College Principal's Report

Term One

As we approach the conclusion of term one, I would like to reflect on the wide range of curricular and extra-curricular programs that have occurred. All Year 7 and Year 8 parents and students have now had an opportunity to complete introductory and/or follow-up sessions on our highly regarded Values Immersion Program (VIP) at both campuses. Many classes, groups and year levels have been involved in excursions both near and far, with the Outdoor Education groups also travelling, trekking and completing other exciting and challenging activities around the state. We have had a large number of students involved in our sporting program, participating in the College Swimming Carnival and a series of district and zone Interschool competitions, achieving admirable results. Additionally, we have had our performing artists and visual artists completing concerts, performances and displays within and outside the local community!

Outside of that, our teachers and students continue to achieve excellent results in their academic endeavours, much of which is currently being recognised in the interim reporting period. Our Parent/Student/Teacher conferences this week have provided an opportunity for not only recognition of these efforts, but also a chance to look at where improvements may lie. I hope all students have been able to personally review their progress and have put in place measures to achieve their goals in term two.
From the Mooroolbark Campus Principal

This newsletter marks the end of term 1. It has been a very busy term for students and staff on the Mooroolbark Campus. At our Year 7 and 8 Assembly I was reflecting on the term that has been and how proud I was of our Year 7 and 8 students and all our students at the college. I had the good fortune of accompanying Virginia Stacey on the Year 8 Boys and Girls cricket competition on Monday. I was very impressed by our students and the effort they put in and how they conducted themselves. They truly enacted our values of Respect, Endeavour, Achievement and Pride. This positive attitude is what I see all the time.

In all of the activities I have seen our students involve themselves in this term, whether that be music, sport, on camp and in class, they are all having a go.

It has been a very busy last week with ‘Spirit’ Week for our Year 11 and 12 students. The intention behind this was to give students a fun and relaxed focus to the final week of school. It has certainly been a busy term for all the VCE and VCAL students, so to have some enjoyment and relaxation amongst the seriousness of study and schoolwork is great. On Tuesday, March 24 students dressed in their Pajamas. Lots of animal ‘onesies’ were on show, as well as some more regular PJs! Students have organised a ‘Subway’ lunch on Wednesday 25 March. These are great initiatives that have been organised by the senior management team, Karen Phillips and Carolyn Bryant.

A reminder to parents that the driveway area at the bus stop on Cambridge Road that has a pedestrian walkway into the school is not a parking zone. We would ask that parents don’t park and wait in resident’s driveways at the entrance/exit to this walkway. We have had a number of complaints from our neighbours about parents blocking their driveways.

All families should have received their child’s Interim Report in the mail. I hope families have taken the time to read through the reports and discuss the positive comments and those areas requiring assistance. As this goes to print, parents and students will be attending the Parent, Student & Teacher interviews. This is a great time for parents/guardians to discuss their child’s schooling and their progress so far in 2015 as indicated on the Interim Report. If you are unable to make interviews please contact teachers via phone or email to obtain feedback on your child’s progress.

Finally, on Friday March 27 our term will culminate in an Assembly to present badges to our School Captains as well as an important presentation on Centenary of the Anzacs. This is a wonderful ceremony presented by the Veterans Affairs Department that commemorates the first Anzac landing at Gallipoli and gives the students an opportunity to reflect on what the young men fought for in terms of our freedom as a nation in the World Wars. We will have special guests from our local RSL, Rotary and Lions Clubs in attendance. A special presentation with performances, poems and reflections will take place. Students will also take home a commemorative pack. A special timetable has been developed, and a copy of this has been emailed to all parents. Please be reminded that it is a 2.30pm finish for the end of term.

Compass – software implementation

Some parents may already be aware of a school management software program called ‘Compass’. Yarra Hills will be implementing Compass from the start of Term two, initially with our electronic roll marking but branching into many other aspects, including parent log in and additional features. This will replace our previously used eWorkSpace system, which has been effective but is now becoming limited in its ability to service our growing requirements. We anticipate that when parent access is available, you will be able to log in remotely and view your own child’s attendance in any class. Additionally, we will be able to contact you automatically via SMS or email to alert you to absences and you will be able to contact the school electronically to document and/or validate these. We believe this is a great step forward and hope that the increased functionality provides a much more user friendly experience for parents, students and staff.

2015 College Information Nights

A reminder to families, particularly those who will have a child entering Year 7 next year or alternatively know of someone else who does, that our 2015 College Information Nights are being held early next term. The Mt Evelyn Campus Open Night is Wednesday April 22, while the Mooroolbark Campus Open Night is on Thursday April 23. Both evening run from approximately 6:30 until 8:30 pm

Finally, I wish all members of the College Community a happy healthy and safe break over the Easter school holiday period.

Darren Trippett
College Principal
I would like to take this opportunity to thank our ladies in the Canteen, Dianne Bull, Jenny Anderson and Jenny Riches after 10 – 20 years of volunteer and working life at our college, they finish up with us at the end of this term. We wish them all the best.

We look forward to a busy start to Term 2 on our return, with the School Athletics Carnival on Tuesday April 21. Following this we have our School Open Nights. Mt Evelyn Campus on Wednesday April 22 followed by the Mooroolbark Campus on April 23. A busy start to Term 2.

I wish all our families a relaxing holiday break. We hope your Easter is one you can share with family and friends and if you are travelling please stay safe.

Greg Cowan
Mooroolbark Campus Principal

From the Mt Evelyn Campus Principal

With the holidays just around the corner, it is only fitting that we reflect on this term, and boy, what a term we have had. In thinking about all that has occurred, the cross campus activities, camp, music, sport, assemblies, guest speakers and many other events, we have achieved so much in such a short term. We have had such a great start to the year and we are so proud of how our students have undertaken their studies, extra-curricular activities, leadership roles as well as the school values they often demonstrate. I’m looking forward to seeing their continued progress in term two.

Break free from Bullying

Last Friday we had a presentation to introduce to some, and refresh to others, the idea of what we can do as a school to break free from bullying. I spoke about the importance of playing an active role in doing something about bullying; thinking before you post anything online and ensuring students don’t bully. There are many strategies students can use to intervene and combat bullying. All staff have made a commitment to deal with all bullying issues they are aware of. We asked all new students to make the same pledge as did all students last year. This included putting a thumb print of paint onto metal hand cut outs. The pledge is:

- If I see, know or hear of any bullying I will do something about it
- I will not participate in any bullying including being a bystander
- I will THINK before I post
- I will not bully

Our new hand prints are on display above the door to the Library and they look fantastic!

Retirement

It is with much sadness that we farewell Mrs Helen Kyriacou who is retiring after 21 years. Helen started back when the school was called Mt Evelyn Technical School and has seen many changes throughout her years. She has been such a valuable member of our school community and we will miss her terribly. We do however wish her all the best for her retirement.

I would also like to wish all families a very safe and happy holiday and look forward to refreshed faces in term two.

Robyn Dew
Mt Evelyn Campus Principal
Driver Ed – preparing our future young drivers!
The students from Mt Evelyn campus Driver’s Education course attended two sessions at the driver education centre METEC located in Bayswater. The course at METEC aims to provide students with basic practical and theoretical skills required for safe driving.

Students spent a rewarding two days learning to drive on a closed road facility, which was realistic, yet did not have the added pressure that public roads bring. Here they were provided students a learning environment that was realistic, yet did not have the added pressure that public roads bring, faced traffic lights, corners, railway crossings, 3 point turns, handbrake starts and the added pressure of avoiding the many local ducks on the roads!! Students learnt how to smoothly (generally) change gears, undertake vital observation skills, apply road rules and steering techniques with fully qualified, driving instructors.

Students also participated in theory lessons which included helping students learn road rules, safe driving techniques, the cause and effect of road trauma, alcohol goggles and 120 logbook requirement. A number of students also undertook their test to receive their L plate licence. After completing this course students should now feel they have the ability and confidence to start on road practice with their parents/home supervisors.

Students certainly enjoyed the course and many were surprised by how well they handled driving as many had not previously been behind a wheel. Students were encouraged to challenge themselves, apply what they had learnt in class and to not only enjoy driving but also to understand the responsibility they have once behind the wheel.

FREE DRESS DAY - raising funds for a great cause
The SRC have organised for the students at Mt Evelyn to have a free dress day on the last day of term. Students are encouraged to bring in a gold coin donation, which will be donated to State Schools Relief Fund. This organisation supports many families in need to access uniform and have done so at Yarra Hills Secondary College for many years. In return for their donation, students will receive an Easter surprise!! The SRC would like to take this opportunity to wish all the students, teachers and parents both a safe and happy Easter break!

Nikky Waterson

Year 8 Cricket

Boys Cricket Report:
On Tuesday 23rd of March the Year 8 boys played cricket at Silcock Reserve in Croydon. We had two boy teams playing for Yarra Hills, A team and B team. Overall everyone played a great game. Both A team and B team had some hard competition. In the end the A team won two games and lost two, which ended up with us at 5th on the ladder. The B team put up a good fight, but unfortunately lost all four games placing them last on the ladder. The whole day in total was fun and everyone enjoyed it.

Ethan Blewett (Year 8)

Girls Cricket Report
On the 23rd of March, our team of year 8 girls participated in a school cricket team at Silcock Reserve. Although it rained throughout the day, we continued to play and enjoy our great experience. Overall we came 4th and went home happy to be a part of playing and representing our school. A big thanks to Ms Stacey for taking us in the bus and helping us on the day.

Jaimee Barbour & Nikita Govett (Year 8)
**VCE Outdoor and Environmental Studies Report**

This subject brings experiential learning to its peak. Our students had the privilege of studying first hand the influence of eco tourism on human relationships with nature. Emotional connections with the little penguins were formed as students witnessed the Penguin Parade at Phillip Island. This connection and appreciation of such fragile nature inspired our students to learn more about penguin conservation. Many career pathways were inspired during the ranger session the following morning.

The field trip continued on to a session at the nearby Surfing Reserve with many students being further inspired and relating to the coast as a beautiful playground to enjoy.

Earlier in the term the students also enjoyed experiencing nature as a museum. They witnessed the diversity of flora and fauna protected in the Marine National Park at Pope's Eye.

Well done to my fantastic class of 2015, it is a privilege to be able to take you away on overnight field trips.

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**Year 9/10 Outdoor Education Report**

**Thoughts about our recent coastal overnight trip (Powlett River and Phillip Island):**

"It was nice to be independent. Sand dunes were a blast to climb! Surfing sucked…. (only small waves) Snorkelling was pretty awesome (and cold) Setting up our tents was a lot of fun. Missed showers…. We went for long walks in nature. Tired and exhausted at the end of each day. Saw animals at Churchill Island Heritage Farm. (sheep, dogs, chickens, horses, turkeys, ducks and pigs) Cooking our own food was a novelty for some!" **Jacob Edgell**

"Surfing was good because I have never surfed before and I would usually not have the opportunity to do it." **Ronan Shade**

"The snorkelling as one of the best experiences I've had. I really enjoyed seeing the fish in their natural habitat." **Sabrina Irving-Jones**

"Surfing was good the best part was paddling the surf boards around the point to the in a big rock pools and then jumping off the rocks and into a deep pool." **Sarah Edwards**

"I enjoyed the animals and the surfing." **River Murray**

"Smith's Beach was amazing. We got to paddle out to the rock pools and jump in then we got to go surfing. There wasn’t many waves but we had a great time when there was." **Chloe O’Hea**

Christine Steer
“A Great Day Out for Year 9 & 10 Sport”

Thursday March 19 saw the Intermediate Boys Volleyball team travel to Monbulk for their long awaited Round Robin Tournament. With 10 players in the side they were very competitive in the first 4 preliminary matches, beating both Lilydale High School teams, and had 1 win and 1 draw over the 2 Lilydale Heights teams.

Each student played an important part in the team’s lead up games prior to meeting the ever imposing Monbulk team in the final. Thank you to all students who participated on the day and Acin Ngun in year 11 for her assistance on the day.

The Intermediate Volleyball Boys Team

Whilst the boys team was competing at Monbulk, both the Intermediate A&B Girls Volleyball teams ventured to the Croydon Leisure Centre where the B team managed 2 wins and 2 losses from their respective matches.

The Volleyball Girls A team won third place in the competition. All girls competed with great spirit.

The Intermediate Boys A&B Tennis Teams played their tournament at Ringwood. The teams consisted entirely of Year 9 students competing against Year 10 students and finishing 2nd overall.

Congratulations to all students who competed in these events.

Murray McAllister

“Messages passed to students”

Could parents please do their best to make arrangements with their child before they arrive to school. The office are finding it very difficult to accommodate the many daily requests to pass on messages to students. Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated.
MOOROOLBARK CANTERBURY MANAGEMENT CHANGE

The Canteen at Mooroolbark campus is undergoing an exciting new change of management, which will provide the campus community with a wider and healthier range of food. The new Manager has had many years’ experience with catering at schools and corporate events. We look forward to a long association and lots of yummy food.