Year 12 – 2016
Our Year 12 VCE student group are nearing the end of their VCE examinations and feedback from the external examiners has been outstanding in relation to their approach and manner during this pressurised period. VCAL, VET and non-scored VCE students continue to finalise project work and develop pathway opportunities by updating various employment documentation and skill sets. Stay with it … nearly there!!! Well done to all involved.

A reminder that the 2016 College Year 12 Valedictory evening will be held this Wednesday 16th November at Costa Hall. This event is always a night to remember, and focusses on the achievement of this group over the last six years of secondary education while at the College.

College uniform – minor changes and inclusions
Next year, we have added a series of additions to the college uniform as options for our student body. A College blazer and tie is now available, these will be considerably subsidised for students intending to purchase one of these garments, they look great and reflect the direction of the school in promoting our $Million kids to the community. Final pricing will be available shortly.

Changes to the sports shorts have been made with a girl’s cut being introduced in a stretchier and improved fabric. As well as this, the girls white shirt will be made using a thicker fabric to alleviate some of the issues that have been apparent in the past. Can I thank students and parents for their feedback in relation to these changes … much appreciated.

College Facility upgrades … Stage two works planning underway.
As you are aware the College has upgraded learning spaces in all the learning communities to further develop the flexible learning approach for students in Year 7 to 12.

Stage 2 works, will see placement of additional walls and glass panels to support even further the ability of students to access personalised learning possibilities, as teachers will be able to easily set up changeable spaces for classes of students to develop the best learning approach. At the end of each Learning Community; three class spaces and a collaborative learning area will be formulated to provide a high level of support for all learners. In 2017 Year 7, 8 & 9, as part of the Middle Years Sub-school, will have their own home room space and specific year level area as in 2016 (eg. Year 7 only space, Year 8 only area, etc) with accompanying amenities and mentoring teaching teams to guide and target the best style for each specific child. The Later Years levels of 10, 11 & 12 will be focussed on individualised learning and pathways, with more options and targeted vocational streams for our students to choose from as they develop their ideas and passions to prepare for their journey into the ever changing 21st Century.

Plenty happening …. Exciting times ahead … watch this space.
College Remembrance Day assemblies

College Middle Years (7-9) and Latter Years (10-11) Remembrance Day assemblies were held last Friday 11th November to commemorate the sacrifice of our Service men and women during world conflicts over the past 100+ years. Student Leaders from both sub schools led these moving ceremonies and I would like to congratulate them on their outstanding work in being part of these important community and college events. Well done .... Much appreciated.

The College ceremony program is below;

ORDER OF SERVICE

THE FIRST WORLD WAR

The First World War or the Great War began when Britain and Germany went to war in August 1914. Australia and New Zealand immediately entered the war on the side of Britain and the “Allied Forces” The First World War lasted four years and Australia was involved in some of history’s most tragic conflicts such as the famous landing at Gallipoli, horrific battles on the Western Front in France and Belgium and also in the Middle East.

In 1918, after suffering a number of defeats and heavy losses, the German forces agreed to an armistice or truce with the Allied troops and this signalled the end of WWI. For this reason, Remembrance Day was originally called Armistice Day.

The treaty was signed at 5am on 11 November 1918, but did not officially come into effect until six hours later at 11am. The armistice was met by celebration around the world; people yelled, cheered and danced in the streets.

The Flanders poppy was one of the first plants to grow on the blood-soaked battlefields of France and Belgium. After the First World War, the poppy was adopted as a symbol of Remembrance.

Chosen readings for Remembrance Day

IN FLANDERS FIELDS by Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae (1915)

WE SHALL KEEP THE FAITH by Moina Michael (1918)

The Ode

Lest we forget

A Reminder - Annual College Awards Night / Playhouse Theatre (GPAC), Wednesday 6th December 2016

Please diarise this date, the College awards evening will again be a “night to remember” and we are looking forward to spending this wonderful night of celebration with you on Wednesday 6th December at 7:00pm. A time where we celebrate the sensational achievements of students across all levels of the college during 2016.

2016 Western Heights College Council

The final College Council meeting for 2016 will be held on Moday5th December and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members for their valued contributions over the year, as we developed school policy, structures and key processes that shaped the future of Western Heights College.

The past 12 months has seen substantial progress in the transformation of the school as we put in place configurations and strategies that support a dynamic 21st Century learning environment.

Finally, a special thank you must be given to our School Council President - Mr George Taylor for his continued work in the development of the Community Precinct model and support around all aspects of College life. This is a time consuming role and his efforts are greatly appreciated.

Mr Scott Dellar
Principal.
Year 8 Boys Cricket team were successful in winning the Geelong Region Cricket Competition by beating Grovedale, Belmont and Oberon High School. They then went on a trip to Melbourne to represent the Geelong region in the Western Zone Finals where they beat Footscray City College but were unable to beat Williamstown High School. A great team effort by many individuals enabled the team to progress to the level they did. Already they are looking forward to next year.

Mr Beasley

In August four year 7 boys – William Moore 7B, David Taskin, Tyler Michalik & Nicholas Prodanov all from 7C went out to the Table Tennis Centre to play against other Geelong schools. The boys did extremely well, and won most of all their games, The boys played in the grand final against Belmont High, winning 5 games to 1. They all practised at recess and lunchtimes until their next tournament on Wednesday 26th October at the Geelong Table Tennis Centre against Melbourne teams. They played all their games including doubles, but Williamstown and Footscray Secondary College took out the Grandfinal and Footscray won. The boys did very well and came 3rd in their division, had a great day and enjoyed the experience.

Kerryn Cramp

**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.
INFORMATION EVENINGS

We held our Year 8 2017 Information Evening last week and we have been delighted with the student response and the parent support as we introduced the changes to the curriculum for next year. A special thanks to Emily Matthey, Tahlee Allaway and Alysha Eskrigge who assisted staff with the set up and helped on the night, supporting staff and answering questions from students and parents.

Students in Year 8 will be exposed to new subject areas for the first time with ‘STEM’ - incorporating Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. They will also have a language option between French and Chinese. Students, with their parental consent were asked to submit a preference for either language by Monday 14th of November.

Our annual Year 7 Information Evening will be held next week between 7pm and 8pm. We have many Year 7 students assisting us on this evening and I thank those students in advance on their commitment to our college programs.

Traffic lights, achievement and goal setting

A reminder to all students and families that we are once again, checking student progress through our ‘traffic light’ system. In Personal Learning over the past two weeks, students have worked with their mentor on their progress in all subject areas. The last day for submitting work for Year 7 & Year 8 students is December 5th. Please have regular conversations with your child in relation to ‘due dates’ for work submissions over the next three weeks.

Goal Setting has been completed for both Year 7s and 8s, along with student reflection on their Semester so far. Student comments will continue to be added to as they advance more as the term unfolds. Their goal setting will be recorded on their semester report.
DOJO AND SOAR AMBASSADORS
UPDATE 2 TERM 4

The Year 7 cohort, as a team, has managed 2,501 DOJO points which means they have exceeded our expectations 3,436 times. What a fantastic result! What a terrific cohort! 100% of students are now SOAR ambassadors. Excursions was the reward for every student who achieved this important goal.

The Year 8 cohort is currently at 1598 and have also been rewarded with an excursion that they chose. Daily rewards are also running in conjunction with these excursions. When the students reach ambassador status, they can receive rewards such as milos, use the microwaves to heat lunch and use additional indoor spaces at lunchtime to play table tennis, listen to music etc. Well done to all students who have exceeded expectations to receive dojo points.

Weekly raffles continue until Wednesday 30th November whereby students meeting our expectations receive raffle tickets. These tickets are drawn out for canteen vouchers and indoor passes each week.

This week in cooking students have been cooking their own recipes for their Mystery Box evaluations. The food has been amazing and some were very interesting. Students were given an list of ingredients several weeks ago to go through and find recipes using just these ingredients and one other ingredient. This task teaches students how to look at the pantry and fridge at home and create edible meals with the limited resources available. Please ask your children what they have been making in class and encourage them to replicate the dishes at home, you will be pleasantly surprised at the quality of food that year 7 students can produce.

Luke Scott

Mrs Michelle Roth
Learning Community Leader 7 & 8
Year 9 News

Upcoming key dates include:

English and Math exams Thursday 1/12
Transition 5/12-12/12
Activities program 13/12-15/12

Year 9 students are entering a busy and challenging period of the term that will require a high level of organisation and effort as the approach exams and transition.

There is a lot on currently with some students completing work following up the “Traffic Light” checks last week by their Mentors. All students are preparing their “I Can Make A Difference” projects to be completed and presented next Thursday 17th November in our Focus Festival.

Duke of Edinburgh will have their second camp, a three day paddle of the Glenelg River week 8 - 23/11-25/11.

On Wednesday 2nd November all year 9 students had an opportunity to participate on the ‘Port of Geelong Program’. This excursion saw our students having a presentation session at the AMOSC (ask your student what this is) in Corio Quay, then onto a pilot boat and a tour of the Geelong port. This was an excellent experience where our students gained information on what is shipped in and out of Geelong and also learn’t about future employment opportunities in industries. All students were given a show bag that included a CD, ask your student for a viewing.

On Wednesday the 2nd of November the year 9 Community visited Corio Bay, to learn about Corio Bay and also the different jobs available in the Port of Geelong. We went on a boat ride around the bay seeing the different ships and learned about the history of the Port of Geelong. We also learned about importing and exporting materials. For instance, we import wood chips, then export them to China. In addition to that China turns the wood chips into paper then Australia buys it back for a cheaper price. Overall the experience was amazing and educational for everyone.

By Zanetta Karkaria 9B
LITERACY RECAP

This term in Literacy we are doing a fun and interesting text response on the *Sapphires*. We have just finish our planning and next week we will start writing our essay. In reading we read a short story *The Cellmate* and now we have to answer the questions via the OneNote.

Noah Nadolski 9E

This term in literacy, we have begun to do our text response on the film the Sapphires. We watched the movie 2 weeks prior to our main assessment (our main assessment is to write essay about the movie). For our assessment we have been given four main topics that reflect back to the movie to write about. The other tasks we have been doing in literacy this term, have been to read a short story and then choose a response task to do about the short story.

Bailey Lewis

Duke of Ed Otway Camp

We walked from Shelly Beach to Blanket Bay on the first day, then from Blanket Bay to Bimbi Park on the second day. On The last day we walked from our campground to Aire River. The walk was around 5 hours long for the first two days and the last was a little shorter. By the end of the walk we stopped at Apollo Bay to buy some lunch. breakfast, lunch and dinner was all made by us with a trangia stove. We set up tents at designated camping grounds which were settled in the bush. On the walks some of us were tired and wanting to stop, but they pushed through with some help from the others. In the end it was a fun, but challenging camp.

Regan

The Otway Camp was from Monday 24th to Wednesday 26th of October, we walked the whole of the Great Ocean Walk, which is 40.1 km long. There were lots of hills to face throughout the whole three days but the hardest for the whole group was the 250m flight stair that we did on the second day. After we had lunch at Parker Hill, 250m of stairs doesn’t seem much but when you have been walking up and down hills all day with 15-17kg on your back it feels like 40kg. It was fair enough to say that we had a well-deserved 5 minute break to recover and get our strength back. As much of a challenge as it was it was a great feeling to overcome something so hard that some of us had trouble facing

Jemma

Mr Roger Conron
Year 9 Learning Community Leader.
This week a small group of Year 10 students, along with Mr Greenhalgh and Miss Lee, are taking part in a leadership program at Lavers Hill in the Otways. This program is about developing potential leadership skills and opportunities for 2017.

All Year 10 students only have a couple weeks of this year’s program left. They will be sitting exams on 23rd, 24th and 25th of November then progressing onto the Year 11 transition program for two weeks. Please ensure that all students come prepared with appropriate resources and equipment for these first two weeks of their Year 11 journey.

Mrs Lynch

**Year 10 excursion to Magistrate’s Court.**

Today, the 9/11/16, the Legal Eagle class went on an excursion to the Geelong Magistrates’ Court. We sat in the courtroom for about 3 hours and we got the chance to hear a variety of criminal court cases, the majority involving drug possession and unpaid fines. It gave us a fantastic glimpse into what court proceedings are like and how these matters are dealt with.

By Alex Eastgate

On the 9th of November, the Year 10 Legal Studies class visited the Geelong Magistrates’ Court in the CBD. Upon entry at 9:30, students were immediately searched for any metallic objects, and were directed into Courtroom Five where we were seated in the back row. We sat through a number of court proceedings, where there were a variety of cases and punishments dealt by the Magistrate.

By Georgia Armstrong

Mr Dean Greenhalgh
Year 10 Learning Community Leader.
As the year comes rushing to its conclusion for year 11 students it is important that the students focus on a number of things – including exam week starting on Monday 21st November.

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. The time table for the exam will be out soon for the students. It is important to remember that any year 11 VCE unit has an exam and these exams will be run under the same rules as year 12 exams.

If by any chance your child cannot make their exam, please contact the school so, where possible, we can make alternate arrangements.

As students enter the exam week, it is not unusual for stress levels to rise. I have listed a number of tips below that can help students get maximum efficiency before and during an exam.

1. Don’t Cram – The majority of teachers have given students revision tasks to complete – this is the best short term revision technique.
2. Eat Well – Good nutrition helps students maintain focus for longer. Eating breakfast before an exam will help students maintain focus and be more efficient during exams.
3. Watch Caffeine Intake – nothing drives up exam stress more than not being able to sleep the night before – this includes high energy sports drinks.
4. Prepare to be prepared – before going to bed the night before, make sure you gather together everything that you will need for the exam – pens, rulers, eraser, calculator (including batteries), water bottle, formula book etc.
5. ZZZZZZZ – Staying up late the night before an exam is the worst thing you can do – you reach a point where your productivity eventually declines, so sleep is a must!

During exams:

Read the question twice before you attempt it – make sure you know what the question is asking you! Start strategically – use your reading time to read all of the questions and identify the questions you know you CAN DO – don’t focus and dwell on the tough questions – you will have time to do them at the end. You will kick yourself if you miss out on a question that you can do because you ran out of time. CHECK your answers – don’t lose marks for things you can do; like missing out on units, significant figures – or worse, not answering what the examiner wants.

Take deep breathes if you start to stress – breathe in for 4 out for 4 – this will calm your nerves and get oxygen to your brain.

Although we have around a month of school left – there is a fair bit on for the year 11 students. Firstly, applications for the 2017 College leadership positions have been called for. This process involves a written application and an interview to select the top two candidates for our house leadership positions. From this, our 2017 College captains will then be selected.

The year 12 college jumpers for next year have also been designed and voted on by the 11. We had 8 excellent designs and the final two designs were so close in the vote that we had to merge them into the jumper for next year! The final process for ordering and paying will begin during the transition fortnight so that the jumpers are read for 2017. Please note that these are Canterbury type rugby tops and will no longer be hoodie style for our year 12.

Finally, as just mentioned, transition for year 12 will begin on Monday the 28th and go for two full weeks. Students have received their timetable for this time and should be aware of their classes for year 12. This is the beginning of year 12 and students should go into these classes with this in mind as it is expected of teachers to begin teaching and assessing their unit 3 course content.

Good luck for exams!

Mr Brett Bullock
Year 11 Learning Community Leader
Exam Update

The final exam for students at Western Heights College is scheduled for Tuesday November 15th and I wish those students who are still to complete their examination schedule well. We have had a number of external supervisors and every day they provide positive feedback in relation to the attitude, effort and endeavor of our students. Thank you to our Year 12 staff who have met with their classes both prior to and immediately after each exam. Congratulations to all our students for manner in which they are conducting themselves during the exams.

Graduation

Our Graduation Ceremony will take place next Wednesday November 16th at Costa Hall, Deakin University, Waterfront Campus. The Ceremony begins at 6.00pm. Tickets are available to be picked up at the College Office. Graduating students are required at Costa Hall at 2.30pm for rehearsal and photographs. If you have any questions in relation to Graduation please do not hesitate to contact your student’s mentor teacher.

Important Dates

As the end of the examination period draws close many Year 12 students and families will start looking forward to the release of VCE and ATAR results on Monday December 12th. Pathways support will be available to students in the VCE Centre upon the release of results. Students who require assistance with change of preferences and further and tertiary institute offers. Guidelines to this process can be found at the VTAC web site:

http://www.vtac.edu.au/

A comprehensive guide to this process can be found in the VTAC eGuide and the “ABC of Offers”. This was distributed to all Year 12 students earlier in the year. It can also be downloaded from:

http://vtac.edu.au/publications.html#year12

Pathways Planning

Many of our Year 12 students are seeking apprenticeships, gap year employment and full time or part time work. Andrew McCarthy’s team from Victorian Group Training are available to support students with employment counselling and preparation of resumes and job applications. Please contact Mrs Day at the College to organize an appointment with Andrew.

Ms. Kerrie Hammond
Year 12 Learning Community Leader.
THE RUNNING MAN – MICHAEL GERARD BAUER

Recently we received a visit from Michael Gerard Bauer, author of the Year 10 English text, *The Running Man*. Michael explained how his idea for this Australian award-winning novel came from an obsession he had with silkworms when he was a child. His novel is set in the suburb he grew up in, with the novel’s characters being based on his memories of growing up in his boyhood neighbourhood. Year 10 students were able to ask Michael questions about himself and his writing and gain a deeper understanding of the novel *The Running Man*.

After speaking to Year 10, Michael led a Writing Workshop with 40 students from Years 7 & 8, and had them spellbound with how one simple idea can be turned into hundreds of different ideas just by asking “What if?”

2016 READERS’ CUP

Last Tuesday morning our annual Readers’ Cup was held in the College Library. This much-anticipated and competitive event sees team of students (and teams of staff) compete for the coveted Readers’ Cup. In the weeks leading up to the competition, the teams read the four selected novels in preparation for the competition. The novels were, “Lifers” by M.A Griffin, “Kalahari” by Jessica Khoury, “The War That Saved My Life” by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley and “A Single Stone” by Meg McKinlay.

On the day, teams answered ten multiple choice questions on each novel, from a Powerpoint presentation presented by our colourful MC The Book Fairy, aka Mr. Brett Bullock

This Year’s winners by one point, Team Cummupance – Emily Matthey and Claire Greene of Year 8, beat the two staff teams and student teams from Years 7, 8, 9 and 11.

Congratulations to the girls, and thank you to all the other teams who competed.

Thank you also to our MC, Mr. Bullock, and our judges, Year 10 student Anthony Mercuri and Year 12 student Mikey McHugh.

Kerrie Sirotich
College Librarian
VCAL Community Garden Launch

Please join us on Thursday 24th November, we will be serving pizza’s from our new Pizza Oven from 6:45pm.

Mr Nathan Feldman
Year 11 VCAL Co-ordinator.
Western Heights College

CREATE
Senior ARTS Exhibition
Community Centre
37-61 Vines Rd, Hamlyn Heights VIC 3215
* 5pm open to public
* 6pm Awards and presentation

VCAL Community Garden Launch
* 6.45pm Serving Pizza from the new Pizza Oven

Thursday Nov 24th
Western Heights College

CREATE
Dance @ Film Showcase

Thursday 24th November
Performing Arts Theatre – Red Building 3
Western Heights College – Vines Rd. Hamlyn Heights
Doors Open @ 7.20pm / Show Starts 7.30pm)
(Limited tickets available at College Office - Gold Coin)

www.whc.vic.edu.au
Students in years 7-10 have been working hard in their Performance Art Academy classes in readiness for the upcoming CREATE showcase performance. Learning scripted lines, dance sequences, lighting concepts and workshops in vocal training, each and every student involved has worked together creating wonderful pieces of work and undoubtedly will result in outstanding performances.

The CREATE showcase will display their many talents and hard work and will also include short films from the media students and follow the Art Gallery and opening of the College Garden prepared by the VCAL students.

We welcome all members of the College community to come along and enjoy this amazing display and event details can be found in the included flyers and on the intranet homepage.

Year 11 VCE Theatre Studies student rehearsing for upcoming production of ‘Into the Woods’

Year 10 Academy students creating body shapes during rehearsals for the CREATE showcase

Mrs. Kerri Hutchinson
Performance Art Academy Director