MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends,

Welcome back to Term 3. I hope all families had a pleasant break. Hopefully you had an opportunity to read through the reports and discuss with your daughter some strategies to put in place for improved learning and ongoing success this semester. Despite the cold weather the term has commenced in a really positive manner.

Mid-year Awards Ceremony

Last week we held an assembly to acknowledge the excellent effort of our students during Semester One. It is affirming for the students who have worked really hard during the first semester to have their efforts acknowledged. We also select a ‘Well Done Award’ at each level to recognise when students do something deserving. Congratulations to all those students who received an award.

Work Experience

So many of our Year 10 students enjoyed their work experience and have returned to school with clear ideas of what they do not want to do and some ideas about what they might want to do for their future career.

Year 12 update

The Year 12 students will fill in their preference sheets for university places this term. To assist in their decision making they are encouraged to attend the university Open Days which are held during this term. They also have the opportunity to apply for scholarships and special entry to many of our universities so they will be advised of these opportunities and must adhere to the closing dates to be considered.

The students will attend their Year 12 formal this term so there is lots of activity happening but they also need to maintain focus on their studies.

New signage

Please read the notice on page three from the Department of Education Health and Safety division regarding new signage fitted to most of the college buildings in relation to asbestos. The new labels form part of a comprehensive program to ensure Victorian government schools remain safe.

Aspirations Conclusion Ceremony

The last session of the Aspirations Program was held in the latter part of last term. It is lovely to see the growth in confidence the girls attain through participation in this program. The focus is on identifying their strengths and areas for improvement in relation to entering the workforce. A range of competencies are presented for the girls to address in relation to their personal traits such as public speaking, employability skills and interview techniques. The students have worked with PricewaterhouseCoopers mentors to identify their strengths and areas for improvement and have shown great development over the length of the program.

Balmoral Camp

The last week of term two 15 Year 9 students went on camp to Balmoral Secondary College for four days. The feedback from staff and students has been really positive. A special thanks to Ms Trist and Ms Taunt for their work in organising and attending the camp.

For many students this is the first time they have travelled to remote parts of Victoria. It provides them with knowledge about train travel, country town hospitality and the opportunity to camp.

Bette Prange
Principal

EDUCATION QUOTE

“There is only one success: to be able to spend your life in your own way.”

~Christopher Morley
JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

After a very enjoyable mid-year break it was very pleasing to see the way students across the junior school have settled into the familiar routine of getting to class on time and being prepared for learning.

The last week of term two saw 15 Year 9 students go on camp to Balmoral Secondary College for four days. The feedback from staff and students has been really positive. A special thanks to Ms Trist and Ms Taunt for their work in organising and attending the camp.

Over the term break parents should have received their daughter’s report for first semester. Before posting I read through the reports of a class at each of the year levels. I was particularly pleased with the general level of commitment and achievement demonstrated across the year level. The report process is an important part of the on-going conversation between students, parents and staff. If, as a parent, you have a query or question regarding your daughter’s report you should not hesitate in contacting the school to discuss this matter.

Last week a school assembly was held to acknowledge the achievements of both Junior and Senior School students. Congratulations to Tra-Mi Do, Salma Muktiyanto and Sophie Gunn on receiving the award for excellence at their respective year levels. Mariam Kassar, Despina Haidemenos and Yelena Grigorovitch are to be congratulated for receiving the encouragement awards.

Throughout third term there will be a continuing focus on literacy and writing across all levels in the junior school. It is important that students regularly read at home to expose themselves to new and different words. It is helpful if parents read through essays and written tasks. Ask what happened in maths today or what was learnt in drama.

In a previous newsletter I raised the issue of conversations between students using social networking pages on the internet and mobile phones. Before the semester break and upon my return to school, several issues were raised by students regarding conversations held on social media sites on the internet. It is important that students realise that these conversations are not always private- although they seem so at the time. It may help if computers with internet connections are located in a central part of the home and not somewhere away from the rest of the family.

I hope staff, students and parents enjoyed the two week break and I look forward to a successful second half of the school year.

Ian Reilly- Junior School Leader

SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome back to another busy term in the senior school. It has been pleasing to see how well our senior students have settled into pattern of wearing the correct uniform, being on time to school and demonstrating a strong commitment to their Year 10 or VCE studies.

We have already hit the ground running with the Year 12 students attending a presentation during their MIPS classes last Monday on managing stress during the next few months leading up to the exams run by our nurse Michelle Hynson.

They also attended the Western Metro Tertiary Information Session at Victoria University last Wednesday 16th July. The presentation was a good introduction to planning for next year with the VTAC process highlighted as well as other factors for consideration by our Year 12 students. They were given the opportunity to gather information from different universities and colleges including the University of Melbourne, Monash, RMIT, Deakin and ACU. Students spent the afternoon talking to campus representatives, as they start to think about what next year and beyond will look like for them.

The Year 10’s have returned from their two weeks of successful work experience and this term will also be thinking about subject and course selections for next year in VCE. Expressions of Interest were sought from this cohort, for the forthcoming Year 10 All Girls State Government Secondary School Annual Conference to be held later in August at Gilmore College for Girls with only 8 places available.

At the end of last term parents and guardians would have received the Semester One written reports through the post. I have already met with some parents to review their daughter’s performance and am happy to do so with any parent/guardian who has any questions or concerns. We do have a parent/teacher interview evening later in the term. I can be contacted by email voidis.helen.h@edumail.vic.gov.au or by contacting the front office on 9689 4788 to make an appointment before that date.

Finally a reminder to Year 12 students and their parents that the Year 12 Formal is to be held at Roslyn House on Thursday 18th September. A deposit of $50 should have been paid to the front office by the end of last term and the balance must be paid by the end of August to enable us to finalise numbers and tables.

Helen Voidis                              Senior School Leader
EMA APPLICATIONS FOR SEMESTER 2

Applications for EMA close on August 1st 2014. If you hold a current Centrelink benefit card and have not already applied please collect a form from the office. If you received Semester 1 payment you will automatically receive your Semester 2 payment.

New International Student Enrolment.

It was a pleasure to welcome the newest International student to Gilmore College along with her family. Mai Nguyen is from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and will commence year 10.

There are currently six International students studying at the college and they come from China, Vietnam and Thailand. They make a valuable and important contribution to the college through their drive and strong work ethic and the global connections they offer. For more information about the International Student Program in Victorian Government schools please visit the website www.study.vic.gov.au or contact the college.

Families interested in providing paid accommodation for an International Student are asked to register with the college.

International students can stay connected on Facebook facebook.com/InternationalSchoolStudentsVictoria

The Nguyen family are pictured below on a tour of the college with International Student Coordinator, Peter Walker.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION HEALTH AND SAFETY

Asbestos Labelling

Dear Parent

As part of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development’s Health and Safety Management Plan, new labelling will be installed at our school.

The labels remind people to contact school reception prior to undertaking any works at the school, to ensure they have up-to-date information from the school’s asbestos register.

Asbestos - which was used extensively in building materials in the past but is now banned - is considered safe unless damaged or in poor condition.

The new labels form part of a comprehensive program to ensure Victorian government schools remain safe.

Children’s safety is our number one priority. That is why we are taking this extra step as a precaution.

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Visit from Yarraville Primary School

Mr McOmish has been providing some extension work for the students from Yarraville West Primary School and this week the students:

- looked at a seed through a microscope that April managed and talked about atoms and molecules.
- sorted different listed objects from largest to smallest – clay particle, human egg, quail egg, width of paper, virus cells etc.
- used http://scaleofuniverse.com to check the list of sorting.
- used the atom builder to learn how to read elements on the periodic table – how to work out electrons, neutrons and protons.

Microscopic view of a seed.
Year 9 Balmoral Camp

On the last week of term, 16 of our students went on a long and rainy journey to visit the Balmoral community.

Our trip started with a train ride and three bus changes. We spent 5 hours travelling all up. Once we arrived and brought in our luggage we met the 13 students that were staying with us also, the students from Balmoral Community College. We were greeted with a trip to the sheering shed to see the sheering in action. The girls cuddled up to the dogs and lambs.

It was very quiet to begin with until we started to slowly mix and play board games next to the fire.

Day 2 was a free day; we just relaxed and started to talk with the Balmoral students. They were very friendly and excited to host us. We also shared some of our digital stories and shared about us and our families, hobbies, talents etc…

Some girls say it was the best camp food they had ever eaten though it was all cooked and cleaned up by the groups we were placed in. We were given selected groups to complete the task of highlighting similarities and differences from where we live and our lives. We then presented this to the families and teachers of Balmoral whilst we shared a meal of desserts.

On our last full day we visited the Balmoral College itself. We spent the morning with the cute prep and 1 students. Then went for a tour of their school and yard areas. It was great to see the differences in schools and subjects that are offered.

All of us girls were sad to leave Balmoral. We all had a blast there and it was great to meet new people with a different way of life.

On behalf of all the girls that attended this camp I’d like to thank Ms Trist, Ms Taunt, Mel, Cheryl, and the Teachers from Balmoral. We appreciate all of the work that went into putting the camp together. And most of all the students from both Gilmore and Balmoral for making it an unforgettable experience.
Careers News

For students in Years 10, 11 and 12 interested in a career in the legal profession:

LSAP (Legal Studies & Australian Politics) is an intensive program aimed at developing your confidence in all the different skills you need to succeed in the legal profession, including communication, teamwork and leadership. LSAP brings you together to work in teams in a wide range of activities, including debating, mock trials and negotiations. You will be introduced to legal concepts and develop some of the tools legal professionals need to succeed. Current university law students mentor the teams throughout the program. LSAP programs run year round in metropolitan and regional areas, and vary in the number of day’s duration depending upon location.


Upcoming events

• 29 September 2014 – Victoria University (Melbourne) - two day workshop

OPEN DAYS REMINDER - Universities and other institutions hold Open Days. The dates are provided.

- Sat 2 Aug - Monash University (Berwick & Peninsula campuses)
- Sun 3 Aug - Deakin (Warrnambool), Monash (Caulfield, Clayton & Parkville), Swinburne
- Sun 10 Aug - Australian Catholic Uni (ACU) (Melbourne), Deakin (Geelong), RMIT (Bundoora, Brunswick, City)
- Sun 17 Aug - La Trobe Uni (Bendigo), University of Melbourne
- Sun 24 Aug - Box Hill Institute, Deakin (Melbourne), La Trobe (Melbourne), Victoria, William Angliss Institute
- Sun 31 Aug - ACU (Ballarat), Federation Uni (Ballarat & Gippsland)

KANGAN Batman Open Days

Visit the website to see
Health Chat

Eating Well:

Good nutrition is essential for everyone, but it’s especially important for growing teenagers. Teenagers need to consume a healthy diet that is high in fruits and vegetables, and rich in nutrients like calcium and iron.

There are lots of myths about healthy food. Don’t make food choices based on false beliefs. Suggestions include:

- Compare the prices of junk foods against the price of healthier food options to see that ‘healthy’ doesn’t have to mean ‘expensive’
- Experiment with different foods and recipes. You’ll soon discover that a meal cooked with fresh ingredients always leaves a limp burger or soggy chips for dead
- Try different ‘fast’ options like whole wheat breakfast cereal, muesli, wholemeal bread, wholegrain muffins, fruit, yoghurt or noodles
- Don’t think that your diet has to be ‘all or nothing’. Eating well doesn’t mean you must be a health food freak. A good diet allows for treats occasionally

Small changes can make a big impact. Try to:

- Cut back on sugary drinks like soft drinks and energy drinks. Water is best
- Keep a fruit bowl stocked at home
- Eat breakfast every day
- Help with the cooking and think up new ways to create healthy meals

- Don’t eat high-fat foods every time you visit a fast food outlet. Suggest a food outlet that serves healthier foods, such as wholemeal rolls with vegetable fillings or sushi

For more information visit:
www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au or
www.eatforhealth.gov.au

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

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: $80.00

Great desktop for home internet browsing and homework. See the Technicians if you would like one, they can be picked up from the IT department.
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 18 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