

Monday
26 June 2017
Term 2 – Week 10



MHS Newsletter

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A Member of the
Cudgegong Learning
Community



SEE OUR WEBSITE
FOR THE FULL
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Years 9-10 reports will be issued Friday 30th June
- Year 7-8 reports will be issued Friday 21st July
- July 17 – Staff Development Day
- July 18 – Students commence Term 3
- Aug 4 - Yrs 7-10 Effort & Achievement Awards

This issue:

- Principal's Message
- P&C Awards
- SRR Award
- PBL Focus
- UAC Admissions
- Community Announcements
- Sponsorship

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

STEAMING into an uncertain future...

In the early 1980s, I was a devotee of the Carl Sagan. The man was simply brilliant. In his role as a visiting scientist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in California. Sagan helped design and manage missions to Venus, Mars and Jupiter. Sagan's research helped solve the mystery of Venus's high temperatures (the greenhouse effect on steroids!), the seasonal changes on Mars (caused by windblown dust) and the reddish haze of Saturn's enormous moon Titan (caused by complex organic molecules).

It was through his role as narrator and presenter in the seminal "Cosmos" series in the early 1980s that I came to know of him. Through this public television series, broadcast here on the ABC, Sagan the scientist was able to make the Universe more tangible to the rest of us. "Cosmos" was so popular in its day that more than 500 million people watched it in over 60 countries.

More than thirty-five years later, I still remember some of the sage-like observations Sagan made. One that struck me particularly was his theory that intelligence may be an evolutionary dead-end. He contended that intelligence when applied had the capacity to deliver us our own destruction. Sagan was referring at the time to the continuing Cold War between the then Soviet Union and the United States. He called the nuclear weapons hidden in the bowels of huge submarines, and beneath the Siberian tundra and Mid-West cornfields as the "genies of death" waiting to be unleashed. He knew that such an action should it eventuate would cause a nuclear winter and initiate a planetary extinction level event. The absence of a Universe full of the "chatter" of sentient beings – radio signals, visits, etc. – suggested for Sagan that humankind may be totally alone as a thinking species in the entire cosmos. Our loneliness was further evidence for his hypothesis.

Scary stuff, especially when you consider those "genies" are still in existence and, scarier still, have continued to proliferate.

Thirty-five plus years later and yet another planetary outcome of the actions of Earth's dominant species has been revealed; global climate change. While climate change has been known of in scientific circles for more than forty years, ongoing technological advances and the continuation of a business model that is clearly unsustainable now promises a catastrophic future.

Could there be any more clear evidence for Sagan's contention that intelligence is an evolutionary dead-end?

Yet it just may be technology that saves us from an untimely end. There are people all over the planet developing and employing technology to counter what some days looks like an incredibly bleak future. The fields in which they operate are often hybrids of previous occupations. The future for our kids is not to train to work in a specific area of endeavour but to be generally well-versed in several disciplines. These disciplines are:

Science – the art of enquiry; Technology – the means by which to effect change more easily; Engineering – the physical creation of those agents of change; the Arts – the place where imagination gives rise to solutions, and; Mathematics – the problem solving element in the drive to achieve more effective change. Together, they are collectively known as STEAM.

Tomorrow's scientists, technologists, engineers, thinkers and mathematicians are already among us. Our responsibility is to encourage them to embrace the opportunities an uncertain future presents.

Carl Sagan was a brilliant scientist and intellect, but on his prediction that intelligence is an evolutionary dead-end it would be nice to think that our kids, with our help, could prove him wrong.

Finally, well done to all of the students and staff (both past and present) and indeed community members involved in the recently ended pantomime Robin Hood. A thoroughly great show and a wonderful way in which to spend a couple of hours. If you missed it, you truly missed something worthwhile.

Until next week...

Wayne Eade

Principal

TERM 2 WEEK 9 AWARDS

P & C AWARDS: Tyler Miller – Yr 7, Makayla Roe – Yr 8, Ed Bevege – Yr 9, Kylah-Marea Demmery – Yr 10, Thomas Loughnan – Yr 11, Luke Price – Yr 12

SRR AWARD: Katelyn Weatherley – Yr 12

PBL focus this week

The Colour Recognition System

This is the last week for students to make the Gold level.

- Are all your absences explained?
- Do you have any outstanding work to hand in?
- Are you wearing your uniform?
- Are you behaving in a Safe, Respectful and Responsible manner?



**School resumes for
ALL students
Tuesday, July 18**

LIBRARY NEWS

Mudgee High School Library continues to evolve to cater for the ever-changing learning needs of its students and to help resource its staff to provide meaningful, relevant and innovative educational experiences.

At the beginning of this term and with the support of staff, we implemented our digital version of 'Britannica School Online' across the school to assist all students to access 'quality' internet information for class and assignment work.

Britannica School Online works like a 'search engine' for finding information and provides that information as text, videos and images. It also allows students to choose between three different levels of information (Primary, Middle and High) that cater to just about any academic need.

Britannica School Online can be accessed by students at home through a link on our school website www.mudgee-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/ or by accessing it directly at <http://school.eb.com.au/> on the internet. It is also easily located on all school computers as a saved 'shortcut'.



Once on the site, students are prompted for a username and password. These have been emailed to all students through their DET Student Portal earlier in the term. The logon details can also be obtained from Library staff at any time.

With the Administration Office being relocated back to its original location, the Library has regained its Community Room and it has been heavily utilised this term for Year 12 student study, Max Potential coaching sessions, class lessons, examinations and outside school workshops.

Regaining the Community Room has also allowed us to establish a new round table study area within the central Library. This has been well received by Year 12 students undertaking study and class teachers who have utilised the area for small group work and lessons. Early next term we will be incorporating a 'school displays' area into our Library, with the introduction of new glass cabinets into the central Library area. Our first display will be of Aboriginal artefacts sourced from within our own school community. Areas such as these are the first step in what will become a complete transformation of our Library spaces moving forward into 2018.

The Library also hosted its first 'virtual' debate this term with Trangie Central School and more of these will occur as society transitions into a virtual connected community.

New Fiction novels have been added to our collection this term as staff 'weed out' old and redundant resources across the board in moving our Library collection forward and making it relevant to the 21st Century. Also, as part of catering for student need, we have added a 'mindfulness' colouring corner to our Library where students can come in, relax and refocus while being creative during recess and lunch times.

Our Library is a very busy resource on a daily basis. This term and for the next 12 months, we will also share our space with the regional LMBR Training Centre that officially opened its doors to Principals and SASS staff from schools around our region last week.

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**Thursday 27, Friday 28,
Saturday 29 July**
7.30 pm
\$15 Adult
\$8 Student / Concession

*Tickets to be sold at the door, or
MHS office beginning of Term 3.*



*Performed by
Mudgee High School @
Mudgee Town Hall Theatre*

Changes for 2018 admissions



THERE ARE SOME IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR 2018 ADMISSIONS THROUGH UAC:

The number of course preferences is being reduced from 9 to 5

Offers were rarely made to preferences 6 to 9 in the old system and applicants can change their preferences as many times as they wish, so it's up to 5 preferences per offer round.

There will be an offer round after ATAR release and before Christmas

This is so that ATAR-based offers can be made to Year 12 students earlier than January.

The early January round and the mid-January round will be combined into one round in the second week of January

This is so that more offers can be made earlier in January.

Offers may not be made to all courses in December

Some universities may wait until January to make offers to highly competitive courses. Consequently, those courses will be excluded from the December offer round. Details of courses that will not be included in the December round will be available on UAC's website in November 2017.

Universities will not exhaust their quota of offers in December

While universities will be able to make offers to NSW HSC students in December, they will still be waiting for the results of other significant groups of students, such as IB students, interstate Year 12 students and current tertiary students. Consequently, universities will not fill the quota for any course in December; they will reserve sufficient offers to make offers to eligible students in January. The cut-off for entry in January Round 1 will not be higher than the December cut-off.

There will be no "Main Round"

As more offers will now be made in December, there will no longer be the concept of a January Main Round. We expect most offers will be made in December and January.

All offer rounds will be named using the convention of month and sequence (eg December Round 2, January Round 1 etc.).

There will be no restrictions on making offers in the early offer rounds

All offer rounds will be treated equally. Offers can be made to the highest eligible preference to any applicant in any round.

The SRS offer round will be in November

Offers to Year 12 students based on Schools Recommendation Schemes applications will be earlier; now mid-November.

These changes simplify the process for applicants and institutions, allowing offers to be made earlier in the cycle, where possible, while still giving applicants plenty of choice and without disadvantaging those applicants who will still need to wait until January to receive their offer.

KEY DATES FOR 2018 ADMISSIONS:

2 August 2017	applications open
31 August 2017	August Round 1 offers released
14 September 2017	September Round 1 offers released
28 September 2017	September Round 2 offers released
29 September 2017	on-time closing date for applications
12 October 2017	October Round 1 offers released
26 October 2017	October Round 2 offers released
16 November 2017	November Round 1 (SRS) offers released
23 November 2017	November Round 2 offers released
7 December 2017	December Round 1 offers released
15 December 2017	ATARs released
17 December 2017	change of preference closing date for December Round 2
21 December 2017	December Round 2 offers released
3 January 2018	change of preference closing date for January Round 1
12 January 2018	January Round 1 offers released
24 January 2018	change of preference closing date for January Round 2
31 January 2018	January Round 2 offers released
8 February 2018	February Round 1 offers released
15 February 2018	February Round 2 offers released



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