

MACQUARIE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

WINTER BLUEY NEWSLETTER

"Truth and Virtue"

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Celebrating Success and Looking Ahead: A Term 2 Recap

Term 2 Highlights:

We kicked off the term with an energetic start, as everyone returned from the Term 1 break refreshed and ready to dive into their studies. The school atmosphere buzzed with enthusiasm as students eagerly participated in various in-class and extracurricular activities. We commend all our students for their active involvement, as it truly made a difference in creating a vibrant and dynamic school community.

Parent-Teachers Interviews:

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the parents/guardians who attended the Parent-Teachers Interviews at the beginning of the term. It was a highly productive evening, filled with fruitful discussions on our students' achievements and challenges. We valued the opportunity to collaborate with parents/guardians and gain valuable insights that will further enhance our educational model. Together, we strive to provide high-quality learning experiences tailored to meet the unique needs of every student.



Top news of the term

Examinations and Academic Progress:

This term, our senior students faced an important milestone in their academic journey. They dedicated themselves to rigorous preparation, attending a formal week of examinations as part of their readiness for the Trials next term and the HSC examinations. We applaud their commitment and commend all our students for their serious efforts in improving their performance and striving for excellence.

Awards Assembly and Term 2 Reports:

To honour the remarkable achievements of our students in all aspects of school life, we gathered on the final day of the term for our prestigious Awards Assembly. It was a joyous occasion where we celebrated their accomplishments, recognising the steps taken towards reaching their goals. Additionally, the eagerly anticipated Term 2 Reports were handed out, providing a comprehensive overview of each student's progress and highlighting areas of success and growth.



Mr. Alexandru
Acting Principal

Welcome to the latest edition of our school newsletter! We are thrilled to share with you the incredible accomplishments and memorable moments that shaped Term 2. From engaging in a range of activities and events to celebrating academic achievements, this term has been one of growth, determination, and triumph. Let's take a moment to reflect on the highlights of Term 2 and express our gratitude for the continued support of our parents/guardians, dedicated teachers, and outstanding students.



As we bid farewell to Term 2, we would like to extend our best wishes to all our students and staffs on a well-deserved break. We hope you have a restful and enjoyable time, allowing yourselves to recharge and rejuvenate. In Term 3, we will continue our journey of learning, discovery, and personal growth. Let us embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, knowing that our collective efforts will pave the way for even greater achievements.

Term 2 has been a period of immense accomplishment, where our students have shone brightly in various domains. We express our gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the success of this term and encourage you all to reflect on your achievements and the progress made. We look forward to an exciting and fulfilling Term 3, as we continue to strive for excellence together.



*Wishing you a
wonderful break
and a safe return to
school!*

A. Alexandru
Acting Principal



MRS. SUN

ACTING DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Welcome new students to Macquarie Grammar School. It was a fantastic start to the term, with students looking sensational in their uniforms. I want to extend a warm welcome to each of you.

We prioritize student well-being and our duty of care structure and school culture reflect this. We are committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for students, and look forward to seeing them thrive at Macquarie Grammar School.

As students transition from HSP class to Mainstream, there may be concerns that teachers will not be as involved in their high school studies. Our school is a supportive community where teachers and students work together as a team. We believe that great things can be achieved through close collaboration.



Parent - Teacher Interviews

For a parent/guardian, it is important to stay informed about your child's/student's progress in school. The school holds formal interview events every term where teachers and parents/guardians have the opportunity to meet each other and discuss each student's progress and individual needs. The first occasion is in line with the parent/guardian information night and the other three take place early each term after the reports have been issued.

The Parent Teacher Interviews are an opportunity to hear how the student is progressing, through the sharing of more detailed information in regard to assessment results and participation in class. These interviews provide the chance to make learning goals for the coming term.

However, you do not need to wait until these formal events to have an interview with staff. A mutually convenient time can be arranged. Do not hesitate to make contact with the school as soon if you feel there is a need.

CONGRATULATIONS!



We are thrilled to share some exciting news with you all! One of our own, Mr Diakis, has recently welcomed a new addition to his family. He and his wife have been blessed with a baby girl!

On behalf of the entire school community, we would like to extend our warmest congratulations to Mr. Diakis and his family. This is truly a joyous occasion and we share in their happiness.

Mr. Diakis is a dedicated teacher. He has touched the lives of countless students through his passion for teaching and unwavering commitment to their success. As a school, we consider ourselves lucky to have him as a member of our school communication.

As Mr. Diakis embarks on this new journey of parenthood, we wish him and his family all the best. We are confident that he will rise to the challenge of being a loving and devoted father, just as he has been to his students.

ONCE AGAIN, CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. DIAKIS AND HIS FAMILY ON THIS WONDERFUL NEWS!

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

A key priority at Macquarie Grammar School is for every student to attend school regularly on a full-time basis.



STUDENT ABSENCE

Research has shown that each day that a student is absent in secondary school has an impact on their numeracy and literacy skills. Higher student attendance is associated, on average, with higher student achievement. We follow 'Everyday Counts' policy outlined at the Monday Assembly that children achieve better when they attend school regularly on a full-time basis. Being at school means getting a better chance at life.

As a parent or guardian, it can be frustrating when your teenager seeks independence and believes they know best. One challenge that many families face is when students become reluctant or refuse to go to school. It can be a difficult situation to navigate, but it is important to remember that this is a normal part of growing up.

During these challenging times, it is crucial to support your child/student in coping with stress in effective ways. By doing so, you can help enhance their resilience. There are many ways to do this, such as encouraging them to talk about their feelings, helping them develop healthy coping strategies, and providing a safe and supportive environment. Remember that your child/student may need your guidance and support more than ever during these challenging times.

We would like to remind parents/guardians that it is a requirement for all absences to be explained. If your child/student is absent, please let us know by either sending an email or giving us a call. Please make sure to include the student's name, class, and the reason for their absence in your message. In case your child/student has an unexplained absence, we will contact you by phone or email to ensure their safety and wellbeing. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter and look forward to working together to ensure the wellbeing of every student.

Parents should check their phones or email regularly so that they do not miss any important messages or notifications. It is advisable to check at least a few times a day, especially if you are expecting something urgent. By staying on top of your messages, you can stay organized and keep your communication channels open. Remember, communication is key!



Leaving School Early Procedure

Attending timetabled classes, including Thursday Sport and Friday Club, is essential for all students as, leaving early can contribute to total absences and impact academic results and international student visa requirements. If students have exceptional circumstances and need to leave early, it is up to the principal to decide whether or not to approve the student's pass-out request. If a parent or guardian needs their child or student to leave early, they must provide a note to the office before school, signed by an authority figure, stating the student's name, class, and the reason for leaving early. Once students have the note, they must present it to the student service officer to collect their 'Early Dismissal Note', which they will need to show to their class teacher before leaving school.

Students Who Become Ill While At School

A student who becomes ill while at school is not to contact their parents from their mobile phone, they are to report to the student service officer from their classroom teacher. One of the student service officers will be taken care of them in sick bay and the parents/guardian will be contacted if necessary.



School Regulations

Macquarie Grammar School expects its students to wear their school uniform with pride and always be presentable. It is our expectation that the full uniform including shoes are always clean and in good condition. While students are on school grounds and in public you are setting a standard for other students. Remember that the uniform not only represents the school, but it is also a reflection of yourself. Please note:

- Boys' hair should be combed and of an acceptable length (not over the collar, ears or eyes), and must not have any artificial hair colour.
- Girls' hair should be of a natural colour, clean, well-kept, and drawn away from the face.
- Makeup is not to be worn to school, other than a very light covering of tinted sunscreen.
- No jewellery, body adornments, tattoos or piercings are allowed.
- While arriving or departing the school grounds, students must wear their blazers.



May Event

Event: Optus Digital Thumbprint Workshops

Date: Friday, 26th of May 2023.

Source: Digital Thumbprint has been endorsed as a Trusted eSafety. Provider by the Office of the eSafety Commissioner

Purpose: Supports young people to participate safely online, with the tools they need for positive, responsible, and authentic experiences.



Supporting young people to be safe, responsible and positive online is a key challenge for educators and parents alike. Recently the team from the Optus Digital Thumbprint program visited our school taking students through fun and interactive workshops that cover a range of important issues such as cybersecurity, digital balance, and digital identity.

It is very important to be aware of these topics so that your child is prepared and supported to thrive in the digital world. There is a range of free, downloadable Digital Thumbprint Parent Conversation Guides for parents, guardians and caregivers that support you to have effective conversations around what young people should and shouldn't share online, cyberbullying, and how digital technology can support effective study practices.

Please visit:

www.digitalthumbprint.com.au/parent-resources

For more information on the program and each of the workshops we encourage you to visit:

www.digitalthumbprint.com.au/



Youth Leadership Academic Australia Program



On 27th March 2023, school captains and prefects from Year 12 received a wonderful opportunity to join the Youth Leadership Academy Australia program, which is aimed at empowering students with self-confidence, self-awareness, and inspiration. The convention took place in ICC Darling Harbour with school captains and prefects from more than 150 schools in New South Wales in attendance. It was an honour to have such opportunities to listen to young entrepreneurs and co-founders, including Wil Massara, Amanda Marshall, Morne Van Der Merwe, recount their stories and journeys, to which our students can relate.

The convention acknowledged our abilities and what we are capable of: students were encouraged to engage with speakers and brainstorm ideas they had never before considered. "If you were fruit, what would you be?" "If you have the theme song of your life, what would it be?" A little brainstorming, but it left students with big ideas and lessons. We have learned how to define leadership in our own way: every single person is a unique individual just like our fingerprints. We grasped the importance of leading ourselves to be a good example and a role model for others; confidence, faith, empathy, and kindness are the keys to becoming a leader.

As well, we had the opportunity to communicate, exchange opinions and ideas with other "school leaders". Other prefects and I enjoyed the opportunity to listen and understand other perspectives, thanks to small talk between sessions, sharing our preferences and our opinions. "Everyone has their own stories. Should we become the main character of every story?" was a question asked by a student. All of us were expanding our minds and gaining insights on different stands. This is vital for a leader to learn to appreciate the perspectives of every individual on their team. Additionally, the event taught us how to differentiate the techniques which are required in being a leader when approaching another individual whether as a director, or a peer or a supporter. Leadership is a skill which we will learn. I learned a lot from the convention.

Wendy Tran Year 12
2023 Female Captain



LEADERSHIP DAY



As school captain, the renowned program for school captains of Sydney, Wendy and I had the privilege of embarking on a truly unforgettable adventure. Our journey took us to the prestigious NSW Parliament House where we had the opportunity to witness the inner workings of the democratic process and meet esteemed members of parliament.

Frank Seyedfarbod Mirfasihi
2023 School Captain



After gaining invaluable insights into the workings of the parliament, our journey continued as we made our way to the historic Government House.

This iconic residence holds a significant place in the history of New South Wales, and we were fortunate enough to delve into its fascinating past. Learning about the distinguished lineage of governors and their contributions to the state was truly enlightening, adding depth and context to our understanding of Australian governance.





The pinnacle of our visit awaited us as we had the honour of capturing a group photo with none other than the Governor of New South Wales herself. Standing beside her, we felt a deep sense of pride and admiration for her role in representing our state. Engaging in a brief conversation with her was a genuine privilege, allowing us to gain personal insights and reflections on her experiences.

As a school captain, this journey to the Parliament of Sydney and the Government House, the home of the Governor will forever remain etched in my memory. It was an extraordinary occasion that provided a unique perspective on the inner workings of democracy and allowed me to interact with prominent figures in our state's governance. The experience has strengthened my commitment to leadership, civic engagement, and a deep appreciation for the democratic institutions that shape our society.



Receiving feedback from other prefects, I realized all of us have brought lots of the lessons home with us. After we walked out of the event, we stayed as proud individuals, but now with confidence in ourselves, and the reinforcement in our abilities to be able to make vital changes for this world and our peers. I recommend the convention to every student; this may change their perspective forever. We appreciate the opportunity we had to attend the Leadership Program.

Frank Seyedfarbod Mirfasihi
2023 Male Captain





In the Year 11 Chinese and Literature course, students are exposed to a range of themes and literature that explore Chinese culture. One such theme focuses on adapting to new cultures, a crucial topic considering the ever-growing multicultural society we live in today. It is essential that we learn to respect and appreciate the various cultures around us, eliminating the potential for racism or discrimination.

Mutual respect is the key to making sure we all live in harmony together. It is important to understand that everyone, regardless of their background, should be treated equally and with fairness. Respecting others should come naturally, and it is crucial in ensuring a positive and inclusive society.

By embracing and learning about different cultures, we can all contribute to building a stronger and more harmonious society. We can achieve this by educating ourselves and promoting intercultural understanding. In the year 11 Chinese and Literature course, students have the opportunity to expand their knowledge of different cultures through literature, language, and discussion.

As members of this multicultural society, it is our responsibility to respect, appreciate, and learn from the cultures around us. These actions may seem small, but they are essential in building a more inclusive and supportive community. We must always remember that respecting others, no matter who they are, is the key to shaping a brighter future together.

Mrs Sun
Stage 6 Chinese and Literature teacher



Sydney Living Museum Excursion

On 29th June 2023, our Year 11 Chinese Beginners and Chinese Literature students embarked on an exciting excursion to the Museum of Sydney. This renowned museum offers a captivating glimpse into historical houses and displays, making it an ideal destination for our school outing.

During the excursion, our students had the opportunity to immerse themselves in Australia's rich past, uncovering the captivating stories and events that unfolded within these very walls. The museum provided a unique learning experience, enabling our students to gain a deeper understanding of the history and culture of this remarkable country.



Although our time at the museum was enjoyable and educational, it was unfortunately too short to fully explore all the exhibits. As a result, our students were left yearning for more. Considering this, we hope that in the next semester, an excursion to Chinatown can be arranged as it would provide a fantastic opportunity to further explore and appreciate Chinese culture and traditions.

We look forward to more enriching and insightful excursions in the future, fostering a love for learning and a deeper appreciation for the culture around us.

Mrs. Sun
Chinese and Literature Teacher





Mr. Diakis

Sports Master

Macquarie Grammar School has seen another busy term of sport. Our top long-distance runners represented the school at the ISD Cross Country Championships and performed extremely well. Joseph Ratzinger (Yr 12) and McKenna (Yr 11) both came second in their respective age groups and Jayden Tawk (Yr 12) came third overall. The school's other participants put in a valiant effort and found it quite challenging against high quality athletes from 17 schools in our district.

Nonetheless, I commend their attitude and enthusiasm on the day of the competition. For many of the students, it was their first time competing in a long-distance event and they are now more experienced as a result of their involvement.

The boys at MGS also had an ISD Football competition in Week 7 and prepared for this by training every Friday afternoon with their coaches. Thursday Sport continues to be a highly participated program with Girl's basketball, Boy's basketball and badminton running well. I look forward to bringing back volleyball, futsal and bowling/laser tag in Terms 3 and 4.





MR. STAVROPOULOS

Mathematics & Science Teacher

I cannot believe how the term has gone by so quickly. As the days get shorter and the sun sets sooner, albeit by a minute each day, I need to continuously remind myself of the fact that we are, indeed, at the end of Term 2. I can now definitely say that I feel at home at MGS and truly part of the team.

Being a newcomer in Australia and overcoming challenges to be part of this wonderful team, I admire the work ethic and the dedication of the students at MGS in their challenging and busy lives in a foreign country. The staff and students alike, have certainly been the biggest part of the reason that I feel at home here.

I am delighted to have taken on Year 9 and 10 Mathematics this term as well as change volleyball for basketball, where with Mr. Ip, we have nurtured our budding ISD basketball stars in preparation for the ISD competition in October of this year.

I continue from strength to strength with Mathematics Standard and Senior Biology and am relishing the success that our Year 12 candidates will hopefully experience in these subjects.

School Representative Council (SRC)



Mr. Connal

English Teacher

The MGS Student Representative Council (SRC) organized a fundraising event for the Cancer Council Australia with the assistance of Mr. Connal on 25th May.

This event not only developed the students' practical skills and organizational abilities but also served as an awakening to their sense of social responsibility as young individuals.

We express our gratitude to the students and teachers for their dedication and efforts, which not only resulted in raising funds but also showcased our team spirit!





Model United Nations NSW Parliament 2023

Cynthia Wong, Peter Giri, and Charlotte Liu participated in the MUNA 2023 NSW Parliament event.

This annual event is part of an International Rotary project aimed at educating senior high school students on the United Nations organization and its vital role in promoting world peace while improving health, education, and living standards worldwide. Our students had an excellent opportunity to develop and enhance their public speaking skills while debating resolutions on topical world issues. Their task was to research the allocated country and form a stance on each resolution. As delegates, they were encouraged to do thorough research to improve their understanding of Iran, the country they represented, and its issues. One delegate presented a one-minute speech detailing an overview of political, economic, and social conditions in Iran.





Students in all year groups have worked enthusiastically to ensure a successful Term 2. It is hard to believe that, yet another term has come to an end!

The Year 8 class has examined poetry from Australia and other cultures while students in Year 9 have appreciated the humour of William Shakespeare in a close examination of his classic, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.



Consideration of what makes a powerful documentary has seen Year 10 students examine different aspects of documentary filmmaking while viewing 'The Cove' and 'Bowling for Columbine', two very different but effective documentary films.

In preparation for HSC next year, Year 11 students, in their unit of study, 'Narratives that Shape our World', have considered how storytelling has the power to connect experiences and expose, affirm or question cultural beliefs and practices.



The poetry of 'TS Eliot' has introduced Year 12 students to the artistic movement of Modernism and the Modernist belief that literature evolves, and poetry should be written to match the times and not follow classical conventions.

Overall, it has been a busy and rewarding term!

Ms Mulleneux

English Teacher



Throughout term 2, selected male students from MGS have been training every Friday afternoon in and around the Domain in the CBD. This was all in preparation for the ISD Soccer Competition which took place on Friday 9th June, 2023, in Peakhurst, Sydney.

When the day finally came in week 7 of this term, the boys were excited and composed, clear in the positions and roles they needed to play in the team.

After an excellent start to the tournament, starting with a win, the boys encountered some skilled opponents and unfortunately did not progress through to the final stage of the tournament.

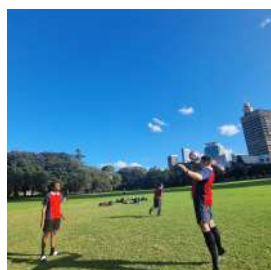


The day was a great experience for many of our students for whom playing team sports like soccer is a relatively new experience.

Mr Potts and Mr Diakis were very proud of the boys' conduct, effort and performance both in training and on the day of the tournament. We hope to return next year with the benefit of this experience.

Mr. Potts

PDHPE/ English Teacher





Mr. Ip

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT
AND STUDENT CAREER ADVISER

Careers

The year 12 group attended the Sydney University information session evening on Thursday the 25th May. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to find out more about university admission criteria, information about different courses and university life. Students will continue to be notified about upcoming events in relation to tertiary education and careers.





It's time for
EXCURSION



Mrs. Yamashita

Japanese and Geography Teacher

Year 8, 9, 10 students had a cross-curricular excursion for Geography/Visual Art and TAS to the Royal Botanic Garden. During the excursion they attended two workshops, 'Purposeful Plants' and 'Aboriginal Bush Foods'. In the first workshop, students learnt about how plants change their shapes and structures to survive, and in the second one they learnt about different aboriginal bush foods.



Students examined the scents and tastes of different plants and learnt about how they can be eaten or used. The educators were very resourceful and all students enjoyed listening to their talk and asking questions about those foods. It was certainly very helpful for students to understand the current topics they are working on for Geography and TAS: it was one of the best excursion students have enjoyed

We had a great time there and are definitely going back again to attend some more workshops in the Royal Botanic Garden in the near future.

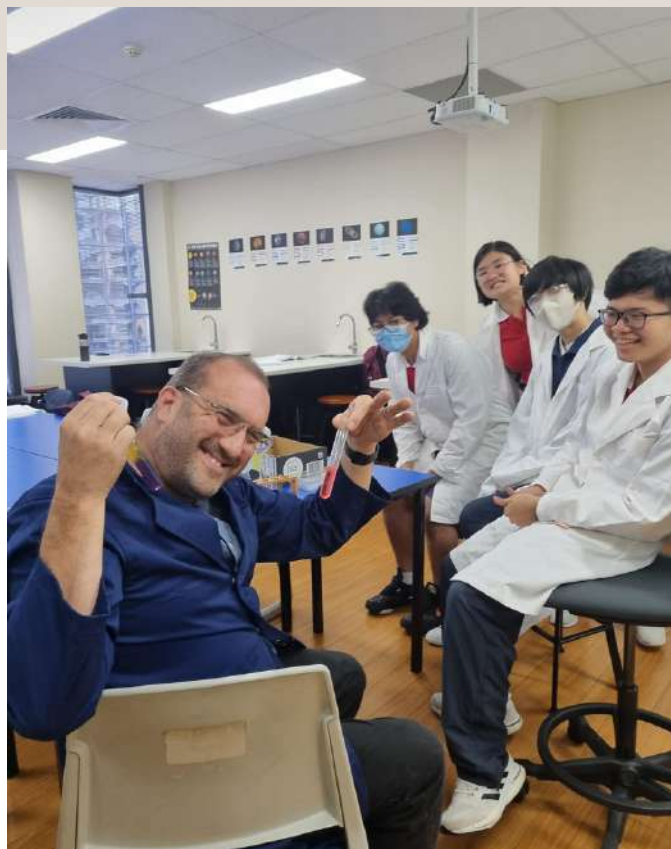




MR. WARREN
Science Teacher

We live in a chemical world so here at Macquarie Grammar School we help our students experience some specific properties of matter in solutions. One of these properties is acidity, which can be demonstrated effectively using colourful indicators.

Student engagement in this demonstration is very high because the changes in the chemical properties can easily be observed. By comparing the colours of known chemicals such as pure water and vinegar the characteristics of the indicator chemicals can be identified and explained.

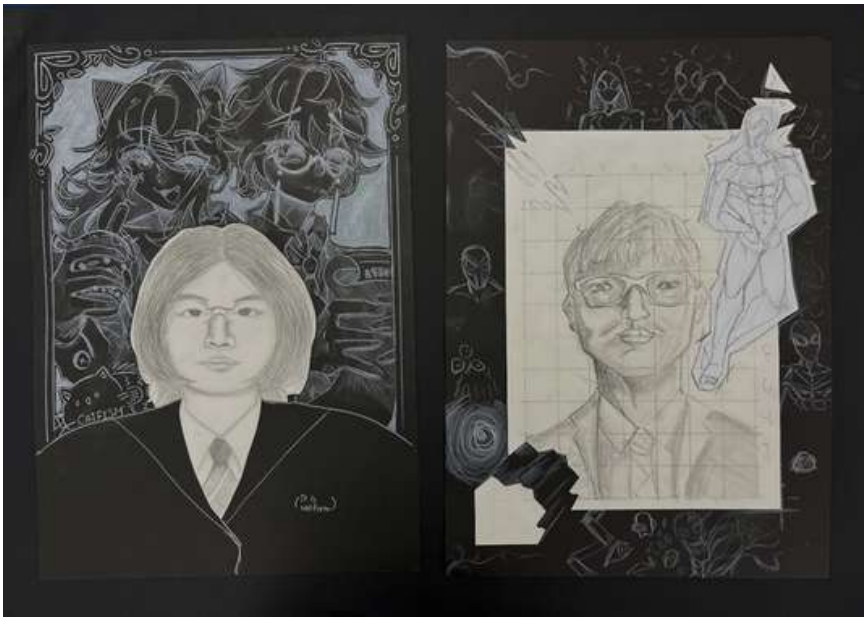


The demonstration is completed by carefully mixing chemicals in very specific quantities. With just one extra drop of the acid the colour can change dramatically right before the eyes of the students. Reversing the reaction is also possible so the students see its dynamic characteristics.

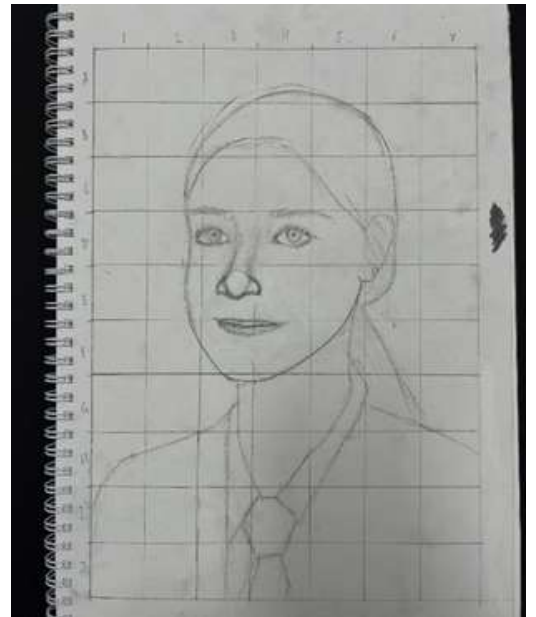
As lead science teacher here at Macquarie I have a strong focus on the engagement of students with the content areas we are teaching. Practical work here at school is very important and next term we will again visit UTS for extra experiences with specialist equipment and resources. Participating in these activities reinforces concepts that would otherwise be much less tangible.



Visual Arts



Valerie and Tree Monochromatic Portraits, Year 8



Kate, Year 8 Grid Portrait



Gaolin, Yoyo and Sudeep Symbolism Portraits, Year 9



Ms Green

Visual Arts Teacher

2023 has been another fabulous year for our young MGS creatives. Our talented Visual Arts students focused on a variety of different art styles and artmaking during Terms 1 and 2, which included portraits, ceramic forms, Still Life and Impressionist style paintings.



McKenna (Year 11), Louis (Year 11) and Tree (Year 8).



Leon, Ava, Tree and Kate – Year 8



Friday Clay Club - Kristina, Year 10

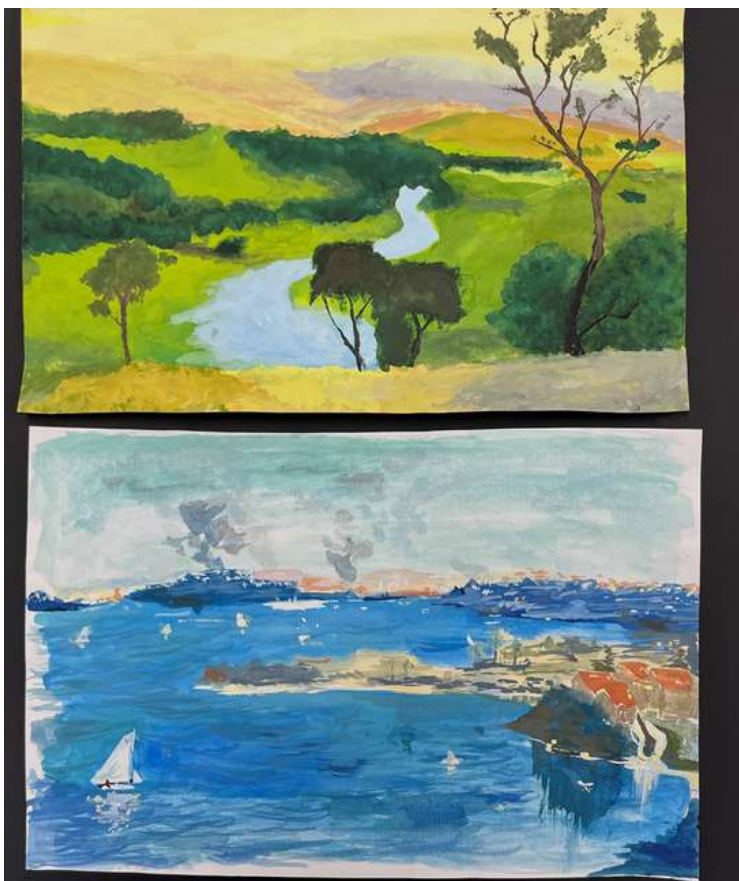


Charlotte, Year 10 Surrealism composition.

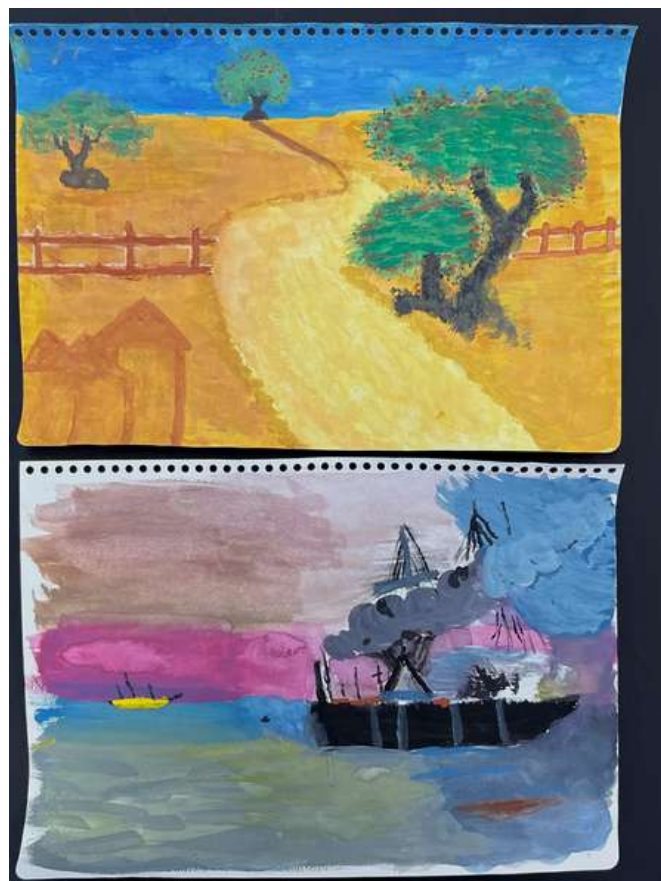


Alex Tran, Year 10 Surrealism Composition

Students in all year groups made ceramic forms using air-drying clay.
 Year 10 have explored the significant art movements of Surrealism and Impressionism, and have created artworks using the artists Magritte, Monet and Arthur Streeton as inspiration.



Year 10 students Kristina and Charlotte,
Impressionist (Arthur Streeton) paintings.



Liam and Alexander, Year 10 Impressionist paintings



Cynthia and McKenna,
Year 11 Vanitas Still Life Compositions.

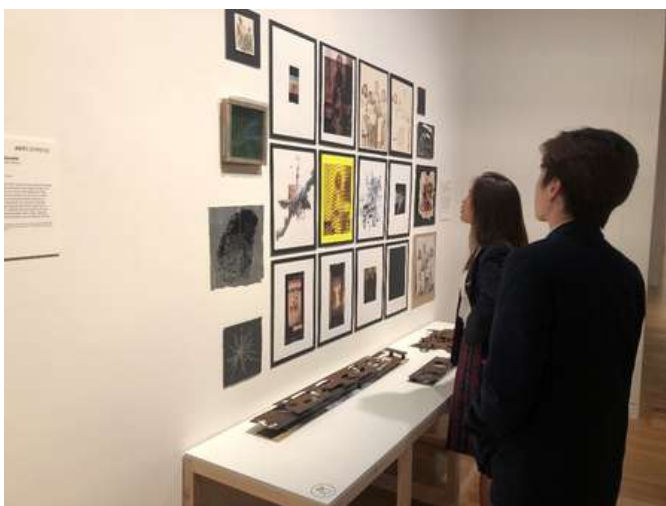


Year 11 students examined the thought-provoking genre,
Vanitas Still Life and the hidden meanings behind their
symbolism.



Joseph, Cici and Phil, Year 12

Year 12 students are working consistently on their Body of Work and are creating HSC artworks using a variety of mediums, including, painting, drawing and digital art.



MGS Students at the Art Express Exhibition

Students have also attended excursions at the NSW Art Gallery to view the HSC Art Express exhibition and Installation artworks at the new contemporary art wing of the gallery.

Overall, 2023 has been a very successful year so far with students creating artworks to a high standard. I am very proud of what they have achieved over these last two Terms.