Dear Parents/Students,

As the year now draws to an end, I’d like to acknowledge the wonderful efforts of so many of our students throughout the year. The recent College Awards Night, held at the Karralyka Centre Ringwood, was a great opportunity to showcase not only the academic and creative achievements of those present, but to also recognise significant contributions to the college and wider community. Along with the Achievement and Participation awards, there were many ‘Prestigious Awards’ given out by a wide range of community members and organisations, included presentations by the Member for Croydon David Hodgett MP, the Australian Defence Force, Lions & Rotary Clubs, C.W.A. and Bendigo Community Bank. Many thanks to each of them for their continued support of the college and more specifically our students. Thanks also to the parents that were able to attend the evening and to join with us in celebrating their sons’/daughters’ successes. We very much appreciate your contribution to our partnership in your child’s education. Finally, thanks to the staff, teaching and non-teaching who help support all of our students and enable them to have the success we acknowledged on the night.
The end of 2015 is nearly upon us and this is the final Mooroolbark Campus report. It has been a very big year and I would like to thank all of the school community for their work this year. It was great to be able to celebrate the achievements of our students at our recent awards night.

Promotions Program

It has been heartening to see students taking on the challenge of Promotions week, as they begin the next year of schooling. This has been very beneficial and has given students an opportunity to get to know their new classmates and teachers.

Indigenous Garden

On Friday December 4, our Farm School students for Term 4 planted an Indigenous Garden near the C-Building. The garden has fantastic rock signage that identifies each plant and what the local indigenous people use the plant for. This is a wonderful living resource for the students who made the garden and the staff from the Farm School for their work.

YVN Challenge

Four of our Year 7 students went along to Lilydale Heights SC to attend the Yarra Valley Network (YVN) Challenge morning. Jacob Evans, Marley Bartley, Eloise MacDonald and Tyson Potts from Year 7 all had the opportunity to share their experiences in taking part in the YVN High Achievers challenge project.

Year 6-7 Orientation

This last two weeks we have also welcomed our 2016 Year 7 students to the college. Firstly we welcomed parents at our Information Night. This was then followed by our Small Schools Day, giving those students from Primary Schools where 3 or less students were coming to Yarra Hills, an opportunity to meet others. Finally, we then had our Orientation Day. Whilst it was a warm day, the students and staff thoroughly enjoyed the day getting to know others, getting involved in classes and activities and beginning to familiarize themselves with the school. We are really looking forward to the students beginning their secondary school life with us.

Reports

The end-of-year reports were made available online through our Compass Parent Portal last Friday. I hope you have had the opportunity to access these and take the time to go over the results with your own child. This is an ideal time to not only celebrate their achievements, but also to note the recommendations made by staff for improvement and start to set goals for future success.

If you have not been able to access the Compass Parent Portal, it is essential you contact the school office to be re-issued access information. This is additionally important because next year’s ‘Ready to Learn’ interviews will also be made available to be booked online through that same portal.

Finally, on behalf of all college staff I would like to wish our students and families a safe and relaxing holiday period and I look forward to seeing you again in the New Year.

Best wishes,

Darren Trippett
College Principal
Pembroke PS visit

On Thursday December 10 we had all of Pembroke Primary School come to visit Yarra Hills for the day. Their staff ran a range of activities in our classrooms, as well as utilising the specialist rooms and facilities to run Science classes, Sport/PE classes on the Synthetic Pitch and Gymnasium. It was great to see all of the students enjoying themselves and we look forward to hosting them again in the future.

Frontiers of Science Excursion

On Tuesday December 8, in recognition of academic excellence, 12 of the top performing science students from both campuses were taken to John Monash Science School who were hosting the 11th international Students Science Fair. Along with a number of students from other schools the students had an opportunity to hear from renowned scientists as well as take part in a range of science problem-solving activities.

Peer Support Program

It was great to see all our Year 9s taking part in the Peer Support Day at the Mt Evelyn Campus on Friday December 11. This was a fantastic Leadership opportunity. We hope that many of them take up the opportunity of training in early February on their return to school and become fully trained Peer Support Leaders. They will then work with the Year 7 classes in Term 1.

School Captains for 2016

It is with great pleasure that I announce the College Captains for 2016:

School Captains - Annabelle Smith and Lewis Toth
Deputy Captains - Codie Shade and Jessica Foley
Community Liaison Captain - Amanda Keys

There will be other college student leadership positions announced in 2016.

Farewell to students and staff

I would like to take this opportunity to say goodbye to some of the students who are moving onto other educational opportunities. We wish them well as a school and look forward to hearing about their successes. Thanks also to departing staff also who are leaving us from the Mooroolbark Campus at the end of the year. Firstly to Kathryn Nightingale who ably came in Term 3 and took up the position of Dance, Drama and Health teacher. I thank her for her boundless enthusiasm and energy. To Jose Rault, a very big thank you for all your work in the Mathematics and with the Advance class.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and guardians for your support of the college. In my first year here I am amazed at the real community atmosphere of the school. I do wish all families a very happy and safe Christmas. I hope you are able to spend some quality time with family and friends and truly enjoy the holidays. We do look forward to seeing everyone back here in 2016.

Greg Cowan
Mooroolbark Campus Principal
From the Mt Evelyn Campus Principal

With the year coming to a close, it is often a time we reflect on the year that was. Every year we often say how the year has flown and this year is no different. I am very proud of the many achievements our students have staff have reached. Last week we had an assembly to say thank you to students and staff as well as reflect on the past year. It was a lovely assembly which was hosted by our new Campus Captains for 2016, Keely Preston and Jacob Edgell who did a great job. We were well entertained by Ruby Barber who sang a beautiful song, so too did Aramaya Wilson and Sabrina Irvine-Jones. Gaia Mitting and Freya Scott gave a fantastic presentation of the impact of rubbish in our community and how we can make a difference to our wildlife. It was a powerful presentation, thank you!

One person we wanted to say thank you to was Roz Teoh. She has volunteered her time four days a week to assist students in year 8 and 9. Roz has worked tirelessly in maths classes to help students and staff. She is very passionate about teaching and is currently studying to be one. Thank you Roz, we are very grateful for the commitment you have demonstrated this year, we very much appreciate your effort.

Transition was a huge success

With our incoming year 7 students, there are many activities involving our new students and their families. Small schools day, Orientation Day and Parent Information Evening were all very successful allowing our new students to connect with their peers, staff and with the school. The new year 7 students really enjoyed their days and already feel part of our Mt Evelyn community. Many thanks to Nick Cowan, Nicky Waterson and Rebecca Dunn for their efforts throughout this time. Bring on 2016!

Grade 3 take on cooking skills

A few weeks ago the grade 3 level at Mt Evelyn Primary came and used our food room as part of their healthy eating unit. 75 students along with their teachers, parent helpers and others including a chef worked together to produce a fantastic two course meal. Some of our year 9 students also joined in to assist, as the benches were a little high for a few of them! Students were also treated to a couple of guest speakers which included a bee keeper and a farmer. It was a fantastic day well enjoyed by everyone.

Year 9 students experiencing law

In October this year all of the Year 9 World of Work classes attended an excursion to Melbourne to discover careers that were related to the Law Industry. This was part of the Learn, Experience, Access, Professions (LEAP) program that our school has had the privilege of being a part of. The students visited Victoria University Melbourne Campus where they were met by experienced law staff. Amongst them were a Barrister and Lecturers. Students visited the Magistrates Court where they sat in on actual civil law cases. They then were treated to a sumptuous lunch provided by the university and then retreated to a lecture theatre where a Barrister explained all about the different jobs that are available within the umbrella of Law. Tyler Hull is featured here giving a ‘Thank you’ speech to our presenters.
SRC still working…..

Members of SRC came up with a very creative way to raise money last week by selling candy canes to students and staff. Each candy cane had a note which students and staff can write nice anonymous messages to others. Then last Thursday, Santa delivered these candy canes to their recipients. It was such a lovely feel good idea. Well done SRC and thank you to Nicky Waterson for driving this group all year.

Peer Support training has begun

Last Friday we had our first day of Peer Support training with both campuses of year 9 coming together at Mt Evelyn Campus. This first day focused on leadership and the skills required to be a good leader. Considering we had a very large group, it was an awesome day! There were many activities students joined in with and some emotional stories shared. It was a fantastic day for all students to connect better with each other and learn a few skills in the process. I am so excited about our next years’ year 10 group and the leaders they will become. Our second day of training will occur early next year which will focus specifically on Peer Support. After the second day, students will have the opportunity to apply to be our 2016 Peer Support Leaders; I can’t wait!!

Robyn Dew
Mt Evelyn Campus Principal

atEAST VCAL Awards night

On Tuesday December 1 the atEAST 2015 SBAT Awards and Graduation evening was held at Doncaster Secondary College, with many of our Intermediate and Senior VCAL students in attendance. It was great to see so many of our students receive awards and be recognised for their hard work and effort throughout the year. The following students received awards:

Isabelle Bonsor
Rhiannan Camillo
Amber Enright
Robert Hartshorn
Cameron Murphy
Tyler McBurnie
Chloe Richards
Tirian Cridge
Kaila Thompson
Allie Sykes
Josh Anderson
Jesse Cochrane
Geoff Cliff
Riordan Rowlands-Taberer

Congratulations to all those students who received awards.
Special congratulations to Cameron Murphy who received the award for Overall First Year Apprentice.

Courtney Jordan
School procedures for the bushfire season

Fire danger ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life.

Schools and children’s services listed on the DET Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) will be closed when a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined in their Bureau of Meteorology district. **Our school has been identified as being one of those at high bushfire risk and is listed on the BARR.**

Where possible, we will provide parents with up to four days notice of a potential Code Red day closure by letter, Compass contact and phone if necessary. Code Red day will be determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner no later than 1.00 pm the day before the potential closure. Once we are advised of the confirmation of the Code Red day we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day.

**Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast.** This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to note that:

- No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Code Red day.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located.

As a bus co-ordinating school all bus routes will be cancelled.

On these Code Red days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – **on such days children should never be left at home or in the care of older children.**

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the CFA advise that when Code Red days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Code Red day. As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan.

**What can parents do?**

- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed.
- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, by checking our website: [yarra.hills.sc.vic.edu.au](http://yarra.hills.sc.vic.edu.au) and by talking to your child’s teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan. Other forms of social media will also include updated information.
- Most importantly at this time of year, if you’re planning a holiday or short stay in the bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay.
- If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family’s bushfire survival plan.


For up-to-date information on this year’s fire season, visit the CFA website at [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) or call the 24-hour Victorian Bushfires Information Line on 1800 240 667.