

**Murrumburrah
High School**

**Principal:
Mr Dale Rands**

Mercury



10 March 2022

Dates

- **P&C AGM**
Monday 14 March
- **School Photos**
Friday 18 March
- **Yr 6 to 7 Parent
Information Session**
Tuesday 22 March
- **Parent/Teacher
Interviews**
Tuesday 29 March



Sam off to State



Congratulations to Sam Manwaring for making
it to State for all of his events.
Good luck in Sydney Sam!

Principal's Report

Hello again and welcome to the MHS Term 1 Week 6 Newsletter. It is wonderful that many restrictions have now been removed from schools. No mandatory face masks wearing has been the most pleasing feature. Everyone at school is so glad to not have to wear them and let us hope it can stay that way.

Year 7 students have undertaken their annual state-wide testing – Best Start. These tests assess the student's current levels of literacy and numeracy before they start Year 7 work. The results come back within a couple of days and show how our students compare with state results. I was quite pleased with many results that were higher than state. It also shows us the areas for development for students and this is what staff are in the process of looking at.

Very soon Year 8 students will sit their Check-in assessment, which is the same sort of test to show how the students have performed since they did Best Start last year in Year 7 and what their academic growth has been.

Year 7 and 9 will sit their NAPLAN tests next term. Also, all students will be invited to participate in the annual online survey called Tell Them From Me. This survey covers a whole range of wellbeing, academic, facilities type questions with answers given by the students about how they feel about each area. This then helps the school continue to plan and improve as part of our annual cycle of review.

It was a pleasure to have the students sing the National Anthem for the first time in months at our fortnightly school assembly on Monday. Lots of fine voices from lots of students, the rest will need to practice a bit more. A little hint for them is that the words are printed on the walls in large print...

I have heard many stories of success from the students of MHS over the last month, from swimming results, show team, excursions, academic results etc. I won't spoil the surprises but leave it up to staff to provide you the details via specific reports in this newsletter or updates on our school Facebook page.

Monday 14th March is our school P & C meeting. I really look forward to seeing as many current members as possible and new faces at this meeting. 6pm start in the school staff room. Park in the lower carpark near the old water tanks and follow the footpath in.

On a final note for this newsletter, many of you may be aware by now that we are continually trying to improve Literacy and Numeracy levels with our students. As a school we have made a long-term commitment to a program called QuickSmart. This program provides a targeted early intervention for both Literacy and Numeracy. Georgie Campbell, Courtney Jones and Mitch Summerfield have been employed to staff this program, which will be supervised by Lee Hyland and Bianca Swanson. More information about this program will come to parents of students that will be involved.

Mr Dale Rands
Principal

Quicksmart

QuickSmart Numeracy and Literacy are responsive, small-group intervention programs that aim to develop fluent (Quick) and efficient (Smart) strategy use. The programs are aimed at middle-school students whose numeracy or literacy outcomes are below minimum standards. QuickSmart is designed to enhance a student's fluency in either numeracy or literacy (reading and comprehension) by improving their information retrieval times.

QuickSmart uses research-based instructional strategies to support the learning of persistently low-achieving middle school students so that they are more actively and successfully engaged in inclusive classroom settings. Independent analysis of independent, norm-referenced test results for over 63,000 QuickSmart students show that they consistently achieve up to three years' academic growth over a recommended 90-lesson period. Teachers report student improvements in behaviour, higher levels of confidence and self-esteem, and increased classroom involvement.

The QuickSmart programs have both pedagogical and research aims, with the research intended to inform the development of sound pedagogical practices. The pedagogical aim of the QuickSmart program is to narrow the gap between the learning achievements of the targeted students and their average-achieving peers.

QuickSmart aims to improve the numeracy and literacy development of students who are experiencing learning problems or delays and, hence, not achieving their academic potential. Participating students may have varying levels of learning difficulties because of knowledge gaps, lack of practice, anxiety, or low confidence.

The program was developed to increase a student's accuracy and automaticity of basic academic skills. Lessons emphasise the development of conceptual understanding by explicitly teaching strategies that emphasise the key concepts underpinning the academic skills being taught.

Some key components of the QuickSmart program are:

- A practice routine of 30 minutes of on-task time, 3 times per week.
- Structured and time-efficient lessons which have a set sequence of activities.
- Motivating and timed practice activities aimed at speedy recall of known facts.
- Individualised instruction, ensured by assessment and instruction forming a continuous purposeful cycle.
- Strategy instruction is ongoing, explicit and individually tailored to students' needs.
- Opportunities for students to self-monitor, and to receive and generate immediate feedback about their performance.
- Instruction that ensures the students experience success by providing regular and predictable learning sequences: students practise and improve on what they already know, and then learn and practise new knowledge during the lesson.
- Content is explicitly linked to current classroom curriculum as well as to real-life settings where possible.
- Reflective, metacognitive questioning and responding are incorporated into lessons – for example, QuickSmart instructors ask questions such as, "How did you work that out?", "Why are you so sure of your answer?". This focus of instruction can assist students to develop the language to describe their thinking.
- The use of stop watches, hourglass timers, and wall clocks assist students to 'externalise' time. These devices encourage students to become more aware of their sense of time and improve their ability to estimate time.
- Close collaboration with parents, teachers and principals of participating schools. Stakeholders are fully informed about the project and involved in its implementation and evaluation.
- A long term and consistent intervention approach which provides practice opportunities that will bring students 'up to speed' so they can share 'the fast track' with their peers.

If you have any questions regarding this program, you can visit <https://simerr.une.edu.au/quicksmart/> or contact the school and speak to the coordinator.

Mrs Lee Hyland
Deputy Principal

Quicksmart Team



Courtney Jones, Mitch Summerfield and Georgie Campbell

Captain's Corner

This term, the SRC have organised to spread posters around our school and for the student body to write about an inspirational woman or women in their lives in honour of International Women's Day. We hope this will allow everyone to recognise International Women's Day and gain an understanding of the day. We thank everyone who contributed.

SRC are working on organising an exciting and intriguing fundraiser for the end of term. Remember if you have any concerns, thoughts or opinions please see SRC and we will act on it.

We are looking forward to the student body to come up with great ideas and events!

Chloe & Beau
School Captains

P & C Update

A friendly reminder that the AGM will be held on Monday 14th March in the staff common room at 6pm. It is vital we get new members to ensure the viability of the P&C and therefore the school canteen and the driver training car and lessons.

Without a fully functioning P&C, the school will lose both of these very important components of Murrumburrah High School.

Sarah Rowan
P&C President

Congratulations

Congratulations to Sam, Jade and Brooke Emms who were successfully selected in the CHS Riverina Soccer squad to play at State Championships.

This is the second time Riverina has had 3 siblings in one team, the first time being Maddie, Sam and Jade Emms!



Congratulations to the below students on achieving their Positive Level Awards;

Blue – Dakotah Williams

Purple – Jayden Steele, Samantha Beal and Beau Bourlet

Double Purple – Samantha Emms, Regan Manton and Maddison Teys



International Women's Day

Five students from Years 11 and 12 attended the International Woman's Day breakfast at the Harden Country Club hosted by Rotary.

The highlight of the morning was listening to guest speaker and former student Samantha Longmore speak about the challenges she has faced in life following two car accidents that left her paralysed on one side. Sam spoke about the importance of building on the adversities we face and making the most of every opportunity.

The event was a great opportunity for our senior students to be reminded of the importance of never letting life pass us by and ensuring we pick ourselves up and continue to move forward no matter what life throws our way.

A special thank you to Rotary for thinking of us and inviting us along.



Sarah Jones
Student Support Officer

Peer Support Starts

There are many transition points in young people's lives. These include starting school, moving from primary to high school, changes in friendship groups or family circumstances and moving between distance learning and in-school learning.

Such processes can involve uncertainty and instability, and they can also be powerful opportunities for learning and growth. We're currently using some resources from Peer Support Australia to help guide students through this transition time by reconnecting with their peers and developing understanding and skills in responding positively to change. Research has identified key skills and protective factors that are particularly valuable in times of transition to help lessen the potential negative impact of such experiences.

These include positive relationships, self-awareness, effective social and self-management skills and the ability to practise helpful coping skills.

You can support this learning at home by helping your child to describe their experiences and the feelings that they have during transitions. They can cope with change by knowing their strengths and how to use them through strategies such as talking with others, thinking positively and persevering.

The program will start in week 5 and run for 8 weeks.

Adrienne Beck - Head Teacher English/HSIE/CAPA



Year 10 training in the courtyard.



NAPLAN 2022

The National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is a point in time assessment of literacy and numeracy skills. Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in the annual tests in writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar, and punctuation) and numeracy. All NSW schools will sit NAPLAN online in 2022.

Our school will be participating in NAPLAN between **10 and 20 May 2022**.

In preparation for NAPLAN, our school will also be participating in practice tests this term. The practice test is a trial run and key preparation activity for NAPLAN in May. It is not an assessment of student ability, and the tests will not be marked.

Excessive preparation for NAPLAN is not recommended. Students can use the public demonstration site (<https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site>) to familiarise themselves with the types of questions and tools available in NAPLAN.

If you have any questions about NAPLAN, please contact the front office.

Reading aloud



Reading Challenge

The Premier's Reading Challenge marks its 21st anniversary in 2022, with children encouraged to join the party - by reading lots of books!

The challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature.

"Reading is so beneficial for students' lives, it sharpens their knowledge and strengthens writing and vocabulary – but just as importantly it makes for happier, more creative kids who take that with them into adulthood," Minister for Education, Ms Mitchell said.

"Reading is a gift that unlocks future success for students. I'm excited for this year's challenge to start."

The Premier's Reading Challenge begins on **Monday, 28 February**, and is open for student entries until Friday, 19 August. Students from students in Year 7 - Year 10. See Ms Beck for details.

Adrienne Beck - Head Teacher English/HSIE/CAPA

NSW Olympics Unleashed

Last Tuesday we had a visit from gold medal winning Olympian Suzy Balogh. Suzy won gold in Olympic Trap (Shooting) at the Athens Olympics in 2004.

Suzy spoke about the struggles and extreme challenges she faced prior to competing, and the dedication she showed to her sport in order to be the best in the world. Coming from Queanbeyan and living in Orange Suzy was able to talk directly to the challenges faced due to living regional and the grit and determination you need to make it work.

Suzy's talk left many of our students inspired and confident that they can achieve their goals no matter how big or small.

We thank Suzy for taking the time to speak with our school and look forward to Olympics Unleashed 2023.

Sarah Jones
Student Support Officer



Suzy Balogh - Dual Olympian and Olympic Gold Medallist

Zone & Riverina Swimming

Zone and Riverina Swimming Carnivals

On Monday the 21st of February the Zone Swimming Team headed to Temora for the **Zone Swimming Carnival**. All students swam well, giving it their absolute best!

The 16yr girls relay team came 2nd, successfully making it through to the Riverina Carnival. The girls in the team were Evie Giddings, Jade Emms, Hayley Hambrook and Brooke Emms.

The following students made it through to Riverina for individual events.

- Ethan Abnett – 100m Freestyle & 50m Freestyle
- Evie Giddings – 100m Backstroke & 50m Freestyle
- Brooke Emms – 50m Feestyle, 100m Freestyle & 100m Butterfly
- Hannah Guy – 100m Breaststroke
- Sam Manwaring – 50m Freestyle, 100m Freestyle, 100m Backstroke, 100m Breaststroke, 100m Butterfly.

Special mention to Sam who came first in all his events. Well done!!

A huge thank you to the parents who attended the Zone Carnival! Your assistance with organising swimmers and getting the marquee set up and packed away was greatly appreciated!!



Sam Manwaring & Ethan Abnett



Jade Emms, Hayley Hambrook, Brooke Emms & Hannah Guy

The Riverina Carnival was held on Tuesday 8th March in Leeton. A big journey for our swimmers who once again swam their hearts out.

Well done to Sam Manwaring who has successfully made it through to the State Carnival which will be held from **30th March – 1st April** in Sydney. Sam came second in the 100m Backstroke and won all his other events.

We wish Sam all the best at the State Carnival!

A huge thank you to the parents and carers for getting our students to the carnival and supporting the MHS team throughout the day.

Mrs Alison Spencer

Careers Adviser/PDHPE Teacher

Farm Club

Murrumburrah High School Farm Club gets to Boorowa Show

Finally we are back on track with a large number of students able to attend Boorowa Show last Saturday to compete in Junior Judging of Beef Cattle and Junior Paraders.

Murrumburrah High School started the day at 8am and prepared their cattle under the watchful eye of some "Old Boys" – (graduated Farm Club Members). We had to split the junior students into a novice group, who had never competed in a parading competition and those who had at least one lead in a competition before. It was fantastic to see the senior students assist the younger students and even more exciting to see younger students from MPS and Bunyip compete with the team.

With a team of 20 students the judges were kept busy in the heats with the novice event placing Hannah Guy 1st, Shelby Wirth 2nd, Artie Jones 3rd, Montana Wirth 4th and Evan James 5th.

The junior heat placed Jack Allen 1st, Kayla Schulz 2nd and Mia Hocking 3rd.

In the senior paraders event the senior girls were rewarded for all the hard work they have put in preparing the animals in the lead up to the show. The results finished up as Bonnie Abnett 1st, Ellie Ward 2nd, April Drew 3rd, Oscar Phillis 4th and Tayla Gallo 5th.

The Junior Judging event had all students rank their animals 1st to 4th and from the two age groups 4 students were asked to speak to the judges on their placings.

In the senior event the awards went to April Drew 1st, Bonnie Abnett 2nd and Ellie Ward 3rd and in the under 14 years event Hannah Guy 1st, Charlene Caboral 2nd and Montana Wirth 3rd with little Artie Jones receiving a highly commended ribbon.

Charlene Caboral also entered in the Teen Showgirl and was lucky to win this section with a broad ribbon and a beautiful gift for her efforts.

Our entry in the Largest Pumpkin section had the pumpkin grown by Jade Schulz placing 1st.

Well done to all students, Boorowa Show Committee commented on how well dressed and polite you all were. You are all a credit to your parents, school and community. Well Done.

P.S Yass Show will be held in a fortnights time on Saturday 19th March. Hope to see you all there.

Mrs Jan Young Head Teacher - Science/Maths



Tayla Gallo - Junior Paraders

Boorowa Show



April Drew 3rd, Ellie Ward 2nd and Bonnie Abnett 1st
in 14-18 Junior Paraders



Artie Jones - Highly Commended in junior judging



Evan James - Junior Paraders



Charlene Caboral - Miss Teen Showgirl



Action Shot of Senior Girls Parading



Charlene Caboral 2nd in Junior Judging U/14years

Boorowa Show Cont'd



Montana Wirth - Novice Junior Paraders



Montana Wirth - Highly Commended in junior judging



Annie Coulton - Junior Paraders



Shelby Wirth - Junior Paraders



Mia Hocking - Junior Paraders



Jade Schulz with the winning Pumpkin

Rocketry



Southern Tablelands Rocketry

In a recent workshop at the Boorowa C.S Innovation Centre, Schools gained access to Professional Learning. Rocketry is a great way to engage students in STEM & Physics. The workshop provided teachers with confidence to safely launch rockets. They also had experience in how to build custom rockets and use the CAD program OpenRocket. It looks like the teachers enjoyed this workshop as much as I am sure their students will!

Reminders

Just a reminder that school photos will be held on Friday 18 March - Everyone is to wear full school uniform. Please remember to bring your envelope on the day.



Important Dates for Term 1

School Photos - Friday 18 March 2022

Yr 6 to 7 Parent Information Session - Tuesday 22 March

Parent Teacher Interviews - Tuesday 29 March

Year 12 Half Yearly Exams - begin Friday 1 April

Athletics Carnival - Wednesday 6 April

School Holidays - Monday 11 April to Friday 22 April 2022

Calling all BushHawks, Hawks and Hawkettes!

Are you getting excited about footy season?

Early mornings, grass stains, muddy kids and BIG smiles!!! We can't wait!

Jump on and REGISTER NOW by following the link below!

Don't forget you can use your Active Kids voucher!

https://profile.mysideline.com.au/register/clubsearch/?criteria=Harden-Murrumburrah%20Junior%20Rugby%20League&type=player&activity=&gender=&agemin=&agemax=&comptype=&source=rugby-league&fbclid=IwAR3C_kM20qc3hi7Zlw6VzkNSNjS9fYrpcnlb2bi1hFWdXeDTRDrZ2hacHSs



MYSIDELINE

Join a club, team or program today!



Murrumburrah High School

Principal:
Mr Dale Rands

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Harden NSW 2587

02 6386 2755

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

MHS Uniform
Stockist - 180
Embroidery

Website:

<https://180embroidery.com>

Contact: Beth Allen

Telephone: 0435 873 420

Email:

embroidery180@yahoo.com

Location: 1 Derby Street,
Harden

Deliveries to the High School
available.



Preparing our students for tomorrow's challenges through learning

Word Search

Harry Potter

F	L	R	J	E	P	H	R	S	A	A	G	R	F
Q	R	C	K	E	O	A	A	T	Y	V	O	G	F
U	S	U	R	N	T	G	L	R	S	F	E	U	
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P	S	C	A	R	U	A	D	L	F	D	E	F	A
Y	T	R	G	R	Y	F	F	I	N	D	O	R	Q

POTTER
VOLDEMORT
RAVENCLAW
HERMIONE
WIZARDRY
DUMBLEDORE
HIPPOGRIFF
GRYFFINDOR
SLYTHERIN
HARRY
QUIDDITCH
HUFFLEPUFF
GRANGER
ALBUS
SCAR
HAGRID
WITCHCRAFT
HOGWARTS
J.K. ROWLING

Unwell or have COVID?

Unwell at School

Any student or staff member who is unwell and/or displays symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked to go home and stay until they can complete a RAT or PCR test.

- If symptoms continue, they should stay at home and take another RAT in 24 hours or have a PCR test.
- If the second RAT or initial PCR test result is negative and they are displaying no symptoms OR they are diagnosed as another condition such as hayfever, the student or staff member can return to school.
- If a student or staff member receives a positive RAT result, they need to:
 - record the positive RAT result through the Service NSW website or Service NSW app
 - notify the school of the positive RAT or PCR result as soon as possible
 - follow NSW Health advice to isolate for 7 days.
 - Your student can return to school after the 7 days as long as they have no symptoms, you will need to provide the clearance letter from the NSW Health.

Negative results do not need to be reported to Service NSW or to the school.