



MARGARET RIVER SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Wednesday October 29, 2014

Principal's Message



The year continues on at a hectic pace and it is hard to believe that we have only 7 weeks to go. It has been a very busy time at school preparing for our Year 12's to leave, the Year 12 presentation night, the Creating Identity Exhibition, Year 11 exams and the start of the 2014 WACE exams.

I would like to recognise the achievements of the Year 12 students of 2014, in particular the outstanding way in which they departed the school. They have shown great respect to the past and present students of our school by the way they have conducted themselves and we are very proud of how they have represented Margaret River Senior High School. To see these young people as they leave our school gives me real confidence in the work that we do as they are now ready to become important members of the greater Margaret River community. For those teachers who have been fortunate enough to have seen these young people develop over five years it is specially rewarding. I would like to thank all teachers of Year 12 courses this year for their perseverance, guidance and pursuit of academic excellence for this group. I would also like to thank Mr Merv McKillop and Mr Scott Cameron for the hard work and commitment they have displayed in supporting this year group throughout this year. Their assistance has made a considerable difference to the lives of these students and helped many to achieve to the best of their ability.

The Arts and Technology and Enterprise departments are busy preparing for The Creating Identity Exhibition at JahRoc Galleries. This event provides our students an opportunity to showcase their talents in the Arts and Technology and Enterprise fields and I am impressed with the variety and quality of items that will be displayed. At this event we will unveil our 2013/2014 wine vintages, which are produced by the students from the Rural Operations course. Information on how to order wine at the Creating Identity Exhibition will be sent out in our weekly news to parents.

Recently we received the keys to our new building which will be the home base for our Year 7 students in 2014. This is a state of the art building which has extremely modern facilities for our staff and students. I would like to recognise the efforts of Mr Merv McKillop, who has made a significant contribution to the design of this block.

Each year the School Board will hold a meeting that is open to the public. For 2014 this meeting will be held on Friday 14th of November at 10.00am. If parents are interested in attending please contact the school so we can ascertain numbers wishing to attend.

In closing I would like to remind parents that the school uniform will be compulsory for 2015. This was outlined in the previous newsletter and a uniform brochure will be sent out in the ensuing weeks outlining our school uniform. Parents can access information in relation to the school uniform from either the front administration office or via our website: www.margaretrivershs.wa.edu.au

Andrew Host
Principal

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

31st October - Yr 11 PE Studies Prac Exam

3rd - 28th November - WACE Exams
commence

5th November - Yr 11 Music Prac Exam

6th November - Yr 11 Drama Prac Exam

7th November - Creating Identity Exhibition

13th-26th November - Year 11 Workplace
Learning

14th November - School Board Meeting 10am

19th November - Sydney Canberra Participant
and Parent Information Night

20th November - Year 12 Valedictory Ceremony

25th - 26th November - Peer Support Camp

26th November - Yr 9 Roping Excursion

26th November - next newsletter

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Camembert in the Classroom

Congratulations to the students of Year 8.8 that participated in the camembert cheese making program this term. Several schools in the South West district participated in this program which involved making camembert cheese and a commercial about dairy foods. Margaret River Senior High School took out the Multi-media Presentation Award – winning \$250. The winning students: Kate Mann, Tahneeka Rowcliffe, Janaya Beddow and Ayla Miller, known as the “Cheshire Cheese” group, presented a 60 second video that explained the importance of eating dairy foods in our diet.

The winning cheese from our school was 0.5 of a mark less than the overall winning cheese. This group, known as “The Cheezels”, consisted of Josh Lane, Jude Shinnik and Zakye Yablsey.

Chief Cheese Judge Russell Smith was particularly impressed with the cheese presented by our students indicating that even though the cheese was a little soft, it still had great flavour and was made very well.

The students of 8.8 should be congratulated on their behaviour and participation at the presentation day and their overall effort in the Cheese Making program this semester.

Nola Gregory

Home Economics Teacher



Arts Update

A highlight for The Arts last term was the Performing Arts Evening that took place in the auditorium in Week 8 in support of the Beyond Blue Youth Foundation. During this concert musicians, dancers and actors took to the stage and entertained a large, appreciative audience. Thanks must go to Year 11 student councillors Bella McTaggart and Amy McFarland who organised this exciting event with the support of arts staff.

Congratulations to the artists and musicians who exhibited artwork or played in a band at this year's show. We were very proud of the student talent that was on display for our community.

This term will be another busy one for our faculty with the:

Creating Identity Exhibition - Jah Roc Gallery on Friday the 7th of November. *Always a special annual event in our school calendar and a chance to purchase original art work produced by our students.*

Year 10 play which will be performed for Year 9 girls and parents of our cast on Wednesday the 26th of November at 12:45pm.

Celebration Concert – comprised of live music from all lower school musicians and a Year 9 drama student devised play "The Kingdom of Rock" in the School Auditorium on Wednesday the 10th of December. This event combines drama and music. It will be performed for primary school students and *parents are welcome to come to the 12.30 performance.*

Presentation assembly on the 16th of December where Year 9 Dance students and some selected musicians will perform.

We look forward to showcasing the talented students in The Arts through all of these events!

Mem McCormack

Teacher in Charge of The Arts

Year 11 Certificate II First Aid Training

Year 11 students of the Certificate II in Outdoor Recreation and Sport and Recreation courses recently participated in and completed their Provide First Aid qualification. Courses conducted at the school allow the students to complete the core 'Provide First Aid' unit of competency and attain a qualification valid for three years from the date of the course at a highly subsidised cost (only \$20 per student).

Margaret River Senior High School staff (teaching and non-teaching) will begin updating their first aid qualifications this term and finish Term 1 next year. Parents can take heart in knowing a high percentage of staff at Margaret River Senior High School are first aid trained and capable of responding to situations should they arise in the contexts of school-based activities.

Stuart Kupfer-Hollis

Endorsed St John First Aid Instructor



To notify of absences from school please phone Student Services on 9757 0795 or email:

MargaretRiver.SHS.StudentServices@education.wa.edu.au

Uthando Doll Project

One of the Year 8 sewing classes this semester is involved in making dolls to send to orphanages in South Africa.

The Uthando Doll Project was started as a way of helping the orphans of Kwa-Zulu Natal. This area in South Africa has been greatly affected by the HIV/Aids epidemic. By providing dolls to orphanages in these communities, children can experience some of the joys of play and caregivers can use the doll to help the children's growth and emotional development.

The Year 8 students have eagerly embraced this project and have started practicing their hand stitching and planning out the clothes, face and hair styles of their doll. It is very important that the doll "looks" like the children that they are being sent to so that they can relate to their doll. Something as simple as blue eyes represents illness to their community and therefore will be frightening to the orphans.

In future newsletters we will include pictures of the finished dolls before they are sent away.

For more information on this project go to www.uthandoproject.org

Nola Gregory

Home Economics Teacher



Photography Update

The Year 9 and Year 10 Photography students recently put on an excellent display of work at this year's Margaret River Agricultural Show. The following students were acknowledged by judges for their entries: Holly Bell-Cannon, Morgan Parry, Fletcher Stubbs, Emmaly Coffey, Asha Manandhar, Taylor Chick, Sophie Newstead, Ella Keightly, Jarred Cooling, Georgia Podvrsnik, Jack Shaw, Lochlan Pendlebury, Kai Emslie and Shannon Galvin. Lochlan and Kai also placed first and second respectively in the 17 years and under section overall and Shannon was runner-up in the Margaret River Tourism Association Award, with Kai also placing third in this class. All of the photos are currently on display in the front office.

Well done to everyone who contributed to this outstanding effort!!

Craig Barnett
Photography Teacher



Sydney-Canberra Participant and Parent Night

Every year before our Sydney-Canberra excursion we run a meeting for all participants and a parent or guardian. This year the meeting will be held on **Wednesday the 19th November** (6:30 – 7:30pm Week 6) in the School Auditorium. Please note that this meeting is where all final rules are explained, queries answered, problems addressed and some final documentation must be signed. For this reason the meeting is considered compulsory. Strictly one hour, then a mere 10 days or so before we take off. Any serious problems in attending please let me know as soon as you can on 0437 150 565.

Martin Keen

Co-ordinator, Sydney-Canberra Excursion 2014

Asian Study Murdoch University Excursion

On Friday 24th October, a group of 48 Year 9 Indonesian students participated in a full day excursion to Perth from 6am to 6.30pm. Upon our arrival at Murdoch University, the students were divided into three groups and rotated in different 45 minutes activities under the guidance of Murdoch University staff.

These activities were:

- Gamelan Orchestra workshop – Javanese metal percussion made of brass, iron, or bronze.
- Angklung Orchestra workshop – Sundanese bamboo musical instruments. The students have the opportunity to play the tune Waltzing Matilda.
- ACICIS presentations, then a tour of the campus and relaxing in the Chinese Garden at the university.

This excursion was intended to give the students a better understanding and a 'hands-on' experience with the Indonesian musical instruments from different regions.

We finished the day with an utterly delicious buffet lunch in an authentic Indonesian restaurant OSH5ONE! After that we learnt how to make spring rolls and fried wonton. The students found the excursion absolutely helpful for their learning and the weather was perfect too! It was a day that we certainly will remember and cherish for many years.

Angela McCoy

Indonesian Teacher

Comments from students:

"The excursion opened my eyes up to the wonders of Indonesian. It was the best Indonesian excursion ever. Thank you so much Ms McCoy, you are the best!" (A Kevill)

"I learnt lots about Indonesian music at the university, it was really great getting the experience of playing the instruments. The instructors were really interesting and factual. The best part was the food which was amazing! It was so worth waking up at 5.00am." (S Higgins)

"I had lots of fun on the Indonesian excursion. Everyone was really nice at the university. I would definitely go on the same excursion again if I had the opportunity." (K Humberstone)



Haining Sister School Visit

China, home of the Great Wall, ancient culture and rapidly growing modern cities and, for 9 days in September this year, two teachers from Margaret River Senior High School. Sent far from home across the water to visit the centre of the mysterious East, Martin Keen and Angela McCoy travelled to China to visit our sister school in Haining, just South West of historic Shanghai, and prepare the way for a group of students to join them next year and experience for themselves the fabulous cultural opportunities to be found there. While enjoying the wonderful hospitality of the Haining High School Number One, our intrepid teachers experienced front row seats at the famous, once a year tidal bore. The largest of its kind, it races up Haining River in a kilometre wide wave that travels many kilometres upriver due to the tidal pull of the full moon and attracts several hundred thousand tourists each year to see this incredible three day natural phenomenon. They also got to sample the fabulous cuisine of the region, visit 800 year old houses within 1000 year old stone walled cities and soak in one of the richest histories in the world.

Visiting the Haining School was another exciting part of the trip, seeing students working in classes of 45 from 7am to 9:30pm in a school that in total has over 4000 students, was in itself an education. (No more accepting complaints from our guys who feel tired after 4 or 5 periods.) Also noting that the most active the students got during the day was when the lunch bell went; I guess some things don't change for teenagers anywhere.

Whether it is the ancient history, the great food, the lovely people or the excitement of seeing a huge bustling city that grows at greater than the population of Margaret River each day, China has something for everyone. Next year it is our hope that we can visit our new friends in China again, this time with around 20 students with an interest in experiencing a great opportunity. So keep your eyes on newsletters from the school, as this is one trip we expect to fill quickly.

Our thanks to the Shire of Augusta Margaret River whose early work in developing the Sister City relationship and financial support in getting this new exchange opportunity off the ground, made this trip possible. The school looks forward to working with them in coming years to provide our Margaret River students with even more new and exciting opportunities to see the world around them.

Martin Keen and Angela McCoy
MRSHS Society and Environment Teachers



Where Are They Now ?

Name: Jennifer Thomas

Year graduated: 2007

Subjects studied at MRSHS: Literature, Music, Physics, Applicable Maths, Biology

Post MRSHS education: Deakin University, Melbourne

Qualifications achieved: Bachelor of Environmental Science (Wildlife and Conservation Biology)

Current employment and the path taken to get there: I've been living in Taiwan for almost two years, learning Chinese and teaching English at a language school in Taipei. I'd always wanted to learn a second language so I did a language diploma in Mandarin alongside my degree. After graduation and a bit of working/saving I decided to move to Taiwan and see what happened. It has been amazing! I don't yet know what's next.

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

I remember trying lots of different things during high school, which nurtured the notion which I kept in mind that there was so much out there to see, do and learn. And there is!

