

Monday

14 March 2016

Term 1 – Week 8



# MHS Newsletter

Mudjee High School – Locked Bag 2004, MUDJEE NSW 2850

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*A Member of the  
Cudgong Learning  
Community*



SEE OUR WEBSITE  
FOR THE FULL  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Coming Events:

- Mar 17 – Yrs 8, 9 & 10 Parent/Teacher night 3.45pm – 7.00pm
- Mar 18 – Study Skills Day Yrs 10 & 11
- Mar 21 – P&C AGM (a week early because of Easter) 7pm
- Mar 22 – Vaccinations for ALL Yr 7 students and Yr 9 boys
- Mar 25 – Public Holiday Good Friday
- Mar 28 – Public Holiday Easter Mon
- Apr 8 – Last day of Term 1
- Apr 26 – Staff Development Day
- April 27 – Term 2 Commences

## This issue:

- Principal's Message
- MHS turns 100
- Dunn's Swamp
- Geography Comp
- Vietnam Veterans'
- Red Hand Day
- Y12 Society & Culture Excursion
- Welcome BBQ
- Community Announcements
- Sponsor – Glencore

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

On Wednesday evening, there will be a social from 7pm until 10pm. Day-glow would seem to be the theme. Students have been told NOT to bring glow sticks on the night because the contents are often toxic and the sticks themselves have in the past been left broken and leaking on the floor. If students follow that simple request we should all have a good night.

On Thursday night, we will hold the second of our initial Parent/Teacher afternoon/evenings in the school gymnasium. This meeting is for the parents of our students in Years 8, 9 and 10. Meetings will begin at 3.45pm and, in a perfect world, conclude at 7pm. Students have been reminded on assemblies and through notices to check with their teachers and make bookings for their parents and carers. I would encourage all parents and carers of students in Years 8, 9 and 10 to avail themselves of this opportunity. At the risk of stating the bleeding obvious – or sounding like I'm harping on – a solid partnership between teachers and parents is a cornerstone of effective engagement at school.

This edition of the newsletter has a veritable swag of stories concerning some of the many good things that have been happening or will happen soon under the auspices of our Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE) faculty. I would urge you to take the time to read the articles as there have been some exciting things happening in that part of the world that have been both highly engaging and enlightening.

Finally, I would like to talk about aerosols... again.

First, a big thank you to all of the parents and carers who are working with us to ensure students do not bring aerosols to school. In doing so, you are making Mudjee High a much safer place to be. Thanks too to all of the students who have made the change and are using deodorants – where they feel it necessary to “top up” during the day – that do not rely on the kinds of propellants that can cause distress to a small but significant minority of our students and staff.

Of course, in any change like this one there will be some push-back. There are still some students who have not made the switch. At last week's whole-school assembly, Mr Browning and I were able to show students some of the many alternatives available out there. Since then and in discussion with the school captains, I have asked that they, along with the Student Representative Council, make a concerted effort to win over those remaining pockets of resistance. It would seem that a very few students – and in some cases, parents – feel that our ban on the use of aerosols at school is some kind of nanny-state overkill. Worse, that to prohibit the use of aerosol deodorants at school will lead to social death for the more pungent!

For them I have a simple response:

Better your social death than another student's literal death.

Until next week...

Wayne Eade  
Principal

## TERM 1 WEEK 7 AWARDS

**P & C Awards:** Yr 7: Mitali Sharma, Yr 8: Nicola Brakel, Yr 9: Ryan Smith,  
Yr 10: Brock O'Brien, Yr 11: Grace Fogarty, Yr 12: Maddie Hartfield  
**SRR Award:** Ryan Tyrrell Yr 11

### MUDGEES HIGH SCHOOL TURNS 100!!

Mudgee High School 100 year Centenary Celebrations

Please join our Facebook page on Mudgee High School Centenary

Mudgee High School website <http://mudgee-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/centenary-celebrations>

**School based celebrations for students will be Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2016 –**

Details will be sent home via students, the school website and the school newsletter.

**Public School based celebrations on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2016 – 10am – 2pm – Venue – Mudgee High School.**

All welcome – further details will be advertised via the Mudgee High School Centenary Facebook (see link above), the Mudgee High School newsletter and website, Mudgee Guardian, Sydney Morning Herald and 2MG.

**Public Celebration Dinner on Saturday night 15<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30pm – Venue – Mudgee Showground.**

Ticket sales will be released from June 2016. Further details to be advertised as above.



### YEAR 9 GEOGRAPHY DUNN'S SWAMP FIELDTRIP

Students in Year 9 Geography have been studying the topic *Investigating Australia's Physical Environments*. As part of this topic, they went on a fieldtrip to Dunn's Swamp on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March to conduct fieldwork relating to the topic.

The students were divided up into three working groups. They then rotated through three activities.

Activity one was to conduct water testing. This teaching session was delivered by Mr Bruce Christie of the Local Land Services. He demonstrated to the students how to conduct water tests, including turbidity, salinity, pH, temperature, and a macro-invertebrate survey.

Activity two was to conduct a vegetation transect and vegetation quadrants. This involved measuring out a 30 metre tape from the

water's edge back into the scrub. Students then note on a page, using symbols, the plant types at each 1 metre interval. They then used a one metre square to sample vegetation along the water edge and back in the scrub away from the water's edge.

Activity three involved walking around to Platypus Rock where the students sat and drew a field sketch of the environment. They also conducted a detailed site assessment using stand site assessment questions from the Local Land Services.

All the data collected from these three activities can now be used to assist students in writing their assignment reports on the state of the environment at Dunn's Swamp. Students have learnt essential Geography fieldwork skills and have had the opportunity to put these skills to the test in a real life setting at Dunn's Swamp.



Particular thanks must be given to Mr Bruce Christie of the Local Land Services for providing his time, skills and expert knowledge to work with our students.

### AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHY COMPETITION

The Australian Geography Competition is an opportunity for students to participate in an extra-curricula opportunity, which not only challenges them academically, but also provides them with vital exam-style assessment skills. This year the competition will be sat on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May in periods 3 & 4.

**Students who wish to participate need to pay \$4 to the front office by Friday 1st April.**

The competition test will be supervised by Miss Windeyer.

All students will receive a certificate for participation, specifically noting their grade range – Credit, Distinction, High Distinction. These certificates are great additions to a student's curriculum vitae.

The highest-scoring student in each Year level in Australia, in each State and in the combined Territories receives a book prize and a special certificate. Year 11 students can win a place at the 2016 Geography's Big Week Out from which the Australian team for the 2017 International Geography Olympiad in Belgrade, Serbia will be selected. Please pay your \$4 to the front office by Friday 1st April to participate.



## HONOURING AUSTRALIAN VIETNAM VETERANS' COMPETITION

This competition is in recognition of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan and will honour the service and sacrifice of our Vietnam veterans.

The competition encourages **Year 10 and 11 students** to investigate the contribution of Australians who served during the Vietnam War and reflect on the importance of remembering their service.

All students in Years 10 and 11 are invited to participate in this competition by collecting a brochure from the HSIE staffroom. This details what you need to do to complete an entry.

A successful student from each electorate will receive a certificate and a plaque for the school, awarded by their Federal Member of Parliament. The successful student will then participate in a three-day Canberra Commemorative Programme from 17-19 August 2016, visiting the cultural institutions and attending a commemorative event on Vietnam Veterans' Day, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan.

Your submission for the competition must be handed in to Miss Windeyer by Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

## RED HAND DAY



During term four last year, Year 10 studied Human Rights in their Stage Four Geography classes. As part of this they took the opportunity to participate in Red Hand Day – an initiative started by an international school in Switzerland. The students printed red hand prints onto pieces of paper and these were sent to the school.

On February 12<sup>th</sup> this year, the hand prints were taken to the United Nations headquarters to raise awareness of the plight of child soldiers and force a change in those nations that still employ child soldiers. One of our students, Chaz Gillepsie, has his hand print hanging on the walls of the United Nations. Mr Golden put together a video on



the photos that were taken on the day and this was submitted. It has become part of an international video to promote awareness of this issue. Your child can access both videos by logging onto classroom and using the code tcxix3.



## YEAR 12 SOCIETY AND CULTURE – BELIEF SYSTEMS EXCURSION

Students in Year 12 Society and Culture are currently studying the topic *Belief Systems and Ideologies*. As part of this course, students participated in a two day excursion to Sydney on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> March to visit a number of places of worship, with a particular focus on places which they cannot necessarily access here in Mudgee.

On day one, students travelled from Mudgee directly to the Jewish Synagogue in Castlereagh Street Sydney. Here they sat inside the Synagogue and received a talk from a Jewish guide who was able to answer an array of questions from the students about Judaism, the Synagogue and Australia's Jewish community.



From there they travelled to the Lakemba Mosque. They were then taken on a tour of the Mosque. They went inside and sat on the carpeted floor where they discussed Islam with their guide. The students were able to ask questions, their guide also explained and discussed the rituals, rules, observances and history of Islam. She told the students the origin stories of Islam, providing context and reasoning behind the spiritual pilgrimage to Mecca.



From there the students travelled to Berkeley, to the Nan Tien Buddhist Temple. They stayed for the night at the Pilgrim Lodge within the grounds of the Temple. Upon arrival they were given a tour of the grounds and the Temple. They were told the history of Buddhism and the main principles of the belief system. After this, they partook of a Tea Ceremony. The context behind a Tea Ceremony is meditation. The rituals and processes of the ceremony are to provide concentration, focus and relaxation. After this they participated in a meditation. To begin, they walked in silence to the top of the mountain behind the Temple where they rang the Gratitude Bell. This was to show gratitude to their parents. They then walked in silence back to the buildings where they entered the meditation room and sat in a cross-legged pose, with

their eyes shut, and practiced the art of meditation. The Buddhists believe that we should regularly “let the mud settle in their minds”. This means that we can sometimes get so busy and so hectic that the mud swirls about in our heads and we can’t think clearly. The idea is that when this happens, take time out to meditate, to let the mud settle. Your thoughts, the Buddhists argue, will become clearer and you will make wise choices.

The next day the students were up before the sun rose! They went up to the Temple to watch and listen to a Bell and Drum Ceremony. This is again a form of meditation. They then went into the Temple and listened to some chanting. This was conducted in Mandarin Chinese. Each student was issued with a candle to set up on the altar. After this they sat in the Temple with the doors wide open to watch the sun rise. They then participated in Tai Chi in the square in front of the Temple.

After breakfast the students left the Buddhist Temple and headed to Ingleside on the northern beaches of Sydney to the Bahá’i Temple. They listened to an introductory talk by the guide and then we went into the Temple for a tour.

These are just four belief systems listed in the syllabus for this course. There are many more belief systems, as well as a list of ideologies, for study in this topic. This excursion provided students with an excellent opportunity to see and hear first-hand the belief systems which are not immediately accessible here in a rural town. Particular thanks must be given to Mr Steve Jones for driving the bus.



## WELCOME BBQ



On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, Mudgee High School hosted a Welcome BBQ for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, families and community.

We had a great evening, with snags, popcorn and movies. After enjoying a sausage sandwich and a good conversation, we headed into the Performance Centre to watch the short films by Black Screen films. These were well received by the audience. Thankyou to all who came along, it was a great evening.



## LANGUAGES

All classes studying Japanese have made a pleasing start to 2016 and are settling into the task of learning a second language. We particularly welcome all Year 7 students and look forward to seeing their skills develop throughout their year of mandatory study. We are also thrilled to see the continuing support for the inclusion of Japanese into the V.I. curriculum with Ja03, Ja05/25 and Ja07/27 classes running in Years 8-10. We also have a Year 12 combined Continuers and Beginners class.

## COURSE INFORMATION

Classes follow a path of learning that is topic based with emphasis on the development of the key communication skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Learning is student centred and aims to build confidence within each individual to communicate in Japanese.

### Stage 4 Semester One Topics:

	YEAR 7	Ja03
TOPICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Introduction to Japan</li><li>Greetings/Introducing Yourself</li><li>Introduction to Hiragana</li><li>Getting to Know You</li><li>J-Pop Culture</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Review – Meeting people and Introducing Yourself</li><li>Review Counting</li><li>Where are you from?</li><li>Family</li><li>Pets and animals</li></ul>

### Stage 5 Semester One Topics:

	Ja05/25	Ja07/27
TOPICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Introduction to Katakana</li><li>Food &amp; Drink – Likes/Dislikes</li><li>Calendars and Dates</li><li>Hobbies and Interests</li><li>Places and Activities - Transport</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Time and Activities</li><li>Locations and Describing – Housing</li><li>School</li><li>Seasons and Weather</li></ul>

All students will have received an assessment schedule that will outline the timing and types of assessment tasks that will be completed and used to determine the standard students have reached this semester. This is a very important information sheet and students should use it to plan their revision and to ensure they complete tasks on time. We encourage all parents/caregivers to read these documents and to contact us at school if they have any questions. It is hoped that parents/caregivers will be able to assist in this planning process and they will be duly contacted if their student fails to meet the minimum requirements.

Another very important factor in a student's learning is the bringing to class of the required equipment. Every student has been informed of the basic requirements for the subject. We ask that all parents be aware of the following points:

- All students require a covered, all-lined exercise book.
- All students need to bring to class a red pen; a blue or black pen; a pencil; a plastic/wooden ruler; scissors; and a glue stick
- All students are required to have some system (diary/device) to record homework tasks and assignments

## Friendship Schools

Mudgee High maintains friendships with several schools in education districts in Osaka, Japan. We have hosted visits from these schools for over 10 years now. Recently, we received a package of posters from our friends at Hokusetsu-Tsubasa Senior High School. The students loved our Japanese classroom but realised we did not have any posters that promoted "School Life" in Japan. They decided to make some posters for us to display to help our students understand the similarities and differences of school life for Japan and Australia. We have proudly displayed these posters on our Culture Board, located outside our classroom so all Mudgee High students can learn. Their host buddies were most impressed with their work!!



## JAPANESE CULTURE



Year 7 students this year will be exposed to many typical Japanese cultural practices. In particular, they will study a major festival every month. Classes have already learned about Setsubun and are currently learning about Hinamatsuri. Ask your child what they know about these interesting rituals. In honour of Setsubun, students made their own 'oni' masks in class.

Ms Date

Ms Kim

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **MUDGEES SERVICE CENTRE – OPENING FRIDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016**

Mudgee Motor Registry will be relocating to the new Government Service Centre at 65-67 Church Street, Mudgee with extended opening hours of 8.30am til 5.30pm.

The NSW Government services that this centre will offer are Roads and Maritime, Births Deaths and Marriages, Seniors Cards, Fair Trading, Office of State Revenue, Housing for NSW and many more.  
Parking is available at the rear of the building.

### **MUDGEES DISTRICT NETBALL - 2016 REGISTRATION**

Team nominations are now being accepted for the 2016 season and will CLOSE 31st March.

Online player registrations will open 1st April and close 29th April.

The first round for the season will be Saturday 30th April.

For individual player's looking for a team and for all enquiries please contact  
[registrations@mudgeedistrictnetball.hwy.com.au](mailto:registrations@mudgeedistrictnetball.hwy.com.au)

All forms and further details for the competition can be found on our website:  
[www.mudgeena.nsw.netball.com.au](http://www.mudgeena.nsw.netball.com.au)

### **36<sup>th</sup> GULGONG PRINCE OF WALES EISTEDDFOD**

*The Eisteddfod is open to ALL and is a wonderful opportunity to participate in a range of arts alongside others of your same age or ability, including beginners*

Commences (Subject to number of entrants) Dance: 1/5/16; Speech 20/5/16; Music 24/5/16

Entries Close - Dance: 11/3/16; Speech: 18/3/16; Music: 25/3/16 (Late entries not accepted)

Copies of the 2016 Syllabus and the Entry Form are available on [www.gulgongeisteddfod.com](http://www.gulgongeisteddfod.com)

Preferred entry is via: <http://www.stardom.com.au> where the 2016 Syllabus can also be accessed.

## SPONSORSHIP

**MUDGEES HIGH SCHOOL – LINK PROGRAM  
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