Western Heights College

The College community is currently deeply immersed in a planned series of information and transition sessions. On Wednesday evening the 2014 Year 7 Learning Community, led by their Learning Community Leader, Michelle Roth, welcomed new, returning and continuing families to the college along with their family member who will join the Year 7 community in 2014.

We welcome and acknowledge the support of our 2014 students who attended with their family.

At the session, participants were introduced to the Year 7 team and were able to make contact with their mentor to set a time for their initial 2014 introductory meeting. Students received their personalised Curriculum Handbook and Parent Information Handbook to support the transition package they have received from College staff when they met with them at their primary school.

I trust that through the presentation students and families gained a greater understanding of the learning opportunities available within our curriculum and structures. I would also like to particularly acknowledge our recently elected College Captains for 2014, Magan Turner and Josh Trevethan who led the information session on the college uniform, assisted by our Year 7 volunteers.

On Friday of last week, Magan and Josh led their first official College assembly; Under the guidance of our College chaplain, Marcus Allport, the entire college and invited guests including 2014 Year 7 students from Hamlyn Banks Primary School. In a traditional ceremony, Year 11 student and 2014 Barton House Arts/Community Captain, Leah O’Brien who has recently returned from trekking the Kokoda Trail, reflected on her appreciation of the experience of our soldiers in relation to her experience.

Formal course confirmations, following the course counselling process have been completed. As a new process in the college, we thank all students and families who participated in this process. Students in Years 11 and 12 in 2014 received their confirmation by mail whereas all 2014 Year 9 and 10 students had the opportunity to attend a course confirmation session with their 2013 child’s mentor.

This week we have commenced the formal 2014 transition program with the 2014 Year 12 commencing each of their studies. On completion of the transition program, Year 12s students will leave with tasks for completion in all studies prior to the formal commencement of the 2014 College year. As we move through the transition program, this process and expectation will be set for all students. I take this opportunity to remind families should you seek clarity during this busy communication period to refer to the Campus Calender that was provided at the end of last term or contact your child’s mentor or the Campus Principal.

In preparation for 2014, I am putting it out there for students and families. Engaging students in learning and enabling improvement in outcomes for our students is our core business. While it is always a key focus in schools, we have an enhanced targeted focus on improving literacy for all students in 2014. This will be evident in our transition programs.

I share this now as I ask that between now and 2014, particularly as you receive your child’s formal report during the coming weeks, that you reflect on where your child is at in relation to literacy; that is how is your child’s learning reported against AusVels, what does NAPLAN tell you, what is your child’s achievement in

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>10 December</td>
<td>2014 Year 7 Orientation Day (Year 7 &amp; 8 students not required at school)</td>
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<td>11 December</td>
<td>Final day of Breakfast Program for 2013</td>
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<td>11 December</td>
<td>Second-Hand Book Sale (3.00 - 6.00pm) - Quamby Campus</td>
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<td>18 December</td>
<td>Awards Evening - 7.00pm Costa Hall</td>
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<td>29 January</td>
<td>Classes commence for 2014 Year 10, 11 &amp; 12 students</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 January</td>
<td>First Day for 2014 Year 7 students</td>
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<td>31 January</td>
<td>Classes commence for 2014 Year 8 &amp; 9 students</td>
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From The Associate Principal - Tami O’Hare

Phone: 5277 1177
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relation to identified tasks, what does the teacher comments on the reports indicate and how does your child report on their literacy goals?

Students continue to represent the college admirably, both internally and externally. Students are taking up and finding opportunities to develop the community connectedness which is a key factor behind our Vines Road Campus, in working with and providing assistance to various groups in the Vines Road Community Centre and the Vines Road Senior Citizens. This includes assisting regularly with lunches and maintenance and improvement of our extensive grounds. We have students who have also volunteered to assist and give their time for college processes including assisting in the library and attending building site meetings.

I congratulate all groups who have recently participated in excursions and camps, those who attend other venues as part of their study and sporting teams who have represented the college. While as a college we expect exceptional representation, it is important that we do not overlook celebrating the feedback we receive with the students and our community in general. The college wishes the Year 8 table tennis team who has moved to state level competition all the best!

A challenge at this time of year is always to acknowledge the growth and development that we witness in the six years the Year 12 group have been at the college. I am confident as parents you will agree that this time just flies! The Year 12 group were resplendent in celebrating the completion of the secondary stage of their education at their graduation last week. I also acknowledge the meaningful address of one of our college captains, Jaimie Bellaart in her valedictory address which resonated with each of the students and audience.

We thank each of you for your time at the college, your contribution to the college and wish you the very best on the next stage of your learning journey.

Ms O'Hare
Associate Principal
As you are reading this, the Year 10 students are just finishing their exams and getting prepared to start their learning journeys as Year 11 students on Monday December 2nd. There have been many highlights this year for the Year 10s, including some that are listed below:

Many of our students said the best thing they did this year was work experience because you could learn about the job they want to do when they older.

- My highlight for Year 10 would have to be the VET Automotive Taster program.
- The best experience I had in Year 10 was the Tasmania trip. So many amazing things to do!
- My highlight was beginning my School Based Apprenticeship. It’s a great way to get ahead.
- I loved playing down ball with the Year 11’s at lunchtimes.
- My highlight was Takeover GPAC, it was a good night.
- My highlight was Dance and having the talented teachers come in to teach us about contemporary dance.
- Food Technology students said their highlight was going on the cooking excursion to Melbourne, visiting the Queen Victoria Market and William Angliss Institute.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Mel Veljan and Neven Poljak who were successful in gaining a place in the Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program based at Melbourne University for 2014-2015. Over 1500 students from across the state applied for the 700 positions available and we were fortunate to have two successful students. Neven and Mel will be taking part in an exciting program of events and activities focused on expanding their academic and personal horizons. The fun and inspiring Welcome Event will give Mel and Neven the chance to learn more about contemporary dance.

GOOD LUCK

Our 2013 Year 10’s have really found their direction this year, deciding and formalising career pathways, goals and ambitions. The Year 10 team wishes you all the best for your transition to Year 11 next week and we know you will achieve your best throughout 2014.

Ms Montano
Year 10 Community Leader

This year we have had the pleasure of a Japanese exchange student, Kai Sako, attending Western Heights College. To his credit and the great support of the Year 11 students, Kai has fully immersed himself into being an Australian Student. He has developed from his first several weeks, as a shy and easily embarrassed boy; to a happy, friendly and funny member of the college community. He was happy to attend school sports days dressed in the green of Vines House, represented the college in high jump at regional finals and accompanied the Year 10’s on their Tasmania trip. His willingness to try everything included playing as goalie in the Western Zone Finals for senior boy’s hockey – a game he had never seen, let alone played before!

Following encouragement by us, here is a short note written by Kai about his experience:

“I love Australia. I’ve been enjoying my stay in this country so much. I like the food we have, due to which I put on nearly 10kg. I like the weather we have. And I love the people out of everything. Students in WHC are all good to me. And funny. They’ve always made me laugh so much. They’ve got this sense of humour. It’s so crazy but I loved it. My English wasn’t very good when I came here. But I didn’t have as much difficulty as I expected. I think that’s because my friends and teachers helped me a lot. I actually learnt Aussie accent and slangs and some useful swear words.

I’ve done various things at school through a year. I played the drums for national anthem on ANZAC day, did some dance performance, played the guitar for Year 12 Graduation Ceremony. I’m appreciative that I could have so many opportunities to contribute to this school: thanks to all the teachers.

Again I love Australia. I’ve had a great time with everything in Australia. And why I like Australia is because I know those who read this are kind enough to take my rudeness as humour and forgive me for it. “Thank you. “

Kai Sako

As Kai’s time with us has comes to an end, I’m sure that all at Western Heights College – especially his many friends in Year 11 – would like to say ‘thank-you’ for the experience Kai, and Good Luck. Let’s hope your english language skills won’t be too hard for your fellow Japanese students to understand – especially with the Australian accent you picked up!

Mr Bullock
Year 11 Community Leader
We have a new Intranet, but what is an Intranet and why do we need one? The dry definition first: an Intranet is a secure internal and private web site devoted to the operations of an organization. At Western Heights College we have had a dedicated Intranet called eWorkspace (EWS) for over 12 years. We often just refer to it at school as our “home page” (and just to make things confusing we have a home page on the internet as well at www.whc.vic.edu.au which is a public page anyone can access, this performs a different purpose but today we’re talking about our internal home page). Another way to think about it is that it acts as a portal to an organization. When you logon to this portal the web site knows who you are and how you fit in to the structure of the organisation.

What does it do? The functions of EWS allow us to post announcements for different communities within the College, share a College calendar, and have a web messaging system that allows easy communication between staff, students, classes and other groups within the College. It tracks many of our day to day administrative and operational functions such as attendance and record taking. Over the years EWS has been constantly improved and upgraded and over the past month we have upgraded to the latest version which will allow a new way for parents to communicate with the College in 2014.

Mr Good
Network Manager

A DISH A DAY THE QUAMBY WAY

During this semester, the two Year 11 Food Technology classes have been working collaboratively on the First Annual WHC Cookbook. They have participated in food photography classes and have worked hard to cook and present a variety of interesting dishes. On Wednesday evening, the fruits of their labour were realised when they held their Cookbook launch. It was well attended by students, families and staff. As their teacher, I would like to say how proud I am of their efforts. I would like to thank the two sponsors, Brad and Saz from Botticelli’s and the Malop Street branch of Bendigo Bank. I would also like to thank the photographer, Steev Cowled and also a big thank you to Anna Hurley for all her guidance and support. I look forward to next year’s edition.

There are still some copies available from the Quamby Campus office for $25 each.

Ms Smith
Food Technology Teacher

Parents will also have the option to elect to use their own email address to have important items “pushed” to them by email, for example a teacher may remind parents that there is a biology excursion the following week for their class. We will begin introducing these features to parents during term 1 in 2014.
UNIT 3 AND 4 RESULTS

Students who have completed their Year 12 studies should note that timeline of dates for change of preference, very late applications and results are listed below. Staff will be available to support students who wish to change preferences after the release of results. They will be available in Quamby Campus library from 9.00am on Monday December 16.

Year 11 students who have studied a Unit 3 and 4 subject will also be able to access their results on Monday December 16. Any students who require assistance with setting up their preferred method of communication from VTAC should see Mrs Hammond.

Monday 25 November, 9:00am: Change of preference opens
Monday 2 December, 5:00pm: Change of preference closes for graduate-entry teaching applicants
Friday 6 December, 5:00pm: Very late applications close
Monday 16 December, 7:00am: VCE results and ATAR service opens
Certificates in Hospitality

**DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT THIS SUMMER!**

Course Commencing Thursday 12th December 2013 at Geelong To enrol online visit http://www.hosptrain.vic.edu.au/summerschool/geelong

**COURSE INFORMATION**

Hospitality Training Australia is pleased to announce that it is bringing its popular Summer School program to Geelong, commencing Thursday 12th December 2013. Year 9, 10, 11 and 12 students, past students and friends of Western Heights College and any member of the local community are welcome to apply.

For three (3) to four (4) days a week for two (2) weeks, over December 2013 and January 2014, you'll learn how to make espresso coffee; prepare drinks behind a bar; serve food in a restaurant; and respond to a first aid emergency. Not only that, you'll earn your Responsible Serving of Alcohol (RSA) certificate, your Responsible Service of Gambling (RSG) certificate, your Food Safety (FSH) certificate, your Apply First Aid certificate and more.

The qualifications and experience you gain are industry recognised and will put you in the box seat to gain part-time or permanent work in the future.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

Participants complete the following units of competence:

- SITX0HS001A Follow health safety and security procedures (OHS)
- SITXOHS002A Follow workplace hygiene procedures (RSF)
- SITHFAB009A Provide responsible service of alcohol (RSA)
- SITHGAM006A Provide responsible gambling services (RSG)
- SITHIND001A Develop and update hospitality industry knowledge
- SITXCMM001A Work with colleagues and customers
- SITXCMM002A Work in a socially diverse environment
- SITHFAB003A Serve food and beverage to customers (Waiter)
- SITXFIM001A Process financial transactions
- SITHFAB001A Clean and tidy bar areas (Bar)
- SITHFAB012A Prepare and serve espresso coffee (Coffee)
- SITHFAB002A Operate a bar (Bar)
- SITHFAB020A Apply food and beverage skills in the workplace
- HLTFA301C Apply first aid (First Aid Level 2)

**COURSE COSTS**

Total cost is $21 per person with concession or $5.00 with Health Care Card.

**HOW TO APPLY**