



ACT
Government
Education

Melrose High School Message Stick



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

Issue 1: 14 August 2020

The MHS Newsletter has had a name change! Welcome to the first edition of the Melrose Message Stick. This name change honours an ancient system of communication between Aboriginal groups across Australia - the message stick. Message sticks were used as a form of communication between Aboriginal nations, clans and language groups even within clans. Traditional message sticks were made and crafted from wood and were generally small and easy to carry. They survived as part of Aboriginal cultural tradition for thousands of years.

Message sticks were carved, incised and painted with symbols and decorative designs conveying messages and information. The subject matter of message sticks could include notices about meetings and events, invitations to corroborees, ceremonies and fights, notices/ requests of marriage arrangements, notification of a family member passing and requests for objects are some of the types of information placed on message sticks

The essence of message sticks is the way they signify the carrier's identity with a particular group. So now the Melrose Message Stick signifies all of us being a part of one community, one mob.



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FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD

Hi all, please consider the efforts of our schools' executive, teachers and all admin staff for getting us through to this point in the pandemic, and join with me in thanking them for the work being done to keep doing the job of bringing learning and care to our children. We are lucky to have very caring and skilled people in these roles who are doing an awesome job in worrying times. They have shown us how we can and will get through, as one school community. Without our care for each other, we would be in a much worse position than we are now.

The board receives reports from the principal, teachers, business, student reps and parents. While the impact of COVID-19 continues, we continue to value the contribution to strategic goals, including a school where students love to learn, and in a learning culture. Finally, a big thankyou to our students, for coping with the last four months of upheaval. This is a very unusual time, none of us have done this before, and you have been helping all the way through, thank you.

Stuart McKellar, School Board Chair

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 6142 0703 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 to 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. 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, at recess or the first half of lunch time.

FINANCE

In an attempt to ensure security around payment of monies to the school for camps, excursions, programs and voluntary contributions, we would like to encourage payments to be made via Quickweb, the secure online payment portal.

Below is an explanation of the payment options available.

1. Online payments are the preferred method of payment. Payments are made via the School Website to a secure Westpac Bank site, called "Quickweb" <http://www.melrosehs.act.edu.au/payment>
2. Instructions can be found on the Payments TAB simply complete the fields with as much detail as possible, including the Fee Code which will be advised on the notes requesting payments.
3. All payments can be made using Quickweb, using a debit or credit card. Westpac will provide you with a receipt which you can email to melrose.finance@ed.act.edu.au
4. Payments can still be made in person at the Front Office with cash, cheque, EFTPOS, or a deposit direct into the Melrose High School Bank account BSB 032777, Account - 001658. If paying by direct deposit an email to the school financial section would be appreciated at melrose.finance@ed.act.edu.au

For all payments, please ensure you include:

- Student Key ; Family Key ; Fee Code

For any enquiries regarding payments please contact the Finance Officer on 6142 0704.

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (HASS) UPDATE

A Win for Melrose!

These wonderful Year 9 and 10 Legal Studies students competed for the first time, in a Mock Trial Competition and won! In round one of the interschool competition run by LOACT, The Melrose Mock Trial Team, went up against Burgmann College on Thursday 30th July 2020, and conducted themselves with absolute professionalism and successfully argued that a contract their client was party to had been breached. The team was co-ordinated by Legal Studies teacher, Mrs Antonios, while practicum teacher, Miss He also helped during preparation sessions. Congratulations Team Melrose!

Right to left: Katie Polette, Brook Lanza, Aemonn, Jiajia He, Mary Antonios, Jaden Ogway-Davey, Saige Waugh, Chris Hubbard, Chloe Harrigan and Jasmin Misner



HaSS – Year 7

Year 7 are just finishing their geography skills unit, focusing on reading and creating maps. They have looked at many different types of maps, from road maps to weather maps! Their assignment for this unit was to create a map of their dream bedroom, and to remember their six features of BOLTSS. They had a lot of fun and we had some very creative bedrooms, including trampolines, swimming pools, and skate parks!



Year 9 Industrial Revolution

Students in year 9 have created posters detailing the new inventions that occurred during the Industrial Revolution 1750 to 1860.

Did you know schools were created as a result of the Industrial revolution?

MELROSE UNIFORM SHOP

CURRENTLY WELL STOCKED WITH WARM HOODIES

<https://www.melroseuniforms.com.au/>

MELROSE HIGH SCHOOL BIG PICTURE ACADEMY.

The Melrose High School Big Picture Academy is off to a running start for term 3, 2020. While 'normal' is still being re-defined, the world, the country, and each state is making adjustments to the way we operate socially to keep us all as safe as possible from COVID-19. This has meant that planning our very special **Big Picture Information Night** has been a little tricky as the ACT Government moves through the recent easing of restrictions. What we can inform you of at this stage is that it will go ahead, on the evening of **Wednesday, 19 August, at 5.30pm, in the Malcolm Barlow Hall** at Melrose High School. If there are any changes to this plan, we will send an email to all Melrose High School families to inform you of the changes.

There is plenty going on in the Big Picture rooms as students develop their project proposals and plan their learning and learning goals for term 3. The wide range of interests and passions is inspiring. There have been significant interruptions to LTI opportunities this year, but some students have been lucky enough to get involved in off campus learning opportunities in VLOs such as construction, beauty therapy and child-care. Others have enrolled in online courses such as introductory courses to disciplines like medical sciences, psychology and law, while others, who have completed introductory courses, are working in more advanced areas such as disorders in psychology and emergency medicine. Further to this, the year 9 & 10 Big Picture Students are working with CIT to complete their Industries Pathways course.

The Big Picture exhibitions for year 8 & 9 students will be held in week 7 & 8 this term. COVID-19 social distancing restrictions mean that we will be unable to invite parents to attend the exhibitions, but we will make a Google Meets link available, upon email request, to your child's advisor, to view the exhibition.

Year 8 Advisor- alison.carson@ed.act.edu.au

Year 9 Advisor- matthew.madsen@ed.act.edu.au

The Big Picture exhibitions for year 10 students will deviate a little from the usual exhibition routine this term as they will be presenting their final high school exhibition, in readiness for entering college early next year. For these students and families, the exhibition schedule will be for week 3 or 5 of term 4. This is because students will be presenting their 'Gateways' exhibition which includes their project learning for term 3 and a synopsis of their projects and self-learning during their time in Big Picture. COVID-19 social distancing restrictions mean that, at this point in time, we will be unable to invite parents to attend the exhibitions, but we will make a Google Meets link available, upon email request, to your child's advisor, to view the exhibition. If this situation changes, we will inform you.

Year 10 Advisor- helen.bannister@ed.act.edu.au

And finally, would parents and carers of Big Picture students please remind them to return their book pack equipment to school if they took it home during the COVID-19 school closers.

Best wishes to you all from the Melrose High School Big Picture Advisory

SCHOOL SATISFACTION & CLIMATE SURVEY

Parents/carers and staff should have received an email on Monday 10 August inviting you to participate in the 2020 School Satisfaction & Climate Survey. Please take the time to complete the survey as the results will help us to continue to make informed decisions about how to improve our school. If you cannot find this email please contact EDUSurveys@act.gov.au before Friday 28 August.

Students will complete the survey at school on Tuesday 18 August. Please ensure they bring their Chromebook fully charged.

We appreciate your involvement in this process.



MUSIC AND DANCE CAMP

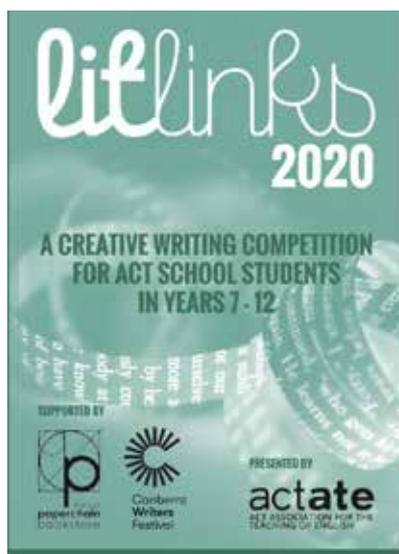
In Week 3 students from the Concert Band and dance classes visited Birrigai for their combined Music & Dance Camp. We were Birrigai's first visitors after 5 months and although we were unable to stay overnight, the students went out three days in a row. Both groups worked hard over the three days, had sessions with specialist tutors and each presented a performance to the other groups on the last day. Mr Sciberras and Ms Sedlacek were very proud of what the students achieved while on camp.



FROM THE LANGUAGES FACULTY

Litlinks is a creative writing competition open to ACT school students in Years 7-12. It is presented by the ACT Association for the Teaching of English (ACTATE) and sponsored by Paperchain Bookstore and the Canberra Writers Festival.

Last year, Melrose students achieved excellent results, with one student receiving a major award. There are some great prizes up for grabs! If you are interested in entering the competition, please chat to your English teacher.



WRITE A SHORT STORY IN ANY GENRE

All entries must be original and unpublished works. Word count: 500 - 1,500 words.
Entry is free and schools may submit up to 5 entries for each category:
- Years 7-8
- Years 9-10
- Years 11-12

GET PUBLISHED

Winning stories will be published on the Litlinks website.
Read previous winner's entries at www.actlitlinks.com.au

YOU COULD WIN GREAT PRIZES!

Winners, highly commended, judges' choice and speculative fiction awards in each category.
Prizes include book vouchers, passes to the Canberra Writers Festival in 2021 and certificates for all entrants.

DATES & DEADLINES

Entries close at Midnight on Friday, 4 September, 2019
Week 7, Term 3

Winners announced by Monday, 9 November, 2019
Week 5, Term 4

CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL COORDINATOR

First Chapter Fridays

Year 7 are expanding their reading horizons in English this semester with fortnightly First Chapter Friday sessions.

The concept is simple: Classes combine and listen as the teacher librarian reads the blurbs from several

different novels. Students then decide which one they want to hear more about and break into groups accordingly. They then sit and doodle or colour in while the teacher reads one or two chapters from their chosen novel.

The benefits to these sessions are multiple. Students discover new books and authors that they might not normally have picked up in a library, they interact with different classmates and teachers, and they improve their listening and comprehension skills. And it's a wonderful way to mindfully relax after a busy couple of weeks and bring in the weekend.



CULTURAL INTEGRITY UPDATE

Boy's Mentoring Group

This program has recommenced successfully run by Tim Cornforth (Torres Strait Islander) and Mark Baldwin (MHS Youth Worker). As mentioned last newsletter, the program has expanded, encouraging the boys to bring one of their buddies with them - this is going well! If you would like further information about the program please contact Mark Baldwin - mark.baldwin@ed.act.edu.au



Yr 9/10 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

This elective is an introduction to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and worldviews. Students are currently exploring their own identity, culture and family trees. The class was recently visited by MHS Indigenous Education Officer, Mon Harland, who shared photos weaved into an artwork about her family and spoke about the experiences of her late Mum who is a part of the Stolen Generations.

Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Working Group

MHS is now a part of the RAP working group with Canberra College, Farrer, Torrens and Mawson Primary schools. Exciting events and work between the schools are continuing this term. If you would like to join our RAP Team to support this important work contact anna.russell@ed.act.edu.au or monica.harland@ed.act.edu.au



Reconciliation Installation

As part of the recent Wellbeing sessions last term, we had the opportunity to deliver a session on Reconciliation which was delivered to all students in a yarning circle format.

We spoke about Reconciliation, the Stolen Generation and Sorry Day. MHS Indigenous Education Officer Mon Harland shared some reflections, memories

and experiences from her own family history. The students were engaged and these sessions were thought provoking and educational on many levels.

Each session varied slightly and was a way to introduce the concept of yarning circles, culture, history, story sharing and truth telling.

We asked students what reconciliation meant to them and what they thought they could do as individuals to be a part of the change - they wrote their responses on jigsaw puzzle pieces, which was to symbolise that we are all part of the bigger picture of Reconciliation.

There were so many thoughtful and inspiring responses from students and they all now form part of an installation currently on display in the library.



Gawar Centre

Gawar is a Ngunnawal word which means 'heart'. It is a space that sits in the centre of MHS that is dedicated to Cultural Integrity and all that it encompasses.

Students have just commenced design work on a mural for the Gawar Centre and have already incorporated some thoughtful and meaningful symbology into it. Painting will start soon and the end result will be on display once a formal launch of the Gawar Centre has been scheduled.

Learn the name of the language of the land you live on

According to First Languages Australia "in the late 18th century, there were between 350 and 750 distinct Australian social groupings, and a similar number of languages".

These languages determine whose country we are on and who we must acknowledge and pay respect to when we are on their land.

Aboriginal languages and Torres Strait Islander languages have struggled to survive since the time of invasion, but the good news is many language groups are working hard to preserve their native tongue and many are being restored.

First Languages Australia in partnership with local language centres across Australia have developed an interactive map to display and promote the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. The map, titled Gambay, translates to "together" in the Butchulla language of the Hervey Bay region in Queensland. Gambay showcases over 780 languages, using data contributed by regional language centres and programs working directly with language communities around Australia.

Find out more and take a look at the map on <https://gambay.com.au/map/>.



DISABILITY STANDARDS FOR EDUCATION 2005

The Disability Standards for Education 2005 (the Standards) help make sure students with disability in Australia can access and participate in education on the same basis as students without disability. The Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment, on behalf of the Minister for Education, is undertaking a review of the Standards through an extensive community consultation process. The Standards are reviewed every five years to test if they are effective in achieving their objectives and whether any improvements could be made.

Current, former and prospective students with disability, their families and carers, advocates, educators and other members of the public are invited to share their experiences, views and ideas to inform the Review of the Standards. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, engagement activities will mostly be held online via a dedicated 2020 Review Consultation Hub. To register to be involved or to make a submission visit the Consultation Hub

<https://disabilitystandardsreview.education.gov.au/>. The consultations are open until 11.59pm AEST on Friday, 25 September 2020.