PRINCIPAL REPORT

Student Successes
What a week of celebrations! Last week we had the majority of our recognition assemblies as well as the Year 10 graduation and formal. Just one more to go and we will start it all over again in 2012. Our assemblies are a delightful way of sharing the recognition of student successes with so many more receiving awards than would be permitted on presentation evening. My little speeches over the week have focused on a common theme of achieving success or working towards it.

No Bull!
Congratulations go to Ms Munroe and her Year 10 Visual Design class for taking out two Prizes in the Archibull Art4 Agriculture Art and Design competition. Students and Teacher had 2 months to decorate a fiberglass cow to illustrate the bridge between urban and rural life. They also had to write a weekly blog about their adventures, design a PowerPoint presentation and make a video that would challenge the stereotypical image of a farmer. Model Farms won the PowerPoint and blog sections and our students were approached after the ceremony by one of the judges to seek permission to have their PowerPoint entered in another competition which she felt they would undoubtedly win. There were smiles all round during the ceremony and plans are already under way for the 2012 entry!
Congratulations to these students and thank you to their dedicated teacher Ms Munroe.

School Certificate Results
In the final School Certificate exams of our time, results at our school have shown that top marks and success are not beyond any student at Model Farms. All subjects, English, Maths, Science, History and Geography, were above the State average with between 35 and 45 % of students in each subject area achieving a band 5 or 6. Add to this 60% of all students being considered highly competent in the Computer Skills exam and we have a very talented and academic group altogether! Of course they didn’t get there by themselves with many hours of support from family and teachers alike. Thank you to all who have shown they value a top quality education at Model Farms High School.

Last week of the year
While staff and students are looking forward to the holiday break, there is still
one more week of school left. Much of the staff have already begun their planning for 2012 and looking forward to the release of the HSC results on Wednesday 14th of December. A time of nervous waiting for both students and teachers is ahead and I look forward next week on reporting on some fabulous results.

**Youth Mental Health**
While people often know a lot about common physical health problems, there is little knowledge of mental illness. This adds to the stigma surrounding mental health problems, preventing people from seeking and obtaining help. This program increases mental health knowledge, decreases stigma and improves confidence in helping young people with mental health problems.

Mental Health First Aid is a well-known and established course. This training is recommended for family workers, all workers in social and health services, education and anyone working or living with young people. Through this interactive 2 day training you will learn how to: assess the risk of suicide or harm & respond appropriately identify the signs & symptoms of mental health problems identify risk factors & causes identify appropriate interventions & available support.

**When:** Mon & Tues, 16 & 17 January, 2012

**Where:** Learn 2, Rouse Hill Shopping Centre, ROUSE HILL, NSW

**Time:** 9.00am – 5.00pm Cost: $200+gst
Includes Manuals (RRP $30) and training materials, morning & afternoon tea provided

**Registrations:** Dianne
dianne@powerhousecc.org.au

Christina Bennet
Principal

**Deputy’s Report**

**The Canteen:** Please be aware that the new Menu and Price List for 2012 has now been published on the school website. The Canteen has a tab in the “Our School” section.

2012: If you are aware that your student will not be returning to Model Farms next year please let us know ASAP. There is a sign-out process that needs to be followed. If your student is moving to another DEC school then it will not be possible to complete the enrolment at their new school until they are “released” electronically from MFHS. As a school we continue to have greater demand for placement than we can meet. I have about 10 students waiting for a chance at placement in Year 9 next year and any information about a potential place becoming available may help us “make someone’s year”.

**Late return from break:** If you aware that your student will not be returning school on the scheduled return date please let the school know in writing to ensure that we keep a place for you.

**Years 7, 11 and 12 Return to school on MONDAY the 30th of January.**

**Years 8, 9 and 10 return on TUESDAY the 31st of January.**

Mark Anderson
Deputy Principal
**CALENDAR**

**TERM 4**
**WEEK 10**
Mon 12/12  Yr 9 Presentation Assembly
Tues 13/12  Presentation Evening
Wed 14/12  Senior Science Assessment 1
Thur 15/12  Yr 12 Ext 1 English Assessment 7
Fri 16/12  Yr 12 Back to the Farms BBQ

**WEEK 11**
Mon 19/12  Staff Development Day
Tues 20/12  Staff Development Day

**Student Planner Focus**

*Junior – Revision and Remembering*

*Middle - Revision: The Key Element*

*Senior – Revision: The Key Element*

**Specific Aims and Objectives - at the end of this week students should have:**

- A raised self awareness that regular and structured revision will build their understanding and learning power.

- An understanding of their personal best ways to learn and revise using their dominant Multiple Intelligences.

- A confidence and willingness to develop a revision program in each of their subjects.

- A preparedness to use thinking tools and Habits of Mind when revising.

**Weekly Focus:**

Building reflective learning habits into our students’ study cultures includes instilling in them a willingness to establish a structured revision program. Revision is an all the time thing, not a sometimes thing. It can take many forms and the key purpose of it is for learnt material to be continually revisited, pondered about and applied.

Raising students’ self awareness that they have personal best ways of learning by using their dominant Multiple Intelligences will assist them to be effective in their revising. Considering using summaries, lists, idea maps, posters, recording thoughts orally, power points, role plays, graphic organisers and so on will benefit them immensely.

When revising what they have learnt, encourage students to use thinking tools to organise their thoughts and Habits of Mind to add depth to their thinking to explore new connections to the material. A trap many students fall into is to learn and revise in the same way all the time; their brains just turn off.

A general rule of thumb is for every 50 minutes of class time, students should spend 5 minutes each night revising. Then revisit the material at the end of the week, then the end of next week and then the end of the month. To embed it in their long term memories they need to revise it a minimum of five times.

When learnt material is not revised regularly, it is not stored in students’ long term memory tanks and lost; why learn it in the first place? The above focuses are designed to assist students, parents and teachers to create structured and thorough revision programs that are effective. Such approaches actually save students time.

As adults we know only too well how easy it is to forget things when we don’t revisit them regularly; our students are no different.

“If I had nine hours to chop down a tree, I’d spend six hours sharpening my axe.”

Abraham Lincoln

**Merit Awards**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bronze</th>
<th>Year 7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emily Duncan</td>
<td>Garnya Sirikaewnoppakun</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nikita cillero</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lara Grzechnik</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phillip Pogossov</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bria Auzins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Are you learning to drive?

Then allow us to teach you…

We are a family owned business based in the Hills District. Your instructor, Peter, is a former police officer with over 25 years experience. Peter holds a Certificate IV in Driving Instruction and a Certificate IV in Training & Assessment. We have single lessons, multi lesson packages and gift certificates available.

www.allthingsdriving.com.au

UNIFORM SHOP
Trading Days and Hours
Monday, Wednesday and Friday
8.10 am until 9.00 am

Payment Options
Cash - Cheque - Visa - Mastercard

YEAR 10
Please purchase your SENIOR uniforms NOW.

Please be advised of the following dates:

LAST DAY OF TRADING for 2011
Wednesday 7 December

SATURDAY TRADING DAYS
Saturday - 3 December
Saturday - 14 January
9.00 am until 2.00 pm

SHOP RE-OPENS FOR NORMAL TRADING
Wednesday - 1 February

PLEASE NOTE: The Uniform Shop will NOT be open on the first days of Term 1 – 2012.

Please ensure you purchase all your uniform requirements before 7 December or on the above Saturday trading days to avoid NOT having your correct uniform.

TRACKSUIT ORDERS
Last Orders CLOSE – Friday 10 February 2012
They will be available for pick up at the beginning of Term 2

A huge thank you to our Wonderful Volunteers for 2011
Wendy Turner, Rowyna Harrold, Fiona Bennett, Hanna Collison, Alma Lukic, Petra McConnell, Jayshree Parmar, Franca Di Donato and Jenny Ryan

Your dedication, hard work, friendship and laughs are always appreciated !!!

Wishing everyone a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Thank you
Roz Noel
Uniform Shop Co-ordinator

WOW Week

The WOW program was a week based around answering the question, “What does it take to succeed in life and work?” In trying to answer this question, we heard inspirational speakers, visited many successful companies like Coke and did workshops that helped us to understand more about the balance of all things in life and our strengths that could be used in future careers.
While we do not know the answer to the question, every student learnt something new and faced challenges during the week like surveying random people on the street. One thing that really stood out for most students was the success was not how much money someone makes but that everyone has their own definition of success and they need to set goals to reach it. WOW was a really fun program that gave all the students a look into what they could do and be in the future.

“The WOW experience opened our eyes to new possibilities in both our working and personal lives which we never thought were even possible. The inspirational speaker Sebastian Robertson really encouraged us as young people to use our voices and experiences to help others and to personally achieve our goals. Through the Wow week we learnt that success in both your working and personal life can only be gauged by yourself. We all realised that money and wealth doesn't define success. Anyone can be successful if they are passionate about what they are doing and are happy. The WOW week was a wonderful learning opportunity and has inspired all to achieve our personal best in life”.

The students who spent the week at WOW were Kathryn Turner, Hannah Willars, Meagan van Aswegen, Maddison Kerney, Amelia Griffen, Teagan Noel, Mannraj Sidhu, Mathew Brokenbrough, Issabella Astoria, Stephen Rookeward, Duncan Mitchell, Dimitri Bounos, Adam Mitchell, and Kate Patten.

A big thank you to Miss Woods from Careers for helping to organise the week.

Kathryn Turner and Hannah Willars

FROM THE ENGLISH AND DRAMA FACULTY . . .

Congratulations to the following Faculty Merit recipients:

Yea 7 - Jonathon Zalakos, Zacharay Fox, Jane Miles, Connor Inglis

Year 8 – Jessica Halls, Turoa Waaka, Caleb Jackson, Siobhan Dobie

Year 9 – Alison Hill, Rachel Henry, Andres Montelongo, Jordan Mileto, Anuradha Rattnayake

Year 11 – Connor Brood, Jake Bohan, Sidney Ramos, Paige Popple, Samantha Adams, Teneal Greenaway, Nahal Saberian, Anthony Gioffre

Classroom Snapshots:

Go team 8EC! have been working in groups over the past two weeks on a creative group project. I have been observing the groups and have been impressed with the collegial and productive teamwork. Looking forward to their presentations!

7S are writing essays! WOW!!! They have investigated eh film Whale Rider with a focus on character and social issues, particularly gender expectations.
9EW are working independently on Remember the Titans. Their focus in these last weeks of 2011 is commendable.

Ms Dunger would like to commend 11ESD for the considerable improvement in application. The boys have gone up a gear and have their sights set on HSC success.

Congratulations to the Year 9 Drama class for their highly entertaining and skilfully composed short films. Clearly there is Spielberg in each of you!

Calling in all books!

Please look under beds and in cupboards for any unreturned texts. Replacements are very expensive and we would rather purchase new titles! Students who have not returned texts will be invoiced at the end of the week.

And to all our students and the Model Farms community, we wish you a wondrous Christmas and a terrific 2012 . . . the English and Drama Faculty
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>SPORT</th>
<th>VENUE</th>
<th>ROOM</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>STAFF</th>
<th>HT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOYS GRADE</td>
<td>Open Baseball</td>
<td>Col Sutton</td>
<td>3MU2</td>
<td>12:15 – 2:40</td>
<td>Neville</td>
<td>GC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15’s Cricket</td>
<td>Max Ruddock</td>
<td>710</td>
<td>12:40 – 2:40</td>
<td>Jiminez</td>
<td>JB2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Open Basketball a/b</td>
<td>School Courts</td>
<td>4L1</td>
<td>12:15 – 2:40</td>
<td>Chand</td>
<td>FH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15’s Basketball a/b</td>
<td>School Courts</td>
<td>804</td>
<td>12:40 – 2:40</td>
<td>McKenna</td>
<td>JB2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Open’s Touch</td>
<td>Gooden</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>12:15 – 2:40</td>
<td>Hoysted</td>
<td>JB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15’s Touch a/b</td>
<td>Gooden</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>12:40 – 2:40</td>
<td>Barnes</td>
<td>JB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIRLS GRADE</td>
<td>Open Softball</td>
<td>Gooden</td>
<td>6L3</td>
<td>12:15 – 2:40</td>
<td>Newton</td>
<td>DD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Open Oztag a/b</td>
<td>Gooden</td>
<td>504</td>
<td>12:15 – 2:40</td>
<td>Fountis</td>
<td>JB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Open Volleyball a/b</td>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>503</td>
<td>12:15 – 2:40</td>
<td>Hietamaki</td>
<td>BH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15’s Volleyball a/b</td>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>6L2</td>
<td>12:40 – 2:40</td>
<td>Edwards</td>
<td>FH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Open Netball a/b</td>
<td>Gooden</td>
<td>708</td>
<td>12:15 – 2:40</td>
<td>Dunger</td>
<td>JC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15’s Netball a/b</td>
<td>Gooden</td>
<td>812</td>
<td>12:40 – 2:40</td>
<td>Lumley</td>
<td>JD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REC SPORT</td>
<td>Rock Climbing $6 + bus</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>701</td>
<td>12:15 – 2:40</td>
<td>Georgopolos, Easthorpe</td>
<td>EL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ten Pin Wondabowl $6.00 + bus</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>1C1</td>
<td>12:15 – 2:40</td>
<td>Relf, Munroe</td>
<td>GC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gym $8 + bus</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>1W1</td>
<td>12:15 – 2:40</td>
<td>Cooper</td>
<td>EL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Swimming $4.00 + bus</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>12:15 – 2:40</td>
<td>Vince, Frost, Fornaiser</td>
<td>EL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ice Skating $7.00+ bus</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>707</td>
<td>12:15 – 2:40</td>
<td>Jideh</td>
<td>GC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Squash $5</td>
<td>Winston Hills</td>
<td>802</td>
<td>12:40-2:40</td>
<td>Miani, Manson</td>
<td>JD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tennis Olympus $5</td>
<td>Winston Hills</td>
<td>801</td>
<td>12:40-2:40</td>
<td>Kumar, Kuang</td>
<td>JD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rec Walking</td>
<td>Around</td>
<td>808</td>
<td>12:40-2:40</td>
<td>Gregory, Aldabas, Villagran, Moctezuma Gardner</td>
<td>FH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>House Sport</td>
<td>Gooden Res</td>
<td>TLC</td>
<td>12:40-2:40</td>
<td>Keen, Maksimovic, Montgomery Woods, P.Singh M.Dawson</td>
<td>KT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gooden Res</td>
<td>TLC</td>
<td>12:40-2:40</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>School Oval</td>
<td>TLC</td>
<td>12:40-2:40</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gardening</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>507</td>
<td>12:40-2:40</td>
<td>Snell, Daly</td>
<td>JC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Musical</td>
<td>Dance Studio</td>
<td>12:40-2:40</td>
<td>Middleton</td>
<td>DD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 7 SPORT</td>
<td>7V</td>
<td>Touch Football</td>
<td>704</td>
<td>12:15 – 2:40</td>
<td>Weingarth</td>
<td>KT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7R</td>
<td>Touch Football</td>
<td>702</td>
<td>12:40 – 2:40</td>
<td>Letherbarrow, Archer</td>
<td>JP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7I</td>
<td>Netball</td>
<td>3K2</td>
<td>12:15 – 2:40</td>
<td>Dick</td>
<td>BH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7T</td>
<td>Netball</td>
<td>709</td>
<td>12:40 – 2:40</td>
<td>Bowen</td>
<td>JB2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7E</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>506</td>
<td>12:15 – 2:40</td>
<td>Greer</td>
<td>JC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7S</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>4L4</td>
<td>12:40 – 2:40</td>
<td>D’Souza</td>
<td>FH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NON SPORT</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>6L1</td>
<td>12:40 – 2:40</td>
<td>Prince</td>
<td>FH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPORT DETENTION</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>12:40 – 3:00</td>
<td>Watson</td>
<td>JB2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>