



MOUNT GAMBIER HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 12 | 4 DECEMBER 2020

e. dl.0784.info@schools.sa.edu.au
a. Brownes Road, Mount Gambier
p. (08) 8721 0200
f. (08) 8723 0441
w. mghs.sa.edu.au



Message from Education Director, Adam Box

I understand that this year has been a year of changing circumstances and you are all now aware of Chris Edmonds winning a position in Adelaide. I would like to wish Chris all the best as Principal of Walkerville Primary School and acknowledge his commitment to education in the South East over a number of years.

I am really pleased to be able to announce that Mr Peter McLaren will take up the Acting Principal role for terms 1 and 2 next year. Peter is extremely excited about the opportunity to work with the staff, students and the broader Mount Gambier High School community and brings with him a wealth of experience, having been Principal at Ocean View College Adelaide as well as working in sites both at Renmark and Kangaroo Island. This decision has been made in conjunction with the Mount Gambier High School Governing Council Chairperson. The selection process for the new Principal will commence early in 2021.

Introducing Mr Peter McLaren—2021 Principal

It is with great pleasure that I have been given the opportunity to be Principal of Mount Gambier High School in 2021. As an experienced Principal and Leaders Advisor throughout the state, I look forward to working with all staff, students, parents and community in creating the best opportunities for learning and successful outcomes for every individual at our site.

Initially, I have clear expectations of further developing the strong culture of pride in our school.

- Specifically, I encourage all parents and students to re-visit our "Dress Code Policy" and "Dress Code Brochure" located on our website, to ensure all students are wearing the correct attire in 2021. This sets a consistent, acceptable and appropriate standard at our school and will be a clear focus at the beginning of the year.



- At the same time our staff are highly skilled and dedicated in what they do. It is important to recognise that responsible and respectful behaviour by all participants in a classroom environment is essential for successful learning outcomes. I will support this in any way that I can.

- Finally, as \$6million worth of demolition, reconstruction and re-development occurs at our site it is particularly important to mention that every endeavour will be given to support a litter free, well maintained learning environment for everyone to enjoy.

I wish everyone a safe, joyous festive season and a relaxing break and look forward to meeting up with you in 2021.

Upcoming Events

Last Day for Year 10s

Friday 4 December

Virtual Presentation and Performance Celebration

Monday 7 December

Year 8/9 Activity Days

Wednesday 9 to Friday 11 December

End of Term Dismissal

2.20pm Friday 11 December

Term 1 2021

Australia Day Public Holiday

Tuesday 26 January

Beginning of Term 1

Wednesday 27 January

School Photographs

Wednesday 3 February

Senior School Parent

Information Night

Wednesday 3 February

Contents

1. Important Messages
2. From the Principal
3. PE Week
4. Silos & Symphonies
5. Year 10 Dance
6. Principal's Awards
7. St Ann's Tutor
8. Myfuture
9. Sponsor Thank yous



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

LEARNING

BELONGING

RESPONSIBILITY

From the Principal—Mr Edmonds

Last week I announced that I had accepted the role as Principal of Walkerville Primary School. Mount Gambier High School has provided me with rich and valuable experiences as a leader of a large and dynamic secondary school. It has also allowed me to work with and learn from some incredible educators and to witness the variety of learning journeys, skills and personalities of the many students I have encountered along the way. It has been humbling and a great privilege, and I look forward to bringing these experiences and memories with me on my new journey.

Staff Recognition

I would like to acknowledge all members of the school community for their commitment and contribution to what has been another successful school year. We thank the work of our permanent staff who are leaving this year and wish Kristen Tunbridge, Ros Law, Fraser Higgins, Steven Speck, Scott Hamilton, Tom Sutterby and Samara Hough every success in their next endeavours. We also thank our contract teachers and non-teaching staff, Sam Blagg, Kerrin Blott, Darrell Payne, Adam Smith, Mitchell Brooks, Claudia Edmonds, Trudi Shelton, Tennille Grubb and Camden Rowberry for their work at our school this year.

White Ribbon

This important social message that asks us to reflect on issues around respectful relationships and violence against women is shared both within our school and across the wider community. We were unable to recognise this day last week but had planned events to raise awareness and I would like to thank the students and our staff, Josh Praolini and Kerran Wingard for their efforts to get the message out.

Year 12 Formal

We recognise and value the significance of our Year 12 Graduation Formal as a way of celebrating the end of high school for our senior students. This is a wonderful opportunity for staff, parents and friends to reflect on this achievement as well as to wish our graduating cohort all the best for their future.

It has been extremely challenging and frustrating that due to COVID-19 regulations and restrictions on both the school and on hosting venues we have been unable to hold a traditional formal this year. We appreciate the disappointment this has caused, and our Senior School Management team have worked with student leaders and parent representatives to explore alternatives. I can confirm that the options provided by the school in the short time remaining were not preferred and as such the planning for this is the responsibility of the parent group. Although the school will support where possible, we ask

that students and families keep an eye on Facebook to keep up to date with progress.

We are enormously proud of the learning journey achieved by all of our graduates and those who have accepted work or apprenticeships throughout the year. We wish all our leaving students every success in the years to come.

Year 7 Transition

Our Junior School team (JUSMAT), led by Darrell Payne and Carol Shepherd have been very busy planning and preparing for our Year 7 Transition program due to be held over the last few weeks of the school year. Our school will welcome nearly 140 students into year 8 and will hold two full days of exploration and familiarisation for students. We hope that this, along with information evenings and ongoing contact with families throughout the year, ensures children coming into our school in 2021 will feel welcomed and supported in their next stage of their formal education. Families are encouraged to contact Darrell Payne for further information.

Stage 1 and 2 Exams

Our year 12 students have sat exams across a variety of curriculum areas over the last month. This is a very formal part of the education process and students were suitably both nervous and excited as they tried to remember all the information they have learnt over the year. The work from staff and the SACE board to support students who were not able to complete the online Psychology exam has been excellent. We also acknowledge that the cancellation of the Stage 1 exams has caused some disruption to our usual assessment and grading processes, but this has also been well managed by our Senior School team.

Governing Council

I would like to thank the Governing Council, including the sub committees, for their contribution throughout the year. Particular thanks to Thirza Walters and Chantel King for their role as Chairpersons of the Governing Council and Finance Committees and to our Secretary, Kate Carraill for her work throughout the year.

Governing Council is a fantastic opportunity for parents to be involved in the school and we would welcome any parents who would consider nominating in 2021.

Christmas Holiday Break

On behalf of all staff here at Mount Gambier High School, I would like to thank students and families for their positive contribution to our school in 2021. We wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday break.

PE WEEK

PE Week was held in week 5 and featured several themed days throughout the week: Move it Monday, Teams Tuesday, Walk it Wednesday and more relaxed excursion conditions. Many students got involved in a variety of sports from Ultimate Frisbee, Soccer, Social Walks and Volleyball. The inclement weather throughout the week didn't stop students and staff participating in the Nearest to the Pin throw and Handball Accuracy competitions on the Southern Oval, as well as the annual Staff vs Students Volleyball and Netball matches, which saw the staff team taking out the honours for both games. Miss Kennedy ran a three on three Basketball Competition, but unfortunately the Lawn Bowls was cancelled due to the weather. The competition was lively in all games/events with staff and students entered into them with spirited enthusiasm.

Exercise is such an important factor in increasing self esteem, managing weight and learning new skills both physical and social. Teaching Health, PE and Food and Nutrition as our core/compulsory HPE subjects will continue to be an important focus of our faculty area.

Jan Longbottom | HPE Coordinator



SILOS AND SYMPHONIES

Over the course of semester 2, 17 music students from years 8-10 participated in the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra's (ASO) Silos and Symphonies program. Students collaborated with composer, Julian Ferraretto to learn how to write and create an original piece of music for a symphony orchestra.

Utilising online meetings and working in instrument groups (percussion, strings and woodwinds), three local landmarks were chosen to be represented: The Cave Gardens, Umpherston Sinkhole and the Blue Lake, including local fauna. The students began the composition process by listening to examples of famous orchestral works to analyse structure and melodic patterns. They then brainstormed words about each landmark and drew images to form the basis of melodic structures. The next steps were adding notes to create melodies, defining rhythms and structure, and finally choosing which instruments play which parts. Using the students' melodies and performance instructions, Julian arranged the music into a five minute orchestral piece titled 'The Wavering Winds of Mount Gambier'.

The most exciting part of the process was being able to watch the ASO rehearse, where students could send messages in real-time to the conductor and provide feedback on how they wanted their piece to be performed. Students were then treated to a final performance of their work, along with four other schools from Mount Gambier. After the performance, the composers held a Q&A for all participating students, answering live as the students messaged their questions in. This was a fantastic opportunity for our country students to access an orchestra, see and hear them perform live, and experience what it would be like to have a career as a composer. Students were incredibly proud of their majestic, emotive composition and should be commended in their creativity, collaboration and professionalism throughout the program.

Meg Spirat | Teacher



AUSTRALIAN MATHS COMPETITION WINNERS

Mount Gambier High School has maintained its commendable record in the Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC). This year we had sixty-nine students enter the competition. The AMC is a fun competition with many of the problems set in situations familiar to students that shows the relevance of mathematics in their everyday lives.

Congratulations goes to the two outstanding performers who achieved Distinction Awards, Zeb Chant, year 9 and Oscar Miller, year 10. Oscar also achieved the 'Best in School Award' being placed in the top 7% of the state for his year level. Amongst other noteworthy achievements were the fourteen students who earned Credit Awards: Year 8 students, Tate Povey, Xavier Chapman, Chen Yue and Zoe Phelan. Year 9 students, Oliver Cram, Dylan Sawyer and Jayden Manifold. Year 10 students, Galen Aguinaldo, Cameron Brooks, Evany Rex, Marissa Deverell and Laryssa King. Year 12 students, Patrick White and Max Halton.

There were also another 15 students who received a Proficiency Certificate which recognises students for reaching a satisfactory level of mathematical and problem-solving skills by Australian standards. All students received a detailed report showing how they went on each problem and a certificate or award reflecting their performance. Certificates are often kept by students for their folios as they are well understood by employers, and so can be used as evidence of their problem-solving ability.

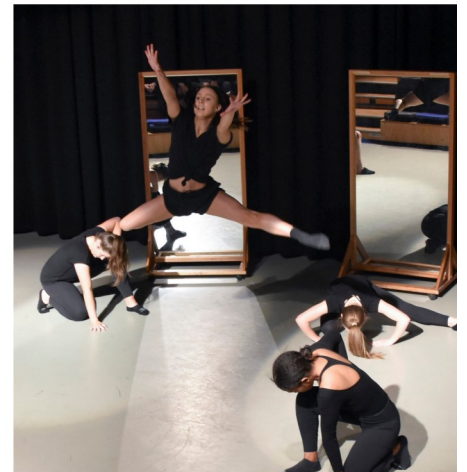
Karen Henman | Maths Coordinator



YEAR 10 DANCE PERFORMANCE



Last Thursday, our Advanced Dance class were finally able to perform their dance pieces to an audience. The dance class have been working all term on their choreographies and put on an incredible performance for a few lucky classes. The students performed a range of different styles which varied in the form of solos, duos, trios and group numbers. Congratulations to all the dancers on an amazing show!



PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS

Congratulations to our recent Principal's Award recipients!



**Tyree
Chisholm**



**Marni
Black**



**Charlie
Smith**



University of
South Australia

EPIC CHALLENGE

On behalf of C3L and UniSA Connect



What is an EPIC Challenge?

Students will work with National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) astronauts to find a solution to a NASA problem
Over the Summer School holidays the Epic Challenge students will solve "How do we sustain life on Mars?"

An Epic Challenge fosters soft skill development alongside STEM capabilities

Problem-Based Learning and the ICED (Innovative Conceptual Engineering Design) methodology underpin the challenge

Program Description

Students who are currently in year 10 engage in a **FREE** course (similar courses range USD\$1500-\$3000 per student)

The challenge will be held at UniSA's SMARTSchool at UniSA Magill campus

This course will run from 9am-2pm from Monday the 11th of January through to Wednesday the 20th of January 2021

Students will present their work to NASA astronauts, academics and industry professionals in a final showcase.

Who are we?

The team running this project are NASA astronauts, global leaders in Learning Analytics and STEM educators

This project will be hosted by the Centre for Change and Complexity in Learning (C3L) and UniSA Connect

Contact: Dr Rebecca Marrone. Rebecca.Marrone@unisa.edu.au

ST ANN'S RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE TUTOR APPOINTMENT

Former Mount Gambier High School student, Kate Williams has been chosen as one of the St Ann's Residential College Tutors for 2021.

Kate is studying for an Honours Degree of Bachelor of Psychology (Advanced) at the University of Adelaide and is one of 10 Residential Tutors selected each year through an application and interview process. Tutors are appointed primarily to supplement the Principal's pastoral and administrative roles, responsible for ensuring the college's tone and atmosphere are healthy and happy. They are regarded as demonstrating 'trust, goodwill and consideration for others' as well as 'creativity, judgement and leadership in developing an effective management role'.

As well as managing administrative duties such as locking up the college and being the first point of contact in an emergency, tutors offer pastoral care, supporting their fellow students in matters of relationships, family, money and health, as well as study matters. They provide social leadership, representing the college at events and promoting the college in the community. This responsibility is rewarded with a reduction in their college fees for the year they have been appointed.

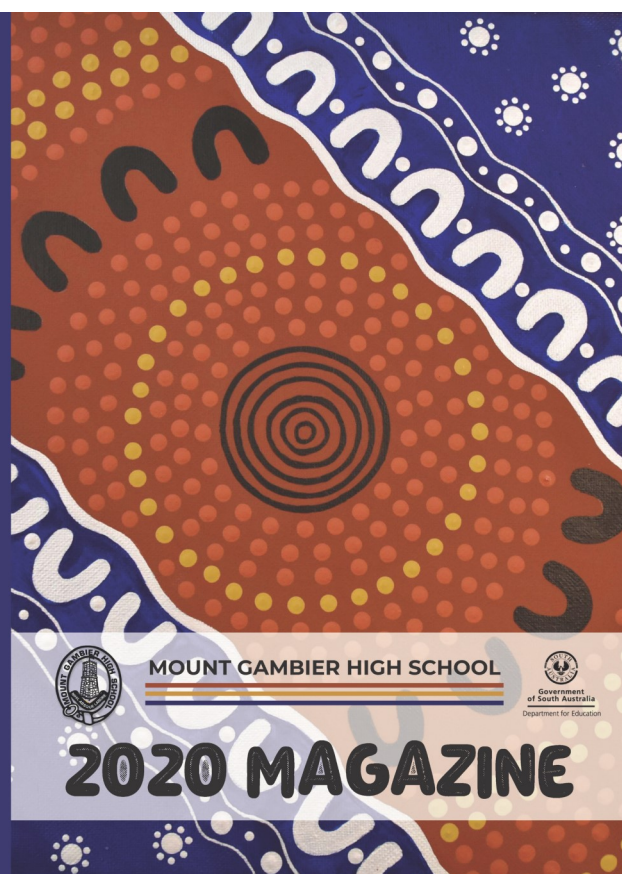
Victoria Evans | St Ann's College Marketing and Advancement Officer



2020 SCHOOL MAGAZINE

\$18 per book

Orders are now being taken for our 2020 School Magazine. Please contact the Student Office to ensure you don't miss out on a copy. Orders will be open until the end of this term. Magazines will be delivered late Term 1, 2021.



IMPORTANT 2021 TERM 1 DATES

Tuesday 26 January - Public Holiday

Wednesday 27 January - Term 1 Begins

Explore

**9***My career
profile activities***358**occupation
profiles

Approx.

15,000

courses

**33**

career bullseyes

**300+**

videos

**100+**

career stories

**100+**

career articles



Join over

790,000

registered users

What is myfuture?

myfuture is Australia's National Career Information Service. It provides online resources to explore career pathways and tools to develop self-knowledge for career decision-making.

myfuture encourages students to consider how their interests, values and skills relate to a wide range of career pathways. It provides a complete and unbiased picture of opportunities, by showcasing both higher education and vocational education and training (VET) courses.

Resources are designed to support three key audiences:



Students

Complete the short *My career profile* activities to identify students' interests, skills and values and generate a list of suggested occupations, or use the *Career bullseyes* to discover occupations related to school learning areas. Open up new possibilities by researching industries, occupations and courses and by exploring career stories shared by young people and articles contributed by experts. Save and revisit favourite content and activity results.



Teachers and career practitioners

A special section of the site contains resources to support teachers and career practitioners. It includes video libraries, resources to embed career learning across the curriculum, myfuture's recent webinars, newsletters and *insights* papers, and a range of high-quality content and resources written by career development and education experts.



Parents and carers

The earliest and often the most powerful learning about careers is shaped by the adults in a child's life. The resources curated in the *Parents and carers* section of myfuture are designed to assist these key influencers to begin the conversation with their child about the world of work.

How to access myfuture

myfuture is funded by Australian state and territory governments.

Visit www.myfuture.edu.au to sign up for a free account and check the box to receive up-to-date career information via email.

[/findingmyfuture](#)[@myfutureAU](#)[myfuture_australia](#)myfuture.edu.au

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS

Thank you to the following businesses and individuals who have kindly offered to support our students by donating awards to be presented at our Presentation and Performance Celebration.

ASW Lawyers Pty Ltd

Mr Harold Allison

Banner Mitre 10

Caltex Australia

Computer Bits

The Cutbush Family

Dale Cleves Music

Di-Monty Training Solutions

eNVision Limestone Coast, New Venture
Institute, Flinders University

Green Triangle Electronics

Group Training Employment

KW Wholesale Stationers Pty Ltd

MEGT (Australia) Ltd

Rotary Club of Mount Gambier West Inc.

Sinclair Wilson

University of South Australia



*K.W. Wholesale
Stationers Pty. Ltd.*



**University of
South Australia**

