**Principal's Report**

January 31, 2014

**Affirmation**

*Life is either a daring adventure or nothing.*

*Helen Keller*

Tuesday we welcomed back the staff, who all enthusiastically embraced the opportunity for professional learning and readied themselves for an exciting year ahead. The range of professional learning included, training on Compass the new Learning Management System, analysis of student achievement results, developing their knowledge of new approaches to their teaching and collaborative planning for the year ahead. It was a very productive 2 days.

**Year 7 Students**

The Year 7 students have made a terrific start to the year. We have been very impressed with the manner in which they have adapted to high school and life at Mooroolbark College. Walking around the College grounds at recess and lunchtime I have been heartened by how easy they have fitted into our College.

I would also like to thank all Year 7 parents/guardians for returning all their enrolment forms, it certainly makes our job so much easier. Your support of the College is greatly appreciated. The Year 7 Parents BBQ Evening will be held on Wednesday 5th March commencing at 6.00pm.

**School Information**

We have a new Learning Management System in the College (Compass) to support the students in Year 7 to 10. The introduction has been made because of its ease of use for parents/guardians, students and teachers. Your login details will be in the mail by the end of this coming week. (February 7th). We will continue to use Studywiz in Years 11 and 12 this year as well as Years 7-10 using the drop box feature with Compass being phased in for all year levels in second semester.

**Web Page**

The Mooroolbark College website is a valuable tool to look at our College. Please visit the site [www.mooroolbarkcollege.vic.edu.au](http://www.mooroolbarkcollege.vic.edu.au) to access up-to-date information. The fortnightly newsletter, including any past issues will be available for you to view.

**PTCA**

The PTCA is holding its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 4th March. The PTCA is an important part of the College and they play an integral role in the College. They do a superb job supporting the College through the organisation of events and providing timely and valued advice and feedback about the College. We are always appreciative of their support and encourage you to be part of the PTCA, where you can make a difference. I therefore urge you to come along to the A.G.M.

**College Council Elections**

The College Council comprises fifteen members – six parents, five Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees, and four community members. Each year half of the membership in the first two categories must present for re-election. Positions in the third category are filled by co-option from the College or wider community when the elected Council meets. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in the two categories open for election this year are as follows:

- Parent - Three
- DEECD - Two
- Community - One
NOMINATION FORMS FOR THE ABOVE POSITIONS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE GENERAL OFFICE FROM WEDNESDAY 19TH FEBRUARY. MEMBERS OF THE COLLEGE COMMUNITY ARE INVITED TO NOMINATE FOR THESE VACANCIES. NOMINATION FORMS MUST BE LODGED AT THE GENERAL OFFICE BY 4.00PM ON TUESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2014. IF THE NUMBER OF NOMINATIONS IN EACH CATEGORY IS GREATER THAN THE NUMBER OF VACANCIES, AN ELECTION BY BALLOT WILL BE HELD. BALLOT PAPERS AND VOTING PROCEDURES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED ON TUESDAY 4TH MARCH (IF REQUIRED). THE NAMES OF THE NOMINATED CANDIDATES WILL BE POSTED ON TUESDAY 4TH MARCH OUTSIDE THE GENERAL OFFICE. THE VOTING PROCEDURE WILL BE FINALISED BY TUESDAY 11TH MARCH. THE NEW COLLEGE COUNCIL WILL MEET FOR THE FIRST TIME ON TUESDAY 18TH MARCH.

LOCKERS
It is compulsory for all students to have a lock on their locker. We believe that by having a lock it ensures the safety of their belongings. Thank you for supporting the College in this matter.

Reminder College Policies

FACIAL PIERCING
Facial jewellery is not permitted at the College. Students can have a clear facial stud that does not protrude from the skin and cannot be caught on anything. This also includes ear jewellery that is sharp or excessive.

Students wearing facial jewellery will be asked to remove it and it will be placed in a plastic bag and the student can pick it up from the Student Administration Office at the end of the day.

If students are contemplating having facial piercing we highly recommend that they do so during the school holidays, giving them time to have it heal so they can put in a plastic plug when they come back to school. It is best to plan these things so the student isn’t faced with a difficult situation of having to remove the piercing or be sent home from school.

We thank you for your support. Simon Reid

COLLEGE SWIMMING SPORTS
These are to be held on Monday 17th February at Croydon Swimming Pool - a heated outdoor venue in Hewish Rd Croydon; phone number is 9294 5630. All students are fully included in the College program and are expected to attend; no alternative program is running back at school.

There is a cost of $5-00 for each student attending (who has not paid their school fees).

This should be given to the office in an envelope, with their name and form on the outside, and marked “Swimming Carnival” on the outside.

Students will be bussed to and from the pool from 9am and will be returned by 3pm, being dismissed upon arrival back at school. Parents/Guardians are asked to ensure appropriate sun protection is provided including drinks, sunscreen and hats. The canteen will be running throughout the day at the venue.

Students are encouraged to come dressed in clothes with colours supporting their particular House. Parents/Guardians are invited to be part of the day and come as spectators.

Anyone interested in acting as officials are particularly welcome and should contact Mr. Clapp at the College on 9727 8100.

If students are to be picked up from the venue could parents/guardians please provide a written note to that effect.

Keith Clapp
Sports Coordinator

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS – TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY
School photos will take place on Tuesday 11th February. All students will be photographed individually, in their Home Groups and either as a form or year level. Photo envelopes will be distributed early next week. Please ensure your child is in full school uniform on Tuesday 11th February with clean and tidy uniforms. Students with excess jewellery or with inappropriate piercings will be asked to remove them, in line with the College uniform policy.

Deb Alsop
PTCA President

MOOROOLBARK COLLEGE 2014 DEBUTANTE BALL
Attention all Year 11 students who are interested in participating in this year’s Debutante Ball.

There will be an information night held on Wednesday 19th February at 7pm in T block for students and parents.

An information booklet will be provided on the night outlining costs and details of the event.

PLEASE NOTE ONLY CURRENT YEAR 11 STUDENTS OF MOOROOLBARK COLLEGE ARE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE.

Any queries please see Ms Garnaut or Ms Jones at the College.

Claire Jones & Sarah Garnaut
Debutante Coordinators

PTCA NEWS
The PTCA is holding its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 4th March at 7pm in the “B” Block Staffroom. New Parents/Guardians are encouraged to attend as it is a great opportunity to socialise with new and current parents. It also gives you the option to represent your family, as part of the College community. The PTCA do a superb job supporting the College through the organisation of events and providing timely and valued advice and feedback about the College as well as some fundraising. We encourage you to think about attending a meeting.

PTCA Morning Tea for all new Parents/Guardians in 2014
When: Thursday 27th February, 2014
Where: T3
Time: 9am-10am
We invite you to come along and meet other new Parents/Guardians and also the Year 7 Transition Coordinator and Mr Reid.

We look forward to meeting you on the day.

PTCA NEWS

186 Manchester Rd, Mooroolbark, Vic 3138

Deb Alsop
PTCA President
MOOROOLBARK COLLEGE CELEBRATES RECENT VCE ACHIEVEMENTS

The College was recently featured in the Lilydale & Yarra Valley Leader on Tuesday January 14, 2014. It shows Mooroolbark College as being the top performing government school in the Yarra Ranges after its outstanding 2013 VCE Results.

The range of subjects that students achieved 40+ were: Art, English, Health and Human Development, History, Information Technology, Legal Studies, Outdoor and Environmental Studies, Physical Education and Visual Communication Design, as well as a perfect score of 50 in Psychology. Each year we are seeing the overall average student scores of our students increase, with last year’s showing outstanding results.

We would like to congratulate our dedicated teachers and students for their hard work, commitment and perseverance. We are proud of contributions our students make to both the College and the wider community.

Several students achieved outstanding individual results, Ashleigh Delahoy, Dux of the College with an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) of 95.60, who is studying at Monash University after being accepted into a Bachelor of Psychology (with honours).

We wish to congratulate the following students who achieved a score of 40 and over:
Liam Plant, Sophie Dillema, Samantha Owen, Talia Alsop, Zoe Adams, Anthony Fry, Ashley Porter and Michael Eshetu-Mulugeta.

Good luck to you all in your future career choices.

Simon Reid
Principal

Ashleigh Delahoy, Simon Reid & Liam Plant
Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA):

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided by the Victorian Government to lower-income families to help with education-related costs.

If you have a child under 16, and you hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible to receive the EMA. The allowance is paid in two instalments, one in March and one in August.

The payment is intended to assist with education-related costs such as; uniforms, excursions, textbooks, and stationery. You can elect to have your EMA paid in one of the following ways:

- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your own nominated bank account; or
- Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses; or
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

In 2014, the annual EMA amount per student is:

- $200 for prep students
- $150 for students in years 1 – 6.
- $300 for year 7 students
- $280 for students in year 8 – until age 16*.

* A pro-rata amount is payable for students turning 16 in 2014.

How to Apply: Contact the school office to obtain an EMA application form.

Closing Date: You need to obtain an EMA application form from the school office and return by 28 February 2014.

For more information about the EMA, visit http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/financial/Pages/default.aspx