



ACT
Government
Education

Melrose High School Newsletter



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

Issue 2: 1 March 2019

FROM THE SENIOR EXECUTIVE

It is our great pleasure to welcome and welcome back our families to the 2019 school year. We have a lot to be thankful for here at the school and would like to acknowledge or highlight some people. Many of our families will know that Chris Taylor our school receptionist is leaving us for 12 months to pursue an incredible opportunity with HIA. Also we would like to acknowledge the career of Debbie Whitton and wish her well in her retirement late last year and the search is underway for our new Business and Facility Manager.



Melrose Teacher Renee Phillips (pictured left) was a Keynote speaker in the Cultural Immersion Professional Learning that was delivered to all faculty heads from all schools in the ACT over the last few days. Thank you Renee.

Congratulations also to Rebecca Battaglini (pictured right) who has been awarded the Fiona Arthur Language Teaching Award from the Modern Languages Teachers Association. A well-earned acknowledgement for Rebecca.



Melrose High School has once again been a popular choice for families to enrol their students which has seen very healthy enrolment numbers.

This has necessitated some timetabling adjustments for students in particular and we would like to thank everyone for their patience whilst we sort out classes. We have also offered a range of new electives which are full and already producing excellent outcomes for the students in them. As we settle into assessment periods, please remember to be proactive with your child around their learning. Questions like, "what was something you really enjoyed learning today?" go a long way. Be persistent.

We commenced this year as we do each year, by asking the student cohort to consider being innovative but sticking to some basic community principle and our core respect values:

Be punctual; smile; say thank you; wear your uniform with pride and be the best you can be, try things that are new and challenge you, this will make you grow.

Work hard; play nicely; be kind to others; choose to see the best in the world and choose to speak kindly of others ... be good to family because they want the best for you and because they pack your lunch and provide a home for you.

Be honest; be honourable; make mistakes; learn from your mistakes ...and make a difference!

This year to date we have had a very successful swimming carnival, and we are grateful to Sonja Marmont and her leadership of this event and all the teachers who made it a good day for students. The Year 7 cohort, ably assisted by our Year 10 leaders and staff, head off on camp on Monday morning. There has been much excitement as they make the final preparations.

To help maintain a safe school environment, students, parents and carers can report incidents and issues that are of concern, directly to our Student Services email address: URSafe@melrosehs.act.edu.au

Using this email address allows us to track incidents and follow up on issues that are occurring around the

school. You can also send screenshots of social media issues or pictures as evidence.

Melrose now has a School Youth Health Nurse (Jess) available Thursdays and Fridays for students to access. The School Youth Health Nurse can provide students with a confidential environment to discuss health concerns and provide for support for:

- Mental health
- Personal or family issues
- Smoking, alcohol and other drugs
- Sleep healthy eating and physical activity
- Sexual health and relationships
- Adolescent development.

Students can come and see Jess in Room 204 at any time on a Thursday or Friday. If the door is closed or they would like to make a time to see Jess, they can let one of their teachers know and they will send an email on their behalf.

Our thanks to the whole school community for a great start to a busy year.



Simon Vaughan
Principal

simon.vaughan@ed.act.edu.au



Shannon Carnovale
Deputy Principal

shannon.carnovale@ed.act.edu.au



Ryan Kay
Deputy Principal

ryan.kay@ed.act.edu.au

CHROMEBOOKS AND PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES REMINDER

All Year 7 and new students who have opted into the Education Directorate's Chromebook initiative have now received their devices. This means that every Melrose High School student should now have their own device to bring to school every day. Devices are used in every class, and it is imperative that students ensure they have a fully charged device each day so that they can access material created by their teachers, view online textbooks and engage with digital platforms such as Mathspace and Language Perfect. Students who elected not to receive a Chromebook are required to bring their own personal electronic device to school each day.

If you have any questions regarding Chromebooks, personal electronic devices or would like to opt in to the Chromebook initiative please contact Ms. McAuley via aine.mcauley@ed.act.edu.au

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

We have eight (8) parent candidates for two (2) Parent and Citizen positions on the MHS School Board Voting opened at 11 am Monday 25 February 2019 and will close at 11 am Monday 4 March 2019. Official voting slips can be picked up from the Front Office. All voting must be done on the official voting slip, there is no capacity for email or proxy voting. All votes must be returned to the Locked Box in the Front Office by 11 am Monday 4 March 2019. Each parent/carer of a student at Melrose is entitled to vote.

If you have any questions regarding this process please do not hesitate to email Ruth Mahon (Assistant Returning Officer, Melrose High School Board) on ruth.mahon@ed.act.edu.au

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Calendar Updates

The most recent version of the Melrose Calendar can be found on the Website
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. 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.



Melrose High School
<https://www.facebook.com/MelroseHSCanberra>



Melrose School Library
<https://www.facebook.com/MelroseHSLibrary>

Connect with us and keep up to date with what is happening around the school

SAFE PARKING AROUND SCHOOLS

Parking Operations use a Licence Plate Recognition vehicle (or electronic chalking), which regularly patrols school environments to increase safety for children. Motorists that commit an offence will receive their infringement notice in the mail (rather than on their windscreen) 5-7 days after the offence.

While the school can become congested during the peak times, illegal parking should be avoided at all times as it creates an unsafe environment for children and local residents. Parents are welcome to park on side streets around the school, but please remember to park legally. Infringements for parking on nature strips, footpaths, verges, street corners and near children's crossings start from \$114.

More information is available on the Transport Canberra website to promote safe behaviours around schools. Please help to make our school community safe.

Car park #1 near the front entrance of the school is for staff and short term visitors. Please do not drop off or pick up students from this car park. Car park #2 is down near the Hall and has a drop off and pick up zone. If your child is not already waiting for you in this zone please do not park in this area but move to a designated car parking spot. This will keep the traffic flowing up on Marr St.



ASSESSMENT POLICY EXPLAINED FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Melrose High School has recently reviewed their whole school assessment processes and brought them further in line with Australian Curriculum expectations. The main change is that grades are not dependant on a numerical value, rather, grades are based on student achievement against the Australian Curriculum Achievement Standards.

On Balance Assessment:

Students' grades are awarded through on-balance teacher judgement referencing all learning outcomes. This judgement is based on a range of up-to-date evidence with multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate their learning and improvement.

Submission of work: Students who do not submit or complete assessment pieces may not be able to display their true ability against the achievement standards, therefore it is important that students complete all set work to the best of their abilities.

Late work: Students are expected to submit work according to set timeframes and teachers are not obliged to accept late work outside of the assessment period related to the piece of work. If students are unable to meet set timeframes they are encouraged to negotiate extensions to the timeframe with their teachers.

Plagiarism: Students are expected to submit their own original work. Teachers will not consider work submitted which is shown to be not created by the student or heavily influenced by a parent or tutor.

LANGUAGE FACULTY UPDATE

The Language faculty at Melrose High school consists of teachers of English, English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EAL/D), Japanese, Indonesian and Chinese. We have had a fantastic beginning to the year and have been very impressed with the efforts and participation of students so far.

Reog Performance:



The Indonesian Embassy recently arranged for a professional Indonesian dance troop to attend Melrose High School for a performance. The students were truly stunned by the amazing dancing and the lead dancer who performed with a 2 metre tall, 30-40kg mask held in his teeth! After the performance, he even invited a few students



to sit on the top of the mask and held them up in the air! The students were very inspired by the performance and we would like to thank the Indonesian Embassy for providing this opportunity, Ibu Battaglini for arranging the performance for the school and Mr Sciberras for tech support.

Daruma Making:

Ms Leiper's Japanese students began the year by making traditional daruma dolls. Daruma dolls are a tradition steeped with symbolism in Japan. Students discussed the story of resilience behind the dolls as they paper-mâché and painted their dolls. Year 7 student, Madeline said "it was fun to make it and learn about the culture and how it is used".



Cooking:

Many of the Year 9&10 language classes have already tried out some traditional cooking with the Indonesian class making Mei Goreng and the Chinese class cooking pork buns, pork dumplings and Tangwuan (sticky rice balls) to celebrate the "Year of the pig".

Language Perfect Reminder:

All Chinese, Japanese and Indonesian language students should have returned their note and payment for Language Perfect (an online program to support students with their language learning and revision). If you have not done so yet, please finalise this payment of \$20. Ask your language teacher for the note if needed.

Homestay:

Thank you to the families who have offered to homestay a student from our Japanese sister-school, we look forward to an exciting exchange with Makubetsu later this term. There will be an opportunity for students to host students from Taiwan and from Indonesia later in the year, Language teachers will be sending out more information about this soon.

Creative Writing Competitions:

Students are encouraged to enter some of the free creative writing competitions available. Check out the Write What Matters competition (<https://www.whitlam.org/what-matters>) and the Write4 Fun competition (<https://www.write4fun.net/>). Ask your English teacher if you would like some more information or help with your writing.

Year 7 English Students:

Please supply a display folder for your child's English portfolio. Students need to give this to their English teacher to keep in the classroom.

Silent Reading:

Many students begin their English class with silent reading. Please ask your child if they need to bring along a silent reading book and check with your English teacher if needed. Reading at home is also strongly encouraged as it has been proven to be the most beneficial way to support a student's academic achievement.

EAL/D (English as an Additional Language and/or Dialect):

Melrose offers dedicated classes in lieu of English classes for students who need additional support in English language learning (for students for whom English is not their first language). If you feel your child needs extra support in this area, please contact Jenni Holder via email: jennifer.holder@ed.act.edu.au

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MATHS TEACHERS

Keso Adhar is joining us from Telopea Park School, Abhinay Chand is joining us from Kingsford Smith School and Ravineel Nath is joining us from Trinity Catholic College in Goulburn. Together they bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to our faculty.



Keso Adhar



Abhinay Chand



Ravineel Nath

UNSW CANBERRA

BEST FEMALE IN MATHEMATICS

This award is presented to the highest achieving female Mathematics students in Year 8 and 9. The Mathematics Faculty are delighted to announce that this year the winners are Jasmin Robinson and Rosette Wanis. The runners up are Safa Fahiz, Ritika Lata, Rochelle Yip and Jasmine Misner. Congratulations ladies!



NARRABUNDAH COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE INFORMATION EVENING

An information night will be held at Narrabundah college for Year 10 students on 19 March at 6 pm in the Hawk Theatre. If you are interested in finding out more about the International Baccalaureate Program and how to enrol at Narrabundah College to complete the program, this evening would be a good opportunity for you and your child to meet with teachers at Narrabundah and ask questions.

MELROSE STYLE GUIDE

Need some help with starting a task? Melrose has a style guide available with hints and tips on how to write the many text types you need to produce in high school, just click on the link below from a student account. Teachers are consistently updating and improving the guide to support students to achieve their best. It includes ideas on how to write essays, science reports, journals, TEEEC paragraphs and so much more.

Melrose Style Guide: <https://sites.google.com/schoolsnet.act.edu.au/mlrhstyleguide/home>

WELCOME TO 2019 FROM THE ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY TEAM

It has been a great start to the semester with all classes underway. All teachers have sent welcome emails home to families and have shared what's happening in the classes this term. The Art/Tech team had a great time meeting and engaging with Year 7 parents at the Meet the Teacher evening.

We are preparing for an engaging and interesting semester with lots of deep learning and collaboration in all classes. We look forward to a productive semester with all students.

If you have any questions please get in contact directly with your child's teacher by email, or phone.

Photography Elective

Only four weeks into the Photography elective and already there has been some outstanding work submitted. Students have been learning about camera functions and exposure. We popped water balloons to demonstrate how a fast shutter speed can freeze motion and draped fairy lights behind objects to see the 'Bokeh' effect created by a small aperture. Below are a few examples of these activities.



MELROSE HIGH SPORTING OPPORTUNITIES TERM 1 2019

Please keep your eyes peeled and your ears open during Roll Group and on the PE notice board located outside the PE staffroom! This is where you will find signup sheets and announcements on how to represent Melrose High in the sporting arena. Most days are now held as a one-day gala day event!

Week 6

March 13 - Buroinjin gala day held at Deakin playing fields

Week 7

March 21 - Girls Basketball gala day held at Tuggeranong Basketball Stadium

Week 8

March 28 - Boys Basketball gala day held at Tuggeranong Basketball Stadium

Week 9

April 5 - Boys and Girls Touch Football gala day held at Deakin playing fields

Week 10

April 10 - Southside Swimming Carnival held at AIS

April 10 - Girls League Tag gala day held at Southwell Park Lyneham

If you have any questions about any of the sports listed above, please speak to your PE teacher!

CULTURAL INTEGRITY AND INDIGENOUS STUDIES CENTRE UPDATE

The past 12 months have been an exciting growing period for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education with the Directorate making a commitment to Cultural Integrity in ACT schools. Due to this, the role of the Indigenous Education Officer now involves more time supporting the school community with how to best acknowledge, respect and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and significant events. This means there will be more lessons involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives, a bigger emphasis on celebrating our culture and building the school's capabilities in these areas. Through this we hope to build a stronger school community.

In addition to the changes regarding Cultural Integrity, the school has committed to improving our Indigenous Studies Centre (to be renamed). The space (pictured) has become a more modern, functional space where all Melrose students can learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, relax in a safe environment, access programs and have community meetings. We know this space has been very important to past and present students which is why we want to make it a space everyone can be proud of. This term an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies elective utilising the 8 Ways of Learning model has started being run from



the ISC. The class mapping process can be seen in the picture below. The 8 Aboriginal Ways of Learning is a pedagogy framework that allows teachers to include Aboriginal perspectives by using Aboriginal learning techniques. As well as this, classes can elect to use the space to add better context when learning about Aboriginal culture and perspectives.

We look forward to building upon what we have already started and, to assist with this, we welcome any resources, ideas and suggestions from the community.



Dan McDougall and Anna Russell

FROM THE HASS FACULTY

HaSS – Money Smart Excursion

During Week 4 Year 7 students in HaSS participated in an excursion over to Mawson Shops as part of our ASIC MoneySmart Program. The program is designed to help our students become smart consumers. Students visited different shops at Mawson and analysed marketing, advertising, product placement, packaging, and looked at what 'value for money' means when shopping. Thanks to all the teachers who helped make this happen including Mr Wells, Ms Solomon, Mr Gazy, Miss Dunn and Mr Duggan.

HaSS – Excursion to Sydney

During Term 2, Year 10 HaSS students will have the opportunity to take part in a day trip to Sydney as part of their History Unit. Students will visit the Sydney Jewish Museum and The Great Synagogue of Sydney to learn about the Holocaust from Jewish Australians. They will also visit the Botanic Gardens and Circular Quay, learning about the attack on Sydney Harbour by Japanese midget submarines. Mr Duggan is currently seeking expressions of interest to determine how many students would like to go. The cost will be between \$80 and \$100 If you are interested, please email benjamin.duggan@ed.act.edu.au.

DRAMA DRIVE

Cleaning out cupboards?

Going through your kids' old costume box?

Melrose High Drama Department is seeking donations of props and costumes.

Vases, lamps, toy guns, jackets, dresses, dressing gowns, fake flowers, wigs, candle stick holders, balaclavas, glasses, aprons, table cloths, fairy wings, unicorn horns...the list is endless!

Please send in with students to drop off to

Ms O'Meara (308) or Mr Davies (206).

Alternatively, you can drop to our front office.

Quality clean products only please!



BIG PICTURE ACADEMY

It will be no surprise to anyone that these first four weeks of Term 1, 2019, have been big for everyone involved in the Big Picture Academy! For many of our Year 10 students, getting back in the swing and self-discipline of learning through the Big Picture approach, has been challenging, and for those year 9 & 10 students who are new to the Big Picture Academy, the learning trajectory has been steep. As for the advisory team, they are very upbeat and excited for the year ahead.

Thank you to all of the parents and carers who were able to make it to the Big Picture get together BBQ. It was great chatting and getting to know you all. As ever, there is never enough time to chat with everyone but don't forget the advisory team are easily accessible via email.

- Anna Russell, Flex Faculty Executive Staff Member (anna.russell@ed.act.edu.au)
- Helen Bannister, Big Picture Advisor (helen.bannister@ed.act.edu.au)
- Alison Carson, Big Picture Advisor (alison.carson@ed.act.edu.au)
- Ali Inskeep, Big Picture Advisor (alison.inskeep@ed.act.edu.au)

Up and coming events to keep in mind for your student are:

1. On 19 March, 2019, from 9.30am-10.30am, Matthew Doyle will be presenting a Young Australian workshop at Melrose High School. The performance, titled Wuruniri, will be performed by Matthew Doyle who is a descendent of the Muruwari people from the Lightning Ridge area of NSW. Matthew is a dancer, musician, song-man, cultural consultant and educator with over 30 years' experience working in the performing arts sector. Matthew's experience is extensive and includes many major international events such as Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, World Expo Japan, World Youth day 2008, to name a few. He has recorded several albums and has collaborated with Bangarra Dance Theatre, James Morrison, TAIKOZ, Legs on the Wall, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, the Edinburgh Military Tattoo and Gondwana Children's Choir. This excursion is a wonderful opportunity for your child to extend their cultural knowledge of our first people and directly links to the General Capabilities in the Australian Curriculum.
2. Exhibition of student projects will get underway at the beginning of week 8 (28 March, 2019) and continue through to the end of week 9 (April 5, 2019). More information about these sessions will follow shortly.

The Melrose Big Picture Academy commenced their combined Town Hall session in week 3, starting with a thought provoking video of real people's experiences of deliberate and intentional changes to their lifestyles to help them cope with challenges they have faced in the past. This week our Town Hall meeting explored the innovative work of geo-engineers around the world exploring unconventional ways of fighting climate change.

Catalyst, ABC. <https://ios.tviview.abc.net.au/programs/catalyst/SC1802H004S00>

Foreign Correspondent ABC <https://ios.tviview.abc.net.au/programs/foreign-correspondent/NC1926H008S00>

CANBERRA SOUTHERN CROSS CLUB – COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM



Are you a member of the Canberra Southern Cross Club? If so, you can now support Melrose High School every time you visit the club through their Community Rewards Program. Simply visit the Southern Cross Club website (link below), fill in your name and membership number, and then 7.5% of everything you spend on food and drinks at any of their clubs will be donated to the school. Please share this link with your family and friends.

<https://cscmarketing.wufoo.com/forms/zjfux530c342by/>