MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends,

Staffing
Some of you may have noticed that Ms Keyes has been absent from the front desk. She has had to have an operation and it appears that she will not be back for the remainder of the term. We wish Nola well in her recovery.

Both Ms Taunt and Ms Voids have taken Long Service Leave for the remainder of the year. We hope they have a relaxing extended break.

End of Year Reports
I believe some parents have concerns that their daughter is assessed as ‘C’ on the report. A ‘C’ indicates that the students are operating at the expected level, they are completing the work appropriate to that year level. A ‘B’ means they are six months ahead of where they should be and an ‘A’ indicates they are 12 months ahead of where they should be. To gauge whether your daughter is doing really well you should look for Very High and High results on each report.

Myths and beliefs
A recent article I read has some interesting points that I thought to share with you.

Amongst the top myths is the notion that public education is failing, that private schools are better than public schools and that greater autonomy for public schools will lift performance, Dinham, Australian College of Educators (ACE) president said. A loss of confidence in public education has been driven by the acceptance of “myths” and “beliefs” emanating from the school systems in the US and UK, leading education expert Stephen Dinham argues.

He said the influence of these myths underpins the so-called “global crisis in education” and the corresponding pressures to reform the public school system. “Educational research and other evidence has been distorted, discounted or disregarded in favour of deregulation, privatisation, corporatisation and quick-fix solutions to the supposed problem of teaching and crisis in schools,” Dinham said at an ACE event earlier this week.

“The view that public education is failing when it isn’t is extremely important because it means that people have lost confidence in public education and the same thing has happened in the US and UK as well,” Dinham said.

“The problem is if people lose confidence in public education it will encourage people to look to other providers and other solutions.” Those solutions include government, institutional and corporate support for non-traditional forms of schooling such as government-funded independent schools, for-profit schools, free schools, charter schools, cyber-schools and academies.

But Dinham said there is a lack of evidence to support such solutions and that in some cases they proliferate in spite of non-supportive evidence.

Reprinted from Education Review online Oct. 2014

Recently I met with my manager to review the progress of the college. Our data as demonstrated in the NAPLAN summary report has shown excellent ‘value add’ as shown by their Yr 7 NAPLAN results compared to their Yr 9 results. This has been due to the consistent approach by staff with the WMR Literacy and Numeracy strategies. It has taken time to embed the strategies and we must ensure we maintain a consistent focus on student improvement. Our VCE results have also improved significantly, resulting in three scores above 90 in 2013. As the class of 2014 sits the exams we hope for similar results from them.

Bette Prange  Principal

EDUCATION QUOTE: “The will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach your full potential ... these are the keys that will unlock the door to personal excellence.” ~ Confucius
Assistant Principals’ Report

On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month – Gilmore College for Girls paused to reflect upon the millions of people who lost their lives fighting for a ‘cause’ during wars and conflicts.

So why is Remembrance Day a significant event? What exactly is being remembered?

Wars and conflicts are tragedies: they bring death, injury, grief and destruction. However, many ordinary people respond with extraordinary courage. They served to protect their families, friends and homes. We should always remember those who have fought and suffered to save our way of life and give us the freedom we have. On Remembrance Day we will take special time to remember these people.

In addition, Gilmore College for Girls will be participating in the Read2Remember (R2R) initiative. Along with thousands of other teachers, school children and community members, we will work towards making young Australians understand the importance of resilience, and in particular how to build it into their own lives.

Whilst honouring Australian servicemen and women, R2R will also teach students that they have the same capacity for courage and resilience we see in the servicemen and women we all admire.

During our ‘Circles’ session on Remembrance Day, students stopped and read the Pledge of Remembrance. By reading the Pledge, Gilmore College for Girls also become a part of a World Record attempt for the most children participating in a reading event.

Mr Paul Nucci

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

With Melbourne Cup out of the way the school year is racing towards the post. Teachers are beginning to write reports. It is extremely important that students ensure that all set work requirements are completed and handed in. Teachers have been sending home a document that outlines any work requirements that need to be completed. It is extremely important that students take these forms home, complete the work and have their parents sign the form.

I have spent a lot of time this week talking to individual students about wearing the right uniform. Canvas shoes are not part of the prescribed uniform. If a scarf is worn it must be blue or white. Track shoes are not to be worn home because students think they are more comfortable.

Having students in uniform is the responsibility of staff, students and parents.

Ian Reilly- Junior School Leader

SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Year 11 exams commence on 17-19 November. A reminder that all Year 11 students need to attend the Year 12 Orientation Program and make sure they have purchased the required novels, purchased diary and made payment of school charges to confirm their enrolment.

Year 12 Orientation is 24-28 November 2014.

Year 10 Exams commence Thursday 20 November. All students need to be aware of the time for each exam and make sure you arrive in plenty of time.

All Year 10 students need to attend the 2015 Year 11 VCE orientation program which will be held 1-5 December

Ms Voidis is on Long Service Leave.

Helen Voidis Senior School Leader

Gilmore alumni returns to share her journey

Past Gilmore Girl, Sian Lasslett returned to the college this week to share her experiences of nursing with the 11A MIPS class. Speaking about her experiences at university and in the workplace, Sian captivated her audience with the highs, lows of nursing as well as the many and varied opportunities available to nursing graduates. Sian graduated from Gilmore College in 2008 and since then has completed both a bachelor and postgraduate studies in nursing.

Halloween Comes to Gilmore

Year 8 drama students celebrated Halloween with the final performance of their class horror plays. 8B’s performance of ‘Clowns’ and 8As ‘Whispered Warnings’ were performed to a thrilled audience in the school’s Performing Arts Centre. While the actor’s did a great job, credit should also be given to the many students who
worked behind the scenes in script writing, backstage, costume, make up, sound and set design.

One of activities for Halloween this year was to dress up Sally the Mannequin. Sally is a character from the movie "A Nightmare before Christmas". She is a Frankenstein rag doll type creature. Occasionally her arm or leg would fall off and she just sewed it back together. Inspired by this character design, I borrowed a mannequin, pins and a bunch of scrap fabrics from Textiles and set Sally up near the Library entrance. The girls loved it.

By Hung

Year 9 Poetry Writing

The year 9 EAL class have been working with several different poetry structures and creating their own poems based on these structures. Below are some examples which they have created:

Haiku

The water falls down

The purity surrounds me

I reach out to touch

By Sandy

The leaf falls softly

The streets are empty of life

Love has no meaning

By Sadaf

Cinquain

This form was inspired by the Japanese Haiku but first used in the USA over 100 years ago. The lovely example below is by Tin

Thin, tall

Loves to sing

Her cooking is delicious

Mum

By Tin

I lay in my bed

And I dream of my home

Thinking of the past

By Drashti

Maribyrnong City Council
New Disability Policy and Action Plan

Maribyrnong City Council is seeking community views on ways to make Maribyrnong a more inclusive and accessible community for people with a disability. The consultation survey is available to complete online at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/G7HXJPL

The survey closes: Monday 15th December 2014.

If you would like to have the Newsletter emailed to you, please send an email to gilmoregirls.co@edumail.vic.gov.au and we will enter your email address into our database.
Gilmore College for Girls

Annual Soiree

All students, families and friends are invited to attend and enjoy an evening of musical entertainment, showcasing the talents of the students.

Come one and all to our evening of musical entertainments on Monday 24 November from 7pm.

Be delighted by offerings from our instrumental music students, including strings, guitar, keyboard, woodwind and rhythm ensembles! Be dazzled by the soaring vocal power of the choir and other class song groups!

Everyone is welcome to attend and we’d love to see you there supporting the talented students that put their time and effort into learning and practicing their instruments.

Pencil it into your diary

Date: Monday 24 November
Time: 7 pm – 9 pm
Venue LCC @ Gilmore Girls

Light refreshments will be served.

HEALTH CHAT

SMILING MIND:

WHAT IS SMILING MIND?
Smiling Mind is modern meditation for young people. It is a unique web and App-based program, designed by renowned psychologists to help bring balance to young lives. It is a not-for-profit initiative based on a process that provides a sense of calm, clarity and contentment. Our goal is to raise awareness of the importance of emotional health and wellbeing by providing pre-emptive mental health programs based around Mindfulness Meditation. These programs have been developed to assist people in dealing with the pressure, stress and challenges of daily life.

These programs can be used to complement existing mental health, wellbeing, pastoral care or training programs. The guided meditations are only 5-10 minutes long.

WHAT IS MINDFULNESS MEDITATION?
Mindfulness Meditation is one of the most effective ways of teaching us to pay attention; to be more mindful.

While the practice of mindfulness has been around for centuries, it has surged in popularity in recent years with highly regarded institutions such as UCLA, Harvard, Oxford, Monash and Melbourne Universities developing clinical studies revealing the positive impacts of mindfulness.

Just as a muscle can be strengthened through exercise, mindfulness is an ability that can be further developed through practice. As little as five minutes a day is all that is needed to start seeing benefits.

THE EDUCATION PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE FOR FOUR DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS:
• 7-11 years
• 12-15 years
• 16-22 years
• Adults

There is also additional Bite Size program which has been developed to assist in building attention and concentration skills.

THE PROGRAMS ARE DESIGNED TO COMPLEMENT LEARNING AND WELLBEING:
• As a pre-emptive and proactive tool to enhance mental health and wellbeing
• To arm participants with the skills to better manage stress and resilience
• To improve attention and focus
• To increase empathy and awareness of negative emotional states
• To encourage participants to feel calm, clear and content
• To improve academic and learning outcomes via improved focus.

REFERENCES AND FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE REFER TO:
www.smilingmind.com.au

Michelle Hynson - School Health Promotion Nurse (Mon/Tues)
Weekly videos
Visit the Challenge web page to discover great picture books, and book recommendations for early and late primary students from Readings St Kilda children’s book buyer Angela Crocombe. Author and Challenge ambassador Kirsty Murray shares her love of reading and writing, and offers tips for choosing books. You can also find out where popular children's author Andy Griffiths gets the ideas for his amazing books.
New videos will be posted each week of the school term. To watch these videos, see: Weekly Videos

VCAL for 2015 - Harvester Technical College
Harvester Technical College is conducting session for students interested in VCAL in 2015. Information sessions 6.00 – college tour-6.30 Information sessions (1 hour)

Dates:
Tuesday 18 November
76 Suffolk Rd, Sunshine North

Election Day BBQ – Parent Help please.
We have decided to conduct a BBQ on Election Day as a school fundraiser. Please contact reception if you can assist on the day: 29 November.

Werribee Open Range Zoo’s Keeper for a Day program
Interested in a career as a zoo keeper?
Are you thinking of a career in working with animals? Come and join us for a day and participate in a range of hands on experiences designed to provide you with an insight into the role of a zoo keeper. This is a great opportunity to discover first-hand the skills and experience recommended to gain a position as a zoo keeper amongst a competitive field of applicants.
Ages: Years 7-12 students.
Cost: $105.00; $94.50 zoo members
Bookings: 9285 9406
www.zoo.org.au/werribee/whats-on/keeper-for-a-day

Healesville Sanctuary’s Vet for a Day program
Splash out with our Keepers this Summer!
Aquatic animals have amazing adaptations. Come and work with our keepers to find out how we care for these amazing creatures including platypus, pelicans and turtles. Go behind-the-scenes to see how we help keep animals cool in summer. Keeper for a Day participants will work with Sanctuary staff, helping our keepers and learning about one of the most rewarding jobs!

Ages: 15-18 years. (Years 9-12).
Cost: $129 (includes morning tea); $116.00 zoo members
Bookings: 9285 9406
www.zoo.org.au/healesville/whats-on/healesville-sanctuary-vet-for-a-day

Healesville Sanctuary’s Keeper for a Day program
Interested in becoming a vet?
Our Australian Wildlife Health Centre receives over 1,500 injured and orphaned wild animals each year. Come and work alongside our vets in a unique program on real life cases involving Healesville Sanctuary’s animal collection as well as injured wildlife brought to the hospital. This summer we have a focus on aquatic animals. Learn about how vets care for platypus, turtles and water birds!

Vet for a Day allows participants to work in our vet hospital for the day, helping our vets and learning about one of the most rewarding jobs!

Ages: Years 7-12 students.
Cost: $105.00; $94.50 zoo members
Bookings: 9285 9406
www.zoo.org.au/healesville/whats-on/keeper-for-a-day

LOOKING FOR A QUIET PLACE TO STUDY?
FOOTSCRAY VCE STUDENTS ARE WELCOME AT VICTORIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
There are two VU libraries in Footscray and access is free for VCE students. The libraries have a range of spaces for quiet study or group projects, and they're open late and on the weekend during term times. At the VU library you can also:

www.zoo.org.au/werribee/whats-on/keeper-for-a-day
Photocopy (fees apply)
Bring and plug in your own laptop or tablet
Get research help from library staff
Borrow print material (if you sign up for a free membership with parent or school approval)

Library locations and Term 4 opening hours
Footscray Park campus
Ballarat Road, Footscray
Level 2, Building P
Monday to Thursday: 8.00am - 12.00am (midnight)
Friday: 8.00am - 10.00pm
Saturday & Sunday: 10.00am - 5.00pm
Phone: 9919 4518

Footscray Nicholson campus
Cnr Nicholson & Buckley Streets, Footscray
Level 2, Telford Building
Monday to Thursday: 8.00am - 8.00pm
Friday: 8.00am - 7.30pm
Saturday: 12.00pm (noon) – 5.00pm
Phone: 9919 8630

ARE YOU EX NAVY, ARMY, OR AIR FORCE?

Then Carry On (Victoria) may be able to help you with education costs if you meet our eligibility criteria.

If you have served in the Australian Defence Forces or Allied Forces and you wish to apply for a Secondary Education Grant for 2015, please telephone Carry On (Victoria) on (03) 9629 2648 to establish eligibility and request an application form.

Carry On (Victoria) assists Secondary School students in Years 7-12 with grants for expenses such as fees, books, uniforms, excursions etc. For those students going on to Tertiary Education a grant may also be available.

Children whose Parent/s or Legal Guardian/s have a need for financial assistance and comply with our eligibility criteria may apply. All grants are income tested and applications should be submitted by 30 October 2014

Royal Children’s Hospital Calendar

The Royal Children’s Hospital (RCH) Education Institute supports the teaching and learning needs of children and young people with a chronic illness at The Royal Children’s Hospital.

This year I am pleased to announce the release of the inaugural 2015 Children’s Artwork Calendar and we are inviting your learning community to show your support by displaying and selling our calendar at your school and/or early learning centre.

These beautiful A3 calendars are priced at $24.95 each and net funds raised will support art projects for students of the RCH Education Institute.

VINTAGE AND COLLECTABLES FAIR

PROUDLY PRESENTED AND ORGANISED BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF HOPPERS CROSSING - assisted by Interact club of Baden Powell College - All profits to Rotary community projects

A MYRIAD OF OLD WARES, UNUSUAL HOBBY, CRAFT, AND COLLECTABLE ITEMS OF INTEREST ON DISPLAY AND FOR SALE
ONE DAY ONLY - 10AM UNTIL 4PM

DATE: SATURDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2014
VENUE: BADEN POWELL COLLEGE
Baden Powell Drive, Tarneit (just off Derrimut Road)
Admission $5.00 only
All enquiries and potential stall holders - call Des O’Shanassy on mob. 0401 287 050 or email desoshanassy@hotmail.com to book your site
MAP REF: MELWAYS REF 202 G3

School Canteen

Parents are reminded that the college has a school canteen that can provide recess snacks, lunch and hot chocolate before school. If you do not wish to patronize the canteen then you must provide your daughter with lunch and snacks; other alternatives are not allowed.

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: $50.00