In beginning the new year at Melrose High School, we have welcomed all families to a fresh start and both new and returning students to new possibilities. At Melrose High School this year, we are thrilled to welcome new staff. We are most fortunate to have joining us this year; Ms Helen Uren-Randall as SLC Students Engagement, Mr Ben Duggan in SOSE, Ms Bronwyn Palaskas in Technology, Ms Maree Smith in our Special Needs area as well as Ms Alexandra Dashwood in SOSE. We are also pleased to announce that Ms Amy McFarlane has been appointed to her first substantive Teaching position in Mathematics. In our school community we are very fortunate to have such a range of talented teachers already and to add all our new staff is an embarrassment of riches.

Senior Executive would like to thank all our support staff for their work during school holidays on our building and management systems. In particular, we acknowledge and thank Geoff Moore and Alan Davey for their custodianship of the school. We have returned to our school looking a picture.

During the course of semester 1, Year 10 families will be contacted and invited to a transition planning session with the Principal to commence Pathways Plans for all Year 10 students. Parents and Carers will be given guidance on the best ways to support students in choosing their college and the many ways that students can construct a Year 12 Certificate. Please book in as soon as you are able via email to Louise Aspinall on louise.aspinall@ed.act.edu.au.

We have briefed all students on the expectations we have for the coming year:

“We expect you to be active in all your classes and ask lots of questions until you really are sure you get it. I also ask you to allow all your fellow students to do the same. Allow them to learn and ask questions and practice until they too get it. Most of all, I ask you to allow your teachers to teach by following their lead and their directions. In the time you have this year with your teachers, ask two simple questions; what am I good at? and what do I need to improve on? Make sure you are communicating clearly with us and remain calm and positive about the outcome.”

Please join us in assisting your child to grow as an academic, a person and a member of our community in 2015.

“Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor; that the
son of a mineworker can become the head of the mine, that a child of farm workers can become the president of a great nation. It is what we make out of what we have, not what we are given, that separates one person from another.” —Nelson Mandela

We have been trying to alleviate the need for students to bring cash to school by giving you several methods of payment for school events, fees, and lunches.

1. Bank Direct Debit: BSB 032777 Account Number 001658

The most important request we have is that when you are paying through these channels that you put your family name and a short description of the payment, for example Dempsey Fiona Soccer. When using the quickweb method you are requested to enter your family key and the ledger number (which is on the permission note). In 2014 all families were given a card which had their family key on it and this year all student photo ID’s will also have this on their card.

We have many families paying off their school fees per fortnight we are more than happy with this arrangement. Payment plans can also be used for camps and excursions. All you need to do is send an email informing us of a fortnightly/monthly payment.

The invoices for school fees will be sent out at the end of Term 1 for Semester 1 and end of term 3 for Semester 2. The average fee for year 7 & 8 students is $250 and year 9 & 10 is $350 and also included is a $50 Building Trust & $50 Library Trust which is tax deductible. If you were considering paying this you should pay with the Semester 1 payment so you can claim tax benefits this financial year. Once again we are more than happy with payment plans. I am more than happy to assist families with any queries regarding finances my email address is fiona.dempsey@ed.act.edu.au and my direct phone number is 6205-7586.

Simon Vaughan
Principal
simon.vaughan@ed.act.edu.au

Shannon Carnovale
Deputy Principal
shannon.carnovale@ed.act.edu.au

Fiona Dempsey
Business Manager
fiona.dempsey@ed.act.edu.au

Upcoming events

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The Melrose High School Calendar is updated regularly. Visit the MHS Website for the full terms events.
**For your information**

**Sick Bay**
If students are unwell they must go to sickbay, with a note from their teacher. The Front Office Staff will contact parents/carers if needed. The students are NOT to contact parents themselves and then go home. If your child contacts you asking if they can go home sick, ask them to get a note from their teacher to go to sickbay and the Office Staff will then contact you. Thank you in advance for your support.

**Student absences**
If your student is absent, due to illness or leave, or needs to attend an appointment during the day, please either phone the Rolls office on 6205 7603 and leave a message or email the Rolls office at rolloffice@melrosehs.act.edu.au. Please remember to include the student’s full name, roll group and reason for absence (ie. sick, late or on leave) as well as your contact details.

**Online Canteen ordering**
Register now. Go to http://www.flexischools.com.au
Lunches can be ordered online up at 9:30 am on the day they are required.

**Lockers**
Lockers are available to students at a cost of $30 per year. Students wanting to hire a locker will need to provide a lock with a shaft between 6-8mm. A key or combination locks are acceptable. Students need to bring their lock, payment and the spare key or the combination to the finance office before a locker will be allocated. Students can come to the finance office before school or at recess or lunch time.

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**2015 Swimming Carnival**
The 2015 swimming carnival is on Thursday 12 February at the Phillip Swimming Pool. Students must make their own way to and from the pool. Start time: 8:50am. The Swimming Carnival is a normal school day and, consequently, the A.C.T Education and Training Directorate requires an explanation in writing of your child’s absence if they do not attend. All money paid by students goes to the outside provider for the pool hire. No money is retained by the school. The amount of $5.00 needs to be paid to the pool management at the front gate.

We strongly advise that students bring adequate sun protection including hat, sunscreen and appropriate clothing. A canteen will be in operation, however, it would also be a good idea for students to supply their own lunch, drink bottle and snacks, as they will not be permitted to leave the venue during the day and the queue for food is often very long.

The emphasis of these days is on participation for all and enjoying a day with friends. Students are welcome to participate in any or all events however permission notes MUST be returned to school prior to the event (extra copies available on the Website).

We urge all students to come along in their House colours for a fun day at the pool and let’s continue the fine sporting tradition at Melrose High School! Parents are also most welcome to attend. If you require further information please don’t hesitate to contact the school.
Year 7 Welcome Night

Year 7 Parents and Carers

You are invited to attend
YEAR 7 WELCOME NIGHT

During the evening your child's teachers will be available for you to meet. The evening starts with a short welcome address by the Principal in the library and then you will follow your child's timetable visiting each classroom and meeting their teachers.

Each lesson lasts fifteen minutes.

The evening will give you an overview of the subjects your child is studying this semester and you will have the opportunity to ask questions in the classes.

Please make sure you place the following date and time in your diaries. A letter will be sent home via Year 7 roll groups.

WEDNESDAY 18 February 2015
COMMENCING at 5.00PM IN THE LIBRARY

School Photos

School photo are on Tuesday, 10 February 2015

*All students will receive an envelope with their details on it in roll group on Wednesday 4th of February, anyone who didn't receive an envelope can collect a blank one from the Front Office.

*Please return all payments in the envelope directly to the Photographer on the day, DO NOT RETURN TO THE FINANCE OFFICE

*Envelopes for Family Photos are available from the Front Office

Music Lessons 2015

In-school music lessons are now available at Melrose High school.

Piano and Guitar.
Other instruments available on request!

For more info or to enrol please call Canberra Music Tuition on 6299 9154 or jmtadmin@iinet.net.au

Teacher Liaison: Nathan Sciberras
**English News**

A big focus for English this term is looking at the audience and purpose of texts. You can support students with this at home by having conversations around how language and features change depending on the audience and purpose of a text. For example, discuss how language features change when your child is talking to their grandmother as compared to talking to their best friend – based on the audience, we change the way we use language. Knowing your audience is an important step in knowing what language features we should use.

Another major factor is the purpose of a text. The three main purposes of texts are:

- To persuade e.g. reviews, requests, essays, opinion columns, advertisements.
- To entertain e.g. novels, TV shows, movies, cartoons.
- To inform e.g. news articles, maps, reports, text books.

What other texts fit into these three categories?

**Literacy Puzzle:**
Unscramble the tiles to reveal a quote from Nelson Mandela:

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M O S W O R L T P O W E R F N I S O O L
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T H E N G E H Y O N U S C H A E T O
A T I O
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**Melrose Writer’s Workshop**

We have started a new online group for Melrose students who enjoy creative writing. This is a safe online space where students can share their own work and give each other feedback. There will be regular activities and competitions on the site for everyone to be involved in.

All students (and staff) are welcome to join the Google Classroom group.
To join, use the class code: iytput

Ask at the English staffroom if you need help joining.

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**Indigenous Family Lunch**

We will be having a community luncheon for all family members of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders students, to welcome the new mob to our school. Come along, see the room and meet the staff, lunch is provided.

When: Wednesday 25 February 2015
Time: 1.30 pm
Where: Indigenous Studies Centre, Melrose High School
Who: Everyone welcome
Message to families of high-school and college students from the National Disability Insurance Agency

Dear Families

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) has started working with ACT residents who may be eligible to access the NDIS. The schedule for when people start working with the NDIS is referred to as ‘phasing’.

The current phase, January-March, is for students in years 7-12. From March, the NDIA will be focusing on primary school age children.

In order to meet with the NDIA to see how we may help you and your child, you must submit an NDIS Access Request Form.

In November and December 2014, the NDIA phoned the families of every child in years 7-12 accessing a Disability Education program then posted or emailed the forms to each of those families. So far, we have not had all the forms returned.

If you have an NDIS Access Request Form, please complete this paperwork and return it to the NDIA as quickly as possible so you can meet with us before the end of the phasing period. If you need help to complete the forms or have any questions about the NDIS, please ring the ACT office on 6146 8200.

The NDIA is also running pre-planning workshops – a schedule is on the NDIS website http://www.ndis.gov.au/news/events.

More information on the NDIS can be found on the NDIS website www.ndis.gov.au

Engagement Team - ACT Trial Site
National Disability Insurance Agency

School Board

If you are keen to contribute to the governance of Melrose High School, then the School Board needs you. The 2015 School Board will have vacancies for 2 Parent representatives. Each of these positions will be for a term of 2 years. Nominations will open 11 am, Monday 2 February 2015 and will close 11 am, Monday 16 February 2015. Official nomination forms will be emailed to families when they become available. For more information please contact the Assistant Returning Officer, Ruth Mahon on 6205 7592 or by emailing ruth.mahon@ed.act.edu.au
Community Notices

SCOUTS = Adventure + Life Skills
Scouting is for boys and girls aged 6-25. Scouts participate in programs that encourage them to grow through adventure by experiencing new challenges, making new friends, building confidence, taking responsibility for themselves, and being provided with opportunities to explore their own abilities and interests. Come and try Scouts today and take advantage of our 3 week FREE trial. Visit scoutsact.com.au to find your closest Scout Group or call 1800 SCOUTS

Rugby Union
U14’s Vikings Rugby Union is looking for new players.
No experience needed.
We’re a proven finals appearing squad that can teach anyone, any shape, any background – if you have the heart, we’ll teach you the art.

This is the perfect time to join as our pre-season training has just begun.

If you are born in 2001 and interested in playing Rugby please contact Sherree on 0408647750

Bullants Netball Club
Recruiting now for the 2015 Season. Ages 7-70. No skill necessary.

Games are played on Saturdays at the South Canberra Netball Association, Makin Pl Deakin
Training - Wednesday evenings.

For more information visit http://bullantsnetball.wordpress.com
email: bullantsnetball@gmail.com
we go to Girls’ Brigade

we... sing songs, go on camps, learn to dance, paint pictures, play games, try new things, help those in need, explore the Bible and experience GOD’S LOVE!

If your between 5-18 COME JOIN US! Contact Marian for more information 0415 141 869 or info@gbact.org.au

girlsbrigadearustralia.org.au

It’s YES time!

Do you have a great voice?
Do you want to show-off your talent globally?
Do you want to be part of an awesome musical experience?

If YES then Woden Valley Youth Choir needs you!

Join over 100 singers in three choirs as they perform at some of Canberra’s premier events, including Carols by Candlelight, The Canberra International Music Festival and Symphony In The Park.

Rug about the opportunity to sing locally and overseas with well known professional musicians and alongside choirs from around the globe.

Sing from a repertoire that includes Contemporary, Broadway, Folk, Classical and Sacred. There’s sure to be songs you’ll love to sing!

Develop your musical skills and enjoy friendships to last a lifetime if you are 8-21 come and join the Woden Valley Youth Choir NOW!

Woden Valley Youth Choir

If you’re aged between 5 to 14 years old and want to play footy in 2015 then...

In 2015 the Tuggeranong Lions continue our ongoing commitment to provide the boys and girls of Tuggeranong and surrounding areas with a family oriented, friendly, and fun Aussie Rules footy environment.

If you’re looking for a great experience this winter, meeting new friends and learning new skills then visit our website.

For information on the 2015 season including registration, training times and fees visit our website or contact us.

web: www.tuggeranonglions.jfc.asflnswact.com.au
email: tuggeranonglionspresident@gmail.com
mob: 0437 470 582 (Stan)

http://www.melrosehs.act.edu.au Marr St, Pearce ACT 2607 P: 6205 7588
## Term 1 Assessment planner

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