G’day everyone,

We are nearing the halfway mark of the year, OMG! The weather has gone to heck along with The Saints which is depressing! I will do my best to keep positive in this issue from now on!

Our Language program at Kurnai continues to grow and we are delighted to announce one of our Year 12 student’s, Caitlin Slater, won a prestigious scholarship to study Mandarin at a Beijing University. Caitlin beat a large field of candidates and I know the 12 months will see her Mandarin go ahead in leaps and bounds.

There are many opportunities for those with the ability to speak another language and with the current emphasis on Asian languages, everyone should try to keep the language part of their learning going! Studying a language is difficult and requires perseverance but the rewards will be there, especially in the Asian century that awaits us!

As part of our role in the local network of schools and as a Confucius Classroom school, we are helping the primary schools with their language (or LOTE) programs. Our teachers are currently working at Yinnar South and Hazelwood North Primary schools and will begin at Boolarra next term. We are hoping to be able to get all students in our network operating with solid language skills for when they arrive at Kurnai. We hope to see lots of students progress their language to a high level. Our Language Centre, courtesy of the BER Funding, has been a great acquisition and focal point to this important work. Despite the challenge in learning a second language, I hope you can encourage your children at home to persevere with it.

Speaking of our language programs, we will host two groups of visitors from China in weeks one and two of next term. We are looking for homestay families to host one or two students for up to five nights. If you are able to help out and if you plan on sending your child on one of our international trips, this would be a great way to get started!

I have been delighted by the number of visitors and likes on our Kurnai Facebook page. It’s a great way to keep updated with what’s happening at Kurnai and with so many of us having smartphones, you can be updated no matter where you are. If you haven’t friended us, give it a try, go to www.facebook.com/kurnaicollege.

There has been lots of press lately about the Federal Government’s Gonski Review and recommendations. We believe the Gonski review is a once in a lifetime chance to get some fairness into school funding. Should it be implemented, Kurnai College would be a lot better off and able to provide more support for our young people, delivering them a better chance of success!

Regardless of your political bent, please consider emailing or registering your support at the Gonski website and if you see our local pollies around, urge them to give Gonski a Go! It’s easy to register your support at www.igiveagonski.com.au/

That’s all for now, have a great winter break and let’s hope the Saints will come good.

See you next term,

Anthony Rodaughan
Morwell News

Student making Headlines!

Shelby Felmingham, a Year 7 student at Morwell Campus, has become quite a media sensation over the last few weeks.

Shelby is the only girl playing for the Morwell Tigers under-12s Football Club where she is the Captain and star player. It is believed that she is the only female captain of an Under-12 boys team in Victoria.

Shelby’s story hit the front page of the Herald Sun back in May. The story was an instant hit, and the school received several calls seeking permission to interview her on local radio stations. The story was also picked up by Melbourne ABC station, 774, with Richard Stubbs incorporating it into his talk-back show later in the afternoon.

More recently, Shelby has been interviewed for the Today Show which will go out some time soon.

This has been a big learning curve for Shelby as she has been interviewed by a number of high-profile presenters, and her voice has been heard by a wide audience. She has felt a bit nervous with the attention, but seems to have handled it well. She says that the Today Show crew came to her house and videoed her packing her bag getting ready for a game, which she thought felt a bit “faked”, so she has gained some insight into how a news story can be put together.

Michelle Reid-Metcalf, Principal - Morwell Campus

Churchill News

Positive Partnerships

Earlier this term, two staff members completed ‘Positive Partnerships’, a four-day professional development for educators working with students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Year 9 students, Brittney Smart and Shannyn Clissold, along with their mothers, were invited to present to give a family perspective on ASD and schooling. The invitation stemmed from creative pieces the girls had written the previous year on the theme of ‘Difference’. The stories were inspired by their experiences with brothers with ASD and the day to day challenges these boys and their families face. The honesty of the girls’ writing was touching. In particular, their unwavering love and desire to protect their brothers from a world that sometimes doesn’t understand them and from an education system that despite best intentions, sometimes doesn’t fit them.

When the girls read their stories, many tears were aroused in the audience. These were simple, yet powerful narratives that highlighted the need for increased knowledge, tolerance and acceptance of students with ASD in both school communities and broader society. This message was reinforced by parents Nicole Smart and Cheridee Clissold. They spoke of some of the hurdles and successes they’ve encountered while trying to secure the best educational outcomes for their children and ultimately, inclusivity. Their offerings were extremely beneficial to everyone in attendance and served to inform the ‘best practice’ that schools are ultimately trying to achieve.

Upon request by the program facilitators, Brittny and Shannyn’s stories are to be used in future delivery of Positive Partnerships. Both girls are extremely passionate about raising awareness of ASD and are delighted to have done something truly meaningful and powerful towards this cause.

Matt Jobling, Principal - Churchill Campus

Precinct News

If you have visited any of the Kurnai College campuses over the past 23 years there is a fair chance that at some point the person in the office welcoming you to the school would have been Adele Bennett. Unfortunately Adele has decided that this term will be her last at Kurnai.

Adele commenced working with Kurnai at the old Maryvale Campus in 1990. Since then she has undertaken a number of administration roles across all of our campuses – making her both well-known and well-liked by colleagues and the many students she has helped out over the years. When the senior campus moved to its current location at the Gippsland Education Precinct in 2006, Adele moved into reception and has been based here ever since.

Kurnai has not just been the place where Adele worked. For Adele it has been a family affair! Each of her four sons studied with Kurnai as well as her grandson.

Adele is greatly looking forward to packing up the caravan and with her husband, lan, heading up to Australia’s northern most point – Cape York. At The Cape they will camp out with friends for an extended period and then meander back down the coast to Southern Queensland in time to celebrate Adele’s younger brother’s significant birthday – his 50th in Gympie! Given the number of bush cookery books she has been looking through I don’t think anyone is likely to be facing starvation.

Enjoy a wonderful retirement Adele, and thank you for all of your hard-work and dedication across more than two decades.

Don’t be a stranger!

Geoff Block, Principal - Precinct Campus
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Parents/guardians of students who are going to be absent from school need to call the relevant campus by 9am. Absences phone numbers are located on front page of this newsletter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHURCHILL</th>
<th>EVENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 22 to Fri 26 Jul</td>
<td>Year 10 Mt Hotham Snow Camp</td>
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<td>Wed 14 Aug</td>
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<td>Tues 20 to Fri 23 Aug</td>
<td>Year 9 Melbourne Camp</td>
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<td>Wed 21 Aug</td>
<td>Year 10 Course Counselling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 4 to Fri 13 Sep</td>
<td>Year 10 Central Australia Camp</td>
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<td>Wed 18 Sep</td>
<td>Parent, student, teacher night</td>
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<td>Mon 22 to Fri 26 Jul</td>
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<td>Wed 24 Jul</td>
<td>Parent, student, teacher information night</td>
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<td>Wed 7 Aug</td>
<td>College Athletics</td>
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<td>Fri 16 Aug</td>
<td>Herald Sun Expo - Year 11 VCE</td>
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<td>Thurs &amp; Fri 15-16 Aug</td>
<td>Deb Balls</td>
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<td>Wed 21 to Fri 23 Aug</td>
<td>Year 12 Outdoor Education Camp to Mt Baw Baw</td>
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<td>Tue 10 to Sat 28 Sept</td>
<td>China Student Cultural Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 15 to Sun 29 Sep</td>
<td>VCE Italian Renaissance Excursion</td>
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**Excursions and Camps**

Parents and Carers are asked to carefully note the return dates on all permission forms for camps and excursions. Forms and money (if required) must be returned to the Office no later that **11.00am on the due date**—there will be no exception due to administrative procedures.

**Term Dates for 2013**

- **Term 1**: 4 Feb to 28 March
- **Term 2**: 15 Apr to 28 Jun
- **Term 3**: 15 Jul to 20 Sept
- **Term 4**: 7 Oct to 20 Dec