<u>Marsden Mail 2016</u>

Principal's report

Don't give up. Normally it is the last key on the key ring which opens the door. Paulo Corleho.

SASS Appreciation

During this first week of September students and teaching staff at Marsden acknowledged the hard work done by the School Administrative & Support Staff (SAS Staff) as part of National Recognition week. SAS Staff are a dedicated group of professional workers who are a vital part of our organisation and are an important part of our school's success in the provision of quality education for your children.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Cathie Rust our office manager and her amazing SAS team at Marsden for their dedication, professionalism and diligence in supporting our teachers and students.

Homework Hub

Last Thursday saw the implementation of our Homework Hub. Operating from 3.15 pm to 4.15 pm students in all year groups are invited to attend, especially now we are well and truly in the assessing stage of the term. The Homework Hub is staffed by teachers and tutors who are there to support our students working on assignments/ assessment and preparing for exams. Please encourage your child to attend – it operates out of the school library. Please contact Ms Tambree in PDHPE is you would like your child to attend.

Year 12 update

The end is almost in sight. The first taste of HSC marking is underway with the assessing of our practical/ project based assignments in Music, Society and Culture, History Extension, Timber and Visual Arts drawing to a close. There have been many anxious and tired students putting their very best efforts into the final product.

The next four weeks are vital to our student's ultimate success. Most teachers still have new content to teach and it is important for students to maintain focus. Although some courses may have completed delivery of the content, it is imperative students use these last weeks to prepare themselves thoroughly for the BOSTES exams. Now is the time to carefully reflect on what is needed to improve upon results and then practise exam technique when in the classroom and during study time.

My advice to Year 12 is 'Your teacher is your best resource'. Talk to them and 'pick their brains' for every last piece of information and skill needed to succeed. Teachers have planned a rigorous program for their students over the coming weeks and it is mandatory they are at school every day to make maximum use of their expertise and knowledge. Students are strongly advised to work together to improve the overall performance of the whole group as this will ensure there are more marks to be distributed amongst all of them after the BOSTES exams. Students have been provided with the following:

- ✓ Be at school and in class, every day until your graduation on Thursday 22 September 2016.
- ✓ Be in full school uniform at all times you are still a role model for younger students and you have a responsibility to the school and to them to set the right example.
- ✓ Behave in the exemplary manner which we associate with Year 12. We need you need to maintain our excellent reputation as a school and respect the organisation for your final days at school. There will be no 'muck-up' day activities at or endorsed by the school. Any student failing to abide by this directive could face the school withholding of school documents, exclusion from school Graduation, not being invited to their graduation dinner or be forced to find other schools to sit the HSC.
- ✓ Spend the time to really make the most of the wonderful teachers at Marsden and maximise your results. It is never too late to make a difference!
- ✓ Continue to make us proud of your maturity, dedication and ultimate results. Remember you have to beat last year's Year 12 and they did extremely well!

Getting that competitive edge

It is important for students to be in an academic routine to build their confidence. It is expected at Marsden for students have study plans. Students who map out their time weekly, who can see visually how they have their time distributed and allocated to study, will be successful. Taking the time to set up a table mapping out Monday to Sunday pays off, as one of the keys in successful studying is repetition. Ms Howes and Ms Soutter, our Learning and Support Teachers are available to assist with setting up study plans.

There is always homework in high school. At the beginning of the year all students were given assessment schedules which are up on our website. These reflect the scheduling of assessments throughout the year, including the rules in terms of academic misadventure. All students in Years 7 – 10 study Mathematics and the majority of our senior students do as well – success in Mathematics involves completing tasks for about 30 or so minutes a day, everyday, regardless of the year level students are in. Without this constant repetition students struggle to get the concepts. Likewise there is always revision and reading students can be doing if they do not have any subject specific homework or assessments. When completing assessments, students are advised to draft their work first and seek realistic feedback from staff. Study tips are frequently added to newsletters and are in the student diary. Please see the relevant Year Adviser for study skills information.

The study times below are basic recommendations on how much time should be allocated daily to specific year groups for studying:

Years 7 and 8 – approximately 60 to 90 minutes daily

Years 9 and 10 - approximately 90 minutes to two hours daily

Years 11 and 12 – at least two hours daily

Marsden is truly starting to get on the map on the education dance world.

In recent weeks Marsden's Dance program has grown from strength to strength. In Week 4 our students performed in the Hawkesbury Dance Competition. Both the junior and senior groups performed really well achieving a second place and a Highly Accomplished (top four) out of thirteen schools.

Just last Saturday (August 27) both dance groups entered the Ryde Dance Competition where we competed strongly against high calibre schools many of which were private or known for their dance

programs. Our Senior students performed in the Contemporary section achieving a Highly Commended, which is top eight finish out of seventeen. In the Jazz Section where there were twenty one acts, our senior group placed with a Highly Commended, top eight finish.

It is phenomenal to see how far our dancers have come in a just over a year of being together. It is also great to see Marsden becoming more known for the dance program. Thank you to the students who have put so much effort in as well as our two outstanding Dance teachers Ms Tambree and Ms Bugeja. With their awesome efforts, there are only bigger and better things to come.



Why should we go Cloud computing at Marsden?

In recent months Marsden has been investigating the option of Cloud computing and storing information off-site on a server that can be located anywhere. Is this a good direction and what does it mean for our teaching and learning process? These are the questions we are weighing up at present. Recent investigations of four schools by a team led by Mr Evans, which have gone this pathway successfully and involved many conversations about cloud computing with teachers and school leaders, revealed significant advantages:

• No more carrying around devices, such as thumb drives or CDs. Students won't don't need to worry about losing the device, breaking the CD, or not having information load properly.

- **Easy access!** Lesson plans, labs, grades, notes, PowerPoint slides just about anything digital used in teaching and learning is easily uploaded and accessed anytime.
- **Stability:** cloud computing is now to the point of being a very stable technology that can be relied on.
- Security: data, content, information, images anything stored in the cloud usually requires authentication (ID and password, for example) so it is not easily accessible by anyone. In addition, should something happen to the technology at school, the content will still be available if it is stored elsewhere.
- **Shareability:** Working on an instructional assignment with other students and teachers? Some or all files can be shared that have been stored in the cloud. No more obtaining an extra thumb drive or burning another CD or DVD. Students just need to send a link to the file(s) destination.
- **Trackability:** Make changes to a document and want to change it back? No problem. Cloud computing will save multiple revisions and versions of a document so that students can chronologically trace back the evolution of an item.
- **Collaboration:** teachers and students can set-up various groups to work on projects and assignments in the cloud.
- **Good-bye copier!** That's right! With cloud computing, the amount of photocopying is reduced significantly even more so if each student has their own smart device (computer, laptop, tablet, etc.). Quizzes, tests, assignments all can be taken, scored, shared with student and parents, and stored.
- **Good-bye file cabinets!** With cloud computing redundancy, there is no longer the need to both save files digitally as well as in paper format. Cloud computing systems are regularly backed-up, so the chances of losing content are quite small. And, no more file cabinets means more classroom space!

What does this approach look like? Students would have responsibility for a device they would be expected to bring to school every day (BYOD – Bring your own device). For families struggling to make 'ends meet' the school will supply suitable and effective devices to ensure there is equity in education. For others, the expectation is for students to bring their own device and these would be integrated into the teaching and learning process.

The next step for our school is to gain staff, parent and student support for this approach. Once achieved, we would look at training teachers over the next six months in the various Apps that exist in cloud based teaching – without sustained and indepth support of our teachers, this program would not be worth implementing. The program works in the schools we visited due to the teachers utilising the devices in most lessons and the expectation placed upon students to ensure they have the necessary learning equipment. The key message coming out of the schools which have gone down this pathway successfully is that student engagement increased. Our timeframe would be to start implementing this approach year groups at a time starting from Term 3 2017, over the course of a couple of years. We will keep you posted on where we are up to with this approach.

NAPLAN feedback

NAPLAN results have arrived at school and are in the process of being distributed. The results were generally pleasing and show consistent growth for the majority of students in all areas. Numeracy was especially an area of continued growth where all students have demonstrated strong improvement. One area for development the school has identified is in writing. We are evaluating our approach with the view to ensure improvement in the future. The next step for the school is to apply the explicit feedback on individual students to improving their skills in the classroom. All teachers have access to the data and will be utilising it in their Year 7 and 9 classes.

Simple literacy tips to improve reading.

- Encourage your child to read at the same time every day. This may be in the evening before they go to sleep. Students should read a variety of text types such as novels, short stories, newspapers and magazines.
- If your child does not understand a word, have them look up the meaning and use it in a sentence.
- Share your love of reading by discussing your favourite book at their age.
- Ask your child questions about what they're reading. This could include describing the character, explaining the plot and discussing what they have learnt from the book.

• If your child really enjoyed a particular book, they should research the author to find out why the book was written and what other books might interest them.

Starting Year 7 at Marsden in 2017

Marsden has great relationships with our partner primary schools with the aim to ensure students adjust to high school smoothly. On Thursday October 17th all students coming up to Year 7 at Marsden will have a taste of what high school is about. Students will receive individualised invitations. Additionally the school will host a parent evening in mid term 4 for interested parents who would like to know what to expect when their children start high school. Lauren Soutter is our Year Adviser for Year 7 2017, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact her through the front office.

School contributions:

Thank you to all those parents who have paid their school contributions and subject costs. Often it is an oversight, while other parents welcome a payment schedule to help them. To assist me, it would be greatly appreciated if you could contact the school to settle these accounts or arrange a payment schedule. For senior students, these accounts need to be resolved before the sign out process is completed at the end of this term – year 12 as they finish school and year 11 prior to them starting year 12 courses next term.

Thanks and congratulations to:

- ✓ Our Year 12 student leaders, for their efforts in the past year, adding their flare to improving our outstanding school. Brooke Seifert, Owen Zhao, Jessica Morgan, Abdalla Matar, Sarah Amin, Miran Kadir, Maddy Hendroff, Colby Lu, Ryan Pascoe and Liyang (Leo) Lin.
- ✓ The junior and Senior Dance ensembles your efforts are very much appreciated in your recent events.
- ✓ Angela Singh, Laura Pinzone, Quinn Coleman, Jessica Smith and Brianna Watson. These students were selected as finalists in the Ryde Council Waste-to-Art Exhibition
- ✓ ICAS competition recipients High Distinction: Sean Tran. Distinction: Keisha Tran, Bejae Gale, Dawon Kim, Sebastian Barton, and Andy Chen. Merit: Alexander Chen and Seena Zahrooni.

Mr Lance Berry Principal

Our next P&C meeting is on Tuesday 25 October in the Library at 7:30pm

School holiday dates: Term 3 Last day of term Fri 23 Sept

Term 4

Students start Mon 10 Oct Last day of term Fri 16 Dec

Ever thought about working in a School Admin Office?

Schools in our local area are looking for casual staff with strong Administration/Customer Service/Marketing skills. Some schools are currently looking for regular short term engagements but the work may not be regular and may require availability at short notice. It is preferable that you do not work at your child's school but I can pass your name onto many primary and high schools from Riverside to North Sydney, Epping to Cheltenham. Please email me at <u>catherine.rust1@det.nsw.edu.au</u> outlining your skills and attaching a resume. A Working with Children Check is required.

Cathie Rust - School Administration Manager

Did you know that you can make payments to your child's school online?

A new online payment portal linked to our school's website to make it easier for you to pay for school related payments. This is a secure payment page hosted by Westpac.

What expenses can be paid online?

- Voluntary School Contributions
- Subject Contributions
- Excursions
- Sport
- Creative and Practical Arts
- Sales to Students
- Other

How?

Log onto School site at http://www.marsden-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/. Click on "Make a Payment" and follow the prompts to make a payment via Visa or MasterCard.

Opal Cards – Tapping on and off

One of the more significant changes created by the recent introduction of the School Opal card is the need for students to tap on and off when they travel to and from school.

Opal data gathered by tapping on and off is used to determine demand for bus services. If students don't tap on and tap off, services may be cancelled due the lack of recorded patronage.

With this in mind, we ask for your assistance in reminding your students that tapping on and off at the beginning and end of each trip is one of the conditions of using a School Opal card.

Science faculty

The Science faculty had a number of events to make science learning even more enjoyable and hands on for students.

Year 7 - Reptile Park Incursion.

The Reptile Park incursion for Year 7 students brought a load of animal fun, facts and interaction with live animals this year. The slow moving, awe -inspiring alligator was the all-important attraction for both the teachers and students in the school hall. The Year 7 students enjoyed the scientific talk about varied organisms, namely spiders, snakes, reptiles, lizards and others. They had a better understanding and appreciation of the diversity of these living creatures and their role in the environment. This curiosity drove them to ask many inquisitive questions to the event presenters about different aspects of animal life and wellbeing. Overall it was an engaging and hands on session enjoyed by both the staff and the students.

Year 8, 9 & 10 - STEMania incursion

The Young Australia Workshop initiative is supported by the Australian Government as part of the National Science week activity. Performs Educational musicals presented a slapstick version of real life scenarios embedding the main areas of Science, Engineering and Maths and portrayed how these areas are used in creating innovative ideas and solving problems in real life situations.

Some students were part of the slapstick and most felt that it was very interactive and amusing. Samuel Nutt (Year 8) and Jason Dang (Year 10) were part of two acts demonstrated to the audience. Both the students are to be commended on being in their best behaviour and for their outstanding performances on the stage. The Science faculty would like to commend all Year 8, 9 and 10 students present in the hall for their professionalism and respect displayed to the presenters on the day.

Competition

On Tuesday 31rd May 2016 during periods 1 and 2 the ICAS Science Competition, which is run by the University of New South Wales, was held in our School hall.

Over one million student entries are accepted from over 6,300 schools in Australia and New Zealand annually. This competition provides an excellent opportunity for our students to display their expertise in solving a wide range of problems. 71 students across years 7 - 11 participated in this competition where 1 student achieved a high distinction, 5 achieved distinction, 2 achieved merit and 21 achieved a credit.

A huge thank you to Ms Dalal for her invaluable time and effort in organising this competition for the students.

The Science Club

The 2016 Marsden Science Club was formed earlier this year in Term 1 with 12 students from Year 7-10. One of the main activities for the year was planning and organising for the Science Day activities for primary schools in Term 3. This year the theme is Biology and Forensics. The students met every week to choose and research the experiments and compile a booklet for the primary school students.

The experiments and activities for Forensics have a crime scene and collecting of evidence to solve the crime using DNA, fingerprint identification and blood analysis. For the Biology experiments, there are activities to learn about the body systems that include a heart dissection, making a lung model and looking at cells and microorganisms using a microscope.

This year this club was coordinated by Mrs Nair. The club met with their teacher every Wednesday at Lunch in Lab 108, designed a booklet and activities on Forensics and Biology catered for Primary school students. It was an amazing experience to have witnessed a group of scientists really immersed in their work as you cross path the Lab.

The first group of primary students came in week 2 to be led by our Science club members. Mr Berry presented the science club members with a silver award, for their utmost enthusiasm and leadership skills. The students displayed immense talents in week 2 when 22 primary school students from Putney P.S and West Ryde P.S were invited to the science labs where the high school students taught their primary counterparts some very crucial Forensics and biological skills. The Science club are eagerly awaiting more primary school students in the coming week 6 and 8 of this term to continue on their journey of a Forensic scientist and a biologist. The Science faculty and the school would like to commend the Science club members, Mrs Nair and Mrs Muller for their immense effort in delivery a tremendous experience this year.

Pinnacle project

The Year 7 pinnacle Science class worked on a project based activity in Semester 1 in which students worked in groups to create websites, posters, games or quizzes on different topics. The topics included The different ecosystems in Australia, Photosynthesis & respiration, adaptations among various other topics. The groups then presented their topics to the class and experienced peer evaluation. They enjoyed the flexible learning environment which involved group work and team building skills. It was a great experience both for the students and their teacher Mrs Mathew.

Korean Excursion

Last Thursday the year 11 Korean Beginners class travelled into the city on a cultural excursion. First we visited the Korean Cultural Centre, where we made ourselves comfortable in a traditional Korean house and donned sexy-looking traditional Korean Hanboks. At the centre we also learned about traditional Korean culture, food, music and dance, which I was shocked to find out does not include Gangnam Style. I think my favourite part of the day was the Korean buffet, where we loaded up our plates with Bulgogi, Kimchi, Chili pork, Kimbap and KFC (Korean Fried Chicken). By the time we left I had learned a new Korean phrase - 배불러요 (bea-bul-leo-yo) - which can mean extremely full or pregnant (I fitted into the former category). It was a great day, I would definitely recommend it as a reason to pick up Korean Beginners in year 11.



By Callum Irving





Maths Inspiration



SWAP (Sustainable waste 2 art Prize)

Congratulations to Angela Singh, Laura Pinzone, Quinn Coleman (year 10), Jessica Smith (Year 9) and Brianna Watson (year 8). These students were selected as finalists in the Ryde Council Waste-to-Art Exhibition, with Angela also receiving a Highly Commended. The Exhibition at the See Street Gallery, Meadowbank showcases the wonderful creative abilities of students in turning waste materials into artworks and in this way also highlighting our need to be aware of the waste that is generated. The opening night was on Wednesday 17th August and the students were able to see their work professionally presented in a gallery environment and also see the vast array of other works. A fantastic effort from all involved.





Laura (Tied Down Music) and Angela (Hoot Hoot) on opening night

Library News

Last week we kicked off Book Week with a visit from a famous Australian author Steven Herrick. This was a wonderful treat for year 7 students as Steven Herrick performed for them and spoke about his experiences as an author.

The Australian Children's Book Awards nominated and winning books are on display in the Library. Come and have a look, browse around and borrow an Award winner to take home!

Book Week Competition:

As part of Book Week we have our Mystery Book picks!

Borrow a mystery book to read and return with a Book Review to be in the running to win a fabulous Prize!

Come along and get involved as we have other competitions running in our school Library. Ms Langelaar, Teacher Librarian and Mrs Knight





Work-related stress and anxiety is commonly experienced by students, particularly in the senior school. These are often related to how students manage their workload, particularly when multiple tasks are due around the same time and at examination time. This is unavoidable and something that they will experience often in real life and the workplace. There are some simple, common sense things that students can do to develop the skills needed to become highly organised and minimise these sorts of stresses. These include:

- attend every lesson
- if a class is missed, see the teacher about catching up on the work, and then do so immediately
- ask if they do not understand
- start working on assessment tasks as soon as they are given. Aim to finish them a few days before to allow for proof-reading and editing. Please note: if absent, it is the student's responsibility to find out what was missed and collect the relevant work.
- research on the topics that are being studied in class. Do additional reading, watch a relevant you tube clip, use study websites. This will help to develop deeper understanding through exposure to a variety of explanations.
- if sick, go to the doctor, get the right medical treatment and collect a doctor's certificate.
- in Years 9-12, absent students who miss a task must report immediately to their deputy principal, with their medical certificate on the first day of their return to complete the relevant paperwork to apply for special consideration. Please note, not all appeals will be granted. Repeated instances will be carefully evaluated.

If stress and anxiety is an overwhelming concern, there are a variety of services available for students to access. The main services are:

- http://au.reachout.com/ both a website and an app
- Headspace free counselling service
- Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800
- Your GP

Wellbeing and positive psychology at Marsden

On top of the strong support we receive from our parent community, the success Marsden has in developing positive and future focussed students comes from our emphasis upon wellness. By focussing upon getting the welfare right, the rest of a student's success at school falls into place. Positive behaviour engaging learners (PBL) is an instrumental aspect of building the relationships that successful teenagers need to be successful at school. To support this emphasis, Nicole Brennan, our Mathematics Head Teacher has taken up the additional responsibility of coordinating wellbeing. With an extra period allocation Ms Brennan is working on our Anti-harassment plan and whole school wellbeing policy. Additionally, Stephen Smith is our wellbeing teacher.

At present, our school finds itself without an allocated school counsellor due to a reshuffling at the end of last term. Fortunately we have the skills of Mr Smith who has many years' experience in working closely with students in a one on one capacity providing guidance and support. When a counsellor is clearly needed, our school is able to rely up the support of the IEC counsellors.

The key wellbeing message Marsden is sending to students and parents are:

✓ It is important to have those 'check in', 'how are you going?' conversations with your child whenever possible – teenagers, especially boys are less engaged in conversation and more focussed upon themselves and their friends, so choosing a moment when you are alone such as driving somewhere, allows you to head in the same direction literally. Relationships are difficult to build with teenagers and success relies upon mutual trust and respect. Teenagers want to be valued and respected and if they realise you do actually care and love them, the relationship flourishes. When asking students who they see as their favourite teacher, they always name the ones who make

them laugh and show genuine caring and respect. Humour is a fantastic way to build strong relationships.

- ✓ Students are reminded frequently to report harassment/ bullying to the one teacher, especially their year adviser or DP. Reports are taken seriously and handled so there is a positive outcome. The fear of being a 'dobber' has to be addressed, since no one has the right to make anyone else feel unhappy or unsafe at school. The term 'dobber' refers to the nasty intention of creating trouble, if a child's wellbeing is at stake, reporting is so important to ensure a healthy outcome. Reports can be made directly to a Year Adviser / DP or indirectly through yourself.
- ✓ If your child is struggling with friendships or is being harassed by another student at school, it is extremely important for the school to be involved. A quick and negotiated response allows for a satisfactory outcome. The longer the situation festers the harder it is for an individual's resilience to bounce back. Experience and studies in 'harassment' outline one key fact; the victim simply wants it to stop. If there has been no violence then the school is in a strong position to be able to successfully mediate the situation. When dealing with 'intensive harassment/ bullying' which has clearly had a deep effect upon your child, it is advisable to take them to a GP for a referral to a psychologist so resilience strategies can be provided.
- ✓ Given the surge in mental illnesses in society generally (in particular anxiety, obsessive compulsive disorders and depression) there is a strong emphasis in education upon positive psychology and teaching students how to get the balance in life which will make them thrive. Focussing upon strengths builds positiveness and therefore resilience. For those of you interested in this, I would recommend any book by the American psychologist and founder of the positive psychology movement, Martin Seligman, and in particular his books "Flourish" and "Learned Optimism". Mental wellness, through gratitude and mindfulness amongst other things, is something we want to explore for the betterment of our school community.'

From Careers

Applications for Camp Counselors USA 2017 are OPEN and this September sees a Director from Frenchwoods Festival of the Performing Arts Camp in New York (www.frenchwoods.com) in Australia on a promotion and recruitment drive. CCUSA have scheduled Information Meetings around the country giving Aussies the chance to meet the Director in person and find out what they look for in applicants and details of the jobs they have to fill for the next US summer.

It would be greatly appreciated if you can pass the details of the upcoming Sydney Meeting on to your senior students and the school community.

CCUSA & Camp Frenchwoods FREE Information Meeting. Wednesday September 14, 6:30pm – 7:30pm. CCUSA Office, Suite 811, Level 8, 301 George Street (just above Wynyard Train Station), Sydney

For more details and to RSVP: https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/meet-a-summer-camp-director-special-event-sydney-tickets-26630226725?ref=ecal

The meeting will cover topics such as who are CCUSA, life at summer camp and specifically Frenchwoods, program costs and inclusions, how to apply for 2017 (or in years to come). Students and Parents are welcome to attend. RSVP via the link above, our website www.ccusa.com.au or just turn up on the night.



MARSDEN HIGH SCHOOL

PERFORMING ARTS NIGHT

2016

Wednesday September 7th 7.30 PM

John Hagan Hall Entry - \$8 per person Marsden High School, Winbourne St, West Ryde

Free entry for all children and MHS students accompanied by an adult.



Community News and Information







Sports Camps Australia – Book your camp today. Visit <u>www.sportscampsaustralia.com.au</u> 1800 753 127

Oztag - www.sydneyjunioroztag.net.au

Dear Past & Present Families and Friends of Rydalmere Public School,

As Part of the Schools 125 year celebration to be held on Saturday 5th November we are selling engraved pavers to commemorate this achievement.

Why not become part of this history making event by purchasing a paver which will be a permanent record of you or your families connection with RPS.

These pavers will line the entrance on Victoria Road to the school proudly showing your school connection.

Please fill in the form and return it to the school if you would like to purchase by 31st August.

Thank you 125 Fete Committee http://www.rydalmerep.schools.nsw.edu.au/news/name-paver-note-template

The competition will commence on the 22nd of September - 27 of October + two weeks of finals at Ryde Ex Services Basketball Gym (724 Victoria Rd) There will be two completions Under 14 women and Under 17 women. The cost is \$140 per player. Spots are filling up quickly!! So please contact the Inner West Bulls to nominate your team Please email: <u>chris@innerwestbulls.com</u> or call Luci 0406 269 321