From the College Principal

Over the last two weeks we have had a large number of students from our local Primary Schools take part in some exciting Yarra Hills ‘Discovery Days’ at both of our Campuses. These days were a great opportunity to showcase to these students, as well as to the primary school staff, the wonderful things we do and have available at our college. The many happy, smiling faces bore testament to the success of these days. Thanks to all staff who participated in or helped organise these events.

Open Nights
Speaking of ‘showcasing’ our College, last week we also held our annual Campus Information/Open Nights to promote our school across the wider community. We again had almost record attendance across both campuses, with more than two hundred separate families signing in and collecting information packs on the nights. We are very proud of what our students achieve, as well as how well they present to the public and we had a great group of students and student leaders not only taking tours or participating in displays, but also speaking to the assembled groups in the official presentations. Many thanks must go to all of these students for giving up their own time to attend, but also for how well they conducted themselves. Thank you!
Final Reminder: Restorative Practices-Parent Information Session (May 10 6:30-7:30pm, Mooroolbark Campus)

We spoke last newsletter about the process of implementing a Restorative Practices Model for improving student behaviour across the college. To help parents more clearly understand this, we have arranged a Parent Information Session with Adam Voigt from ‘Real Schools’. You may have seen Adam on television speaking about education and issues, but he is currently working in partnership with us to bring this practice into the school community.

A flyer is attached later in this newsletter and was sent out via Compass messaging, for your information. Adam has also produced a YouTube video invitation for our Yarra Hills parents https://youtu.be/tCiwwrsV_Cg that I encourage you to view.

"Bookings for this ‘FREE’ event are now available online via the Compass Parent Portal, where this has been added to the “COURSE CONFIRMATIONS” section. Please go in and let us know how many adults/students will be coming along on the night. See you there!

Parent & Friends Association

I am excited and pleased to announce that we now have a Parents and Friends Association (PFA) up and running at the college. We are still very much in the initial planning stages, and we have a core group of interested parents and friends who have committed to becoming voting members. Anyone interested in being a member of our PFA please contact the office at either campus. We will be meeting on the first Tuesday of each month.

We welcome new members. I look forward to the PFA having a regular article in our newsletter.

ANZAC Day

Last week also saw a number of important ANZAC commemorative ceremonies held across both campuses, as well as representation by the school at community events and dawn services in the Mt Evelyn and Mooroolbark districts. We are proud to be a part of these ceremonies and appreciate the support of service members and parents who joined us at each event. Full reports are attached in the Campus reports later in this newsletter.

NAPLAN

In the coming week, Year 7 and Year 9 students will be required to participate in the NAPLAN (National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy) testing across both campuses. There is a lot said in the media about this program and in particular there is a lot of weight given to the results when politicians use them to justify allocations of funding federally or at state level. While this is just one of a variety of tests we use at Yarra Hills to assess the ongoing progress of our students, it is a consistently used indicator for comparison against like schools and across sectors and as such we hope that students do take the test seriously and apply their best efforts in each of the sections covered.

Having said that, NAPLAN testing cannot assess your creativity, sense of community, honesty, reliability, resilience and respectfulness, all of which are essential attributes that we wish for you to possess by the time you finish your schooling at Yarra Hills.

Do your personal best and be proud of your efforts, as we will then be of you. Good luck!

Darren Trippett
College Principal

From the Mooroolbark Campus Principal

Term 2 continues to be a busy one at the Mooroolbark Campus.

Uniform reminder

I would like to take this opportunity as the colder months of winter set in to remind our students and families of wearing the correct uniform at all times. Students should have the uniform jumper, windcheater and/or spray jacket, and not a non-uniform jumper/hoodie. Students will be reminded over the coming weeks. Whilst we know that occasionally there are valid reasons for not having uniform and we are accommodating of these, students who consistently do not wear uniform correctly will be given consequences. We thank you as parents and guardians for your support of the college uniform.

Anzac Day, Anzac Assembly & Ceremony

On Anzac Day, two of our school Captains, Codie Shade and Lewis Toth joined some of our staff at the Anzac Day Service in Hookey Park in Mooroolbark.

On Tuesday April 26 we had a term 2 Campus Assembly. We used this campus assembly to commemorate ANZAC Day. John Woolhouse, from Croydon RSL, our College Captains, Annabelle Smith and Lewis Toth and our year 10 Captains, Carly Johnson and Will Bennett lead our ANZAC ceremony with a range of readings and reflections. I would like to thank our Captains. I was particularly proud of all our students who showed such maturity and focus to pause and reflect. We also used the assembly to formally welcome our student leadership group to the college including our College Captains, SRC, Peer Support Leaders & Year 7 Ambassadors. We also acknowledged our individual age group winners from our 2015 Athletics and Swimming carnivals. I would like to thank the parents and families who joined us for our assembly.
Information Nights

Last week also saw us have our Mt Evelyn and Mooroolbark Information Evenings for prospective families, on Tuesday (April 26) and Thursday (April 28) nights respectively. There was so much effort put in by all staff and a number of our students. I would like to thank all our students who assisted on the night in a range of roles, including learning area helpers and tour guides. I do want to make special mention of our students who spoke at our Information Sessions:

College Captains – Annabelle Smith & Lewis Toth
Year 10 Captains – Will Bennet & Carly Johnson
(who were our very capable MCs)
Year 7 Ambassadors – Adam Maxwell, Abor Zathang & Sheldon Jones
Bonnie Hunter- for her ‘Welcome to Country’

These students spoke so well, and were fantastic ambassadors for the college and the campus. A very big thank you also to our parents and friends from both our Parents and Friends Association and School Council who assisted on the night.

Model United Nations

Finally I would like to make mention of the Model United Nations (MUNA) event that took place on the weekend of April 30 and May 1 for two of our year 10 students. This is a Rotary organised event, where a number of schools across the state take part in a mock United Nations Assembly, dressing up and role-playing being delegates from a range of countries. This year it was held at Parliament House in Melbourne in the Legislative Assembly room. Tylah Applebee and Kate Rolston, represented our college. They played the part of delegates from France. Again, they were both great ambassadors for the college. I must thank the support of Carol Lawton from Montrose Rotary Club who sponsored and supported our students, and Carolyn Bryant who spent a number of hours preparing the students.

Greg Cowan
Mooroolbark Campus Principal
From the Mt Evelyn Campus Principal

A very busy fortnight has passed with students and staff heavily involved in many activities. It is always so rewarding when students step up and involve themselves in being ambassadors for Yarra Hills. The biggest of these was our Information nights held at both campuses last week. We had 60 students who eagerly joined us in promoting Yarra Hills to the community. They were involved in everything from explaining to parents various tasks in subject areas, guiding families on tour throughout the school, helping staff to set up various learning areas and generally assisting throughout the night. I was so proud of how our students conducted themselves. They were so proud of their school and clearly showed this to our community. Many students went above and beyond to assist families on the night. Keely Preston and Jacob Edgell were our MC’s for the presentation while Aleesa Keenan and Connor Wilson spoke so well about their experiences at Yarra Hills. Annabelle Smith and Lewis Toth (our College Captains) also spoke brilliantly about the opportunities they have received since arriving at Yarra Hills. It was such a successful night and was well attended by families in the community. Tours are now in full swing and if you know of anyone who would like a tour of our campus, please ask them to contact the office to arrange a time.

Lest We Forget

ANZAC Day around Australia saw many dawn services in many communities. I was fortunate to attend the Mt Evelyn dawn service and was moved by the reflections given. One such reflection was a letter that was read by the grandson of an Australian soldier who was in Gallipoli. It was such a moving letter about his experiences, the comradery in his unit and the appreciation for his family.

Mt Evelyn Campus held its own service to officially open our ANZAC garden. We were fortunate to have Anthony McAleeer, Roger Boness and Tom Steel from Mt Evelyn RSL to assist us in this presentation. Tayla Gerrard and Owen Forrest, our Vice Campus Captains were the MC for this very special assembly. Our year 10 students: Rhys McMillan, Tylah Hull and Keely Preston also read passages associated with ANZAC Day. Anthony McAleer spoke of the importance of this occasion and read a letter from a 24 year old mechanic from Mt Evelyn named Donald Fergus Scott who after enlisting in the AIF landed at Gallipoli on April 25 1915. These are his words:

"I was the first man ashore out of my company, not because I wanted the honour, but because I was first in the first boat and a stationary boat 10 feet from the shore was too good a mark for the guns in the fort. So as soon as the boat grounded I hopped out into the water and went like blazes for cover. We formed up and waited for the rest of the company and it was then that I got my first experience of shrapnel! Someone said ‘LOOK OUT!’ and we could hear the humming noise like the scraping of badly tuned bass violin. Fortunately it burst about 20 yards in front of us, and I don’t think it did any damage but it was a nasty jar all the same.

Then we started to advance up the hill – steeper and rougher than Mt Dandenong – with an occasional shell and a good number of bullets to keep us on the move. By the time we hurried into the firing line I had thrown away everything except my rifle, bayonet and ammunition as the weight was too much for me.

To cut a long story short I was working my way back from a message to where my own company was passing through an empty Turkish trench. I was going to make a rush out of the other end in order to rejoin my company when BANG! I remembered no more for about an hour or so, when I woke up half buried in earth feeling more dead than alive and for the moment utterly demoralised. I was scratched and bruised all over and when I tried to stand I found that my left leg was broken. So I crawled down the hill until I was picked up by the stretcher bearers, taken to the beach and thence per lighter to the hospital ship and then worst luck, back to Egypt."
Donald Scott received a serious wound to his knee on the day and it took him months in a hospital in Egypt to be able to walk again. Because of this wounds on ANZAC Day, Donald never saw active service in the war. He was shipped to England and instead of being sent home and discharged, he asked to be assigned to work in an administrative department. He returned to Australia in 1918. 

**CROSS COUNTRY**

Last Monday students took part in our cross country. It was lovely to see so many students running, sprinting and walking the 3 km track. Congratulations to our winners of each year level.

**TRIVIA NIGHT** is only a few weeks away…………………………

We have been accumulating many amazing prizes for this event so I hope you are all coming. Whether you are on your own or a couple, please join us for what is going to be a real fun filled night! Naturally if you can gather a few friends together to create a table of 10, a discount is available for you. So contact Heather in the office on 9736 3650 to book your table. Only $20 per person, BYO drinks and nibbles. The Trivia night is an adults only night with plenty of funny games and chances to win some very cool prizes. There will be raffles and loads of silent auctions to get some real bargains! Looking forward to seeing you all there!

Robyn Dew
Mt Evelyn Campus Principal

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**Year 8 Yarra Hills students are the Badminton Champs!**

The success of the year 8 boys and the year 8 girls badminton teams has produced a remarkable result for our school in the sport, with the year 8 boys teams from the Mooroolbark Campus finishing both first and second and the year 8 teams from Mt Evelyn Campus finishing 3rd & 4th. In the girls division we managed to also finish 1st and 3rd.

The boys A team had a hard tussle with our B team during the Round Robin in which they were defeated 3 games each 97 points to 98. Both teams made it to the Semi Finals and won their matches and then had to play off in the finals and after the singles matches it was 2 games all but the A team steadied and won the last 2 doubles matches going out winners 4 games to 2.

The girls had a 3 to 1 lead in their final after the singles and then won one of their doubles to finish at 4 games to 2 against Lilydale High, who had beaten them in year 7.

The girls B Team also had a close encounter with Lilydale Heights in their play off for 3rd and 4th and eventually we went out winners 4 games to 2.
Senior Boys Table Tennis Through to Eastern Zone

On Friday April 15 the senior boys table tennis competed in the Yarra Group Finals at the Kilsyth Stadium. The team consisting of Avel, Raut, Bawi, Pakip, and Ceu (Jao) have been practicing for most of term one on their table tennis skills and dominated in the final to beat our arch rivals in Lilydale Secondary College 6 games to 0.

The win makes it our second team from Yarra Hills to make it through to the Eastern Zone level for 2016. No doubt the boys will still keep training hard as their Eastern Zone Finals will not be held until Friday July 29.

Well Done!

Murray McAllister

Senior Girls Take Out Third

On Friday April 15, 9 VCE girls took time out from their busy class and study schedules to represent Yarra Hills Secondary College in the Yarra Group basketball. With a strong team spirit the young women sweat it out for a win against Monbulk. They then took another comfortable win against Lilydale High School's B team. Knocking the girls out of 1st or 2nd place Lilydale High School's A team dominated. Determined to come home with one last win and a 3rd place ribbon Yarra Hills' VCE girls played a great game against Lilydale Heights and returned back to school in great spirits. Well done Ladies!

Many thanks to both Rebecca and Rachael Hinksmann for helping out with the team!

Cara Robinson
REAL SCHOOLS
PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

School - YARRA HILLS SECONDARY COLLEGE
Date & Time - Tuesday, 10th May 2016 at 6.30pm

• How do Schools and Parents get on the same page about the important stuff?
• How do we build a partnership around building fantastic young people for today and tomorrow?
• How can our Teachers AND our Parents use the same strategies to manage behaviour, encourage responsibility and improve the chances of success?

They seem like outrageously big questions, don’t they? And they are ... but they do have answers. Unfortunately, too often Parents and Schools are not on the same page when it comes to answering them. Your school wants to do something about that and has commenced a partnership with Real Schools to make it happen. But the school can’t do it alone. We need you to know everything involved and to have your say. That’s why we need you at this critical event in the history of your school and the future of your children.

During the session, we will:
• Tell you all about the Restorative Practices Partnership that the school is embarking on.
• Ask for your input.
• Provide you with strategies to use immediately in your Parenting ... and they’re the same strategies your Teachers are now using.
• Learn how to respond, rather than react, to your child’s behaviour.
• Share the best ways to build a meaningful Partnership with your school.

Check out your video invitation on YouTube - https://youtu.be/tCkwrrsV_Cg

Your Facilitator
Adam Veigt is a proven successful Teacher & Principal in some of Australia’s toughest locations. He has led Behaviour & Wellbeing across all Northern Territory Schools and has implemented Restorative Practices successfully in many schools as a leader & Professional Learning partner.

For more information, drop us a line at info@realschools.com.au
TRIVIA NIGHT
Friday 13th May

Arrival: 7pm @ Mt Evelyn Campus Performing Arts Centre

Cost: $20pp or Table of 10 People $180
Tickets available at the door.
Don’t have enough to make a table?
We can place you with a team!
Book at office or phone 9736 3650

BYO: Food and Drinks
Theme: Horror

Great prizes up for grabs, silent auction, prizes for best dressed – bring along some extra cash for games played throughout the night!
Mt Evelyn Campus
Every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday
Lunchtime in the Library
with Mr Hart & Mrs Johnston
Bring your books and lunch

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 Thursday 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 Mooroobool)

Address & Contact Details
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Croydon, VIC, 3136
Phone: (03) 9725 4664
Email: croydon@psw.com.au

Winter Trading Hours
(4th May - 3rd Oct 2015)
Tuesday to Friday: 9:00am - 5:00pm
Saturday: 9:00am - 1:00pm

Summer Trading Hours
(5th Oct - 29th Apr 2016)
Monday to Friday: 8:30am - 5:00pm
Saturday: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Yarra Hills Community
artShow
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 Robleson