From the College Principal

EDUCATION STATE – Framework for Improving Student Outcomes (FISO)

As part of the Victorian Government's ‘Education State’ Reform Agenda all government schools are committing to a network focused on improving student learning outcomes. This Framework for Improving Student Outcomes (FISO) uses the latest research on student learning and global best-practice to assist schools to focus their efforts on key areas that are known to have the greatest impact on school improvement.
Focus: Whole School Approach to Literacy

Our school has joined with a group of neighbourhood schools to focus on building excellence in teaching and learning with particular emphasis on improving literacy outcomes in the secondary school setting. Strong skills in literacy, particularly reading and writing, are preconditions for success at school and in the workplace. Our FISO group is committed to ensuring that research based literacy strategies are embedded in every school with every student. The schools involved in this FISO group are:

- Bayswater Secondary College
- Emerald Secondary College
- Healesville High School
- Heathmont College
- Lilydale Heights College
- Lilydale High School
- Melba College
- Mooroolbark College
- Norwood Secondary College
- Upper Yarra Secondary College
- Yarra Hills Secondary College


Last week, Campus Principals Robyn Dew, Greg Cowan and I attended the 2016 VASSP conference in the city. This conference involves keynote speakers, presentations and workshops on education and best practice teaching and learning strategies from across the globe.

Education Minister and Deputy Premier James Merlino MP spoke at the conference dinner, highlighting the importance of education to the outcomes for all young adults and the need for appropriate funding and resources.

Among the many inspiring sessions, there was also a presentation by the Principal and Assistant Principal from Kambrya College, which was the school recently highlighted in the ABC television series “Revolution School”. They spoke of many of the same challenges and success that we have here at Yarra Hills.

Other events of note that have taken place since the last newsletter that will be covered in more detail in later report, include the following:

**Music Camp**

**College Production**

**Others:**

- BRIDGE BUILDERS – Business Breakfast
- Regional Sporting Competitions

Thanks, as always, to the many staff, parents and students who have contributed to the planning, implementation and performance of each of these special events for our college. Thank you!

Darren Trippett
College Principal
From the Mooroolbark Campus Principal

What a busy time of year it is at Yarra Hills and on the Mooroolbark Campus!

This week is busy also with us celebrating Book Week, with a number of activities culminating in a book character dress up day on Friday August 26. I look forward to having some write-up and photos in the next newsletter.

Progress & ‘At Risk’

As parents and guardians I encourage you to make contact with teachers if you are concerned at all about the progress of your child or you want an update of where they are at. Many of you came to Ready to Reflect interviews earlier in the term. This was an opportunity to catch up and look at what strategies your child needs to put in place to succeed in Semester 2. Now is an important time to ensure students stay on top of homework, assignments and classwork as they had planned. This is even more important if they miss school through illness. Interim Reports come out at the end of the term and this will give you a snapshot of their progress so far. Teachers will be notifying parents via a phone call, email or letter home if a students has not submitted work or is ‘At Risk’ of unsatisfactorily completing a subject.

Production

This fortnight has seen our production of ‘Home and Empire’ with a great number of our students from the campus involved. I am sure there were some very tired students after Saturday night’s performance. I was lucky enough to see it on Friday night and thoroughly enjoyed the costumes, storyline and great dialogue. Congratulations to all staff and students who took part and thankyou for your hard work.

Sport

We continue to have great participation and involvement from all of the year levels in our interschool sport program. This term we have seen our junior table tennis and basketball students compete. I want to congratulate our teams and thank our staff who coach and support. I want to make special mention of our year 7 soccer team. They were runners up in the Eastern Zone final last week, only losing in extra time. The boys played against schools that were much larger and many with recognised soccer programs. A great effort to get so far into the competition, and with such great positive spirit.

Parents & Friends Association (PFA) Morning Tea

A big thankyou to the parents for a ‘thankyou’ morning tea for our staff at Mooroolbark Campus on Monday August 22.

National Education Support (ES) Staff week

Last week we recognised the wonderful work ES staff do in schools and in particular Yarra Hills. I would like to acknowledge the great work that our support staff do to support the Principal Team and the teaching staff.

PFA Shopping Tour

Another reminder to all our parents, families and friends to please support the Yarra Hills Parents & Friends Association Shopping Tour which will be held 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.

Music Camp

I was fortunate enough to visit the camp on Thursday August 11 to see the Music Camp in action. I got to hear the Junior and Senior Bands practice and students brave the flying-fox and giant swing. As always the students were so enthusiastic, well-behaved and impeccably mannered.

Congratulations

A big congratulations to Terri Brodie from our Maths and Science team on the arrival of a baby boy.

Welcome to new staff

Welcome to the following staff: Karen Yates (English), Sarah Foote (Maths & Science) and Vincent Naidu (Maths, Science) who have joined the Mooroolbark Campus this term. Already in the short time they have been at the college they have made a big impact.

Greg Cowan
Mooroolbark Campus Principal
What an eventful 2 weeks, I’m exhausted thinking about it. Between the elective counselling and presentations, Music camp, The Business Breakfast and our production *For Home and Empire*, no wonder we have some tired students!

A website which may be handy for all those parents who are struggling with their adolescents whether it be with their attitude, school refusal or any other tricky situation. This website is terrific giving a great deal of useful tips and ideas to help your child, so check it out: **Empoweringparents.com**

**Music Camp**

This is always a highlight on the music calendar every year. It is a chance for students to get extensive as well as being part of other bands and also a chance to learn new music. I had the pleasure of visiting the students on their last day and witnessed all the bands learning songs. It was a pleasure to listen to the camaraderie that developed and supported each campus to really connect with those who only learned and supported each other. It was lovely to see.

A huge thank you to Richard for organising this great event as well as the staff who were brilliant in their support of students throughout the camp. Students not only learned and supported each other but also allowed both campuses to really connect with each other with many new friends made. It was lovely to see.

**We are going to The Alpine School!!!**

This year I asked our current year 8 students if they would be interested in being part of The Alpine School. This is an amazing opportunity for students to be in the Alpine Country for 9 weeks to really develop within themselves as well as their confidence not to mention learning some leadership skills along the way. Not every school has this opportunity and we needed to apply for a position. Yarra Hills has been successful in our application!!! The 8 students who stepped up to be part of this opportunity are so excited and just quietly..........so am I !!!!
For Home and Empire

After months of rehearsals, costume fitting, set construction, dancing and singing, our production was finally here. We started with a preview for 300 of our local primary school students. They were thrilled with the show. The production was particularly special as it was co-written by our own David Billings and based on events from World War 1. I was lucky enough to see the show twice on Wednesday and Saturday. I was so impressed by the authenticity of this show and the attention to detail of that era.

Our students did this production proud by their acting, singing and dancing abilities. I think some of these students have lived another life, they were so convincing in their role. A huge congratulations to Julia Rockett, David Billings, Airlia Johns and all the support staff for their effort in getting the production to the stage. Congratulations to all the actors who performed in this great show, you did Yarra Hills so proud!!

A very fancy breakfast!!!

The Advance students along with Phil Stenhouse and Beck Mitchell from Bridge Builders created the annual Business Breakfast, which this year was held at the Crown Palladium. It is a very auspicious occasion where many business men and women come together for breakfast, network together and listen to an inspiring guest speaker. This year the guest speaker was Matt Finnis who is the CEO of the St Kilda Football Club. Being a St Kilda supporter for ever, I was very excited to hear this and even more fortunate to attend the event with other staff from Yarra Hills. Words cannot express how proud I was of all our students who presented and hosted the event so professionally. Sabrina and Tylah spoke very well, so too did Taylah, Odessa and Tamsin. Matt Finnis was inspirational in his message whilst explaining the journey of the St Kilda football club.
Year 8 Badminton

Both our Yarra Hills Year 8 Boys & Girls Badminton teams played in the Eastern Zone finals on Friday 19 August and did well in finishing 4th in each of their competitions. They made it through to the cross over semi finals but came up against the more experienced Balwyn and East Doncaster teams and were unable to match their skill levels. Both teams then had to play off for third and fourth against Brentwood who had beaten them in their preliminary matches and Brentwood once again claimed their victory. Well done to all students involved.

Murray McAllister

Breaking down the barriers

For many years now we have had students from the Yarra Ranges SDS come and join some of our junior elective classes. The aim of this integration is to improve the social skills of the SDS students. I also feel our students get a great deal from these visits by providing assistance and some great conversation with the SDS students. Unfortunately some students, through their own lack of knowledge, don’t know how to speak to students from the SDS or even understand some of the difficulties they have. Matt Shakespeare from Yarra Ranges SDS came to speak to all year 7 and 8 students about the disabilities students from the SDS have in order to help our students understand these students better. It was an awesome talk and one our students got a great deal from. It improved their understanding which will hopefully break down some of the barriers that may exist.

Focus Groups – a chance to listen to students

Greg Cowan (Campus Principal from Mooroolbark) has been getting students thoughts on some of the information that has come to light from our recent Attitude to school survey. This survey is given to students each year to cover a variety of areas within the school such as learning confidence, stimulating learning environment, student safety, student motivation etc. These surveys provide a great deal of feedback to staff. However we find that running focus groups is a great way to really get down to the brass tacks of student thoughts. Greg reported that the meeting went very well with students providing valuable feedback on a variety of issues.

Robyn Dew
Mt Evelyn Campus Principal
Year 7 Girls Basketball

Congratulations to the Year 7 Girls Basketball team who played in the ‘B’ grade Yarra Group competition on Friday 19 August. They worked together very well as a team and had success in three of their matches. They defeated Upper Yarra, Lilydale Heights and Monbulk. They lost to Lilydale High School 3 and 4 and had a draw against Emerald.

A great effort from all girls. Thanks also to Odessa and Taylor from year 10, who came on the day to help coach girls.

Well done girls!

Virginia Stacey

“Sweet Little 16”

On Friday 19 August Yarra Hills won its 16th sports title for the year with the Mooroolbark Year 7 Boys Table Tennis team winning through to the Eastern Zone competitions. Our Mooroolbark Girls team narrowly went down in their competitions to finish second. The win through to Eastern Zone places us just one title behind our record breaking 17 titles obtained in 2015 and with the Year 8 and Intermediate competitions being conducted over the next few weeks we are hoping that we can surpass that.

Well done to all of the students who tried out for the teams and who were successful on the day!

Murray McAllister
Music Camp 2016

The College Concert Bands recently had their three day Music Camp down by the beach at Portsea, with 60 music students enjoying the cool but sunny weather. Students also had the opportunity to enjoy the various activities on offer at the camp, such as the giant swing, low ropes course and flying fox, a walk to the beach and of course many hours of band rehearsals. The annual Music Camp is such a great opportunity for our Year 7 musicians to get to know the older musicians, who all do a wonderful job in mentoring the younger musicians.

At all hours of the day, music could be heard right around the camp, with the Senior, Intermediate and Junior Bands practising throughout the day and into the evening. One of the highlights of the camp was recording one of the Junior Band’s rehearsals, and having one piece added to the College Facebook page for everyone to see. The Woodwind and Saxophone Ensembles were also busy during the camp, rehearsing music for the College Concert – Surfin’ USA, The Lion King and Morning Mood.

Thank you to all students for their efforts during the camp – the rehearsals definitely paid off and all of the Concert Bands are now sounding great in the lead up to the College Concert - Monday 17 October. Thank you also to staff members for their support during the camp - Virginia Stacey, Matthew Sheaves, Nikki Waterson, Sharon Phillips, Rachael McLeod, Cathy Bruce, Chris Cameron and Danny Madden.

Richard O’Toole
Instrumental Music Director

YHSC VCAL student

Say hello to Mawi Te. She is one of our VCAL students. Mawi Te is working at All Glamed Up Nail Design, a beauty business owned by one of our Alumni. All Glamed Up Nail Design is located in the IGA arcade in Mooroolbark. You can have a manicure by Mawi Te for a heavily discounted price as she works and studies to complete her VCAL.
On Friday 19 August our Year 7 Basketball girls went to the State Basketball Centre to play in the Yarra Group Competition. As it was a round robin format our girls played seven matches. They were a credit to our school, as they tried their hardest all day and showed excellent sportsmanship.

They won their first three matches playing against Lilydale High School 2, Healesville and Upper Yarra, which were very exciting. They then unfortunately came up against some pretty strong opposition in Emerald and Lilydale Heights who beat us in very close matches. We went on to beat Monbulk, but lost our last match to Lilydale High School 1. This meant we came 4th overall.

A special mention to Sharlene Masalski from year 8 who coached the team in an incredibly mature and knowledgeable fashion.

I would also like to thank Natalie Boxshall, who came along to score for our team on the day. She did an excellent job. Thanks Nat.

Well done girls!
BOOK WEEK IS HERE!

At the time of writing this week’s newsletter item, Book Week hasn’t officially begun but all Teacher-Librarians, Librarians, Authors, Publishers and Booksellers will be waiting excitedly to see who the winners are. 2016 is the 71st year of the Australian Children’s Book Awards and the Children’s Book Council of Australia is celebrating with a distinctly Australian theme: “Australia: Story Country” and have commissioned Shaun Tan, Oscar winner and previous winner of the Children’s Book Council of Australia Awards, to design the this year’s poster to celebrate Book Week. This poster is different from previous posters as this one has illustrations of various children’s picture book characters from previous CBCA Award winning picture books included. There is a competition running at the Mooroolbark campus Library to see who can spot and name the most characters in the poster. The poster will be part of the Book Week 2016 display, so how many can you find and name? There are some fantastic prizes on offer.

Also to celebrate Book Week, Australia: Story Country, the Mooroolbark and the Mount Evelyn campus Libraries will be hosting a week of events celebrating Australian books and authors. So keep an eye on the Compass Newsfeed to find out what activities will be happening in the Libraries as we celebrate Book Week 2016!

What Shaun Tan says about this year’s Book Week poster:

“My idea for this poster was very simple: to create the kind of CBCA poster I would have loved to see as a child, either in a library or on my own bedroom wall. Even back then I had some awareness that Australian children’s literature was particularly special and original: crazy, amusing, thought-provoking, and filled with memorable characters and places both weird and familiar. When it comes to unfettered imagination, Australia truly is a ‘story country’, as it has been for many thousands of years.”


May the books be with you...

Ms. Alison Hay
Teacher-Librarian
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
• Natlio - 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

Name: ___________________________ Transaction Date: ____________ Phone: _____________

Being For: PFA Shopping Tour Number of People attending: ________ Amount: $ ________

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: ___________________________