From the Principal

Welcome to the start of a brand new academic year and a special welcome to our new Year 7 students and parents, as well as those students in other years and their families who have joined us from other schools. I am confident you will enjoy your time here at Macquarie Fields HS!

Outstanding Academic Success!! HSC 2016

Congratulations to the entire Class of 2016 for their overall outstanding achievements in the recent Higher School Certificate examinations, including:

- **Prithvi Santana – Baskar** who achieved First Place in the State in Biology and received an ATAR of 99.95. Prithvi was also placed on the All Round Achievers list.

- 153 Band 6 (90+) or E4 (top extension result) achieved by: Melati Dewi Abdullah, Rukia Al-Khaeleely, Abanoub Attalla, Talara Maree Austin, Samin Mohammed Azfar, Mujtaba Bashir, Charmaine Hope Batulan, Patrick William Carlos, Navid Chowdhury, Emily Mae Cook, Albert Dai, Jesselyn Regan Dang, Kevin Dang, Lok Abinandh Elango, Shoaib Farooq, Ishan Gupta, Nancy Harb, Christopher John Hewe, Tawsif Hoque, Rafia Islam, Tanveer Kabir, Vivek Sanjay Kasar,
Many of these students achieved more than one Band 6 or E4 result.

The school would also like to thank the outgoing Captains and Vice Captains: Samin Azfar, Charmaine Batulan, Jackson Tallon and Jessica Liang for their outstanding leadership during 2016.

Staff changes
We have several new staff we need to welcome to replace some familiar faces to whom we bid farewell. Welcome to Ms Catherine Nielsen, our new Head Teacher, English, replacing Mr John Wilkie who retired officially on 27 January. Ms Nielsen has a wealth of experience and is very keen to see what our students can do! We welcome Dr Matthew Bugeja and Ms Nirma John to the Science Faculty, replacing Mr Fletcher and Mrs Salter respectively. Mrs Vicki Shipley is continuing her role as Acting Head Teacher, Technological and Applied Studies, following the retirement of Mr David Ralston last week, following extended leave. Mr Joel Chapman is replacing Mrs Gai Lees from the History/Language Faculty, who is on leave prior to retirement. Mr Chapman is a very fluent Japanese speaker so we are grateful for his expertise. Ms Gaye Lee McKeown has been successful in a merit process for a position as Teacher Mentor at Bankstown Senior College for at least 12 months and is being replaced by Ms Wano. Mr Paul Hollis has accepted a position at another school and is being replaced by Mr Alex Colless until the position is filled.

A warm welcome to all these new teachers. Like the welcome to students, I know they will enjoy their time at MFHS and find their roles fulfilling professionally.

Foundation for Success: Strategies to support Year 11 (Year 12 2018)
There is a huge conceptual leap required of students as they move from the junior (7-10) years to the academically and personally challenging senior years which culminate in the HSC examinations. In order to ensure that students have all the tools they need to be successful, we have arranged a workshop entitled, Foundation for Success for parents and students. The workshop is on Monday 20 February, from 5.00pm – 6.15pm and will cover such topics as how parents can best help their children and how students can help themselves. Year 11 students have been issued with a note with full details, including a tear-off slip for catering purposes. I hope to see all Year 11 students and their parents at the workshop. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Trieu, Rel Deputy Principal on 9605 3111.
Parents and Citizen’s Association (P&C)
The first P&C meeting for 2017 will be held on Monday 20 February commencing at 6.30pm, in the Library. Please note the change of starting time. All parents are welcome to attend these meetings. A special welcome is extended to parents of Year 7 students and parents of students in other years who are new to the school. I hope to see you there!

Community Liaison Officer
In order to enhance our communication with parents and our broader community we are engaging the services of a Community Liaison Officer who will work with us one day per week. Our partnership with parents and the broader community is very important to us and I am firmly of the belief that having a CLO will only strengthen our relationship and discover new ways to engage all our stakeholders. I will introduce the CLO to you once the position is finalised.

Special Religious Education (SRE) Initial Advice to Parents
Special Religious Education (SRE), sometimes known as Scripture, is a legislated part of the curriculum for students in NSW public schools. Representatives of approved religious organisations have the opportunity to provide SRE in public schools. Until now, SRE has not been offered at MFHS, however from 2017, students in Years 7 and 8 at MFHS will have the opportunity to receive one Scripture seminar of one period (about 80 minutes) per term. Inter-denominational Scripture seminars will be delivered by teachers authorised by the Campbelltown Area High Schools Ministry Board, on behalf of the local Christian churches in Campbelltown.

As this provision is part of the NSW Education Act, all students are assumed to have parental permission to attend these seminars. However, in accordance with Section 33 of the Act, no child is required to receive any general religious education or special religious education if the parents/carers object. If you prefer that your child does not attend these seminars, you will need to complete the form, opting your child out of the program for 2017. You also have the right to withdraw your child at any time from the SRE seminar program. Please note: whilst the seminars are being delivered, students who have opted out of the program are not receiving regular lessons. Children who are not part of the seminar program will undertake supervised activities such as homework completion, quiet reading or private study.

A letter to parents with all the details will be given to students in Years 7 and 8 shortly. If you have any questions, please direct them to me in the first instance via the office on 9605 3111.

Overseas Travel Success!
Thank you to Mr Hollis, Miss Barnes and Mrs Vrountzos for organising the very successful trip to Europe during the January vacation. The trip proved to be very popular and filled with many valuable learning experiences. A full report is provided later in this newsletter.

2017 – A Year of Learning
Our school, like every other school, exists to ensure all students receive optimum learning experiences. At MFHS, we pride ourselves on our exemplary teaching and provision of high quality learning experiences for our students. Our focus is on the learning, through high expectations, engaging and challenging learning activities in a supportive and inclusive environment.

We appreciate the support given by parents and often, parents ask what else can they do to support their child? The main support is exactly what most parents are doing already:
encouraging their child to do their best, try hard and persist in the face of challenges.

Another way parents can support their child is to ensure their child attends every day the school is open. If your child is going to be away from school for an extended period, an Application for Exemption from School needs to be completed. Approval is not automatic so please do not assume permission has been granted. If your application for exemption is granted, you will receive a Certificate of Exemption. All applications must be submitted at least three weeks prior to the commencement of the absence. We have very generous vacation periods and these are the times to take that family holiday. Family holidays during term time are unlikely to be approved. Emergency situations will be considered but parents will need to contact the office for information about how to apply for an Exemption.

2017 is shaping up to be a very exciting time in education. I am looking forward to sharing the excitement of learning with you and your children!

Mrs J Dolstra
Principal
European Study Tour 2017

During the January school holidays, eighteen very fortunate MFHS students accompanied by their teachers, Mr Hollis, Mrs Vrountzos and Ms Barnes embarked on an Ancient and Modern History study tour across Europe. The intrepid travellers began their journey in Rome after a short lay-over in Singapore. The students explored the many ancient sites of the city including the Colosseum and the Forum and visited many of the famous museums of Rome. A short trip to the Bay of Naples and the students were given a guided tour by Dr Estelle Lazer of both Pompeii and Herculaneum which are the Core studies of the HSC Ancient History course.

After a whirlwind tour of ancient Rome, students then made their way to Germany and explored the cities of Berlin and Nuremburg. The students were given a guided tour of the Nazi Rally grounds, the Zeppelin Field and the notorious Nuremburg courtroom 600 and took part in a comprehensive tour of Nazi Germany and Hitler’s regime. Berlin allowed the students to explore the Reichstag building, Checkpoint Charlie, and the site of the Berlin Wall, as well the Topography of Terror Holocaust Museum. This gave students a fascinating insight into WWII and Cold War Germany, linking closely to the HSC Modern History syllabus while making the history of the sites personal and interesting for the students.
After a powerful and reflective learning experience in Germany, the group arrived in Paris and explored the exquisite city and its major landmarks and museum including, the Louvre, Eiffel Tower and the Palace of Versailles. Everyone enjoyed their time in Paris-in particular the culinary delights, as the tour drew to end and the team headed home to their parents eagerly awaiting their return.
The entire tour was captured on the MFHS tour blog created and updated daily by Mr Hollis, so parents and the community could follow the trip. The blog is still active, feel free to explore the 4,534 pictures and videos of their wonderful learning adventure.

I would like to thank the teachers, Mr Hollis, Mrs Vrountzos and Ms Barnes for organising this trip and up giving up their holiday to create this once in lifetime learning opportunity for our students. Special thanks to our Principal Mrs Dolstra for her ongoing commitment to support our faculty in its effort to provide students with a life changing opportunity to explore the world and bring their learning to life.

Mr Troy Neale
Head Teacher History
MACQUARIE FIELDS HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE TAKEN ON: Friday 10 March

Dear Parents,

School photographs are scheduled to be taken by advancedlife Photography. Whilst an envelope and flyer will be distributed shortly, if possible it is our preference that ordering be completed online to reduce administration and potential security issues related to the return of cash and envelopes on photo day.

Orders for packages and sibling photographs can be placed securely online at www.advancedlife.com.au using our school’s unique 9 digit Online Order Code. Portrait and group package orders are due by photography day.

Should you wish to purchase a sibling photograph online, the order must be placed no later than the day before photography day.

Sibling photographs will only be taken if an order has been placed.

Should you have any queries concerning school photographs or online ordering, please direct them via email to enquiries@advancedlife.com.au
Support to Pay Electricity and Gas Bills*

Help is available to pay your energy bills.
For information on rebates and emergency assistance go to:
or phone Service NSW on 137 788
* eligibility criteria apply

YOU COULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR ONE OR MORE OF THESE REBATES/ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Family Energy Rebate* – $150 or $15 per year – If you are the electricity account holder in your household, have dependent children and receive a DHS payment called Family Tax Benefits (Part a or B), you could qualify for this electricity rebate. Information on application deadlines is available from our website.

NSW Gas Rebate* – $90 per year – If you have natural gas or use LPG for cooking, heating or hot water, you could qualify for this gas rebate. To be eligible you will also need to be the gas account holder and have a DHS or DVA Pensioner Concession Card, DHS Health Care Card or a DVA Gold Card marked with WW, TPI or EDA.

Medical Energy Rebate* – $235 per year – You could qualify for this rebate if you, or someone living with you, have an inability to self-regulate body temperature which is often associated with medical conditions such as Parkinson’s disease and Multiple Sclerosis. The electricity account holder in your household must have a DHS or DVA Pensioner Concession Card, DHS Health Care Card or a DVA Gold Card.

Low Income Household Rebate* – $235 per year – If you are the electricity account holder in your household and have a DHS or DVA Pensioner Concession Card, DHS Health Care Card or a DVA Gold Card marked with WW, TPI or EDA, you could qualify for this electricity rebate.

Life Support Rebate* – If you are required, or have someone living with you who is required, to use approved energy-intensive medical equipment at home, you could qualify for this electricity rebate. Information on approved equipment and rebate rates is available from our website.

EAPA* – Energy Accounts Payment Assistance Scheme – helps people experiencing a short term financial crisis or emergency to pay their electricity or natural gas bill. The scheme helps people stay connected to essential energy services during a financial crisis. EAPA is not means tested and you do not need to hold any DHS or DVA concessions cards to access this scheme.

HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION AND WHERE DO I APPLY?
The Department of Industry website has all the information you will need to determine if you are eligible for an energy rebates or emergency assistance. Go to www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/rebates for further information.

If you do not have access to the internet you can call Service NSW on 137 788 and talk to a customer service officer about your circumstances. Service NSW can also post you application forms.

If you have an electricity or natural gas account with an energy retailer you can call them to apply over the phone for the Low Income Household Rebate and NSW Gas Rebate. Your retailer can also provide you with application forms for other rebate programs.

REMEMBER
If you have a DHS (Centrelink) Health Care Card you could qualify for the Low Income Household Rebate and/or NSW Gas Rebate.
KIDS CAN JOIN THE FUN AND LEARN TO PLAY CRICKET

PLAYCRICKET.COM.AU

CRICKET A SPORT FOR ALL

Cricket is a sport for all and there’s more ways than ever for kids to experience the fun of cricket!