

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Welcome back

I welcome back all the students and staff into the 2014 school year. I trust that you all had a very relaxing and enjoyable break and that you completed all the things that you didn't have time for during the school year. In particular, I welcome students new to the school and wish them well as they begin the next phase of their education. We trust that the learning experience and your engagement with the Collingwood College School Community will be both a satisfying and rewarding one.

The Collingwood family also welcomes the many new mums and dads into the fold. I look forward to meeting you all very soon with the expectation that we can together share the learning journey as it unfolds.

Our numbers of students returning have exceeded our best numbers in 10 years with over 650+ students on our main Campus. There are a further 27 students at the alternative School in Stanley St and another 8 more in Operation Newstart.

There several new Teaching staff and I welcome them into our learning community. These include:

- Kate Symons (Technology)
- Miguel Araujo (Art and Visual Communication)
- Alex McDonald (Art)
- Gabrielle Stokes (Class 1)
- Julie Beer (Class 1)
- Katie Kligerman (Steiner Prep)
- Julie Nihill (Class 3)
- Hong Davies (LOTE)
- James Agombar (PE/Outdoor Ed)
- Jessica Riberio (Class 2)
- Craig Bradley (Assistant Principal)

I am also pleased to announce that the following staff were also successful in returning to positions at the College:

- Sarah Easton (MP 1-2)
- Kym Maxwell (MP 1-2)
- Angela Dionysopolous (Primary Art)

Congratulations are also extended to the following Education Support personal:

Carmenza, Mina, Bonnie, Helen, Deidre, Lan Nguyen (Speech) and Andrew.

I would like to acknowledge the sudden departure of Barb Prior who has provided many years of service to the state system as both a Mainstream and Steiner teacher. Barb has made many friends at Collingwood College and she will be missed by many of her colleagues with her anticipated retirement. Jing Cheng has taken a 12 month position at another school for 2014 and we wish her well.

I would like to thank all the staff and families who attended the recent welcome picnic last Friday. The sense of belonging to a community was again very evident by the look on the many new faces during this night. Our Cultural festival last Wednesday week was a great success and a visiting Beijing Primary school were thrilled to be part of the occasion and meet some new Aussie friends. Our sister school from Suzhou (China) also spent the week with our homestay families and the experience was also heralded as a great success for all involved. Our 13 Collingwood College students will complete the exchange program with a visit to China in September.

Occasionally the school gets offers of support from various community organisations. You may wish to consider this offer for swimming lessons if your son/daughter cannot swim. YMCA have an Open Doors program offering socio-economically disadvantaged, refugees and/or Indigenous students offering free swimming lessons at Northcote pool for 12months. Contact the YMCA directly if you are interested.

The College travel plan is still progressing and we are hopeful that new parking restrictions will be in place soon to help alleviate the shortage of parking around the school perimeter. Access to the school has also been highlighted in the City Of Yarra's traffic review for our sector. Parking stickers for the Education parking are still valid until the end of February but they will be extended until the end of term. There is no plan to reissue these permits due to the shortage of parking for staff. **Ride, Walk and Scoot Day** is coming on March 17th. Stay tuned for the list of activities planned for this day – James and Frank are the teacher contacts and Tara Watson the parent contact.

The School Council elections have been posted around the school and I encourage all parents to give consideration to the Election process. It is important to note that elected members provide governance for all members of the community and they are NOT representatives of sectors or parts of the community. Anthony Crowley is our current School Council president (Crowley.anthony.m@edumail.vic.gov.au) and you can discuss your potential nomination with him or with Stanley Pamieta (Pamieta.Stanley.J@edumail.vic.gov.au). Also there are several SC working committees –

- **Finance**
- **BES** (Buildings, Environment, Sustainability),
- **Communications** (transition, marketing, eCommunications, publicity),
- **Edpol** (Curriculum policy, policy Design and review, strategic planning),
- **Community** (Canteen, Parents Association, events, fund raising, SRC).

If you have an interest in being part of one or more of these committees then please let me know. The work of these committees (which meet once a month) is the mechanism for streamlined decision making at the monthly SC meetings.

The school is growing and growing quite rapidly. SC has secured the services of Gardiner Architects to draw up a 10 year master plan that will help us plan for any future growth and emerging needs. The plan will include grounds, resources and all learning space provisions. Focus groups will be established to open up consultation for the whole of community. Paul Gardiner will lead the planning.

DEECD NEWS

DEECD have released consultation papers around a number of key policy areas:

- Student Engagement and Wellbeing (New rules for Suspensions and expulsions and Infringement notices for poor attendance) In Summary, a new area that can incur a suspension is 'Unproductive behaviour'. Also, Parents may be served Infringement notices (\$70) if the Principal reports a poor attendance record for a family.
- School Governance – a raft of changes are proposed including Principal selection.
- Performance and Development for teachers and Principals. In short, the performance plans of all staff will be much more aligned with the school strategic plan.

Other major announcements involve Strategic Reviews, School Annual Implementation plans and School Annual reports. Use the www.education.vic.gov.au website if you want further information on the above topics. The thrust of the current Government appears to be driven by four main pillars – Achievement, Engagement, Wellbeing and Productivity.

COMPASS

The College has signed up to the COMPASS suite of modules to address some of the issues raised around communication across the community. This package has all of the Ultranet functions (which work) and it adds much more support for the full integration of school business. This includes areas of financial management, student information sharing, attendance, notes and forms (which can be download and submitted online) and parent communication. It will allow real time reporting and assessment to occur and every student and family will have an email (if they don't have one). It will also conveniently archive records and student celebrations. Implementation has started but the full implementation of over 30 modules will take 2-3 years.

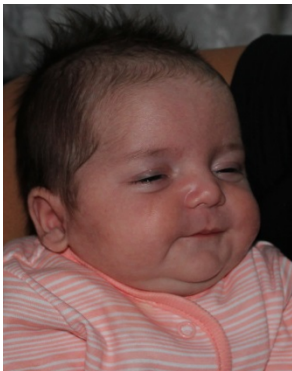
IMPORTANT DATES

The School calendar is now available. The most dates over the next few weeks are:

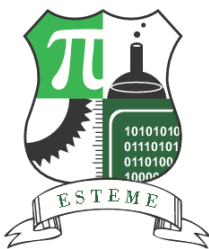
- Friday Feb 28th - VCE Skills Day – Special Program for all year 11/12 students
- Tuesday March 11 – Parent teacher conferences for P-12
- Friday March 21st – School Photos
- Friday March 28th - Second and final instalment of school fees due.

LEAVE

I will be taking Long Service Leave during Term 2. Keir Jasper will be Acting Principal in my absence. The Assistant Principal position for the Primary school has not been decided yet.



Baby Ruby Anne arrived fit and well over the summer which was not as quiet as expected.



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My work with the Melbourne University and 8 local primary schools continues to get the important recognition it deserves. Representatives of our steering committee were invited to the BIOL21 lab in Geelong last week and our ideas bank has grown yet again. Our initial focus on supporting teachers in the classroom with access to 21st STEM resources is clearly aligned with the Federal Government concerns around the issues that are presenting. (see Minister Pyne's Press release Feb 19th). Our point of difference with Minister Pyne is however that the blame game does not solve the problem but real support on the ground for teachers will! The launch of ESTEME is on Monday March 26th at Melbourne University. The keynote speakers will be Professor John Hattie and Professor David Karoly, Australia's foremost climate scientist. The keynotes will discuss in the importance of STEM and teaching the underlying skillset – critical thinking, reasoning and observing evidence – from a very young age. I am busy planning the first stage of development of our Robotics lab here at Collingwood College. These are exciting times.

SPRING FAIR

As a result of the \$35,000 raised at the 2013 spring fair, we would like the School community to put forward submissions that will improve the College Programs and resources. Projects that impact on the wider school community will also be considered. The categories and their nominal amounts are listed below.

CATEGORY	Nominal Max for any 1 grant	Past Examples
1. Indigenous program	\$2000	• Indigenous Mural

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous garden
2. School Travel Scholarship	\$4000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Orchestra tour • China Trip Sponsor • Camps for disadvantaged
3. Kitchen Garden Program Subsidy	\$7000	
4. Resources Grants	\$6000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media cameras/video • Talking story poles for library • Badge Maker
5. School Donation	\$1000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asylum Seekers • Cancer Foundation
6. School Improvement Projects *Whole school projects are the preferred ones	\$15000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theatre lighting • Indoor/Outdoor furnishings • Canteen • Parent Association gear

Your submission (No more than 1/2 page) should address the following:

- Outline your idea and describe the benefits to the school community.
- Detail what will be the scope of the positive impact created by your submission.
- Provide a detailed budget for your request and a timeline.
- Is your idea scalable (ie If the full amount requested is not available, can your project be broken down into smaller amounts or over several years?)

Multiple grants for the one category may be successful. The amounts above are strictly nominal. If you would like to discuss your idea with a panel member (Tina/Dallas--Spring-fairies and Anthony Crowley-SC President) then please feel free to do so.