

Learning Community Newsletter



Edition: February 2015

Message from Principal



G'day everyone and welcome back to the 2015 school year.

We have had a great start this year helped a bit by the cooler than normal weather at the start of term, I guess there's still plenty of time for a scorcher so I won't speak too soon!

Last year our College underwent a review as we do every four years. The review looked into all aspects of our operation and the report came back to us with a very positive assessment of our performance. The report also gave us some suggestions for future work and we will be following the advice given to us. Some of you may be asked your thoughts on various issues during the year and we would welcome your input as we seek to make our College an even better place to learn and grow.

Churchill, the town, celebrates its 50th birthday and there will be events to mark this milestone on Sunday March 15. Our College will set up a booth at the event with memorabilia displays. Churchill Campus also reaches a big birthday when it turns 30 years old this year so we have 2 milestones to celebrate. There are several past student reunions planned for this year and we shall hold an event in the second half of the year to mark the occasion.

Morwell Campus staff are busy working to raise money and donations for one of our students who is seriously ill. Sam Tormey is suffering from cancer and the College is looking to do a backyard blitz at Sam's house to create a peaceful and safe environment for Sam and his pup Scooby. Anyone who thinks they can help in anyway can join our blitz team on the weekend of March 14 and 15. See the attached flyer for more information. I urge anyone who can help to get behind this deserving project.

Our senior students have settled in quickly and are making an impressive start to the big years of their education. Encouraged by strong VCE results and great VCAL completion results last year the University Campus team is already pushing our students to do the hard yards early in the year to ensure success later on. Years 11 and 12 are challenging times and I know all of our students can rely on their families for the support and encouragement they need to do their best. It really makes a difference when parents and carers get involved in their kids education!

Friday, February 27, the Smith Family will hold an apology event in Mathieson Park near Lake Hyland in Churchill. There will be cultural activities and a bbq to celebrate this important date. If you can call by please do to lend your presence to this event.

Over the holidays our College was saddened by the untimely loss of two of our past teachers. Both Les Ponton and Norma Evans were much loved teachers at Kurnai and we pass on our sincere condolences to their families and express our gratitude for their many years of service to our learning community.

We have been really fortunate to recruit some excellent teachers to replace those who retired or left at the end of last year.

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College News Cont'd.....

I am delighted to welcome- Ran Li – Morwell and Kurnai Cluster- Maths Science/Mandarin, Sally Kirstine – Uni- Mathematics, Michael Kilroy – Morwell- Phys ed and Health, Clancy Bennett – Morwell- English /SOSE, Natasha Kay – Churchill- Art, Effrosini Pizzi – Morwell- Mathematics, and Jodie Deppler – Churchill – Office, I look forward to working with our new staff throughout the coming years.

We also welcome back some of our faves who have been on leave and one of the returnees now has a couple of special letters after his name! We welcome back Wayne Bass OAM – Morwell, Sen Maharaj – Churchill, Jenny Schulz – Uni & Churchill and Kara Brown at Uni Campus. It's great to have them all back on board.

I think that's enough of an update for now, as always we are happy to hear from you if you have ideas, opinions, or issues you wish to discuss with us, so don't be shy, make a time and come in to our College for a chat!

Looking forward to a great 2015,



Morwell Campus News

Morwell Campus has worked very hard over the last five years to tidy up our environment so that our school is a pleasant learning place. We have classes rostered to tidy up the courtyard at the end of the day, and these groups do a great job of cleaning up.

However, many of our litter problems would be solved, and valuable time saved if our learning community members didn't drop the rubbish in the first place.

To try to find a solution, the PBS Student Leadership Team ran a bin slogan competition last year to raise awareness of the litter in the yard and to encourage students to place their litter in the bins around the school.

The slogan, "**Litter Bugs Don't Get Hugs!**" was designed by 2014 Year 10 students Chloe Helmuth and Olivia Munson. We hope that students will notice the 20 brightly stickered bins and be encouraged to dispose of their litter wisely to keep our school looking good.

We are also trialling a recycle bin for cans in the school yard to avoid throwing away cans into landfill, wasting our precious resources.

Hopefully what we capture can be turned into cash to source some student activities.



Litter Bugs Don't Get Hugs

University Campus News

As we start the 2015 school year we would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the results of students, both VCAL and VCE, in 2014.

The results of the 2014 Year 12 VCE students were very encouraging, 98% of students successfully completed their VCE, while the median study score of 28 was two points higher than in 2013. This is the highest median score we have had for a few years and was based on a significant improvement from the students in the mid-range. Teachers commented throughout the year on the improved work ethic of students, a quality that was reflected in the final Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) scores.

Not surprisingly, the largest number of offers for university placements in 2015 have come from our local provider, Federation University Australia. Still, well over half of the university offers made were from universities in Melbourne with Monash Clayton and Swinburne being the main destinations.

Similarly, the new VCAL program helped produce some excellent outcomes for students. For the first time in a number of years all VCAL students were in work placement. This meant that students had the chance to show employers their work ethic and skills leading to many offers of apprenticeships and employment. As an outcome this is as significant as VCE students receiving university placement offers.

Last year's students are involved in helping to support current Year 12 students. A number of them have volunteered to speak at Year 12 assemblies and Emma Telford, our 2014 Dux with an ATAR score of 97.9, ran a study skills session with Year 12 students last Wednesday afternoon.



While some of her study techniques were, to say the least, interesting they clearly worked well for her and struck a chord with many of the students.



The class of 2014 has been a great group throughout their time at Kurnai College and we wish them well as they head off on their various pathways.

Kurnai College Four Pillars

Work Ethic: *We are committed to working hard*

Engagement: *We actively participate in our own learning*

Relationships: *We value and respect each other*

Excellence: *We do the best that we can do*

Churchill Campus News

CRIME BUSTING – THE KURNAI WAY –



How About Those Digits!

Twenty budding CSI/Forensic students are busy currently learning how to take prints using various methods. CSI students firstly completed their own ten print cards. They printed and analysed their own prints for whorls, arches and loops. They then used magnetic powder on glass to examine and compare their own prints to that on their card.

ALL IN A DAY'S LEARNING

They then used magnetic powder on glass to examine and compare their own prints to that on their card.

Caught You Whole-Handed!

They learnt about cyanoacrylate fuming (superglue) allowing prints to be developed on glass and reacting with the bodies amino acids. Latent prints were then photographed and used to solve a 'mock crime'.



Right— Shenae MClure leading a session on 10 print cards with Libby Brister and Rebecca McCord

Give me Five!

Students used fluorescent powder over a latent print, leaving a residue that then fluoresces when exposed to a UV light source.



Solving White Collar crimes!

Finally, students had a chance to develop their own prints from paper using ninhydrin and an iron (possibly the only time they have used an iron by their reaction)!



Above— Zach Campbell using the fluorescent powder extracting a print.

To the future and beyond!

So you want to become a "forensic scientist" and learn to collect, identify, classify, and analyse physical evidence related to criminal investigations?

Probably not a bad job to consider ... Jobs for forensic science technicians are expected to increase by 20 percent, which is much faster than average. Salary is not too bad either.



Excursions and Camps - DUE DATES

Please ensure all permission forms for camps and excursions are returned by **2PM ON THE DUE DATE.**

We are unable to accept permission forms after this time due to administrative procedures.

Contact List by Campus

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Campus Calendar of Events

Parents/guardians of students who are going to be absent from school need to call the Attendance Hotline by 9am.

PH: 5132 3711

Churchill

Date	Events
March 9	Labour Day
March 11	SRC Forum
March 11—13	Year 9 Surf Camp at Wilson's Promontory
March 14—15	Sam Tormey Backyard Blitz
March 26—27	Parent / Teacher Conversations

Morwell

Date	Events
March 9	Labour Day
March 11	SRC Forum
March 14—15	Sam Tormey Backyard Blitz
March 16	Year 8 Team Building Day
March 26—27	Parent / Teacher Conversations

University

Date	Events
March 2—3	Year 11 Canoe Camp
March 9	Labour Day
March 11	SRC Forum
March 14—15	Sam Tormey Backyard Blitz
March 18—20	Year 12 Camp Wilson's Promontory
March 26—27	Parent / Teacher Conversations

Term Dates for 2015

Term 1: 29 January to 27 March

Term 2: 13 April to 26 June

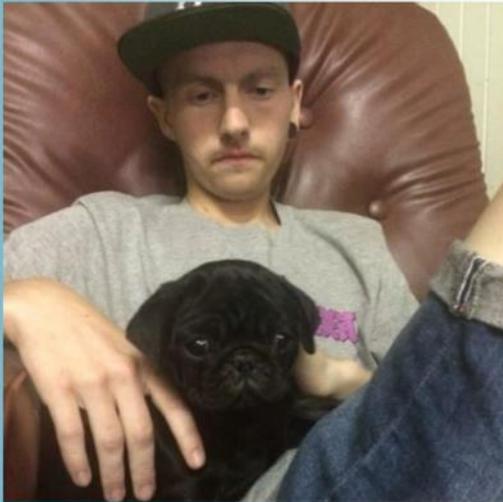
Term 3: 13 July to 18 September

Term 4: 5 October to 18 December

HELP SAM KEEP SCOOPY SAFE

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!

Sam Tormey, a student of Kurnai Secondary College and resident of Morwell is fighting one of life's worst



battles... Cancer.

Sam's Christmas present was a little pooch named 'Scooby'.

Led by Sam's Teacher Michael Stubbes we are on a mission to secure Sam's backyard for

Scooby and create a place of peace and rest for Sam!

We are planning a backyard blitz on the

14th & 15th March 2015.

WE NEED:

Fencing Materials, Barge Boards, Deck Oil, Material to Build a Pergola, Mulch and Plants.

If you can help with either supplies or labour please contact Michael on 0409 937 405

Or if you can make a donation to purchase the above materials please send to Bendigo Bank Morwell A/C

Sam's Backyard 633-000 153974209