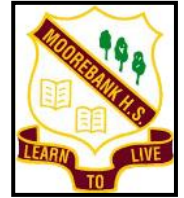


# MOOREBANK HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



February 2018  
Issue 1

**MHS WEBSITE**



## Relieving Principals Report

Welcome to 2018 and welcome to all new parents to Moorebank High School. Our principal, Vally Grego, has had to take leave and during that time I will be relieving as principal. Cassie O'Connor (Head Teacher Science) is relieving as the deputy principal Years 7, 9 and 11, with Shannon Jones relieving as HT science.

The start to the year has been a positive one. The message that I have emphasised this year to all year groups is that there are no limits to a person's potential and that our brains continue to grow as we learn new things. What is required to improve is to have a positive mindset and be purposefully engaged in learning. As our results show each year, if students bring this commitment they can achieve to the highest levels at Moorebank High School thanks to the wonderful teachers at our school.

### Staff changes

The following staff have been permanently appointed to our school

Caitlin Bell (Visual Arts)  
Nazifa Ali (Mathematics)  
Sophie Hancock (PDHPE)  
Shannon Jones (Science)

The following staff have left Moorebank and taken positions in other schools

Tamara Isaia (Home Economics)  
Felicity Callahan (HSIE)  
Brad Mitchell (PDHPE)

We welcome the following teachers commencing temporary appointments this year.

Noah Kean (Music)  
Samantha Cooper (Counsellor)  
Jane Prakash (Home Economics)  
Jessica Matos (HSIE)  
Katherine Theofanopoulos (Maths)  
Owen Brown (Science)

- Yrs. 7, 9, 11 DP's Report
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- Careers News
- Transition Adviser
- Study Skills
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- Swimming Carnival

**Bangalow Ave, Moorebank**

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## HSC Results 2017

2017 once again saw students at our school achieve outstanding results in the HSC. Congratulations go to all Year 12 who completed their HSC and have begun the transition to work, TAFE or University. Special congratulations also go to the following individual students:

- Marko Janjetovic, Arthur Lim, Sofia Sudar, Parikshith Vijendra who made the all-round achievers list for achieving a band 6 result across 10 or more units

As well as impressive individual results, the following highlights the successes across the whole year group:

- 101 Band 6 Results
- 230 Band 5 Results
- Six students achieved ATARs above 98
- The school was ranked 120<sup>th</sup> in the state.
- The school's exam mean was greater than the state exam mean in 19 subjects.
- The average results in most KLAs (Key Learning Areas) were greater than the state average.

The Department of Education also provides data about how schools 'add value' to a student's learning by comparing their position in Year 9 NAPLAN (Reading and Numeracy) with their relative position in the HSC. Both our higher performing group of students (Bands 9 and 10 in NAPLAN) and our middle performing group of students (Bands 8 in NAPLAN) had **average positive value-added** results. Sixty-six percent of subjects also had positive value-added results.

## Working With Children Check Policy

In 2017 the Department of Education introduced a Working with Children Check Policy in response to the Child Protection (Working with Children) Act. In particular I draw your attention to the new requirements for parent volunteers. For the purpose of this policy 'parent' includes close relatives of the child. Schools MUST collect a completed Declaration for Volunteers (known as appendix 5) and 100 points of ID for each parent who volunteers in the school (such as driving students on excursions, working in the school library). Staff overseeing the area in which you are volunteering will provide you with the necessary paper work.

## Travel Leave

From the beginning of 2015, family holidays and travel are no longer considered as an exemption from school. Travel outside of vacation period is now counted as an absence. The Department of Education encourages families to undertake family holidays during school vacation periods to avoid disruption to the child's education. Parents are reminded that should you intend to travel with your child during school terms an Application for Extended Leave (travel or holiday) needs to be submitted. These forms are available from the school office. Principals are required to decide if the travel is in the best interest of the child before approving such leave. Except in emergency situations, applications should be submitted at least four weeks prior to departure. This allows time to investigate assessments that will be affected and what class work will be missed and consequently what provisions will be put in place to address these matters. It is important to note that our assessment policies (Years 10, 11 and 12) state that only if the principal accepts the reason for the extended absence will an Application for Special Consideration (extension of time, estimated result etc.) be considered.

## Duke of Edinburgh Award

In my Deputy Principal role I am the award leader for the Duke of Edinburgh Award and have commenced information meetings for students interested in undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award at our school. The Award is an enriching program that invites young people between the ages of 14 and 25 to participate in a number of activities over a set length of time. Students complete between 3 – 6 months a fitness / physical recreation; a skill; undertake volunteering and participate in an adventurous journey. If you want your child to become involved but would like more information about the Award, feel free to call me or visit the Duke of Edinburgh website.

<http://www.dukeofed.com.au/>

## **Behaviour to and from school**

The vast majority of our students behave respectfully and responsibly when travelling to and from school. Occasionally, however, the school needs to deal with complaints from neighbours or members of the public regarding the actions of students when travelling to and from school. When students behave inappropriately outside of school it damages the school's reputation which can ultimately impact on how the broader community responds to requests for part-time work, volunteering etc. Please remind your child that -

- If travelling on public transport they should be respectful towards members of the public and give up their seats for paying customers.
- When crossing roads, they should obey walk signs and other road rules.
- They should respect the properties of neighbours around the school by not taking short-cuts across lawns etc.
- The school rules and the Department of Education's Suspension Policy apply 'to the behaviour of students at school, on the way to and from school and while away from the school site on school endorsed activities'.

As you can see, a busy start to the year, but one that will enhance the already high quality of teaching and support that all students receive at Moorebank High School.

Greg Horsley

Relieving Principal

## **Support for mental health**

I recently attended a meeting of principals where a representative from Lifeline Macarthur provided information about an excellent new app called 'Recovery Point'. From time to time children, young people and adults need support to deal with a mental illness. This app provides quick and easy access to local resources that may be relevant to you and your situation. It has been developed not only for people needing support, but also their careers, friends and loved ones. There is a short YouTube clip about this app that can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dv0WICU0p-8>

If you have concerns about your child's mental health please notify the relevant Year Adviser, the Head Teacher Wellbeing, one of our school counsellors or a member of our senior executive. We will then work together so that your child is a healthy, happy, successful and productive student.

# **DEPUTY PRINCIPALS REPORT**

## **YEARS 7,9 & 11**

### **Year 7 Camp**

Camp is fast approaching and it is a fantastic time for students to build positive relationships with their peers and teachers. Mr Horsley and myself will share partial attendance at the camp and we are looking forward to getting to know the Year 7 cohort as we undertake a range of fun activities. Students will be tired after camp and we ask that parents and care-givers be mindful of our return time to ensure adequate arrangements for your child pick up with their camp bags when the buses return to school.

### **Subject Changes Years 9 and 11**

Students in Year 9 chose two electives at the end of last year to undertake for the duration of 2018/2019. Students in Year 11 are undertaking English, Mathematics and four other subjects for a total of 12 units. Some students have had a change of mind and have started completing change of subject forms. Changing subject is based on numbers within each course and will be on a 'first in best dressed' basis. These forms are due by the 23/2/18 (Friday, Week 4, Term 1).

### **Year 11 Assessments**

Year 11 students recently received their assessment booklets that outline how they will be assessed in each of their subjects as well as the requirements surrounding the submission of assessment tasks. I encourage all parents and students to become familiar with the information about absences and late submission of tasks to ensure that the school assessment procedures are followed correctly. All assessment booklets and the forms needed to apply for an extension or other special consideration can be found on the school's website.

*Miss Cassie O'Connor*

*Relieving DP 7, 9, 11*

# *Head Teacher Administration*

## **Attendance at School**

It is requirement that students attend school each day the school is open – essentially this means that even if the school is closed for half the school day students are required to attend when it is open. Parents are required to give reason why their child was not at school.

Providing a reason why your child was absent from school can be done in a number of ways.

- Respond to the text message sent from the school on the day of the absence.
- Use the Parent Portal at <https://web3.moorebank-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/portal/login> (Year 7 parents and parents new to the school should have received their family code via email.) Email Mr Callaghan ([glen.callaghan1@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:glen.callaghan1@det.nsw.edu.au)) if you did not receive your code and instructions or you are having difficulty accessing the parent portal
- Via Skoolbag. Search Moorebank High School in the App Store or in Google Play on your smart phone if you do not already have the Moorebank High School Skoolbag App.
- Send a written note with your child. They should place it in the slot provided in the office.
- Ring the school during school hours. We are no longer accepting voice messages due to the difficulty in determining if we have the correct student and the origin of the message.

Until later in the year you CANNOT send a text to a previous SMS message saying that your child will be away as until our dedicated number is set up the SMS will not be received by us.

Please ring the school for long term absences and requests for leave.

Mr Callaghan

Head Teacher Administration

# Wellbeing at Moorebank High School - 2018

Wellbeing is inextricably linked to both effective teaching and learning. At Moorebank High School our Wellbeing Team provides an excellent "network of care" to assist with the physical, social and emotional wellbeing of our students.

We provide a supportive school environment in which all students are nurtured as they learn. Our aim is to maximise student outcomes for all students. Our wellbeing programs are designed to foster a caring and tolerant attitude towards others, to ensure mutual respect and a sense of belonging is achieved at all times. The Moorebank High School Welfare Policy aims to encourage all students to develop a sense of responsibility for their own learning and actions whilst developing a set of values, attitudes and skills which will ultimately allow them to become mature and respected members of the community.

## The Role of Head Teacher Wellbeing

**Mr Daniel Ghossain (Relieving Position)**

As Head Teacher Wellbeing my roles include:

- Coordinating the school wellbeing team
- Planning and implementing welfare policies and programs
- Organising Wellbeing and support meetings
- Liaising with students, parents, staff and outside wellbeing agencies
- Inservicing the school on wellbeing issues and policies
- Liaising with the Home School Liaison Officer (HSLO) and monitoring attendance data.

As Head Teacher Wellbeing, I welcome all parents to play an active role in their child's education. Please feel free to contact any members of the school's wellbeing team, as we are keen and willing to provide guidance and support where possible to ensure your child makes the most of their education at Moorebank High School

## The Role of the Year Adviser

Each year group has their OWN Year Adviser who will stay with that group from Year 7 to Year 12. They are the best contact person at school to discuss your child's progress, extended leave due to illness or holidays, or any other concerns or issues you wish to discuss regarding your son/daughter's education.

Year Adviser Roles include:

- Co-ordinating, monitoring and managing the wellbeing needs of their students
- Monitoring progress
- Organising year meetings, functions and programs
- Consulting with parents and contact person for parents

This year, the current Year Advisers for 2018 are:

Year Group	Year Adviser	Year Assistant
7	Peter Lewis	Chloe Yazbeck
8	Yvonne Speirs	TBA
9	Christie Xenakis	Dominique Serisier
10	Suzy Edwards	TBA
11	Lorena Fedele	Shannon Jones
12	Marlisar Budden	Shannon Williams



# CAREERS NEWS

Welcome back to the New Year! Although it seems a long way in the future, Year 10 students should already be given thought to a suitable work experience placement to take place during week 2, term 3. Students are responsible for organising their own work placements but they are most welcome to liaise with me to assist with this process.

Year 12 students are encouraged to make an appointment to see me to analyse their results and discuss their preferred post school destination. It is most important that all students have a clearly articulated post school career pathway and a suitable back up plan. Most communication for Year 12 students is through the 115 different google classrooms. All classrooms are based on Educational Institutions such as universities, TAFE etc. or vocations. Students should ensure they are subscribed to all classrooms that are of interest to ensure they receive up to date information relevant to their interests.

## University of Notre Dame Early Offer Program for 2019

Opens March

Closes July

If you will be in Year 12 in 2018, register here to receive the information and application form for the Early Offer Program for 2019.

<http://notredame.edu.au/sydney/early-offer.php>

## ADF Gap Year Applications Open

A Gap Year in the Australian Defence Force is more than just a great way to try out a career in the Navy, Army or Air Force. It's a fulfilling year of adventure, experiences, mateship, learning, leadership and travel.

<https://www.defencejobs.gov.au/students-and-education/gap-year/?faqCategory=1454724d-6b5c-4a69-b6fd-7ce4341b9fa4&faqTag=recruitment-process>

## UOW Year 12 Legal Studies HSC Study Day

8 June. 8.30am

Building 67, McKinnon Building foyer

Register by 25 May

Do you want to enhance your preparation for HSC Legal Studies? Attend this free series of tailored sessions specifically designed for HSC Legal Studies students and delivered by law academics.

<https://lha.uow.edu.au/studydays/UOW213761.html>

## Apprenticeship and Traineeship Information Evening

We would like to invite you to our Apprenticeship and Traineeship Night to be held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at Wests Leagues Club, 10 Old Leumeah Road, Leumeah.

Night will include: Panel Discussion with an Apprentice/Trainee, Employer, GTO and State Training Services discussing their experiences, a Question and Answer session and then One on One time to discuss jobs and opportunities with experts.

It is your opportunity to get information and to apply for full time Apprenticeships and Traineeships or School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeship (SBATs) positions.

Suitable for recent School Leavers and those still at school.

Please bring your Resume with you.

Employers are looking for keen young people to fill their positions. This is an opportunity for you to impress these employers!

Attending: Group Training Companies, Employers, State Training Services, and more.

Information on School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships and Pre Apprenticeship courses information will also be available.

Job Opportunities exist across many Industries including: Automotive, Business Administration, Child Care, Construction (many fields within this area), Engineering and Manufacturing, Health, Horticulture, Hospitality, IT, Retail and many more fields.

7:00pm to 9:30pm

Light supper will be provided.

We look forward to seeing you there!

To Register please see the attached flyer or follow link: <https://mwlp-jobs-foryouth.eventbrite.com.au>

Mr Peter Lewis

Careers Advisor/Years 7 Advisor

## Role of Transition Adviser at Moorebank High School

At Moorebank we are currently beginning our 5<sup>th</sup> successful year of the Later Years Transition Adviser program.

In 2017, 17 students were successful in transition into a full-time apprenticeship, alternative vocational study or full-time employment prior to the completion of year 12. These students worked alongside the Transition Adviser with their families to identify and develop a clear transition path that has helped them to become successful in their chosen occupational field. We wish these students the very best of luck as they continue to work and study in alternative educational and employment areas.

The Later Years Transition Adviser is Mrs Cooper is located in the Library in the Careers Office. Students can self-refer to the Transition Adviser for careers/vocational advice and support or parents are able to contact the school on 9601 3999 directly to arrange a transition meeting.

### **The Work of the Transition Adviser:**

The Transition Adviser works as a member of a school Career and Transition Team by actively working in the following areas:

- promoting the active engagement and retention of targeted students
- collaborating with targeted students to develop a personalised program of career and transition support
- developing and strengthening partnerships between schools, industry, business, government and non-government organisations, to provide authentic learning opportunities for targeted students
- promoting effective communication strategies between schools, employers and local communities
- seeking opportunities through community support agencies for students most likely to be experiencing disengagement from learning
- linking with community youth support organisations such as Youth Pathways Providers and other local initiatives available to the school community.

This initiative recognises that:

- the roles of Transition Adviser and Careers Adviser are complementary
- an increasing number of schools already use a team approach where a number of teachers provide planned and complementary support to students for their career and transition needs
- schools require flexibility to meet the career and transition needs of their students and local school community

**The role of the Transition Adviser does not include careers or welfare counselling. It is about forging connections for targeted students with whom they have developed a relationship in order to facilitate each student's successful transition through school and from school to employment, or further education and training.**



## Study Skills & School Photos

Dear Parents/Carers & Students,

Just to remind you that our school is a subscriber to the study skills website [www.studyskillshandbook.com.au](http://www.studyskillshandbook.com.au)

This is a website that will help you develop essential skills for academic success. There are units of work on topics such as improving time management skills, how to study, research skills, summarizing, technology use, brain and memory. Basically everything you need to know about getting good marks at school can be found on this site. For example, learn how the colour of your room affects your ability to study, what the best study techniques are for your type of brain, how to improve your handwriting and useful software and apps to block yourself from technology distractions.

You will also see lots of useful handouts, grids and planners at the bottom of the THINGS TO PRINT page.

To access the handbook, go to [www.studyskillshandbook.com.au](http://www.studyskillshandbook.com.au) and **login** with the username and password available from the School Library.

The more of this website you can work through the more you will set yourself up for academic success.

## SCHOOL PHOTOS

### MOOREBANK HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE TAKEN ON: **Friday February 23 (Portraits) and Wednesday March 7 (Leadership L2L group photos)**

Dear Parents/Carers,

School photographs are scheduled to be taken by advancedlife Photography. Whilst an envelope and flyer have been distributed if possible it is our preference that ordering be completed online to reduce administration and potential security issues related to the return of cash and envelopes on photo day.

Orders for packages and sibling photographs can be placed securely online at [www.advancedlife.com.au](http://www.advancedlife.com.au) using our school's unique 9 digit Online Order Code. (on the order envelope) Portrait orders are due by photography day.

Should you wish to purchase a sibling photograph online, the order must be placed no later than the day before photography day. Sibling photographs will only be taken if an order has been placed.

Should you have any queries concerning school photographs or online ordering, please direct them via email to [enquiries@advancedlife.com.au](mailto:enquiries@advancedlife.com.au)



**ORDER NOW**

[WWW.ADVANCEDLIFE.COMAU](http://WWW.ADVANCEDLIFE.COMAU)

9 Digit Online Order Code  
Refer to order envelope

**advancedlife**  
photography & print specialists

# SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Congratulations HULK (Green) House on your win this year at the MHS Swimming Carnival! It's been a long time since Hulk house was at the top of the table. The final tally was:

1. Hulks (Green) - 599
2. Cookie Monsters (Blue) - 575
3. Red Backs (Red) - 534
4. Tigers (Gold) - 350







## ROAD SAFETY INFORMATION

**YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR CHILDREN'S SAFETY WHEN THEY ARE TRAVELLING TO AND FROM SCHOOL.**

# Drive and park safely near schools

The beginning and end of the school day are busy times for pedestrians and drivers outside schools.

You can help keep children safe by remembering the following:

- drop off and pick up children on the school side of the road
- never call out to children from across the road – it is very dangerous
- always take extra care when driving in 40km school zones
- follow all parking signs – these help keep children as safe as possible
- park responsibly even if this means you have to walk further to the school gate
- never double park – it is illegal and puts children at risk
- never do a U-turn or three-point turn outside the school as it puts children at risk of harm
- model safe and considerate pedestrian and driver behaviours to your children.

### For further support

Go to the department's Road Safety Education program at [education.nsw.gov.au/road-safety-education](http://education.nsw.gov.au/road-safety-education) or visit [education.nsw.gov.au](http://education.nsw.gov.au) and search for road safety education.

When travelling in a car ensure your children:

- use a booster seat if they are aged between 4 and 7 years old – it's the law
- are correctly buckled up in their seatbelts
- always get in and out of the car through the 'safety door' – the rear door on the footpath side of the car
- are never left alone in the car.



#### Up to 6 months

Approved rear-facing child car seat



#### 6 months to 4 years

Approved rear- or forward-facing child car seat



#### 4+ years

Approved forward-facing child car seat or booster seat



#### 145cm or taller

Suggested minimum height to use adult lap-sash seatbelt

## Seven new school zone traffic offences

To help schools keep the school zone safer for all pedestrians and drivers there are seven new traffic infringements with new fines.

None of the seven offences attract demerit points when committed elsewhere on the road but in a school zone they each come with two points.

The changes are:

1. Stopping in intersection - Under the changes if a driver commits this offence in a school zone they will receive a penalty of \$439 and 2 demerit points.
2. Stop within 20m of intersection (traffic lights) - Under the changes if a driver commits this offence in a school zone they will receive a penalty of \$439 and 2 demerit points.
3. Stop within 10m of intersection (no traffic lights) - Under the changes if a driver commits this offence in a school zone they will receive a penalty of \$439 and 2 demerit points.
4. Stop near bicycle crossing lights - Under the changes if a driver commits this offence in a school zone they will receive a penalty of \$439 and 2 demerit points.
5. Obstruct access to ramp/path/passageway - Under the changes if a driver commits this offence in a school zone they will receive a penalty of \$330 and 2 demerit points.
6. Not parallel park in the direction of travel - Under the changes if a driver commits this offence in a school zone they will receive a \$330 fine and 2 demerit points.
7. Parallel park close to dividing line - Under the changes if a driver commits this offence in a school zone they will receive a \$330 fine and 2 demerit points.

All updated school zone offences can be located through Roads and Maritime:  
<http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/documents/roads/safety-rules/demerits-school.pdf>

February 2018