MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends, well done to the students who have switched to winter uniform, it is really pleasing to see.

School partnership
As we approach the end of Semester 2 students are being asked to submit work. Students are provided with the due dates and it is part of being a secondary school student to manage their time and be organised to complete the work and submit it by the due date. This is part of establishing good work habits and is essential preparation for VCE. Teachers can give students a detention if they have not done the work or submitted the work by the due date. It is essential that parents support the teachers in establishing these good work practices so that your daughter achieves success this year and has established work practices to ensure success at VCE. Please support your daughter to establish a good homework routine and to use her diary to meet due dates. If your daughter does go through to detention that is a learning experience for her, if she does not like doing detention then it may assist her in being more organised.

Attitudes to School Survey
Over the past fortnight the students at each level were asked to complete a survey for the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development about how they feel in school. The results will provide a picture of each year level to the Department and to us. Any problems will be identified at specific year levels.

Athletics carnival
The Athletics carnival was a great success with a beautiful sunny day. House competition was fierce with the girls aiming to have their house the winner on the day.

Victoria University Pre-service teachers
We have commenced the term with the assistance of the VU Pre-service teachers. They will be working with a mentor teacher and will commence their teaching practice. This is a very exciting time for them and we are lucky to have an increased number of support teachers in the classrooms. The two preservice teachers who attended the Year 11 camp were a terrific help, it provided a valuable learning exchange for the teachers.

Grade 5 and 6 visits
Late last term and during this term we have welcomed many Grade 5 and 6 girls to Gilmore College for Girls. They had the opportunity to experience classes at the secondary school. The girls particularly liked the Science, Food Technology and Art. Students noted even the Maths and English classes were different. Visiting a range of secondary schools is very important as it enables students to experience a day at a Secondary College, which provides them a picture of what to expect in year 7 in relation to classes and the layout of the school. It also allows them to look at a range of schools to see where they feel most comfortable and feel they will settle in and achieve success in their learning journey.

Focus for Term 2
Students and parents are reminded that reports are written at the end of this term to indicate the progress each student is making in their learning. Term 2 is moving by quite quickly and it is worth highlighting students will have due dates for lots of their assessment tasks. Parents please assist your daughters in making of list of work to be submitted and supporting her to produce her very best work. June 3 is a student free day to allow teachers to write their reports.

Bette Prange
Principal

EDUCATION QUOTE “We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit.”
Aristotle
JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

The next week will be extremely busy for both teachers and students across the Junior School. Year 7 and 9 students will undertake three days of intensive NAPLAN testing. The NAPLAN test will occur on the 13th, 14th and 15th of this month. The results will be available to both parents and the school later in the year. Hopefully the results will provide a ‘snap-shot’ of student performance that will enable teachers to better plan for both individual and group improvement. Parents should realise that the results – like any testing process- can be influenced by the circumstances of the day and how students react to the process.

Ten Year 9 students will be involved in the fourth week of the Drumbeat program. Each Thursday for one period students from 9A and 9B are involved in this program focusing on identity, self-worth, social justice and communication skills. I sat in on the program last week and really enjoyed myself but I doubt I will leave teaching to pursue a career as a professional drummer.

Last week saw half day tours of the school from students from Ardeer South P.S. and Yarraville West P.S. The response from the primary schools was really positive. A big thanks must go to our school ambassadors Sophie Gunn, Chloe Rowlands Fraser, Georgina Clancy, Jasmine Azzopardi and Linh Pham.

Like all work places it is important to be constantly vigilant regarding the issue of bullying. Bullying is a serious issue that affects the life of students across the school system. For girls bullying is not usually open, in terms of aggression, but takes the form of non-verbal gestures and exclusion from friendship groups. Gilmore College has a zero tolerance level to bullying and has well established processes to deal with it. Bullying is not remedied by counter bullying and threats but by acknowledging that everyone is responsible for creating a harmonious school and community environment.

Ian Reilly- Junior School Leader

SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Week 4 of Term 2, and our senior students have now settled in to a regular routine of school, homework and study. The mid-year exams are fast approaching and in each of their MIPS classes there will be presentations on how to approach exams and revise effectively.

Athletics day last Wednesday 7th May was highly successful again allowing our Year 12 students to shine in their creative costumes and their efforts on the field. The positive energy that came from participation in each event was very evident and all students who attended across the senior school had a great day.

Two of our Year 10 students Shona Mercaldi and Anna Tran are working with student representatives from the other State Girls Schools’ to prepare for the annual Year 10 All Girls Government Girls School’s Conference, which is to be hosted at Gilmore College for Girls later this year. We look forward to their updates, as the event gets closer.

In the meantime the Australian Business Community Network ‘Aspirations’ program was successfully launched at the college on Tuesday 29th April. Twelve mentors from Price Waterhouse Coopers met with the twenty successful Year 11 students who have been nominated to participate in the program this year. Welcome speeches, ice-breaker activities and tours of the school were part of the program for the morning. The group also attended their first workshop last Wednesday at the Southbank offices of Price Waterhouse Coopers. The girls felt challenged with the public speaking element of the program, but came back very enthusiastic and are looking forward to the next session in a couple of weeks.

Finally, another reminder that students are expected to be at school on time which means by 8.40a.m. If there are traffic delays or roadwork’s, then these should be factored in to the time it takes to travel to school. Ongoing lateness will result in catch up time for these students on Thursday afternoons between 3.05 and 4.00p.m. to complete the work that is missed during Period 1.

If you have any concerns I can always be contacted via email at voidis.helen.h@edumail.vic.gov.au

Helen Voidis                              Senior School Leader

Uniform

Winter uniform is worn during Term 2 and 3. With the cold weather coming it is important that the girls have the college jumper, the college jacket or the blazer. Other jackets are not permitted.

Victoria University Pre-service teacher

I am thoroughly enjoying my experience as a Pre-service teacher at Gilmore College for Girls. I cannot thank the students and their teachers enough for being so welcoming which allows for many positive teaching experiences. My placement is all that I expected it to be and confirms for me that this is the correct career path and a really exciting one. It is both stimulating and enjoyable to be part of such a nice school community.

Martina Quinn – Pre-service teacher.
VU Engineering Challenge.

Last week Ms Tait and Mr Walker’s year 9 science classes attended Victoria University for a morning of problem solving and tower building. The aim of the game was to build the lightest, but tallest tower that was able to stand up to tsunami force waves. This was done with plenty of excitement and enthusiasm by all girls, the structures produced showed plenty of design flair!

Thank you to all the girls for making the day enjoyable for Mr Walker and I, and special thanks to our VU student teachers for your help on the day.

Ms Tait

Artists in Schools begins at Gilmore College

Following our successful application last year, year 9 drama students at Gilmore College for Girls have begun work on our very own Artists in Schools Project. Titled ‘The Container Project’, Jodie has been working with students in their classes – collecting their stories and weaving them into a fantasy tale that will occur within and around a shipping container in our own school grounds. The final performance will occur at Gilmore College on the 18th and 19th of June. Watch this space for more ‘Container Project’ events and details of the final performance.

Artists in Schools: Actor Profile – Jodie Le Vesconte

Jodie Le Vesconte is an actor with over 16 years professional experience. She has worked with major Australian theatre companies such as Queensland Theatre Company, La Boite, Arena, Sydney Opera House and The Malthouse; primarily creating and touring theatre for young audiences. In 2012 Jodie was inspired to teach by her belief in the transformative power of theatre to change lives and her growing commitment to empower young people from diverse backgrounds to step up as leaders in their schools, communities and the world. She has chosen to teach on a casual basis so that she can continue to practice as an artist. The Artists in Schools project is a valuable opportunity for her to make a contribution to young women and their community and to make her art form accessible to those who might not normally engage with it.
SENIOR SPORT
Congratulations to all senior girls involved in interschool sport last week. Our two soccer teams, two badminton teams and netball team members demonstrated very high skill level on competition day. Thanks to VU student teachers for helping out with coaching duties. The girls are now looking forward to starting footy training. Just a reminder that footy training will take place every Thursday lunchtime. Basketball, table tennis and hockey training will also commence soon – check the sports noticeboard shortly for more details.

CROSS COUNTRY
Just a reminder that cross country is on next week (Tues 20th May). Training has commenced already & will continue to take place every Wednesday morning at 7.30am at school.

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL
The students travelled to Moonee Valley Athletics club to compete for the House sports. A range of races and field events were followed by novelty events.

BALLET
All year 7 and 10 students attended a special performance by dancers from the Australian Ballet School last week. The girls loved the performance and were excited to visit Hamer Hall in the city. Thanks to parents and family members for your attendance also.
Year 7 students outside Hamer Hall (after ballet performance).

**Careers News**

K-Mart is currently looking for people to join their organisation. There are various customer service opportunities available in areas such as fashion, beauty and cosmetics, entertainment, toys, home, checkout lay-by, stock rooms or the customer service desk.


Application forms are also available from Ms Mueller in the Careers Office.

This is a great opportunity for students who want part time employment or who want a career in retail.

**Ms Mueller Careers Adviser.**

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**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.

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**Health Chat**

**Kidney Health Week- 25th to 31st May 2014**

Did you know that your kidneys play a major role in maintaining your general health and wellbeing? Think of them as an extremely sophisticated, environmentally friendly, waste disposal system which sorts non-recyclable waste from recyclable waste, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, while also cleaning your blood.

Most people are born with two kidneys, each one about the size of an adult fist, bean shaped and weighing around 150 grams. The kidneys are located at both sides of your backbone, just under the rib cage or above the small of your back, and are protected from injury by a large padding of fat, your lower ribs and several muscles. In each kidney, blood is filtered through millions of mini-filters called ‘nephrons’. The excess fluid and unwanted chemicals from this filtering process become urine and are passed from the kidneys to your bladder.

The kidneys also play a role in the production and regulation of several important hormones and enzymes, which help to:

- Control blood pressure
- Make red blood cells
- Maintain strong and healthy bones

How can I look after my kidneys?

- Stop Smoking! Or don’t start!
- Achieve and maintain a healthy body weight
- Exercise
- Limit Alcohol Intake
- Drinking water instead of caffeine/soft drinks

Your local GP can organise a Kidney Health Check. This could include a:

- Blood test
- Urine test
- Blood pressure test
- Discussion about lifestyle and wellbeing

References and for further information see: [www.kidney.org.au](http://www.kidney.org.au)

Michelle Hynson - School Health Promotion Nurse (Mon/Tues)

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**Homework club** is an opportunity for all students across the college to complete quiet study and homework tasks before they leave for home. Students can seek assistance from volunteer tutors.

- Students are asked to sign in and out and are supervised by a co-ordinator during this time.
- Homework club is voluntary and all are welcome.

**When:** Tuesday and Thursday 3-6pm and Wednesday 3-5pm

**Where:** In the school library
**Secondhand Desktops for sale**

We are selling the G7 and library computers.

They are Acer Veriton S480 Core 2 Duo PCs, Specs below.

160 G Intel core duo 2.7 GHz 2 GB RAM 19” LCD monitor

They will come with Vista OS, antivirus software and open office.

**Cost:** $120.

Great desktop for home internet browsing and home work. See the Technicians if you would like one, they can be picked up from the IT department.

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<td>17-18 May 2014 (Saturday &amp; Sunday)</td>
<td>Red Cross Training College, 23-47 Villiers Street NORTH MELBOURNE</td>
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<td>20-21 May 2014 (Tuesday &amp; Wednesday)</td>
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Register at: [www.tpot.net.au](http://www.tpot.net.au)

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**FREE training for parents to help the mental and physical health of teenagers – Volunteers Needed!**

We are recruiting teenagers aged between 12-15 years and their parents (one parent and one teenager per family). The research study aims to equip parents with the skills to recognize and respond to mental health problems, as well as first aid injuries in teenagers. Registration is done in pairs (one parent and one teenager per family) on the trial website at [www.tpot.net.au](http://www.tpot.net.au).

During the online registration process, the parent will be placed into ONE of the following courses via computer:

- **a 14-hour Youth Mental Health First Aid** which teaches adults the skills to recognise the early signs of mental illness, identify potential mental health-related crises, and assist teenagers to get professional help.

- **a 15-hour Red Cross Apply First Aid** which teaches the skills to sustain life, reduce pain and minimise the consequences of injury and illness until professional help arrives.

A few days after registering, a brief phone survey is required to gauge the parent’s and teenager’s knowledge about health problems. After that, the parent can attend their free course!

Training will be held at:

This study has been approved by The University of Melbourne’s Behavioural and Social Sciences Human Ethics Sub-Committee ID: 1135679, DEECD ID: 2012_001480 and the Catholic Education Office Melbourne ID: 1877.

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**Can Saver Plus assist you with high school costs?**

Join Saver Plus and match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to $500 for educational costs including:

- school uniforms and text books
- computers, laptops and tablets
- excursions and camps
- sports equipment, uniforms and lessons
- music tuition and instrument hire.

You may be eligible if you have a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, are at least 16 years old, have some regular income from work (you or your partner) and have a child at school or study yourself.

**Contact Jasmine Duong, your local Saver Plus Worker:**

(03) 9312 0932 / 0419 607 295

or jasmine.duong@thesmithfamily.com.au

Saver Plus was developed by A&Z and the Brotherhood of St. Laurence and is delivered across Melbourne by The Smith Family. The program is funded by A&Z and the Australian Government.
RSVP by Monday 18th Feb

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