MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Middle Years Program – International Baccalaureate
We are now in our second year of implementation and are embedding the changes required in education to equip the next generation to be critical learners. We undertook a review last week – a pre-authorisation visit from our IB mentor, Lottie. Lottie met with staff, students and parents to ascertain our readiness for authorisation. While we still have a lot of paperwork to do she was impressed with teachers’ unit planning, the inquiry process that is evident in the classroom and our assessment processes.

Students driving to school
As students in Yr 12 gain their drivers license parents and students need to be aware that students cannot park on the college grounds and they are not to transport other students. The Victorian Government Schools Reference Guide provides the following information relevant to students driving to school – sections 4.4.2.10 and 4.10.6.3. The two sections basically contain the same requirement, that is:

    Students are not permitted under any circumstances to transport other students in private cars in connection with any school program or function whether held during normal school hours or at other times.

It is clear that students who drive to school are not permitted, even with the permission of a parent/guardian, to transport other students to a school function or program.

Homework and study routine
After reading all the reports I stress the need to support your daughter in establishing excellent study routines. It is necessary to start this in Year 7 and 8 so students are organised submit work on time. The expected hours for homework are: Years 7 and 8 should do 4 hours of homework each week. If they say they do not have homework they should read for a minimum of 20 minutes each night. Years 9 and 10 should be completing 8 hours each week and Years 11 should be doing 10 hours and Year 12 at least 15 hours.

Exams
This past fortnight has been a very important week for students in Years 10 and 11. Students sat examinations for each of their subjects in Year 10 and 11. The Year 12 students sat the General Achievement Test (GAT), along with all other students studying a 3/4 unit.

Work Experience
The Year 10 students are currently out on work experience. Many of the students have a different placement for each week which allows them to experience different options that they may be considering for their future. The students who have one placement for two weeks will be able to gain a realistic idea of what it is like coming to work each day.

Year 9 Balmoral Camp
The students have gone off to Balmoral to mix with the Year 9 students at the secondary school. This has proved to be a very good school exchange with the city students experiencing life in the country and the Balmoral students experiencing life in the city when they come up to Melbourne later in the year.

Semester One Reports
Teachers have been busy over the past month assessing work and writing a report for each student that summarises the learning for the semester. Reports will be mailed home this week.
As term 2 draws to an end I hope you all have a relaxing break and come back from holidays refreshed for Semester 2.

Bette Prange  Principal
JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

The last two weeks have been extremely busy for both teachers and students across the Junior School. The first semester reports have just been finished and teachers have put in a big effort to ensure all the reports have been proof read and ready for reading by students and parents.

When reading their daughter’s report parents should realise that under the Australian/Victorian Essential Learning Standards (AUSVELS) students are placed on a learning continuum. A student who receives a ‘C’ is considered to be achieving at a level expected for that particular age or form. It is important that parents read the teacher comments on what their daughter has achieved and recommended areas for improvement.

The highlight of the week was the Year 9 drama production Container Girls. Made possible by a grant from Arts Victoria, the production provided a creative insight into the lives of our Year 9 students. A special thanks must go to Ms Stockdale, Jodie Le Vesconte (Artist in Residence) and Dean Mitchelmore (V.U. Pre-service teacher)

During last week I spent some time talking to several students about how they spoke and behaved towards other students. A key word in promoting success is ‘respect’. It is really important students realise we are all working in a school community that stresses the need for harmony and the benefits of working together to achieve common personal and education goals.

Ian Reilly- Junior School Leader

SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Term 2 is just about over and it has been such a busy and exciting term. It ends with the distribution of the Semester 1 reports and is an important time for parents/guardians to reflect on the performance of their daughters. I am very happy to meet with parents/guardians to review the child’s reports and discuss ways we can help your daughter achieve her very best. I can be contacted by email on voidis.helen.h@edumail.vic.gov.au or by contacting the school on 9689 4788.

Year 12 students have commenced their Unit 4 subjects and attendance is critical. The time frame to complete all the areas of study for each of their VCE subjects is less than for Unit 3. There will be holiday homework, which all students are expected to complete including any final note preparation for Unit 3.

Sara and Elena Batleska, our College captains have held discussions with the Year 12 students about the Formal for this year and at this stage it has tentatively been booked for Thursday 18th September at Roslyn House in Essendon. Invitations will be distributed before the end of the week and each student is expected to pay a $50 deposit to secure their place and ensure that the Formal does proceed. All money for the Formal should be paid at the front office.

Twenty Year 11 students successfully completed the last of the four workshops as part of the Aspirations Program last Tuesday 17th June. The girls this year were very well organised, with full attendance and active participation in each activity building their confidence in public speaking and thinking about future pathways. Congratulations to all the participants who were excellent ambassadors for the College and great team players.

Year 10 students are currently on work experience and teachers have contacted their workplaces and made personal visits to ensure that everything is running smoothly. We look forward to their return next term and hearing all about what they did in their jobs. There will be a swap of electives for Semester 2 and students will be issued with new timetables on the first day of Term 3.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our senior students and their families a relaxing and safe holiday. I look forward to working with families again next term.

Helen Voidis                              Senior School Leader

Subject contributions

As it is the beginning of a new semester students in Year 10 may have elected to take subjects with a subject contribution. Please check the subjects your daughter has this semester and make the payments if applicable.

Container Girls

The performance in our mystery container was held last week. It was an excellent concept and the Year 9 girls were so excited to present their version of things that impact on their lives. The use of the container was quite innovative and the way in which public transport was used as a connector for each scene was terrific. It was fabulous to see the girls so excited and I commend the parents for coming out to support your daughters on such a cold night.

Thank you to Jodie LeVesconte for her work with the students. A big thank you goes to Ms Stockdale for her insight to apply for an Artist in Residence. Arts Victoria sponsored the Artist in Residence program so we thank them for their support and for creating opportunities like this for students to be involved in their learning in totally new ways.
Congratulations, ‘Container Girls’

A term of hard work was celebrated last Wednesday when year 9 students from Gilmore College performed their group devised theatre piece, ‘Container Girls’. Set in a shipping container on the school grounds the students performed a collage of scenes which represented their thoughts, hopes and dreams. Many thanks to:

Arts Victoria

Writer/director - Jodie Le Vesconte

Backstage - Dean Mitchelmore (pre service teacher) and Alex Davies (student)

Science in Primary School with Yarraville West Primary Grade 1 and 2’s

The purpose of this experience is for young Scientists from Grades 1-2 to further develop their understanding of simple machines that they have been learning about in their classroom inquiry unit and explore the creation and testing of complex machines.

They were introduced the Learning Pit. It’s easy to say that work is too easy or not challenging so we talked about learning to identify what it feels like in our bodies to be learning and that it should be a little scary sometimes. We also talked about how as learners we need to find ways to connect to tasks and make it challenging for ourselves, not just expect our teachers to do that for us all the time. They were asked to let Lachlan and myself know if the work was too challenging or not challenging enough.

The kids created wind turbines to generate energy. One of the students made the connection that it would be a good idea to have the veins of the thingy at the same angle as the fan. There were three sizes of veins – some thought that the larger veins would generate more energy as they would push through the air harder.

Once they finished that they built a complex machine and if finished used batteries to make it move. Two students finished theirs very quickly. Other students didn’t get to this point as they persisted and persisted AND persisted in creating the wind turbine.

We then walked through the different impressive Science labs at Gilmore to knock their little socks off.

Next week is the last week for this group.

Estelle Pizer

STUDENT ABSENCE

Illness does occur and it is best that students stay home to recover quickly. Other absence should be avoided as much as possible. Please make dental and medical appointments for outside school hours. Holidays should be scheduled during the holiday time provided.

Parents/guardians are asked to provide a signed note which should be delivered to the Circles teacher, as soon as the student returns from illness/absence. The rear of the student diary contains a slip for this purpose.

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.
Health Chat

Maribyrnong Youth Services’ School Holiday Program:

With the school holidays fast approaching why not participate in the Maribyrnong Youth Services’ July School Holiday Program- it is now open for bookings!

Maribyrnong Youth Services July School Holiday Program is available to young people aged 12 to 25 who live, study, work or recreate in Braybrook, Maidstone, Maribyrnong, Kingsville, Seddon, Footscray, Tottenham, West Footscray or Yarraville.

Young people are also encouraged to drop in and use the Phoenix Youth Centre anytime during the school holidays. Phoenix Youth Centre is open 9:30am -5:00pm Monday to Friday. Free membership!

For more information contact: Youth Services on 9091 4700 or visit: www.phoenixyouth.com.au or http://www.phoenixyouth.com.au/holidayprogram/

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

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

They are Acer Veriton S480 Core 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: $80.00

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.

Gilmore College for Girls is 90 next year!

School Council is looking for any past students or parents who are interested in being on a Working party to organize the celebrations.

Please contact the office on 9689 4788 if you are keen to be involved.

Soup & Song

Join us for Soup & Song to warm the heart and the spirit - a great combination on a wintry Melbourne day. Be entertained by local artists while you enjoy a bowl of soup and good company, knowing that your contribution is supporting women and girls in your community through Zonta Club of Melbourne’s West projects.

WHERE: WILLIAMSTOWN UNITING CHURCH
Gene, Electra & Pacot Streets, Williamstown
WHEN: 26TH JULY 2014
12.00 – 2.30 p.m.
COST: $20.00
TICKETS: Early bookings are encouraged
Elisabeth: 0438 454 137
Pete: 0411 607 995
Email: info@zontamellowest.org.au
EFT details: 063-260 1003 8775
(please use your surname in the reference)

Published as:
Evelyn de Boosneste Scholarship Gilmore College for Girls. Charter member Evelyn believed that every girl should have the opportunity to achieve her potential through education. The annual scholarship recipient, prepared by the school, has demonstrated aspirations to continue education and pursue her goals.
Breast Care Cushions provide comfort following breast cancer. Materials are purchased and sewn by members and friends for distribution to hospitals and individuals free of charge.

ADVANCING THE STATUS OF WOMEN WORLDWIDE