

The New Development

The new Administration and P-4 development is getting really exciting with plaster now hung in both buildings and cabinetry installed in the Administration building over the past few weeks.

Our School Council President Carolyn O'Dwyer and I walked through the buildings last week and were both blown away at how amazing they look. The first opportunity we have to walk through the buildings together as a staff, is

Friday September 8th, an opportunity we are all really looking forward to.



The amount of space in the new buildings surpasses what we originally thought. Along with ample space for classrooms there are also unique learning spaces with amphitheatres in 3 rooms that can fit whole classes of students. It is very exciting and needs to be seen to be believed. We will try to get photos up on our website as soon as we are able to.

We wish that we could invite the whole community through the buildings, however, there are legal requirements that govern a construction site and we cannot make this happen until Crow Constructions have finished. The builders have been fantastic to work with, and where possible they have sought local trades to complete work on the buildings, which is great. Everyone is extremely hopeful that the buildings will be fully completed by the end of the school year, obviously the weather will have a bit to do with it. Hopefully it rains as much as our farmers need on weekends and fines up during the week.

This week we have confirmed orders for the new furniture to be used through each P-4 classroom next year. The furniture is modern and enables more flexible learning opportunities for students, rather than having students fixed at a desk, there will be stand and learn spaces, and some soft furnishings for reading and group activity work.

Currently School Council are working to ensure that a quality playground is on site for the beginning of next year and the signs are looking extremely positive around that happening. The Capital Works project has a landscape architect assigned and that person is currently sourcing quotes on a new playground as well as moving a playground from Tom Street.

The Gilmore Street road is an area of concern for us, and we sympathise with families around the lack of drop off and pick up points at the 5-8 Campus. You may have noticed that we have been meeting with Moira Shire and Public Transport representatives at 3.20pm out on the road to point out the lack of appropriate infrastructure. Moira Shire have limited capacity to support initially, apart from signage for parents to follow and I cannot urge parents enough to please follow that signage once up. Yarrawonga College P-12, the Department of Education and Training and Moira Shire will continue to work with everyone we can to provide the appropriate drop off, pick up and bus interchange points as soon as we possibly can. Unfortunately I don't think we will make that happen at the beginning of next year though. Please be confident that we are working as hard as possible on this matter and will communicate with you as soon as we have a plan from Moira Shire around appropriate signage.

Positive Education and Respectful Relationships

We had a great Professional Development day on Wednesday 2nd August regarding Positive Education. It was a fantastic opportunity to get together with staff across P-12 and continue to build on the collegiality of the staff. Positive Education is a philosophy which puts a focus on wellbeing. This year we are learning about Positive Education and beginning to live it in our own lives, next year we will be teaching and embedding this into our curriculum.

It is not about being happy all the time, and recognises there will be ups and downs in our lives but aims to assist developing strategies to cope with these times. The notion of flourishing relates to feeling good and doing good. Positive Education comprises six domains that are central to the promotion of flourishing:

- Positive relationships
- Positive accomplishment
- Positive emotions
- Positive health
- Positive engagement
- Positive purpose

The College was fortunate to receive a Respectful Relationships grant which complements the work we are undertaking regarding Positive Education. Respectful Relationships is a wide ranging initiative to help young Victorians deal with a range of challenges they may face, covers topics including being respectful, resilient and engaged at school and becoming confident in themselves. Respectful Relationships promotes equality and helps female students learn how to build healthy relationships.

The initiative prepares them to face challenges by developing problem-solving skills and building empathy, resilience and confidence. Staff have received training in delivering this content to classes and we will continue to update the school community on these exciting initiatives.

Movements at P - 4 Campus

In the last week of Term 3 the portables from Tom Street will be prepared to be moved over the new site during the September holiday break.

We will be re-constructing a gallery space that is very similar to the current gallery space where Year 3/4 classes are currently housed. There are some class movements for Year 1 students who are all moving into the library spaces and the year 3/4 students will move into the Year 1 classrooms. A letter has been sent to all P-4 Campus families to explain this process.

International Leadership Programs

School for Student Leadership in China

We currently have 13 Year 9 students from Yarrawonga College P-12 at the School for Student Leadership in China. The last I read they were off to Luofushan.

According to Darcie 'It has been amazing so far, we have gotten to learn so much about the Chinese past culture. We

arrived there and were welcomed by an amazing temple. We walked in and the gardens on the other side were amazing. We walked stairs for about 20 minutes until we reached the chair lifts, when we got on it was SOOO scary, it just kept going up and up. When we got off we were all mesmerised by the view but we still weren't at the top.

We hiked up more stairs for about half an hour until we got to the lookout. The view was amazing. Coming back down was so much easier, apart from the chair lifts. It was so scary coming back down. In the evening we watched a movie'.

This is an amazing opportunity for our students.



Kokoda Track Leadership Program – Papua New Guinea

Ms McCarthy, Mr Dodd and the Year 10 & 11 students have been working hard on preparations for walking the Kokoda Track during the September holidays. It is exciting for the students and teachers who are walking the track and they are to be congratulated for their work and commitment demonstrated to get there. Thanks also to [ClubMulwala](#) (Major Sponsor) for their ongoing support of this amazing leadership opportunity for our students.

Staff Development & Innovations

In the first three weeks of this term teachers were given the opportunity to come up with new ideas and opportunities for students to learn through to improve student learning outcomes. The ideas that people came up with across Prep to Year 12 are really impressive and have the potential to impact student learning outcomes positively. We are currently in the process of creating a space on our website to share the innovations that our teachers are coming up with to improve student learning outcomes.

We were fortunate to be able to get the Positive Education Institute staff from Geelong for our Pupil Free Day professional learning earlier this term. We learnt a lot of practical strategies to implement in our personal lives and in classrooms that improve resilience and ways to work to our strengths. The idea of the program is to help develop self-confidence and resilience, whilst understanding that not every day in our lives is going to be a perfect one and then how to manage those days more effectively.

All teachers and Education Support staff have completed Performance and Development plans and are currently meeting with their supervisors for a review of how their plans are progressing. The plans of all staff clearly contain elements of our College Strategic Plan that is focussed on improving teaching and learning across our college. Two of our main teaching and learning goals for 2017 is to begin implementation of an Instructional model, which, in non-education speak, is a consistent way of teaching and learning expectations for P-12.

The second teaching and learning goal is implementing a documented and consistent Assessment Schedule. The Assessment Schedule's purpose is to ensure teachers from Prep to Year 10 are completing consistent student assessments so that they learn what students need to learn. The goal is for teachers to provide a teaching and learning program for students at their level, this is called differentiated curriculum in 'education speak'.

NAPLAN & student improvement

NAPLAN results arrived last week and hopefully all families will have received tests for children in Year 3, 5 7 and 9, if not please contact your campus office. There are some encouraging results in the information we received from the department and also some obvious areas for improvement. We have established a team of teachers from Prep to Year 12 to work on improving student learning outcomes, in turn improving NAPLAN data. This team will be trained on how to interpret the information from the department so that we build staff capacity in this important area.

Attendance is another area which significantly impacts student learning outcomes and our college is working hard to ensure all students attend school regularly. The figures are really concerning when you look at a student who is away around 15 days a year. Added up these students miss a whole year of education from Prep to Year 12, please support and value your child's education and make sure they get to school every day.

YCP12 from all angles

9 – 12 Campus

Student Engagement and Wellbeing

YLC & Leadership team continue to focus on improvement attendance levels amongst the year levels and have look at identifying the major blockers that lead to student non-attendance.

Year level information evenings have been held to assist students to make selections for 2018, the preliminary course selections process once completed, will help to formulate subject offerings for 2018.

Special Programs

- Doctor's in School program – program has commenced. We now have a Doctor and Nurse on site every Tuesday and students are accessing these services, which is really positive.
- Smiles On Site – dental van is coming to YCP-12 in the few weeks of term. Week 7 at P-4, Week 8 at 5-8 and Week 9 at 9-12. Information sessions have been held with students and parent information forms given out – great opportunity for families to access dental care.

Pathways

VTAC applications are now open. Year 12 students have been working through making an application, SEAS and scholarships.

- VCE/VCAL information night & Year 9-10 Parent night. Phone conversations with parents to assist with pathways directions.
- Course counselling with Year 11 and 10's- supported by Jo, Rosey, Donna Taylor, Al Knight, Kaz Rennie to get these done. We do this to make sure each student has had a conversation with a staff member regarding next year's choices.
- VCAL and PPL projects are under way. Please stay tuned for local/school events.
- GoTAFE returned to complete one on one course counselling with 9 new students
- Year 10 Work Experience all completed.

Curriculum, Teaching and Learning

Parent teacher interviews commence for the P-4 campus on Tuesday September 12th and Wednesday September 13th 2017, 3.30pm - 6.00pm. For the 5-8 campus they will be held on Wednesday September 13th and Thursday September 14th 2017, 3.30pm - 6.00pm

5 - 8 Campus

Student Engagement and Wellbeing

We are working with office staff, class teachers and coordinators to ensure that records are accurate and non-attendance is followed up via text, letters and phone

Our 5-8 RACV Energy Breakthrough students are going well with their preparation and for the first time have participated in training at our local aerodrome. We look forward to watching their progress towards the feature event in November at Maryborough.



Leadership

A new group of Year 5 – 8 students have been selected as part of our Semester 2 Leadership Team.

Our year 5 and 6 students will work with P-4 campus and local feeder primary schools. Last semester our leaders worked with Tungamah Primary School.

Our Year 7 students will also work with our P – 4 students.

Transition

Year 4 -5

A flyer was developed and sent to all families with a Year 4 child highlighting the Transition Program for the remainder of the Year. We have held our first activity (Borambola Camp Information Session). The next item on the program will be a Parent Information Session on 30 August, with the final activity on our program being an Orientation day in December.

Year 6 - 7

Last week we held our 'Day in the life of a Year 7 student'. This is always a very well supported activity enjoyed by all our Year 6 students. It was also encouraging to see and welcome students from neighbouring schools who attended this day.

Visiting incursions – free of charge

We have been fortunate to be able to offer incursions to our students – these include

- Year 5/6 First Aid classes
- Year 5/6 CFA – Mobile unit
- James Willett – Olympic champion Year 5-8 and
- Headspace will be visiting Term 4 – Year 7/8 (date TBC)

Mobile Dental Van across P-12

Commencing at the P-4 Campus on 28th August, 2017,

5-8 Campus Week 8

9-12 Campus to be advised

P – 4 Campus

The P- 4 Campus has been focussing on being kind to each other. Kindness in our school has been part of our Positive Education Program, which all the staff participated in on our PD day in early August. We have been encouraging the students to say 'hello' to each other as they pass people in the corridor or in the playground. When someone says hello to you, it automatically makes you feel good and smile. The staff are making an effort to ensure they say hello to as many students as they can especially while on yard duty.

Staff have been focussing on student attendance and will continue to focus on this for the remainder of the year. It is important that all students come to school every day and if they are going to be absent that parents notify the school with the reason. There is lots happening at the P-4 Campus this term.

We have the Smiles On Site Dental Van coming to the school in Week 7.

Brainstorm Productions performed a show in Week 5 which was enjoyed by all. The Preps are participating in the Moira ELF Reading Day in Week 6. The Year 1's have a mini beast incursion in Week 6 and our RACV students are held a fundraising sausage sizzle and raise over \$800 thanks to our wonderful families at our P – 4 Campus. (Our 5 – 8 RACV team also ran a sausage sizzle and raised approximately the same amount) so wonderful support for this Program and students throughout our College.

As stated in our Year 5 – 8 Campus Report Transitions are starting for our Year 4 students moving up to the 5-8 Campus in 2018. The students will start their visits this month and continue into September, with the first Information Session available for this year's current Year 4 parents to be held on 30 August.

This report has been compiled by College Principal Damien Keel with input from our College Leadership Team consisting of:

Jo McCarthy (Assistant Principal/Year 9 – 12 Campus Leader)

Georgina Thomas (Year 5 – 8 Campus Leader/Engagement and Wellbeing)

Belinda Pendergast (Acting P – 4 Campus Leader/Engagement and Wellbeing)

Rachael Guppy (Leading Teacher/ 9 – 12 Pathways)

Alistair Angwin (Leading Teacher/ 9 – 12 Campus Curriculum Teaching and Learning)

David Rose (Leading Teacher / 9 – 12 Campus Engagement and Wellbeing)

Travis Osborne (Leading Teacher /5 – 8 Campus Curriculum Teaching and Learning)

