School Plan

During the last term and half Muirfield High School has been working on the Department of Education and Communities’ new school planning approach. This new approach will be implemented in 2015 and all public schools will need to develop their strategic directions for the following three to five years.

Each school is to develop three strategic directions, outline the purpose and how the directions will be achieved. The strategic directions are written at a high level. The detail on how the school will address these directions is found in the implementation part of the plan. An effective approach to school planning allows the status quo to be challenged and for thinking to be expansive and ambitious.

At Muirfield we are excited about this new approach and have been canvassing the opinion of all sections of our community. The team is using a range of external and internal data. It is important that we use both qualitative and quantitative data and not just use anecdotal evidence.

Earlier in the year, the Executive spent time analysing student data and reflecting on their faculty practice. Last term the School Planning Team (Ms Reeves, Ms Denny, Mrs Anderson & myself) collected the views from all of our teachers, SRC and P&C - on what these groups felt were our strengths and areas that we need to develop. This term the team worked with teachers to get a greater element of student voice. At the beginning of Week 3 all classes across the school conducted a PMI (Plus, Minus & Interesting) on what their thoughts were on Muirfield. Each class then ranked their responses and passed all the information back to the School Planning Team. This data has been presented to the staff, SRC groups, (who will report back to their year groups) and the P&C – we actually had fun presenting the data in the form of a Family Feud game to teachers and P&C.

Mr Roughley also spent a considerable amount of time analysing the school’s NAPLAN results and then presented the data to the staff at a full staff meeting. His presentation included highlights that was evident from the data and areas that we, as a school, need to address. I thank Mr Roughley for all the time he put into his
presentation.

The team will spend some time during this term refining our data analysis and formulating our vision for Muirfield. Ultimately we will be identify three strategic directions and explain why we believe each strategic direction is important statement.

This new approach to school planning brings together a number of reforms to give our school greater authority to meet the needs of our communities, to improve the quality of teaching and to improve outcomes for all students. It is highly strategic, focusing on 3 key areas for improvement determined by the school in consultation with its community, to ensure a profound difference to the ongoing growth and development of the school.

**Year 11 Study Day**
The finishing of school for Year 12 is not the only change. Term 4 heralds changes for almost the whole school. Year 11 students begin the HSC course and some take the opportunity to reassess their aims and priorities. In order to help students deal with the change in their work load and to ensure that they have been given all the essential tools necessary to deal with the pressure of the HSC a Year 11 Study Day was organised called “Succeeding In Your HSC”.

The program concentrates on reflecting on Year 11 final examination marks, understanding the marking process, effective note taking, organisation skills, HSC resources and BOSTES & UAC updates. Congratulations to Ms Ansoul, for organising and designing the different workshops that were presented on the day in her role as Relieving Head Teacher Senior Studies. The students’ evaluations from the study day has been very positive. A big thank you to the following teachers that presented workshops: Mr Carpenter, Ms Pasternatsky, Mrs Cooper, Mrs Scott and Mr Finley. Also, thank you to Ms Fleet for her support of the day and helping Ms Ansoul in the organisation.

**Graffiti**
As you are all aware the school spent substantial amount of money on improving the aesthetics of our school for our students. One of the main recent expenses was having all the toilets repainted with some of the toilets having new cubicles installed. The new toilets are a huge change from the old ones and look very bright, clean and inviting. However this term we have had one or two students of the opinion that they have the right to vandalise these communal spaces. You have probably seen graffiti somewhere in your community. It’s the words, colours, and shapes drawn or scratched on buildings, overpasses, train cars, desks, and other surfaces. It’s done without permission and it’s against the law. Graffiti and vandalism costs our school a great deal of money in repairs, money that could be used elsewhere in the school. Graffiti also contributes to a perception that the school is not well-cared for. If anyone knows who owns this tag or can identify the writing please see me. All reports will remain confidential. Preventing graffiti requires everyone in the community to be active and take ownership of the problem of graffiti crime.
Respect
As we approach the end of the school year it can become difficult for some to stay on task and maintain positive relationships. It is timely that I remind students about the other 3 R’s - relationships, relationships and relationships. As an educator, working effectively with staff, students and the community is based upon establishing connections, presenting yourself in a professional manner and being able to explain why decisions are made. Not everyone will agree with the course of action taken however the vast majority of people understand and work to achieve a common goal if it is clearly stated and understood.

Having positive peer relationships can at times require effort. Reminding ourselves of the person we want to be and nurturing these attributes is highly important. The parable below is a small reminder of the pivotal role that we all play in the relationships in work and social contexts.

One evening, an elderly Cherokee brave told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people.

He said "My son, the battle is between two 'wolves' inside us all. One is evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.

The other is good. It is joy, peace love, hope serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather:

"Which wolf wins?"

The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one that you feed."
Diary Cover Competition
There were a lot of high quality entries this year in the Diary Cover Competition. High commendation goes to Aidan Clifford and Jacinta Brett for their entries.

The winner for 2015 is Claire Connell.
IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PARENTS

Re: Whooping Cough - Public Health alert

There has been an increase of whooping cough (Pertussis) notifications in the Western Sydney area since June 2014, particularly in the 2155 postcode area.

In order to prevent further cases of whooping cough Western Sydney Public Health Unit advises the following:

If your child (or any member of your family) has any of the symptoms of whooping cough, such as a dry or persistent cough, which may be especially bad at night, please see your doctor and take this notice with you. A nose and throat swab test can be performed to confirm the diagnosis.

If your child has whooping cough, your doctor will arrange a course of antibiotic treatment. Antibiotics given early in the illness are effective in stopping the cough and in preventing spread to other people. If your doctor diagnoses whooping cough please advise the school and keep your child at home until s/he has taken 5 days of antibiotics.

A whooping cough fact sheet is enclosed. More information on whooping cough is available on the NSW Health website at http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/infectious/whoopingcough/Pages/default.aspx or please call Western Sydney Public health unit on 9840 3603 if you have any queries.

Thank you for your attention.
From the P & C President

Muirfield High P&C Parent Social - Hawaiian Luau!
Parents attending the “Hawaiian Luau” social night were in high spirits and dressed up for the occasion in colourful Hawaiian shirts, leis and grass skirts. We all enjoyed getting to know one another and had a bit of “Hula” fun at Muirfield Golf Club on Friday 7 November.

Muirfield High parents are keen to make this a regular event in the social calendar. Hopefully we will have increasing numbers of parents attending these functions in the future as it was a great way to meet others, build community spirit and support the school. We were able to raise $1000 from this event due to some generous donations by families and local businesses.

We would like to thank Laing+Simmons Real Estate in Wentworthville, Muirfield Golf Club and Davis & James Travel Associates at Beecroft for their extremely generous donations. We would also like to thank Bunnings at North Parramatta and Castle Hill RSL for their fantastic contributions. Many thanks also to the parents who helped with preparations and assistance on the evening and to all of those who came along to support this event!! A big thank you to Narelle Williams for organising the event, sourcing prizes and making the evening the success that it was!

Hamper Raffle
In conjunction with our last BBQ for the year, the fundraising committee has decided to sell raffle tickets for a selection of hampers. Students are more than welcome to help sell tickets.

When: Sunday 30 November (note only one day this time)
Where: Westfield North Rocks
Link to volunteer: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nkbKqotm2K7eTpdOE9LwM3LfV3CKfb8hHP_gtC71i6o/edit?usp=sharing

Hamper donations
Any new items including pampering and beauty products, kitchen accessories, Christmas gourmet food or drink, gift vouchers etc. may be left with the ladies in the front office.

Fundraising BBQ
Details of our final fundraising BBQ for 2014 are below. Please think about helping in whatever way you are able to, despite the fact that it is a very busy time of year for everyone.

When: Saturday 7 December (note change of day of the week)
Where: Rydalmere Bunnings (note change of venue)
Link to volunteer: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1zR5xaLDZeSfji1k0tiXiZiIDzHlf9aBzSiKbXjPdFE-B0/edit?usp=sharing

Cake stall donations:
Cakes, slices, muffins, biscuits, toffees, jams, coconut ice, rocky road, any other family favourite you’d like to make or bake can all be left at the canteen on Friday 6 December or delivered directly to the stall on the Saturday.
Card donations
Any home made Christmas cards you have to donate for selling will be gratefully received. Leave them with the front office or the canteen.

P&C Meeting
Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help out on the P&C executive for 2015!
It give me great pleasure to announce the new P&C Executive for 2015. I would like to thank these people for their willingness to support the wider Muirfield community.
President: Narelle Williams
Vice President: Wendy Bowman, Kathryn Rieger
Treasurer: Jo-Ann Xegas
Secretary: Liz Von-Brandis Martini

Our last meeting in December will be informal and include a social gathering at the conclusion. Please come along and meet the new executive and celebrate the end of another full year at Muirfield High School.

Next Meeting—Wednesday 10 December 7.30pm
Muirfield High School Staff Common Room

P&C Subcommittees and their meeting days and times

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<tr>
<th>Subcommittee</th>
<th>Meeting Day and Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>First Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uniform Shop</td>
<td>First Monday of the month at 7.00pm</td>
<td>Convenor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>Fourth Monday of the month at 7.30pm</td>
<td>Convenor, Treasurer</td>
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<td>CAPA</td>
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Contact List Update
P&C is currently updating its email distribution list. If you would like to be included so that you stay up-to-date with what is happening, please email Muirfield.p.and.c@gmail.com and we will be very happy to add your name. If you would like to help out on any of our subcommittees, or simply be informed of what is happening, please let us know in your email and you will be added to the relevant list.

Ezicover
Look for the advertisement elsewhere in the newsletter for recyclable, reusable book covers available in a variety of sizes and colours. These covers are much easier to use than plastic or contact, taking less than a minute to put on. They are made from some recycled materials and can be used over and over again. Order online and make sure you use the code given on the info sheet to ensure Muirfield receives 10c per book cover!
Hawaiian Luau
Pride and Prejudice

Year 11 students, Madelyn Spencer and Emily Henriksson were recently involved in the production of Pride and Prejudice at Pavilion Theatre, Castle Hill from 3 Oct to 25 Oct.

Madelyn played Kitty Bennet and Emily was part of the Production Team as Assistant Stage Manager.
Also an ex-student, Luke Hale, played Mr Bingley.

Luke Hale as Mr Bingley

Emily Henriksson - Assistant Stage Manager
Gallipoli 2015

After much deliberation and some gut wrenching decisions the final group of students were chosen to move to the penultimate stage of the process for selection for this wonderful trip in 2015.

Seven students were shortlisted for interview for the four positions available. Each had to answer questions about what their submission demonstrated about the Anzac Spirit, what the Centenary of Anzac meant to them and how they believed that they would be a capable representative of public schools in NSW.

These students were: Joshua Bednar; Tamara Blakeley; Carly Vanden Dool; Chloe Von Brandis Martini; Kate Milne; Amelia Napier and Ben Wilson.

The interview panel consisted of Mrs. Reeves (Muirfield High School Principal), Mr. David Elliott (State member of Parliament for Baulkham Hills), Colonel (Ret) Don Tait OAM (President of the Castle Hill RSL Sub-branch) , Mrs. Sharon Murray (Representing the P&C) and myself.

Each of these students sat in front of this panel in what must have been a nerve racking time and absolutely excelled in their responses, the manner in which they took pride in their school and the articulate way they expressed the meaning of Anzac. Every student deserved to be awarded a spot on this trip of a lifetime.

All of the invited guests on the panel where unanimous in their appreciation of the quality of students that we have at Muirfield High School. We have even had a request for two of the submission to be loaned to the RSL next year as part of their presentation of the Centenary and for another to be on Mr Elliott’s web-page.

Again after much discussion, argument, analysing and difficulty the decision has been made as to who the successful four students are. These names have now been submitted to the Department of Veteran Affairs and we now must wait until early December for them to give us the final approval to make the announcement of the winners public.

As soon as the DVA gives us the green light I will be making the much awaited announcement and then the exciting phase begins in preparation for this trip of a lifetime.

Robyn Anderson
Head Teacher HSIE
David Elliott MP
Member for Baulkham Hills

17 October 2014
Ms Jennifer Reeves
Principal
Mullfield High School
Barclay Road
North Rocks NSW 2151

Dear Ms Reeves,

I am writing to thank you for your invitation to sit on the selection panel for the 2015 ANZAC Tour.

Congratulations on the quality of students your school has produced. The standard of applications by your students was outstanding and is a credit to you and your staff.

As always, I am more than happy to assist Mullfield High School whenever the need may arise.

Thank you again for your invitation.

Yours sincerely,

David Elliott MP
MEMBER FOR BAULKHAM HILLS
**Sports Update**

**Grade Sports Results**

Round 3 Winners (vs Baulkham Hills):

Round 4 Winners (vs Granville):

Round 5 Winners (vs Northmead):

Round 6 Winners (vs Model Farms):

Congratulations to **Chloe Holman** who has been selected into the NSW Softball U17 Women’s team to compete in the National Championships in January 2015.

Congratulations to **Georgina Harris** who has been selected as part of the Sydney West team to compete in the NSW CHS Girls Water Polo Championships in November.

Congratulations to **Tim Bain** who has been selected as part of the Sydney West team to compete in the NSW CHS Boys Water Polo Championships in November.
Year 9 PASS Excursion to Berkley Vale High School

On Friday 7th November, Mr Edmondstone and Ms Bligh’s Year 9 PASS classes travelled up the Central Coast to Berkley Vale High School for a friendly sporting competition against their Year 9 PASS classes.

Once we arrived at the high school, we were welcomed by a few students at the front gate; we were then led to the hall to be informed of the events that were going to occur throughout the day. In the morning, we assembled into our teams to warm up before the first game of basketball started. Each game went for 14 minutes with 7 minute halves. Each team played 3 games of each sport with one bye for each round. The sports included were basketball, soccer and Oztag. Basketball was a good start to the day because it was enjoyable and fun for everyone. After the 4 rounds of basketball were finished we had a break and went off to recess.

After recess we gathered back into the hall to re-group into our teams for the next sporting activity, which was soccer. We played on their fields which were well looked after. During the sporting games, they had a stereo playing music, which brightened the mood of everyone even more. After lunch we met back out at the fields to start the rounds of Oz-tag. The games went smoothly and were very friendly and enjoyable.

Everybody respected the referees on the day, who were students from Berkley Vale’s Year 10 PASS class. They were part of the reason the day ran so efficiently. It was also good to see students who were injured come along to cheer us on.

Throughout the day there was a great show of leadership and sportsmanship from both schools, meeting new people and playing sport in a different environment made it a valuable experience. We can’t wait to take them on again next year when they are welcomed to Muirfield High School.

Abigail Power, Rachael Lobasso and Maddie Kiner.
Year 9 PASS Students in Action
Band Workshops

Imagine this; a series of fast melodic rhythms. A soft, subtle, yet strong bass line and massive swells of percussion. Are your ears aching to hear it? Can you imagine the exhilaration of the music running through your veins? You probably are. Now imagine a huge array of musicians of every age and ability playing in unison to make that spectacular performance.

North Rocks, Murray Farm, Winston Hills and Baulkham Hills Primary Schools all came together to perform in the Primary Schools Link Workshop hosted by Muirfield High Band and Mr Steve Lavis our resident conductor. Our band mentored at least 100 primary school kids through a playlist of great songs. After a few long hours of practice (and a few bad band conductor jokes) we finally got to the pizza.

Once everyone was absolutely stuffed we went back to finish the evening off with a spectacular performance, each school band played individually, and then we put into practice what we’d learnt throughout the day in a combined band. Parents, friends and family came to listen; everyone went home happy, and humming the medley from Frozen…. Let it go…..Let it go… Now to Let it go… for another year….

Chloe Von Brandis-Martini
Band Workshops
### Calendar

**Term FOUR 2014**

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<td><strong>November</strong> 7</td>
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<td>Yr 10 Drama Production</td>
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<td>PINK day</td>
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<td>SRC National Young Leaders Day 21</td>
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<td><strong>November</strong> 8</td>
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<td>Yr 10 Cross Roads Camp</td>
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<td>Yr 7 Swim School</td>
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<td>BLC Gymability</td>
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<td><strong>December</strong> 9</td>
<td>All Yr 7 and Yr 9 Boys Vaccinations</td>
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<td>Yr 10 Senior Study Preparation Workshops</td>
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<td>Yr 7 2015 Orientation Day</td>
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<td>Grade Sport Grand Finals</td>
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<td>Yr 8 Gala Day</td>
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<td><strong>December</strong> 10</td>
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<td>SRC Youth Leadership master Class</td>
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<td>Presentation Evening</td>
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<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
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<td>LAST DAY OF TERM FOR STUDENTS!</td>
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### Disclaimer

Advertisements in this newsletter are included as a community service or a source of revenue to offset newsletter productions costs. They should not in any way be seen as an endorsement or recommendation by the school.
ARE YOU A SINGLE PARENT?

Every week Single with Children provides fun and exciting activities especially for single parents and their children (many activities are subsidised or even free)

It’s a great way to meet and get to know people in your area

To find out more and get a FREE copy of our social calendar, contact us today.

Call 1300 300 496

Or visit our website:

www.singlewithchildren.com.au
Jazz at the Pines

2014-15

12.30pm - 4pm
Roughley House at The Pines
656a Old Northern Rd, Dural

21 September: Mike Hallam's Hot 6
12 October: Bridge City Jazz Band
16 November: Zenith Jazz Sextet
15 February: Greg Poppleton & The Bakelite Broadcasters
15 March: Mike Hallam's Hot 6
19 April: Zenith Jazz Sextet
17 May: Bridge City Jazz Band

$15 ADULTS | $13 CONCESSION | $30 FAMILY

Relax with Live Jazz

and bring a picnic lunch under the majestic pines of historic Roughley House.
Bookings welcome.
Free Tours of historic Roughley House (circa 1856).
Tickets at the gate.
Afternoon tea available.
Gates open from 11.30am.

A project of The Rotary Club of The Hills-Kellyville Inc.

Proudly supported by

The Hills Sydney's GardenShire

Dural Visitor Information Centre, Roughley House and The Pines. 656a Old Northern Road, Dural
Ph: 02 9651 4411 | e: info@jazzatthepines.org.au

Flames Carlingford Netball Club

2015 Netball Registration Day

Is your daughter interested in playing netball in 2015?
This is your invitation to come along to the Carlingford Flames player registration day:

On: Sunday, 2 November, 2014
From: 1pm - 3pm
At: STORAGE KING - 1 North Rocks Road, North Parramatta

Carlingford Flames netball club strives to provide positive role models through netball to girls from the age of 8. We encourage and support development of the player, the umpire and administrators while achieving a strong sense of community.

As an established and large community club we have the experience and resources to develop each player to their full potential whilst creating an environment where players make friends within the wider local community, not just their school.

For further information please email Chris Kelleway skelleway@hotmail.com
Or visit the club website: http://www.carlingfordflamesnc.nsw.netball.com.au
Would you like to be a foster carer – Take the Leap

More than 60 children and young people are entering care every week across New South Wales.

Foster care agency, MacKillop Family Services, is in need of foster carers in the Hills District, people willing to open their hearts and homes to some of the state’s most vulnerable children.

All types of carers are needed – respite, immediate, short and long term.

If you are interested, MacKillop is holding a no obligation, free Foster Care Information Session in the James Cusack Room of the Vinegar Hill Memorial Community Centre at Rouse Hill Town Centre (above the Library) on Thursday, 27 November from 6.15pm – 8.00pm.

The session will cover information about the different types of foster care, steps to becoming a foster carer, and how carers are supported by agencies like MacKillop. The event will also provide an opportunity for you to meet current carers.

If you are interested in attending please let us know by contacting Louise on (02) 8881 4800 or email louise.carson@mackillop.org.au.

Big Fun Camps

3 Day Multi Sports Camp

DATES: Tues Jan 20-Thurs Jan 22nd, 2015
TIMES: 9am - 4pm (extended care is available from 8am to 6pm for a small additional cost)
AGES: 8-15 year olds
LOCATION: Epping Boys High School
PROGRAM: Up to 14 different team sports and traditional summer camp activities
COST: $160

Visit www.bigfuncamps.com.au for more information or call Big Fun Headquarters on (02) 9686-8258
greater western sydney region presents
SCOUTS DISTRICT
PROMOTION DAY

8AM – 1.30PM SATURDAY 29 NOV 2014

youth programs for young people aged 6–25 years
volunteering opportunities for adults
experience great skills and adventures in the outdoors

◊ Here’s a chance for you and the family to have a taste of what Scouting is all about!
◊ Find out about all the exciting opportunities Scouting has to offer such as camping, canoeing, caving, abseiling, national and international trips.
◊ Join in the activities and be sure to take a climb on the Scouts Australia NSW rock climbing wall!
◊ 7 ½ - 11 years old? Ask us about joining our new Cub Scout Pack in 2015!

WENTWORTHVILLE SCOUT HALL
CNR DARCY ROAD AND CUMBERLAND HWY WENTWORTHVILLE