The last two weeks have been very busy for our school with exams for Years 11 and 12, Information evenings for students in Years 7 and 8 next year, graduation for Year 12 as well as an extensive range of excursions and the Cape Otway camp for Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh students.

I have since starting at your college had the opportunity of meeting and talking with many students and have been very impressed by their behaviour and attitude toward their school and the educational opportunities that it provides. The atmosphere across the college is a very positive one with students displaying considerable self-responsibility for their learning.

Last Wednesday evening our Year twelve graduation was held at Costa Hall. Over a very long career I have attended many such events across a number of schools. Western Heights can be proud of every student who participated. They were excellently presented, their behaviour was perfect and all who attended were impressed with their approach. This was without doubt one of the best Year twelve graduations that I have attended. On behalf of our Year 12 students and their families I thank Ms Kerrie Hammond and the team of staff who worked behind the scenes to ensure that the night was such a success.

Over the next two weeks students who will be in Years 10 and 11 next year will be participating in our transition program. This is an important opportunity for students to learn about what will be expected of them and to commence some of the work that will best prepare them for future success.

If any members of our college community would like to discuss with me any aspect of our school please do not hesitate to contact the college. I am always available to talk with both parents and students.

Ralph Shaw
Acting College Principal.

PERMISSION FORMS AND PAYMENTS

Please note that all sport/excursion permission forms and payments are to be returned to the college two days before an activity. For planning purposes it is important that this request is met to ensure students do not miss out on these valuable experiences.
Thank you to all students who attended our 2016 Year 7 to 8 Information Evening and a big thanks to all parents who supported their child to attend. I would also like to extend my thank you to parents who drove their child to our 2016 Year 7 Information Evening. The following students assisted us on the night as a guest speaker and should be proud of their efforts, delivering a speech on our curriculum and the way we learn.

Hollie McBain, Nathan Platt, Claire Green, Emily Matthey, Tahlee Allaway
An additional thank you to the following students who performed our Uniform Dance and entertained the audience. Great work girls...

December the 16th is our College’s End of Year Awards Ceremony so please keep this date available as it will be fantastic to see you there.

Below is a reflection from Holden Earl in Year 8:
This year I’ve learned many things. Some of them include algebra to the anatomy of the human body. Year 8 was more challenging because it was set out differently, there were higher levels of expectations around organisation and achievement. Timeframes were shorter and our work was more efficient. Year 8 gave us a greater opportunity for hands on learning in classes such as Wood Technology and MESH. Classes seemed more enjoyable because they allowed plenty of opportunities for group work that allowed us to be really proud of finished products. Some experiences were so enjoyable like our excursion to Kryal Castle that I didn’t realise how much I learnt until I had returned and had a chance to think about it. I really enjoyed MESH because what I learnt I feel I could take with me into the real world and out into the community.

Mr. Nicholas Chudoschnik
Year 8 Learning Community Leader.
Year 9 News

The Year 9 Students have just completed their first set of exams. Students completed a Literacy and a Numeracy exam and have had the opportunity to see what an exam experience is like. Year 9 Students did a fantastic job.

Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh students had the opportunity to complete their major journey for the award. 18 Year 9 students set of to Aire River, which is just past Apollo Bay. We arrived at our camp site where the students had to work together to get the camp site set up for the next 4 days. Some students found this to be easy, some had some trouble. Tents can be hard to setup sometimes. With the camp site setup students had the opportunity to check out the beach, which is a short walk from camp. Students then needed to cook themselves dinner using a trangia. Day 2 consisted of student canoeing down Aire river stopping to have dinner and then back to camp. It was a hard paddle with the head wind but was fantastic when we turned around and had the tail wind on the way back. Day 3 involved students packing their packs with the required equipment for a hike. We started from Blanket Bay and hiked our way back. The rain and wind started just when we headed off to bed, which made for an interesting sleep. Lucky the rain and wind stopped by morning for us to pack up the camp site and make our way back to school. The Year 9 students were amazing and we had an amazing time.

Year 10 News

Year 10’s are completing exams and moving into three days of Year 11 transition, Tuesday, December 1 to Thursday, December 3. All students are required for these three days as students will commence there Year 11 course, teachers will give all students learning tasks to complete over the holidays.

DEAKIN UNIVERSITY VISIT:
Last Wednesday, November 18 two busloads of Year 10 students visited Deakin University campuses at Waurn Ponds and the Water Front. Students had a short tours and then were able to select workshops to participate in. It was a fantastic day with students able to learn about the opportunities and pathways that are available in Geelong and Melbourne. Students complete activities, discussed courses with student ambassadors and explored the campuses. The feedback from WHC students and Deakin staff that it was an excellent day.

OUTDOOR AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES UNIT 2 GRAMPIANS BUSHWALK:
During week 6 the Year 10 Outdoor & Environmental Studies class headed to the Southern Grampians to complete the challenging Fortress & Mt Thackery three day bushwalk. Students were challenged by the terrain and gradient of the walk, but were rewarded by the stunning views and the sense of achievement. Key knowledge and skills from Unit 2 were examined and discussed with students completing SAC 3 Unit 2 with information studied on this trip. Highlights included swimming in ancient rivers and examining Aboriginal rock art from thousands of years ago.

Congratulations to all students on this trip!

Mr Roger Conron
Year 10 Learning Community Leader.
GRADUATION:

Last Wednesday, November 18 we celebrated the graduation of the Year 12 class of 2015. The ceremony took place at Cost Hall Deakin University and was followed by a dinner at The Mercure Hotel. This was a marvellous event where we celebrated the academic achievements of each student as each successfully completed either their Victorian Certificate of Education or their Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning. We joined together as a community to wish 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 like to thank these staff for their contributions. In particular I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Mrs Coral Thomas who has worked consistently throughout the year to ensure that this event is a significant one for our graduates.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate the students sitting through the exams last week, a three hour English exam was a tough way to start for 98 of our Year 11’s, especially under full VCAA rules. This was done to allow those students who didn’t sit a Year 12 exam to experience what it will be like this time next year. Our exams were even held in the space in which the end of Year 12 exams are sat. Ultimately, no matter what the end result of the exams were in terms of marks I hope the experience as a whole was something that every student can take something away from – whether it was the need to prepare properly, manage their time or stress levels or even just to read the questions properly.

As I sat down to consider what to write for the last parent bulletin for this group of Year 11 students the first thing that pops into my mind is how much I have seen the students grow and mature during this year. This time last year transition into Year 11 we had a group of students who showed a mixture of nerves, apprehension or even faux bravado as they approached the beginning of their VCE/VCAL journey.

After a year of this journey I have been proud of all of “my” students as they stepped up throughout the year. From the 14 students elected into the Student Leadership positions for 2016, the students whom were lucky enough to go on Rotary Camps, students who excelled in sports, students who gave their all but were less successful in sport, students who left to take up full time work, those who fought through adversity or even those who at times struggled but didn’t give up – well done!

Now you are year 12’s!
However, what I do know is that as a group, if you try hard in 2016, you will have a successful and bright future and that I am handing over to Kerrie Hammond the Year 12 LCL a wonderful group of students.

For those students awaiting their first lot of VCE results – good luck. To the Year 12 students, I also wish you luck in both your results and your futures. To those of our 11’s who are leaving us to take up employment, I wish you well and I know that you will be successful.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the 2015 Year 11 teachers for their work in and out of the learning spaces. I would especially like to thank the Year 11 teaching team of Nicole Henry, Leanne Jemmett, Adrian McCall, Zane McKeon, Marli McCarthy, Maree Luckman, Brenna Loe & Kylie Lidgerwood for their support and work throughout this year.

Mr Brett Bullock
Year 11 Learning Community Leader.
VCE RESULTS:
The VCE results are released on Monday December 14. We look forward to celebrating the achievements of our students. This will be done at the Western Heights College Awards Ceremony on Wednesday December 16. Year 12 students who will be recognized at this event will be contacted on Monday December 14 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. 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 son/daughter and support them to undertake the required tasks over the break.

YEAR 12 2016 JUMPERS:
The Year 12 2016 jumper is now available for order. The jumpers are a “hoodie, they are $60.00 each. The jumpers can be ordered at the college office and a deposit of $50.00 per jumper is required when ordering. A size range is available at the office for students to try on when ordering. Orders will be finalized on Thursday December 3. If this creates an issue for students please see Mrs Hammond.

Thank you to Michael Mamora and Mr Bullock for their work to confirm the style and design of the jumper.

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 2016 we will not let up! Why? Well – 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 the wider community.

…we are looking forward to our newest college members, the 2015 year 7s coming here on December 8. A fantastic day is planned!

White Ribbon- Western Heights College has a strong partnership with White Ribbon Australia as we are a proud White Ribbon Ambassador College. White Ribbon continues to raise awareness within our community and support the fight against Domestic Violence in relation to women. A must watch television series begins this week:

ABC TV will show 3 documentaries around Family Violence. Journalist Sarah Ferguson’s two-part documentary about family violence titled ‘Hitting Home’ will air on the ABC on 24-25 November at 8.30pm. www.abc.net.au/tv/programs/hitting-home/

“Call me Dad” is a documentary about men who have perpetrated, or are at risk of perpetrating, family violence and follows their journey through a Men’s Behaviour Change Program. This film will screen on Thursday November 26 at 8.30pm.

START EARLY 0 CREATE A CULTURE:
Most first time parents start the journey with a few jointly decided rules that they are going to follow. Maybe you are a ‘no smacking family’ or ‘a no dummy/pacifier household’. These rules are often decided by watching your friends and their parenting styles that you either choose to copy or choose to never do things that way.

Of course these may change and develop as you experience parenting first hand. Additionally if your family grows in number then each subsequent child benefits from the parenting lessons provided to you by their older siblings. For us the dummy [pacifier] was removed during the day as they began to walk. ‘People in beds don’t need dummies to sleep with’. Now I am not advocating your need to follow our specifics but rather challenging you to consider how your family deals with motivation. I am sure new parents won’t even consider it an issue – but it becomes one sooner than you might wish.

FREE BBQ LUNCH!!!
On Monday, December 7 at lunchtime the wellbeing team, along with the added help of the Year 8 Boys and Girls Groups are holding a free BBQ lunch for all Year 7 and 8 students. BBQ will be held outside the Year 7 POD.

Cheers The Wellbeing Team
Are you going to be a ‘carrot’ or a ‘stick’ family? Many times we consider the method our parents used on us and adopt the same saying ‘well I turned out alright in the end’ – and no doubt you did.

I want to encourage you [motivate you even] to start right now in establishing a culture of positive internal motivation. Challenging your children to look within themselves for a good reason to do the things they need to do, to become the person they want to become, to achieve the goals they have set. Even if the culture in your family hasn’t been that until now you can still change it. Yes it may take some time, yes it may have been better if it changed earlier but it is better late than never.

Written by Nigel Lane. www.nigellane.com.au Used by permission
We are grateful to all of you, our students, and our colleagues 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 life.

@ the Library
Providing community links to our College Library is important to us here at Western Heights College.
This year, we have regularly received visits from Grade Prep to Six students from neighbouring primary schools. These students have all enjoyed their visits, learning about books and reading and their importance in our lives, as well as completing many literacy-based tasks and craft activities. Further to this, was our inaugural WHC & Friends Readers’ Cup, where six teams of Grade 5/6 students from three local primary schools – Herne Hill, Hamlyn Banks and Bell Park North, competed for this prestigious Cup. Bell Park North team, The Clarifying Cats, were eventual winners. I thank all the WHC students and staff who assisted on the day, particularly Mr Bullock, who was a hit as our guest MC, Muncle Trogg (one of the characters from the selected books), and Year 7 students Annalise Combridge, Emily Matthey, Claire Greene and Alana Suitor, winners of our 2015 WHC Readers’ Cup.
Western Heights College students from Years 7 to 12, as well as a team of teachers, compete in our own Readers’ Cup every year, which is a very popular event at our College! It was wonderful to share the experience with our neighbours, including the audience of 200 who attended on the day.

Mr Paul Rogers & the Student Wellbeing Team.

Ms Kerrie Sirotich
College Librarian.
The Australian Army Cadets is a youth leadership development program designed for young people aged 13-19 years of age.

The Geelong Unit is conducting an open day this Sunday the 29th November from 10am – midday at Newland Barracks, 200 Myers Street (behind the Geelong Hospital). A number of demonstrations and presentations will be conducted throughout the morning by cadets to show interested young people and their parents the type of activities they undertake within cadets.

Registrations will also be taken for the 2016 intake commencing 1 Feb next year (applicants can join at 12 years provided they turn 13 in 2016). The maximum joining age is 16 years. For further information please contact Captain (AAC) Mark Lee on 0431 950 032 or email geelongcadets@bigpond.com

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Yoga & Mindfulness Sessions

If you're interested in learning some new tools to manage stress, anxiety or just general wellbeing come along!

When: 13th and 20th Jan
Time: 11am-12:30pm
Where: Western Victoria Primary Health Network Office
131 Myers Street, Geelong
Cost: Free
Wear comfy clothes and BYO mat if you have one
RSVP: Tenille 52226690 for one or both sessions.
2.5 Hour School Leavers Mini-Summit

are you the **PARENT**

of a **SCHOOL LEAVER**?

Just as starting primary and secondary schools were milestones in your teen’s life, the end of their secondary schooling can be a challenging, scary, exciting and confusing time....

- Supporting your teen through the minefield of entering the workforce.
- What employers are looking for and why?
- What is your teen’s personal brand and why is it important?
- How LinkedIn can play a positive role in developing your teen’s personal profile.

GUEST SPEAKERS

“Don’t Eat The Marshmallow”
Rob Bihar (Geelong)

“Soft Skills: The Hard Stuff of Success”- Maree Harris (Geelong)

Facing The Future Fearlessly!
Dani Tamati (Perth)

Presented by two of Australia’s leading authorities in online reputation and etiquette; Fiona Lucas and Marianne Rom

GENERATION

This unique event helps prepare PARENTS for the journey ahead so they can be supportive and guide their teens as they take their first steps toward a life in the workforce (or further education).

Our children face a working life where they won’t just have one or two jobs in their careers, but face an ever changing landscape where they may find their occupations and industry changing many times over. More and more will find themselves positioned as contractors / self employed. Understanding the environment and how to position themselves within it is a vital step.

**GEELONG** - Tue 1 Dec 2015 6:30-9pm
Courthouse Youth Arts, 60 Little Malop St.

**PERTH** - Tue 8 Dec 2015 6:30-9pm
The Oxford Hotel, 368 Oxford St, Leederville

This is NOT a career guidance event. It is for reaching and expanding into the ever invasive world of social media.

Supported by:

futureproof your kids

SOCIAL ETIQUETTE

iRespectOnline

.contact

enquiry@generation.social

Book tickets at **Eventbrite** [bit.ly/gensocial]