MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends,

We have all settled into a positive working routine and have students organised with their lockers and their learning.

Swimming Carnival
The college Swimming Carnival is next week so I hope your daughter is involved. I realize that not everyone is a swimmer but we need great supporters who can encourage their house team members to keep going. Please make sure that your daughter is sun safe for the day. Students can dress in their house colours and there is always a prize for the best dressed student.

Year 7 Update
Year 7 students are enjoying the Student of the Week Awards that are presented each Friday.

Music
Headspace provided lunchtime entertainment for the students last week with a band.
The return of the piano is engaging quite a few girls from years 7-12 as they listen to and observe each other playing. Any student wanting to learn piano or keyboard or another musical instrument can see Ms Burt for a referral to the Instrumental Music teachers.

School Council elections
Each college has a School Council to work with the leadership team to help shape the future directions of the college. We value your opinion and are continually looking for ways in which to improve the college and we want ideas and input from you, the parents. The process for forming a new College Council needs to be finalized by the end of March so I am seeking interested parents to fill the positions on Council.

Four parent positions are vacant. The process is that nominations are received, (parents can now self nominate or have someone nominate them). If the number of nominations exceeds the number of positions then an election is held.
If you are interested in being on Council please contact me or Maria Kitanovski to find out more about how Council operates.
Nomination forms are available in the office. Your daughter can collect one and return it to the office.

Year 9 Food and Horticulture
Last week I had the opportunity to help the Year 9 class out in the garden as the students were introduced to the horticultural aspect of this class. Students planted mint cuttings and beans. The students will research mint and bean recipes so that they can prepare dishes that utilize the produce from both plants.
We have Lilli Clancy and Ken Gunn assisting with preparation of the garden beds so that the students have a productive lesson and achieve quicker outcomes. I thank them for their continued support in this area.

Parent meetings this week
I look forward to meeting with parents and guardians of the Years 7 and 8 and the Year 11 and 12 students this week at the information sessions. Education is a partnership with us all working together to ensure the best educational outcomes for your daughters.
We will have guest speakers at the VCE Information sessions that will assist in providing strategies to support your daughters through the VCE.

I look forward to seeing great costumes at the swimming carnival.

Bette Prange

EDUCATION QUOTE

"It's your place in the world; it's your life. Go on and do all you can with it, and make it the life you want to live." – Mae Jemison
JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

The term is now in full swing. We have finished three full weeks of school and the focus across the Junior School is on students working to the best of their abilities to achieve the best possible results in their interim reports due at the end of the term.

For students to achieve the best results they must have all the relevant text books and equipment. During the week I have made several phone calls to families about the need to ensure their daughters have the appropriate text books. It’s hard to do the work if you don’t have the books.

Over the week I have also had conversations with a number of Year 7 and 8 students about the importance of using their diaries to record work requirements and due dates for assignments.

Congratulations to Zahranya Haniman, Mariam Kassar, Kaiesha Elechi and Katie Price for winning Year 7 Student of the Week for the previous two weeks.

During the week the Year 7 students were involved in a forum organised by Ms Shay Miller from Metro Trains. The main focus of the forum was safe train travel. Many of our students catch public transport to and from school each day so it is important to establish safe practices that ensure we all arrive safely ready to learn.

A reminder to all Year 7 and 8 parents and students-they are invited to an information evening on Tuesday the 18th. We will begin the evening with a bar-b-q starting at 5.30 in the courtyard.

Ian Reilly- Junior School Leader

SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Week 4 of Term 1 and I am happy to report that the senior school has settled into a good routine of attendance and study. It is critical that students attend every day to develop their skills and understanding of each of their subjects. Parents/Guardians need to ring the school if a student is absent and this should be supported by a medical certificate especially if there is a school assessed task that the student has missed.

Year 12 students recently spent three days at Victoria University developing their time management and organisational skills in preparation for the year ahead. They listened to Catherine Mooleshot, a motivational speaker who has a number of presentations of TedTalk explain the funnel of greatness and Hanna Farah talk about the importance of the right mindset and the importance of setting goals.

Year 12 students also heard from three of our graduating students from last year – former School Captain Betty El Houli, former Vice- Captain Madeline McDonald and Jessica Bellmunt. All three students talked about their trials and tribulations in Year 12, the importance of regular revision and determination to succeed. They were very inspiring for the girls and we look forward to further visits from our graduating class of 2013.

Year 12 students also enjoyed a range of physical activities at the University gym attending classes in body balance, circuit/boxing and swimming. This Thursday 20th February all Year 12 students and their parents/guardians are expected to attend a valuable information session on how to approach their final year of study. This presentation commences at 7.00p.m sharp in the LCC and is compulsory.

Year 11 students and their parents/guardians also have an information session on Thursday 20th February commencing at 6.30 sharp p.m. in the LCC. It is an opportunity to set the scene for the rest of the year, with an outline of College expectations, the release of the school assessed coursework calendar and other key dates.

Year 10 students are busy thinking about work experience in Term 2 and the World of Work Program which is going to be held later this term. We continue to welcome some new students into this year level and hope that they enjoy their time at Gilmore achieving their goals and aspirations.

I look forward to working closely with all the families of our senior students and the best form of contact is by email voidis.helen.h@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Helen Voidis  Senior School Leader

Education Maintenance Allowance

Applications for EMA close February 26th. If you hold a current pension/health care card and your daughter is not yet 16, please collect an EMA form from the General Office.
PERSONAL APPOINTMENTS

Students are disadvantaged when they leave school or arrive to school late in order to attend appointments. Parents and guardians should make every effort to schedule medical, dental, Centrelink and other personal appointments, outside school hours.

On the rare occasion when a student is required to leave school during the day or parent/guardian will collect a student during the day, we ask that the student:
* bring a note from home, explaining the need for an early departure or late arrival
* present this note to the Year Level Coordinator before school and
* make sure they are waiting in the office area for collection at the specified time.

SCHOOL HOURS

All students are expected to arrive at school no later than 8.40am. Please consult bus and train timetables and organise to travel in time to be at school on time.

Parents who regularly drive their daughter/s to school should take into consideration travel times and allow for delays. The school is open from 8am each day. It is far preferable for students to arrive early rather than miss instruction during the first period of the day.

Please note that a register of lateness is maintained by the Year Level Coordinators. Students who arrive late to school on more than three occasions will attend detentions on Thursday afternoons. Notification of these detention “catch up” sessions is made via mail.

DRINKS

Students and staff are welcome to bring a drink bottle with them to class. Drinking during the day, especially during hot weather is essential to remaining hydrated.

Bottles can be filled with filtered water available near the Student Welfare Office or from the fountains installed near the Staff Workroom.

Cans of drink, cordial and energy drinks are not permitted in class. These sweet drinks are not recommended by health experts and create sticky desk tops if a spillage occurs.

Netbook Program

A reminder to all students on the Netbook program that students are to bring their netbook to school every day fully charged. New students can access a netbook from the library until attendance at a parent meeting occurs.

Health Chat

Spacers and Schools/Preschools: Reminder for Parents and Carers

Schools/preschools in Victoria have been informed by The Asthma Foundation of Victoria about new guidelines regarding the use of spacers for children with asthma. Spacers are essential equipment when following Asthma First Aid best practice, however schools/preschools are no longer be able to wash, sterilise and re-use spacers from their asthma emergency kits when assisting students with asthma symptoms.

Asthma first aid kits should only ever be used as a back-up for when a student does not have their own spacer available, if it is a first asthma attack or the cause of breathing difficulty is unknown. At Gilmore College for Girls we have implemented a policy where parents/carers are responsible for the cost of the spacer if one must be used from the asthma emergency kit.

Even if your child has mild asthma, it is essential that their medication and spacer is always available to school/preschool staff. Please make sure your child always brings a spacer with them to school, or has one that stays at school.

For more information, please contact the Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 278 462 or email schools@asthma.org.au
Air Force Cadet Scheme

The local unit of the Australian Air Force Cadets now has vacancies for young men and women between the ages of 13 – 18 who are interested in aviation or a military career to join in 2014. The unit meets every Wednesday night during school term at the Army Transport Depot in Sunshine at 101 Duke Street, Sunshine.

Please direct any inquiries to Leading Aircraftsman (AAFC) Troy Ashton on 0406 702 296 or email troy.ashton@aafc.org.au

Australian Navy Cadets

The Australian Navy Cadets are looking for young men and women interested learning skills in sailing, canoeing and seamanship, navigation, first aid, drill and ceremonial procedures as well as leadership, effective communication and information technology. You need to be aged between 13 and 18 and meetings are held Friday evenings from February to December from 7 pm to 10 pm at TS Voyager, 146 Nelson Place Williamstown.

For more information visit the website: www.cadetnet.gov.au or contact the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Jeff Paull on 0419 116 155

Learn a language on Saturday morning!

The Victorian School of Languages is a government school committed to the provision of language programs for students in years 1 to 12 who do not have access to the study of those languages in the mainstream schools in all education sectors.

The Victorian School of Languages Area West 1 is located at: FootscrayCity College, Bayside Secondary College and Sunshine College and offers the following languages: Amharic, Arabic, Chin (Hakha), Croatian, Dinka, Greek, Hindi, Macedonian, Maltese, Spanish and Vietnamese.

Classes are held between 9.00 am and 12.20 pm and course costs a small annual charge applies: $70.00 in Years 1 to 10 and $85.00 for VCE. For further details please contact the Area Manager on 9689 1166 or visit http://www.vsl.vic.edu.au

WANTED FEMALE SOCCER PLAYERS

Western Eagles FC (soccer club) located in Albion is seeking female players for the 2014 season. If you are interested in playing soccer, have played before or if this is your first time, you are welcome. Training has started every Tuesday and Thursday evening.

Special offer for the 2014 season (women’s teams only): registration fee is half price ($200) with this fee being refunded back to players at the end of the season. Please contact; 0413811906 or email; westeagles@iprimus.com.au for more information.

GILMORE HEALTHY COMMUNITY CO-OP

WHAT: Gardening Club

WHEN: Thursdays from 10.30am

WHERE: Horticulture Centre

WHO: Parents, students & staff

Children welcome.

Let’s create a garden oasis with the help of all members of the school community. In time, we will use our produce to cook up a storm.

If you have any questions please ask Bette Prange or Lilli Clancy.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!
RSVP by Monday 18th Feb

Jen Hoy, Assistant Principal
9689 4788 or hoy.jennifer.e@edumail.vic.gov.au