College Principal’s Report

TIME TO STAY FOCUSED

With a taste of *summer in the air* and Christmas decorations appearing it would be tempting to slip into holiday mode; however there is much to be done! After each year level completes their exams there is still more work to be done. Current Year 9-11 students will attend a compulsory ‘Step Up’ program at the Senior Campus. ‘Step Up’ is vitally important to success in 2014. Students will attend lectures and classes that will provide the expectations and an outline of courses for next year as well as homework to be completed over the summer holidays. Attendance is essential and as we have extreme pressure from students wishing to enrol, the ‘Step Up’ program is a confirmation of intention to attend in 2014. We are very excited that through our partnership with La Trobe University that all students will attend the university on one of the ‘Step Up’ days. Please ensure that permission forms have been signed and returned. Year 9 students will receive more information soon through their pastoral classes.

The Year 11 students commence their ‘Step Up’ Program on 25 November. Students in Year 10 are required to attend the ‘Step Up’ program from 2 December. Year 9 students will commence their 2014 program on 9 December. Parents with any questions about this very important program should ring the relevant Year Level Coordinator.

As the year draws to a close I remind all that “it is not OK to be away”.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the 2013 Hume Whittlesea VET/VCAL/SBAT Award winners:

- Dilhan Doger (12N) Excellence Award  VET Automotive
- Amy Tonkin (12N) Encouragement Award  VCAL Fashion

ARTS FESTIVAL

A reminder that the Arts Festival will be held in Week 7 from Tuesday 19 November until Friday 22 November.

*Add this to your diary….so you don’t miss this showstopper! (see flyer in this newsletter)*

**Opening Night is Tuesday 19 November**

7:30pm to 9:30pm.

All are welcome.

FORWARD PLANNING – THE START OF THE 2014 SCHOOL YEAR

As many families are planning their summer holidays it is important to note that ALL STUDENTS will commence on Wednesday 29 January 2014. Mill Park Secondary College has high expectations of all students and this includes attendance.

A reminder that 2014 is the first year with all year levels in the new uniform of white shirt and woollen jumper. Parents can purchase uniform items from the school supplier, PSW.

Trish Horner
We were honoured to have two former students of our College, Bianca Kere and Josh McVeigh, visit our school on their wedding day, Saturday 9 November, to have photos taken. They were attended by Belinda, Amy, Mirella, John, Goran, Brandon and Matt, most of whom were also past students. It is wonderful that they enjoyed their time at school so much that they wanted it to be a part of their special day. Thank you to Cathy Cranfield for assisting the newlyweds.

CONGRATULATIONS
BIANCA AND JOSH

The Mill Park Secondary College community wish you a long and happy life together.
Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day was observed at school on the 11 November by reading information on the importance of this day and remaining silent for a minute in memory of the brave soldiers who died in the First World War. In addition here is a poignant poem that brings the experiences of war close to us.

**Why Do We Wear a Sprig of Rosemary**

"Please wear a sprig of rosemary", the lady said
And held one out, but I shook my head.
Then I stopped and watched as she offered them there,
And her face was old and lined with care;
But beneath the scars the years had made
There remained a smile that refused to fade.

A boy came whistling down the street,
Bouncing along on carefree feet
His smile was full of joy and fun,
"Lady," said he, "may I have one?"
When she'd pinned it on he turned to say,
"Why do we wear rosemary today?"

The lady smiled in her wistful way
And answered, "Today is Anzac Day,
And the rosemary there is the symbol for
The gallant men who died in war
And because they did, you and I are free -
That's why we wear a sprig of rosemary, you see.

"I had a boy about your size,
With golden hair and big blue eyes.
He loved to play and jump and shout,
Free as a bird he would race about.
As the years went by he learned and grew
And became a man - as you will, too.

"He was fine and strong, with such a boyish smile,
But he'd seemed with us such a little while
When war broke out and he went away.
I still remember his face that day
When he turned and smiled at me and said, "goodbye,
I'll be back soon, Mum, so please don't cry.

"But the war went on and he had to stay,
And all I could do was wait and pray
His letters told of the awful fight
(I can see it still in my dreams at night),
With the tanks and guns and cruel barbed wire,
And the mines and bullets, the bombs and fire.

the war was won-
And that's why we wear a sprig of rosemary, son"

The small boy turned as if to go,
Then said, "Thanks, lady, I'm glad to know
That sure did sound like an awful fight,
But your son - did he come back all right?"

A tear rolled down each faded cheek;
She shook her head, but didn't speak.
I slunk away in a sort of shame,
And if you were me you'd have done the same;
For our thanks, in giving, is oft delayed,
Though our freedom was bought - and thousands paid!

And so when we see a sprig of rosemary proudly worn,
Let us reflect on the burden borne,
By those who gave their very all
When asked to answer their country's call
That we at home in peace might live
Then wear a sprig of rosemary!

**“lest we forget”**

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn,
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them"
UNIFORM

As the College uniform has changed, the only students permitted to wear the old style burgundy polo shirt with their regular school uniform this year were the current Year 12 cohort.
No other student at Year 10 or 11 is permitted to wear this item. Currently there are Year 10 students wearing this as either their regular school shirt or as a PE polo top. We ask that parents please ensure that their students leave the house wearing the correct uniform items every day.
In 2014 all year levels across the college are only permitted to wear the white shirt with their regular school uniform.

STUDENT RECOGNITION PROGRAM

We would like to acknowledge Cam Lu Year 12 and Leah M’Intosh Year 8 who were both nominated by the College for the City of Whittlesea Student Recognition Program 2013.
Both students were presented with Certificates of Achievement at the formal presentation event held at the Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre earlier in the term.
Each student also receives a cash prize of $150 for their achievements. Congratulations to both students - the college is extremely proud of you.

YEAR 12 STUDENTS STUDYING HARD

The Senior Campus has been abuzz with exam preparations over the past two weeks, with Year 12 students sitting Unit 4 exams and Year 11 students completing Unit 2 exams. We have been thoroughly impressed with students’ approach to their final assessments. These pictures show students making good use of their wall space at home for timelines (History) and notes on their English texts.
Exam Excellence

**StepUp12, from 25-29/11/2013 and StepUp11 from 2-6/12/2013** is a very important program that will allow the students an opportunity to start developing skills that they will require to successfully complete their studies.

Be positive and work towards improving your study regime and believe in yourself and you will see that your grades will improve with perseverance and dedication. Dream the dream and reach for the stars, and work towards creating your future.

It is essential for students to understand that in order to learn they must have the right attitude. That, ‘**Attitude is Everything!**’.

We are encouraging students to remember the four P’s; **Participation, Planning, Practice and Persistence.**

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**Understanding the VCE and Attaining Excellent Results**

It is important for students to approach Year 12 with the right attitude, ‘**Attitude is Everything!**’ Students must learn the four (P’s): **Participation, Planning, Practice, Persistence**; if they want to attain an excellent ATAR scores.

Each year, however despite great plans and intentions, some students will **not** perform to their best of their ability, receiving much lower ATAR scores than otherwise possible; if they are not prepared to make a commitment and dedicate time and effort towards their studies.

Why aren’t more students obtaining higher ATAR scores?

**Why Students find it difficult to reach their Full Potential in the VCE?**

Many students do not possess a solid understanding of what to expect in Year 11 and 12, and are **unaware** of the **challenges** that will be presented and how to prepare for the Outcomes, SAT’s, Exams and the extended work load that they will have during their VCE. Some students **waste** considerable amounts of **time** struggling with the study regimes that is required. Some students’ lack motivation and procrastinate and avoid their work. As a result they leave their work for the last minute and slowly get further and further behind in their studies.

As the new school year unfolds and the demands on students increase, those students who do not possess the right attitude and the perseverance required will not do as well as they expect. It is important to complete your study notes throughout the year and constantly practice, **NOT only at the end of the year**.

Study is different to homework! Students should revise after each lesson to consolidate their learning. If there is an area of study that is difficult, discuss it with your **classroom teacher as soon as possible**.

**Holiday Homework and Homework**

One of the key strategies to obtaining the highest possible scores is a **consistent and regular study regime**. Those students who leave their homework and exam preparation to the last minute will not achieve the full benefits from their study efforts.

Higher levels of stress reduce the amount of information that can be input into memory, and increases the time required to complete tasks. Try to commit knowledge to memory ASAP. Those students who are interested in reaching their full academic potential with minimum stress and effort should invest in between 16 and 24 hours of outside classroom study each week from the beginning of the year. This is very important!

**In 2014 student’s should aim for the following study hours:**

**Weekday study periods should be in the order of 3 - 4 hours for Year 12 students (2.5 hours for Year 11 students) and approximately 8 hours over the weekend for Year 12 students (6 hours for Year 11 students).**

*From the VCE Excellence Team*
Yr 7 – 9 Tests and Exams
Congratulations to Leesa Mereos and our Curriculum Teams for organising a very smooth testing period on the Middle Years Campus this week. Students took the testing seriously and have gained some very valuable experience in revising and practising the skills and knowledge learned in each curriculum area. Students are reminded to remain focussed on their school work for the final run up to end of year reports.

Year 8 Tasmania Camp
Camp Indemnity and Confidential Medical forms have been distributed and must be returned to the General Office as soon as possible. Travel Insurance forms can be downloaded from the College website at http://www.millparksc.vic.edu.au/ A Parent information night will be held in the Middle Years Campus Library on Monday 18 November from 6 – 6.30pm. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact Jack Williams on 9407 9700.

StepUp10 — Senior Campus
Our current Year 9 students will be involved in a “Step Up” program as an orientation program in week 10 from 9 – 13 December. The week will start in the Senior Campus gym at 8:50am sharp Monday 9 December. During this week students will follow their timetable for 2014, attend LaTrobe University for a preparation day and start to prepare for 2014 work experience. Students will be given detailed information to bring home shortly. Parents are reminded that this program will be at the Senior Campus, and students will be asked to make their own way to and from the Campus.

Middle Years Music Night
A celebration of the musical talents of our Middle Years students will be held on Monday 25 November from 7pm in the library. Parents and students are welcome to attend!

End of Year Picnic Day at Geelong Adventure Park
All Middle Years Campus students will have the opportunity to attend the Geelong Adventure Park on Monday 16 December 2013 to celebrate the end of another successful year at Mill Park Secondary College. Students will be required to be at school by 8:45am at the latest and will be returned back to school at approximately 2:45pm. The cost for this day out will be $35.00 and this payment will include the bus fees and the entrance fees to the park. Extra information and the permission forms for this excursion were sent out on the 12 November 2013. Forms and payment of the $35.00 must be submitted to the General Office by Monday 2 December 2013. If you have any further queries please contact Mr Williams or Ms Hill on 9407 9700.

Mr Williams
Year 8 Programs and Learning Outcomes, English and Humanities Teacher

Reader’s Cup State Final
On 1 November 2013, the Readers’ Cup final began! The team that represented our college was made up of Felicity Creek, Sree Thhekkekattil, Charlie Maver and Elizabeth Tognolini. Eleven teams came from all across Melbourne to Charles La Trobe Secondary College’s Quantum Theatre, just to win the great Readers’ Cup Trophy. Ms Curnow chaperoned us and helped us prepare for the Creative Round. It was great fun for all the people that attended and we came in equal third. Balwyn High’s teams came first and second. Although we did not come first, it was an awesome experience that I would advise anyone to try and be a part of.
Elizabeth Tognolini, 7CS

The girls were well prepared for the competition, which began with questions and answers on Diary of a Wimpy Kid and Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief. At the end the first two rounds, 9 of the 11 teams competing had perfect scores, including our Year 7 Team. The students showcased their drama and ICT skills in the Creative Round by devising a creative interpretation of Skulduggery Pleasant. The judges were strongly impressed by the quality of their presentation. The final two question rounds were about Skulduggery Pleasant and Stormbreaker. The Year 7 Team can be extremely proud of their achievements and just missed out on qualifying for the tie breaker. Congratulations girls!

Ms Reina Phung, Teacher Librarian and Ms Jaclyn Curnow, Literacy Support Coordinator
Students in Year 9 Design Wood have been constructing a stool. Mr Cameron Ross made the original stool (pictured completed) and the students decided they would like to make one of their own. The task has involved a range of complex skills including precise measuring. Who said Maths wasn’t useful in real life? We are looking forward to seeing the finished pieces.

We also have a range of Food Technology classes. Last week some of the Year 9 students made a beautiful chocolate mousse, complete with the final decorative touches.

Year 9 Electives

On Tuesday 29 October, a group of students from the Year 9 Recreation and Outdoor Education electives had the opportunity to go surfing at Anglesea and Torquay. After weeks of learning about the Victorian Coastline in the classroom, the students finally got the opportunity to get out and see it firsthand. Each and every student was able to catch a wave and many jokes and laughs were shared throughout the day. Well done to all students on their performances and behaviour throughout the day. It was a really fantastic reflection of all the values of the college!

Darren Patterson & Lucy Shiels
Outdoor Education MYC

2014 TERM DATES

Term 1 - 29 January to 4 April
Term 2 - 22 April to 27 June
Term 3 - 14 July to 19 September
Term 4 - 4 October to 19 December

Please remember that family holidays during the school term are counted as unapproved absences from the College. These can significantly impact on a student’s ability to achieve satisfactory outcomes in their subjects.
Explore your Future in the Electrical Industry

AT
NECA SKILLS CENTRE OPEN DAY

WHEN: MONDAY 18 NOVEMBER FROM 2.00PM – 8.00PM
WHERE: NECA SKILLS CENTRE
1024 LYGON STREET
CARLTON NORTH VIC 3054

TAKE A TOUR OF OUR NEW PURPOSE-BUILT, STATE OF THE ART ELECTRICAL TRAINING FACILITIES

LEARN MORE ABOUT ELECTRICAL PRE-APPRENTICESHIP, APPRENTICESHIP AND INDUSTRY TRAINING COURSES ON OFFER

WATCH WORKSHOP DEMONSTRATIONS BY OUR EXPERT INDUSTRY TEACHERS AND NECA APPRENTICES AND TALK TO THEM ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES IN THE TRADE.

FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN START YOUR CAREER IN THE ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY!

SO COME DOWN AND ENJOY THE SAUSAGE SIZZLE, TAKE HOME AN INFORMATION PACK AND YOU COULD WIN THE LUCKY DOOR PRIZE – A MILWAUKEE M12 CORDLESS DRILL!

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR CALL NECA SKILLS CENTRE ON (03) 9388 0566.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT 370 DEGREES GROUP AND WHAT WE OFFER
Mill Park Secondary College
Art & Design Exhibition
19 - 22 November 2013
Opening Tuesday 19 Nov 7:30 - 9.30 pm

a contemporary exhibition
VCE & 7-10
City of Whittlesea 'Great Hall'
Ferres Boulevard Sth Morang
Open 9.00 - 5.00 pm (Fri 9.00 - 12.30)
Wed 20, Thur 21 & FRI 22 Nov

Middle Years Visual Arts Yr 7- 9 MPSC Library Moorhead Dve, Mill Park
Senior Years Visual Arts Yr 10 MPSC Library Civic, Dve, Mill Park

Designed by: Tia Poyaoan Yr 12