



ACT
Government
Education

Melrose High School Newsletter



"A community of learners building on a tradition of excellence"

Issue 12: 26 September 2017

LEADERSHIP TEAM NEWS

Term Three has been an incredibly busy time for the school and we would like to thank all staff and students for all their effort this term.

Australian Business Week has once again been a raging success. This year local businesses participated in Shark Tank style presentations where students pitched their business ideas. Thanks Rachel McGann for her leadership and to the volunteers, mentors and the teachers who make the whole week such a success.

The Japan Trip is under way and the photos coming back via Facebook are making us all jealous. To all the staff and especially Kerryn Leiper, a huge thanks for making this opportunity possible for our students. To the parents, enjoy the quiet and thank you also for all your support.

Peer Support Leaders for 2018 have been trained and thanks go to the Peer Support team ably led by a number of teachers. Our Peer Support leaders are integral to the transition of Year 6 students and provide excellent support for new students. Thank you also, Year 9.

Farewell

We have been very lucky this year to have two Language Assistants, Zoe in Chinese and Mita in Indonesian. Zoe and Mita are invaluable to our language program, not only do they support both students and staff but they are able to provide authentic learning experiences as they are native speakers and have lived in these countries. Thanks you Zoe and Mita for enriching the language learning at MHS. Whilst Zoe is returning home, Mita is staying on in Canberra to attend university and we are hoping to connect with her in Term Four, 2017.

We also farewell Kris McCreath who has been our Business Manager for Term Three, 2017. Kris

has brought a wealth of experience with him and passion for positive educational outcomes well beyond his years. His commitment to ensuring the staff and students are supported and resourced is commendable. Nothing was too hard or too much and whilst we are looking forward to the security of a permanent Business Manager in Term Four, we will miss Kris and his enthusiasm greatly.

Review of school RESPECT values

As part of our Melrose High School's 2014-2017 Strategic Plan we are undergoing the review of school policies, procedures and the School's RESPECT values. We recently emailed you a link to a Google survey to seek community feedback on what you believe is essential for a future focused education and student management framework. We thank you for the feedback we have received from our community. We have also received some questions regarding the purpose of the review, which we would like to address now.

The current school values were established in 2008 through student, staff and community consultation. The [MHS Prospectus](#) defines the school values as: "The school values underpin the interactions between all members of our school community. Melrose High School aims to produce students with a deep understanding of how these values relate to all aspects of their school life and their future. The acronym RESPECT is used and it represents respect for; resources, effort, self, peers, environment, community and teachers".

In 2013 the school staff and School Board identified that the RESPECT values needed to be reviewed to ensure it reflected our current community, 21st Century learning and to ensure it prepared our students for life after high school as a global digital citizen. This decision is supported through educational researchers such as Professor Guy Claxton who tells

us that 21st Century Learners need to be: "...problem solvers, innovators, think in creative ways, know what to do when they don't know what to do, love learning and recognise it as a lifelong endeavour, function confidently and effectively with uncertainty, and, collaborate and communicate with intelligence and sensitivity...". (Claxton, 2013). It is further supported by others including, Alvin Toffler, who was among other things, a futurist, he stated that: "The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn" (Toffler, 2009).

As outlined in previous email communication we have undergone a consultation with staff, students and Student Representative Council and initial feedback has suggested that a three tiered approach for the school values with the following is recommended:

- A Mission Statement
- Signature Behaviours for students, staff and community
- Info-graphic that provides a visual representation of our core values.

Before we present drafts of these we are seeking feedback from our community. Parent/carers are encouraged to give feedback by completing the Google survey here: <https://goo.gl/forms/eMZJi0AZXHPI0ZeO2>. The survey will open until Friday 13 October 2017.

The future of education

Thank you to all the families who contributed feedback at Parent/Teacher Night on the future of Education in ACT. We have collected this and forwarded through to the ACT Education Directorate. If you missed out, it's not too late, there are many ways to contribute to this important conversation.

- Email: futureofeducation@act.gov.au
- Phone: (02) 620 54124
- Your Say: <https://www.yoursay.act.gov.au/>
- #EducationforthenextGeneration
- Facebook: @ACTpublicschools
- Twitter: @ACTEducation
- Instagram: @ACTpublicschools

Strengthening school/home communication

We have been focusing on strengthening our communication with parent/carers this year and families should have received emails from each classroom teacher at the beginning of each term. The email should provide a brief overview of what will be happening in class and a brief outline of the term's assessment schedule. We are keen to get some feedback on how this is going.

To support this, we are also looking at strengthening our communication using social media tools. The school has had a Facebook page since 2012 and you can connect with us here: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/MelroseHSCanberra>. This year we also created a Twitter account and you can follow us here: <https://twitter.com/MelroseHigh> (@MelroseHigh). We have some received feedback regarding the school establishing an Instagram account. We are interested in hearing back from our community about the effectiveness of our use of social media to communicate and whether Instagram or other tools would be useful to our families.

Please email feedback to the Senior Executive Team at:

- Simon.Vaughan@ed.act.edu.au
- Shannon.carnovale@ed.act.edu.au



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



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

New Phone numbers

The telephone system at Melrose High School has been updated and as such so have the phone numbers.

Our new numbers are:

Front Office - (02) 6142 0700
Rolls Office - (02) 6142 0703

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Calendar Updates

The most recent version of the Melrose Calendar can be found on the Website at http://www.melrosehs.act.edu.au/our_community/calendar

Contact details

The school relies on having the most up to date contact details for families to ensure we are able to communicate efficiently with you regarding the wellbeing of your child. If you have made any changes to your address, phone numbers and email address in recent months please contact the Front Office on 6142 0700 or email frontoffice@melrosehs.act.edu.au

Sick Bay

If students are unwell they must go to Sick Bay, 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 Sick bay and the Front 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 61420703 and leave a message or email the Rolls Office at rollsoffice@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 the first half of lunch time.

FINANCE - Direct deposits

Direct Deposit payments can be made to the following account:

Bank: Westpac

BSB: 032-777

Account Number: 001658

Account name: Melrose High School Management Account

Online Payments facility

Families now have the option of using the Online Payments facility, provided to the school by Westpac Bank, to make secure credit card payments for voluntary contributions, school excursions and events and other activities. Each family will have received information and a card via the post, with student and family key details on it. Please keep this information handy as you will need it each time you access the payments facility. The link to access the payments facility is <http://www.melrosehs.act.edu.au/payment>
Payments may still be paid by direct deposit (see information above), or in person at the Finance Office.

STUDENT SERVICES NEWS

With the introduction of the new merit system students at Melrose are striving to achieve. We have had a number of students who have already received major awards for their efforts.

Students receive special awards as they achieve each level

- 10 - Year Coordinator Award
- 15 - House Head Award
- 30 - Students Services Award
- 40 - Deputy Principal Award
- 50 - Principal Award

Special programs

Over the past term Melrose staff and students have been involved in a number of special programs to support students and to educate them on various issues.

Programs include:

- Equine therapy
- Choppers program
- Friendship groups
- Lunchtime activities
- Menslink presentations
- Wellbeing lessons focussing on cyber safety, making new friends, respect and anti-bullying
- Year group activities for Years 7, 8 and 9.

Peer support

All year 9 students have participated in a Peer Support Program. This program helps students to develop their skills in leadership, and encourages students to work with others.

Wear it purple day

Staff showed their support for Wear it purple day. And students were encouraged to send a message of support for students. This day is about inclusivity.

School grounds

Students have also been keeping the grounds clean and we have had regular volunteers that have been collecting rubbish and cleaning up the area out the front of the school. This shows school pride.



MHS NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2017 – ACE SCIENCE AND MSATT

As described in an earlier Newsletter, ACE Science has hit a new record in the number of Science Mentors partnerships this year, now with a total of 29 partnerships with students across seven schools and colleges. Science Mentors students undertake a six month long research project in a field of their choice. Guiding them along the way is a team of practicing scientists and engineers who share their knowledge and experience with the students.



Estee Tee, who is studying for her doctorate in plant sciences at ANU, is tutoring Year 9 student Sarah Robinson. This is likely to be an increasing trend as ACE Science graduates rise through the tertiary science ranks. Already we have had past students as presenters, including Cameron Nelson (engineering), Helen Nilsson (engineering), Brittany Dahl (spatial sciences). What could be a better endorsement of our school than the

fact that, not only have these students achieved great academic heights, but they remember their roots and

fact that, not only have these students achieved great academic heights, but they remember their roots and

come back to inspire the next generation.

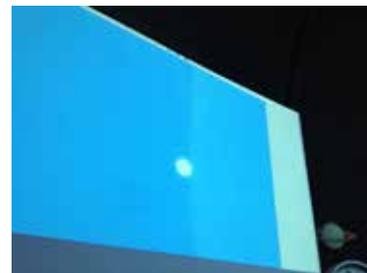


Students are now writing up their reports – fully referenced and refereed papers on their findings that rival the work done by honours year university

students. This is an arduous task that any scientist will tell you is the most difficult part of science. Nonetheless, the reports never fail to be an improvement on the quality (and length) of the previous year. In our tenth year, we can look back on the original Science Mentors reports of a few A4 pages stapled at the corner, to the current first drafts of 5000 words (the longest so far is over 8000 words).

On a lighter note, a dozen people witnessed a rare event at MSATT recently. The Moon routinely passes in front of other, more distant, astronomical objects, usually stars. But on 18th September the Moon covered, or occulted, the planet Venus. A mix of Melrose high students, work experience students to Mount Stromlo Observatory, PhD students and parents watched the event unfold. MSATT, the teaching telescope at Mount Stromlo Observatory, projected an

image of the spectacle on a screen inside the dome for all to see in real time. Although no more scientifically valuable than a sunset, the fact remains what more motivation do you need to watch such celestial spectacles?



MSATT now has a web presence thanks to parent Amanda Magnussen. Now students and parents can keep in touch with news, events, and scheduled student sessions. Thanks Amanda!

<https://msatt.teamapp.com/>

Just a reminder that MSATT is available to all Year 9 to 12 students in the ACT region. Email me for an information sheet and student guide.

Geoff McNamara
ACE Science
MSATT
geoffrey.mcnamara@ed.act.edu.au
Phone/text: 0449 966 200

		Melrose High School https://www.facebook.com/MelroseHSCanberra
		Melrose School Library https://www.facebook.com/MelroseHSLibrary
		Melrose Magazine https://www.facebook.com/Melrosemagazine
Connect with us and keep up to date with what is happening around the school		

ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY FACULTY NEWS

MUSIC

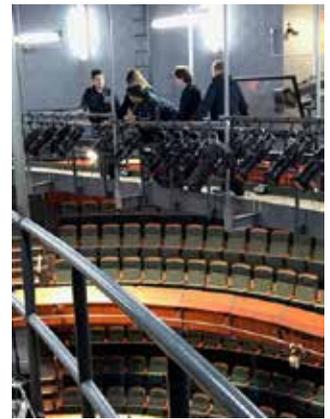
Students in music classes and in the school concert band have been involved in a number of activities over the term. These have included performances at assembly, showcasing composition work at the 21st Century Learning Expo, participating in the ACT School Band Festival, and hosting a combined band workshop with Farrer Primary School. There are still more exciting things to come in term 4, with some of the key events including:

- 12th October - School Band performance at Floriade
- 2nd November – “Hand on Day”; Year 6 students come and try out band instruments
- 15th & 16th November – Arts Fest; Music, Dance & Drama showcases
- 13th December – Year 10 Graduation Ceremony, featuring performances from the band and Year 10 music students



BACKSTAGE CREW

Students from the backstage crew, along with the year 10 ACE Drama students, went on an excursion to the Canberra Theatre Centre. Here, they were given an ‘access all areas’ tour of the Playhouse facilities. They then split into two groups, the drama students getting to have an extended and focussed rehearsal on the stage while getting assistance and feedback from an industry professional. The backstage students had an in-depth look at all the different areas of backstage production including the lighting box, audio console, spotlights, catwalks and flytower.



MELROSE HIGH SCHOOL YEAR 9 PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM

During the last 3 days of week 10 our Year 9's participated in the Melrose High School Peer Support Program which worked on developing their communication, and leadership skills. The students were involved in challenges that required team work and cooperation. From this program students will be able to apply to be Peer Support Leaders for 2018 school year. A big thank you to all the students and teachers involved.



CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK



We celebrated Book Week this term! Many students (and staff) dressed up during our assembly to celebrate their favourite books and characters. The winners of the dress up competition were Jaden Ogwayo-Davey (year 7), Joseph O'Rourke (year 10) and Ben Duggan (staff). A crowd favourite was Mr Neil Craven who dressed up as the Hulk in a costume made entirely of balloons!

We also ran a school book challenge in which students had to solve a series of cryptic and book-based questions. Many students actively participated in this and the winner of this was also Jaden Ogwayo-Davey.



MELROSE 7/8 AND 9/10 BOYS SOCCER TEAMS WIN SOUTHSIDE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Both Melrose Year 7/8 and 9/10 won the Southside Soccer Championships held at Mawson ovals during the past few weeks. The teams progressed to the ACT Finals where the Year 7/8 team lost in the semi-finals and the Year 9/10 team did not progress out of the round robin. Well done to both teams on their team spirit and sportsmanship on the day.



2018 TAIWAN TRIP

Melrose High School's Language Faculty is planning a trip to Taiwan for Chinese language students for two weeks, from 7 April to 22 April, 2018. This trip could be an experience of a life time for your child. Students will have the opportunity to interact with Taiwanese culture whilst using their language skills in real life situations, such as undertaking a homestay.

On Thursday 12 October 2017, there will be an Information Evening starting at 5:30pm in the school library. Information will be given about costs, travel, itinerary, behavioural expectations of students, fundraising and risks.

Please indicate interest in your child participating in the proposed overseas excursion by completing the form linked here from our [WEBSITE \[Link\]](#) and returning it to Ms Yuan Ma (the Chinese teacher) by Wednesday 11 October, 2017.

Thank you very much.

Yuan Ma

NEW Transport Canberra Bus Network starts Saturday 7 October

Plan your travel before the school holidays!

Timetables and maps are
available on the TC website.

transport.act.gov.au



HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

School Assembly



Melrose High School
11.30am-1.30pm, Thursday 12 October

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

11:30-1:30 pm Thursday 12 October 2017

If you do not wish your child to participate in this assembly please contact:

Sonja.marmont@ed.act.edu.au

The following service providers will be in attendance at the presentation:

- Canberra Rape Crisis service
- Legal Aid
- Woden Community Centre
- Barnardo's
- Men's Link
- Richmond Fellowship
- Catholic Care
- Gugang Gulwan
- Victims of Crime



Presented by the Canberra PCYC, the Healthy Relationships school assembly will raise awareness about respectful relationships and taking a stand against violence.

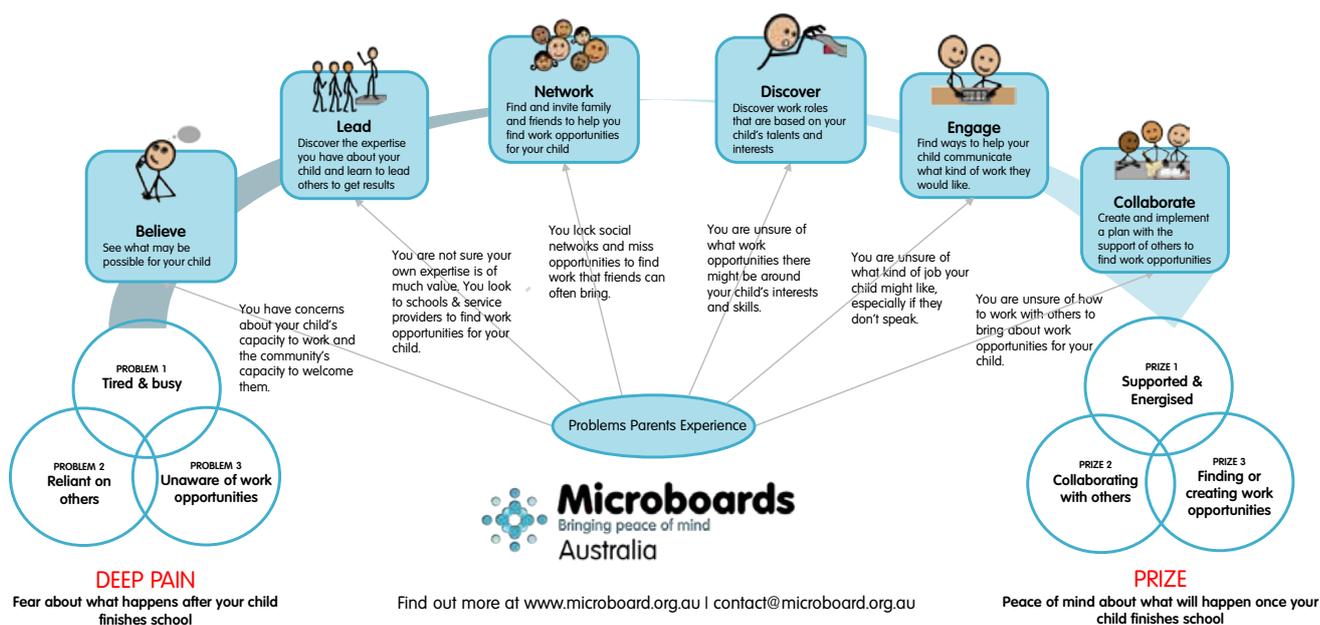
Speakers include Anjela Barker (Young Australian of the Year 2011 (VIC)), who was brutally assaulted by her boyfriend when she was 16. Anjela is committed to sharing her story and promoting safe relationships. Other speakers include representatives from police, government and community services.

Proudly supported by:



From School to Work

A 6 Week Coaching Program for Parents of Students in Years 9-12 with Intellectual Disability
Delivered via a mix of face to face workshops, online learning and individual coaching



From School to Work: A Mentoring Program for Parents of Students with Intellectual Disability

Are you worried about what your child with an intellectual disability might do for work when they finish school?

This 6 week program runs every Wednesday evening from 7-9 pm, starting Wednesday October 4 and finishing on November 11. The venue is yet to be finalised.

The program is open to parents of students in Years 9 – 12 at school. Students are also welcome to attend.

Places are limited and we want to make sure we are a good fit for you and you for us so you need to apply to participate.

The fee is \$500 per family and can be paid using NDIS funds.

The program will support you to:

- See what may be possible for your child
- Discover the expertise you have about your child and learn to lead others to get results
- Find and invite family and friends to help you find work opportunities for your child
- Discover work roles that are based on your child's talents and interests
- Find ways to help your child communicate what kind of work they might like
- Create, implement and revise a plan with the support of others to find work opportunities

You will be part of a supportive group of parents who will keep you accountable.

The program is delivered via a mix of face to face sessions (every Wednesday night for 6 weeks) online learning and individual mentoring.

Facilitated by Sheree Henley

Sheree is a Director of Microboards Australia and is based in Canberra. She is the mother of a young man with a complex disability. She worked with her son's school, friends and family to help create a work role for her son as a delivery man



Being a parent is the hardest job we'll ever have. All parents at some time experience difficulties and stress.

Parentline ACT

is a confidential and free telephone and face-to-face counselling and information service.

Phone Parentline if you would you like:

- To talk with someone about those parenting issues.
- Help with some ideas on raising children.
- Support in the important job you are doing.
- To know what is available for parents, teenagers and children.
- To build better relationships in your family.
- Help to understand your child or teenager's behaviour.
- Make an appointment for a counselling session.

Parentline ACT.

Monday to Friday (except on public holidays), 9am to 5pm.

Phone: 6287 3833