



Macquarie Grammar School

November Bluey Newsletter

'Truth and Virtue'

Volume 17

Edition 4

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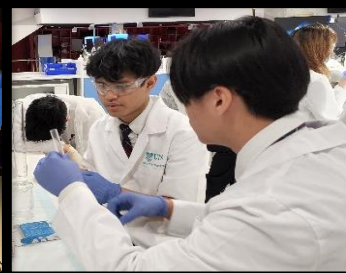
Volume 17
Issue 4
Spring Term 4, 2022





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Spring Term 4, 2022

Canberra retreat
Beach day at Coogee
Lessons Conclude, Graduation Assembly-9:00am
Staff Professional Development Days
HSC results released
School Office Closed
School Office Re-Opens
Christmas Day Public Holiday
Boxing Day Public Holiday
New Year's Day Public Holiday
Australian Day Public Holiday

9th -11th Nov
Fri 25th Nov
Wed 7th Dec
8th- 9th Dec
Thurs 15th Dec
Mon 19th Dec
Mon 16th Jan
Sat 25th Dec
Sun 26th Dec
Mon 2nd Jan
Thurs 26th Jan

Summer Term 1, 2023

Lunar New Year (Year of the Water Rabbit)
New Students' Orientation & Staff PD Day
Summer Term 1 Lessons HSP-12 start, 8:30am
New Parents Welcoming & Information Evening (6 pm)
Year 11 & 12 Examinations Week
Swimming Carnival
Junior Assessment Week Years 7-10
Lessons Conclude Years 7- 12
Home Visitations
Public Holiday – Good Friday
Easter Saturday, Sunday, and Monday
Public Holiday ANZAC Day
Athletics Carnival

Sun 22nd Jan
Fri 27th Jan
Mon 30th Jan
Wed 8th Feb
20st –24th Mar
Thurs 30th Mar
27th –31st Mar
Wed 5th Apr
Thurs 6th Apr
Fri 7th Apr
8th - 10th Apr
Tues 25th Apr
Fri 28th Apr

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 Headmaster

Our students had a well-deserved and rewarding break and have worked well this term. Seven new students have joined us and we welcome them to our MGS community and wish them well with their studies.

Year 12 School break lessons

The term has commenced well with our students quickly adapting to the school's study routine and the classes have been working diligently towards acquiring new skills and content. During the break the teachers conducted a number of lessons for Year 12 in preparation for their HSC Examinations and a great deal of revision took place and advice given in tackling the examination papers. Our teachers are very professional and are keen to support and assist our students with their studies and this is most evident in how they have given their time so generously during the break to conduct these lessons. I thank them for their generosity, for their dedication and genuine interest in the students. We are a very fortunate school to have teachers of this outstanding calibre.

Cleaning

The school was thoroughly cleaned over the break with glass, desks, chairs, and walls wiped down and vinyl floors stripped and polished, and carpets deep cleaned and shampooed.

Activities for Spring Term

HSC Examinations

A number of activities will take place with the HSC Examinations which commenced on Wednesday 12th October with English Paper A and they will conclude on Friday 4th November.

Canberra Retreat, Wednesday 7th to Friday 9th November

This is a compulsory activity for all students from HSP to Year 11. This will be held from Wednesday 9th to Friday 11th November. The students will visit a number of sites which include Parliament House, Federal Mint, War Memorial, Science Museum, etc to name a few and will take in the sites of Australia's Capital City, like the Embassy Precinct. No mobile phones will be taken by the students during the retreat.

Coogee Beach, Friday 25th November

The annual beach activities day will be held at Coogee Beach and this activity has resumed after two years being placed on hold due to COVID 19. This is a tradition of the school and everyone is looking forward to participating in their Houses on the day.

Graduation Day, Wednesday 7th December

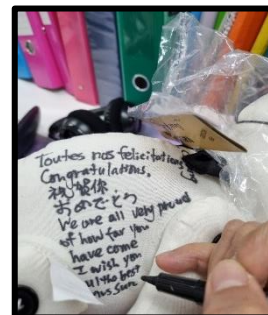
The last day of Spring Term is Wednesday 7th December and it concludes with the Graduation Assembly which commences at 9:00am and concludes at 11:00am. Students receive their Spring Term 4 Report in their Tutor Groups after the assembly and are released to return home and commence their summer break.

Year 12 Graduation

At the conclusion of Winter Term, the school held the Year 12 Graduation followed by the End of Term Presentation Assembly. Our Year 12 students were joined by their parents either in person or online from a number of countries across the diaspora. These include Tahiti, Korea,

Vietnam, China, and Australia. It was a wonderful event where the school community acknowledge the students' achievements and we are proud of them as a cohort. They have been an outstanding group of students and they have contributed to the life of the school across the curriculum in leadership programmes like the Student Representative Council (SRC), sport, marketing the school and in leading the student body with maturity. They have been a delightful cohort and have led by example for the students from HSP to Year 11. They have been glorious ambassadors of the school and we thank them for their contribution to the ongoing evolution of our wonderful school. We will miss them greatly and we wish them all the very best for the HSC Examinations and for their future tertiary studies.

To the parents, I thank you for making MGS the school of choice for your child and wish you well for the future and ask that you keep in touch with the future happenings at the school. I also wish to thank the guardians and the homestay hosts for the contribution they have made in assisting and supporting our Year 12 students throughout their study journey, while at MGS.



Winter Term 3 Presentation Assembly

It is always a rewarding experience to see our students receiving a number of awards for their achievements in Winter Term. Congratulations to those who were awardees in the categories of Academic Excellence, Consistent Effort across all courses and Meritorious Awards for enhancing the culture of the school. Two students Fedor Shatoba and Michael Nguyen were promoted from High School Preparation to Years 8 and 10 respectively and congratulations to them and wish them well with their studies in the mainstream. The Leadership Award was awarded to Misheel Gansukh, the Junior Student of the Term was Tuguldaur Gansukh and the Senior Student of the Term was Johnny Wang.



New Staff

Mr Diakis joins the school as the PDHPE/Sportsmaster. He is a very experienced PDHPE Teacher and has extensive experience in organising sport in a large independent school. He is keen to offer a broad set of sporting options for our students and for the school to be involved in inter-school sport. Congratulations on his appointment and I wish him a long tenure with the school.



Director of Welfare and Operations

To all Year 12 Students, in your final week of school, I would like to congratulate you all on your extraordinary efforts in an extraordinary year. You have been a wonderful example of resilience, diligence, and strength as you've navigated your way through all that has been presented to you in a year which is already difficult without the pandemic crisis on top. We wish you all the very best for your exams and thereafter. Your efforts this year will hold you in good stead for the future.

How our Chinese students celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival

The Mid-Autumn Festival, also known as the Moon Festival, is one of the biggest events on the Chinese calendar, it falls on the 15th day of the 8th month of the lunar calendar when the moon is at its fullest and brightest.

Chinese Moon Cakes

Mid-Autumn Festival is one of the largest celebrations of the Chinese calendar. Hear from our students in the Chinese and Literature Course as they tell me what they celebrated the occasion in China and get ready for some mouth-watering mooncakes in class last Thursday.



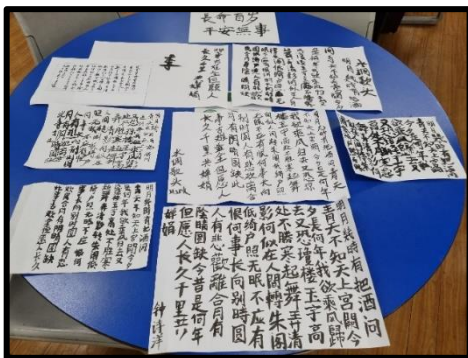
A full moon in Chinese culture symbolises reunion and prosperity, a time when friends and family unite and celebrate the sheer joy of being together.

For some of our students from China, this may be their first time celebrating it with teacher since studying abroad. And for others, this may be the longest time they have spent away from their family.

A hallmark tradition of the Mid-Autumn Festival is the sharing and eating of mooncakes, it's a symbol of expressing love and best wishes to your loved ones. The round shape signifies completeness, but across regions of China, the styles and flavours of mooncakes vary.

Chinese calligraphy

Calligraphy, literally "beautiful writing," has been appreciated as an art form in many different cultures throughout the world, but the stature of calligraphy in Chinese culture is unmatched. Chinese calligraphy contains the essence of Chinese culture. It is a known art for the cultivation of the mind, which is one of the most distinctive features of Chinese culture. How one wrote, in fact, was as important as what one wrote. One of the culture celebration class activities our Chinese students demonstrated their own calligraphy skills, and I would like to share some of their art works.



Year 11 Chinese and Literature Students
Calligraphy Art Works_Shiyang Zhong, Cici Feng, Jayden Wu, Mark Zhang and John Li



I wish everyone, no matter where you are or how far apart, we are from each other – a Happy Moon Festival. As Chinese poet Su Shi so eloquently wrote on the Mid-Autumn Day of 1076, 'Even through miles apart, we wish each other a long life so as to share the beauty of this graceful moonlight' (但愿人长久，千里共婵娟).

Cyberbullying – Words Have Consequences



Police Officer Mark Thomas visited Macquarie Grammar School to present a Cyberbullying workshop to high school students. The primary focus of the presentation was on Cyberbullying and the many causes for doing it. Cyberbullying is the act of sending explicit messages, revealing photos or videos electronically, primarily between mobile phones and computers.



The problem is that the pictures never go away. He said that everyone lives with saying or doing something they regret, but taking a picture and sharing it, “Well, you can never take it back,” said the police officer. “It’s out there in cyberspace and someday it may resurface, and it could potentially destroy your chance for a job or a career opportunity.”

The presentation was offered to help guide students to think and act appropriately and to be responsible and do the right thing.

Mark Thomas has been a police officer for more than 30 years and has been giving Police Youth Educational presentations to more than 50 school districts across Sydney for 10 years. He said, “I want to help kids to make better choices. They need to understand that phones have power and indiscretions can be destructive.”

Technology can be addictive and sending words and inappropriate pictures can have consequences. The police officer said, “Everyone needs to think before hitting that send button.”

“Cyberbullying can escalate to harassment, defamation, and ultimately be a criminal act,” said the police officer. Suicide rates, especially violent suicides, have increased, and that is cause for concern. “Unfortunately,” “suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem.”

Mark Thomas was an outstanding speaker. He nailed the balance important information coupled with industry experience, stories. He was very professional and did a great job to engage all audiences. The audience got a lot out of the presentation.

Mrs Sun

Director of Curriculum and Compliance



MGS students have returned to school with full of energy and ready to complete their final term for the year. We were very impressed with our year 12 students, who over the holiday have spent some quality time with their teachers to finalise their revision before HSC. They have worked consistently and using the feedback given in their exam preparation, now they are ready and moving successfully throughout the HSC exams. A thank you to the parents/guardians and MGS community for encouraging, supporting, and keeping our students focused and motivated.

Year 11 students have shared their excitement and enthusiasm to complete the final term before moving into year 12. We are very confident that they will maintain their focus and continue to improve their performance while enjoying the journey that lies ahead. Year 10 students are actively working on their current subjects and showing specific interest in the subjects selected to continue next year.

As part of our effective communication with parents and to facilitate the best opportunities for our students to enhance their academic performance, in week 2 we had our Parent/Guardian-Teacher interviews and the advice given by our teachers were well received. Academic progress and engagement with learning help students to have a wide range of choices for their future. Their personal qualities are also very important and as a school we value those qualities as much as their academic achievement.

Along with their studies, this term students have participated in a lot of activities, not only in the classroom, but also in subject specific excursions and the 3-day trip to Canberra, which are memorable events that will be remembered.

As we come closer to the end of this year, there is a lot to reflect on, learn from experiences and look forward to next year and the opportunities that will bring.

Mr. Alexandru

Careers

With less than a year to go until they graduate It is really important that the current year 11 students are informed about different Universities and the courses they offer so that they can start thinking about which Universities they would like to go to, and which course they want to study after they graduate from high school. Year 11 students will be informed about upcoming programs and sessions such as those from the national Institute of Education. They will be able to gain a better insight about different courses and Universities. This will be communicated to them later on in the term.

Mr. Ip

Sports Master

The PDHPE students in Term 4 will be completing a Swimming program. This program is tailored for all student abilities which includes lessons on swim to survive techniques and learning to become a competent and confident swimmer. The lessons will take place in the state-of-the-art facilities at Phillip and Cook and the Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centres. This is a great opportunity for all the students as they improve their swimming skills and physical fitness.



Mr. Diakis

Ms. Mulleneux

Year 7-10 students were invited to enter a Poem Forest poetry writing competition run by **Red Room Poetry** and **The Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan**.



A POEM FOREST is being planted on the traditional land of the Dharawal people, on Mount Annan, in the heart of The Australian Botanic Garden. The site includes remnants of the critically endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland and Western Sydney Dry Rainforest. These ecosystems are a regionally important haven for native wildlife. By removing invasive weeds and planting new trees, POEM FOREST is helping to restore biodiversity and make creative and cultural connections for communities near and far.

A tree is planted for every poem received with over 5000 trees being planted last year.

Below is a selection of poems created by Macquarie Grammar School students:

The Power of Nature

Green great mountains that drop and rise,
Creatures like collectibles that thrive,
Brown statues of trees are ceilings,
For the mossy floor of forests.

Powerful teal waves crashing,
Sand like tiny golden snowflakes,
Ice like puzzle pieces floating,
As the salty arctic sighs.

Nature is as powerful as it is beautiful,

Blessed with the ability to destroy and create.
We must preserve it in its wonder for the future,
For its plentiful resources and all its magic.

Misheel Gansukh (Year 8)

Hell's Rain

FWOOSH!! Flames tear the land like paper
The burning water screams as it's turned to vapour
That day the gates of hell came sweeping by
Nothing could escape the wall by land or fly.

A chaotic clash was here purging the peaceful peace

The trees crumbled and crisped and a valley came deceased

Bones lay on the ground the flying were a lucky mess

Black fog caused corpses to fall down - the deceased.

A bloody bath spilled on the bones of the valley
With the flames reaching further it stops to see a rally

It charges full speed to end up losing all life and strength

At the end it is gone, but in its wake a bloody trail lengths.

Leon Briers (Year 7)

Flourishing Green and Crystal Lakes

My sensations are breezing just like a wandering spirit

Staring at the flourish green field like a statue.

I gazed into the pond, my wistful reflection

The desire to become one with nature,

The clear water shines bright at night

Small critters fly back and forth, making sounds with every move

The beauty, Nature provides

I can feel bliss, serenity and narcotic.

Living the best life, in the flourishing green

Oh countryside, why do you possess the beauty no one has?

Dreamy, luring and calming

The beauty nature possess has never left and never will

The music rivers play, the wind dancing through the leaves

Blue sky, starry nights, warm sun, cool wind

You truly are the wonder of the world

My thoughts, my body merges with the thriving greens

Oh countryside, why do you look so beautiful?

Take me back, take me back, day by day

I can feel bliss, serenity and narcotic.

Crystal Lakes, the life source of Nature's beauty

Shall forever shine bright like stars and thrive like the greens.

McKenna (Year 9)

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.



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 notification.

Android Users

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

