Marsden Mail 2017

Principal's report

Believe in yourself and no one and nothing can stop you from success.

Best wishes to Year 12 - Principal's Graduation address

Today we farewelled Year 12. I have included my graduation address below:

'I am delighted to speak with you today on the eve of a major transition. You are graduating from Year 12, from up to six years at Marsden HS and from schooling as you have known it, for the past thirteen years. It's a rite of passage, from child and teen to adult, from innocence to experience, from dependence to independence. It's one of the big changes and great challenges of your life: leaving the nest, branching out to a largely unfamiliar and unknown landscape and taking a plunge.

The plunge you each take will vary from person to person. In regards to high school you will each also leave with different memories. There are three things I would like you to take away from your time at Marsden and I am confident each of you will do this – the skills of Reminiscence, Reflection and Resilience.

As you take that plunge, you will be tempted to reminisce, in particular on your senior years with us and also on your education generally from way back in 2005, when you were in kindergarten.

You won't reminisce about grades, marks, hard work, study guides, tests, relentless studythe grind. You will reminisce about good times, good people, fun, risks, temptations. You'll see hints of Marsden in simple things in your new life beyond the school boundary.

- You'll hear a drum and immediately think of Jordan what skill he has.
- You'll encounter genuine, likeable, charismatic politeness and think of Callum.
- You'll meet people able to laugh at themselves and able to make other people laugh and, of course, you'll remember Alessandra
- You'll come across vibrant pranksters with a cheeky sense of fun and charisma and naturally you'll
 think of Ahmad or whoever it was yesterday who put the post it notes on the 20 doors sending all of
 those classes to the library at once.
- You'll encounter humble, decent, mild mannered sports nuts and think fondly of Sarah



I think you'll remember the creativity, the social justice passion and the sense of humour of this year. But as you grow, you'll do more than reminisce. I hope you will reflect – mostly about yourself - in a dispassionate but careful and caring way. Reflection is one of the most underestimated, necessary skills in life. Meaningful reflection requires quiet, deep thought to examine what was done, said or achieved.

Reflection of self requires you to judge yourself with some key questions. What did I do for others that made me proud? What was the best thing that happened to

me? How did I handle myself? Did I escalate or deescalate the situation? How would one of my heroes have handled this? Could I have done things differently and would that have helped? How can I change things?

Reflection is the essential ingredient of resilience. Reflection isn't about how many prizes did I win? Or, did I come first? Or, am I the dominant one, the most popular one? Do these things really matter in a world where good people seek happy, fulfilling lives?

My favourite kind of people, are resilient ones. They've usually done it tougher than most. They've had to bounce back and fight for joy, or a new definition of success, or a different perspective on happiness. They're fighters and strugglers, these resilient types. They've got grit and determination.

As you embark on your journey from the known to the unknown, to a world where resilience is vital, to be the best you can be. What I would say to you is this: you cannot enjoy success if you haven't had failure and you can't really understand success if you don't redefine it.



The creator of Harry Potter, J K Rowling is more elegant: "It's impossible to live without failing......unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all – in which case you fail by default."

It's paradoxical isn't it? You have to fail before you understand success. The notion of what it means to be successful in this materialistic, accountable, competitive world will challenge you. Do you fail if you don't come first or don't score the prize? Are you a failure if you drive a Hyundai and not an Audi? Do you succeed and win many prizes, but take performance enhancing drugs? Do you succeed in winning the prize but your relationships are in tatters? Are you successful as a prime minister if you're ousted in your first term by your own party? The billionaires who appear to have embraced the notion "Less is not more" – are they successful? If they are successful, are they happy? What does it all mean?

Failure and success are intertwined and are mutually compatible necessities – JK Rowling is certainly saying this. Failure is absolutely necessary and is almost certainly a precursor to success – whatever that is. Life really is about shades of grey.

In many ways reminiscing, reflecting and having resilience if pursued, will help you search for your inner contentment. Reminisce and remember fond times and people, reflect on your worth in terms of how you behave, what you value and how good you are to others, and finally embrace resilience by dusting yourself off, standing up straight, looking the world between the eyes positively and affirmatively and saying "I am worthy". Year 12, go forth, ask yourself hard questions, challenge yourself to learn about optimism and embrace the ambiguities of failure.



I want to thank you for being the wonderful young people I have observed during the past 18 months. Whilst I haven't really gotten to know many of you, I have observed your hard work, adaption to a new country for those refugee and international students, your passion and your growth as individuals. Thank you for your commitment to Marsden and your respect. I want to also acknowledge your parents and carers who have supported us in journey to support you — without that partnership, you may not have turned out so fantastic. I also want to thank and acknowledge the efforts of all your teachers these

past six years and especially the last two. Last but not least, thank you Ms Berynk for your outstanding efforts

as year adviser during the HSC journey and in making the last moments of Year 12 at high school so wonderfully organised and memorable.

I wish you all the very best.



Welcome Naznaz Kadir

Miss Kadir has joined the Science faculty as a permanent replacement for Mrs Sudheera Nair. Miss Kadir has come to Marsden after teaching at James Mehean High School for several years.

Fire update

We are rapidly getting back on track after the fire in early August. All of the demountable buildings have been put on site and are operating. Some of the supporting works such as levelling the ground near the pathways are in the final stages. Teachers have been granted limited access to gather resources in sections of the closed off areas, which were predominately smoke damaged. The police have stated the cause of the fire was undetermined, meaning there was no clear evidence indicating how it stated; the security data indicates the system was faulting and then the movement sensors were being set off almost simultaneously.

Creating a positive HSC culture right at the start!

On October 19 our Year 12 2018 parents and students will have their second breakfast where the Preliminary Report and subsequent reflection, HSC information, Assessment schedule and Yearly Planners and Senior Student Expectations will be distributed. Students and parents will learn how the HSC works, including details on how results are calculated once exams are marked by NESA. The number one tip is for students to not only work as hard as they can throughout the next twelve months but also aim for that number 1 ranking in each subject so as to maximise their results including their ATAR.

Students are expected to chart their assessments on the wall planers distributed and map personal commitments against these to assist in planning. Additionally the importance of a weekly study planner cannot be under estimated. To assist students reach their potential extra support has been placed into the library in the form of the tutor teacher Mr Milner and teacher aides (uni students) whose role will be to provide guidance and expertise. Students are encouraged to seek these supports when they have study periods, lunch and before and after school.

WINGS and Science Club – Flying high with transition

Marsden hosted its inaugural WINGS gifted and talented program for Year 4 and 5 students in our partner primary schools. Students from Ermington, West Ryde, Melrose Park, Meadowbank, Ryde, Eastwood, Eastwood Heights, Rydalmere East and Ermington West participated. The subjects ranged from Geography, Music, Visual

Arts, Science, Dance and Maths. The event ran for four weeks with the finale being a showcase where students detailed their final product to their parents.

One of the key features was the Geography focus upon food collection and the presentation of food to Oz Harvest. Much thanks goes to Mrs Brennan who organised the event.

Our wonderful Science Club, coordinated by Mrs Dalal has been functioning for eight sessions. This years focus for visiting Year 4 and 5 students is Physics. There are many hubs set up where students can explore the various aspects of Physics.

RAISE mentoring – success is about getting the right role models

Friday September 16 saw our local State Member the Honourable Victor Dominello attend the RASIE mentoring ceremony for our Year 8 students. Mr Dominello spoke to our students about the importance of mentoring in regards achieving success. He stated that finding a person to guide and provide advice is the key to going forward in life. The students who participated also spoke about the importance of the relationships they had developed with their mentors and how they felt more confident in reaching their goals.

Starting Year 7 at Marsden in 2018

Marsden has great relationships with the partner primary schools with the aim to ensure students adjust to high school smoothly. On Thursday October 12 we are running targeted transition programs for students feeling they need a personalised introduction. On Friday October 20 all students coming across to Year 7 in 2018 at Marsden will have a taste of what a typical day in high school is like. Students have already received individualised invitations. Additionally the school is hosting a parent evening on Monday November 27 between 6.30 and 7.30 pm for interested Year 7 2017 parents who would like to know what to expect when their children start at Marsden High School.

What's the best way for a school to address harassment and bullying? The answer lies in growth mindset and solutions focussed approaches!

In recent times schools have become solutions focused. The CARE values at Marsden for example when taught explicitly and role modelled to students provide relationship building opportunities and proactive opportunities to solve problems, as opposed to reactive. Whilst it takes time for programs to be rolled out, the proactive approach is proven to be successful.

Please encourage your child to utilise STYMIE to report any bullying/ harassing behavior. This can be accessed at www.stymie.com.au. Students can make their report anonymous or they can identify themselves so a more effective follow up occurs. Ultimately students are encouraged to report any behaviour which makes them feel unsafe or unhappy. The key outcomes students generally desire is for the behaviour STOP.

Bullying in schools has attracted an enormous amount of attention. By now its status as a serious problem is widely acknowledged, as it should be. We can never go back to the days when bullying was regarded as a boys-will-be-boys rite of passage, something that victims were left to deal with (and suffer from) alone. But as with other ills, both within and beyond our schools, some responses are much less constructive than others. The least thoughtful (or useful) strategy is to announce a "zero tolerance" stance on bullying. Either this phrase amounts to empty rhetoric, or else it refers to a policy of harsh punishment for bullies. Students who break the rules or otherwise displease us are subjected to suspension, expulsion, detention, enforced isolation ("time-out"), loss of opportunity to participate in enjoyable activities, and so on.

Indeed, punitive responses—even if they're euphemistically called "consequences"—are often not merely ineffective but actively counterproductive. To cite only one in a long line of empirical investigations, an eight-year longitudinal study published in 2005 found that punitive discipline was subsequently associated with more antisocial behavior, less prosocial behavior, and increased levels of anxiety. Interestingly, when many proponents of traditional discipline are presented with such evidence, they simply pivot to a very different defense, one that can't be dislodged with evidence:

They insist that if someone does something bad, something bad must be done to that person. He or she must be "held accountable"; a consequence must be imposed for moral reasons, even if there are no practical benefits. Punishing kids who bully not only fails to address the source of the problem, but actually makes things worse. As educator and author Barbara Coloroso pointed out in her book *The Bully, The Bullied, and the Bystander*, punishment teaches the bully "to be more aggressive and hurtful. He will undoubtedly master the art of doing his bullying in ways that are sneaky or 'under the radar' of even the most observant and aware adults. More important," she adds, "punishment degrades, humiliates, and dehumanizes the children who are its objects. (Sounds like bullying to me.)"

Marsden adopts the approaches laid out by Ken Rigby, from the University of South Australia (Google him to find out more). It is important to transform schools from places of "doing to" students to places of "working with" students, to see kids' troubling actions not as infractions to be punished (where someone must be made to suffer), but as problems to be solved—and opportunities for teaching. If we need a simple reason to support these shifts, maybe it's sufficient that we want to make sure our actions never resemble those of a bully.

Yes – we're teaching right up to the last bell on Friday - the end of the school term:

Friday marks the end of the school term and as such staff have been directed to prepare quality lessons and teach up to the final bell. I look forward to seeing all students at school as usual so they do not miss out on any learning opportunities.

I would like to thank all students, staff and parents for their efforts this term for our school and wish you a happy and safe mid-semester break.

Lance Berry

Our next P&C meeting is on Tuesday 31 October in the Library at 7:30pm.

The School Canteen now has an EFTPOS machine. There is a minimum purchase of \$5.00.

Make a Difference Day 2017

On Monday 24th July, Rebecca Brownlee and I attended NSW Parliament in Sydney for 'Make a Difference Day'. After arriving and settling in to the theatrette we listened to the keynote speaker, The Hon. Linda Burney MP, Member for Barton NSW, as she talked about her experiences during the 1967 referendum. She explained what it was like before and after the referendum and discussed how much we still have to do as a nation. After questions we were split into groups of about 15 and went more in depth with what was said and also looked at posters and photos from the time and discussed how they played a role. Finally we went back to the theatrette and had a '30 second soap-box' where anyone could stand up and spend 30 seconds talking about an issue they thought was important. Students brought up topics that ranged from lesser-known illnesses, to the voting age, to gay marriage, and abortion.

Before we left we were reminded, that anything that mattered to us could change if we only tried to make a difference.

Rebecca Cole, Yr 10

Korean Performance Contest

Congratulations to 5 Year 11 girls- Selina Sosa, Zoey Zhang, Hana Kim, Min Heo & Angelina Min who won the 3rd Prize in the Korean Performance Contest!!

The Korean Education Centre hosted the Korean Performance Contest and 15 finalists out of 45 teams competed. All the audiences were enthusiastic about our lovely girls' brilliant and wonderful performance.

On Wednesday 13th of September, Hana, Min, Selina, Zoey, and I performed what we had practised for weeks after school. Our K-pop dance 'Dumb Dumb' is a lively and cute song, just like our team, named OhYes, that is always cheerful and bright. However, there were some hardships in perfecting the dance and scheduling time to practise as we had school work and exams week soon. Although there were little mistakes made during the performance, we gained energy due to the people who cheered for our team. It was really thankful that we were given an opportunity to do a live performance at the Korean Culture Centre and additionally, recieve a prize in 3rd place of \$200. I'm glad I have members who would encourage me to step out of my comfort zone, to experience the happiness in performing in front of a large audience. I would also leave a special thanks to Miss Lee and my dear friends for cheering our group. I hope the audience, and my friends enjoyed this memory that would last forever. Thank you!

by Angelina Min











Year 12 Korean Beginners Class Excursion to Hana Centre

On the 14th of August our Year 12 Korean class went to the Korean Hana Centre. We spoke Korean for most of the day and took part in some fun activities. Lunch was provided and we had some traditional Korean food. At the end of the day we were able to practise some HSC Speaking exam and were able to get valuable feedback in preparation for our speaking HSC exam. Overall the excursion was a really valuable experience as we improved our Korean language skills through immersing ourselves in Korean culture and learned new ways to practise Korean.

By Ben Spenceley











Student Leaders guests of Victor Dominello MP



Three members of our graduating Prefect Leadership Team were delighted to be guests of Victor Dominello MP, State member for Ryde, at NSW Parliament House this week. Callum Irving, Alessandra Somido and Ben Spenceley learnt about the Legislative Assembly, attended Question Time and enjoyed afternoon tea with Mr Dominello and representatives from other local schools. They were each presented with framed Leadership Certificates to thank them for their service to student leadership in the Ryde area.

English Report

The end of term has been a busy time for assessments and the English/ESL faculty have been impressed. The quality of work has definitely increased which showcases the continued improvement of our students. Parents/guardians of Year 7 students are advised that a collaborative assessment task sheet has been distributed during the last weeks of term. The task will focus on using the Google Suite applications and it is due in Week 2, Term 4. All other grades will receive new assessment tasks next term.

As a faculty, we would like to wish the current Year 12 cohort all the best for the upcoming HSC exams. Students are encouraged to continue to submit work for review and to seek assistance if extra information is needed.

Miss C. Kivilcim

The Year 8 Debating Report by Madison.

On Tuesday 5th of September, the Marsden High School Year Eight Debating Team went to Riverside Girls High School. Our topic was "Should four-wheel drive ownerships be restricted to people who need them for their work?". We were on the negative side and Riverside, being the positive team, brought up some fair points. But at the end of the debate the negative team "raised better points". We have now won three from three and are going to zone. On behalf of the team, I would like to thank Miss Hoy for bringing us to and from the debate and to Miss Kivilcim who let us practise and helped us as well.



Winter TSP update

Marsden High School would like to congratulate our Winter TSP champion teams. The following teams have proven to be the best within our Zone in their given sport.

Our Opens Basketball team played a close grand final beating SSC Liechardt. They played with great passion, sportsmanship and upheld Marden's Core Values. James Bongers was a standout on the game day producing many great passes and shots. It was an overall great team performance. Congratulations to Ms Tambree for doing such a great job coaching our student's throughout the season

Our Under 15 Oztag team scored a convincing Grand final win over Hunters Hill School winning 8-2. The boys played with great energy and skill producing many great tries. They were also humble in victory by congratulating Hunters Hill on their two late tries. Standout player on the day was Aiden Crawford scoring 5 tries and leading the team to victory.

This is a great result for Marsden High school and puts us on the map as a standout for sports in our area. The TSP program has shown to deliver success to our school as all teams made the finals and had to progress to the grand final with both teams leaving with victory.

Brad Williams
PDHPE Teacher
Sports Coordinator





Congratulations Natasha

CONGRATULATIONS to Natasha who was successfully nominated for the 3rd Rotary Youth Vocational Education Awards for Cert II Retail Services. Natasha received this award for her overall achievement and positive attitude at both of her work placements.



Library News

Have a wonderful holiday everyone and remember there are hundreds of great books waiting to be read by you!

Don't forget about our Writing Competition. See details below:

Writing Competition

This Book Week in the library we are running a competition to celebrate two great authors and their outstanding books.

You are to write a book review of 500 words or less on any book written by JK Rowling or Jane Austin.

JK Rowling:

By now, you would have heard that the Harry Potter Books by J.K. Rowling were first published 20 years ago! In June 1997, Bloomsbury published Philosopher's Stone with an initial print run of 1,000 copies, 500 of which were distributed to libraries. Today, such copies are valued between \$30,000 and \$50,000. Five months later, the book won its first award, a Nestle Smarties Book Prize. In February, the novel won the British Book Award for Children's Book of the Year, and later, the Children's Book Award. In October 1998, Scholastic published Philosopher's Stone in the US under the title of Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone. The rest is history as they say.

See the link below for more information:

http://edition.cnn.com/2017/06/26/entertainment/harry-potter-20th-anniversary/index.html

Jane Austin

Miss Jane Austin died 200 years ago in July 1817 at the age of 41! Her classic novel Pride and Prejudice, which is still a favourite book for many, was first published in 1813!

While other early nineteenth century authors have fallen into obscurity, Austen's works have remained in print, grew in popularity throughout the Victorian era and have been embraced by Hollywood in the twentieth century—elevating her to pop culture icon with the new millennium.

To find out more about Austen's work click on the link below:

https://www.theguardian.com/books/2017/jan/14/jane-austen-200-anniversary-friend-stranger

To find out more about the Book Review competition come to the library and get an entry sheet. This competition will run until the end of Term 3!

There is a lovely quote in Emma (one of Austin's novels) when Miss Bates says, 'It is such a happiness when good people get together – and they always do."

Good people are in the library come along and see.

Ms Langelaar Teacher Librarian.

Beyond Blue Bash

At the end of Term 3, the Prefect Leadership Team of 2017 held their final Marsden fundraising event - the Beyond Blue Bash in support of building awareness of mental health issues. The students organised a BBQ and Sweet Stall to raise funds for this important cause, and ran a teachers versus students basketball game and organised a staff/student band to entertain us. The current PLT invited the incoming Yr 11 Student Leaders to join them in running this joint event so that they could share ideas and pass on valuable skills and advice.

The Beyond Blue event was a terrific success. We raised approximately \$700 to go towards helping young people with mental health issues and the atmosphere on the day was fantastic with powerful music, some impromptu line dancing, a highly-competitive basketball game (in which the Yr 12 students just might have beaten the teachers) and some yummy treats.

Congratulations to our graduating Prefect Leadership Team on another successful event and thank you for all the great initiatives you have put in place over the past 12 months and the fabulous events you have facilitated.

Trish Swinkels

ESL Teacher SRC/PLT Coordinator



A Gathering of Prefects

Our final event for Term 3 was a wonderful acknowledgment of the wealth of strong student leaders we have at Marsden. Our two Prefect Leadership Teams came together for the last time today as part of the Prefect Induction Ceremony for our incoming 2017/2018 student leaders. Many thanks to the parents who attended and to our outgoing 2017 PLT students who attended to handover their leadership roles. It was a great pleasure to welcome our new Prefect Leadership Team:

School Captains: Gabrielle Linder and Sean Tran

Sports Prefects: Selina Sosa and Joshua Craddock

Prefects: Elijah Atienza, Sasha Avvali, Rong Chen, Nicolas Hose, Hana Kim and Zane Mestousis













Marsden High School 22A Winbourne St WEST RYDE NSW 214 Telephone: 9874 6544

Email: marsden-

h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are writing to explain some changes to the teaching and reporting process for mathematics at Marsden High School. In Term 4, all Year 7 students will be undertaking a trial of the Maths Pathway learning model for mathematics, this will enable us to individualise your child's learning in mathematics to a far greater extent than ever before. This will result in some changes to the feedback students and parents receive about each child's progress.

We want to emphasise that the most important thing about your child's learning in mathematics is not their diagnosed level of achievement so far, but rather the rate of the progress they are making, which is reflected by their average growth rate. An average growth rate of 100% means that your child is on track to master one full year's worth of new mathematics in one calendar year. Similarly, an average growth rate of 50% indicates that they are on track to learn half a year's worth of new mathematics and an average growth rate of 200% indicates that they are on track to learn two years' worth.

As well as your child's growth rate, they will have a level number that represents the total number of years of mathematics your child knows. That mathematics knowledge is comprised of a wide range of topic areas and could come from above or below their age level. Across Australia, it is common for students' mathematics levels to be much lower than their grade level. For instance, at the start of Year 7 the average student sits around Level 3.5 with their mathematics. Your child's level is *not* a measure of how well they are doing in mathematics right now. It has far more to do with their prior mathematics learning, going all the way back to Kindergarten; our commitment to your child is ensuring they achieve the maximum growth they are capable of from this point forward.

You will now have continuous feedback on your child's progress through the Maths Pathway Parent Portal, where you can register for updates on their results for each fortnightly test and check in on their average growth for the year. To log in to the Parent Portal, simply use your child's login details and click the "parents" link at the bottom right corner of the home screen.

We will be holding a Parent Information Night at the school during Term 4, where we will explain the learning model in further detail and answer any questions that you might have. We will also show you how to use the Maths Pathway Parent Portal to check in on your child's progress. Further details about this event will be sent out shortly; in the meantime, if you would like more information about Maths Pathway, you can visit http://www.mathspathway.com. If you are concerned about your child's progress in Mathematics, please contact your child's mathematics teacher to discuss this with them.

Yours sincerely,

Nicole Brennan HT Mathematics



Schools send free alerts and notes, newsletters, notices, events, news and more to parents.

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- 3) Press "Get", the app will download
- 4) Press "Open" and accept "push alerts"
- 5) Search for your school name

Android Users

- 1) Press Play Store icon on your device
- 2) Press magnifying glass and type in "Enews"
- 3) Press "Install", the app will download
- 4) Press "Open"
- 5) Search for your school name

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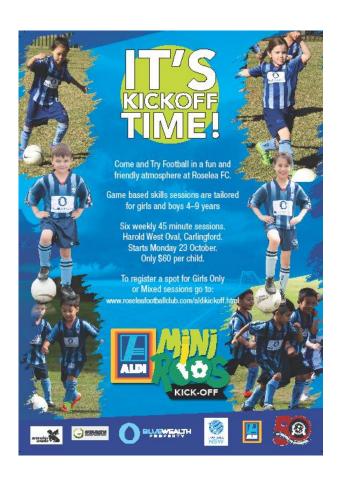
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Young Life Ryde invites you to

SUMMER CAMP 2018

Come together with Young Life areas from all over Australia for an action-packed week of extreme sports, hiking and life-changing talks.

> Who: Years 9-12 When: 14-20 January 2018 Where: The Station, Jindabyne Early Bird Cost: \$460 + transport

To secure your Early Bird spot, register by 1 December 2017 at: http://younglife.org.au/summercamp/

For more information contact Holly at hollylim@younglife.org.au



