



Melbourne Girls Grammar
an Anglican school

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The Art Exhibition was a tremendous event, showcasing the imaginations and the commitment of our students. All three learning precincts were represented – our Early Learners, Junior and Secondary students. The highlight is always the Year 12 VCE showcase, and this year we were privileged to view works of diverse mediums and with intelligent and challenging content. Dr Gerard Vaughan



addressed us at the Opening and impressed upon us the essential role of the Arts in a life lived richly and with an open mind. He expressed great admiration for the scope of students' works and also commented on the talent of our teachers, whose guidance and skills had enabled our students to produce such high quality art.

The Principal's Award, given to an outstanding VCE work, went to Kate Jenkins for her piece, *Potential Solution Five*. Drawing on her scientific research and fascination with human anatomy, this portrait on canvas is a realistic view, comprising a muscular makeup, an area of bone structure, and two aspects of painting, illustrating an emotional side to the image. Kate's work will hang in the Principal's Office during 2010 and then become a treasured part of our School Art Collection.



I was thoroughly entertained, even transported to the exotic environment of Africa, through the girls' performances at the Prep – Year 2 Concert. It was tremendous to see the joy on students' faces as they worked so well together to complete dance and instrumental pieces. I know that this performance took many hours of creative development and rehearsal – thanks go to each and every staff member who contributed to the marvellous occasion. Special acknowledgement must go to Mrs Mary Slee, Music Co-ordinator, and Mr Victor Bizzotto, Drama teacher, who oversaw the process, including sets and costumes.



A staff technology audit survey was conducted in September by our Director of eLearning, Ms Mary-Louise O'Brien. The survey was designed to elicit feedback on five factors that have been found to impact effective embedding of learning technologies. These factors include: Culture, Infrastructure, Expertise, Hardware & Software. The aim of the audit is to assist us to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the MGGS technology environment and formulate an action plan for a balanced development of virtual learning capacities and opportunities.

Our key 2010 technology goal is to implement an online Learning Management System (LMS). An effective LMS promotes self-directed learning and provides enhanced student support in an efficient and flexible way. It provides a consistent system for integrating and co-ordinating web-based activities. Opportunities open up for departments to share resources. Most importantly, it complements class-based activities all the way to the delivery of whole programs online. Ms O'Brien gave a presentation at the October Parents' Association meeting at which she reflected on her initial research at Melbourne Girls Grammar and the longer view of highly enabled online learning environments.

Congratulations to the newly appointed Middle School Captains for 2010. May they enjoy the challenges of their roles and encourage their peers to be positive contributors to the many co-curricular activities at MGGS. The Captains are Gabrielle Clarke (Batman), Kahlia Davis (Clarke), Emma Gates (Hensley), Charlotte Hoy (Mungo), and Harriet Hall (Taylor).

Year 12 had the very best encouragement and support to finish their classes this term with decorum, and a healthy sense of fun. It is our underpinning culture of care and our high expectations that prepared the way for them to have fun but to "do no harm". I particularly pay tribute to the School Captain, Vice Captain and Student Executive Council for their tremendous commitment to their roles and the camaraderie they nurtured in their cohort. We look towards their VCE Examinations with confidence. They have prospered from an exceptional education at MGGS and no doubt they will optimistically move forward to their next adventure. Year 12, you are in our prayers.

"If we did all the things we are capable of, we would literally astound ourselves."

Thomas Edison

Yours sincerely

Catherine Misson