Principal's Message

Spring Fete – What a day!
Our biannual Spring Fete was held on Saturday and what a day it was! Brilliant weather, a great number of people attending, wonderful food and excellent performances – could we have asked for more? Not a chance.

An event like this takes months of planning and coordination. Although it is our major fundraiser for 2015, together with the P&C we have always shared the same sentiment that it is a community event first.

There were so many people who spent countless hours doing so many things to help make this day a success. There have been so many generous families that have donated goods for prizes and so many businesses that have donated prizes and money. I have been truly humbled by the generosity of our community.

The students have also played their part. As we put the finishing touches to the Art Exhibition in the hall I stood back and saw the quality of the work on display. It is exceptional what our teachers and students created for this exhibition. It was difficult for the judges from the Parramatta Art Society to decide the top three pieces of art from each class.

Thank you to everyone who came along and supported MRPS!

Kindergarten
We have held our annual Kindergarten Parent Information Session and the first of our Kindergarten Orientation Days. It was wonderful to see so many new faces join our MRPS family. The Kindergarten Orientation Days always amaze me. The students look so young and I think about what they will achieve next year and it makes me so proud to be an educator and to be the Principal of this great school.

Grandparents Breakfast
Throughout the year we have celebrated our mums and also our dads – it is now time to acknowledge our patriarchs and matriarchs of our families, these important people in the lives of our kids. I hope our grandparents will be able to attend our breakfast and spend some time in the classrooms to see what their grandkids are up to!
**Deputy Principal’s Report**

Our Athletes Aim High!

Congratulations to Lauryn K, Abbey G, Harini P and Waiaria E who all represented our school with tremendous pride and commitment at the NSWPSA State Athletics Championships on Thursday 15 October.

This ‘Awesome Foursome’ enjoyed a wonderful day at Sydney Olympic Park representing our school and also Sydney West Region as one of the entire region’s top two junior girls 4 x 100m relay teams. The girls prepared to be the best they could be with several training sessions where they refined their running styles and perfected their baton changes. These sessions were conducted under the guidance of former Metella Road PS student, Amy Crofts, who gave up her time to support our team. Thanks to Amy for passing on your knowledge and expertise!

On the track the girls ran particularly well in their heat against some tough opposition. After a strong and steady build up from Waiaria (who is only in Year 2!), Abbey and Harini, a brilliant final leg from Lauryn saw the girls emerge with a 3rd place finish and entry into the semi-finals. Their time of 1.02.69 was indeed their fastest time this season. Eventually, the girls missed out on a place in the final despite giving their all in the semi-final.

Lauryn also enjoyed a successful time in her additional event, the long jump. The Sydney West PSSA Regional Age Champion recorded her personal best jump of an incredible 4 metres and 23 centimetres. Lauryn finished the Championships in 5th place overall (out of 39 competitors on the day) in all of New South Wales.

Congratulations again to all four girls. We are very proud of you all!

Mr S. Staveley
Deputy Principal

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**Kindergarten News**

This term we are continuing to prepare and support children and their families in making a positive and successful transition to school through our Kindergarten Orientation process. This process aims to create an awareness about the importance of a successful start to school and to make families aware of their role in enabling a smooth transition to school.

On Wednesday 14 October we held a Kindergarten Parents Information evening. Parents were provided with information about a range of topics including Best Start Kindergarten Assessment, our School Expectations, school uniform, requirements for the Kindergarten program, Learning and Support at Metella Road Public School, the use of ICT at our school, how technology is integrated into class programs, the Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) initiative and the role of the P&C. The evening was successful and the parents had an increased understanding of what they need to do to prepare their child for school.

Last week we had the first of our Kindergarten Orientation days. The children visited a Kindergarten classroom and engaged in a range of activities. It provided an opportunity for the children to develop a positive relationship with the teachers and other children and enabled teachers to observe the children in a classroom setting. The children were very settled and seemed to enjoy the experience.

We are looking forward to continuing our Kindergarten Orientation process this week and next week.

Mrs S. Larobina
Early Stage 1 Supervisor

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**Stage 1 News**

Term 4 has begun with a flurry of action. Students revealed their creative and artistic flair, producing beautiful artwork that was sold at our Spring Fete. They have counted down the months, days and seconds until the fete arrived – with many discussions had regarding what rides they were going to go on! It was wonderful to see such a close knit community of friends, students and parents meet together to enjoy such a fantastic day! We know that many fond childhood memories have been made on that day! Our students will be talking about the Spring Fete for years to come!

We look forward to the coming weeks of Term 4. Students are learning all about different celebrations – identifying why we celebrate some events and developing an understanding that we all celebrate for different reasons. Our classes are beginning to plan and create their own class party for the end of the year. In English, our students are focusing upon the theme “Communities”, particularly examining the different perspectives that the author presents. Students have been learning how to write like acclaimed authors and how to craft their descriptions so that their readers are able visualise images in their heads. It is exciting to watch our students weave similes and metaphors into their writing so that their work leaps off the page!

In Mathematics, students have been developing multiple strategies of how to partition numbers into 100s, 10s and 1s to become super quick mathematicians. Many investigations have been undertaken in our classes to examine the mass of various objects. Year 1 students had to investigate the mass of their lunchbox contents! We found out that many students come to school very well stocked and very well fed! Our teachers are beginning to write this semester’s reports and we look forward to sharing the progress of our students with you. It has been an exciting year to watch our students develop into life-long learners; continually absorbing, critically analysing and applying new-found knowledge! Stage 1 is an exciting place to be at this time of year!

Ms J. Minenko
Stage 1 Supervisor

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**Stage 2 News**

The students in Stage 2 have made a brilliant start to the beginning of this term. This fortnight’s focus is Respect and the next one is Safe. The students are learning about our school expectations through role plays utilising critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity skills of what these expectations look like in the classroom and playground.

This term in our Modelled Reading, we are learning all about quality texts that convey messages about Cultural Diversity. The students will be engaging in reading, writing and discussion about celebrations and commemorations in Australia and around the world. Particularly we will be focussing on shared readings of Dreaming stories, with a focus on meaning and comprehension. Our learning goal is for students to develop their research skills to locate information
and compose a range of informative texts, including information reports about global celebrations and commemorations and those of major world religions. They will be given the opportunity to analyse a range of sources and visual texts, including maps and photographs, in order to investigate the past.

In Mathematics the students have been learning various whole number and addition and subtraction strategies. In the strand of Measurement, we are learning all about the different concepts of time and mass. The students have been enjoying lots of hands on activities to achieve these outcomes.

Mrs L. Bartlett
Stage 2 Supervisor

Stage 3 News
Welcome back to our final term for the year – and Year 6’s final year at primary school!

Stage 3 have a big term ahead with Student Leadership applications and speeches, Stage 3 Camp as well as the Year 6 Graduation and Farewell.

A big thank you to everyone who came to the Year 6 Mini Fete and supported our Year 6 students in their final major fundraiser for the year. The day was a HUGE success and would not have been possible without the support from all of our staff here at MRPS as well as our students and community. A special thank you goes to Ms McKenzie for all of her hard work and time that she put in to organising this big event.

Student Leadership Applications for 2016 closed last Friday for Year 5 students. All of those candidates who submitted an application will find out whether they are through to the next stage of presenting a speech by Friday of this week, after the Leadership Committee meets to discuss the applications. Student leader speeches will occur in Week 7. We wish all of the candidates the very best in their applications and speeches.

Stage 3 Camp is fast approaching! Only four more weeks to go! Students who are attending need to ensure that they return all of their information forms as soon as possible to ensure that all medical and dietary requirements are catered for. If you have any concerns or questions, please speak to a Stage 3 teacher for further information.

Year 6 Graduation and Farewell will both be held on the final day of school – Wednesday 16 December. The graduation ceremony will be held during the day in the school hall and the farewell will be held at night at Toongabbie Sports Club. Invitations and information regarding both of these events will be sent out in the coming weeks.

Thank you to all of our community members and students who supported the Stage 3 Snow Cone Stall at the MRPS Fete last Saturday. We hope you had a great day out!

Mrs A. Saad
Stage 3 Supervisor

Choir A
Choir A performed their final performance for 2015 with the PULSE choir at the Metella Road Spring Fete. Thank you to the students involved for their commitment throughout the year! (Gemma, Joshua, Shahad, Bhavya, Madisen, Natanya, Jashandeep, Natarina, Navya, Venyaa, Angelin, Shimon.)

I thoroughly enjoyed working with each student and I was very proud of their continued attendance and growth in choral expertise.

Mrs L. Boase
Coordinator

Junior Choir
The Junior Choir has been busy learning some new songs which we proudly performed at the Spring Fete on Saturday. All the members performed wonderfully and made Ms McCoy and Mr Calnan proud.

Well done girls! We will still be rehearsing these songs for the end of year assembly so if you missed our performance on Saturday you will have another chance. We also hope to perform again with something special for the Talent Quest.

Ms C. McCoy and Mr T. Calnan
Coordinators

SRC Update
It is hard to believe we are at the time to take names for ‘Metella Has Talent’. For those new to the school, this is our annual talent quest. It keeps getting bigger and better each year. In the 15 plus years I have run the talent quest, each and every year it is amazing. It costs $1.00 for one person and $2.00 for two or more people to enter. Please sign up at the table under the 3 – 6 COLA at recess. A note regarding audition dates and times will come home in the following weeks.

Student Leaders and SRC have been working together and will be holding an ‘Opposites’ disco on Thursday 5 November. K-2 will be 5:00pm to 6:15pm and 3-6 will be 6:30pm to 8:00pm. The cost will be $6.00. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Mrs M. Holburn
Coordinator

PSSA News
Our summer season has resumed and so far we have had positive results. Lots of wins and draws! It is great to see and hear about the excellent sportsmanship Metella Road students display.

Water bottles – as we are coming into the warmer months we encourage all students to bring a water bottle to school. They require it during their PE lessons and at sport. School hats are also a necessary item.

Mrs M. Holburn
Coordinator

Island Dreaming Performance
Metella Road students were entertained by Phil Geia and his performance, Island Dreaming, on Tuesday 15 September. Phil engaged all students in the audience with his indigenous stories, music and dancing. He had the students dancing in their seats and some on stage! Boys and girls (and staff) were...
roaring with laughter through the entertaining stories of Phil’s childhood, in particular his adventures searching for mud crabs.

Phil taught our students about life in the Torres Strait Islands in a fun and unique way. There were important learning messages about honesty, cooperation and reconciliation.

Thank you for your support returning permission notes and payment for this very enjoyable and enriching incursion.

Mrs A. Fekkes
Organiser

P&C and the Parents Auxiliary
The P & C Association and the Parents Auxiliary’s Annual General Meetings were held last month. The outgoing Committee and members are to be congratulated for their outstanding performance over the course of 2014/2015, organising a multitude of events and raising significant funds for our school. A special thanks to the retiring President of the P & C, Mr Warwick Jarman who has contributed so much to the school and committee over many years.

New P & C Committee
President: Mrs Linda Dollin
Vice President: Mrs Sobhana Shyju
Vice President: Mrs Elena McCann
Secretary: Mrs Stefanie Kendall
Treasurer: Mrs Colleen Quince

Our dedicated P & C and Parents Auxiliary are in need of additional support; some of the members are in their 4th and 5th year of service. We would love to see fresh faces and an injection of new ideas and enthusiasm from our school community for the year ahead. The P&C and Parents Auxiliary meetings are your opportunity to put up your hand to help and forward your ideas. It is the best way to support your children’s education and make a real difference to the life of the school community.

The Spring Fete
What a success, the Spring Fete was held last Saturday and we would like to thank all the volunteers both parents, students and staff at Metella Road for their tireless effort and time. This fundraiser took lots of hours of planning and organising and without these people giving up their time we would not be able to do it. So a BIG thanks to everyone involved!

The Good Guys
If you shop at Karl Holdsworth – THE GOOD GUYS, Prospect, mention at the PAY POINT that you want your SKOOL IS KOOL dollars to be allocated to the Metella Road Public School P&C Association. This is a great way for the P&C to get prizes and giveaways. We supported the chocolate wheel and raffle at the Spring Fete this year from this great sponsorship system. The Good Guys. Shop 17 HOMEBASE Shopping Centre, 19 Stoddart Road, Prospect.

Next Meeting
The next P&C/Fete evaluation meeting is Tuesday 10 November at 7:00pm in the staffroom. We look forward to seeing you there!

Parents Auxiliary
A huge THANK YOU goes out to all those wonderful people who put aside time to help out at the Father’s Day Stall last month and also at the Kindergarten Information night. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

A special thanks to both Mrs Sam Jarman and Mrs Alison Steele for their relentless effort and commitment for their many years of service to the Auxiliary, without the help of these awesome women, we would not have fantastic events at our school; such as the Father’s and Mother’s day stalls, countless BBQ’s or Fete’s. Our children and community have become accustomed to such events that raise a significant amount of money for our school. It is with great sadness to see Sam leave our school at the end of this year, as her contribution will be sorely missed. We wish her luck in her future endeavours. Fortunately for Metella Road, Alison will continue to serve as a member on the committee and we are thankful to be keeping her on board!

New Parents Auxiliary Committee
Convenor: Mrs Roxanne Black
Book keeper: Mrs Kathy Wearing
Minutes: Mrs Belinda Bryan

Next Meeting
Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 18 November at 2:00pm in the staffroom. All parents welcome.

Mrs R. Black and Mrs S. Kendall
Committee Members
Whooping cough information for schools

There is an outbreak of whooping cough (pertussis) in NSW, mainly affecting school-aged children. Coughing spreads the infection to others nearby. Whooping cough can spread to anyone at home, including younger brothers and sisters. Whooping cough can be especially dangerous for babies. Whooping cough starts like a cold and progresses to bouts of coughing that can last for many weeks. The infection can occur even in fully-vaccinated children. Older children may just have a cough that is persistent and may be worse at night.

- Children with these symptoms should see a doctor.
- If your doctor diagnoses whooping cough in your school-aged child, please let the school know and keep your child at home until they have taken 5 days of antibiotics. Keep coughing children away from babies.
- Whooping cough vaccines give good protection against infection but immunity fades with time. Check that all your children are up to date with their vaccines, due at 6 weeks, 4 months, 6 months, 4 years and 12 years of age (offered to all Year 7 students through the NSW school-based vaccination program). A booster is also recommended at 18 months of age.

A booster dose of vaccine is also recommended for adults that are in contact with young children, such as school staff and parents. Pregnant women are recommended to have a booster dose during each pregnancy and this is funded by NSW Health. Those who are new parents or carers of babies should consult their general practitioner about appropriate immunisation.

Your local public health unit can provide advice about whooping cough on 1300 066 055 or visit the NSW Health website for information for childcare and schools about whooping cough.


IGA TOONGABBIE – COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Metella Road Public School would like to thank IGA Toongabbie for their tremendous support of the Year 6 Mini Fete that was held at the end of Term 3. IGA Toongabbie subsidised the hot dogs that were available for lunch on the day.

IGA generously supports Metella Road Public School through the IGA Community Chest. The money is raised in a number of ways, but mostly through the purchase of products with an IGA Community Chest logo on the label. One to two cents from every product sold with the logo is donated to Metella Road Public School. So far, IGA Toongabbie has raised over $700 for the school.

As part of our school plan to build a stronger educational community and develop our school as a centre of excellence, we sincerely appreciate the continued support of IGA Toongabbie.
2/3B has been working extremely well. They have all come back from the holiday break excited and ready to “Aim High” for their last term.

It has been enjoyable listening to and reading about their holiday experiences and many have had amazing Power Point Presentations to present to the class.

We are continuing to focus on quality texts focusing on Cultural Diversity. Through our “Knee to knee” strategy and our discussion circles we are looking at the purpose, audience, stereotypes and objective / subjective viewpoints as well as visual literacy. We are reading in class “The Rainbow Serpent”. As a class through these strategies they continually amaze me with their depth of understanding and reading between the lines of these quality texts. They are using the skills of a 21st century learner including, communication, collaboration and critical thinking. Our next text is “Are we there yet?”.

Their writing has been outstanding! They are planning, composing, editing and presenting their writing pieces. They have even included similes and metaphors to make their writing more interesting for the audience.

During Mathematics we have been learning all about whole number, mass and time. We have thoroughly enjoyed all these practical and hands on activities.

We have also been very busy with all our art. We have learnt about Aboriginal art and perspective drawing and painting. Have a look at our wonderful art!
Welcome back 3N! You have returned from holidays eager to do your school work. Again this is another busy term where you will be learning and participating actively and attentively in all activities.

3N have been busy completing their amazing artworks which will be on display at our school fete. They have also created a beautifully painted canvas for the auction on the day.

Science is all about “Heating Up” and we are very eager to investigate different heat sources and how heat moves from one object to another through hands-on experiments.

During writing our class has been focusing on similes and metaphors to make our writing more interesting. Here are some examples of their work.

In HSIE we are learning about “Places – Then, Now and Tomorrow”. We are all looking forward to the future house project presentations everyone will be giving in Weeks 9 and 10. I wonder how creative you will all be. The class has created their individual time line too!

Well done 3N you are an amazing group. I look forward to seeing what great work you do this term.
3F have continued to work like little superstars over the last term and we are pleased to see a lot of progress being made, in number and writing in particular.

We have been reading narratives as a class, including the very entertaining Farmer Shultz’s Ducks and Where the Forest Meets the Sea. The class has created a variety of informative, imaginative and descriptive texts and artworks based on these stories. We enjoyed a literacy unit on Volcanoes and we are now all experts on the subject. Check out our cool volcano craft!

In Mathematics we have been continuing to develop our knowledge of multiplication, division, addition, subtraction, space and measurement. Next we are moving on to fractions and mass but continuing to practise our times tables daily. We look forward to more learning (and smiles) during our last term together.

3F made square metres out of newspaper in Mathematics.
3D have started the term well and continue to participate in their learning with enthusiasm. They have completed many wonderful things across all curriculum areas. They have recently revised and explored Passenger Safety in a Personal Development lesson for PDHPE.

3D marvelled in wonder as they painstakingly created a glow in the dark canvas to help the P&C raise funds through the Spring Fete. They used different paint techniques and brush strokes to paint Australian flora they learnt about in their HSIE unit about Australia. The Grevillea, Bottle Brush and Wattle are painted onto an abstract glow butterfly. 3D devised names for their artwork and finally voted on: “Glowing colourful, Australian Flora”.

3D look forward to finishing this year with fond memories and amazement at having learnt more than they could have imagined.
4M have been working extremely hard in literacy groups! We have been completing a range of activities.

4M completes various activities of their own choosing from their spelling contract. These activities help to strengthen their spelling skills and use these skills in various contexts.

We have been practicing our reading with our friends by using cup phones. The students have been enjoying reading into their cup phones while the other student is listening.

Students have also been practicing their research skills by viewing a short clip and answering comprehension questions based on the clip.

Finally, students have been striving to improve their handwriting in order to receive their pen license.
Number Patterns

4L students had fun creating and describing number patterns. They used match sticks to create a pattern based on a rule and used their problem solving skills to determine the 10th term of a number pattern.

English and Art

Students have been engaged in discussions about a legend of a Chinese Water Dragon. Students wrote fantastic descriptions about the Chinese Water Dragon and created beautiful artworks.

Reading Groups

4L students have continued to show their enthusiasm when participating in reading group discussions. In one of the reading group rotations, students have started reading cultural stories and will be completing exciting imaginative, persuasive and informative writing tasks.
The students of 4H have been enjoying using Google Classroom both at school and at home. They have produced some amazing descriptions using slides to create and present their work.

Hannah is obsessed with gorillas like she is one. She is as shy as a baby bird when she met the giant gorilla but before she met him her head was always down and she looked really small and lonely. Hannah was sad when she never saw a real furry gorilla but when she met one she was tingling with excitement and happiness. She is as hungry as a pig. Hannah has orange brown hair that always smiles. She loves to dance in the moonlight with the gorilla and is always energetic. When she dances or plays her small eyes twinkle and when she is happy she is always patient like a crocodile resting. Hannah can sometimes get whenever she is alone because no one likes being alone. She is lonely she can get a little lonely or a lot she is as lonely as a lost baby her heart sobs like she is 200 people that are stranded on a island. She gets excited and goes a kookaburra call.

4H have been enjoying creating their genius hour projects. The students were challenged to explore and learn about something they were passionate about. They then needed to come up with a research question they had to answer. The students have loved researching their chosen topics and have gained valued researching skills and have expanded their knowledge on their chosen topic.
Lily, Arsha, Kajeeth and Sayeesh were four Stage 2 students who attended an enrichment program at Longneck Lagoon in Scheyville National Park in September.

The students investigated what scientists do to care for the environment. They started their investigation with the question: “Who Killed Kermit?”
The students tested the water for temperature, turbidity and chemicals. They caught water bugs and looked at them under microscopes. They wanted to see what could live in the water and find out what made the water unhealthy.

They even met a 75 year old turtle called ‘Jaws’. Lily, Arsha, Kajeeth and Sayeesh had a wonderful day and were excellent ambassadors for our school.

Miss Diamond
Stage 2 Gifted and Talent Co-ordinator
Community Noticeboard

Metella Road Public School, as a service to parents, will advertise community events that may be of interest.

Metella Road Public School does not necessarily endorse or sponsor the events and accepts no responsibility for the management or organisation of these events.

Kids On Keyboard 2016

Kids on Keyboard is a group program for students from Year 2 to Year 6. It is a great way to introduce a child to the world of music. They can learn to read music, understand its basics and play the instrument. Class runs on Friday afternoon at the school from 3:05pm to 3:50pm. If you are interested in your child participating next year please contact Mrs Christine Dieckmann on 0409 247 424 for enquiries and enrolments.

October 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Since your children’s health is always high on your list of priorities, maintaining a healthy smile should be, too. Encouraging habits that will lead to healthy teeth for kids will aid them greatly in the future.

Parramatta Dental clinic welcomes all children under the Medicare Child Benefits scheme.

We offer bulk billed treatment with no out of pocket cost.

Medicare offers some families $1,000.00 per child over a two year period to cover the cost of their dental treatment.

To find out if your child is eligible please contact Medicare on 132 150 and organise for them to send you a voucher.

1. Parramatta Dental clinic offers NO GAP treatment for all children covered by Private Health insurance

- OR-

2. 20% OFF dental treatment for all children not covered by Health insurance

Please contact us on 8677 0155 to organize an appointment.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Kindest regards,

Parramatta Dental Clinic

PDC
Level 5, Shop 9021
Westfield Shopping Centre
199-175 Church St, Parramatta NSW 2150
Phone: 02 9677 0155
Email: info@parramattadental.net

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PDC
Level 5, Shop 9021
Westfield Shopping Centre
199-175 Church St, Parramatta NSW 2150
Phone: 02 9677 0155
Email: info@parramattadental.net
GIRRAWEEEN HIGH SCHOOL

Invitation to Open Night 2015

To Year 5 Students And Their Parents

Girraween High School is an academically selective coeducational high school with a focus on providing a balanced and positive education experience for our students who aspire to achieve exceptional HSC results. The school has experienced and dedicated staff, providing students with safe, engaging classes and well-equipped facilities.

You are invited to attend Open Night 2015 which will be held at the school.

The school band will perform from 5:30pm and you are welcome to enjoy this performance. The Open Night will feature classroom tours, displays, presentations and the chance to meet students and teachers.

Refreshments will be provided

Date: Tuesday, 3rd November 2015
Time: 6pm to 8pm
Venue: Girraween High School
110 Gilba Road
GIRRAWEEEN NSW 2145
Tel: 9636 7293 or 9636 7303
Fax: 9896 3274
Web: www.girraween-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

HSC 2014 Achievements:

- Ranked 15th in the state overall
- Ranked 10th out of all government schools
- 36 students received an ATAR of 98 with 17 students achieving an ATAR over 99
- 3 students achieved an ATAR of 99.80 (Maximum ATAR 99.95)
- 25 students were ‘all rounders’ who achieved 90% or better in 10 units of study
- 339 mentions on the Distinguished Achievers List (Band 6 Results)
- 1 student was placed 1st in the state for Senior Science
- 1 student was placed 3rd in the state for Senior Science
- 1 student was placed 4th in the state for Biology
- 1 student was placed 17th in the state for Modern History
- 100% of students achieved the top two bands in English Extension 1, History Extension, Society and Culture, Engineering Studies, Japanese Continuers and Japanese Extension