



MACQUARIE GRAMMAR SCHOOL WINTER BLUEY NEWSLETTER

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Mr. Alexandru
Acting Principal

Term in Review and Looking Ahead

Dear MGS Community,

As Term 3 ends, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been an incredibly intense and rewarding term for our students, teachers and staff.

This term has been particularly significant for our Year 12 students, who are now in the final stages of preparation for their HSC exams. The lead-up to these exams has been a time of great dedication and hard work, with students giving their all to ensure they are ready to tackle the challenges ahead. I know this can be a stressful time and I am incredibly proud of how our Year 12 students have approached their studies with determination and focus. We are all confident they will do their very best when the exams begin next term.

A special thank you goes out to our amazing teachers who have gone above and beyond to support our Year 12 students, particularly those who gave up their own time during the school holidays to run additional lessons. This extra support has been invaluable and I know the students are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to continue their learning during the break.

The end of Term 3 is always an emotional time as we say farewell to our Year 12 cohort. Our Year 12 Farewell assembly was a beautiful and heartfelt occasion, where we celebrated the achievements of our graduating students and wished them well for the future. It was a poignant reminder of how much these young people have grown over their years at MGS and we are excited to see them take their next steps into the world beyond school. We will miss them but know they are ready to embark on the next chapter of their lives.

Amidst the busyness of this term, I am delighted to share the excellent results achieved by MGS students in the Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC), one of the most prestigious mathematics competitions in the country. Our students performed exceptionally well, with many earning high distinctions and distinctions. These results reflect not only the academic talent of our students but also the dedication and passion of our mathematics department. Congratulations to all those who participated – your hard work has truly paid off.

As we now head into a well-deserved break, I encourage all our students, staff and families to take this time to rest, recharge and prepare for the final term of the year. I know we will return refreshed and ready for the challenges and opportunities that Term 4 will bring.

Thank you all for your continued support of MGS. I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable holiday.

Messages from Mrs Sun

Dear Parents, Guardians and students,

As we continue to move through another rewarding term, I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight some important areas where we have seen significant progress and growth, all of which reflect the strong values we hold as a school community.

Upholding Our Uniform Standards

We are very proud of the way our students have embraced our uniform standards this term. A neat and well-presented uniform symbolises our shared commitment to excellence and fosters a sense of belonging. The majority of our students consistently demonstrate pride in their appearance, and this collective effort contributes to a positive school atmosphere. We encourage everyone to continue upholding this important standard, as it reinforces the professionalism we aim to instil in all aspects of school life.

Responsible Use of Shared Facilities

At our school, we strive to create an environment that values respect and consideration for others. One area where this is particularly important is the use of our lifts and shared spaces. While we prioritise lift access for students with medical needs, we encourage all students to use the stairs during recess and lunch breaks. This allows students to make the most of their break time and return to class promptly, while also ensuring that the lifts remain available for those who truly need them. By being mindful of how we share these facilities, we are fostering a community spirit that values responsibility and thoughtfulness.

Attendance and Punctuality

Regular attendance and punctuality are key markers of a student's commitment to their education. We are pleased to see that the vast majority of our students understand the importance of being present and on time for every class. These habits are essential not only for academic success but also for building personal responsibility. We continue to encourage all students to make every effort to attend classes consistently and arrive punctually, as this contributes to a productive and enriching school experience.

Promoting Accountability and Growth

Our school community is built on a foundation of mutual respect and accountability. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions and engage positively with their learning environment. We believe in offering support and guidance while maintaining high expectations, which helps our students develop into well-rounded, responsible individuals. This term, we have seen students rising to meet these expectations, and we commend their efforts to contribute to a respectful and positive school culture.

Celebrating the Moon Festival

This term, we have also had the pleasure of seeing some of our students celebrate the Moon Festival in their classrooms. This cultural event has provided a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge not only the traditions associated with the festival but also the hard work and dedication of our students. Through these celebrations, we are reminded of the importance of community and gratitude. The students participating have embraced this spirit, bringing joy and unity to the classrooms, and we are proud to see such meaningful engagement with both their studies and cultural traditions.

As always, we are incredibly grateful for the support of our school community students, staff, and families alike. Together, we continue to build an environment where every student is encouraged to grow, learn, and succeed.

Mrs Sun

Director of Welfare and Operation





Farewell Wishes for Year 12 Students

As we approach the end of Term 3, there's a shared sense of mixed emotions within our school community. It's a time of reflection, pride, and even a bit of sadness, as we prepare to say farewell to our wonderful Year 12 students. They've been an integral part of our school, contributing to its culture, and it's hard to believe that their journey here is nearly complete.

To commemorate this important milestone, we've placed special graduation bears for the year 12 students. These messages of encouragement and celebration will serve as heartfelt keepsakes for them as they move forward into the next phase of their lives.

As one of our teachers mentioned, "Term 3 is always an emotional time, filled with a sense of pride for what the students have achieved but also a tinge of sadness in seeing them leave." It's important to remind them of how much they have grown and how proud we are of their accomplishments.





Term 3 2024 at MGS started as lively and busy as Term 2 ended.

On Friday August 9th , Macquarie Grammar School hosted our Jeans for Genes day in which we met our fundraising goal of \$380 towards research and treatment of Genetic diseases in Australian Children.

I would like to thank our staff and students for their generous and thoughtful contributions towards this amazing cause as well as a big thank you to the SRC for once again driving this initiative!

Although less of a fundraising success, but equally more important, we raised awareness against bullying in our Super-Hiro anti-bullying awareness campaign in homeroom of Wednesday 14th August.

Thank you to the homeroom teachers for their support and assistance in this initiative and thank you to our students who always foster positive relationships with each other.

I can say with pride that students at MGS are kind and caring individuals where bullying is as far as possible from their nature and behaviour! Well done, MGS!!!

We look forward to the Christmas fundraiser in Term 4 and watch this space for an exiting end-of term 1 event in 2025.

Our HSC group continued in their quest for greatness in 2024 and may have been slightly knocked down by some subjects in Trials, I have no doubt they will get up again to rise to the occasion and succeed in their HSC examinations next month as we bid them farewell in their Valedictory assembly on Friday 27 September.

As a science educator, Week 5 saw Mr Warren and I host our Science week Morning Tea, where the theme was Species Diversity(perfect as a year 11 Biology topic as well).

Delicious Chocolate Freddo Frog biscuits, sour worms and snake jellies were on offer to MGS students and it was a fun and informative recess morning Tea in which we spoke about the importance of conservation and maintain species diversity in the wake of Global warming, habitat destruction and deforestation that are all global challenges right now.

The competition and hard work continued in the junior Mathematics stages of years 9 and 10 where the busy programme and larger classes produced interesting research Tasks for statistics and probability for Stage 5 Mathematics in term 3.

I look forward to a fun, event-packed and important (albeit short) term 4.

Wishing all staff, students and their families a safe and restful break.

We wish our Year 12s a productive Study leave in preparation for their all-important HSC examinations.

Mr George Stavropoulos
SRC coordinator Stage 5
Mathematics Stage 6
Mathematics Standard Stage
6 Biology Volleyball

PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES

Term 3 has been exhilarating. The school has seen an expansion in its Badminton program with extra courts now available at two different locations, which means more game time for every student.

In preparation for the ISD Basketball competition in Term 4, approximately 25 students participated in a vigorous trial and training process. I commend the students for their commitment to the Basketball trials even though only 10 players could be selected. The competition will take place in Week 2 of Term 4 and I wish the team and Mr Ip (coach) the best in the tournament.

This term, the ISD Netball girls performed extremely well. Speaking on behalf of the school, we are all very proud of their efforts. They trained all term and under the guidance of Mr Potts, they have improved dramatically since last year. For many it was their first competitive tournament and this was an invaluable experience they will never forget.

A look ahead to Term 4 will see a Badminton and Volleyball internal house/school competition. There will also be the usual Thursday Sport activities including Rock Climbing and Boxing. Additionally, there will be a three-day Camp in Week 6 and Beach Day! I am certainly looking forward to another exciting and busy term.

Mr Diakis
Sportsmaster





MGS students at the Netball ISD Competition

MGS Netball Team Shines in ISD Competition

Bright and early on Monday of Week 7, the MGS netball team travelled to Liverpool for the annual ISD Netball competition. Despite facing strong winds of up to 30 km/h, our girls performed admirably, winning two of their four matches under the leadership of Ava (Captain), Emily, and Kristina. The team showcased their skills and gained valuable experience.

Special thanks to Mr Diakis for organising this fantastic opportunity for our students to compete.

Mr Potts

English Teacher





Year 11 and 12 Japanese Beginners – Centre Visit to the Japan Foundation Sydney

At the beginning of Term 3, students in the Japanese Beginners class went on an excursion to the Japan Foundation Sydney, where they participated in two workshops, 'Dream Trip to Japan' and 'Yukata, Bon-odori and Obon Ritual'. During the first workshop, students learnt about interesting places to visit in Japan, both traditional and modern, and then in pairs they did a role-play in Japanese, discussing which places they would like to visit if they had a chance. At the end of the workshop, each student made a short talk of his/her dream trip, including food they want to eat and souvenirs they would like to purchase.

In the second workshop, students were asked to choose their own piece of yukata, a type of Japanese traditional clothing, from a wide selection of yukatas, and then they learnt how to wear it by themselves. After everyone finished putting on one, they learnt about the Japanese summer festival/ritual called Bon and one of the dances for the event. With the instructor, they danced around the classroom until the end of the workshop.

Both workshops were very interesting and educational, and students seemed to have enjoyed them. As the centre offers other workshops as well as those we attended, we will certainly go back for another one or two.

Mrs Yamashita
Japanese Teacher



Year 12 Fun Day

Despite frequent showers and drizzle, this year's Year 12 Fun Day was a huge success once again. The day began with an exciting ferry ride from Circular Quay, offering students a refreshing perspective on city life as they traveled across the harbour to Milson's Point for Luna Park. The sight of the city from the water, coupled with the bonus of a massive cruise ship docked at the Quay, reminded everyone of the beauty of Sydney's harbour.

Upon arrival, the students walked from the ferry wharf to the iconic laughing clown entrance of Luna Park, ready for an exciting day ahead. The day started with some easy rides, gradually building up to more thrilling challenges. It was heartwarming to see the students' faces light up with joy as they enjoyed the various attractions.

The fun-filled day was capped off with a delightful hot lunch at a local Thai restaurant. The cozy atmosphere and delicious dishes provided the perfect end to a soggy yet exhilarating day. The warmth of the restaurant and the tasty food helped everyone dry off and relax after their adventures at Luna Park.

Overall, the Year 12 Fun Day was a memorable experience for all, filled with laughter, excitement, and a sense of camaraderie. Despite the weather, the students made the most of their day, creating lasting memories as they celebrated the end of their school journey together.

Mr Warren
Science Teacher



Term 3 was a successful Term with Year 12 completing the year with creative and thought-provoking artworks about their different cultures and history.

This year group have been an outstanding and diligent Visual Arts class, and I wish them great success in their upcoming exams.

Ms Green

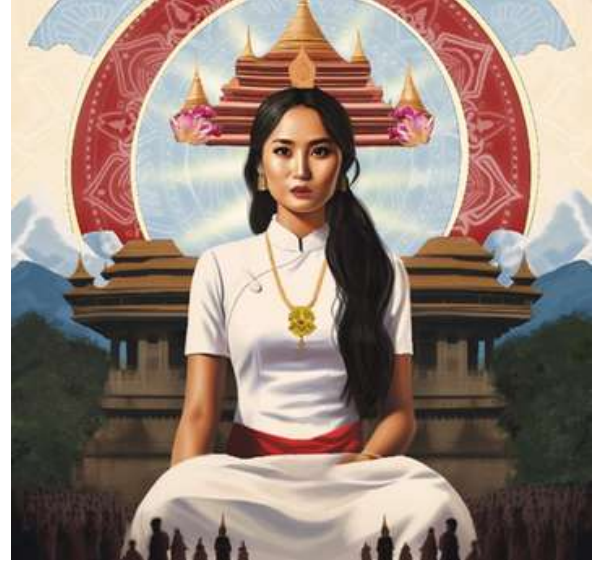
Visual Arts Teacher



Burmese culture and history

“In my first artwork, I have drawn a woman with Buddhist elements around her, showcasing the beauty of Buddhism in Burmese culture. I also used digital drawing for the necklace on the woman and the lotus flowers which is connected to Buddhism”.

(Student: McKenna)



“My body of work embraces the traditional values and culture of where I come from. Each design and motif carry specific meanings, such as protection, strength, or connection to ancestors, and is passed down through generations. Tiki also known as a statue, represent our god or creator, the three Tiki Gods each bring different kind of “mana (power)” to the environment and help to guide us throughout our journey in life. Inspired by Paul Gauguin, the portrait of the Pomare IV (queen) made in a figurative and symbolic style reflects our history and culture that shapes us as proud Polynesians”

(Student: Cynthia)





Vietnam History and culture

“For my body of work represents and references significant historical time periods of Vietnam through everyday objects and Surrealist dreamscapes. The first painting expresses the darkness and pain inflicted by the war, and the resilience of the Vietnamese people during the 1960s. The second painting is set in Hoi An ancient town which has a unique contemporary Vietnamese culture seen today. Lastly, the still life photographs use everyday objects from the French colonial period, as well as fruits found in Vietnamese daily life. These simple things developed the kindness and simplicity of the Vietnamese character”.

(Student: May)



Charlotte Liu Year 11



Khue Nguyen Year 11

Year 11 work learnt about Portraiture throughout history, from the Renaissance period to now. They created monochromatic grid portraits on the famous Vermeer artwork 'Girl with a Pearl Earring' and created their own expressive Self Portraits in a contemporary style.

Year 11 were inspired by contemporary Installation artists and sculptors this Term, and challenged themselves by creating abstract and conceptual sculptures using a variety of materials (sticks, clay, fabric and cardboard).



Harmony Thorpe-Apps Year 11



Harmony Thorpe-Apps Year 11 – Acrylic (Surrealist) self-portrait



Lisa Liang Year 11 – Oil paint self-portrait



Liam Nguyen Year 11 – Biro pen self-portrait



Charlotte Liu Year 11 – Biro pen (Surrealist) self-portrait

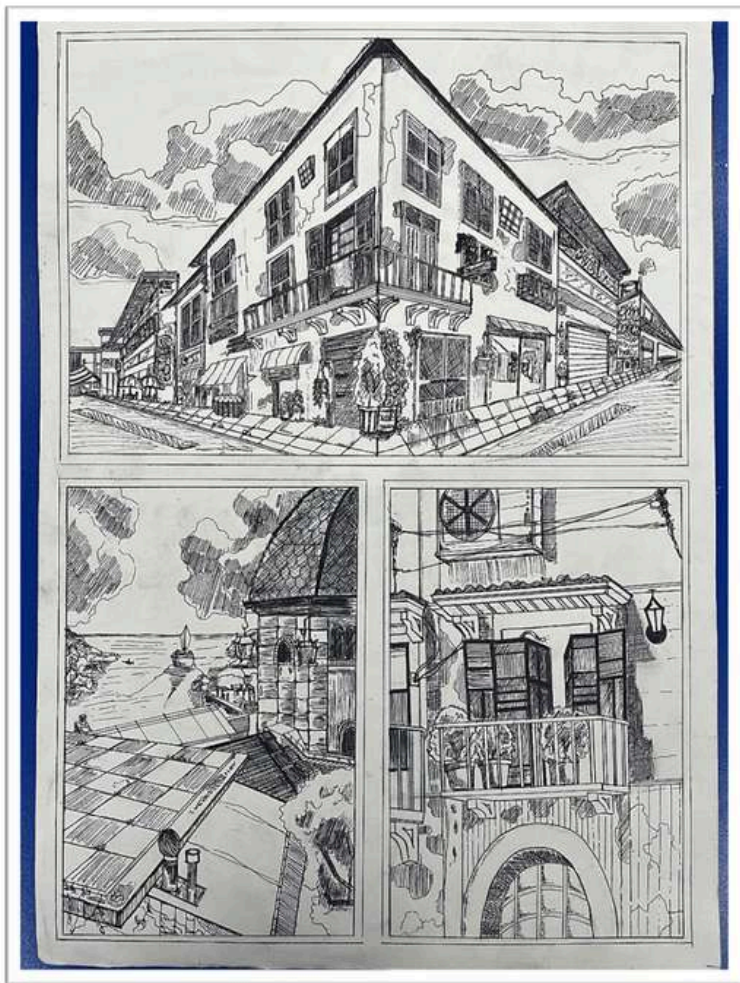


Kristina Doan Year 11 – Watercolour self-portrait

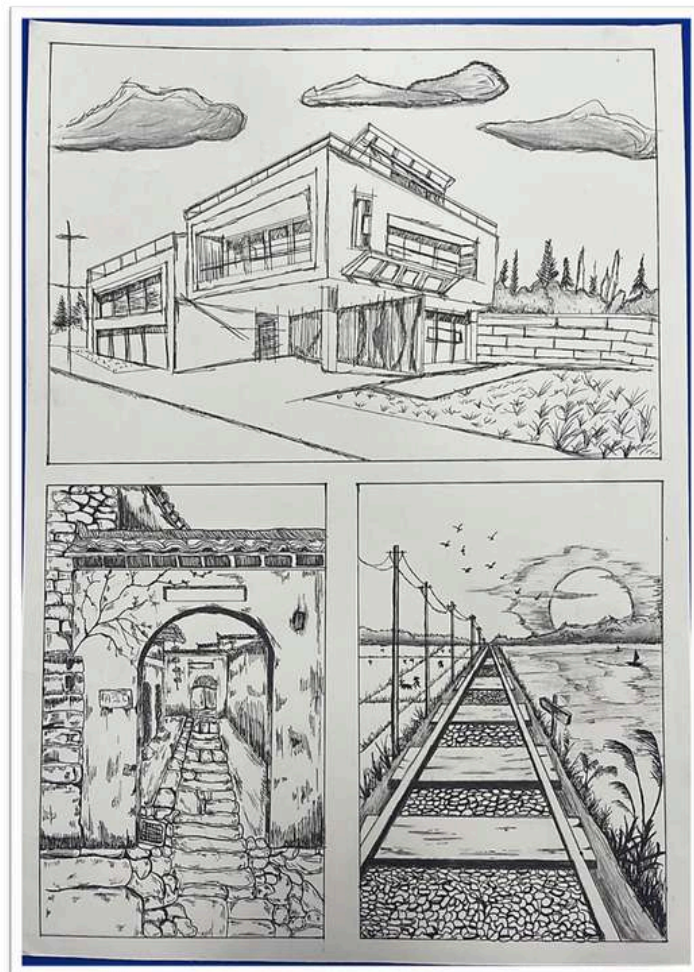


Lola Wang Year 11 – Biro pen self-portrait

Year 10 explored Architecture and designed Manga style comic artworks using perspective drawing techniques.



Cat Nguyen Year 10 – Biro pen Manga artwork



Vicky Qu Year 10 – Biro pen Manga artwork

Year 8 looked at Vanitas art and the Mexican skull artwork traditions.



Year 8 artworks

Other Activities



Winter Term Assembly



Year 12 Valedictory Assembly

Celebrating Cultural Harmony: A Personal Reflection on My Son's Wedding



I am delighted to share a few moments from my son's recent wedding, a beautiful celebration that brought together the rich traditions of Chinese and Vietnamese cultures. Our school community in Australia is a vibrant mix of diverse backgrounds, and this occasion was a heartwarming reminder of how different cultures can come together in harmony.



One of the highlights of the wedding was the tea ceremony, a tradition deeply valued in both Chinese and Vietnamese cultures. It was a moment of connection and respect, where both families came together, sharing stories, laughter, and blessings for the newlyweds. The ceremony flowed with grace, blending the unique elements of each culture while celebrating the unity that marriage represents.

As I shared these special moments, it became clear that our differences only added to the richness of the experience. It was a powerful reminder of the beauty of multiculturalism in Australia.

I look forward to celebrating the diversity within our school community and encourage everyone to embrace and share their unique traditions.

Mrs Sun
Director of Welfare of Operations



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Dear Parents/Guardians,

School Uniform Policy

As we approach spring and the weather begins to warm, we want to inform you about some updates to the school uniform policy effective Tuesday, 27 August 2024. Female students are no longer required to wear stockings until further notice.

However, all students at Macquarie Grammar School must continue to wear the approved school uniform, including the mandatory blue blazer. Wearing the full school uniform is essential for the welfare and safety of every student while travelling to and from school, as it identifies them as part of our school community.

Please note that all uniform items must be official Macquarie Grammar School attire. We would like to remind you that the full school uniform or sports uniform must be worn at all times during school hours from Monday to Friday. All uniform items are available for purchase online.

Please find below important notes regarding the implementation of the school uniform:

- Girls' skirts must be worn at the hips and should not be rolled up at the waist. The length of the skirt should not be more than 10 cm above the knee.

- Shirt sleeves must not be rolled up. - Skirts and shorts must not be shorter than 10 cm above the knee. - Girls' and boys' socks must be shin-length and visible above the shoe. - Black leather shoes must be no higher than the ankle bone.

Additional Guidelines:

- Jewellery, facial, and body piercings must be minimal in appearance and non-offensive. It must not pose a danger of injury during sports or excursions. Make-up or nail polish is not to be worn.

- Unacceptable jewellery (e.g. oversized and 'spiked' earrings, 'wrist' and facial jewellery) will be asked to be removed and left at home. - Failure to comply may result in jewellery being confiscated.

We kindly ask for your cooperation in ensuring that students maintain a high standard of neatness and conformity with the school uniform, as well as in their general appearance.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued support in fostering a positive school culture.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Sun
Director of Welfare and Operations/
Acting Deputy Principal Macquarie
Grammar School