UPCOMING EVENTS:

Friday 23 January 2015  
Book Collection Day  9.00am to 5.00pm - Middle Years

Monday 26 January 2015  
Australia Day Public Holiday

Wednesday 28 January 2015  
First day for teachers

Thursday 29 January 2015  
Year 11 & 12 students first day of classes  
Year 7 students individual mentor appointments

Friday 30 January 2015  
Year 7 students first day of classes  
Year 8, 9 & 10 students individual mentor appointments

Monday 2 February 2015  
All students at school Year 8, 9 & 10 first day of classes.

2014 YEAR 12 GRADUATION:
Costa Hall was resplendent last Wednesday evening as our 2014 Year 12 students formally acknowledged the end of their learning at Western Heights College and presented themselves for graduation. There were proud parents, teachers, friends and importantly, students as they walked across the stage. We heard the aspirations of each of the students in relation to future learning, study and work in their introduction. It is important to take the time to reflect on the range of opportunities that the students have in their sights which is testament to the thinking they have been doing in relation to pathways options.

While a celebration, this is always an emotional time as we farewell a group of students who have been part of the college community for six years. It is as was stated on the evening by Mrs Jeffery, an exciting time where some of those strings are loosened and they are able to take on further challenges and grow. Those who were in attendance had the opportunity to see the slide show presentation of each of the students in Year 7 and then in Year 12; some had changed, others hadn’t seemed to age at all!

We again wish all of our 2014 graduands the best for the future as well as their exam results that I know they are anxiously awaiting. Importantly, we look forward to welcoming them back for the End of Year Awards Ceremony.

2014 END OF YEAR AWARDS CEREMONY:
While Western Heights Colleges takes many opportunities to celebrate the successes of students throughout the year, the End of Year Awards Ceremony ensures an opportunity to celebrate cumulative success over 12 months. Students are recognised at this ceremony for their learning with dux, academic and commendable endeavour awards.

It also provides us with an opportunity to award excellence in sport, performing arts and citizenship as well as a number of awards sponsored by business, community and further education. The 2014 End of Year Awards Ceremony will be held at Costa Hall on Wednesday December 17 commencing at 7.00pm. The process for identification of recipients for the various awards has commenced and will continue over the next few weeks as award winners are identified. Recipients and their families will receive an invitation indicating that they will be receiving an award and invited to attend the ceremony.

This is a significant acknowledgement of your child’s achievement at a busy time of year but nevertheless we hope that you are able to attend and share this celebration. All college students and families are invited and encouraged to attend.

YEAR 7 & 8 2015 INFORMATION EVENINGS:
A key part of our work is to communicate with students and families to ensure that nothing is ‘left to chance’ and that all students are ‘set for success’. All students and families are invited at some time during the year to the Information Evening relevant to your child’s transition to the following year. We again wish all of our 2014 graduands the best for the future as well as their exam results that I know they are anxiously awaiting. Importantly, we look forward to welcoming them back for the End of Year Awards Ceremony.

Recently the 2015 Year 8 and Year 7 Information Evenings have been held. At these evenings students and families hear about the curriculum and opportunities for learning and leadership that students will have in the following year. I take this opportunity to thank all parents who have recently attended at this busy time in the interest of your child but also in relation to the positive feedback that you provide so that we can continue to support your child’s learning and the relationship between yourselves, your child and the college.
This week 2015 Year 12 students commenced and completed their transition program. Transition is a significant period in the college schedule as it is here where we develop with the students expectations for their 2015 learning program. Students commence their 2015 studies in transition and leave at the end of transition with tasks to complete before the formal commencement of the 2015 college year. Whether it is reading a text or completing a task, it doesn’t matter – what is important is that the task is completed and ready for the first official day of the new year.

All students participate in transition. At this time they meet their mentors and teachers and expectations for their learning are set. They leave for the break knowing who will be teaching them and who will be in their mentor group so that there are no surprises or they do not become anxious wondering about the next year at school.

Years 9-12 students have been assigned to classes, according to course selection processes and these have been confirmed during course confirmation. Our final curriculum offerings are constructed as an outcome of this process. This year we introduced the language of ‘preferences’ in selecting studies. This meant that students knew and were committed to doing a study even though it may not have been at the top of their list. I take this opportunity to acknowledge feedback that has been received in relation to this process.

**SEMESTER 2 REPORTS:**
At the completion of their transition program, all students will receive their Semester 2 report. As always, I encourage you to read the text of the report as it is here you will find evidence of both improvement in learning and the ‘where to next’. I encourage you to contact the college on receipt of the report should you require clarification on any of the content.

Included in the package will be the College Calendar for Term 1 2015 and information in relation to booking mentor meetings to commence the 2015 college year.

**STAGE 2 BUILDING:**
It is with an incredible sigh and excitement that I say that we are nearly there. We have commenced the process of transition to ‘one college on one site’ in earnest and confidently know that we will all be at Western Heights College Vines Road in 2015. Have you noticed the landscaping – wait until you see the inside!

**2015 YEAR OF WRITING:**
In order to be active contributors in their world young people need to be literate and numerate. Our core purpose at Western Heights College is to ensure that young people attending and leaving our college have highly developed skills in these areas gained through explicit teaching informed by addressing student learning data. While students will continue to focus on all literacy and numeracy skills, in 2015 we will have a particular focus on writing.

Writing improves through practice, through publishing and through having an authentic audience to share writing. What will this look like for your child? Among other things, it will mean that in every subject or study that is part of your child’s 2015 program, that the teacher will have a focus on particular writing skills that are necessary to present their learning, it will mean increased opportunities to publish in a range of forms and to a range of audiences.

Enjoy the last few weeks!

Ms Tami O’Hare
Associate Principal.

**2014 COLLEGE YEAR BOOK**
The cost of the College Year Book is covered in the annual levy. If you have not paid this fee and would a like copy of the year book for your family please make a payment of $15.00 to the General Office.

**COLLEGE ABSENCE LINE**

If your student is going to be absent please leave a message on the College Absence Line

**5277 9793**
Last week, students attached two band-aids to a page and jotted brief notes about different occasions where they had been injured or felt hurt, either emotionally or physically. When developing their ideas later, some students wrote about the loss of a pet, some wrote about falling off a bike, skateboard or tree and others wrote about situations where they moved to a place and struggled to fit in. They were able to write freely because they could access memories of these events. Students were keen to share their ideas and their writing with a partner afterwards. Next week, students will bring a picture of something they care about to paste into their Writer’s Notebook. It can be a photo, a newspaper clipping or a magazine clipping. This will be the ‘seed’ for their next piece of writing.

SOAR AMBASSADORS:
Congratulations to Jacque Worpel and Amelia Tomaras who achieved 109 points and 101 points, reaching gold status. Jacque and Amelia Tomaras received a Gold Class Ticket for this effort.

17 students also received Silver Status of 75 points or above. All students Silver Status will be invited to attend an excursion to the silver screen next Wednesday.

Students who achieved excellent results on the On Demand September Tests for Number in Numeracy and Reading in Literacy were also rewarded with certificates, along with 25 students receiving a certificate for the most improvement from their March to September On Demand testing results.

I congratulate all students for these efforts. I encourage all students to continue to strive to reach their best in all areas of learning.

Mrs Michelle Roth
Year 7 Learning Community Leader
KRYAL CASTLE:
The Year 8 students had a great day at Kryal Castle! One of the most interestingly disturbing things we learned was how people were disciplined and tortured in medieval times. One of these was where rats were placed in a cage above people’s stomachs with hot coals on top. This would cause the rat to dig itself into your stomach, sometimes right through, to get away from the heat of the coal.
We watched a real life jousting tournament and Hannah, Stevi and Shari participated as queen and ladies in waiting. It was very interesting to watch.
We had a go at archery and wearing a knight’s armour (the real stuff) and learnt all about how they used it in battle and in their daily lives. We also did sword fighting with foam swords and shields.
And we’d like to give a special thanks to Ms Montano and all the staff who organised and took us on this excursion. It was an excellent day!

Will Homan, Biranny Kinchin & Gemma Dellow 8D
Year 8 Students
EXAMS:
Congratulations to Year 10 students on their start to the exams over the first two days. I have been very pleased by the feedback from Year 10 students who are finding the exam process more comfortable this semester. The exam process will be completed with an exam revision day Monday December 1 for all Year 10 students.

Transition for Year 10 students to Year 11 commences on Tuesday December 2 and finishes Thursday December 4. All students need to be organised and ready for their 3 days of transition. Students will be beginning their Year 11 classes and course work. Thursday is the last day of school for Year 10 students.

Thank you to all Year 10 students for making 2015 a very successful year and making the Year 10 community a positive and successful place to learn.

I Hope all Year 10 students and their families have a happy and safe holiday and prepare for 2015.

Mr. Roger Conron
Year 10 Learning Community Leader

FORMAL CELEBRATION:
As the weeks draw closer, the final touches are being made for the Year 10 Formal Dinner Celebration. Tickets will be allocated next week once final payments are received and table arrangements will be made. Students are eagerly discussing wardrobe ideas and the excitement is growing rapidly.

Please ensure all payments are finalised before the end of this week - Friday November 28 - to ensure tickets are secured.

We look forward to an enjoyable night!

AWARDS CEREMONY DANCE TROUPE:
Dedicated students and staff have been working hard to prepare the dance performances for this Awards Ceremony - Wednesday December 17 @ Costa Hall.

We look forward to seeing our school community in attendance and celebrating the success of our students in 2014.

Mr. Brett Bullock
Year 11 Learning Community Leader.

As I am currently writing this Parent eNewsletter article, the Year 11 students are undergoing Year 12 transition, making “a flying start” to their final year of secondary schooling.

This week finalizes what has been a hectic couple of weeks for the Year 11 students and a very full year for them. Last weeks’ exams were a great demonstration of the progress made by the students throughout this year. All of the teachers who supervised the students commented on the mature approach the students had to the exams. We followed the strict VCAA rules for the exam centre which the students accepted, whilst undertaking all instructions in a settled manner.

As I reflect on the year I see numerous highlights for a great group of young people:

- The Year 11 Media student’s video interviews of notables, such as Mayor Darren Lyons.
- The work of the VCAL students at Grace McKellar and GAWS (that made the Geelong Addy!)
- Kate Hughes and Josh Blackney’s entry of their portraits in the Who’s Who Geelong competition – which Kate won the senior category.
- Tahlia Segon’s conquering of the Kokoda Trail
- Diaz Sutherland, Rachelle Douglas and Bonnie Brown attending the RYPEN leadership camp
- Amy Bunting winning a Melbourne Theatre Company scholarship
- Visits to Deakin University Waurn Ponds Campus and incursions by “Elevate Education.”
- The Theatre Studies performance of “Death takes a Holiday” at the Blakiston theatre at GPAC.

This list could go on and on and it would be remiss of me at this minute not to thank the Year 11 teachers for the work they have done in making all of this happen, as well as the supportive manner in which they helped the students through the past couple of weeks as the stress of meeting timelines, studying for VCE Unit 3/4 exams and the Year 11 exam week began to build.

Finally, on behalf of the Year 11 teacher team, I would like to wish the 2015 Year 12 students the very best as their journey continues and good luck for those who are waiting on scores for their Year 12 studies.
GRADUATION:
Last Wednesday the November 19 we celebrated the graduation of the Year 12 class of 2014. The ceremony took place at Costa Hall Deakin University and was followed by a dinner at The Mecure Hotel. This was a marvellous event where we celebrated the academic achievements of 105 wonderful young adults and wished them well as they transition to the next stage of their lives. This event was the culmination of the significant work of many and I would to thank these staff for their contributions.

VCE RESULTS:
The VCE results are released on Monday December 15th. We look forward to celebrating the achievements of our students. This will be done at the Western Heights College Awards Ceremony on Wednesday December 17th. Year 12 students who will be recognized at this event will be contacted on Monday December 15th and details of the awards ceremony will be forwarded to them.

TRANSITION:
This week all current Year 11 students have effectively moved into Year 12 as they have taken part in the Year 12 2015 Transition Program. This began with an assembly where students were welcomed to Year 12, informed about the MyLe program, the 2015 Mentor Teachers and reminded of the expectations of SOAR. Each student has been given a homework schedule and assessment task for each of their subjects. They have also been informed of the resources that they will require. The objective of this program is to give students a “Flying Start” to their Year 12 studies. I would encourage you to discuss the program with your student and support them to undertake the required tasks over the break.

Ms Kerrie Hammond
Year 12 Learning Community Leader

Welcome to the penultimate article from your friendly wellbeing team! As this is being written, even though it is late in the year, frenetic activity takes place on all sides. All positive, all engaging and all future focussed. And to get in early in the piece, so you all know, yes we are still hammering attendance. We will be pushing the importance of this right up until the last day of term, and then if we can find a way of reminding everyone over the holidays continually, then we will! Certainly, in 2015 we will not let up! Why? When our students attend, they are engaged in learning, they are richly resourced with an education that goes far beyond curriculum which then prepares them for their future in the wider community.

Engagement with the community is a big part of college life. On 3 December staff are attending the final White Ribbon Professional Learning event, providing us with a great opportunity to showcase our college and the White Ribbon event that our students participated in.

This week participants in the Girls Go Extreme program have a challenging and fun day in Melbourne thanks to the support of the City of Greater Geelong.

We are really looking forward to our newest college members, the 2015 Year 7 students coming to our college for their Orientation Day on 9 December. A fantastic day is planned!

We are grateful to everyone, our students and our families who enable us to serve this school and support the many-faceted wellbeing programmes and strategies geared at building resilient, mature learners who will go far in their lives.

Mr Paul Rogers and the Wellbeing Team
As I write this I reflect on our recent Remembrance Day Service for our college, and once again I was very proud of this moving, student led and student driven event. I made the comment to the Principal, Mrs Jeffery, that there is now a sense of confidence among us as to the quality, calibre and effectiveness of such events, because even if things may not run according to plan, our students more than ably manage and continue. Our guest speaker, Mr Thomas Nguyen gave a moving address about growing up with refugee parents, and his desire to give back to the society and nation that has given him more than a home – also education, health and the ability to work. He encouraged our students to give back, by engaging in community, volunteering, and of course, being the best they can at school.

I was reflecting on a conversation I had recently with my Commanding Officer (Lt-Col Don Shearman RFD), and he reminded me of the great General Sir John Monash GCMG, KCB, VD (1865 – 1931) – not for his great military campaigns, nor his engineering feats (there’s a lovely bridge in Fyansford he designed!), rather for his public and strong quote about Australia’s future. Monash said “the best hope for Australia is the ballot box, and good education”. In fact, there is one account when asked what kind of rule he wanted in Australia, and he allegedly replied strongly that “Australia should only ever be governed by the ballot box and by education”.

Either way, what a powerful statement! Education is more than simple learning of course! I would echo the words of our keynote speaker, and perhaps go on to say that this is one of the many reasons we really work hard to ensure our students attend, and more than just be here, but also engage. The future of the nation is in the of hands of our students, education is the most important tool we can give them – it is a gift.

I may have mentioned in earlier articles that for a time I lived in the city-state of Bremen, North Germany. I attended school there, and I learned many things about the history of this small, independent city, one of which has always stuck in my mind: soon after the city was being rebuilt in the late 1940s, one of the first acts of legislation passed was that education was to be free – it is a fundamental human right and not a privilege. Whether I am right in believing this or not, the truth is, in that country, it is taken very, very seriously. As I wandered among the new buildings a little while ago, I thought about that, and I was actually overwhelmed with a sense of gratitude – what magnificent resources, what beautiful, state of the art learning spaces! The sense of excitement….and I am a little jealous, as I would have loved to have attended somewhere like this!

All of this has added to my sense of pride of, and belief in our students. In our service, we remembered those who defended freedom at great cost, and laid the foundations for the privileges we enjoy freely to this day. And you know what? From the captains who led the service, the speakers who read ancient poems, the leaders who assisted, the singers who performed – and even our entire student body who sat with respect, dignity and patience, I am confident and hopeful. Australia will be governed by the ballot box and education – and our students will be among those who lead that charge!

Have a wonderful fortnight,

Marcus
College Chaplain

In 2015 three major changes to the vaccine program will impact on parents of secondary school students:

- Your Local Council’s immunisation service may contact you about the secondary school vaccine program. Schools have been authorised to provide parent contact details to local councils for this purpose. Contact Kerri Dale at school on 52771177 by 28 February 2015 if you do not want your contact details given to your Local Council.

- In 2015 only, the vaccine that protects against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough will be offered to all students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. From 2016, this vaccine will be offered to Year 7 students only. This will provide earlier protection from these diseases.

- The time-limited human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine program for Year 9 boys was completed in December 2014. HPV vaccine will continue to be offered to all students (both male and female) in Year 7 from 2015.

Look out for the vaccine consent form/s coming home from school with your child. You need to read, complete and return the form/s to your child’s mentor teacher, regardless of whether your child is being immunised at school.

To learn more about the changes, the diseases, the vaccines, or how you can prepare your child for vaccination go to immunehero.health.vic.gov.au
ALCOA FUTURE LEADERS OF INDUSTRY (AFLOI) GRADUATION
Alana Zafra and Samara Arnott graduated from the AFLOI program on 28 October.

RMIT:
Science Experience 2015
The Science Experience is three fun-filled days of hands-on practical activities for students entering Year 10 in 2015. This popular school holiday program allows Australia’s next generation of curious scientists to go behind the scenes and sample the exhilarating world of science and technology. Students will perform experiments, participate in field trips, attend university lectures and experience three days of student life on campus.

Date: 20 – 22 January
Audience: Students entering Year 10 in 2015
Cost: $115
Further Info and to register:
www.scienceexperience.com.au

New: Live Events and Technical Production
The Certificate IV and Diploma of Live Events and Technical Production are ideal if you are interested in sound, lighting and video operation at live events. Learn production techniques for a diverse range of jobs in the AV and Live Events industry. Industry can’t get enough trained technicians. These programs are ideal if you who have completed VET in schools Music Industry or Technical Production. An ATAR score is not required, selection is by interview.

Further Info:
RMIT Media and Communications
Tel. 03 9925 4815
www.rmit.edu.au/media/liveproduction

ATTENTION BUDDING SCIENTISTS:
The Melbourne Neuroscience Institute would like to invite any interested budding scientists to some exciting events coming up at The University of Melbourne. Watch on as six of our brightest academics go up against the bell in a fast-paced competition to crown the 'No-bell' prize.

Admission is free, however registration is essential.

No-Bell Prize
Melbourne Neuroscience Institute Public Seminar Series
Date: Tuesday 9 December 2014
Time: 5.15 – 6.30pm
Venue: Auditorium, Melbourne Brain Centre

MACLEAY COLLEGE JANUARY OPEN DAY:

DATE: Saturday 17th January,
TIME: 10am - 1pm, ADDRESS:
55 Swanston Street,
Melbourne (2 mins walk from Flinders St Station).

https://macleay.edu.au/campaign/melbourne-open-day-
17th-january
Miss Tracey Jeffery
MIPs Co-ordinator

Network News

BACKUPS AND STAYING SAFE
All our network users, students and staff, should have a personal backup policy in case of data loss or virus attack affecting their slate or PC. Network staff backup any data stored on the network itself, including One-Notes, but any personal files on MyLe devices are not backed up. This is the responsibility of each student. Doing these backups now is very easy and there are several solutions, some free of cost.

- Buy a personal backup device. This can be a USB stick or pocket drive. These can be bought for well under $100 and backup several devices within a family.
- Backup to the cloud. Almost every major internet service now provides free storage in the cloud. This can be synced to your local MyDocuments folder so everything stored locally is automatically copied to cloud storage.

Why backup? The sad truth is that loss of data, for any reason, is a matter of when, not if. Hard drives fail, files are deleted by mistake and devices can be stolen or damaged. A reliable, frequent and tested backup solution is the best way to make sure you are not inconvenienced by these events. The only person that can be sure this is done properly and to your satisfaction is you.

One of the more frequent examples of data loss now concerns the incidence of Ransomware (http://www.microsoft.com/security/resources/ransomware-whatis.aspx). This is a malicious type of malware that encrypts every file on your PC and then asks for a ransom or payment to “unlock” your files, otherwise it deletes them. These programs don’t find their way onto our PCs by accident, they have to be run by the owner themselves and they do this by tricking you into clicking on a link or running a program, often masquerading as an Australia Post or a courier company. The golden rule on device is to never install software that comes through an email link. Any “free” software downloaded from the internet is a major source of malware, the programs that clog up your browser and run ads and pop-ups.

Here are some recommended tips to keep your work or personal computer safe from Ransomware, Cryptolocker and other threats.

1. THINK BEFORE YOU “CLICK” - Don’t open any links or attachments in unsolicited e-mails, especially links that are embedded into text and NEVER action a request to a prompt such as “Click this”. Is this e-mail legitimate have you been contacted by the service vendor by e-mail before?

2. BACKUP REGULARLY - Make sure to keep a backup of your important files in a separate location away from your computer, such as on a USB stick or hard drive that is not kept with the computer.

3. USE & RUN CURRENT ANTI VIRUS SOFTWARE - Make sure you are using an up-to-date Anti-Virus software and that the software is enabled – for WHC students this is Microsoft System Centre Endpoint Protection (SCEP) should already be installed and up to date and enabled.

4. IF YOU SUSPECT AN INFECTION – Turn the Slate off and contact the Network office immediately.

Mr Peter Good
Network Manager
Mr Glen Smith is artist in residence at the Geelong Gallery this week with his ‘Ritz’ installation.

‘IVAN’ THE GOLDEN PLAINS YOUTH ENGAGEMENT VEHICLE:

Brandon Jeffrey (Year 11) at the recent unveiling of ‘iVan’ the Golden Plains Youth Engagement Vehicle. He is pictured making his speech on behalf of young people of Golden Plains and also pictured with Minister Terry Mulder, and Golden Plains Shire Mayor Des Phelan.