

Principal's Report

Only a short week this week after the long weekend, which provided many students and staff with a nice relaxing break and allowed us to recuperate and head into the last few weeks of term. Included in this edition is some very important information on the Coronavirus and I urge you to read it carefully. Remember that good hygiene practices such as washing your hands, using tissues and disposing of them correctly, and covering your mouth and nose when sneezing can help to prevent the spread. Please remember to look after yourself by getting enough sleep and eating well also.

World's Greatest Shave:

Hopefully you are aware that the SRC have chosen to participate in the World's Greatest Shave as our community project for Term 1. Fletcher Shellie in Year 10 will be doing the shave on the last day of term and, should the student body be able to raise \$1000, our Assistant Principal, Mr Simon Brearley, will also shave. To provide further incentive, if the students can raise \$5000, I too will be participating! There have been many jokes made about the shape of my head but I am quietly confident as I haven't seen many donations as yet and there's only two weeks to go!



A sense of belonging:

The Engagement Team are working with the SRC to investigate and get a better understanding of what makes students feel as though they belong to a school. This work is the group trying to improve the student's feelings of connectedness at the school and ties in with our Annual Implementation Plan. Ms Grills and I will be attending a seminar on Student Voice and Agency in Melbourne towards the end of term that will help us learn more about empowering students to actively shape their learning journey's.

NAPLAN:

Mr Brearley and I were off on a training day this week to learn all about the Online Delivery. The college will participate in online testing for all assessments except for the Year 3 writing. From the training session, it is evident that the online method has many advantages which include more timely feedback. Information will go home to the families of the students who are involved in the testing next week. This year, there will be recognition from the Department of Education for students who achieve outstanding results or significantly improve their results from Year 7 to Year 9. The certificates aim to celebrate and recognise the importance of both excellence and learning growth.

VCE/VCAL information night:

The staff are running a VCE/VCAL information night next Tuesday, 17th March. Parents of students in Years 11 and 12 have been invited to attend to get more information about course work and expectations. If you have questions about the session please contact the general office.

Staff shout out:

I thought it would be a great practice to include a little staff shout out each week. There is so much that staff at the college do that goes far beyond just what happens in the classroom. It's not just the teachers who do lots around the school. Our integration aides, Sarah and Erin, also do a power of work in a role that is often thankless. These two ladies approach the same job in completely different ways but my goodness, they are both so good at what they do. They encourage, nurture, challenge and sometimes even stir the students they are working with. All our students enjoy the work these ladies do and so do the teachers!

Athletics Carnival:

Just another reminder that we are taking the Athletics Carnival off site this year. On Tuesday, March 24th, the students will travel to Brauerander Park in Warrnambool. There are many factors that have led to this change, one of which is exposing the students to a high class facility, emphasising team pride and participation. We would love as many families as possible to come watch the students. We really do need to stress that we will be on a tight schedule on the day and students need to be at school ready to leave by 8.55am. Students cannot stay at school if they miss the bus as all teaching staff will be attending the event.

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Driver Reviver:

I'd really like to thank Ted and the Lismore Lions for their donation after the Driver Reviver. Unfortunately I couldn't attend on the weekend but many families helped out and I would also like to thank those that kindly volunteered.

School maintenance planning workshop:

Mrs Devlin and I spent the day in Ballarat today working on the school maintenance plan. The plan allows us to prioritise where to focus our efforts and allocate funding accordingly. The maintenance of an old building is a big job but thankfully, the Department have provided us with plenty of help, assessing our facilities and prioritising work.

Midwest triathlon:

Well done to the students who took part in the Mid-West Triathlon in Lake Bolac on Wednesday. Although we didn't have a very successful day on the podium, the students got some great weather for the event. I heard great things about the efforts put in! Grit and determination was shown as the students gave it everything they had and that's all we can ask for!

Western Plains Swimming:

The primary students were also off representing the school this week. Although the day is mostly about participation and fun, there were a few ribbons given out. We won't focus on the ribbons though, just on the great participation and wonderful behaviour!

Have a great weekend, whether you're watching cricket finals, working in the garden or visiting family. Enjoy yourselves and as always, look after yourselves and each other!

Caitlyn Fitzgerald - Principal

Coronavirus:

Please read on regarding information about the Coronavirus and possible school closures.

As you may be aware, the World Health Organization declared the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) a pandemic reflecting widespread increasing transmission of the virus globally.

The Department of Education and Training (DET) continues to work closely with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to plan for and respond to the likely impact on schools.

You will be aware of some schools closing for a week in response to confirmed COVID-19 cases. These actions are taken on the recommendation of DHHS to allow time for contact tracing and with the health and safety of staff and students in the school community front of mind.

Families are asked to inform the school as soon as humanly possible if a student is a confirmed case of COVID-19 or has been in close contact with someone who is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days. 'Close contact' is defined by DHHS as someone who has had at least 15 minutes of face-to-face contact with a confirmed case, or shared a closed space with someone for more than two hours with a confirmed case.

School closures

Based on advice from DHHS, when there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 among a student or staff member, Victoria's Chief Health Officer will recommend an affected school's closure for 24 hours. If this occurs, DHHS will work with DET and staff and students will be advised to stay home and self-isolate for 24 hours. This closure will support school and health officials to work through a contact and containment strategy, including decisions about extending the closure period.

The college will be advised by DET who will help us to communicate advice and instructions to students, staff and the community in the event a school closure is required.

Maintaining learning continuity

In the event of a school closure teachers will be expected to carry out duties related to teaching and learning during normal school hours. Students will be able to access compass for learning tasks and communication from teachers. Families will have the log on details from the recent letters sent home for the Learning Conversations.

DET is working closely with the Victorian Curriculum And Assessment Authority (VCAA) to minimise disruption to Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) and Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) teaching and learning programs and, as far as possible, ensure no student is disadvantaged.

Further advice regarding any interruption to the year's VCE schedule will be provided as events unfold.

In the meantime, we reassure Year 11 and 12 students that they will receive the care and support they need during this important time in their schooling.

Please remember that good hygiene practices are the most effective means of minimising the spread of COVID-19.

Young Leaders Student Congress 2020

Thursday last week, the Grade 5/6 students travelled by bus to Deakin University Warrnambool Campus, to participate in this year's Young Leaders Day. They were accompanied by myself and Ms. Fitzgerald.

During the day the students listened to two guest speakers and how they represent the Corangamite and Warrnambool communities.

Chris Gillen is the founder of Muscular Dystrophy Awareness which is an organisation that raises awareness for the disease and raises money to help those affected as well as finding a cure. The students heard about his trials and tribulations and that of his family's life and the creation of their awareness organisation.

The other guest speaker labelled himself as 'The Nerdy Dad from Warrnambool' but is more commonly known as Paul Watkins. He explained to the audience about his determination to complete the world's hardest race, which is an 8-day trek across the Arctic pulling a sled full of supplies. Paul spoke about his values and his motivation behind wanting to do the trek.

The Grade 5/6 class now have the task of developing a community project that will help better our school. We are currently working on this now!

Overall, the students enjoyed their day and got a lot out of the guest speakers.

Miss Summerfield

Eureka Swimming Sports

On the 27th of February, we went to Ballarat for the Eureka Swimming Sports.

Nessa, Charlotte and Campbell went. Nessa did breaststroke, Charlotte did backstroke and freestyle, and Campbell did breaststroke too. We had to do a 50m swim at the Eureka 50m pool. We had to dive off cool diving blocks into the water.

Nessa came 16th out of 18 in breaststroke, for 12 and 13 year old girls, Charlotte came 7th out of 30 in freestyle for 9 and 10 year old girls and she came 12th out of 15 in backstroke for 9 and 10 year old girls. Campbell came 8th out of 11 in breaststroke for 11 year olds. We had a really good day at the Eureka Swimming Sports.

Charlotte, Nessa and Campbell

Students Of the Week

Good Job!



Patrick Greig for working hard on his handwriting.



Neave Thompson for her leadership skills in group work.



Caitlyn Mulraney for her fantastic effort in completing her homework.

Calendar of Events - Term 1 - 2020

Week 8	Week 9
<p>16th March VCAL Supermarket Trip</p>	<p>23rd March</p>
<p>17th March</p>	<p>24th March Derrinallum Aths Carnival @ Brauerander Park Warrnambool</p>
<p>18th March</p>	<p>25th March</p>
<p>19th March</p>	<p>26th March Year 7 & Year 10 students - return Immunisation cards by tomorrow</p>
<p>20th March GWR Swimming @ Horsham Aquatic Centre - selected Students National Day Against Bullying</p>	<p>27th March Last day of Term 1</p>

Calendar of Events - Term 2 - 2020

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
<p>13th April Easter Monday Public holiday</p>	<p>20th April</p>	<p>27th April</p>	<p>4th May</p>
<p>14th April First Day of Term 2 - Staff return Student Free Day</p>	<p>21st April</p>	<p>28th April</p>	<p>5th May</p>
<p>15th April Students return</p>	<p>22nd April Safe Use of Alcohol and Road Safe Road Safety Seminar - Year 11 & 12</p>	<p>29th April</p>	<p>6th May Year 7 & 10 immunisations</p>
<p>16th April</p>	<p>23rd April</p>	<p>30th April</p>	<p>7th May</p>
<p>17th April</p>	<p>24th April Mid West Division Athletics Brauerander Park Warrnambool</p>	<p>1st May</p>	<p>8th May</p>