

Monday 10th February 2014

Term 1 – Week 3



MHS Newsletter



A Member of the
Cudgegong Learning
Community

SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR
THE FULL CALENDAR
OF EVENTS

Coming Events:

- Feb 11 & 12 – School Photos
POSTPONED to March 5
- Feb 4 & 5 – Y12 Wollongong Uni Excursion
- Feb 13 & 14 – Y12 PDHPE Narabeen Excursion
- Feb 21 – Swimming Carnival
- Feb 24 – P&C Meeting – 7pm School Library
- Feb 27 – Parent/Teacher afternoon for Ys7,11 & 12
- Feb 28 – All Schools Triathlon Penrith
- Mar 5 – School Photos
- Mar 18 – Parent Information Evening 7pm Gym

This issue:

- Principal's Message
- P&C Awards
- Mathematics News
- Community Notices
- Paid Advertisement

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"Providing high quality education in a stimulating and caring environment."

Principal's Message

A Strong Start: As we start our third week of 2014 there is a great deal to celebrate with year 7 and 11 successfully transitioning, students and teachers hard at work making the most of their opportunities and completion of improvements to the grounds and buildings. In the midst of this exciting start we are also saddened by the loss of a truly outstanding former teacher Sandy Smith. A tribute to the work of Sandy Smith at Mudgee High School appears below, she will be missed.

Sad News: On Tuesday many staff from Mudgee High School will be attending the memorial service for Sandy Smith so a special timetable will operate. Normal lessons will run for periods one and two but students will be in large group activities for periods 3-6. At the end of lunch normal lessons should resume. Senior students will be permitted to work in the senior study area and the library during periods 3-6 or with parent permission leave school. They are expected to return for periods 7 and 8. Junior students must follow the special timetable for Tuesday which may include large group activities and supervision by a roster of teachers and staff. All students present on Tuesday must attend roll call, provide notes if they are leaving with parents' permission (year 11 and 12 only) and follow normal school rules with regard to uniform and behaviour.

Adjustments for student needs: Parents are advised that during the next few weeks they can expect some of their students' timetables to change as we make adjustments to accommodate new enrolments. This may include changes to roll call classes. Although we try each year to keep students in the same roll call as previous years to assist pastoral support, some rolls have become over large while others are quite small. To balance the numbers in rolls there will be changes in coming weeks. Some subject classes may also be changed, particularly in year 11, where more students have returned than anticipated or where students have changed their goals and wish to alter their subject selections. We do our best to minimise disruption but feel it is important for every student to have the choices that best meet their needs.

Student Leadership Innovations: Some exciting new opportunities will be offered this year and will begin soon as we make our timetable adjustments. New student leadership groups will be established and expressions of interest for these groups will be advertised through assemblies and daily notices to students. In addition to our traditional SRC we are looking for students interested in leadership of our sporting houses, through our anti-bullying team and through a student leadership forum. The new forum will enable students who have a passion for making Mudgee High School and their local community a better place, to have a say in policies and activities which contribute to a positive culture at Mudgee HS. There will also be opportunity for more students to join the very popular Indigenous roll call group when we create a second Indigenous roll call. Students in these rolls provide ideas and leadership for Aboriginal Education within the school and community.

Year 10 2014: Parents of Year 10 are invited to attend an important information evening on Tuesday March 18. This year we have begun implementing an intensive program with year 10 to better prepare students for senior school and/or pathways beyond school. This includes extension programs in English, mathematics and science for gifted students in these subjects. Our focus will be on ensuring our year 10 students are fully prepared for entry to year 11 to undertake the most challenging subjects for the HSC. Our experienced teachers have identified this as an area where we can provide unique access for students because of their extensive experience teaching the higher levels for years 11 and 12. At the information evening we will also provide guidance for parents on programs in work experience, TAFE links and support for students experiencing difficulties with their work. At Mudgee High School we want every student to meet their potential and we need a strong partnership with parents to ensure this happens.

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Vale Sandy Smith

On Wednesday February 5 2014 Sandy Smith died after a sudden illness. Sandy was a former Music teacher at Mudgee High School and in other schools in western NSW. Her inspirational work with students contributed to the development of a school band during the 1990s and to performance of a number of school musicals. In partnership with another former teacher Heather Rushton, Sandy was a key initiator of the Mudgee Performing Arts Society to which many of our students and teachers have belonged over the years. She continued to support our school and community band throughout the rest of her life.



Sandy's legacy to Mudgee High school extended beyond her formal teacher role. She was instrumental in developing our peer reading program which enables year 10 students to gain a qualification in peer reading and to support younger students. Without her expertise this initiative would never have been so successful. Many of our students remember her as the photographer at sporting events and at school presentations. Her commitment to encouraging students to achieve their best was backed up with an untiring enthusiasm for publishing those achievements through the local media. We will miss her untiring optimism and "can do" attitude and the staff will miss her as a friend and mentor. At this sad time we extend our sincerest condolences to Heather and to both their families. Mudgee High School and the Mudgee community are the poorer for the loss of Sandy Smith

Louise Manwaring
Principal

P & C AWARDS Term 1 Week 2 – Congratulations to: Year 7 – Alice Roach; Year 8 – Ebonique Lees; Year 9 - Nathaniel Riley; Year 10 – Lucy Hawkins; Year 11 - Claudia Hughes; Year 12 – Sophie Amygdalos

MATHEMATICS FACULTY NEWS

Australian Mathematics Competition

On the 7th of August this year Mudgee High School students will once again be invited to attempt the Australian Mathematics Competition. This is a test of mathematical, logical and problem solving skills involving 30 multiple choice questions. All students are encouraged to enter this competition, especially those with talent in the subject or who enjoy a challenge. All entrants receive a certificate of participation, with higher credentials for different levels of success also on offer (great certificates for resumes and CV's). Exceptionally talented students may also be in line for some of the many cash prizes available.

Although the competition is on later in the year our school entry needs to be in early next term.

More information will be given when entry fees are required or see Mr Lynn if you have any questions.

Super Rule

The HSC is a demanding time for students and it is essential that students are well prepared for lessons with the right equipment. Students who are completing the HSC this year must have an approved scientific calculator. Students are asked to check with their teacher in case their calculator is not approved. Those students sitting the General Mathematics examinations can also take in an approved graphics calculator and we ask that students notify their teacher if they are intending to take such a calculator into the examination. Being unfamiliar with a calculator can severely affect a student's result.

Besides a rule students in the Mathematics and Extension Mathematics courses can purchase a mathematics template which has been approved for use in their examinations. The template is referred to as a Super Rule and can be purchased for \$8.00. Pay at the front office and bring the receipt to the Mathematics Staffroom.

Calculators

All students in years 7 to 12 need to use calculators in their Mathematics classes. The Mathematics courses are designed to make use of calculator technology to assist students to develop more difficult concepts without becoming bogged down in manual calculations. Mental calculations skills are also practiced as part of the course.

It is important for students to have a calculator of the type approved by the Board of Studies. In the past some students have disadvantaged themselves by not practicing their skills on a calculator that they can use in their final exams.

Students are advised to check with your Maths teacher that your calculator is an approved model.

Approved calculators can be purchased from the front office for \$17.00 which is cost price to us.

If families have calculators which are no longer needed by ex-students they can be used. It is not necessary to buy the latest model. If students look after their calculator it will last throughout their time at school and beyond.

Mathematics Textbooks

Some textbooks that were issued last year are yet to be returned. The New Year is well underway and students this year need to use those textbooks. So it is hoped that students could check their rooms at home and please return any textbooks that they no longer need as soon as possible.

In Mathematics the laptops will be used in a variety of different ways. Initially, and ongoing, the laptops can be used to access an electronic version of each of the text books used in the Year 9 & 10 courses. These textbooks can be downloaded from the school server (Subject Share folder). Students need to communicate with their Maths teachers regarding access and use of this text.

In the future, the laptops will be used extensively in some topics and sparingly in others. As with expectations across the school, all students should bring their laptops to all lessons and rely on teacher instructions regarding their possible use.

Mathematics Homework Room

The Mathematics Faculty understands that many of the concepts taught in this subject are demanding and difficult. Sometimes homework, which is an essential step in retaining this important information, is a problem for many students as they may need assistance. To help alleviate students' stress the Mathematics staff will provide their expertise in a Homework room.

This will operate each **Monday afternoon** in **room B09 between 3.30pm and 4.30pm**. The program will be extended to another day if required. Just come along or see your Maths teacher if interested.

Students are also encouraged to seek help during breaks if they are having concerns with their work. There is always someone in the office who is willing to help.

Community Announcements

Drop the kids off at school and join us for a social bike ride.

Mid-Western Live Smart will be running social bike rides starting Monday 3 February. The rides will be led by AustCycle leader Ivy Higgs and will be a great opportunity to be active and meet new people in a fun, friendly and social environment. Rides will be catered to the ability of the group and aim to build riding confidence.

The group will **meet at 9.30am every Monday at Victoria Park (Perry Street)**. Participants need to bring a bike, helmet, drink and sunscreen. **Call 6378 2719 for more information or meet us there.**

Paid Advertisement

(Please note that paid advertisement do not carry an endorsement from the school)

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