From the College Principal

At the recent Valedictory Dinner at Karralyka and this week’s atEAST VCAL Awards evening, I again had the opportunity to view, first hand, the magnificent efforts and achievements of the Yarra Hills students. Our students continue to excel in an astounding variety of endeavours, from straight academic achievement, through to performing and visual arts, as well as excellence in vocational settings. As a college, we pride ourselves in our ability to not only work with the individual talents of all young adults, but to be in a position to further develop these, through offering such a comprehensive educational experience. This doesn’t come easily, and I’d like to take this opportunity to further thank our dedicated and talented staff for their commitment to ensuring this is available for all of our students.

In my own Valedictory speech, I made reference to the following quote:

“The challenge today is not to see what no-one else has seen, it is to see what everyone else has seen but to think what no-one else has thought.”

I firmly believe that the variety and experiences in our program, combined with the efforts to encourage and nurture creativity and innovation, put our students in the best position to be able to interpret the world ahead in their own way and to have control as they chart their own course. I wish all graduating students the best of luck in their future endeavours and thank them for their individual contribution to the life and history of our college.

Good luck!

Darren Trippett
College Principal
From the Mooroolbark Campus Principal

Last week saw the end of the school year for our Year 11 (or should I say Year 12) students as they finished their Essentials Program. This was a great opportunity for them to begin their unit 3 studies and from what I saw they have begun their year 12 with a positive and determined attitude.

Year 12 Valedictory

It was with great pleasure that we formally acknowledged the efforts of the year 12 class of 2015 in front of family, friends, and their teachers. It was a great night to celebrate the achievements and success of the students in their time at the college. I would like to thank Karen Phillips, Carolyn Bryant, Sharon Phillips and Richard O’Toole for their hard work in preparing the night. It was great to hear from our 2014 school leaders and from Mitchell and Chelsea, our 2015 captains. I personally wish our graduating VCAL and VCE students the best of luck in the future.

Our year 9 & 10 students finished their exams this week. Exams finished on Thursday November 26.

On Monday November 30 all our Year 7-10 students started their ‘new’ school year, moving up to the next year level. For me personally it was fantastic to step back into the classroom again, teaching year 8 woodwork. I am looking forward to teaching these enthusiastic students.

Bike Shed Construction

I am pleased to report that construction on a new bike storage shed has begun behind our C-Building. We aim to have it completed and ready to be used at the start of the 2016 school year. It will be great to have a secure area for students to store their bikes. Thanks to Mark Dunn, our Facilities Manager, for the building work.

School Reports

Lastly a reminder to parents that Semester 2 Student Reports will be completed in 2 weeks time. These reports will not be posted home, but will be available online on Compass. You will be able to access this report on the Compass Parent Portal using your exclusive Log-in ID and password given to you earlier in the year. Please contact the school if you need assistance with logging on or accessing the parent portal. The school is more than happy to assist you to ensure you are able to get access to your child’s school report.

Greg Cowan
Mooroolbark Campus Principal

Immunisation Reminder

Has your child completed the recommended secondary school vaccinations?

Councils immunisation service has visited the school to administer the following vaccines:

- Year 7 – Chicken pox
- Year 7 - Human Papillomavirus
- Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 – Tetanus, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough

From 2016 the tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough vaccine will only be available free in year 7 or for those age equivalent in a community setting.

If you wanted to have your child immunised but are unsure if your child received these vaccines, please contact Yarra Ranges Council on 1300368333
From the Mt Evelyn Campus Principal

Last week marked the end of our year 10 students’ time at Mt Evelyn. It is often a sombre occasion as we reflect on their time at Mt Evelyn Campus. We are sad to see them go and yet excited in the fact that students will be stepping into the next phase of their education. A final assembly is always arranged for the staff and students to say goodbye. In looking at their year 7 photos, it reminds us of how much they have grown even in four years! Kira and Kyamba presented a fantastic montage of photos and memories which all year 10’s appreciated. There were music and dance performances which impressed our audience. I wish all year 10 students the very best for their future studies and hope they come back to visit us one day.

The orientation program has begun for our year 7 to 9 students. This is where they are all promoted to the next year level and the 2016 curriculum begins. It gives all students a great head start for the following year and allows staff more time to immerse students into each subject area.

An impressive speaker

As a teacher and a Campus Principal I am fortunate to attend many events and professional development opportunities throughout the year and with many I walk away learning something new. I always enjoy listening to inspiring speakers who can offer such wise words. Recently Jayne Lauder and I were invited to a ‘thank you dinner – celebrating partnership’ from Discovery Church. We are very fortunate to have a great partnership with Discovery Church as they assist us with our Breakfast Club every week providing many staff who not only cook the breakfast but mentor our students. Cat Strempel our Chaplain is also from the Discovery Church and it was through them our amazing Backyard Blitz occurred last year. Tim Costello was the guest speaker at the dinner. He spoke of the importance of community and having that sense of belonging. Keeping a perspective is essential to appreciating what you in life and we all need to do more of that. When we think of countries around the world where a roof over your head and food on the table is a luxury as Tim has seen many times, it certainly brings home to us how lucky we are. Tim explained even with the poorest of families, they would still offer food and shelter for others in need despite religious differences. Why? Because they are humans! We can learn so much from this.

Great helpers with Yarra Ranges Special Development School

Every year when Yarra Ranges SDS have their athletics day, they always call on Yarra Hills students to assist. This year about 14 year 9 students wandered over to assist Yarra Ranges with their day. The sun was shining and everyone enjoyed the athletics. The contribution our students made to the day was just fantastic and from all reports, they really enjoyed it. It is this community spirit is what makes me feel very proud of our students.

Advance students become Baristas!

A few weeks ago, the Advance students had the opportunity to learn a new skill, coffee making. Students had a great time learning to make high quality coffee, learning about the different types of coffee and gaining their Level 1 Barista certificate. This will enable them to obtain casual work in coffee shops.

Robyn Dew
Mt Evelyn Campus Principal
ABOUT THE “ADVANCE” COURSE:
- It aims to develop community, leadership, teamwork, negotiating, planning and organizing skills required for major events.
- It includes: budgeting, documenting, reporting, first aid, lightweight camping, catering, cooking, navigation and safety.
A challenging expedition is listed as a major requirement in the “ADVANCE” course.

PURPOSE OF THE EXPEDITION:
- To display community leadership, teamwork, planning, organisation, navigation, communication and budgeting.
- To show we can plan and carry out a major event through a successful expedition.
- To assess human impact on the natural environment

ABOUT THIS EXPEDITION:
- Students organise themselves into crews of roughly 5-10 members then design their Expedition in detail.
- Each crew is to organise a challenging minimum of 6 hour navigation journey and an overnight stay.
- It is also to be a celebration of their year’s achievements in their course.
- Each student has to challenge her/his self-improvement through a series of experiences and a noble community purpose.

CHALLENGES:
- **Teamwork /Leadership** – Design, Plan & Run the expedition ourselves in a cooperative way
  - Participate in a number of challenges along the way.
  - Develop a photo-journal of many potential future activity sites along the way.
  - Community Care Do something to leave the world a better place.
  - Create a Report: on the condition & sustainability of various natural activity environments met.
  - Navigate by directing the driver the bus driver where to go using Melway, terrain & google maps, compass & GPS.
Year 8 Eastern Zone Girls Tennis

On Friday November 13 our Year 8 Girls tennis team competed in the Eastern Metropolitan Region tennis competition. We were in a pool of four schools which consisted of Vermont Secondary College, Wantirna College, Warrandyte High School and ourselves. Unfortunately our first match was against a very strong Vermont SC who beat us convincingly. Our next two matches against Wantirna and Warrandyte we won by a slim margin, which was a fantastic effort by our girls. This meant we came second in our pool.

Well done to Brittany Jackson, Georgia Gillespie, Samara Ross and Emily Kidd.

Relay for Life

On November 14 and 15, twenty-five of our Mooroolbark students from years 7-10 participated in the Relay for Life event at Croydon athletics track. It was a fantastic experience for all the students. They learnt about the impact of cancer on so many people and had great interactions with the larger community.

Our year 9/10 Relay for Life student committee did a fantastic job helping to organise the lead up to the event, baking slices and cakes to sell and helping to set up everything on the day.

Our group of twenty-five students contributed amazing physical efforts, with several of them completing over 100 laps of the athletics track (this means more than 40 kilometres).

A special mention to Kyle DeCourcy who completed 150 laps (60 kilometres).

At the time of writing this article I am still collecting sponsorship money from the students, however it looks like we will have raised in excess of $3,000.00. Thankyou to Steven Williams who was my student teacher this year, and did a lot to help with the organisation of this event.

Virginia Stacey
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)

Lilydale Baptist Church
Family Carols Night
Sunday December 13th
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
305 Swansea Rd, Lilydale
Corner of Swansea and Hull Roads
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm Fun for families
- Jumping castle
- Face painting
- Free sausage sizzle
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Carols on the lawns
(BYO rug or chair, inside if inclement weather)

The carols will be followed by a light supper with a Christmas theme
For more info phone 9735 2233

Yarra Hills Community

9-11 September 2016
Submissions and enquiries from community artists welcome

More information on the YHSC website

Yarra Hills Secondary College
9736 3650 or 98398800

Artwork by Cara Robinson