Reflections... Term One, 2011
Principal’s Report

The term’s end is all but upon us and we have once again met the many challenges term 1 can present. The students have settled into a productive routine and classes are showing good early progress. Staff have been busy juggling Teaching and Learning with professional development and Co-curricular programs. The community have been busy mustering volunteers and managing our term 1 events and fundraising.

Naplan is fast approaching and I would like to remind parents that this ‘snapshot testing’ is a useful source of information that the school can use for planning. Parents can also access information that references how children are performing in key learning areas on a national basis. They give schools and teachers the opportunity to see how well their students are doing. It also helps them to identify the areas that they are excelling in, and those that might need further work. We are very proud of our unique mix of pedagogies at Collingwood College and so we can use this testing to further celebrate the strengths of our programs.

Our new School Council met for the first time on March 24th. The new additions to council bring a mix of professional backgrounds. I feel very confident that we will continue to provide strong governance for our school community. I appeal to all parents to consider being a member of one of the following subcommittees – Publicity and Promotions, Parents Association, Education, Student Services and Finance. A complete list of Council members and the members of subcommittees will be published soon once they are finalised. School council will also review the sub committee structure in time. The two office bearers already established are - School Council President (Rachel Cowling) and Treasurer (Robyn Lyons).

Our community will have celebrated the Easter Festival by the time this publication is issued. Our Steiner teachers always provide a wonderful gift for families and friends to attend on these festive occasions and I thank them for their special contribution at this time of the year. I would like to remind the community that our Open Day is on May 5th and Open Evening May 12th. Please come to these important events and learn more about what is happening at Collingwood College. Also it would be appreciated if you can distribute some postcards to a nearby school, Kinder or even a neighbouring family to help “spread the good word”. This is our best form of marketing! Our new website has been launched and we seek feedback to continue to develop this valuable form of communication.
It is with regret that I announce the sudden resignation of Amy Heseltine from her teaching position at Collingwood College. We wish her well for the future and I know her REI 4-5 students will miss her. Also, it is with great sadness that we farewell John Drake who departs to start a new chapter with Bronya and Family. John’s amazing formation of a learning community has been one of the great outstanding achievements over the last 5 years. His creative mind and passion for high student engagement is a quality that will be remembered for a long time. Both John and Bronya have dedicated many hours of extra time in making the learning spaces and programs very special and the students have experienced learning’s that will result in life long memories. Good luck John and Bronya. I also hope Andy, Patrizia, Caroline and Lijuan have relaxing and well deserved leave periods next term. Tim will return on light duties at the commencement of term 2. Keir will continue to be the Acting Primary school principal.

The first half year EMA instalment cheques have arrived. Please make a time to pick up the cheque from administration.

I hope you all have a wonderful break and return next term having had some time out — down time to recharge and reflect. Term breaks are important for students to have time out to play and just be themselves. For Senior School students some serious thinking, reading and writing will help to build depth in the ongoing work.

Finally, I would like to thank all the staff and students for their contributions to such a wonderful chemistry at Collingwood College.

Happy Easter.
Veronica’s Class - Meg - 7S

“I really enjoyed this main lesson as I love English and History and it combined the two. Among other things, we each wrote a short autobiography as well as a biography of a famous person from history. I did mine on Sylvia Pankhurst who was a suffragette and it was great learning more about what it was like back then. We also had a few guest speakers in who told us about their life and also what it was like growing up back then. All in all it was a really good main lesson and I learnt a lot from it.”
How wonderful it is to be a Steiner teacher, to teach the beauty of the English language. To teach the Art of mankind. To inspire students to learn.

At the moment, I am teaching poetics to 10S and all the glory of our language. The descriptive power of words and rhythm. Ballads, sonnets, odes, epics. Next I teach the art from the Renaissance to Hogarth. Last I taught art to Rome. What a glorious enterprise. And the response from our students is good, intelligent and one of curiosity.

- Caroline

**Class 6S** are increasing their finger skills working in clay from the ball.

**Class 7S** are painting & refining their finger skills & working with their imagination to bring about forms in clay.

**Class 8S** are starting a journey into colour and colour moods with veil painting.

**Class 9S** are learning different methods of drawing, various techniques and different mediums with which they can draw.

**Class 10S** are working into colour theory. The colour wheel, shades & tones, complimentary colours & how the colours effect each other.
Prep & Grade 1’s... creating, experimenting, moving, playing & learning!
Welcome to the Prep Class!
We have just finished a Main Lesson on Ancient India. The rationale for our curriculum is: At this age, the children are involved in their work with new self-assurance – there are new intellectual, moral and social challenges. This requires a teaching style which brings pictorial images into reasoning through the formation of concepts. There is a thirst for knowledge of a wider world, both geographically and over time, and an understanding of the inter-relatedness of human cultures and their environment. The move from myth to history, the sweep of ancient cultures from India to Egypt prepares the child for the Main Lesson theme of Classical Greece which particularly meets the Class 5 child.


Nick McKenzie
The first Main Lesson for students in 8s was “the World of Islam”. In our time, where Islam is often the centre of controversy and misconception, we forget the merits of this important world religion. During the Middle Ages it was the scholars in the Middle East who recognised, preserved and developed the scientific work of the Classics. Without the libraries of Alexandria and Baghdad, Aristotle, Plato or Pythagoras would have been lost forever. Muslim scholars perfected our number system; they named and mapped the stars and pioneered medicine and diet. They gave us the tales of the “Arabian Nights” with Aladdin, Ali Baba or Sinbad, when the court of Harun al Rashid in Baghdad outshone any European court with its wealth and culture. It was Islamic rulers who built the famous Taj Mahal, the incredible Blue Mosque of Istfachan or the Alhambra in Spain. So, where did it all start? Who was Mohammed? What is the Koran? Jihad? Arabic numerals? These are just the starting questions to a much bigger investigation, hopefully leading to a more complete perception and appreciation of a world religion which is followed by 20% of human kind.

Wolfgang Maschek
Chinese Cultural Day

On Friday, the 4th of March, we celebrated our annual Chinese Cultural Day.

In the morning, we did varied cultural activities in Chinese classes, such as Chinese cooking by making some rabbits to indicate the Year of Rabbit, craft work and calligraphy associated with Chinese New Year, etc. In the afternoon a special Chinese Concert was held at College theatre. Apart from our parents, teachers and students who were enthusiastically involved in the concert, we also had 40 visitors from Fitzroy Primary School with us.

The concert started with the Dragon Dance, which was performed by 8 boys in our Year 9 classes. They spent only three workshops with the Kung Fu masters from Qianlidao Kung Fu School before they did the actual performance successfully. There were many other performances following the dragon dance, such as Chinese singing, poems, traditional umbrella dances by our primary school students, a short play by Year 7, the Kung Fu show by Year 8 and instrument by Year 10 Chinese boys. In addition, we also invited some Chinese Senior
ladies from Glen Eira Chinese Senior Citizens Club to our concert, whose traditional dances really impressed all the audience in the theatre. Can you believe that their average age is already 68 years old? Finally we ended the concert with dragon dance again.

We really had a great time on the Chinese Cultural Day!

We want to express our sincere gratitude to all the staff who helped us on Chinese Day, especially to Chrysanthe; Frank; Andrew, the art teacher; Chris, the music teacher; and also to Sapphira, Lucy, Jialing, Sophie, Jue and some of our Senior School students who helped with filming and back stage management. Without all these help and support, we would not have been so successful on the day.

LOTE Faculty
Years 7 & 8

It has been a wonderful start to the year with all year 7’s making a smooth and enjoyable transition from year 6 to year 7. All classes, whether Mainstream or Steiner, have had interesting and varied lessons. As a newcomer to the school I have been so impressed with the connectedness and engagement that I have seen with students as they experience daily life at Collingwood College.

The year 7 Steiner students have focused on Biographies, the Middle Ages and Pythagorus throughout the term culminating with stunning pieces of work at the end of the focus. Mainstream Year 7’s focused on Biographies, Timelines, Treasure boxes and fantastic Fantasy assignments, which certainly indicated a high level of engagement and application.

The Mainstream Year 8’s have worked meticulously; as well as presenting wonderful creative pieces, including formidable castles, and lead lighting, they have been completing a range of other projects and tasks associated with their various subjects, including the much enjoyed Mathsletics.

Steiner Year 8’s have focused on Islamic Studies, Mathematical Minds, and the Renaissance.

Forensic Science has been enjoyed by the students as well.

Year 7 and 8 Mainstream students have been eagerly trialling and using their new Laptop Computers, courtesy of Collingwood College.

We have had monthly level assembles with both the levels and I am very happy with the way both levels are interacting with each other. Interschool sport is being enjoyed by the 7’s and 8’s as well.

We have had a wonderful end to the term with a Medieval feast. The students were entertained and educated by a very professional Medieval group that had a very interactive program for the students. Dressing up, dancing, playing instruments, participating in sword fighting were all part of this amazing day. The students all finished with a fabulous luncheon prepared by Jane and Maryanne and their classes. All in all a fun and unforgettable experience.

So we now look forward to a lovely Easter break and hopefully everyone arrives back refreshed and enthusiastic for a whole new term.

Liria Stratus

Year 7 and 8 Coordinator.
To Trevor, Peter and ALL the volunteers, helpers and tradespeople - the painters, builders, plumbers, electricians, toolsmiths and general legends,

THANK YOU!

The school feels bright and exciting! While we all played scrabble or went to the beach, you TRANSFORMED Collingwood College completely - and we love you for it!

- CC School Community
The **Container For Peace** Visits Collingwood College
Information about the **Container For Peace** Project:


The Container for Peace Project is an initiative of the Melbourne Somali Community and Friends.

The invitation is for anyone interested to join our Rainbow Hands programs and do the same - help us fill and ship this and other containers to support the Somali Community and their children, animals and the environment, and to bring peace and build schools of peace. Help us to send other shipments to other communities in need and build sustainable village development that nurtures human potential, respects the land and its people and leads to peace and an end to poverty.

Since the start of the civil war in Somalia in 1991, many schools have been functioning without any government support; and many children spend their school hours in make-shift stick huts which do not protect them from the rain or the heat.

The whole Somali community and friends have organised for a forty foot container of clothing, educational material, toys and sustainable supplies to be shipped from Melbourne to Somalia which will support a number of these communities.

Everything has been generously donated by the whole Somalia community working together with friends from the wider community. With the help of the Bumblebee Factory and Koala Spirit much assistance will be given to clothe and educate many children and support many families. This project is a pilot project, and it is hoped that a first school with playground and garden will be also built with the funds raised and donations given.
Senior Art News

Year 11/12 Studio Art & Design Technology have travelled to the “Far Side” and are currently developing a section of the AMES building into a senior studio style atelier that gives students an opportunity to work in an open space much like tertiary art students.

In 2008, Dale, our Principal, visited the senior campus of a Sydney Arts & Design based college called “Dullich” and came back raving about the arts space for senior students.

His idea is to develop a stand alone senior arts and design block along the lines of what he saw in Sydney.

We are hoping for individual student art booths, a printing area, and a space for construction and sculpture in the courtyard.

Viewing areas for data projection and library facilities are in the plan.

A student art gallery in the AMES stairwells next to the Classified Heritage Victoria stained glass windows will give senior art students an opportunity to curate and present their own exhibitions.

Students have responded positively to the spaciousness and airy atmosphere. and Dale’s long held vision for this area is slowly starting to take shape.

Also, the new art and technology space in the main building has been completed!

This are will provide a wonderful environment for our Prep to Year 9 students to design, create and make.

See you on the “Far Side”

- Andy & the Big Kids.
Throughout term four of last year, parents, staff and students worked together to reflect, analyze, survey, design and determine a new visual direction for Collingwood College. The school wanted to consolidate its brand and create a style that would communicate a strong message of creativity alongside academic excellence & have a clean, modern feel.

From there, a member of the 2010 Prep Community (Adam Schilling) designed our new logo and website.

The style guide is still evolving, and you will see the rich new designs roll out across the school throughout this term and next.

The website is now live (content - work in progress) and is a great source of current news & events.

Take a look at:

collingwood.vic.edu.au

Feedback is a wonderful thing - we welcome it like cake!
What a busy start to the year it has been! The SRC have been energetic, pro-active and very enthusiastic this first term. Now that all SRC members have been selected, they are regularly meeting and discussing how they can contribute to the school community and make this an even better environment than it already is.

Under the competent leadership of the SRC President, Georgia Spain and Vice-President Max Steel, all classes have nominated the representatives to be their ‘student voice. Weekly meetings have been taking place and as the term has progressed, the students are getting used to attending regularly. Hopefully they are reporting to their peers the decisions of the whole group.

This term the SRC raised funds from Fairy Floss Day towards financing the Year 12 School Windcheaters, and raised over $1500.00 for Shave For A Cure through shaving sponsorship, hair colouring and a sausage sizzle. It’s wonderful to see the students working together in such a cohesive, organised and enthusiastic manner.

Two students from the SRC also attended a ‘Schools for Schools’ Leadership Convention organized by the Oaktree Foundation that, through the involvement of a past student, Maddie Ginnivan, the school is still affiliated with. The students were Genevieve Stewart and Isaac Kermitt-McDermolt. A great day was experienced by these SRC reps and we look forward to being presented a report of that day.

The SRC students also participated in a Training Day at the start of March and had a great day of team building and other activities.

So now onto term two!

The SRC students will be involved on a Canteen Committee representing the student cohort, participating in Anzac Day festivities, planning fundraising to contribute to the Japanese Tsunami Day collections, a Battle Of the Bands and also A Talent Quest as well. So as you can see, busy, but satisfying days ahead!

Have a wonderful term break, everyone!

Liria Stratus,

SRC Liason
Senior School News

We have had a successful term of study and learning with Interim reports distributed and P/T interviews held in March. A letter to parents was given out with the reports, which drew attention to the following:

- personal responsibility, and a sense of community values to support learning in a safe and supportive classroom.

- success with studies with school-work effectively organised, setting achievable and challenging goals and working independently.

We believe we are making significant progress with both these aims and that they are reflected in this report.

VCE results, for 2010, on the MySchool website are shown to be higher than like schools. We are at or above the median for all Victorian Schools, on a 4 year average, consolidating the gains of 2009, and an encouragement for what is promising to be a very successful year in 2011.

Study Skills.

VCE students attended a study skills seminar run by M-nt-I Bl-nk. Among the study suggestions given was that each student should aim to improve performance in small steps. If they received C then try for C+. Ask the teacher, What do I need to do to improve just one aspect of my work?

Sports and games.

A sports round robin was held recently and we entered volley ball teams from Year 7 to Year 10. Practices were held regularly in the weeks leading up to the competition. In the second half of lunch time the gymn is open for games and training.

Assembly.

We held an assembly recently for VCE and Years 9 and 10. Music was played by Jack from 9S and the SRC representatives Max, Rhianan Makdissi, Georgia Spain and Rhys Makdissi gave a report on its activities. We discussed short and long term goals and Year 9 and 10 students entered these in their diaries.

MIPS.

VCE students completed their second Mapping Individual Pathways (MIPS) forms to ensure that their course of study is aligned with their interests and talents for University entry requirements other tertiary courses and work. These MIPS forms need to be signed by parents and returned to Lisa Owen, the Careers Counsellor.
Senior School News Continued...

*Detention and Homework Club.*
Each Friday after school detention and catch up classes are run. If your son or daughter is on detention an entry will be made in their diary with suggestions about home work and study. One of those is to ask that reading is recorded in their diary each day or evening.

*New Library.*
In the new library we have Homework club Monday to Thursday until 5:30. Take a chance to visit on Open Day to see the VCE study room and the fiction reading area.

Look out next term for the Yarra Settlement Forum REFUGEE REALITIES at COLLINGWOOD TOWN HALL This event is to be held during International Refugee Week, celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the United Nations Refugee Convention.

We wish all our students a safe and enjoyable holiday but remind VCE students of the need to complete holiday homework and to follow a study schedule.
Spring Fair Update

**Spring Fair 2011: 23 October**

*The Spring Fair has been organised into a giant school project!*

The project reflects the shared learning philosophy of the school, one that values the role of daily life as well as contributions from children, teachers, parents and families in the creation of a learning community.

The aim is not only to put on a good show, but to exchange knowledge and feel a sense of belonging. Remember, the Fair is not just about raising funds for the school, it is also an opportunity to showcase the things we do well.

Whether it be growing garlic and mint for curries and chutneys, making signs and banners, choreographing a performance, curating and hanging an exhibition, or making yourself heard and understood on a microphone, these all require skills and confidence.

Teachers, parents and students are asked to think creatively about how the skills required for organising the Fair can fit within the broader learning objectives of the school.

Everyone from every part of the school community is welcome to contribute, so please look at the list of jobs that need to be done or come along to a meeting to find out how you can participate. If you don’t find something there for you now, please keep reading the e-news to find updates and help ads - there might be something else to do later on.

There will be a meeting this Friday in the canteen at 9am to talk about the Fair. If you can’t make it to the meeting, feel free to email me. There’s only six months to prepare so we’ll hit the ground running!

*Tina Wilkins*

*e: wottelse@yahoo.com.au*
Thursday Market Pancake and Cake Roster...
Raise $ for your class AND eat cake! - Perfect!

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