas students from more than 20 countries including Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa and USA. Congratulations to all of you!

Finally, a word of appreciation to all the Year 12 students who have been well prepared for the HSC. Best of luck to all of you!

Here is an interesting puzzle:

### **The Albert and Bernard Brainteaser**

*Albert and Bernard just became friends with Cheryl and they want to know when her birthday is. Cheryl gives them a list of 10 possible dates:*

May	15	May	16	May	19
June	17	June	18		
July	14	July	16		
August	14	August	15	August	17

*Cheryl then tells Albert and Bernard separately the month and the day of her birthday respectively.*

**Albert:**

*I don't know when Cheryl's birthday is, but I know that Bernard doesn't know too.*

**Bernard:**

*At first I don't know when Cheryl's birthday is, but I know now.*

**Albert:**

*Then I also know when Cheryl's birthday is.*

*So when is Cheryl's birthday?"*

For the last couple of months, this brainteaser has puzzled the world. It has appeared in newspapers, TV shows and online. It's one of the trickiest problems from a very tricky test, the Singapore and Asian Schools Math Olympiad. So how do you solve it, and what does it have to do with maths?

At first glance, it is hard to see how to start solving this puzzle. Albert knows the month and Bernard knows the day, but it may seem like Albert and Bernard are just saying "I don't know", until they magically do know.

This puzzle works by the process of elimination. Starting with lots of possible solutions, you eliminate some solutions at each step of thinking through the puzzle. Many people use this technique when solving multiple choice quizzes – instead of working out the right answer; just eliminate all the wrong ones.

Have a go at solving this puzzle yourself, and let us know what your answer would be.

*Mr Alexandru  
Mathematics Teacher*

### **University Admissions 2017**



All Year 12 students are reminded of some of the key components involved with applying to University. The first area relates to Bonus Points, and the need to be proactive. Bonus Points generally fall into two categories; namely those that are automatic and those that require you to lodge a form with an individual University. Automatic bonus points include those awarded based on residence and those awarded for certain Band Achievement in the HSC. When it comes to other Bonus Points that relate to extra-curricula involvement, achievements, etc – this is a virtual Pandora's box. Please be aware that every University is different. What one University may offer, another will ignore. You need to visit the website of every University that you have listed as a preference and determine if they award these bonus points. If they do, then there will be some type of form that you will need to lodge directly with that University. Bonus points are NOT lodged via School or through UAC. The golden rule when it comes to bonus points is to open your eyes and investigate. Explore all of the Universities that you are applying to and see what they are offering, and what you have to do to let them know about your skills. Watch out for deadlines!



The second area to think about relates to the Schools Recommendation Scheme (SRS). The SRS provides the possibility of an early offer to current Year 12 students based on criteria other than or in addition to their ATAR. For more information visit - <http://www.uac.edu.au/srs/>

There is no application fee involved and applications are made via the UAC site after you have lodged your main application. Applicants are asked to upload three awards/achievements from Years 11 and/or 12. The School will then be asked to complete your application. SRS only applies to courses nominated by each institution.

Please be advised that some Universities (eg UNE) may still have their own Early Entry Scheme in addition to SRS. Again this is best determined by close examination of University websites. Year 12 students are also reminded of an excellent video that can assist them with their University applications – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bRV7LBCzjl8>

### **Year 12 Stress Management**

If thoughts of ATARs and post School options are getting everybody (parents included!) down. I would encourage you to view this excellent video which was created by students at Bond University:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x4IHCwY838s&feature=youtu.be>





### Useful Websites

The Quality indicators for the Learning and Teaching (QILT) website is an outstanding resource that allows students to conduct some research into Universities. Areas covered include student satisfaction and employment opportunities: <https://www.qilt.edu.au>

Year 12, I wish all the best for your future study in University.

## 2016 National Young Leaders Day Sydney Olympic Park



The Annual National Young Leaders Day Event for high school students will be held this November. Join over 2,500 other young people who are embarking on a journey to lead themselves and others well!

When: **Fri 25 Nov 2016, 9:00am–2:30pm**

Where: **Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre**, Cnr Olympic Boulevard and Grand Parade,

Homebush, Sydney

Restrictions: All Ages

Ticket Information:

Early Bird Student: **\$60** (by 15 September 2016)

Student Standard: **\$65**(after 15 September 2016)

Australia's premier youth leadership event - The National Young Leaders Day, returns in 2016 with a new look, a new name and new hosts. Secondary students and young leaders from across NSW will gather in their thousands at Halogen's new ImagiNATION 2016 event to hear inspirational leadership speakers, collaborate, ideate and share their solutions for a better world.

Led by our amazing new hosts, Scott Tweedie and Gemma Knight - this is the beginning of a whole new leadership movement emerging right across Australia. Join the ImagiNATION on November 25, and be a part of Australia's next leadership generation!

The National Young Leaders Day really did have a significant impact on students. The truth is, in my opinion, it is one of the best leadership development programs I've ever seen or participated in. Students felt deeply inspired and knew this was an organisation students wanted to be part of in future.

The reasons that students need to attend the event are:

### 1) Students are inspired to make a difference now, and not just in the future

*Everyone believes that young people don't need to wait until they are older to make a difference in our world. They can make a difference now, regardless of their age and whether or not they have a position or title.*

### 2) Students learn about the essential skills and qualities possessed by great leaders

*Leadership is a big topic to cover. You can't necessarily look at all of the components in one day, but you can unpack it over time. They are intentional about what is taught and what leadership skills are important for young people to develop.*

### 3) Students get exposed to some valuable resources and ideas

*The day itself is both entertaining and inspiring, but Halogen also gives students and teachers access to various resources and ideas to help them put their leadership into practice following the event. Sometimes this is one of the biggest challenges for a leader. You can be inspired, but often you don't have the means through which you can continue to learn and develop.*

When you put all your time, energy, and focus into building on your strengths and your leadership skills, you never lose. Personally, I believe we need to mobilise not just the leaders of the future, but the leaders of today, and teach them to lead well in whatever field they pursue.

Mrs Cawood

### Sport

#### Activities Day

The school held its Annual Activities Day at Coogee Beach and our students had a great time participating in a broad range of sporting events. Every student had an opportunity to gain points for their House and were quite engrossed throughout the day in doing their best. One of the main activities of interest was Oz-Tag followed by Beach events. There was also a BBQ organised by the teachers that added to the fun on the day. Congratulations to all the students on being keen to take part, to all the wonderful teachers who supervised the events and to Mr Green for organising the whole day.



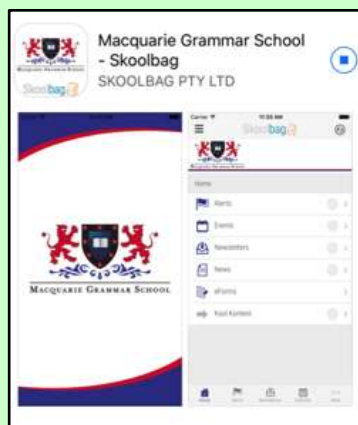
Well done everyone!

Mr Green

PDHPE and Sport Teacher



## Smartphone School Communication App – Skoolbag



Skoolbag is a mobile App for Macquarie Grammar School to communicate directly to parents, staff and students.

How to Install the Macquarie Grammar Skoolbag App on your smartphone:

### *iPhone Users*

Simply search for “Macquarie Grammar School” in the App Store on your phone and install. After the App is installed on your phone, make sure that you select “OK” to allow push notifications.

### *Android Users*

Simply search for “Macquarie Grammar School” in Google Play on your phone and install.



## Uniform Online Ordering

Enjoy the convenience of online shopping. Save time and energy by ordering your uniforms online in 5 – 6 easy steps!

### New User Instruction

1. Go to [www.midford.com.au](http://www.midford.com.au)
2. Select Macquarie Grammar School from the Online School Shops tab
3. New users need to click the Register New Account button
4. Start the registration process by selecting Macquarie Grammar School from the drop down menu and add the unique school pass phrase [MGS2004]
5. Add your personal information, create a username and personal password
6. Order the items you need, choose to collect from the school or arrange for home delivery.



MACQUARIE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

### Further information

Tel : 1800 835 643

Email: [Info@midford.com.au](mailto:Info@midford.com.au)



*Mrs and Mrs Liu with their daughter Judy*



*Mr Notholt congratulating Hermosa*

## Year 12 Valedictory Assembly



*Mr and Mrs Elbanna with their son James*