Although the school year is drawing to a close I would like to stress that it is very important that all students do some work related to their 2013 subjects over the Christmas break. Our students have worked very hard this year with their teachers to learn and to consolidate new knowledge and skills. The Christmas holiday period is a long time in the life of a student and the hard earned gains in the classroom are quickly lost if they are not regularly reinforced. Senior School students in particular should have received in the mail a list of specific and highly relevant homework tasks for them to complete during the long break.

My recommendation is that you allow your children an enjoyable break from schoolwork over Christmas, but in the weeks leading up to the beginning of the school year I suggest that you encourage your child to look over the work they did this year in key subject areas, to complete any set work, and to at least begin to read the English novel for 2013. This is incredibly important as it will ensure that your child is mentally ready to take full advantage of this valuable academic preparation from the beginning of the year.

Please note in this newsletter some key dates for 2013, particularly the start-up dates for students.

Simon Reid
Principal

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**Affirmation**

The only way to discover the limits of the possible is to go beyond them to the impossible.

Arthur C. Clarke

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**COLLEGE CAR PARK**

The college staff car park off Ross Pinot **MUST NOT BE USED**
To drop off or pick up students
At the start and finish of the school day.

The resulting congestion is presently a hazard to the students and also makes parking difficult.
Please drop your child off in the Northern Car Park off Manchester Road or on the roads bordering the school and arrange to pick up in the same place.
The NO STANDING sign on Manchester Road must be adhered to.
A reminder to parents/guardians that the speed zone around schools is 40kph.
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

COLLEGE AWARDS NIGHT
Just a reminder that our College Awards Night is on Wednesday 19th December. It will be held at:
Mount Lilydale Mercy College, Centennial Hall, Anderson Street, Lilydale.

It is a special evening at which we recognise the students who have achieved exceptional academic results throughout the year.

We are looking forward to a good night. Students who will be receiving an award or who will be performing during the award ceremony will receive an invitation in the coming week.

Rachael Williams
Assistant Principal

PIANO EXAM

Congratulations to Sebastian Zych who received 92% for his recent GRADE ONE MODERN PIANO EXAM.
Well done Sebastian on a fantastic result!

Erica Sykes
Piano Teacher

MUSIC

A TASTE FOR ALL SEASONS contd.

This semester we had 8 Year 9 students compete for the title as well as 12 primary school students from Manchester, Bimbadeen and Birmingham.

The Year 9 students were expected to produce and present mini lemon meringue pies. They worked in teams to produce a product to an extremely high standard with each team coming up with their own unique presentation for the finished product. Due to the professional standard they set, the judging was made difficult. The winners were Aaliyah Roma and Brooke Eastaway. Well done to all the competitors including Ben Heard, Glen Pedder, Faith Noble, Jessica Webb, Luke Snelling and Maddy Abbott.

The primary school students individually produced and presented to the judges their own apple muffins. Their work was once again of an exceptionally high standard, certainly representing their schools well. A big thank you to the Principals Peter Jenkins, Manchester and Trish Enzinger from Birmingham for acting as judges and Leigh Johansen from Bimbadeen for sending along representatives. Thank you also to all staff and parent helpers from the primary schools and Janine and Ian for volunteering their time to support our program and students.

Betty Metaxas
Food Technology Teacher

GASTRONOMES COMPETITION
As part of our aim to provide the students with real life experiences and to instil in them a sense of purpose and pride in their work, students in both Year 9 Foods classes were involved in a friendly cooking competition.

The students selected their theme and the recipes they were going to use to produce a three course meal. The food produced by the Year 9 students was of an extremely high standard and reflected their skill and understanding of how to present and produce quality food items. Ms. Coventry’s class produced shrimp with mango sauce, Jamaican grilled chicken served with coconut rice and vegetables and finished with mango ice cream served with toffee.

Ms. Metaxas’ class produced barbequed tandoori chicken breast served with cucumber and yoghurt, chicken and chorizo paella and finished with coconut ice cream served with toasted coconut and peanut brittle.

The students planned and produced all the food themselves including the beautiful ice-creams, both classes made.

Well done to all the students involved in the competition.

We look forward to next year’s competition.

Betty Metaxas & Fiona Coventry
Food Technology Teachers

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We look forward to next years competition.

Betty Metaxas & Fiona Coventry
Food Technology Teachers

MULTICULTURAL CHALLENGE
ENGLISH

THE HUNGER GAMES CLASS-ROOM CHALLENGE
Mrs. Nickel's Year 8 English class has been studying the novel 'The Hunger Games' by Suzanne Collins. To make learning more engaging, all students participated in a classroom competition. Points were awarded for most of the tasks associated with the study.

In addition the students gained points for quizzes, challenges between district teams based on knowledge about the novel, and lucky dip chances.

The challenge ended with a class theme party where the winners were announced: -

First - Hayden Thompson, alias 'Dobby' of District 3. He had to battle on by himself as his partner left the district early in the challenge. Other place getters were:-
Second - Kirra Abrehart and Robyn Thompson, alias Aria and Athena of District 2.

Thank you to all the students for their enthusiastic participation in this competition.

It has been a pleasure teaching you.

Elisabeth Nickel
Year 8 English/German Teacher

TRANSITION

RED EARTH ALL ROUNDER DAY
Earlier this term Mooroolbark College hosted the Inaugural Red Earth All-Rounder Day. The college hosted 370 Year 5 students and 30 teachers and aides from our local primary schools. The program included fun, with collaborative team-based activities representing the different learning domains thereby catering to the interests and skills of all students. Some of these activities included the Science Raft Rally, the Arts 'Sculptionary' (a Play Doh version of Pictionary!), the Maths Number Crunching Challenge and the English Spelling Bee to name a few.

This event familiarised the students with the range of activities on offer at our college and we believe has helped to prepare them for the secondary transition they will all be making in the not too distant future.

We hope that this event will be an annual fixture in our College calendar, showcasing our College to a broader audience in our community for many years to come.

Cathy Blackburn
Transition Coordinator

TRANSITION contd.

Each team participated in 5 different activities, competing against a different primary school each time in friendly competition. At the end of the program trophies were awarded to the highest scoring school teams for each activity. The two teams with the highest score across 5 activities in each pool were awarded the grand prize trophies and the title – Red Earth All-Rounder 2012!

Our congratulations go to Montrose PS Team 1 and Rolling Hills PS Team 2 for taking out the Inaugural Red Earth All-Rounder awards.

FIRST DAY TERM 1, 2013
Please note that students are required to attend the College in 2013 as per the following dates and Year Levels:

Years 7, 11 and 12:
Thursday 31st January, 2013

and

Years 8, 9 and 10:
Friday 1st February, 2013
SCIENCE

2013 YEAR 12 ORIENTATION - BIOLOGY & CHEMISTRY

We would like to congratulate all our 2013 Year 12 students for working so hard during Orientation. Next year we have two Biology classes. The students recently worked in groups to make models of DNA using paperclips. They then used this DNA model to explain the process of how our body makes proteins (such as muscle, hair, hormones) in our cells. We were impressed with their focus and willingness to apply themselves and work in different groups.

Next year we have one Chemistry class. They recently completed a forensic science activity which involved carrying out a titration to determine which substances were hydrochloric acid and sulphuric acid. They all carried out the experiment successfully. Their techniques were excellent and they were all striving to complete the practical to the best of their ability.

SCIENCE contd.

YEAR 7 & 8 SCIENCE—MACHINES

All Year 7 & 8 students have completed a topic on Machines. This involved using simple machines, such as pulleys, levers, wedges, wheels and axles, ramps and gears. The students completed numerous activities and worked in groups, at their own pace, to complete the experiments.

They had to explain how the machines worked and identify different parts of the machines.

Some also drew posters to explain how our body acts as a machine, particularly with our arms and legs acting as levers. It was pleasing to see many students focused on investigating the machines, particularly describing how they work. They will now look at a hammer, spoon and screwdriver in a different perspective!

The students also enjoyed building simple machines using the Lego kits. They also made machines with gears, pulleys and ramps.

Well done to our Junior School students for their hard work and efforts in the Machines unit!

We are looking forward to an exciting Year 12 Science program next year. There will also be one Physics class and three Psychology classes. We are pleased that our Science numbers continue to grow at the VCE level. We know that a lot of our students will currently be busy working on their holiday homework. We wish them all a safe and relaxing break, ready for Year 12 next year!

Amanda Peters, Debra Curciiev, David Innes
Year 12 Biology & Chemistry Teachers

WELFARE

WANTED Second hand Uniforms for Families in Need

With over 200 new Year Sevens arriving in 2013 (as well as new students at other year levels) we are starting to get requests from families for help with uniforms.

With recent cuts by the State Government to financial support for families in need, we are expecting even more requests from Mooroolbark families this year than in previous years.

If you have any good quality second hand uniform items we would love to find a new home for them with a family who will deeply appreciate your generosity.

Donations can be dropped off to the office or directly to myself. (donations of current books will also be accepted).

John Nichol
Student Welfare Coordinator

PTCA NEWS 2013

For new Year 7 2013 Parents
PTCA Morning Tea
9am -10am
Thursday 28th February in T3.
Look forward to meeting you.

Annual General Meeting
7pm
Tuesday 5th March, 2013

Thank you to all volunteers and the school community for all your hard work over the year including helping out at the Booksale. Have a safe and prosperous Christmas.

Amanda Peters
Year 8 Science Teacher.

Deb Alsop
PTCA
Education Maintenance Allowance - information for parents currently receiving EMA

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>
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<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>
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<td>Annual Total</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$250</td>
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</tbody>
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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.
SECONDHAND BOOKSALE

This will be held on ONE DAY ONLY on THURSDAY 13th DECEMBER from 1.00pm until 5.00pm in T Block. Books will be collected from all Mooroolbark College students on the 13th from 8.00am until 12.00pm. Relevant forms and lists have been distributed to Years 7-10. Current Year 12 have received in the mail their lists of books they can sell.

Volunteers are needed for the successful running of the book sale. If you would like to be involved please contact Carmel at the College on 9727 8100. Any volunteer who assists for a minimum of two hours may purchase books (for their family only) prior to the book sale. Current “Working With Children” registration required (card must be sighted).

Please note the following Important Information:-

- Please have all relevant forms filled out when you drop off the books. Instructions will be included with your lists.
- Books of reasonable quality only will be accepted
- Books are left at own risk
- Books will only be available for sale after 1.00pm
- The school deducts 20% of sales and supports our Student Welfare Program. Cheques or cash only (NO EFTPOS)
- UNSOLD BOOKS can be collected on Friday 14th December from 12.00am until 3.00pm in T Block.
- Money for sold books can be collected from T Block on Friday 14th December between 12.00am & 3.00pm. If parents are unable to collect their money a written authorization can be given to the student. ID must be shown before money is handed over.
- Books not collected by 3.00pm Friday 14th December 2012, will be considered to be a donation to the College. Money not collected on Friday 14th December can be collected from the General Office.

P.T.C.A. Committee

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**THE PET VALET** – a business specializing in pet sitting & dog walking - **had its GRAND OPENING in November 2012.**

Based in Mooroolbark, the business will service the outer eastern suburbs and the Yarra Valley.

As part of our grand opening, we are pleased to offer a 10% discount for all services booked until the end 2012.

- We visit, feed & water your pets in the comfort of your home
- Walk the dog  
- Water the plants.  
- Collect the mail, etc  
- Insured & police checked  

For more information call: 0468 771 774  
“When You’re Not There, We Care”

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**Book Now for Christmas Holidays & Australia Day Long Weekend**
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SOUL & BODY COMMITMENTS

SBC

SARAH CANTLE

0402 736 108
sarahcante@sbcfitness.com.au
www.sbcfitness.com.au

NEW YEAR
NEW YOU!!!

Term 1 2013

11 WEEK FITNESS CHALLENGE

Let’s get you motivated every Wednesday morning Term 1 SBC Fitness will be running outdoor sessions at Melba Park in Lilydale Don’t miss out this is a new start to the new year to get you back into shape after the Silly Season!!! Limited places available...

TO REGISTER CONTACT SARAH ON 0402736108