



Macquarie Grammar School

February Bluey Newsletter

'Truth and Virtue'

Volume 17

Edition 1

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Volume 17
Issue 1
Summer Term 1, 2021



School Captains and
Prefects
2020 and 2021

Macquarie Grammar School

February Bluey



'Truth and Virtue'



Summer Term 1, 2021

Years 11&12 Senior Examination Week
Junior Assessment Week, Years 7 to 10
Lessons Conclude, Awards Assembly
Home Visitations Day
Good Friday
Easter Saturday
Easter Sunday
Easter Monday

Mon 15th-Fri 19th Mar
Mon 22nd-Fri 26th Mar
Wed 31st Mar
Thur 1st Apr
Fri 2nd Apr
Sat 3rd Apr
Sun 4th Apr
Mon 5th Apr

Autumn Term 2, 2021

New Students' Orientation & Staff PD Day
Autumn Term 2 Lessons Commence, 8:30am
ANZAC Day
Parent-Teacher Information Evening
Athletics Carnival, ES (HSP – Year 12)
NAPLAN Language Conventions Year 7 & 9
NAPLAN Reading test Year 7 & 9
Photoday HSP – Year 12
Cross-Country, Carnival the Domain
UTS Science enrichment Day, UTS Science Labs
ISD Cross Country, Centennial Park
HSC & Careers Expo Year 10, 11 & 12
Year 11 & 12 Senior Examination
Queen's Birthday Public holiday

Mon 19th Apr
Tue 20th Apr
Sun 25th Apr
Wed 5th May
Fri 7th May
Tue 11th May
Wed 12th May
Wed 19th May
Thur 20th May
Tue 25th May
Wed 26th May
Fri 28th May
Mon 7th -Fri 11th June
Mon 14th June

School Office Hours (During Term) 8:30am-5:00pm
School Office Hours (During Term Breaks) 9:00am-5:00pm
Uniform Ordering Hours 9:00am- 500pm

Notifications from Administration Department:

Reminders to All Students

If you wish to return to your home country during the holiday break at the end of each term, please see the Student Services Officer for a Student Leave Request Form. Complete the form and return it to the Student Services Officer for the Headmaster's approval. Students are allowed to travel only to their home country, and they must have the approval of the Headmaster, before booking an air ticket. This also applies to students who wish to stay with their parents during visits. A letter of request from parents, their contact details in Sydney and copies of parents' visas, passports and flight tickets also need to be attached to the Student Leave Request Form.

Students who have changes in their contact details, guardians or homestay including address, email and phone numbers, please notify the SSO, complete the Student Contact Change Form and submit it back to the SSO.

Ms. Zheng
Guardianship/Homestay Officer

Message from the Headmaster

A Wonderful Commencement and

Happy Lunar New Year

I would like to open the newsletter greetings and best wishes to everyone for the Lunar New Year. This year is the Year of the Ox and may it be a very happy and healthy year ahead.



The students and staff have returned from the end of year break and have commenced with enthusiasm and commitment towards their studies. It is wonderful to see the students engaged with their work and the teachers having prepared some very interesting lessons, first up. This term is a very busy one with a number of sporting activities taking place with the Swimming Carnival at the end of Summer Term and a number of ISD Gala Days, commencing with Basketball which took place on Tuesday 16th February. Also, the end of term examinations will be conducted in weeks 8 and 9.

I wish everyone an enjoyable and productive year ahead and welcome back to MGS.

Higher School Certificate Results 2020



A brief summary of the HSC results is outlined below and you will notice that our students performed exceptionally well. So well, that nearly all will be undertaking a degree course in 2021 and have matriculated to University. Congratulations to our students who have been rewarded for all their good work throughout the year. A special mention and congratulations to our HSC Dux Gleb Kozlov whom attained an

ATAR of 98.6.

Thank you to the teachers and the support staff for working closely with the students and creating an environment where our students could focus solely upon their studies. Also, to the parents, guardians and homestay hosts for all their support in making sure that our students were cared for throughout what was a very difficult year for our students having to cope with online learning, school closures and social distancing guidelines, due to the pandemic. It was a team effort and I'm sure our students were and are appreciative of all the care and support they received. On behalf of the school community, I wish them all the very best for the future and we will miss them greatly.

HSC Results Highlights

27% of students were awarded an ATAR above 90.

40% of students were awarded an ATAR above 80.

33% of students were Distinguished Achievers.

45% of students attained a Band 5 or higher.

70% of students attained a Band 4 or higher.

The school was ranked 152nd on the Better Schools website.

Our students performed brilliantly in Mathematics Extensions 1 and 2 and Mathematics Advanced, with an average examination mean of 97% in Extension 1 and 93% in Extension 2. The results in languages were outstanding with French Beginners the leader, followed by Chinese Beginners and a solid performance in Chinese and Literature. It was also pleasing to see a strong set of results in Business Studies, Chemistry and Visual Arts. In a number of courses our students performed above the state mean, which is a phenomenal achievement and supports our commitment to quality teaching taking place in the classroom.

New Appointment

Mr Alexandru has been appointed as the new Director of Curriculum. With his broad knowledge and understanding of the curriculum at senior school level and as an outstanding classroom practitioner who has regularly attained brilliant HSC results in his field of study, I am sure his influence upon the school's curriculum will be significant and he will add to the students' growth in their learning and enhancing the quality of teacher delivery in the classroom. Congratulations to Mr Alexandru on his appointment.



Prefects for 2021

Our new Prefects for 2021 are David Nguyen (school Captain), Tom Le (Vice Captain) and Ryan Thandi. Congratulations on their appointment and I look forward to working with them as representatives of the student body.

New Staff

Three new teaching staff have been appointed to the school.

Ms Futia joins us after an extensive career in teaching at a number of independent schools as a teacher of Senior and Junior English, as well as History.



Mrs Madan teaches science and is trained in all three major sciences (Physics, Chemistry and Biology). Ms Aitken has been appointed as the new Visual Arts teacher and is talented across a number of media but in particular, Photography and Drawing. All three teachers have made a positive impact upon the school and in particular, with our students both inside and outside the classroom.



On behalf of the school community, I welcome our new teachers and I look forward to the contribution they will make, upon the life of the school.



COVID - 19 Guidelines

The academic year has commenced with the coronavirus still with us and it will be with us for quite some time. The NSW Department of Health and the Department of Education has provided guidelines for schools to follow based upon the facilities that each school has. These guidelines are to restrict the transfer and to contain the virus in case of detection. Therefore, the school has implemented a number of actions that will allow MGS to operate within a safe environment. These are outlined below:

1. Parents may drop off or collect their child from the foyer downstairs.
2. Parents, guardians, homestay hosts or other visitors may attend the school for an interview after making a booking. Visitations are limited to reduce any exposure of the coronavirus to the students and staff at the school.
3. The school has reduced movement between the floors of the building by keeping students within year groups on specific floors.
4. Communication within the school takes place during Tutor Group or via electronic mediums (email, mobile phone, etc). Parents are encouraged to contact the school via electronic means if they wish an update on their child's progress or to convey important information.
5. Social distancing is encouraged and implemented wherever possible.
6. Students and staff are expected to wash their hands regularly or use hand sanitiser, which is available in all open spaces and in classrooms.
7. Students and staff are given the option if they wish to wear a face mask.
8. Students and staff must wear a mask on public transport.

9. Weekly assemblies have been placed on hold for the time being. Assemblies for each year will take place at the end of each term to acknowledge the achievements of our students.

Even though there are restrictions in place, a number of school activities will recommence this term, like Inter-school sport, weekly Thursday sport, Swimming and Athletics Carnivals, excursions and camps.

Summer Term Parent Interviews

I ask that parents and guardians communicate with the teachers either by phone or email to ascertain the progress of their child. Please contact Reception to make a booking or write directly by email to the teacher.

Mr Rekouniotis

Director of Welfare and Operations

Welcome to 2021

Welcome back everyone and a warm welcome to our new staff who have joined us at Macquarie Grammar School. I trust they are recharged, full of energy and ready for the new academic year. I am overjoyed with the 2020 HSC results. I am very proud of our students' performance and the continued support that our teachers provided.

As we hit the ground running, we will continue our focus on supporting all our students in their learning and in achieving their full potential.

Youth Leadership Conference

I am very excited that our Prefects are attending the Youth Leadership Conference in Term 1 2021.

Throughout this one day event, our student leaders will have the opportunity to engage with internationally recognised speakers and team activities which focus on four key areas that need to be strengthened in society. This includes an empowered positive approach to leadership, creative ways to undertake teamwork, communication and coaching skills, and an opportunity to hear from successful entrepreneurs to show the pathway to creating a successful future and how it can be achieved.

The Youth Leadership Conference is designed to inspire, strengthen, and empower our student leaders. The event is designed to help develop the leadership potential of participants by learning how to be effective leaders and using those skills throughout the conference. Students can return from the program more confident in their leadership ability and will be more willing to take charge in future situations.

International Women's Day Seminar Parliament of NSW
Parliamentary Education is announcing its annual International Women's Day Seminar for 2021. This is open to all young leaders and students in Year 11, who are interested in roles of leadership within the community.

This program is an opportunity for students to meet an inspiring leader who will speak of their personal and professional experiences and can help young women aspire to roles of leadership.

Keynote presenter on the day is Rae Cooper, Professor of Gender, Work and Employment Relations at Sydney

University. She received an Order of Australia (2019) for contributions to higher education and workplace policy and practice.

A female panel of members of parliament will discuss highlights, challenges and opportunities they have experienced in their careers.

Throughout this program students will have the opportunity to ask questions to the presenters.

Venue: Parliament of NSW, Macquarie Street, Sydney.

The school will select two female students that we feel would benefit most from this event.

Our students begin their leadership training in their early years at school with research and critical analysis of leadership philosophies and style in class. They are encouraged to engage with the many opportunities available to actively develop initiative and motivation by contributing to the School Representative Council (SRC) which provides a diverse range of skills to develop confidence, competence and resilience.

Once the seed is planted, once the shift happens, the process starts, and the student is ready to take the journey towards leadership.

A Great Year Ahead

I am looking forward, to what I am sure will be another great year and we will see wonderful work taking place in our classrooms. Together, I know we will make this school year one of growth and achievement, for all students.

Mrs Sun

Director of Curriculum and Compliance

Welcome Back!

I hope all MGS families enjoyed a wonderful holiday and that you are recharged and ready to start a new school year. I look forward to assisting and communicating with you and your children in 2021.

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all students, and in particular, our new students who have settled in so well to secondary school life. Many of them participated in the holiday program offered by the school where they had the first taste of MGS culture and made new friends.

We are excited about commencing another dynamic and productive school year at MGS. Our staff were busily planning and preparing for your children over the break. They are dedicated and committed to building their knowledge and skills in supporting our students to be creative and critical thinkers and embedding these practices across our school. Here at MGS, we are very fortunate to have a warm and caring community with the common goals of nurturing responsible students and promoting excellence in learning. Together, I know we will make this school year one full of wonderful learning and growth for all of our students. Macquarie Grammar School provides an academically

challenging, yet nurturing learning environment. We had some strong HSC results last year, with most of our students gaining entry into university.

Please remember that we value the part you play in our innovative, caring and high achieving school community. Students are always encouraged to work to their personal best and make the most of the opportunities which are on offer at MGS.

Have a great 2021!

Mr Alexandru

Visual Arts

Parents and students, my name is Miss Aitken and I am a qualified Visual Art, Photography and technology teacher who is dedicated and passionate about teaching students to sustain engagement and curiosity. I am an experienced teacher who encourages excellence for all students in a well organised and caring environment where students feel encouraged and respected. I am still a practising artist who enjoys drawing using pen, watercolour and painting intricate details. I am excited to be teaching at Macquarie Grammar School and cannot wait to continue to share my experience, passion and love for the arts and design.

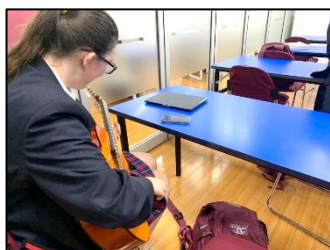


Clubs



Clubs have started back for Term 1, students have been organised into groups, participating in various activities. These include Chinese Chess, Chess, Origami and Balloon Making, Scrabble, Public Speaking, Handcraft and Guitar.

Students have enjoyed working in their groups and continue to create, learn and be taught by experienced teachers here at Macquarie Grammar School. Thank you to all students and teachers involved in running clubs successfully.



Year 7 and 8 students have been working on their topic for this semester Technicoloured Dreamscapes where they will explore the works of Surrealist artists such as Salvador Dali, Rene Magritte and Andre Breton. Surrealism is a movement in Visual Arts that focusses on dreams and distorted reality. Students will create a landscape artwork inspired by the artists studied in class, I look forward to seeing the innovative and imaginative designs that students come up with.

Year 7 and 8 Technology



Year 7 and 8 students have been working on the program called Crack the Code. This program focusses on using control technologies, students are required to individually design, produce and evaluate an alarm/ alert system using the coding system called Arduino. Students have started learning to program demonstrating their skills in class and during their practical classes.



Year 9 students have been working on the topic on portraiture. They have been using the grid method to create accurate and precise enlargements of their own faces. These portraits will be created using 2B, 4B, 6B and 8B pencils and students will learn how to tone using varying methods of shading. Students are studying portraiture artists such as Pablo Picasso, Frida Kahlo and Vincent Van Gogh to further their knowledge of the history of the portrait. The Archibald prize will be explored in depth and students will be encouraged to enter their portraits into the Young Archie Prize for 2021.



Year 10 students have been working on their unit of work exploring movies. They have been exploring movie directors and

illustrators who design characters and background scenes. Students will be creating two panels of work on a movie of their choice. One of the panels will be completed in black pen and the other students will explore colour vividly with either using paint, coloured pencil or watercolour. I look



forward to students completing these designs and to show their creativity using multiple drawing techniques.



Year 11 students have been working on their unit of workplaces and Spaces creating multiple landscapes exploring various materials such as pen, paint, watercolour and sculptural elements.

Students will produce a series of work demonstrating their skills and creativity. I look forward to seeing students develop their skills in the Visual Arts and producing their work to the highest standard.



Year 12 HSC students will be focussing on completing their Body of Work and using their time effectively in class, at home and study periods. The HSC body of work demands quality, innovative designs and conceptual strength, students have been planning and beginning the process of creating their artworks. Students have visited ARTEXPRESS at the Art Gallery of NSW. This is an exhibition that focusses on the achievements of past HSC students from across NSW. Students will gain an understanding of how to



exhibit their work, develop its conceptual strength and gain inspiration for using various materials. This was a valuable experience and students happily engaged with the process of viewing the work in a gallery space. I look forward to seeing students work develop to the highest quality and standard throughout the year.

Miss Aitken

Visual Arts Teacher and Club Activities Organiser

Student Representative Council

The SRC have been working hard towards organising this year's events to support charities, celebrate community and cultural events. Our first event to kick off 2021 was the start of the new year. The Lunar New Year is the year of the OX, it



symbolises a fresh start, seeing loved ones and sharing in the hope of all the good things to come. We celebrated by organising a small event which included selling rice snacks and chocolate coins. Students distributed information to Tutor Groups prior to the event taking place and they had plenty of support on the day. We look forward to organising our next event.

Miss Aitken
SRC Organiser

SPORT

2021 - ISD Basketball Report

On Wednesday 17th February, Macquarie Grammar School participated in the annual ISD Basketball Championships – Bankstown Basketball Centre.

As always, our students performed admirably. The opposing schools have a significantly larger student population to draw upon and many are regular competitive players. MGS displayed determination and sportsmanship throughout the day, continually 'punching above their weight'. Special thanks to Mr. Tovar for his coaching and supervision on the day.

Girls' Team



Left to right:

Misheel Gansukh, Julia Strutz Silva, Evie Pham, Indya Farrington, Mandy Lau, Mia Brewis – Weston, Gigi Zhang, Doris Li, Alex Dang.

GAME 1 vs Australian International Academy: lost 8 – 2.

Our first game was closer than the scoreline indicates. Our team were forced into a defensive pattern from the start and the girls managed to repel many attacking raids. Special mention to Misheel and Gigi for their tenacity in defence. Julia was our sole scorer.

GAME 2 vs Green Valley Islamic School: lost 6 – 2.

Another close game. Our team did their best to move the ball into Green Valley's court, yet our opponents were very good at maintaining ball possession. Mia and Indya played well.

Julia again was our sole scorer, also demonstrating good dribbling skills in offence.

GAME 3 vs Unity Grammar: Lost 8 – 2

As with previous games, MGS were competitive yet could not deliver a run of plays to score more points. Mandy was everywhere on the court and was well supported by Doris and Gigi. Julia, as consistent as ever, scored our points.

GAME 4 vs Al Sadiq College: Won 10 – 8

After MGS taking an early lead, Al Sadiq College fought back well and led by 6 points at one stage. Julia again proved to be a real asset in offence and scored some nice baskets close to the hoop. Mandy and Indya also found themselves on the scoresheet. This being the fourth match, Alex and Evie gained more of an understanding of the game and played sound defence.

GAME 5 vs Malek Fahd Islamic School: Lost 22 – 2

After a long day on the court, it was clear our girls were tired and unfortunately the scoreline blew out in the last few minutes. Mandy scored a nice layup, yet Malek Fahd were too strong. Misheel again fought hard for the ball, constantly throwing herself into the action.

Boys' Team



Left to right:

Venn Lin, Leo Li, John Li, Kevin Liu, Anson Xiao, Ryan Jiang, Omar Sutisno, Ryan Thandi, Dave Nguyen, Owen Siphandone.

GAME 1 vs Unity Grammar: Lost 12 – 9

Our first game against Unity was a closely fought contest. The boys from Unity played a fast game and it was great to see our boys match it. Venn was outstanding in attack and our top scorer. A last second 3 point shot by Venn just missed. Omar was also outstanding in all facets of the game.

GAME 2 vs Amity College: Lost 47 – 8

The scoreline reflects the one-sided nature of the game. Although our boys never gave up, it was clear Amity were a dominant team. Ryan, Dave and Owen worked tirelessly in transition and deserve praise for their perseverance.

GAME 3 vs Malek Fahd Islamic School: Lost 22 – 2

We came across another formidable team in game 3. Malek Fahd had an array of quality players in their line up and it came as no surprise they were crowned the overall winners of the competition. Kevin and Anson tried particularly hard throughout the whole match. However, the speed and

physicality of our opponents proved too much to contain for MGS.

GAME 4 vs Al Zahra College: Won 29 – 5

A tremendous effort by the whole team whereby the majority of team members scored some points. Once again Venn played a strong game, scoring 3, three pointers with ease and creating many assists. John and Venn continually created fast breaks and were well supported by Leo, moving the ball freely around the court. Our first win of the day – well done!

GAME 5 vs Bellfield College: Won 19 - 11

It was obvious from the start of play that Bellfield College held a different interpretation of how to play basketball. Numerous fouls committed by their players in an attempt to deny us scoring opportunities did not break the resolve of our players. We ignored the niggle and played the game in the right spirit. Ryan Jiang was particularly strong and physical when rebounding the ball and was not intimidated by our opponents.

**Mr Slavin
Sportsmaster**

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
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

Mobile School App for phone and Android

The school has its own mobile application that it uses as a portal to disseminate information such as Newsletters, permission notes, notifications and even forms. If you haven't downloaded the Macquarie Grammar School Application from the App Store or Google Play be do, so that you can be up-to-date with what's happening at Macquarie Grammar School. 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.

