

HOUSE MUSIC FESTIVAL 2016

Congratulations to all students involved in this year's House Music Festival. The day is an energetic display of house spirit involving all house members in sections such as Whole House, Senior and Junior, Creative Movement, Instrumental, Vocal and the House Video.

The 2016 theme for the Whole House section was, "We Could Be Heroes, Just for One Day". This theme was to be the focus of music selected for the girls to sing. This section involves movement and in most cases a staff cameo or two in an attempt to get the highest marks from our three judges.

I would like to thank our 2016 judges, Jessica Turnbull, Liz Sargent and Chris Dove. They do a tough job very well, with a long day of adjudication in all of the sections presented for performance. All of our judges teach dance or music and we are grateful that they were able to give up their time to adjudicate our festival.

It was evident in 2016 that a very high standard was set in all sections. Congratulations to all of the House Captains, their committees and section organisers. The girls have been rehearsing since week 5 of this term and the leaders put in a huge effort to get their house items onto the stage. Well done and congratulations to all involved. The final placings were McAuley in first, Gilroy in second, MacKillop in third and Chisholm in fourth place.

The day ran without a hitch and there is good reason for this. I would like to thank all of the staff involved throughout the day. In particular the staff that managed the backstage corridors on a very cold day. It is this work that we don't see that allows a day like this to run smoothly. My thanks also go to Mr O'Brien who tallied the scores for the day in a wonderfully organised and straightforward manner. Ms Lynar, who experienced House Music for the first time for her assistance with equipment backstage and Mr McPhillamy who assisted the girls operating sound and lighting. We were also lucky to have Micky Pye on board to tune guitars, move microphones, adjust PA settings and pull the curtain.

Our student helpers deserve special mention. Veronica Fajloun has been our stage manager for House Music since she was in Year 10. She is now in Year 12 and manages the stage with confidence and ease. On sound this year Katherine Evans and Priscilla Evans Gittany did a stellar job as did Tiffany Nankervis and Jessica Simmonds on the lighting console. There is a lot of pressure involved when undertaking these roles and the students are to be congratulated on the work they put in on the day.

Finally I would like to thank Mr O'Rourke for his ongoing support of House Music Festival. He was heavily involved in the setup of lighting and the stage area and was even seen up in the rafters fixing a curtain runner at the start of the day. There are so many positive things to be said about House Music 2016. Mr Newton and his team have taken numerous photos and videos to account for the day and these will appear in an upcoming News and Views. Thanks again to all who worked so hard to make the day a success.

YEAR 12 CHEMISTRY EXCURSION

On a very foggy Thursday morning ten Year 12 Chemistry students departed Mackillop College at 5:40am for a two day excursion to Sydney, accompanied by Mrs Anderson and myself. Firstly, the girls participated in the Chemistry Kickstar Program at Sydney University's School of Chemistry with about twenty student from Shore. During the workshop they performed a series of hands on experiments from the Chemical Monitoring and Management topic involving Atomic Absorption Spectrometry, conducted a titration using EDTA, and determined the sulfate content of fertiliser. They also observed demonstrations of the Solvay process, production of sodium hydroxide and an equilibrium reaction from the Industrial Chemistry option. After spending some time having a look the facilities at the University of Sydney we headed down to Miranda to our accommodation. Once the girls were settled in, we went across the road and spent a couple of hours at Westfield.



On Friday, the students visited ANSTO (Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation) at Lucas Heights. Here they attended a presentation by Robin Davis, an analytical chemist, at the Education Centre before going onsite. As it is a facility patrolled by the Australian Federal Police, we had to leave NSW for the next two hours! Here the girls were shown the OPAL (Open Pool Australian Lightwater reactor) and the neutron beam guide hall and experienced a hot cell where radioisotopes are removed for specific medical and industrial purposes. This part of the excursion should assist students with their study areas of Nuclear Chemistry and Chemical Monitoring and Management.

At the end of the tour the girls got to talk to Emily, an environmental chemist, and hear about the work she does at ANSTO. The very successful and educational excursion came to an end on arriving back at MacKillop more than 36 hours later.