From the College Principal

NAPLAN

Later this month, NAPLAN results will become available for this year's year 7 and year 9 students. NAPLAN is the National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy and involves biennial testing of all students from year 3 (grade 3) up until year 9 (ie at 3, 5, 7 & 9). While much is said in the media about national standards and comparisons made with other tests such as the PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) which includes other countries, in particular China, by and large we compare very well as a state and a nation. Victoria showed higher levels of improvement over the last 2 years than all other states in most areas. Australia also ranks well, particularly when you take into account the breadth of curriculum and experiences our children are offered.

Having said that, as a parent you are most interested in how your own child fares and, more importantly, how much they may have improved as an individual. When these results do become available, please take some time to look through these with your child(ren) and take note of how they have grown as individuals. We are confident that at Yarra Hills we make every effort to provide an environment where all students, no matter how high or low their starting point, are able to develop their skills and abilities and thrive.
Finally however I’d like to point out, as I do each year, that the NAPLAN tests Literacy and Numeracy only and does not have the capacity to assess many other things we as a community see as important, either academically or socially/emotionally. These things include being respectful, caring, resilient, innovative, curious and community minded, not to mention being happy and healthy!

“Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts!”

Awards Assemblies

I had the pleasure of last week attending the awards presentation assemblies on both campuses. While these will be reported on fully later in the newsletter, I’d like to say how impressed I was with not only the student leaders who spoke at each assembly, but also the number of students who received awards.

Congratulations to all recipients and thanks also to those parents and other family members who were able to attend on the day. We had around 150 guests in total across two assemblies. We thank you for your support of your children and of Yarra Hills.

Darren Trippett
College Principal

From the Mooroolbark Campus Principal

Another busy fortnight in the life of the Mooroolbark Campus. We are well into the swing of the term.

Awards Assembly

The highlight from the past 2 weeks was our Awards Assembly. Whilst it was a wet and rainy affair it was so good to see lots of parents still in attendance, braving the wintry conditions. It was great to celebrate the achievements of our students in:

- Sport – The Age Group Champions (7-12)
- Academic Awards both in Achievement and Endeavour and
- Science Extension modules
- We also had an opportunity to hear from our staff in the Junior and Senior school, our College and Junior School Captains, as well as the short ‘intro’ to the Production. Our students were so attentive and courteous as we recognised our high-achievers from semester 1.

Thank you for your parking efforts

A big thank you to our parents for all your efforts on parking in designated areas. I appreciate your efforts in ensuring we ease congestion, and keep our students safe in and around the school.

The Inaugural Parents & Friends Association Shopping Tour

Again I ask all parents, families and friends to support the Yarra Hills Parents & Friends Association Shopping Tour on 17 September, as a fundraiser for the school. Details are on the notice attached to the newsletter. We would love you to come along and support the college.
Pathways, Course Counselling and Subject Selection

As I have mentioned in our last newsletters we continue the process of course selection in readiness for 2017. On Thursday August 4, all year 10 students and their parents had their 1-on-1 interview with a senior school staff member to finalise their year 11 & 12 selections for 2017. What was pleasing was the number of students who had researched and put much thought into their selections and future pathways. Our year 8s and 9s also had meetings and have begun the selection process for their electives.

Outdoor Education enjoys the snow

It was a big week for our Outdoor Education classes as they visited the snow. Cross country skiing was the order of the day for the year 10s as they visited Lake Mountain. Mr Mac’s class enjoyed a fresh dump of snow on the Tuesday, and then Mr Derrick’s class had fine and clear conditions on the Thursday. In between, Ms Steer’s VCE Outdoor Education class enjoyed the sights of Mt St Gwinnear.

Congratulations

A big congratulations to one of our staff members, Skye Cameron, on the safe arrival of her baby girl.

Best of luck

Lastly I wish Terri Brodie and Cara Robinson, two of our much-loved and admired Science/Maths teachers, all the best as they started their family leave over this fortnight. I wish them all the best on their impending arrival of their respective babies.

Greg Cowan
Mooroolbark Campus Principal
From the Mt Evelyn Campus Principal

A highlight throughout every year is when we celebrate the achievements students make and last week was no exception. With over 70 students receiving awards for their Achievement and Endeavour, it was an impressive sight. Sporting awards were also presented to students. With nearly 80 parents in attendance watching with pride as each student received their award, some receiving multiple awards. We were entertained by the Music Appreciation Class whilst Victoria from Education Travel gave students an insight to ‘G’Day USA’. Shane Hart presented the awards and gave his own reflection on what it means to strive to do your best. Rhys McMillan and Eden Wellard-Johnson gave the audience a taste of our production For Home and Empire. From their performance, it is no doubt going to be a great production.

Time to make a choice

All year 10 students had their opportunity to speak individually with VCE and Careers staff to select their subjects for next year. It was a chance to be counselled on these choices and understand the pathway they have in front of them.

Year 8 and 9 students also had the opportunity to learn about the subjects on offer for next year as well as VCE which is on offer for those students ready to take the plunge. A big thank you to all staff involved in this process. I encourage all parents to discuss elective choices for next year to ensure students have a broad selection to allow themselves to be in the best position for the future.

Grab every opportunity

This week we had the opportunity to take some of our girls to listen to some inspirational speakers at a breakfast in Docklands. The event was called ‘Empowering young women through education’. We were fortunate to listen to Dr Jess Murphy and Tanya Ha. The biggest message they both sent through to all the girls was to grab every opportunity as you never know where it will lead you. Our girls really enjoyed the breakfast and the guest speakers.

Changes are happening……..

Last weekend we had a working bee to start painting the back foyer area behind science. A massive thank you to the Martin, Nyenbrinck and Woolridge family who turned up to give us a hand. Thank you also to Greg Cowan who dropped in to help out. It’s coming along nicely and with another day (next Sunday) we should have it finished so we can get the carpets in. Anyone who can pop in for an hour or two to help would be greatly appreciated. We will be painting from 9 – 5pm. Just bring painting clothes. I will post before and after photos when it’s finished.

For Home and Empire

With the opening night of our production next week, we’re now at the pointy end of rehearsals with everyone polishing their singing voices and acting skills. I have popped in to see how they were going and I am so looking forward to the show. It looks fantastic! I hope everyone has their tickets to go. Please go online and book yours today. Don’t miss out on this gem!

More wildlife pics

The wildlife is awesome at Mt Evelyn Campus. This kookaburra turns up outside one of the classrooms everyday much to the pleasure of students. Thanks Noah for the great photo!

Robyn Dew
Mt Evelyn Campus Principal
Eastern Zone Intermediate Boys & Girls Badminton Update

On Friday July 29 the intermediate boys and girls ventured to the Kilsyth Stadium for the Eastern Zone competitions.

The boys team started the day off in fine fashion defeating Forest Hills 4 games to 2. They then came up against Brentwood and despite some very close matches where they could easily have clinched victory, they went down 5 games to 1. They then had an easy victory over Ringwood winning 5 games to 1, which placed them into the crossover final against Glen Waverly. The Glen Waverly team dominated each of the matches winning 6 games to 0. The boys then played off in the final for 3rd and 4th place against Doncaster East but could not match their skill levels going, down once again 6 games to 0 to finish the day 4th out of the 8 teams.

In the girls division they had a loss to Wellington in their first match, and then in their second match against Melba, where the game scores were 3 games all, they went down by the narrowest of margins - 105 points to 106 which placed them in 5th position for the day.

As both the boys and the girls teams consisted of primarily year 9 students, they will be each better off for the experience for when they come back next year. Well done to everyone involved.

Murray McAllister

Gold Medal Success

Congratulations to Chloe Marcucci who received a gold medal in her recent club championships for Karate. Chloe has been training at Kakushinkan Shukokai Karate Club for many years and has achieved fantastic results during her time at the club. Her continued success demonstrates Chloe’s excellent level of fitness and commitment to achieving her best.

Well done, Chloe!

Senior Boys Table Tennis

Congratulations to our senior boys table tennis team, who competed in the Eastern Metropolitan Regional finals on Friday 29 July. It was a sad occasion, as this is the last time these boys will represent us in this event, as they are all in year 12 and will be leaving us at the end of this year.

I would like to commend Avel, Jaou, Ruat and Pakip for their awesome efforts in this tournament. They defeated Templestowe very convincingly in round one. Then lost to Wellington, who were a very strong team, in round two. They played against Ringwood in the third round and had to beat them to gain a position in the finals. After all the singles matches were completed, we were equal on rubbers and games. This meant that we had to win at least one of the doubles rubbers and at least one game in the second rubber.

We did manage to win the first rubber, but sadly lost the second rubber, without winning any games. So we ended up coming fifth overall.

Well done boys. I am so proud of you!!

Virginia Stacey
G’DAY USA EXCHANGE PROGRAM 2018
OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS

An opportunity exists for students at school to take part in a Cultural Exchange trip to the United States of America for twenty days in the January 2018 school holidays.

Destinations include: Disneyland, Universal Studios, Knott’s Berry Farm, Los Angeles, San Diego and San Francisco. A feature of the tour is that the students spend ten days living with an American host family and visit an American school.

The cost is currently $6,495.00*. The trip departs from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane international airports, which include the following: airfares, transfers, accommodation, travel insurance, breakfasts and admissions to attractions.

Please see Mr Sheaves (MB) for more information or phone EWT.

A parent information evening will be held in the Mooroolbark Campus Library at 7pm on Thursday 18 August.

ASD Teen Social Group

When: Third Sunday of the Month
Time: 5:00pm - 8:30pm
Venue: Kilsyth Club: Canterbury Room
Address: 12 Canterbury Rd and Colchester Rd Kilsyth

For enquiries please contact Erin Weegberg at Interchange Outer East on 9758 5522 or teenasad@ioe.org.au

If you are aged 13 - 18 years old (or still attending secondary school) come and join our teen social group. We meet on the third Sunday of the month. It is a great opportunity to eat out and meet new friends who have similar interests. This newly formed group is aimed to support ASD teens in social settings.

This group is for teens with high functioning autism (ASD). They will meet in a relaxed environment and have the opportunity to practice their social skills in a friendly and supportive environment. It is also an opportunity for parents to meet, chat and obtain information. Parents/Careers must be in attendance and supervise their teen at all times. Dinner and drinks are at your own cost.

The group is run by 2 group leaders who are parents of ASD children. All group leaders have a Working with Children (WWC) police check.

We look forward to meeting you and your teen.

Yarra Hills Secondary College 2016 Production

For Home and Empire

Wednesday August 17th, Thursday August 18th
Friday August 19th, Saturday August 20th

Mt Evelyn Performing Arts Centre
Burdağ Dve, Mt Evelyn ................. 8 pm

www.trybooking.com/209006

Adults $17.60 / Stud/Conc $11.60 / Family $46.40
Registrations for the 2016 Waratah Bay Beach Camp are closing soon. Year 8 students can look forward to a week filled with sun, fun, friends, fantastic food and adventurous activities. Waves will be surfed, marshmallows will be roasted and unforgettable memories will be made.

It’s not too late to register your child, contact the office for more information.
Yarra Hills Secondary College
Parents and Friends Association
Inaugural Shopping Tour

When: 17th September 2016
Cost: Adult - $52.00  Child under 16 - $26.00
Payment: Payment can be made:
• In person at the either Campus General Office
• By phoning the Campus General Office and paying with Credit Card or
• Sending in the Credit Card cut-off below

Where: Meet at Mt Evelyn Campus 7.30am / Mooroolbark Campus 7.45am & Return 6.30pm.
Bring: Family/ Friends/ Neighbours/ Teachers/ Principals/ Teenagers
Note: The price also includes a 2 course meal at a Bistro. Please let us know if you need varied special dietary requirements!

Proposed places we will be going:
• Bambis - Homeware and giftware
• Natio - Cosmetics and gifts
• Bonds - Clothing
• Candy Stripes – Children’s designer-wear
• Toy Networks - Toys
• Oz Luggage - Luggage, passport holders, wallets, handbags, overnight bags
• Ross’s Nuts - Nuts, Lollies, dried fruit, Gluten Free, NZ/ English products
• Sports Direct - Sportswear, shoes
• Christmas Shop - All things ‘Christmas’
• Diana Ferrari - Shoes/boots and ladies clothing.
• Linen Factory - Manchester
• Entertainment Town - Licensed gear – Holden, Ford, Music, Sports and gift-wear

If you need any more information please contact our PFA representatives:
• Sheryn Holloway: 0409143565
• Karen Dethomas: 0409009228

YARRA HILLS SECONDARY COLLEGE
PFA SHOPPING TOUR - CREDIT CARD PAYMENT FORM

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Special Dietary Requirements: YES / NO
MT Evelyn Campus ☐  Mooroolbark Campus ☐

If YES please list: ____________________________________________________________

CARD DETAILS: Visa ☐  Mastercard ☐

Name of Cardholder (As appears on Card): ___________________________ Expiry Date: ______ / ______ CCV: ________

Signature: ____________________________________________________________

Card Number: ___________________________