

Learning Community Newsletter



Edition: June 2014

Message from Principal



G'day everyone,

We are past the halfway mark of the year already!!! OMG!

The Senior Campus is abuzz today as Deb Ball No 1 is tonight and No 2 tomorrow. These are great College and family occasions and I know how significant these events are for our young adults. Even though the concepts have changed from the original 'coming out' occasion, the Deb Ball remains an event where young adults say to their family, friends and community, 'Hey everyone look at me I'm here, I'm growing up and I've got plans for my life.... and I can dance!' Congratulations to all of staff involved and especially to our debutantes for 2014.

As always our College calendar is brimful of events where our students learn, grow and often shine! Performances, Camps, field trips, learning opportunities, leadership occasions, sporting events, international trips and visitors and social occasions all form a rich backdrop to our dynamic Learning Community. These things all require energy and expertise from our dedicated staff, engagement from our students and support from home. Many positive things happen around our College with the support of outside groups and organisations as well.

One of our most famous achievements of recent times is our Kurnai Young Mum's program which has attracted wide acclaim as a great opportunity for young Mums to re-engage with education. We are very proud of our 'KYMIES' and we congratulate them on their resilience and dedication in getting back to learning. If you have a chance check our Kurnai Young

Mums on Youtube! This fantastic work would not have been possible without support and leadership from The Smith Family through our Kurnai Education Hub Pilot, Latrobe City and many others who have helped along the way. This work continues to evolve with more exciting developments still to come.

During the second half of this year our College will review its progress as we draw to the end of the current strategic plan and write our new four year plan. We will be looking to form parent and student focus groups to gather opinions so please think about joining one of these groups when the time comes, we are really interested in your thoughts!

Next term, all three Latrobe Valley Secondary Colleges will join together to open the Latrobe Valley Flexible Learning Option (LV-FLO). This innovative campus will host Yr. 7 -10 students who are having trouble being successful in mainstream education environments. Brett Pedlow has been appointed foundation Campus Principal and he joins Kurnai with our congratulations. The FLO will operate out of the old medical centre in Princes Way, Morwell and will be a great boost to our provision going forward, providing a real option for students requiring additional support.

I hope that the holidays are a safe and restful time for you all, see you back at school next term!

Anthony Rodaughan

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Churchill News

Recently, about 100 students from Yinnar and Yinnar South Primary Schools had a fun day in Churchill Campus. Throughout the day, students experienced the different aspects of Chinese culture such as writing Chinese Calligraphy, using chopsticks, singing Chinese songs, Chinese fan dancing and using paper plates to make pandas. One of the highlights of the day was the Chinese lunch. For lots of



prep students, this was the first time they had eaten Chinese food. Joining the primary students was the Kurnai Year 8 and 9 students, who are studying Chinese, who took up the leadership role and ran various activities for the primary students. The level of maturity and their hard work definitely impressed the guests and the day wouldn't have been as successful without them. They are great role models! As part of the Mandarin program, a few of the Kurnai Cluster Primary Schools are offering Chinese to students, with more schools coming on board later on. The number of students learning Chinese is definitely blooming which will have a huge impact when students come to Kurnai. In all, the Chinese Culture Day was a huge success and we'd like to thank everyone for their support.

Morwell News

Recently, approximately 200 Grade 5 and 6 students from Morwell Park, Morwell Primary and Commercial Road Primary Schools attended Morwell Campus for an 'awareness' day. Students were allocated into 7 'Form' groups for the day and rotated through an extensive program in order to familiarise themselves with all that Campus has to offer. Three current Year seven student assistants, as well as their respective primary teachers were also on hand to assist the students in each class.



The day began well with students eager to sample what secondary schooling is all about. Throughout the day they got to experience a sample of Maths, English, Wood Technology, Art, Physical Education, Drama, Humanities, Science, Technology and Information Technology. Activities included narrative writing, construction of a wooden carry box, observation of 3D printing, designing of postcards and laboratory experiments, just to name a few.

Students had a thoroughly enjoyable day. They appreciated being able to try all the different subjects, noticed how different everything was to primary school, got to meet new people as well as learning new things. One word summed up the day for most of the participants: Fun!

Precinct News

Caitlin Slater graduated from Kurnai College - Precinct Campus last year. While with us Caitlin studied a VET Chinese class and was successful in securing one of only three scholarships available to all Victorian Students, to allow her to live and study in Shanghai – China. Caitlin is now studying at Shanghai International Studies University!

Caitlin says that "this has been the most incredible and mind blowing experience of my life! My scholarship pays for me to live on campus at SISU Hotel where I stay with a roommate from Korea. I also receive a living allowance from the University and free medical insurance."

Caitlin must attend classes every day from 8am till 11:20 am. "Every class is comprehensive Chinese and very intense, definitely no chance to tune out for even a minute or you'll be lost for the rest of the day!" Caitlin reports that there is only one other Australian in the whole university so it forces her to get out there to meet people and continue to learn more about their Culture and Language.

This has been a life changing experience for Caitlin and she "thanks Kurnai College for this once in a life time opportunity to anyone thinking of studying abroad even just as a gap year I definitely recommend it because it is one of the most rewarding things you could ever do!"



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Campus Calendar of Events

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

Churchill: 5132 3703 Morwell: 5165 0602 Precinct: 5132 3843

Churchill

Date	Events
13 July—1 August	John Monash Science School Student Exchange
24 July	NAIDOC Celebrations
12th August	The Smith Family Volunteer Sign up Day 12.00—4.00pm
3 September	Parent & Student Workshop—Morwell Hex 6.00—8.00pm
10—19 September	Yr. 10 Central Australia Camp
10—26 September	Yr. 10 China trip
18 & 19 September	Parent Teacher Conversations

Morwell

Date	Events
15 July	Yr. 9 Edge Indoor Rock Climbing—Hardrock, Melbourne
23 July	NAIDOC celebrations
27 August	Parent & Student Workshop—Language Centre 6.00—8.00pm
10—19 September	Yr. 10 Central Australia Camp
10—26 September	Yr. 10 China Trip
18 & 19 September	Parent Teacher Conversations

Precinct

Date	Events
21—25 July	Mt Hotham Ski Camp
22 July	Precinct Information Evening—7.00pm 5N104
21 July	NAIDOC celebrations
13—15 August	Yr. 12 Outdoor Ed—Mt Baw Baw Skiing
18 & 19 September	Parent Teacher Conversations

**IMPORTANT
ADVICE**

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.

Term Dates for 2014

Term 1: 30 Jan to 4 April **Term 2:** 22 Apr to 27 Jun **Term 3:** 14 Jul to 19 Sept **Term 4:** 6 Oct to 19 Dec