From the College Principal

Assessment & Reporting

This week marks the culmination of the semester one assessment and reporting cycle, with exams now having been completed across all year levels on both campuses. For students in years 7-10, the examination period is a time to not only demonstrate the crucial knowledge and skills that have been learnt during the first half of the year, but also to become familiar with the study habits, revision practices and exam strategies that need to be put in place for success at senior levels. Having viewed many of the examinations at both campuses over these last few weeks, I am incredibly pleased to note the endeavour shown by our students and the mature and sensible way in which they have been able to attempt all tasks to the best of their ability. Well done.

Similarly, teaching staff have been very busy in the associated assessment of each of these learning tasks, as well as in the preparation of semester one reports for all of their students. Last week’s Report Writing Day was an opportunity for staff to take some time to complete a large portion of these assessments and reports, however the process will still continue throughout this coming week.

Reports will be released online, via Compass, at the end of next week and parents will be notified directly when this has occurred. Please ensure that the school is aware of any changes that may have been made to your email and/or any other contact details, to ensure that these notifications are received promptly.
Principals’ Breakfast with the Hon Steve Bracks AC

I was privileged to attend a special Principals’ Breakfast this morning with the Hon Steve Bracks AC, held at Zinc in Federation Square. This breakfast was organised by the Department of Education and Training (DET), and involved only a select group of principals from across the state. Chaired by DET Secretary Gill Callister, we were given a presentation from Steve Bracks and involved in a wider discussion of state-wide school issues, best practice models for educational provision and the ‘Bracks Review’ of school funding. This was a very interesting and highly worthwhile event and provided a great deal of information that could be of benefit to the school and local community.

VCAL Industry Award Winner

I am pleased to announce that Yarra Hills’ VCAL student Cameron Murphy has recently been awarded the ‘Overall 1st Year Plumbing Apprentice Award for Swinburne University and TAFE. Our VCAL program, which involves School Based Apprenticeship Training (School Based Apprenticeships or Traineeships), as well as school and TAFE study, continues to support those students striving for industry experience and opportunity, with a large number of our students achieving industry awards each year.

Well done Cameron!

End of Term – early dismissal (2:30pm)

Friday June 24 is the last day of term two and will involve a 2:30pm dismissal of all students on both campuses. Please note that all school bus services will run 30 minutes earlier on this day to accommodate the shortened school day.

Finally, as this is the last newsletter before the term break, I wish all students and families a happy, healthy and safe holiday period and look forward to seeing you all back, ready and refreshed for term three.

Best wishes,
Darren Trippett
College Principal

Community Connections class

In our Year 7 class at Yarra Hills Secondary College we have been attending a class called ‘Community Connections’.

In the last few classes we planned to make a picture story book for the purpose of reading it to the Grade 1’s and 2’s at St Peter Julian Eymard Primary School. We firstly wrote a draft for our story and then we got creative when producing our final product by using feathers, stickers, googly eyes and coloured paper.

When we arrived at SPJE on Thursday May 5, we were greeted by Ms Pangilnan who was lovely, and the Grade 1’s and 2’s. Jordan Prokop introduced our class (7B) to Grade 1’s and 2’s. When we introduced ourselves we stopped and asked the younger students questions like “Do you know what a community is?” and then we explained the importance of our visit and getting together as a community to support one another.

Whilst we were reading our picture books to the Grade 1’s and 2’s, we also asked a few questions to extend their learning and vocabulary. For example, “What is a forest?” “What is in a forest?”

On Thursday May 19, we returned to Grade 1/2’s for our second visit. We helped the younger students with their science experiment of turning a liquid into a solid (cream to butter). Once again we asked the Grade 1’s and 2’s questions to help them with their learning, then we helped them write and draw a little step-by-step procedural text.

We loved visiting their class and school and I’m sure that Grade 1 and 2 loved it too. We will for sure visit again and get to know more of our community, and hopefully get to become older role models for the little kids to look up to.

Jasmine Nullmeier 7B
From the Mooroolbark Campus Principal

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our students on completing their exams. It was great to see our students taking this part of their assessment so seriously. This culminated in our Unit 3 (Year 11 & 12 VCE students) completing the General Achievement Test (GAT) on Tuesday June 7. The year 12s’ preparation and work in all their exams, including this 3 hour test, will hold them in good stead for the end-of-year exams.

The last 2 weeks we have lots of things on for our students including:

♦ Shape Your Destiny (Careers and Pathways event) for our year 10 students
♦ Work Experience for our year 10 students
♦ City Experience for year 9 students
♦ Year 12 university visits

It is certainly going to be an action-packed 2 weeks.

I would like to make mention of some of the events that have occurred recently:

**Farm School**

Every Wednesday, a group of our year 9 boys are undertaking a Certificate 1 in Land Management. This is being done at the Farm School in Woori Yallock. It is a 20 week program running across term 2 and term 3. Students are involved in a project that sees them demolishing and re-building a boardwalk at the Hackett Tree—a popular natural attraction in Powelltown. The existing boardwalk was damaged, and the students are involved in re-building this. We have had fantastic reports from the staff at the Farm School about the student’s great attitude and work ethic in the 5 weeks so far.

**METEC Driver Education**

The year 10 students in the Driver Education Elective have, for the past two Fridays (May 27 and June 3), been at the METEC Driver Education centre learning how to drive. From all accounts the students did really well with two of our students being nominated for the METEC Driver of the Year award. A great effort!

**Year 10 Formal**

I had the pleasure of joining 20 other staff from Mt Evelyn and Mooroolbark Campus, attending the year 10 Formal on Friday June 10. Held this year at Chateau Wyuna Receptions in Mt Evelyn, we had over 60 of our students join in a great night of festivities. Whilst it was a cold and wet night, this certainly didn’t dampen the festivities. The students all looked fabulous dressed up in their finest formal gear. Of course photographs were a plenty at the beginning, before we were seated and eating. Following the main meal, our very own resident DJ Marc Lucarelli kicked off a night of dancing. We literally had all the students up and dancing for nearly the whole night. It was great to see so many of our students thoroughly enjoying themselves. I must thank the work of Demos Koullacas and David Audesho, Year 10 Coordinators from both campuses, for their organisation of the night as well as students Sam Petterson and Carly Johnson who did a fabulous job of organising tables and decorating. A great night!

Greg Cowan
Mooroolbark Campus Principal
From the Mt Evelyn Campus Principal

Now that the exams are finished and students have had feedback on these exams, we’re onto the final step of reports. We are well into report writing and proof reading in readiness for them to be uploaded for parents and students to read. I do encourage all parents and students to carefully read the reports as there is much feedback students can learn from the comments made by staff.

Next week the year 9 students will have their city experience which is always a highlight for students. They will have the opportunity to explore and understand Melbourne CBD far better and I wish them well for the week. I would also like to wish our year 10 students the very best for their work experience next week. This is a great opportunity for students to experience career options working with many businesses both within the community and even interstate! I look forward to hearing their stories next term.

A Meal Challenge

In Food and Technology we often like to push students in regard to their thinking and food preparation skills. With popular shows like Master Chef and My Kitchen Rules where contestants have to think on their feet can be quite a challenge. Bringing some of this into the kitchen allows students to build a greater understanding of what it takes to get a meal together as well as improve their skills and knowledge in cooking.

A few weeks ago I put the challenge to my Safari Foods class to create a meal from another country within 70 minutes. It had to be professional and reflect the style of cooking that goes on within that country. The result was fantastic with an array of dishes from Thailand, Germany, Italy, China and Russia. I think the students were also impressed with their efforts; I know I was!

Yarra Hills leads the way for student leaders

Three years ago we started our first Student Leadership Forum for student leaders from local primary schools as a result of the Bully Stoppers project. Back then we had three schools involved with the project. We decided this forum was valuable for all student leaders that we now hold this as an annual event for all student leaders from our local primary schools. Yarra Hills Peer Support leaders always help to facilitate this event. Each year there is a new focus that centres on combatting bullying. We had students from 7 primary schools with the focus for this year being RESILIENCE and the importance of building this in our young people.

We were fortunate to have Adam Voigt as our key note speaker who inspired and empowered students in what they can do as leaders both in their thinking and in their actions. Lisa Brookes from the Police force gave a great presentation in regard to online behaviour and the responsibility everyone has to ensure we are all safe. There were many activities and tasks students needed to complete throughout the day which tested their thinking. Students shared many ideas and stories which were added to the strength of the day. By the end of the day all schools had plans in place to build resilience with the aim of reducing bullying in their school. It was simply the best forum we have ever had. All student were buzzing with excitement by the end of the day.
Thanks so much to St Mary’s Primary, Mt Evelyn Primary, Birmingham Primary, Wandin Yallock Primary, Wandin North Primary, Coldstream Primary and Yering Primary for their involvement. A very special thanks to Rhys McMillan, Calleen Taylor, Sarah Edwards, Katherine Rosevear, Tylah Hull and Tamsin Preston for being such brilliant leaders in helping me to facilitate this great event. You were all such fantastic ambassadors for Yarra Hills!

New Signs!!!
At long last we are finally getting our new signs at Mt Evelyn Campus. Our Performing Arts Centre is now well signed, and soon the archway opposite the Bus Shelter will have our Yarra Hills sign. The wonderful Buckmaster mural that was painted by our students 7 years ago is also getting a well-deserved facelift, can’t wait to see it finished!!

Master Chef Challenge for Year 8 students
Whilst the Year 9 and 10 students had their meal challenge this week, so too did our year 8 students in my class with their Master Chef Challenge. Their challenge was to reinvent the humble muffin and with a variety of ingredients available to them, students really had to think about what they were going to make. I was so impressed with the vast array of muffin types from Apple and chocolate through to chocolate and marshmallows. Students had such a great time being in control of what they were making. Maybe one day one of them will make it to Master Chef? I hope so!
Year 10 Social was AMAZING!!!

It is the highlight of every year 10 student; a chance to get dressed up in formal wear, organise hair, make-up, cars, suits and dresses. The girls looked amazing with the most beautiful dresses and the boys looking so smart in their suits. They often look so different but always make us so proud. Many staff from both campuses enjoy attending this event as it’s also a chance for us to see our students so grown up! It was such a fantastic atmosphere with everyone dancing the night away thanks to the DJ skills of Marc Lucarelli – thanks Marc! Carly Johnson, Sam Peterson and Rhys McMillan were the MC’s for the night and did a great job of handing out awards, going through the formalities of the night and generally creating the great atmosphere. Thanks also to Demos Koullacas and David Audesho for organising this great event.

I wish everyone a restful holiday and look forward to seeing you all in term 3.

Robyn Dew
Mt Evelyn Campus Principal
Year 9 Sailing

On Tuesday 24 May the Mooroolbark Campus Year 9 Outdoor Education class undertook sailing at Mornington Pier. In coolish conditions and 10-15 knot winds the students arrived with a lot of enthusiasm and excitement for the activity.

It wasn’t long before the students were busily learning how to rig up the sails and the steering mechanisms for the boats. Following setting up the students were eager to venture out into the sheltered waters of the bay. Most were able to sail around and improve their confidence and navigation skills during the 2 hour session. A number of boats tipped in, a few highlights were the capsize drills undertaken by the students. Despite being a little windblown and chilly, everyone had a terrific time and thoroughly enjoyed the session.

Murray McAllister

Year 10 Driver Education

Students recently completed their ‘Driver Instruction’ sessions at the METEC driving complex in Colchester Road where they learnt how to drive manual vehicles and to develop their ‘on road’ driving skills.

Most of the students started out with low rated driving standards during the first week as for many it was their first experience at driving. The driving ability and skill awareness improved in each of the students during the second week where they were able to obtain greater confidence in handling their vehicles and they were successfully obtaining higher results for their driving skills.

Congratulations to Lachlan Floyd and Chloe Potter who were both nominated by their instructors for the “Driver of the Year – Student Award”, which will be determined later in the year.

Well done!

Murray McAllister

FOO

FAMILY OF ORIGIN

with Phil Sternhouse OAM

Are you struggling to understand why you behave and react in certain ways, either in relationships or in your family?

Have you ever said that “you won’t do what your parents did”, yet you find yourself displaying those behaviors or attitudes.

Join Phil as he guides you through the steps of identifying and addressing the issues related to your Family Of Origin.

Thursday 16th June
7pm-9pm
$35pp
1stfloor, 231 Main St
Lilydale

Light refreshments included

Bookings
Call 0413 0202
bookings@philsterhouse.com.au

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)
WHAT'S WITH THIS “READING FOR ENJOYMENT?”

In trying to improve literacy standards for students, reading does play a big and more involved role. Reading for enjoyment is very important and it doesn’t matter what students read, whether it is a novel or a non-fiction book or even a newspaper or magazine. Research studies have shown that promoting reading can have a major impact on children, young people and adults and their future. [Reading for pleasure: a research overview, Christina Clark and Kate Rumbold, England: National Literacy Trust, November 2006]

The research evidence also suggests that, at home or at school, conversations about books, shared reading of books, and connecting everyday experiences with reading are valued activities that help students to become engaged in reading and contribute to the enhancement of future learning. [Reading for pleasure and literacy achievement, Marion Meliers, from: research.acer.edu.au/resdev/vol12/iss12/5/]

What does this mean for students at Yarra Hills SC? The Libraries and Library Staff are big advocates of reading for pleasure and we are very willing to discuss “all things books!” So check out the Library at the Mooroolbark and Mount Evelyn campuses and pick up a good book TODAY!

May the books be with you...

Ms. Alison Hay
Teacher-Librarian
Mt Evelyn Campus

**General Homework**
Every day at Lunchtime in the Library

**ICT Homework**
Monday & Thursday at lunchtime in E2

Bring your books and lunch

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**Steam Club**: Mondays & Wednesdays at Recess - PAC

**Juggle Club**: Wednesdays at lunchtime - PAC

**Lego Club**: Wednesdays & Fridays at lunchtime - Library

**Animal Club**: Fridays at lunchtime - J8

**Gym open**: Mondays & Fridays at lunchtime - Library

**iPad time**: Thursdays at lunchtime - Library

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**FOSTER CARERS NEEDED**
If you have thought about foster care, please get in touch and ask the questions you have always wanted to.

Ring Key Assets 1800 932 237 or 1800 WE CARE

Email: info@keyassets.com.au

www.keyassets.com.au

Like us on Facebook: keyassets

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**Mt Evelyn Campus**

**Activities**

- **Steam Club**: Mondays & Wednesdays at Recess - E2
- **Juggle Club**: Wednesdays at lunchtime - PAC
- **Lego Club**: Wednesdays & Fridays at lunchtime - Library
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