Welcome to what I’m sure will be another outstanding year at Marsden State High School. A special welcome to all parents and students who are new to our school this year, and thank you for showing the confidence in our school. This year we have rigorously enforced our enrolment management plan, with no students from outside of our catchment enrolled unless they are accepted into one of our specialist programs. Despite this change in process, our school numbers have continued to be strong, with 2099 students officially enrolled on Day 8 (slightly higher than the 2096 of last year).

Our continued success as a school is in no small part due to the high expectations we continue to support across the school. Our core areas of learning, behaviour, attendance and uniform have once again started the year strongly. It has been pleasing to be in classes where the work is underway and effective at such an early stage of the year. Particularly pleasing is the work within our Yr 7 area, with students adapting well to the use of the Cornell Note Taking system to support their learning.

Our 2015 Year 12 cohort achieved some outstanding results upon graduation. The graduating cohort of 289 students achieved the highest ever percentage (98.6%) of Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) attainment for Marsden SHS. I’ve no doubt this is due to both the hard work of the students and the excellent structures and support provided by our staff. The introduction of Academic Coaching in the senior years has seen our senior students take ownership of their own learning, with the knowledge of their progress a key component of their progress. I’m also confident our 2016 cohort can continue this improvement, with our expectation that all Yr 12 graduates achieve a QCE a realistic goal for the year.

It was also pleasing to see the excellent coverage of our Mates Talk Change (#MTC) program over the holiday period. Both the newspaper coverage and the story on the ABC News provided an insight into the great work our students have undertaken. The support and guidance from Ms Mulcahy has also been key, and I’m looking forward to seeing the progression of the work with a new set of leaders this year.

This year we have also returned to our previous Timetable structure with the return of Connect classes at the start of each day. These classes are highly structured, with students working on the Learning Curve program through their student planners to enhance their chances for academic and social success. We have tight structures in place to support student attendance across the school, but we have also developed clear processes when students are late to school (particularly with the start to the day later than in 2015). A reminder that the first lesson starts at 8.30am, and if your child is late to school it is expected that they will have a note explaining their absence signed by a parent.

The Learning Curve program also enables us to continue to focus on our core values of Pride, Passion and Persistence during the year. We have had a very good start to the year generally, but one of the more pleasing aspects has been the pride our students have demonstrated in their school and the role they play in the wider community. Within the first two weeks we have had two students (separately) hand in money to the office that had been lost, we’ve had a number of students on a bus on the way home who responded maturely and appropriately to support a member of the public who had been involved in an accident, and we’ve had reports of student’s going above and beyond to help an elderly member of the public at the local shops. All of which help to reinforce the fact that when the school day finishes, our Marsden SHS students
continue to act and behave in a manner in which we can all be proud. Well done to all involved.

Over the coming weeks we have a number of events as we get in to the start of a short (nine weeks) and busy term. Our first P&C Meeting is followed by our first NASA Meeting of the year, our Yr 12 students start their Academic Coaching this week, and our Sports Excellence programs begin their work heading in to the various programs for the year. Our Parent Meet and Greet for Junior Connect Teachers is also scheduled for Thursday the 18th of February and I would once again encourage parents to make use of our school website and Facebook or Twitter accounts to keep up to date with the latest information from our school.

Andrew Peach
Executive Principal

Learning Curve – Week 4 & 5

Welcome to 2016 in Dance at Marsden! This is the first year of the Performance Academy for DANCE!! This means that students in year 11 have the opportunity to work as a hip-hop crew for all of semester one, compete in competitions and represent the school in various performances.

2016 also sees a change to our Junior and Senior Dance Crews! We welcome the new name MDA (Marsden Dance Academy) across the school for the junior and senior HiP HOP crews. After the audition on Wednesday 10th February (week 3) for seniors and Monday 15th February (week 4) for juniors, we will look forward to seeing what the new crews can create and perform in 2016!

In 2016 we also welcome back our MARSDEN WILDSHARKS cheer team! After a strong start in 2015, the cheer team is looking forward to a great start and entering cheer comps during the year. Good luck Marsden Wildsharks!

The last change for 2016 is the introduction of our Cultural Dance Groups for senior students. We are working to recognise a variety of cultures across the school and giving them an opportunity to perform both at school and representing Marsden in the community. Any parents or members of the community who would like to assist our students in this process are encouraged to contact Miss Turnbull (turn101@eq.edu.au ) to see where you can help this program grow.

Welcome back parents and carers. This is a huge year for the indigenous unit at Marsden! On Wednesday all indigenous students signed up to the ARTIE (Achieving Results Through Indigenous Education) and Beyond the Broncos Programs at our term 1 Launch. Students were lucky enough to spend the morning with a couple of their idols- Jharal Yow Yeh and Justin Hodges. Students also got involved in an inspiring dance workshop taught by Aunty Janette Fabila- Hicks.

This year our year 12 indigenous leaders are Shontarley Cohen and Tyler Shepard, the girls who have both already stepped into their roles and begun their leadership duties. Shontarley and Tyler are fully committed leaders and are a great initial point of call for your students if they are in need of any assistance or support.

Deadly Reading will be back on this year on Wednesday afternoons from 2.45-3.45 for all indigenous 7,8,9’s. Please come along and improve your literacy skills. This program is run by some of the best literacy teachers in our school. The students who regularly attended the program in 2015 saw the results reflected in their overall academic grades. It is a brilliant program, so please encourage your students are returning their forms and attending the group.

Finally, 2016 is a brand new year for Indigenous dance at Marsden State High School, this year with assistance from the performing arts department, we are workshopping numerous guest performers over the course of the year, to develop cultural understanding, and the dance abilities of all indigenous
students. If your student hopes to be involved in this program-“Bujerum Dancers” (spirit dancers) then please have them come and sign up at the indigenous unit.

**Basketball**

A huge welcome to all parents and students to the Basketball Excellence Program for 2016. 2016 is looking to be our most exciting year with more games, more classes and most of all more students participating in the program. We have certainly hit the ground running this year. Classes are finalised and off and dribbling. Teams are having training sessions. The kids are slowly getting their jerseys sorted and looking great if I do say so myself. A reminder that basketball fees must be finalised before the end of the term and the sooner they are paid the sooner students will get their uniform.

Our first round of games are coming Wednesday week 5 as we travel to Windaroo. Games will run from approximately 3pm to 5pm with all students returned to the school by 5:30pm by bus. With the Second round being a rematch in week 7 back at Marsden. Players will be selected for games based on how hard they are working in class and training sessions and that they have paid their Basketball Excellence Fee and got their uniform is a key as well. A reminder the payment office is open until 12pm every day. If you have any concerns please email myself with questions gproc5@eq.edu.au.

We have a number of new and exciting players joining the basketball program ranks as well as two new teachers, Mr Ashley Anthony and Miss Sarah Carnes. Mr Anthony brings years of both teaching and basketball experience to the program. While Miss Carnes is in her first full year at Marsden she has a long basketball resume including playing, refereeing and coaching. Both are very welcome additions so please make both feel very welcome. We would also like to welcome a new coach, Mr. Adam Cheeseman. He brings a lot of experience and energy for the game of basketball and is a very welcome addition.

Over the school holidays four Marsden Basketball Program Students participated in the Queensland under 18 state championships. The students Romaine Tavete, and new recruits Telesia Manumaleuga, Cherish Manumaleuga, and Brieanna Trego all participated and played key roles in their teams successes. Romaine followed up his success at last years Champion Basketball School of Queensland Championship with another successful tournament. He helped lead the Southwest Metro Pirates to the Division 2 Boys championship. Brieanna helped her Southwest Metro Pirates to a solid result in the Girls Division 2 Championship. While Cherish helped her Logan Storm team just missed out on a bronze medal in Girls Division 2. An awesome effort by all three.

The story of the tournament was Telesia’s Logan Thunder team, who had a very successful tournament as they came away with the Division 1 championship. It took a massive effort by all members of Telesia’s team to win a state championship, a truly phenomenal accomplishment. Have a look at some of the photos below to see how hard she was working to help her team. Telesia is just new to Marsden but her experience, skill and desire to succeed are very exciting to help further develop the basketball program. She also has 3 sisters joining the basketball program ranks, so things are looking very exciting for the girls program.

After just three short weeks, I am very impressed with the efforts of all our students, teachers and coaches and can’t wait to see what 2016 holds for the Marsden Basketball Program.

As a bonus: A number of students have already expressed interest in getting to play more basketball and joining a club or association. Southside Cannons, who train out of Calamvale College are always eager for new players. The Club President and Marsden parent is super keen to get more kids play so please take a look it really is a great opportunity of your kids, so please take a look and get involved.

Thanks so much

**Geoff Procter**

http://www.foxsportspulse.com/club_info.cgi?client=1-4957-149995-0-0

**2016 Legal Studies – Celebrity Wedding Event**

Year 12 Legal Studies students are currently studying a family and the law unit. As part of their learning they recently celebrated an in-class wedding. This activity enabled them to identify and discuss legal issues concerning marriage in an engaging manner. The happy couple were Angel Avagaliu and Jericho-Jay Haylo, supported by the Neomal Malu (celebrant), Dom Kao (best man), Michelle Aziz (bridesmaid), Victoria Odmark and Dearen Dy (parents of the bride). The only tears were tears of laughter.

**Tony Le Couteur**

**Senior Experienced Teacher – Humanities**
Humanities Headlines

Welcome back to 2016! Our Humanities department is undergoing some exciting changes. This year our students will have the opportunity to broaden their understandings of our global world by engaging in a greater variety of disciplines. Across years 7-10 students will engage in learning about the core subject of History, but we will also study Geography, Civics and Citizenship, and Economics and Business. The rotation of disciplines that students study across the year will depend on their year level. This term in Humanities and social sciences there will be a focus on:

- Year 7 – Geography: Place and Liveability
- Year 8 – Geography: Changing Nations
- Year 9 – History: The Industrial Revolution
- Year 10 – History: The Environment Movement.

If you would like more information about the learning in Humanities and social sciences this year, please contact your child’s classroom teacher or Ms Lorna Rose, Head of Department.

Economics and Business Subject Elective in Years 9 and 10

New to Marsden in 2016 is the Humanities and social sciences elective of Economics and Business for students in Year 9 and 10. Students in these classes will study a range of areas of speciality across the year including Work, Financial Management, Market Operations, and Competitive Businesses to develop their entrepreneurial behaviours and capabilities.

This term we are looking forward to Start Smart Secondary Program visiting our classrooms to run some interactive workshops on Smart Earning and Smart Spending. These workshops are designed to engage students and empower them to make smart financial decisions.

If you would like more information about learning and opportunities in Economics and Business this year, please contact your child’s classroom teacher or Ms Lorna Rose, Head of Department.

SA@MS welcomes all people; teachers, aides, admin, who are looking for a place to unwind after a ‘hard days’ work. Sa@Ms is a professional studio art space that will allow participants to:

1. Experience a relaxed art making environment designed to encourage reflection and growth (Collegial Engagement)
2. Experiment with art and craft techniques and processes (Term 1 is designed to relax the brain)
3. Challenge the right side of the brain (Analytically minded, left brain thinkers are especially welcome)
4. Focus on Wellness and Wellbeing through building relationships with the wider school community (Get out of your staffroom and come and hang out!)

Every Monday: 2:45 – 3:45pm
Room H03 - HBLOCK
Fee: Gold Coin Donation - fund raising for the Visual Arts Department.

Year 7 – 9 Parent/Carers Meet and Greet

Year 7 – 9 Parent/Carers invited to meet Connect Teachers

SA@MS - Studio Art @ Marsden SHS

Studio Art at Marsden SHS is an art space offered to all staff.
Chinese Students

From the 28th January to the 6th February Marsden State High School hosted a study tour of 12 students from Chengdu in China. During their stay they learnt about Australian culture and made new lifelong friends with their buddies from Marsden. They went on excursions to the Environment Education Centre, Movieworld and Lone Pine Sanctuary. In Marsden they learnt how to cook Lamingtons, Indigenous culture, play Basketball and English lessons with an English teacher. Overall it was a great experience for Marsden to immerse in another culture. Thank you to the homestay families for hosting a student during their stay, to the buddies who helped them out at Marsden during school time, the Home Economics department for cooking up an Australian BBQ, and the staff which also helped behind the scenes!!

If you are interested in a hosting an international student later in the year as a homestay family please contact the school or email ahart128@eq.edu.au

Year 12 GriffithBusiness Program

This year, six students in Year 12 have elected to participate in the GriffithBUSINESS Year 12 Program. This program aims to help students make the transition from the supported framework of school, to the flexible and autonomous nature of tertiary studies. The students enrolled in the program are: Jessica Hazelton, Maia Tapsell, Michelle Aziz, Ebory Barry, David Nellio, and Nehmia Su’Emai.

Students who participate in the program will enjoy a great range of benefits including:

- Participating in a blended program of QCAA and Griffith University curriculum
- Experiencing life on university campus
- Getting to know Griffith University academic staff.

If our students meet the necessary achievement levels for the GriffithBusiness Year 12 Program, they will even have the option to apply for a guaranteed offer of entry into the Griffith Business School degree or double degree of their choice.

We wish our Year 12 students all the best with the studies in the GriffithBusiness Program this year!

Welcome back – From ARTIE

Welcome back for another school year and a big welcome to our new students and parents. Achieving Results through Indigenous Education (ARTIE) continues its commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders here at Marsden State High School this term with a focus on improving student’s attendance, effort, behaviour and engagement with our Attendance Challenges, the ARTIE Academy Tutoring program and new initiatives for 2016.

The ARTIE Academy and the Beyond the Broncos launched their programs for 2016 last Wednesday, February 3rd. At this events students participated in a number of activities, and were also inspired by special guest Justin Hodges and Aunty Jeanette Fabilia. Hodges told students about the importance of staying at school and achieving their best, and Aunty Jeanette Fabilia told students about the importance of maintaining culture and taking care of country, as well as performed a special acknowledgment workshop with her. Also at this event students were given their challenges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students in years 7, 8 and 9 will be rewarded based on their attendance, by achieving 90% physical attendance at school in Term 1 and also throughout Semester 1. Those students that can achieve 90% physical attendance in Term 1 will be rewarded with an ARTIE Hoodie and students that can maintain 90% physical attendance across Semester 1 (Term 1 and 2) will be rewarded with an ARTIE backpack.

Later this term, volunteers will be working with Year 7, 8 and 9 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students with their literacy and numeracy. The ARTIE tutors are a great support to our students and volunteers greatly value the experience. If any parents, grandparents, community members, university students are interested in tutoring, they can register their interest at www.artie.net.au/join/

The ARTIE Academy would again like to extend its thanks to the staff at Marsden State High School for their ongoing support in assisting to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

Hamish McLoughlin – ARTIE Education Coordinator
Chinese New Year

Gong Xi Fa Cai! Welcome to the Year of Monkey! Chinese New year is celebrated every year according to the Chinese Lunar Calendar. It generally falls between 21 January and 20 February. In 2016, the first day of Chinese New Year falls on Monday, February 8th. The Chinese Department at Marsden SHS shared the joy and fortune with the entire school in a series of exciting events.

In the week leading to the Chinese New Year, we hosted a group of Chinese exchange students to Marsden SHS. They immersed in our quality school programs with our friendly Marsden SHS students as well as enjoying exciting excursions to some of Australia’s best theme parks and, of course, greeted the most beloved native animals.

After saying goodbye to the Chinese exchange students, our junior students welcomed the first day of Year of Monkey by learning about the Twelve Zodiac as well as the traditions and greetings for Chinese New Year. They also received lovely Chinese Fortune Rice Biscuits to enjoy on the day. Then on Wednesday, February 10th, the Chinese Department cooked and served pork dumplings during lunch time to share the happiness with the whole school. The response was overwhelming and we heard students saying the New Year greetings “Xin Nian Kuai Le!” “Gong Xi Fa Cai!” all lunchtime….oh, and they didn’t forget to say “Xie xie!” for the hard work we have put in to serve this delicious, freshly cooked food.

Chinese Department at Marsden SHS is well known for its quality language program. Our LOTE students are open minded, confident and competitive. Learning foreign languages teaches students to be culturally smart and opens the door to the world for them. Chinese Department will continue to share Chinese culture and language with students by participating in major cultural events such as Buddha’s Birth Festival in Term 2 and Chinese Temple and Chinatown Visit in Term 3. Stay tuned! Zai jian!

Breakfast

As we commence a new school year, it is a timely reminder to talk about the importance of eating breakfast.

The Dietitians Association of Australia encourages all Australians to start the day with a healthy breakfast. Eating breakfast contributes in many ways to good health and nutrition.

Some facts about the importance of breakfast:

• Breakfast eaters are more likely to be of normal weight compared to non-breakfast eaters. This is important in preventing child obesity.
• Breakfast improves alertness, concentration, mental performance and memory.
• Breakfast helps get you going in the morning it provides energy and important nutrients.
• Research has shown as many as one in four children go to school hungry. Those who skip breakfast are more likely to snack on less nutritious meals during the day, resulting in higher intake of fat, which contributes to weight gain.
• Breakfast can help to increase a person’s mood. That’s why people get tired and irritable when they miss breakfast.
• Breakfast eaters have higher intakes of essential nutrients such as carbohydrate, dietary fibre and certain vitamins and minerals. It has been shown that if breakfast is missed, the nutrients normally provided by breakfast are not replaced during the rest of the day.
• Breakfast literally means ‘break the fast’. So given it could be around eight hours since your body last had any food, eating breakfast is an important meal of the day for people of all ages.
• Healthy eating is the key to healthy living. Starting the day with breakfast is a simple way to help make a difference to overall well-being, and your ability to function well over the day.
• A healthy breakfast is one which provides a variety of foods, is low in saturated fat, high in carbohydrates, contains fibre and provides vitamins and minerals.
Smart Eating ideas for breakfast

- A bowl of wholegrain cereal with low fat milk and sliced fresh fruit.
- A delicious smoothie made from low fat milk, fresh fruit, yoghurt and honey.
- Fresh fruit and yoghurt with some wholegrain toast.
- Bircher muesli with a variety of fruits and nuts added.
- Pancakes topped with fruit and yoghurt
- Poached or boiled eggs on wholegrain toast with a glass of fruit juice
- An omelette made with added vegetables such as onion, mushrooms, spinach and tomato
- Wholemeal muffins topped with asparagus, tomato and low fat melted cheese
- Raisin toast spread with ricotta cheese, and a piece of fruit
- Wholemeal or wholegrain toast with a variety of toppings such as avocado, baked beans, tomatoes, peanut butter (or other nut spread) and a piece of fruit

One of the common reasons that people don’t eat breakfast is that they don’t have enough time before heading out to school or work. Healthy eating does take a bit of forward planning, so here are some tips that might make it easier for you to fit breakfast into your day:

- Keep a supply of healthy wholegrain cereals in the house, these are quick and easy and very nutritious.
- If you have trouble getting to the shops regularly, try one of the online shopping services that are available in some areas.
- Prepare breakfast the night before by setting the table, getting out bowls and cereals etc. This works well for children. You could also prepare Bircher Muesli the night before.
- Take some snack size cereals to work. Many of these cereals can be eaten in the box with milk added!
- Several companies are making quick and easy breakfast drinks with added vitamins, minerals and fibre. These could be an occasional alternative when you are on the go.

The Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA) and Kellogg have launched National Breakfast Week to raise awareness of the importance of breakfast. National Breakfast Week will encourage all Australians to start the day with a healthy breakfast.

http://www.daa.asn.au

Sarah Mitchell
School Based Youth Health Nurse.

Saver Plus

- Saver Plus celebrates its 13-year anniversary in 2016 and is one of the largest and longest running matched savings and financial education program in the world.
- A copy of the 2015 Saver Plus: A Decade of Impact report by RMIT University is available here. The research found that of participants who completed the program:
  - 87% continue to save the same amount or more
  - 84% encouraged family members, including children, to save
  - 87% are better able to plan ahead
  - 85% have more control over their finances
  - 81% said they were better equipped to deal with unexpected expenses
  - 78% are better able to make ends meet
  - 93% have increased self-esteem.
- Saver Plus was developed by the Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ in 2002 and piloted in 2003. It is now offered in 60 communities across Australia.
- More than 30,000 Australians have participated in Saver Plus.
- The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government Department of Social Services.
- Saver Plus assists people on lower incomes to develop a savings habit and achieve a savings goal, with the added incentive provided by ANZ of matching participants’ savings dollar for dollar up to $500. Participants also undertake ANZ’s MoneyMinded financial education workshops.
- Partner community organisations that implement the program are the Brotherhood of St Laurence, The Smith Family, The Benevolent Society and Berry Street. Other agencies that offer the program include Anglicare SA, Ballarat Group Training, Bethany Community Support and Jewish Care Victoria.
- Participants are assigned a Saver Plus Coordinator from the local delivery organisation, and open an ANZ Progress Saver account at their local ANZ branch, into which they make regular deposits. They undertake MoneyMinded workshops to build their financial management skills and when they reach their savings goal after at least 10 months ANZ matches the amount, up to $500, for the purchase of a nominated educational item.
- The awards Saver Plus has received include:
  - Outstanding Achievement Award in the Research category Financial Literacy Australia Awards 2015
  - Outstanding Achievement Award in the Community category MoneySmart Week 2012.
No Right Turn

Reminder there is no right turn into the main carpark off Muchow Road. Please use the roundabout at the corner of Muchow and Moffatt Road.

BOOM GATE AT GATE 1

Over the Christmas holidays a boom gate was installed at Gate 1 off Moffatt Rd. Parents and students are not permitted to enter or park in this carpark, even to drop students off. This boom gate was installed to ensure the safety of our students and for the protection of staff property. Please respect this new arrangement. Students driving to school will be required to park on the street in Moffatt Rd, Chambers Flat Road or Muchow Road, not in any of the car parking areas that are designated for staff or visitors.

PLEASE RETURN SCHOOL LAPTOPS

There are a number of students that have not yet returned their laptops and accessories from last year. We are not running a Take Home Laptop Scheme this year as all computers are needed for classroom use.

If your student has a school owned laptop, please ensure they return it as soon as possible. We have taken steps to ensure that these devices can no longer be connected to the school network so will be unusable for school. Any laptops not returned before the end of term 1 will be reported to the police as stolen.

NO TAKE HOME LAPTOP SCHEME IN 2016

As previously mentioned, there will be no Take Home Laptop Scheme available to students in 2016 as all computers are required for classroom use. If you would like to provide a device for your student to use between school and home, please see our website for the BYOD agreement or pick one up from the payment office.

STUDENT RESOURCE SCHEME

Whilst the cost of providing instruction, administration and facilities for the education of a student at a state school is met by the State, parents are directly responsible for providing their student with other resources for the student’s use whilst attending school.

Through the Textbook and Resource Allowance the Government provides funding for parents (paid directly to the school) which provides for the temporary use of prescribed textbooks. In addition to this Marsden State High School has chosen to provide parents with a cost effective alternative to purchasing resources, consumables and other materials to ensure your student is able to engage with the curriculum.

If you have not already agreed to participate in our scheme, please see the payment office or parent foyer for details and the appropriate forms.