



# Macquarie Grammar School

## May Bluey Newsletter

*'Truth and Virtue'*

Volume 17

Edition 3

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Volume 17  
Issue 3  
Autumn Term 2, 2021

ANZAC Day



Term 2, Athletics  
Carnival



Cross-Country





# Macquarie Grammar School

## May Bluey

*'Truth and Virtue'*



### Autumn Term 2, 2021

Cross-Country, Carnival the Domain	Thur 20 <sup>th</sup> May
UTS Science enrichment Day, UTS Science Labs	Tue 25 <sup>th</sup> May
ISD Cross Country, Centennial Park	Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> May
HSC & Careers Expo Year 10,11 & 12	Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> May
Years 11 & 12 Senior Examinations	Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> -Fri 11 <sup>th</sup> June
Queen's Birthday Public holiday	Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> June
Term 2, Lessons Conclude, Awards Assembly	Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> June

### Winter Term 3, 2021

New Students' Orientation & Staff PD Day	Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> July
Winter Term 3 Lessons Commence, 8:30am	Tues 20 <sup>th</sup> July
Parent-Teacher Information Evening	Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> July
Year 12 Semester 2 Examination Week	Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> -Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> Aug
Year 12 Semester 2 Examination Week	Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> -Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sep
Year 11 Assessment/Exam Week	Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> -Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> Sep
Junior Assessment Week	Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> -Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Sep
Lessons Conclude, Awards Assembly, 11:30	Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> Sep
Year 12 Valedictory Assembly, 1:30pm	Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> Sep
Labour Day Public Holiday	Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> Oct

### Spring Term 4, 2021

New Students' Orientation & Staff PD Day	Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> Oct
Spring Term 4 Lessons Commence, 8:30am	Tues 12 <sup>th</sup> Oct

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

Autumn Term has begun well with our students in preparation for a number of activities that will take place. These include their academic studies leading up to the end of term



examinations and assessments. Sporting activities that will include the Athletics Carnival to be held at the ES Marks Field, the Cross Country and the Inter-schools Sports Gala days. Also, the Student Representative Council is organising the Big Breakfast and Movie Afternoon to raise money for a number of philanthropic causes. I wish everyone well for this term and look forward to seeing our students being rewarded for their efforts, at the end of term assembly.

### School Uniform

Over the years Macquarie Grammar School has built a very positive reputation in the city, where our students have been easily identified by their uniform. They have worn it with pride and the public have commented on how well our







students present themselves and are wonderful ambassadors for our school. It's important that parents, guardians and homestay hosts play an important role in maintaining these high standards of dress and to inculcate in our children how important it is to represent our school in the best possible light at all times, but in particular, travelling to and from school or during lunch and recess breaks when our students are in the public eye.



The school uniform signifies what our school stands for and allows our students to move safely around the city and on public transport as they are easily identifiable by the general public. This is the strength of wearing the school uniform with pride as the focus of the public will be on them, due to their exceptional grooming and presentation. It's important that our students understand the purpose of the school uniform and how they represent our school, when wearing it.



## Parents/Guardian – Teacher Interviews



Parent, guardian and teacher interviews were held on Monday 3 May and it was wonderful to see a large number of parents and guardians attending to discuss the progress of their child



with the teachers. From the feedback received it was a very



rewarding evening where a great deal of useful advice was disseminated, and useful discussion took place. Please keep in touch with your child's teachers as this evening is a formal meeting but you are able to make contact throughout the term either by telephone or email.

Thank you for making the time to be available and the staff and I are looking forward to next term's meeting.

**Mr Rekouniotis**

## Director of Curriculum and Compliance

This term started with our teachers holding a Professional Development day on the very first day back before the students returned to school. This is the time when teachers review the academic performance of each student and design plans to improve students' performance. Teachers prepare a differentiated approach in their classrooms, applying strategies to support the learning of each individual. Assessment activities are chosen and varied in nature to cover a wide range of expression for our students. A range of extension activities will be offered to provide additional challenges for individual learners, such as the ICAS competition for a number of subjects.

First week back we celebrated ANZAC Day with a whole school assembly. Macquarie Grammar took the opportunity

to commemorate ANZAC Day with the service led by our school captains, who prepared and organised the event very well. I would also like to thank our Headmaster, Mr Rekouniotis for his assistance and supporting the service with an inspiring speech. Truly a whole school effort to commemorate the ANZAC spirit.

A very successful evening was our Parent-Teacher interviews where families had the chance to discuss with teachers their child's academic progress. Year 10 students participated in the free school vaccination program for Meningococcal ACWY dose and a friendly reminder for parents whose child missed the vaccine to contact their G.P. for the catch-up.

A number of extra-curriculum activities took place this term, from the Athletics Carnival to Cross-country, in sport. Movies and fundraising were organised by the SRC, and a variety of excursions showing that school life is back to normal and our students take every opportunity and are fully involved.

Our Year 7 and 9 students have taken the NAPLAN Test and we look forward to analysing the results and refine our teaching practices, as our main focus is raising the level for both literacy and numeracy in our school. One last word on the teaching staff working as a team and learning from previous experience to prepare our students well for the upcoming exams. Also, a thank you to all teachers, who generously gave up their time for extra lessons with our senior students, preparing them for the HSC.

**Mr Alexandru**

## **Director of Welfare and Operations**

### **Parent/Guardian and Teacher Interviews Evening**



I wanted to start by thanking all parents and carers for your support every term. I am particularly appreciative of everything that you have been doing to support learning from home during these difficult times. The school has also received many emails from parents and guardians thanking us for everything we have done for our students. These kind words are gratefully received. Thank you.

### **Parent/Guardian and Teacher Interviews Evening Guidelines**

Every second week of the school term we have our Parent/Guardian and Teacher Interviews. To make bookings for these interviews, head online at [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au). Information about how to book an interview using this system is relayed to parents via

an information sheet sent home with students, approximately two weeks prior to Parent/Teacher Night. This information letter will also be provided via the SkoolBag app and will appear on the school's website and Facebook page.

This term, teachers specifically requested interviews with parents. It is important to make the time to meet these teachers. Being asked to attend an interview does not mean there is a problem with your child's progress but rather an opportunity to explore ways we can all support your child. These interviews are usually short meetings about 8 minutes between you and your child's subject teachers.

To get the most out of parent-teacher interviews, it helps to be well prepared. One of the first things you can do is read your child's school report carefully and note down anything you want to ask about. It can help, by bringing your list of questions with you.

It is important to attend these interviews as it shows you are interested in your child's education. This is an opportunity to receive an update about your child's academic and social progress and allows you to also discover your child's strengths and to help guide them with this knowledge. It is also a good opportunity to meet staff and build relationships.

### **Students Out of Class Pass**

Students should not be out of class without authorisation. Students will need to fill out a class pass slip, which must be signed by a teacher and contain a departure time and reason. The slip needs to be returned to the class teacher with a return time.

### **Sport**

Our school sport carnivals are usually a highlight of the year for many of our students. Sport at Macquarie Grammar School is all about energy, teamwork good health and most importantly, fun. We offer a variety of sporting choices so all students can discover their passion and talent, as well as opportunities to represent our school.

### **Athletics Carnival**



The Athletics Carnival is a compulsory sport carnival for all students from HSP to Year 12. All students had an opportunity to participate in long distance races or field events such as long jump, high jump and shot put etc.





### Cross Country



Cross Country is a sport that requires speed, stamina and above all else, strong mental and physical endurance. Finishing a race always rewards you with a sense of accomplishment and self-pride. Knowing that you gave it all you had no matter if you came first, in the middle of the pack, or last.

Macquarie Grammar School provides opportunities for interested students to take part in other sporting programs and initiatives throughout the year, such as a range of carnivals and sports lessons as part of the curriculum.



### Tips to Aid Success at School

- **Planning for Assessments.**  
During the year there can be an influx of assessment tasks at one time. It is important to plan ahead to determine how to best manage your time and minimise stress.
- **Active Involvement and Support in Extracurricular Activities**  
The goal of an MGS's education is to create well-rounded students. Academic achievement is important, but so too is a balanced lifestyle and admirable character. Just as parental interest and support is provided in academic studies, this input should be extended to extracurricular activities particularly with music or sport as this helps with the development of movement and coordination skills. Since time cannot be found during the week, so this should be scheduled on weekends and during holiday periods.
- **Adequate Sleep**  
A tired brain is one where learning will be limited. Children need adequate sleep periods for their age and maintain regular sleep patterns. For children between the ages of 8 to 12, medical experts suggest 10 hours a day of sleep is an average requirement. More hours are recommended for those who are younger.
- **Controls on Digital Use**  
Technology is attractive and powerful and is particularly appealing to students. However, it can also be addictive. As part of the negotiated daily routine, clear boundaries need to be established for screen time that children should be exposed to. Some parents create technology free days during the week with great success.
- **Parental Involvement, Support - Homework & School Events**



Children need regular interaction with their parents where they obtain reassurance and gentle guidance. Time needs to be found each day where families can communicate. Show an interest and awareness for homework tasks as this sends a powerful message to your children that you care about their learning.

- **Strong Secure Relationships**  
Students thrive when they are in positive relationships, this is so they feel safe, secure, and appreciated. If students feel liked, respected, and



valued, they most often respond by engaging with enthusiasm. Positive relationships need to exist both at home and at school for students to thrive. Parents should look to create opportunities for one-on-one time with their children, even if it is completing household chores together. Whilst the School will provide many experiences for students to develop strong relationships with their peers and teachers, parents will also need to take an active role in providing opportunities where your child's relationships can be further fostered.

I feel confident that in employing these strategies outlined above, our students will enjoy further success in 2021.

**Mrs Sun**

## Sports Master

### House Athletics Carnival

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021



Our annual athletics carnival was held at ES Marks Athletics Track in Kensington. After a few scattered showers to start the day, the weather cleared up, allowing for a great display of participation and enjoyment by all MGS students. Due to Covid restrictions last year, our last carnival was in 2019, so it was wonderful to be out as a school again.



Students participated in a range of track and field events plus some novelty races throughout the day. Rotation of events included – 100m sprints and relays, High Jump, Long Jump,



Discus, Shot Put, Tug 'O' War, three legged races and sack races.



During the lunch break, students played a variety of games on the oval and a large soccer match took place. It was brilliant to see so many students enjoying their lunch break playing and enjoying the outdoors.

Special mention to the following students who gained a place in all track and field events:



- Carlson Chung – Yr.11
- John Li – Yr.10
- Nicky Li – Yr.10
- Sally Park – Yr.11
- Joseph Ratzinger – Yr.10
- Shiyang Zhong – Yr.10



Congratulations to Fraser House for winning the overall carnival. It was a close call in the end and well done at all students and staff for their efforts throughout the day.

**1<sup>st</sup> Place – Fraser House – 265 points**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Bradman House – 262 points**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Thorpe House – 150 points**

**4<sup>th</sup> Place – Freeman House – 140 points**

**Mr Slavin**



## Report on Science Excursion

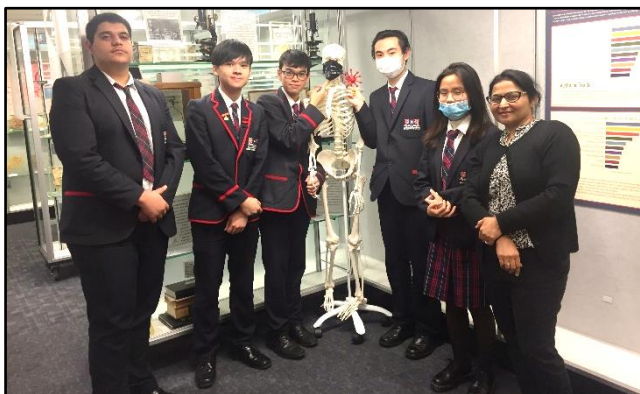


On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021, Year 12 Biology students at Macquarie Grammar School embarked on an educational trip to the Museum of Human Diseases at the UNSW, Sydney. It was organized by our Science Teacher Mrs. Madan. The aim was to provide a direct source of knowledge and acquaint the students with first-hand information in their HSC unit of work, on Infectious and Non-infectious Diseases.



The Museum educators conducted an interactive workshop to acquaint students with human diseases by showing them real specimens of diseased organs such as the liver, trachea, kidneys, and lungs.

Students then visited different bays displaying different specimens of organs affected by various diseases. It helped in the development observations, exploration, judgment and drawing inferences and the problem-solving ability of students. Year 12 students completed their worksheets as part of their Depth Study Assessment task, through proper utilisation of resources at the museum.



Undoubtedly, the excursion to the Museum of Human Diseases proved to be an excellent opportunity to draw maximum educational advantage, strengthen learning

experience and gave a solid foundation to the knowledge required for the Biology course.

Ms Madan

## Career News

### UTS University of Technology

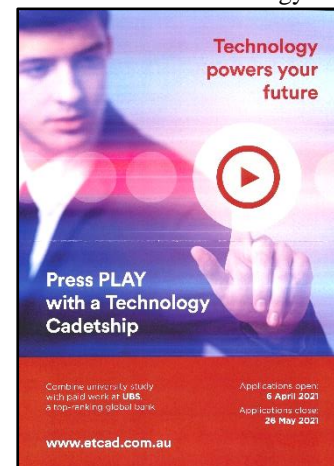
The new 2022 UTS Undergraduate guides, students will be able to find all the course and admissions information on the UTS website including digital guides, videos on our courses and more.

Below are some of the online resources:

- Digital course guides: [courseguides.uts.edu.au](https://courseguides.uts.edu.au)
- On demand course and student experience content: [futurestudents.uts.edu.au](https://futurestudents.uts.edu.au)
- Course search: [uts.edu.au/future-students](https://uts.edu.au/future-students)

## 2021 Technology Cadetships

I am writing to update you about the Engineering & Technology Cadetships (ETCAD) Program. In addition to Business Cadetship placements, UBS now intends to offer Technology Cadetships under the ETCAD Program. Cadets will be placed in Group Technology and will combine paid work with study in Computer Science, Advanced Computing or Information Technology.



Year 12 students, if you are interested visit the website: [www.etcad.com.au](https://www.etcad.com.au)

Careers' Teacher

## 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.



#### Further information

Tel : 1800 835 643

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

#### **Android Users**

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

