Our building extensions are just about complete. Many thanks for your patience in the interim when our office and office staff have been relocated to available spaces in the school. The Administration Office is now operational from its original site.

Year 12 have completed their half yearly examinations and are moving to consolidate their studies before their Trial Higher School Certificate. Applications for enrolment in Year 7 2010 have been received and the selection panel will meet in the last week in May to review these applications. Students will receive their offer of enrolment by the second week in June.

We are advised that for the benefit of the whole school population that students experiencing symptoms of influenza take time out from their studies to recuperate before returning to the classroom.

As part of our 125 Year celebration, Year 12 students are selling the school scarf which is navy and embroidered with the school crest. These scarves are available from the main office at the cost of $20. Any funds raised through this process will go to Year 12 for their contribution to the school gift and their formal. This item is now part of our school uniform and replaces all scarves previously worn.

Congratulations to Makaylie Foodey who has been selected to be an Australian Ambassador for Country Music in a Tour of New Zealand in August - September.

Welcome back to term 2. Teachers are busily working away at reports, assessments and programming to meet the needs of all our learners. Mrs Stephan and Mr Heaney are ramping up to the development of our Personalised Learning Plans for targeted students and the School Continuous Improvement Team will begin their planning for the futures plan this week with an extended meeting for all staff on Wednesday evening. This is to look at the introduction of the computer revolution, new lap tops in classrooms, flexible learning spaces and the delivery and development of the national curriculum.

We have also continued to strengthen our primary school links with East Maitland, Ashtonfield and Maitland primary schools through our middle schooling project. This term, we have organised reciprocal visits with our middle school teachers. This is a very effective way to learn about what content and skills are being taught and the changes from Stage 3 into Stage 4. We will continue to explore this very valuable exchange to improve student information sharing and access to improved delivery for our students.

Students have had the opportunity to change roll call classes for this term. Hopefully the new classes will be ready to begin next week! Many exciting new opportunities have opened up in the mornings.
May 2009

with the creation of a manga drawing class, a chess club, an equestrian group, a creative writing skills class, keyboard skills and development, rugby league trivia and all the staples including choir and band.

Many of you may have watched the 60 minutes special on ‘sexting’ last Sunday. I have included a facts sheet in this newsletter to give you some important information as a parent on what you may do to curb the prevalence of this practice with your own children and their friends. Children need to understand that once those images are out in cyberspace- they are permanent and very hard to track down and erase. They may not want to be reminded of them when they are 40 and they turn up at work to that picture on their computer screen!

On this, a forum of highly respected adolescent professionals will be on at UNSW in Sydney on the 23rd of May beginning at 6pm. I have included the flyer at the back of the newsletter. It is $45 to attend and tickets are available through ticketek.

Please remember to regularly check the webpage: mghs.com.au, it houses all the latest information on our whole school calendar, upcoming assessments and examinations.

Tracey Breese

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SAFE Sexting: No Such Thing

Parents are urged to warn children about the dangers of ‘sexting’—the growing trend for young people to send provocative images of themselves to their friends via mobile phones.

- Sexting can lead to public humiliation, cyberbullying, or even sexual assault.
- The message to young people is—to post images of yourself and don’t distribute any sent to you.
- It is illegal to take sexual photos of children and young people and it is also an offence to pass them on.

Tips for parents:
- Warn your children about the consequences of sexting.
- Remind children to think before they act.
- Tell children that sending or possessing child pornography is illegal.
- Warn them about sexual predators.
- Parents should learn how to use and monitor their children’s mobile phones.
- Parents should check photo galleries on their children’s Facebook and MySpace accounts.
- Give your children clear rules on what they can and can’t do with their mobile phones.
125 Years
Our commemorative wine glasses have arrived and are available for purchase from the front office. The $10 price is well spent as the glasses are a lovely keepsake of this very special year. The Commemorative Cocktail Party tickets, $30, are also now available from the Office. Finger food is included in the ticket price. On Friday evening 3 July the Monte Pio will be the venue for our continued celebrations. Guest speakers at the Cocktail Party will include ex-students Duska Vujkovic and Will Jardine. All are welcome and we look forward to sharing memories of MGHS. Numbers are limited so get in early.

Congratulations to students Samantha Ellem Yr9 & Ramone Pace Yr7 who were the winner and runner-up in the 125 Year Celebration poster competition held during Term 1. The posters are now on display around the school.

125 Year Committee

CAREERS
Welcome back to Term 2.
Years 10, 11 and 12 students have received permission notes for the Hunter Valley Career Expo at Tocal on Tuesday 19 May. This is the perfect opportunity for students to talk to representatives from Industry, TAFE, Universities, Businesses and Training Providers about career options. Check out the website [www.hvcareerexpo.com.au](http://www.hvcareerexpo.com.au) for more details.
The Regional University Roadshow visited our school on Wednesday 25 March. Interested Yr 11 and 12 students attended and representatives from Southern Cross University, Charles Sturt University and University of New England spoke to the students about scholarships, courses, entry schemes and accommodation.

All Year 9 students will participate in Career Quest coordinated by Hunter Valley Youth Express on Friday 29 May. Students will rotate through various workshops relating to employment and employer expectations. Students will also receive their School to Work Employment Related Skills Logbooks on this day.

Congratulations to Tom Fairweather of Year 12 who has been awarded a NSW Minerals Education Bursary for 2009.

Year 10 students are about to complete a job Investigation unit in Careers lessons. Some Year 10 students have been trained as Careers Leaders to assist in these lessons - Peter Bartolacci, Jamie Davies, Madaleine Cook, Maddy Spooner, Rachael Corrigan, Lauren Skimmings and Riley Harrison. OZJAC is just one careers program that we will be using.

Thank you to Mrs Sandra Bower who assumed the role as Careers Adviser during my recent Long Service Leave.

Lee Osborne (Careers Adviser)

PD/H/PE
Hunter Region Swimming Carnival 2009
Congratulations to our 25 students who represented the Coalfields Zone at the Hunter Swimming Championships in early March. Each student who qualified for the championships did so after excellent results at the Coalfields Zone Carnival. Every student competed to the best of their ability on the day and twelve of our students qualified for the State Championships in Sydney in April.

Congratulations to all the students who competed and particularly to the qualifiers:

**Ryan McDonald** in the Open Boys:  
1st in the 100 mtrs Butterfly  
1st in the 200 mtrs IM  
1st in the 200 mtrs Freestyle  
2nd in the 100 mtrs Backstroke

**Emma McDonald** in the 14’s Girls:  
1st in the 100 mtrs Butterfly
May 2009

2\textsuperscript{nd} in the 100 mtrs Freestyle
2\textsuperscript{nd} in the 50 mtrs Freestyle
3\textsuperscript{rd} in the 100 mtrs Breastroke
3\textsuperscript{rd} in the 200 mtrs Freestyle

**Thalia Parsons** in the 12’s Girls:

3\textsuperscript{rd} in the 100 mtrs Breastroke
3\textsuperscript{rd} in the 100 mtrs Backstroke
3\textsuperscript{rd} in the 50 mtrs Freestyle

**Emily Boland** in the 16’s Girls:

1\textsuperscript{st} in the 50 mtrs Freestyle
2\textsuperscript{nd} in the 100 mtrs Freestyle

The **13’s Boys 4x 50m Freestyle Relay Team** finished second. The swimmers in this team are **Anthony Currie, Damian Spohr, Jayden Wood and Ryan Curtis**.

The **All Age 300m Freestyle Relay Team** finished third. The team is **Riley Horrocks, Anthony Currie, Chris Hudson, Christopher Burg, David Smith and Ryan McDonald**.

Well done to all of our swimmers.

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**Food Show**

Year 10-12 Food Technology and Hospitality students again have the opportunity to attend the Food Show at Darling Harbour on Friday 3\textsuperscript{rd} July to examine the new food products and view the cooking demonstrations by Toby Puttock. Students need to collect an excursion sheet from their teacher. There are only 49 seats on the bus so a first in first serve rule will apply.

**Safety**

Thank you to all parents who have supported the school safe shoes policy. It is pleasing to see so many students in correct uniform. If a family is unable to provide the school uniform for their child please contact the principal.

**School Certificate Computing Skills Test**

Students will sit the **online** test between the dates of Wednesday 11\textsuperscript{th} November to Friday 13\textsuperscript{th} November. All year 10 students must sit this compulsory examination.

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Suzanne Ross
Head Teacher (TAS)
Medicare Teen Dental Plan
Annual Preventative Dental Checks
All teenagers aged between 12-17 years
who receive the Medicare Teen Dental voucher
will be fully bulk billed.

Appointments available now

HEALTH and WELLBEING FORUM
IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF ADULTS AND CHILDREN

Cyndi O’Meara, a passionate and knowledgeable speaker, with a Bachelor of Science from Deakin University majoring in nutrition, is coming to Maitland. She will share her beliefs about:

* Giving children the best start in life
* Choosing the best food and avoiding foods with harmful additives
* The importance of food in eliminating skin conditions, eg. acne and dermatitis
* The connection between certain foods and mood/behaviour disorders

Cyndi will speak at the “Health and Wellbeing Forum” at Maitland City Bowling Club on Saturday May 23rd from 2.30pm to 4pm. A variety of stalls offering healthy lifestyle options will be on display from 1pm to 5pm.

Entry fee is $10 for adults.
Schoolchildren are free. All welcome.
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN TO NOTIFY THE SCHOOL ABOUT CHANGES TO YOUR INFORMATION?

New mobile, new home phone number, new work number, new emergency contact person or contact number, change of address, your name change, new carer (step-parent), medical updates (eg allergies, medication, injury risks).

Is there something we need to remove from our records, such as an old home or mobile number or contact person. Some changes, such as a new surname will require legal documents to be provided to the school before the change can be made.

We need to keep in touch with you for your child/ward’s education, comfort and safety

Please send us a note, drop in at the office, phone on 49342066, fax on 49345086 or send an e-mail to maitgross-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

CHANGE OF DETAILS SLIP-MGHS

Student’s Surname: ________________________________
First Name: ____________________ Middle Name: ______________________
Year group: ________
New Address: __________________________________________________________
Postcode: ___________
New Carer information: (carer changes that may need to be made to current records)
Carer’s Surname: _____________________________ First Name: ________________
New Home Phone Number: Mother: ____________ Father: ________________
New Mobile Number: Mother: ________________ Father: ________________
New Work Number: Mother: ________________ Father: ________________
New Emergency Contacts:
Name: __________________________ Name: __________________________
Home: __________________________ Home: __________________________
Mobile: __________________________ Mobile: __________________________
Relationship to student: ______________ Relationship to student: ______________
New medical conditions/allergies etc:
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________
Information for parents of students in Year 9
Laptops for learning

All Year 9 students in NSW government schools will receive a Lenovo laptop starting from August 2009. This has been funded by the National Secondary School's Computer Fund component of the Federal Government’s Digital Education Revolution.

All laptops will come with Microsoft and Adobe software, giving NSW students and teachers access to the largest and most comprehensive roll out of software in any education system worldwide. The Department of Education and Training is also investing in wireless networking and technical support for all secondary schools as well as professional learning for teachers.

Benefits

- Improved student motivation, engagement, interest.
- Increased student organisation and improved self-directed learning.
- Increased academic achievements and better work habits.
- Improved communication and information skills.

Requirements

- Parents/careers and students will be required to sign a Laptop User Charter prior to issue of the laptop.
- To increase security, students will be required to keep their laptops out of sight when travelling to and from school.
- The laptop can be used for school work at home — with or without internet access.
- Students will be able to access the internet at home if there is Internet service at home. The Department’s Internet filtering will work at home so students will not have access to inappropriate content.
- Students must charge their laptop overnight to ensure it is ready for each school day.
- Year 9 students may keep the laptop if they complete Year 12. Students who leave school or move out of the government school system must return their laptops.

Further information

Your school will provide information regarding requirements, ownership, damage or loss of laptops, laptop care and acceptable computer and Internet use when the laptops are provided. The school can also provide advice on the best academic use of the laptop, safe Internet use, copyright, plagiarism and ergonomics.

Carrie's Place

Choir of No More Knocks

Mother’s Day Concert

Why not come along and celebrate Mother’s Day with the Choir of No More Knocks?

We will be singing the songs you have come to love as well as some new ones that you have not heard before.

Accented with a range of diverse cultural performances, it promises to be the only way to celebrate. Other performers include the Woodberry Primary School Indigenous Dancers, Hunter Singers (Youth Choir), local sister trio ‘Dolce’, and Acappella Nova.

There will be lucky door prizes and raffles.

Ticket price will include afternoon tea to be served at intervals.

WHEN: Saturday 9th May 2009
WHERE: Maitland Grossman High School
Cumberland St East Maitland

WHAT TIME: 2pm – 5pm

PRICE: $25 per adult, $15 concession, $10 Children under 12

Tickets available from Maitland Visitor Information Cent’re Ph: 4931 2800

General enquiries: Ring Jan or Sadie 4934 2585