



MARGARET RIVER SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Wednesday July 2nd, 2014

Principal's Message

Term 3

**Students Commence:
Wednesday 23rd July**



As we come to the end of Term 2, our staff are busy preparing Semester 1 reports. This is a very important period for all our students and the work they are currently completing will have a significant bearing on their end of semester results. It is important for them to complete all set work to the best of their ability so the reports are a true reflection of their academic capabilities. Reporting student progress to parents, caregivers and the student is an essential component of a teaching and learning cycle. It supports improvement by identifying the areas where students are on track to continue achieving well and the areas where they might require support.

During Term 1 Margaret River Senior High School was reviewed by the Department of Education Services as part of the Independent Public Schools initiative. This review takes place every three years and assesses how the school has progressed in this time period. I would like to thank all staff, students, parents and community members who participated in the review and provided their feedback and time. There is a copy of the conclusion of the report further on in this newsletter. Once the review report has been signed by the Minister, I will send a link to our website so that all parents and community members can access the entire report.

On Wednesday the 2nd and Thursday the 3rd of July we will hold our Destination High School program which will see all Year 6 and 7 students from our feeder primary schools visit us to get a taste of life at Margaret River SHS. We look forward to working with our future students on these important days and hope our visitors have an enjoyable experience through this program.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

30th June - 4th July - Country Week

3rd July - Cows Create Careers Presentation Day

4th July - Last day of Term

TERM 3

21st & 22nd July - Pupil Free Days

23rd July - Students Commence

24th July - Yr 10 Parent Information Night

30th July - 2nd August - School Musical

25th July - Planet Ark Tree Day

29th July - Combined University Visit

1st August - Leaver's Seminar

5th August - Curtin University Open Day

7th August - Australian Mathematics Competition

8th August - Regional Surfing Competition & Yr 9 Indo Excursion to Murdoch Uni

12th August - Yr 8-10 Warratah Talks

13th August - Career Expo @ Georgiana Molloy Anglican School for Yr 11 & 12's

I would like to recognise the outstanding efforts of our music staff and students as displayed by last weeks Junior and Senior Soirees. I have received a great deal of feedback from those who attended in relation to the talent and enthusiasm displayed by all students who performed. Congratulations to all who were involved in these highly entertaining nights.

We are currently working on our timetable for 2015. Mr Craig Healy, Mr Chris Buckland and myself have visited all feeder primary schools and presented enrolment packages in Term 1 to students who have indicated that in 2015 they will attend Margaret River SHS in Year 7 or Year 8. If there are any parents who are yet to enrol their children, I would encourage them to do so as this will enable us to formalise offerings for these two year groups for next year. I thank parents for their assistance in this area.

On Sunday, our Country Week team left for Perth to represent the school in a variety of sports throughout this week. This is a great experience for the staff and students who attend this event and I would like to thank Mr Garrath Stewart and the Country Week coaches for their efforts in organising teams for the week. Best of luck to all our various teams and I am confident they will represent our school outstandingly.

Andrew Host
Principal

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Independent Public School Review Conclusions

Margaret River Senior High School is making significant progress in meeting its commitment as stated in the Delivery and Performance Agreement and achieving its benchmark targets as listed in the Business Plan 2012-14. The school has a proud history of being one of the high-performing regional secondary schools in the State. The inclusive teaching and learning program and the robust self-review process will enable the school to continue providing students the maximum opportunity to achieve their potential.

School decisions are based on relevant data and information, consistent with planning principles for whole-of-school improvement. All staff have an opportunity to participate in the decision-making process. Parents, through the School Board and the Parents and Citizens' Association, have an opportunity to become part of the planning process for student improvement.

Discussions with students, staff, parents and community members confirm the importance of Margaret River Senior High School being seen as a successful school. There is a unity of purpose throughout the school to collaborate to enable all students to become successful learners. The wider community places a high regard on the school and values the efforts the school makes to improve student achievement and personal development.

The school can be justified in claiming it is achieving its purpose to ensure that the academic, creative, social and personal potential of each student develops to the highest possible level.

Commendations:

The reviewers commend the school staff for excellence in the following areas:

- the sophistication and effectiveness of the analysis of performance data and for the use of that information to seek continual student improvement
- the well developed, collaborative and comprehensive process to identify students who are underachieving and then developing individual learning programs for them so that all students have the opportunity to maximise their educational achievement
- the school's capacity to meet the needs of its differing students through the provision of diverse education programs and pathways
- the effective and innovative partnerships established with various tertiary providers including Edith Cowan University, Curtin University and South West Institute of Technology that enhances educational opportunities for all students
- fostering a learning environment that is safe, inclusive and supportive of all learners
- implementing sustainable planning processes, through the links across the Business Plan, operational plan, and classroom teaching and learning practices

Areas for Improvement:

The reviewers identify the following areas for improvement:

- an analysis and summary of student data and information be included in future annual reports
- the next iteration of the Business Plan be a strategic document that gives the school's future direction and priorities and includes school ethos, vision, priority areas for improvement and accompanying targets
- the Board considers succession planning and staggered terms of office for its membership as a means to ensure that the strength of its contribution to the school's success is maintained.

Excerpt taken from the Margaret River Senior High School 2014 Independent Review Findings, reviewed by Mr John Iacomello and Dr Steffan Silcox.

Full report will be placed on the school website when signed by the Minister for Education.

Gropers School Rugby Program

Since the beginning of Term 2, Darragh Keady and Shane Charlton of the Margaret River Gropers Rugby Team have been conducting a series of skill development sessions with the school's Year 10 Physical Recreation students. Twenty Year 10 boys have been put through their paces developing a wide range of passing and tackling skills, incorporating these with game strategies, culminating in games ranging from touch to full tackle.

The school sincerely thanks the players involved and looks forward to similar opportunities to work with the Gropers Rugby Club in the future.

Stuart Kupfer-Hollis
Health and Phys Ed Teacher



Outstanding School Charges

Thank you to the parents/guardians that have paid their full charges and contributions or have contacted me to arrange a payment plan. All charges are regarded as compulsory under State Legislation and our school community has been extremely supportive in complying with these requirements in past years.

A "Reminder of Unpaid Billing Items" statement was sent to you recently. This report shows what is outstanding; and it also breaks down the contributions, charges and VAR's (Voluntary Approved Requests). For more information please visit our website for financial information for parents and the 2014 Voluntary Contribution and Charges booklet.

If you still have outstanding charges and wish to discuss a payment option please contact the Business Manager on 9757 0704 or come into the front office. We look forward to your co-operation in this matter. Thank you.

Andrew Host
Principal

Arts Update

Our **Junior and Senior Music Soirees**, were presented to large audiences of parents and friends in Week 8. They were a huge success and much praise must go to the students and staff involved. Audience members enjoyed items from the Concert Band, the guitar, brass and percussion ensembles and each year groups' class band. Solo and duo performances were really well received and our younger students impressed the crowd with their rock bands. I would like to congratulate Priscilla Den Boer on her excellent leadership of our music program. Well supported by her talented instrumental teachers: Bruce Godden, Sunny Hardy, Elodie Short, Gemma Berry,



Rock Band at Junior Soiree



Voyage of the Titanic

Stacey Smart and Johanna Nordstrom, Priscilla continues to produce outstanding results from our musicians.

This term ends with a highlight for the lower school Drama program. The Year 9 Drama class present their original play "Voyage of the Titanic" for an audience of Year 6 students from Margaret River and St Thomas More primary schools along with parents and friends. The play is set on a luxury liner. Those aboard include: Cinderella and her self-absorbed husband Prince Alarming, mafia boss Al Cappucino and a washed up rock star called Wayne Hit Wonder, all involved in kidnapping, gambling, hula hoop competitions and a bad case of the hiccups. This hard working class are to be congratulated on writing and performing a highly entertaining play.

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This term we have been lucky to have Kathie Gareani working with our visual art students. Our thanks and best wishes go to Kathie as she ends her ten week teaching practice at our school. Thanks also to Lara Armstrong and Rita Montgomery for the wonderful Dance and Zumba workshops they have run for our lower school dance students.

Little Shop of Horrors

Ed Lacy and Priscilla Den Boer auditioned across the whole school to cast a team of actors, dancers, singers and musicians for this year's exciting whole school musical. Rehearsals have been taking place since the beginning of the year with the choir and band focusing on the live soundtrack while our actors perfect their lines and their dance moves. This production marks a return to the role of Director for Mr Ed Lacy who has lead countless, successful productions in our community. Ed has volunteered his own time to direct this show along with Priscilla Den Boer, our musical director. Thanks go to Sarah Goyder for her vocal support and Kara Beecham who has volunteered to choreograph the dancing. Our musicians will be accompanied by Elodie Short who has spent many hours rehearsing with both the choir and the band. Our school community is busy preparing for the show. Building and construction and visual art staff and students are making props and decorations while our catering students work to support the event with wonderful wood fired pizzas.

Tickets for this exciting production go on sale Tuesday the 1st of July and are available through our front office. Tickets are \$15 for an adult, \$10 for student/pensioner and \$40 for a family of four. The Little Shop of Horrors will take place from **Wednesday the 30th of July until Saturday the 2nd of August**. **Buy your tickets early to get the best seat in our new raised seating and avoid disappointment as tickets will sell fast.**

Mem McCormack

Teacher in Charge of the Arts



Zumba Class



The science faculty has yet again had a busy term with a number of activities running.

We have had activities designed to enrich and engage students such as successful excursions in upper school biology to: the Perth Zoo, Calgardup Cave to look at cave biology, and a trip to study local wetlands. Our Year 9's have just finished their chemistry studies and at the time of the publishing of this article will be bringing home positive (or negative) stories of dissecting a lamb's heart (our thanks to Margaret River Gourmet Butchers). Year 8's have been looking at the digestive system and healthy eating and our Year 10's have been studying genetics and ecology or getting a start on physics.

My thanks goes out to all the science faculty who are having a busy year getting the curriculum and resources ready for both the Year 7's next year and the new upper school courses.

Finally I'd like to advertise "**The concophillips science experience**" for all our Year 9's and 10's. These are courses run at WA Universities through the summer holidays and give awareness to the opportunities in science and in engaging students. More information is available at www.scienceexperience.com.au.

Liam Smith
Head of Science



Year 12 Biology Fieldwork Event

We went Caving ...

It makes perfect sense to utilise the opportunities that surround us here in beautiful Margaret River. That is the reason that this year's fieldwork was destined for Calgardup Cave where our Year 12 Biological Science students were given exposure to the highly specialised science of CAVE SPELEOLOGY (the study of cave flora and fauna and their interaction with their highly stable environment).

Students enjoyed a short briefing and information session, followed by a quick guided tour to point out all the important aspects of cave biology. After that they ventured into the window extension for some 'real' hands-on caving adventure, followed by gathering important information from the surface and underground which were later vigorously analysed back in the laboratory.

Such undertakings provide rich and meaningful learning experiences to all of our students and assist in their development of an appreciation and a need for the conservation of our delicate, natural and unique ecosystems.

Iris Kupfer-Hollis
Biology Teacher

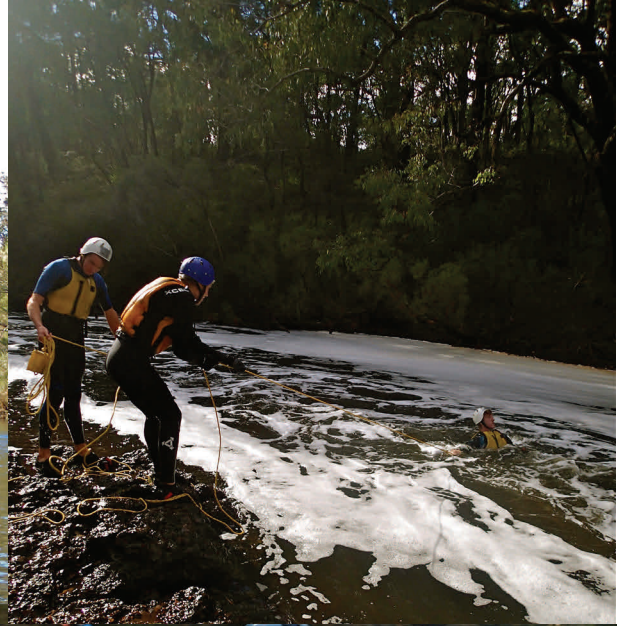
Year 10 Canoeing Blackwood Excursion

On Friday 20th June, the Semester 1 Year 10 Canoeing class culminated their canoeing lessons with a day's paddle down a 13km section of the Blackwood River. There was healthy flow on the Blackwood from recent rain and students enjoyed relaxing flat-water paddling, white-water sections and the opportunity to float/swim down rapids performing throw bag recoveries for each other.

The conduct of the group on the river and the skills displayed were of an excellent standard, resulting in a positive experience for all concerned.

Special thanks to Anna Jones (student teacher) for assisting on the river and for playing a key role in preparing the group for the excursion over recent weeks. Thanks also to Iris Kupfer-Hollis for driving the support vehicle.

Stuart Kupfer-Hollis
Outdoor Education Teacher



Yr 8 Indonesian Dance Workshop

As part of the Indonesian language program this term, Margaret River SHS has been fortunate to host a visiting dance instructor Ibu Rose Ngatikao from Indonesian Dance Studio from Perth. Ibu Rose conducted workshops with students in Year 8 to share her knowledge of the traditional Indonesian dance called the Janger. The Janger combined with the Kecak depicts an episode from the Hindu epic of the Ramayana, with a chorus of many characters chanting “chak-chak-chak” who together represent the monkey army!

Students enjoyed the opportunity to be noisy in a choreographed dance that is certainly very different to any dance style seen in Australia. Ibu Rose is working with a number of schools in Western Australia and her visit to us is funded by MRSHS Enrichment and Engagement program.

Angela McCoy

Languages and S&E Teacher



Girl Talk

Year 8 girls have made the most of escaping the chill of winter and enjoying the ‘chilled’ out zone with GirlTalk. Over 40 girls have filled the textiles room every Tuesday lunch-time enjoying ‘girls only’ time, music, manicures, hot chocolates and marshmallows. GirlTalk is a lunch-time program facilitated by myself, Kathryn Seisun (YouthCare School Chaplain) and supported by wonderful community volunteers. The GirlTalk program has been running successfully at MRSHS for Year 8 and 9 girls over the last five years.

At GirlTalk we help girls to know:

“You have an irreplaceable role to play in the adventure of life”.

Through our creative and supportive lunch-time program we:

CONNECT with food, video, music, talk time and activities.

INFORM through raising issues and discussing challenges facing adolescent girls.

INSPIRE through positive inspirational cards.

EMPOWER girls in their uniqueness and in the development of healthy relationships.

Kathryn Seisun
Chaplain



On Wednesday 11th June, the Semester 1 Year 9 Roping classes embarked on a day of abseiling and climbing to give the students an opportunity to put their roping skills, developed in class, to good use in a natural environment.

The activity was conducted at Wilyabrup Sea Cliffs and participants had the opportunity to abseil or attempt a number of climbs of varying difficulty.

Special thanks to Mick Dempsey (Margaret River Climbing Co.), whose presence allowed both the climbing and abseiling activities to run concurrently, and Practical Placement teacher Anna Jones for helping with supervision on the day.

Stuart Kupfer-Hollis
Outdoor Education Teacher





Cows Create Careers

The calves have arrived at MRSHS!

Some Year 8 students enrolled in Farm Studies at MRSHS are involved in the Dairy Australia program – COWS CREATE CAREERS. This program is designed to introduce students to the dairy industry and career opportunities that exist in agriculture.

Students are required to look after two calves that have been supplied to the school by Nicole May, for a period of four weeks.



This means students need to get to school early to mix up milk formula and then hand feed the calves. Brushing, weighing, measuring and cleaning out their “home” are also jobs that need to be completed. Information collected will be submitted to Dairy Australia and will be judged against other schools competing in this program.

Nola Gregory
Home Economics Teacher



Margaret River Senior High School Year 10 Parent Night

Topic: Year 10 transition to Upper School and course selection for 2015/16

When: Thursday the 24th July @ 7.00pm

Where: In the School Auditorium

Content:

- Course options
- Counselling process
- Graduation requirements
- University entrance
- Vocational pathways
- Timeline
- Question time

Merv McKillop
Deputy Principal

Messages for Students

Dear Parents/Guardians, if you need to get an important message to a student, can you please ensure that you contact the school no later than 1pm **unless it is an emergency**. This gives us adequate time to locate the student prior to school finishing. Should you need to relay a message, please contact Student Services on 9757 0795.

Lee Pike
Head of Student Services



To notify of absences from school please phone Student Services on 9757 0795
or email: MargaretRiver.SHS.StudentServices@education.wa.edu.au

Where Are They Now ?

Name: Anne Crappsley

Year graduated: 1996

Subjects studied at MRSHS:

Art & Design, Biology, Accounting, Mathematics, Geography, English Literature.

Post MRSHS education:

Life!

Qualifications achieved:

B.A. Drama Studies, Grad. Dip. Secondary Education, CELTA, National Diploma in Backpacking in combination with the Certificate in Tight-Fistedness...

Current employment and the path taken to get there:

English language teacher at Curtin University.... I packed my bags and hoped for the best!

Family eg: marital status, children?

Living with a scintillating, kilt-wearing Scotsman. No reproduction as yet...

An event or memory from MRSHS that inspired and/or helped you in your post school life?

I think there are loads, and I often think about school because I have kept some of my friends (what a star, Caitlin Morrell!) but it's difficult to pinpoint one event.

Parent comment:

They are no longer responsible so I didn't ask.



Current Photo

Year 12 Graduation Photo

