

# marsdenmail

The official newsletter of Marsden High School



## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

BY LANCE BERRY

"Working hard for something we don't care about is called stress. Working hard for something we love is called passion." — Simon Sinek

### THANK YOU AND BEST WISHES

Mrs Linda Larsen, Mr Arash Atah and Ms Sonya Langelaar will all be finishing up their time at Marsden this Friday. All three have made a serious contribution to our school and is with regret we farewell them.

Mrs Larsen is retiring after working at Marsden for the past 14 years. Her expertise in catering for students who have English as a second language will be missed; Mrs Larsen has made a vast and recognisable difference to the learning outcomes of many students through her meticulous, structured and caring manner. Additionally through her absolute professionalism Mrs Larsen has transformed and influenced our highly effective English/ ESL faculty. I wish her well in life beyond work.

Mr Atah has been provided with the opportunity of permanent employment at Killara High School and will be sorely missed. During his three years at Marsden Mr Atah has developed as a

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strong contributor to the English Faculty and whole school wellbeing as a Year Adviser and Anti-Racist Contact Officer.

Ms Langelaar has been our librarian since 2011 and has recently completed the complete overhaul of that space to ensure it caters for information literacy needs of our current students. I wish her well in her new adventure.

### GETTING THE TEACHING AND LEARNING RIGHT - ASSESSING AND REPORTING

We are half way through Semester One's assessing and reporting time period. Upon chatting with students, many have good study habits, utilising study timetables and are clearly making time for revision in the lead up to their exams early next term.

Year 11 and 12 are certainly still in the thick of completing tasks and studying. With the Trial HSC starting early Term 3 and Year 11 only having two terms left of their Preliminary HSC it is important for all students to be in a routine. Ms Bernyk is our senior student tutor teacher and supports senior students to ensure they have good routines in regards consistent study.

### TEN HABITS OF SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS -

1. GET ORGANISED: Making a plan for what you're going to do and when you are going to do it will make sure you are always well prepared.

2. DON'T MULTITASK: Studies have shown that multitasking is physically impossible. Switch off the social media, the phone and any other distractions and focus on the task in front of you.

3. DIVIDE IT UP: Studying isn't fun to begin with, and forcing yourself through a study marathon will only make it worse. Dividing your work into manageable chunks and rewarding yourself when you finish each chunk will make studying more enjoyable and satisfying.

4. SLEEP: Don't underestimate the importance of those eight hours of zzz's every night! Getting a good night's rest will sharpen your focus and improve your working memory.

5. CREATE A SCHEDULE/STUDY PLAN: Do you work better right after school or after you've eaten dinner? Are you more productive in 90-minute blocks or half-hour spurts? Find a schedule that works for you, and stick to it.

6. TAKE NOTES: Taking notes will not only keep you more engaged during class, but will also help you identify what you need to study when exam time comes along. It's much easier to reread your notes than to reread your entire textbook or resources you have collected!

## UPCOMING DATES:

### IEC GRADUATION

FRIDAY 12 APRIL

### TERM 1 CONCLUDES

FRIDAY 12 APRIL

### STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

MONDAY 29 APRIL

### TERM 2 COMMENCES

TUESDAY 30 APRIL

### P&C AGM MEETING

TUESDAY 30 APRIL

### YEAR 12 REPORT BREAKFAST

WEDNESDAY 1 MAY

### ANZAC DAY ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY 1 MAY

### CROSS COUNTRY

FRIDAY 3 MAY

### REMINDER:

**WEEK 1 | TERM 2 | WEEK A**  
**Tuesday 30 April, 2019**

7. **STUDY:** This one might be obvious, but did you know that there's a right and a wrong way to study? Review your material several days ahead of time, in small chunks, and in different manners (for example, write flashcards one day and take practice tests the next).

8. **MANAGE YOUR STUDY SPACE:** Find a place that will maximize your productivity. Look for places away from the television and other distractions. Whether it's your local library or just the desk in your bedroom, set aside a study space that you'll want to spend time in.

9. **FIND A STUDY GROUP:** Sitting down with a group of people who are learning the same things as you is a great way to revise course content or prepare for a big test. You can quiz each other, review material, and make sure that everyone is on the same page. After all, teaching someone else is the best way to learn.

10. **ASK QUESTIONS:** Don't be afraid to ask for help - from a teacher, a tutor or your friends as it is an essential way to make sure you truly understand the material. Your teacher is your greatest resource!!

## **THE LATEST WORD ON THE TEENAGE BRAIN**

Recent research has begun to shed light on why teenagers can be such frustrating individuals in the eyes of the average adult. Teenagers often seem designed to infuriate any sane person condemned to live, and work, with them. Diva-scale sulks, rooms in which the floor is invisible, an inability to remember anything that involves anyone else, and a refusal to get out of bed until lunchtime are just a few familiar symptoms.

It was once believed that the human brain was fully formed by the age of 12. Many scientists have now confirmed the adolescent brain goes through huge change over a number of years similar to the rapid changes experienced in the brain in the first three years of life. In fact, it is now proven the human brain is not fully developed until the early twenties. The last part of the teenage brain to form is the frontal lobe which is responsible for judgement, organisation and problem-solving. Recent studies using brain scans show this area lags behind the hormonal and emotional development associated with puberty, making typical teen behaviour more understandable.

Therefore, as parents and teachers, we need to:

- Realise that adolescents are not just a smaller version of adults. The adolescent brain is in transition remembering that adolescents' frontal lobes are closed for construction. As a result, they are short on forethought, planning, consideration and impulse control.
- Consider the huge influence adults and peers can have on this rapidly changing brain and offer non-judgmental support at all times even though they may not seem interested or are argumentative.
- Grab them by their emotions. If we want teenagers to learn, or if we want to communicate with them, make sure what we have to say is emotionally relevant to them.
- Bombard them with positives. This is the age where motivation gets tricky. Use rewards and anything else we can think of to keep them intrigued with learning and succeeding.
- Never underestimate the power of the parent. Adolescents need someone around them, someone they may battle with, but someone who ultimately they imitate and emulate.

## OPAL CARDS

One of the requirements travelling on the school bus 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 child that tapping on and off at the beginning and end of each trip is one of the conditions of using a School Opal card. This will ensure that the bus companies are able to plan the services to meet our needs using accurate data.

## NAPLAN 2019

In Week 3 Term 2 students in Years 7 and 9 will participate in their NAPLAN Examinations. Marsden will be undertaking the pen and paper version of the examinations. While there has been significant improvement in the usability and reliability of the new on-line version, I am still of the belief that one last year of debugging, elsewhere, is the best path to securing our students the most reliable tool and feedback. Students will receive further information about dates and times for the 2019 NAPLAN examinations early in Term 2.

Once again there are some rather significant changes in the space around NAPLAN Examinations. This is most apparent in the case of Year 9, where NAPLAN is no longer connected to completion of their HSC Minimum Standards for the HSC. The new process mandates that all of the current Year 9 and 10 cohort will be required to complete a separate online examination. Year 10 will sit these tests at some point in the near future. Our current Year 9 will sit the exam once they get to Year 10. Further information on Minimum Standards is included in this newsletter and will also will be provided to Year 10 parents to more fully explain the new system and changes initiated by NESA. Parents with a particular interest in this area may wish to undertake some readings related to this change on the NESA website related to Minimum Standards.

## RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS – 'KEEPING MARSDEN HAPPY AND SAFE':

The Department of Education's Anti Bullying Policy and Procedures states "Schools exist in a society where incidents of bullying behaviour may occur. Preventing and responding to bullying behaviour in learning and working environments is a shared responsibility of all departmental staff, students, parents, carers and members of the wider school community. All members of the school community contribute to the prevention of bullying by modelling and promoting appropriate behaviour and respectful relationships."

- What Bullying is: Bullying is repeated verbal, physical, social or psychological behaviour that is harmful and involves the misuse of power by an individual or group towards one or more persons. Cyber bullying refers to bullying through information and communication technologies.
- What Bullying is not: Conflict between equals where there is no power struggle or single incidents are not defined as bullying.
- Students have a responsibility to: behave appropriately, respect individual differences and diversity, behave as responsible digital citizens, behave as responsible bystanders and report incidents of bullying.
- Parents and caregivers have a responsibility to: support their children to become responsible citizens and to develop responsible online behaviour, assist their children in understanding bullying behaviour, support their children in developing positive responses to incidents of bullying, report incidents of school related bullying behaviour to the school and work collaboratively with the school to resolve incidents of bullying when they occur

It is important for the school to be trusted to manage incidents of harassment and bullying and I ask parents not to involve themselves directly, despite being protective of their children. Marsden does not



tolerate bullying or harassment of any shape or form and will act when we are notified. I accept that as principal I am accountable for the follow-up the school implements once the Deputy Principals or myself are made aware of harassment and bullying. It is important for students who feel unsafe to report incidents, which is why we subscribe to STYMIE. STYMIE is a notification website found at [www.stymie.com.au](http://www.stymie.com.au) which allows students to confidentially report incidents to the Deputy Principal of that year group who will follow up.

In short: Bullying, by its very nature, is not done in front of a teacher. We rely on reporting of incidences in order to act. Quite often we only find out after a student has taken matters into their own hands with negative consequences. Our first action is to ascertain if it is repeated behaviour or a single incident usually related to a breakdown in a relationship. There is a hierarchy of steps and consequences which are worked through. And finally we encourage bystanders to come forward. Remember: Bad things can happen because good people let them.

### **BEST WISHES FOR THE UPCOMING BREAK:**

As always I am grateful of the efforts of our whole school community in making Marsden the school of choice in this area. Thank you all, students, parents and staff for your commitment for a successful Term 1. I wish you the best for the upcoming holidays and look forward to seeing you refreshed and ready for the challenges of Term 2.

## **DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT** BY MS KOUFOS

'If you want it, work for it! It's that simple'. Caitlin Slater – motivational speaker

Term 1 2019 has been a busy term. Almost every week has involved at least one major school event or activity. I am appreciative of the efforts of our students, hardworking staff and supportive parents in making our school awesome. Despite the busy term we have still managed to keep our priorities on the teaching. Thank you to our very busy and dedicated staff.

### **GETTING THE BEST OUT OF OUR STUDENTS - LEARNING SUPPORT:**

Mrs Deb Prince (Head Teacher Wellbeing), Ms Pam Howes and Mr James Howe are our Learning Assistance Support Teachers (LAST). Apart from the unusual DoE acronym, there is nothing last about this role. First and foremost Marsden aims to increase the value added to our students through providing the best educational opportunities and support to all. We encourage parents who are concerned their child may be falling behind in their learning to contact Ms Deb Prince, through the front office. The support and expertise provided by our LASTs and SLSO's (Student Learning Support Officers) ranges from modifying student work and assessments to establishing further follow up for students who don't get some concepts. This follow up comes in the form of appropriately applying teachers' aides to assisting students break down concepts into simple formats as well as getting organised with planning and scheduling work and support in the classroom.

One of the other roles our LASTs provide is working with our Senior Tutor Ms Bernyk supporting students who are struggling with meeting the academic requirements. Students in Years 10 – 12 especially have had support time put into the timetable and targeted support from Ms Bernyk. The Principals Improvement Program is a structured plan of support, where one of the key aspects is the learning assistance provided by Ms Bernyk to help our senior students reach their potential to achieve.

## **MARSDEN WANTS ITS STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE:**

Marsden has high expectations for students in regards to academic achievement. All students are encouraged to plan their time, use a study plan and ensure they are doing an appropriate amount of school based work a night; this should include revision, homework, assessments especially as we move into the half yearly assessment period next term.

To further ensure strong routines which are necessary to build success, students are encouraged to submit draft assessments and follow our ACHIEVE guidelines. Years 7 and 8 students should look at an sixty minutes a night on average, Years 9 and 10 ninety minutes a night on average and two hours on each day of the weekend and Years 11 and 12 about two hours a night and three hours each day on the weekend. We hope with this ongoing effort, our excellent HSC success from the last few years will continue to improve. Our dedicated and brilliant teachers can only do so much, students also have to commit to working hard and building consistency into their lives.

It takes time and commitment to build up to these timings and with many of our students committed to many outside of school activities, the daily reliance on a study plan is crucial. Teenagers excel with routine and that is exactly what a study plan provides.

There is a lot of support in Marsden to assist students reach their potential. It is obvious to us that many students participate in numerous outside school commitments, which is why our message is to get a strong routine!

## **UNIFORM:**

Now that the weather is getting cooler, parents and students are reminded about the importance of correct school uniform, particularly jumpers. Rightly or wrongly, a school is judged by how well their students wear their uniform and it is therefore a focus of this school.

Students are to wear the school jumper to school and/or green jacket. If they are especially cold of course they can wear additional layers under the school jumper/jacket on the premise of 'out of sight out of mind'. Girls are to wear black or flesh coloured tights and boys are required to wear long grey school regulation trousers or shorts. Black laced up leather shoes are the only shoes that are acceptable. Hoodies and grey or black skinny jeans are not acceptable. Track pants are only to be worn for Sport or during PE practical lessons.

Our school community is looking wonderful and we appreciate the support of parents in ensuring students are in full school uniform.

If your child is unable to wear correct school uniform please provide a note of explanation to the year appropriate Deputy Principal in the morning. Many students are being responsible by doing so. Additionally we ask, where relevant parents address the length of their daughter's skirts. Some girls are wearing them quite short and this is a concern for many staff members. We appreciate the support of parents with enforcing our school uniform policy.

## **LOST PROPERTY:**

We are accumulating plenty of school jackets in our lost property at the moment, particularly in small sizes. If you child is missing any clothing please ask them to check lost property near Mr Wilson's office.

## **60TH ANNIVERSARY:**

Marsden is celebrating a major milestone this year – our 60th anniversary. Preparations to celebrate this milestone are underway. We have many events that are in the planning stages. Stay tuned as more information is communicated via all our communication forums. If any parent would like to be involved please do not hesitate to call the school.

Thank you!



# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES:

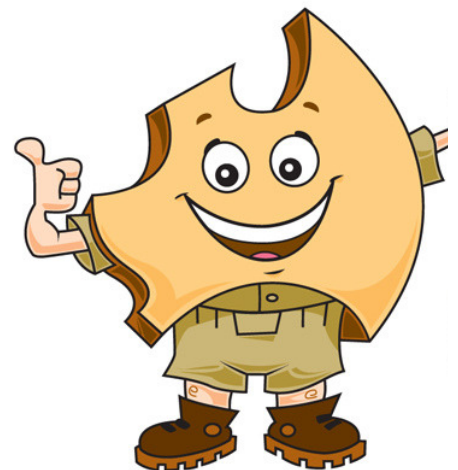
## YEAR 7 CAMP: Ms. Van Der Kley

Year 7 students had the wonderful opportunity of experiencing the Great Aussie Bush Camp in the Tea Gardens.

Students participated in activities from abseiling to sea kayaking to the giant swing. It was fantastic to see students push past their fears and their great sense of excitement when they completed these challenges.

Year 10 Peer Support students and the teachers were a power team during commando night taking out the win.

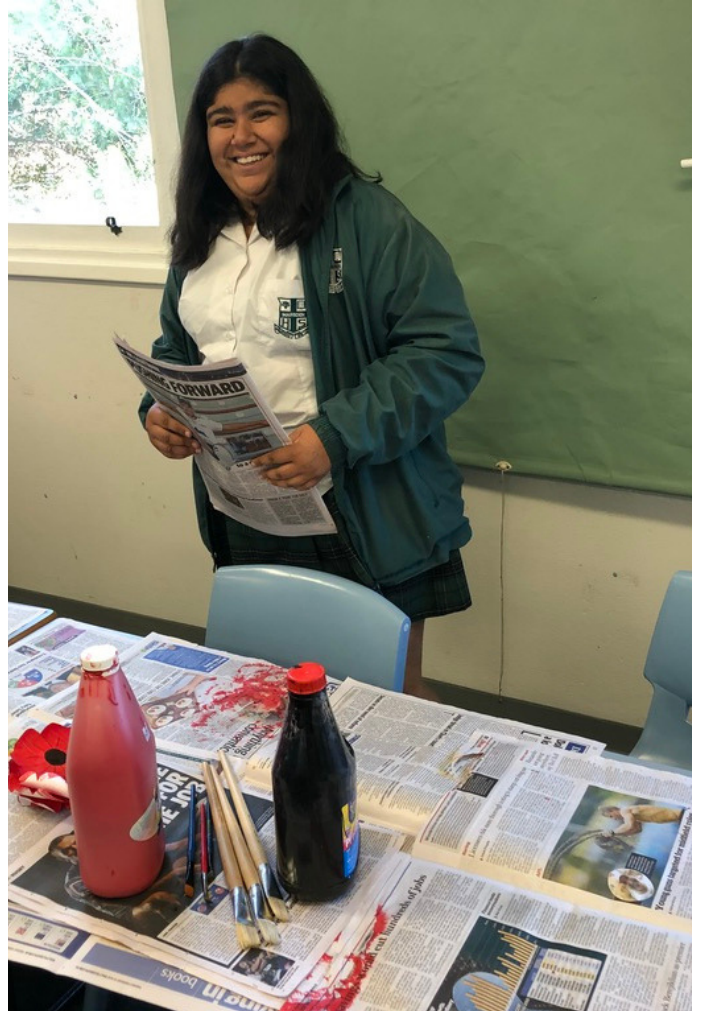
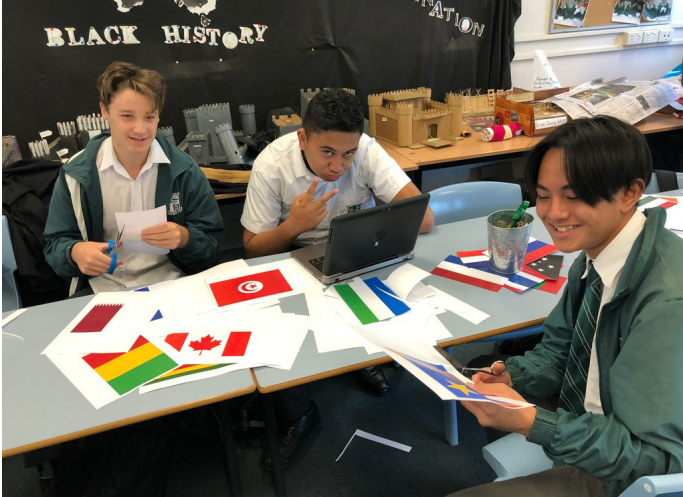
A massive thank you to Mr Fowler, Ms Rizk and Mr Williams for coming on the camp. Also, a thank you to parents and carers for their support in sending Year 7 on this a fantastic excursion.





## CONGRATULATIONS YEAR 9: Ms. Van Der Kley

It is wonderful to see our Year 9 students step up to the task of organising the ANZAC Day ceremony. The quality of work being for the event being completed is strong and reflects their determination to ensure that they are going above and beyond.



## YEAR 10 CANBERRA EXCURSION:

A reminder that deposits for the upcoming mandatory site excursion for all of Year 10 are due on Friday 12 April. Students will be staying overnight in Canberra and participating in a range of enriching site studies to apply the content and skills learnt in class. Permission notes can be found on Google Classrooms or see Mr Giles or Ms Van Der Kley in the HSIE staffroom.





## YEAR 12 LEGAL STUDIES AT Q&A

Year 12 Legal Studies experiencing sitting in the live audience for ABC's Q&A. The excursion was a great success and allowed students the opportunity to critically engage with contemporary issues and start important social conversations.



## BIG HISTORY AT THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM By Liam Jolly, William Spenceley, Amy Wu & India Dorahy.

On the 14th of March, Thursday the year 10 Big History class went to the Australian Museum. We started by going through a learning function that looked at human evolution through time. This consisted of looking and measuring skulls of past human species and the modern human skull. We also looked at the teeth, the cranial capacity of the skull and determined evolutionary tree. Once we were done, we were free to roam the Australian Museum. This gave us a great chance to look at fascinating bones, relics and stuffed animals! These included the dinosaur bones that were made of opal, skeleton horse with skeleton rider, the taxonomy of birds, mega fauna that roamed the Earth with early humans, the Homo floresiensis nicknamed the Hobbit for its stature and much, much more. It was great experience and we would like to thank the Australian Museum and Mr. Giles for the event.





## DUKE OF EDINBURGH By Yolani & Molly - Year 10 and Will Smith - Year 11.

The Duke of Edinburgh practise journey was a great experience to participate in. We headed to Ku-ring-gai National Park, to stay at the Basin Campground overnight. The bus dropped us off at West Head Lookout, which was where our walk began. It took us about two and a half hours to reach the Basin Campground.

We had the opportunity to appreciate and learn in the outdoors. It was a good way to do something out of your comfort zone and to see Aboriginal sites and wildlife up close was extraordinary. We engaged in challenging but all the more exciting tasks such as snorkelling, surfing, fishing, camping and canoeing. We also had the fun privilege of participating in fun night time activities including trivia and roasting marshmallows around the campfire. We also took time to take part in Earth hour where we turned off all devices, torches and any other piece of technology, then just sat, talked and shared jokes around the campfire until we went to bed.

The real fun was the experiences you made with your friends and the things you learnt about the environment. To be honest, the walk was tiresome but was worth it when we arrived to beautiful scenery and fantastic wildlife. We saw some goannas, wallabies, stingrays, fish, octopuses and bush turkeys. Being in the outdoors and learning about it was absolutely amazing to experience with our favourite teachers and friends.

Overall, it was a very enjoyable experience out in nature, and everyone who took part in the trip had a great time and we look forward to our next adventurous journey for the Duke of Edinburgh program. Special thanks to Mr Woods, Mr Williams and Ms Bugeja for allowing us this wonderful extra-curricula opportunity.





## MARSDEN ENVIRONMENT TEAM

Our Marsden Environment Team (M.E.T) coordinated by Mr Woods and Mr Bulgin are currently trying to address our school's environmental problem. Our current issue is that there is a large scale problem of widespread rubbish all over the school grounds especially plastic - like bottles, caps and food wastage. This is a huge hazard to our local ecosystem, the environment and our beautiful school grounds. The Marsden Environmental Team has a number of plans and programs to implement into school to help decrease the amount of plastic waste in the school grounds, these strategies will lower our negative environmental footprint especially for plastic waste. Every Thursday we are decreasing plastic pollution issues by picking up rubbish around the school grounds including in Archer Creek and we are continuously encouraging other students to not litter. Some of our future plans for this year include:

- Decreasing plastic pollution issues.
- Re-implementing a plastic bottle and can recycle system (return & earn).
- Decreasing the amount of plastic products in the school canteen.
- Introducing battery and old mobile phone recycling systems in the school Stay tuned for more environmental news and updates later in the year!



## PEER SUPPORT

Our Peer Support program has wrapped up for our wonderful Year 7 students. Moving around each of the sessions, it has been so wonderful to see students supporting each other, making friends and best of all - smiling.

Both Ms Gaya Athithan, Year 10 Adviser, and Ms. Van Der Kley would like to acknowledge the tremendous effort that Year 10 Peer Support leaders put in to ensure that they built strong relationships with Year 7 students.





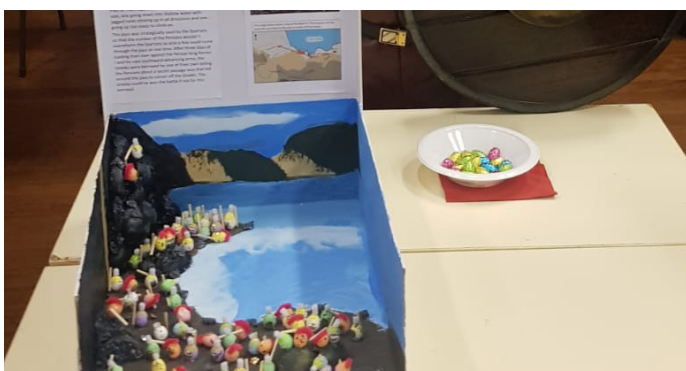
## PINNACLE

What an egg-tastic effort from our Year 7 & 8 Pinnacle students!

Students shone as they used their creativity to choose a significant moment in time and create an egg diorama that they presented to parents on Wednesday night. What a fabulous display!

Special mention to Ewan, Declan, Owen and Jenna who placed on the evening.

Thank you to our parents for their support of the event.





# FACULTY UPDATES:

## CAREERS

All students in Year 10 are expected to attend work experience in 2019.

The Work Experience week for Year 10 is: November 11th to 15th (Week 5, Term 4) A copy of the official DET Parents and Guardians Guide to Work Experience will be posted soon on the school website.

Students are encouraged to put serious thought into where they will undertake their work experience. Work experience gives students the opportunity to try out the type of career that they are interested in to see if they are suitable. Make sure you use this very valuable opportunity. Be aware that a number of employers recruit through their work experience program for both casual and full-time workers as well as for apprenticeships.

### HOW DO I FIND WORK EXPERIENCE?

Students should follow the steps below:

1. Think of a job you would like to do and start looking in the local area for employers that offer this type of job. Make a list including company names and phone numbers.
2. Ask Mr Lustica or Mrs Hart for a Student Placement Form. This is a compulsory form that must be signed by the employer, the student, the parent/guardian and the Careers Adviser.
3. Once you have created a suitable list of employers, ring them up or visit in person, introduce yourself and then ask to speak to the manager. You should follow the script below when talking to the manager; "Hello my name is..... I am a Year 10 student at Marsden High School and am really interested in doing Work Experience with your company. Do you have any places available for Work Experience between November 11th and 15th?"
4. If they say no, politely thank them and keep trying with other employers on your list.
5. If they say yes, please ensure the Student Placement Forms are completed and hand back to Mr Lustica.
6. Mr Lustica will contact your employer and provide both you and the employer with all the necessary information prior to November 11th.

## LIBRARY

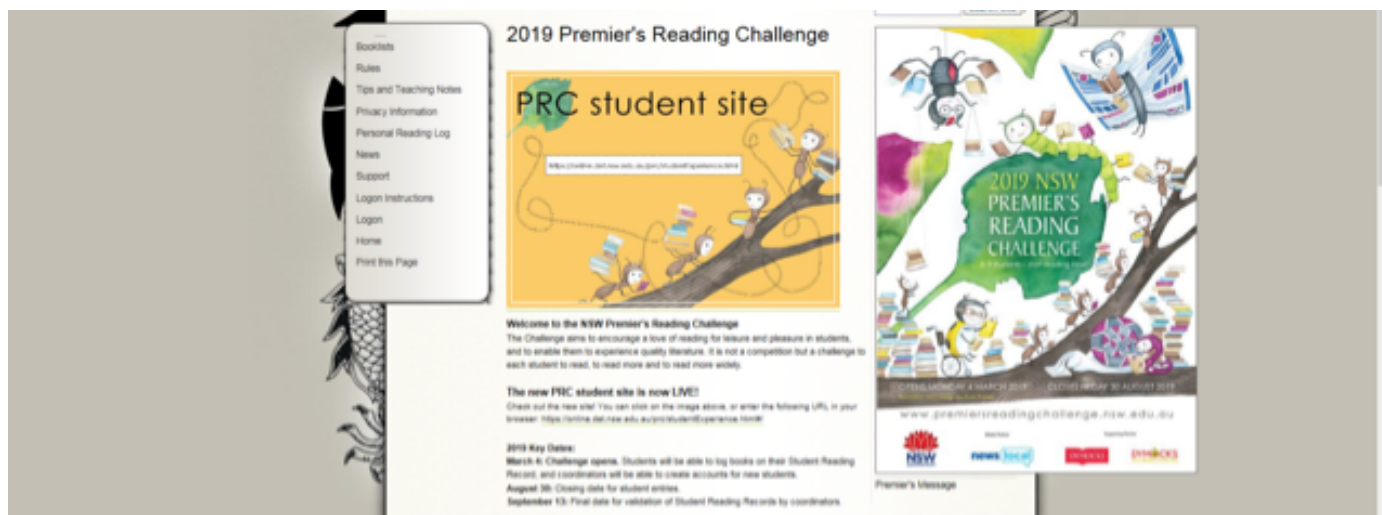
Yes!! The Premier's Reading Challenge has started!!!

## YEARS 7-9

It's time to start Logging your books onto the Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC).

The PRC aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely.

To log in click the below link: <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html> This will take you to the Home Page, which looks like this:



Use your DET login and password.

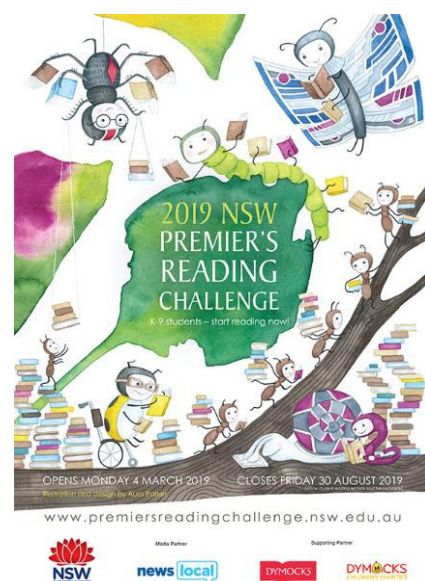
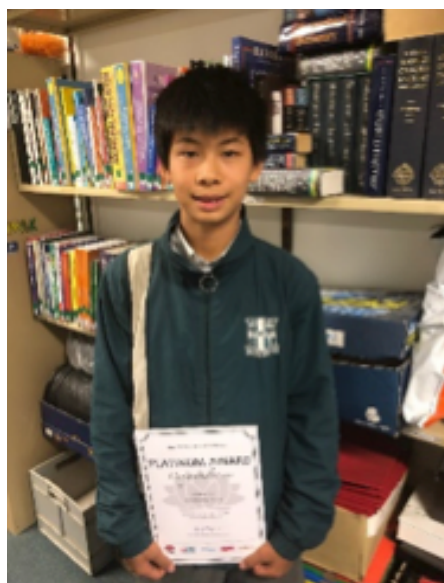
It is an easy process to log your books - click onto the Student Reading Records. You can log everything that you have read from September 2018. This must include 15 PRC books and 5 of your own choice.

Last Year we had 2 Platinum Award winners - Darcy and Owen in Year 8. Students receive a Platinum Certificate when they have completed 7 Years of the PRC Challenge (non-consecutive).

Congratulations to Darcy and Owen (photo below)

We also had Liam (photo below) in year 9, 2018 win the PRC Medal!

Well done and Congratulations to Liam. To be presented the award of the PRC Medal, Liam completed the PRC Challenge every year from Year 3 to Year 9. What a fantastic achievement!



Get started everyone!

Come and see me if you need help to log in.

Ms Langelaar, Teacher Librarian.

## PDHPE REMINDERS

Marsden High School is a uniform school.

All students know that they are required to arrive at school in the normal school uniform and then change into their sports uniform during the day if they have a practical PE class or Year 7 Sport.

Students must be in FULL sports uniform to participate in sport and practical PE lessons. If a student's uniform is in the wash or misplaced then they will need to bring an alternate set of clothes and a note from home and they will be allowed to participate.

Students must wear SPORT SHOES to participate in sport and practical PE lessons. School shoes are not suitable. Students will not be allowed to participate in sport and practical PE lessons if they are wearing school shoes.

No student is to be using a ball under the Cola at the start or end of Sport and Practical PE lessons. Students not following this rule will have their ball taken off them and a parent/carer will have to come and collect it from school.

The Football Oval is currently undergoing repairs and is closed until further notice.

Mrs Maguire  
Head Teacher PDHPE

## SPORTS NEWS

### TUESDAY SPORT AFTERNOON

A reminder that students in Years 8, 9 and 10 are to wear their Marsden High School PE uniform on Tuesdays. Students will attend sport after lunch on a Tuesday. Students who do not have their PE uniform to participate will attend a sports detention.

Term 2 Sport Selections and Grade Sport Trials will be conducted on Tuesdays in Week 1 and 2 of Term 2. The sign-up sheets for Grade sport are outside the PE Staffroom.

### MARSDEN HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL - TERM 2 FRIDAY 3 MAY

The Marsden High School Cross Country carnival is on Friday 3 May 2019 during Period 3 to 5. Students will need to come to school in their PE uniform on this day. Students who place in the top 10 on the day will represent Marsden High School at the Northern Suburbs Zone Cross Country.

### MARSDEN HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL - TERM 2 FRIDAY 3 MAY

The Marsden High School Athletics Carnival will be held on Thursday 23 May at Dunbar Park. Students need to come to school dressed in their Marsden High School PE uniform and have appropriate footwear for the day - running shoes. Students will be bussed to and from the venue after roll call in the morning.

Students who have not yet returned their 2019 Sports Carnival permission note need to do so by Wednesday 1 May 2019 to be permitted to attend the Cross Country and Athletics Carnival - extra notes are outside the PE Staffroom.

# NAPLAN

During May 2019, students at our school in Years 7 and 9 will sit the NAPLAN paper assessments. The schedule for tests is as follows:

Tuesday 14 May	Wednesday 15 May	Thursday 16 May
<b>Language Conventions test</b>  (spelling, grammar and punctuation)  <b>Writing test</b>	<b>Reading test</b>	<b>Numeracy test</b>

On Friday 17 May, a 'catch-up' day is scheduled for students who missed a test.

Students may be exempt from the NAPLAN tests if they:

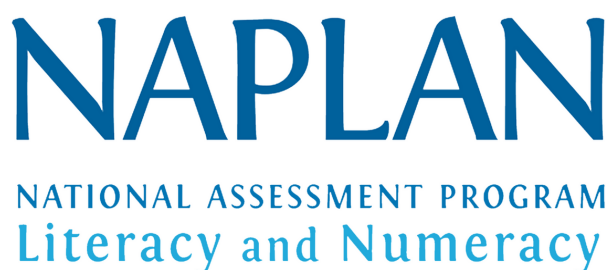
- are newly arrived in Australia (less than one year before the test) and with a language background other than English, or
- have significant intellectual disability and/or significant co-existing conditions which severely limit their capacity to participate in the tests. All other students are expected to participate in the tests.

Disability adjustments which reflect the student's normal level of support in the classroom may be provided. Large print, braille, coloured paper versions and electronic tests are also available to meet the needs of individual students. Access to disability adjustments or exemption from the tests must be discussed with the school principal and a parent or carer consent form must be signed.

Students may be withdrawn from NAPLAN by their parent or carer after consultation with the school. To withdraw your child from NAPLAN, a parent or carer consent form must be signed. Please make an appointment with Ms Deborah Prince (HT Learning and Support) if you need to discuss your child's participation in NAPLAN.

Any questions? Contact the NAPLAN team on 1300 119 556 or [naplan.nsw@nesa.nsw.edu.au](mailto:naplan.nsw@nesa.nsw.edu.au).

For further information about NAPLAN, visit the NESA website.



**NSW**  
**EDUCATION**  
**STANDARDS**  
**AUTHORITY**



# SCHOOL UPDATES: NAPLAN AND MINIMUM STANDARD TESTING

## NAPLAN 2019:

It's almost that time of year again when we turn our attention towards the annual NAPLAN tests. These are designed to assist parents/carers and schools to understand how children are performing at the time of the test and to provide a reference to how the child has progressed throughout their time at school. They do not have a bearing on whether a student can receive their ROSA or their HSC.

One of the main things we want our students to know about NAPLAN is not to stress about it. Any sort of test can cause a certain degree of anxiety. Usually the stress will be counterproductive. So, how can you help your child to prepare for NAPLAN without it becoming overwhelming?

Encourage your child to participate in day to day activities that require the skills that are being assessed.

You could:

- Encourage your child to write a letter keep a diary or write a blog.
- Get them to help you calculate bills,
- Plan a timetable for study
- Budget your groceries.

These tasks all require skills that are going to be assessed in the NAPLAN tests. The more familiar your child is using numeracy and literacy, the more relaxed they will be in test conditions.

We've included a link to the NAPLAN Fact Sheet for further information

<https://www.nap.edu.au/docs/default-source/default-document-library/naplan-on-paper-information-brochure-for-parents-and-carers.pdf?sfvrsn=2>

As well as a guide for parents to assist with preparation

<http://www.naplanresources.com.au/preparing-for-naplan-without-practice-tests/>

## HOW MARSDEN IS SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD TO ACHIEVE MINIMUM STANDARD IN LITERACY AND NUMERACY

At Marsden High School, we are committed to ensuring that your child attains Minimum Standard in literacy (reading and writing) and numeracy as early as possible before the HSC.

The current Year 11 cohort has already started their preparation with the completion of a practice task that provides an indication of whether they are ready to complete the literacy examination or will need extra support. A similar test for numeracy has been administered.

- Students who are ready will be enrolled in the process, given support during their practice online examinations early in Term 2, as well as given time in class to complete the Minimum Standard test.
- Those who need extra support may receive it in the form of an increased focus on literacy and numeracy in teaching programs, targeted literacy and numeracy support in the Senior Study Centre or small mentor group sessions. After these students have demonstrated sufficient progress, they will be invited to sit the tests.

Year 10 support will be offered in the second half of the year and will follow the Year 11 process.

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE AND MINIMUM STANDARD TESTING

To ensure that all students meet the Minimum Standard requirements as early as possible, MHS has taken an intensive approach to teaching literacy and numeracy. With the support of the Literacy Advisors, Literacy team, Numeracy Team, Learning and Support Faculty and the EAL/D faculty, the literacy and numeracy learning needs of all students are addressed and information is shared with all staff. Programs have been enriched with methods of how to explicitly teach literacy, assessments are being reviewed to ensure that they have strong literacy focuses and team teaching is offered for all staff who would like to improve their instruction of literacy no matter what subject they teach. Understanding literacy and numeracy is one of the basic foundations of success in adult life and we, the teachers of Marsden, are committed to ensuring every success for our students.

## FACT SHEET

### HSC minimum standard

Literacy and numeracy skills are essential for success in life after school. This is why a minimum standard of literacy and numeracy is required to receive the Higher School Certificate from 2020.

Students show they meet the HSC minimum standard by passing online tests of basic reading, writing and numeracy skills needed for everyday tasks.

Students master skills at different rates so there are multiple opportunities available to pass the minimum standard online tests, from Year 10 until a few years after Year 12.

Year 9 NAPLAN tests are no longer used as an early way for students to demonstrate the standard. However, students who achieved a Band 8 or above in a 2017 Year 9 NAPLAN reading, writing or numeracy test are recognised as having met the HSC minimum standard in that particular area and will not need to sit the corresponding online test. If they did not achieve a Band 8 in any one of the NAPLAN tests, they will need to sit the online test for that area.

### What does meeting the HSC minimum standard mean?

Meeting the HSC minimum standard of literacy and numeracy means your child has the basic reading, writing and maths skills needed for everyday tasks such as:

- following safety instructions in equipment manuals
- understanding a mobile phone plan
- writing a job application
- creating a personal weekly budget.

### How will my child meet the standard?

Your child will show they meet the standard by passing online tests of basic reading, writing and numeracy skills:

- Minimum Standard Reading Test – 45 multiple choice questions
- Minimum Standard Numeracy Test – 45 multiple choice questions
- Minimum Standard Writing Test – up to a 500-word response to one question based on a visual or text prompt.

Your child decides with their teachers when the time is right for them to take each test, and they don't have to sit or pass all tests at once. After passing an online test, they don't have to sit it again.

Your child's school enrolls them in the tests.

The tests will be available on the following school days in 2019:

Every school day from 18 February – 13 December

Schools may run a test for a group of students or an individual student.

Students can sit the tests up to twice a year in Year 10, 11 or 12 and even after the HSC. Schools will help students decide when to take each test.

After your child completes an online test, your school and child will receive a results report indicating, for each area, whether they have reached the HSC minimum standard or need to sit the test again.

## **Disability provisions and exemptions**

Some students with disabilities will be eligible for extra provisions for the minimum standard online tests, or an exemption from the HSC minimum standard requirement. Your child should enquire with their teacher if they think they are eligible for extra provisions.

## **Support for my child**

Students learn and develop literacy and numeracy skills from Kindergarten to Year 12 through quality teaching of the NSW curriculum.

Teachers and schools know their students best, and will provide additional support if your child is identified to be at risk of not meeting the HSC minimum standard of literacy and numeracy by Year 12.

Further literacy and numeracy resources, as well as sample online test questions, answers and practice tests, are available on the NESA website.

## **What if a student got a Band 8 or above in a 2017 Year 9 NAPLAN test?**

These students are recognised as having met the HSC minimum standard in that particular area and will not need to sit the corresponding online test.

Year 9 NAPLAN tests will no longer be available as an early way for students to demonstrate the standard. This change has been made to ensure NAPLAN remains focussed on its diagnostic purpose and to reduce unnecessary stress on young people.

## **What if my child doesn't pass the tests by Year 12?**

Your child will have many opportunities to meet the HSC minimum standard, including after they leave school. Importantly, students do not need to meet the HSC minimum standard to:

- study HSC courses
- sit HSC exams
- receive HSC results
- receive an ATAR
- receive a Record of School Achievement.

## **Further information**

For further information on the HSC minimum standard and the online tests, visit:

<https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/HSCminimumstandard>

## COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD:

# CELEBRATING 10 YEARS!

Contact us - [info@cmwchildrenscentre.com.au](mailto:info@cmwchildrenscentre.com.au)

Where: 47 Winbourne Street, West Ryde

When: Sunday 14th April 2019

Time: 11am-2pm

- Sausage Sizzle
- Centre Tours (11am-12pm)
- Jumping Castle



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