FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Student Success

Our fabulous Year 11 Debating Team has struck again, beating a team of worthy opponents from The Hills Sports High School last week in a debate hosted in our school library. The girls and their coach, Ms Greer, continue to build their skills with each debate and are being well rewarded for their efforts. Quite a lot of time goes in to training the team and they spend many hours working together in preparation and they deserve our congratulations regardless of the outcomes. Well done girls.

Superhero day

Last Friday was a ‘super’ day at the Farms! I’m sure most of you heard from your children or via our Facebook page how the staff surprised the students by dressing up in superhero outfits to raise money for HeartKids and to put a smile on the MFHS faces. The vibe around the school was terrific with everyone getting in the spirit and it was certainly well worth it to see the look on our students’ faces when we first appeared. We work hard to promote positive mental health at school and it would have been hard to feel down or melancholy when your teacher is dressed as Batman, Super Girl, Wonder Woman, Captain America, Cat Girl or even a Ninja Turtle! Ms Lumley has prepared a report later in the newsletter which I hope you enjoy reading.

External Validation

Model Farms High School has been selected by the Department of Education to undergo external validation which will take place either in term 3 or 4 this year. The external validation process is an important component of a system-wide approach to school excellence. Schools regularly self-assess their improvement efforts using evidence to support their reflections. Every five years, an external validation panel consisting of Peer Principals, considers the school’s evidence, providing assurance to the school and the system that the progress being made aligns with the standards articulated in the School Excellence Framework. The school executive team has already started the process of gathering the documents and data such as our HSC and NAPLAN analysis, wellbeing reports and annotated evidence that we will offer for evaluation. I will of course report on the outcome but feel confident that we will have the good work we do here at the Farms will be appropriately validated.

Student Leadership Initiative
Are you feeling cold with the change in weather? Well just imagine what it would be like if you didn’t have warm clothes to shield you from it; if you didn’t have hot food to nourish you; or a safe place to shelter from the winds. The student leadership team decided that this was something they should try and do for the less fortunate in our society and so they have established a clothing drive in the hope of collecting warm winter accessories that can be donated to charities who will distribute to the needy. I would like to encourage everyone to support their initiative and deposit donations in the bins outside the PE staffroom. I commend them for their planning, design, negotiation, consultation and implementation so far.

**Trivia Night**

Save the date – 6th August for the annual P&C Trivia night. This year Trivia night will help celebrate the 40th anniversary of Model Farms which opened its doors on our current site in 1976. The members of the P&C are doing a magnificent job at preparing a fun night for everyone so make sure you book your tables and get your teams organised.

**Christina Bennet**  
**Principal**
Student Success

Congratulations to Year 10 student Matthew McVey, who recently completed a busy athletics season. After winning the gold medal in javelin and the bronze medal in discus at the NSW All Schools Track & Field Championships he went on to compete at the Australian All Schools Track & Field Championships in Melbourne. He then competed at the NSW Junior & Youth Track & Field Championships once again winning the gold medal in the javelin and achieved a new personal best. At the Australian Junior & Youth Track & Field Championships in Perth he competed in both the javelin and discus. Although he had already secured the bronze medal in the javelin after his second throw, in his final throw he achieved a new personal best of 55.89 metres and beating his old PB by over 2.8 metres.

As a result of his performance at the Australian championships, Matthew was one of only 7 javelin throwers in Australia to be selected to the 2016 Athletics Australia National Under 17 Development Squad.

At the same time, Matthew was also selected to the Western Sydney Academy of Sport AFL program and was later selected as one of only 10 boys in his age group to join the GWS Giants Academy program.

With a busy training and competition schedule, Matthew has unfortunately suffered a spinal stress reaction and is currently undergoing a rehabilitation program to repair and strengthen his back. He is hoping to get back into his athletics and AFL training in June.

Congratulations Matthew on your achievements in both athletics and AFL and best wishes on a complete recovery.
Year 10 Course Selection Information Evening

A reminder that the Year 10 information evening will be held in the school hall on Tuesday 7 June 2016, commencing at 6:15pm. This is an opportunity for students, parents and caregivers to learn about the requirements of Year 11 study at MFHS and also to discuss particular courses with staff members. The evening will conclude at 8:15pm.

Executive Conference

Each year, the Executive team at MFHS spend one and a half days in a conference setting, reflecting on current practice, reviewing the progress towards our school targets, professionally developing each other and planning for the forthcoming year.

I would like to thank each of the team members for their time, energy and contributions towards this important and valuable gathering and I am sure all community members will appreciate the fruits of your labour in the coming months.

Heartkids Fundraising Day

On Friday 27 May, the school held a fundraising day for Heart Kids. To mix things up, the staff dressed as heroes and super heroes to the surprise of the students. Thank you to everyone involved in the day, for your efforts and donations, and especially to Kellie Lumley and Christina Bennet for the planning and enthusiasm in making this day happen.

Have a wonderful week,

Mark Grady
Deputy Principal
TERM 1

WEEK 7
Monday 6th June    Yr 11 English ESL Speaking Task due
                   Yrs 9 and 11 Parent Teacher Night
                   Primary Links Program Winston Hills Public School 1:15pm
                   IT Timber and IT Multimedia Industry Study Report
Tuesday 7th June   Yr 10 Course Information evening for Yr 11 2017
                   Yr 10 Debating
                   Yr 12 Chemistry Practical Task
                   Yrs 11 and 12 Drama Parramatta Theatre
Wednesday 8th June Yr 12 Mathematics, Mathematics Ext 1 and Ext 2 Summary Book
                   Assign 3
Thursday 9th June  Mathematics and Mathematics Ext 1 Summary Book Assignment 2
Friday 10th June   RAISE p3 Select Yrs 8 and 9 students
                   Yr 12 HSC Modern and Ancient History Study Day University of
                   Sydney
                   Yr 9 Drama Assessment Task 2
                   Yrs 7 and 8 Debate

WEEK 8
Monday 13th June  Public Holiday
Tuesday 14th June Yr 7 Language & Comprehension tests
                   USW Chemistry Experiment Day
                   Synergy Dance Festival
Wednesday 15th June Yr 7 Language & Comprehension tests
                   Yr 12 Advanced English Listening Assessment
                   Yr 10 Debating
Thursday 16th June Yr 7 Language & Comprehension tests
                   Western Sydney Careers Expo
                   Celebrating the Arts Audition
                   Senior Drama Company to ATYP (evening)
Friday 17th June   Yr 7 Language & Comprehension tests
                   RAISE P3 Select Yrs 8 & 9 students
                   Yr 12 Drama Assessment 3
                   Yr 12 Modern History HSC Task 3 Structured response
                   Yr 11 Society & Culture Task 3
                   Yr 11 Physics Practical Test
The Staff have been using MindMatters to focus on developing positive relationships with students in order to make their experiences at school more engaging and to recognise their value and contribution in the classroom.

On Friday 27th May the staff decided to surprise the students by dressing up as heroes and superheroes and add a little more fun to the day. Primarily the day was to raise funds for Heartkids, an organisation that supports families whose children suffer from heart disease. We asked students for a gold coin donation and had a sausage sizzle and a student’s vs superheroes touch football match at lunchtime. The day was a huge success in raising over $2000 for Heartkids. Being taught by a superhero was an experience the students will never forget!
Year 12
The HSC Trials are approaching fast and all of Year 12 English are on track, completing their particular Course Modules. The Standard English Course students are engaged in exploring transitions represented in the novel, The Story of Tom Brennan, whilst the Advanced students are engaged in a Comparative Study of Texts and Context, closely analysing Julius Caesar and The Prince.

It is interesting to contemplate that 6 years of studying English in high school will be compressed into a number of essays. It is therefore vital for a favourable outcome that Year 12 students develop skills in structured essay responses by undertaking and actively practising the core components of the essay scaffold through the drafting, editing and re-editing of their work.

Year 11
Year 11 have just received their results and the feedback from the Half Yearly Exams. Some were surprised at the unanticipated rigour and mental stamina required for the Preliminary English Course whilst the majority realised that this introductory snapshot of next year’s HSC should be seen as a stark reminder of the work ethic required for success.

They are now exploring the world of drama. This is a unique experience for many of the students to reflect on the composer’s craft to represent aspects of the human condition in a social context using symbolic representations on the stage, which mirror as well as illuminate the various dynamics of what it means to be an interactive, socially responsible citizen.

Year 10
Year 10 are now delving deeply into the world of fiction studying an author’s observations of the world and how conflict gives rise to many social issues that are beyond the control of the individual.

They will be asked to reflect on the novel they study in class by scripting a formal interview using open ended questions and at the same time role playing critical written responses which aim to explore the textual features of the unique style of the composer in the construction of characters, social complications, ethical behaviours and moral judgements.

Year 9
Year 9 are also studying literature through the narrative text type. They are exploring the various features of a novel closely scrutinising the important elements of a story to elicit personal relevance in their own social context. The designs of plot, characterisation, conflict, setting and thematic concerns will be strong components of their analyses of the novel.

As part of the Stage 5 outcome requirements the Year 9 cohort will begin writing extended essay responses testing their logic and developing their skills to formalise a sustained piece of writing that captures a point of view which is structured, coherent and utilises the appropriate conventions of written expression.
Year 8

All of Year 8 have been actively immersed in the world of Picture Books. The study of the Picture Book offers a variety of opportunities for students to reflect and ponder the power of the image. The constant exposure of the image in a student’s interpretation of meaning, coupled with the understated influences in today’s digital world, play an enormous role in the development of young peoples’ narrative of their local community as well as the broader context of society. Year 8 will be composing their own Picture Book as part of this term’s assessment and they will be required to actively consider and self-reflect on the following questions: how will colour? text? positioning? lay-out? framing? gaze? vectors? angles? salience? perspective? be used to make my picture book interesting, engaging and thought-provoking?

“Art,” as Einstein reminds us, “is the expression of the most profound thoughts in the simplest way.”

Year 7

Year 7 have undergone a lot of testing this semester to gauge what areas of literacy should be the primary focus for individual classes. The skills of comprehension, reading, listening, basic punctuation and writing have all been targeted as a precursor to the Naplan Tests.

All Year 7 classes are now settling into a Close Study of a Text, examining the features of a particular text-type gaining a deeper understanding of the narrative voice and its ability to explore a social issue. As part of this term’s assessment Year 7 will be expected to empathise with one of the characters they have studied and compose a Diary Entry that is socially aware as well as socially responsible.

Merits

Congratulations to the following students who have received merits already this term from the English/Drama Faculty:

Year 7
Year 8  Rylee, Harry, Sabine, Jaygen, Yuanhong, Sabrina
Year 9  Layla, Steffanie
Year 10 Josh, Jessica, Georgis, Cloey, Conor,
Year 11 Michelle, Layth, James, Brooke, Jessica, Anastasia
Year 12 Stephanie, Bryce

Debating

Congratulations to the Year 11 Debating team who are the zone winners of the Year 11 and 12 Premier’s Debating Challenge. The team, Simone, Corinne, Joanna, Abbey and Angie, will now go through to the regional semi-finals.

The team has had a busy start to the debating season, entering both the Year 11 Metro Competition and the Years 11 and 12 Premier’s Debating Challenge. Over the last two weeks the girls have had five debates ranging in topic such as ‘There should be public interest testing for media ownership’, ‘All government schools should be co-educational’ and ‘The Queen should be Australia’s last monarch’. There was strong competition from Girraween High School, Crestwood High School, Rouse Hill High School and The Hills Sports High School. At present there is still one final debate to be held for the Year 11 Metro Competition before the zone winners are announced.

DRAMA at the Farms from Mr. Hodgson
Our **HSC Drama** students have been hard at work developing their Group Performance and Individual Performances in the lead up to their ‘In Progress’ Assessment Task in Week 9. We look forward to seeing these students showcase their talents at Fame at the Farms this year.

The **Preliminary Drama** students have been working towards their Verbatim Theatre performance to be presented Week 1, Term 3. These students have been researching the tragedy of the MH17 disaster. Students have engaged in a variety of exercises learning the conventions of Verbatim Theatre, read a great number of articles and interviews and used images as sources of stimuli to develop their performance.

Both our senior classes will be attending the Parramatta Riverside Theatre production of ‘Stolen’ on Tuesday 7th June. Year 11 will be composing a theatre criticism review on the production to be submitted in Week 9 of this term, along with their Elements of Production Portfolios. I look forward to a cultured day at the theatre with these budding performers.

**Year 10 Drama** students have had a busy term creating a playbuilt performance called ‘After shocks’. This piece focuses on the tragedy of the Nepalese Earthquake. Students will be auditioning this performance for the LightsUP Festival. Best of luck Year 10! This performance will also be showcased at Fame at the Farms in the final week of this term.

The **Junior Drama Ensemble** has been working towards creating a playbuilt performance called ‘Mighty Mikala’. This piece follows the vivid imagination of a schoolgirl as she sits in class daydreaming. She becomes a secret agent and encounters some strange characters including the evil red-haired Donald Dump, and a fierce and frightening dragon. This performance will be auditioned for the LightsUP Festival and the Celebrating the Arts Festival and presented at Fame at the Farms. We look forward to seeing the talent continue to develop in these devoted performers. Great work this term juniors!

Lastly, the **Senior Drama Company** is still hard at work rehearsing a production of *Bassett* by James Graham to be presented Term 4. As part of their research, they will be attending a production of *Bassett* at ATYP on 16th June to see the same production performed by professional actors.
Year 7
Manan B, Kayla H-I, Manu I, Samantha K, Nathaniel L, Maya L, Lachlan N, Trisha R,

Year 9
Jalyssa C

Year 11
Chris E, Angie G, Ann L, Joel N, Angelina V, John Z,

This week’s news

Year 8 Gifted and Talented Day

Mrs Manson had the pleasure of taking six Year 8 students to the Gifted and Talented Day at Northmead High School on Tuesday 24th March. Our students displayed exemplary behaviour and focus on the tasks. It was a wonderful to see how they problem solved and worked as a team.
Maths in Surveying:
On 13th May, Mrs Manson has the pleasure of taking ten Year 10 students to Hombush Bay for the Maths in Surveying Day. The participated in outdoor measuring activities and then entered the data on AutoCad. All of our students worked well and were a credit to our school.

Half Yearly Examinations
The Half Yearly Examinations have all been completed for the year and teachers are busily marking and writing reports. The next Parent/Teacher night is on Monday 6th June for Year 9 and Year 11. You are now able to make your booking online to make your appointment to speak with your Year 9 or Year 11 child’s Mathematics teacher.

Calculators:
Please make sure that all students have their own calculator. The Casio fx-82AU PLUS II is sold at the uniform shop for $35. Different brands of scientific calculators have different layouts and it is important that everyone in a class has the same calculator. Students need this calculator from Year 7. It is vital for their progress that students are familiar with their calculator and know how to use the different functions.

Have a Mathematical week,
From Jackie Dalton and the
Maths Faculty Staff
FROM THE SPORT CO ORDINATORS

MFHS ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Model Farms High School held the annual Athletics Carnival at the warm up track of Sydney Olympic Park on the 17th May, 2016. It was a fantastic day and was great to see so many students there. Participant numbers were high and student support was great. Congratulations to the winning house, Thompson! Good luck to those students who have qualified for Zone. This is a two-day event and will take place on the 21st and 22nd June at SOPAC main track.

ATHLETICS AGE CHAMPIONS

Well done to the following students who were age champions at our school carnival:

Kai, Indigo, Benjamin, Zoe, Nicholas, Emily, Adam, Teigan, Peter, Bailie-Rae, Timothy and Jacqueline

Check out the Hills Zone Combined High Schools Sports Association website and Facebook page!
With auditions currently underway, our students are working hard to get one of the limited spots in the show. The students are practising hard for the best two nights of FAME ever.

Our talented students are prepared to bring out the best in themselves in order to present a performance that will stand out and contribute to a night the MFHS community will enjoy. Every year many gifted students audition for FAME and the finest will showcase their talents and passion for the performing arts on the two nights.

For two nights only, students will unveil their talents through a variety of spectacular performances of dance, drama and music. These entertaining performances will certainly be a night to remember.

Starting at 7pm only on the 28th and 29th of June, tickets will be available soon at $15 per person.
FROM THE P&C

**Annual Trivia Night:**
*This year celebrating 40 years of Model Farms High School*

Our trivia night this year will be on 6th August. For a bit of fun, we are encouraging everyone to pick a decade Model Farms has been around for and dress and decorate your table appropriately!

Spread the word and encourage past students, teachers and parents to attend, as well as getting a table together yourself.

To book a table phone Fiona Bennetts on 0425 362 181, or the school office on 9624 3133. Donations for prizes also needed. Please deliver to the school by 26th July, or contact Narelle McMenemy 0433 120 622 or narellemcm@hotmail.com to arrange alternate arrangements.

**June Meeting**

Our June meeting is on Wednesday 8th and will feature guest speakers Mrs Natalie Vella, who will inform us of all the research resources available to the students at the school and Mrs Kellie Lumley who will discuss Model Farms High School welfare programs.

Belinda Schuster
P&C President
bdschuster@optusnet.com.au

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- Year 7-10 Math, English, History and Geography
- Year 7-10 Science
- Year 11 and 12 Ancient and Modern History, Business Studies and Legal Studies
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- Year 11 and 12 Biology and Chemistry
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*It is a perfect time to contact One to One Tutors, especially if you have a child in Year 11 (Preliminary exams next term) and Year 12 (HSC trials next term).*

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- Staff names are provided if absent from the venue.
- Activity details include grades and any special notes.
- Times are given in a 24-hour format.
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New stories, fact sheets and features, as well as a coaching program delivered in partnership with the Benevolent Society, will be added to ReachOut.com/Parents throughout the year.

FREE AND ACCESSIBLE
ReachOut Parents is free and available 24/7. ReachOut Parents’ mobile-first design and AA accessibility rating mean parents can access information where and when they need it.

CO-DESIGNED WITH AUSTRALIAN PARENTS
Insights from more than 1100 parents from across Australia helped us design and build the service.

WE KNOW YOUNG PEOPLE
We’ve been working with young people for 18 years (through our flagship service ReachOut.com) and understand what they’re going through.

EVIDENCE-BASED SUPPORT
ReachOut Parents is based on the latest research evidence and has been developed in consultation with experts.

COMING SOON: COACHING
A coaching program delivered in partnership with the Benevolent Society will be launched in 2016.

ABOUT REACHOUT AUSTRALIA
ReachOut is Australia’s leading online mental health organisation for young people, providing practical support to help them get through everything from everyday issues to tough times.

Since 1998, ReachOut has worked alongside young people to deliver online tools that address youth mental health and reduce youth suicide. An extension to ReachOut’s service for young people was launched in 2016 to help parents and carers improve the mental health and wellbeing of the young people within their family environment.

Available anytime and pretty much anywhere, ReachOut.com is accessed by 110,000 Australians each month. That’s more than 1.31 million people each year.