We have had an interesting, rewarding and challenging fortnight. The Marsden High Open Night was an outstanding success with over 200 people attending last Tuesday evening. Prospective students and their parents came from many different areas. I was particularly delighted at the large turnout of Ermington families. I would like to acknowledge the substantial work undertaken by the staff to ensure that the night was a success. Many parents and prospective students commented on how they really enjoyed the activities put on by the various faculties, the opportunities to see our students guiding learning, and the chance to have informal discussion with staff members. Our student leaders, involved in escorting groups around were outstanding ambassadors for the school. Special thanks to Mrs Paczkowski for coordinating the event as well as Lucy Monk, Emily Godden, Jordan Amin, Rebecca Brownlee, Quinn Coleman, Jacob Bradford and Nina Kendall. Well done to all involved!

Gus Vrolyk
Principal

How to get your kids a great education without spending a fortune

I found the following article recently and felt that it explained some of the reasons for why Marsden High School is a truly exceptional school.

Edited extract from Free Schools: How to get your kids a great education without spending a fortune, by David Gillespie (Macmillan Australia)

The perfect school will have a highly effective leader who engages the community and teachers, who mentors those teachers and gets the best from them. It will have a teaching culture of continuous learning. Teachers will approach their task not as underpaid, glorified child care but as an opportunity to improve their skills and their students’ outcomes. And the perfect school may do absolutely nothing else. It may accomplish these two things in a caravan on a mining site, in a sandstone building on Sydney Harbour or in any possible location in between. What it looks like and what it costs are very likely to be completely irrelevant.

A truly extraordinary school will:

- provide a music program
- provide at least one foreign language.
- teach children how to learn rather than just what to learn
- use technology to ensure students have immediate feedback and teachers have the time to help those who need it most
- work very hard at keeping parents in the loop

? not make homework a priority.

In other words, its perfection will be almost completely invisible to all but the participants. Its outcomes will in no way depend on the advantage or disadvantage the children bring through the school gate. All of this is quite easily delivered within the existing budgets for government school education (or less) if the school leader is skilled and motivated. They’re not the majority, but these schools do exist. The trick is to find them.

Sheryn Symons
Deputy Principal

Marsden High School P&C

A reminder that the P&C meeting is held in the Library at 7:30pm on the last Tuesday of each month and all parents/carers would be most welcome to attend. The next meeting will be on the 25th March and will include the Annual General Meeting. All positions will be vacated, thus nominations are invited for President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary.

Help is urgently needed in the canteen, with at least three more people required. The normal hours are 10am to 2:30pm but any help would be greatly appreciated, even if only for a couple of hours. The busiest time is 12:15 - 2:15 where lunch is prepared and served. Please contact Rae on 0421 458 890 or the canteen direct on 9858 1367 If you can help.
MARSDEN HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC FACULTY

INVITES YOU

to

A CONCERT FOR YEAR 7

Wednesday April 2nd, 12.30, John Hagan Hall

Dear Parents
On Wednesday, 2nd of April, the staff and students of Marsden High Schools Music Faculty will be presenting a programme of music from the Performing Ensembles and individual students to welcome our new year 7 students.
The Concert will begin at 12.30 and parents and guardians are warmly invited to join us if they wish.

Milena Idrus (Music Co-ordinator)

Working Bee
Our first working bee and definitely not our last. On Saturday, 8th March, 6 students – Nick Sawell, Nick Vergara, Patrick Jasper, Ethan Rotunno, Milla Morrell and Kean Sadgrove picked up shovels, brooms and wheelbarrows to lay mulch and chop down straggling bushes. They were ably assisted by a number of school staff- Mr. Vrolyk, Ms. O’Neill, Ms. Idrus, Mr. Bulgin, Mrs. Symons( who volunteered her husband), Mr Nguyen, Mr. Legg and myself. The SRC organised a B-B-Q for the workers and the cooks were Connor Sadgrove and Emily Godden. Connor also brought along his parents and as did Emily whose Mum had a great time with the secateurs. At the end of 3 hot hours, we had really made a difference to the front gardens and the area near the Library.

Thankyou to all these wonderful people who gave up their valuable weekend time to make such a significant contribution to preparing the school for open day.

Margaret Paczkowski
Deputy Principal
The girls Open’s Netball team travelled to Galston last Monday to play Galston High School in the NSW state knock-out competition. Although the girls fought right to the end, Galston High proved too strong, going down to them 61 to 41. All of the girls played exceptionally well, with Emily Godden receiving the “Most Valuable Player” award. The girls should be extremely pleased with themselves and are to be congratulated on the commitment and sportsmanship they showed on the day. Well done! - Mr Kelly, Netball Coach

Marsden High School began its Mock Trial season with a bang on Thursday 13th March against Santa Sabina College. It was a close contest, but Marsden managed to win the day 220 - 212. Congratulations to our new team on a hard fought win. - Mr van der Heide, Mock Trial Coordinator

Library Reminder:
The NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge has begun. You can now log in all the books that you have read from September 2013! If you’re in years 7-9 put your reading hat on and enjoy!!
Here is the link to Log on https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html
Ms Langelaar
Librarian

Marsden High has raised OVER $2500 for the Leukaemia Foundation. The exact amount is yet to be confirmed due to lots of cash donations, so more to follow in the next newsletter.

The SRC put together Wednesday's event for the World's Greatest Shave and it was nothing short of sensational! We had 13 students shave their hair all off on the day, as well as a very enthusiastic Mr Ian Bulgin who shaved it all off for this important cause. Also huge thanks to Mr Vrolyk and Mr Van der Heide for ‘sacrificing’ their moustache and beard for the cause. It was also fantastic to have so many students and staff colouring their hair for the day.

Thankyou to Lucy and Bec from Cut and Comb, West Ryde and Christiane’s Hair Design, Gladesville for assisting on the day, as well as all the staff, students and importantly, donors, who helped make this event such a success! Visit our Official Marsden High School Facebook page to see lots more photos from the day.

It was a great atmosphere on the day so thanks Marsden for getting involved in this important cause.

A special thank you to Ms Bernyk, Ms Swinkels and the SRC for their hard work in ensuring this event was a great success.
Community News
Field of Mars Discovery Day for residents of Ryde and surrounding areas. The day is completely free for families and will host a variety of free guided educational bush walks around the wildlife reserve, have local workshop based talks, animal shows, face painting and bbq with all activities looking at our local area and catchment. Come and explore your local area with us! We invite all families to join us! 30 March Field of Mars Reserve, Bookings essential with limited places. Times: Session 1: 10-1215pm, Session 2: 1245-3pm. Call for booking: 9952 8222

The City of Ryde wants to help families save money on their electricity and water bills, as well as reducing waste for our city. Ryde council is offering Free in-home waste and sustainability assessments to all Ryde residents. Complete an assessment by the 30th of May 2014 and have a chance to win a compost bin or worm farm. Remember to mention to customer service when registering that you saw this in your school newsletter. Please contact customer service on 9952 8222 or for more information visit www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/hwsp

Parenting Programs

Alcohol fuelled violence in our community information evening. Paul Dillon - keynote speaker. Tuesday 25 March 6.45pm - 9pm. Hornsby RSL, 4 High St, Hornsby. RSVP Paul Stuart 9477 8729 email pstuart@nsml.com.au