



**Collingwood
College**

OUR COMMUNITY REPORT

Newsletter Date TERM 3 week 10

INNOVATION

CREATIVITY

DIVERSITY

ACHIEVEMENT

RELATIONSHIPS

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Working Bee Sat Aug 30th 9-4pm
- EDPOL Sep 1st 6pm
- P-12 Parent Teacher Conferences TUESDAY Sep 2nd 2-7pm
- School Production Postponed until term 4
- Working Bee Sat Sep 6th 9-4pm
- Working Bee Sat Sep 13th 9-4pm
- China Trip departs Sat Sep 13th 9-4pm
- Year 10 Work experience week Mon Sep 15th
- Prep observations Tuesday Sep 16th
- Early Finish Friday Sep 19th 12.40pm
- Term 4 commences October 6th

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

This week concludes the formal process attached to our Priority Review. A total of 89 schools across the state were targeted with a priority review. The review began with a self assessment by our leadership team spanning the previous 4-year strategic plan. A panel of 3 reviewers conducted 5 field days in the school undertaking a forensic investigation of the school programs, data and curriculum structures. A report will be framed around general school improvement initiatives which will be the foundations for our next Strategic plan.



The leadership team and staff have used the process to

- Review and refine processes and policies
- Further document curriculum and assessment
- Celebrate the many gains in most of data sets
- Promote our successes as a school community

It is fair to say that our school has had more than its fair share of scrutiny over the years, but when you are different and successful then the natural curiosity of others will prevail.

To be judged is not something we need to shy away from as it is better to be open and understood rather than to be taunted by unfair ill-conceived perceptions. We are a leading and innovative school that provides the state system with diversity and choice. How would our state system look if every single school was a clone of the school next door? We are different and we are proud of it!

The review has highlighted our improvements in our reading program and our next focus will rest with improvements with numeracy and mathematics. The reviewers were also impressed with the caliber of teachers and the relationships and level of engagement that exists with the children. Much of the feedback received has been evident in work already started in the last 18 months and we will need to consolidate our areas of school improvement in the next Strategic Plan.

RETIREMENT



I would like to thank Chrysanthe Polack for her leadership support and professional approach to her duties over the past 5 years as both a leading teacher and Assistant Principal. We wish her well with the challenges ahead and we will miss her love and friendship. Staff and Colleagues celebrated her wonderful contribution to Collingwood College last Friday evening in the library.

STRINGS CONCERT AND PERFORMANCES

The recent Strings event was an amazing uplifting event which had many members of the audience talking with great pride. The standard of performance has clearly moved to another level and the senior concert groups are providing great inspiration to the younger performers. Congratulations to all the students who worked so hard to prepare for this special night. I would also like to acknowledge the hard working team of Instrumental Music teachers who worked behind the scenes for such a pleasant evening.



“...even the teachers like performing...”

Class 8 put on a terrific performance of “A Midsummers Night” in the courtyard last week. The talented group has taken their play on tour this week to several primary schools and they have been well received by both staff and students. These young performers continue to extract so much enjoyment from their work with Nick They are indeed a credit to the College and Steiner Education. Congratulations are also extended to

- ◆ Class 5 for the ‘Gilgamesh Epkidu’ production last week. The singing was amazing and Otis and Blake were terrific. Great work class 5.
- ◆ Class 4 performed ‘Beowulf’ and their articulation and voice control was perfect. Well done class 4.
- ◆ Class 6 for their class production of Romulus and Remus and class 8 who performed Romeo and Juliet for Castlemaine College.

The success of these productions is dependant on the energy levels of the staff and their parent supports. I would like to thank Nick, Lisa, Alison, Mel and Amy for the all their hard earned efforts over the past month.

School Council Business

School Council have been working on the following important items over the past few months:

- ◆ Exploring and negotiating a concept for a larger and improved new sports and entertainment precinct using private partnerships.
- ◆ Reviewing policies and processes, including the Instrumental Music and Communication Policies.
- ◆ Developing new partnerships and a Master Plan for the school facilities.
- ◆ Continued support for the Primary playground project and major upgrades to the theatre and the loading bay area to include disabled access.

School council is also very concerned with the lack of parent support with payments for fees and services. The matter is at a critical level and we are now planning a major review of programs unless the situation improves. Programs under review are: - **Kitchen Garden - Eurhythmy - Instrumental Music & Orchestra - Craft - Classroom Materials - Dancing.** It will be sad for the school community if we must cut back our wonderful programs simply because they are not sustainable due to high levels of non-payment of essential fees.

The College, in 2015, will also be asking every Steiner parent to sign an MOU committing to the FULL Steiner program. Entry into any Steiner class at any level will be conditional on this MOU being honored by families. Parents, who in the future withdraw from various parts of the program may in fact be withdrawing from the Steiner Program overall. We are also giving consideration to the notion of withdrawing “*right of passage*” through the Steiner program. Our Steiner program is a specialist program that should be self sustaining and not “*propped up*” by other sections of the school. Our program has the full support of School Council, myself and staff, we desperately want to avoid cuts to the program. Parents who require assistance with payment plans are encouraged to make a time to speak to me privately and confidentially. We understand that some families are finding the current economic times tough but the non payment by many other families makes our position to help families in need within our community even more difficult.

Our community has come to expect the very best educational opportunities but the very best comes at a cost! Our school has been excluded from Buildings Refurbishment funding for 5 years and so this is one example why our dependence on parent payments is even more important. We have invested more in our teaching and support staff because teachers make the difference. Payments in some areas have dropped by more than 50% in some subject areas. We need your support and commitment. Please help us avoid making changes to the programs that we have come to love so much. I look forward to your anticipated cooperation in this matter.

CONGRATULATIONS COMPOST NINJAS

I'm writing to congratulate our MP3/4 students for your great win in the **Resource Smart School Awards Primary School Student-Led Action Team** category. Here is link to the official website where the announcements were made:

<http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/schoolsawards>

Well done to Katherine and Ben for coordinating and keeping the project/s moving forward and for putting in the rather detailed application. Carolyn Shey

(Parent) was one of the first to be able to congratulate the students for all the amazing change work recently. *"I received some fantastic feedback from my colleagues (CERES) after the awards that I wanted to share with you. I was told that of all the student speakers receiving the awards (Secondary's included), the student who spoke for Collingwood College stood out from others as very articulate and clear."*

Well done team!



MASTER PLANNING

Paul Gardiner Architects are in the final stages of preparing a master plan for the College. This document will drive the planning and implementation of resources over the next 10 years of growth at Collingwood College. It is predicted that our school will grow by over 500 students in the next 6 years and so we must plan in advance for this expected growth of 5000 apartments and 15000 people in Richmond, Abbotsford and Collingwood. Unlike other schools in the area, we have the room to grow and accommodate this changing demographic. Paul has considered this growth, along with the educational programming needs. Consideration has also been given to the wider community and feedback from staff, students and parents was used to influence the Master plan. The plan highlights the need for specialist primary areas, learning communities in the secondary school and better "flow through" pedestrian connections across the school. The old building is a major focus of the plan in terms of its possible uses and potential. The Master plan will be open for community feedback during October before being presented in its final 'draft' form to School Council at the October 30th meeting. I would like to thank Paul and Andrew for their important contribution to the future planning of this school.

"Every cohort of students should have their own special place in the school..."

-Dale

PLANNING FOR 2015

I have started my work force planning for 2015. I have received two major submissions from the Assistant Principals, Craig and Keir. They have both given careful consideration to both structural and curriculum changes and they have provided a series of recommendations. The review recommendations will also be considered along with changes to the staffing profile with at least 3 retirements anticipated. It is expected that an extra 25 students will enter our VCE years which is the best in over a decade. We will have 3 classes at years 9 and 10 with waiting lists at 3 of the 4 levels. We are also planning for 4 classes at year 7!

Parents are eagerly waiting for the announcement around who will be teaching each of the classes but this decision rests with the work of my leadership team and we ask parents to be patient. No announcements will be made before October 30th. The other major planning at the moment is the monumental task of organizing our Spring Fair. Our team of Spring Fairies are busy enlisting the help of the school community to help with a grand day of celebration. I hope the entire community gets behind this very important event. Please contact Tina or Fiona for more information. A very simple contribution that every family can make is to help with the distribution of 8000 postcards! So please, please, please grab a bundle from the main foyer and letter drop to businesses and neighbours!

2014 Slate Literary Award

On the evening of Monday September 8th, I was fortunate enough to attend the award ceremony for the Slade Literary Awards for 2014 run by the Rotary Club of Richmond. This competition involved students from all over the inner Eastern and Northern suburbs. Students were required to write a thousand word piece of prose or poetry on a topic of their choice. The work was read and evaluated by a panel of judges who looked for creativity, originality, fluency, conviction, enthusiasm and appeal. Students in year nine and ten at Collingwood College entered and our own Madison Oliff in 9B received a certificate of merit for her excellent story *The Great Collapse*. Madison's family and I were lucky enough to hear writers and judges giving budding writers some great tips. Thank you to the Rotary Club of Richmond and congratulations to Madison Oliff.

Charlotte Bailey - 9B English teacher

PICK UP & DROP OFF

Parents are reminded that during drop-off and pickup times that the gates to the school are open. Therefore parents must maintain duty of care for any siblings they bring on to the school grounds. If parents want to discuss a matter with teachers then they should ask for a safe space to do so whilst supervising their children. There have been a spate of "run offs" lately which have caused some concern. Also the end of the day can be quite hectic and so if you do bring young siblings to the school make sure they know a safe meeting place if they get lost or left behind.

Paths @ Collingwood College

This term, all of the staff in the Primary School at Collingwood College have undertaken training in PATHS, and this work is beginning to appear in our Primary School classrooms and the play ground.

What is the PATHS à Curriculum?

PATHS stands for Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies, is an exciting new curriculum. PATHS was written to help primary school children develop better thinking skills, more mature and responsible ways of behaving, and improved academic performance.

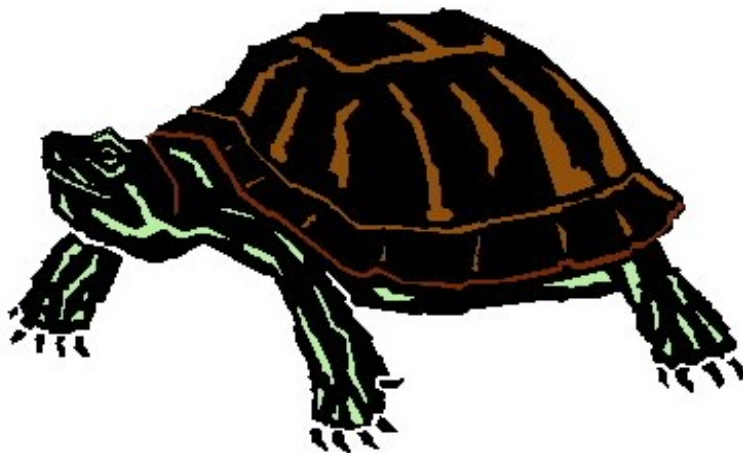
What are some of the goals of the PATHS à curriculum?

- Increasing children's abilities to think and solve problems for themselves
- Increasing children's abilities to use their thinking skills to act responsibly and maturely
- Improving children's understanding of themselves and others
- Improving children's feelings about themselves (that is, improving their self esteem)
- Increasing children's abilities to learn more effectively in the classroom environment

The Turtle Story ..

You may have seen students at Collingwood College 'doing the Turtle' ... What is this? The Turtle Story is a fundamental component of the PATHS program. You might like to hear or tell the story at home! The Turtle Story can be found on the School website.

If you have any questions about PATHS, please speak with your child's teacher.



ARC - Term 3 RYAP



Throughout the course of Mondays in Term 3, 9A students have dutifully set out from school, on foot, to two local, but very special destinations. One half of the class has had a short stroll up to the Centre for Contemporary Photography, in Fitzroy; the other half has travelled a wee bit further to Dancehouse in Carlton.

The students have been taking part in a project that is organised and run by the Richmond Rotary group, creatively titled the Rotary Youth Arts Project. Rotary has been in partnership with the CCP and Dancehouse for a number of years, but 2014 is the first year Collingwood College students have become involved with the project.

The project sees our students working with young artists, building towards a performance and exhibition, held at the Fitzroy Town Hall on Monday the 15th September. At the time of writing we are finalis-

ing the photographs and rehearsing our dances ready for the ceremony and performance at 6pm. All three external organisations have a number of guests and staff that regularly celebrate this project and the City of Yarra is coming to the party with the Mayor, Jackie Fristacky, recognising our students and the event being hosted by Kirsty Baird, the Council's Arts and Cultural Development Officer.

This project has been an exciting times for the students and it has been a privilege to watch the dance group transform into performers, showing improvement every week. Likewise, the photography group will be presenting up to three images each, images that are impressively composed and captured to a standard that will see some of these images incorporated in the CCP's prestigious "Salon" exhibition later in the year.

It would be remiss not to acknowledge the work put into this project by the dance artists James Batchelor, ably assisted by Amber McCartney and photographer Amelia King. These artists have really drawn the students into an incredible experience, one that I'm sure will stay with the students long past Monday's ceremony.



Year 10 Work Experience

Most of our Year 10 students will be out on Work Experience in the last week of term 3. Students have been exploring careers and work in their tutorial time and this program gives the students a broader appreciation of the world of work.

The intention is that our students will gain a better understanding of the work environment and what employers expect of their workers. Further we hope

the students will develop increased self-understanding, maturity, independence and self-confidence from their experience.

As usual our students have opted for a diverse range of occupations. We have students who will be working in the offices of our elected representatives while others have the opportunity of some exceptional musical experiences.

"Our students will gain a better understanding of the work environment and what employers expect..."

VCE SUBJECT SELECTION FOR 2015

All year 10 and 11 students, who are continuing on the pathway to VCE, have been involved in choosing subjects for VCE in 2015. The process began with our VCE VET information evenings and continued with interviews and online selection. Recently, this week we met with Fitzroy High School and determined what subjects were viable. Subject blockings will be available before the end of term. Students will be advised over the next few weeks where they need to re-select. VET subjects are available as well, and families should enroll directly on line with the IMVC. These subjects are accredited for VCE.

As difficult as these decisions are for everyone concerned it is also an exciting time as we look forward to the next stage of your son's and daughter's education. There is another opportunity to review course selection decisions during the Early Commencement Programs (ECPs). The last term moves quickly with the ECP for year 11 into 12 the last week of November whilst for year 10 into 11 the ECP will be the first week of December.

Any concerns or questions are welcome. Please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Dr Michael Polack

Senior School Manager

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Chinese Culture Day



Chinese long-fan dance performance

This year's Chinese Culture Day is a grand event that happens in Melbourne Town Hall. Over 1700 students from Victorian Secondary Colleges participated in this event.

During this happy occasion, students deepen their understanding and interest in Chinese culture, dances, and songs. People from China Dance Group perform including students from two Melbourne secondary schools. The performances include Chinese folk music, long-fan dance, Peking Opera, the Chinese Waist Drum, aerobatics, and martial arts.

Decorations including Chinese lanterns, kites, paper-cutting, Chinese knots, Chinese maps and Peking masks were seen everywhere, filling the venue with "Chinese taste". Carefully designed cultural experience workshops, including Chinese paper-cutting, Chinese knot making and Peking facial mask painting, helped the participants experience firsthand the traditional Chinese culture.

During the last activity, the Chinese culture quiz show, students enthusiastically raised their hands to answer questions and eagerly shared what they learned with each other. They said that they had a happy day and that this event enriched their understanding of Chinese culture.

Strings Night

Students in classes 3-11 were involved in this extraordinary event, held on Wednesday and Thursday the 20th and 21st of August. The Class 3, 4, 5, 6 and Senior Orchestras performed, along with individual performances from many wonderful students working hard on their string instruments. Well done, students, and special thanks to Jenny Occleshaw for all her wonderful work for this event.

Collingwood College

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