



2024

Newsletter

Term 4



Principal's Report

As we approach the end of 2024, it is a fitting time to reflect on the many achievements and experiences that have defined this year for our school community. Our students have had the privilege of participating in a diverse range of camps, both year-level and co-curricular. A particular highlight was the New Zealand Tour, where our instrumental music students not only performed but also represented Yarra Hills with distinction on an international stage.

The year also saw the resounding success of our Community Art Show and College Production, both of which celebrated the exceptional talents of our visual and performing artists. These events garnered widespread recognition and brought our school's creativity to the forefront of the local community. Similarly, our students excelled in both individual and team sports, with many achieving outstanding results at regional and state levels.

Academically, we are proud of our continued improvement in NAPLAN growth results. These results reflect the significant 'value-added' contributions of our dedicated staff, who strive to support each student's learning journey, regardless of their starting point. This year's VCE outcomes also demonstrated promising progress, and we anticipate further success from our current cohorts in the years ahead.

Our commitment to academic excellence extended to our partnership with the Department of Education's High Achievers Program, which offered exceptional opportunities for students who qualified. Additionally, as key stakeholders in the Lilydale District and Yarra Valley Education Plan, we collaborated with local secondary schools to deliver initiatives such as the Collaborative Indigenous Strategy, enriching our students' understanding and engagement with important cultural themes.

The ongoing support from our community has been invaluable. Our School Council and Parents' and Friends' Association have played a vital role, providing feedback and contributing to key developments and fundraising efforts throughout the year. Their involvement underscores the strong partnership between our school and its wider community.

A standout event this year was the inaugural 'Car Show' held at the Mooroolbark Campus. This event was a tremendous success, showcasing not only the college but also the enthusiasm and talent within our community.

To encourage greater physical activity among our students, particularly those transitioning into secondary school, we have installed new play areas, including Gaga Pits and playgrounds, across our campuses. The success of these initiatives has even drawn interest from other local secondary schools seeking to implement similar setups.

In recent weeks we have also held some of our marquee events, with the Valedictory Dinner, Christmas Carols and Family Picnic and our College Awards Night. These again are a welcome and celebrated opportunity to acknowledge the performance of our students, and the engagement of our community.

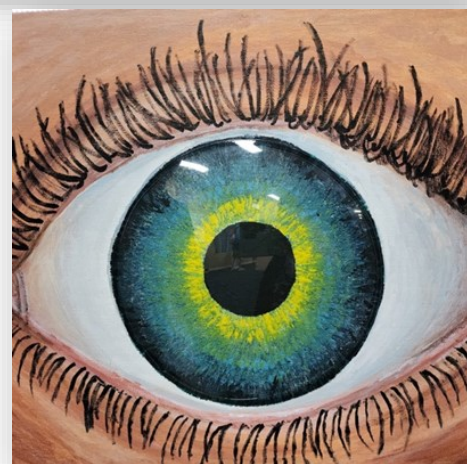
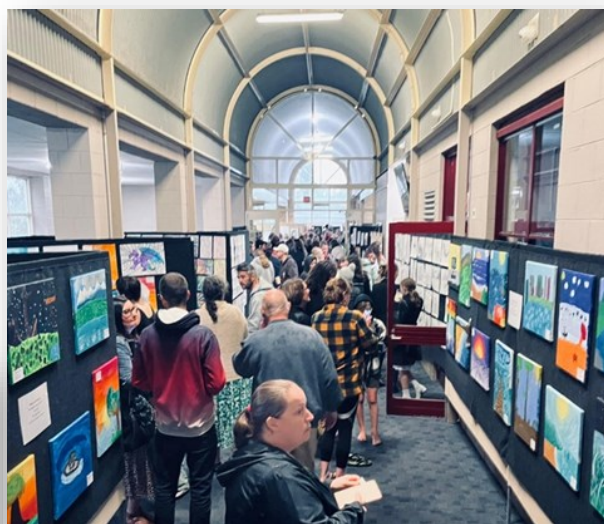
While this summary only touches on the breadth of activities and achievements this year, I want to close by acknowledging the unwavering dedication of our staff. Their hard work, passion, and commitment have been the driving force behind these opportunities and successes, and I thank them for their invaluable contributions to our students' growth and development.



Art Show

Our Annual Community Art Show was held on Friday and Saturday, October 18-19. Despite storms closing roads and causing the typical mayhem, we distributed all of our door-prize coupons quickly, with over 200 people in attendance. This included Brigit Valance, MP for Evelyn, and families from Birmingham Primary School, Mt Evelyn Primary School, and Yarra Hill SC.

A huge thank you to our Arts leader, Mr. David Lloyd, and many helping hands within the Arts faculty, facilities department, and office.



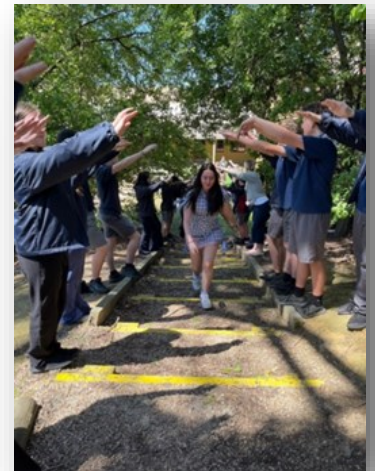
Music in the Round

Each year we hold a special 'Music in the Round' event to acknowledge and celebrate the Year 7 students in the music program. At the Music in the Round, Year 7 students perform a short solo piece for their families and peers. This was held on Tuesday evening on October 22.

Year 12 Farewells and Celebrations



Year 12 students had their last full day of high school on Monday October 21. The tradition is they mark this with an 'altered uniform day' and a farewell assembly. At the Mt Evelyn Campus they enjoyed an honour guard from all students. Shown are pictures from their Celebrations Day, where they come to school for a few hours just to have fun and celebrate ahead of exams, work or further study.



Remembrance Services

Remembrance services were held on both campuses on Monday November 11. At Mooroolbark campus, a presentation, read by student leaders Brian and Sharnie, was broadcast to all classrooms using MS Teams. At the Mt Evelyn campus, student leaders conducted the service over the public address system. Mt Evelyn student leaders, Bella and Charlie, were accompanied by Mr O'Donnell to represent our College at the public Remembrance Service held at the Mt Evelyn memorial.





Year 7 Volleyball

Our Year 7 team were runners-up in the state finals! They made the most of a 'wildcard' entry into the 2024 Volleyball Victoria Schools Cup, going all the way to the final. They fell short in the end, really pushing the eventual winners. A huge effort we're very proud of!

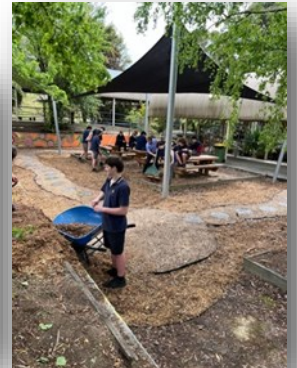
Gaga Pits

Gaga Pits have been constructed at both campuses. These pits will have a dual use as a Yarning Circle. The perimeter will be planted out with trees and shrubs in the future.



Grounds Work

The **Purple Patch** community garden, adjacent to the Mt Evelyn campus, has been rehabilitated and renovated. Many improvements have been and continue to be made at both Campuses.



World Teachers Day

World Teachers Day was marked with the wearing of silly hats!

Real Schools leadership professional development Simon Dewar from Real Schools facilitated leadership development session over consecutive weeks for members of our School Improvement, and Strategic Planning, teams. This included all principal class, leading teachers, learning specialists and program leaders.



Cake Decorating Awards

Tara Pawsey (Year 9 Mooroolbark Campus) has had an interest in cake decorating for most of her life, however only started competing in July this year!! She has won awards in cupcakes and cookie 13 times. This year at the Royal Melbourne Show, Tara came 1st in the Secondary Bakemania competition and 2nd in the decorated cakes. She also won in the Year 9 & 10 competition 1st place in the Novelty Cake competition, 2nd place in the Decorated Cake section, 1st in the Cupcakes and Best in Show Junior Decorated Cake.

Recently in the Lilydale and Yarra Valley Show, Tara won four 1st places for the following categories:

- Junior Gingerbread House
- Junior Novelty from gingerbread
- Junior Decorated Cake & Best Show themed cookery (Best Exhibit)
- Junior Decorated Biscuits – cow theme (Best Exhibit)

Tara is one talented cake and biscuit decorator!! Congratulations Tara!!



Farm School

Mooroolbark Farm School students had their last day in the course on December 6. The first activity of involved the maintenance of the chicken coup, involving spreading mulch and grass clippings.

Later in the morning they took a trip the Redwood Forest, and discussed the difference between a monoculture and an ecosystem. They stopped by a river near Warburton for a BBQ lunch, then finished the day at the Farm School with the presentation of the certificate of completion.



Valedictory Dinner

Our Valedictory dinner was held at Karralyka on Monday, November 25. Anchored by our Head of Senior School, Carolyn Hunyadi as emcee, and with speeches from the College Principal, and College Captains, it was a proud and celebratory night, with students in high spirits.





Twilight Carols

Twilight Carols were held on Tuesday, December 3. The weather was kind, and with the addition of a stage, lighting, sound system and sets and decorations, our Mooroolbark campus gym was transformed into a captivating setting for over 50 musicians to entertain and lead the audience in carol performances and community singalongs. The band was supported by past students and members of the Australian Youth Band, and student soloists, the student vocal group, a Parent Choir and a Staff Choir performed. There was food and drinks available, and the raffle was successful and popular. And we were lucky enough to have the man himself, Santa, drop by with gifts and Christmas cheer for the children.





Final assemblies

Final assemblies were held on each campus on Friday, December 6. Incoming College and Junior School Captains and Vice-Captains made an address, awards for Positive Behaviour, Attendance, Sports, and VET were presented, our Years 10-11 students were farewelled, and Years 7-9 students were briefed on the Promotions program.



Awards Night

We held our annual Awards Night at Karralyka on Wednesday, December 11. Our staff, students and families, were joined by federal MP, Aaron Violi, state MPs David Hodgett and Brigitte Vallence, members of the School Council, and special guests and supporters to present prestigious awards:

- Ms Barb Lawrence & Ms Stef Kruger: members of the Rotary Club Of Lilydale, presenting the Rotary Club Award
- Ms Lisa Glassborrow, from the Mt Evelyn Bendigo Bank, Community Bank, presenting the Allan Grundy Youth Achievement Award.
- The Mooroolbark Community Bank, Bendigo Bank, presenting the inaugural Janine Mitchinson Mooroolbark Community Bank Award.
- Mr Gunter Loidl, and Miss Summer Squires, presenting the Megan Squires Award
- Mrs Wendy Rowles and Mrs Margaret Haines from the Lions Club Of Mooroolbark & Croydon, presenting the Lions Club Scholarships
- Ms Sandy MacDonald, from the Country Women's Association, presenting the CWA Scholarship
- Brigitte Vallence presenting the Endeavour Award – Member for Evelyn
- David Hodgett presenting the Endeavour Award – Member for Croydon
- Darren Trippett presented these prestigious awards:
 - Kwong Lee Dow
 - Australian Defence Force 'Long Tan' Award
 - Australian Defence Force 'Long Tan' Future Innovators Award
 - Ampol Best All Rounder Award



The keynote speech was given by alumni, Stephanie Potts. Steph spoke engagingly about her journey from her school days through working in the media, at Channels 7 & 10, to where she is now as a digital content creator for Eastern Health. Our incoming College Captains, Nick Henson and Sydney Rennison, also impressed in their first public speaking engagement of their tenure.

As well as prestigious awards, students were acknowledged for their academic excellence, their endeavour, and for excellence in the key learning areas of English, Mathematics, Humanities, Science, Physical Education, Health, Outdoor Education, Design Technology, Performing Arts Awards for Music and Performance respectively.

Attendees were entertained by our concert band, and the saxophone ensemble during the evening.



We would like to thank all members of our college community, staff, students, parents, carers, families and friends, for your ongoing support of Yarra Hills.

Regardless of your own cultural or religious background, we wish you a happy, safe and healthy holiday period as we all take some time to share, reflect and celebrate with our loved ones.

Merry Christmas!

Darren Trippett
College Principal

Cam Woods
Mooroolbark Campus Principal

Leighton O'Donnell
Mt Evelyn Campus Principal



KEY DATES			
January			
Wednesday	29	First day Term 4 Yr 7 and VCE	ME & MB
		Ready to Learn Yrs 8, 9, 10	ME & MB
Thursday	30	Year 8, 9 10 Classes begin	ME & MB
February			
Tuesday	4	Music Expo Day	ME & MB
		Senior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.15-4.30pm at MB	ME & MB
		Music & Yr 7 Camp Information Evening	ME & MB
Friday	7	Yr 7 Making Connections Day	ME & MB
Mon-Wed	10-12	Yr 7 Camp	ME & MB
Tuesday	11	VCE/VM Big Day Out	ME & MB
		Senior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.15-4.30pm at MB	ME & MB
Wednesday	12	VCE Big Day In	MB
Monday	17	College Photo Day	ME & MB
Tuesday	18	Senior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.15-4.30pm at MB	ME & MB
		BRAVO Friends of Music	ME & MB
Thursday	20	Intermediate Concert Band Rehearsal 3.15-4.30pm at MB	ME & MB
Monday	24	College Swimming Carnival	ME & MB
Tuesday	25	Senior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.15-4.30pm at MB	ME & MB
Thursday	27	Intermediate Concert Band Rehearsal 3.15-4.30pm at MB	ME & MB
Friday	28	Curriculum Day - STUDENT FREE	ME & MB
March			
Tuesday	4	Yr 11 Educlick Whitecard Course	ME & MB
Thursday	6	Intermediate Concert Band Rehearsal 3.15-4.30pm at MB	ME & MB
Monday	10	LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY	ME & MB
Tuesday	11	College Athletics	ME & MB
		Senior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.15-4.30pm at MB	ME & MB
Thursday	13	Intermediate Concert Band Rehearsal 3.15-4.30pm at MB	ME & MB
Tuesday	18	Senior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.15-4.30pm at MB	ME & MB
Thursday	20	Intermediate Concert Band Rehearsal 3.15-4.30pm at MB	ME & MB
Tuesday	25	Senior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.15-4.30pm at MB	ME & MB
Thursday	27	Intermediate Concert Band Rehearsal 3.15-4.30pm at MB	ME & MB
Monday	31	Junior Concert Band First Rehearsal 11:45am at MB	ME & MB
April			
Tuesday	1	Senior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.15-4.30pm at MB	ME & MB
Wednesday	2	Junior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.15-4.30pm at MB	ME & MB
Thursday	3	Intermediate Concert Band Rehearsal 3.15-4.30pm at MB	ME & MB
Friday	4	Last day Term 1 2.30pm dismissal	ME & MB