# <u>Marsden Mail 2016</u>

#### Principal's update

'Be the type of person you want to meet'

#### Meet Ana Choi - our 2016 DUX

We are so proud of our 2016 HSC cohort. Not only were they wonderful to deal with as students of our school during their time here, but their HSC results were amazing.

We received Band 6 results in most subjects, including two in 2 unit Standard English for the first time since the syllabus was released in 2001. Out of 31,000 candidates there were only 269 Band 6's in this course, so it's brilliant effort. We are particularly pleased at the results being a 10% improvement on the previous year. For a comprehensive, local high school with a diverse enrolment these results speak volumes of the hard work put in by both students and teachers. I want to thank teachers and parents for their



support shown to our students - all their hard work has paid off. In general:

- 9% of the individual results were Band 6 (90 100)
- 23% of the individual results were Band 5 (80 89)
- 33% of the individual results were Band 4 (70 79)

Realistically, these results detail that 65% of student's individual results were Band 4 or more in the HSC subjects. 27% of student's individual results were Band 3 and less than 8% of individual results were bands 1 and 2. These results are amazing and we are delighted with our students' achievements

We are especially proud of our students who scored high ATAR's thus opening up plenty of university options. Our dux of 2016 is Ana Choi, pictured above, who received an ATAR of 98.8. She was followed closely by Alexis Kim who received an ATAR of 96.5. These are just two examples of our outstanding students' achievements.

#### We made it - it's the end of another Year!

As this is the final newsletter for 2016 I would like to thank all staff, students and parents for your immense contribution to our school. 2016 has been a fantastic year! Our school community has achieved outstanding results academically, sporting, culturally in Creative and Performing Arts, wellbeing and leadership. Our HSC results were outstanding and our NAPLAN results demonstrated strong individual student growth. A brilliant effort!

2016 saw an unprecedented focus on student leadership, mentoring and learning support. Our outstanding Johnson and Johnson mentoring which provides strong support in developing pathways as well as our RAISE Foundation mentoring program for students in Years 8 and 9. 2016 saw a special emphasis upon wellbeing through the appointment of a wellbeing teacher and a wellbeing coordinator.

Not excluding the importance of any of the other fantastic programs which ran throughout the year, in the last month alone, the following very successful programs were participated in by students: Race around Marsden, Australian Business Week for Year 10 students, Work Experience, Robotics, Junior Performance Evening, the Prefect organised White Ribbon focus for Week 7, Year based reward end of year excursions for years 7 and 8, Sports Assembly, Orientation Day, a visit from 100 students from Miyazaki Minami HS who experienced a special Marsden assembly as well as typical lessons in an Australian high school and Australian food, the Parents of Year 7 2017 information Evening and Year

12 2016 results Morning Tea. Our 2016 presentation afternoon was particularly successful, where we acknowledged our hard working students who achieved consistently throughout the year.

Yearly Reports for Year 9 were distributed last week with Year's 7, 8 and 10 to go out this week. So you are aware, usually when students are given their reports, we have then read them in silence in year groups and complete a reflection of their strengths and areas for development. The emphasis upon the reflection is to get students to set goals for the upcoming year to focus upon. These are used by Year Adviser's and others throughout the year to assist students further in achieving their personal best at school. Students in Years 7, 8 and 10 will reflect upon their reports during the first year meeting 2017.

I urge you to add the next layer of evaluation and support, by reading through the reports with your child and compare the results with those received at the end of Term 2 this year. Ask your child what their goals for 2017 are, and as necessary discuss and rework these so they reflect a realistic direction. Hopefully, you will notice an improvement in skills and understandings. Throughout the year students have been encouraged to perform at their personal best and the report is one of the most telling indicators of that improvement. If you are concerned about anything on the reports please don't hesitate to contact the school and speak to the Year Adviser or Faculty Head Teacher for any subject results of concern.

#### Uniform

Our new senior student uniform starts in Year 11 next year. The uniform shop is currently stocked with most of the new items, though there have been a few ordering delays in some items. The uniform for the rest of the school is staying the same.

In 2017 the socks which go with the uniform are black, just above the ankle. This is contrary to previous information published and we apologise for the mis-communication. Up to this point the school has allowed both black and white socks. The reason behind the decision is to have a uniform approach to how our students look. Our uniform has been looking good in 2016 and we want to continue with the ongoing excellent presentation of our students. As in the past, the shoes we expect our students to wear are to be black, leather, hard soled, lace up, no suede and no logos – the protection of the foot in TAS and Science classes is important.

#### New bell times during the school day in 2017

The length of the school day will stay the same in 2017 though we are moving our whole school Assemblies around and putting in Year Assemblies and time for Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L) sessions. With our CARE values, our emphasis during the PB4L sessions is to build upon growth mindset and solutions focussed thinking to ensure students are equipped to make good choices.

#### Staff changes

Whilst it is great to be at the end of the year with the holidays upon us, this does come with disappointment for our school. I am appreciative of their efforts, their contribution to our school and wish them well. The following staff are leaving us:

- Mr Bernard Dubria after three years in the HSIE faculty and achieving great results in Society and Culture.
- Ms Alice Lim taught on a temporary contract in Mathematics has been snapped up by another school.
- Ms Rosette Lee with us for two years and has been outstanding as an ESL teacher.
   Unfortunately the school's ESL allocation was reduced by 0.6 and it was difficult to provide a stable timetable to Ms Lee and she has been snapped up by Fairfield High School.
- Mr Scott Belgre with us just for this year as relieving Head Teacher PDHPE, he has been
  offered a permanent Head Teacher PDHPE role at Bossley Park High School. Mr Belgre has
  been a fantastic leader during his brief time here and we wish him well.
- Mr Niall O'Brien and Alanah Bowler who worked tirelessly in HSIE and Learning Support as temporary teachers leave us for more permanent employment.
- Mr Ian Bulgin our long serving HSIE teacher, will be leaving us for just 2017, taking a year's sabbatical. We wish him a successful year ahead and look forward to his return.

To kick off the beginning of the year there will be a screening of the new feature length edudocumentary Most Likely to Succeed at Marsden High School on Wednesday 22nd February 2017. This inspirational film explores the possibilities of education when we provide opportunities for students to have strong agency over their learning.

Most Likely to Succeed looks at how one school has adopted a fresh approach to educating their students with great results. It also delves into the possibilities of how learning environments, building on passion and expertise, giving students a voice, and leveraging partnerships with parents and school community, can have a positive impact on student learning.

This award winning film reaffirms some of the great things we are doing in schools, and raises questions about what else can be done to provide our students with the best education.

#### Screening Details

- •What: A screening of Most Likely to Succeed
- •Where: Marsden High School John Hagan Hall
- •When: Wednesday 22nd March 2017. Program begins at 6:30pm sharp; doors open at 6:00pm.
- Cost: Gold coin donation
- •RSVP: Marsden High School ph: 9874 6544 by Wednesday 15th March 2017

#### **Merry Christmas and Thank You**

Once again, the students at Marsden High School have shown themselves to be inspirational. They continue to place Marsden on the map and their performance and commitment is recognised regionally. Marsden is the school of choice for so many families living in the local area because of the mature and responsible way our students apply themselves in achieving their personal best and present themselves. Similarly, their caring and empathetic natures, along with their strong sense of social justice make me proud to be associated with Marsden High School. They are a very special group of young men and women.

At this point the staff deserve a special mention for their efforts over the past twelve months. I am so proud of the efforts and achievements of our teachers in a school which is growing exponentially. You could not find a more dedicated or hard working group of professionals, from the SASS Staff through to the Deputy Principals, they continue to impress and outshine others in their field.

Finally, to the parents and carers, you deserve a huge thank you for your support and advice regarding the extremely important job of educating and nurturing your children. Along with your children, you are the reason we come to work every day. Each day you make us feel welcome and valued as we take on our roles in your lives. You entrust us with your most prized possession/s and we thank you for giving us that privilege. Thank you and have a safe and very Merry Christmas and a fabulous holiday!

### Our next P&C meeting is on Tuesday 28 February in the Library at 7:30pm

#### School Calendar 2017

Mon 30 Jan Years 7 , 11 & 12 start	Tues 31 Jan Years 8, 9 & 10 start	Wed 1 Feb	Thurs 2 Feb	Fri 3 Feb
Mon 6 Feb	Tues 7 Feb	Wed 8 Feb	Thurs 9 Feb	Fri 10 Feb
Mon 13 Feb Year 7 Camp	Tues 14 Feb Year 7 Camp	Wed 15 Feb Year 7 Camp	Thurs 16 Feb Swimming Carnival	Fri 17 Feb
Mon 20 Feb	Tues 21 Feb	Wed 22 Feb	Thurs 23 Feb School Photos	Fri 24 Feb
Mon 27 Feb	Tues 28 Feb P&C Meeting Yrs 7 & 12 Parent Teacher	Wed 1 Mar Zone Swimming Carnival	Thurs 2 Mar School Photos	Fri 3 Mar

# STEM @ Marsden High School

STEM is a curriculum based on the idea of educating students in four specific disciplines — science, technology, engineering and mathematics — in an interdisciplinary and applied approach. Rather than teach the four disciplines as separate and discrete subjects, STEM integrates them into a cohesive learning paradigm based on real-world

As per the National STEM School Education Strategy, 2016 – 2026 <a href="https://www.educationcouncil.edu.au">www.educationcouncil.edu.au</a>, the following are some of the reasons why STEM education is crucial at Marsden High School.

- ✓ Over the next five years, employment is predicted to increase in professional, scientific and technical services by 14 per cent and in health care by almost 20 per cent.
- ✓ International research shows that **building STEM capacity** across the population **is critical in helping to support innovation and productivity regardless of occupation or industry**.

✓ Industry surveys show that STEM literacy is increasingly becoming part of the core capabilities that Australian employers need.

In light of this research, we have decided to implement a STEM class in Year 8 for 2017. We have a STEM team represented by teachers from all four areas of **STEM** – **S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering and **M**aths. The team is led by Mrs Mini Mathew (HT Science).

The Year 8 classes will be divided into four STEM classes taught by STEM teachers who have been on a residential training to the University of Sydney, STEM academy last month. They are also planning and programming STEM curriculum catered to the learning needs of our Year 8 students.

The classes will be taught by STEM teachers where students work in groups to demonstrate and acquire the 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills and digital skills to innovation and creativity. They come up with a real life problem and over the Semester use their scientific, mathematical and technical skills to work towards finding a solution to their problem.

Students were provided with an opportunity to experience a Year 5 student Michael Tianze from Adelaide who was in Sydney to take part in the Young ICT explorers National Finals on Sunday at UTS. The Young ICT Explorers challenge is represented by more than 1500 students from 168 schools submitting 670 projects across eight locations in Australia. The first place teams in each year group category were selected to compete in the finals at UTS. Michael was awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize for his Nursing home call bell system, which he designed, built and programmed.

We are very thankful and privileged to have Michael Tianze speak and demonstrate his project to our Year 8 student son Tuesday (27/11/16).

Please feel free to call the school and ask for Mrs Mathew HT Science, if you have any queries regarding STEM.







# Suits, Heels and Cocktail Umbrellas

Australian Business Week at Marsden

What a difference a week can make - at the start of Week 8 this term our Year 10's were looking towards their Christmas holidays, recovering from their exams and thinking about their own little, independent plans. But then came - Australian Business Week! A week of teamwork, initiative, inspiration, concepts and planning, design, development, decisions, (and more decisions) graphic artwork, video creativity, suits, heels, cocktail umbrellas and coloured glasses - and we mustn't forget streamers and balloons!

Our Year 10 students really came together over the course of the week in their company teams. They learnt how to organise people, share ideas, follow through on their plans, support one another, enjoy small successes along the way, bounce back from disappointments, and get to know classmates whom they may never have communicated with before.

Big congratulations to our overall winning team 'Bean There, Done That', led by CEO Nic Hose. Winner of our Simulation programme, which ran for 8 quarters (a virtual 2 year business plan) was 'Le Chateau', led by Maddy Low. Those of you who were lucky enough

to visit our Trade Fair and enjoy some of the tasty treats our companies created to promote their cafes and virtual products, will be pleased to know that 'Lights, Camera, Coffee', with the persuasive Zane Mestousis at the helm, were the winning company for their Trade Display.

Marsden's ABW was a wonderful week and we are so proud of all that the students achieved. A huge thank you to all of the staff and to members of our P and C - Mr Greg Low and Ms Marlicia Travis - for assisting us throughout this huge event.

Mrs Trish Swinkels & Ms Reema Sharma



# Marsden's End Domestic Violence Week

Through the help of White Ribbon Australia, the Marsden Prefects were able to host a week of activities exploring the issue of domestic violence. Monday started off with an extended assembly with talks from Senior Constable Debbie Chrystal and members from the Ryde Rotary while a short clip produced by the Prefect team was played to unite the school behind taking a stand against domestic violence and abuse. The rest of the week continued with a series of talks and discussions presented by a rotating host of Prefects to further address the issue of domestic violence. Friday lunchtime capped off the week with a mufti day in support of white ribbon while live entertainment was performed by staff and students, food stalls and jelly bean counts were used as fundraisers while a photo booth was used to encourage and remind students to take a stand against domestic violence while a mural was displayed and signed by many students as they took an oath to take a stand against domestic violence with the rest of Marsden High School. All in all the week was a massive success with many students coming away confronted by the realities of domestic violence but also with renewed hope that if we all stand together we can bring change. The Friday lunchtime fundraisers were a massive success alone with over a thousand dollars raised.





# **Library News**

You would have noticed the many changes in the Library this term.

These changes have taken a lot of planning and work and this is not always visible to users of the Library.

The upgrade/renovation of the Library is ongoing but at this stage, let's call it stage 1 (although the renovation of the library has been ongoing since my arrival 6 years ago a lot of money has now been spent on what we will call Stage 1)

We have cleared the floor space downstairs in the resource area of the Library to reconfigure this space with new furniture with specific and flexible learning spaces. This new approach to teaching and learning as stated in the DEC Future Learning programme:

http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/about-us/news-at-det/media-releases1/first-look-at-nsw-classrooms-of-the-future

And this pdf offers more information:

https://beta.dec.nsw.gov.au/ data/assets/pdf\_file/0018/285201/Futures-Learning-Information-Sheet.pdf

The Inclusion of Lap Tops and WiFi now give students access to printers.

We have processed and have 30 Laptops available for period to period borrowing within the Library for assignments and printing.

Students now have direct access to the Learning Support Hub as they now live in the library where the computer kiosk once was.

Your library has moved into being a Next Generation Learning space with lots of new resources as well as maintaining the latest in Young Adult Literature and Senior Study Resources. We look forward to the next stage in the library renovation and will keep you informed as we move forward!!

Here are some pictures of the process: Library before and now:





We would like to say have a great holiday with family and friends and we look forward to seeing you in Term1 2017.

Thank you Ms Langelaar, Teacher Librarian and Mrs Knight, Library Assistant.

# Duke of Edinburgh

The Duke of Edinburgh group completed a successful overnight backpacking trip in Berowra National Park last week. We hiked from Hornsby to Berowra a distance of about 20 km. We camped at the beautiful Crosslands Reserve where we had a welcome swim (thanks, Miss Jay), after a long walk through Galston Gorge and through the bush along Berowra Creek. Ever try campfire toasted marshmallows coated with Nutella? The boys worked off all the sugar by playing Murder in the Dark with Mr Dubria. The steep climb out of the valley to Berowra Station was a challenge with the gear on our backs and some agreed it was good to return



to civilization, but we all enjoyed our time out on the track and plan to go again in Term 2 next year. Ms Campbell





# Marsden's Landcare Site - Newest additions to our wildlife's biodiversity

Years 7, 9 &10 Geography fieldwork activities have been investigating the amazing biodiversity that is supported by the Landcare site along Archer Creek that flows through our school.

Tawny frogmouths, kookaburras, peewees, rainbow lorikeets, magpies, ravens and noisy miner birds have all nested this year in our important remnant blue gum high forest.





### Careers

#### Year 10 Work Experience Program - Term 4

Last week, Year 10 students from Marsden High participated in the second round of work experience offered this year. Places of employment included corporate business, retail services, veterinarian hospital, primary school, childcare centres and an exceptional opportunity to observe the roles of a midwife and an early childhood nurse within a rural aboriginal medical service.

Employer reports were once again outstanding, with our students taking the opportunity and initiative to find out about potential career paths. Marsden High School students were described as punctual, engaged, showed initiative and working very well in a

team environment. Not only have they been positive representatives of our school, they have presented themselves as mature and capable students in our wider community. We are very proud of their performance and engagement in our work experience program.

Thankyou to all the employers and their staff for generously giving up their valuable time and expertise to enable our students to gain an insight into the workings of their companies and their roles within the business. Many students have expressed the possibility of pursuing a career they have observed or gained an understanding of through the workplace they attended for work experience.





#### School to Work Program – Construction and Landscaping

During Week 6, a group of Year 9 and 10 students participated in a school to work program. They were given the opportunity to sample the skills involved in all steps of the construction and planting of a section of garden within the school grounds. The students were instructed on the use of basic tools and the hardware required before constructing the framework for the garden. They also learnt about the importance of top-soiling, requirements when planting native shrubs and the benefits of mulching in the landscaping process. The students are to be commended on their efforts over the three days as temperatures reached well over 30 degrees on the last day. The quality of the work they produced is impressive and we expect the garden to thrive for many years to come. A big thank you to Mr Brad Williams who guided the students through this program, providing direction and lots of encouragement.



# **FINANCE**

Year 7 & 8 Swim Program was cancelled.

Please return the Year 7 & 8 Swim Program letter advising the School if you would like this \$65 to go towards the following:-

- 1. Fees in Advance
- 2. Student Outstanding Fees
- 3. Refund Cheque or EFT Please Note: This can take up to 4 weeks to be processed.

Thank you to all the parents that have returned their letters which were mailed out 3 weeks ago.

For those who have not responded please do so asap and advise which of the following above options you wish to proceed with.

If we have not received any advice by **December 9th 2016** we will put the \$65 into fees in advance which you can use next year for fees or excursions etc.

# Community News and Information

**KYDS:** Upcoming workshops for students and parents - For young people about to start high school As the end of year approaches we thought it would be fitting to inform you about a couple of events that we are running in January that might be useful to your students and their parents.

**Transition to High School** workshops equips students with the right tools to manage the change that students experience from primary school to high school. These workshops will be run on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> January. These workshops are free of charge thanks to philanthropic donations, and will be held at KYDS in Lindfield.

**Study Stress Busters** sessions will provide information to students on how to deal with the stresses associated with those final years of school. The workshop is targeted towards year 10 to 12 students. The event will run on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> January. The event is \$25 per person which is to cover cost of materials and refreshments. This event will be held at KYDS in Lindfield.

**Transition to High School for Parents** workshop. Parents play a big part in ensuring their children have a smooth transition from primary to high school. This workshop gives parents the strategies to make it a positive experience for their children. These workshops are free of charge thanks to philanthropic donations, and will be held at KYDS in Lindfield.

KYDS Youth Development Service PRACTICAL STRATEGIES - FOR SENIOR STUDENTS (YRS 10-12)

Where: KYDS Office (rear 265 Pacific Hwy, Lindfield)

NEXT AVAILABLE OPEN WORKSHOPS: January 13 & 23, 2017 (10am-2pm)

KYDS Youth Development Service Incorporated is a registered charity, providing in easily-accessed counselling and mental health support services for teenagers. ABN: 11 563 715 017 W: kyds.org.au

#### Covering:

- Understanding how you learn
- Organisational skills
- Time management strategies
- Study techniques
- Dealing with procrastination
- Enhancing your memory
- Maintaining motivation
- Controlling nerves and reducing stress

Light refreshments provided (please mention any dietary requirements when booking)

COST: \$25 / student

LIMITED NUMBERS, BOOKINGS REQUIRED: www.trybooking.com/KEME For more information: 9416 0900 or counsellor@kyds.org.au

Being Prepared for Inevitable Changes: Friends, Fear & Freedom





"it is the best thing I've ever done"

"I loved it, I absolutely loved it"

"it felt good to give something back"

# How to Change a Life

Do you genuinely care about young people? Would you like to learn valuable mentoring skills? Can you give 2 hours a week in school term time?

Raise Foundation impacts the wellbeing of young people in Australia who are at risk of disengaging, through best practice mentoring programs across NSW, VIC and QLD. Applications are now open for volunteer mentors in 2017 who would like to help young people develop resilience and coping strategies, build trusting relationships, increase confidence, set and achieve goals, and engage with education or employment through our programs

### Become a Raise Mentor

- ✓ Complete quick online application
- ✓ Receive information pack
- ✓ Complete Working With Children Check
- ✓ Complete National Crime Check
- ✓ Choose day, time, location to mentor
- ✓ Attend free TAFE accredited mentor training
- ✓ Be matched with your mentee

visit raise.org.au to apply

### Benefits of Mentoring

You might be studying, retired, parenting or have flexible work hours. You don't have to be a teacher or an expert to be a good mentor. You need to be able to act as a sounding board for ideas and aspirations, and be able to commit to mentoring for 6-9 months during school term time in 2017. Your skills and life experiences can make a real difference to a young person in your community, and there are lots of benefits for you, as well....

- √ free TAFE accredited mentor training
- ✓ support from our qualified program counsellors
- ✓ great sense of community and giving back









It takes a village to raise a child

mentor@raise.org.au

raise.org.au

### STRONGER HSC STANDARDS

# MINIMUM LITERACY AND NUMERACY STANDARD

## Set for success in day-to-day life

The minimum standard is set at a level of literacy and numeracy needed to do things like:

- of follow operating instructions in equipment manuals
- interpret routine tables, graphs and charts.
- write a job application



The second second

### ONLINE LITERACY AND NUMERACY TESTS

Students will need to pass online reading, writing and numeracy tests to demonstrate achievement of the minimum standard.

From 2018, these lests will be available for students to sit at least twice a year in:



Year 10



Year 11



Year 12



for up to 5 years after starting the HSC

### TIMELINE

#### 2017

Courses and support material for Year 9 and 10 students who are identified at risk of not demonstrating the minimum numeracy standard by the end of Year 10 published

Consultation on exemption policy

Minimum standard rules and guidelines published

Online reading, writing and numeracy tests piloted

Schools Online and Students Online websites updated

#### 2018

First Year 10 students sit online reading writing and numeracy tests

#### 2020

First HSC students required to meet minimum standard



### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



From 2020, students need to demonstrate a minimum literary and numeracy standard to be eligible for the HSO



There will be multiple opportunities to pass online reading, writing and numeracy tests before and after the EST.



Sarty identification and support for students mest a fisk of not actioning the minimum standard is available under the NSW literacy and Numeracy Strategy



Students with Hand 8 or above Year 9 NAPLAN results in reading, writing and European will not need to sit



Some students, including those studying Life Skills courses, will not need to meet the minimum standard to be

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