College Principal’s Report

BACK FROM CHINA

After visiting 9 cities in 17 days, I have come home for a rest. I met many parents who have a very positive view about Australia and our education system. It was also a wonderful opportunity to network with six other government schools and Department representatives. I proudly presented our school to many agents across China and they were most impressed. I would like to thank Karen Eastlake and the Principal Team for holding the fort in my absence.

AS 2016 DRAW TO A CLOSE

Many of our year 12 students have finished their exams and the year 11 exams are well under way. Very soon our year 10 students will commence their exam period. Students on the Middle Years Campus have also been completing exams or timed exercises. We have been very pleased with how the students have approached this important time of the year. Students will soon begin their StepUp Programs. All current year 9, 10 and 11 students are expected to attend their respective StepUp program to enable them to have a flying start to 2017. Valuable information and activities will occur which will not be repeated in the new school year.

ARTS FESTIVAL

Colin Burke opened the Art show, in my absence, on Tuesday 8th November at the Council Offices. Narelle Desmond a Visual Artist and member of Melbourne Art Collective DAMP and the Coordinator of LEAP into Design (Learn Experience Access Professions) officially opened the exhibition. The Kool Skools CD was also launched. Copies of “Dimensions 12” are available at the general office.

I have heard many positive reports about the quality of the work being up to ‘Art Gallery’ standard. An amazing variety of art was also displayed in both Campus libraries. I would like to congratulate our students and thank all staff involved under the leadership of Gina Palamara.
REMEMBERANCE DAY 2016 COMMEMORATIONS
This year 11 November marks the 98th anniversary of the Armistice which ended the First World War (1914–18). Each year on this day Australians observe one minute’s silence at 11am, in memory of those who died or suffered in all wars and armed conflicts.

IMPORTANT DATES
We celebrate the success and achievements of our students and the Graduation of the year 12 students annually at our Awards evenings. With December being such a busy time of year I encourage you to pencil in these very important days:

- Middle Years Campus Awards Night – Tuesday 13 December
- Senior Campus Awards Night – Thursday 15 December
- Reports will be distributed – Tuesday 13 December.

FORWARD PLANNING – THE START OF THE 2017 SCHOOL YEAR
As many families are planning their summer holidays it is important to note that ALL STUDENTS will commence on Tuesday 31st January 2017. Mill Park Secondary College has high expectations of all students and this includes attendance.

MILL PARK SECONDARY COLLEGE
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM
URGENT HOMESTAY FAMILIES REQUIRED

At Mill Park Secondary College we have a successful International Student Program and currently have 35 students in years 7 to 11. These students have come from China, Vietnam, India, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia and Sri Lanka to study in Melbourne.

Homestay families are a very important factor in the success of our Program and are greatly valued by the College. Our International Student Coordinator is available at all times, to provide support.

What is homestay?

- Families, couples or single people who would like to provide a warm and supportive environment for a student who is living away from home for the purpose of study.
- Full board and accommodation, for which the student pays a set weekly fee to cover expenses.
- You must live within easy access of the College or public transport.
- People aged 18 years and over, who live in the home or visit regularly, must have a ‘Working With Children Check’. We assist you with this and there is no cost to you.
- All Homestay accommodation for international students is approved by the school. This is to ensure it meets a minimum standard so that all students are living in a safe, comfortable and welcoming environment.

We are currently looking for homestay families for students who are due to commence at Mill Park Secondary College in January 2017.

Please contact our International Student Coordinator for more information:

Marilyn Pridmore, International Student Coordinator
Phone: 9409 8222 or 0438 681 125
Email: pridmore.marilyn.j@edumail.vic.gov.au
MY Campus Principal’s Report

CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS

In response to feedback from students and parents earlier this year when asked about their ‘Hopes, Fears and Dreams’ for the College, there were many indications that people wanted to see improvements to the physical environment of the Campus.

To that end we have been working hard to provide those improvements having already completed recarpeting of the library building (see photo on the right) and new shade sails which I highlighted in an earlier newsletter.

We are currently undergoing a replacement project of the wooden seats and tables around the Campus and I would like to acknowledge and thank Mr Nicholls and his students for the work they have been doing to measure, order and prepare the replacement timber for this important project.

Below are a few images of students hard at work and we appreciate them volunteering their time and energy during lunch breaks.
ARTS FESTIVAL

We have just completed our 21st Arts Festival. Many Middle Years Campus students were fortunate to visit the Senior Campus student art work on display at the Great Hall of the City of Whittlesea Council Offices. Our student art work was on display in our library and I would like to acknowledge and thank the dedicated Art teachers and their student helpers who so diligently put the display together. It is great to be able to celebrate the achievements of our students in such a public way. Please see below a few examples of the work on display over the last week.
AWARDS WINNERS!

Natasha Bay

Congratulations to Natasha Bay of year 12, who recently won a SWANNE Award as the Top Speaker for the A Grade (Year 12) division in the Watsonia region. This is a huge honour for Natasha and our school, as she has effectively beaten hundreds of others students from a variety of schools to be named best speaker. This comes on top of Natasha already representing Victoria in the National Debating Championships.

Congratulations Natasha!

100 Women of Influence

Also congratulations to our Science Coordinator, Sonia Loudon, who was named one of the 100 Women of Influence by the Australian Financial Review.

Sonia received the award for her commitment to sourcing and placing dozens of students from our school and others in high quality – professional work experience placements via the organisation she co-founded Boundless.

In addition to her extensive duties as a teacher and leader at Mill Park Secondary College, she volunteers significant amounts of time with Boundless, helping students get placements at corporate organisations like Crumpler, as well as government organisations like the Supreme Court. An amazing achievement, well done Sonia!

Art and Design Exhibition Opening

It was a wonderful privilege to host the 21st Art and Design Exhibition on Tuesday evening at the Great Hall – City of Whittlesea offices. The Art and Technology work on display was impressive in its quality and diversity. Congratulations to all of the student artists with work selected to be displayed and to the Arts and Technology faculties for their ongoing support. The parents and students in attendance heard from a range of musical performers from the school, as well as guest speaker Narelle Desmond, Visual Artist and Coordinator of the LEAP into Design Program.

ParentWorks is a FREE online program for Australian parents and caregivers of children 2 to 16.

It provides evidence-based parenting strategies to improve parenting skills, confidence and child behaviour.

ParentWorks has been developed by a team of psychologists and researchers at the University of Sydney.

It is known from research that parenting programs are more effective when all parents are involved, this program is developed to be father friendly.

https://parentworks.org.au/#/
The Spring Film Festival 2016
Short film created by young people

Outdoor Event - 6.30pm, Friday 18 November
Westfield Plenty Valley Shopping Centre
415 McDonalds Road, Mill Park
Free Event
Fully supervised smoke, drug & alcohol free
Management has the right to refuse entry

www.facebook.com/baselineyouth
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baseline@whittlesea.vic.gov.au