

Melville Matters 91

June 2020



MELVILLE
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL



Governor's STEM School of the Year



BEST STEM PROGRAM
Australian Education Awards - Finalist 2020

Melville Senior High School acknowledges the Noogar people as the Traditional Owners of the land on which the school stands today and pays its respects to the Whadjuk people, and Elders past, present and emerging.

From the Principal

By the time you read this third edition of Melville Matters for 2020, exams will be over and Semester 1 reports will have been distributed electronically by Connect. If you haven't received your child's report via Connect, please contact the school on 6274 1300 and a hard copy will be provided. It is important that when you read the report you remember to take advantage of the opportunity to make an appointment to meet with your child's teachers on the recently rescheduled day for our Parent-Teacher interviews which is Tuesday 28 July (Term 3, Week 2) from 9am - 6pm. As is customary, this is a student free day - except for Year 12 ATAR students who will have their normal timetable. Parent bookings via PTO are essential and instructions for how to do this have been issued separately.

One of the main objectives of reporting to and then meeting with parents is to keep you informed about your child's progress so that you can support them if they need extra help or encouragement from home. As previously advised in a Connect communication, due to restrictions imposed on us by the COVID-19 pandemic we have modified the 2020 Semester 1 reports to include grades but not comments. This is an opportune trial we were planning to have in any case and before the Semester 2 reporting cycle you will be surveyed and asked for your point of view on what we have done. If the consensus is that comments should or should not be included in future reports we will of course listen to you - our parents. Throughout Term 3 we will make a case for not including comments - but you will give the final say about the future.

Effective communication (or connectivity) is something that we take very seriously at Melville SHS. We also acknowledge however that this connectivity can be difficult for a busy parent. Reports and parent meetings assist in this but we also think that parents/students shouldn't have to wait until the end of semester report or for the once or twice per year 'official' parent/teacher meeting to 'connect' with the school to either seek reassurance or extra support. This is one reason why we think comments could be removed from reports and replaced by more regular, streamlined 'connections' between teachers, parents and students. We think that by continually improving on the existing school/parent/student communication model we should be able to remove comments, which take many thousands of hours for staff to write. Our question to you then will be: can those hours be better spent ensuring the effectiveness of an ongoing reporting model, rather than the twice a year one that has existed in schools for the past 100 plus years?

As it stands and as always, if you have a question or concern about your child's progress at any time throughout the term, semester or year you can contact their classroom teacher. Here we believe our use of Connect makes this an almost instantaneous 24/7 process. If a teacher is unable to assist, their Head of Learning Area (HOLA) or Program Manager is also available to help. If this fails or if your child has any problems, either across more than one subject or outside the classroom or school, the next best step to take is to contact the relevant person from our Student Services Team. As you know our Student Services Team is organised into two sub-teams: a Middle School Team (Years 7 to 9) lead by Mr Chris Gill with Mr Ben Leech (Year 7-8 Coordinator) and Mr Rowan Gerrard (Year 9 Coordinator) and a Senior School Team (Years 10 to 12) lead by Ms Trish Panikoula with Mr Michael Sims (Year 10 Coordinator), Mr Josh Barker (Year 11 Coordinator) and Mr Sam Glazbrook (Year 12 Coordinator). Supporting the Middle and Senior School teams are two part-time school psychologists (Ms Deb Manook and Ms Gabrielle Lawlor), two part-time community nurses (Ms Jill Dykes and Ms Carly Martin), an Aboriginal and Islander Education Officer (Ms Michelle Kickett), a Chaplain Mr Paul Attwood and three part-time school officers (Ms Deb Gray, Ms Selina Cann and Ms Lyn Tipping),

In addition to the Student Services team there are two Deputy Principals responsible for teaching and learning across the school. They are Mrs Alanna Sherwood (Middle School) and Mr Theo Gummery (Senior School). They have the 'lead' across the school in managing learning and teaching including curriculum, assessment and reporting related matters and are assisted in particular by Mr George Tills who as the Vocational Education and Training and Transitions Manager supports students as they move from school to university, TAFE or the workplace. So there are a 'cast of thousands' and if you get confused, contact the relevant Year Coordinator who will steer you in the right direction.



2020 has been and remains a very strange year and all of our lives have been subjected to considerable disruption. It is important to acknowledge that the potential for this disruption to continue in our society remains, even as we enter Phase 5 of the state-wide pandemic planning recovery phase. One of the many by-products of this disruption and uncertainty has been a noticeable increase in student and indeed staff anxiety, which is simply mirroring what we are seeing in the wider community and across the globe. I hope with a two week break approaching and a return to some semblance of normality in Term 3 that things will settle. Parents, you can assist us in this by providing your child with a chance to speak with you about any anxiety they are feeling and perhaps consulting one of the many outside agencies referenced in the letter I wrote to all families on Monday 29 June. As always, my Student Services Team is here to assist.

Finally, a reminder that Term 2 will finish on Friday 3rd of July and Term 3 commences on Wednesday July 22nd for students. I wish all of our students and staff a safe and relaxing holiday BUT a reminder to Year 11 and 12 ATAR students that they should be using the two week break to consolidate their understanding of semester one subject content and to study hard for their exams at the end of Term 3! Stay safe and please try and relax and refresh.

Yours sincerely
Phillip White AM, RFD, BA, Grad Dip Ed, MED (MAN), psc
Principal

COVID Remnants

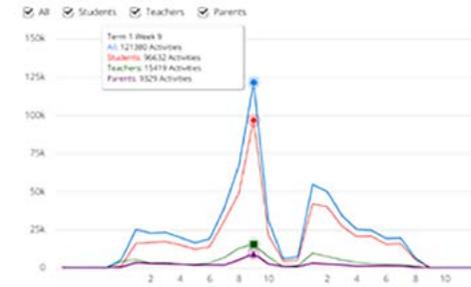
This is the perfect opportunity to use an electronic Melville Matters to look back at a term that has been extra-online with COVID restrictions. Please make sure you access the many links to activities that students have been completing. It includes links to art projects, a COVID-distanced dance video and much more. See the Arts page on page 6 for a link to vote on the great Galah sculpture pictured below with Ms McCarthy and some Year 12s.



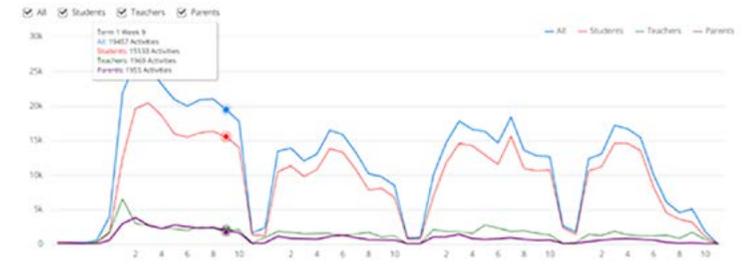
We really are a Connect school!

The school has been looking closely at Connect usage during the last term. We were very pleased to see the high level of usage by students when they were away from school during the health crisis. There were over 121,000 activities in Week 9 alone of Term 1, with 96,332 student activities as part of that. Last year at the same time, we had over 19,000 and that was an excellent usage statistic at the time! We could also see a significant increase in parent activity and appreciate all efforts to keep students involved with their learning during a difficult time. If you need any assistance accessing your Connect account, please contact deirdre.lewis@education.wa.edu.au

Overview - School Activity



Overview - School Activity

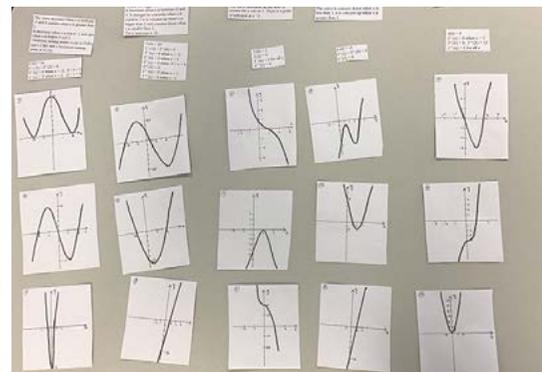


Mathematics

Study must go on and Mathematics classes were very busy this term.

Year 8 students completed the QR Code Challenge that gets students to use their mobile devices to move and to learn. Staff firstly input a series of questions and answers and a QR code for each question is placed around the school. Students then have a treasure hunt to find each clue and submit the answers.

Photos on the bottom of the page are the Year 12 Methods class who have been exploring the wonderful word of Calculus



Arts and Technologies

Dance

The Paper Plane project was created to support connection between Melville SHS's Dance students from Years 7 to 12. It was designed to help everyone stay connected during the COVID-19 isolation earlier this semester. Staff created Paper Planes as a symbol of our unity in these difficult times. It is a FABULOUS video and performance and shows the wonderful energy being created in the dance program.

Credits as follows:

Choreography: Jasmine Yap
Editor: Lisa Smith Studios

Performers: Year 7-12 Dance students
Song (Paper Planes): written and performed by Elina

Check out Paper Planes [HERE](#)

Top Writing for Top Gear

Congratulations to Year 10 student Ben Baumann who is a Top Gear magazine competition winner and published sports car writer. Earlier this term Ben entered an international competition run by the well-known TV program Top Gear. He was the only one selected in his age category from an international list of submissions. It is a well structured and paced story that builds to a funny climax - pitched perfectly for it's audience.... a fitting introduction to Ben, the journalist/writer.

Ben's article is [HERE](#)



Wearable Art

Year 11 & 12 Certificate II Creative Industry students have been working on their largest projects this year. Students had to come up with a concept inspired by a costume design for a fictional character to create an original wearable head piece. Materials such as thermoplastics, foam, and foam clay were used to create the work. Below are the students putting the final touches on their projects.



Community Art Trail #6

In week 9, Melville SHS was selected to take part in the City of Melville Happiness Appears community art trail that was held on that weekend. The artwork, entitled 'Flaming Galah' was inspired by one of Australia's most common and widespread cockatoos. The work depicted a flock of Galahs showing their playful, funny and charismatic personalities. "Galah" in Australian slang, is also a comedic device meaning 'fool' or 'clown', often heard within the phrase "Flaming Galah!"

The initiative was spearheaded by our Curriculum Leader of The Visual Arts, Mellissa McCarthy with the teamwork of scores of students. Other teachers with contributing classes were Ms Jasmine Yap, Ms Jenna Antonioli, Mr Matthew Lord and Mr Sam Cavallaro. The artwork was a series of painted MDF board shapes on concrete plinths. Each plinth was linked with a secure chain and lock and secured to the ground. Each weighed approx. 4kg. Locals and visitors walked past the front of the school on a trail to see artworks in the vicinity. Ms Mellissa McCarthy said "I am happy that we have the opportunity to put the students' hard work out on display and to spread some joy in the community during these uncertain times."

Community Art Trail #12

Melville SHS Year 7 student Mya Hathaway also has an individual entry in the Art Trail. Two of her photos are bottom right. Mya is a budding young photographer and has been taking photos of the things that make her happy to spread happiness through her local neighbourhood. Her photographs were on the fence of Caralee Primary School.

Please vote for number 6 and number 12 on the online map [HERE](#)





Business as Usual

The last few months has seen most of our excursions, assemblies, carnivals, interschool sport, musical concerts and gatherings curtailed or cancelled. This has given our roving photographers the opportunity to instead photograph everyday activities happening at the school. Above is Year 7 Gifted and Talented Science, below right are Year 12 Food students doing work experience in the canteen and below left are Year 11 Outdoor Education class spent the day exploring the mountain bike trails in Kalamunda.





Writing with a touch of Magic

Did you ever think you could squeeze a hard-boiled egg into a bottle without it breaking? Does this sound like a magic trick? RISE students decided to find out. For an English writing lesson, the students learnt how to write procedures. After viewing an archived TV clip of the legendary late Professor Julius Sumner-Miller demonstrate fluctuations in air pressure using this "trick," students attempted it themselves. The students successfully completed the experiment then wrote down the procedure using headings and sub-headings. The egg in the bottle trick has been around for over one hundred years but you can bet the students will be keen to produce it at any future events! They are pictured above in action.

Below: Senior school Metalwork

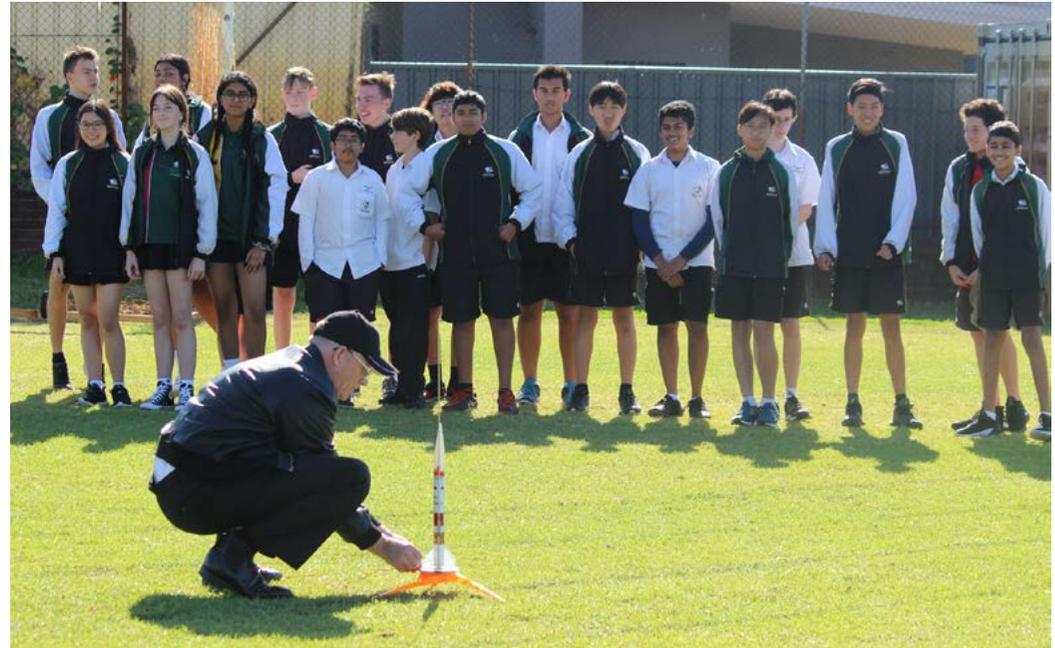


Aviation

There is never a dull moment in the Aviation Studies Centre and in week 9 the Year 9 Aviation Specialist students witnessed the launch of a rocket. The group have been learning all about aviation engines and systems and propulsion and as part of the course they launched a few rockets as a practical lesson.

The rocket took off faster than our roving reporter could click, it rose so far it disappeared and then it floated back to the oval with its parachute.

Just one of many practical activities we do in the Aviation studies program.



Student Services

In week 9, former AFL football player, Shane Woewodin visited the school in to inspire the Year 10 Aspirant Football Players group. He talked to students about goal setting and brought in his 2000 Brownlow Medal. Shane played for Melbourne Football Club and played more than 100 consecutive games from his debut.

Shane discussed how to achieve success using football as an example but outlined how it can be applied to anything. He talked about purpose, creating good habits and surrounding yourself with good people.

