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Melrose High School Newsletter



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

Issue 16: 20 December 2019

FROM SENIOR EXECUTIVE

With the end of the year looming we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff at the school for their continued dedication and attention to the education of our young people. To all families, thank you for your support and we hope we can keep building our partnership with you over the course of 2020 and beyond. We would like to make a special mention of the parents on our School Board for their help and support also an extra thank you to Emily, Hana and Arron whose terms are ending in March 2020. Early next year there will be an opportunity for parents, staff and students to nominate for a Board position and we welcome you to find out more about this.

A big thank you to Rosanna Thompson, Ben Duggan, Ian Johnson and Paul Harriott for their leadership and support of the current Year 10 group for the last four years. The students in Year 6 have started to come together with the help of Tim Pike the Year 7 co-ordinator, to be welcomed into our school community. We greatly appreciate the way our primary school colleagues have prepared and nurtured these students.

The increased demand for places at Melrose High School is based around the success of our teachers and, as is clear to us each year, there is demand across the ACT for our people. We wanted to thank all our outgoing teachers for all that they have given to the Melrose High School Community

- Jenny Holder will transfer to Lake Tuggeranong College after running our Languages Faculty here for a number of years
- Rob Morris won a transfer to Lyneham High School and has been an invaluable member of our Big Picture and Maths teams
- Grant Lukins has won a position at Birrigai to teach Outdoor Education in his dream job
- Tatum O'Meara has won a transfer to Canberra College to continue to grow our work in Big Picture
- Zed Simandl has won a permanent position at Telopea High School after he joined us in term 2 and has taught Science, Maths and Cooking
- Katie Molloy has won a permanent position at Dickson College after joining us at the beginning of 2019 and has worked in the LSU/LSC and the Languages team
- Peter Gazy has won a permanent position at Caroline Chisholm HS after joining us in 2019 in the HASS/Languages Team

Our thanks also go to our casual teachers who have been with us for most of 2019

- Patrick Davies – worked with us since term 2 and has been a valued member of the Drama/English team
- Kevin Kirton – joined us in term 2 and has worked mainly in Japanese but also in HaSS for a term
- Nazrul Islam – worked in Maths and Science. He is currently on leave and will be furthering his career in the ACT system next year
- Jacob Cummings – PE. Joined us in semester 2. Jacob has accepted a remote teaching position in an Aboriginal community in the Northern Territory

Special thanks also go to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office for their support of our Mandarin program with our teaching assistant each year.

- Weiting – our Mandarin Language Teaching Assistant from Taiwan has worked with us full time for 6 months and, when she returns home, will make a very fine teacher.

We will be welcoming a new group of staff next year who have won their permanency here during the course of 2019:

- Nicolle Jones – Science and Technology
- Lynn Hart – HaSS and LAP
- Yasmine Solomon – HaSS and Science
- Matt Madsen – Big Picture
- Mary Antonios – English and HaSS

As well as those staff members we have other new staff joining us on transfer or returning on contract:

- Rosanna Thompson-English (P/T)
- Ravi Nath- Maths
- Georgette Green – Drama
- Keiren Angel _ Japanese and HASS
- Mary Depoorter – Executive in charge of Languages
- Hunter Walters – English/HASS
- Alka Gaur - LSC/LSU
- Lisa Green (atg) – Executive Teacher in charge of Mathematics/Digital Pedagogies
- Andrew Trost – Mathematics
- Christine Eldridge-Smith – Mathematics

In 2020 the school is expected to grow again in numbers. As well as the teachers and what they achieve with students, there is an amazing support staff here at the school who continue to support and help families. In ending our school year, we would like to share a selection from the graduation address for Year 10 early this week.

“ I start tonight on behalf of the students, by thanking the parents and carers. I recognise you all as your child’s first teacher and ask you to think back on that time when you held these young people as newborns, or when they came into your home when a bit bigger, that time when panic gripped you, that time when sleep and rational thought left you, that time when you were sure that everyone else in human history knew more about being a parent than you. High school can cause another patch of panic and more time when your run around the house looking for the manual on how to own and operate a teenager. I’ll quote from Hitchhikers guide to the Galaxy Don’t panic. You have completed that hard work in 2019 of negotiating temper tantrums, the defiance, the messiness and that weird random listening disorder. Remember well that you also got to see joy on their faces the joy of achievement, a sense of wonder, compassion, intelligence and you witnessed creativity that can take your breath away. Families, for all of your care and attention in supporting us as a school and them as young people, I thank you.

‘To live a fulfilled life, we need to keep creating the "what is next", of our lives. Without dreams and goals there is no living, only merely existing, and that is not why we are here.’ - Mark Twain. ”

We wish all families a safe and happy holiday season and a restful and exciting new year.



Simon Vaughan
Principal

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Shannon Carnovale
Deputy Principal

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Ryan Kay
Deputy Principal

ryan.kay@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 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.

MELROSE HIGH SCHOOL BOARD

The Melrose High School Board will be seeking nominations for the following positions in February 2020:

Parent Representative x 1

Staff Representative x 1

Student Representative (yr 9) x 1

Each position will be for a term of two (2) years.

For more details contact the Assistant Returning Officer, Ruth Mahon (ruth.mahon@ed.act.edu.au).

Nomination forms will be emailed to families at the end of January 2020.

The School Board meet on the second Tuesday of each month (where possible). The function of the School Board is to establish strategic direction and priorities for the school, monitor and review school performance, develop relationships between the school and community, encourage parent participation in their children's learning, approve and monitor the school budget, and develop and review policies for the school.

Should you wish to contact the School Board or a parent representative on the Board please email

Melrose.Board@ed.act.edu.au

2020 PREPARATIONS

Start Dates:

3 February: All Year 7 students; all NEW to Melrose Students; Year 10 Peer Support leaders. Please meet in the Malcolm Barlow Hall at 8:50 am.

4 February: All students return. Please line up outside the Malcolm Barlow Hall at 8:50 am

Stationery list:

http://www.melrosehs.act.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/457872/4_2020_All_Students_Bookpack.pdf

Uniforms:

<https://melroseuniforms.com.au/> or Lowes or Savvy Schoolwear (Tuggeranong)

It's our 50th Anniversary

Join us as we celebrate 50 years of Melrose High School. Feel free to fill out our survey to connect with us for this event <https://forms.gle/qRvbwfMxrhixjTT7>

BIG PICTURE

What a fabulously whirlwind term it has been, starting with frenzied preparations for term 4 exhibitions and heading towards the end of term, and the end of the academic year of 2019, with not a minute to spare!

Thanks to all the parents and guests who were able to attend our Year 10 Gateways exhibitions and the Year 9 term 4 exhibitions. The diverse range of individual interests and curiosities amongst our Big Picture students is awe inspiring and it has been great listening to students express their deepening understanding of the Big Picture design and how it allows them to grow in ways that wouldn't otherwise be possible for them. It has been very obvious to the advisory team just how much the students have grown socially, emotionally and academically throughout the year and they should be proud of their achievements.

The Year 10 Graduation and Formal was a great success. It was lovely to see our beautiful young people looking so grown up and celebrating this important milestone.

Our Year 9 students have also had a packed timetable which included writing their Big Picture 2019 personal narratives, learning and training for a visit to Torrens Primary School to teach the Year 5 students how to play touch-gridiron, and welcoming two guest from Fitzroy Crossing, Western Australia, one of Big Pictures sister schools. The students and an accompanying teacher were with us for two days before spending some

time visiting some of the highlights Canberra has to offer. It was great meeting Tarnisha, Temesha and their teacher, Kirstyn.

Looking ahead to 2020, Melrose High School Big Picture Academy is proud to announce that we will be extending our program to include a Year 8 Big Picture next year. This means that we will have three Big Picture advisories and we are very excited about this and look forward welcoming all new students into the program.

The Big Picture book list and stationery requirement for next year is below. Please make sure that your child starts the year with these items.

Book list and stationery requirements for Big Picture 2020:

- Fully functioning device (Chromebook issued through the school or alternative), complete with charging equipment x1
- Big Picture Planner 2020 x1 (Purchase from the student window at the beginning of the 2020 school year, \$15)
- Selection of pens, black-lead pencils, coloured pencils, sharpeners, erasers etc (renew supplies each term)
- Clipboard x1
- Arch lever folder x1
- Plastic sleeves x1 pack
- A4 lined paper x1 pack
- Visual diary (drawing book)

Please feel free to contact any of the Big Picture Advisory with any concerns or questions.

Anna.russell@ed.act.edu.au ; Alison.carson@ed.act.edu.au ; Alison.inskeep@ed.act.edu.au ; helen.bannister@ed.act.edu.au

Best Wishes to you all from the Melrose High School Big Picture team.

MELROSE/MAKUBETSU EXCHANGE PROGRAM 2020

Melrose High School has established a strong relationship with Makubetsu, which is in Japan's northern island of Hokkaido. Students from the Makubetsu region will be visiting our school from Thursday 26 March through to Tuesday 31 March 2020 to immerse themselves in the Australian culture and practice their English-speaking skills. In return, Melrose High School students will be visiting Japan and Makubetsu in the September / October school holidays in 2021.

All students benefit from the exchange program. They can experience a new culture and develop social networks and friendships. Our students have the unique opportunity to enhance their learning of Japanese. There is also a one off payment for families that host which can either be paid to families or used as a deposit for those participating in the 2021 Japan trip.

Due to new government regulations all families providing homestay must obtain a Working With Vulnerable People card for every Adult in the household. On the application form, families nominate as volunteers, which means there are no costs involved to process the application. To access the application documentation or to gain more information, please visit the Access Canberra website at: https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/answers/detail/a_id/1804

To assist the process please email a copy of your WWVP card to Mrs Kerry Leiper so that we can finalise the homestay requirements.

We would really appreciate your support in hosting a Japanese student in March. If you would like to support the exchange program, could you please email me on Kerryn.leiper@ed.act.edu.au or expression of interest forms will be handed out in Japanese classes and on request.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 2019

This year the Melrose High School Physical Education faculty have been working hard to implement the Australian Curriculum Achievement standards. This has seen a shift in our teaching to a skills-based curriculum, with less focus on individual sports.

Fitness is still a priority and with students completing the Mount Taylor base walk once a fortnight and participating actively in PE lessons. We are all working towards a more active lifestyle.

School sport opportunities have been available for students, and we have been able to send out teams to represent our school in

- Oztag
- Touch Football
- Netball
- Basketball
- Bouroinjin
- Athletics
- Cross country and
- Swimming

Past newsletters have celebrated the successes of these teams, we need to acknowledge the staff and parents for making these days possible, as for the one-day event, staff give up many hours to train and ensure that we have completed the administration paperwork to ensure the safety of students.

Staff news

Shannon McAlister left in Semester 2 and is now on maternity leave with her Junior Raider Charlie. Shannon will return in Semester 2, 2020.

We welcomed Jacob Cumming to our faculty, he was a fantastic edition to the faculty, and is off to a remote school for 2020, after getting married at the end of Week 9.

Angela Edwards was also married at the end of Week 2, and has returned with a name change to Edwards-Wells.

Angela Lewis also returned in Semester 2, after being on parenting leave for the past year. It has been fantastic having Angela back with us.

Grant Lukins is also moving on to another role as a teacher at Birrigai. Grant has taught at Melrose for the past 11 years and has thrown many students out of windows, while teaching them some amazing Outdoor Education skills.



Year 7 & 8 Food Tech students, assisted by teachers and the Sustainability Team have created a food garden. They have learnt valuable skills such as testing the soil pH, soil preparation and planting and watering. The produce has been used in the cooking classes.

FROM THE MATHS FACULTY

Staffing

It is with deep sadness that we say farewell to some outstanding Maths teachers at the end of this year. Mr Morris, Mr Simandl and Mr Islam will all be leaving the Melrose High School team to pursue other opportunities. They have all been valuable members of our faculty and each one of them will be truly missed by staff and students alike.

We would also like to welcome some new staff to our team for 2020. Mr Trost, Ms Green and Ms Eldridge-Smith will be joining us from the beginning of the new year. Each of them bring a unique set of skills and expertise and we are really excited to have them as part of the Melrose High School community.



Mathspace Transformative 20

We would like to extend a huge CONGRATULATIONS to Sohana Habib in Year 8, who was selected by Mathspace as one of their Transformative 20 Students for 2019. Sohana was selected from more than 200,000 students across Australia based on a range of criteria which included purpose, growth, and dedication to their learning as well as the learning of others. Well done Sohana on this incredible achievement!

High Flyers

The Maths faculty would like to extend a special CONGRATULATIONS to all the students who participated in the Australian Maths Trust competition, the Informatics Olympiad and the ICAS Maths competition earlier this semester. Students received their awards recently, which included 4 Distinctions in the AMT competition, 2 Distinctions in the ICAS Maths competition and 1 High Distinction in the ICAS Maths competition. Well done to everyone involved!



PERFORMING ARTS

Term four 2019 has been an extremely busy and productive term for our talented performing arts students. Their work was showcased across Arts Fest, our annual semester two showcase, which this year spanned three events. Arts Fest began in week five this term with our Music & Dance Night, followed by a Drama Performance Evening in week six, and topped off by our ACE Drama & Backstage class production of 'Masquerade' in week 7.

These were all successful events and we would like to thank everyone who came along to support our students. The money raised from ticket and food sales at these events is used to support our future performance events and to maintain our performance spaces and equipment. Well done to all our performing arts students across the Concert Band, Dance, Music and Drama classes, and to our Backstage Production students on a great term!



DANCE

Year 9 & 10 dancers did an amazing job at Arts Festival in Week 5, where they performed their own choreography, alongside our talented musicians.

ACE Dance finished off a successful year with their final performance at the Year 10 Excellence Awards at the Canberra Playhouse Theatre. The class were invited to perform their "Youth" routine choreographed by Year 10 student Bridget Davey at this event, which is a huge testament to all that they achieved this year.



FROM THE LAP FACULTY

Congratulations Nate!

After several productive work experiences, Nate Marriott has successfully won a School-Based Apprenticeship in Engineering with Acuform.



Year 7/8

In the year 7/8 program we have been studying force and its use in different transportation systems. We have done a number of experiments to test our theories. We did two experiments making boats from paper or foil. The first time, the students were given foil and told to make a boat before we learned about water tension and how boats work. Then, after studying, we took another shot at making our boats with more information. The new boats were much more successful at holding lots of marbles!



The students also made balloon rockets to examine force and thrust. As the balloons expelled air, they propelled a straw forwards across a piece of string. We had a race to see whose balloon rocket was best; Jacob and Griff's team won!

We took a trip to the National Gallery of Australia for their Dreamworks exhibition. This tied in with our studies of storytelling in English. The students had a great time exploring the various displays, tried their hand at animating, and took a ride through Berk from How to Train Your Dragon. They learned about characters, plot, and worldbuilding.



We've had many successful visits from Year 6s' who have been learning about all the exciting things they will be learning at Melrose next year.



SUMMER TENNIS HOLIDAY CAMPS

Join in the 2019/20 Summer of Tennis!

Christmas Camp: Mon 16th – Fri 20th Dec
Week 1: Mon 20th – Fri 24th Jan 2020
Week 2: Tues 27th – Fri 31st Jan 2020

JUNIOR CAMPS FOR ALL AGES AND STANDARDS • CAMPS INCLUDE ANZ HOT SHOTS (3-12 yrs), SQUAD (8-18 yrs) • TENNIS & CHESS CAMPS • FRUIT AND DRINKS DURING BREAKS • ALL EQUIPMENT PROVIDED • TENNIS AUSTRALIA QUALIFIED COACHES • TENNIS COACHING RAIN, HAIL OR SHINE!

8.30AM DROP OFF FOR A 9AM START

3 GREAT VENUES
 • **Western Creek Tennis Club**, Dillon Ct, off Namatjira Dr (Behind McDonald's)
 • **Pinnac Tennis Club**, Cor Norris St and Goldstein Cres, Chisholm
 • **Gold Creek Country Club**, Curran Dr, Nicholls

ENQUIRIES
 Email: info@csot.com.au
 Call 0409 486 121
 Head Coach - Robert Jameson
 Tennis Australia accredited

BOOK NOW!
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 for more details




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ACT SECONDARY BURSARY SCHEME 2020

DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN IN HIGH SCHOOL?

**The ACT Secondary Bursary Scheme can
provide financial support for students in
Years 7 – 10.**

**To be eligible applicants must hold a current means
tested Centrelink Card or a Health Care Card.
Please see application form for more details**

Application forms are available at all Primary Schools, High Schools,
Centrelink Regional Offices and online at
[https://www.education.act.gov.au/support-for-our-students/financial-
assistance](https://www.education.act.gov.au/support-for-our-students/financial-assistance)

**Enquiries: 6205 8262
Email: ACTSecondaryBursary@act.gov.au**