#### MURRUMBURRAH HIGH SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL: MR DALE RANDS

Mercury



### Term 4

- Athletics Carnival Wednesday 25 November
- Orientation Day
  Tuesday 1
  December
- Presentation Assembly Friday 11 December
- Last Day of Term
  Wednesday 16
  December

### Mercury

20 November 2020



# Principal's Report

Welcome to the end of week 6.

I must say that this term is certainly moving ahead fairly quickly. When school gets back into some sense of normality the weeks just seem to fly past. Before long and Christmas will be upon us .... only a mere 5 weeks away.

The last three weeks since our last newsletter have been quite busy for the students. Firstly, our Year 12 class of 2020 have now sat all their HSC exams and completed their schooling. I hear that many of them have started working or have done the opposite... gone into hibernation and watching tv all day. Either way their efforts to get through a very difficult year are commendable and they should be very proud of their individual achievements. Also, over the last two weeks our junior classes have been sitting their end of year examinations in class as part of their assessment. Teachers have been marking these and finalising yearly grades so that reports can be written.

## Principal's Report

Staff and students alike are certainly looking forward to a well-deserved break over the coming school holidays and I admire the way that they have all kept going through this year. Makes me a happy Principal.

Teaching staff had an extended planning session at school last week from 4pm to 7pm. The time was used as part of our school planning for the 2021-2024 School Improvement Plan. Staff spent the 3 hours working as a team and established a very useful set of tasks for us to examine further at our next evening session in a couple of weeks. Once this process is over, the school executive will look at all the information and put together a draft school plan to finalise next year.

In the news lately, you may have heard of a new State Government initiative. Media sources and emails to me have confirmed that state funding will be made to schools to help identify students that fell behind over this year and provide them with additional sources of tutoring during school. Specific details of how this will work and how much funding will be made available to individual schools will be released early next year. Let's hope MHS can secure some to assist our students.

A small group of boys set off in the school bus with Mrs Young to attend Cootamundra High School last week. The purpose of the day was to help the boys secure their White Card so that they may be able to access worksites as part of their work experience. Reports to me said that the boys performed well and made MHS look very good. Thank you to the boys and thank you to Mrs Youngs driving prowess.

Our school Captains, myself, Ms Hyland and a small group of students headed down to the park on Wednesday last week as part of the town's Remembrance Day ceremony. The Captains gave a short speech, which marked their first official duty in town since becoming Captains. Due to COVID-19 restrictions the number of people present was down on last year but the meaning of the day was not missed. Students at school took part in a remote service from their classrooms and stood silently at 11am. Once again thank you to all that took part and represented the school so well.

Our next newsletter will be our last for the year.



### Captains Corner

This year for Halloween the SRC planned a photo booth where students could dress up and take fun photos together with lots of staff and student involvement and participation, and all money raised going towards our local Can-Assist charity.

On the 11th of November, we had our first community appearance for Remembrance Day. On behalf of MHS we had the privilege of being invited to the ceremony and the opportunity to speak on the theme of remembrance this year which was *"remember to remember"*.

We have also been able to finally run our school cross country this week with the SRC changing the competitive dynamic for a fun run for students to increase participation and boost wellbeing which has unfortunately been down due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic which has undoubtedly affected everyone during this past year.

The theme of the fun run was heroes and villains and it was great to see the amount of participation and effort that went into the amazing costumes we saw and that heroes are not just defined by what we watch or read but the people in our community that work towards keeping us safe.

Thank you Amity & Jordan

### Remember to Remember 🏉

Good morning to everyone here today, we are all here to remember those who have fallen and reflect upon the sacrifices they have made to allow us to be here. First myself and Jordan want to thank you on behalf of MHS for the privilege of being able to speak today at such an important event.

We would like to talk about the significance of the moment of silence and why we do it. At 11 am on the 11th of November 1918, the guns on the Western Front fell silent after more than four years of continuous warfare. Today the loss of Australian lives from all wars and conflicts is commemorated on Remembrance Day. Each year for one minute we remember these brave soldiers and reflect on the freedom that they have secured for us today.

The theme of Remembrance Day this year is remember to remember, because as time goes on and we move further away from the moments being remembered, we must never forget the sacrifice that those brave men and women have made. While remembrance day is about those who made the extreme sacrifice, we should also remember all those who were affected by war such as the families of those who died as they were left behind as well. With all the pressure and chaos that has become of this year we need to be reminded of how lucky and fortunate we are to be here today. We commemorate the soldiers who have served and continue to serve their country. When we do our moment of silence please remember the reason we do it and the importance it has to each of us.

Lest we forget

We ask for you to pause for a minute and remember those who gave their lives in service of our country, those who returned home injured or ill and those who continue to serve our country today.

Thank you *Amity & Jordan* 



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# P&C News

It's hard to believe that the end of the school year is almost here! I'm sure that I'm not the only one that will be glad to see the back of 2020 and live in hope that 2021 will be a much better year for us all.

We will hold our final P&C meeting and Christmas dinner at the Harden Chinese on Wednesday 2nd December at 6pm. All staff and any interested parents are invited to attend. Please RSVP by 27th November to Sarah on 0487 255 083 or email <u>murrumburrahhighpandc@gmail.com</u>

As a P&C we would also like to take this opportunity to thank Rosanna for all of her hard work, dedication and commitment to the canteen and providing a fantastic service for the staff and students. Honestly though, thank you really just doesn't seem to cut it, what Rosanna has done for our canteen is nothing short of amazing!!!!

### Sarah Rowan P&C President

P&C Meeting & Christmas Dinner Harden Chinese Restaurant

Wednesday 2 December 2020 @ 6pm

Please RSVP by 27th November to Sarah 0487 255 083

### Science

**Stage 4** Science have been studying Plant systems and the processes of photosynthesis and respiration.

The experiment in the photo is showing that yeast respires and produces a gas - carbon dioxide. The students used 3 different temperatures of water to see if it affected the rate of respiration



# LOTE

¡Hola, Amigos! Stage 4 LOTE (Spanish) have been working with Ms Elliott and Mr Cotter on a technology immersion program. Students have explored Spanish festivals and architecture with the use of virtual reality headsets. While that was happening other students were building digital cities and following directions in Spanish using Minecraft for Education. To finish off the activity, students designed, labelled and printed Spanish speaking countries using 3D printing software. There are so many benefits to students using technology including:

- Improved engagement.
- Improved knowledge retention.
- Encourages individual and collaborative learning and
- Students learn useful life skills through technology.

At MHS we are very lucky to have access to Mr Cotter and all his experience, as well as the technological resources to support our students learning.

### Ms Elliott



### English

Students were asked to write a piece of creative writing in response to a line from the Beatle's song "She's Leaving Home".

### Lily Shorrock - "Stepping outside, she is free."

Bare feet avoid creaks in the wooden floor. A key turns silently in the door. A quiet click is the first sound of her freedom. A girl takes in a deep breath of cool morning air. A bird trapped in a too-small cage spreading its wings for the first time.

A warmth rubs against her legs. She smiles sadly at the cat by her side. She scoops it up, plants a kiss atop its head and gently lowers it back to the ground. Saying goodbye to the one good thing in her life, she closes the door soundlessly. It locks behind her, making sure she can't foolishly return to that prison.

The girl hears a muffled cry from beyond the door. She sucks in salty tears and slips her black joggers on to her freezing feet. As she shakily strides down the dim path, she resists the urge to steal one last look at her house...but it wasn't a house. It was a cage. A cage with sharp claws batting at her from every angle. She just wishes for a sense of the time when everything was good. The time when she was happy.

Alas, it wasn't the place for her and it never will be. She doesn't belong here. She belongs in a little apartment in the city with a roommate or two and a job at the local cafe. So, instead of crying over the past, she smiles at the future. She takes a seat at the small bus shelter and waits for her bus. And, along with that bus, will come the promise of a happy future, of a life filled with freedom, of a place far, far away from the evil in her old house. Far, far away from those cutting claws and those broken bottles.

### Jasmin Chesworth - "She's leaving home"

Very few goodbyes were said before she was on the road by herself in the big bad world. Not a worry about the state she left her parents in, not a worry about her little brother's confusion as to why she left. She didn't care, she was free.

Nineteen missed calls and twenty-eight messages makes her want to just throw her phone out of the window of her old beat up Volkswagen. She didn't know where to go yet, maybe up the coast, she was just happy she was out of that house.

A few hours driving, got her to a small town where the constant sound of waves crashing and seagulls fighting over chips could keep you there forever. She sat on the beach watching the waves and sent a message to her mum.

"Mum and Dad, I'm sorry for the sudden change, I'm safe and happy and just needed to get away for a while. Thank you, dad, for helping me do up the ol' kombi, she works a treat and got me to this great place I hoped to bring you guys here one day. I love you guys, your daughter, Jess xx."

Nearby, a guy running from the water with a surfboard clasped in right arm. Running towards her like he's straight from a magazine, he stops to see Jess sitting alone on the beach and goes up to talk. He sounded the most Australian beach guy you ever did hear. They started to talk like they'd known each other their entire lives, it was love at first sight.

One thing leads to another and he ends at her van, the next thing she knows it's him driving them along the coastline for two months. It's been two months since she's spoken to her family and she's happier than ever.

Someday in the future, she might take her beach boy home to her family.

### English Continued...

### Sam Emms - "We gave her everything money could buy"

I just wish I had a place to feel safe, to feel that warm sense of belonging and to just feel loved... LOVE!!! It's all I want. "Home, we gave her everything money could buy", that's all they say, that's all my parents say over and over again. But money can't buy the sense of belonging I want; that feeling of being loved. I don't want materialistic love, I want pure, genuine, real love that isn't forced or driven by materials. I wake up every morning, and every single one of those mornings I have the exact same painful thoughts, the thoughts of leaving... Leaving to find that love I'm searching for.

We spend every morning in searing silence, so silent I can hear my Dad carelessly crunching on his burnt toast and my Mum slowly slurping her peppermint tea. No eye-contact, no good morning Mia, how did you sleep?; no nothing. What is so hard about having a simple conversation with your daughter? They'd both happily spend hours talking to their friends, or going on coffee dates and talking about stupid cars. I wish they had time for me... not having to make time for me. I want to feel important, like their number one priority.

I spend every day at school, lonely and looking like a loser due to the lack of my "socialisation skills". I'm known as "the girl whose parents are rich" and all I hear walking the halls of school is, why is she so sad? her parents have bought her everything she could possibly want.

It's not like that, no one understands. Yes, I have always had the newest iPhone and the best brands of clothing, but those things aren't what I want, what I want is love that isn't freaking fake!

Getting home from school each afternoon, it's like déjà vu every day, Mum getting dressed up ready to go out for the night with the "girls" and Dad sitting on the couch with his head in the newspaper. I have no one, no one to share my thoughts and feelings with, no one to tell how my day was...

No one to simply share my life with.

It's time though, it's time I leave, explore myself and the world I live in; finally find and experience the longing love that's been denied deep down for so many years.

### Stage 4 English (Red & Blue)

A selection of Stage 4 English Poems from Term 3.

We are only people who forget, forget our pasts, these moments, all gone, never to be seen again.

And One day we will all get older, and we will stand up, and remember, all those moments, that you thought disappeared, a smile will creep onto your face, and you will be filled with joy.

### ~People who forget~

### Curiosity

Walking through, staring at trees,

Never can it fill my curiosity.

A broken bucket, people try to fill.

A hunger that makes a big bill.

Have fun in your life.

While you still have it.

## Ag Update

What a season the Ag department has had from Spring into early Summer. We managed to beat the rain gods and bale up both oat paddocks and the first cut lucerne. The main oats paddock was baled into round bales with 19% moisture (ideal for cereal hay) and small bales were made from the first cut lucerne and some of the oats paddocks to ensure we have hay to cart to shows next year. The school also managed to bale a pasture paddock of hay into large rounds which are available for sale. Nutritionally they are fine but they do have a bit of barley grass seed in them which can be an issue for stock who like to rub their faces in the bale. A big thank you goes out to two of our "old boys", (graduated year 12 students), who realised the rain was coming and spent a Wednesday evening carting in the remainder of the small square bales and stacked them in the shed before the 21ml that fell on the Thursday. One very proud agriculture teacher and two young men that now deserve a celebratory meal at the local. Thank you Dylan and Tom.

Our vegetable gardens are growing at a fantastic rate. Students have been warned not to stand still for too long in case they start to grow in the soil. That is a whole topic on asexual reproduction with great words such as budding, grafting, runners, layering and rooting powder. What other subject can you use the word "Cloaca" and be taken seriously. And be on the look out if you are called a cloaca.....as you have just been labelled a chook's bum.

The four heifers have finished their hormone treatment and are now timed to ovulate on Friday evening around 6pm. The AI technician coming in to administer the straws is a grandparent of one of our "old boys", Josh Carter. Mr Steve Carter has everything in hand, literally, and hopefully in nine months time we shall have four new calves on the ground, two Salers and two Limousin. Talking of calves, the three Shorthorn stud cows are due any time now. We are in the last month with the expected due date the 15th of December. Bets are on for the sex and colour of each of the expected offspring. This is where we discuss punnet squares, genetics and co-dominance colour traits. Gregor Mendel would be so proud of our kids....and who is he you ask.....just a very clever monk with a sweet pea fascination.

Riley Arabin won the competition for guessing the sale price of the prime lambs. He wins a pizza.

More TALES....from the Agplot in the next newsletter with hopefully baby photos appearing.....



Regards *Mrs Young* 



# NAIDOC WEEK

Last week our school was engaged in NAIDOC 2020 celebrations, this year's theme was "Always Was, Always Will Be". This recognises that Australia's First Nations people have occupied and cared for this continent for over 65,000 years, making them Australia's first explorers, first navigators, first engineers, first farmers, first botanists, first scientists, first diplomats, first astronomers and first artists.

This year has been one of disruption, and NAIDOC Week has been no exception. Firstly with NAIDOC week being postponed from March to November, and then with our own department restrictions limiting some of the scope of our activities. Despite this our staff and students took part in learning about the importance of NAIDOC week and participating in some traditional activities.

Some of these activities included our students watching a clip about local Aboriginal perspectives, before getting involved with an Aboriginal art activity. A big thank you must also be given to Mr Summerfield who organised and demonstrated some basket weaving techniques to some of our students on Friday. Students who attended also got to engage in some basket weaving themselves and there is talk of possibly making this a regular activity in future.



### Drama

**Stage 5 Drama** have finished watching a stage production of Michael Gow's play 'Away.' Due to COVID-19, live performances have been limited, however, students at Murrumburrah High School have not missed out.

Through the use of technology, students have explored theatre in many online forums. I wholeheartedly believe that Drama is more than just practical performances and improvisation games, it is also an amazing subject to make connections across the curriculum as you can see in the student reviews. The experimentation with writing and reflecting on productions, provides students opportunities to analyse and explore the various elements of theatre and performance.

Stage 5 drama hope you enjoy reading some of their reviews.

#### Away

Michael Gow's Away, one of Australia's most loved and timeless plays, has been brought back into the limelight by the Sydney Theatre Company over a weeklong production.

The reinvention of Away by the Company has brought back to life a treasure, directed by Matthew Lutton.

Along with the enduring clarity of the play, the actors have brought the production to life. Using elements of drama the ensemble has truly painted a detailed and vivid picture of family tensions and relationships in Australia in 1967.

Within Michael Gow's Away, there are many references to Shakespearean plays; he uses many intertextual references to King Lear, while also exploring the power of three through looking at three different families. Allusions to The tempest are made through using storms to change the atmosphere of the play. While continual references to A Midsummer Night's Dream filter through to the audience, from the onset with the play within a play, where the audience is introduced to the main character Tom (Liam Nunan).

This performance has created an exciting portrayal of Michael Gow's play, where the cast have used an abundant amount of dramatic elements throughout the play, to entice the audience to come away with them.

### **Emily Schulz**

### Escape expectations and explore Michael Gow's play "Away"

Director Matthew Lutton has done an exceptional job with his influential take on Michael Gow's powerful, epic and ingenious play "Away." Lutton has taken a play set in 1968 and has highlighted and explored the relationships and the differences within those relationships which connect to our world as a collective today.

This eventful story takes us on an adventure, exploring how three diverse families are hoping to find and collect themselves during a searing summer holiday.

With intertextual references to Shakespearean plays and relative situations to our Australian identity, the assembly of this play and the play as a whole takes the audience on a relatable rollercoaster, while also serving as an extraordinary escapade.

We see the play begin with an in-depth reference to Shakespeare's incredible play "Midsummer Night's Dream". The Shakespearean references continue within the storm scenes, in which transitions are performed evoking Shakespeare's "The Tempest." Towards the ending, Matthew Lutton leads his play into the compassionate darkness of King Lear.

#### Escape expectations and explore Michael Gow's play "Away".. Continued...

The dramatic actions and sounds with the "Tempest" like storm scenes, create an intense, intriguing and captivating atmosphere. While the sound was loud and strong generating the idea of a storm, the slow and abstract movement of the 'unlabelled' characters forced a connection with the audience, keeping them interested and engaged.

Lutton's effort in the development of this play didn't go unnoticed. The roles and characters were distinctively well developed, with each remarkably portrayed. Protagonist Tom (Liam Nunan), effectively expressed his character's brave, sarcastic and friendly personality through displaying his feelings and his personal response to battling cancer. Tom did immensely well considering he was present on stage for the majority of the play wandering around both seen and unseen as if he were in a dream; as Shakespeare would say, "the very substance of the ambitious is merely the shadow of a dream". With such powerfully portrayed characters, the audience was emotively enticed.

A variety of situations appeared in Gow's play, from the arguments between strong-willed Meg (Naomi Rukavina) and her extremely class conscious and pretentious mother Gwen (Heather Mitchell), to heartbreaking scenes performed by Natasha Hebert portraying Coral whom is emotionally disconnected and has no ability to accept the loss of her son who died in the Vietnam War and Tom's unforgettable scene where he passionately releases the vast amount of thoughts within his head to his friend and crush Meg. Lutton has successfully created an emotive connection with the audience through the situations all characters perform inspirationally in the play 'Away'.

The audience's engagement was assisted by the build-up of tension between characters and their families. We see Roy (Glenn Hazeldine) verbally communicate in a serious matter how he feels towards his wife Coral. Meg also conveys her thoughts about her bitter mother, who experienced her childhood in poverty. All this release of anger, confusion and truth constructs a tension that the audience can physically feel.

Lutton has directed a thematic play based upon family, life and death, with nature acting as a healing force and Shakespeare. In order to successfully leave an impact on his audience, he uses symbolism to capture the audience in deep thought - discovering the significant meaning of this play. Matthew Lutton uses many symbols such as the Christmas box, the bonfire and the storm. These are accompanied by various musical pieces and themes which provide a sense of tension and conflict which are present within the play.

Christmas is a time that symbolises the gathering of families and exchanging gifts with one another. For Gwen's family, however, it is a period of the year that has entirely different perceptions. Gwen systematically goes about destroying any reason the season may have for being a time of goodwill and happiness. By deliberately leaving the gift box behind, she manifests her pessimistic view of life. The beach bonfire symbolises the elemental forces of earth, air, fire and water. It draws the characters outside, into the open. The open air permits the characters to view themselves, their families and their lives in a more positive light not tainted by confining spaces. The storm represents the storms of life, and how they can appear to take away the things we have.

Matthew Lutton finishes the play with an effective scene implied to be Meg back at school after Tom's passing from cancer. The school scene is out in the open where the teacher reflects on 'the struggle between man and nature'. The experiences they have faced on their holiday journey have meant that much has been thrown 'away' while they have been elsewhere.

Lutton's play certainly has enforced an emotional and physical connection with the audience leaving a positive impact through an unforgettable, eye-catching, totally compelling piece of theatre. Not only is this play absorbing, but it just recapitulates and reminds people of how marvellous Gow's text is.

#### Samantha Emms

# Cross Country



### Art

**Stage 4** have been creating wire sculptures of insects in visual art. Below are some examples of the student's artworks. Mark created a scorpion with some battle scars. While Jomar created an ant, Melanie made a praying mantis and Jack created a hybrid insect creature.









Mark Argento

Jomar Caboral

Jack Trethowan

Melanie O'Farrell

Peta Ryan has been creating a sculptural artwork inspired by the canola fields. She has included her show pony and a number of wire sculptures she made.







Students in **Stage 5** Visual Art were tasked with creating a poster that examines a social issue. Rhana, Shayla and Taleah created a well-considered and conceptual poster that discusses the challenges of deforestation.

# LEAP

Tuesday 10th of November Courtney and the LEAP students held their graduation in front of Mr Rands and Mr Cotter.

LEAP to Learning (LEAP) is a student-led multimedia project showcasing each student's learning journey towards their desired career. LEAP is an interactive, fun, strength-based learning experience for Year 9 and 10 students using a variety of modern technologies. The program will be delivered in school, as a weekly workshop, with a focus on developing essential life and employability skills, enhancing student's attitude to formal learning and overall health and wellbeing.

We engage students in a varied amount of activities to help them develop their work ready or employability skills, not limited to Team work, problem solving, creativity, communication. This is my 7th LEAP group in four years and this year being totally different to any other because of our current health crisis, it has asked me to think a little more outside the box for activities.

We have had Zoom mock interviews, completed activities in a Covid safe way, wiping down equipment as we go, taking into account constant changes from department of education – these young women have adapted and changed so well with each change that has come there way I am very proud of all of them.

For our group project this time – we have had each student work on their project and have had them put together as a group, Each student will read a question from the project and will answer it on behalf of the group.

Mr Cotter filmed our LEAP Graduation this time and it will be posted to the schools website.

From Courtney "It has been such a strange year this year and I am so very proud of everything this group has achieved together, we have had a stop start year and through out all of the ups and downs , the school has been a great supporter of getting LEAP back up and running as soon as we possibly could.

Coming to the end of a groups time together is bittersweet for me, this is such a dynamic group of young women who I know will take the world by storm. This is also the end of the program here at MHS as this is the end of our contract, it has been an awesome four years and without the support of Mr Rands, the executive and staff here it would not have been so successful. I am very grateful to have been accepted and the program so widely supported by all staff."

### Term 4 Dates

Athletics Carnival	Wednesday 25 November
Year 6 to 7 Orientation Day	Tuesday I December
Last Day of Term	Wednesday 16 December

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## Annual Presentation Assembly

In line with current Department of Education COVID-19 guidelines, the annual Murrumburrah High School Presentation for 2020 has been modified.

Unfortunately, due to social distancing requirements, we are unable to accommodate all staff, students, parents and special guests for our Presentation. Therefore, the decision has been made in the interests of health and safety, to restrict attendance to students and staff only.

Murrumburrah High School understands that this is very disappointing for family members who wish to attend the event. In light of this, photos of award recipients will be taken and shared.

The Presentation will take place on Friday 11 December 2020, aiming for a 10am start and will run for one hour only.

If you have any questions please contact me at the school.

Mr Dale Rands Principal

#### **MURRUMBURRAH HIGH SCHOOL**

**PRINCIPAL: MR DALE RANDS** 

Murrumburrah High School Smith Street Harden NSW 2587

Phone: 02 6386 2755 E-mail: murrumburrh.school@det.nsw.edu.au Preparing our students for tomorrow's challenges through learning

### WORD SEARCH

### Human Bones

	MANDIBLE
S V E A L A Y C O C C Y X E	RADIUS METATARSAL
N U P L S T H A M A T E M A	FEMUR SCAPHOID
S U A L U E I A L R Z C A T	TALUS STAPES
H S T E R M S C L U S T N U	HAMATE
A C S U E P C B A M T R D U	TRAPEZIUM TIBIA
A L S S M O A T S E A A I A	PATELLA TEMPORAL
L A T L U R P A R F L P B I	ULNA
L V E L H A H L A A U E L B	CLAVICLE COCCYX
E I R D E L O I T L S Z E I	STERNUM MALLEUS
T C N U T O I D A U L I T T	HUMERUS FIBULA
A L U A R A D P T B M U U S	
P E M O L L H R E I A M U T	
E S I S U L N A M F P A E E	

### STUDENTS ABSENT OR SENT HOME DUE TO **DISPLAYING ANY FLU LIKE SYMPTOMS MUST BE TESTED**

The Australian Government, Department of Health defines flu like symptoms as: runny nose or sneezing, cough or sore throat, fever and chills, headache, body aches, vomiting, and diarrhoea (more common in children).

- Students must not return to school until they return a negative COVID-19 result and are symptom free.
- Schools must sight the negative COVID-19 test result prior to allowing students and staff to return to school.
- A screen shot of results should be emailed to:

murrumburr-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Please contact school administration staff on 6386 2755 if you need support emailing results.

### Reminder

Students are reminded to please bring their pencil cases with pens, pencils and calculator to school.



