

Respect ♦ Endeavour ♦ Achievement ♦ Pride

YARRA HILLS SECONDARY COLLEGE



PO BOX 42 MOOROOLBARK 3138
Mooroolbark Campus: Tel: 9839 8800
Mt Evelyn Campus : Tel: 9736 3650
www.yarrahills.vic.edu.au

2023

Newsletter

Term 4



Principal's Report

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff,

As the school year now comes to an end, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on some of the many events, experiences, initiatives and opportunities that have been provided for our students and staff throughout the year.

Our Camps Program is always a highlight for students, with Year Level Camps, Music Camp and Outdoor Education Camps taking place all around Victoria. Special thanks to Mr David Audesho our Camps Coordinator, Mr Richard O'Toole Director of Instrumental Music, and Mr Todd Derrick Outdoor Ed teacher, for their work in running these camps, as well as those staff who gave their time to join the students for these events.

Speaking of Instrumental Music, our wonderful program has continued throughout the year with our bands and ensembles practicing and performing at several college and community events. Our College Concert was an opportunity to showcase and highlight these performers, some of whom also participate in the Australian Youth Band. We are very lucky to have such a talented, and well-led, group.

The College Production was another highlight, with this year's 'Tribute to Broadway' providing a cavalcade of popular musical numbers from eleven legendary musicals including the likes of Grease & Hairspray. It was great to see the depth and breadth of our students' musical, dramatic and vocal performances. Well done!

Visual Arts was strongly represented, with our Yarra Hills Community Art Show providing displays and recognition of talent and effort, supported by local community and MPs.

Our extensive Sporting Program was again on show, with the college-wide Swimming and Athletics followed by Cross Country then District, Regional and Statewide team and individual performances. Thanks again to Mr David Audesho for his work with these students and teams.

Academically, we've had our High Achiever's Program running with those students identified as working above normal levels. Our STEAM program has continued with many students, in partnership with the Yarra Ranges Tech School, who have also supported some wonderful opportunities and programs for our indigenous students as part of our role in the Collaborative Indigenous Strategy. Our Support and Inclusion team have also worked tirelessly to build profiles and develop strategies to further support those students with additional needs.

We have worked with many of our local primary schools to provide extension in both Art and Literacy, as well as to experience our highly popular 'Flight School' activities. These activities help lay the foundations for a successful transition and entry into our secondary setting for many of these students.

While these above-mentioned activities are extensive, they are not exhaustive, there are countless other opportunities and experiences that have taken place during the year, each helping to build the foundations for our young adults to move into a successful future.



Year 12 Valedictory Dinner

Almost 300 people connected to our Yarra Hills community and Year 12 cohort gathered at Karralyka to celebrate the 2023 graduating class. It was an exceptional event, warmly engaged with by all, reflecting the impressive attention to detail from its organisers, and the effort, care and preparation taken by all who were called to the stage for speeches and presentations.



Remembrance Day

Although this year's Remembrance Day fell on a Saturday, services were held at both campuses the day before and conducted by our Junior School Captains and Captains-elect. Student Leaders from the Mt Evelyn campus also laid a wreath at the Mt Evelyn RSL service on Saturday.



Yarra Hills Community Art Show

After a few years' break for the pandemic, the Art Show was back for the second year running. Under the guidance of coordinator, David Lloyd, for the first time at Yarra Hills, David's experience (his 27th Art Show!) shone through. The show featured art works from Yarra Hills students from Year 7-12, including the portfolio assessment works from our Year 12 Art Making & Exhibiting students, and Mt Evelyn Primary school students in Grades 3 and 4, who participate in our Art Extension program.

Holding the show is a significant undertaking! Months of planning and preparation, and much (literal) heavy lifting in the week of, and after. We're grateful to the many staff who gave the show the required effort and care.

The show, held over Friday and Saturday, was well attended, particularly the opening and presentation of awards. MP Bridget Vallence attended to support the event, spoke at the opening, and presented awards.



Comedy Night

Planning for this year's Comedy Night began at last year's Comedy Night, and yet what happened last year – a late cancellation by one of the headliners – happened this year too. But, just as with last year, when Richard Stubbs stepped in, this year, well-known Australian comic, Tony Martin, joined the show. Fair to say that it worked out very well! Although ticket sales were sluggish right up until a few days before the event, we ended up with a larger audience than last year. There were many, many laughs had – it went very well! Thanks for this goes to Sonja Pawsey and the PFA team, for organising the comedians, raising many donations, setting up the venue, running the raffles, and her own jokes too!

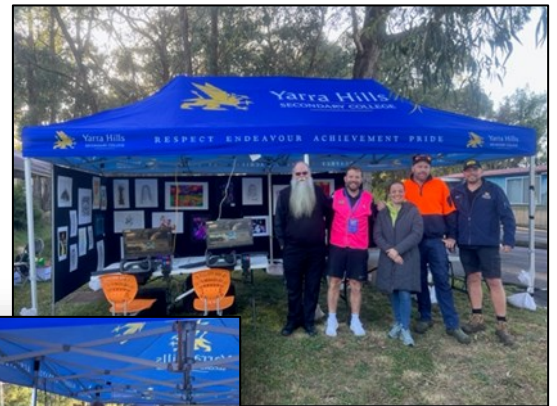


Mt Evelyn Street Party

The College had a significant presence at the 2023 Mt Evelyn Street Party. Campus Principal, Leighton O'Donnell, is a member of the Mt Evelyn Township Group and it's Street Party sub-committee. We had a large and prominent stall there on the day. Our STEAM team had flight simulators set up, which were in constant demand throughout the day, and the stall featured art works from our Art Show. Well over a dozen staff were involved in setting up and staffing the stall, from 6.30am until 5pm. Many past and present Yarra Hills community members stopped by, VIPs such as MP Aaron Violi, and many more besides came for a chat about our College.

Our music program's Saxophone ensemble featured on the Street Party's Jazz stage.

A Street Party record crowd of between 15-20,000 people attended the event.



Year 7 Market Day

Market Day was held earlier in the term. A feature of our Yearly Life Skills program is the Year 7 Market Day. This year it was a fantastic lunchtime event across both campuses. Stalls were selling a range of products – from Halloween cupcakes, to games, and even hair styling. Overall, students raised nearly \$800 to go towards Men's Mental Health, and the Starlight Foundation.



Year 12 Farewell assembly

The farewell assembly for Year 12 students was held on Monday October 16. A tradition of 'altered uniform day' also continued, where students alter their uniforms by getting creative and adding embellishments.



Year 12 Celebration Day

Year 12 students had a blast, with a dress-up day that included Sumo wrestling, a 'Colour Run, and food vans.



Free dress day



Our Year 11 Vocational Major students developed and ran fundraising activities and a donations-drive to support the Holy Fools charity. It included gold-coin donation for being out of uniform, a very popular sausage sizzle, and an even more popular students versus staff dodgeball game!

It was great to see our students running the show, from go to whoa, and well done to all involved - over \$300 was raised



November

The month of November saw the Yarra Hills community get behind the Men's Health Movember Movement as well as the Breast Cancer Awareness Day. Staff and students wore a touch of pink and participated in events and activities across recess and lunch time on both campuses. Money was generously raised for both Foundations!



Campus Assemblies

We held final assemblies at Mt Evelyn and Mooroolbark Campuses. The Mt Evelyn assembly farewelled Year 10 students moving to Mooroolbark for their VCE academic program in 2024. The Mooroolbark assembly farewelled for the year our 'new' Years 11 & 12 students after completing



the Essentials program; prepared the Years 7-9 students to step up into this week's Promotions program; profiled some of our high-achieving students; enjoyed a student musical performance; presented Kindness Awards, and Attendance Awards, and; heard from our outgoing Junior School Captain, Mia, and acknowledged incoming College Captains, College Vice-Captains, and Junior School Captains.

College Awards

Our Awards night was held at Karralyka on December 13. Special Guests included:

- Aaron Violi MP (Federal Member for Casey)
- David Hodgett MP (State Member for Croydon)
- Bridget Vallence MP (State Member for Evelyn,
- Ms Barb Lawrence & Ms Stef Kruger: members the Rotary Club of Lilydale
- Ms Prue Northey, Secretary to the Board of Community Bank Mt Evelyn Bendigo Bank
- Mr & Mrs Gunter and Gail Loidl, and Miss Summer and Miss Jasmin Squires
- Mrs Wendy Rowles, (President) & Mrs Margaret Haines, of the Lions Club of Mooroolbark & Croydon
- Ms Lyn Riley (President) & Ms Sandy MacDonald, of the Country Women's Association
- Members of the Yarra Hills Secondary College School Council
- Alumni, Mr Tom Meek

Tom Meek, an alumni from 2005, provided the keynote address, sharing his career and life journey since graduating Yarra Hills, and giving our students the message that working hard and setting and holding to personal standards of excellence will support them to succeed.

It was a wonderful evening of celebration for individual students, and for our college and community.



And a little Halloween fun – our office team at Mooroolbark are always looking for ways to enliven our student help desk.



SRC Training

Thirty-three students – 23 from Mooroolbark and 10 from Mt Evelyn – participated in half-day leadership training facilitated by our Student Engagement Learning Specialist, Ellen Cosgrove, at the Mt Evelyn Performing Arts Centre. In 2024, students who hold formal Student Leadership positions will join the SRC – a welcome development that will support and better coordinate student leadership actions and activities and, hopefully, see more student agency and initiatives throughout 2024.

New Year 7s for 2024

Incoming Grade 6 students and their families have been involved in an action-packed period of transition and interaction with us over the past month. As well as their own graduating program and events at their respective primary schools, at Yarra Hills they have attended:

- academic testing session
- a 'getting to know you' online forum
- our year 7 parent information evening
- the Small Schools Day (an orientation day for students coming to Yarra Hills from schools where 3 or fewer students are coming to our school)
- the main (state-wide) Orientation Day on December 12
- 'Ready To Learn' with incoming students, their families, and their homegroup teacher
- extra transition/orientation for students with extra/particular needs



KEY DATES			
January			
Tuesday	30	Year 7 first day	ME & MB
		Years 8-10 Ready to Learn interviews on-line	ME & MB
Wednesday	31	Years 8-12 first day	ME & MB
February			
Tuesday	6	Music Expo Day (Instrument try outs)	ME & MB
		Music & Camp Information Evening	ME & MB
Wednesday	7	Yr 7 Making Connections Day	ME & MB
Tuesday	13	VCE-VM Big Day Out	ME & MB
Wednesday	14	VCE Big Day In	ME & MB
Mon-Wed	12-14	Year 7 Camp	ME & MB
Monday	19	College Photo Day	ME & MB
Monday	26	College Swimming Carnival	ME & MB
March			
Monday	11	Labour Day holiday	ME & MB
	13-25	NAPLAN testing (Year 7 & 9)	ME & MB
Tuesday	19	College Athletics Day	ME & MB
Thursday	21	Information Night—Mt Evelyn Campus	ME & MB
Tuesday	26	Information Night—Mooroolbark Campus	ME & MB
Thursday	28	End of term 1	ME & MB

Grade 6 Writing Extension Program

Birmingham PS in our writing extension program 'graduated' in November. The program has been running for some years now. It sees select students from BPS participate in weekly sessions with one of our English teachers, alternating between our Mt Evelyn campus and theirs, developing their writing skills and experience, with impressive results.



Farm School

Farm School for Mooroolbark Students concluded on December 8. Students began their final day of the program with reflecting on their personal highlights from the semester, then got to work before celebrating with a farewell BBQ and a few games of pool in the recreation room. Most of the students will achieve a Certificate 1 in Conservation and Ecosystem Management.

There is much to reflect on, and it is often not until you stop and look backwards that you notice how far you've come. Thanks to all members of the Yarra Hills community for all you have done, and continue to do, to support our students. It is absolutely worth it!

Finally, we'd like to wish everyone a safe, happy and healthy holiday period and look forward to joining you all again in the New Year.

Darren Trippett
College Principal

Cam Woods
Mooroolbark Campus Principal

Leighton O'Donnell
Mt Evelyn Campus Principal

Outdoor Adventures



A Girl Guides Victoria School Holiday Program



LET THE ADVENTURE BEGIN!

Awaken your daughter's adventurous spirit this summer at Outdoor Adventures! She'll navigate the great outdoors with orienteering, conquer a thrilling climbing tower, and dive into refreshing water games, all in a safe, supportive and super-memorable environment.

Springing into summer will be awesome at Outdoor Adventures, where every day is a new and exciting journey!

BOOK YOUR SPOT: bit.ly/ggvholidayprogram

FULL WEEK &
SINGLE DAY
PLACES
AVAILABLE

Important Information

22-25 January, 2024

8am-6pm

Mooroolbark (with a daily bus trip to Britannia Park, Wesburn)

Girls aged 10-14

Contact Us

(03) 8606 3500

events@guidesvic.org.au

Help needed in your community.

Paid positions available now.



Want to give back to the community, and supplement your income?
Become a School Crossing Supervisor.

Multiple positions available, get in touch today
Call: 03 9325 3200

Email: schoolcrossing@hoban.com.au

HOBAN Recruitment