

Monday June 16 2014
Term 2 – Week 8



MHS Newsletter



A Member of the
Cudgegong Learning
Community

SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR
THE FULL CALENDAR
OF EVENTS

Coming Events:

- June 23 – P&C Meeting, Library 7pm
- June 24 – Mini Mad Concert – 7pm
- June 27 – Last Day of Term 2
- July 14 – Staff Development Day
- July 15 – Day 1 T3
- July 17 – Y10 to Y11 Info Evening 6.30pm
- July 21 – P&C Meeting 7pm Library

This issue:

- Principal's Message
- P&C & SRR Awards
- Language News
- Careers
- Solo Vocal Camp
- Sponsor-Glencore

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

Principal's Message

Congratulations to our many students who competed at the recent Dubbo Eisteddfod. We are proud of all your achievements. As we don't get sent results I would be pleased if parents and/or students could let me know how you went. We have had some excellent results over the past month in debating and public speaking as well as in sport. Mudgee High School students continue to excel in a wide range of areas. Along with these achievements as always go our outstanding academic results most recently from Years 11 and 12 during their half yearly examinations. We look forward to the results from Years 7-10 which will be published through their semester reports early in Term 3.

Our next P&C meeting is on Monday June 23. This is an important opportunity for parents to become involved in setting the direction of Mudgee High School. We will be discussing the process to plan for the next three years and would be most appreciative of any involvement parents can make. Next week is also busy with the Mini MAD concert on Tuesday and the school social on Wednesday. These evening events provide important outlets for students but we particularly appreciate the efforts of the teachers who volunteer to give up their time to run these events. We also appreciate the support of parents who provide the transport to enable students to participate in such after school activities.

All students in Years 7-10 will receive their reports in Week 2 of Term 3. Parents will receive invitations to attend the handing out of reports which ensures you are part of this important stage in your child's academic and extracurricular credentialing. An important stage in their school lives is also coming up early next term for Year 10. On July 17 which is the first Thursday of Term 2 an information evening will be held for parents and students of Year 10. At that evening we will explain the process for selection of subjects for Year 11 2015 and provide an opportunity for parents to find out about the requirements of the Higher School Certificate. It will also be an opportunity for parents and students to ask questions. Later in the term we will hold other steps in the subject selection process. These include a subject selection market and individual support for students to complete their selections.

Included in this newsletter is a report on our recent excursion to Japan. During Term 3 we look forward to a return visit from three Japanese high schools. This visit will provide all students with an opportunity to engage with young people from another culture and to share our Australian culture with our overseas visitors. Also in this newsletter is a piece of writing by April Marshall. In English students often use opportunities for creative writing to express their views about important issues in their everyday lives. This story is about the devastating impact of bullying which is experienced by some young people. Regular discussion and learning about how to support each other and to stop bullying takes place in a variety of subjects including PD/H/PE on a regular basis. As principal I am always keen to assist students if they have experienced bullying but at school there are also peer leaders who work to prevent and end bullying through providing presentations and student mentoring.

P & C AWARDS Term 2 Week 7 – Congratulations to: Year 7 – Charlie Norris, Year 8 – Hayden Robbins; Year 9 – Jordan Norris; Year 10 – Allie McNeill; Year 11 – Jayde Mitchell; Year 12 – Matthew Burgess

SRR AWARD Term 2 Week 7 – Congratulations to: Sage Fowler Year 12

Louise Manwaring
Principal

LANGUAGES

Japan Trip - April 2014

Mudgee High conducted its second successful visit to Japan in the last school holidays. The group consisted of 24 students from years 10 and 11, and 4 members of staff. The 14 day tour was extremely hectic and writing a recount that does justice to the experience would require its own newsletter. Suffice it to say this was one of those opportunities that was positively awesome and an experience that we will never forget.

Travelling overseas is a delight for the senses and we soaked up the sights, sounds and tastes of a country that we learn about daily in class. We stayed in Tokyo, Kyoto, Hiroshima and Osaka and got to enjoy varying elements of Japanese culture first hand. We slept on futons and bathed Japanese style at a Ryokan. We negotiated massive crowds at Harajuku station (literally wall to wall with people) and the Shibuya 5 way crossing. We fed monkeys at Arashiyama and deers in Nara. We learned about Japanese history at the Tokyo Edo Museum and experienced the solemnity of the Hiroshima Peace Park and museum. We climbed Mt Iwato to overlook Kyoto from the south and then many of us made it the very top of the 10,000 torii gates at Fushimi Inari Shrine to see Kyoto from the east.

We travelled on planes, trains, bikes, buses, trams, ferries and bullet trains but mostly we just walked and walked and walked! That meant we also ate and ate – noodles, okonomiyaki, sushi, obento (lunch boxes), tempura, squid balls, miso soup and plenty of chocolate!

We picnicked outside the Imperial Palace and we joined in with the locals' picnics at Yoyogi Park, meeting some 'rock and roll' dancers and a couple of pet meerkats! We even got to be guests briefly, at a passing Shinto Wedding Ceremony at Meiji Shrine.

We learned Japanese customs through our host family visits and forged lifelong friendships. We became rock stars at our sister schools where we were the centre of attention for an entire day. Everyone wanted photos and the range of classroom lessons and after school club activities was incredible.

It's impossible to mention everywhere we went, everything we saw and all the emotions we experienced. It was such a special trip where very strong friendships were forged with fellow travellers. The students once again shone as representatives of Mudgee High School and Australia. As an organising teacher, it was indeed heart-warming to have strangers stop us to pay their compliments on the kind, friendly and well behaved nature of our students. They were so lovely to spend time with that we have not been discouraged from preparing a third trip for 2016!



Arashiyama Monkey Park, Kyoto



Kinkakuji (Golden) Temple



Todaiji Temple, Nara



Making Mochi



Itsukushima Shrine, Miyajima

Sister School Visit

Early in Term 3 we will be hosting a reciprocal visit from our friendship schools in Osaka. 25 students and 4 teachers from Nose, Fukui, Ohkanmuri and Suita Higashi High Schools will spend 12 days in Mudgee.

Thank you to all families who have volunteered to host our visitors. Final itineraries for the program will be provided when school returns next term. We look forward to meeting up with our friends again and providing them with opportunities to experience the Australian way of life.

Melissa Date (Japanese Teacher)

CAREERS – UPCOMING EVENTS

University of Wollongong 2014 Information Evenings for Year 12 Students and Parents

Orange Information Evening – Ibis Styles Orange (Orchard Room)

Thursday 24th July – 6.30 to 8pm. Please book a seat if interested.

You've had your heads in the books for years and all of your hard work is just about to pay off. Regardless of your results you have options at UOW – and there is a place for you here.

You probably know what degree you're interested in, the ATAR you need – and we're more than happy to go through this with you – but we know that you'll need to know where you're going to live, how much it will cost, how will you make friends etc. We know because we asked the exact same questions when we were in Year 12!

Please register to attend the event. At the Year 12 Information Evening, we'll also talk about:

- UOW Accommodation Options
- Our Bonus Point Schemes
- Important dates and key things to remember for UAC applications
- Our Scholarships
- Our Early Admission Program
- The degrees and opportunities available for you at UOW
- Your option if you don't get the ATAR you need
- Our Clubs & Societies and Student Life

We really encourage you to book to make sure we have a seat ready for you. Bookings are easy using our online booking form. <http://www.uow.edu.au/future/events/UOW144922.html>

UOW Open Day is being held on Saturday 16th August – More details coming soon.

Chloe's Story By April Marshall

Many people are unaware of the consequences of bullying and the impact it has on an individual. What they also might not realise is that it happens every day, in our schools, work places, shops, via social media, and in some cases it can even happen in our homes.

Chloe was a regular teenage girl, but like many faced the challenges of bullying. Chloe was bullied repeatedly for a number of years. She was the youngest of six children and after she lost her mother to a long battle with breast cancer, Chloe's older siblings always tried to do what was best for her.

Chloe attended a local Primary School where she was a very happy and popular student who had only experienced the usual kind of schoolyard bullying. It was when she reached high school that the problems began. Chloe was an easy target for bullies and they knew how to get to her; they used her mother's death to their advantage. She went to many people for advice and help, including the school principal, but in Chloe's case nothing seemed to change.

Chloe moved schools several times but everywhere she went, the bullying seemed to follow and gradually got worse. From the ages of twelve to fifteen, Chloe was involved in a large number of playground punch-ups, hassled in the school corridors and each time she did move schools, the bullying would just continue online. It was almost like there was no safe place for Chloe anymore; she couldn't even feel safe in her own home. Everywhere she went the bullies were never far behind and it was the incident that took place on September 10th 2009 that changed everything.

Chloe was attacked at the local shopping centre by a group of people who knew where she was going to be that afternoon. They were waiting for her. As Chloe approached she was king hit from behind and then repeatedly hit on the head, she lay on the ground as there was no way she could defend herself. Many of the bystanders had videoed the attack and later that night were threatening to post the video on social media.

This attack was near the end of Chloe's long battle with the bullies. It continued onto Facebook with people posting cruel comments about Chloe for the whole world to see. She knew the bullying was never going to stop and it all became too much for her to handle on her own.

On September 12th 2009, 15 year old Chloe Fergusson ended her life because she just couldn't handle it anymore. The most tragic part of this story is that Chloe is not the only teenager to take her life because of bullying. The bright and bubbly person Chloe's family once knew was gone.

While this story is fictional it is based on true stories. Chloe's choice to end her life was not the answer because she was precious and had much to live for and the bullies were the ones who had it wrong. If you know someone who is being bullied speak up, take them to a teacher or the counsellor, suggest they phone Kids Helpline and whatever happens tell them you care and the bullies are the ones who are wrong.

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