PRINCIPAL’S COMMENT

Staffing – Valuing Staff and Building Capacity
Anna Kukuruzovic, Joan Kelly, Vicky Dernikos and Janet Wiggins have all been granted Leave for term 3. Kuan Ng has been appointed an IT technician in Point Cook; we thank Kuan for his service to our school over the past 8 years. Ann Price has been employed for Term 3 as a Maths teacher (taking Joan Kelly’s allotment). Cecilia Tan has been appointed to the position of Student Administration / Publications Officer. Matthew Dexter has been appointed as an Integration Aide. It is a pleasure to congratulate Kath Kelly on her promotion to the position of Bursar / Senior Finance Officer at Keysborough Secondary College. Kath has been an outstanding Principal’s Personal Assistant and Officer Manager. I know that many parents admire Kath’s professionalism, friendly, welcoming and helpful approach. Whilst this appointment is unfortunate news for Ashwood, it is the right step in Kath’s career aspirations and pathway. Well done Kath Kelly! Brigitte Ferguson has been appointed to the position of Acting Paterson House Coordinator commencing Monday 17 August, 2015. Suzie Filgate has been employed on a short-term contract to undertake Joan Wiggins’ allotment.

Student Enrolments – Staffing 2016 – Enhancing Student Culture - Valuing Staff and Building Capacity
Since 24 June, 2015 our projected Year 7 enrolment for 2016 has climbed from 42 to 58. This enrolment increase, whilst slight, demonstrates a ‘Path Forward’ for Ashwood.

School Vision and Educational Philosophy Statements
Active promotion of our school has coincided with the development of definitive statements about our school’s new vision and educational philosophy. These statements are available via the school’s website – Principal’s Welcome. The recent parent and student forums provided participants with the opportunity to provide feedback and critical thinking on these statements of school identity, educational intent and improvement.

Parent Forum #2 - Increasing Positive Parental and Community Engagement
A parent forum was held on the evening of Wednesday 5 August, 2015, providing parents with an opportunity to give feedback and ask questions in relation to ‘The Path Forward – New Direction at Ashwood’. Parents were provided with an opportunity to express their support of School Council’s resolution for a change of school name to Ashwood High School. Parents were extremely positive about the direction of the school and the quality of educational provision. In particular, parents noted the positive impact of our extensive co-curricular program on the learning confidence of...

UPCOMING EVENTS

14 August Go Melbourne! (Ongoing till 18 September)
18 August Year 12 Information Night / Subject Selection Information Night
18 August Deakin University NEArbY Project Introduction
20 August Rock & Water Program (Ongoing till 8 September)
24 August Mansfield Zoo
31 August VCAL Camp
7 September Urban Landscapes Photography Excursion
8 September Engineers Without Boarders
8 September Work Experience
9 September Year 12 Chemistry Excursion to Deakin University

(Continued on page 2)
students. Parents raised the importance of maintaining healthy lines of communication between home and school in many and varied forms.

Our next Parent Forum will be held in week 2 of Term 4, Wednesday 14 October, 2015 in conjunction with the Year 10 Community Project Presentations. Parent Forum #3 will provide parents with an opportunity to provide feedback on the new Uniform Policy which is currently being developed in consultation with parents, students and staff.

Student Forum – Voice – Enhancing the Student Culture
A Student Forum was held on Monday 10 August comprising of five volunteer representatives from each year level and 14 members of the Student Leadership Cabinet. The Student Forum provided students with an opportunity to provide feedback on school improvement at Ashwood Secondary College. The main suggestions that came through centred on the following: improvements in uniform, online publicity, competitiveness of our sporting teams and student aspirations and motivation. Students were overwhelmingly positive about their school and their educational experience.

Student Scholarships Program Brochure - Growing Pride and Achievement
The Student Scholarships Program brochure has been made available to students and families in local primary schools. Ashwood is creating high quality marketing materials to position our school as a school of first choice and leader in the community.

ACE Program Information Night - Growing Pride and Achievement
An ACE Program Information Night was held on 28 July, 2015. It was a positive launch with highly discerning questions being asked by interested members of the community. Local primary schools visits will continue to be an important part of our marketing and school promotions campaign.

Primary School Visits - Increasing Positive Community Engagement
Visits have been made to the following primary schools: Ashburton Primary School, Essex Heights Primary School, Glen Iris Primary School, Glen Waverley Primary School, Hartwell Primary School, Hughesdale Primary School, Mount View Primary School, Mount Waverley Primary School, Oakleigh Primary School, Parkhill Primary School, Pinewood Primary School, Solway Primary School, Sussex Heights Primary School and Wattle Park Primary School. I have also made visits to the following secondary schools: Glen Waverley Secondary College and John Monash Science School. ‘The Path Forward – New Direction at Ashwood’ has been well received by principals. I will be endeavouring to visit a number of other schools in the near future.

School Uniform – Enhancing Student Culture – Growing Pride and Achievement – Increasing Positive Community Engagement
A new school uniform is an important part of ‘The Path Forward – New Direction at Ashwood’. The new school uniform is a significant opportunity for our school to lift its
Principal’s Comment

image in the local community; as part of re-branding and positioning Ashwood Secondary College as a school of first choice and leader in the community. Our new uniform will match up well against all measures relating to an outstanding school uniform – quality, image, value (affordability) and comfort. The Education Sub-Committee of School Council will manage this important policy development and consultation process.

Principal’s Awards – Growing Pride and Achievement
The Principal’s Awards were presented to deserving students on Friday 31 July, 2015, in the company of proud and appreciative parents. The Principal’s Awards were criterion based and awarded in three categories: Academic Excellence, Academic Endeavour and Citizenship / Leadership. The School Captains Makenna Cheng and Alex Touloupis and Leading Teachers Karen Bares, Shelley Haughey and Chris Tipping spoke well at the presentation ceremony. Well done to Mrs Debra Gibson for her organisation of the Principal’s Awards. Congratulations to all of the Principal’s Awards Recipients. A list of the student recipients is featured in this Newsletter.

‘Sleeping Giant’ Committee – Increasing Positive Parental and Community Engagement
Members of staff have been elected onto the ‘Sleeping Giant’ Committee to work with members of the local community to transform our school’s reputation in the local community whilst preserving our current strengths. The activities of the ‘Sleeping Giant’ will include:

- Primary School Connections Programs
- School Publications and Promotions
- School Publicity
- Visiting schools that have been transformed
- Developing school promotions programs that ‘showcase’ Ashwood in local primary schools eg. (visits to primary schools with student ambassadors)
- Developing ideas for Discovery Night (Open Night) for 2016, Open Morning 2016.

Congratulations to the following staff members for their contributions: Brigitte Ferguson, Anne Gellatly, Shelley Haughey, Dom Holloway, Robyn Maclarn and Cecilia Tan.

Yiwu Chouzhou Education Group Middle School Visit to Ashwood – Enhancing Student Culture
Ashwood Secondary College hosted 5 staff members and 36 students from Yiwu Chouzhou Education Group School from Monday 27 July to Thursday 30 July, 2015. There were a number of ceremonies that occurred during the week and Ashwood performed these rituals with the utmost class, which was well received by our Chinese guests. A positive spirit of generosity prevailed throughout the course of the week. Programs like these make you proud to be part of the Ashwood Secondary College community.

Extra-Curricular Activities – Enhancing Student Culture
Our school continues to provide a dynamic array of extra-curricular programs including: Year 7 Spectacular, Athletics, Interact Rotary, House Performing Arts Event, Visual Arts Exhibition, World Challenge Launch, Engaging Parents in Careers Conversations, Debating and a range of well promoted and attended Academic Competitions including - English and Maths ICAS.

Camps Program – Enhancing Student Culture
The Camps Program at the end of last term was an outstanding success. Our excellent Camps Program would not occur without the enormous commitment of our quality staff. I know that this is appreciated by parents and students.

Student Led Conferences – Increasing Positive Parental Engagement
Parent attendance at the Senior School Student Led Conferences (Student, Parent, Teacher Interviews) demonstrated a 16% improvement; with 76% of parents participating in the learning, feedback and reflection process. Parent involvement in the learning process is a particularly important part of increasing positive parent engagement in the life of the school.

Student Attitudes to School Survey Data
The data released on the School Information Portal is positive. The information was distributed and discussed at School Council. Student Forums will occur to enable students to reflect on the data for continuous improvement. Student opinion about our school is extremely positive; above the State and Regional average for most parts of the survey. Ashwood students feel safe at school. The data reflects high levels of school connectedness and student morale. As a school we need to work on student aspirations, learning confidence and student motivation which will translate into further improvements in student learning data, student retention, attendance and positive pathways beyond the school gate.

PRINCIPAL CLASS ADDRESS (Leaders of a Learning Community)
Principal’s Comment

Education State
The Victorian Government has committed to making Victoria the Education State and has recently begun a consultation process – asking for us to share our ideas and experiences, our challenges and solutions – to help us improve our education system across the state. This is an opportunity for all of us to have our say and play a role in shaping what our education system will look like in the years to come (see the attached article included in this Newsletter for more details).

Architectural and Building Program – Stage 2 – Growing Pride and Achievement
The Building Program for Phase 2 is due to commence after the 2015 VCE examinations. This is an exciting opportunity for our school community. The building works will include:

- a newly built Senior School Centre (on the site of the original Administration building of Ashwood High School). The Senior School Centre will include an Educational Resource Centre for resource based learning and independent quiet study.
- Transformation of the old school Hall which will be converted into a state of the art music and multimedia centre
- Maintenance improvement works in the Art – Design – Technology Centre.

Congratulations to Peter Forbes who is doing a superb job as Facilities and Maintenance Manager.

Having served as an integral part of the community of Ashwood since 1958, Ashwood interweaves traditional values with a modern understanding of education. Our newly built $17million state-of-the-art facilities are situated on a 15 hectare site with spacious, unparalleled grounds. Ashwood is definitely a ‘Sleeping Giant’ and ‘Hidden Jewel of the East’. The students and staff of Ashwood definitely do appreciate the quality of our grounds and facilities.

Mr Brett Moore | Principal
13 August, 2015
ASHWOOD SECONDARY COLLEGE
PRINCIPAL’S AWARDS – SEMESTER 1 2015

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
YEAR 7 – Sarah Kim, Alexander Morgan, Amy Peters, Ashleigh Tufuga
YEAR 8 – Georgina Giannopoulos, Emma Huang, Tina Jiang
YEAR 9 – Kailin Hew, Kevin Lee, Elsa Liang, Olivia Musgrave
YEAR 10 – Milena Apozyan, Jessie Kerr, Bomi Lee, Sagar Sareen, Mozghan Shekibi, Nicole Trifunovic, Rachel Zhang
YEAR 11 – Katheryn Costa, Natalie Lindenmayer, Dhruv Rana, Hannah Sim, Michelle Zhang, Valentina Zheng

ACADEMIC ENDEAVOUR
YEAR 7 – Rory Bacic, Elena Doulgerakis, Fiona Tadesse, Saneli Weerasekara
YEAR 8 – Yiannis Doulgerakis, Esther Lee, Maxine Stathakopoulos
YEAR 9 – Kathleen Harding, Laura Gibbs-Brown, Tali Morgan, Dipti Satur
YEAR 10 – Mitchell Brown, Daisy-May Creighton, Karmela Espina, Ruby He, Qian Ying Jin, Osatee Sangruang
YEAR 11 – Mahalia Brooks, Hannah Chen, Bronwyn Cornell, Catherine Kong, Libby Thacker, Gill Lu
YEAR 12 – Kate Dalton, Amira Mohany, Herbert Zhang

CITIZENSHIP AND LEADERSHIP
YEAR 7 – Shakira Holmes, Sarah Lobbe, Amy Peters, George Tziafas
YEAR 8 – Yiannis Doulgerakis, Tina Jiang, Maxine Stathakopoulos
YEAR 9 – Chelsea Dunstan, Kevin Lee, Tali Morgan, Olivia Musgrave
YEAR 10 – Mitchell Brown, Daisy-May Creighton, Connie Hulsen, Bomi Lee, Mozghan Shekibi, Nicole Trifunovic
YEAR 11 – Kathryn Costa, Catherine Kong, Jiaming Qu, Hannah Sim
YEAR 12 – Makenna Cheng, Tina Liao, Kate Quinlivan, Alex Touloupis

Congratulations to all recipients. Thank you for attending this ceremony to recognise and celebrate the success of these outstanding Ashwood Secondary College students.
Mrs Debra Gibson | Acting Assistant Principal

Year 11 and 12
It was great to see the participation of Year 12 students at the recent Athletics Carnival. Their costumes were fantastic and the sense of friendship and comradery was wonderful. Thank you to all those who helped to set up, cook, serve and clean up the barbecue.

There is really not long to go now for Year 12 students, so I encourage you all to make the most of the last weeks, ensuring that you take every opportunity to ask questions, seek clarification and utilise the expertise of your teachers in preparation for the end of year exams. Please make sure that you manage your time well as it gets very busy with the completion of SACs, assessment tasks and exam preparation.

Years 7-10
The process of subject selection for 2016 is about to begin. This is a very exciting time for students, and there is always lots of activity around the staff room as students come to talk to their teachers to get their subjects signed off. Student passwords will be provided on 19 August and final selections need to be submitted on 29 August. There is a Parent Information Night for all students on Tuesday 18 August at 7pm, and there will be information sessions for students during the day on Wednesday 19 August. Students must get all their selections signed off by their current classroom teacher before submitting their final hard copy selections to the General Office on 29 August. Fully detailed information will be provided on Compass.

Uniform - Pride
I was delighted be a part of the recent Principal Awards Ceremony, and would like to congratulate all those who worked so hard to achieve outstanding results.

There have been numerous occasions where I have asked students to help show visitors around the school. I have always found students to be willing to help out and they have been fine ambassadors for the school. In particular I would like to thank those students who attended on Saturday 8 August to conduct tours for University of Melbourne Masters students. This reflected a great commitment to the College, and all students were commended for their enthusiasm, knowledge of the College and College programs and for their open and honest discussions.

It was great to hear of the recent win by the Intermediate Boys Hockey team, and I look forward to seeing how they go in their next round of competition. Congratulations and good luck!!

Congress - Communication
As always I would like to remind you to check Compass and your school emails regularly. Students must use their ‘Ashwood’ email address. If you have any problems with your school address please see the IT Technician. Students should be checking Compass daily as it will show any room changes on their schedule. Relevant information will be on the Newsfeed and it is part of your developing independence to take responsibility for reading and acting upon this information.

General Items
Thank you again to all those families who hosted Chinese students on their recent visit to Australia. I know that this is a fun and enriching experience and I hope that lots of long term relationships have been formed.

Many students competed in the recent Science, Maths and English competitions. Congratulations to all competitors and we are looking forward to receiving the Maths and English results. Science results are included later in the newsletter. Congratulations to all our award winners in Science.
CURRICULUM DAY

Wednesday 12 August was Curriculum Day and while students were recovering from the House Performances all Ashwood Secondary College staff were hard at work.

There were two areas of clear focus for the day

1. Professional Development Plans – understanding and unpacking ‘The Path Forward - New Direction at Aswood’ and the school’s overarching goals in order to develop individual goals that are consistent with, and aligned to the overall goals for the school.

2. Curriculum Development – detailed review, refinement and improvement of curriculum in Years 7-12 incorporating the new study designs for VCE being implemented in 2016. Auditing, researching and enhancing documented curriculum involved intense discussion and collaboration between staff who worked together in subject domain areas.

Feedback responses from the day showed a high level of engagement, a high degree of satisfaction and generated a number of opportunities for consideration in future professional learning and development as well as improvement to our existing processes and activities.
We recently spoke at the Principal’s Awards Ceremony and the whole school assembly about the amazing array of opportunities that are available here at Ashwood Secondary College. These co-curricular opportunities have enabled these students to achieve these high academic and community minded achievements.

At Ashwood the academic opportunities are endless, we have academic competitions, peer tutoring, supervised study times, and additional teacher support. All of these opportunities give all students an opportunity to push themselves past their comfort zone in their learning and achieve their very best.

The culture amongst the students is really to do their best, and for students to take responsibility for their own learning and never settling for just doing okay. If you make a mistake, it is okay, you can fix it or try again. The support from our peers and teachers allows us to feel comfortable in trying new things and to work hard and never give up on what we are trying to achieve.

Our STAR program is linked to our community as we are able to focus on being global citizens and well-rounded active participants in our world. Within our college we have numerous leadership opportunities, through formal leadership positions, and informal opportunities. As college captains we are often required to make speeches, meet with visitors and contribute to the college council. All this is making us step up and grow into our role and develop ourselves academically and socially.

As we have said in previous newsletters, the school has provided the opportunity for a new group at the school to form called Interact. This has provided many opportunities for students to take on leadership roles that are not ‘formally’ within the school leadership program but still developing the same skill set. This group is allowing students to work in our local community, and in the global community with the Rotary club of Waverley. The support from students from all year levels is outstanding and all of the people involved have developed themselves personally in some way.

One of the best things about being a member of the Ashwood Secondary College community is the peer relationship that come across year levels. The STAR program develops this with its vertical structure, as do other opportunities like school musicals and whole school house competitions. We are all friends here, we look out for each other, and take pride in ourselves and our school. We are very lucky to be at such a great school and we know others feel the same way. With the academic and community experiences that are available here we have no doubt each and every person that finishes year 12 here will be a well-rounded and active member of the community.

Alex Touloupis and Makenna Cheng—School Captains
It was pleasing to see so many students, parents and guardians at the recent Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences. These evenings are important for feedback and to ensure that everyone has a solid understanding of the requirements and expectations for the successful completion of a senior study program. For those unable to attend the interviews I would encourage parents and guardians to contact their child’s teachers for feedback.

The Year 11 and 12 students have started the semester well with many Outcomes, SACs and coursework tasks completed already. Parents and Guardians are reminded to check Compass for upcoming due dates (VCAL) and SACs (VCE), as these will appear as events on your child’s Dashboard.

With the final months of study ahead there are many events that the students will be involved with including; subject based excursions, VCAL Camp, House Performance Night and the recent House Athletics. It was fantastic to see the enthusiastic involvement of our senior students at the recent athletics, and they are encouraged to continue to show this commitment to the wider school program, while maintaining their focus on study.

For Year 12 parents and guardians a reminder about the upcoming Information Evening on Tuesday 18th August from 6:00 – 7:00pm in the CLC. This information session will provide parents and guardians with the tools to assist their child to successfully complete the final months of their secondary schooling and plan for life beyond high school.

Mrs Julie Huggins | VCE/VCAL Coordinator

Nathan Strempel – Building resilience and confidence in today’s students

On Tuesday, 23rd of June, Nathan Strempel came and talked to the Year 11’s and 12’s. Nathan works as a commentator, MC, presenter and speaker. He started off by asking us all these personal questions such as ‘If you could meet any person, who would it be?’ and ‘what’s your biggest fear?’ etc. but his main question to us was what our definition for success and failure was. He talked about how taking a step out of our comfort zone, can lead to good things and even if we fail sometimes, it doesn’t make you a failure. Pretty much all of Year 11 and 12 students really enjoyed Nathan’s talk because he was very interactive and tried to get everyone involved by making everyone feel comfortable. He made everything funny and was just a genuinely friendly guy. He really inspired some people to not give up and changed some peoples perspective on what they thought about success and failure.

Olivia Wanis, John Pantelios and Aidan O’Keefe – Year 11

VCAL— Work Related Skills (WRS)

Students have just completed their major production task from Term 2, constructing nesting boxes for the Wetlands. Each group chose a different local species to create a nesting box for. During Semester 2 the Work Related Skills class have split into small teams to manage a small business and manufacture their own products. Students will complete production in business areas as diverse as jewellery metal casting, photo frames, and pot plant holders. The students create unique businesses where all of the profits raised go to local charities. Not only do the teams manufacture the items for sale but also create business brand identities with logos and advertising campaigns.

Ms Catherine Preston | WRS Teacher

Ann-Marie Dowd (Senior VCAL 2014) has been awarded an Australian Vocational Student Prize for outstanding work in her TAFE study completed as a part of her VCAL Senior Certificate. Ann-Marie’s dedication to her school work and the school community was justifiably rewarded with a certificate from the Minister for Education and Training and a cash prize. In 2015 she has continued with her study in the area of Specialist Makeup, achieving fantastic results for her Diploma course.
The end of Semester 1 has brought about many changes and exciting opportunities for many of our students at Ashwood Secondary College. The Year 7’s have finished their Transition Program and moved into the Vertical Curriculum where they are experiencing many different changes. The Year 7 Spectacular was an outstanding display of the students learning and provided great opportunities for the parents to see all of the wonderful work that had been completed and share a home cooked meal. Please see the separate student report for a full wrap up of the evening.

For all students up to Year 10 the final week of last term was Camp Week. Congratulations to all the students who participated fully in the co-curricular program offered. There are individual reports for each of the camps here in the newsletter. A big thank-you must go out to the staff that took time out of their personal lives to provide these students with such a wonderful opportunity. Also a huge thank you to the organisers of the camps – Year 7 and Gilwell Park: Shelley Haughey, Year 8 Sunnystones: Vicky Dernikos and Karen Bares, Year 9 and 10 Tasmania – Dom Holloway, Year 9 and 10 Melbourne Camp – John Sheehan. Each and every camp was well organized and was pulled off without a hitch. Well done!

The Year 9 students are undergoing their planning for their Go Melbourne! Excursions. These are taking place throughout the Term with the culmination in week 10 of Term 3. Please keep your eye on COMPASS for the consent forms and payments as it is important that you provide consent for all the excursions. You will also receive an email about the preferred presentation time, please ensure that you return this form to the school ASAP.

The Year 10 Community students are very busy planning their Major Group Projects for this Term. We have students working in Community gardens, with primary school aged children, elderly people and developing promotional videos for the school. This will culminate in an authentic learning presentation in week 2 of next Term where parents will be invited to the school to see the projects that have been undertaken.

Ms Shelley Haughey | Connections & Growth Leader

It is that time again!

WORLD CHALLENGE 2016 Cambodia and Laos!

Ashwood Secondary College is proud of the ongoing partnership we have with World Challenge. After 3 successful expeditions we are excited to present our students with the opportunity to again participate in 2016.

Destination Cambodia and Laos.

Students will have the opportunity to see and experience some amazing sights. On arrival students may acclimatise with a trek on the fringes of the remote Ratanakiri National Park or Phou Khao Khuai National Park where, if lucky, they may spot a wild elephant! Students will also complete a project with a local community. This stage is often the most rewarding as being immersed in a different culture, while being able to make a meaningful contribution is a very powerful experience. Students will also be able to unwind with some rest and relaxation where they may explore the Tomb Raider Temple at Ta Prohm in Angkor or soak in some rays along Cambodia’s beautiful coastline.

We believe that life skills, such as resilience, empathy and leadership, are developed through real life experience and we enable young people to develop these key skills through powerful student-led expeditions to the developing world.

Applications for this life changing experience are now due!

Please see Mr Chris Tipping for further information or email to tipping.christopher.j@edumail.vic.gov.au
Cowan House

So far in Term 3 it has been fantastic to see Cowan House students once again participating with great enthusiasm in a wide range of activities of an academic, artistic and sporting nature. With House Athletics, Inter-school sports, the Performance Night and a variety of academic competitions and debating it has certainly been a busy time. Our House Captains will provide more information on what has been happening below:

In House Athletics this year, it was a great day to see such a competitive, yet friendly spirit on show between all houses in track and field. The increase in participation this year was fantastic to see in all year levels. Cowan House was really out there and involved in activities across the board. Of course there can only be one winner and while we didn’t win we gave it our best. Our gradual improvements have given me hope that we will have success in the future. Congratulations go to Rachel Hull who was announced the winner of the 17 year old division.

Kevin Lee—Sports Captain

The preparations for the House Performance progressed extremely well and as the night approached, we were working hard. Students participated in many intense rehearsals over the past few weeks and were very excited for Monday the 10th of August and Tuesday the 11th of August when we showed what we were made of. All Cowan House students worked hard, practising their dances and acts and I was confident that they would be amazing! Apart from the scheduled after-school sessions on Tuesday, the House held our own impromptu rehearsals each week mainly during Thursday lunch. This obviously paid off as we were delighted to win on Tuesday night. Congratulations and thank you to all of our talented and dedicated performers!

Tina Liao—Arts Captain

This term has been very busy again with academic competitions and debating. In the first few weeks back, we have had the English and Maths competitions with a number of Cowan students participating in both of these. There have also been three debating rounds in the past three weeks for the D Grade team and two rounds for all other teams.

Olivia Musgrave—Academic Captain
Flynn House

The report this month is all about Athletics, where Flynn House has had their most successful carnival. Our participation on the day was the highest it has ever been, resulting in a sweeping victory for Flynn! As Sports Captain Simon Leggett noted in his speech on the day, it was fantastic to look over at our House area during the day and see no one was sitting down, because everyone was competing!

Whilst the House result was outstanding, we also had many individual champions on the day. Congratulations go to Adam Tennant, Nicole Trifunovic and Charlie Brown, who were all age group champions. We also had a number of students who achieved personal bests on the day, with Lachlan Pior, Mahalia Brooks and Jay Zhang achieving 30 House Points or more. It was also great to see our Year 12’s enjoy their final House Athletics, and their effort dressing up and participating made it a fantastic day for all.

This Term has also seen the end of the Interschool Debating Tournament. Congratulations go to Mahalia Brooks, Will Brooks, Nicole Trifunovic, Sophie Ellis, Kathryn Costa, Chelsea Dunstan, Tali Morgan, Mandy Kha, Dylan Ellis and Adam Tennant who have all done the school proud in their debating efforts this year. We look forward to seeing Flynn students starting their debating journey as the junior program starts next week.

Mr Dom Holloway | Flynn House Coordinator
Melba House Report

It has been another busy start to the Term. Students have been busy practising their performances for our upcoming House Performance Night, participating in Maths and English competitions as well as showing amazing talent in our House Athletics Carnival.

Melba House came in 2nd at Athletics. We had some outstanding results with pleasing participation rates. Congratulations to all students who have been involved with these events and more, showing our true Melba spirit.

Congratulations also to Alan Martin of Year 9, who has made the Victorian State Table Tennis team. He will be competing in the upcoming National Championships in the September school holidays. Good luck Alan.

Ms Allison Phillips | Melba House Coordinator

The House Performance Event of 2015 is challenging students to look within a movie that relates to their house colour, and select some of the themes within it. The theme of 'Lights, Camera, Action' is made up of the themes from particular movies. The Melba House performers have been working hard with their preparation for the 2015 House Performance Event. The themes within Melba House's performance will represent those of the movie Shrek, the movie that was decided on within the Green House community. Many members of Melba House are participating; whether it's on stage, in the lighting and sound box, or even designing posters and programs. Many people in the Melba community have been dedicating much of their time to ensure a fantastic performance. With a soloist singer as our solo act, a small band as our small group, an acting group as our large group, and two dancers as our free choice, our House's performance will display much variety. Many rehearsals have been undertaken and our acts are all looking and sounding fantastic. The performance will, no doubt, be fantastic!

Daisy-May Creighton—Acting Arts Captain

Good job to Melba for coming second in the House Athletics. I would like to thanks all of those who participated and put in a great effort. Good job to the Intermediate Boys Hockey for winning the District Hockey. Melba House students included Ben Wain, Andrew Samson-Loxton. Congratulations to all Intermediate Basketball players who tried their best.

Lunchtime sports are still going on with Ashwood Premier League nearing finals time.

Good Luck to our Melba House District Athletics representatives.

Mayra Kelly—Sports Captain
Paterson House Report

Lots of great things have been happening in Paterson House over the last few weeks. We congratulate all of our recipients of the recently announced Principal’s Awards: Sarah Kim, Ashleigh Tufuga, Emma Huang, Jessie Kerr, Sagar Sareen, Dhruv Rana, Hannah Sim, Valentina Zheng, Rory Bacic, Elena Doulgerakis, Yiannis Doulgerakis, Esther Lee, Mitchell Brown, Catherine Kong, Gill Lu, George Tziafas, Connie Hulsen and Kate Quinlivan. Congratulations and Well Done!

More evidence of the community-minded spirit here at Ashwood Secondary College (and particularly in Paterson House) is the number of students who are giving up their time to be involved with Interact. Run in conjunction with The Rotary Club of Waverley, this consists of a group of students (led by our noble President, Hannah Sim) from Year 7 through to Year 12. It provides a wonderful opportunity for connecting the students to the wider community opening up many partnerships and exciting adventures for them all. The students have been meeting most weeks and planning their local and international community projects. Volunteers from Paterson House include: Hannah Sim (President), Elena Doulgerakis, Yiannis Doulgerakis, Connie Hulsen, Catherine Kong, Tina Larson and Victoria Talaina.

During the STAR Group meeting on Wednesday, August 5, our Sports Captain, Cameron Ogilvie, addressed the House following the very successful Athletics Carnival held the previous day. He complimented all House members on their attendance rate, level of participation and the overall spirit shown on the day. Cameron stated that he had a very enjoyable and memorable day, especially when considering that, as a Year 12 student, this would be his last Carnival. He hoped that all House members also enjoyed the day as much as he and the other Year 12 students did!

On an individual note, all Paterson House members congratulate Alan Martin of Year 9 on his selection for the Under 15 Victorian Table Tennis Team.

Finally, we want to send an enormous GET WELL SOON to our beloved House Coordinator, Mrs. Dernikos, who is recuperating at home. We hope you’re soon well enough to return to the College and to Paterson House!

Mr John Bullen | Paterson House STAR Teacher
2015 HOUSE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

On Tuesday 4 August students travelled to Bill Sewart Reserve for our annual House Athletics Carnival. Despite the cold weather, students came along dressed to the theme of “fast things” for Years 7-11 and “GET CREATIVE” for Year 12’s. We saw colourful Power Rangers, fast food items and many more wonderful outfits.

Participation levels were at an all time high, with many track events having numerous heats. Our Year 12’s were magnificent in running a BBQ on the day, with lots of hungry stomachs fed. Congratulations to Flynn House who took out the day with 834 points, followed by Melba House (679 points), Paterson (584 points) and Cowan (506 points).

Age Group Champions:
13Yr F: Bianca Cox (BLUE) 31 points
13Yr M: Zach Miller (GREEN) 33 points
14Yr F: Hinerangi Taylor (GREEN) 30 points
14Yr M: Charlie Brown (RED) 45 points
    Ioannis Doulgerakis (BLUE) 45 points
15Yr F: Christina Larson (BLUE) 28 points
15Yr M: Adam Tennant (RED) 41 points
16Yr F: Nicole Trifunovic (RED) 46 points
16 Yr M: Marcus Piattella (GREEN) 42 points
17Yr F: Rachel Hull (YELLOW) 33 points
17Yr M: Raffee Vijdani (GREEN) 42 points
20Yr F: Kate Quinlivan (BLUE) 35 points
20Yr M: William Jackson (BLUE) 32 points

A big thank you to all staff that attended on the day, our magnificent office staff back at school and of course to our outstanding Ashwood Secondary College student cohort who continually show their school pride through another successful sporting carnival.

I wish all our students good luck who have progressed through to District Athletics.

Ms Allison Phillips | House Athletics Carnival Organiser
Our Chinese Visitors

Ashwood Secondary College has once again hosted 36 students and 5 staff from our sister school Yiwu Chouzhou Middle School in Hangzhou, China. The itinerary consisted of 4 days of normal classroom activities comprising of an EAL-English Program, EAL- Food Technology Program, EAL- Design / Art Program and EAL-PE/Health Program. The visiting students wanted to be immersed in the lifestyle of Melbourne students both in the school community and family life, therefore we were thrilled to have 19 families offer to play host for 3 days. Our thanks are extended to the following families for the care and attention shown; Brooks family, Jiang family, Khattab family, Fowler/Leggett family, Li family, Masion family, Mann family, Holmes family, Huang family, Hull family, Perrli/Perrone family, Tapper family, Blackburn/Thacker family, Millar family, Morgan family, Peters family, Towner family, Weston/Tulau family and Chong/Wardlaw family.

The Ashwood Secondary College staff were extremely proud of the way the whole school community embraced the Chinese Program and made the visitors so welcome. The Chinese students and staff were very appreciative of the hospitality shown as this was the first time many had been away from their families let alone been to another country. The feedback we have received from the Chinese students has been that their visit was memorable and an exciting experience. Thank-you to everyone for supporting the program.

Ms Janet Wiggins | Chinese Program Co-ordinator
THE 2015 HOUSE PERFORMANCE EVENT

The bi-annual House Performance Event for 2015 was presented on Monday 10 August (preview night) and Tues 11 August (judging night). Students worked very hard during the term to devise, rehearse and present a performance program and Art Show.

Ms Gellatly was busy collecting the entries for the Art Show including sketches, paintings, drawings, ceramics, jewellery and VC&D work, all of which were on display over the 2 nights.

Students were asked to create 4 performance items, including a solo, small and large group and a free choice item for their program based on the theme “Lights, Camera, Action”. This involved using their imagination and creativity to re-conceptualize the main events, ideas and themes from a chosen movie.

The winners of the individual categories were as follows:
Music – Cowan House
Dance – Melba House
Drama – Cowan House
Art – Flynn House

The results of the overall winners were as follows:

1st place — Cowan House with 487 points
2nd place — Flynn House with 375 points
Equal 3rd place — Paterson and Melba House with 362 points

A huge congratulations and a highly deserved win to Cowan House.

Congratulations also to our Arts Captains Victoria Talaina (Paterson, compere), Tina Liao (Cowan, compere), Catie Tennant (Flynn) and Acting Captain Daisy-May Creighton (Melba). A big thank you also to Luke Tang and the sound/lighting and backstage crew, Alex Touloupis for the ticket design and all of the students who designed posters. Thank you to all staff who assisted over the two nights.

Congratulations to all 4 House performers and artists on a fantastic effort in producing a highly entertaining 2015 House Performance Event. Well Done!

We look forward to our next major performance with the End of Year Concert on November 10th.

More photos to come in the next edition of the newsletter.

Ms Felica Mundell | Music Co-ordinator
Loddon Prison

On Thursday the 6th of August, students from the VCE Psychology and Legal Studies classes gathered at the school on a cold winter’s morning at 7.00 am to catch a bus to Loddon Prison in Castlemaine.

While there, students were able to meet and talk candidly with prisoners about the choices that lead to their incarceration as well as their personal experiences of life in prison. Their first-hand accounts of the consequences of their actions on themselves and their victims, the impact of crime on society and the effectiveness of prison as a sanction were both challenging and eye-opening.

The students learned a great deal about life in this environment from the perspectives of both the prisoners and the guards and the many questions asked by Ashwood students were evidence of their deep engagement. The information gathered will no doubt provide a fertile base for deeper exploration of these topics in the respective classes. Many thanks go to Chrissie Lynch for assisting on this excursion.

Mr John Sheehan

Another Champion!

Congratulations to Alan Martin in Year 9 who has been selected in the Junior Table tennis Team for Victoria.

Alan has a rigorous training and practice program, where he practices and competes more than 15 hours each week. In addition this he also plays many tournaments which has clearly paid off.

We wish him well when he competes in Adelaide late September.
Year 7 Spectacular

This year’s Spectacular was a blast! The Year 7’s delivered amazing performance as they put together eight different items and cooked dinner for their families.

MUSIC
The music class showcased their best as they performed 6 pieces that included: Josh Ooi playing ‘Happy Farmer’ on his violin, Tony Cho played ‘Allegro’ on his flute, Sarah Lobbe singing ‘Rather Be’, the guitarist jamming along and the class band with the two main songs ‘See You Again’ and ‘Counting Stars’. Given the time that we had we managed to put together something so magical and unique.

DRAMA
For the Year 7 drama performance we decided to do a Thriller dance/song by Michael Jackson. After the dance we did a quick Thriller play. The Thriller play was about this shadow man (who was covered in black) and some campers walking through the trees (some of the Year 7 drama students as trees), while the shadow man was taking each of the campers in a dark cave. Luckily one of them managed to escape and live happily for the rest of her life.

The story was told by a bunch of camping kids sitting in a circle while the leader camper was telling the little kids the scary story. We thought the Thriller dance and play was awesome and fun to do. Some of us even learnt a few skills on stage whilst dancing and taking part in the play.

FOOD
After all our performers were done everyone made their way to the CLC where all our work throughout the semester was displayed. As we got there we showed our families work from all our subjects. Most of us had our tiles from Art and our portraits, our Liveability assignments from Humanities and a few more items from our other subjects. Our night was based on the ideas from our English novel ‘Thai-Riffic’ so we had a delicious Thai meal to end the day. For dinner we had Pad Thai with soup and rice, and for desert we had pavlova and Anzac biscuits. The Year 7’s cooked a range of dishes so all families could have some choices.

The night was a success and we all had a spectacular time.

Ashleigh Tufuga, Bess Doolan, Fiona Tasdee

Thank you to all our fabulous Year 7 students for an amazing evening. Many thanks to the Year 7 Transition teachers, who ensured the success not just of the Spectacular, but of the whole Transition Semester – Shelley Haughey, Brigitte Ferguson, Kath Robinson, Janet Wiggins, Jo Denton, Anne Gellatly, Felicia Mundell, Chrissy Lynch, Vicky Dernikos and Meg McLellan
THE HOMESTAY PROGRAM

Currently we have 46 international students studying at Ashwood Secondary College. In addition, we have 15 new international students studying intensive English at different English Language Centres. These new arrivals have to complete 21 weeks of English before joining the College for mainstream schooling. Our international students are mainly from China but we also have students from South Korea, Malaysia, Iran and Vietnam. More than 70% of our international students at the College including those students at the English Language Centres are here without their parents. The College looks after their welfare and provides them with homestay accommodation.

The provision of quality homestay accommodation for international students is one of the most important responsibilities undertaken by the staff of the International Student Program. It is essential that homestay accommodation is of high quality and the homestay family provides a safe, comfortable and caring environment for the international student.

Homestay is full board accommodation offered by a family, a couple or a single person. The student pays a set weekly fee to the homestay host to cover food and shelter. This includes:

- A single room for the student’s use
- Three meals a day, seven days a week
- Facilities – a bed, wardrobe, towels and linen
- Utilities – gas, electricity, heating and water costs.
- Cleaning services of common living area
- Use of living areas within the residence
- Study facilities – desk, study lamp, bookcase, internet

The homestay experience is an excellent way for international students to improve their English, learn about the Australian culture and experience the Australian way of life. Homestay families play an important role in assisting our students in their cultural adjustment and in integrating our students into the community. The role of supporting the students is of utmost importance in the homestay program as international students arriving in a new country can find the whole new experience daunting and frightening. Initially, when students first arrive, they feel lonely, homesick and are often tired due to the new demands place on them in a new environment. There is also high expectations from their families back home to achieve academic success. Hence, the homestay families have to be supportive and understanding of the students’ needs and the pressure place on them to succeed.

Ashwood Secondary College takes great care and diligence in the placement of a student in homestay accommodation. Homestay hosts have to undergo Working With Children Check. We also ensure that our international student is carefully matched to a compatible homestay family by completing a Homestay Profile of the family.

At Ashwood Secondary College, we are looking for homestays for our new international students. If you are interested in providing homestay accommodation, please contact: Kim Elliston, International Student Coordinator on (03) 9807 1333.

Ms Kim Elliston | International Student Program Coordinator
A New JOURNEY

Excited, refreshing, freedom, hopeful, loneliness, embarrassment and worries…

I might not find one exact word to describe my feelings of the new life in Melbourne but it might be said that I am feeling the same way as most international students feel when they come to Australia.

I can still remember coming on the plane to Melbourne, 8700km away from my hometown in China. Like most international students, I left the place where I had lived for 15 years and to a new country for my studies.

Although I felt excited, refreshed and free as soon as I arrived in Melbourne, however understanding the language, the culture, the tradition and the new environment is a challenge to me. The distance between my family in China and that of Melbourne makes me lonely. Because of the language, I feel embarrassed and nervous to express myself and sometimes, I can only reply with a smile when someone is talking with me. However, coming here to succeed in my studies means having more responsibility and this keeps me going.

Fortunately, I am now feeling at home after spending nearly one year in Melbourne. I like the relaxed lifestyle and the positive attitudes of people in Melbourne which is different to China. I learn new experience, such as managing my own life and balancing my studies.

Sophia Zheng - Year 10 International Student
Mathilde Scelles came to Australia on the 2nd of July, and stayed with my family and I until the 18th of July. At first, we struggled to understand each other; translate apps were our best friends. But after a few days, Mathilde’s English had rapidly improved. She is a very easy going person, and had lots in common with us.

Mathilde repeatedly stated her excitement over the animals of Australia; so, after staying at Phillip Island for two nights and seeing the Penguins, we took Mathilde to a wildlife park on the way home. She had close up encounters with kangaroos and a koala. It was simply astonishing to see somebody so excited by something we can go and see any time we want in our home country. We also took her to the Phillip Island Chocolate Factory, Mount Dandenong and the Docklands. Not to mention, we celebrated both her birthday and my birthday within the same week!

Mathilde truly fitted in just like another member of the family. We were lucky to have seen Australia through the eyes of a foreigner; and having her here gave us a reason to go to places we haven’t been to for years. She told us about her home; she lives in Normandy, and it sounds absolutely amazing, but completely different.

Mathilde is an outgoing, fun and friendly person. It was fantastic having her here, even though it got a little frustrating having a language barrier between us the whole time. She really opened our eyes to a new perspective of Australia, and I really hope she enjoyed her time here.

Written by Daisy-May Creighton.

Mathilde Scelles arrived at my house on Saturday the 18th of July. Mathilde had already been in Australia for a few weeks before she came to my house so she was used to the time zone and climate. Whilst Mathilde was staying at my house, she spent the majority of her time at school. Mathilde said how lovely and welcoming Ashwood Secondary College was and how nice all the teachers and students were. Mathilde was also very happy about the fact that in Australia, school goes for a few hours less than in France. As we had school for the weekdays, we only had the weekends to explore Melbourne. We went to the MCG to watch the AFL, an MSO concert in the city and we visited all the tourist shops on Flinders St. Mathilde is a beautiful person and was a beautiful guest. Her English improved tremendously and we hope to see her again soon.

Written by Olivia Musgrave.
Interact (International Action) is a community service group that works in conjunction with the local Rotary Club. For Ashwood Secondary College, Interact is a new forum for school students to collaborate and apply their own skills and desires to do good in both local and international situations. Starting with fundraising activities and weekly meetings, the Ashwood Interact Club has grown from only 5 students to a group almost 30 strong. The group is run by student leaders and consists fully of students that are willing to give up time and effort to make their community a better place.

Working closely with the Rotary Club of Waverley, its Youth Chair Neil Williams and Ashwood's Growth and Communications teacher Ms Haughey, ASC Interact has been able to have its very first induction ceremony as an officially recognised Interact Club. Taken place on the 4th of August, the ceremony consisted of over 60 people attending to see the group granted the official Interact Charter. Following this amazing and defining event, Ashwood's Interact Club is about to embark on a tree planting excursion where we will be helping other clubs plant new growth for shelter belts in the outskirts of Ballarat. It has been an incredible journey so far in Interact, and the future for our club holds even more exciting possibilities.

Hannah Sim President Interact Ashwood Secondary College
**Curriculum and Assessment**

**NAPLAN results**
NAPLAN was designed to provide data on a student's literacy and numeracy achievements. It complements school assessment and provides nationally comparable data that allow for objective discussions, for successes to be celebrated, additional support focussed where it is needed and to address areas requiring improvement.

NAPLAN 2015 results will be provided to the school from mid-August. If you are the parent of a student in Years 7 or 9 you will be receiving an individual report of your child’s results for the tests they sat in May. These tests in key areas of literacy and numeracy provide parents and educators with a snapshot of how students are progressing — individually, as part of their school community and as a nation.

NAPLAN results enable parents and teachers to see how students are progressing, not just within their class but also against national standards that have been agreed upon by all state and territory governments. All students who participated in the NAPLAN tests will get an individual report of their results.

NAPLAN individual student reports provide information about what students know and have achieved in the areas of reading, writing, language conventions and numeracy. They also provide information on how students have performed in relation to other students in the same year group, and against the national average (over one million students participate in NAPLAN tests each year) and the national minimum standards. (Source: http://www.nap.edu.au/)

**Educational Competitions Update**
Last week approximately 70 students ranging from Years 7 through to Year 12, participated in the Maths and English Competitions. These competitions are an excellent way for schools and families to:

- Identify potentially gifted students for further enrichment.
- Identify students that may require immediate attention.
- Identify areas of weakness in a student or group of students.
- Inform school planning and resource allocation.
- Experience in large scale examinations.
- Enrich students' portfolios with UNSW certificates and medals.

Results from the Australian Maths Competition and UNSW English Competition will be available towards the end of this term. Students achieving results of Credit or above will also be acknowledged by the College at the Presentation Night awards ceremony at the end of the year.

**Learning in the Vertical Curriculum**
The vertical curriculum offered by Ashwood College allows students to study at their own pace and access an individualised learning program. The unit selection process brings students, parents and teachers into co-operative discussion with the one aim in mind: to create the best possible learning opportunities for each student. This semester in Year 7, some students are enjoying accelerated learning in a Stage 2 English class with Year 8 students.

Here’s what the year 7 students have to say about their accelerated class:

“In accelerated English, we do challenging and motivating activities that help us with our future goals.”

“We learn about interesting topics which helps us understand and comprehend our English education.”

“We watch fascinating documentaries which inspire us to work harder and more efficiently.”

“Learning this subject with Miss Ferguson is very enjoyable and educating because she makes it much easier to understand but still makes it challenging for us.”
Unit 4 (Year 12) English as an Additional Language (EAL)

In semester 2 students are studying the play ‘Life of Galileo’, written by Bertolt Brecht, which is the prescribed text for their chosen context – *Encountering Conflict*. Students are studying the layers of conflict explored in the play, such as progressive versus conservative thinking, freedom versus oppression, individual versus authority, and activism versus passivism. Students are also researching the ways in which ideology and fear can cause dichotomy between people and escalate conflict. This is to prepare for Outcome 2 – *Creating and Presenting*. Students are also consolidating their skills in language analysis, requiring them to find and explain persuasive language techniques in articles and identify writer contention.
ICAS Science competition

Earlier in May this year, 31 students participated in the ICAS science competition. This was the highest participation rate in a number of years. The results have been received. From the 31 participants, 11 received a Credit, 3 a Merit and 17 a Participation Award.

The Credit Award winners were:
- Year 7 – Alexander Morgan, Amy Peters, Stuart Peters
- Year 8 – Gharaza Kaleem, Nicholas Perez
- Year 9 – Olivia Musgrave
- Year 10 – Jack Burdett, Sagar Sareen, Zhiqi Zhang
- Year 12 – Amira Mohany, Herbert Zhang

Mr Michael Cifra | Math/Science Teacher

Herbert's Magnets

During today's Physics class, Mr. Cifra conducted a series of prac for us to do in order to enhance our understanding of the topic "magnets and electricity".

In the first prac, we were told to re-activate a motor by just using a couple of paper clips, a power supply and a strong magnet. We firstly constructed a stand to place the motor using the paperclips and we place the magnet underneath the motor, and when the electricity was passed through the motor, it should be able to spin, however our group did not make the stand properly, hence the motor was not completely parallel to the desk which ultimately led to an unsuccessful result.

Then we moved on to the second prac, in which we are told to make our own motor out of a length of wire, two paperclips, a battery and one magnet. And followed by the instructions carefully, our group was able to make the motor working successfully.

In the last activity, we were told to make a more complex motor, since the process of making it was very fiddly hence required a lot of precision and only a few people in the class succeeded in making the motor.

After these fun activities, we indeed had a better understanding of the topic, and the translation from boring formula and words in the textbook to hands on activities had made the some of the most difficult concepts easier to grasp.

Herbert Zhang Year 12
Visual Communication, Design & Technology

Term 3 is crunch time for the senior Visual Communication students as they are on the home stretch of finishing their major SAT folios. Student folios are focusing on diverse design areas such as architecture, fashion design, industrial design and graphics. The year 11s and 12s are enthusiastic about producing the best folios possible, keenly attending lunchtime and after school classes. Ask the senior VCD students to explain the finer points of typography and they will be able to introduce you to the fascinating world of type anatomy!

The metal workshop is busy with students learning to anneal, forge and polish metal; with dreams of forging suits of armour on the current student project wish list. The Stage 4 Metal Masterpieces class is commencing a soldering and ring design project, and students researching for their major design project, with some students looking to construct and forge gauntlets. The Stage 3 Product Design class are looking at sustainable design and how, as designers of the future, their designs can be practical, beautiful and environmentally friendly. In Stage 1 Workshop the students have just completed their first projects and are now learning to create unique saw pierced designs in metal and acrylic.

Ms Catherine Preston | Visual Communication, Design & Technology

Hi my name is Eric Peters and I’m here to talk to you about Metalwork and Woodwork classes. So far this Term we have done a range of designs and projects. This semester we have had fun constructing dog tags from scratch out of copper and brass. The other projects that will be featured this Term are the cuttlefish carving and the skateboards. The classes have given me a great enjoyable experience by giving me confidence and helping me take the extra step ahead. This is an unforgettable experience.

By Eric Peters Stage 1 – Workshop
Visual Arts

VCE ART

In VCE Art last Thursday we had a visit from two of our 2014 VCE Art class. Anika Lindenmayer and Ashwood Secondary College’s 2014 VCE Art Dux Caelan Renfree-Dyer who is currently studying Fine Art at RMIT where he is focusing on ceramics and enamelling. Caelan spoke to the current VCE students about strategies to achieve their best in VCE and brought his inspiring and beautifully presented visual diaries to share with the students.

House Performances – Art Exhibition and Competition

Numerous students have entered a range of artworks in the House Art Competition which were judged on Monday by Daniella Scaramuzzino and practising artist Hilary Senhali. Awards were announced at Tuesday Night’s Performance.

Hilary has recently published a Student Workbook and Teacher’s Guide about ways to use visual diaries. Planning sketches by Ashwood students Tali and Xander Morgan are featured in the Workbook and are shown below right in a page from the book.

VISUALART
CONGRATULATIONS TO WINNERS FLYNN FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING VISUAL CREATIONS!
Visual Arts

In **Stage 1 Cotton Colours Clay** the Year 7 students have completed Self Portraits using graphite pencils. They developed skills in observing proportions of their faces and checking the angle of their features including their eyes to get a good likeness. They have also started researching and comparing artworks from different cultures as inspiration for designs for a ceramic cylinder which they will then create in class.

![Bianca Cox Year 7](image1)
![Luka Khatib Year 7](image2)
![Sarah Kim Year 7](image3)

In **Stage 4 Artistic Design** we have been practising and refining our drawing skills by doing observational drawings and learning how to effectively use tone, contrast, shape and repetition to make the drawings appear more realistic and three dimensional. We are now moving towards doing dry point etching and printing, using more contrast with dark and light.

![Erin Buchanan Year 10](image4)
![Mikayla Adams Year 10](image5)
![Kaye Liang Year 10](image6)
The Ashwood Photography Blog

Media is made up of subjects across a number of disciplines: film, animation, sound recording, and photography. Currently, the 4AC Photography students are learning to master the DSLR camera in order to produce work for next Term's Photography Exhibition. To record student's learning in this subject, the Media Department has set up a Photography Blog, where students post their best photo from each week’s topic and receive feedback from their teacher and peers on their work. The topics we have covered this Term have been:

**Bokeh** - adjusting the camera’s shutter speed and aperture to create a shallow depth of field to create shapes in light. By creating a hood with a specific shape cut into it, the photographer can make all points of light replicate that shape. The trick of Bokeh is to place the camera very close to the subject of the photo (we used small figurines), but at a distance from the lights. The images below were created by Alex Lin in class, and Liam Thursky-Moore, who practiced the settings in class before setting up coloured lights at home.

![Bokeh Image 1](image1)
![Bokeh Image 2](image2)

**Light and Shade** - Dealing with light in a scene is a matter of balance. The contrast between light and shade can make or break a picture. Paying close attention to the two extremes when composing and framing your images will result in better photos. In this topic students have been challenged to balance the tone in their images, before converting them to black and white using Photoshop.

![Light and Shade Image 1](image3)
![Light and Shade Image 2](image4)

To see how our Photographers are progressing go to [http://8743-ext01.ashwood.vic.edu.au/photography/](http://8743-ext01.ashwood.vic.edu.au/photography/)
What’s happening in HPE?
Although Semester 2 feels like it has only just begun, students in Health and Physical Education have hit the ground running! There have been some engaging and genuine learning opportunities on offer across all subjects already. Students have tackled these with a positive mindset and shown a real interest in what’s on offer. Our aim in HPE is to develop students who are lifelong participants in physical activity by providing the necessary knowledge and skills. At the same time we foster the specific interests and talents of all students in a safe and caring environment. Below is a snapshot of the wonderful opportunities on offer through the HPE pathway.

Stage 3 HPE: ‘Feel Strong, Be Strong’
As part of their studies in ‘Feel Strong, Be Strong’ students have commenced their Disciplined Martial Arts and Self-Defence training course. Across seven sessions in Terms 3 and 4 students will hone their knowledge and skills with Paul Tomassini. Paul is a qualified instructor with a wealth of knowledge and experience having studied in the areas of martial arts for a large proportion of his life. Paul, or ‘Sensei’ as he is referred to in the ‘Dojo’, provides an engaging, safe, inclusive and enjoyable learning environment for all students to participate. The following dot points are the Learning Intentions of the program.

1. appreciate underlying values, philosophies and history of Karate, including cultural practices and ethics
2. apply some typical fundamental practices of karate
3. apply some evolved practices which highlight the diversity of the martial arts
4. safely apply some urban defence skills in circumstances they might typically encounter

Students who have adequate attendance and participation, will potentially qualify for a “first-level” grading (9th kyu) certificate.

Deakin University NEArbY Study
In partnership with Deakin University, the HPE pathway is excited to again have the opportunity to offer our students the chance to participate in the NEArbY study. This will explore what neighbourhood facilities and features young people have access to in Melbourne that encourages (or discourages) them from being physically active or sedentary. The study will also explore young peoples’ eating behaviours and what factors in their neighbourhood influence them to purchase and consume different types of foods.

Students who volunteer to take part in this international study involving nine countries, including Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, China, Malaysia, New Zealand, Portugal and USA (lead country), will participate in various activities across one week. More information about the program will be made available on the 18th August during STAR.

Sneak Peak! HPE Week Term 4 Week 2
While Health and Physical Education Week is not until week 2 of Term 4 staff are very excited about the planned events that will be happening all week long. This includes Yoga, Nutrition classes (cooking), a Staff v Senior Student match and possibly a Silent disco! Dust of your dancing shoes and pencil this into your calendars people!!

12-16 October 2015 (Week 2, Term 4)
Interschool Sport

The Term 3 Sport’s Program began with a positive presence. All students in Years 7 to 10 have settled into their selected sport activity on Wednesday afternoons with great enthusiasm. It is very pleasing to observe so many students are wearing the correct sports uniform with pride.

Interschool Sport dates for Term 3 are:

- Intermediate Round Robin is Thursday 6th August – Boys Hockey, Boys & Girls Basketball.
- Year 8 Round Robin is Tuesday 15th September – Girls Basketball.
- Year 7 Round Robin is Wednesday 2nd September – Girls Hockey, Boys Table Tennis, Boys & Girls Basketball.

It is extremely important that consent and payment for the respected sports are completed by the due dates stated on COMPASS – events. Students are constantly told to remind parents / guardians. This is necessary so buses can be booked in advance instead of at the last minute which can mean we are unable to acquire the size bus required.

Mrs Janet Wiggins | Interschool Sport Coordinator

Congratulations to Boys Hockey Team!

Boys Intermediate Hockey Team
Ashwood Secondary College won 2-1 to Templestowe College
Goals were scored by Adam Tennant, Sagar Sareen
Congratulations Everyone!
Well done Coaches – Ms Phillips & Rachel Hull
VET Music

Battle of the Bands

Our VET Music class took part in the Battle of the Bands at Kew High School on Friday 24th July.

The event was organised by the North-Eastern Victorian Region (NEVR) and a number of schools competed for the Junior and Senior awards, including Vermont Secondary College, Rowville SC and Canterbury Girls Secondary College and Kew High School. Our VET music class ‘Sintax Era’ did really well on their three songs, ‘Gives you hell’, ‘Clarity’ and an original song by Ameya Ajay. The band’s original song ‘Wave’ was well received by fellow staff members on the day, and gained positive feedback from their overall performance.

Unfortunately, our students did not make it to the finals to be held on August 19th at Hampton Park Secondary College. However, it was a great experience for the students to perform on such a big stage with full sound and lighting production and stage crew, in front of their peers. Despite a short preparation period and considering our VET music students derive from various schools, such as University High School, St.Kevins College, Mac Robertson Girls High School and Sacre Coeur College, and get together only once a week with our students from Ashwood College, they sounded really tight and well rehearsed for the occasion. Well done to all the students who performed on the day and the non-performing students who were there for moral support. It has given them that extra boost of confidence and they have gained valuable experience and skills to perform on stage in front of a big audience, which will be vital for their upcoming assessments in September/October at the Australian College of the Arts.

Song-writing Workshop

(Working on Song-writing ideas)

The VET Music Class also took part in a Song-writing workshop held at The College of Australian Arts institute on 13th May in Term 2. Students were mentored by Ella Hooper from the band Killing Heidi and Patrick James, hip hop artist who gave them some valuable tips on brainstorming ideas and working in the music industry. Students then broke up in groups and worked on their compositions during the day. The workshop concluded with all the groups from Ashwood Secondary College and other schools such as Swinburne Senior Secondary College and Mount St.Joseph Girls’ College performing their original song for one another on stage. Our VET music group received positive comments from the mentors on their efforts on the day. Their original songs received great feedback from other students, especially with the rapping part in the song. It was a great day for all students and staff to network with each other and the skills acquired have benefited the students in their work for the Certificate III Music in VCE/VET studies at Ashwood Secondary College.

Rod Pilois VET Music

On Stage - Renaissance Theatre –Kew

(On Stage - Renaissance Theatre –Kew)
CITY CAMP

Year 9 and 10 students attended the City Camp from the 22\textsuperscript{nd} to the 24\textsuperscript{th} of June. Staying in the comfort of the CYC City Camp in the heart of the CBD, students had an action packed three days filled with a wide variety of activities and sightseeing opportunities.

Many thanks go to staff members Chrissy Lynch, Fiona Keech, Julie Clearwater, Anna Hopkins and Jessie Coe for giving up their time to help oversee the camp.

\textbf{Mr John Sheehan}

The following account of the camp activities has been written by Laura Gibbs-Brown of Year 9

\textbf{Day 1} - The camp group met up at our designated location and went to our accommodation to drop off our luggage. We then went the few blocks to the Aquarium, where we were able to explore the displays at our own pace. Following lunch we caught the City Circle tram to the IMAX Theatre where we watched ‘Hurricane Alley’ in 3D which was very interesting. After this we walked back to our accommodation, checking out some of the sights of the city along the way. We had dinner and a relax before heading out again on a Ghost Tour of the city where we learned about the darker history of the city. We returned to our accommodation, watched a film had some supper and settled into bed.

\textbf{Day 2} - On the second day of camp we caught the tram to Docklands where we received an ice-skating lesson. It was tough to master but we learned how to stand properly on the ice, how to get up when you fall and how to stay safe on the ice. We then had some free skating time on the ice. After this we had some free time where we were allowed to explore the Docklands area, have lunch and to look at shops. We then went on the Melbourne Star Wheel to see the amazing view of the city from its highest point. After this we went to Docklands Stadium where we were given a tour and were able to go behind the scenes where some of the teams prepare and train. That night we took in the sights and sounds of Southbank before heading back and settling in for the night.

\textbf{Day 3} - On the last day of camp we went to the Shrine of Remembrance and were given a guided tour of this important place by a veteran. We then had a game of bowling before walking back to our accommodation and heading home to see our parents All in all it was a really busy and fun time!
Monday the 22nd of June, 2015 : Melbourne
We departed from the port at around 7:30pm, making our start to our Tasmania trip. We had a fairly smooth start, and around the time everyone fell asleep it became rougher. We all enjoyed a variety of food for dinner; gourmet sandwiches from the Lavender Café, a platter of assorted food from the Captain's Table and even a few people dined at the on-board restaurant, The Leatherwood Restaurant. We all went to our cabins at 9:00, lights out being at 9:30. The big adventure has started.

Tuesday the 23rd of June, 2015
Rise and shine at 5:45am; Time to get ready to disembark at 6:30am. We bombarded the bus as soon as we'd gotten off the boat, a tired crew piling into their seats. We met our driver, David, who would be with us for the duration of our stay in Tasmania. He told us about the places we passed and what they were known for; Gowrie Park and the dam they built, Sheffield's murals and the story behind them starting, and even the way that at one point, we were at a place where the soil was so shallow that humans can barely walk on it. He also told us about a few other things to do with Tasmania on the way; Tasmanian Tiger, how water is dearer than petrol here, and the types of kangaroos they have.

Probably the best stop we had was in Sheffield; the murals of the town really added a positive feeling to the town. Many people were found having a look in the cafe/shop called "Fudge 'n' Good Coffee", buying what's known to be some of the best fudge in the country.

Our last stop was at Dove Lake, where we were going to have our hike. We hiked 6km, walking the perimeter of Dove Lake, making for some gorgeous views. We were lucky not to have any rain until we began to leave. The night ended on a high note for everyone; most people were in groups in the common rooms playing card games.

Wednesday 24th of June, 2015
The wake up call for everyone was 5:30am. We departed at 7:15am and made a start to our 7 hour (or so) long bus ride. We first stopped at Queenstown, having a look around the shops and getting to see war memorials, and memorials for deceased miners.

Some of the things David talked about today include: the Dermot River is used for a lot of power (70% of Tasmania's tap water comes from hydro-electric power sources); button grass is a grass that Tasmanian countryside is absolutely filled with; the fires of Port Arthur and stories of the survivors, including the woman and her son who hid under a pier to stop themselves from getting burnt. We arrived at Port Arthur that night, participating in a Ghost Tour around part of the Port Arthur sight, being told stories that were actually rather interesting.
TASMANIA CAMP 2015 by Daisy-May Creighton

Thursday 25th of June, 2015
We left the caravan park at 8:30am, not going far- we went back to Port Arthur. We were lead around the sights of Port Arthur in two groups, admiring their beauty during daylight. After being given some time to look at whenever we wanted to look at there, we were taken on a short cruise around the Isle of The Dead. The Isle of The Dead is where they used to bury their deceased convicts.

After Port Arthur, we drove to Hobart. One of the places we went through was nicknamed 'Doo Town'; every house in the town was called something with the word 'Doo' in it. We stopped at The Blowhole for lunch and admired the beautiful beach. We then finished our drive to Hobart, being given free time to look at the city. Some people went to mall near Collins St, some went to Salamanca Square (a plaza of art shops and galleries) and some went on a hunt for souvenir shops. After our free time, we arrived at our motel and had a nice dinner. We also did a trivia in groups and then went to our rooms, playing games in each other's rooms and having a relaxing night.

Friday 26th of June, 2015
Breakfast at the motel was at 7:30am. We left the Balmoral Motel at 8:30am on the way to the Cadbury Factory. At the Cadbury factory, we learnt about production of chocolates such as Caramello Koalas, and then were given the chance to buy chocolate. Many people indulged in the sweet treats, spending anywhere between $5-$100 on discounted chocolate.

We then went to MONA (Museum of Old and New Art) and admired all the artwork. It wasn't just regular artwork, as you'd expect; it was videos and sounds to stimulate our minds. Every exhibition had more to it than just being visually appealing. We left the MONA at 1pm, going to the airport. We boarded the plane at around 3:15pm, departing at 3:35pm. Arriving back in Melbourne around 4:45, many tired faces were to be seen.

Thank you to all staff and students who came along to Tasmania Camp. It was a wonderful week full on amazing experiences. We were very lucky with the weather overall and I hope every student came home with new experiences. Thank you also to Mr Holloway who organized the camp.

Ms Allison Phillips | Camp Leader
The Year 9 and 10’s all met on Farmer Street to go to Gilwell Camp at Gembrook. It was a freezing cold morning but we were warned and were all very well prepared (especially Miss Haughey with her bag full of blankets). A windy drive up and around the hills we arrived at Gilwell Park Scout Camp, as we arrived we had a meeting with the camp staff and we were informed the details of the camp. After the meeting, we were given our cabin numbers and though there was some issues at first, everything eventually worked out well. Most rooms were a combination of International students and local students which meant that we were going to learn about each other and our cultures quickly!

The lack of mobile service (which was not welcomed, but soon accepted) allowed more participation and involvement in the activities. We began with the low ropes and initiatives course – this had us all starting to work together to achieve the challenges set. We then went on a bush-walk and got ‘lost’ although Miss Haughey claims she knew where we were the whole time.

That night we had a camp fire which didn’t quite go as expected due to the weather. The next two days were spent doing various adventure activities, including abseiling, flying fox, giants ladder, high ropes course and the gauntlet. The gauntlet was a mini commando course in which we had to climb up and over things, crawl through mud and walk through knee deep muddy water we thoroughly enjoyed it, though it was a bit disgusting and very challenging. At the end of each day we always played board/card games with each other, relaxed reading a book or watched a film. It was great.

After packing up on the Friday, we went to the 1000 steps, which was difficult but worth it in the end. We enjoyed lunch at the top before returning home. Gilwell camp was immensely fun, where many new friendships were made. It was a great way to end the semester!

Bomi Lee, Kanitta Sanganam, and Prim Boonsatdha
Year 7 Transition - Phillip Island Camp

The last week of the Term 2 the Year 7’s went to the Phillip Island Camp. It was such fun. It was a big adventure that Year 7’s will never forget. We had different kinds of activities and some of them were not as good but others were very exciting!! The activities that we did were: flying fox, giant swing, trampolines, mechanical wall, circatron, low ropes, trivia night, movie night and scavenger hunt.

The best thing about this camp is that you had the chance to spend time with your friends and teachers in a new environment. The worst thing was that we did not stay long enough, it was only three days but felt like one. In our cabin it was too hard to go to sleep because we were not tired so we didn’t get much sleep.

The beach walk was one of our favorite things. We played in the sand and had water fights. The sad part was leaving! We had an amazing adventure and would do it again, if we could. Thank you teachers for organising this Year 7 Phillip Island Camp!

Written by Amy Peters, Elena Doulgerakis and Bianca Cox.
Sunnystones – Year 8 Camp

The morning of Tuesday 23rd June, students and staff set off to experience 4 days of adventure activities at Camp Sunnystones near Bacchus Marsh. Just 45 minutes from Melbourne, Sunnystones is set on 50 acres of prime bushland which borders a nature conservation reserve.

Students and staff were dropped off at the Long Forest Nature Conservation Reserve where Matt (the owner) met and walked us through the nature reserve ending up at the Camp. During the walk students were given geological descriptions, told of aboriginal legends and given an appreciation of fauna and flora. The rock formations along the walk were very impressive and the creek crossing was quite steep - thank goodness it was not in flood at the time. As we arrived at the camp site our luggage also arrived. Sitting on the lawn having lunch and surveying our piece of paradise it was unbelievable the stunning, breathtaking views that surrounded us.

The next 4 days involved the following activities:
- team building activities, bushwalks, bush survival games, archery, high and low ropes course, rock climbing, abseiling at the Werribee gorge, bush hut shelters, making “billy tea” and gaining a better understanding of the natural bush environment.

The challenges that were put to our students were huge with each student accomplishing levels of success way beyond what they had imagined they could achieve before the camp. A lot of the activities relied on trust and team building. All the hours of preparation prior to the camp were worthwhile when the students at the end of the week expressed how they had really enjoyed the experience and wished the week had not gone so fast.

Reflections about the camp from students:
- Camp was really fun. The activities we had were so good we didn’t want to stop.
- The animals were awesome – kangaroos, kookaburras and even weird looking lizards.
- The best activities were abseiling and archery. It was fantastic.
- I thought camp was great for all the Year 8’s. It was a chance to forget about the school routine for a while and have some other rewarding experiences. There was a wide range of activities, which made the camp very enjoyable.
- Camp was a good experience. So many great activities to do, so many beautiful places to go and see.
- All the activities were challenging. The bushwalking was good because of the scenery.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the staff who participated – Mrs Dernikos and Ms Bares. Their support and commitment to their duties was outstanding and appreciated. May I also acknowledge the students for their good manners and helpful and co-operative nature displayed during camp.

Ms Janet Wiggins | Year 8 Camp Team
Tertiary Aspiration Program

On a cold but sunny morning on Tuesday, July 21st, a group of our Year 10 students visited the Knox Innovation, Opportunity and Sustainability Centre in Wantirna (KIOSK). This was the first day of this year’s Tertiary Aspiration Program (TAP), a series of excursions generously organised by our very great supporters at Boroondara CARES. A not-for-profit foundation, Boroondara CARES provides much assistance for Ashwood Secondary College students by way of scholarships, the up-coming valuable Public Speaking Workshops and the Tertiary Aspiration Program. The TAP gives our Year 10 students the opportunity to visit both KIOSK and Swinburne University to familiarise them with tertiary institutions and be introduced to the many options available at a post-secondary level of education.

On this excursion, students participated in a series of workshops covering Electrotechnology, website design, an introduction to funding of start-up small businesses and a session on applying engineering principles to designing and constructing a balloon-powered racing car!

Another trip to KIOSK (this time with an arts focus) is planned for later this term and the program concludes with a visit to Swinburne University (Prahran Campus) in Term 4 for a repeat of last year’s highly useful , ‘A day in the life of a university student’.

Ashwood Secondary College students once again acquitted themselves very well. Their behaviour was of the usual exemplary standard, they participated willingly in the activities and reported that they had not only enjoyed the day, but came away with a better grasp of the possibilities open at tertiary level.

Many thanks to all of the students who went on this excursion and a big ‘Thank You’ to Julie Clearwater for being such a willing attendee and her great assistance on the day.

Mr John Bullen | Career Pathway Studies Co-ordinator
The Good Life Farm

This term, three year seven students have been invited to take part in the Chum Creek Good Life Farm program. Every Wednesday Damian Lowther Gailitis, Sean Mann and Tyler White attend the farm and take part in a variety of hands on activities involving farming skills and animal care.

The boys are thoroughly enjoying the program and have agreed to give a detailed account of their experience, including lots of photo’s for the next newsletter.

Ms Chrissy Lynch | Student Wellbeing Coordinator

House Art Competition—Photos of some art creations
With the end of their high school education in sight the Year 12 students have spent a number of sessions looking at their options post Year 12. The students have been introduced to the VTAC (Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre) website and explanations regarding registration and application for post-secondary study have been given. In future weeks we will be looking more closely at VTAC and the impact of SEAS (the Special Entry Access Scheme) on course applications, as well as Scholarship applications.

On Monday 10th August a member of staff from Monash University spoke to the Year 12 students regarding scholarships, courses and pathway options. There will be further presentations on apprenticeships and traineeships.

In addition to these presentations information regarding Gap Year opportunities, information sessions and Open Days will continue to be advertised on Compass to all Year 10, 11 and 12 students and parents; everyone is encouraged to check the Newsfeed regularly to access this information.

With thoughts turning to subject selections for 2016 Year 10 students will be introduced to a number of publications in Vocation classes, including “Choice” and “Where to Now”, as well as Victer 2018 and the Course Search function on the VTAC website.

Year 11 students will also spend a number of sessions revisiting Victer 2017 and Course Search to enable informed decisions to be made as they finalise choices for their Year 12 study.

Mrs Julie Huggins | Careers Coordinator
What an EPiCC Night!

On Thursday 16th July, 2015 Ashwood Secondary College held a Year 10 Parents ‘Engaging Parents in Career Conversations Seminar (EPiCC) which was highly successful. It has been regularly documented that parents have the greatest influence over their teenagers learning decisions so being able to equip parents to navigate the available ecology of career resources and information is a responsibility that we take very seriously.

Career Development is the ongoing process of a person managing their life, learning and work over their lifespan and it involves developing skills and knowledge that enables them to plan and make informed decisions about education, training and career choices. Working collaboratively with parents in ensuring that we all are active in supporting teenagers with their career development ensures that young people become better prepared to tackle opportunities and challenged within the globalised world they live in.

The seminar touched on the three stages of career development that underpin the structure of the Victorian Careers Curriculum Framework which include Self Evaluation, Career Exploration and Career Management and highlighted how these can be used to guide teenagers through their lifelong career journey. In addition, parents were also introduced to the High 5 Career Development messages which reflect the contemporary understanding of careers. The High 5 Career Development Messages include; 1. Change is Constant, 2. Learning is Ongoing, 3. Focus on the Journey, 4. Follow your Heart, 5. Access your Allies. Lots of insightful discussions took place around these messages which provided parents with the opportunity to share their ideas and have their concerns attended to.

Parents were enthusiastic participants during the seminar and excellent conversations took place due to their willingness to share ideas and experiences. This bought richness to the program as everyone walked away with several ideas and new perspectives on things. As the seminar progressed it became clear that as parents we don’t always need to have the answers and that making a ‘career decision mistake’ is rarely fatal! The main point is to be open minded with our teenager’s ideas and career dreams so that the ‘career conversation’ can take place.

Following a parent feedback survey it was pleasing to see that the aims of the seminar were met with an overall consensus from the parent cohort that this seminar provided them with the knowledge, skills and resources to assist them with having ‘career conversations’ with their teenagers.

I’d like to thank all those parents who attended and for actively participating in this important event. I thank you for your positive and encouraging feedback which indicated that you walked away feeling more empowered in being able to effectively assist your teenager with making their career decisions.

I’d also like to thank Mr Brett Moore and Mrs Debra Gibson for their support and to Mrs Janet Wiggins who also attended and took photos on the night.

Mrs Voula Jakubicki | Careers & Pathways Advisor
UPDATING YOUR SCHOOL RECORDS

It is vital that the information the College has on each student is current and updated accordingly. A ‘Student Information Full Details’ form was mailed home for each child in 1st week of Term 3. Please check all details on each page carefully and make any amendments on the form and return to the General Office. If the information is correct please initial the bottom right hand corner of each page.

*Please return ALL forms to the General Office by Friday 28 August.*

As soon as you are aware of any changes of address, phone numbers, medical details, living arrangements or any longterm absences, please notify the school to ensure all our records are accurate.

STUDENT ABSENCE HOTLINE

The school absence hotline is available 24 hours a day. Please call 9809 6950 and leave a detailed message advising your name, student name, date of absence and reason for absence.
Sesquicentennial - Celebrating 150 years of history
Monday 24th August – Sunday 30th August

Glen Iris Primary School will celebrate its sesquicentennial with a range of activities planned to mark this major milestone for the School. A Sesquicentennial is a wonderful achievement for a school, and due to the dedication of staff and the community support received in so many ways throughout the years. Our current students are very excited about the 150 year celebration, and are developing units of learning which reflect the school, local and global history of the past 150 years.

The events planned will give ex-students of Glen Iris Primary School (previously Glen Iris State School and Glen Iris Common School) the opportunity to re-kindled friendships, as well as share their memories and events of days gone by. It will also be a great opportunity to forge links from the past to the present. Many of our ex-students have been interviewed by our ‘History Team’ of year 5 and 6s. Others have shared their thoughts on our blog.

Monday 24th August – An event for school students, ex-staff and local Principals and Assistant Principals.

There will be an Official Assembly at 9.30 a.m. to commemorate 150 years which will include the opening of the 140th Anniversary Time capsule, and the singing of ‘Aim High’ the School Song for our 150th written by composer Dr. Colin Brumby, an ex-pupil. Ex-staff will join present staff for a morning tea at 10.30 in the ‘new’ Library.

Tuesday 25th August - Friday 28th Our current school community will celebrate with daily activities.

Sunday August 30th – 3pm – 6.30pm Open Day

On Open Day the 150th Committee has planned a variety of events that will be appreciated by ex-students, staff and friends of the school. The day will include displays of class photos, the opportunity to explore the contents of the time capsule, take a trip back in time in our Museum, embark on a self-guided tour of the school in family or friendship teams, enjoy entertainment from current students and the Boronondara Symphonic Band, visit the ‘traditional’ lucky jar stall and sausage sizzle, and catch up with friends at the Catch-up Café. Also available across the weekend will be merchandise to purchase to mark the Sesquicentennial.

Commemorative Book

This book will be available for pre-order at a cost of approximately $50. The books can be collected during the week 24th -30th August from the Office or on the Open Day. Books can be posted if you are unable to pick them up. Add $10 postage and handling.

Commemorative Clay Pavers

Glen Iris Primary School invites you, your child or your family to become a permanent part of our school’s history. Families are invited to purchase a commemorative clay paver as part of our 150th Birthday Celebrations happening in 2015. This paver will become a permanent fixture within our school grounds. What a perfect reminder for our Year 6 students, and/or any current of former students. If you decide to take advantage of our offer, your paver will provide an enduring link between the past, present and future that includes the essential partnerships that make our school what it is - students, parents, school and community.
Help shape the Education State

Dear parents / guardians,

The most important thing that we can do as a school community is to make sure we give each and every student a great education and a great start to life.

I know from speaking to many of you that you have great ideas for how we can improve the education we provide our students at school, and more broadly how we can improve our school system as a whole.

I also regularly hear ideas from our staff, our school council, our local businesses and others in the community on how we can make our education system even better.

The Victorian Government has committed to making Victoria the Education State and has recently begun a consultation process – asking for us to share our ideas and experiences, our challenges and solutions – to help us improve our education system across the state.

This is an opportunity for all of us to have our say and play a role in shaping what our education system will look like in the years to come.

I will be thinking about how I can contribute my ideas to this consultation and I will be asking our staff to participate as well. I invite you to join in the conversation, because your ideas and insights – as parents of children currently in our school system – are critical to making sure we get the vision right for our state to become the Education State.

You could also use social media to encourage your family and friends to join the discussion – education impacts everybody, and everyone deserves the opportunity to have their say.

The best way to get involved is to go to educationstate.education.vic.gov.au where you can join in the online conversations or register to attend one of the sessions running across the state throughout June and July.

As always, I invite you to share your ideas with me on what is working well and what we can do better.

Yours faithfully,

Brett Moore
Principal