OURS

Term 4 – Week 6

From the Principal

I'm continuing to settle in well at Melbourne High and really enjoying getting to know more about the school, its people and the many things that make this place so special. There is still plenty for me to learn, and the last fortnight has given me the chance to experience a few more important parts of MHS life first-hand.

It was wonderful to share in the final days of our Year 12 students. I thoroughly enjoyed both the Final Assembly and Valedictory Dinner. Valedictory was a fantastic night and a lovely opportunity to see students celebrating with their families and friends as they came to the end of their four years at Melbourne High.

Our Year 12s have now commenced their exams and I wish them all the very best over the coming weeks. They should be enormously proud of reaching this point and of everything they have contributed to the school along the way. I hope the exams go well, but also that they can keep them in perspective and enjoy everything that comes next. As I said to them in their final week, they will forever be part of our community and will always find friendly faces to greet them when they come back in the years ahead.

I also had the pleasure of attending the Cadet Officers' Dinner. It was a great evening and another chance for me to learn more about an important part of the school. I really enjoyed meeting the student officers and the dedicated staff who support them, hearing about their experiences and celebrating everything they had achieved throughout the year. The commitment they make to the program is impressive, and it was clear how much being part of the Cadet Unit means to them.

I also attended my first School Council meeting. It was great to meet and work with Council members and to see first-hand the commitment they bring to the school. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated group of parents, staff, students and community members giving their time and bringing different perspectives to the work of the school, and I'm looking forward to working closely with them.

Perhaps my favourite day at Melbourne High so far was last Wednesday, when I spent the day at our Millgrove campus. I had heard a lot about Millgrove since arriving, but there is really no substitute for getting up there and experiencing it for yourself. I joined 10A for their bike riding day, which gave me a great opportunity to spend time with the students and staff and see the program in action.

What I came away with was a much better understanding of just how special Millgrove is and why it holds such an important place at MHS. It's not simply about the activities themselves. It's the experience of students being away together, trying things they might not normally do, looking out for one another and building relationships with their classmates and teachers in a very different setting. There is also an enormous amount of work that goes on behind the scenes to make the program what it is, and I'm very grateful to the staff who made me so welcome on the day. I can absolutely see why Millgrove is something students remember long after they leave MHS.

There is also plenty happening as we prepare for the movement of staff and students into our new modular classrooms next year. A lot of planning is now underway to make that transition as smooth as possible. I'll share a more substantive update with the community shortly about what is happening and what next year will look like.

Thank you again to everyone who continues to make me feel so welcome. I'm really enjoying being here, and I'm looking forward to continuing to get to know the community more in the weeks and months ahead.



Tom Cain

Pink Ribbon Breakfast - Friday 30 October 2026

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and the National Breast Cancer Foundation encourages communities to come together through Pink Ribbon Breakfasts, sharing a morning tea while raising funds for vital research.

The vibrancy of our student community shines in many different ways. This year, the cabinet of the S.H.E. Club (Single Handed Equality), Rafael Belafastov-Gee, Sean Zhou, Kirti Sujithkumar and Sanchay Sangwan, came up with the idea of hosting Melbourne High School's very first Pink Ribbon Breakfast.

They were determined to turn their idea into reality. From mapping out the event and seeking approval to organising the practical details, the students took ownership of the project from the outset, with the support of S.H.E. Club Teacher Liaison & Year 11 Coordinator Francesca Neal. They set themselves an ambitious fundraising target of $1,000.

Students could take part in the breakfast with a gold coin donation, while a raffle added another dimension to the fundraising effort, with prizes organised for the lucky winners.

Keeping with the Pink Ribbon theme, the entire MHS community was invited to contribute something pink for the breakfast. And what a response! Platters arrived adorned with pink in every shade, featuring an impressive variety of sweet and savoury treats. The creativity and generosity of our students and staff added a wonderful splash of colour to the occasion.

The library soon filled with students and staff, all coming together to enjoy good food and each other's company. Meanwhile, the S.H.E. Club cabinet had every reason to celebrate. Not only did they reach their fundraising goal, they surpassed it by a considerable margin!

An impressive $1,004 was raised for the National Breast Cancer Foundation and a further $946.35 for Bowel Cancer Australia, bringing the total to an outstanding $1,950.35.

A huge thank you to the S.H.E. Club cabinet, Francesca Neal and everyone who contributed food, bought raffle tickets or made a donation. What began as a student idea became a wonderful whole-school effort, raising funds for two important causes.

For those who weren't able to join us on the morning, we'd love to share Rafael's Pink Ribbon Breakfast speech with you. His words capture the thought and care behind the initiative and the message the S.H.E. Club wanted to share with our school community. We hope you enjoy reading it.

Pink Ribbon Morning Tea Speech – Rafael Belofastov-Gee (11C)

Good morning and thank you all for coming to MHS' first Pink Ribbon Morning Tea, and I'd like to start by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the Wurundjeri Lands that our fundraiser is hosted on today, and pay my respects to Elders past, present, and extend that respect to any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People here today.

Half of the funds collected at today's event will be going to the National Breast Cancer Foundation, Australia's leading not-for-profit organisation funding world-class breast cancer research.

- Since their founding in 1994, invested over $250 million, death rate of Australian breast cancer down by over 40%
- In one year:
    - More than 20,000 diagnosed
    - Sadly, 3,300 people will die from breast cancer
- NBCF's vision is to end deaths from this disease, and this vision is now more pressing than ever
- So, the funds you donate to the research in NBCF from this morning tea today has never been more important

Broadly, cancer is a disease that comes in many forms, and reaches through families, friendship groups, communities, and workplaces. The other half of the money raised today will be donated to Bowel Cancer Australia.

- Like NBCF, Bowel Cancer Australia is the leading organisation for the research, prevention, and eventual end to deaths from bowel cancer in Australia
- Because every year:
    - 15,000 Australians will be diagnosed with bowel cancer
    - Sadly, around 5,500 people will die from bowel cancer
- BCA is so important for the prevention and treatment of the disease, because over 90% of cases can be treated successfully if caught in the early stages.

Cancer in its many forms has touched members of our school community. We send our love, strength and support to all those affected and to their families and loved ones.

Thank you all for the impact you are making today, turning up, bringing a plate, and donating, you are literally saving lives.

World Teachers' Day 2026 - Shine a Light on Teachers

In 2026, World Teachers' Day marks the 60th anniversary of the 1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers. This milestone provides an opportunity to reflect on the challenges facing the teaching profession today and consider how teachers can be better supported, recognised and valued in their important role in shaping our future.

As part of the global education community, Melbourne High School's teachers contribute to this work every day. Throughout the year, they work tirelessly to help our students shine in many different ways, always keeping students at the centre of what they do. Drawing on established teaching practices, adapting to changing educational environments and responding to the individual needs of their students, they are also there to offer encouragement, guidance and, when needed, a listening ear.



While our teachers spend the year celebrating the achievements of their students, World Teachers' Day gives us an opportunity to turn the spotlight on them.

This year, thanks to an initiative by Hriday Singh (11M), supported by Student Leadership under the stewardship of Matthew Roberts, our students were given a wonderful opportunity to express their appreciation. Two whiteboards were transformed into a sea of yellow, red and purple, filled with messages of thanks addressed to individual teachers and to the teaching staff at MHS as a whole. A simple but thoughtful gesture that gave our students a voice and our teachers a visible reminder of the difference they make.

A big thank you also goes to our Parents & Friends Association, who invited our teachers to a special morning tea during recess on Friday 30 October in the Library. It was a lovely opportunity for our community to come together and celebrate the people who make such an important contribution to our school.

To mark the 60th anniversary, we would also like to share the joint message from UNESCO, the International Labour Organization, UNICEF and Education International, calling on governments and partners around the world to stand with teachers, advance the status of the profession and ensure that every teacher is empowered to help build more inclusive, peaceful and sustainable societies.

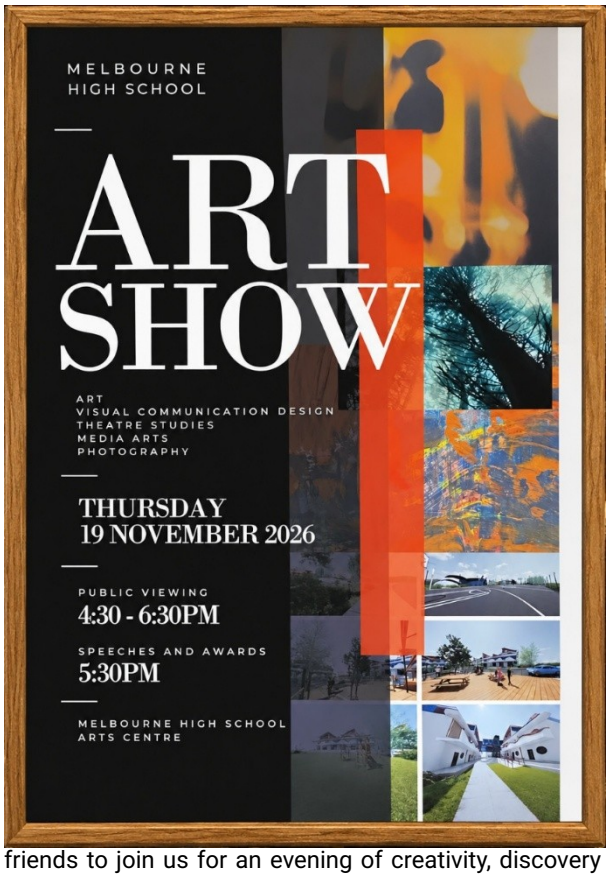
"On this World Teachers' Day, UNESCO, the ILO, UNICEF and Education International call on governments and partners to stand with teachers by advancing the status of the profession and ensuring that every teacher, everywhere, is empowered to help build more inclusive, peaceful and sustainable societies."

To all our teachers at Melbourne High School, thank you for everything you do, every day.

Melbourne High School's Annual Art Show

Celebrating creativity, imagination and artistic expression

The doors of Melbourne High School's Art Centre are opening for our Annual Art Show, celebrating the creativity, imagination and artistic achievements of our students across Art, Visual Communication Design, Theatre Studies, Media Arts and Photography.



As you wander through the rooms and hallways, take your time to explore the wonderful variety of work on display. Each piece offers a glimpse into the ideas, curiosity and individual perspectives of its creator. From experimenting with different mediums to exploring new concepts and ways of seeing the world, our students have brought their ideas to life in wonderfully individual ways.

We encourage you to look beyond the finished works and read the students' descriptions. These offer a fascinating insight into the inspiration, thinking and creative processes behind each piece, adding another dimension to the experience.

Behind every work is a journey of exploration, and our Arts Faculty staff have played an important role in encouraging and supporting our students along the way. They are proud to see the students' efforts and creativity come together in this exhibition.

Many of our student artists and Arts Faculty staff will also be there on the evening. We encourage you to take the opportunity to meet them, hear about their work and discover the stories and ideas behind the pieces on display.

We warmly invite our school community, families and friends to join us for an evening of creativity, discovery and celebration, and to share in the remarkable artistic achievements of our students.

Thursday 19 November 2026
Public viewing: 4:30–6:30 pm
Awards presentation: 5:30 pm
Melbourne High School Arts Centre

All welcome!