Term Two

Welcome to Term Two for all members of the Yarra Hills community. I hope you’ve all had an opportunity to take a break over the recent school holiday period and that all of our students are refreshed for a busy, but eventful term. At the conclusion of last term, students at both campuses had an opportunity to participate in a special, commemorative ANZAC presentation, run at the campuses in conjunction with the Department of Veteran Affairs. As well as this, each campus has made a special announcement and had a minute’s silence during this week to acknowledge those who have served our country. At each campus, we will have student leaders involved in ANZAC Day commemorations at local RSL services on the day itself. We thank those involved in these services and look forward to playing our part in their commemoration. Lest We Forget.
Athletics Sports Carnival

On Tuesday of this week, our students had the opportunity to participate in our College Athletics Carnival, held at the Morrison Reserve Athletic Facility, Mt Evelyn. We were certainly lucky with the weather, having clear, sunny (but cold) weather, free from rain. All in attendance participated well and it was a successful day’s outing. Thanks to all staff involved in the planning and organisation of the event, as well as supervision on the day. Individual reports on the carnival, including photos will be included later in this newsletter.

2015 College Information Nights

Our College Information Nights were held throughout this week at both campuses. These evenings are an opportunity for prospective parents to come and see the school and meet our staff, as well as giving us an opportunity to showcase the many wonderful things we do. Both evenings went well, with strong interest from local families and some fantastic displays across the Key Learning Areas. Well done to all staff and a very special mention to the many student Ambassadors who assisted on these evenings.

Compass – software implementation

In the previous newsletter, I alerted families to the fact that Yarra Hills will be implementing Compass from the start of Term Two. This will initially be used for our electronic roll marking but will then branch out into many other functions, including parent log in and additional features. This replaces our eWorkSpace system. 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, ‘live’. 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.

Darren Trippett
College Principal

From the Mooroolbark Campus Principal

Welcome back to all our students and families after the school holidays. I trust that everyone had a wonderful Easter break, and that students got some time to relax and refresh ready for term 2.

I would like to officially welcome Rachel Lynch as she starts in the role of Assistant Campus Principal this Term. It has already been a pleasure working with her.

It has already been very busy this term with a big focus this week on the School Athletics Carnival and the Open Nights at both Campuses.

Before I talk about the start to the term, I would like to quickly touch on our special Anzac Centenary Performance held on the last day of term 1, March 27.

The special assembly was held in the Gymnasium with the whole school. We began by formally presenting our College Captains, Vice Captains, and student leaders in Performing Arts, Music, Sport and Peer Support. It was fantastic to see so many parents there to celebrate the presentation of badges to our leaders, and we thank you for your attendance.

The Anzac Centenary Performance was a production developed and presented by the Department of Veterans Affairs. We were very lucky to secure this performance at our college at both campuses (Mt Evelyn’s was held earlier in March). The dramatic performance was a mixture of film archive footage, poems, stories and short scripted plays telling the stories of men and women who have fought for our country in War. This was a special production as part of the centenary of Gallipoli and the Anzacs. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Karen Phillips, the Head of Senior School for her organisation of the event, and to all the staff that assisted in the set up and pack up. It was a great way to finish the term.
Whilst this Anzac Production was a significant part of the school’s commemoration, we had some formal remembrance on Friday during our home group time. Our College Captains, Mitchell Wilson and Chelsea Solomon will be laying a wreath and saying a prayer at our local Anzac Day ceremony at Hookey Park in Mooroolbark at 12.00pm on Saturday. We hope you get an opportunity and time to remember the sacrifices made by the men and women during War to ensure our freedom as a nation.

Last week we also had a number of our Year 9 students join all of the Year 9 students from the Mt Evelyn Campus at the annual Year 9 Yarra Ranges Youth Summit. They joined a number of other schools in the area. The students came back full of energy and life, with the Aboriginal Hip Hop dancers being the highlight. Thank you to Fab Romeo for looking after all the students.

We also concluded our primary school transition visits. We had a great bunch of Year 7 Ambassadors who spoke at our local primary school about life at Yarra Hills and debunking some of the ‘myths’ of Year 7 and High School. We were really well received at all the primary schools. I would like to personally thank Matt Sheaves and Rachel Lynch for taking our students on these Transition visits.

Tuesday, April 21 was our Athletics Carnival at the Mt Evelyn Athletics Track behind the Mt Evelyn Campus. It was a lovely day, and the students who attended competed and cheered on their Houses with enthusiasm. Red House again were overall winners (as they were at the Swimming Carnival earlier in the year) so the other Houses have some work to do!

This Wednesday and Thursday we had our Open Nights from 6.30pm - 8.30pm at the campuses, starting with Wednesday night for the Mt Evelyn Campus followed by the Mooroolbark Campus on Thursday night. A huge amount of work has been put into both nights by staff, and a big number of our students volunteered their time to be tour guides, perform in the bands, undertake dramatic performances and be learning areas helpers. It is a testament to the Yarra Hills community for the involvement and enthusiasm of so many students.

Just a reminder to parents that do drop off and pick up their children from inside the school. We all know Reay Road gets very congested at peak times, and we do share the road with St Peter Julian Eymard PS. There have been some reports of erratic and dangerous driving over the last few weeks. We ask that you take care and show patience when coming into the school to avoid an accident and potential injury.

Of concern and is the fact recently we had a report from one of Year 7 students of a car following her as she rode her bike to and from school. This has been reported to the police and the Department of Education & Training. We have spoken with our all our Year 7 and 8 students about safely travelling to and from school. We ask parents to ensure they speak with their children about:

- Being alert
- Ensuring that they have a designated route home that has been pre-planned and that you are aware of as parents
- Where possible if student’s walk or ride home to do so with other students – safety in numbers

We ask that parent and students speak with someone at school immediately if they have been concerned at all about being followed by unknown cars or strangers on their way to and from school.

Greg Cowan
Mooroolbark Campus Principal
From the Mt Evelyn Campus Principal

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a restful break and feeling refreshed for a new term. It is lovely hearing all the stories about the adventures and holidays students had over the term break. I know I enjoyed the sleep in! Whilst we agreed last term was a busy one, this term we certainly hit the ground running!

With the centenary ANZAC Day commemoration happening tomorrow, I encourage everyone to spare a moment to attend a service whether it is the dawn service or other services occurring within the Yarra Ranges Shire. At Mt Evelyn campus, we certainly did stop and remember them today with a minute’s silence. We are also planning an ANZAC memorial garden to commemorate the 100 year anniversary for later in the year. We have the Gallipoli rosemary already and have ordered the centenary rose as well as the Gallipoli rose, both of which are due to arrive around June. Once they arrive we will work as a school community to establish this very special garden.

This week we have had a fantastic athletics carnival which was enjoyed by all and RED HOUSE won again……Go Red!!!! It was a great day and a real credit to all staff and students. We also had our information Evening where prospective parents come out to look at our school to see if this is the school for their child. I always enjoy these nights as it really show cases our school, our staff and our students. They really shine throughout the many activities and exhibits we have on offer. Our students were brilliant tour guides, helpers and our Year 7 and 10 speakers were fantastic; well done Liela, Kira, Chloe and Braden. All this contributed to a very successful night. Thank you to everyone who put so much effort in showing the community how good we are! I am so proud of you all!

I would also like to welcome Despina Filippidis to Mt Evelyn team as a maths/science teacher after Helen Kyriacou retired last term.

Mt Evelyn Community Conversation and Workshop

On Sunday April 12, Yarra Hills hosted the annual Mt Evelyn Community Conversation and Workshop. This was an opportunity for the Mt Evelyn Community to come together to share ideas and workshop a vision for our town. It was attended by many representatives of the community including Maria McCarthy (Shire of Yarra Ranges Mayor). We were also fortunate to have Peter Kenyon who facilitated the discussion throughout the day and gave a wonderful presentation of what is possible for local communities.

Two of our leaders, Liela Peterson and Tayla Hoey also attended and became the voice of youth through many discussions held throughout the day. I was so proud of them as they not only contributed to the many discussions, but workshopped a plan to improve activities for young people in Mt Evelyn, then presented their idea to the group. This really demonstrated true leadership in their manner and attitude throughout the day. Everyone who attended the workshop were equally impressed by Liela and Tayla’s effort; Well done girls!
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.

Transition Visits
This is the time of year where many primary school families are looking at which schools to send their children to. It is also the opportunity for our year 7 Ambassadors to showcase our school by speaking of their experiences to date. Mrs Lauder, Mrs Johnston, Mr Cowan and I have visited many of our local feeder primary schools and it has been a great experience. Our Ambassadors have been fantastic in representing Yarra Hills whilst many primary students have asked many great questions. We have also had many tours of our campus over the last two months. This of course all leads to our Information night.

Athletics Success!!
Many students have interests outside of school and I do enjoy celebrating their success. Brayden Woolridge has been involved in athletics for many years and only a few weeks ago competed in the Victorian State Little Athletics Championships held at Lakeside Stadium in Melbourne. He competed in the U12 boys where he came first in Discus, throwing a distance of 35.11metres, second in Javelin with a personal best of 37.20metres and fourth in shot-put with a throw of 9.93metres. This is a fantastic achievement, congratulations Brayden!!

Year 9 Youth Summit 2015
Every year Yarra Ranges youth services put together an amazing youth summit for all year students in the area including our Mooroolbark Campus. There was a fantastic line up with Jason Ball and Sammy J as guest speakers. Then ‘Project RockIt’ and ‘Indigenous Hip Hop project’ performed. Students really enjoyed their day, had many laughs and had fun joining in on the activities. It always a great day and students always walk away a little more inspired.

Robyn Dew
Mt Evelyn Campus Principal

Athletics Success!!

Parenting Adolescents Seminars
Are you concerned that your child is spending too much time playing video games? Steven Dupon, founder and manager of www.videogames.org.au, will be presenting information and guidance to parents on how to deal with video games in the home. Counsellors from EACH Youth & Family Services and Gamblers Help will be involved to provide additional information and support regarding referral pathways.

Details: Seminar will be held at Federation Estate, 32 Greenwood Ave, Ringwood on 29 April at 7.00pm-9.00pm. There is no cost. For more information and to register your attendance, please contact Amanda Jenkins or EACH Youth and Family reception on 9871 1802.
Yarra Ranges Youth Summit – Thursday April 16 2015

On 16 April 2015, a group of year 9’s were selected from the Mooroolbark Campus to join the Mt Evelyn students as part of the Yarra Ranges Youth Summit 2015. We saw a range of groups and people who spoke to us about different topics that are related to young people.

We saw Jason Ball who played football in the Country Football League. He is a gay footballer that spoke about his experience at ‘coming out’, and dealing with homophobia in sport.

One of the positive things he has done is start a petition raising awareness of homophobia in football, with nearly 30,000 people pledging their support against homophobia. He has inspired all the football greats like Scott Pendlebury, Drew Petrie, Jobe Watson and Brock McLean.

Jason also talked about his life story, and told us to always remember that:

> Coming out is the hard part
> Don't be afraid to tell someone
> Allies can help you out at times
> Your story can change everyone else's lives.

At morning tea we were able to catch up with friends from other schools and see all the exhibitions out. They had organisations that can help us out with homework, mental health organisations, bridge builders (where our school diaries come from), wild animal exhibitions and immunisation gifts. At the wild life exhibition, they had a huge snake that looked like an anaconda, a ring-tailed possum, a rosella and many other animals.

We came back to the Auditorium and listened to Sammy J, a local and very successful comedian. He talked about his experiences at school and how he coped with the challenges that teenagers face. The 5 things we have learnt from his story were:

> Find something you love doing
> It's ok to be different.
> Feel free to change your mind on things.
> Take a few risks.
> Follow your dreams.

Then we came back to our seats and listened to Project RockIt, telling us suggestions about cyber bullying and how to stay away from it. They spoke about Facebook and all the other social media, about how people can be targeted because of their physical features and even the nationality you are. They spoke about the fact that you can be a part of the problem if you ‘like’ a negative comment or photo. Or you can be a part of the solution for example, if you block the person in that form of social media and report it to the police or to your school.

Then the Indigenous Hip Hop artists came up and said to think about all the things that are troubling you in your life and throw them out an imaginary door. We then danced to the various songs simply as a way of enjoying ourselves.

Then the day finished after that. We said goodbye to our friends from other schools and we came back to school by bus.

A fun day was had by all.

By: Brittany Findlay – Year 9 (Mooroolbark Campus)
Let's Go Surfing Now!
Year 9&10 Outdoor Ed

The Mooroolbark Campus Outdoor Ed Class went to Smith’s Beach, Phillip Island for their Surf Instruction Session on Monday 20 April. The weather upon leaving for the trip was pretty wet and cold but as we ventured out towards Kooweerup it soon fined up and we had clear blue skies for the entire trip.

Upon arrival we were fitted out with our wet suits and we soon received our surf boards and headed off down to the beach for our lesson. At the beach we were instructed on the safety aspects of the sport including the awareness of rips and other hazards and also on emergency procedures and the importance of using the onshore safety flags as a reference point whilst surfing. The instruction was thorough and we were soon in the water trying to develop our skills.

The conditions were a little rough, with a lot of white caps and few clean waves but the waves were ideal for our purposes and also gave us plenty of opportunities to develop and to improve our skills. We had a really great time and most of us were able to stand up onto the board and surf by the end of the session. Many thanks to Mr Mac and Mitchell for helping and assisting on the day.

The Outdoor Ed Class

Cameron Wendt                                          Lachlan Patton                                       Rochelle McNeil
Sarah Hammen                                           Shaun O’Rouke                                           Will Bennett                                              Shane Jackson                                     Zak Hearne

START YOUR DAY THE RIGHT WAY
Brekky Club

Come on down to the Well Being Centre at Mt Evelyn Campus & check out what's cooking

WHEN: Every Tuesday Morning 8.00—8.50
Brekky Club is FREE to all Yarra Hills students
(thank you to the generous and valuable support of Bendigo Bank Mt Evelyn and Bakers Delight Mooroolbark)
ABSENCES

THANK YOU

To all those parents/guardians who regularly inform the school when their child is absent, it is greatly appreciated.

A REMINDER

It is a Department requirement that the school is informed of any student absences due to either illness/medical or personal reasons.

MOOROOLBARK CAMPUS Please leave a phone message on our Designated Absence line – 9839 8899 or email nye.kym.k@edumail.vic.gov.au (Wed, Thurs, Fri) or rogers.deborah.a@edumail.vic.gov.au (Mon & Tues)

MT EVELYN CAMPUS Please call or leave a phone message on 9736 3650 or email kuipers.heather.h@edumail.vic.gov.au

Notification would be appreciated prior to 9.00am each morning of the student’s absence. If it is not possible to phone or email, a note the following day handed in directly to the office or the Homegroup teacher.

Any prior knowledge of a student’s absence due to extended holidays or medical leave should be handed in writing to either office administration staff or the homegroup teacher.

It is a Department requirement that VCE students absent during an Exam, Gat or SAC are to produce a medical certificate for those days.