

Learning Community Newsletter



Edition: November 2014

Message from Principal



Hello everyone,

Well how could the year fly by so quickly???

Many of our senior students are completing their exams, whilst others are finishing outcomes in order to complete their VCAL. In less than a month, the school year for 2015 will commence with Headstart! The year has certainly flown.

In recent weeks we have been busy pushing the case for a rebuild of the Morwell campus. This rebuild is long overdue and we have worked hard to raise media attention on this issue. Our College Council has been to the fore and I would like to express all of our thanks to the various council members who have fronted the media to push our cause. I don't think we could have done more. I urge you all to contribute to the pressure whenever you have a chance to raise issues with our local politicians; we need everyone to spread the word that the current facilities at Morwell Campus are not good enough for our young learners.

The first graduates from our KYMs program will celebrate their achievement on December 1st. This pilot program has enabled a group of young mums to reengage with education and get back onto a pathway that will enhance their further work or education prospects. I'm proud that our College was able to make this idea work and it is also gratifying to know that we have received much interest and some accolades for our initiative.

The LV FLO campus has also grown in enrolments over the term and is delivering a vital service to the Latrobe Valley youth in providing a flexible learning opportunity to meet specific needs.

As with any organisation the size of ours, the end of year will invariably see many comings and goings. We will welcome several staff back from leave during 2015, whilst others will take leave for a range of reasons. This year will see four of our senior staff retire from teaching after long careers of outstanding service to state education. We will sadly farewell Michelle Moore, Kim Woods, Sue Reavley and Almuth Otten at years end and we thank them for their dedication and wish them a long and happy retirement.

As the year rushes to its end, I will take this opportunity to encourage all of our students to maintain their efforts until the last full stop on the last assignment is written and then to launch into Headstart with renewed energy, making every post a winner!

I hope to catch up with many of you at the various award ceremonies later in the year.

Anthony Rodaughan

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Churchill News

At the end of last term 16 students from both Morwell and Churchill campus embarked on a trip of a life time. Leaving early in the morning they jumped on a plane heading for Shanghai, China. Becoming instant 'tourist attractions' whilst visiting the local tourist attractions was the beginning of an exciting trip through China. Students had the privilege of visiting the Pearl Tower, an acrobat show, local streets of Shanghai, a river cruise and a local water village before heading off to Taizhou and Kurnai's sister school in Kuan. Students spent four nights in homestays whilst seeing the local area including a silk factory and a Chinese school. The homestays varied from multi-story houses, to small apartments behind a shop, to a hut in a rice field. Beyond the homestay, the highlight for many of the students was the Dinosaur theme park.



Xian was the next stop, and again one of the most memorable for the students and with the Bell tower in front of our hotel, the Drum tower down the road, and local markets, we were never short of something to look at. Students also enjoyed a bike ride on the city wall and a visit to the Terracotta Warriors. Xian ended with Luke and Zac dancing in the streets so the locals could take photos.

Beijing was our next stop. A visit to gardens and Tiananmen Square ended with lots of shopping, to the point that many students were becoming quite creative with their luggage to get it onto flights. Beijing also brought one of the most amazing experiences - the Great Wall of China. A sight and understanding that the classroom and text books cannot replicate.

Our final stop before heading home was Hong Kong. A bustling city, Hong Kong gave us our first experience of true overcrowding. A city surrounded by beautiful sea views and with humid temperatures resulted in the students being eager for water rides in the theme park and the local swimming pool. Overall there was a lot of excitement, and enjoyment. Students had the privilege of experiencing the local life of China, and the tourist attractions that draw so many people.

Precinct News

Last Friday our Year 12 students celebrated their last day as students at Kurnai College. The day was a great success with many of the students dressing up in interesting costumes that did not always show them in the best light. Federation University was kind enough to allow us to use the golf driving range which was perfect for some serious water sliding down the hill on a plastic mat.

Staff and students enjoyed a BBQ in the near perfect warm conditions that made getting squirted with a fire hose a pleasure. Some students, armed with giant inflated gloves, battled each other in the boxing ring while others relived their childhood in the jumping castle. Most just enjoyed sitting in the sun, relaxing with their friends and dodging the occasional barrage of water balloons.

Many thanks to the student leaders who organised the day and made sure that things went according to plan. The jury is still out on the best costume. Some photos have been included for your pleasure.



Morwell News

In the lead-up to next month's state election, local candidates have shown considerable interest in our school.

Last week, Russell Northe visited College School Council where he conceded that his government has done very little to help Kurnai College.

Aspiring Labour Party member Jadon Mintern toured Morwell Campus – we made a particular effort to show him that, although we run great programs here, the facilities in which we must operate are in many cases well below an acceptable standard. Jadon inspected a number of classrooms where there are leaks in the ceiling and windows and doors that do not shut properly, and where window frames are so deteriorated that it is no longer possible to repair a broken window without replacing the entire frame.

This visit led to an “all bells and whistles” visit from Daniel Andrews, the state Leader of the Opposition. He took particular interest in our Kurnai Pantry, where donated non-perishables are stored and distributed to students and families on a regular basis, and also supports our Campus Breakfast Club. Coincidentally, Labour had just announced a \$13.5 M breakfast club program for schools across Victoria if elected. Mr Andrews was also very taken with our technology programs including Human Powered Vehicles, although he did appear dismayed that our Auto program is run out of a partitioned-off storage shed.

The Labour Leader stopped short of promising funding to rebuild Morwell Campus, but did announce that there would be a new “Tech School” build in the Latrobe Valley if his party was in power.

Many of our students had the opportunity to meet with Mr Andrews, and many had a “photo opportunity” moment. The media was represented by WIN News and ABC radio; some of you may have seen the news program that evening, showing highlights of the tour, and showcasing our many very positive programs here at Morwell.

Later in the afternoon, Heather Farley, a community member of the College Council was interviewed on ABC Radio – you can hear the audio of this interview at :

<http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2014/10/28/4116043.htm?site=gippsland>

Meanwhile, as I write this, preparations are being made for Morwell Campus to host a visit from Independent Candidate Tracey Lund. With all this political interest in our school, we hope that we hear positive news about funding for programs as well as infrastructure.



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*

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 relevant campus Attendance Hotline by 9am.

Churchill: 5132 3711 Morwell: 5165 0611 Precinct: 5132 3811

Churchill

| Date | Events |
|--------------|---|
| 24—26 Nov | Year 10 Exams |
| 27 Nov | Year 10 Formal—Waratah Restaurant Morwell |
| 3 Dec | Report Writing Day— No scheduled Classes |
| 4 Dec | Celebration Day |
| 5 Dec—17 Dec | Year 8—10 Head Start |
| 17 Dec | Awards Ceremony 1.00—2.40pm in 4N120 |
| 29 Jan | Commencement of Term 1 2015 |

Morwell

| Date | Events |
|--------------|---|
| 27th Nov | Year 10 Formal—Italian Australian Club, Morwell |
| 3 Dec | Celebration Day |
| 4 Dec | Report Writing Day—No Scheduled Classes |
| 5 Dec—17 Dec | Year 8—10 Head Start |
| 17 Dec | Awards Ceremony 10.30—12.00pm in The Hexagon |
| 29 Jan | Commencement of Term 1 2015 |

Precinct

| Date | Events |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| 29 Oct—21 Nov | Year 12 Exams |
| 19 Nov | Year 12 Graduation Dinner |
| 21—28 Nov | Year 11 Exams |
| 1 Dec—12 Dec | Year 11 & 12 Head Start |
| 17 Dec | Awards Ceremony 7.00—9.00pm in 4N120 |
| 29 Jan, | Commencement of Term 1 2015 |

**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 4: 6 Oct to 19 Dec

Term Dates for 2015 Term 1: 29 Jan to 27 March Term 2: 13 April to 26 June Term 3: 13 July to 18 Sept Term 4: 5 Oct to 18 Dec