**KEY DATES**

<table>
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<th>MAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>19 Interschool Sport Yr 8 Girls Netball</td>
<td>MB</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Junior Band Rehearsal—3.30-4.30pm at MB</td>
<td>ME &amp; MB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>20 Interschool Sports Yr 8 Softball/Baseball/Tennis/Volleyball</td>
<td>ME &amp; MB</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>23 Interschool Sports Yr 7 Soccer/Badminton/Boys Football/Netball</td>
<td>ME &amp; MB</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>24 Senior &amp; Intermediate Band Rehearsal - 3.30-4.30pm at MB</td>
<td>ME &amp; MB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>25 Interschool Sport Yr 7 &amp; 9 Girls Football/Yr 7 &amp; 8 Boys Netball</td>
<td>ME &amp; MB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>26 Junior Band Rehearsal—3.30-4.30pm at MB</td>
<td>ME &amp; MB</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>31 Instrumental Music 2018 NZ Tour Information Evening at MB</td>
<td>ME &amp; MB</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Interschool Sports Yr 9/10 Soccer/Badminton/Boys Football/Netball</td>
<td>ME &amp; MB</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Senior &amp; Intermediate Band Rehearsal - 3.30-4.30pm at MB</td>
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**From the College Principal**

In recent newsletters, as well as in the attached Campus reports, you will have had an opportunity to hear of the many activities, both curricular and extra-curricular, that have been undertaken already during this term. Inclusive in this is the College Athletics, a series of Discovery Days with students from local primary schools, ANZAC Day commemorations across both campuses and on the day itself (dawn services!), two Campus Open Information Nights, College Cross-Country, a Music Marathon, NAPLAN testing and many, many class excursions and incursions!! As you can see, it is always a hive of activity at Yarra Hills.

**Music Marathon**

On Thursday May 5 and Friday May 6, a large number of our College Instrumental Music students participated in the annual “Music Marathon” held at the Mooroolbark Campus. This involved, among other things, 30 hours of continuous practice and rehearsal (never mind those trying to sleep!) on a wide selection of musical instruments. Many thanks to all those who organised and participated in this event, especially those involved in supervising the ‘graveyard shift’ between 2 and 5am!! Well done and we hope that you all managed to catch up on some sleep over the following weekend.
Restorative Practices Parent Seminar

Last Tuesday, Adam Voigt from Real Schools Australia, who we are currently in partnership with, conducted a parent information seminar regarding the college wide implementation of Restorative Practices. Although the numbers weren’t as high as we’d hoped, the message for the parents was well received and this is seen as an important step in us informing the parent community of how we encourage better relationships and behaviour across the college. I have attached Adam’s presentation to the council documentation for your information.

NAPLAN

In the most recent newsletter I provided some information regarding the NAPLAN testing which has been undertaken across the state in the last week. Having indicated that NAPLAN is one of many measures we use at Yarra Hills to assess the academic progress of our students, I was also keen to point out that it is not the ‘be all and end all’ of measures to identify student outcomes.

As Einstein said, “Not everything that counts can be counted!”

We’re confident that we not only work to help our students in those things that can be measured, but also those things that can’t be measured, but do count!

Friday 13th Trivia Night

Finally, a huge thank you to those who participated in the “Friday the 13th” Trivia Night at the Mt Evelyn Campus last week. This event is a major fundraiser for the college and will support our ongoing rejuvenation efforts across the college.

Try and pick the Principals in the accompanying photos!

From the Mooroolbark Campus Principal

As I sit down to write my report it is hard to believe we are at the halfway point of the term already. The term continues to roll along, and students continue to be busy both in and outside the classroom.

Last week the year 7 and 9 students undertook the NAPLAN testing across the college. With our biggest cohort of students at both year 7 and 9 at the Mooroolbark Campus, it meant a busy set-up and lots of organisation. I must commend our students for taking the tests seriously. When the results come out later in the year, we hope that it gives you as parents and us as a school a really good idea of your child’s progress. It is important data for us to continue to work with our students on improving their literacy and numeracy skills.

Just a reminder to parents of a few things as we head towards the end of the semester that we need your support on:

Uniform

In the last newsletter I spoke about the importance of maintaining our high standards with the uniform. I would like to thank our parents who continue to support us by ensuring their child is in full-school uniform.

Attendance/Absence

Can I stress at this time that we need your child at school as much as possible. Whilst we know illness will occur over the winter months more often and there may well be absence as a result, it is important that your child is at school and learning as much as possible.
Homework/Revision/Study

We continue to reiterate the need for your child to have good homework and study habits. Now until exam time students will have lots of assessments, homework and study. Keeping on top of this work with a regular routine at home will help students manage this with their other commitments and not fall behind. Teachers have been instructed to alert you if your child is ‘at risk’ with their work, so we ask you to respond to letters, emails or phone calls home. Our senior school students, in particular our VCE students, are very much in study and work mode with lots of SACs and SATs happening. It is important for them to stay healthy, work hard but have a good balance in their life, to maintain what is a big workload. I know our senior management team are working hard with all students to assist them.

Parents & Friends Association

In this month’s newsletter you will see that we have undertaken an initiative, the Dough Raiser program, with one of local Baker’s Delight stores in Chirnside Park. Please read this carefully, and if you shop there, just by mentioning our school we will be raising funds to support the school. We hope to continue to develop this program further, as well as introduce other initiatives. We welcome your support!

Lastly I would like to make mention of a few curricular and co-curricular that have occurred over the last fortnight:

Cross Country

On Monday May 2, our year 7-10 students, plus a handful of our athletic and energetic senior students took part in our annual Cross Country event. In a specially designed course along the pathways around the school, students ran and walked on a (thankfully) sunny day. A big thanks to the sports staff, lead by Murray McAllister who organised the event. As a write this, the Yarra Group Cross Country is in progress, with the fastest qualifiers attending and representing Yarra Hills.

Music Marathon

Richard O’Toole, and a dedicated group of staff and parents, joined a number of our music students in the Performing Arts Centre for 24 hours of music, more music and little sleep! I got a an opportunity to drop by on the afternoon on Thursday May 5 for a short while, and then again on the Friday morning, by which time they were all looking a little worse for wear! The students had lots of fun though!

Year 8 LEAP Excursion

I had the pleasure of joining the year 8 students at the Wantirna KIOSC (Knox Innovation, Opportunity and Sustainability Centre) on Wednesday May 11. Here the students got an opportunity to undertake some practical food/science activities. Students got to test sugar levels in fruit and vegetables, test Ph levels in Yoghurt samples and understand a little about Science Journalism. Students welcomed the opportunity to find out about careers in science in a fun and hands on way. As always, our students were fantastic ambassadors for the college.

Greg Cowan
Mooroolbark Campus Principal
From the Mt Evelyn Campus Principal

The term is flying way too fast and soon we will be starting our half year reports. It is a timely reminder to ensure your child is well up to date with his/her assessment tasks. Moodle has all the assessment tasks for each subject and will appear in order throughout each page. Feel free to contact staff via email if you have any concerns. Last week 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. NAPLAN was also in full swing last week for all year 7 & 9 students. It is quite an event organising this important testing and thanks must go to Shane Hart for his effort in this. Students worked hard throughout the 3 days and are no doubt glad it's all over. Well done to all students for their effort on this.

Education Week

This week is Education Week and so many cool activities are happening every day including:

- Music in the Round
- Lunchtime activities every day
- Animal Club
- Meal Challenge in Food Safari this week
- Interschool Sport
- Rehearsals have begun For Home and Empire

Music Marathon

Last week our Music department had their annual Music Marathon. This is always a great opportunity for each band to learn new music and perfect their sound, not to mention bond as a team with other musicians and raise some necessary funds for the Music department. Richard O'Toole along with Music staff and a roster of great parents, worked with students through their timetables of practice, rehearsals and meal times. Doing all this for 30 hours is quite a feat and all students, staff and parents who endured this deserve a massive congratulations for their effort! I called in on Thursday night to some very excited students with some rehearsing in small groups, some playing and others filling in their rest time with games and sport. In saying this, everyone was on a strict rotational timetable of activities throughout the 30 hours. They all certainly looked very tired on Friday afternoon. Well done everyone!!

Camp Awakenings

Hailey Hackett and Billy Meldrum from year 9 were fortunate to attend Camp Awakenings sponsored by Rotary some weeks ago. This is a camp that builds confidence in students by using many team building games as well as activities for students reflect on their own abilities. Both Hailey and Billy thought “it was the best camp!” and made many new friends. They learned so much about different friendships and how to handle each of these. Thank you Rotary!

Trivia Night………………………Oh what a night!!!!!

With a great deal of sourcing prizes and decoration, working out games and advertising, we finally had our Trivia Night. Being Friday 13th, it was an ideal opportunity to have a horror theme and so many got dressed for the occasion. Thanks to Sheryn Holloway, we had giant spiders, skeletons, mummies and interactive displays all which set the scene beautifully for the night. Bryan and Jeanette Whelan were our quizmasters and with 7 rounds, the battle was certainly on! We also had a ‘best dressed mummy’ competition as well as plenty of games to entertain the crowd and many silent auction opportunities to bet on. Memorabilia Magic provided some fantastic memorabilia to add to our silent auction.
It was a fantastic night with nearly 140 people attending the night and really getting into the spirit of the night. Our guests dug deep to buy raffle tickets, lucky numbers and games. We are still working out our final profit but are confident it will be in the thousands!!

A huge thanks to Nikky Waterson and Rebecca Dunn who were the prime movers of this Trivia Night. To Mark Dunn who cleaned up, mowed, hung banners and made the place look great; thank you. To Sheryn Holloway who helped so much in the background in sourcing prizes and wrapping prizes; and Linda Martin who donated goods, wrapped prizes and assisted us on the night from after school right through to midnight! Thank you also to all the parents, staff and friends who came and enjoyed the night with us – it was awesome!!!!

Peer Support continues............

Due to the many interruptions in first term, Peer Support has continued into second term but it certainly hasn’t lost any momentum. Our fantastic Peer Support Leaders are still coming up with new activities to encourage team work and build confidence in our year 7 students. We are so proud of you all!

Music in the Round

This music event now occurs twice a year and is where students get to perform solo for their family and friends. It can be very daunting doing something like this, especially for our junior musicians, but nights like this means performance practice which only improves student’s skill set. I saw all students perform last Monday and they should be really proud of themselves; they were fantastic!! Well done to Richard and his instrumental team for putting on this great event.
How many banned books have you read?

At the Mooroolbark campus Library we have on display a collection of banned books that some school libraries in the United States have banned from their shelves. When I started researching this, I was very surprised at the kind of books that have been banned and the reasons behind their banishment. Some of these “banned” books are classics written by well known and respected authors and that many of us would of read these books.

Happily, at our school libraries at the Mooroolbark and Mount Evelyn campuses, we have a more positive approach and outlook on various and different types of books that are on the shelves and these “banned” books are available for all students to read.

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**Charlotte’s Web** by E.B. White  
*Banned:* because “the passages about the spider dying were criticized as being inappropriate subject matter for a children’s book”.

**James and the giant peach** by Roald Dahl  
*Banned:* because “it included the word “ass” (as in donkey)”.

**The diary of a young girl** by Anne Frank  
*Banned:* considered to be “too depressing”.

**Animal Farm: a fairy story** by George Orwell  
*Banned:* because of “its political theories and being too communist”.  
*This book is still banned in China, Burma and North Korea.**

**Captain Underpants** by Dav Pilkey  
*Banned:* considered to be “unsuitable for its age group and the violence depicted in it”.

**Harry Potter and the philosopher’s stone** by J.K. Rowling  
*Banned:* considered to be “anti-family, its religious viewpoint and violence”.

**The Hunger Games** by Suzanne Collins  
*Banned:* because “its anti-ethnic, anti-family, insensitivity and violence”.

**To kill a mockingbird** by Harper Lee  
*Banned:* due to “its offensive language and racism”.

**The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn** by Mark Twain  
*Banned:* due to “its depiction of racism”.

**Where’s Wally?** by Martin Handford  
*Banned:* because “there is a picture of a topless bather”.

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*May the books be with you…*

Ms. Alison Hey  
Teacher-Librarian  
Mooroolbark campus Library
Marathon Musicians

Last week, music students from both campuses participated in a 30 hour Music Marathon to raise funds for the Music Department. There were many band rehearsals during the two day event and smaller ensembles also had some rehearsal time. Students played their musical instruments on a rotational basis for the full thirty hours - including during the overnight hours.

With many students staying awake all night to keep the marathon going, there were some very sleepy musicians playing during band rehearsals on the Friday morning. Congratulations to all students involved in this major fundraising initiative, and thank you to all parents who gave up some of their normal “sleep time” to assist with the overnight supervision.

Richard O’Toole
Instrumental Music Director
A huge thank you to all our sponsors for our recent Trivia Night
**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 Mooroolbark)

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**Mt Evelyn Campus**

**Every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday**

**Lunchtime in the Wellbeing Centre**

**with Mrs Johnston**

Bring your books and lunch

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**PSW Quality Apparel**

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