MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Student Free Day.
Students are not required to school on Friday 5th June as teachers will be finalising student reports. Parents please also note that Monday 8th June is a public holiday so students are not required that day.

International Baccalaureate Mission statement
Gilmore College for Girls aims to enable young women to achieve their potential in an all-girls environment of educational excellence. We develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young women who help to create a better and more peaceful world through inter-cultural understanding and respect. Our programs encourage students to become active and lifelong learners with a global perspective.

New funding – Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CESF. The allowance will be paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions, or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.
The annual amount per student will be $225 for secondary school students.
Please bring your Health Care/Pension Card to the office and complete the CSEF application form.
Closing date is 26 June.

Year 10 Work Experience
For our Year 10 students their week of Work Experience is scheduled for the last week of term. Much preparation has gone into ensuring that this week will be a significant learning experience for each student, one that will provide a wonderful opportunity to discern future directions in terms of a career.

Year 10 and 11 Exams
Year 10 and 11 students have completed the mid-year exams. It was the first lot of exams for the year 10 students so they are quite relieved to be through that process. Teachers are assessing each paper and will report on the student’s efforts in the upcoming reports.

Congratulations Ms Mueller
Our very special congratulations and thanks to Ms Olga Mueller who this year will complete 35 years of service with the Department of Education. This milestone represents a significant achievements and wonderful contribution to the lives of hundreds of young people and to state education.

The GAT Exam
All students who study at least one Unit 3 and 4 subject are required to sit the VCAA General Achievement Test on Wednesday June 10.
The GAT is intended as a broad measure of student ability and as such it is not a test that requires students to put in hours of study in preparation. The three hour GAT paper includes two thirty minute writing tasks. The first piece requires ‘informative or expository’ writing and the second piece requires ‘persuasive or opinionative’ writing. The students are familiar with these writing styles from their regular English classes.
The GAT is used to support students to attain end of year VCAA study scores that are a true reflection of their ability. If a student is unable to sit their VCAA examinations as a result of serious illness or personal trauma, then the GAT becomes a key measure in determining derived study scores.

Attendance
A reminder to parents that the minimum attendance required is 80%. Students who fall below this level will receive an N for the subject under study as they have not participated to the required level.

Bette Prange
Principal

EDUCATION QUOTE: “Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out.”
Robert Collier.
JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

We have reached the half way mark of the term and I am very encouraged by the participation of the girls in a number of activities offered by the college. First of all congratulations to Tra Mi, Madeena, Dilara, Jaime Caila, Mayamu, Berivan, Olivia, Muna and Elette for their participation in the Year 8 All Girls Government State Secondary Schools Conference. Guest speaker Kate Charlwood inspired and motivated the audience by recounting her journey through her high school years. She spoke about how it wasn’t always smooth sailing and even after completing year 12 she was still unsure about what she wanted to do. Kate emphasised that the girls will eventually find their career path and it doesn’t always necessarily happen in secondary school.

Students from each of the schools - Canterbury Girls, Melbourne Girls, Pascoe Vale Girls, Matthew Flinders Girls and Mentone Girls gave a five minute presentation about their school and what it offered. Although we are all girls schools, it is amazing how different we really are. One thing that we have in common is the belief that girls can do anything. The focus on teaching our girls to be leaders, take risks and aim for academia was a significant message that came out of the day. To end the program, some students participated in a relaxing yoga session whilst others played games in the gym. At the conclusion, each student was presented with a certificate of participation.

I am pleased with the number of students who have returned their deposit for the junior school camp at Phillip Island on the 18th, 19th and 20th of November. The camp offers a wonderful opportunity for students to attend a series of activities focusing on teamwork, leadership and development. We will continue to accept deposits if students have changed their minds and wish to attend.

As we head towards the end of term, it is of a concern that a number of students in the junior school will not achieve the minimum 80% attendance rate and consequently will be receiving an N in some subjects. Attendance and punctuality is very important to achieving a successful outcome this semester. I would ask every parent to ensure that their daughter attends school punctually every day.

Please contact the school regarding any absences. If parents have any other concerns you can email me at this address vendetti.maria.m@edumail.vic.gov.au or contact me on 96894788.

Ms Vendetti – Acting Junior School Leader

SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

With only two weeks left of Semester 1 it is essential that students are at school every day to maintain their attendance level to above eighty percent. Anything under this level will jeopardise results and the learning of students in the senior end of the school.

The Year 10 students have just completed their first experience of formal exams along with the Year 11’s. They were on time to each exam and their behaviour was excellent.

Year 10 students should be finalising their work experience and electives before the end of the term. Year 11’s also need to think about their VCE subjects. They do have the opportunity to swap a subject if there are places available. This process needs to be completed by Friday 11th of June as Semester Two commences on Monday 15th of June for all Unit 2 and Unit 4 VCE subjects.

Year 12 students have been completing past exam questions and writing essays during their MIPS classes to prepare for the General Achievement Test (GAT) which is the only formal exam for Year 12 to be held on Wednesday 10th June.

In terms of extra-curricula activities senior sporting teams went out on Thursday 21st May in both basketball and table tennis. Both teams of students were great ambassadors for the College, with exemplary behaviour and good team effort.

On Friday 29th May the second of the Aspirations workshops was held at PWC at Southbank. This session focused on the students creating and mapping their own personal brands while considering their skills, strengths and values in the process. There was also a focus on digital citizenship and the students’ social media footprint.

Two of our Year 11 students were invited to attend the Model United Nation Assembly which was held at Axedale (near Bendigo) last Friday 29th May through to
Sunday 31st May. Lenjie Cuanan and Faiso Mohamed had the opportunity to participate in a range of workshops that simulate the workings of the UN Assembly. We look forward to their reports in the next newsletter and congratulate the girls for their efforts and contribution to the lively discussions over the weekend.

Finally some housekeeping with reminders again about students wearing correct school winter uniform. Please ensure your daughter is wearing blue stockings if the skirt option is worn. Detentions will be issued for students who continually wear the wrong uniform, along with those who arrive late to school on three occasions. (Every three late is equal to one 4 o’clock detention on a Thursday).

Thank you to all the parents who send emails with queries or concerns. I am very happy to meet with parents/guardians to discuss the progress of their daughter in either Year 10, 11 or 12.

My email is voidis.helen.h@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Helen Voidis                              Senior School Leader

Class Attendance

Research confirms a strong link between attendance and student outcomes.

Gilmore College for Girls understands the importance of student attendance. The college has worked hard to identify and mitigate factors that impact on student engagement and attendance. Over the past five years we have made a huge impact in improving our attendance records. This has been achieved by working cooperatively in a three-way partnership between the school, students and parents.

Our community is now ready to take the next step! We are aiming high - zero unexplained/unauthorized absences. To achieve this we need to further improve our processes and procedures.

What will now happen if a student has not shown up to school by 10am?

If students are marked absent from Period 1 and/or Circles without an explanation or authorization an SMS will be sent to the parents/guardians in the morning. The SMS will request parents to authorize the absence.

What can parents/guardians do to assist?

If parents or guardians know in advance that their child will be away from school, they can ring the attendance line on 9689 4310

Alternatively, parents or guardians can email the school on gilmoregirls.co@edumail.vic.gov.au

Any of the above options will prevent an SMS being sent from the school on the morning of your daughter’s absence.

What are the attendance requirements?

The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority require 50 hours of class time for all VCE units of study. To ensure we meet these requirements Gilmore College for Girls sets minimum class attendance at 80%.

Can students check their attendance records?

In semester two, Gilmore College for Girls will make available a timetabling and roll marking app called First Class Mobile. The app will allow students to

- Access their personal timetable
- Access their roll marking records
- Instant message students in their classes and their teachers
- View the events calendar

The Apple and Android versions are available now and eventually the app will be extended to parents/guardians as well. Later this semester, Circles teachers will show students how to download it and use all the features.

Paul Nucci                                Assistant Principal

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability - ‘Collection Notice’

All schools in Australia, including Independent and Catholic schools, will participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability this year.

The Data Collection is an annual count of the number of students with disability receiving educational adjustments to support their participation in education on the same basis as students without disability.

All education agencies are now required under the Australian Education Regulation 2013 to provide information on a student’s level of education, disability and level of adjustment to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training.* Data will continue to be de-identified prior to its transfer to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training. No student’s identity will be provided to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training.
The collection of this information from states and territories will inform future policy and program planning in relation to students with disability.  
If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Prange on 9689 4788 or the Victorian Department of Education and Training Data Collection Hotline on (03) 9651 3621.  
For questions after 7 August 2015, please call the Australian Government Department of Education and Training on 1300 566 046.  
For more information on Schedule 3 - Amendments for the collection of data on students who are persons with a disability Australian Education Regulation 2013, please see:  

**MEDIEVAL INCURSION**

On Thursday the 28th of May our Year 8 girls participated in a medieval incursion as part of their inquiry learning unit on life in the Middle Ages. The girls enthusiastically took part in role plays and activities that focused on medieval dance, the role of women and the rather dreadful practices of medieval crime and punishment!

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**Fashionista Sistas**

It’s said that first impressions count and that you never have a second chance to make a good impression!

Girls in year 10 will be participating in the Work Experience program in the last week of this term. (22 – 26 June). In order to help them prepare, the “Fashionista Sistas” spent one period last Friday talking to students about how to create a good first impression and how to dress appropriately for the workplace. Fashionista Sistas, Lissa Marshall and Leane Flynn are Style and Image Consultants and experts in the field of personal branding. They are Certified Stylists with Smitten with Style Personal & Corporate Stylists, hold a Business Degree (IT & Marketing) and are members of the Fashion Stylist Network, Business Chicks and The League of Extraordinary Women.

Year 10 students enjoyed the interactive and fun presentation and gained a lot from it. For their part Lissa and Leane said they really enjoyed the response and enthusiasm of the Gilmore students. Thanks to Alex.
and Gabby who acted as models in the “what to wear and what not to wear” section of the presentation.

Olga Mueller and Leanne Goyne Year 10 MIPs teachers.

2015 Athletics Carnival
We had our annual Athletics Carnival at Moonee Valley Athletics Centre on Wed 6th May. Congratulations to all students and staff for their efforts on this day. Special thanks to our Sport Captain (Mariama Brima) and Junior & Senior House Captains for their dedication and hard work leading up to this event and on the day. Well done to Banksia for winning! Wattle finished in 2nd place and Waratah 3rd. Well done girls!!

Cross Country Update
Congratulations to our cross country team for their amazing results in the recent interschool event at Pipemakers Park on May 11th. The girls had to run in very cold conditions including rain (at times). Students have been training hard both in school and outside school to prepare for cross country. Special congratulations must go to the following girls who finished in the top ten for their age group: Sadaf 2nd, Gabby 3rd, Sara 3rd, Hawo 4th, Hicret 4th, Sindous 4th, Aisha 2nd, Ava 3rd, Olivia 10th, Jaime-Caila 5th, Kaiesha 9th. These students have qualified for Regional Cross Country on June 11th. We wish them well!!

Health Chat

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. Smiling Mind’s 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.

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.

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.

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

Michelle Hynson - Adolescent School Health Promotion Nurse Monday and Tuesday
**Careers News - June**

RMIT offers a number of events designed to give students in Years 10 to 12 an insight into life on campus. During the school holidays, students engage in hands on workshops and explore different aspects of art, design, science, community studies and engineering. Registrations are now open.

Below is a list of all Experience Days:

- **Monday 29 June**
  - Business
  - Engineering (City)
- **Tuesday 30 June**
  - Health and Medical Sciences (Bundoora)
- **Wednesday 1 July**
  - Justice and Legal
  - Music, Sound and Live Production
  - Science
- **Thursday 2 July**
  - Advertising, Marketing and Public Relations
  - Engineering (Bundoora)
  - Sustainability
- **Friday 3 July**
  - Art and Design
  - Project Management

Further Info and to register please visit [www.rmit.edu.au/experiencedays](http://www.rmit.edu.au/experiencedays)

**Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admissions Test (UMAT)**

UMAT is a compulsory test that is used specifically to assist with the selection of students into medicine, dentistry and health science degree programs at undergraduate level. UMAT is held once a year usually on the last Wednesday of July. Students can repeat the UMAT if they were unsuccessful the year before.

- UMAT 2015 will be held on the 29th of July 2015.
  - Registration deadline is 5th of June 2015, 5pm AEST
  - Students can register for the UMAT only via the ACER website [http://umat.acer.edu.au/about-umat](http://umat.acer.edu.au/about-umat)

**Melbourne Careers Expo**

The Melbourne Career Expo encompasses all career opportunities from employment to education and training in the trades, corporate and professional sectors.

With over 20,000 attendees including jobseekers, apprentices, students and Graduates, this is a fantastic opportunity for VCE students to investigate their future career pathways.

It exhibits a vast array of career advice, employment opportunities, large University and training representation, and a ‘hands on’ Skills Industry Hub. Now in its 14th consecutive year, the event will be held at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre on Friday 24 July to Sunday 26 July 2015.

See the website for further information:


If you have any questions please see Ms Mueller.

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**Seeking Accommodation for International Students.**

We have a number of students from China who are seeking accommodation from next term while they study at the College.

Homestay is full board accommodation for which a student pays $250 - $300 per week. It includes providing a room, study facilities, meals and a family life.

The benefits to a family include cultural exchange and new experiences, fulfilment in helping young people and the opportunity to develop ongoing, lifetime relationships. It can also give parents the opportunity to stay involved with the college after their own children have graduated.

If you would like to host a student or just obtain more information about homestay, please contact the college.

**Mr Walker - International Student Coordinator (ISC)  Gilmore College for Girls**