Issue 2

Republic of Korea-Victoria Teacher Exchange Program

After starting a new semester in my Korean school and spending a few busy weeks, the days I spent in Victoria seems like a dream but the experience was so influential on me that I will never forget it.

The college is taking part in a teachers exchange program between the Ministry of Education in Republic of Korea, and Victoria, under the auspices of UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization). This program aims at enhancing education for international understanding. As Korea has been gradually changing to a multicultural county, Korean schools are facing several challenges.

During 7 days of placement, I joined the leadership camp, observed various lessons of different subjects and attended staff meetings. A few memorable, impressive scenes included the students at the leadership camp where they debated and considered deeply what it takes to be a leader. They brilliantly coped with challenging matters such as building barns, marine sports and rough bushwalking. In some classes such as mathematics, humanities and literacy, I found they used practical content so that the subject can have real connection to the students’ lives.

In the staff meeting, such issues as health and safety were handled sensitively with due regard to individual needs. I felt the members of this college associated closely with one another. Through these observations, I would dare say I perceived the college’s emphasis was on students’ personality rather than array of knowledge.

Also in Sarah’s class, I was given opportunities to talk about Korea, Korean culture and Korean traditional performing arts to the students. The year 9 Drama students made beautiful masks and the year 10 students composed pieces of group dance. They represented characters and stories in extraordinary ways.

Writing this letter in the middle of the night, some questions came to my mind. What is teaching, what is learning and what is education? I feel like I am constantly learning about them as if I am putting together a puzzle. Maybe we are all the pieces of the puzzle which is called ‘education’. If our two schools were to interact with each other, perhaps our concept of education would be much greater. Outcomes of the project will hopefully include future student communication and cooperative work between Seoul Broadcasting High School and Epping Secondary College.

Hyunwoo Park
Film and Theatre Art Teacher
Seoul Broadcasting High School

Continued page 3…………………………………...
The aim of all good schools is to provide every opportunity for all students to achieve their full potential and achieve success in their life as well as contribute positively to their communities. As a school we make it a key goal to find the best programs and options that will benefit our students.

**UNI BRIDGES PROGRAM with La Trobe University**

We are continuously looking at how we can ensure that students are given every opportunity to gain entry to their tertiary course of preference and undertake the best pathway to their chosen career. A number of our Year 10 students are successful in being selected to participate in the Melbourne University Young Scholars Program which introduces them to university life before they begin this journey. A number of students also participate in the Melbourne University Extension Program, studying subjects at university level while they complete their VCE.

We are now very excited and pleased to have signed up with La Trobe University offering our year 10 and 11 students the opportunity to participate in the UNI BRIDGES program. This is a project between La Trobe University, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and secondary schools, allowing students to participate in hands on laboratory sessions at the university, inspiring them to pursue a university pathway. Students involved in the Uni Bridges Program will have a place at La Trobe University if they choose to take up the offer. They will be able to move directly into a degree course in Science, Engineering or Health Sciences through an alternative entry system that does not rely on the Australian Tertiary Admissions Ranking (ATAR).

**HANDS ON LEARNING PROGRAM**

There are also those students whose preferred mode of learning is not academic but more so hands on and practical.

I am very pleased to announce that the school has secured the support of a philanthropic group that is providing us with $45,000 to introduce the Hands On Learning (HOL) Program. This will fund the artisan teacher who will be working with the students for 2 days a week and for half a day of professional development and planning. Hands On Learning (HOL) caters to the different ways young people learn, helping students build confidence, engage and achieve at school. Students thrive developing the creativity, self-discipline and interpersonal skills vital for the 21st century workforce. HOL is an innovative education program that takes ten students out of class one day a week fostering teamwork and leadership. Students and the artisan teacher share breakfast and lunch together and work on a building project for the school or local community. The benefits for the students are many, including learning in their preferred mode which is “hands on”, something that cannot be provided for in many other classes. Most students build self-esteem, friendships, a sense of belonging and become more content at school. Motivation, focus and the ability to set goals increase when they return to class-building the platform for improvements in literacy and numeracy.

Helene Alamidis
PRINCIPAL
Republic of Korea-Victoria Teacher Exchange Program continued.......  

Early in 2013 I applied to be a part of the DEECD’s ROK Republic of Korea Teacher Exchange Program. I was one of ten Victorian teachers accepted into the program and was very excited to be accepted. I initially applied for the exchange because of my interest in Korea’s recent success and outstanding improvements in the OECD’s international comparisons of educational performance, which is conducted every three years. The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) aims to evaluate education systems worldwide by testing the skills and knowledge of 15-year-old students. Students are tested in the areas of reading, mathematics and science.

Over the past half-century, Korea has transformed from a developing nation into a leading industrial economy, thanks largely to its success in raising educational standards. In Korea’s highly competitive society, families place high value on education and students show strong commitment to learning. A dynamic private sector complements public schooling with rapid responses to students’ individual needs. Government policies support education with above-average spending. Subsequent strategies have set out to enhance education quality by providing open access to content and by training teachers to integrate ICT into classroom teaching. A major objective of successive administrations has been to reduce inequalities in access to education and ICT is seen as key to achieving that goal.

The PISA results showed that Korea was top among OECD countries in the PISA 2009 reading tests, with 539 points and top in mathematics with 546 points. It ranked third among OECD countries after Finland and Japan in science with 538 points and top in a smaller survey of digital reading skills, with 569 points. While most of the countries that improved their mean reading scores between 2000 and 2009 did so by raising the averages of poorly performing students, Korea did so by raising the averages of top-performers. Korea has a comparatively high proportion of ‘resilient students’, students who do well despite coming from socio-economically disadvantaged family backgrounds: 14% of all students from disadvantaged backgrounds are resilient in Korea, against an OECD average of 8%.

I am interested in Korea’s improvements and successes in the recent PISA results for a few reasons. One of them is due to the study I conducted last year within the Teacher Professional Leave I received. I was given time to investigate and improve the results of my own students with a special focus on my Theatre Studies Class and the use of ICT to improve results. Secondly, because of the work I do within my Leading Teacher role, under the umbrella of Student Development, one of my main focuses is to build the resilience, motivation and engagement of the students at Epping Secondary College. The PISA results demonstrate that Korea is doing this rather successfully. Lastly, because of the aims at our school as outlined within the Strategic Plan to ‘develop structures and programs to allow all students to achieve high level outcomes including those above expected levels, those who are achieving but ‘could’ achieve more and finally those students achieving below expected levels’. This is again another area Korea has improved and achieved in successfully.

As I undertake the exchange, I want to learn more about what Korea is doing in their schools to improve their students results. The first part of the exchange was completed earlier this year with the young and very talented teacher Hyunwoo Park from the Seoul Broadcasting School coming here to Epping Secondary College. Hyunwoo is a teacher of Media and Film Studies and worked with me in the Drama Department in her two week stay at the school and at my home. Hyunwoo shadowed my professional and personal life for two weeks and I think this was an eye opening experience for her to see that we relate much of our teaching to everyday and often practical scenarios. Hyunwoo was also interested in our Inquiry Based teaching approach whereby the teacher allows students to take some control of their learning experiences within the classroom. Hyunwoo taught my year 8, 9 and 10 Drama classes about traditional Korean Performing Arts and gave them information on the use of ICT to improve results. Secondly, because of the work I do within my role, under the umbrella of Student Development, one of my main focuses is to build the resilience, motivation and engagement of the students at Epping Secondary College. The PISA results demonstrate that Korea is doing this rather successfully. Lastly, because of the aims at our school as outlined within the Strategic Plan to ‘develop structures and programs to allow all students to achieve high level outcomes including those above expected levels, those who are achieving but ‘could’ achieve more and finally those students achieving below expected levels’. This is again another area Korea has improved and achieved in successfully.

My part of the exchange will take place in July. I depart Melbourne during the holidays and spend 3 weeks in Korea shadowing Hyunwoo at her school and living at her family home in Seoul. I believe this will be a deeply rewarding, rich and challenging experience for me. One challenge I will be the fact that not many teachers in her school speak English and no one in her family knows English except Hyunwoo! Needless to say I have already started to learn some basic Korean! I hope to learn more about what they are doing ‘right’ in Korea and bring these strategies back to Epping Secondary College. Hyunwoo and I have also started a collaborative assignment whereby my students will perform in a script her students will write and direct. We will film and present this as a collaborative assessment for both classes here at Epping and in Seoul. A program called MSLYNC will allow us to chat and see each other and our classes via the internet. I also aim to set up a strong and entrenched working relationship with the Seoul Broadcasting School and to look into a potential ‘Sister School Relationship’, where we look at sending students between Epping and Seoul. Also, the opportunity will be present for other subject teachers at Epping to complete the same exchange program I have undertaken this year.

I am looking forward to my trip to Korea and I feel that through this exchange I have developed a cultural understanding of Korea and Asia as a region. A region which is moving ahead leaps and bounds in education and in which we have a lot to learn from. The Australian Government sees creating links with Asia as a necessity for the future of our own education through the new National Curriculum. I will report back after my trip in July and hope to bring back many teaching and learning strategies we can implement here at Epping Secondary College with our own students.

Sarah Dempster  
Leading Teacher Student Development
SRC 2014

Congratulations to the following students who were elected by the SRC:
SRC Presidents: Tabitha Anderson and Daniel Pietrobuono
Vice President: Tiffany McIntyre

HOUSE CAPTAINS 2014

WINNING HOUSE 2013 — FINDON
CAPTAINS — Robert Jovcevski & Jaedyn Kearney
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**Year 9**

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Greetings. We are the year 7 home group captains for 2014! A few weeks ago we met and discussed the importance of leadership and supporting others in our home group. We were given note pads to write ideas to bring to each meeting. It was all run professionally.
We also spoke about organizing an environmental Waste Management program for year 7’s and a fundraiser disco. We are looking forward to a great term 2.
On behalf of all the year 7 home group captains I’d like to wish everyone a great term 1 holiday and a fresh start in term 2.
Louis Kyriakou. 7H
On Monday 3rd March, we departed for our year 10 pathways camp to Ballarat. It was a fast but fun trip with many excited students. When we arrived at our camp ground at around 12:00 we unpacked and settled into our cabins. A lot of people went exploring the huge camp site and magnificent grounds and came across an old mine shaft.

After lunch we had our first activity which was the Democracy Museum. It had a lot of interesting information, was brightly coloured so it caught everyone's eye and made people want to go and look at all the things they had to offer. When we walked into the museum, we were greeted by a lovely lady who worked there. She played a few quiz games with us and gave us wrist bands. I was very intrigued as this was far more interesting and interactive than any museum I've ever been to before! She showed us the Eureka flag, the very same flag the miners used in the war against the government. She told us that people came from all over the country to see the flag and that in the past, when people came to see the flag, they were given pieces of it as souvenirs.

We then went to the Ballarat Art Gallery where we saw amazing paintings and took part in a role play court hearing between the diggers and the government. Everyone had a part to play with half of our group being sent to the diggers side of the court and the other half being sent to the government side of the court. We all played our parts and had a jury decide which side won the argument and it was the diggers that won the argument. This activity made it so much easier to understand what happened at the Eureka Stockade and you could really understand both the government and the miners point of view. Most of us by the end of the day, really understood how hard it was for miners during the goldrush and how important it is to have a say in how your government is run.

The day had a late finish with the sound and light show 'Blood on the Southern Cross', which told of the events that happened in the Eureka Stockade in a very entertaining way. It wasn't long after we arrived back that we had to go to bed, not that we all went to sleep straight away...but don't tell Mr Williams!

The next morning we packed our stuff early, had breakfast and then we prepared to depart to Torquay beach for our 2 hour surfing lesson.

When we arrived a few of us played rugby before we had to put on a hot, tight wetsuit to get ready for our surfing lesson. The wetsuits were pretty uncomfortable, but it was worth it to be able to go out in the waves.

The 'Go Ride a Wave' lady told us how to surf and then we entered in to the water with our surfboards. I paddled out and watched how the sets of waves were flowing, then I was ready for the wave to hit me so that I could go with the flow and surf. I waited for my perfect wave then went for a big wave and was carried on the wave as it washed me like a little little little baby shark.

After surfing we had some fish and chips, generously provided for us by the teachers, before setting off for home.

Pathways Camp was a very short sweet camp. We all enjoyed ourselves thoroughly and would highly recommend that any pathways kids in the future jump at the chance to go on the Eureka Surf Camp.

By Danny-Lee Rigby, Kailey Mark and Aaron Nicol
On 25\textsuperscript{th} February, the year 12 biology students went on an excursion to Ecolinc in Bacchus Marsh to investigate the wonders of photosynthesis. On the day students worked in small groups to observe how the rate of photosynthesis can be affected when plants are exposed to different conditions. Students were given the opportunity to use highly specialised equipment such as spectrophotometers which measure light absorbance and oxygen and carbon dioxide sensors that measure the concentration of these gases in the air. The excursion was an enriching experience that expanded students’ knowledge and gave students an appreciation of how all life is connected. The facilities and supervisors at Ecolinc were professional and provided an enjoyable experience for all.

\textit{Kyrstie Pangusan}
CITY DISCOVERY EXCURSION

As part of the year 9 program students are required to select a Community Elective. This term the City Experience Community Elective Class have been working hard in the classroom every Tuesday, developing their research skills while focusing on the different precincts that Melbourne has to offer.

Students were able to identify key reasons why Melbourne and similar cities were voted the MOST LIVEABLE city and were able to compare and comment on the world’s worst cities.

On Tuesday 18th March, we were put to the test with our first excursion to the Melbourne CBD. We focused our attention on major landmarks and attractions that we have been studying in class.

One of the highlights of the day was meeting a City Ambassador. City Ambassadors are volunteers who can help you when you are lost in the city or need more information. They dress in red uniforms and can give you maps and directions and can even help you if you have any questions about public transport.

After lunch we caught a City Circle Tram. We were surprised to find out that this is a FREE tram that travels around the CBD. The tram has an audio commentary which tells people about the landmarks and attractions in Melbourne. It takes about 48 minutes to do a full loop of the city. It was nice to sit back and see all the places we had been reading about in class.

Our final stop for the day was a visit to the Melbourne Visitor Centre. We were lucky enough to be invited downstairs. The venue has a variety of free information inside. We enjoyed taking on the role of detective as we searched through brochures and took valuable notes that will be used back in the classroom in developing our assignments – each student will produce a brochure for their chosen precinct.

Thank you to Ms Basinski and Ms Petersen for being our guides on the day. We are looking forward to our next excursion where we will be focusing on Melbourne’s sporting precinct and will be going behind the scenes at Etihad Stadium.
On 18th February, a group of Epping Secondary College leaders boarded the bus for Anglesea Coastal Bay camp. It was a very long drive and despite getting lost and driving straight past the camp site we made it there by lunch time. When we arrived at the camp there was a mad rush for the snorkelers to get ready. The rest of us set out for a bush walk around the camp. We sat down for a quick snack after settling into our joined cabins. The smaller group of students then did the low ropes course with Ms Dempster which tested our trust skills. As the snorkelers arrived back at camp with many stories to share, we divided into two groups for our next activities that included hut building and mini golf/archery. After completing the activities we freshened up and headed off for dinner. Following a yummy dinner we went into the rec room for some leadership activities. These leadership activities included meeting new student leaders and getting everyone out of their comfort zone. All of our student leaders were very tired and we all knew we had a big morning ahead with a 5:30 am wake up followed by a 6km walk to Anglesea surf beach. We settled down to watch a movie, then went to bed for a good night sleep. 5:30 am arrived and we were all woken by a knock on the door and Ms. Dempster’s voice. Our breakfast was our fuel for the day. Our walk began at 6:30 am and on our journey we met some cows, were attacked by march flies and were pushed to our limits. Finally arriving at the beach with everyone hot and sweaty, our surfers prepared to hit the waves. The students who were surfing had a quick surfing lesson and splashed into the water. Ms Dempster and Ms De Bono joined those who were involved. There were some very talented surfers, some people struggled but continued to enjoy themselves and push themselves to the limits. After a good start to the day, we returned to camp and packed the bus. After a beautiful lunch we jumped on the bus. With full stomachs and very tired, everyone had a little nap on the drive back to school. Overall everyone had a good time and met other leaders that we will be able to chat with back at school. On behalf of the leaders we would like to thank all the teachers that made it a great experience.

Bianca Bell and Teah Stepan
On Thursday 13th March 2014, the prestigious Student Leadership Induction Night was held at the college. Over 200 parents and 80 students came to the night to be formally inducted into the Epping Secondary College Student Leadership program for 2014. Students were presented with their leadership badges and were introduced to teachers, parents, family and friends as official leaders and ambassadors as Homegroup Captains, House Captains, Student Representative Council Members, Area Captains and Peer Support Leaders. It was a great night and the first of its kind at Epping Secondary College.

Below is the speech our College Captains presented to the Epping Secondary College community to welcome and congratulate our 2014 leaders. All the students involved in the leadership program should be extremely proud of their achievements and embrace their new responsibilities and duties within their role with determination and commitment.

College Captains Induction Evening Welcome Speech 2014:

Jecille Dizon: Epping’s Student Leaders of 2014 designed a motto earlier this year at the Leadership Camp, to represent what leadership is all about: “Being a leader has no limitations except for those you put on yourself.” This means that the obstacles placed in our path and how we overcome these challenges, define who we are and the type of leader we can and have become.

Good evening teachers, parents and leaders, we are your College Captains for 2014. My name is Jecille Dizon and here with us are my fellow captains: Eden Tylo, Violeta Boskoska and Sachdave Singh. Tonight the Student Leaders of Epping Secondary College will be officially recognised as having a contributing role in the shaping of our school community and in inspiring its students.

Violeta Boskoska: Leadership is about an individual who is an outstanding role model, has initiative and is dedicated to what they are trying to achieve. Leaders in the school incorporate the five school values in whatever they may do - these being honesty, commitment, fairness, respect and perseverance. One of the most influential leaders of our time President Obama, stated and I quote; “change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.” Every individual is capable of positive change and we as leaders are the most inclined to pursue this change.

Eden Tylo: There are a lot of opportunities for leadership at Epping Secondary and to tell you the truth, I'm not at all that surprised to see all these students standing up here. I met them at camps and meetings and saw their quality of leadership. They're good kids with great personalities and give much to the school. They're committed and impressively passionate about the roles they perform, which you as parents should be proud of. During my time here, the leadership program has developed immensely and ultimately the student body should be grateful and appreciative of the fact that these guys are making their school a better place.

Sachdave Singh: Before I start, I would like to congratulate every student leader in this room for their successful induction as a leader in our school community. We as student leaders act as role models to our peers. In our endeavors to make a difference in the school, we constantly embody and portray the school values; Honesty, Respect, Commitment and Fairness. In a nutshell, I sincerely believe that the role of a student leader is more than a badge and a title. It means being a good leader and representative of the school, trustworthy, committed, respectful to others, being fair and just as well as having pride in our school community. To all the leaders here, meet the challenge of being student leaders and approach it with enthusiasm, determination, an open mind and everyone’s best interest at heart. Thank you and good night.

On behalf of the College Captains and the Student Development Team we are proud of you all and believe we have an exceptionally strong group of student leaders for 2014. We look forward to working with the 195 student leaders within the school to further develop and enhance student’s leadership skills and capabilities.

Ms Dempster and the College Captains
Wednesday 26th February was Epping Secondary College Athletics Day. We would like to congratulate all of the students that attended and participated and to congratulate Tatlow for winning Athletics Day 2014. Our day would not have happened if we didn’t have staff involvement and organization on the day and we would like to send a massive thank you to Mr. Hose and Miss. Foresio for making the day run so smoothly.

Throughout the day there was a lot to get involved in including age group events, house chanting, getting your nails painted and even getting your hair sprayed in your house color. It was great to see so many students involved, mixing within their house team with students from other year levels and wearing their house colour. Findon house was lucky enough to have Mrs. Kaska face painting to support their house in their color, some students were even walking around with dinosaurs on their face: they looked great. We saw many people having fun throughout the day and congratulate and thank the house captains for encouraging their house involvement. During the day house captains lead their house chants which each house captain designed in their own time. Each team had two opportunities to present their house chant and earn 100 points. Well done to Dalton & Scarborough for winning the house chants.

When it came to the relay the captains were organizing the teams for each age group. The captains handled this day well and we had a team from each house in each age group for our relays in the last event for the day. The relay teams raced against the staff and it was great to see some teachers get involved in the events. Overall on the day there were many events to participate in and points were handed out to those students with even more points for the people that came 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

The day concluded around 1:30 with everyone having a massive cleanup. The winners of the day were Tatlow and before we left we had a team photo taken. It was great to have so many students participate from our house. We are hoping that throughout the year we can earn points through other activities to win the overall House trophy at the end of the year.

Bianca Bell (Tatlow House Captain) & Samantha Ashley (Tatlow House Vice Captain)
ESC - 2014 Athletics Champions

TATLOW HOUSE
House Athletics
On 4th March, a specially selected group of students from our leadership team had the opportunity to listen to two youth ambassadors (Emily and Michael) from La Trobe University, Bundoora. Emily and Michael are currently students at La Trobe, both undertaking their Masters Degrees. They were selected to be a part of the Student Unions Leadership Team and became involved in Public Speaking through this program. Both are extremely experienced in public speaking and spoke to us about their own real life experiences of addressing audiences. They gave us various practical exercises and activities that helped build our confidence which is needed to achieve this. We also analysed which skills/attributes are required to become a proficient public speaker. I particularly enjoyed the debate we were all involved in to put our new found skills to the test. I believe we were given the opportunity to learn these skills from experts in their field. We also related well to Emily and Michael because they have achieved so much in their short time at university as leaders and speakers. We would like to hold this half day course again and open it up to all the 2014 Student Leaders. After all articulate public speaking is vital in our roles as leaders to communicate important information and in our facilitation of recognition and whole school assemblies.

Tabitha Anderson
On 18th March, VCAL students from the elective ‘Community Services’ held a fundraiser for World’s Greatest Shave at lunch. There was a sausage sizzle held near the pizza oven and hair spraying in the rotunda. Four students had their heads shaved for the cause; Jackson Eagles, Alexi Kyriacou, James Winchcombe and Aaron Kane. We thank the students that were brave and shaved to raise money for this great cause. Thank you to all who made this possible and worked all of lunch whether it was cooking sausages, spraying hair or just handing food to the students. Thank you to everyone who helped set up and run the event. It was a great learning experience and we look forward to running this event every year to raise money for the World’s Greatest Shave.

Shania Tulloch, Tristen Nelson and Sean Burns.
In this weekly subject students in year 9 will have the opportunity to develop the skills of organisation, confidence, teamwork, communication, resilience, motivation and citizenship by travelling by public transport into the local/wider community and being exposed to various different forms of physical activity, both sporting and recreational. They will develop a deeper connection with their local community and appreciate the importance and role of physical activity in people’s lives.

This semester students have been travelling to TRAC in Thomastown for Aquatics and Fitness classes, however for the rest of the semester, students will be participating in other activities including: 1000 Steps Walk in Ferntree Gully, Maribyrnong Trail Walk, Lawn Bowls, Sports Afternoons at Epping Leisure City, Ice Skating and Rock Climbing.

Hopefully by the end of the semester students will have had positive experiences in all these physical activities and appreciate the role of community resources in people’s lives.

Sandro Biscaro
VCE & Physical Education Teacher

Ride 2 School Day

Congratulations to the students that participated in the National Ride To School Day at Epping SC on Wednesday 19th March.

Students arrived at school in an assortment of active transport modes; bicycles, scooters, skateboards and for their efforts received a canteen voucher.

The bike shed will continue to be available for students to secure their bikes, so continue to use active transport to travel to and from school.

Remember that riding or walking to school

- is good for children’s health and fitness, assists in the fight against obesity and type-two diabetes among youth
- assists in reducing traffic congestion around schools
- is good for the environment
- is a great way to engage school communities

Sandro Biscaro
VCE & Physical Education Teacher
March 2014

Sports Report

It has been a busy start to the year for sport at ESC with a high number of students representing the school at inter school level. These sports have included cricket, tennis, volleyball and softball/baseball.

Highlights of the term so far would be:
- Intermediate girls volleyball team finishing first in an extremely competitive competition
- Senior cricket boys winning the region competition with two cliff hanger games in a row to clinch victory.
- Senior girls softball winning through to the Northern region with a very convincing 27-5!

Stay tuned for further updates throughout term 2!

Rohan Hose
Sport Co-Ordinator
Head of Health & PE

Year 8 Girls Volleyball Victors

On Monday 17th March the Year 8 Summer Sport volleyball and tennis teams headed to Whittlesea to compete against other local schools. As coach of the Year 8 Girls volleyball team, I wanted to highlight the dominant performance the girls produced against the four teams they faced: Whittlesea, Lalor, Lalor North and The Lakes. The team consisted of the following ten students: Britney Jong, Courtney Hedger, Zahraa Al Husseini, Parajsa Muharremi, Adot Deng, Pearl Matautia, Olivia Johnson, Mary Ali, Apekshya Lama and Toni Lynch. A noteworthy mention must go to Zahraa who was busy representing ESC in both volleyball and tennis on the day.

The girls played as a team, showed focus and demonstrated some exceptional skills. Over the four games the girls did not lose one set. The first game against Whittlesea was the closest and required the girls to demonstrate the ESC value of perseverance to come from behind to win a very close first set (25-23 and 25-20). They won the second game against Lalor (25-10 and 25-13), the third game against Lalor North (25-18 and 25-12) and the final game against The Lakes (25-18 and 25-14). I would like to thank the girls for making my job relatively easy because they were an absolute delight to coach. Everyone played a part in contributing to the team’s success and I look forward to working with you all in the lead up to Regionals.

Miss Holt

Book Donations

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In our Community Volunteering class we are required to part take in an activity that will benefit our local community. We have decided to run a book donation which will allow us to donate books to less fortunate people within our community and even communities around the world. What we are asking is for you to send in as many good quality text books and novels to our school. We will collect and store them until they are ready to send off to numerous organisations such as World Vision Australia, UNHCR and Mission Australia depending on the genre of the books.

Collecting the books starts on Friday, 28th March and continues from 31st March until 4th April. Throughout the week we will have numerous cardboard boxes located in the VCAL office which is located in the Technology/Food area. There will be a box located with paper to leave your details including your name, home group and name of the book/s donated.

If you require any further information you can contact Silvia Mitrevski VCAL Co-ordinator 9401 2599 who is overseeing the project or alternatively you can speak to the students Bradley or Celine in the VCAL office.

Thank you.

Celine Scotney, Bradley Colliss, Kortney Rhook, Katelyn Rowe, Sandra El-Cheikh
Firstly a huge welcome to all our current year 7 students and to all our Instrumental music students across Years 7-10. This is just a short notice letting parents know that lessons have now officially begun. Many thanks to all parents who have paid for the semester or for the entire year. Students have been given their timetable and have begun their exciting musical journey and we look forward to hearing them perform across the year.

Students are reminded to keep their own copy of their Instrumental Music Timetable in their planner so they can show these to their classroom teacher before attending their 35 minute lesson.

If there are any students who have paid but have not been included in the timetable please inform Mr Ross Talarico on 9401 2599 as soon as possible or you can forward an email to talarico.ross.r@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Furthermore due to our singing teachers unforeseen absence in the last three weeks of Term 1 singing and keyboard students will recommence lessons in Term 2. Because there will not be any lessons in singing and keyboards for the remainder of the term money will be credited to those students when Semester 2 payments are due in late July.

I wish all our music students a great year ahead and I am sure we will hear some great music during performances scheduled for both in and out of school.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any queries or concerns either via email or phone.

Kind Regards

Ross Talarico
(Instrumental Music Coordinator)
On the last day of this term nine students from our school will be travelling to Italy with five students from Lalor Secondary College to experience a trip of a lifetime. It is the first time that either school has conducted an international study tour and both schools are thrilled with the opportunity that they have been able to provide their students. The students attending the trip are from years 9 to 11 and they are excited for the adventures that lie ahead of them. Over the school holiday period students will be staying in Rome, Florence and Venice with day trips to Pompeii and Pisa. In Florence they will be attending language classes where they will be able to further consolidate their language skills.

Both schools have provided fundraising opportunities to support them in their endeavours, and the students have been dedicated in their efforts to raise money. They have sold numerous boxes of chocolates at home and during recess and lunchtimes and helped run food stalls during Italian Week and Market Day, as well as other lunchtimes throughout the year. On 15th March, we were fortunate enough to hold a Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings in Epping, where all of the students and their parents worked hard to raise money. We are grateful for all of the donations that we have been given by local businesses which have helped us to reach our fundraising goal. We would like to make a special mention to the following businesses: Pastry Paradise in Lalor, Laionica Poultry in Thomastown, Ivanhoe Quality Meats, First Quality Meats in Thomastown and Hurricane Constructions.

We are looking forward to watching our students embrace the many benefits of travel and immerse themselves in the language and culture of Italy. In the future we hope to continue providing opportunities like this at the college as a way of engaging our students in their language classes and helping them grow into independent global citizens.

Melissa Foresio
FOSTER CARE INFORMATION SESSION

Have you ever thought about fostering children or young people?
Anglicare Victoria is looking for couples or single people who have experience with parenting and can provide a safe and loving home for children needing care for weekends, short term and long term.

Our next information sessions are on

- **Tuesday 1st April 2014, 7 - 8.30pm (Glenroy area)**
- **Wednesday 2nd April 6.30-8pm (Yarraville area)**

Details of the session will be provided when you have registered

Please Come along to find out more and have your questions answered.

To book or to receive an information package please contact Lynette Tollit – Volunteer Recruitment & Support worker on 8470 9999 or email lynette.tollit@anglicarevic.org.au

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LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF!

As Abraham Lincoln said “The best way to predict the future is to create it”

Volunteer to host an international high school student in February 2014 through Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Help determine the future resilience, diversity and global awareness of your children and family.

Carefully selected students will arrive in July 2014 for one term, one or two semesters from France, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, and Spain. They will attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at our website www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship.

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March 2014
Breakfast Club is back! Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Saturday Dental Service

Come have a cuppa' and a yarn in the cool air conditioning at the end of a busy week;
Enjoy a fresh and tasty breakfast while your family has their dental check up

Cost:
Free for Healthcare/Pension card holders and $26 consultation fee for non Healthcare/Pension Card holders. All children under 12 can access the service for free. Further fees may apply to non-Healthcare/Pension Card holders if they require further care.

Where:
At the Plenty Valley Community Health Northern Hospital Site, 187 Cooper Street Epping

When:
Saturdays 8.30 am – 1.00pm (fortnightly service) with Dr Alex Thomas

Services Provided:
- All dental emergencies
- Clinical examinations
- Filings and extractions
- General dental treatments and advice
- Preventative treatments and advice
- Denture – costing up to $123

For an appointment call 9409 8766
EPPING SECONDARY COLLEGE

OPEN NIGHT
Tuesday 6th May 7pm

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