

## ***In this issue***

- Leadership team report
- Important dates and events
- Technology update
- Science update
- Language news

## ***Diary dates***

**15-16 December**  
Activities Days

**15-16 December**  
Yr 9 Peer Support camp

**17 December**  
Last day of school

**2015**

**Monday 2 February**  
Year 7 & New Students.,  
Meet in the Hall at 8:50am

**Tuesday 3 February**  
All students return.  
Assembly in the Hall 8:50am  
Book pack collection  
Library 2.30-4.30 pm

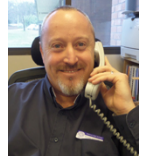
**Tuesday 10 February**  
School Photos

**Thursday 12 February**  
Swimming Carnival

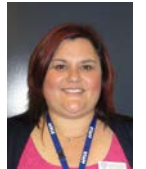
**Wednesday 18 February**  
Yr 7 Welcome Night

## **From the Leadership Team**

As 2014 draws to a close for our community we would like to wish one and all a safe and relaxing holiday season. We look forward to seeing everyone back with us in 2015.



We farewell Debbie Bartlett who, this year, retires from full time teaching. Debbie's 32 year commitment and dedication to public education has been outstanding. In her career at Melrose High School Debbie taught both PE and SoSE for 15-20 years, Home Economics (International Cooking) for a semester and for the last 10-15 years, Debbie has been a stalwart in SoSE and has been an invaluable support for Peer Support Leaders. Perhaps the most astonishing achievement is that Debbie worked as a Year Co-Ordinator for 17 years and saw four sets of students through the school from Year 7 to Year 10. Her coaching career included Melrose teams in softball, basketball (for at least 20 years) and netball (for all 32 years). Debbie also coached the ACT Secondary Schools netball team.



Debbie has been an extraordinary servant to her community and has guided, supported and taught several thousand students and colleagues. Her career has been lengthy, generous and wholehearted as a public school educator. Please join us in wishing Debbie every happiness in her retirement.

In the many of the end of year award ceremonies we have shared something with students that we would like to share here in our last newsletter:

There is a story of a young, but earnest Zen student who approached his teacher, and asked the Master, "If I work very hard and diligently, how long will it take for me to find Zen?"

The Master thought about this, then replied, "Ten years ..."

The student then said, "But what if I work very, very hard and really apply myself to learn fast — how long then?"

Replied the Master, "Well, twenty years."

"But, if I really, really work at it, how long then?" asked the student.

"Thirty years," replied the Master.

"But, I do not understand," said the disappointed student. "At each time that I say I will work harder, you say it will take me longer. Why do you say that?"

Replied the Master, "When you have one eye on the goal, you only have one eye on the path."

The **goal** for our students might be to be a doctor, the **path** may be that they will work in the bush and help a community with its medical needs rather than taking a better paid city job. Our students may become a builder and their **goal** may be to run their own business, the **path** may be to employ people who are refugees or who are disabled to give them the dignity of a salary. Remember always that as much as we have cared what students do, we have cared as much about who our students become.

In 2015, the school will concentrate on engagement with learning projects that meet individual student goals and pathways. We invite every family to work with us on maintaining the positive and close relationship we have as a school community. Opportunities to support the school will continue as we travel through 2015 and we urge you to keep an eye out for opportunities that suit you to help us continue to develop not only excellent students, but excellent young people.

### Farewell Year 10

The Senior Executive Team have been impressed with the graduating year 10 students' passion for life, their sense of humour, their talent, their desire to make a difference and their love of Melrose High School. Whatever college they attend in 2014 we know that they will be prepared to sit in the driving seat and take ownership of their learning and pave the way to a successful life. We would like to wish them all the very best for their future and as we write this, with the Formal tonight, we would like to remind them of the words of Oscar Wilde: "...you can never be overdressed or overeducated...". Enjoy the Formal, good luck for the future and we look forward to hearing about all of your success in the years to come.

Kind regards,  
Simon Vaughan  
Principal

E: [simon.vaughan@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:simon.vaughan@ed.act.edu.au)

Shannon Carnovale  
Deputy Principal

E: [Shannon.carnovale@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:Shannon.carnovale@ed.act.edu.au)

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## Important Dates and Reminders

<i>Wk</i>	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 (A)	<b>2 February</b> *Yr 7 and new students start	<b>3 February</b> *Yr 8-10 Start *Chalk Bookpack Collection 2.30-4.30pm (Library)  *Assembly	<b>4 February</b>	<b>5 February</b>	<b>6 February</b>  *Newsletter
2 (B)	<b>9 February</b>	<b>10 February</b> *School Photos  *Board Meeting	<b>11 February</b>	<b>12 February</b> *Swimming Carnival * Yr 9/10 Certification Meeting (5-6pm-Library)	<b>13 February</b> *ILP Meetings
3 (A)	<b>16 February</b>	<b>17 February</b> *Assembly	<b>18 February</b> * Yr 7 Welcome Night	<b>19 February</b>	<b>20 February</b>

For a full Term Calendar visit our website: <http://www.melrosehs.act.edu.au/>

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## Melrose High School Board Elections – 2015

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](mailto:ruth.mahon@ed.act.edu.au)

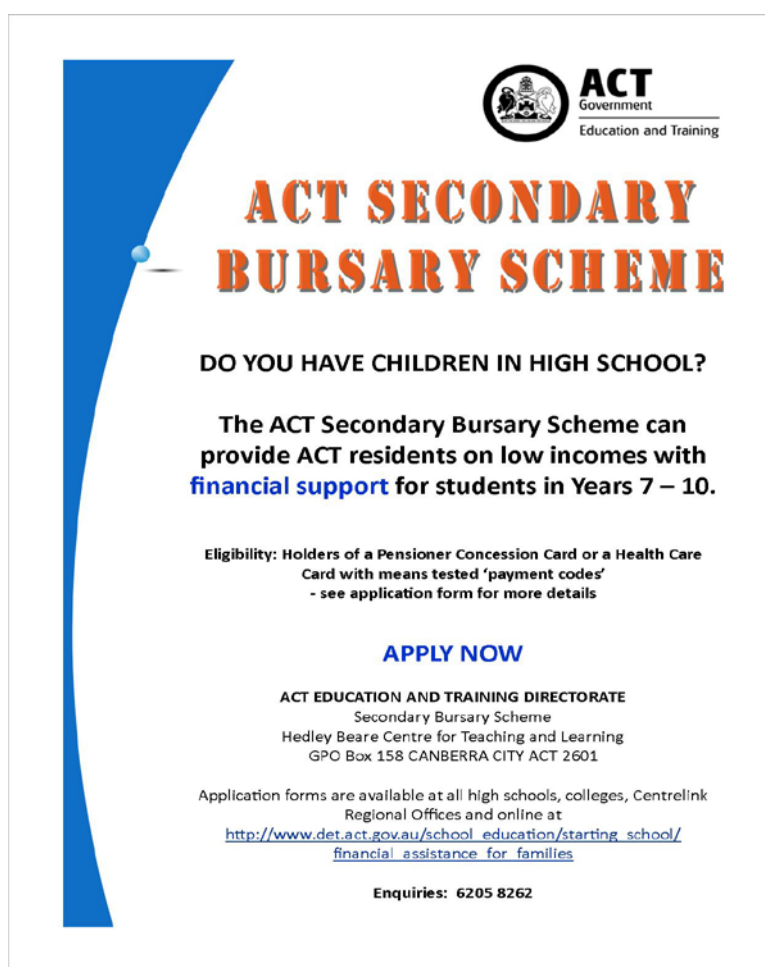
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## Newsletter delivery – Changes in 2015

The school newsletter is a vital part of the school to parent communication system. It is used to inform parents about upcoming events and to celebrate our class and school achievements. We produce the newsletter every three weeks. Currently it is delivered to parents via email or post. It is also uploaded to the school website [http://www.melrosehs.act.edu.au/our\\_community/newsletters](http://www.melrosehs.act.edu.au/our_community/newsletters)

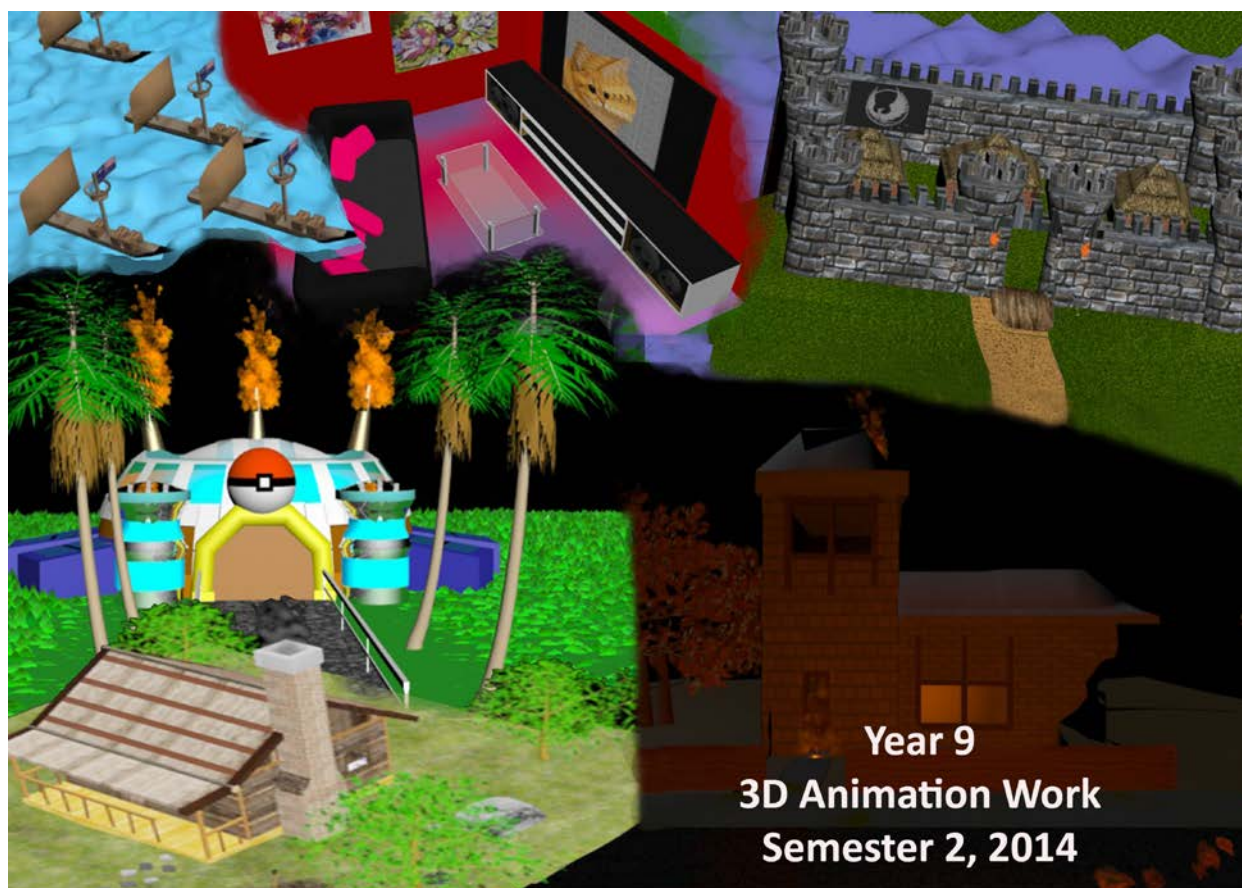
This year the print and post version of the newsletter consumed 22, 400 sheets of paper and cost the school \$ 1976 to send. Melrose High School is making a determined effort to reduce our impact on the environment and as such, from the start of 2015, will no longer post newsletters out to families but instead rely on electronic delivery. A small number of newsletters will still be printed and these will be available in the Front office or the Library for students to pick up and bring home.

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The poster features a blue decorative shape on the left side. At the top right is the ACT Government logo with the text 'ACT Government Education and Training'. The main title 'ACT SECONDARY BURSARY SCHEME' is in large, bold, orange letters. Below this, the text asks 'DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN IN HIGH SCHOOL?' and states 'The ACT Secondary Bursary Scheme can provide ACT residents on low incomes with financial support for students in Years 7 – 10.' Eligibility criteria are listed: 'Holders of a Pensioner Concession Card or a Health Care Card with means tested 'payment codes' - see application form for more details'. A blue 'APPLY NOW' button is present. Contact information for the ACT Education and Training Directorate is provided, including the address 'Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning, GPO Box 158 CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601'. Application forms availability is noted as 'at all high schools, colleges, Centrelink Regional Offices and online at [http://www.det.act.gov.au/school\\_education/starting\\_school/financial\\_assistance\\_for\\_families](http://www.det.act.gov.au/school_education/starting_school/financial_assistance_for_families)'. Enquiries are listed as '6205 8262'.

## Technology update



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



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



**Melrose Magazine page**  
<https://www.facebook.com/melrosemagazine>



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

2014 Excursion Acquittals			
Name	In	Out	Covered by school
Zone Athletics	\$ 825.00	\$ 1,328.00	\$ 503.00
ACT Athletics	\$ 85.00	\$ 510.00	\$ 425.00
ACE Science- Applied Science	\$ 486.00	\$ 486.00	\$ -
ACE Science-Engineering	\$ 810.00	\$ 822.73	\$ 12.73
Careers With Animals	\$ 140.00	\$ 140.00	\$ -
OED Pool Session	\$ 3,244.38	\$ 3,244.39	\$ 0.01
Bronze Medallion	\$ 1,542.82	\$ 1,542.82	\$ -
White Card Training	\$ 1,025.00	\$ 1,482.00	\$ 457.00
Asbestos Training	\$ 660.00	\$ 910.00	\$ 250.00
Rock Climbing Camp	\$ 5,800.00	\$ 5,884.79	\$ 84.79

# Science News

## SUPPORT NEEDED FOR ACE SCIENCE

Over the last five years, ACE Science has matured into one of the most advanced Science teaching programs in Australia. Students at Melrose High School are now involved in a wide range of activities including the well-known Science Tours, **Science Seminars** and **Science Mentors** projects. In 2014 the Science Education Centre was launched by Professor Ian Chubb, Australia's Chief Scientist, and the facility has been over-subscribed ever since. In 2015, the ACE Science concept will be gradually extended to Canberra College with Science Seminars and Science Mentors projects offered to a limited number of Year 11/12 students.

In order to showcase the wonderful work our students are doing, ACE Science needs a volunteer to promote student engagement with science and engineering in school-based and the professional media. Because of the extra work ACE Science students undertake as part of the program, it is not feasible for them to take on media promotion as well – they're too busy doing the science! So, if you are a parent with some free time and an interest in preparing public relations materials to showcase what these beaut kids are doing, then we need you. Specifically, tasks include preparing PowerPoint presentations at assemblies, articles for the school newsletter and magazine, photographs (you'd be welcome to attend the Science Tours and other events for photography), and press alerts and releases to local media.

## FUNDING NEEDED

In order to make ACE Science a sustainable program, funding is needed. In 2013/14, parents, private benefactors and academics contributed almost \$30,000 for the purchase of text books and the refit of the **ACE Lab**, which completed the basic structure of the **Science Education Centre**. Additionally, academics contributed tens of thousands of dollars in donated and loaned equipment, plus hundreds of volunteer hours spent tutoring the kids at school and in universities and industry. All of this signifies the endorsement of ACE Science by the scientific and parent community. Previously, prize money from the National Excellence in Teaching Award (\$5,000) was used to support staffing for ACE Science, while the Prime Minister's Prize for Science Teaching (\$25,000) is being used for refit the Physics/Biology Lab in the Science Education Centre. The new labs made possible by the latest funding will be operational from the start of the 2015 school year. Previous awards (Eureka – \$10,000; ANU Prize \$1,500) were used to purchase a high-end telescope for educational use and a spectroscope for laboratory work. Of course, this does not include the funding contributed by the school and labour provided by teaching and support staff during stand-down, to make ACE Science a reality.

However, more funding is needed if ACE Science is to be sustainable. Ideally, we need on the order of several tens of thousands of dollars per annum to maintain ACE Science in its present form; more if we wish to expand the range of options for the students. If you feel you can make a contribution or, even better, have suggestions for longer-term funding arrangements, please contact me at the address below.

Lastly, there are still a few places left in Year 8 ACE Science for 2015. If you would like your child considered for enrolment in this class, please contact me for an application form. Endorsement from your child's Year 7 Science teacher is also needed.

Geoff McNamara

ACE Science

[geoff.mcnamara@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:geoff.mcnamara@ed.act.edu.au)

Up close:

ACE Science student Aydin Aslan examining the geologic formations at State Circle Cutting on one of the Science Tours in 2014. The students were accompanied by geologists from Geoscience Australia who tutored the students in interpretation of the formations. We need a publicity officer to promote activities such as these.



# Language News

## JAPANESE

2014 has been a wonderful year for Japanese at Melrose High. We began the year with our regular visit from our friends from Makubetsu in March, and then we travelled to Japan in September. It has been a year full of making new friends, re-establishing old relationships and developing a better understanding and appreciation for the Japanese culture. So we look forward to welcoming the Makubetsu students again in March 2015 and looking forward to Japan 2016!

For anyone who is interested in becoming part of the Makubetsu experience by providing homestay for a Japanese student for 5 to 6 days you can contact me on [Kerryn.leiper@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:Kerryn.leiper@ed.act.edu.au).

## INDONESIAN

Highlights for Indonesian this year have included welcoming students from Jakarta who visited Melrose for two days in term one, participating in a special program as well as attending classes with the buddies. As well as getting to know our Indonesian neighbours better, the visiting students gave us a taste of Indonesian culture with their performance of traditional songs and dance.

In term two ten students visited Borneo on a world challenge expedition. We visited a small village in the Kelabit highlands staying with local residents. We experienced daily life in the area and contributed to a project helping to bring clean fresh water to the village.

We are looking forward to be able to offer another overseas trip to Malaysia in April 2016.

## German

2014 has been a rewarding and challenging year for German students at Melrose. The year eights worked hard to build on the language skills acquired last year by investigating more complex sentence structures when shopping for clothes, and the dative case when giving directions. Year nine and ten students planned and produced a short film for the Goethe Institut School Film Festival under this year's theme, 'Feiern Deutsch' – Celebrate German. They also investigated past, present and future tense and finished the year by planning and delivering their own German language lessons.

November 9 this year was the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall. This provided all German language students at Melrose with the unique opportunity to investigate the cultural and historical significance of this landmark occasion.

Unfortunately, German will not be continuing next year and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the students that I have taught over the last four years for their commitment and dedication to learning German and for making this teaching experience incredibly rewarding and memorable for me.

Herr Robinson

## Chinese

### 2014 Min-De Immersion Program

A highlight of the year in Chinese was the visit of two Melrose students, Vanessa Wong in Year 8 and Jack Schipp in Year 10, to Min-De Junior High School. Jack and Vanessa participated in a four week immersion program hosted by Min-De in Tainan City, Taiwan. The Immersion Program has been tailored for Melrose students who have been learning Chinese at high school. The students engaged in a wide range of cultural activities, which included: intensive language classes, school events, in class experiences, living with Taiwanese homestays, and visiting other local schools. It was a challenging but unique journey for Vanessa and Jack. It was not easy, but both of them put in a lot of effort to overcome all the challenges they faced and they achieved very successful outcomes. They were excellent ambassadors of Melrose. We look forward to sending more outstanding students to Taiwan to deepen their understanding of Chinese culture and improve their language skills in the coming years.



Vanessa and Jack were featured in an article in a local newspaper regarding their visit to the Long-Chi Junior High School, which specialized in bamboo production.



## Community Notices

Looking for something to do in January to get through the school holidays?

The Child Youth and Family Support Program is running a  
FAMILY Play 2015 Holiday Family Days Program.

A place for families and children to have fun, share, learn and connect.

WHERE: Griffith Community Hall (at the Griffith shops, Stuart Street Griffith)

For more information: Please contact  
the Family Play Coordinator at Southside Community Services on 61264700

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### **Holiday Drama Classes!**

DRAMA STARS ACADEMY is running FUN HOLIDAY DRAMA CLASSES again!

For bookings or further enquiries, please email Donna at [dramastarsacademy@hotmail.com](mailto:dramastarsacademy@hotmail.com)  
or phone Donna on 0417 535 200

Places are LIMITED!

Please book soon so you don't miss out! Last holidays classes filled very quickly, so we are offering more classes!

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Holiday Happenings, the School Holidays Activities Directory can be found at  
[www.holidayhappenings.com.au](http://www.holidayhappenings.com.au)