College Principal’s Report

BACK FROM LEAVE
I returned from leave this week to find the College in full swing with a myriad of activities taking place. I would like to thank Karen Eastlake and the Principal team for stepping up in my absence. The first thing I noticed was how great the Year 12s look in their Year 12 Jackets. With winter weather fast approaching I would like to remind parents and students of our uniform requirements and give some handy hints for surviving the cooler months.

As stated in the student diary (pages 8 & 9), the following applies to the uniform, particularly in the colder weather:
- Students are permitted to wear a white T-Shirt [plain with short or long sleeve] under the white shirt
- Alternatives to the College jacket/blazer are not permitted
- Students are not permitted to wear a hooded jumper under any circumstances
- With the skirt, only navy tights or white or navy socks can be worn.

If your child really feels the cold, it may be worth considering the purchase of some thermal underwear. Thermals could be worn underneath the school uniform items (out of sight) and offer significant benefits:
- They wick moisture away from the skin and create a micro climate of warm air around the body
- Are quick drying, which is helpful as they do need regular washing
- Are ideal for use in the outdoors during the cooler months - at the local footy, away camping or just because you feel the cold.

We appreciate that in rare circumstances a student may need to be out of uniform, and we ask that parents provide a written note and help their child choose an item of clothing that matches the uniform as closely as possible. A great alternative is the PE uniform, if the standard uniform is not available or vice versa. Some articles of clothing are inappropriate for the school setting, so please ensure the following items are not worn to school:
- Hooded tops
- Leggings
- Ugg-boots

If students arrive at school wearing inappropriate clothing, the following options will be offered to rectify the situation:
- Student may be asked to remove the item
- Student may be asked to replace or cover the item with spare uniform provided by the Co-ordinators
- Parents may be asked to bring appropriate items up to the school
- With parent permission the student may be asked to return home and acquire appropriate clothing

With parental support we are sure we can have all students warm and dressed in a manner that shows pride in our College.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Last Tuesday the Annual General Meeting was held at Senior Campus. The Annual Report and the financial statements were presented and endorsed. The Annual Report is available on our website.

INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY
International Nurses Day was celebrated on Monday 12 May, the anniversary of Florence Nightingale’s birth.

In acknowledging International Nurses Day, I wish to extend my thanks to our School Nurse, Cathy Cranfield and pay tribute to the important work she undertakes supporting our students and College community.
SCHOOLS CAN HELP
A safe and supportive school environment can help prevent bullying. Students should feel and be safe everywhere at school: in the classrooms, the library, the toilets, the bus, and the playground. Everyone at school can work together to create an environment where bullying is not acceptable. The best outcomes for your child will be achieved by you and the school working together. If bullying happens online or via text messages outside school report it to the school, especially if other children from the school are involved or it is making your child uncomfortable at school. We are aware of the potential harmful effects of bullying, including cyberbullying, on young people and take reports of bullying seriously.

The sooner the school receives information about a bullying issue the quicker we can respond. School staff understand that it can be distressing to report that your child is being bullied. They will try to support you and your child as much as possible and include you in discussions about strategies that could be used.

What should I do?

- Contact the school and make an appointment to discuss the issue.
- Do not directly approach any other student or their family.
- Work with us to solve the problem by establishing a plan for dealing with the current situation and future bullying incidents.

Schools must follow privacy laws and may not be able to tell you everything that has taken place, especially about any other children involved. These laws also keep you and your child’s information private too.

SCHOOL PRODUCTION – “THE WEDDING SINGER”
Don’t forget to mark your in diary the 2014 school production “The Wedding Singer”.
Term 3 - Week 2 - Wednesday 23 July, Thursday 24 July and Friday 25 July.
Please check the website for when tickets will be available.


Unit 2 Biology Field Trip

Over 13 & 14 May, four Unit 2 biology classes took part in a field trip to the La Trobe University Wildlife Sanctuary. Students gained a greater appreciation for Ecology by learning about the differences between indigenous practices and modern day farming, and taking part in terrestrial and aquatic surveys. This saw some courageous students put on ‘waders’ and brave the unsteady ground to collect study samples which the groups then analysed for signs of life. Taking part in these surveys allowed students to understand the impact of pollution on ecosystems and the value of conservation. Students particularly enjoyed the habitat creation activity where they constructed nest boxes for local wildlife and planted saplings that will hopefully grow into adult trees over the coming years.
**Remembering the ANZACs**

In the April of this year, I was privileged enough to be granted the opportunity of travelling to Thailand by the Greensborough branch of the RSL, through their Living Spirit Fellowship. The fellowship itself involved a weeklong Thai-Burma Railway tour throughout Thailand across the ANZAC Day period, with the intent to revive interest in Australia’s military history among the younger generations. My mother, Heike, and my former history teacher, Felicity Williams, accompanied me on the journey. The definite highlights of my time in Thailand include the huge culture shock of being in a country that was not my own, the trek through Hellfire Pass as well as the ANZAC Day Dawn Service and the visit to the Weary Dunlop museum.

My experience at Hellfire Pass was a rather incredible one. Early on the trip, a 3.5km walk through Konyu Cutting (Hellfire Pass) and the Hintok Camp, a former allied prisoner of war camp, proved to not only be physically demanding, but also highly educational. It is one thing to read about the climate and physical conditions that the prisoners of war faced, and another thing entirely to stand where they once stood. An accompanying audio device narrated locations of historical importance along the walk. One can only imagine the pain and the struggle experienced by the British, Australian and Dutch soldiers, as well as the Asian labourers, as they were forced by the Japanese to construct the Thai-Burma Railway. The ANZAC Day Dawn Service was held at a memorial within Hellfire Pass, a service much more moving than those held in many other places. Standing on the ground where many allies lost their lives as the Last Post was played by Thai military buglers created an eerie atmosphere accompanied by a strange presence in the air.

The Weary Dunlop Museum at Home Phu Toey resort told the story of an Australian POW with unmatched courage and resolve. The museum itself stands on ground belonging to the late Mr. Kanit, a hospitable Thai fellow who became friends with Dunlop after World War II and assisted in the construction of the museum. Within a park near the banks of Kwae Noi River lies the museum, containing many historical artifacts such as original, handmade maps of POW campsites along the river and original tools used to construct the railway. A hospital used to treat POWs was also exhibited here, allowing visitors such as myself to admire the work of doctors and nurses treating severely ill and injured soldiers with primitive equipment and improvisational techniques.

I could not have asked for a better way to spend my first time overseas. The Thai-Burma Railway tour was moving, educational and eye opening, and overall it was a great reminder to not take for granted the things we rely on in a civil nation in a time of peace.

- Aydan Hussein

(above and left): Konyu Cutting (Hellfire Pass) - the longest and deepest cutting on the Thai-Burma Railway. **Sixty nine men** were beaten to death by Japanese guards in the six weeks it took to build the cutting. **Many** more died from cholera, dysentery, starvation, and exhaustion.

(right): A statue of Sir Edward ‘Weary’ Dunlop, an Australian surgeon and POW who worked tirelessly to save the lives of wounded, sick and malnourished men; among them, Bill Griffiths, who lost both hands and eyes to a bomb. When a Japanese Captain ordered an officer to kill Griffiths, Dunlop stood in front of the bayonet and told the officer he would have to go through him first.
SENIOR CAMPUS EVACUATION DRILL
This week all Senior Campus students participated in an evacuation drill. Fortunately the weather was kind to us and all students were efficiently evacuated by their classroom teachers to the school oval.

Thank you to all staff, particularly those with warden roles and Assistant Principal, Peter Tonis, for preparing staff for this practice event.

Gene Technology Access Centre Excursion

On May 1 and 9, the Unit 3 Biology classes made their way into the city to partake in an annual excursion at the Gene Technology Access Centre (GTAC). As part of their study on ‘coordination and regulation’ students were given a 40 minute presentation on how organisms respond to various signals at a cellular level. Following this presentation, students broke into smaller groups and worked through the mechanism of action of the hormone insulin and how this can be linked to the different forms of Diabetes in humans. Given its close proximity to the GTAC, students were able to explore the grounds of Melbourne University during the lunch break and spend time dreaming about what 2015 may hold for them. After lunch the students returned to their small groups where they analysed the impact a build-up on the hormone auxin can have on a plant cell. The knowledge and skills gathered from these experiences are now being applied in the classroom back at MPSC where the students are preparing to undergo their next SAC.

A Huge Thank You
National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week runs from 12-18 May and is a chance to celebrate those who help make organisations great without asking for anything in return. Many schools are lucky enough to have the contribution of volunteers in their communities to help their students get the best in educational opportunities and support. Mill Park Secondary College would like to recognise the outstanding volunteer work done by Julie Brazatis. Julie is a fully qualified library technician but chooses to volunteer her time with us every Monday in the Senior Campus library. Julie supports the library staff with ongoing projects, displays and offers her expertise and experience. Julie has certainly made a difference to our library and we truly appreciate the time and effort she dedicates to Mill Park Secondary College.
Year 11 Outdoor and Environmental Studies Hike

Autumn is the perfect time for hiking and although the year 11 Outdoor and Environmental Studies classes were nervous about the cool weather while on camp, the rain held off and both groups enjoyed perfect conditions for their first camp. After a term of honing their practical skills such as trangia cooking, setting up tents and packing a hiking pack, they finally put them to the test by walking a section of the Great Ocean Walk through the Cape Otway National Park. On the way there, both groups braved the cold and thoroughly enjoyed a surfing lesson at Anglesea, learning the key is using your hands and standing up straight, rather than leading with your rear end!

Camping at the beautiful Blanket Bay was a highlight for many, as the stunning sunrise was the start to two days of beautiful hiking through rainforests, across creeks, up rocky staircases, across beaches and along the incredible coastal cliff tops. Groups also camped near the historic lighthouse where they visited the cemetery and shared ghost stories. Although we weren’t able to have campfires, the groups spent plenty of time getting to know each other, playing cards and other games and bonding over the new shared experiences. Even though all our legs were tired and backs got sore, everyone loved the experience and the trips were over far too quickly.

Here are some comments from students after the camp:

“I learned that I am more capable of doing things like hiking than I thought I was.”

“I enjoyed waking along the cliff tops because scenery was incredible and it was such a unique experience.”

“My favourite part of camp was getting to know new people and how much everyone bonded because we were all just ourselves, so we really came together as a group.”

“I loved the beautiful scenery and the sense of accomplishment at the end.”

“I loved seeing all the amazing views where we were hiking, because that’s something you don’t get to see very often.”

Big thanks to both classes for making the trips so much fun, and also to Kelli MacDonald, Michael O’Reilly and Mat Robinson for giving up their time to help run the camps.

Maree van Raay and Alan Cahill,
Outdoor and Environmental Studies Teachers
Year 11 Outdoor and Environmental Studies Hike
Photos - Enjoy
Stefan is investing his way to a bright future

As part of Year 10 Business Economics, students have been participating in the ASX Share Market Game, learning about how the share market functions, how to buy and sell shares, and the benefits and risks involved in investing money.

With a week to go before the first game of 2014 wraps up on Wednesday 21 May, one of our very own Year 10 students, Stefan Markovski, finds himself leading the way not just at Mill Park Secondary College, but in AUSTRALIA!

Stefan’s ‘SM Investors’ share portfolio, worth $58,709.13 (as at 4pm on Wednesday 14 May), is a healthy $1500 in front of the next best investor, a student from East Doncaster Secondary College.

Stefan has been searching through media and economic data over the past few months, buying shares in businesses ‘on the up’, and quickly selling off his under-performing stocks to minimise his losses.

With a week to go, should Stefan maintain his lead, he stands to win $1500 in prize money for his smart money management.

All the best for your final week of investing, Stefan!

Mr. Shaun Isbister
Year 10 Business Economics Teacher

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

Congratulations to all those students who have organised & submitted their paperwork for their Work Experience placement. The Year 10 Work Experience Program is quickly approaching (16-20 June) and by now, all Year 10 students should have organised a Work Experience Placement. This is a valuable experience and is designed to assist students to explore possible career options & pathways after school. Many students often receive employment offers for part-time work resulting from their placement which builds their skills base and enhances their employability once they leave school. So far we have some very interesting and varied placements submitted by students in places such as The Lost Dogs Home, The Northern Hospital, Dorset Rehabilitation Centre, Parks Victoria and the Department of Treasury & Finance. Reality television & cooking competitions seem to be having an influence as Hospitality placements are up this year. We can’t wait to hear reports & receive lots of photos from students’ experiences. If any student has not already organised a placement, you need to act quickly. If you are experiencing difficulties, please see Belinda Mahony in the Careers Centre as quickly as possible for some guidance and support. Any student that is unable to organise a placement will still be required to attend school.
CONTACT DETAILS
If you have moved home, changed phone numbers or e-mail addresses please contact the office on 94079700 to notify us of the change. It is important that we have up to date records in the event that we need to contact you.

WORK COMPLETION
It is important to us that all students make steady progress in their time at school. Teachers regularly send letters home to parents when a student has not completed a required piece of work. Your assistance in getting the work completed is appreciated.

EDUCATION WEEK TOURS
Education Week will be held from Monday 19 May to Friday 23 May. Tours will be conducted at 9.15am on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday morning at the Middle Years Campus. If you know any parents considering sending their child to our school, can you please advise them of the tours and ask them to contact our office to book in.

CITY SCHOOL
Our first City School for our Year 9 students will run in Week 7 (2-6 June) of this term. Staff have planned an interesting and challenging week for students with links to Curriculum and follow up work back at school.

NAPLAN
Students in Years 7 and 9 sat NAPLAN testing this week in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy. The NAPLAN tests are conducted by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) on behalf of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA). Parents will receive their child’s results later in Term 3.

LIBRARY MONITORS 2014
A warm welcome to our new Library Monitors team for 2014. We are very excited about 20 of our students signing up to the program with a good representation from Years 7, 8 and 9. They all happily agreed to work in groups of two. They have chosen their partners and they will undertake introductory sessions, starting from Monday 19 May. During this program students will recognise the value of working in teams and learning new skills. The program will engage them in many ways. Monitors will have the opportunity to make new friends and boost their confidence in themselves. They will develop leadership skills, communicate with library staff, students and teachers and improve their IT skills by learning to use the library database.

Our Library Monitors Program at Middle Years Campus is a success story. It encourages student participation, provides real-life work experiences and assists the library staff. It also provides practical opportunities to demonstrate the College’s values of achievement, respect, responsibility and enjoyment.

Stella Lambrou
MYC Librarian
Mill Park Secondary College  
CareerNewsNo6; 16.05.2014

Reminders
- ‘At Monash’ seminars - Health Science and Social Work 13 May; Education and Nursing 20 May; Biomedical Science, Radiography, Nutrition and Dietetics Wed 28 May; Engineering 29 May. More dates and bookings: www.monash.edu/seminars.
- Deakin University – Parent/student tertiary information; Melbourne Burwood: 6-8pm, 21 May; Geelong Waterfront: 6-8pm, 28 May; www.deakin.edu.au/parent-and-student.
- UMAT – Registrations close: 6 June; UMAT test date: 30 July 2014.

❖ CAREERS IN SPORTS MEDICINE – Olympic Park Sports Medicine Centre is conducting an event to introduce the world of sports medicine for Year 10-12’s. Build awareness of the health professionals involved in caring for athletes, whether competing for Australia or exercise for fitness. Practitioners from sports medicine, nutrition, podiatry, psychology, massage, physiotherapy and exercise physiology will give short talks. When: Registration, 6.30-7pm, Wed 28 May; Talks, 7.30-9pm; Where: AAMI Park Stadium, 60 Olympic Blvd, Entrance F, Gate 4, Corporate Entrance, Olympic Room 3; Parking: Eastern Plaza Carpark; Cost: $25, parents free; Register: www.trybooking.com/EPDE; Info: megan.marshall@opsmc.com.au, www.opsmc.com.au.

❖ YEAR 10 SUBJECT SELECTION FOR YEAR 11 – If you are in Year 10, university may seem a long way off, but decisions you make now about VCE subjects can affect what you are able to study later. Whether you have made up your mind about university or are undecided, it’s good to get information now so that you are fully prepared for VCE and beyond. One starting point is to check out these videos from La Trobe University: Year 10 videos. Also go to www.vtac.edu.au, then go to CourseLink and set up an account to do some research.

❖ DEAKIN UNIVERSITY PARENT/STUDENT EVENING – Start planning your VCE, university and career. When/Where: Burwood, 6-8pm, May 21, Building I, Lecture Theatre 1A, 221 Burwood Hwy, Burwood; Geelong Waterfront, 6-8pm, Wed 28 May, Building D, Percy Baxter Lecture Theatre, Gheringhap St, Geelong; Maps and registration: www.deakin.edu.au/study-at-deakin/why-choose-deakin/parent-information/parent-and-student

❖ RMIT NEWS – RMIT is a university and VET provider, with campuses in the City and at Bunduora. RMIT school holiday opportunities:
- CHECK OUT SCIENCE AT RMIT – ‘Science in the City’ is a tour of RMIT facilities where students and parents can learn more about science programs. Find out about the range of science programs available at the city campus including biology, biotechnology, chemistry, environmental science, food science, nanotechnology and physics. You will also gain knowledge of career options. When: 11am-1.30pm, Mon 30 June and Mon 22 Sept; Reg’n: www.rmit.edu.au/appliedsciences/discover
- RMIT EXPERIENCE DAYS – Events for Year 10-12 students giving insights into life on campus: Mon 30 June, Accounting and Finance; Trades Day; Tues 1 July, Community Justice; Engineering (City); Health and Medical (Bundoora); Journalism and Audio Visual; Wed 2 July, Information Systems; Logistics; Thurs 3 July, Advertising, Marketing and Public Relations; Engineering (Bundoora), Environment; Fri 4 July, Art & Design; Science; Wed 1 Oct, Project Management. Information and Reg’n: www.rmit.edu.au/experiencedays.
- RMIT HOSPITAL LABORATORY VISITS - These are for students interested in careers as medical scientists. Tours give a chance to see the workings of a laboratory, and to observe where current students are completing their professional practice. Covering laboratory medicine and nuclear medicine, the sessions are held at major teaching hospitals from 2-11 July. Register: RMIT Medical Sciences, 9925 7075, medicalsciences@rmit.edu.au.

❖ FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE – ‘My Melbourne’ is the University’s monthly newsletter for future students. It’s a great way
to keep up to date with what’s happening at the university and find out about the opportunities for students. Current students contribute to ‘My Melbourne’, so readers find out what it’s really like to be a student. Get tips, learn about experiences, find out about college life - blogs.unimelb.edu.au/mymelb.

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY NEWS – Career Practitioners were told about developments at La Trobe at the recent annual Career Practitioners conference.

- New courses for 2015 are the Bachelor of Commerce and the double qualification, Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor of Laws. In addition, the Bachelor of Science and Society, the Bachelor of Creative Arts, and the Bachelor of Media and Communications will be re-designed.

- In 2015 there will be a 4 aggregate point bonus for those completing a 3/4 LOTE

- A new Early Admissions Program is starting (Aspire Program). Conditional offers will be made on the basis of: school principal’s recommendation, and the applicant’s demonstrated non-academic contribution and leadership, with the requirement of a minimum ATAR of 50.3 (some exceptions apply), the applicants’ completing a VTAC application, and an application to La Trobe. Applications: 1 July-31 Aug. Offers in Sept. Program updates: www.latrobe.edu.au/aspire.

- La Trobe is moving to two Colleges, away from five faculties. They will be The Social Science, Arts and Communications and Law College, and the Science, Health and Engineering College.

- Some Health Science degrees will be renamed Applied Science degrees. Eg B. Health Science/B. Podiatry will become B. Applied Science/B. Podiatry.

NEW YORK JAZZ SYMPOSIUM – Students aged 14-17 wanting to learn from some of the world’s greatest jazz musicians can join the New York Jazz Symposium at Trinity College (Uni of Melbourne). Carl Allen (drums), Rodney Jones (guitar), Mat Jodrell (trumpet) and Carla Cook (vocals) will work with passionate young jazz musicians from around the world. Live on campus at college and form part of an ensemble group, focussing on jazz performance, hear the journey of a musician, increase confidence to perform, and jam with other musicians. Some students say it is like having six months’ worth of practice in one week! When: Sun 29 June – Sat 5 July, 2014; Cost: $1,650 (scholarships available); Applications: Close Fri 23 May; Info: www.trinity.unimelb.edu.au/learning/trinity-institute/new-york-jazz-symposium.html; Inquire: Lisa Mac, ph 03 9348 7565, lisamac@trinity.unimelb.edu.au.

WHAT IS AN ACTUARY? Many people have never heard of actuarial studies, and have no idea what an actuary does. Actuaries are responsible for identifying, analysing and assessing risk. They determine the likelihood of risk to ensure an organisation’s safeguards and they advise on the potential consequences of risk. This is done by creating mathematical models using past data and the actuary’s own knowledge and experience. These models are used to generate future scenarios to find out how likely and how severe future risks may be. Actuaries traditionally work in consulting, banking, superannuation, stockbroking, insurance and investment and can also find work in consumer behaviour analysis and developing areas like environmental studies, climate change and genetics. At Monash University actuarial studies can be taken as part of the Bachelor of Commerce or the Bachelor of Economics, and at the University of Melbourne in the Bachelor of Commerce. Pre-requisite subjects are 3/4 English (any) and 3/4 Maths Methods. Website of the professional body, Actuarial Institute of Australia: www.actuaries.asn.au/default.aspx.

AVIATION CAREERS EXPO – If you want to find out more about Swinburne’s aviation courses for 2015, attend the Aviation Careers Expo. Representatives from CAE Oxford Aviation Academy, from some of Australia’s top aviation organisations and major airlines will attend. When: 5.30pm, Mon 2 June; Where: Hawthorn campus; Register by Fri 30 May: Online registration.

FLYING TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP – The Royal Victorian Aero Club with the 460 Bomber Squadron Scholarship Trust is offering a flight training scholarship to take the successful candidate to the GEPT stage of the Private Pilot’s Licence. Term and conditions available at www.rvac.com.au; Application forms are available at the Royal Victorian Aero Club at Moorabbin Airport, ph 85867777.