



PARENT NEWSLETTER

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Friday 28th June	Last day of Term 2 - Semester One reports distributed at 2.30pm
Monday 15th July	First day of Term 3
Friday 2nd August	Second Semester EMA Applications Close
Monday 5th August	College Council Meeting
5th - 9th August	Year 10 Work Experience Program



To provide and sustain an inclusive, stimulating and supportive community of skilled and creative learners which enhances opportunities and pathways, personal growth and well-being of all its members.

FROM THE COLLEGE PRINCIPAL - ROBYN JEFFERY

As we approach the end of Term 2, it gives us a great opportunity to celebrate our many achievements for this term.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Alcoa leadership project - Congratulations to Year 9 students Matt Kinnia and Patrick Laupert who were nominated by their teachers, Mr Dean Greenhalgh and Mrs June George. Students are involved in a range of worksite visits and workshops, participating with students from other Geelong schools.

UNICEF leadership program – Mr Lu Temelkovski, Quamby Campus Principal, accompanied four students as representatives of Western Heights College to the Youth Change-Making Conference held in Geelong recently. Cameron MacLeod, Shawa Niyangoda, Jack Herd from Year 11 and Jessica Benic from Year 10 enjoyed themes including: Young people as *Agents of Change*, Progress on Global Poverty, Constitutional recognition of Indigenous Australians and a different approach towards asylum seekers. The student team are the stars in this week's podcast accessible at <http://whclearn.libsyn.com/episode-19-leaders-galore-edition>

Science award nomination - The National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) is a prestigious Australian program dedicated to exposing Year 11 students

approaching Year 12 and thinking about a career in science, engineering and related disciplines to major scientific institutions and researchers, so that they may make more informed choices for their future endeavours. Well done to Luke Hatton of Year 11, he will be in Canberra in January 2014 to participate in NYSF, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Geelong.

Tom Woof, a Year 12 student, is studying VET Aviation as part of his VCE this year. Tom applied for a scholarship and was successful in accessing \$2,500 from the Defence Force for flight lessons. Tom is keen to accumulate his flying hours, continuing towards his dream of becoming a pilot. This scholarship is certainly assisting him in his achievements and aspirations.

Geelong Secondary Schools Sports Association champions – Congratulations to the Year 10 Boys Netball team and the Year 7, 8 and 9 Girls Football team who now continue onto the next level of competition.

Chess Champions - 30 Years 7, 8 & 9 students participated recently in a chess competition. Congratulations to Damien Cavanagh and Nicholas Stone-Moore, who outlasted Paul Power, the Geelong representative of Chess Ideas.

PATHWAYS

Exploring your future – Universities are visiting our Later Years Campus at lunchtimes to speak with interested students. The first of these sessions attracted around 40 interested students from Years 10 - 12. It was delivered by Deakin University School of Science and Engineering. On Thursday 20 June the session was delivered by Deakin University School of Education. On Wednesday 26 June Australian Catholic University will join us during lunchtime.

40+ Club – Elevate Education delivered a workshop to interested students afterschool. The 40+ Club is for students who have ambitions of obtaining a Study Score of 40 or more in any of their Year 12 subjects. 50 is the maximum score attainable and scores of 40 or higher are considered to be an excellent accomplishment. Recently 40+ Club members participated in a workshop delivered by *Elevate Education*. The focus was on effective note taking, revision and exam preparation. *Elevate Education* have published a book of case studies of high achieving VCE students from previous years. The book, *Science of Student Success* contains 181 pages of tips and strategies that worked for these students and is on the booklist of a growing number of Victorian schools. Because Western Heights used Elevate Education for a workshop we were given a code that enabled access to a free electronic version of this book. Each student at Year 11 and 12 has been web messaged a copy. The most recent 40+ workshop was held on Wednesday 19 June, 3:40 – 4:40pm in the Quamby Campus Library. This workshop's focus was on improving skills and knowledge for the English exam.

Year 10 work experience program - During the week commencing Monday 5 August all Year 10 students will be experiencing the world of work, in their work experience placement. Under the leadership of Ms Kerrie Hammond, the College Pathways and Transitions Leader, the Year 10 curriculum includes a detailed work experience program, including this work experience placement. If you have a Year 10 student, please encourage and support them to make the necessary arrangements for this week as early as possible.

MIPs interviews for Year 12 students - Our aim is to prepare our young people well for their future, and for our Year 12 students this includes a one-on-one interview with our Managed Individual Pathways (MIPs) Co-ordinator, Ms Jorja Millar. It is great to have the involvement of so many supportive parents in these interviews to support your children and to work with us to prepare them for their future.

WELLBEING AND ENGAGEMENT

Shave for a Cure event - Year 12 Student, Georgina Smith recently shaved her head to raise funds for Leukaemia Research. The event took place in the Quamby Campus Gymnasium and Georgina was given moral support and a gold coin donation by about 40 students and staff. Local hairdresser, Barbara Ferante came in on her day off to volunteer her services. Georgina's ponytail will be used for wigs that cancer sufferers can wear during treatment.

Small group sessions are led by the Student Wellbeing team, including sessions to develop students' skills in being a good friend, managing their feelings and contributing to the school environment. Students have participated in a number of workshops developing their skills, including activities such as boxing and rock climbing to build self-confidence. Student groups from both the Quamby and Vines Campuses are involved in projects to contribute to enhancing the school environment through "Beautification Projects" and we thank them for their contributions which are appreciated.

Our focus of "Being Here" has resulted in increased attendance of students at school. In the Semester One reports packages, students will all receive their absence records that relate to semester one. Any student who has attended over 80% of classes, will also receive a certificate of achievement. We do spend considerable time supporting students to attend school and I also acknowledge the support that we receive as a college from parents and guardians, also encouraging our young people to attend. It is timely to take the opportunity to celebrate the successes of our students and to acknowledge their attendance, which this certificate is aiming to do.

Robyn Jeffery
College Principal



Sports Update

GEELONG STATE SCHOOLS VICTORIA: CROSS COUNTRY - MONDAY 27 MAY, EASTERN GARDENS

7th Tanisha Thompson, 14 Year Girls
 9th Shae Jones, Senior Girls
 5th Aaron Down, 16 Year Boys
 10th Elijah Robinson, 16 Year Boys

WHC CROSS COUNTRY: RESULTS

The WHC Cross Country was held under a revised format after a rain delay. The 3K course was contested by all age divisions with the following results:

<u>13 Boys</u> 1st Brad Brown 2nd Matthew Stosic 3rd Farzan Karkaria	<u>13 Girls</u> 1st Georgia O'Kane 2nd Olivia Puglisis 3rd Victoria Leissner
<u>14 Boys</u> 1st Lachlan Sharp 2nd Bailey Pilgrim 3rd Mitchell Sheedy	<u>14 Girls</u> 1st Tanisha Thomson 2nd Siobhan Fitzgerald 3rd Lara Richards
<u>15 Boy</u> 1st Michael Tuohill 2nd Jackson Sheedy 3rd Ryan Gallop	<u>15 Girls</u> 1st Emma Hatton
<u>16 Boys</u> 1st Aaron Down 2nd Caleb Thomson 3rd Elijah Robinson	<u>16 Girls</u>
<u>Senior Boys</u> 1st Luke Hatton 2nd Jack Herd	<u>Senior Girls</u> 1st Sylvia O'Brien

Under a revised scoring format (3 points for 1st, 2 points for 2nd and 1 point for 3rd), Vines Green House (22) were victorious by 1 point over Quamby Red House (21), with Minerva Yellow House (4) and Barton Blue House (0).

Each House will take a percentage share of 1000 team points to add to their current tally:

Vines 468
 Quamby 447
 Minerva 85
 Barton 0

This leaves Quamby Red House still well out in the overall lead.

STRONGBONDS:

Are you a family member, carer or friend who is worried about a young person?

Strong Bonds is here to help you help them.

When problems happen, it is often the help and support of people closest to you that gets you through the bad times. For a young person, this help is really important, even though at times it may not seem so.

The Strong Bonds website offers useful information to help you support your young person through hard times, so that you can keep making a difference to their health and well-being. It also, importantly, offers information to help you feel better and cope with the situation.

<http://www.strongbonds.jss.org.au/default.html>

COLLEGE ABSENCE LINE

If your student is going to be absent please phone the College absence line.

5277 9793

eLearning Update

We have used information technology for many years to support our teaching and learning here at Western Heights College. We have used our school intranet, and a combination of laptop and desktop computers. Students have researched using the world wide web and presented their work electronically. In all of this we had been led and supported by our Network Manager, Peter Good, and his capable team.

As our first eLearning leader, I have been working with members of the college to use technology to enhance our learning practices. Yes, we have access to information technology, but this is not enough to improve students' outcomes on its own. The big question is how we can use this technology so that our students can learn more, achieve more, and develop the skills that they will need in our world where information is so common. I'd like to share just three ways we have been doing this so far in 2013.

In Year 7, with Mr Sachse and his team, we have launched our MYLe program, where most students have their own Lenovo slate computer. A slate looks like a tablet and runs Windows 8 software. Importantly, it can also use standard Windows software, meaning that students have access to all the sophisticated software that allows them to research, create and collaborate in their learning.



These students have also been using OneNote to organise their work. Student's work and learning activities can be easily accessed at home, and OneNote allows teachers to quickly review and provide feedback on student learning. These technologies allow students to manage their learning both in school and at home.

In our Year 9 area, Mr Greenhalgh and his team have created and implemented a system for Numeracy where students are working on the area where they personally need to improve for a topic. This is based on data from a rigorous assessment, and students sign up electronically to take part in the teacher-facilitated workshops that they need. In this case, the use of information technology means that students working towards their individual learning needs, with targeted support from our teachers.

Finally, in years 11 and 12, a number of teachers including Mrs Henry, Miss Hurley, Mrs Tyzack, and Mr Edmonds, are using a system called Edmodo, which provides online learning communities for their classes. In this invitation-only space students can find resources for their learning, and ask questions about tasks and concepts they are studying. Students can find learning tasks and submit them at any hour of the day or night, which is ideal for senior students who often balance school and part-time work commitments. Even more valuably, teachers are able to answer questions and help student outside normal class times as well, and many students jump into help each other with their learning activities.



My focus, as eLearning Leader, for the coming term is to support teachers and students to create and share objects of value, both to our immediate school community, and to a wider, global community. We have so many capable and knowledgeable students and we want to help them share their skills and knowledge.

Mark O'Meara
eLearning Leader



You can see the video that goes with this report on our YouTube channel.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/WesternHeights8820>



You can listen to our WHC Learning Podcast on your computer at <http://whclearn.libsyn.com/>. Apps for the podcast will available soon on the iTunes and Google Play store for Android.

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