



As you will be aware term one was very short with the timing governed by the Easter break. Despite this an enormous amount of work was completed by the students and staff.

ABSENCE

It is essential that all students attend school each day. It is through this regular contact that a full understanding of the concepts covered at school is achieved. It is not acceptable for students to be truant from school and some families will be aware that we had students in on the recent school holidays making up missed time and again on the recent Parent Teacher Interview Day.

If your child is absent we ask that you please phone the Absence Line (on 5979 3511) by 9:30 am. We also require you return a note explaining the absence when your child returns to school.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

We held Parent Teacher Interviews on Wednesday April 16th to report on student achievement so far. The attendance by both students and parents was very pleasing and indicates a high level of support in the school. At interviews teachers will have spelt out a plan to continue to enable your child to achieve success this year.

If you were unable to attend either the afternoon or evening sessions please contact your child's teacher for an appointment.

EARLY ROLLOVER

At the last College Council meeting and Curriculum Committee we have formed working parties to consider a partial, or full, early rollover for 2009. This may mean that some or all year levels commence their 2009 program this year. A large number of government and non-government schools already do this to ensure that the Year 12's in particular have a full four terms work rather than the current three terms work.

A considerable number of issues need to be considered prior to progressing to a decision phase.

STAFFING

Mr and Mrs Hall have taken long service leave this term with Ms Ellison filling in as the Acting Senior School Manager. Mr Puls (recently retired) and Ms Richards are filling roles this term while Ms Lonsdale has returned from Long Service Leave.

ANZAC DAY

As usual the college will be represented by Mrs Lewis, myself and the college captains at the ANZAC commemoration services at Crib Point and Hastings. This is an important day for all Australians and particularly for us, given our connections with the Defence forces.

YEAR 7 CAMP

The Year 7 Phillip Island camp by all reports was extremely successful. The camp was led by Mr Phil Tardif and the Year 7 team and had a stronger emphasis on initiative activities than in previous years. The Phillip Island camp is the last transition activity that our students undertake coming into secondary school.

I wish to thank all the staff involved in the camp and the students for their excellent behaviour.

OPEN NIGHT

The college held an open night in the last week of term as a way of showcasing our college programs to prospective parents.

An enormous amount of work and energy was put into the night led by Ms Blanch and all the Domains Heads and teachers.

It was fantastic to see so many students in attendance and helping out on the night.

Simon Hamilton
Principal



Year 10 students Jacob Busuttill and Jesse Debrotta enjoying the first day at the Briars Environmental week!

IMPORTANT DATES

April	
16	Parent/Teacher interviews
17	Yr 10 WOW Day
22	Polish Day
25	Anzac Day (Student Free Day)
29	Yr 7, 9 & 10 Immunisations
28-2	Yr 9 Advance Camp
30	Yr 10 Keys Please

Assistant Principals' Notes



YEAR 7 CAMP

I would like to thank the staff who attended the year 7 camp in the last week of term one for their work in organising and running what was one of the best year 7 camps I can remember. The year 7 students are to be commended on their excellent behaviour and the way they got on with each other and gave the team games and activities their best shot. The Peer Support leaders that attended the camp put in a valiant effort and did a great job supporting staff and working with students running games and activities and generally sharing the load.

UNIFORM

It is fantastic to see the majority of students wearing full uniform. In our whole school assembly late last term the number of students out of uniform could be counted on one hand. With Winter just around the corner it is a good time to remind parents and students about options for the colder weather. Students may wear a school jumper, long sleeved green polo top and or the school jacket purchased at the uniform shop. It is not permissible for students to have notes to wear other tops or hoodies for long periods of time. Notes are acceptable only for short periods of time due to exceptional circumstances. Our uniform policy is set and endorsed by School Council which includes parents elected by the parent body to represent them. We would like to thank parents for their support in enforcing this policy. The majority of students have shown increased pride in wearing their uniform and are doing the right thing. We have had a number of comments from the public about the improvement in students' appearance generally.

IMMUNISATIONS

Parents of students in year 7 and 10 will receive Immunisation cards this week. They need to be returned by the 21st of April. Parents are requested to return forms even if students are not having the immunisations. The immunisation dates are as follows:

Year 7 Chicken Pox and Year 10 Boostrix Tuesday 29th April.

Hannah Lewis
Assistant Principal



Term Two is underway and the college community have been introduced to the new Discipline & Welfare Approach being adopted at the college. I would like to congratulate students for "taking on board" the changes and remind both parents and their sons & daughters that mobile phones and music players should not be brought to school. If such electronic devices are used in class they will be removed and returned at the end of the day. This issue, uniform, lateness to class and completion of set work will be the focus of our energies this term in relation to student behaviour.

It was good to see all the parents who attended Parent Teacher interviews at the college on Wednesday, April 16th to discuss their son or daughter's progress. If parents and teachers are "heading in the same direction" student achievement will be the main beneficiary. I would particularly stress the importance of parents of VCE students at parent-teacher interviews during this important school year. It should also be noted that for any Year 11 student wishing to be a member of the 2009 *Aspire* group (for high achievers) a successful semester one report will be a requirement for participation. Now is the time to put in that "special effort".

College photos will be available shortly and all students will be provided with a photo ID. Those who did not participate in school photographs will have individual photos taken for this purpose.

A reminder that any student wishing to change buses or use an alternate bus temporarily will require a note from home to that effect to be provided to Mr Ward at the college. We will then be able to provide students with an appropriate *Bus Pass*.

I wish you all continued success for the remainder of the year.

Tim Ward
Assistant-Principal

COMMUNITY NEWS

BITTERN SUNDAY MARKET

Every Sunday 8am—1pm Bittern Railway Carpark

INTERNATIONAL NO DIET DAY 2008 WORKSHOP

Tuesday 6th May, the Treacy Conference Centre, \$270. For more information contact Barbara on 0438 193 936

Poetry and Theatre prize

The Young Arts ADFAS Mornington Peninsula committee has awarded Western Port Secondary College \$250 for a poetry prize and theatre tickets for English or Literature excursions for deserving students. The details for the Poetry Competition will be announced this term and students are encouraged to see their English teachers for feedback on their efforts.

Middle School Report

What a great Year 7 camp!

March 17-19 saw year 7 students head down to Phillip Island for the annual camp at CYC in beautiful weather. Approximately ninety percent of students attended the camp and helped to make it an enjoyable experience. Camp was a great opportunity for Footprints teachers to build relationships with students and for forms to integrate, allowing students the chance to get to know each other as well.

Students participated in team building activities to overcome fears and try new things. Students were exposed to rock climbing, flying fox rides, giant swing drops, trampoline activities and water activities at the camp, which pushed students out of their comfort zones.

Surfing at Smith's Beach, Night observations walks to see Shearwaters land and visits to Churchill Island allowed students to see the local flora, fauna and get an idea of life on the island, both now and from in the past.

Overall the College was extremely impressed with student's behaviour, attitude and effort. The Camp owners spoke very highly of our cohort and they should feel very good about themselves. Congratulations Year 7 students on a wonderful camp.

A special thanks to all staff who attended and to the Peer Support students who assisted with the groups and running of the programs, your input and enthusiasm was greatly appreciated.



Senior School Report

Lions Youth of the Year

Bevan Ringer reached the third round of the Lions Youth of the Year competition and travelled to Trafalgar on an extremely hot March day to speak on the Kyoto Protocol. The standard was extremely high and after an interview, two impromptu speeches and the prepared speech, all contestants had done so well the judges found it difficult to pick a winner. Although Bevan won't be State final, he is close and is to be congratulated for his poise and hard work.



Year 12 Easter Breakfast

The last day of Term 1 began with hot cross buns, a BBQ, fruit skewers and chocolate for over half of Year 12. Room 22 was set up for an Easter Breakfast to raise money for the Year 12 magazine. Thank you to Jarred Horan, Mr Hall and Mrs Stephenson for their BBQ-ing efforts and to all the teachers and students who attended. It was a fun way to end the term.



Careers News

WANTED: Junior Waiters & Waitresses

Kings Creek Hotel is now employing staff who are interested in pursuing a career in the hospitality industry.

Email your CV to

www.kingscreekhotel.com.au

Fax: 5979 2989

Attention Greg

Host a Japanese Student

Any families interesting in hosting a Japanese student from 20th -30th July 2008 please contact Bu Thuy or Mr Ward at the College or via the college website for more information



The State Conference for Beacon Foundation was held at the MCG on Friday 14th March. Our Student Beacon Leaders; Aleisha Cox, Courtney Van Daame, Ben Herbert and Bill Fisher attended along with Mr. Ward and Mrs. Mathers.

Four students from each Beacon school in Victoria were involved in working together, motivational, communications workshops and brainstorming activities. The students were also given a private tour of the MCG and were presented with their Student Leader Beacon Badges. I'm sure we will be experiencing their expertise throughout the rest of the school year.

Gina Mathers
Beacon/Pathways



Keys Please Year 10 students

A program for learner drivers and their parents. This is a free information session presented by Vic Roads. It is a great way to start the process of learning to drive, giving students and parents the necessary information to begin safe driving.

Students who attend will receive a show bag with information on learning to drive and the log book required to obtain your licence.

Students should have already brought home this information.

There will be some new rule books to be purchased for \$10.

Date: Wednesday 30th April 2008

Time: 7:30pm Doors open at 7:15pm

Venue: The art centre at Western Port SC.

Carol Gudgion
Senior school programs coordinator.

Queensland Camp:

If your child is going on the year 10 camp in 2008 and you did not attend the information session last year or have any questions you would like answered you can come along to a brief meeting before the Keys Please session.

Date: Wednesday 30th April 2008

Time: 7:00pm

Venue: The art centre at Western Port SC.

If you cannot come earlier you can catch me after the Keys Please session for questions.

Carol Gudgion
Senior school programs coordinator.

Western Port Wheeliez

Great Victorian Bike Ride

Last newsletter featured information on the GVBR. A number of students expressed an interest in participating in this years ride. I will contact families during the week regarding an information session.

Helen Smith Ride Coordinator

National Ride 2 School Day

Our participation in the first National R2s day resulted in our college winning a great bike. This bike will be used as first prize in a fund raising raffle to be organised this term. Well done to all students who participated by walking, scootering or riding.

The Challenge Is On

There will be a launch of the 500km Gold Medal Challenge at year level assemblies. If students want to get a head start information is available www.ride2school.com.au



Year 7, 8 & 9 HOMEWORK HELP



Home work help has ran very successfully for many years. I will be supervising sessions, along with teacher and peer support students. Our aim is to help students who are having difficulty with class work, homework tasks or just to assist students to complete homework in a supported environment. Often we will approach staff on behalf of the student, or with the student if necessary to clarify work or seek help.

It is important that attendance is voluntary and hopefully we will be able to assist students in building a support network as well as develop a regular homework routine.

The Homework Club will operate on Thursday afternoons from 3.15 - 4.15 pm. Cordial, Milo and biscuits are provided but students are encouraged to bring along a snack.

If you would like your child to participate, have them collect a permission form from me or their Footprints teacher.

Please contact the College if you have any enquiries regarding the program.

Matthew Bodley
School Chaplain