Principal’s Report

On Friday 29th August, a Peer Review was held to enable us to look back at the last four years of our Strategic Plan and see what we had accomplished and what we need to focus on for our new Strategic Plan. Two Principals from other state secondary schools provided insights and were able to contribute considerably to the discussion. Elizabeth Bradley, our Council President, was also part of the review, along with many of our leading teachers and all the Principal class.

One major finding was that in particular we need to provide additional opportunities for our gifted and talented students to demonstrate their abilities in every subject area. In addition we need to work with students who are experiencing anxiety about their learning and assist them to develop resilience.

The reviewer, Carolyn Woodhouse who works for Monash, will come to the October College Council meeting to present her findings as well as to a staff meeting. The data showed that our students are high achievers who are motivated to learn and who feel safe at the school. This is a great basis for us to move forward in the next four years. School attendance is good, but there is a worrying trend for parents to take their daughters out of school for holidays during Term 3.

Retention continues to be very good, although some students leave for select entry schools after Year 8. Our Alliance of Excellence with Sandringham College has allowed us to retain some students who would have had to go elsewhere had we not provided access to additional subjects.

Thank you to all the parents and staff who took part in the Working Bee last Saturday – the weather was beautiful and a lot was achieved.

As the Middle School Corridor nears completion, staff and students are looking forward to moving in for Term 4. With the end of the year in sight, could I urge all Year 12 students to look after themselves while they prepare for final assessments. A good diet, exercise and rest are all necessary to balance the hours of study required at this time.

Ms Deborah M. Lehner
Principal
College Matters

End of Term Arrangements

Due to the Year 12 October test on the last day of term (requiring students to sit a three hour exam), the following bell times will apply:

LAST DAY OF TERM – 4 PERIOD DAY

8.30am          Students may enter buildings
8.45am          Warning bell
8.50am – 9.50am    Period 1
9.50am – 10.15am  Recess (Staff morning tea in main staffroom)

10.15am            Warning bell
10.20am – 11.20pm  Period 2
11.25pm – 12.25pm  Period 3
12.25pm – 1.10pm   Lunch
1.10pm              Warning bell
1.15pm – 2.15pm    Period 4

Ms Carol Duggan
Assistant Principal

Parent Support

Working Bee

Last Saturday a group of enthusiastic parents, students and staff undertook a significant amount of work on the Year 7 community garden; installing irrigation pipes, filling each garden bed with soil and laying mulch on the pathways. I must thank Ms Ekaterina Xanthopoulos for procuring another grant which covered the cost of the soil and the irrigation pipes. We are in the process of writing a further grant for a water tank. Other tasks included cleaning the drinking troughs and weeding. Sincere thanks to the following staff, parents (including three college councillors) and students for their work: Jonathan Hall, Shelley Hatch, Ekaterina and Zara Xanthopoulos, Vaughn Brotherton, Glenn Chadwick, Claire Chitty, Richard Elstone, Rosaleen Lehmann, Jill and Erin O’Neill, Tim Sanford, Martin Taylor and Mark Walker. The next working bee will be held in Term 4, at a date to be determined.

Litter

In addition to the above tasks, a number of parents collected litter left in the school grounds – 17 shopping-sized bags in total. I appreciate the help of the parents in doing this, but if every girl put her own litter in the bin, then we could focus on other tasks during our working bees. It was disappointing to notice litter in the yard by lunchtime on Monday! Please continue to reinforce the personal responsibility message with your daughters. Our goal is a litter-free school.

Asbestos removal

Last year a decision was made by the Facilities committee, and endorsed by the College council, to remove any asbestos sheeting in the eaves of the school buildings. Professional asbestos removalists will undertake this work in the first week of the Term 3 holidays. A recent asbestos audit was carried out on this site and all asbestos containing material that was identified is considered to be safe in its present condition. Please be aware that a health risk only exists when safety precautions are not observed. In addition, as part of the Asbestos Management Plan, visual checks are conducted on a three monthly basis. Any damage or disturbance is noted and acted upon. However, our goal is to remove this asbestos sheeting from the site, even though it is in a safe condition. If you have any questions about this, please contact me at the school on 9581 5214.
Konnective App

The Konnective app is no longer active. Last year the school was offered a free trial of the Konnective app; designed to facilitate communication between the school and parents. About 60 parents signed up. As a result of the low take-up rate, we decided to focus our attention on developing the Parent Portal (in the XUNO suite), through which you can check your daughter’s attendance, view her reports and make bookings for parent/teacher interviews. In addition this software allows for the school to send SMS messages and emails. (It is essential that the mobile phone and email details held on our database are up to date. Please check your contact details in the Parent Portal and contact the College with any changes). If you have the Konnective app, please delete it.

Ms Bronwyn Moline
Assistant Principal

International Students News

During period 4 on Friday 22nd August, the International Students presented to the students of 7C and 7D of what life is like in China and how they have adjusted to being students in Australia. The talk was led by Zoe Sun, the International Students Leader, who then had all the students lined up and following Chinese exercises to music. The students had a great time as evident from all the questions and laughter that followed the event, whilst the International Students were impressed with how the younger students made them feel welcomed.

Zoe Sun and Tear Fan have also been attending numerous Open Days at universities around Melbourne and were surprised by the vast size of La Trobe and the energy of Deakin. When they returned, they encouraged the Year 11 International Students of the importance to visit Open Days and see what the campuses had to offer.

Ms Ekaterina Xanthopoulos
International Student Program and ELC Manager

Middle School News

The school has offered Ruvindi Boralessa Yapa the wonderful opportunity of taking up the Kwong Lee Dow Scholarship should this be confirmed by Melbourne University. Each year our College has been lucky enough to have a recipient in Year 10 who has gone on to enjoy the benefits of this. There were four other students who were strongly in contention for this award so it is great to see that we have girls who are academically strong across the board.

We are currently asking teachers to nominate quiet achievers in the Middle School as we will be recognising them later this term with a special morning tea.

On Thursday 11th September there will be a BBQ at lunchtime for Year 10s on ‘Are you Okay Day?’.

Middle School Team

Science

Science Week

Congratulations to the Science leaders who hosted a fantastic week of activities to celebrate ‘Science Week: Food for our future’. Activities included: planting seeds, making posters (still to be judged), baking for the cupcake competition (the $360 raised will be donated to a charity nominated by the SRC) and the famous Science quiz questions – with members of 8B winning top prize. Thank you to our Lab technician, Suzanne Thornley, for helping prepare/purchase all materials needed.

Ms Louise Rieniets
Science Domain Leader
English

Celebrating International Literacy Day

Did you know...?

Why literacy? Why not world health? Or gender equality? Or poverty relief? The answer is simple. When individuals learn to read and write they have the power to transform their lives. To help solve most socio-economic problems facing society, we must start by building a more literate population. Individuals who know how to read and read are more likely to lift themselves out of poverty, improve their and their family’s health, and sustain long-term employment.

Facts on Illiteracy

- 774 million adults in the world are illiterate, two thirds of them are women.
- 98% of literates live in developing countries.
- In least developed countries, the average illiteracy rate is 49%.
- 52% of literates live in India and China.
- The population of Africa has a literacy rate of less than 60%.
- Since 1980, primary school enrolment in Sub-Saharan Africa has declined from 58% to 50%.

The correlation between income and literacy

- Average per capita income in countries with a literacy rate less than 55 percent averages to approximately $600.
- Average per capita income in countries with a literacy rate between 55 and 84 percent is approximately $2,400.
- Average per capita income in countries with a literacy rate between 85 and 95 percent is approximately $3,700.
- Average per capita income in countries with a literacy rate above 96 percent is approximately $12,600.

Remember these Events

- Favourite Fiction Character Dress Day Friday, Sept 5 (Gold coin donation)
- Year 12 EXPO for English Exam Excellence, Sept 5 from 2pm in the Lecture Theatre

Chinese Museum Incursion

The Chinese Museum presented an incursion to our Year 7s on Tuesday 29th August to complement their China studies in the ALL program (English, Humanities and Personal Learning) and as part of our Literacy Fortnight celebrations. The three sessions moved from learning the Lion Dance, making lanterns and creating an herbal soup using a range of Chinese herbal medicines. Asian Studies are an important part of the current AusVels curriculum, and our girls’ studies of ‘Chinese Cinderella’, Ancient China’s history and creation of various texts fulfils learning goals while increasing their cultural awareness of China.

Note some of the feedback from the girls after the incursion:
‘I liked the dancing in the hall because it was funny.’ – Meecah
‘I really thought Tuesday was great and I loved smelling new herbs and the dancing.’ – Jaya
‘It was a great workshop and we got to see what it felt like inside the Lion Dance costume.’ – Laura
‘The Lion Dance, herbal soup and lantern making were all part of a fun day full of experiences that will stay with me forever’ – Darcie
‘The spirit of the dragon was visibly aglow, with bright textiles and crafts that complemented the dance.’ – Casey

Ms Nola Rees
Head of English/Literacy
Maths @ MGSC

Interim Reports
As you read this newsletter, students/parents will have been given online access to their Semester 2 Interim reports. We encourage all students to closely examine their reports and related teacher feedback. They provide insights into how students are progressing and offer suggestions on potential areas for improvement, including commitment to classroom work, study habits, assignment submission, behaviour, attendance, etc.

We are only 70 school days away from the end of the school year. Students are therefore asked to reflect on their performance and plan necessary changes to address any issues that have been highlighted.

VCE Exam Preparations
We strongly advise our VCE maths students to make use of the exam preparation resources that can be found on www.mgscmathshomeworkclub.wikispaces.com and teacher Edmodo pages. Year 12 Maths teachers will also be providing their students with copies of trial exam papers and solutions to assist with these preparations.

Further Maths (Unit 3 & 4) students are able to prepare a bound reference for use in both their exams, so work should be well underway with this.

Other students in the Middle and Junior schools should also be looking at how they prepare for their own topic tests and any end of year exams. Forming good study habits early in your secondary school education will help boost both your confidence and results.

MGSC Numeracy Week Celebrations
Our intrepid Maths Student Domain Leaders crunched their numbers and figured out it was time to celebrate everything mathematical at MGSC. They organised a number of interesting events for our Numeracy Week (25/8 – 29/8), including Jenga Challenge, 2048 Competition, Student/Teacher Maths Challenge, TGIF Maths Games Day. Updates were provided on facebook.com/mgscmaths and @MGSCmaths on Twitter. A big thank you to the students and teachers who participated and to the Maths Student Domain Leaders for all their hard work.

Less than 70 school days until the end of the year, so do your best and remember... “Maths makes a real difference”

Maths Domain Team

MAXX PERFORMANCE with REDUCED STRESS
Learn how you can support your family and yourself to achieve their best potential at study, sport, work, or at home at this seminar on:-
Saturday 13 September from 2pm to 3.30pm in Mentone.
Naturopath Joanne Cody will give you practical suggestions on healthy snacks, “brain foods”, herbal teas, essential oils & more to help your memory & energy. Also hear about tips to keep your stress levels low.
This will be of special benefit for students preparing for their exams.
COST: $15 each or $20 for parent + student.
BOOKINGS in advance are essential as places are limited - contact Joanne on 9583 7924 or email jocodynd@yahoo.com.au.
Light refreshments and a handout will be provided with ample time for Q & A.

We are a family friendly basketball club, participating in the Southern Basketball Association domestic competition in Sandringham.
We offer great coaching for all levels of player as well as a pathway to the representative program run by the association for players who are capable and interested.
Competitions are available for under 9s, under 10s, under 12s, under 14s, under 16s and under 18s.

Eagles Basketball
We offer great coaching for all levels of player as well as a pathway to the representative program run by the association for players who are capable and interested.
Competitions are available for under 9s, under 10s, under 12s, under 14s, under 16s and under 18s.
If you want to find out more about our club visit www.eaglesbasketball.org.au or email us
southerneaglesbasketball@gmail.com
BUILDING DEEP RELATIONSHIPS WITH KIDS
WORDS Michael Grose
© 2014 Michael Grose

Building a strong relationship with their children is every parent’s dream. Here are some time-honoured ways of doing this ... if you can stick to them.

Every parent I know wants a great relationship with their children.

An effective way of promoting such relationships is through rituals and traditions. Rituals and traditions build close families. For example, most strong families I know are underpinned by a strong food culture.

In these families, every kid, no matter what their age, is expected to come to the meal table. Kids in these families are generally also expected to participate in other rituals and traditions.

This can require some parenting spine, but these rituals build wide relationships – that is, they gather the tribe together creating a wide relationship circle.

Individual parent–child relationships need to go deep. Deep relationships provide leverage. They also survive the potential storms of adolescence, during which relationships can become stormy and intense.

Certainly some ages are more amenable to positive relationship building than others. Developmentally, it’s easiest to build deep relationships in the opportunity years of latency: five through to ten years of age.

The easiest way to build a deep relationship between yourself and each of your kids is to spend regular one-on-one time together.

• Go somewhere for a whole day with a child.
• Go away for a weekend with just one child. Do things you enjoy.
• If possible, go camping.
• Talk. Cook. Mooch.

These shared experiences can have a magic impact on relationships. They can sometimes lead to vast improvements in children’s behaviour.

Another way to build deep relationships is to share an interest with a child. Having something in common, whether it’s a shared love of sport, books or a hobby, creates an individual bond that goes deep.

A shared interest also creates ‘natural’ opportunities for one-on-one time.

Make it happen
• One-on-one time needs to be organised.
• It generally won’t happen by accident.
• It takes time. It takes energy. It takes a support mechanism to make it happen. Most of all it takes permission.
• But one-on-one time is so worth the effort.
• One-on-one time is the coat hook upon which each of your children will hang their memories of you.

Make-A-Wish® Australia Bayside Volunteer Branch’s TALENT SHOW

Can you sing or dance?
Please come along and share your talent with us, to help us grant very special wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses to bring hope, strength and joy.

Prizes up for grabs! BBQ on site if you feel like a nibble.
All proceeds go to Make-A-Wish Australia.

DETAILS
Date: Across 2 weekends: Sat/Sun 4th and 5th October 2014 and Sat/Sun 11th & 12th October 2014. (You will be emailed with details of your exact date/time of your entry closer to the date)
Venue: Cheltenham Community Centre, 8 Chesterville Road, Cheltenham
Cost: $5 per person per day (admission to audience - excluding performers) $10 per talent entry and $5 for any additional entry
Sections: Group dance - Junior (Primary school age) and Senior (High school age) Solo/Duo/Trios - Dance (Junior & Senior winner)/Singing (Junior & Senior)
Entries: Entries close Friday 29th August 2014, 5pm. Please email mawtalentshow@hotmail.com for the entry form
### KEY DATES | SEPTEMBER 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gold Week</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>NEWSLETTER #14</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yr 11 Incursion (P2 &amp; 3)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Blue Week</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yr 11 PE excursion – Bounce (P1 &amp; 2)</td>
<td></td>
<td>SEVR Intermediate Bandfest (Concert Band, Yr 8 Band forms); Mordialloc College</td>
<td>9OE Mountain Bike Excursion; Lysterfield Park, Gembrook</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Market Day (lunchtime)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Empower leadership activity (3 Yr 10 students)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gold Week</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>NEWSLETTER #15</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Beachside Track and Field</td>
<td></td>
<td>College Assembly</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yr 9 City Project Presentation Day</td>
<td></td>
<td>VCE Recital Evening</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>College Council</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Blue Week</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gold Week</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Term 3 Holidays</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Term 3 Holidays</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Term 3 Holidays</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**MENTONE GIRLS’ SC NEWSLETTER**

Edition 14 | 4 September 2014
## Key Dates | October 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gold Week</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term 4 Commences</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Blue Week</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gold Week</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Blue Week</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gold Week</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Gold Week

- **Monday 6 October**: Term 4 Commences
- **Tuesday 7 October**: 7.30pm PFA Planning Meeting for Malcolms Art Show; Staffroom
- **Wednesday 8 October**: Yr 11 PE Excursion (lunch & P4) - 1000 steps
- **Thursday 9 October**: Grade 6 Music Information Evening #1; SMR Track and Field
- **Friday 10 October**: 9OED Orienteering Excursion; Cardinia Park
- **Saturday 11 October**: |
- **Sunday 12 October**: |

### Blue Week

- **Monday 13 October**: 9OED Windsurfing Excursion (P3 & lunch)
- **Tuesday 14 October**: MALCOLM ARTS AWARDS 7pm Past Students’ Association (15 & 20 Years)
- **Wednesday 15 October**: Yr 8 incursion (P2)
- **Thursday 16 October**: 9OED Kayaking Excursion (P3 & P4) COLLEGE COUNCIL
- **Friday 17 October**: Year 11 Theatre Studies Performances
- **Saturday 18 October**: |
- **Sunday 19 October**: |

### Gold Week

- **Monday 20 October**: College Assembly Valedictory Dinner Yr 12 Celebration Assembly (P1)
- **Tuesday 21 October**: Annual Finance Budget meeting
- **Wednesday 22 October**: Yr 6 Transition and Information evening
- **Thursday 23 October**: Yr 12 Exams
- **Friday 24 October**: |
- **Saturday 25 October**: |
- **Sunday 26 October**: Cheerleading Competitions; Sydney

### Blue Week

- **Monday 27 October**: 9OED Kayaking Excursion (P3 & P4) COLLEGE COUNCIL
- **Tuesday 28 October**: |
- **Wednesday 29 October**: |
- **Thursday 30 October**: NEWSLETTER #17
- **Friday 31 October**: |
- **Saturday 1 November**: |
- **Sunday 2 November**: |