

MACQUARIE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

SPRING BLUEY NEWSLETTER

"Truth and Virtue"

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Throughout this year, our school undertook the noble task of crafting an educational voyage within an environment designed to enrich our students' experiences. Our goal was to challenge their minds, bodies and spirits, offering a curriculum that extended beyond academics and encompassed a spectrum of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. It was within this supportive atmosphere that our students explored their strengths and unlocked their potential. We fostered confidence, teaching the importance of taking risks, facing failures and learning from them.

The remarkable academic achievements across all levels – be it internal assessments or external competitions – speak volumes about the engagement and dedication of our students. The results in NAPLAN, AMC tests, and culminating in the HSC exams mark a pinnacle in MGS's history of educating high school students. Beyond academics, our students flourished in various areas of interest, embracing the dynamic and vibrant life of an MGS student.

Looking ahead, we are committed to expanding the horizons of our students further, offering an array of both time-honored and innovative challenges. MGS has earned a reputation for nurturing young adults, and our commitment remains unwavering. We endeavor to equip our graduates with not just knowledge but also the confidence to carve purposeful and fulfilling lives from the opportunities that await them.

Preparing for Success

High school years are a treasure of memories, both delightful and challenging. They are a tapestry woven with experiences that shape us. There might have been aspects that did not align with everyone's preferences – the schedule, the lunch fare or even certain classes. Yet, if I were to ask you about your favorite teachers, the answer would likely come easily. It is in remembering these individuals that we recall not just lessons taught but the inspiration they ignited within us.

At the heart of our mission lies the belief in inspiring our students to pursue their passions while allowing them to inspire us in return. As we approach this festive season, my heartfelt wishes go out to each of you for a joyous and healthy holiday. May your desires be fulfilled and may the spirit of love and kindness perpetually reside within you.



Mr. Alexandru
Acting Principal

Term in Review and Looking Ahead

Dear MGS Community,

As we find ourselves at the end of yet another academic year, it is truly astounding how swiftly time has passed. The pages of our calendar have flipped to December, signaling the imminent closure of this chapter. Reflecting on the journey we have shared, I am filled with both nostalgia and pride.

Messages from Mrs Sun

As the school year ends, we wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on the remarkable achievements, progress and growth we have witnessed within our school community. It has been an eventful and successful academic year, and we are incredibly proud of every one of our students.

Celebrating Our Achievements

Throughout the year, our students have excelled in the various fields of academics, arts, sports and creativity. They have shown outstanding skills in interpersonal communication, innovation and teamwork. We commend them for their hard work, dedication and enthusiasm which have set great examples for their peers and created a positive learning environment. From the Science practical excursion to UTS, the Geography excursion to Hyde Park Barracks, Sydney Opera and Royal Botanic Garden Sydney to musical performances, HSC Study Skills Day, Debating class to year 11 students workshop at Monkey Baa Theatre Darling Harbour, Swimming Carnival, Internal school cross country and Annual Athletics Carnival, ISD sports competitions such as Netball, Basketball, Athletics Carnival, Volleyball, School Camp and Beach Fun Day our students have shone brightly in every endeavour, making us proud of their achievements.

Appreciation to Term 4 Monitors

We would like to acknowledge the individuals who have been selected as monitors for Term 4. These students have been chosen for their exceptional qualities and their ability to work as effective team members.

One of the main responsibilities of our monitors is to inspire our younger students on the right path; encouraging them to make wise choices and consistently do the right thing. As monitors, they hold the authority to monitor student behavior and ensure that everyone adheres to the school's dress code. It is crucial that we respect their role and follow their guidance and suggestions.

Showing respect and appreciation is key in helping our monitors develop their leadership skills in Term 4. Let us all remember that at the end of Term 4, each one of us has had the opportunity to vote for the prefect and captain positions. So, let us observe the qualities and potential displayed by our monitors in the coming weeks.

I appreciate all of you to support our monitors and recognize the effort they put into maintaining a positive and orderly school environment. Together, we can create a unified and respectful learning community.



2023 School Camp at CRU Galston Gorge

We had a great time on our recent school camp at CRU Galston Gorge. It was a big success and the students had a lot of fun while learning important things.

During our stay, students participated in a wide range of exciting and educational activities such as Team Challenge games, archery and BMX sessions and Compact Games included table tennis, Gutter, Gaga and hand ball plus team sports football/oz tag, basketball, volleyball, 'Giant' Capture the Flag, NYDA King Ball Soccer Challenge, indoor rock climbing and swimming. From spirited team-building initiatives to thrilling outdoor adventures, each day presented new opportunities for personal achievement and growth.

The camp provided an ideal platform for our students to develop essential life skills. As they navigated through various activities, they learned the value of effective communication, problem solving and collaboration. We witnessed tremendous personal growth as students gained confidence, resilience and a greater understanding of themselves and each other. The camp helped students learn important skills for life.

As we reflect on this successful school camp, let us celebrate the growth and achievements of our students. We hope that their experiences at CRU Galston Gorge will serve as a foundation for future accomplishments both in their academic pursuits and personal lives.

We want to give special recognition to our teachers for their dedication and professionalism. They worked tirelessly to ensure the safety, engagement and wellbeing of our students throughout the entire camp. Their commitment to creating a positive and inclusive environment played a crucial role in making this experience a memorable one.

We would also like to acknowledge the incredible support and cooperation from our students, especially our monitors. Their enthusiasm, respect and positive attitude were truly inspiring. They demonstrated excellent teamwork, encouraging and motivating one another to face challenges head-on. We are immensely proud of their conduct and the mature way in which they represented our school.

In the spirit of gratitude, we extend our thanks to the CRU Galston Gorge staff for their warm hospitality and exceptional facilities. Their dedication to ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for our students was evident in every moment spent at the camp.

We are grateful for the cooperation, support and partnership of our teachers and instructors enabling us to provide such enriching experiences for our students. Here's to the resilience, teamwork, and personal growth achieved by our students at the CRU Galston Gorge camp.





Year 12, 2023 and Homeroom Teacher, Ms. Mulleneux

A Warm Farewell to Our Graduating Class

To our graduating class, we offer our heartfelt congratulations on reaching this significant milestone. As they embark on a new chapter of their lives, we want to express our gratitude for the impact they have made on our school community. Their tenacity, leadership and commitment to excellence will resonate within these walls for years to come. We wish them nothing but success and fulfillment in their future endeavours.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

As we bid farewell to this academic year, we want to remind everyone to make the most of the upcoming holiday season. Spend quality time with your loved ones, relax and recharge for the challenges and adventures that lie ahead.

During the break, take advantage of opportunities to explore our beautiful country. Visit museums, historical landmarks, national parks or engage in community service initiatives. This is a chance to broaden your horizons, develop new skills and grow as individuals.

We also encourage you to take time for self-reflection and goal setting for the coming year. What accomplishments do you want to achieve? What steps are needed to accomplish those goals? Use this break as a springboard for personal and academic growth.

Thank You and Best Wishes

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all our students, parents and guardians for your continuous support, trust and involvement in our school community. We could not have achieved such success without your support. As we get ready for summer break, we wholeheartedly wish each one of you a safe, enjoyable and memorable holiday season.

Remember to cherish and celebrate the joyful moments, cultivate gratitude and embrace new experiences. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for another incredible year filled with opportunities, growth and success.



Year 12 Farewell 2023 and MGS Teachers

Message from Mr. Stavropoulos

The year has now truly come 360 degrees (pardon the mathematics pun) with summer arriving again and the school year drawing to a close.

It is unbelievable to think that I have now completed a year's worth of teaching in Australia and how we have survived probably the busiest term of the year!

I have enjoyed the improvement and development of the students in the 2023 academic year and to see my Year 9 Mathematics and Science and year 10 Mathematics classes grow in size so rapidly has made me even more driven and passionate to deliver high quality, interactive content for these subjects at Junior level. It is pleasing to see the effort put in by the students who have been promoted from HSP to the mainstream to obtain the best results in their end-of year assessments in Mathematics and Science and I hope that they will have even more success in 2024 as they enter a higher grade in their high School careers.

A huge well done to the Year 9 and 10 students who have been in their respective Mathematics and Science Year for the past 11 months and have worked tirelessly to improve and obtain marks that are nothing short of academic excellence in term 4.

Our Year 11 Students for Biology and Mathematics Standard 2 have started their HSC courses and are hungry and competitive to get their formal HSC off to a flying start with the quality of the first Assessment Tasks that they have delivered. I am really relishing the prospect of pushing these students towards the very best marks that they can possibly achieve in the 2024 HSC exams and even hope to obtain a few Band 6 results from this cohort. The future is indeed bright!

Finally, despite the vacuum created by the absence of our Year 12 students in Term 4, I would like to wish the Mathematics Standard 2 and Biology HSC Candidates all the very best with their results for the 15th of December. They were upbeat about the way they wrote their exams and hope for good results with the fulfilment of the achievement which shows that hard work truly pays off.

Despite the very brief spell of club periods in term 4 with activities like Camp and Beach Day on Fridays, Mathematics Club has definitely shown us the fun side of Mathematics with varied activities like exposing students to AMC type questions, Kahoot questions on topics they have not yet covered in class, geometry brain teasers and fun Pascal's Triangle activities which have exposed interesting patterns.

I would like to thank Mrs. Sun and Mr. Alexandru for their mentorship in 2023 and for the opportunity to have a positive educational impact on the lives of our wonderful MGS students.

I continuously strive to turn my good work of 2023 into great work in 2024. It is an ongoing honor and privilege to teach these students.

Wishing all students and their families a restful festive period and may all be safe and recharged ready to start 2024!

PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES



2023 has seen the students of MGS continue to try new activities and excel in many sports as well. This term, our ISD Volleyball Boys team proudly represented the school against other schools in their association and played extremely well placing 6th overall. Mr Stavropoulos has provided a more detailed report of the tournament. The MGS Basketball boys and girls also featured in the ISD competition earlier this term. They played with vigor and displayed a high level of skill in this tournament. I would like to thank Mr Potts, Mr Ip and Mr Stavropoulos for coaching the students throughout the year and providing them with quality training sessions and mentorship. This success adds to other achievements throughout the year in ISD Football and Athletics.

The students were also fortunate enough to experience two major events: Camp at Galston Gorge and Beach Day at Coogee. It goes without saying that these events are fun, although, they are more than that. They provide the students with opportunities to be more independent, deal with the challenges of life through different activities, try new things and develop their social and emotional intelligence. They were very mature, cooperative and enthusiastic throughout the whole camp. This is exactly what the staff and I were hoping for, it made our job so much easier. I am so proud of the way the students conducted themselves. The camp coordinator even said to me that our school was the most polite, humble and mature school they have come across, and they deal with hundreds of schools! I was delighted by that feedback but was also not surprised.

Well done to the students of MGS and the whole community including staff and parents/guardians for their support in the school's programs. I am excited to see what next year holds for our students.

Mr. Diakis
Sportmaster



SRC

2023 was a productive year for the SRC. With successful fundraisers for cancer treatments and research into childhood illnesses, the SRC is proud to report that over \$500 was raised by Macquarie Grammar School staff and students.

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea is held every May throughout Australia and has been running for the last 29 years. This annual fundraiser raises money for research into different types of cancer and is an opportunity for students to become more aware of how cancer is diagnosed and treated in Australia. This year our SRC hosted a school-wide morning tea with lots of yummy pastries and sweets to purchase. The SRC raised over \$260 for this important initiative and was very thankful for the staff and students who participated.

Jeans for Genes Day is run every year in August and is a fundraising initiative run by the SRC. All money raised went to the Children's Medical Research Institute, an organization with over 170 scientists committed to finding treatments and cures for serious conditions affecting children. During this day Macquarie Grammar School students were asked to wear their favorite pair of jeans and donate a gold coin. Members of the SRC collected student's donations, with many students choosing to donate more than a gold coin. This fundraiser was extremely successful, with a total of \$214 being raised for the Children's Medical Research Institute.

The National Day of Action against Violence and Bullying was facilitated by members of the SRC, who went to the different years homerooms. During this time, SRC members gave a short speech and presented a video about bullying and violence prevention in schools. This year, the SRC asked students to focus on the types of connections they make with other people, as making positive connections with people can help reduce bullying and violence. The presentations made by SRC members were well received by students and staff. Sincere thanks to the SRC members who made these homeroom presentations possible.

The Christmas Card fundraiser was a big success this year. Over 60 Christmas cards were purchased by students and staff, and these were hung on the school Christmas tree. SRC members delivered the cards together with Christmas candy canes to staff and students on the last day of term. It was wonderful to see the joy that these messages provided for those who received them. Proceeds raised from the sale of the Christmas cards will be used by the SRC to run fundraisers and other initiatives in 2024.

The SRC team would like to wish all a happy holiday.

Mr. Jonathan Connal
(SRC Coordinator)



MESSAGES FROM MGS MONITORS

"I'm May Duong, one of the monitors at Macquarie Grammar School. Throughout Term 4, I thank you for being a part of monitor groups. So, I can have a lot of chances to improve myself and also have a chance to make a lot of new friends from the camp in Hornsby, the beach day, SRC events, and even the regular day at school, where I can get closer to my friends and understand them more. I thank the teachers and staff for taking care of our students at every event. Furthermore, I am grateful for the opportunity to engage with my monitor groups and teachers this term to strengthen my leadership skills. This term is amazing for me, and I hope it is similarly wonderful for everyone else. Thank You!"

- May Duong, Year 11.

"Camp was a wonderful experience that I still think about today. I wish I could go back in time and relive that moment. It was enjoyable thanks to all the teachers, students and the excellent staff at CRU Galston Gorge. We got to know one other, made wonderful memories and, it was a perfect opportunity to take a break from our phones."

- McKenna (May Phoo Khin), Year 11.

"Although we are formally still in year 11, Term 4 has been amazing for my friends and me since it allowed us to experience what year 12 is like. We had some of the most exciting and valuable experiences, whether they were from camp, studies, exams or anything else. Granted, it was a challenging time for each of us, but we managed to overcome it. My fellow classmates and I have the most priceless memories and experiences thanks to the teachers and students who have supported us. Everything about Term 4 has created more memories of our high school, despite its highs and lows."

- Mai Trang Phuc Hanh, Year 11

"This year Term 4 was one of the most memorable terms since I have been studying at Macquarie Grammar School. The school gave me and my Year 11 friends a chance to relax before our first HSC task. During the school camp, we had fun and worked together to enjoy the most out of the camp and other school activities. These are unforgettable and treasured memories and will warm my heart every time I look back at my educational journey."

- Duc Tri (Michael) Nguyen, Year 11

"I appreciate the teachers and students for spending another wonderful term with me. We had school camp, beach day and a Christmas fundraiser. These events were memorable experiences. During the school camp, I experienced multiple activities such as rope climbing and mountain biking. These moments are strongly stuck in my brain. In addition, I believe that many students are going back to their countries during this summer holiday. Thus, I would advise everyone to take good care of themselves and to enjoy their holiday. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone back next year."

- Sora Tomonari, Year 11.



"This term has been a dynamic journey filled with growth and a variety of experiences. The term has been full of successes and challenges, from the lively interactions of a beach day to managing the academic pressures of HSC assessments. I embraced leadership roles as the captain of the ISD volleyball and basketball teams, where I gained invaluable experience in collaboration and clear communication. Despite the pressures of competition, our teams demonstrated resilience and cohesion. Our camp's success also demonstrated the power of student cooperation and the priceless assistance of our teachers. This term has been a true mosaic of all-encompassing personal growth, demonstrating the value of flexibility and teamwork in a range of academic contexts."

- Aditya Giri, Year 11.

Other Activities



MGS Students at AF Denis Morandet library

French Club (Club Français) with Monsieur Potts has continued in Term 4 and MGS has forged a link with the Alliance Française de Sydney (AF), situated just 200 metres from our school on Clarence Street. The director of the AF Denis Morandet gave our students a tour of the AF and now French club members can enjoy their online library resources and borrow books from their French library while enjoying a coffee or a patisserie.

We look forward to further French social, cultural and linguistic opportunities for any interested students in 2024.

Mr. Potts

English Teacher



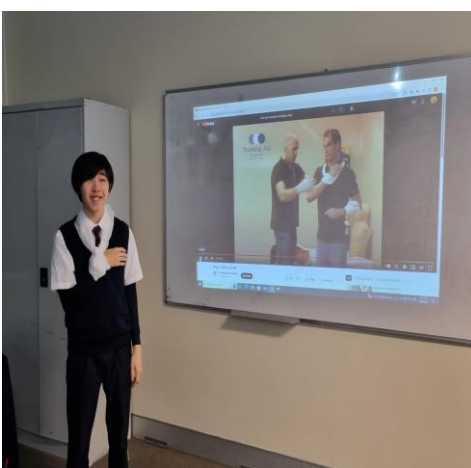
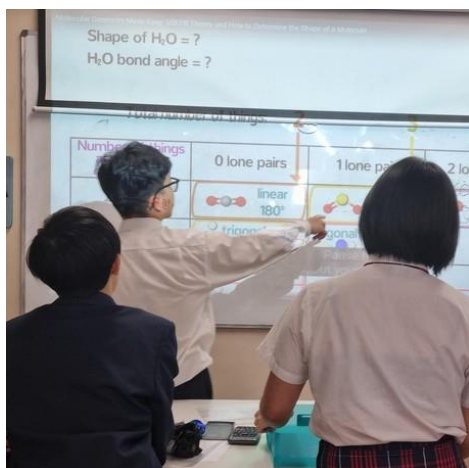
Term 4 Parent Teacher Interview



Annual Assembly Day December, 2023



Students are working on their projects



Students are in class



Camp 2023



Students received awards on Annual Assembly day



Holiday Safety Reminder

As the school holiday approaches, we want to emphasize the importance of prioritising safety in all activities. Whether you are traveling overseas to visit your family or remaining in your hometown, please ensure you notify your parents or guardians of your plans. Their support and awareness are invaluable.

When exploring new places or enjoying outdoor activities, please remember to follow safety protocols and guidelines. Stay together as a group, seek permission before leaving and be always aware of your surroundings. Road safety is of utmost importance, so use designated crossings, obey traffic signals and never rush when crossing roads.

Additionally, staying hydrated is vital for your wellbeing. Drink plenty of water and take advantage of nearby water taps to refill your bottles. Remember, your health and safety are of paramount importance to us. Happy Holiday!

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, 2024!





TEXTBOOKS ORDERING 2024

Macquarie Grammar Years 2024 resource lists are now listing online for student ordering.

You might be required to create a new account and password to be able to purchase the textbooks.

Please find below the link which will take parents/students directly into the Champion website for ordering:

<https://order.champion.com.au/?school-code=0D04948F>

➤ If Parents order via the Champion website, the School Code is: **R36Q**