Dear Year MGS Cricket Parents,

Welcome to first term cricket at MGS. I chair the 961 Club, the parent support group for cricket across Wadhurst and the Senior School. I am an OM with two boys at the school. I have enclosed some information about the school cricket programme, the activities of the 961 Club and an invitation to take up a player membership.

MGS offers a tremendous cricket programme for all ages and all abilities. Indeed it is one of the strengths of the programme that we are able to field a large number of teams at every year level from 7 through 12. This programme is supplemented by the work of the 961 Club, with generous funding for extra specialist coaching, new equipment and opportunities for social gatherings for boys, parents and coaching staff. This is the club’s 11th season of support, and you can help the boys and their coaches by taking up a player membership for the season.

I welcome any feedback, questions or suggestions. You can contact me on 0410 145989 or by e-mail at chrisfaulkner101@me.com. Equally, the names of the other committee members and teachers-in-charge in each year group are included in the enclosed information.

Thank you for your support. I wish all our teams a very successful and enjoyable season.

Yours sincerely

Chris Faulkner
Cricket is one of the most popular summer sports at Melbourne Grammar with some 270+ boys playing from year 7 through to year 12. The season straddles two academic years, running from the middle of Term 4 through to the end of the following Term 1. There are year-group teams for years 7, 8, 9 and 10 graded as A, B, C, etc. When boys reach years 11 and 12, they play in the “Open” category. MGS generally has four XI’s at this Open level.

Administration of the sport at Senior School is handled by the Teacher in Charge (TIC) of Cricket Dr Marcus Richards. At Wadhurst Scott Whyte the Director of Sport, Tim Bratton TIC year 8 and Alan Bliss TIC year 7 run the cricket programme. They are responsible for organising the season including coaches, umpires, equipment and a host of other essential tasks behind the scenes. Team selection is handled by the respective coach and TIC’s.

The main home oval is at The Senior School. We also make extensive use of Edwin Flack Park (two ovals) - the Domain (opposite Wadhurst in the Botanical Gardens), the Steele Oval (next to the Memorial Hall) the Wadhurst and Grimwade ovals and Fawkner Park. Most training sessions (Turn-Outs) take place on the Main Oval, the Steele and Wadhurst ovals.

MGS is a core participant in the inter-school sporting activities organised by the Associated Public Schools of Victoria (APS). Cricket has been played among the eleven APS schools for over one hundred years. From the year 7 teams at Wadhurst to the 1st XI at Senior School, MGS cricket caters for all ages, all abilities and all levels of enthusiasm for this great game.

MGS has won the First XI Premiership on 36 occasions, most recently in 2007-08 when the team went through the season as Champions (winning every match). As well as the very competitive APS competition, MGS teams will typically play friendly games against schools from the AGS, the OMs, the Staff and visiting schools and clubs from interstate and overseas. This season our 1st XI hosted two T20 matches against the Melbourne Stars women’s Big Bash team, a fixture both sides are keen to play every year.

Every other year, a squad of 26 year 10 and 11 players embark on a three week mid-year tour to the UK where they play a number of schools including Eton, Wellington College and Kings College. The UK cricket tour is considered one of highlights of the MGS Cricket program and last year the squad were lucky enough to attend an ashes test in Cardiff!

Each January, the school competes against Sydney Grammar and Brisbane Grammar for the Tri-Grammar Shield with each school hosting this prestigious carnival in turn. MGS and SGS play for ‘The Bat’, competed for annually since 1876. This years’ tournament was held in Brisbane where MGS retained the T20 trophy and won back “The Bat”.
MGS has a long and proud cricket tradition. A game between MGS and Geelong Grammar in November 1858 became the first recorded public school match in Australia. In a 1915 match against The Geelong College, MGS scored a world-record school innings total of 961. This included a schoolboy batting record of 506 not out by James C. Sharp. In recognition of this amazing score, The 961 Club – the MGS cricket support group – has taken its name.

Established in 2004, the 961 Club aims to foster cricket participation and success within the school at all levels – from the 7C2s at Wadhurst to the 1st XI at Senior School - and to maintain the best traditions of the game. They do this by raising the level of awareness of cricket for students, parents and the school community. Working closely with the cricket staff, 961 provides practical supplementary help to the school cricket programme. The Club also acts as a focal point for cricket parents to socialise and support their sons’ cricketing endeavours.

Like the other sport parent support groups, The 961 Club is a non-profit organisation. All money raised is directed to help cricket at the school:

- Funding additional coaching experts is the main expenditure - our particular focus is coaching for younger boys at ALL ability levels
- Purchasing extra equipment. The club has purchased three bowling machines over the last few seasons and have just agreed to fund a centre wicket practice net for the main oval.
- Sponsoring end-of-season awards at the Annual cricket dinner and arranging a guest speaker – past speakers include former Australian test opener Chris Rogers and former Chairman of selectors John Inverarity.
- Running BBQ’S and parent/staff social events -inviting the cricket staff as our guests – to foster a sense of a cricket community

The club is run by a group of volunteer parents and staff that make up the committee. Chris Faulkner is the President for season 2015-16. Please contact Chris on 0410 145989, your TIC or any committee member (below) with queries or suggestions about school cricket.

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<td>Peter</td>
<td>Di Venuto</td>
<td>Director of Cricket - son Jack in Year 10</td>
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<td>James</td>
<td>Harrod</td>
<td>1st XI coach</td>
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THE 961 CLUB
THE PARENT SUPPORT GROUP FOR CRICKET AT MELBOURNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Winning back ‘The Bat!’

961 CRICKET CLUB MEMBERSHIP SEASON 2015/16

FOR SEASON 2015/16, WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE HAVE THESE AGREED PLANS:

• SIGNIFICANT FUNDING FOR EXTRA SPECIALIST COACHES FOR WEEKLY
TRAINING SESSIONS TO WORK ACROSS ALL TEAMS IN EACH YEAR-LEVEL

• SPONSORING END OF SEASON AWARDS AT THE ANNUAL CRICKET DINNER

• PROVIDE FUNDING TO PURCHASE A CENTRE WICKET PRACTICE NET AND
BOWLING MACHINE

• ORGANISE A DRINKS PARTY FOR ALL CRICKET PARENTS/STAFF/COACHES TO BE
HELD ON TUESDAY 1ST MARCH 2016

• ALL MONIES RAISED ARE DIRECTLY SPENT ON THE MGS CRICKET PROGRAM

To help celebrate this season, the 961 Club is proud to offer one lucky MGS player
and parent the chance to meet The Melbourne Stars!

For just $75 per player, your 961 Club membership enters you into the draw to win
this unique opportunity to get up close and personal at a full training session during
the BBL06 2016/17 season and meet the likes of Kevin Petersen, Glen Maxwell,
James Faulkner, David Hussey, Luke Wright and many more!

Please pay online via the MGS website via the following link:


Thank you for your support, any questions please contact
Chris Faulkner on 0410 145 989 or