Mac Student News
April / 2016 / Edition 1
Our School. Our Stories.

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Writers’ Hub
History of Soccer

THE COLOUR OF LEADERSHIP
Interviews with our house leaders

Ch-Ch-Changes!

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Annie Burrows and Crystal
Kite quiz our principal

New Curriculum
News on the new Science and Maths curriculum

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Ch-Ch-Changes!

By Archie Frazer

At MAC there have been a lot of changes recently including new subjects, new students and even some new teachers. It is going to be an exciting year for all of MAC and after walking around the school and interviewing students, the main vibe is a good one and we are all really looking forward to this year.

One change that might be a bit tricky, but important to get used to is that the office is now based at the Mount Alexander Road entrance (in the old music centre) so if you have any enquiries (e.g. school fees) then go and talk to the friendly new office staff.

Just to refresh your minds we now have only four learning periods per day at MAC, each period is 72 minutes. There are 2 periods before recess so be sure to have a big breakfast.

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<tr>
<td>P1</td>
<td>8:55am—10:07am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mentoring</td>
<td>10:07am—10:17am</td>
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<td>P2</td>
<td>10:17am—11:29am</td>
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<td>Recess</td>
<td>11:29am—11:54am</td>
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<td>P3</td>
<td>11:54am—1:06pm</td>
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<td>Lunch</td>
<td>1:06pm—2:01pm</td>
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<td>P4</td>
<td>2:01pm—3:13pm</td>
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Although there are a lot of obvious changes happening, if you were to play spot the difference between MAC at the start of 2015 and MAC now you would find even more changes than you see at first.

When we came in at the start of 2016 the part of MAC facing Wellington St had been painted and looked a lot better than it did at the end of 2015. With the reptile enclosure and the houses and mentoring in full swing, MAC is just getting more and more exciting.
The Colour of Leadership
By Billy Walter, Jamie Rodgers and Alexander McConville

With the arrival of the four new school houses, a lot of students are curious. What should the school expect from the new house leader? We at the school newsletter were given the opportunity to interview these teachers and gain an inside look at the life of the fearless house leaders. Each teacher was asked a series of eight questions that would all together give us a general understanding of our own, and each others’ house leaders.

After interviewing Mr. Kilfoyle, we understood that one of his top priorities was the strength and well being of his house as a team. He was very open with his opinions, he has a lot of faith in his group and is glad to move forward with his group. He pointed out his hopes that the strong team spirit in Artemis will be enough to take away the house cup, which is the highest achievement according to the house leaders. Mr. Kilfoyle was very kind in his words regarding the other houses, he is very happy with the current house system and very enthusiastic about kids coming together and enjoying sport and other house activities.

Then we continued on to interview Ms. Kearney

Ms. Kearney described herself to be very enthusiastic about Athena’s team spirit and activity participation. She finds her house spirit can be found in either sport, debating or even chess. The only downside she expressed was the longer hours being put into working at the school. She had a very humorous attitude when we asked about her attitude towards the other houses, her exact words were “I don’t like them, I don’t like the other house leaders, I think we’re better than them.” This is obviously humour for it is well known that Ms. Kearney likes everyone, especially her house leaders. She was more closed off when we asked her about her advantages stating she wasn’t going to give away her secret weapons, but she did however confirm that she was in possession of an Ace up her sleeve.

Next we got to interview Mr. Keely

Mr. Keely was very happy about being able to lead Apollo, help the house be successful and have a good culture. When we asked Mr. Keely to describe his house in three words, he described it as rich, legends, winners. Mr. Keely said words along the lines of they’re ok when we asked him how he felt about the other houses. Mr. Keely said that if he had to choose his house motto it would probably be “believe and achieve”. When we asked him if he had any tricks or plans, he said “I would tell you but then it wouldn’t be a “secret” weapon”.

Unfortunately, due to deadline issues and appointment complications we were unable to schedule an interview with the head of Poseidon house: Mrs. Dalabiras, but please read the next edition to see the follow up interview for Mrs. Dalabiras’s take on being a house leader.
Into the Wild
By Timothy Vines-Drier

My name is Tim, I am an Entry Level student from Flemington Primary school, who has put my hand up to help out with the reptile enclosure. Everybody's heard about the reptile enclosure being set up in the display area in the hallway. Myself and one other student have signed up to help take care of the reptiles. We have a bearded dragon. If you want to sign up to help with the reptile enclosure, head to the general office and ask for Mr. Hayworth.

Marine Biology
By Annie Burrows

As one of my electives for 2016 I chose to do Marine Biology. I am really loving the student-led aspect of this class because it allows me to explore things that interest me and I am given the chance to learn in a way that is best for me. In Orientation week we were given the chance to search for excursions that we wanted to take the class on in term one of next year. We thought of things like snorkelling and collecting water samples, we also emailed the zoo and aquarium.

Young Writers’ Hub
By Archie Frazer

The Young Writers’ Hub is where a group of people come together to do what they do best, WRITE! This fun and interesting subject has a range of students from year 8-10. This is a student led elective so it is run by the STUDENTS but is facilitated by Preeti Maharaj who is also the Assistant Principal of MAC. This year I am looking forward to having the opportunity to do all of the different styles of writing I want to do and hopefully, get a lot better at all of them.

MAC Reality
By Hanne Selvakumar and Urij Abdo

This is our second year at MAC. This year, we are in what would be Year 8. We think this school is great and the people are very kind and respectful.

Mount Alexander College is a small school, so all the people get to know you very well and it is easy to make friends. We are very grateful that we get to be involved in the new curriculum and it is very convenient to be so close to the city.
Drastic Changes to the Science Curriculum
By Etienne Mendoza and Alex Langley

We, interviewed two science teachers, Ms. Nicole Dobson and Ms. Elizabeth Tran about the new curriculum changes and how it affects science education and the way the classes are conducted. We asked them how they felt about the school’s move to student-led classes and if they like the changes.

Ms. Dobson (ND) has been at the school since the beginning of 2015. Ms. Tran (EET) has been at the school since term 4 last year. Both are teaching mainly science classes.

Q: Do you love being a teacher?

ND: Yeah, I love being a teacher. If I could teach only do one subject it would be science. I think that science is about everyday life. I think having a Bachelor of Science and studying chemistry is something I’m so passionate about, so if I was made to teach history or something that would just be really challenging because I don’t have that passion.

Q: Do you find teaching multi-age classes instead of general year based classes better or worse?

ET: I find it better because the students taking the class chose to be there and there is more flexibility, which means that I can do more fun activities, or change my lessons according to the students progress.

Q: Do student-led science classes seem better or worse for students compared to teacher directed lessons?

ET: It doesn’t seem worse but it’s definitely harder because you’re giving the student’s control, which as a teacher is very difficult to do, but when it’s student-led, the classroom atmosphere is much better.

Q: Compared to last year, do you see an improvement in the education at the school and the ways students work and act during class?

ET: Yes, I guess so, students chose the class, they want to be there, and they’re eager to share, even promote activities like excursions and activities that they want to do, so it’s a very different atmosphere.
S.E.A.L’s Big Splash
By Tom Matthews

On Tuesday the 9th of February, four S.E.A.L (Select Entry Accelerated Learning) students were treated to a day at Melbourne University's Parkville campus. The four lucky students were Henry Vines-Dreier, Hua Chong Li (Michael), Tom Matthews and Samridhi Kashula. These four experienced how Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (or STEM) feeds into multiple university topics and fields such as Engineering, Neuroscience, and climate change. Afterwards, the students were treated to a tour of some of the numerous campus facilities including libraries and specialist buildings dealing in fields of neuroscience and biology.

The students met a group named “Engineers without Borders” which is an organisation similar to “Doctors without Borders”. However, instead of providing medical care they provide housing and other structures to improve way of life in remote areas. The speaker for ‘Engineers Without Borders’ then gave us a challenge to build a raft that could hold the most weight using minimal materials. While it proved tricky at the start, our students came 1st place with a raft capable of holding 119 marbles without sinking.

History of Soccer
By Abdul Abdikadir

School is open and the new subjects are looking good. My favourite subject is History of Soccer because we play and learn about my favourite sport. My teacher Mr Ward knows a lot about soccer. His favourite team is Newcastle but I don't like them, I like Manchester United. This subject gets better every day.

The history of soccer is very interesting, for example on Christmas Day, World War I, the French soldiers and German soldiers stopped fighting and played soccer together. I find this so interesting because they stopped killing each other to play soccer. This shows how good soccer is for everyone.
Mount Alexander College has an array of new interesting subjects. These are the new subjects to do with mathematics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry Maths</th>
<th>Problem Solving Maths</th>
<th>Academic Maths</th>
<th>Practical Maths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This subject is for student who have just started high school</td>
<td>In this subject students solve maths problems that</td>
<td>This subject is for people who excel at maths</td>
<td>Students in this subject will learn maths that may be used in their daily lives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Maths</td>
<td>Pre-VCE General Maths</td>
<td>Pre-VCE Maths Methods</td>
<td>VCE Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This is a subject where students learn fundamental maths terms</td>
<td>In this subject, students do usual maths that VCE students should</td>
<td>Students in this subject learn the language of maths and learn how to use formulas to solve problems</td>
<td>Complicated Stuff</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Instead of just focusing on textbook questions and tests we want to allow students choices to focus on other aspects of maths.”

*David Clements, Maths KLA Leader.*
She’s got medals (and deserves some more!)
By Henry Frazer

You might know me as one of the Athena house captains (with my co-captain Mustafa). I love writing, which is why I am in Writers’ Hub this year, and I also love being outside (generally taking plenty of photos...). I have three cats, one which hates being ignored and is trying to sit on my keyboard while I am writing this. I want to travel everywhere I can as I grow up, but I have no idea what job(s) I will do.... come and say, ‘Hi’ whenever you like, especially if you are in Athena, or if you have some ideas for an article.

Meet Emma Kearney-State cricketer, AFL player, and teacher at MAC...

At MAC, Emma Kearney is well known as Athena’s House Leader, P.E. teacher, and Personal Training and Fitness teacher. However, not many people realise that when she is not at MAC, she is leading the life of a professional Australian sportswoman.

Over the summer holidays, while most of us were relaxing and visiting the beach and other places, the first ever Women’s Big Bash League (WBBL) was played out, and Emma was right in the thick of it. Walking out with her team the Melbourne Stars on the very first game they played, against Brisbane Heat.

She also talked about how she did not get much of a rest over the holidays. With either playing or training getting in the way of having a nice relaxing time, which was probably needed after a year of teaching.

“On Christmas day, I actually had to fly to Perth at about 1pm, so I didn’t get a proper Christmas lunch or any of that.” Emma said, looking slightly wistful.

However, despite travelling state-to-state every week of the holidays to play and train for cricket, Emma still had to return to school at the same time as the rest of us, switching back to teaching mode and heading into the classroom. Meanwhile, the cricket season is just finishing and everyone is turning their attention to AFL for the winter.

Emma obviously loves playing cricket, and as a professional, she gets paid to play for the Stars. However, the women in the WBBL don’t earn anywhere near as much as their male counterparts, and most of them work part or full-time jobs elsewhere. Hopefully, as women’s sport is increasingly accepted and encouraged by the public, this will begin to change. Indeed, it is already getting much better.

The interview moved to girls at MAC, and how they are involved in sport. In an earlier interview with The Age, Emma told how as a girl she loved footy, but was denied any pathways. She does her best to make sure this doesn’t happen to any other passionate players, whatever the sport.

Emma is excited about girls in sport at MAC, encouraging girls in P.E. alongside the sports coordinator Ms Khan. She would like to see everyone who wants to be involved in sport getting involved, and not letting anything stop them. She wants to make sure everyone has opportunities to pursue their passions in sport.

Athena House is very lucky to have Ms. Kearney as their house leader, and hopefully she will lead them to victory this year. (I may be biased). 2016 is shaping up to be a great sporting year at MAC, for boy and girls alike, especially with all the new house competitions. So get up and get involved, don’t be afraid to join in and remember, everything helps to support your house.

Email: macstudentnews@mountalexandercollege.vic.edu.au
Interview with Mr. Haworth
By Annie Burrows and Crystal Kite

When you came to MAC what was your first impression of the school?

I saw a very rich multi-cultural school, I couldn’t believe that it was so close to the city and I couldn’t believe the diversity of the students.

What potential did you see in it?

You know, this is a school that only has 300 students, and there is no reason why that should be the case. I wanted to work with the students, the staff and the community, to make sure that the school is seen in, perhaps, a better light. There are some misconceptions about the school, that people think “well, if you go there, because it’s a small school you don’t have many opportunities.” We might be a small school but we can still have lots of opportunity, and we’ve shown that by making some major changes to the curriculum. I think that by working with some really good people and getting some additional good people into the school, and also working with our great students to build their capacity, is moving the school in a forward direction. We are certainly are aiming to build our enrolments and make this school a better place.

When you were planning changes for MAC what sort of things did you have to take into consideration?

I wanted to take into consideration the wishes of the students and the parents, we are a student centered school, so there is no use in me wanting the changes because it’s not about me it’s about the students and their wishes. It is also about the parents and what they are hoping for their children. Any person who is making some changes needs to think about how they are going to do those changes, what are the priorities of the change, how do we go about it, does the change involve money and how do we get the additional funds into the school? You also have to consider, what they are going to look like, can you imagine what the changes will be like and then it’s important to communicate those changes with others so that they can see the vision and then other people can come on board with you and they can help you achieve what you want to achieve. I think another thing about change is understanding that not everyone loves change, there are some students that find change hard because they’re not used to it. The changes to the school are through conversations that I’ve had with students.
Interview with Mr. Ward

By Amelia Mendes and Ayah Lababidi

How long have you been at the school?
I’ve been at this school for 34 years, since 1982.

What did the school look like when you first started here?
It looked quite different. Where the asphalt area is there was a lovely old building, but then it was knocked down and the ground was levelled. The playing area was put in and the new wing was built. The A Block was here, but it was nowhere near as good as it is now.

What subjects did you teach?
I teach Humanities subjects. I’ve taught Economics, Legal Studies, Business Management, Australian History and Revolution History. They have been the five Year 12 subjects I’ve taught, and I’ve taught a number of subjects along the way there. Quite a number of subjects.

Why is the Murdoch Room called the Murdoch Room?
Mr Murdoch was an Assistant Principal at the school. He came here the second year I was here. He was here for about three or four years. He was an extremely good teacher and a very competent administrator, but sadly he died, and it was a real shock to us all. He was behind the Murdoch Room being enclosed. It used to be an open area where we could have our barbecues, and he was behind getting it enclosed and making it into a classroom. When he passed away we named that in honour of him.

What about the building where the soccer area is now?
Yes, out where the soccer area is now there was actually a church. It had been there for many years serving its community, then the congregation got older and they left. We hired it and we used to have our band practice in there- we had a very big band in the 1980s and 90s, and the band would practise there. Some music classes would be in there too. But that building was eventually levelled so we could have more playing room. Yes, there was a church on this site once.

What was the school uniform like?
We didn’t have a school uniform until about three years ago. Students just wore their own clothes. But of course it’s much better to have a uniform so you can identify with the school, and it’s also easier on the parents because you know what the students are going to wear in the morning. So the uniform is a much better idea and I’m very pleased that they changed it. It became accepted very, very quickly.

As you may remember if you’ve seen any of our history, we were once called Debnay Park Secondary School. When I first came here we were called Debnay Park High School, then we became Secondary School, and then the name was changed to Mount Alexander College. When it changed we also introduced a new uniform, so that was a very good change in the school as well.

What do you think about the changes at the school?
Excellent, I’m really looking forward to teaching this year. I think it’s really tremendous how students are going to have more say in what goes on, and you can choose your subjects. There’s a real atmosphere of change and people wanting to do things. It’s going to be fantastic.
New Year, New Staff

By Paul Hoang, Daniel Drummond, and Raph Butler

In term 1 at Mount Alexander College, you have probably seen some of the new staff members in our school community. Our squad interviewed some of the new staff members for this addition of the student newspaper. This article is going to help you get a little bit of background of these new teachers.

So let start with Hermagne Jackson, she is a kind lady that you can find working in the General Office. When we asked to interview her, she seemed very tuned in and was ready to answer our questions. For the first question where we questioned her about where she grew up, she has said that she grew up in St Albans as a child. It took a while for her to think of her most embarrassing moment then she finally answered and said that flooding her Year 12 Chemistry lab was probably the most embarrassing moment in her life. She said that her previous job was a lab technician and that her favourite hobby is reading and futsal. We concluded with a question that summaries her experience at Mt Alexander College and guess what she said? It was awesome and exciting!

Next is Ms. Julie Stephen, she is the Media teacher. One of my squad members named Raph interviewed her and claims that she is a very enthusiastic teacher. When interviewed about her most embarrassing moment in her life, she said it was in Year 9, when she awkwardly dribbled while doing her oral presentation and that her best moment was when she went to London. As a child, she grew up in Richmond and loved going out for brunch. Two of her favourite sports are squash and netball. Her previous career choice were film television and production engineering. In response to the question about what she thinks of MAC thus far, she responded that she thinks it’s “great that everyone in the classroom have chooses to be there.”

Next we interviewed, Ms Webb, she is the resource centre manager and she can be found at the ‘resource centre’ (which is a sophisticated name for the library pretty much). Me and my squad got ready and then went into the her office and asked her a few questions like above. This time we didn’t get a embarrassing moment question answered because she couldn’t think of one but all well. On the other hand, she said that meeting her husband and having her children were her best moment and you can’t honestly argue with that, can you? Her hobby was reading and netball and her dream job was to work at a hospital as a theatre nurse. She grew up in Essendon, Niddrie and surprisingly, she likes all modern day music. In the end, she said this school was fantastic.

Last but not least, we have Mr Stephen McMaster. His most embarrassing moment was when he first got braces and fun fact, he worked as a soldier where he was posted at Townsville, Queensland. He said that hiking Nepal was one of his best moment in his life, so we can guess he had many best moments right? As a child, he grew up in West Footscray, loved scuba diving and barracks for the ‘bulldogs’... He ended the interview by saying Mt Alexander College is very busy and the changes are exciting.

Next Edition: New Staff in Term 2!
Welcome to the gaming news, here I will give gaming reviews, news, suggestions, try to get opinions from other students and more. I am a gamer myself in fact I own: a PS4, a WII U, the original Xbox, a PS2,a HP Pavilion G6,a MacBook pro, and an iPad so all my reviews are on those devices, i will tell you what they are on and where you can get them. Today I’m going to review ‘Kerbal Space Program’

‘Kerbal Space Program’ Review:

This is obviously for gamers who like space and building vehicles, here are a few of my own:

As you can see they work, but they could be better. These are just my designs.

You can build planes, spaceships, rovers, even space stations. You can get mods and you don't even need any sort of mod loader as it is built into the game. There is no limit in the sandbox, the carrier mode is perfect and there is a 3rd mode that i am yet to try, I’m sure it will be just as great as the others. I rate this game 9/10, it is almost perfect but you can always improve. You can get this game on Steam or their website for $46.45. There is also a free demo that gives you a few things to make a spaceship. The demo is nowhere near as good as the full game. Steam is free to make an account on and has deals occasionally, so if the current price is too expensive keep checking Steam. Next time I’m going to review “Farcry: Primal” (on PS4)
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Important Dates:
20th April - Open Day and Open Night
19th April - 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Parent Forum Assessment and Reporting
22 April - ANZAC Day Assembly
6th May - Reports published
7th May - SEAL testing for 2017 students
9th May - NAPLAN testing week
12 May - 9 a.m. - 7 p.m Parent Teacher Interviews (pupil free day)
16th May - Education Week
18th May - Big Science Competition
25th May - Australian History Competition
30th May - Unit 1 and pre-VCE subjects exams begin
6th June - Unit 1 and 3 finish
7th June - GAT exam
17th June - Reports published
21st June - Unit 1 and pre-VCE exams feedback
8th and 9th June - Entry and Above Entry Urban Experience Day Camp

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Term 2 - New Staff Heads of House Updates
Interview with Mrs. Dalabiras
Sustainability News
MOOCs at MAC
Excursions
Swimming Carnival
Athletics Carnival
Cultural Diversity Assembly
S.T.E.M at MAC

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