With Robyn Anderson on Long Service Leave, I have the opportunity to experience the Middle Years Principal role, which I am thoroughly enjoying. The end of our school year will be soon upon us. There has been a number of amazing and exciting events that have occurred throughout this year.

Our Year 12 students have completed their classes after 6 years of secondary education and now begin their formal exams in our fantastic new spaces. The students really enjoyed themselves on their final day of school, Celebration Day, with ‘dress-ups’, in a true spirit of fun. This is a significant time for our students and their families. With this ending comes new beginnings for the Year 12 students and the exciting opportunities that lay ahead for them. I wish them every success in their exams and future endeavours, forever members of the Western Heights College community.

Similarly the Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11 students will soon be sitting exams and are working hard completing their course work and assessment tasks for the year.

The year is quickly moving towards a close and we are preparing now to ensure that every student has a smooth transition and a flying start to their next year level. Following on from course selection is Course Confirmation Day. This is on Wednesday, November 4 where all students currently in Years 8 to 11 will attend appointments with parents/guardians to receive notification of their confirmed 2016 courses. Transition timetables and other relevant information will also be provided. I know that the students that I speak with are keen to find out their subjects for next year and that parents are appreciative of this information before the end of the year. Parents please contact the college office to make bookings.

The Orientation Day Programs are on different dates depending on the year level:
- 2016 Year 12 (November 24—26),
- 2016 Year 11 (December 1-3),
- 2016 Year 10 (December 9-11) and
- 2016 Year 8 Year 9 (December 9-11).

These are essential days where the 2016 school year begins with induction and learning tasks. Students will be in their 2016 classes with their 2016 teachers. The final stage of the Transition Program is Mentor Meetings on the first day of school in 2016 for students in Years 7-10, where students and parents meet with mentor teachers to welcome the students back into the learning community and guarantee that they are all prepared and ready to go for a fantastic year of learning. Students are expected to bring their Study Planner to every session and to use it! The O in SOAR stands for Organisation. Teachers teach students to use their study planners as a way of organising learning tasks, managing time and communicating between home and school. This is an essential skill for students to learn in order to be able to succeed in their future careers.

Mr Dean Greenhalgh
Acting Middle Years Principal
A reminder to all students and families that we are once again, checking student progress through our ‘traffic light’ system. By the end of this week, students will have recorded in their planner either a ‘green’ (up to date) in their learning for individual subjects, or ‘red’ (not up to date).

Please keep your eyes on your child’s progress in their planners. If they have a red light, the work that needs to be completed will be recorded in their planner so they are clear on the task that is required to achieve green.

**YEAR 8 2016 INFORMATION EVENING & YEAR 7 2016 INFORMATION EVENING:**

Just another reminder to save the date for 11 November, where all students will be excited to attend their 2016 Year 8 information evening. As mentioned in the last Parent eNewsletter, this night will also showcase your child’s work and what they have chosen to highlight from this year in their time as a Year 7 student. Students have almost finished their personal invitation for their parents and extended family, so look out for your invitation in the mail!

**MESH: MATHS, ENGLISH, SCIENCE, HUMANITIES AND HEALTH**

On October 27 our Year 7 students visited the Melbourne Museum to view exhibitions to complement their studies for this year in MESH. Students viewed ‘BUGS ALIVE’ and ‘MARINE LIFE’ exhibitions which highlighted their studies in classification of animals. They also viewed ‘THE HUMAN BODY’, ‘WILD’ and ‘FOREST SECRETS’.

Students represented our college with pride, wearing their uniform to an exemplary standard. Museum staff were very impressed with their attitude, focus and behaviour on the day.

Well done to all students who attended this excursion. It is a pleasure to share such days with you whilst you are learning.

**NUMERACY:**

This term, Year 7 students have started their Geometry unit. They completed their written pre-test and fast track task on Math Space. This task will enable the Numeracy teachers to gather data regarding the students’ prior knowledge, which will allow the teachers to develop tasks that enhance students’ knowledge and understanding according to their ability.
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Sam, Claire and Owen working on a collaborative task during whole group activity to solve a puzzle during Numeracy program.

DOJO AND SOAR AMBASSADORS
UPDATE 2 TERM 4
The Year 7 cohort as a team has managed 3,436 DOJO points which means they have exceeded our expectations 3,436 times. What a fantastic result! What a terrific cohort! 97% of students are now SOAR ambassadors, with the 3% of students very close to being awarded their SOAR AMBASSADOR CARD also. Excursions start next Monday and will continue until the end of the year as students gain more points towards, bronze, silver and gold.

Mr. Nicholas Chudoschnik
Year 8 Learning Community Leader

FAMILY STATEMENTS
All Western Heights College families who are yet to complete payment of their 2015 student study charges will be receiving a final statement in the mail next week.

The college would appreciate prompt attention to these outstanding amounts.

If you have any queries regarding your family statement, please contact the college office on 5277 1177.
**Year 9 News**

On Thursday 20 October, 13 students from the Year 9 community headed off to the Melbourne CBD for an 'Interview to Impress' workshop. We travelled by train to Southern Cross Station at 9:10 am to meet with very successful financial planners from the Commonwealth Bank at the TAL Education building.

We hopped off the train at 10:00 am and walked up a few blocks to our stop. With a few hiccups along the way, we managed to find our 8 mentors that would teach us today.

To break the ice, we started with a few small games. Firstly, we went around the room saying our names out loud with a catch—we were timed. After a few unsuccessful tries we managed a time of 7.4 seconds! After breaking the ice we went one-on-one with each mentor to find out a little bit about them. I had the pleasure of introducing myself to Trevor and learning about him. I learnt that he was a manager for the Commonwealth Bank, had two beautiful children, and cheers on the Collingwood magpies in the Winter!

We then all had to face our fears and talk in front of the group about what we’d learnt in the few minutes we’d had with each other.

After breaking the ice and facing our fears, the day was off to a great start!

We then formed groups to make objects such as cars and photocopy machines with no verbal communication. With these three quick activities complete, we all suddenly felt comfortable!

Although it was very fun, we all felt hungry and ready for lunch. TAL Education as well as the Commonwealth Bank made lunch for us. After a great lunch, we all went back into the small groups to test all that we had learnt and put it all to the test. I went in a group with Trevor and Jas. We both were tested and passed with flying colours and were congratulated by Trevor.

We thanked all the mentors for their work and rushed off to Southern Cross Station.

We travelled back on 15B platform to Geelong station. We thanked Ms Lee for taking us on an incredible excursion and for the hard work she put in.

Sam Stokes  
Year 9 Student.

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**Year 10 News**

Course conformation is on Wednesday, 4 November. Please contact the college office to book. Appointments are between 12:30 pm and 7:00 pm. You will receive course conformation, resources and a 2016 Transition Program details.

Year 10 students are currently working towards completing class work and assessment tasks to be ready for end of year exams. Year 10 students will be assessed through exams during week 8 this term. These exams are excellent preparation for assessment for Year 11 and 12.

All Year 10 Mentors Teachers will be contacting parents of students who receive three or more red traffic lights across their subjects next week. Traffic Lights are an effective tool for students and parents to gauge progress mid-term. Teachers will put notes into students study planners with specific details of tasks that require completion.

All Year 10 students will attend an excursion to both Deakin University campuses on Wednesday, 18 November. This is a fantastic opportunity for our students to investigate and experience Deakin University.

Mr Roger Conron  
Year 10 Learning Community Leader.

**VCE PREP BIOLOGY/CHEMISTRY CLASS:**

Our Year10 VCE PREP BIO/CHEM students have been doing a unit on Chemical reactions. We have been looking at identifying a chemical reaction, arrangement of atoms in a reaction, forming balanced compounds and balancing equations. Students have undertaken many experiments and have made observations of chemical reactions.

Mrs Keyburn & Mrs Watson  
Year 10 Teachers.

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**PARKING RESTRICTIONS**

The college has been informed that Parking Inspectors are becoming more vigilant in the streets surrounding the college. When you are dropping your children off at school or picking them up from school, parents are reminded of the parking restrictions in Waymouth Street and the need to keep driveways clear at all times.
As the year comes rushing to its conclusion for Year 11 students it is important that students focus on a number of events – including exam week starting on Tuesday, 17 November.

Most importantly, students need to ensure they are keeping up to date with their work and have completed all tasks required of them. Have a friendly conversation with your child to ensure that they have the work in hand. The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) has a cut-off date for S and N results for all subjects (an “S” is a satisfactory completion and “N” is unsatisfactory).

If you are concerned about your child in one or more subjects, please call either myself, the mentor or the class teacher to discuss these concerns. We are open to helping all students and there is still plenty of time to redeem subjects with a little hard work. We are also completing traffic light reports this week to allow us to gauge each student’s progress.

The exam week is an important tool in our assessment of the students’ understanding, but more importantly, the experience of sitting an exam is invaluable to students as they look to be successful learners in Year 12. Another important date is the Course Confirmation Day, this Wednesday, 4 November. During this time, students are given a range of important information – including their 2016 Year 12 course and Year 12 Transition Program. Appointments will be held between 12.30pm and 7.00pm in the DAT building and can be made by phoning the college office. If you cannot make this date, please arrange a time for your child to attend to ensure this information is received.

Finally, all the best to Year 12 students (and our Year 11’s) completing exams for VCE Unit 3 and 4 that started this week.

Mr Brett Bullock
Year 11 Learning Community Leader
Another busy fortnight has passed as we move quickly toward the end of the year. Thank you to all students who supported Mufti Day last Friday with a gold coin donation. The day was well received by the students. The Wellbeing Team at Western Heights College would like to welcome on board a fantastic service called Service Connect that is run through Barwon Child Youth, Family Services Connect will be working with families in our college to connect them with other services in our community. Please do not hesitate to contact the college and ask to speak to me in regard to this area of support.

**SELF SABOTAGE:**
What is self-sabotage? Well, perhaps calling it by some other names might help give you an idea: "shooting yourself in the foot," "putting your foot in your mouth," or "cutting off your nose to spite your face." It could be argued that everyone does something that is self-sabotaging once in a while. It is a term used to represent instances when we seem to be getting in our own way and hindering our own success. It reveals itself in various ways including procrastination unfulfilled dreams, worrying over things that shouldn’t matter; using aggression and not working to stop feeling unworthy so letting people walk all over you. For children that would look like: staying up late the night before a test; cleaning their room when they should be doing homework; visiting a friend to study together but spending the time playing video games; clowning around in class. All of those behaviors are effectively stopping themselves from progressing in life and are totally within their control. Of course they are not always consciously chosen but nevertheless they can be stopped if your child decides to do so.

These four steps are recommended to help your child stop self sabotaging.

1. Make them recognize and acknowledge that the behavior is sabotaging their success. Help them to see that they are paying a high price.
2. Begin to help them monitor their negative thinking – possibly using a journal or some other means to log whenever they think bad of themselves or find them using negative self-talk.
3. Challenge both the behaviour and the thinking by providing substitutes that they consciously employ.
4. Create some self-supporting behaviours to help rebuild self-confidence. Please remember that some of these things have grown and developed over many months and may take some time and effort to change them – but be assured progress can be made if the application is determined and regular.

Ms Kerrie Hammond
Year 12 Learning Community Leader

Mr Paul Rogers & the Student Wellbeing Team
VCE English Texts

VCE English texts for Term 1, 2016 are available for purchase from November 4 (Course Confirmation Day)

Please purchase in time for transition classes:
2016 Year 12 – by 24 Nov, 2015
2016 Year 11 – by 1 Dec, 2015

Paperback books can be purchased from the College Office or see below for information regarding eBook purchases.

Year 11 - Jasper Jones
by Craig Silvey (paperback) $24
Alternatively ask a 2015 student to sell you their copy

Year 12 - Burial Rites
by Hannah Kent (paperback) $20
Alternatively ask a 2015 student to sell you their copy

Purchasing your VCE English text as an eBook.
The MyLe program enables all students to purchase texts as eBooks. The eBook prices are considerably cheaper than buying the paperback and can offer extra features that will aid in your deep reading of the texts. The Year 11 and 12 Term One texts are available from the eBook providers below, and possibly from others. The price varies slightly between them so you may want to check each store’s price if you haven’t already signed up with one.

Each of the suppliers provides eBook apps or clients that allows you to read your book on any of your devices, your slate or your phone. Which provider you wish to use is completely up to you.

You must create an account and link a credit card to it or have access to an account to buy the books.

If, after signing up with a supplier, you have problems using the client on your slate, the network office may be able to assist.

Amazon/Kindle https://kindle.amazon.com/
Apple http://www.apple.com/ibooks/
Google Play https://play.google.com/store

Jasper Jones by Craig Silvey
Burial Rites by Hannah Kent

Library News

@ the Library

The College Library is committed to providing appropriate resources for our students at each Year level. We purchase many electronic and print resources suitable for the curriculum which enhances our students’ learning, as well as fiction for reading pleasure and to support literacy.

Some of the databases we subscribe to are Clickview, a digital video library of over 8000 resources; World Book Online, an encyclopaedic wealth of knowledge which also includes separate history, science, geography and art resources linked to the Australian Curriculum; Issues in Society digital books; and many educational journals and magazines. While it can seem simple to use search engines like Google to find information, using our databases ensures that the information searched is relevant to the curriculum, and not thousands of links to sites which are not appropriate or useful. With a separate Geelong Regional Library collection, and access to all of the GRLC print and digital collections, our students have available thousands of resources to support their learning. Parents of our students, and members of our community are welcome to join our Library as members, ensuring that they too have access to all this wonderful information. Of course you are also welcome to borrow from our extensive print and digital fiction section!

Year 7 students at work in the College Library

Ms Kerrie Sirotich
College Librarian.

Mrs Kym Tyzack
VCE English Teacher
TABLE TENNIS COMPETITIONS:
Boys and girls Intermediate Table tennis was held on Thursday October 15. The teams had a fantastic day out with the girls putting in a fantastic effort battling out against their opponents from other local schools, with some matches being extremely long and exhausting. The final round came down to the final match as a decider, resulting in a gracious defeat on our side, resulting in Western Heights finishing in 3rd place in the Barwon division.

Olivia Puglisi won the majority of her games with her impressive skills.

The boys quickly showed all opponents that they meant business, with all players beating the majority of their opponents. They played other local schools winning each of their matches. Many spectators made positive comments on their abilities to read the ball and their quick reflexes. The boys finished an impressive 1st within the Barwon division, meaning that they are on to the next level.

All students were fantastic representatives of our college on the day! Well done to all involved for their efforts in constantly improving and always trying their best.

Miss Tamika Lee
Table Tennis Coach

INTERMEDIATE BOYS CRICKET RESULTS:
Geelong Region Semi-Final:
WHC 9/72 v Nth Bay 5/71 (16 Over Game)
Batting: Brad Brown 23 NO, Mitch Sykes 12
Bowling: Brad Brown 1/2, Josh Bourke 1/6, Lucas Dunipace 1/9, Angus Young 1/10

Geelong Region Final:
WHC 5/51 v Grovedale 0/52 (Rain Affected 12 Over Game)
Batting: Brad Brown 16 NO, Cameron Platt 15 NO
Bowling: Brad Brown 0/6, Mitch Sykes 0/7, Josh Bourke 0/17, Lucas Dunipace 0/18

Well done to all Team Members and a Special Thanks to Pre-Service Teacher Mr Kelly who assisted with scoring in both games.

Mr Gary Beasley
Cricket Coach

YEAR 12:
I would like to wish Year 12 students all the best with their upcoming VCE exams.

CHANGE OF PREFERENCE:
You are able to change your preferences in your VTAC account up until 12 noon Monday 21 December. You will have your ATAR by then so make sure you have checked your preferences and are happy with what you have put in.

Remember:
- The majority of offers are made in the first round
- Advice is to always accept your offer, even if you are hoping to receive another offer
- Institutions run change of preference events and are available to offer extra support. For a compiled list of events and contact details, please see the blog: http://careerswhc.edublogs.org/2015/10/19/change-of-preference/

LOOKING FOR AN APPRENTICESHIP OR TRAINEESHIP?
There are lots of employers looking for students finishing Year 12 and ready to work in the following areas:
- Painting and Decorating
- Floor & Wall Tiling
- Electrical
- Commercial Cookery
- Business/Finance
- Automotive
- Bricklaying
- Baking
- Hairdressing
- Roof Plumbing
- Landscaping

Please contact me if you are interested in any of these positions and I can assist you to set up an appointment with the appropriate employer or apprenticeship center.

For further information, please check the blog.

YEAR 11
For Year 11 students who are yet to see me for their Managed Individual Pathways (MIPs) appointments, please make a new time via the online booking system. I look forward to catching up with you before the end of the year.
YEAR 10:
We are planning an exciting excursion next month to Deakin University through our participation in the Deakin Engagement and Access Program (DEAP).

BARWON HEALTH ‘CAREERS IN HEALTH’ WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM:
During our experience with Barwon Health we were required to make an application and prove our worthiness. Once accepted we leapt into the field of allied health. We were fortunate enough to participate in role-play activities such as the birthing of a baby, C.P.R. as well as special effects makeup. Throughout the week we were also able to interact with a wide variety of health professionals. Hands on activities were very prevalent during this work experience week with the palliative care session as well as the self-defence class being the main highlights. Palliative care involved speaking with the elderly about their experience as well as their accommodation at their institute. Participation in the Barwon Health Allied Health Program enabled us to gain valuable insight into the medical world. During a week packed full of health related activities, Phuong Quach and Tyler Lewis of Year 10 walked away with valuable experiences that they would utilise to help them shape their career pathway.

Phuong Quach
Year 10 Student

CAREERS STUDENT PLACEMENT:
This week I was fortunate enough to host a student studying Career Development from RMIT, Danni La Gamba. Danni is currently working at Deakin University as a Student Advisor and hopes to move into the field of career development. Danni was here to gain some knowledge of the MIPs process here at Western Heights College. Thank you to the students who gave permission for Danni to sit in their MIPs appointments. Danni was extremely impressed with the level of maturity of our students. All of the students we spoke to during the day were well mannered and conducted themselves very professionally. It was so great to have a guest comment on how great our students are and how impressed she was. I am very thankful that I have such a great group of young adults to work with every day and it was so nice to hear that Danni picked up on this in such a short space of time.

Miss Tracey Jeffery
Mips Coordinator

CAREERS IN GEELONG
Ever wondered the industry where most people work in Geelong?
It’s in a Career in Caring – nursing, disability support, aged care, welfare many more.

Check out www.geelongcareers.org.au for other helpful labour market information for our region.
Or check out the app:
COMMUNITY NEWS

LITERACY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
AT WESTERN HEIGHTS SECONDARY COLLEGE

Are you looking for a volunteering opportunity that will ignite a passion for literacy?

We’re looking for volunteers like you to help facilitate Western Heights Secondary College’s ‘Literature Circles’ program!

⭐ Volunteers are needed for at least two hours a week, for a minimum of six months.
⭐ Full training will be provided and all sessions are supervised by teachers who will provide guidance and support.

Please contact Sarah Segal at sarah.segal@ardoх.org.au or on 03 9537 2414 for information about Literature Circles and how you can become a volunteer.

www.ardoх.org.au