PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

September 7th, 2012

Affirmation
Your past is not your potential. In any hour you can choose to liberate the future.
Marilyn Ferguson

YEAR 12 STUDENTS
Our Year 12 students have a little over one month left of their time at the College. This is a crucial time for them as they prepare for their exams and final assessments. Parent/Guardians this is a difficult time for your children. I urge you to guide them to focus on the tasks at hand, have set study times, take regular breaks, get plenty of rest and eat well. Late nights, Social media such as facebook and other use of technology are major distractions and are proven to impact negatively on student performance. Suggest to your child to leave their phone in another room, limiting them in the short term is essential. The importance of this time cannot be underestimated.

INTERIM REPORTS
Years 7-12 Interim Reports will be mailed home Friday 7th September. If you have any concerns about your child’s learning please contact the House Leaders, Cluster Co-ordinators or Key Learning Area Heads at the College on 9727 8100.

PARENT/TEACHER/STUDENT INTERVIEWS
A reminder that Parent/Teacher/Student interviews will be held on Thursday 20th September between 1.00pm and 8.00pm. Students are not required at the College on that day but are to accompany their parents/guardians to the interviews on the day/night. Can you please keep this day/night free.

Parent/Teacher/Student interviews are an important opportunity for you to meet with your child’s teachers. The teachers value the opportunity to speak with you about your child and want to work with you on any issues that you may have. The Parent Teacher Online booking system will be put up on the College website from 9am Thursday September 13, 2012 until 12 noon on Tuesday September 18.

CONGRATULATIONS
Congratulations to Jade and Paula Hubben who were acknowledged and had their story published in the local Lilydale and Yarra Valley Leader newspaper dated Tuesday 21st August 2012. Their success in achieving the NAB Schools First student award is a huge bonus for our College receiving $5000 for the ‘Running Group’. Thanks again girls and well done on your amazing achievement. Thanks also goes to Katrina Bateman for organising and running the Program.

Simon Reid
Principal
MERIT SYSTEM/PRINCIPALS AWARDS

The College recognises the importance of providing feedback to students regarding their achievements. In 2005 the merit system was introduced into the College. The goal of the merit system is to improve student’s school work, behaviour, quality and quantity of work, initiative, responsibility and connectedness to school. Teachers are encouraged to hand out merit certificates for subject achievements and/or civics and citizenship.

Merit System Structure:

- **Merit Certificates** –
  - Handed out by classroom teachers.
- **Achievement Certificates** –
  - Handed out by House Leaders when a student has gained 5 merit certificates in any one subject.
- **Principal’s Award** –
  - In order to receive a Principal’s Award in Years 7 to 10, Students need five Achievement Certificates in different subjects.
  - In order to receive a Principal’s Award in Years 11 to 12, Students need five Achievement Certificates in different subjects.

Students receive 50 House Points when they receive a Principal’s Award.

The Merit System is an ongoing process; therefore, students may roll over their merit and achievement certificates between Years 7 & 8, 9 & 10 and 11 & 12.

Remember to hand in your certificates to your House Leaders.

CROSSING MANCHESTER ROAD

Student safety at Mooroolbark College is always a priority. Students are reminded that when they are crossing Manchester Road, either on the way to or from school, that they must use the pedestrian crossing. Manchester Road is a busy road and it is dangerous for students to cross without using the pedestrian crossing. Drivers find it extremely stressful when students run across the road and do not use the crossing. Students who do not use the pedestrian crossing will be followed up by their House Coordinators.

GENERAL OFFICE

This is a reminder to all community members including parents/guardians who visit the College.

It is a requirement that all visitors to the College report first to the General Office and sign in.

It is not appropriate for visitors to approach staff or students in the yard or to go to individual staff offices without first going to the General Office.

Thank you for your support.

HEAD LICE

Head lice appears as an issue from time to time in all schools. Checking for head lice is the responsibility of the parent/guardian. We would appreciate it if you could undertake a periodic check of your child’s hair in order to contain any potential problem.

For further information go to the website: [www.dermatology.svhm.org.au](http://www.dermatology.svhm.org.au)

Ann Stratford
Assistant Principal

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT SKILLS

Within the VCAL Personal Development Skills learning program at Year 12, students are required to develop knowledge, skills and attributes through participation in experiences of a practical nature within the community. Students are encouraged to form partnerships within the community and undertake activities linked to voluntary community roles or community service projects.

BLANKETS AND TOWELS

NEEDED FOR ANIMALS IN NEED

As part of my VCAL program I am collecting blankets and towels (old or new) and gold coin donations for Animal Aid. Donations of blankets/towels can be left in CP1 during recess and the first half of lunchtime on Mondays and Tuesdays, until the 16th of October. There will also be money tins in the Student Administration Office and canteen. Thank you.

Dean Miller (Student)

CLOTHING NEEDED FOR BROTHERHOOD OF ST LAURENCE

Also as part of my Senior VCAL program and a community based assignment, I am collecting clothing of all sorts and donations of money to donate to the Brotherhood of St Laurence, based in Croydon. There will be a money collection tin located in the canteen, and a clothing collection box in the Student Administration Office from now till the 16th of October. Thank you.

Luke Vergers and Jack Boekel
(Students)

MUSIC

VCE MUSIC PERFORMANCE

The Year 12 Music students will be presenting a series of Lunchtime Concerts in A3 next week, 10-14 September. There will also be a Twilight Concert on Thursday 13 September 4.30 till 6.30 (approx.) in A3/A4 for the Year 12 Music Performance students to perform their exam programs. Families and friends are welcome to attend.

Janet Whitby
Music Co-ordinator

186 Manchester Rd, Mooroolbark, Vic 3138
Phone: (03) 9727 8100  Fax: (03) 9727 8188  Web: www.mooroolbarkcollege.vic.edu.au
LIBRARY

MELBOURNE WRITER’S FESTIVAL
Thursday, 30th August, 20 students attended the Melbourne Writer’s Festival at Federation Square and were treated to presentations by critical acclaimed Australian children’s authors, Andy Griffiths and Emily Rodda.

Andy offered insights into his writing by sharing some humorous anecdotes behind some of his most popular novels; he’s latest being Just Doomed. Up next was Emily, who has just finished writing The Golden Door series. She gave an inspiring presentation on the importance of never giving up and writing both about what you know and what interest you. Both authors followed their presentations with a question and answer section and were available to sign autographs for the students.

Afterwards all of the students commented on how much they enjoyed the day and wanted to know if they could put their names down for next year.

STUDENT RESPONSES

“I really loved Emily Rodda’s inspiring talk about her books and how she got to where she is.” – Erica.

“I thought it was great to learn about Andy Griffith’s and Emily Rodda’s writing experiences and how they got to where they are today.” – Belinda.

“I enjoyed listening to Andy Griffiths and Emily Rodda as they are both very inspirational.” – Skye.

“I really enjoyed listening and meeting Andy Griffiths and Emily Rodda. They have both inspired me to write my own stories.” – Kirra

“Emily Rodda inspired me not to give up writing my books.” – Mikaela

“I thought it was highly inspirational. Andy Griffith’s speech was amusing and I enjoyed it. Emily Rodda inspired me and let me to believe that you shouldn’t give up no matter what.” – Joan

Love2read
The National Year of Reading 2012 is about children learning to read and keen readers finding further sources of inspiration. This initiative is about helping people discover and rediscover the magic of reading.

Matt Neil
Library Co-ordinator

LIBRARY Cont

AUTHOR PROFILE
Emily Rodda is an award-winning Australian author, whose real name is Jennifer June Rowe and was born on 2 April 1948. Emily began her career as a book editor before she publish her first book, Something Special, in 1984. It marked the beginning of a career that has seen her become one of the most successful, prolific and versatile writers in Australia.

Emily has written or co-authored well over fifty books, including the award-winning Rowan series, the hugely successful Deltora Quest fantasy series and more recently, The Golden Door series. Winner of the Children’s Book Council of Australia’s Book of the Year Award a record five times, Emily’s books are loved the world over.

Now available in the Library:
• Rowan series
• Deltora Quest series
• The Golden Door 1 & 2—(number 3 is coming in October)

LIBRARY Cont

National Year of Reading 2012

186 Manchester Rd, Mooroolbark, Vic 3138
Phone: (03) 9727 8100  Fax: (03) 9727 8188  Web: www.mooroolbarkcollege.vic.edu.au
VCE MASTER CLASS PROGRAM FINAL EXAMS 2012

In support of students studying Units 3 & 4 at Healesville High School, Lilydale Heights College, Lilydale High School, Mooroolbark College, Yarra Hills Secondary College and Upper Yarra Secondary College, a Master Class program has been developed to assist students prepare and revise for their upcoming VCE examinations.

**SERIES ONE - Saturday 15th September**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Presented by</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12.00pm – 2.00 pm</td>
<td>FURTHER MATHS</td>
<td>Belinda Kinnane&lt;br&gt;Experienced VCE teacher</td>
<td>Swinburne Uni</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost: $10</td>
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**SERIES TWO - Sunday 16th September**

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Presented by</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.00 am – 12.00 pm</td>
<td>LEGAL STUDIES</td>
<td>David Brisset&lt;br&gt;Experienced VCE teacher &amp; Uni Lecturer</td>
<td>Swinburne Uni</td>
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<td>Cost: $10</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.30 pm – 2.00 pm</td>
<td>ENGLISH</td>
<td>Ross Huggard&lt;br&gt;Experienced VCE teacher, Lecturer, Exam Assessor &amp; Author</td>
<td>Swinburne Uni</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost: $10</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2.30 pm – 4.00 pm</td>
<td>LITERATURE</td>
<td>Malcolm Martin&lt;br&gt;Experienced VCE teacher &amp; Examiner</td>
<td>Swinburne Uni</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost: $10</td>
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**SERIES THREE - Saturday 13th October**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Presented by</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.00 am – 11.30 am</td>
<td>BUSINESS MANAGEMENT</td>
<td>Julie Cain&lt;br&gt;Experienced VCE teacher &amp; Author</td>
<td>Swinburne Uni</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost: $10</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.00 pm – 5.00 pm</td>
<td>HEALTH &amp; HUMAN DEVELOPMENT</td>
<td>Andrew Beaumont&lt;br&gt;Experienced VCE teacher, Network Leader &amp; Textbook Author</td>
<td>Swinburne Uni</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost: $25</td>
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Venue Information: Swinburne University – Lilydale Campus – LC Building, Melba Ave, Lilydale
http://www.swinburne.edu.au/campuses/lilydale

Booking Information: Bookings must be made online at-

Please note: your browser settings may need to be changed to allow "session cookies”.
Credit card payment is required at time of booking, 30 cent booking fee applies.

Ticket purchases close on the Friday at 5.00pm, prior to each weekend session.
Students will only be admitted with a ticket.
ARE YOU EX NAVY, ARMY, OR AIRFORCE?

Then Carry On (Victoria) may be able to help you with education costs if you meet our eligibility criteria.

If you have served in the Australian Defence Forces or Allied Forces and you wish to apply for a Secondary Education Grant for 2013, please telephone Carry On on (03) 9629 2648 to establish eligibility and request an application form.

Carry On (Victoria) assists Secondary School students in Years 7-12 with grants for expenses such as fees, books, uniforms, excursions etc. For those students going on to Tertiary Education a grant may also be available.

Children whose Parent/s or Legal Guardian/s have a need for financial assistance and comply with our eligibility criteria may apply.

All grants are income tested and the closing date for applications is 23 October 2012.
Changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for 2013:
The EMA continues to help families on lower incomes with financial assistance to cover the cost of educational expenses including textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions for their child up until the age of 16.

From 2013, the Victorian Government is restructuring the EMA to better target financial support to families on lower incomes. Payments made direct to parents will be increased for eligible recipients at all year levels up to age 16, with an additional increase for parents with students in Years Prep and 7 in recognition of the additional costs at these transition points.

In 2013 the annual EMA payment for families with children in primary school (years 1-6) will receive a payment of $150. Families with children in secondary school (Year 8 up until the age of 16) will receive $250.

The School Start Bonus which was previously received by EMA families has been discontinued as a separate payment from 2013 and added to the EMA. As a result, parents of children in Prep and Year 7 will receive boosted EMA payments of $200 and $300 respectively in those years.

From 2013, schools will no longer receive EMA payments on behalf of parents.

Eligibility:
To be eligible for the EMA in 2013, you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004* or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a temporary foster parent.

* i.e – the parent/guardian must be the holder of a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at 29 January 2013 (Instalment One) and 15 July 2013 (Instalment Two).

The EMA application form must be submitted to the school by 28 February 2013.

Payment Amounts - 2013:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Prep</th>
<th>Years 1 - 6</th>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8 – Age 16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instalment One</td>
<td>$140</td>
<td>$105</td>
<td>$210</td>
<td>$175</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instalment Two</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>$90</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Total</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$250</td>
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*Student year level (or age for ungraded and special school students) will determine the amount payable. Parents of students turning 16 years in 2013 are paid on a pro rata basis.

You can receive the EMA by direct deposit into your nominated bank account or by individual cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

Contact: School Office for an EMA application form and to lodge your application.