MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends,

This is our last newsletter for the year and I have reflected on the year with pride. At the beginning of the year we welcomed three graduates who commenced their teaching career at Gilmore College for Girls. We have experienced some major staff changes during the year as Ms Jarman, Mr Le, Ms Pavlidis and Ms Dimidou all retired. All made a long and lasting contribution to Gilmore College for Girls.

Soiree
We had a lovely evening at Soiree. It was terrific to see students perform a range of items and to see many new parents attend to support their daughters in performing for Soiree. We were very lucky to see Ms Margaret Haggart, (our School Council President and a world renowned opera singer), perform with Sophie Gunn.

Preparation for 2015
The year 11 and 12 Orientation Programs have been really successful and we have cultivated a good work ethic with the VCE students. Students have holiday homework so can parents support their daughters in establishing good study routines and having access to local libraries if required.

Last day
Students will finish on Friday 12 December as staff will have curriculum planning days in preparation for our International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program accreditation in 2015.

Staffing changes
Ms McQueen, our Food Technology and Textiles teacher has gained a position at Albert Park College so we wish her well. Ms Pavlidis, our library teacher has retired. Our Library technician, Mr Hung Ngo has gained a position in the private system. I would like to thank them all for their contribution to Gilmore College for Girls and wish them well for the future.

Maintenance Allowance 2015
The following information has been provided to the School Council by the DEECD. From 1 January 2015, the government will provide extra financial support directly to Victoria’s neediest schools instead of providing the Education Maintenance Allowance directly to parents. Parents will not be able to apply for the Education Maintenance Allowance in 2015. Gilmore College for Girls will provide a $120.00 credit against the Materials Charge for each student under the age of 16 or who turn 16 in 2015 to families who would normally be eligible for EMA. Eligible families need to provide a copy of their current Health Care card to the school in November/December 2014. The end of EMA direct payments to parents will not affect any other payment you may be receiving such as the Schoolkids Bonus, which is provided directly to eligible parents to assist with education costs.

As this is our last newsletter for the year I reflect on the great year it has been. We have had many enjoyable events that have been new to our community; such as the performance in the container, the yarn bombing of the cow and the pig, our fantastic Multicultural Day celebrations, the return of the Balmoral students, the $20 Boss project the Year 8 students are currently involved in. It has been a good year and I would like to thank the staff who have provided the opportunity for our students to be involved in such a diverse range of activities in addition to their school work. These extra events expose the students to new possibilities, cultures and friendships.

I would like to wish you all a safe and happy holiday and best wishes for the festive season.

Bette Prange
Principal

EDUCATION QUOTE: “Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.”
Thomas A. Edison
JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

As this is the last Newsletter for 2014 it seems appropriate to look back over the year and reflect on the highlights of the year. The swimming and athletics sports were the stand-out highlights for 2014. The soiree showcased the wonderful musical talents of a large number of junior school girls. Outside school activities really allow the girls to get to know each other and their teachers in an informal setting.

Throughout the year I have been constantly impressed with the positive learning environments developed by the junior school teachers. The Year 7 classes have focused on inquiry based learning with the students working diligently and purposefully throughout the year to improve their skills. The Year 8 presentations on democracy and equality were creative and entertaining. The Year 9 research projects into our convict past and local soldiers who volunteered to serve overseas during the 1914-18 War were both informative and thought provoking.

The past week saw the Year 7’s undertake a really enjoyable excursion to Docklands while the Year 9 students hosted students from Balmoral Secondary College for three days.

Students are encouraged to read their English novels over the holidays to get a positive start on 2015.

With Christmas and the summer break approaching I hope everyone has a relaxing and happy time and returns for another successful year in 2015.

A special thanks to all the Junior School staff for their support throughout the year.

Ian Reilly- Junior School Leader

SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Year 10 students have completed their 2015 Year 11 VCE orientation program and have been provided with their holiday homework. I hope everyone has a safe and productive break. Best Wishes for the holiday season.

Helen Voidis Senior School Leader

Victoria University Science Experience – Year 9

Twelve of our students joined with schools throughout Maribyrnong for three action packed days of science and engineering this week. The Foundation year students at Victoria University and University lecturers lead the students in constructing some fascinating devices and completing the challenges posed.

The activities included: constructing a laser Spirograph with electronics, building a hydraulic operating claw, making glow-in-the-dark chemicals, building a voice modulator, the ping pong shooting challenge, and making GIANT bubbles.

On the last day everyone packed into a lecture theatre and was thrilled by the scientific demonstrations present by VU and the supervising teachers on the day which included high voltage sparks, levitation and magnetism, numerous loud, hot explosion of hydrogen, flaming hands and much more. Selected students from each school then competed in an exciting quiz in a first-to-the-buzzer format. Students in the practical groups which ran over the three days were awarded textbooks in Biology and Chemistry for ‘excellence’ and ‘merit’ for their efforts.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable and motivating time at the University and hopefully it will encourage many students to consider careers in science and engineering and to work hard at their studies back at Gilmore College as they move up to the senior school. Thank you to Ms. Tait for also supervising the students at the event and for all the students who took part and made such a wonderful effort.

Grace Worland soldering an electronic circuit.

Mr. Walker (Science & Mathematics Teacher)

Booklists:

Booklists must be returned to the General Office by Thursday 11 December 2014

2014 Soiree

Our program this year included violin, guitar, flute, clarinet and piano and keyboard. Ms Dobra also had many of her Year 7 Music students who sang a few numbers.
Gilmore College for Girls is once again participating in Betty Armsden Participation Program run by the Melbourne Arts Centre.

Devised and designed by Darryl Cordell, HOME began as part of Fringe Architecture in 2001. This project explores notions of home and what this may mean to us as individuals, families and communities. Under the artistic direction of our Visual Arts teacher, Lesley Burt, year 9 students have decorated tiny homes that will be displayed both in the city of Melbourne but also on the Arts Centre’s interLooactive site over the summer period.

Up to 7,000 homes tiny homes will be decorated as part of this project and our year 9 students are just one of many community groups across the state who are participating in this exciting program.

All members of the public are welcome to attend the grand opening of this event on the 10th of January. See the Arts Centre homepage for more details.


Changes to the Secondary Schools Tax File Number Program in 2015

The Secondary Schools Tax File Number (TFN) Program will not continue beyond 31 December 2014. This means that School TFN forms will no longer be processed beyond this date.

How students can apply for a TFN from 1 January 2015
The Australian Taxation Office in partnership with Australia Post is making it easier for individuals to apply for a TFN.

Students can now apply for a TFN online and have their identity verified through an interview at a participating Australia Post office.

Applying online is the fastest and most convenient way for students to get a TFN. More information on applying online can be found at [ato.gov.au](http://ato.gov.au) by searching for 'QC27248'.

Students who are unable to visit a participating Australia Post office will need to complete the application form Tax file number - application or enquiry for individuals form (NAT 1432). More information about lodging this form can be found at [ato.gov.au](http://ato.gov.au) by searching for 'QC22604'.

The ATO will continue working with teachers to educate students about tax and superannuation. The curriculum resource Tax, Super & You is a free, easy to use, online educational resource aligned to the school curriculum of each state and territory. This resource can be accessed at [taxsuperandyou.gov.au](http://taxsuperandyou.gov.au).

Deputy Commissioner of Taxation

---

**Yarraville Carols in the Gardens 2014.**

Celebrating it’s 21st anniversary, the Yarraville Carols in the Gardens is one of the West’s best Christmas Carols.

Saturday 20th December 2014 commencing at 7pm.

Yarraville Gardens, Hyde Street

The evening will feature a number of special guest artists, including a mass choir (comprising choristers from “Footscray Sings”; “Willin Wimmin”; and “The CHO!R”); Footscray-Yarraville City Band; Hyde Street Youth Band, and several opera singers, incl. Margaret Haggart, internationally acclaimed Soprano.

Fireworks 10pm. Free Event.

**Enquiries: David Palmer 0416 497 398**

**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](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/G7HXJPL)

The survey closes: Monday 15th December 2014.

**HEALTH CHAT**

**Food and Drink for Healthy Teeth:**

For healthy teeth, food and drinks should be free of added sugar whenever possible.

Tooth decay (dental caries) is a diet related disease. Sugars in the food and drinks you consume mix with the bacteria in the plaque on your teeth and produce acids. These acids attack the outer layers of the tooth (tooth enamel).

Consuming sweet food and drink between meals is a major cause of tooth decay; this is because there is no between-meal period for teeth to undergo recovery. The more often sweet foods and drinks are consumed, the higher the risk of tooth decay.

**What you can do to help maintain healthy teeth:**

- Limit how often you have sweet foods and consume them during meal times rather than between meals.
- Limit sweet drinks, including fruit juices (even if diluted, fruit juice contains natural sugars which can lead to tooth decay).
- Choose healthy snacks such as fresh fruit, vegetable sticks, natural yoghurt, plain popcorn, soups or cheese.
- Choose fresh fruit over dried fruit, as dried fruit will leave a sticky residue on your teeth and can contribute to tooth decay.
- Cut down the sugar added to cups of tea and coffee.
- Drink [fluoridated](http://www.fluoridated.com) tap water and plain milk instead of soft drinks, juice or cordial.
- Have a piece of cheese after consuming sweet or acidic food as dairy products assist in reversing the decay process.

Brushing your teeth and cleaning between your teeth is important because it removes plaque. If the plaque isn’t removed, it builds up and can cause tooth decay and gum disease. You should brush your teeth at least twice a day.


Michelle Hynson - School Health Promotion Nurse (Mon/Tues)
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 school offers over forty languages through both face to face teaching in centres across the state and through distance education.

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

Classes are held between 9.00 am and 12.20 pm and in order to assist with course costs a small annual charge applies: $70.00 in Years 1 to 10 and $85.00 for VCE. Adults may be accepted in VCE classes only and the annual charge is $210.00.

Enrolments for new students in 2015 are now being taken. For further details please contact the Area Manager on 9689 1166 or visit http://www.vsl.vic.edu.au

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

Werribee Open Range Zoo’s Keeper for a Day program

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

Healesville Sanctuary’s Keeper for a Day program

www.zoo.org.au/healesville/whats-on/keeper-for-a-day