PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

May 9, 2014

Affirmation
Write it on your heart that every day is the best day of the year.
Ralph Waldo Emerson

We held a very successful Exploration Night on Thursday May 8th. The evening provided an opportunity for Mooroolbark College to celebrate the excellent learning and teaching and the wide variety of co-curricular programs that are offered at the College. Mooroolbark College students are wonderful ambassadors for our College. It is testament to the pride that students have in their College that so many volunteered their time to be four guides, help within the faculty displays and entertain visitors by playing in music ensembles. Throughout the night we received terrific feedback from prospective parents with many questions about the enrolment process. I would like to thank all staff and students for your warm welcome to our new families. Mooroolbark College was on show and your pride shone through on the night.

LACK OF SLEEP

Another area that all parents/guardians need to be aware of is the amount of sleep their teenage children are getting. Experts Amy Wolfson and Mary Carskadon have shown in their studies on teen sleep deprivation, that teens need about 9 hours sleep each night, many teens need up to 10 hours. The truth is most teens aren’t getting anywhere near this. The importance of sleep in the teenage years cannot be underestimated.

Teens have a lot going on in their lives and as a result experience ‘increased stress’. For most it is positive stress giving them an exciting eventful life. The problem comes when they lose balance between homework, after school jobs, keeping up with gossip with their peer group, and after school activities. The more they take on, they risk not having enough sleep. The more sleep they cut out, the sleepier they get. This has profound consequences on physical health, especially with the immune system. Our children risk getting sick, something we want to prevent especially at this time of year with the onset of the flu season.

NAPLAN

NAPLAN is the National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy. These tests are given each year to students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 and measure their knowledge and skills in literacy and numeracy. NAPLAN also provides valuable information for parents/guardians, students and teachers about student achievement which can be used to support teaching and learning programs. It is essential that all Year 7 and 9 students attend school on Tuesday 13th May to Thursday 15th May. Any student who is absent on the test days will have the opportunity to do their tests on another day.

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

We had an international delegation from the Philippines visiting Melbourne on Wednesday, 7 May 2014. As part of their visit to Melbourne, they have expressly requested that they would like to visit Mooroolbark College. They had discussions around their main focus areas of:

- Programs and projects related to teaching and learning in the areas of maths, science and technology, including topics such as the use of ICT, group learning, and accelerated study programs.

The Strengthening Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics in the Philippine Education System (STEM) delegation is made up of principals, deputy principals and managers from dedicated Maths, Science and Technology schools in the Philippines. This visit to Melbourne is part of a three state benchmarking visit to Australia to focus on curriculum development, the promotion of science and technology as subjects of choice for students, and programs and projects that help accelerate knowledge-driven development in the areas of science and technology.
PRINCIPAL

COLLEGE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL
I would like to thank Keith Clapp for his organisation of the Athletics Carnival held on Tuesday 6th May. The day ran smoothly with a large number of students participating. Our College and House Captains were outstanding in supporting their houses and participating in all events. I want to thank all the staff, for their enthusiasm and encouragement of students, ensuring the day was one to remember. Congratulations to the students who broke records, (some which were long standing) and to the age group champions.

ANZAC DAY
The College Captains represented the College at Hookey Park on Thursday 25th April to commemorate Anzac Day. Our Middle School Captains represented the school at the Dawn Service in Lilydale. They spoke well and then laid a wreath. All our Captains represented the College with pride and dignity.

Simon Reid
Principal

PRINCIPAL

ASBESTOS LABELLING AT THE COLLEGE
As part of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development’s Health and Safety Management Plan, new labelling will be installed at our College. The labels remind people to contact school reception prior to undertaking any works at the College, to ensure they have up-to-date information for the school’s asbestos register. Asbestos—which was used extensively in building materials in the past but is now banned—is considered safe unless damaged or in poor condition.

The new labels form part of a comprehensive program to ensure Victorian government schools remain safe.

Children’s safety is our number one priority. That is why we are taking this extra step as a precaution to compliment our already strong asbestos management procedures.

Ann Stratford
Assistant Principal

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM-LITERACY AND NUMERACY NAPLAN
The National Assessment Program-Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) test for Years 7 and 9 students will be held on Tuesday May 13, 2014 (Language and Writing), Wednesday May 14, 2014 (Reading) and Thursday May 15, 2014 (Numeracy). It is essential that your child brings a calculator for the numeracy tests on Thursday May 15.

The NAPLAN tests are conducted by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) on behalf of the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA).

The results of the tests provide diagnostic information for parents/guardians and teachers about your child’s performance in Literacy and Numeracy. It is imperative that your child is at school for all testing sessions. This information can be used to support teaching and learning programs and improve students’ achievement.

Rachael Williams
Assistant Principal

Later in the year, you will receive your child’s personal report. The report will give a snapshot of your child’s particular skills in reading, writing, language conventions and numeracy. The report will also show how your child performed in relation to national minimum standards. These describe minimum acceptable standards for students across Australia.

For more information about the tests, please visit the VCCA website at www.vcaa.vic.edu.au or the NAPLAN website at www.naplan.edu.au.

NAPLAN — NUMERACY (CALCULATOR ENABLED)
All Year 7 and 9 students must bring a scientific calculator to the NAPLAN examination. iPads are not permitted.

If you are having difficulty using Compass the College is running four additional parent/guardian information sessions in May.

Monday 19th May
6.30 pm to 7.15 pm

Monday 19th May
7.30 pm to 8.15 pm

Tuesday 20th May
6.30 pm to 7.15 pm

Tuesday 20th May
7.30 pm to 8.15 pm

Bookings can be made via the College website or go directly to the following web addresses: http://www.trybooking.com/EURK and http://www.trybooking.com/84276 .

CHINA TOUR
We farewell 11 students and two teachers who will be travelling to China from the 11th - 26th May to visit our sister school Wujiang Senior Middle School.

We wish them a safe travel.

Rachael Williams
Assistant Principal

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).

186 Manchester Rd, Mooroolbark, Vic 3138
**PREMIERS’ READING CHALLENGE 2014**
The Premier’s Reading Challenge for 2014 is now well underway having reached the half way point. Already over 750 have been read this year with 13 students already completing the challenge.

All students in Years 7-10 are automatically registered. To complete the challenge students only need to read 15 books before 31st August, 2014. All students that complete the challenge will receive 30 house points, a certificate and a free pizza lunch.

This year we are also running a special Year 7 competition with the form group that completes the most books winning an extra special prize. The current standings are:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Books Completed</th>
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<tr>
<td>7A</td>
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<tr>
<td>7B</td>
<td>45</td>
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<td>7C</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7G</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you require more information, please contact Mr Neil at the College on 97278100 or your child’s English teacher.

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**INTERSCHOOL YEAR 7 TENNIS**
On Friday 2nd May the Year 7 Boys Tennis team competed at the Interschool Yarra District competition. They finished runners up in the event after winning their first round against Yarra Hills Secondary College. The whole day was played in a wonderful spirit with many students swapping partners and opponents to achieve closer matches. The students enjoyed the opportunity to meet new players and often reacquainted themselves with friends from Primary School days.

Our team managed to make the final after being a player short. It is a credit to them and a testament to their ability as they needed to forfeit 2 of the 6 sets but still managed to win.

Congratulations to our players: Sam Allen, Luke Hoogstra and Tyler Jones

**VCE SOCCER**
The Year 11 & 12 Boys Soccer team competed in the Yarra District Round Robin Winter Sports on Monday 28th April. They came a commendable 2nd place after recording 1 win, 1 lose and 1 draw.

The College was privileged to have former student Nic Warren return to the school to coach the team and his relaxed mentoring style was appreciated by all. After a first up 1-0 lose to eventual winners Emerald they then beat the powerful Lilydale High team 3-1 before experimenting with plays in the final match against Yarra Hills Secondary College, which was a draw.

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**College Cross Country**
The College annual Cross Country and fun run is to be held on Friday 16th May at Lilydale Lake. Attendance is compulsory for all students in Year 7 & 8. Students in Years 9-12 who would like to run are invited to sign up and attend as well. The event starts from 1.15pm and conclude about 2.30pm and are conducted from the Eastern Beach area.

Parents/Guardians who would be interested in acting as officials on the day are asked to contact the Sports Coordinator Mr. Keith Clapp, as soon as possible. Parents are most welcome as spectators.

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

Students may wear sports clothes ALL DAY to ease changing concerns.

It is recommended to bring a minimum of items (maybe only a hat and drink bottle. Students who haven't paid the school fees need to bring $10 in an envelope with their name and form and the words “Cross Country” on the outside.

Keith Clapp
Sports Coordinator
TAZZIE TOUR 2014
This year our tour was split into
two groups; Group A had 40 Year
9 students and Group B had 38.
Each group had 4 staff. Group A
departed Sunday 29th March and
Group B departed Monday 30th
March. We travelled on the Spirit
of Tasmania and we were lucky to
have a relatively smooth sail until
we hit the heads. We arrived
unscathed at 6am and we
disembarked about 6.45am.

We found our Redline Coach
Captain and after being checked
for fruit by the friendly Beagles we
loaded up the bus and headed to
breakfast at Sheffield. After
bacon and egg rolls we explored
the Murals at Sheffield and then
we were on our way to
Marakoopa caves. We stayed in a
different motel each night and
spent the days travelling and
visiting many places of interest
along the way. It was
unseasonably warm for the first
half of the trip.

Some highlights included:
Day1
• The fantastic murals in Sheffield
  whilst marvelling at the
  surrounding Mountains.
• Marakoopa Caves - the
  Stalagmites and Stalagtites and
  the Glow worms. Cataract
  Gorge, the Chairlift ride.
• The Botanical Gardens in
  Launceston to watch the
  Monkeys.
• Shopping in Launceston
• Arrived at Tamar Valley Resort
  where students could play Mini
  Golf and stayed in our Swiss-
  style chalets for the night

Day 2
• Richmond and Ross
• The wood carvings in the
  mainstreet at Campbellfield
• Zoodoo Wildlife Park- Lions,
  Tigers, crazy Ostriches and
  Emus, Tassie Devils, patting the
  Albino Wallabies and Koalas.
• The Blow hole, Devils Kitchen
  and those excellent chips.
• Port Arthur at night for the
  Ghost tour, no torches allowed.

Day 3
• Visiting the Port Arthur site the
  next day and cruising to the Isle of
  the Dead and visiting the convict’s
  graves.
• Completed the Scavenger
  hunt- many received prizes for
  their efforts. Remarkable cave
• Hobart Mall
• Arrive at the Riverfront Motel-
  Many students were lucky enough
  to stay in the River-house and
  Coach-house

Day 4
• Visit Cadbury’s factory shop-
  fabulous Hot chocolates made
  with real chocolate flakes.
• The Huon Air Walk and barbeque.
• The suspension bridge. Jeeveston
• Fly home Friday evening.

The accommodations and food were
excellent! A great time was had by
all! 

Jodie Tilley, Janet Whitby &
Elizabeth Nickel
Tour Organisers

MYKI CARDS
Some of our bus drivers are
reporting that there are a
significant number of Mooroolbark
College students failing to
purchase or touch on & / or off
their myki when travelling on
buses.

It is important that students
always touch on and off on every
trip, even if they are using the
pre-paid myki pass (weekly,
monthly, quarterly, half yearly or
yearly) as this information is used
by Bus Lines in conjunction with
Public Transport Victoria (PTV) to
determine bus service levels.

Travelling without a valid myki is
fare evasion & could result in the
issuance of an infringement
notice by Revenue protection
officers.
CAMPS

YEAR 7 CAMP MARYSVILLE
On Monday 28th April, 137 students and 13 staff ventured off to Marysville for our Year 7 camp. We started the camp in balmy sunshine before the heavens opened up and gave us a good soaking in the middle of day 2. Fortunately our staff and students didn’t let it bother them and we splashed on through a variety of activities, including a 22m rock climbing wall that several of our students were brave enough to tackle. We also took part in activities such as canoeing, cooking, teamwork and balance, Ultimate Frisbee and bike riding. Seeing our students splash through muddy puddles and wade for gold in the nearby river on the big trees and rivers walk was also a highlight.

In my view the camp definitely achieved its main aim of providing students with the opportunity to get to know each other better and further develop positive relationships with several staff members. Our students generally presented themselves as a supportive, friendly and positive group. I am even more confident this group of students will continue to uphold the Mooroolbark College culture.

Many thanks to the following staff who attended and worked hard to ensure the camp was a success – John Nichol, Luke McCormick, Matthew Donald, Dane Keogh, Glenn Carroll, Graham Small, Rhonda Harker, Claire Jones, Sarah Garnaut, Tracey Benness, Jennifer Young, Stephanie Parsons and Jan Willingham.

Adam Lorkin
Assistant Principal/Year 7 Transition Coordinator

Some comments from the students were:
’We went on a fantastic outdoor camp to Marysville, it was full of challenging activities that faced a lot of people’s fears’
’We did heaps of fun activities such as rock climbing, cycling, bush walking, canoeing, ultimate frizbee, cooking and more’
’It was a great opportunity to meet new friends and get to know more about the teachers’
’On the second night each cabin had to perform an act, everyone was laughing really hard and had a and had a great night’
’All together the camp was really fun and exciting. I’m sure next camp will be even better’

Maddie Wilson 7C & Shanae Hodgett 7C
On ANZAC Day some fellow Junior Captains and myself visited the Lilydale dawn service to commemorate our fallen diggers. It was such an eye opening experience to hear the many brave stories of our local heroes. We laid a wreath representing Mooroolbark College which I was very honoured to be a part of.

There was a great turn out at Lilydale despite the freezing cold weather and the organisers were very happy. It is so important for the new generations to continue the legacy of ANZAC day as it is very important to remember those who sacrificed their lives for us.

Later in the day our Senior Captains were involved in the midday ANZAC ceremony at Hookey Park in Mooroolbark. Paula Hubben and Eric Sidey read a prayer while the Senior House Captains laid a wreath on behalf of Mooroolbark College.

*Lest we forget*

Hayley MacKenzie
Yellow House Middle School Captain
Parent and Carer Asthma Information Sessions

The Asthma Foundation of Victoria is funded by the Federal Department of Health to provide free asthma education sessions to groups of parents and carers. These sessions can take place at the school or at a location of your choice. The session runs for approximately one hour and covers:

- Asthma triggers
- Signs and symptoms
- Asthma action plans
- Asthma medication
- Asthma First Aid

If you are interested in attending a parent and carer asthma information session, please contact The Asthma Foundation of Victoria to arrange a session on 1800-ASTHMA or sdoherty@asthma.org.au

For more information, please contact The Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 278 462 or www.asthma.org.au

Host Families Needed For New Exchange Students in 2014

There are girls and boys aged between 15 and 18 from exciting countries like Italy, Belgium, Germany, Holland, Switzerland, Brazil, Norway, Argentina, Finland and Austria hoping to come here to study for 3, 5 or 10 months from July this year and stay with a volunteer family that is willing to host and welcome them. If you feel you could do this for them for the length of their stay or even some of it, please contact Klaus Schumann on (03) 97584279 and let me know of your interest.

Yours sincerely,

Klaus Schumann, WEP Community Coordinator