Dr Karl astounds everyone on his visit to Merrylands High

In one of 2015’s greatest highlights, Merrylands High School recently welcomed eminent scientist and media personality Dr Karl Kruszelnicki.

Dr Karl presented an amazing address to Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 and impressed all with his encyclopedic knowledge and his passion for science.

Topics covered were as diverse as climate change, computer technology, 21st century physics, ‘Moore's Law’, civic action, recent medical advances, genetic science, the Hadron Collider and so much more.

Not only was Dr Karl amazingly generous with his time, energy and knowledge, he also donated a copy of his recent book “Dr Karl's Short Back and Science” to the school library. Such an entertaining and absorbing morning is sure to motivate everyone present to engage with everything science in 2016.
Congratulations, Farewell and Good Luck Year 12 2015

It was with immense pride that we recently farewelled Yr 12 at their graduation ceremony. In a moving ceremony each of the graduating class was congratulated on successfully completing their senior education and thus earning their HSC, an internationally recognised symbol of academic achievement.

While many students received awards for their outstanding scholarship, citizenship and service, the prevailing atmosphere was one of celebration for all. Our community recognised that this impressive collection of young people were approaching the end of one chapter of life before embarking on another equally exciting adventure. The festivities that began in the morning continued into the night as students and staff again joined in celebrating the end of the high school journey at the traditional school formal. Our best wishes go to all the students as they await their HSC results and embark on their journey beyond school.
A warm welcome to the MHS class of 2021

Earlier in December, MHS was excited to welcome the Yr 7 students of 2016 to their new school. Hundreds of nervous parents couldn’t help but wonder where the years had gone as they dropped their excited children off for a day of meeting new friends and tasting some of the experiences high school has to offer.

Their equally excited Year Advisors, Ms Rendell and Mr Schmutter, shared that the day was a fabulous example of why Merrylands is such a great place to learn, as older students guided, advised and cared for their new peers throughout the day.

And hello to the class of 2022!

Recently, we were also delighted to meet the students of 2017 as MHS staged another of our Yr 5 open days. The pictures show how the students enthusiastically launched into an array of activities and lessons designed to have them wonderfully prepared for their high school journey.
Prestigious Scholarship for outstanding Yr 10 student

Our congratulations go to Maseeh Daudi in Yr 10 who recently received a prestigious scholarship from ABCN that will support his journey towards tertiary education. Besides the generous financial support Maseeh will receive over the next three years, he will be paired with a mentor who will work with him as he pursues his future goals. Maseeh’s is one of a select few successful recipients from a candidature of over 200 applicants. Merrylands High School is very proud of Maseeh and wish him all the best in his studies.

Library coup as Kings, Queens and Bishops take over

Recently, we were delighted to welcome Bevan Cloustan from the 'Academy of Chess' to coach our growing number of Chess enthusiasts. As a World Chess Federation National Instructor and qualified NSW Chess Tournament Officer and Coach, Bevan was perfectly placed to share advice and strategy. After taking on board Bevan’s advice, our students paired up to test out some of their new found knowledge, including some 3 and 4 move 'check mate' plays illustrated by Bevan, one of which is the "Scholar’s Mate".

Beginners and experts alike are always welcome to pit their wits against each other at recess and lunch in the library.
Students give us plenty of (delicious) food for thought

The wonderful reputation of hospitality excellence enjoyed by MHS was recently reinforced in spectacular fashion when, incredibly, the quality of the catering for the graduation breakfast was again taken to a new level. Graduating students, their parents, special guests and staff were treated to a sumptuous breakfast, prepared and presented with utmost professionalism by the Hospitality class of 2016 under the guidance and training of Ms Miller.

It is thus no surprise that, with the benefit of mentoring from Ms Miller, two of our Hospitality students recently achieved 2nd and 3rd platings in the prestigious "Worldskills" competition. Congratulation to Tara and Brandon (pictured below) for this exceptional effort.
Swim School 2015 - Working Hard to Save Lives

In a State where 90 people lost their lives to drowning last year, water safety education, first aid and resuscitation remains critical. Merrylands High was proud to provide our students with what may prove to be the most important lesson of their (or their family’s) lives as we again hosted the state’s longest running school Life Saving Program.

Swim school 2015 once again proved (as do the photos) that even the most serious message can be learned in a fun and relaxed environment. Congratulations to all the students and staff for the wonderful way you worked together to improve the safety of our local community and an enormous thank-you to Mr Graham for once again organising such a valuable initiative.
Our global reputation attracts more overseas visitors

Early in Term 4 Merrylands High School hosted a visit of school leaders from a high school in the Belgian city of Antwerp. Our new friends, knowing that they would be in Sydney for a conference, investigated schools who were leaders in teaching and learning. As such they approached us for a visit to explore the reasons for our success. On their visit our guests were blown away by our Digital Leaders, shared ideas with our learning support faculty and were amazed by the work of 7E, Ms Krunic, Ms Dessertaine and the entire IC approach. So impressed were our Belgian friends that plans are well under way to further this relationship by having our students collaborate on projects in the future.

For the Diary

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<td>27 Januray 2016</td>
<td>Staff development Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 January 2016</td>
<td>Years 7, 11 and 12 - First Day of School</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 January 2016</td>
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<td>12 February 2016</td>
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Merrylands High wins three awards at Australian Council of Education Leaders state awards ceremony

THREE award-winning teachers aren’t a crowd at Merrylands High School.

Merrylands scored top marks at the recent Australian Council of Education Leaders state awards ceremony, taking home three of the 22 awards.

Relieving head of teaching and learning Stefanie Lia received the Mary Armstrong award for young leadership, while performing arts head teacher Maree Gentili received a leadership award.

Principal of 14 years and NSW Secondary Principals’ Council president Lila Mularczyk received the Patrick Duignan Award in recognition of her promotion of education in the wider community.
"She is an aspirational and courageous leader of education with immense “She has all the elements of vision, ability, motivation and passion to make a difference.” passion for what she does,” the nomination stated.

Ms Mularczyk was thrilled with the award.

"It's the most prestigious education award you can receive for leadership," she said.

"I was very surprised, but incredibly honoured to be recognised to be nominated for quality education by my peers. The awards are across the three school sectors."

She was proud to share the successful night with her colleagues.

Ms Lia joined the school as a graduate 2010 after completing her university practical placement at Merrylands. In 2013, she was named NSW English Teachers Association innovative teacher of the year, which involved travelling to Boston to present professional learning to a global audience.

"She is a highly respected educational leader who role models deep knowledge, understanding and application of innovation, creativity and quality pedagogy," her award citation read. Ms Gentili leads the school's highest performing faculty in terms of student results and has twice been chosen to represent the NSW Department of Education at international cultural exchange dance programs in China.

"Maree has an incredible bank of knowledge, expertise and willingness to generously share with those she interacts with," the citation read.

"I was blown away," Ms Mularczyk said of the other nominations. "We have a history of staff being recognised which has equated to students receiving scholarships. It’s a very exciting time for the school," she said.

Meanwhile, federal Parramatta MP Julie Owens praised the school on its CSIRO partnership with the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance as part of Science Week.

It’s one of eight Parramatta schools that was part of the federal government’s Scientists and Mathematicians in Schools program.
Congratulations to Melanie Buchanan from the Merrylands High School C.A.P.A. faculty for recently receiving the highly prestigious Minister's Award for Excellence in Teaching.
It’s Christmas and we’re at the North Pole! Behind us is NORTH. In front of us is SOUTH.

On our left hand is EAST. So...

What’s on our right hand?

Merry Christmas

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