PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

March 28, 2014

Affirmation

When our life is full, we can reach out and touch the limits of our being.
Remember, the possibilities in life are endless
George D Norris

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Throughout the year we will have numerous events to mark this time and celebrate our College with all the people who have contributed to make Mooroolbark College such a wonderful school. On Friday we had our second General Assembly and it was an opportunity to celebrate International Diversity Week. Our special guest who has a strong connection to our College was the Member for Evelyn Christine Fyffe. She gave an insightful speech to the students on culture, and endearing positive culture of our state and presented the school with a new state flag. It was terrific to have her in the College speaking so glowingly of our College.

CHINA STUDY TOUR

Rachael Williams and I will be going on a Study Tour of China to our Sister School Wujiang Senior Middle School. It will be a wonderful opportunity to deepen our understanding of the Chinese education system and to increase our knowledge of contemporary Chinese culture in a variety of contexts. The relationship that has been established between the two schools is very positive and is resulting Mooroolbark College students being able to visit China and also students from Wujiang to experience Australian Culture.

With the introduction of the National Curriculum and Asian Literacy being an important component of the curriculum, this tour and the resulting relationships established, positively positions Mooroolbark College to be able to provide maximum support for our students.

EXPLORATION NIGHT

A reminder that our ‘Explore Mooroolbark College’ Night will be held on Thursday 8th May at 7pm. We invite current and new parents/guardians to come and find out about the fabulous opportunities that are available to the students who attend our College.

COLLEGE COUNCIL

The College Council elections have concluded. I would like to congratulate and welcome the following people onto the College Council:

DEECD REPRESENTATIVES

Simon Reid
Lyn Godfrey
Rachael Williams
Danniele Clarke
Ann Stratford

PARENT REPRESENTATIVE

Tania Kempton
Linda Hill
Julie Medlin
Margaret Troeller
Sharyn Dymond
Judith McLaren

I thank them for their commitment to the College; their support is greatly appreciated and will make a real difference to our College.

If you want to raise anything at Council please contact one of these representatives and they will ensure that it gets placed on the meeting agenda.

FAREWELLS

It is with mixed sentiment that we farewell Mrs Dianne Hounslow, who has been a great asset to our Science program at Mooroolbark College. After 20 years of service, Dianne has decided to take on retirement. Our special guest who has a strong connection to our College was the Member for Evelyn Christine Fyffe. She gave an insightful speech to the students on culture, and endearing positive culture of our state and presented the school with a new state flag. It was terrific to have her in the College speaking so glowingly of our College.

We also said goodbye to Mr Steve Cameron after 9 years and wish him the best of luck in his new venture. Mr Brad Magri-Olson also has resigned to take on a new venture. We wish them all the very best in their new endeavours.

Simon Reid
Principal

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Simon Reid
Principal

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INNER EAST
Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Meeting
LAECG

**When:** Tuesday 8th April

**Where:** Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place, 47 Patterson St, Ringwood.

**Time:** 12.30pm to 2.00pm

Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Groups (LAECGs) are voluntary bodies made up of local Aboriginal parents and community members and provide links between parents, community and schools.

If you would like to discuss the Inner East LAECG or have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact your local Koorie Engagement Support Officers on PH: 9265 2400.

**PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS**

Thank you to our families and staff who made our parent/teacher interviews such a success.

Moving to our new management system did not come without some hiccups and we encourage parents/guardians to give feedback as to improvements that could be made. Just out of interest, there were over 1800 appointments made to see teachers between 1pm and 8 o'clock on Wednesday. Teachers were excited to talk to parents/guardians and students about their endeavours in the classroom.

Please take the opportunity to discuss the outcomes of these interviews at home to ensure optimal learning takes place at school.

Lyn Godfrey
Assistant Principal

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**FROM THE ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT**

**FAMILY STATEMENTS**

From next term, our Family Statements and invoices will be emailed. In order for this to work efficiently, could you please ensure that you email address details are current.

Please update any changes to your personal details including email addresses in COMPASS.

**BPAY**

If you are making a BPay payment for specific charges such as camps, excursions, iPad programs etc. it is essential that you notify the College for each transaction to ensure that your payment is allocated to the correct charges on your account.

This can be done by either:

- email – mooroolbark.co@edumail.vic.gov.au
- Phone – 9727 8100
- Fax – 9727 8188

By not notifying the College BPAY payments will automatically go towards the oldest outstanding invoice on your account. Please address all communication to Accounts Receivable at the College.

Ann Stratford
Assistant Principal

**CAMPS**

Two of our major camps head off on their adventures next week. We know the staff and students will gain an incredible lifetime of memories as they tour the apple isle and our country’s centre.

The Year 9 students have a five day bus journey along the east coast of Tasmania and gaining a real life understanding of our convict past.

The Year 10 students are going on an incredible escapade that will have them see sights that they have only dreamt of.

Thank you to our camp leaders Mr. Andy U’ren and his team and Mrs. Jodie Tilley, Mrs. Janet Whitby and Mrs. Elisabeth Nickel and their team for organising the splendid Year 9 camp.

Lyn. Godfrey
Assistant Principal

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**MATHS DEPARTMENT**

**How Can I Help My Child Do Better At Maths? Part Two**

**Drilling the Basics**

Rote learning is unfashionable. In a society where we question everything – information sources, reliability of the media, governments, even our own food sources - and merely “Google up the answer”, it has become passé to commit to memorising anything. However, there are certain things that will always be. 2 x 2 will ALWAYS equal 4 (despite what George Orwell might otherwise suggest!) and it is so important for your child to just know things. The following is a list of things every student should know prior to high school:

1 through to 12 Times Tables. ALL OF THEM. NOW.

How to add, subtract, multiply and divide WHOLE NUMBERS (Integers) by hand.

How to add, subtract, multiply and divide FRACTIONS.

How to add, subtract, multiply and divide DECIMALS, and if possible: Recognise different shapes.

Pretty standard stuff, right? It concerns me that there are still numbers of students who do not know their Times Tables and are in Year 9. So how do you get them to know these things?

Know it yourself. If you aren’t sure how to do these things, brush up on your own skills.

Use memory aides for students – buy a Times Tables chart in the local newsagents, get flash cards from educational retailers or make some yourself.

Do regular practice with your child – recitation, quizzes at the dinner table.

And don’t forget we can help here at the College. Talk to your child’s Maths teacher for further advice. We also have our free tutoring service – the Numeracy Emporium – every Tuesday and Thursday in A5 from 3 – 4 PM.

David Innes
Head of Mathematics
OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES - COASTAL CAMP

Last week from Wednesday 19th to Friday 21st March, the Year 12 Outdoor Environmental Studies class took a 3 day camp to the Queenscliff coastal area on the Bellarine Peninsula. We learnt about the dependence of the marine life in the Marine National Park and that what we do here in Mooroolbark can affect the swans and other living organisms/life forms at the southern end of Port Phillip. We went canoeing on Swan Bay and investigated sea grass and what feeds of it, we also came across many different crabs and got to touch a Port Jackson Shark in the wild. We climbed the old lighthouse at Point Lonsdale after visiting the Maritime Museum and learnt how the big container ships are brought in past Port Phillip heads with an expert skipper from the ‘pilot service’. At Narana Creations, we went on an aboriginal cultural tour, seeing the natural gardens that were used for food and resources, we threw a boomerang, not very well though. We had the opportunity to try some aboriginal food being kangaroo and damper, as well as seeing and holding some past artefacts such as spears and shields. On the third day we went snorkelling out at Pope’s Eye and Chinaman’s Hat, where we saw fish, seals and dolphins. We also got to jump off the roof of the boat and swim ashore to see some aboriginal shell middens that are exposed at Point Nepean National Park. This was easily the best school camp I have been on!

VCE Outdoor Environmental Student
LIBRARY

Recently Mooroolbark College was privileged to welcome Australian authors Alice Pung and Sue Lawson to work with and speak to many excited students.

Alice Pung is a writer, lawyer and teacher. The author of “Her Father’s Daughter” and “Unpolished Gem” and the editor of” Growing up Asian in Australia”, and has received enormous acclaim for her writing. “Unpolished Gem” won the 2007 Australian Newcomer of the Year award in the Australian Book Industry Awards. We were honoured to have Alice speak with our Year 7 and Year 9 students as well as many of Year 10 students in celebration of Cultural Diversity Week. Alice spoke about the experiences of her family’s life in Cambodia and growing up in Australia with a diverse background. Students were enthralled by her stories and her family’s experiences. Alice has worked extensively with both primary and secondary school students and has a deep passion and empathy for youth issues, and believes in the power of good humour to help overcome difficulty.

The second Author that visited our students was Sue Lawson author of 20 books including “Pans Whis-per”. Sue is an award-winning author who also teaches and leads writing workshops for budding authors. She has books that have sold throughout Australia and overseas and students at schools across Victoria and interstate have discovered the joy and thrill of storytelling through her vibrant and energetic workshops; which our students were fortunate to be a part of. Sue set up 3 workshops with Year 7, Year 9 and Year 10 students in developing their writing skills as well as teaching our young writers the art and secrets of a good story. Students were captivated and fascinated with many students taking away skills to use for their own writing endeavours.
CULTURAL DIVERSITY WEEK

Last week Mooroolbark College celebrated Cultural Diversity Week with a number of special events. Throughout the week author Alice Pung and Care Australia visited the college, a film festival was held and the week concluded with our first ever acknowledgement of country and a pizza lunch.

The speech presented by Red House Capitan, Bianca Heard and Michael Eshetu-Mulugeta, at the general assembly on Friday summarises the week’s sentiments perfectly.

“This week we are celebrating cultural diversity. This week means much more than the free dress day, pizza stand and the non-existent taco truck. There is a strong emphasis on unity of different cultures. We have a huge variety of different cultures even just within our college. From India, China, Cambodia, England, France and Malta, the list goes on and on. Both Michael and I have different backgrounds. For example, I have polish background whilst Michael has a completely different heritage to myself.

Cultural diversity has played a large part in my life. It has moulded me into the person I am today. Most of you who know me or have ever met my parents would know that my father is from Ethiopia in Africa and my mum is from Serbia which is in Europe. There is a clear background difference between my parents. When they met in Serbia and my parents began dating, at first my Grandpa was a bit tentative because of all the rumours that he had heard about African men. He thought that my dad had 30 girlfriends and 60 wives and was quite hesitant at first. But once he got to know my dad he got to know the genuine character that my father was, he gave my father a chance. From that point on he never listened to the stereotypes and rumours surrounding other cultures and now they get along so well my father even talks to him as it is his own dad.

What we can take away from this is that we should never be too quick to judge a person by cultural background. We should celebrate our differences and share our similarities, no matter what country a person may be from. This week we encourage you to embrace other cultures by having that conversation with those around you. Find out their diversity in their families and themselves.

It is cowardly to discriminate based on their heritage, it is cowardly to call the names, it is cowardly to exclude them. We would like to stress the importance of not using racial slurs even as a friendly gesture, by doing so you are granting permission for others to join in and discriminate. We should all be proud to say that Mooroolbark College is a racial discrimination free zone. I’ve heard so many stories about different schools and the way the schools segregate into different groups based on their backgrounds, but we aren’t like that. You can walk into a classroom and see that it is a community not divided by race or colour of skin. Out in the yard, it doesn’t matter whose around you as long as they accept you for who you are. So keep doing what you’re doing, embrace each other by the person they are, not from the colour of their skin or the heritage they belong to.

If there is one point we would like you all to take home with you it is the message of unity. Not only within our school or community, but also in the proud country of Australia that we are proud to call our own.”
EASTERN ZONE TENNIS

The VCE Boys Tennis team competed in the Eastern Zone Finals on Friday 21st March at Jubilee Park Ringwood. They came a creditable 3rd in their Pool, after a draw with Camberwell and loses to Ringwood and the Box Hill tennis school.

The team kept swapping around their players for singles and doubles so all experienced different aspects and had the opportunity to play ranked players, some who have been offered scholarships to American universities next year.

The boys displayed great sportsmanship all day and were a credit to our College.

Congratulations to the following team members; Levi Gluyas, Zachary White, Matthew Palmer, Christopher Siwek & Jack Van Hoorn
Mr Clapp Sports Co-Ordinator.

OUTSTANDING EFFORT

Congratulations to Lateisha Willis of Year 9 who competed in the Australian Junior Track and Field competitions in Sydney on the 21st and 22nd March 2014.

Leteisha won Gold in the Junior Nationals in the U15 90 metre Hurdles and finished with a Silver Medal in the Junior 200 metre U15 Hurdles.

Bring on the 2016 Olympic Games!

Keith Clapp
Sports Coordinator

JUST A REMINDER

Please make a note of the following

- Daylight Savings finishes on Sunday 6th April 2014 so at 3:00am move clocks backward one hour to 2:00am
- Term 2 commences Tuesday 22nd April.
- ANZAC Day Public Holiday is on Friday 25th April.

College Uniform Policy

Tattoos cannot be visible and must be covered at all times. In Victoria the legal age for a Tattoo is 18. (Department of Health; Regulations of tattooing and body piercing: Legal restrictions on tattooing in Australia).
COMMUNITY NOTICES contd.

SORE SHOULDER?
HEADACHES
BACK NOT FEELING RIGHT?
TIGHT HAMSTRINGS
HARD TO GET OUT OF BED IN THE MORNING?
POOR POSTURE
NOT AS FLEXIBLE AS YOU USED TO BE?
KNEE PAIN
THAT OLD FOOTBALL/NETBALL INJURY COMING BACK TO BITE YOU?

BOOK AN APPOINTMENT AT RECEPTION
WITH US TODAY!!!!

www.performanceonecp.com
Shop 3/282 Maroondah Highway
Chirnside Park, VIC 3116
PH: 9726 8776

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Animal Aid Pet Picnic - Lillydale Lake.
Sunday 27th April 2014. 11am – 3pm

Animal Aid’s Pet Picnic promises to be a whole lot of fun for all the family, including your pets!

- Face painting and Cars jumping castle.
- Live entertainment
- Discount pet microchipping
- Raffle tickets
- Pet related stalls
- Food stalls
- Pet competitions
- Lure coursing & agility

All pets are welcome, but must be on lead or in a secure carrier.

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Bunnings Croydon

EASTER FAMILY NIGHT

Thursday 10th April
6.00pm-8.00pm

Come and enjoy a great night for the whole family. Free Easter Crafts, Photo Booth, Face Painting, Animal Nursery & Balloonist.

Light Refreshments Provided.

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL 9722-4500

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186 Manchester Rd, Mooroolbark, Vic 3138