So much of what is going on in the College at the moment is about the future: 2015 course selections for our Year 10 and 11 students; VTAC applications for Year 12s; VET applications are well underway and VCAL students are focussed on future pathways. Mentor teachers are working with students to support them in this work. The other exciting future focused work happening behind the scenes is the preparation for our move from the Quamby Campus to the remarkable facilities on Vines Road.

VCE PATHWAYS FAIR:
Last Monday, the VCE Pathways Fair was held. Students and their families from Years 10 and 11 attended in order to get as much information as possible to help guide their 2015 course selection. I particularly enjoyed hearing current Year 12 students talking to Year 11s about their own VCE studies. By listening in on these conversations I gained a wonderful sense of how committed our Year 12s are to success. They described a variety of learning tasks and were candid about their affection for their chosen courses. One student studying Unit 3/4 History summed it up when answering an enquiry from a parent; “I think at the start all the reading seems overwhelming and then you get into it and before you know it, you love it”. Some really good advice for students as they begin their new studies. Along with the students sharing information were our team of VCE teachers, all keen to explain their subjects with enthusiasm and knowledge.

2015 YEAR 11 AND 12 COURSE SELECTIONS
Every student has received their personalised 2015 Curriculum Handbook. It is satisfying to see students carrying their Handbooks. These books were shiny and new a week ago and are now looking like the well used go-to resource they are designed to be.

The date on everyone’s mind is Friday August 22nd. This is the cut-off date for all subject selections, VET applications and indicating an intent to apply for VCAL. I have met with many students as well as parents to talk about this process. The preparation work that students have put into their Career Action Plans, attending course counselling and talking to other students and teachers is evident as they work towards making decisions and selecting the course that will set them up for success for their future.

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE
Students attended work experience and the timing of this programme has meant that they have returned with firm ideas about their futures. They are keenly aware of what they loved (as well as what they didn’t enjoy) when working in their chosen field. I am asking students what they learned about themselves and the world of work. Many of them are talking about personal attributes they used – such as patience, organisation, initiative, problem solving. Almost all of them are also reflecting that work is most definitely tiring, and to the surprise of many of them, they also missed being at school.

TRANSITIONING OUT OF SECONDARY SCHOOL
Year 12 students and their families attended an evening workshop run by Kerry Tucker from Deakin University. Along with Tracey Jeffery (MIPs Co-ordinator) and Kerrie Hammond (Year 12 Learning Community Leader) she explained the advantages of completing a SEAS (Special Entry Access Scheme) along with the VTAC application process. Students and their families gained insight into the various categories that Western Heights College students may be eligible for SEAS consideration. Kerrie Hammond has been holding similar sessions with Year 12 students during lunchtimes and
this information is very useful to our Year 12 students as they go through the process of their VTAC applications. VTAC course applications opened on August 4th and students have until September 30th to make a ‘timely course application’. While late applications can be made, they attract a much higher processing fee so we encourage you to meet the September deadline.

**VCAL MOCK INTERVIEWS:**
In order to prepare for their lives beyond the College the VCAL students have been focused on work related skills. On Tuesday this week a panel of volunteers from community and business generously formed selection panels and students went through the process of applying for jobs, preparing and presenting for interviews and receiving feedback. An example of another timely program that is future focused and designed with the aim of ensuring our students are successful as they transition out of secondary schooling.

Also in our direct future will be the return of Unit 3/4 Outdoor Ed students from the Alpine Camp, all Year 10s will attend a Deakin University campus for a day as part of the ‘Deakin Experience’ programme; students who came first in their events in the Barwon Region Athletics will be representing the College at the Western Metropolitan Regional level on September 18th, 28 Year 10 students will travel to Tasmania later in the term; Biology students will attend University High School and there will be a Footy Colours Mufti Day on September 5th.

Carol Jansen
Acting Campus Principal

**2015 YEAR 7 SCHOLARSHIPS:**
There were a number of Year 6 students who applied for our Western Heights College 2015 Year 7 Scholarships. The scholarships were offered in Academic Excellence, Performing Arts and Community Leadership. Each scholarship is valued at $3500 and includes the Slate PC, Year 7 camp and college fees and charges in Year 7. Congratulations to the following students who are the successful applicants.
- Alexander Hart
- Naomi Watson
- Hollie McBain
- Zachary Azzopardi
- Anneliese Combridge
- Xavier Jeffrey
- Tahlee Allaway

It has been my pleasure to attend the primary school assemblies and present the scholarships to these students. The primary schools share in our excitement at these students gaining scholarships and the bright future for these students at Western Heights College beginning next year.

**COLLEGE ABSENCE LINE**
If your student is going to be absent please phone the College Absence Line.

5277 9793

Lethbridge Primary School
Anneliese, Zachary and Xavier

Hamlyn Banks Primary School
Alex Hart

Bell Park North Primary School
Hollie McBain
STUDENT LED CONFERENCES

Our students in Year 7, 8 and 9 will be presenting their learning at their Student Led Conference at the end of this term. The Student Led Conference is, as the name suggests, a presentation led by your child on their progress towards their learning goals and showing off their work as evidence of their learning. Your child plans the content, timing and evidence for their conference with the support of their mentor teacher. Their audience is you as parents/guardians and your child's mentor.

Your child will be leading their conference during Thursday 18th and Friday 19th of September. There will be an online booking system for this. More information is in this newsletter about how to book your child in for their conference.

Students have set goals from their past conference, after receiving results and feedback from their subject teachers and mentor. They have been working hard since their last conference to achieve these goals. In this conference they will focus on what they have achieved and what they need to work on.

From here students will re-establish future learning goals for the remainder of the year in order to continually build on prior learning in each subject area and prepare for their Year 8 program next year.

If you can't attend the conferences on the days scheduled, please advise your child's mentor as early as possible to make an alternative booking date and time.

ON DEMAND TESTING:

Year 7 students will soon be completing their Numeracy and Literacy 'On Demand' tests for the second time this year.

All students are well informed and empowered by what AusVels level they have achieved and working toward.
‘On Demand’ is a short test held on a specific day, to see which level your child is operating at, however, is not the only result that guides their level.

The work and learning they achieve in every session of Numeracy and Literacy also reflect their learning. We are looking forward to all students achieving their best with all students are aiming to move their AusVEL Level by .5 as a minimum. So for example, if your child is operating on Level 6.5, then we are looking for them to achieve at least Level 7 in the six month period.

SPEAKING IN FRONT OF ASSEMBLY:
I would like to thank Aydon Cook and Michael Moore, for speaking about our Year 7 program at our whole college assembly last Friday. The boys spoke about our program thus far in Year 7, with Aydon speaking about learning in different subject areas and Michael speaking about our extended program which we run outside of set sessions in our learning spaces.

Both boys did exceptionally well and should be very proud of their efforts.

CONFIDENCE AND MOTIVATION TO ACHIEVE:
Year 7 students are going to focus on their confidence to learn and to recognise the importance of learning. Some surveys and conversations with our Year 7 students suggests that they need a boost in confidence with many students expressing that they did not think they could do so well in tests or assessment tasks. Every Year 7 teacher will be working with students to build confidence.

It is sometimes hard for Year 7 students to realise that the habits they set down now for their learning, will build the strong foundations for them in subsequent year levels, as they move through our college. Students will be shown the benefits of achieving their best, and learn for themselves what motivates them.

I will give an update in the following newsletter regarding the outcomes of our work on this topic.

Ms Michelle Roth
Year 7 Learning Community Leader

A reminder to please contact your child’s mentor teacher in relation to any queries you may have.
You can also write in your child’s study planner to communicate messages

Mrs Rarotoga Deo
Year 7 Mentor

MESH:
Year 7 students are studying ‘Ancient Civilizations’ in MESH this term. In the introductory stage, they looked at the importance of studying history and the ways in which history could be studied. They then looked at the common elements in a civilization, with the focus being on the Aztec civilization, in the lead-up to our excursion to the Melbourne Museum to view the fascinating Aztec Exhibition. Last week, the students worked on folio tasks where they produced collages, PMI charts and art work, based on their chosen ancient civilization. The focus for the next few weeks is an in depth study on the beliefs and practices of people in the different ancient civilizations. Students have been engaged in gaining insights into how others lived in the past and intrigued by some of the similarities and differences between their own lives and the lives of ancient Egyptians, Romans and Greeks. We look forward to continuing to see high quality work from our Year 7 students this term!
Students have been quite excited about finding out their course options for Year 9. Thank you to the many families who attended the Year 9 2015 Information Evening which provided a wealth of information on subjects and opportunities available to our students in 2015. All students have now selected their courses and are focussing of completing their Year 8 studies.

In literacy, students have been learning about biographies to strengthen their knowledge on informative writing. Each student has created a biography which focussed on three main events in their life and the impact those events have had on their character and future pathways. We are now moving onto Newspaper Articles. If you or your child come across an interesting piece in the paper, we would love for them to bring it to share and discuss. Students are concluding their Literature Circles for round three. They are generating some wonderful pieces to demonstrate their learning from their novels in their novel analysis. Last week students learnt about the ‘judging books by their covers’ – the skills of visual deconstruction around book covers. You can take a look at the animation of ‘The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr Morris Lessmore’ on YouTube here
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VljJlQJuPDSE

SPORT:
Last week we also had three sports teams participate in the GSSSA rounds. We had boys and girls Basketball and Table Tennis teams proudly representing the College. All team members tried their best and displayed determination, sportsmanship and teamwork. Thank you to the student coaches who assisted these teams.

In second term, six of our Year 9 students attended the Alpine School for Student Leadership up in Dinner Plains. They have now returned and are settling back into our Western Heights College community. Their work for the Alpine School did not finish when they left the snow fields. They are now working on implementing their Community Learning Project (CLP) they developed in their term away. While at the Alpine School the students learned great leadership skills, and also how to work as a cooperative team. They have spoken about their experience and what they took away from it at the College Council meeting, as well as at the Year 9 Information night earlier in the term. Their skills are continuing to flourish through their meetings every Friday, where they are continuing to develop their ideas, put plans in place and communicate with our teachers, principals and the wider community to ensure that their CLP is a success. The major focus of their CLP is to raise money for the Grace McKellar Centre and donate their time to the centre to work with adults suffering from dementia. More information will follow about how they will raise the money and a further update on their progress will be given, so stay tuned!

CAMP:
The Year 9 camp will be taking place from September 10th to the 12th. The students are beginning to prepare for it and are really looking forward to the experience away with their classmates.

Mrs Kelly Montano
Year 8 Learning Community Leader

Emily Gaito
Year 9 Teacher
Congratulations to all Year 10 students that were acknowledged for their excellence during last week’s College Assembly. I would also like to thank Tiesha Clifford-Rowles and Spiro Glikofridis for representing Year 10 and speaking at the assembly, they did a fantastic job!

COURSE SELECTION FOR YEAR 11 2015:
I would like to congratulate the Year 10 students who have been ‘on the ball’ and completed their 2015 course selections.

DEAKIN EXPERIENCE FRIDAY 29 AUGUST:
All Year 10 will participate in an excursion to both Deakin University Campuses. Students will tour facilities, participate in activities and receive information about courses and carer options. There is a cost for the day to cover lunch and transport. Students have received a permission form to be returned next week.

WELL DONE JAMES:
Many students at Western Heights College enjoy playing AFL football, both at school and on the weekends.
One of our students, James Worpel of Year 10, recently took his interest in football to another level. He was the only Geelong boy selected for the Victorian team who played in the Under 15s National Football Championships.
This was a huge achievement but James’ success didn’t finish there. In recognition of his excellent efforts with the Victorian team, he was chosen as part of the All-Australian Under 15s team!
James has enjoyed playing football since he was seven years old. He plays locally, for Bell Park Dragons, where he is usually positioned at Centre-Half Forward. Playing at Centre-Half Back for the Victorian and All-Australian team, shows his diversity on the ground. He also plays with the WHC football team and has played for the Under 15 division of the Geelong Falcons.
One day James would like AFL football to be his career, and he is certainly working hard to fulfil that ambition. In addition to football training, James also attends the gym regularly, doing everything in his power to work toward his ultimate goal.
James is a dedicated Geelong Football Club supporter and he would love to play for the Cats one day, although if the Draft takes him elsewhere he will be happy just to be playing AFL. Corey Enright is James’ favourite player, he admires his hard work and discipline, as well as his playing ability.
In the summer months, James plays cricket for the Geelong West Rams, although he says that he is not a very good cricketer, just an enthusiastic one!

We here at Western Heights College are very proud of James, both as a person and a footballer, and wish him every success for his future

Mr Roger Conron
Year 10 Learning Community Leader

GENE TECH EXCURSION:
Western Heights was given an invitation to attend a “Parasites in focus” workshop that was held at the Gene Technology Access Centre (GTAC). Eight students participated in three workshops, adaptation for a parasitic life, parasites as Biological control agents and identifying a parasite infecting an overseas tourist. Aaron Ajex from Melbourne University presented some information on work that was going on at the university. Students got first-hand experience of life as a Scientist.

Mrs R Keyburn
Year 10 Teacher

ENGLISH INCURSION
AUTHOR CHAT WITH MICHAEL GERARD BAUER
On the 23rd of July all of the Year 10s went to the library for a Skype call with Michael Gerald Bauer, the author of The Running Man and the Don’t Call Me Ishmael series. When Michael’s career first started he was a teacher, he loved words and poems and wanted to share that. When he first started writing he wanted to be a singer/song writer but he soon found out that he couldn’t sing, play guitar or write songs very well, so Michael decided to write short stories and that is how The Running Man first started out. All up, it took two and a half years for Michael to complete The Running Man. In that time he was also teaching and working at other places. Originally he wanted to name the book The Running Man but he thought he couldn’t because of Stephen King’s book had the same name so Michael called it; In dream too Deep. But when the editors went over the book they also wanted to name the book The Running Man. At first Michael wanted to base the book on a man that never came out of his house, but when he started writing he needed a reason for him to stay in his house, so he came down to a man committing a horrible crime or he saw things in the Vietnam War and came back a changed man. Some of the scenes in the book that involve silk worms were based on a few of Michael’s childhood memories, as with the setting and the names and personalities of a few characters. For example the Running Man, or Mr Jamieson, was based on real people that Michael was slightly afraid of that roamed the streets of Ashgrove (where he lived). Once the book was sent off to the editors they only wanted to make a few changes; they wanted to take out what Tom was thinking at the end of every chapter.
Michael was full of information; he told us so much about the book and his experience as a writer. I thought the Skype call was great and I enjoyed it. It’s not every day you can talk to an author.

By Grace Arnott
Year 10 Student
Brady Ackland - Lendene Farm

Here are Alley and Billy - both were a ‘hit’ with the students especially these Prep/One boys!!

Hamlyn Banks Primary School supports Work Experience!!

Mikey Mc Hugh - Vines Library
This week represents the final part of course selection for next year. We have loaded the students up with information from Universities, TAFE’s, the Defense forces, and Trades to allow the students to make insightful choices for next year and beyond.

I have been very happy with the maturity and consideration the students have made in seeking advice and making their choices. Students have selected studies in preferential order with the knowledge that they could receive any of these on their list. Last week in a whole college assembly to celebrate success two of our students Brayden Addicoat and Rachelle Douglas spoke about Year 11 and their very different courses.

I was very proud of their willingness and effort in speaking to the whole college – a very difficult tasks. I have attached both speeches for you:

**BRAYDEN ADDICOAT:**
“Hi my name is Brayden and I am here to talk to you about VCAL.

The benefits of VCAL:
VCAL will give you practical work-related experience and a qualification that will be recognized by TAFE institutes and employers. Together these will help you move from school into work, an apprenticeship or traineeship and/or further training at TAFE.

Who is VCAL suited for?
VCAL is suited for the student who prefers more practical hands on activities than theoretical work. The activities that recent VCAL students have undertaken range from the normal handout work to designing complicated structures to support a set weight. Students who do VCAL are likely to be interested in going on to training at a Technical and Further Education (TAFE) institute. Starting an apprenticeship or getting a job after school. However, if you start your VCAL and then decide the VCE is the right option for you after all, it won’t be too late to change your mind.

Why pick VCAL?
Just like VCE, VCAL is an accredited senior secondary school qualification undertaken in Years 11 and 12. VCAL is based on hands-on learning, also known as ‘applied learning’. If you choose to do VCAL, you will gain practical experience and ‘employability’ skills, as well as skills you will need to go onto further training in the workforce or TAFE.

Why I chose VCAL -
The main reason I chose VCAL is if I pursue a career in the military as I am now but it doesn’t work out or I don’t like it I will still have a trade training to fall back onto so hopefully I could end up getting an apprenticeship.

That’s all from me, thanks for listening”

**RACHELLE DOUGLAS:**
“Good morning fellow students, staff and family members, My name is Rachelle Douglas and this morning I will be talking to you about the transition to VCE and my experiences with it.

The move to VCE offers many opportunities for those willing to make the most of it. One of the many opportunities, in which I took part, is the RYPEN camp, a leadership program, which is run each year by the Rotary Club. It’s open to interested Year 11 students from many schools who would like to develop their public speaking skills, confidence and gives students the pleasure of meeting new people.

If you are willing to learn and make the most of all your time available, the transition is quite easy. The teachers and staff members are very supportive and do their best to advise you on the course you wish to take.

I’d like to wish all the upcoming VCE students the best of luck for their upcoming exams and thank you all for listening.”

Mr Brett Bullock
Year 11 Community Leader

**REWARDS RAFFLE:**
In Year 12 we continue to celebrate the efforts and achievements of our students. Congratulations to David Howarth, Blake Troy, Claire Nugent and Emily Jazbinsek. Each of these students were nominated by their teachers and their names were drawn at our recent raffle.

**COLLEGE ASSEMBLY:**
Congratulations to Millicent Kaiser and Maddie Eckles who were nominated to speak at last Friday’s College Assembly. Both students spoke eloquently and showcased the Year 12 learning program. This was the final College assembly for Year 12 students. This ceremony highlighted the fact that six years of secondary education is coming to an end. The significance of this event was recognized with presentation involving each Year 7 student congratulating a Year 12 student, presenting them with a card and gift on behalf of the College.
Year 12 News continued....

Graduation
Each Year 12 student has been distributed with a graduation information pack that provides details of arrangements, confirmation dates and payments. The graduation ceremony and dinner will take place on November 19th. If you have any enquiries in relation to this please contact either Mrs Thomas or myself on 52 771177 or thomas.coral.a@edumail.vic.gov.au or hammond.kerrie.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

REVISION LECTURES:
Information relating to revision lectures is communicated to me on a regular basis. As it comes to hand I forward it to all Year 12 students. This week the NEAP revision program details have been made available. Each student has been web messaged an information brochure and registration form. Further details can be found at:
www.neap.com.au
Neap also has study guides these can be ordered from www.smartstudy.com.au

FORTY-PLUS CLUB WORKSHOP:
The final Forty-Plus Club workshop is scheduled for Wednesday August 27th. Each student will learn skills that will assist them to effectively plan their exam preparation. This is a “hands-on” workshop and students will develop a plan for swatvac and their individual exam timetable. All Year 12 students are invited to attend. If they have not previously attended a Forty Plus workshop I would ask that they let me know their intention to attend.

What's happening in Year 12 Commerce Subjects?
Legal Studies: Mr Goran Gromlich
Students are learning about Criminal and Civil Law and the effectiveness of our Legal System
Legal Students have been web-messaged class notes for Criminal and Civil Law.
Students are encouraged to focus on completing the exam style questions with a particular focus on key command terms for example, describe, discuss, evaluate

Business Management: Mrs Kerrie Hammond
Students are currently learning about employee relations, in particular the role of the Human Resources role in managing this within large scale organisations. Students are also regularly completing exam style questions in order to develop their skills in relation to this. I am looking forward to attending a revision lecture on Business Management which is being hosted in Geelong. I am hoping that many of the students will join me. It will take place in the Term 3 study break on Tuesday September 23rd from 3pm until 6pm. Further information and booking details can be found at http://teachingbubble.com/business-management-lecture
There are significant savings for online bookings.

Students, Staff and Parents attending our recent SEAS workshop

Mrs Kerrie Hammond
Year 12 Learning Community Leader
YEAR 12 EXPLORE YOUR FUTURE PROGRAM:
This Friday 22 August, the Victorian Fitness Academy will visit Western Heights College to speak to Year 12 students in the Quamby Campus Library at lunch time. If your Year 12 student is considering a career in fitness, this is great opportunity to find out some more information about a provider in Geelong.

YEAR 11 MIPS APPOINTMENTS:
Year 11 MIPs appointments have commenced. Year 11 students have received an invitation this week with an individual appointment time. If any changes need to be made to the scheduled time, students can use the sign-up sheet in the Quamby Campus library foyer to change their appointment time. It has been great to see parents and guardians in attendance at these appointments and to meet our Year 11 students and their families. If you have any questions about this process, please contact me on jef-herry.tracey.c@edumail.vic.gov.au or on the College phone number.

YEAR 10 MIPS APPOINTMENTS:
If your son/daughter in Year 10 has not had a scheduled MIPs appointment, these will be rescheduled in the next couple of weeks and students will receive an invitation with an individual appointment time. Alternatively, please contact me on jef-herry.tracey.c@edumail.vic.gov.au or on the College number if you would like to reschedule your appointment. Parents/guardians are welcome to attend this appointment so please encourage your student to make an appointment at a time that is also convenient for you.

OPEN DAYS:
Open days coming up:

Saturday 23\textsuperscript{rd} August
The Australian College of the Arts
Macleay College

Sunday 24\textsuperscript{th} August
Victoria University
Deakin University – Burwood Campus
La Trobe Melbourne
Kangan Institute – Richmond Campus
William Angliss Institute of TAFE – Melbourne Campus

NEW DEGREE AT DEAKIN UNIVERSITY:
Bachelor of Planning (Honours) degree that will be offered by Deakin University at its Geelong Waterfront campus in Trimester 1, 2015. This degree in PLANNING will be DESIGN-rich and therefore quite distinctive from existing undergraduate planning degrees/streams offered through Melbourne, RMIT and LaTrobe universities.

DEAKIN ASSURED:
www.deakin.edu.au/assured
For Year 12s, it can be an anxious wait between getting your ATAR and getting into your chosen course. The Deakin Assured Offer Program (DAOP) can take that worry away – it provides eligible Year 12 students with the opportunity of receiving a conditional offer of a place in one of the participating Deakin courses.

In addition to applying through VTAC, just complete a simple online registration form to apply for the program. Eligible applicants will receive a conditional offer before the VTAC Change of Preference period. If you get the required ATAR and meet the course prerequisites, Deakin guarantees that it will generate a VTAC offer of a place in that course for you.

Please refer to the website listed above for more information on which courses are available through the DAOP and what ATAR is needed.

THE MONASH GUARANTEE:
Western Heights College is listed as a Monash under-represented school so students could be eligible for a guaranteed place at Monash.

The Monash Guarantee is available for a range of courses, across all faculties at Monash.

Find out more at www.monash.edu/guaranteed-entry

HELP WITH FOLIO PREPARATION @ RMIT
A range of courses will be held in the September school holidays, designed specifically for Year 11 and 12 students, to give insight into a particular design industry including the study options available and the relevant selection procedures.

Course options:
- Advertising
- AutoCAD
- Building Design and Drawing
- Graphic Design
- Interior Decoration
- 3D Product Design
- Visual Merchandising

Further information:
RMIT Short and Single Courses, tel. 03 9925 8111 www.shortcourses.rmit.edu.au

RMIT Experience Days
There is one Experience Day scheduled for the September/October school holidays:
Wednesday 1 October
- Project Management (new)

To register and learn more visit:
www.rmit.edu.au/experiencedays
Another busy fortnight for the Student Wellbeing and Engagement Team, but busyness means productivity, and productivity in our context means what the title of our team states - engagement. We seek to be:
- Present
- Supported
- Engaged and
- Growing

Point 3 is penultimate to the desired outcome of point 4 – engagement in school on a regular, consistent basis, leads to growth – growth in not only knowledge but also in all facets of human life.

We celebrated this journey of growth last Friday at our College Assembly, where student achievement was celebrated, along with a moving tribute of best wishes to our Year 12 students through the presentation of hand written cards by our Year 7s to each Year 12 student.

We are already now looking at 2015, and as a result have been busy preparing our students for their transition into the next year level.

The programs continue in full swing, with various groups being run in Year 7 - 10 including Year 7 groups through GNN, the Year 9 development groups and the Year 10 Mentoring and Role modelling group, now into its second term, and growing!

Our parenting program has now concluded, however due to the excellent seminars offered and the outcomes for many, this is something we will repeat in the near future. Please, as your students learn, model this by engaging in learning yourselves as we do!

Have a wonderful week,

Mr Paul Rodgers & the Wellbeing Team