On Friday February 20 the first College Assembly for 2015 was held to induct the 2015 student leaders. This was a significant event as it was the first assembly held in Hamlyn Plaza as one college, united on one site. It was tremendous to see the students, staff and parents assembled in the Plaza to recognise and celebrate our student leaders and their commitment to the college.

This year, to celebrate being one college, on one site, with one vision we have introduced a new tradition to recognise our Year 12 students, the Year 12 Badge. Our Year 12 students are spending this year with a focus on achievement as they work towards graduating and achieving their VCE or VCAL certificates. This is a significant workload and responsibility and with this responsibility comes the honour of being the class of 2015. The Year 12 badge is a symbol of membership to this unique group, the first of many Western Heights College graduates to emerge from our multimillion dollar facilities where learning is stimulating and our graduates leave with a vast array of opportunities for their future; opportunities which are offered to them as a result of the incredibly hard work they have committed to undertake.

It was a pleasure to stand beside Mrs Robyn Jeffery as she presented each student with a badge. Many have remarked that they felt the significance of this processional as they look forward to their Graduation Ceremony when they will again shake Robyn’s hand, this time to receive their Graduation Certificates. Since the assembly the Year 12 students have been wearing their badge with pride as a symbol of their work and their commitment to achieving their best in 2015.

This year at Western Heights College we have a significant focus on stimulating learning – ensuring that classes are enjoyable, interesting and inspiring. In talking to students I have found out that the main things that teachers do that make learning stimulating are:

- Express a passion for the subject they teach
- Arrive at every class with enthusiasm and positivity
- Provide a range of different activities throughout the 100 minute session

What struck me most when discussing this with students was that they had a real awareness that the most important thing that happens at school was learning and that while they want classes to be “fun” they are not looking for an easy way out. Their priority was to learn the outcomes of their chosen study in a way that is enjoyable. One student summed it up when he explained that he knows that learning has been stimulating when at the end of the lesson he has learned a new skill or gained new knowledge and the lesson has felt that it has passed quickly.

I have asked teachers to invite me to see stimulating lessons and I am seeing English students playing high stakes quizzes about themes in the novel they are studying; PE students learning anatomy by using post it notes on each other as anatomical models; Psychology students making models of the brain with balloons then dissecting lambs brains.
We know that when students enjoy their learning the key skills and knowledge will be learned in a more meaningful way. Our continued work this year will be to ensure that as we plan our lessons that we are incorporating learning tasks that are enjoyable, interesting and inspiring.

Term 1 continues to be a busy term with a packed calendar. Two significant events that are coming up are the 2016 Year 7 Information Evening and the end of Term 1 reporting with Student Led Conferences for Years 7-9 and Parent Teacher Student Conversations on March 26 and 27.

The 2016 Year 7 Information Evening on Thursday March 19 was a fantastic evening where we showcase the college and invite parents of future Year 7s to tour our facilities and see for themselves the wide range of offerings we have at Western Heights College. The evening has significant involvement by current students from all year levels who fulfil duties such as conducting tours, working in areas around the college showcasing their work and acting as ambassadors for the college. We encourage students at all year levels to be involved on the evening, your child may bring home a permission note to be involved. We always receive positive feedback on how engaged and positive our students are as they undertake their roles on Information Evenings and we appreciate you supporting them as they represent the college. If you have not visited the college since the Stage 2 facilities opened this year feel free to join a tour on the 19th and see for yourselves the amazing spaces your children are working in. If you have a friend or family member with children in primary school invite them to come and see the programs WHC has to offer their child.

In the final week of term we invite all parents to attend the college. Student Led Conferences for Years 7-9 are a significant event in the learning of Middle Years students.

Through a 20 minute presentation to their mentors and parents, students discuss their learning goals, present their work and talk about their successes and challenges. In the Later Years (Years 10-12) parents and students meet with individual subject teachers for 10 minutes and discuss the student’s progress and achievement. Please put the dates and times in your calendar – Thursday March 26 between 4.00pm and 7.00pm and Friday 27 March 9.00-1.30pm (there are no classes on this day). Bookings are made online and information regarding how to book your sessions is provided later in the newsletter.

If you have not already, please look at the college Facebook page at www.facebook.com/WesternHeightsSC (with a link from the school webpage and Parent Portal). We are sharing information and news about what is happening at school as well as events that are significant to individual students. In the past two weeks we have shared stories about students who attended a ceremony at the RSL, excursions to the Melbourne University Gene Technology lab, a Year 10 student who was featured on Channel Seven’s Sunrise program, a 2014 Year 12 student who won a $1000 to assist her in her tertiary studies, the first college assembly held in Hamlyn Plaza, Student leaders and Year 12 Focus Day. It is definitely worth a look and a few ‘likes’.

KAYLA MACLEOD - CERTIFICATE II DANCE
Kayla is one of 4 Year 11 students studying Cert II in Dance, a qualification delivered by AusDance, a Melbourne based Training Provider. She is passionate about dance, having started when she was 5 years old, and travels on the VET bus each Wednesday for a rigorous 4 hours of practical and theory work.

“The best thing about my VET course is that I get to do what I love, learn about my passion, and I'm in an environment where people have the same interests as me and are there for the same reason. My biggest challenge is having the energy to do the VET course, on top of my VCE studies, but in a way, my VET course is a chance to get away and give myself a break. I really enjoy going to VET every single week”.

This is the first year that WHC have studied VET Dance. The VET course has been a fantastic way to keep students engaged in something they love while gaining credit towards their VCE.
**Student Led Conversation News**

It is amazing, exciting and also a little frightening to realise that we are quickly moving towards the end of Term 1. It is exciting as the end of term offers the opportunity for college students to host the first whole college, on one site, formal opportunity to share 2015 achievements. As this is the first session of the year, I will provide an overview of the college process.

As part of the process of celebrating student achievement, all students of the college have the opportunity and are expected to lead and formally share, twice per term, their learning. Students in Years 7-9 lead Student Led Conferences while students in Years 10-12 lead Parent Teacher Student Conversations. These sessions are scheduled for Thursday March 26 4.00-7.00pm and Friday March 27 9.00am-1.30 pm.

**What is a Student Led Conference (SLC)?**
A SLC is a scheduled 20 minute opportunity where each student in Years 7-9 shares their learning. Students prepare for this session and are expected to have evidence of their learning on their slates and as relevant, provide artefacts. During this time students are asked to focus on their literacy and numeracy achievement and will be able to share the results of their recent On Demand assessment. An outcome of the conference is setting goals for the next assessment period. The conference is booked online through the Parent Portal and involves parents setting up this time with one of their child’s learning mentors. Students may invite other teachers and family members, to attend.

**What is a Parent/Teacher/Student Conversation (PTS Conversations)?**
Parents of students in Year 10-12 are able to book 10 minute sessions where they attend a conversation with their child and each of their teachers. This enables a conversation to take place specific to each subject/study. Students are encouraged to ensure that parents, through the on line booking system, arrange a time to meet with each of their subject/study teachers.

Across the college, 2015 is our Year of Writing. In each subject/study there is a specific focus on a style relevant to the study/subject. Students are expected to talk about their progress in this area – what they have learned, what they can do now and, what next.

**Online Booking**
Parents/Guardians are encouraged to book your appointment time online for your Year 7-9 child’s Student Led Conference and your Year 10-12 child’s Parent Teacher Conversation. There is a link that leads to the Parent Portal from the Western Heights College homepage and from the Western Heights College intranet. Online bookings are open on the morning of Monday 16 March.

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**How to make an appointment for your child’s Student Led Conference:**
To access our Parent Portal visit our [www.whc.vic.edu.au](http://www.whc.vic.edu.au) page and click the link at the bottom. Once there please save it in your favourites for easy access later on. The bookings link will appear at the top of the home page.

To make a booking (from Monday 16 March):
1. Select your child
2. Select a date
3. Select a session
4. Select a mentor and time

If for any reason you cannot make your booking on-line please contact the College office on 5277 1177 and they can make the booking on your behalf.

Ms Tami O’Hare
Associate Principal
OFF TO A FLYING START!
We are midway through Term 1 and so much has taken place already. I am particularly pleased with the way the Year 7 students have settled into secondary school life. The Year 7 students are very familiar with our Matrix which guides all we do. SOAR – Safety, Organisation, Achievement and Respect. All of the elements of SOAR interrelate and therefore if one component is absent, this will affect the others.

Our Year 7 students are continually rewarded for demonstrating their commitment to SOAR. Teachers try to catch students doing positive things! We hold a raffle each week and the tickets they accumulate are placed into a huge bowl. Students who have their ticket drawn out are read out, along with the reason why they were rewarded their ticket S, O, A or R. They then have three options – the box which contains many prizes they need such as USBs, headphones etc. Indoor VIP pass – students use this pass to play Wii or dance in the Socratic studio, play music or a canteen voucher of $5 which they use in one go to purchase a free lunch or snack.

DOJO SOAR POINTS:
DOJO Soar Points are a step above the expectations. Many students have demonstrated high levels of achievement to receive a DOJO point or have shown random acts of kindness towards staff or students, they have assisted in many ways or packed up a space without being asked. These points are above and beyond the expectations. Attendance of 100 per cent can earn points, perfect uniform for a month, on time ready to learn all week are other examples. Once a student gets to 25 points they are then rewarded with the status of SOAR AMBASSADOR. Students reaching this status receive extra privileges and also select their first local 2 hour excursion.

PLANNERS:
Just another reminder to please make sure that every Thursday night, you are asking to see your child’s planner. Read over the weekly entries that our child has made and also look for teachers comments. Your child’s mentor will sign/stamp the planner each week and make a comment. Students bring these into Personal Learning to be stamped and their Mentor Teacher will check off that they have kept up the communication between themselves, home and school.

CAMP:
Our Year 7 camp was a great success with 95% of students attending. Students participated in a wide variety of challenges including low ropes, archery, canoeing, water slide, mountain bike riding, abseiling and they also participated in frisbee golf. Many fears were overcome and students worked hard to achieve their very best on all activities with many students succeeding in making what they thought was impossible – possible. Well done to those students and to all students who encouraged and supported each other to make this happen.

Students also completed either a breakfast, lunch or dinner duty of which they worked as a team and did a marvellous job according to the camp cook!
STUDENT REFLECTIONS - CAMP

My favourite thing at camp was the food. It was the best food I have ever eaten, nothing would have topped it. I also got to talk with people that I do not usually talk to at school. The activities were fun and I had the best time at camp.

Alain 7RD

I thought camp was fantastic and amazing. The food was delicious. All activities were a lot of fun. I did everything – abseiling, canoeing, archery, flying fox and I also went on the waterslide. The weather was between 25 and 30 degrees and the nights were really hot! I learnt more about my peers whilst having fun.

Tahlee Allaway 7BR

The camp had an amazing view of the mountains and lake. The staff were really nice and the activities were fun and enjoyable. The cabins were big and roomy. Haylee Hynes 7KS

ON DEMAND:

This week Year 7 students completed their On Demand testing in Numeracy and Literacy. The On Demand testing program is a valuable tool for schools, enabling them to conduct assessment in a reliable and standardised manner.

Test are designed to link to the outcomes of the Australian Curriculum, whilst retaining Victorian Essential Learning Standards. (AusVELS). Once completed, test are computer marked and are available for teachers to immediately view and analyse the results.

SLATES:

I would like to thank students for the use of their slates for learning. Students are now competent at navigating their way around One Note which holds the lesson learning intentions, success criteria, rubrics for assessment tasks to name a few items. The issues with the slates at the moment for a minority of students is drawing on the keys and at times, not taking the time to care for their slates. If students modify their slates in any way, ie colouring in keys, if something happens which requires repair, they may not be covered under warranty. Please ensure that you work with us to check and make sure that your child’s slate remains in excellent condition.

The Stylus that comes with the slate is used on a regular basis and it becomes problematic if misplaced. They can be purchased via the office for $55.00 Teachers are constantly reminding students to care for their stylus, parents can do this too.

Year 7 Learning Community Leader
Ms Michelle Roth

This fortnight has been an incredibly productive one. Student leaders have been elected, students have well and truly settled in to their learning communities. On Demand testing for Reading and Numbers is being completed. Our student leaders have started strongly, leading the way for our community and we are excited to see what they will bring to staff and students in Year 8 throughout the year. On Demand testing has occurred throughout this week and it has been pleasing to see our students give their best effort to ensure that they can achieve the best results possible.

A reminder for parents that Year 8 camp forms have been handed out this week and we are hoping for everyone to return these with the deposit as soon as possible but no later than the 27 March. Year 8 camp to Wensleydale will be from the Wednesday 13 to Friday the 15 of May. This is an amazing opportunity for our students to learn and participate in new activities in a different environment allowing strong friendships to be formed through shared experiences. Weekly or alternative payment arrangements can be made with Marlene Barker by contacting our College Office. Keep up the great work Year 8!

Mr Nicholas Chudoschnik
Year 8 Learning Community Leader

Student Led Conferences are fast approaching. This is a great opportunity for the Year 9 students to display their fantastic work that they have completed this term. Students will be working to put their portfolio of work together, to be ready for the Student Led Conferences. The Year 9 students have completed their OnDemand testing for both Literacy and Numeracy. This is a very important process and the tests will be completed again in Term 3 to measure students’ learning growth.

The Geelong Tertiary Futures Program started this week with students completing their first theory session. Students have had the opportunity to select and taste from a range of different subject areas. It is a very exciting experience for our Year 9 students. The program runs on a Thursday and the dates for this program are 12 March, 19 March, 16 April, 23 April, 30 April, 7 May, 21 May, 28 May and 4 June.

Year 9 News

Mr Dean Greenhalgh
Year 9 Learning Community Leader.
YEAR 10 ELECTIVE: MORPHING ENGLISH
Students have been studying Shakespeare as one of their topics in Morphing English. They have been investigating the language he used and appreciating that his expressions and phrases are still used today and are just as meaningful.
Some students think they are studying a foreign language when they come across Shakespeare for the first time. Shakespeare wrote in the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. His words are definitely English, but remember that Shakespeare was a poet too, so he put words together in interesting and unusual ways, his writing was aesthetically appealing and he often used a rhythmic tone. He used poetic and literary devices, such as similes, metaphors, symbols and rhymes, and he also was responsible for making up many words and phrases of his own.
Students found their own Shakespearian sayings that resonated with them and presented them in poster format.

Mrs Pauline Doak
Year 10 Literacy Teacher

YEAR 10 ARTIST OF THE WEEK:
Tyler Coon and Thando Mahachi

2015 Conveyance Allowance Applications must be submitted to the college office by Friday 13th March.
To be eligible students must meet the following criteria:

- reside more that 4.8km or more by the shortest practicable route from that school attended
- attend their nearest government or non-government school
- be of school age (5 to 18 years old at time of application) and reside in Victoria.

If you require more information regarding this please contact the college on 5277 1177.

Mrs Marlene Barker
Business Manager

Ms Anna Hurley
Year 10 Art Teacher

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG
IMUNISATION SERVICE

Corio Community Health Centre
2 Gellibrand Street, Corio
Every Wednesday 9.30 - 11.45am

Newtown ‘Ariston’
245 Pakington Street, Newtown
1st Friday of each month
9.30 - 11.45am

Criteria for Free Vaccines on the National Immunisation Program Schedule
The vaccine will need to reside in Australia and hold one of the following:
- Medicare card or be eligible to hold a Medicare Card
- Australian citizenship
- Permanent visa or have applied for a permanent visa
As I write this bulletin entry I cannot go past thinking how quickly the term is flying past. With this in mind I feel that it is important to mention that as senior students the work requirements for VCE subjects is generally considerably higher than those experienced previously by our students. Firstly, being busy does not necessarily equate to being stressed. Two skills that we are trying to develop in our students to minimize this are prioritizing and reflection.

To help with this our advisory classes are focusing on students completing summaries and reflections on the weeks work for each subject. This includes identifying questions for their teachers and prioritizing the weeks work. This should then prompt students to pinpoint what work they should do as part of their PREP and during IRP and Tutorials. I must also point out the importance of using these times effectively to ensure they stay up-to-date across all subjects as well as giving them the opportunity to avail themselves of help from teachers.

Parent support is also invaluable in VCE/VCAL and so take time to ask “HOW’S SCHOOL GOING?” and if the reply relates to feeling snowed under or very busy – just remind the students the importance of the timetabled sessions mentioned above. But if you are concerned at any time, please don’t hesitate to speak to the mentor, as we can often provide extra support as well.

Often when discussing senior years of school the focus falls on VCE however, I wish to take the opportunity to spend a little bit of time on the VCAL and VET Programs. The Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning is a VCE equivalent course focusing on applied learning programs. Vocational Education and Training in Schools offer the students the opportunity to undertake industry recognized certificate courses as part of their VCE and VCAL program.

I have asked several of our students to tell us of their thoughts and their experiences about both these programs:

VCAL stands for Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning. If you want to do VCAL you will need to do a VET and a VCE subject as well. VCAL is both hands on and learning. In VCAL we have been working on the matrix of the 2012 version of the movie Kon Tiki. We had to make an oral presentation on an explorer or adventurer. Also, we have been making furniture for the PAF CAF centre and for the outside of the library. We enjoy VCAL because we get to do lots of small but also big projects, there is a lot of variety in VCAL and it suits us better. In a few weeks’ time we are going to do our certificates of food handing, barista and responsible serving of alcohol.

Mikey and Andrew

In VET I have been working at the Geelong Trade Training Centre on the Certificate Two in Kitchen Operations. I chose this VET course because I have a passion for cooking. I have been cooking both main courses and desserts each week.

Mikey

Every Wednesday at 12:45pm I step on to a bus to go to my certificate II in metal fabrication at the Gordon, when I arrive at the Gordon campus in East Geelong, I am the only person from Western Heights College in my course so I walk to the M building which is the engineering building towards the back of the campus and get ready. There are roughly about 20 people in my course. My course start at 1:30 and goes till 6 with a 15-20 minute break. My course so far has consisted of mostly OHS and theory about hand tools and measuring equipment. We have done one prac using the equipment we looked at in our theory, we made 6 dog tags each out of aluminum by hand. I have thoroughly enjoyed this course so far and I am excited as to what we are doing next.

Jack Sarah

Every Wednesday at 12:45pm I walk to Clonard Minerva road to get on my bus and go to Covenant College to attend my Certificate II in Agriculture. The bus takes roughly 20-25 minutes to get there, the course goes from 1:30pm to 5:30 pm with a 10 minute break. The course has been running for 4 weeks now and the first 3 weeks were mostly OHS. Last week we went to an innovative dairy farm in Birregurra that is partnered with Sydney University. It has 1 of 3 a new system in the southern hemisphere and only 1 of 10 in the world. I chose the course because it interests me and I hope one day to work in the industry. I am happy with my choice to this course and I am excited to find out what we are doing in the following weeks.

Brady Ackland

Next Wednesday (March 11) there is the opportunity to attend a presentation by Dr Richard Chambers on being able to effectively manage stress and boost performance, both at school and in our personal lives, being held at the Geelong Football Club from 5.00 until 6:30.

Dr Richard Chambers, Clinical Psychologist and Mindfulness Consultant is a clinical psychologist in private practice specialising in mindfulness-based therapies. Richard has published numerous articles and books, including Mindful Learning, on the role of mindfulness in education.

For further information please don’t hesitate to contact me prior to the event as bookings are essential.
FORTY PLUS CLUB:
Last week we launched the Forty Plus Club, a program supporting students to achieve excellence. The facilitators were Elevate Education and we received excellent feedback on their presentation. Twenty of our Year 12 students availed themselves of this opportunity and are to be commended for their effort. They were joined by a large number of Year 11 students who are enrolled in a VCE Unit 3 / 4 study. The next workshop is scheduled for Wednesday March 25. Students are still welcome to join the program.

ASSESSMENT CALENDAR:
All Year 12 students, and Year 11 students enrolled in a VCE Unit 3 / 4 study have been issued with an assessment calendar. This enables students to have an overview of their assessment tasks and will enable them to revise effectively.

CONGRATULATIONS:
Last week we had a number of students represent Western Heights College at the Barwon Bellarine swimming carnival. The swimmers were supported by a crew that included Year 12 students Brandon Jeffery, Jake Scott and Tanika Psaila. Reports indicated that these students were great ambassadors for our college, demonstrating excellent leadership qualities. Well done!

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL:
The College House Athletics carnival is scheduled for Wednesday March 18. This is a compulsory school event. It is an opportunity for our Year 12 students to lead by example in terms of their attitude and attendance, and I encourage everyone to dress up according to their house theme and join in the fun.

YEAR 12 LEADERSHIP:
At our recent College all Year 12 students were acknowledged as college leaders. They were presented with a Year 12 badge as a symbol of their leadership role and responsibilities. It is terrific to see the students wearing them with pride. Below is a photo of our entire year level and mentor teachers.

PARENT TEACHER STUDENT CONVERSATIONS:
Please note that Parent Teacher Student conversations are scheduled for Thursday March 26 and Friday March 27. These are of real significance as they provide the opportunity for a conversation about student needs, level of achievement and supports. Bookings will be available electronically with more details to follow.

Ms Kerrie Hammond
Year 12 Learning Community Leader

COLLEGE ABSENCE LINE
Please note that the college absence line phone number has changed.
Please phone 5277 1177 to report all student absences.
YEAR 12 BIOLOGY EXCURSION TO GTAC

On February 24, the Year 12 Biology class went to The Gene Technology Access Centre at University High School Parkville. Our students listened to lectures related to proteins and in particular enzymes. They carried out practical activities using state of the art laboratory equipment and used computer software to investigate the protein structure of salivary amylase that is found in humans.

During practical sessions the students worked with PhD students from Melbourne University and investigated the functions of a digestive enzyme in differing temperatures and acidic environments. The data gathered in this session was then used back at school for their School Assessed Coursework (SAC).

On our way to GTAC we were fortunate to meet up with past Western Heights College student Travis Lines. Travis studied Biology in his VCE and is now completing his third year of a Bachelor of Biomedicine at the University of Melbourne. We spent our lunch break at the University of Melbourne, which was in the middle of its O-Week celebrations.

Our students thoroughly enjoyed their experience at GTAC and it certainly gave them an insight into the area of Scientific Research.

Ms Nicole Henry
VCE Biology Teacher

School Council News

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that the children feel a greater sense of belonging.

Western Heights College Council has 15 members: 6 Parents, 5 DEECD and 4 community members. Community members are co-opted to Council after the parent and DEECD representation is arranged.

There are 3 two year vacancies (2015 – 17) for Parent Representatives available on our Council, which I have encouraged Parents to consider. Nomination forms are available from the College Office and must be returned to the College Office by 4.00pm on Friday 13 March. If the number of nominations exceeds the number of places available, voting will commence on Tuesday 10 March. The ballot will close on Monday 23 March and the declaration of the ballot will be made in the Parent eNewsletter on Friday, 27 March.

Mrs Robyn Jeffery
College Principal

KARDINIA POOL 2015

On Wednesday, 18 February we had our first carnival for the year. The themes for each house were:

- Vines – Green Machine
- Minerva – Hawaiian Beach Party
- Barton – Villains
- Quamby – Superheroes

The colour and costumes on the day were fabulous and made for a great feeling to kick the carnival off. We started with novelty events which saw students having a great time with the noodles, hoops and kickboards. Diving ran alongside this and some very good dives were seen.

The main swimming events began at 10.30am which saw house leaders, competitors and staff spring into action. It was great to hear all of the cheering in support of those swimming.
Sport News Continued...

The events were completed by 1.30pm and then an hour of free swim and water slide saw lots of students and staff relaxing and having fun.

Results were as follows:

**Grand Aggregate**

1. Quamby 563
2. Vines 290
3. Minerva 221
4. Barton 208

**Age Group Champions**

13Yr Female & Male
- WELLS, Isobella RED
- PLATT, Nathan RED

14Yr Female & Male
- GOODALL, Jemma RED
- PLATT, Benjamin RED

15Yr Female & Male
- OKANE, Georgia RED
- ESKRIGGE, Tyler GREEN

16Yr Female & Male
- THOMSON, Tanisha GREEN
- PLATT, Cameron RED

17Yr Female & Male
- GOODALL, Kellie RED
- BLAIN, Alexander GREEN
- HAMMAN Nicholas RED

20Yr Male
- JEFFREY, Brandon RED
- THOMSON, Caleb GREEN

Thanks to staff for your help on all of the duties and Students for your participation, fantastic behaviour and house spirit.

Marli McCarthy
WHC Sorts Co-ordinator

COMING UP:

Senior Sport – Friday 6 March
Inter Sport – Friday 13 March
Athletics Carnival – Wednesday 18 March

Chaplaincy News

So what exactly is in a name?

Names are everywhere, and names are perhaps the one power we have over ourselves and over the world around us. The name we ourselves have is the one given to us at birth - spoken over us at a time when we ourselves could not speak, and from that moment on it is how we are known. It is also how we can then choose to be known – we reveal our names to others all the time, which means we are inviting people into a personal way to interact with us.

Names do convey meanings. Place names are almost always there for a reason. In our state there are two that stand out, the first being Echuca, an indigenous Australian word meaning something like the meeting of waters. A more amusing one is Lake Wendouree in Ballarat – the explorer William Cross Yuille in the 1800s excitedly asked a local indigenous woman what the name of the lake/swamp was. She replied “Wendouree”…which he was I am sure very happy about having found out, Lake Wendouree.

I wonder how he felt when it was pointed out to him the word was actually the local woman saying to this strange babbling foreigner “Go AWAY!!”. So to this day, Ballarat boasts a lake go-away. There are similar in Australia, don’t quote me because I can’t be exact, but there is an area that is apparently translated “I have no idea what you are saying”. Or as quoted by Terry Pratchett – when asked by an excited explorer who was pointing urgently at a geographic feature, the now name was given which was actually the phrase “that’s your finger you fool”.

In the Australian culture, first names are almost always used at all levels, however this is not in any way standard globally. From my time in Germany and South Africa, there are specific ways in which a name is to be used – a first name only among close friends and family, surnames and titles for workplaces and schools. In fact, even the address “you” has a formal form. In the part of South Africa I was in, the way to address others was incredibly respectful. I was in a GP clinic in Geelong and overheard the receptionist call out to my GP Steve, your wife called, call her back yeah?. I chuckled because I had the exact example happen in Capetown – however it was this “Eskuus tog Doktor, Doktor se vrouw het gebel” (Pardon Doctor, Doctor’s wife has called).

Names are incredibly important. They are not some arbitrary subset of human imagining, nor are they merely the semantic descendants of descriptive nouns. Our names are profound identity markers given to each of us. And they are incredibly valuable to us, and worthy of respect by others. Taking the time to know someone’s name is powerful – ensuring we remember a name is actually life-giving.
In the opening scene of Les Miserables (2012 film adaptation) the Inspector Javert refers to the main character deliberately and continually as 24601 – until he says “my name is Jean Valjean”. When we hear our name called by someone, we hear it deep into our beings. In a large school or workplace, it is easy to feel nothing more than a number, or statistic… however if two or three people during our day greet us by name, then we automatically feel a sense of belonging and a sense of connection.

I try to make it my practice to greet others by name – because I know how much I value and appreciate when this is done to me.

So I leave you with a challenge – this week I want you to find out the names of two people at school you haven’t met. And every time you pass them, greet them by name. Trust me, the difference this small gesture will make will be amazing!

Have a sensational fortnight!

Marcus Allport
College Chaplain

1. Attendance. We have one of the most beautiful, modern and educationally conducive facilities if not statewide, then nationally. It is an uplifting experience being able to walk the paths through the lawns, interact with students of all year levels and their staff, and enjoy the fellowship of the communal areas. If for this fact alone we be seeking to attend every day. However, that is just the material basis – education is the only way for any of us to forge ahead and be contributors, supporters and leaders of our community. Please, if you are finding it hard to be at school, if you have a friend who seems to be absent continually, or if you are a parent/caregiver and feel at your wits end getting your student here – we are here to support you! Please get in contact with us or your student’s mentor. You will be pleasantly surprised what lengths we will go..

2. Our programmes are now well under way. Breakfast Club is moving along every Wednesday morning, and is held in the magnificent PAF café area. All staff and students are encouraged to come along and enjoy the view, conversation, a toasted sandwich and box of juice from 8 am until 8.45 am. In Year 7, two groups are running on Boundaries looking at friendships, relationships and how we live together in community. In Year 8 the focus is on Healthy Relationships, with so far two gender divided groups running, and in Year 9 there is the boys study group, plus two further groups of all boys and all girls called Important Stuff – as we seek to journey alongside this important and exciting age group during their transition to young adulthood.

3. We are very excited to be welcoming our new youth counsellor Natalie Siketa. Natalie will be based in the Year 11 Learning community and will also be running programs with the Year 7’s. Natalie had a tour of the school last week, and is herself looking forward to joining the team. Natalie commences on the 10 March. Please introduce yourselves and make her feel welcome!

4. School supplies – If any student is finding it a challenge to obtain the necessary texts, stationery and even uniform, please make contact with a member of the Student Wellbeing team.

We hope you have a fantastic week!

Paul Rogers and the Wellbeing Team
VICTORIAN TERTIARY ADMISSIONS CENTRE (VTAC) GAZETTE:
Check out the VTAC Gazette for added, updated or changed courses in 2016.
http://vtac.edu.au/publications/#gazette

GLAAM: GIRLS LEARNING ABOUT ADVANCED MANUFACTURING:
Girls Learning about Advanced Manufacturing (GLaAM); hosted by GRVEC, supported by the Alcoa Foundation. GLaAM is an educational program introducing Year 10 female students to the exciting world of advanced manufacturing. GLaAM encourages girls to explore the breadth of careers associated with advanced manufacturing, and STEM (science, technology, engineering, maths) in a fun, creative, problem-solving environment. 10 girls across Geelong secondary schools will have the opportunity to participate in 5 program events, including: industry tours, presentations from experts in the field as well as a hands-on workshop to create a team project using their creativity and problem-solving skills. Throughout the program, female industry professionals will motivate the students as they are educated on academic pathways that lead to a variety of career opportunities within the manufacturing industry.
Please see the homepage or the blog for an application form or speak to Tracey for more information.

AVALON AIRSHOW CAREERS AND INFORMATION DAY:
On the 30 February, Western Heights College was graced with the opportunity to take 5 students to the Avalon Air Show in Lara. The students ranged from Year 9 to Year 10. The intention behind the excursion was to educate the next generation of job opportunities in the aviation industry. Among the possibilities were manufacturing engineering, piloting as well as managing distances between flying craft. The students enjoyed a 2 hour talk on all of the possibilities laid before them, I guess you could say the sky was the limit in this case. They were informed of requirements as well as restrictions. The aviation industry is primarily dominated by males, the audience was composed of very few girls. It was interesting to see how women fared in this field of work.
After the riveting speeches given by respected members of the field, the representatives of Western Heights College explored the grounds. In the exhibition halls were all manner of demonstrations. 3D printers operated for viewing entertainment while presenters spoke of how 3D printing is revolutionising testing procedures. With this new found technology you could almost halve the time in which it takes to manufacture prototypes.
Following a walk around the halls, the students were given the opportunity to explore actual aircraft. Inside the intimidating metal structures were many things to fiddle around with.

If you were patient enough to wait you were able to climb into what is known as the Boom. To man the Boom, you would lay flat on your stomach and manoeuvre controls to shoot down enemy craft.
By this point, is was high time to find a good viewing spot for the most enjoyable part of the show, the flying demonstrations. The crowd was sparse as it was mid-day on a weekday. This allowed people to have the best spots, right up on the barrier between us and the tarmac. The Roulettes, a troupe formed in the 70s showed us how acrobatic flying should be done. They did very impressive tricks such as rolling in the air, a heart formations, dodging before crash and performance under g-forces. After their thrilling show, the Australian defence force gave a war re-enactment complete with parachutes, fake bombs, guns and radio replay. Those game enough didn’t use their ear plugs as jets took off just meters away. The prowess of the pilots was unforgettable. It was an extremely enjoyable day and I’m sure everyone walked away with a lot of information as well as slightly deafened ears.

By Phuong Quach, Year 10
PATHWAYS NEWS

Meet Melbourne in Geelong
Wednesday 25 March 2015

Information session for prospective students and their families
The University of Melbourne will be visiting Geelong to give students, teachers and parents the chance to talk to our faculty staff and find out more about:
- Course and career outcomes, including the Melbourne degrees and graduate pathways.
- Unique opportunities to enrich your degree such as studying a concurrent Diploma of Languages or Science.
- Special support for student services.
- Access Melbourne, our special entry access scheme, which offers guaranteed entry to Melbourne degrees for eligible students.
- Information for Indigenous students.

EVENT DETAILS
Where: Katrina Room
Memoria Hotel
Corner Sherwood & Myers Streets, Geelong

FOR MORE INFORMATION
- enrol@unimelb.edu.au
- futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au
- facebook.com/unimelb
- twitter.com/unimelb
- youtube.com/unimelb

REGISTER ONLINE
- futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/meetmelbourne

LEAP into...Engineering

UPCOMING EVENT

ENGINEERING LINK PROJECT (ELP) - LA TROBE UNIVERSITY, MELBOURNE

This workshop is run in conjunction with the Engineering Link Project as part of the Engineering Link Program.

LEP is sponsoring a limited number of places for this two day workshop which gives you an opportunity to explore in depth different engineering disciplines. Each day begins with some presentations by engineers from the local community. Then in groups with other students, you will address a real world problem, considering the issues, testing materials, designing solutions and producing proposals. Your proposal will be then accessed by an engineer and you will get to build and test the solution in one of four workshops. Each day you will have the chance to choose a different field of engineering.

*This activity requires students to currently be undertaking VCE Maths Methods.
Students also studying Specialist Maths and/or Physics are particularly encouraged to apply.

Career Curriculum Framework
- Engineering
- Science
- Business

DATE: 8 - 9 April 2015
VENUE: La Trobe University, Melbourne

Please visit the LEAP website to express interest in this event by 20 March, 2015.

TARGET: Year 11, 12
MAX NUMBERS: 40

www.leap.vic.edu.au

A USTRALIAN GOUVERNMENT

Skilliong the Gap Victoria

Experience Community Services Program (formerly CLP)

Return Application Form by Thursday 26th March, 2015 to info@clp.com.au or post to Kylie Fox, Geelong Region LLC, Suite 20, Level 2, 24 Moorooduc St, Geelong 3220

Like to help others?

Visit local community service employers.
Explore your options.
Meet people on the job.
Try some hands on stuff.

Do I qualify?
As you have to be a Year 10 student in a Geelong School, be able to take part in all 6 weeks.

How to apply?
See your Careers teacher or download an application form www.communityinward.org.au (check notice board)
Pathways News Continued....

KANGAN INSTITUTE

**FASHION CAMP 2015**
30 Mar - 1 Apr  
30 Jun - 2 Jul  
22 Sep - 24 Sep

Book your spot >

Don't just follow your dream career on Instagram! Kangan Institute’s Fashion Camp can kick-start your career in the world of fashion these school holidays! Find out more >

#KanganInstitute #FashionCamp15 #StyleStalker

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**THE VCE AND CAREERS EXPO 2015**

Thursday 7 and Friday 8 May, 9am-3pm  
Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 May, 10am-4pm  
Caulfield Racecourse  
vceandcareers.com.au

**Australia’s biggest careers and education event**

Exhibitors include providers of VCE resources, universities, TAFE and training colleges PLUS 156 seminars on VCE subjects, tertiary courses, career, gap year and study advice

- 156 seminars on VCE subjects and topics including:
  - English
  - Business Management
  - Psychology
  - Mathematics (Further and Methods CAS)
  - Chemistry
  - Biology
  - Health and Human Development
  - Legal Studies
  - Economics
  - Accounting
  - Literature
  - History Revolutions
  - Subject selection advice for Year 10 students
  - Gap year options
  - Course, career and study advice

- More than 170 exhibitors including:
  - Universities, tertiary institutions and training colleges
  - VCE textbook and study guide publishers
  - Providers of tertiary course and career information
  - Providers of gap year and student exchange programs

- $5.00 admission for students in school groups attending on Thursday or Friday

- General admission $10.00. Family discounts available. Free parking

- Tickets are valid for all 4 days of The Expo and include all seminars

- Go to vceandcareers.com.au and download our free app or contact: Resources for Courses on 03 9596 8881

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Miss Tracey Jeffery  
MIPs Co-ordinator
It’s Food Fair time at Chilwell Primary School – **Friday 20th March.** Lots of food stalls, Silent & Live Auctions, Music, Wine, Rides for the kids and fun! Come for dinner from 4 pm. till 9 pm. and bring all the family.

**ROOSTERS SECOND HAND FOOTY BOOT SALE**

Do you have any football boots lying around in your wardrobe that you no longer use? The Roosters Junior Footy Club are holding a second-hand boot sale to enable families to pick up a pair of footy boots at an affordable price.

Any preloved boots can be handed in at the following locations:

- Footy Training
- Lisa Stott – 17 Britannia St, Geelong West
- Michelle Abbott – 5 Wellington St, Geelong West
- Bring them on the night All we ask is that;
- Must be a pair of boots - no 2 left boots please...
- Need to be clean and in good condition
- You want to give them away.

The sale will be held at West Oval Club Rooms, Weddell Road, North Geelong on **Wednesday 18th March at 6pm.** Some apparel items from last year will also be available for purchase at reduced prices. Please bring cash only.

All money raised will help support the Naomi Kosic Junior Football Scholarship program. Any unsold boots will be donated to a charity such as Boots for All.

Feel free to email Craig Sodamaco at badaasbestos@optusnet.com.au or Paul Codd at paul.codd@suncorp.com.au for further information.