



Model Farms High School

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE
38

Term 4 – Week 10

Monday 9 December 2013

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Student Success

Congratulations to our senior students Hannah Candelario, Sam Donohoo, Taneal Norman, Naomi De Bruine and Jaime Swavley who were finalist in the Castle Hill RSL Shine Excellence in Education Awards this week. All of the students we nominated made it to the final and they were each rewarded with a cheque for \$200. Naomi De Bruine, who was overseas won the overall Sport category. We are so proud of all our students but delighted when they get the recognition they are due in the community. Well done everyone.





Congratulations to our fabulous Year 8 Debating Team Abbey Sim, Corrine Kennedy, Joanna Bennetts, Angie Geng, Simone Cao and Brooke Kissell who not only made it to the State Championships but won their way through to the finals. MFHS has not had a team at the championships for 17 years so this was quite an historical achievement in itself. While the girls were defeated in a very close debate against Sydney Girls, they had a brilliant time competing and have returned with new skills, ideas and a determination to take out the prize next year.

Although my commitments prevented me from attending the 2013 School Spectacular, I have been told it was an amazing event and that our students shone brightly. Jessica Rookeward should definitely make featured artist next year and Marcus Loy's performances put him in a strong position to take on some more challenging roles as well. Congratulations for doing us proud. Congratulations also to Year 10 student Jarod Nekipelov who has been a member of a robotics team for the last four months. The team of 6 have been designing and building a robot for the First Tech Challenge (FTC) Australia. The team competed last Saturday at the National championships held at Macquarie University. Jarod's team, "Team 31 - The Indivisibles" came 1st in the THINK category and 2nd in the ASPIRE category. The ASPIRE category is the highest award for the competition. Coming second in the competition now means Jarod and his team mates are off to the USA in April next year to represent Australia at the world championships.



Year 6 Orientation Day

Wednesday saw our new 2014 Year 7 students arrive as Year 6 for the last time to enjoy a day of activity, friendship and information. Nearly 175 fresh faces walked the corridors, met the staff, played in the quad and enjoyed a scrumptious BBQ lunch before they headed off to farewell their primary years in the next two weeks. Our new parents were excited and had an opportunity to ask questions, clarify issues and get to know us a bit better before handing over their darlings to us. My thanks to all the staff and students who helped throughout the day and ensured that it was pleasant experience for all.

Christina Bennet
Principal

FROM THE DEPUTY ...MR GRADY

We are now certainly on the home stretch as far as the school year goes, though there is still so much to celebrate at Model Farms High School before we break for the summer vacation.

I would firstly like to offer my congratulations to the our fantastic group of Year 8 debating students, led by Ms Greer, who performed so admirably at the Premier's Debating Challenge to finish runners up in the State Final. Not only have I heard news from numerous sources of the incredible high quality of their debating prowess, but more importantly how well they represented both themselves and the school. An example of feedback received was that the team was "Extremely humble in a final decision that could well have gone either way". Well done Abbey, Simone, Brooke, Corinne, Angie and Joanna!

On the sporting front, a Year 11 student, Nathan Smith, represented Western Sydney Region at the CHS Water Polo Championships in Parramatta. In an excellent swan song performance in his secondary water polo career, Nathan's team, managed to finish 4th and gain the most improved region shield. The icing on the cake however, was Nathan being rewarded as a member of the CHS honours team. As Nathan will be in Year 12 next year, he is unable to play in the team, however the skill and determination he demonstrated, was rewarded with his selection. Well done Nathan!



During the week, Year 7 students participated in the inaugural Gala Day with Castle Hill High School. The students have told me that they had a great day, enjoying the competition and also having a lot of fun. Well done to Ms Miller and Mr Phegan for their organisation and to the group of Year 9 students who assisted on the day.

The Year 7 Orientation day was also a resounding success, with our new group of students experiencing life at the farms, in preparation for 2014. Thank you to Mr Dawson for his organisation of the day, and for his work with the Pathfinders group earlier in the week.

**Have a great week,
Mark Grady**

Sports News

Congratulations to all our Grade Sport finalists last week!
We had 8 finalists, 7 winning!

Our successful finals teams were:

Girls Open Volleyball Bs
Girls Open OzTag As
Girls Open OzTag Bs
Boys Open Baseball
Boys Open Cricket
Boys Open Touch Bs
Boys U15s Touch

Well done, champions!

TERM 4**WEEK 10**

Mon 09/12 Yr 11 Recognition Assembly
Tues 10/12 Yr 9 Recognition Assembly
Yr 7 Support Rewards
Excursion
Wed 11/12 Yr 12 Practice Narrative due
Yrs 8-10 Gifted & Talented
Project Presentation
Yr 11 Ext – Viewing &
Representing Assessment
Yr 10 Elective Music Concert
Periods 3 and 4
Yr 10 Elective Music
Performance in Hall Periods
3 and 4
Davidson Shield vs Arthur
Phillip
Thur 12/12 Yr 10 Recognition Assembly
Fri 13/12 Yr 7 Recognition Assembly
Yr 12 ESL English
Assessment Task 1
Yr 10 Jamberoo Action Park
Excursion

WEEK 11

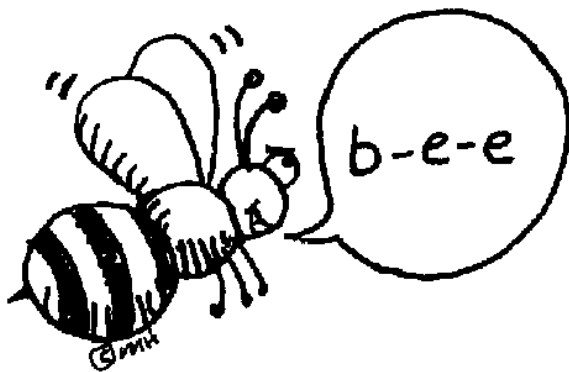
Mon 16/12 Yr 8 Recognition Assembly
Support Rewards Excursion
IMAX Theatre
HSC Drama Submit
Contemporary Australian
MFHS Presentation Evening
Tues 17/12 -
Wed 18/12 -
Thur 19/12 Yr 12 Results Day BBQ

FROM THE ENGLISH FACULTY

Congratulations to the following students who are merit award recipients:



Year 7: Michael Hernady, **Connor** McMillan, Emma Pope, Teagan Smyth, Tepene Taaka Tekaut and Jackson Wilbow

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN SPELL COMPETITION

CONGRATULATIONS to Jackson Wilbow of 7N who is the Year 7 Spelling Champion. He and six of his peers battled it out in a tight test of spelling skill. Words like 'efficient', 'mischievous' and the difference between 'alter' and 'altar' left some competitors lost for letters. Well done to Jasmine Billett (7V) as runner-up of the competition, as well as Chelsea Karanga, Maia Garcia-Medved, Atabaris Pelin, **Jack** Barnes and Sophie Beldham-Collins for the fine effort they showed on the day. Best of luck to our top spellers of Years 8 and 9 for their upcoming competitions.

Here's an activity to get you in the mood:

Can you correct these spelling mistakes?

extreem
overwelmed
quarel
humor
challange

Premier's Debating Challenge State Finals Camp

Congratulations to our Year 8 debating team (Corinne Kennedy, Simone Cao, Brooke Kissell, Joanna Bennetts, Abbey Sim and Angie Geng) for their outstanding efforts at the three-day State Final Camp for the Premier's Debating Challenge. The girls pitted their debating skills against nine of the best teams from across NSW, including Dubbo South, Nambucca Heads, Tamworth, Barham (Riverina), Toronto and North Sydney. The team participated in workshops and took on board feedback from adjudicators, which they utilised to improve their debating skills, enabling them to win Pool A of the round robin and putting them through to the semi-final against Nambucca Heads.

The semi-final was close with both Model Farms and Nambucca Heads arguing valid points for the topic 'The age of learner drivers should be increased'. As the negative team, we argued that it would not be logical to increase this age as many people rely on family (especially parents!) to accrue the required number of driving hours. We also argued that it was better to learn to drive at 16 years of age and before the influence of alcohol became a factor at the age of 18. In the end we convinced the adjudicating panel that our arguments were valid and this sent us through to the Grand Final.

Nerves were running high on the morning of the Grand Final; we were up against North Sydney Girls High School. The topic, 'That umpires should deduct runs for sledging', was right up our alley with both Abbey and Corinne sports fanatics. It was an *extremely* nerve wracking debate as both teams were so good. We argued for the negative, that runs should not be deducted as it would not be fair to have other team members pay for one person's actions and there is already a system in place of fining cricketers for this behaviour. We asked the questions how do we enforce this internationally and what happens if there are no runs scored before a sledging incident occurs? It was a very close debate. In the end the adjudicating panel were split 1:2 and awarded the title of State Champion to North Sydney Girls.

We owe the P&C a huge thank you for supporting the school's debating program, which enabled the team and Ms Greer to attend the three-day event at the University of Sydney's Women's College. Thank you to the parents who also took time out of the busy days to attend and cheer the girls on. Also, a very big thank you to Julie Apps for supporting the team in the weeks leading up to the event and for attending the Grand Final to cheer the girls on.

Well done, girls! You are the first team at Model Farms to have reached the State Final of the Premier's Debating Challenge and we are very proud of you.



DRAMA AT THE FARMS

Congratulations to our Year 9 Drama students:

Cara Boljevac

Rohan Kandan Smith

Laura Golgini

Emma Charlton

These talented and hardworking Drama students have received call-backs for the Year 10 Public Schools State Drama Ensemble for 2014. Well done and best of luck at your audition on Monday.

Ms Letherbarrow
Year Adviser

MODEL FARMS HIGH SCHOOL

UNIFORM PRICE LIST

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

Payment Options
Cash - Cheque - Visa – Mastercard

ITEM	PRICE
BOYS	
Shirt - Blue (Junior) / White (Senior)	\$32.00
Shorts - Grey (easy care)	\$35.00
Long Trousers (easy care)	\$45.00
GIRLS	
Blouse - Blue (Junior) / Lemon (Senior)	\$32.00
Skirt - Check (Junior) / Grey (Senior)	\$60.00
Long Pants	\$40.00
JUMPERS	
Fleecy	\$40.00
Wool - (Australian Wool)	\$80.00
SPORT	
Top	\$40.00
Shorts	\$35.00
TRACKSUIT (By Order Only)	
Jacket Only	\$75.00
Pants Only	\$50.00
Complete Set	\$120.00
MISCELLANEOUS	
Aprons	\$13.00
Tie - Junior / Senior	\$20.00
Blazer	\$200.00
Calculator	\$35.00
Exercise Books - ie. maths, music, normal	\$various



**REGISTRATION
2014**

Enquiries:

Michelle Tam : 0410 593 833

Nicolas Tedesco: 0412 349 660

Website: www.rockets.net.au

The Mighty ROCKETS Castle Hill RSL Soccer Club

**Invite you to play the World's Top Football Game
Don't miss our EARLY BIRD Rego...
same fees as 2013 Season**

Saturday 7th December 2013

Where : Castle Hill RSL Club, Castle Street, Castle Hill

TIMES : 10am to 3pm

Funskills: Ages 5-6

In-House: Ages 7-8

Juniors: Ages 9-18

Open Ladies & Mens Premier Leagues

Seniors: 21s, Over 35's & All Age teams

Under 12 Girls to All Age Ladies & Over 35's Ladies

Requirements for registration:

New Junior players - please bring your birth certificate

New Senior players - please bring proof of identification

GUITAR LESSONS

**Learn Guitar from an
accredited & experienced
guitar teacher.**

**Acoustic or Electric
All styles taught
Beginner to Advanced**

Available 7 days

Ph: 9863 2956

Illustrative Guide to Assist in the Purchase of Acceptable School Shoes

	Acceptable Boys Shoes: Features: - Black leather - Laced or Velcro - Upper foot protection - Non-slip sole
	Unacceptable Boys Shoes: Features: - Splashes of colour/white (shoes must be totally black, inc. shoelaces and sole) - Canvas upper Eg Rabens
	Acceptable Girl's Shoes: - Leather upper providing protection to the majority of the upper foot - Laced (preferred) or strapped* (leather strap) - Heal and sole with non-slip grip.
 <p>Ballet Flats are not acceptable</p>	Unacceptable Girl's Shoes: - The majority of the upper foot is unprotected. - Smooth sole with little grip - No/token heel - Thin/soft leather offering little protection.
Sports Shoes 	 Acceptable Sports Shoes - Lace up/Velcro (no slip-ons or dress shoes) - Covers all of the top of the foot - Provides arch support and sole protection

* Students undertaking practical based subjects need to wear lace-up shoes that protect their feet against drops and spills. O H & S requirements may result in students who are not wearing shoes with sufficient protection being excluded from some practical activities. If in doubt please purchase lace-up shoes.

There are now increased penalties and demerit points associated with all offences in School Zones.



No Parking

You have no more than 2 minutes for drop-offs or pick-ups and must stay within 3 metres of your vehicle.

Penalty from \$169 and 2 demerit points



No Stopping

Under no circumstances are you permitted to stop on a length of road to which a No Stopping Sign applies.

Penalty from \$304 and 2 demerit points



Bus Zone

You must not stop your vehicle in the indicated zone unless you are driving a public bus.

Penalty from \$304 and 2 demerit points

Double parking	\$304 & 2 demerit points
Stop on path or nature strip	\$169 & 2 demerit points
Stop on / near marked pedestrian/children's crossing	\$405 & 2 demerit points
Approach children's crossing too quickly to stop safely	\$506 & 4 demerit points
Illegal U turns	\$405 & 4 demerit points
Stop across driveway	\$169 & 2 demerit points
Drive using a hand held mobile phone	\$405 & 4 demerit points
Parallel park close to (within 3 metres) double centre line	\$236

Fines current as of July 2013

For a complete list of school zones offences visit www.rta.nsw.gov.au

INSIGHTS

by Michael Grose – No. 1 parenting educator



It's not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time.

It sounds simple, but it's true.

The correlation between school attendance and children's achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it's often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It's hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year's lost schooling over the school-life of a child.

In today's highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That's not a reason to be away!

It's now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling's birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don't really value learning or their children's school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.

As a Parent:

- ☒ Commit to sending kids to school every day.
- ☒ Make sure kids arrive at school and class on time.
- ☒ Inform the school when they are away, sending medical certificates and other evidence of genuine absence.
- ☒ Consider catching-up on missed work.
- ☒ Make kids who are away stay in their bedroom – that is where ill kids should be.

Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

It takes strong parenting...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as "It's not fair that I have to go school today because Auntie is coming to visit!"

Nice try. But the answer should be "No!"

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It's reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.

**CHANGE OF CONTACT INFORMATION
MODEL FARMS HIGH SCHOOL**

Name of Student: _____ **Year** _____

New Address: _____

_____ **Postcode:** _____

Correspondence: _____

_____ **Postcode:** _____

Email Address: _____

New Home Phone No. _____

Mother Mobile: _____

Mother Work: _____

Father Mobile: _____

Father Work _____

Emergency Contact if changed: _____

Phone No. _____

Any change in Medical Condition e.g. Allergy, Asthma etc.

Details _____

Bus Pass: YES / NO

SPORT BUS PASSES CAN NOT BE PURCHASED ON WEDNESDAYS***Sports Bus
052-001***

Please indicate preferred pass:

- A 5 trip pass for \$37.50 No. of passes _____ Total \$ _____
- A 10 trip pass for \$75.00 No. of passes _____ Total \$ _____

Name of Student/s _____ Year/s _____

Payment by: CASH ☐CHEQUE ☐**PAYMENT BY MASTERCARD OR VISA SLIP**

Please circle the appropriate card

☐ Please debit my Mastercard / Visa Account No:

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Amount in figures _____

Expiry Date: _____ CCV: _____

Name of Credit Card Holder (as shown on card) _____

Signature of Credit Card Holder: _____



GRADE	Celebration			11/12/13	
SPORT	VENUE	ROOM	TIME	STAFF	HT
BOYS GRADE					
Open Baseball	Col Sutton	3MU2	12:40 – 2:40	Neville	GC
Open Cricket	Max Ruddock	805	12:40 – 2:40	Puleo	JB2
Open Basketball a/b	MFHS courts	4L1	12:40 – 2:40	Chand	FH
15's Basketball a/b	MFHS courts	804	12:40 – 2:40	McKenna	JB2
Open's Touch	Gooden	807	12:40 – 2:40	Dawson	JD
15's Touch a/b	Gooden	712	12:40 – 2:40	Keen	JC
Mixed Waterpolo	Parra Pool	1W1	12:15 – 2:40	Vince	EL
GIRLS GRADE					
Open Oztag a/b	Gooden	806	12:40 – 2:40	Attenbrough	JD
Open Volley a/b	School Hall	503	12:40 – 2:40	Hietamaki	JE
15's Volleyball a/b	School Hall	6L2	12:40 – 2:40	Edwards	FH
Open Netball a/b	Gooden	509	12:40 – 2:40	Hoysted	JB
15's Netball a/b	Gooden	707	12:40 – 2:40	Estacio	JC
REC SPORT					
Rock Climbing \$7.50 +bus	The Edge Castle Hill	506	12:15 – 2:40	Bowen, Broadbent	EL
Ten Pin Bowling \$6.50 + bus	Wondabowl Castle Hill	808	12:15 – 2:40	Villagran, Murphy	DD
Gym \$8 + bus	Waves	6L1	12:15 – 2:40	Fountis, Jiminez	JB
Ice Skating \$7.00+ bus	Sydney Ice Arena	801	12:15 – 2:40	Montgomery, Kumar	JD
Squash \$5	Winston Hills	812	12:40-2:40	Newton, Parker, Hannan	FH
Tennis Olympus \$5	Winston Hills	707	12:40-2:40	Georgopoulos, J.Singh	JC
Rec Walking	Around	713 702 3DR	12:40-2:40	Manson, Rawat, Snell, McKnight, Ljubicic, Gregory, Leghorn, Conteh, Wawrzyniak	JP
House Sport	Gooden Res School Oval	TLC	12:40-2:40 12:40-2:40 12:40-2:40	Hobbs IC Daly, Harney, Weingarh, Gardner, Greer, D'Souza	BM
YEAR 7 SPORT					
7N	Volleyball	3A1	12:40 – 2:40	Relf	GC
7T	Blacktown Indoor \$4.50	504	12:15 – 2:40	Woods	JC
7V	Netball	3T2	12:40 – 2:40	Dick	JE
7I	Blacktown Indoor \$4.50	4L4	12:15 – 2:40	Munroe, Atkins	GC
7B	Cricket	1EL	12:40 – 2:40	P.Singh	EL
7R	Ice Skating \$8	809	12:40 – 2:40	Varghese	BM
7A	Soccer	1W2	12:40 – 2:40	Cooper	JD
NON SPORT	School	8CR1	12:40 – 2:40	Archer	JP
SPORT DETENTION	School	LIB	12:40 – 3:00	Jideh	DD

Moctezuma Week B