



# Mackellar Girls Campus Newsletter

## 27 OCTOBER 2023

### Term 4, Week 3

### Meeting the educational needs of girls

P&C Meeting - Wednesday 1 November 2023

#### EMAILING THE SCHOOL -

Please use ONLY the [nbscmgirls-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:nbscmgirls-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au) email address for correspondence.  
DEDICATED SMS NUMBER—Please text 0427 459 133 before 9am to advise late or absent students

#### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE -

Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

I would like to welcome everybody back to Term 4. We have had a magnificent year so far and we can only hope that this will continue with another busy and productive term at Mackellar Girls. We have had a number of new enrolments this term and we welcome these students and their families to our school community.

#### HSC Examinations begin

On Wednesday 11 October our Year 12 students began their HSC examinations. It was wonderful to see them back as a group eager to begin the first of their English papers. In speaking with students after that first paper, most were more than happy with it and relieved that the examinations were finally underway.

The HSC examinations continue until Friday 3 November with Food Technology finishing at 12:30pm. Students are reminded to see Ms Secrett or speak to the Presiding Officer if they have any questions or concerns regarding illness or misadventure procedures.

I would like to pass on my thanks to the remainder of our students for the consideration that they have shown to our Year 12s in ensuring that noise is kept to a minimum around the school, giving them every opportunity to complete examinations under the most favourable conditions possible.

#### Yearly Examinations

Year 10 has been engaged in their examinations this week and Years 7 – 9 have examinations in the next two weeks. These are important and require suitable study practices by students. Parents, please assist your children to develop good study habits, to be organised and structured with their time and aim to do their best.

Examinations will not be rescheduled for students who miss the examinations due to reasons other than school representation, or illness or misadventure, if it is possible to reschedule.

Following the examinations, students in all years will resume their normal classroom studies, working towards completing their subject syllabuses for the remainder of the school term.

#### World Teachers Day

27 October is World Teachers Day. It celebrates the contribution of teachers to the development of our young people and the success of our nation. Australian school students are amongst the best educated in the world, have more positive attitudes to school and better relationships with teachers than most western countries.

This doesn't just happen. It reflects the work and skills of teachers. As a community we need to acknowledge how much our young people benefit from the skills and knowledge, care and understanding and sustained commitment of teachers. World Teachers Day reminds us of the importance of all teachers who have touched our lives in some way. We should all take a moment to say thank you.

#### Schools Spectacular

Once again our talented students are part of the Schools Spectacular on 24 and 25 November at the Qudos Bank Arena, Sydney Olympic Park. Those of you who have been to previous years know how absolutely wonderful this night is. I commend this event to you – tickets are available through Ticketek.

Community Bank  
Freshwater



Freshwater Community Bank  
is the proud Community  
Sponsor of Mackellar Girls  
Campus Manly Vale

Director General's Award for Turning Potential into Performance  
Director General's Award for Excellence in Girls Education  
Director General's Award for Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education  
Director General's Award for Excellence in Aboriginal Programs  
Secretary's Award for Excellence in Pacific Islander Programs

I have enormous pride in our public education system and am delighted that the outstanding talents of our teachers and students will again be showcased through the Schools Spectacular.

### **Parent Volunteers**

As Year 12 leaves us I want to thank the fabulous parents of Year 12 girls who have freely given of their time and care in helping the school as volunteers. Your contribution to the success of this school has been greatly valued and appreciated.

The Uniform Shop and Canteen Managers are eternally grateful for the time parents have given to make these P&C run facilities be productive assets of the school. The Schools Spectacular only came into fruition with assistance of parents, many of our students' sporting successes only occur because parents volunteer their time, and cars for transport to matches and competitions and the school bands have continued to develop with the assistance of the parents of the Band Committee.

You all make a remarkable difference.

### **School Visitors**

As a school we have a duty of care of our students. As such, all visitors to the school must firstly go the office and if their visit is appropriate beyond the foyer area, sign in as a visitor and be given a visitor's badge to wear for the duration of their stay in the school. This applies to parents who come to the school to see a teacher or student.

It is not appropriate for parents to email any staff directly. Staff will not respond to any email they receive directly from a parent. Parents are welcome to either write a letter or send an email to the school email address where it will then be forwarded to the teacher, Deputy Principal or Principal.

### **Change of family details**

If you change address, telephone numbers (including mobiles and work numbers), email address or name it is important to notify the school so we can update our records to contact you quickly when needed.

### **Congratulations for high achievement to:**

- **Anaia (Y12)** selected for the Australia A's Opens Rugby Team
- **Maisy and Anneke (Y12)** for being awarded the Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement – only 35 awarded in NSW
- **Jupiter (12)** who has been selected as lead trumpet for the School Spectacular Stage Band
- HSC Dance students who received 3 nominations for Callback the best HSC dance works in NSW – **Jemma and Anna**, 2 nominations – **Violet, Sofia and Maisy** and one nomination – **Ashley and Holly**
- HSC Music students who have been nominated for ENCORE for the best outstanding performances and written compositions – **Summer**
- HSC Students who have been nominated for Shape, for exemplary Major Projects in Design and Technology, Industrial Technology and Textiles and Design – **Ciara, Holly and Jessie**
- The **Senior and Junior Dance Ensembles** who performed at the NSW Public Schools Dance Festival in September
- **Kyah (Y10)** selected in the NSW Open Merit team at the NSW All School Secondary Netball Tri-Series
- **Taylor (Y7)** who has been selected for the NSW U13 Futsal team
- **Fleur (Y10)** who came first in the 1500m and second in the 800m at the All School Athletics Championships
- **Pipi (Y9)** who came first in the 2000m Steeplechase at the All School Athletics Championships
- **Fleur (Y10), Pipi (Y9) Adelaide (Y9) and Charli (Y8)** who competed in the All School Athletics Championships
- **Pipi (Y9)** who came first in the 15yrs Steeplechase and second in the 800m
- **Gemma (Y7)** who came first in both the 100m and 200m multiclass events
- **Poppy (Y10), Summer (Y9) Hannah (Y9), Alessandra (Y9), Pipi (Y9) Scarlett (Y7), Milla (Y7), Billie (Y7), Tahniah (Y7), Rosa (Y7), and Gemma (Y7)** who competed at the CHS Athletics Carnival last term
- **Hannah (Y9)** selected in the Sydney North Cricket team

**Heidi Warne, Relieving Principal**

**Year 7**—Welcome back to Term 4. There are a number of activities occurring this term and we encourage you to look at the School Term 4 Calendar.

In Week 4, Year 7 will have their Yearly Examinations and some are feeling anxious which is normal. One of the best things parents and carers can do if their child is experiencing exam stress, is to try to be supportive and to ensure their child is getting enough sleep and plenty of exercise.

W@M this term continues to help students develop the skills they require to manage their emotional intelligence (EI). Students were taught that being socially aware means that you respond to people in a way that shows empathy. The students were provided with a variety of scenarios to open a discussion on the types of emotions that a person would be experiencing in particular situations. The scenarios included a friend being bullied through an online social media site and a friend who has failed an exam. Discussing situations such as these enable students to be more proactive in their responses to others and more thoughtful and considerate of other peoples' feelings.

Please note the following activities for Year 7 this term:

Week 4: Exam Week

Week 6: Lifesaving – Tuesday 14 November & Thursday 16 November

Week 9: Multicultural Day – Monday 4 December

Week 10: Presentation Day – Tuesday 13 December. Yearly Reports will be issued after the Presentation Day Assembly.

**Mr Smith & Ms Mailey—Year 7 Advisers**

**Year 8**—Welcome back to Term 4! We hope the students had a restful break and are ready for another exciting term.

This term Year 8 will sit their Yearly Examinations in Week 4. It is essential that students are well prepared for these exams to help alleviate stress and ensure they achieve their personal best. It is normal to experience some anxiousness around exams and we ask that as parents/carers you help the students to navigate this through supporting them, encouraging good sleep habits, healthy eating, regular exercise and continued socialising with friends. We wish them the best of luck!

In W@M this term, Year 8 will look at a number of beneficial topics. They will begin with learning about the negative implication of gossiping and how it can escalate friendship issues. They will also learn the benefits of positive self-talk including practical suggestions of how to talk kindly to yourself and boost your sense of confidence. These skills are all important for the remainder of their school years and their life after school.

Here are some important dates to be aware of this term:

Week 5: Year 8 Literacy Days - Monday 6 (3a - 4b) and Tuesday 7 November (1a - 2b)

Week 9: Multicultural Day – Monday 4 December

Week 10: Presentation Day – Tuesday 13 December. Yearly Reports will be issued after the Presentation Day Assembly.

**Ms Beard & Ms Moore—Year 8 Advisers**

**Year 9**—In Week 5, Year 9 will sit their Yearly Examinations. It is essential that students prepare themselves for these exams, not only so that they can achieve their personal best but also to help relieve pressure and stress. Being adequately prepared can help to give students a sense of confidence. Everyone responds differently to upcoming exams, however it is normal to feel a little nervous. We appreciate your efforts as parents to help support you child throughout this period. Putting exam results in perspective, encouraging healthy sleeping and study patterns and managing expectations can go a long way in helping your child to ease the pressure they may feel.

Students are reminded to draw on the “RIOT” skills and techniques throughout this period. The Riot Program involved students looking at the brain and how it works when they are anxious, methods for calming their nervous system when they feel anxious and how to sabotage anxious feelings and behaviours. They have also been introduced to cognitive distortions and how these can be disrupted. The goal is for students to be able to use strategies from this program to manage their anxious feelings and behaviours and the program will continue throughout this term. We wish students the best of luck in navigating this exam period.

**Ms Horton & Ms Jones—Year 9 Advisers**

**Year 10**—This term is an incredibly busy one for our Year 10 students – they have Yearly Examinations, Work Experience and Life Ready courses. We trust that Year 10 can balance their school and personal responsibilities carefully to ensure they're getting the most out of their time at school and also maintaining their wellbeing. So far this term, in W@M Year 10 have learnt about the Japanese idea of 'ikagai', which roughly translates to 'the

reason to get out of bed in the morning'. Thinking about your ikagai is a process that helps you discover your inner self, in order to identify that which brings purpose and meaning to your life. By identifying what this might look like, every day can be about working towards your aspirations and upholding your integrity, as you hold a clear image of who you'd like to be in your own mind. We'd like to encourage Year 10 to continue to reflect on what their ikagai, sense of purpose, might be and what actions and attributes they need to establish in order to achieve it. Hopefully our students have worked hard to prepare for their Yearly Examinations, but the learning doesn't stop there. All Year 10 students must complete the HSC: All My Own Work program in order to be eligible to begin the Stage 6 courses in 2024. This program teaches students the importance of ethical practices and how to avoid malpractice in preparing for assessments. In Week 4, Year 10 will commence their cross-curricular project, which is an exciting opportunity put together to allow the year group to bring together all of their knowledge and work as a team to solve a global problem on a local level. This project was designed to allow students to find an area of passion and problem solve in a real-world context. At the end of Week 5, groups will present their projects to each other and a panel of teachers. We wish Year 10 the best of luck this term and encourage them to always try their best!

**Ms Grasso, Ms Drane & Ms Kelsey—Year 10 Advisers**

**Year 11**—Year 11 have commenced their HSC courses with diligence and enthusiasm. By now, student choices of subjects should be made and timetables updated accordingly. In the first week, each student was issued with an HSC assessment manual that outlines school and NESAP policy and procedures. This contains important information regarding attendance and assessment tasks. The manual also contains the assessment programs for every HSC course that the school runs and a handy calendar on the last page that shows the dates of all HSC assessments in Term 4.

As well as this, Year 11 students attended a Study Skills day where they were taught valuable skills for their HSC year, including how to study effectively, how to organise time and how to set goals. In addition to this, students were introduced to the Self Reflection Journal, a tool used by students to interpret teacher feedback and identify areas of success and challenge when receiving marked tasks back from their teachers. This is a great way for students to self-monitor their achievement and skill acquisition. It also allows students the opportunity to make connections across subjects. There are many cross curricular skills and content areas that students experience and identifying these can lighten the load when it comes to study and preparation.

Year 11 will also have the opportunity to reflect on their progress when they receive their reports later this term. Whilst the Year 11 courses are now complete, the skills and content learnt form important foundations for the HSC courses.

We would like to congratulate Year 11 on reaching this significant milestone in their academic journeys. Your dedication and hard work have brought you to your last year. May it be a time of self-discovery, learning, and preparing for your exciting future ahead. Make it count!

**Ms Goykovic & Ms Adams—Year 11 Advisers**

**Year 12**—We are more than halfway through the HSC Written Examinations, and it is good to hear the cohort have been giving their best in all their examinations. Year 12, you are nearly there and the whole school is supporting you.

#### Sign-Out

Although Year 12s have graduated from school, they are still required to complete the sign-out procedure and return all loaned resources, such as textbooks, to the school. Year 12's can commence the sign-out process any time this term. They will need to collect the sign-out form from the Front Office and have it signed by Faculty Head Teachers once loaned resources are returned. When this process is completed, they return the form to the Front Office where they will receive their Year 12 School Reference Letter if they have requested one earlier this year.

#### Education IT Accounts

A reminder that the Department will delete Year 12's access to their school email and other associated IT accounts such as Google and Microsoft before the end of the term. Therefore, could you please remind your daughters to download or backup any important data that they would like to keep from their @education account as soon as possible as the Department will not be able to retrieve any data once this is deleted. Year 12, all the best with the remainder of your HSC Examinations and we look forward to celebrating with you at the Year 12 Formal on Monday 6 November.

**Ms Karandonis & Ms Maconachie—Year 12 Advisers**

## Year 7 Digital Technologies Competition

During Term 3, our school participated in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) Assessments, which are online tests, conducted by UNSW Global for the purpose of recognising and rewarding academic excellence. The Digital Technologies paper consisted of questions designed to test knowledge and practical skills in areas such as digital systems, graphics and multimedia, internet and email, spreadsheets and databases and programming.

Our Year 7 Mackellar cohort achieved one distinction, 13 credits and seven merit certificates. Congratulations!

**Ms Neyland & Mr Henne – TAS Faculty**

## Year 7 Technology Pocket City Farms Excursion

On Thursday 14 September, Year 7 Technology classes attended Pocket City Farms where they participated in hands-on farming such as seasonal growing activities directly on the farm. This included seed collecting, propagating, harvesting, weeding, composting, planting and fertilising. Pocket City Farms offered a unique opportunity for students to work on urban farms and develop their knowledge on sustainability. Students were able to learn new skills as well as embed key learning objectives from the classroom in an engaging and hands-on manner. Back at school the students were able to build natural environments that promote biodiversity as well as an education space that allows for food to be grown in a responsible way.

**Ms Caliskan - TAS**



## Creative Arts

### Year 11 Dance Tour

Year 11 Dance spent a fabulous three days in Melbourne in Week 2, engaging in a series of performance workshops in contemporary dance, improvisation and reformer pilates. Significantly, they enjoyed workshops with Chunky Move Dance Company, Lucy Guerin Inc and at Armature Pilates. A visit to the Regent Theatre on Wednesday evening to see Moulin Rouge was a treat but perhaps the highlight was being invited to experience an intimate rehearsal/run through of Stephanie Lake's internationally renowned work *Manifesto*. Many thanks to Ms Corfe for organising this amazing experience and accompanying the dancers on tour.

### Year 11 Visual Arts Tour

Year 11 Visual Arts students were treated to a wonderful three days in Hobart, undertaking a full day drawing workshop with practicing artist, Jane Giblin, working en plein air and also at her studios. A highlight was seeing and speaking with Lucienne Rickard at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, who coincidentally had featured with the very same artwork in the HSC Visual Arts examination only days earlier! A visit to MONA was equally fortuitous, with students able to engage in the very work they had been set to study in the classroom as part of their first case study, Marina Abramovic's 'Rice and Lentils'. Many thanks to Ms Joldzic for organising the tour and to both Ms Beale and Ms Joldzic for accompanying the students.



## Library News

The library has been bustling with energy as our students gear up for their upcoming Yearly Examinations, making the most of our study spaces. It's heartening to witness the dedication and determination with which our students are approaching their academic challenges.

Over the past few weeks the library has been working with Ms Regan and the Year 9 Accelerated Aboriginal Studies as they begin their first major project. With great enthusiasm, they delved into the art of identifying reliable information sources. They have utilised the online library guides and resources from our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures and Histories collection. They have also been mastering the intricacies of referencing.

The main area of the library has taken on an eerie and enchanting ambiance with our fantastic Halloween display. Enthusiastic readers and thrill-seekers alike have been flocking to our spooky stories section, indulging in chilling tales that send shivers down the spine. Embrace the spirit of the season and dive into the world of suspense and mystery within the captivating pages of our curated collection. Don't miss the chance to get spooked!

### The Library Team



## UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

A huge thank you to our lovely volunteers who continue to donate their time to help us in the shop. It is very much appreciated!

Thank you also for the continuous supply of second hand uniforms. They are a large part of our sales and very much appreciated by us and the school community.

The uniform shop will be opening the following days for Year 7 fittings only. These are great fun and we supply a beautiful lunch for our volunteers. Please contact us if you are able to help in any way.

### November

Saturday 4 9am-4pm

Friday 17 9am-4pm

Saturday 25 9am-4pm

Monday 27 2pm-4pm

Tuesday 28 from 12pm (Orientation Day)

Wednesday 29 9am-12pm, 2pm-4pm

### December

Monday 4 2pm-4pm

Wednesday 6 9am-12pm, 2pm-4pm



Thank you in advance for any help you can give.

Annette Ryan

Uniform Shop Manager

[uniformshop@mackellarpandc.com](mailto:uniformshop@mackellarpandc.com)



## **MUSIC NEWS**

Congratulations to the **Senior Jazz Improv** group on a great performance at the Year 12 Graduation at the end of last term.

**Term 4** is a busy one for our musicians. Please see dates for diary for all events. Please come and support our musicians at our community concerts coming up.

### **BIG BAND at the LAZY BONES LOUNGE**

Family and friends are encouraged to come and listen to the **Big Band play at the Lazy Bones Lounge in Marrickville from 6:45pm on Tuesday 14 November**. It is an awesome jazz venue and will be the highlight of the year for our students. Tickets available via link sent home via email. Make sure you book the right night. Fort Street High and the host band TNJO, are also performing.

JVP (Jazz Vault Project Big Band), another big band I direct, will be performing the Tuesday prior November 7 at the Lazy Bones Lounge if you want to come and listen. This group has a few ex- Mackellar students and current students at the Conservatorium of Music.

### **NBSYB CONCERT**

There will be a collaborative concert for the Mackellar **Concert Band** with the Northern Beaches Symphonic Youth Wind Band on **Sunday 26 November at 5:30pm** at Pittwater High School Hall, Mona Street Mona Vale. We would love an audience, \$5 entry or \$10 for a family.

### **STAGE BAND NIGHT WITH NORTHSIDE BIG BAND**

Our Stage Band has been invited to perform at the **The Northside Big Bands Jazz Night** on Wednesday, **November 29**, at Forestville RSL, 7pm with arrival at 6:45pm. Please join us for a night of great music.

### **Gig Dates for Diary for 2023 – Please note in diaries**

Tuesday 14 November 6:30pm	Lazy Bones Lounge gig with TNJO and Fort Street High	Big Band	294 Marrickville Rd, Marrickville
Friday 24 & Saturday 25 November	School Spec Performances; rehearsals prior	Selected students	Homebush
Sunday 26 November 5pm for 5:30pm concert start	NBSYB Concert	Concert Band	Pittwater High School
Tuesday 28 November	Orientation Day	Concert Band	School Hall
Wednesday 29 November	Northside Big Band Jazz Night	Stage Band	Forestville RSL
Nov 29 or Dec 6 During school hours	Big Band Recording	Big Band	Performance Space
Friday 1 December	CAPA Assembly	SWE, VE, Orchestra, Dancers	School Hall
Monday 4 December	Multicultural Day	Stage Band, Big Band, SJI/ RB	Quad
Tuesday 12 December	Presentation Day	SWE, Orchestra, VE	School Hall
2024: SAVE THE DATES for these booked events	MUSIC CAMP 13- 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	BIG BAND BLAST in BATHURST Fri 24-Sun 26 May 2024 for Big Band	

Vanessa Patterson Band Director