



PARENT BULLETIN

12th October 2012

COMING EVENTS

Monday, 15th Friday-19th October..... Yr 9 Melbourne Discovery Camp
 Tuesday, 16th October..... Koorie Youth Forum
 Monday, 19th - Friday, 23rd November..... Yr 8 Karoonda Park Camp

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS: 8.00 am – 4.00 pm
 SCHOOL HOURS: 8.25 am – 2.50 pm students are supervised between 8.10 am and 3.00 pm



CAMPUS PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

Hello Everyone,

Welcome back to Term 4. I hope you all managed to have a break of some kind with your family. I know that Year 10 students were returning from Central Australia just before the break and from China during the holidays. I am sure that there will be accounts from each of those groups somewhere in this newsletter.

Term 4 is always a very busy term that seems to disappear very quickly. It is because of this that students need to stay focused on their studies and be aware of the deadlines for work. While the term runs for 11 weeks remember that Headstart will be occurring in early December, Years 9 and 10 exams will be happening before that, and Meetings for Success with students and their families will be in there too. Throw in a couple of camps for Years 8 and 9 and for many students there probably won't be much more than 7 weeks of class time. More about the dates for all these events later.

We would ask that parents are aware of this and encourage and support students to stay on top of things over the term. If you are concerned that your student is finding it difficult please contact his/her year level team to discuss the situation.

At the end of last term we said goodbye to Ange Northover. Many of you will have been in contact with Ange over the past few years when students have been absent because she was responsible for maintaining the absence records for Morwell Campus. In the last 2 years she has also been working as the assistant to the team leader in Years 8 and 10, doing great work with students and their families.

While we are sorry to see her go Ange will be working out of our Churchill Campus for The Smith Family, on a project that we believe will see better integration between Kurnai College and local service providers. In her absence Georgina Pulis will be taking over responsibility for attendance. So, if she has to be in touch with you over a student absence please make her feel welcome.

Geoff Block
Campus Principal

UNCOLLECTED REPORTS

Uncollected reports from Term 3 will be handed out to students in formgroup on Monday.

UPCOMING EXCURSIONS/CAMPS

To ensure the smooth organisation and running of camps and excursions we request that permission forms and payments be returned to the school by the due date on the permission form. This enables the purchase of train tickets, food and venue tickets, etc, in a timely manner.

Yr 8 Karoonda Park Camp	19 th – 23 rd November	\$365	4th payment due 15/10/12 Final Payment due 29/10/12
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YEAR 9

YOUTH EMPOWMENT NETWORK (YEN)

In August, a group of 18 students signed up for the Youth Empowment Network. We learnt valuable life skills like how to co-operate and deal with emotions. The course lasted 6 whole days with follow up sessions to work on our community projects. We then used these skills to search for community needs and to come up with solutions by making projects. It was a great experience that we all enjoyed.

By Kiowa Scott-Hurley



YEAR 10

CENTRAL AUSTRALIA CAMP 12TH- 21ST SEPTEMBER

It was a cold and dark 4am start for the upcoming adventures to outback Australia. After what seemed endless days of driving, our cold Victorian feet hit the desert ground hard, the frost had melted off and the sun burned.

We walked around Ayers, it was a monumental sight. The natural environment was inspiring. We took a trip to an aboriginal cultural centre finding new respect for the indigenous people who lived on the land some. Some climbed up Ayers rock, a once in a life time



opportunity for many. Getting to the top made the steep climb well worth it.

We then further continued into the unknown territory of Kings Creek Station, which covered an enormous 1800 sq kilometres. At the station students had the choice of quad bike rides, helicopter rides, and camel rides which many students participated in. From here it was only a short



trip to the magnificent Kings Canyon where we walked around the heights of the canyon.



After Kings Canyon we continued north to Alice Springs, where we spent the last three days of our tour. From here we went to the school of air, royal flying doctors, telegraph station, Standley chasm and Ormiston gorge, where we got to enjoy a refreshing swim. The trip had come to an end far too quickly; none of us were looking forward to the 36 hour express trip home. However the trip home went really quickly and overall the trip was a great experience, with some great sights and new friendships made throughout the trip, and I'm sure each and every student would go back again.

By Jade Bunker, Freyja Hansch,

Sandra Hines, and Lachlan Tactor



CHINA, CHINA, CHINA

In the last two weeks of Term 3, a group of 10 Years 10 and 11 students visited China. These students visited many famous Chinese locations and have experienced the variety of Chinese culture.

The trip started in Tiazhou at our sister school Kou'an Middle School. The students attended classes and lived with



Chinese families while in Taizhou. The student learnt to waltz in PE class, acted out plays in an English class, learnt about art and completed science experiments. The students also took part in morning exercises with the other 3000 students at the school. The students greatly enjoyed their homestays and celebrated with their homestays with some fireworks.

We attended two Chinese weddings where one had the bride and groom leaving to the Avril Lavigne song "I don't like your girlfriend". The trip visited Shanghai, Beijing, Xian and Hong Kong. In all the locations the students shopped and learnt to barter for the best bargains. Trip highlights included visiting the Great Wall (with cable car and toboggan rides), Summer and Imperial Palaces, Beijing Zoo, Yangtze River cruise, Shanghai Bund ferry ride, Terracotta Warriors,

Ocean Park and the Peak in Hong Kong.

The trip was a great success, with all students gaining new friends and gaining many new Chinese experiences. The students loved Beijing so much they all got a t-shirt to celebrate their love of Beijing.

By Darren Hodgson – GEP staff

On the 11th of September, 10 students from all three campuses along with 3 teachers travelled to China for the experience of a lifetime. We arrived at Shanghai International Airport and stayed in Shanghai for one night before heading to Taizhou. After a night in a hotel, the students had a three night homestay with a host family. We can all confidently say that the memories made on our



homestay are life long memories, from breaking down the awkward language barrier and failing a lot of the time, to singing at a karaoke club to enjoying a cruise on the Yangtze River. After the stay in Taizhou it was back to Shanghai for three nights. Whilst here the students experienced food on the streets and went to many markets. Next stop was Xian where the students attended a traditional Chinese play and experienced the wonders of the Terracotta Warriors. After two nights in Xian the students then moved on to



Beijing. This meant The Great Wall of China. All students were excited for this and they all enjoyed the climb, especially the toboggan ride down. The Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square were also great experiences that the students had. Whilst in Beijing the group went to the Beijing Zoo where the students were able to see many Chinese animals including the pandas.

The last stop of the trip was Hong Kong; this was very different to the other places that the group had experienced in China. Hong Kong was much more Western than the rest of China. Here the students went on a cable car ride over the city to see a giant Buddha, did some more shopping and went to a theme park.

All in the all, the students had a great time and say that it was a once in a lifetime experience.

By Sarah Mayo, Lydia Marino, Cassandra Godden and James Morris



MAKING A DIFFERENCE - RELAY FOR LIFE

Team name = Kurnai Eights

A group of Year 8 students will be participating in the Cancer Council Relay For Life on Saturday 27th to Sunday 28th October at Gaskin Park in Churchill. The relay is a unique, overnight fundraising event that brings communities together in the fight against cancer. The students will take turns to walk or run around the track along with staff and community members.

Some students have begun their fundraising efforts and they hope to raise some more money before the event. If you would like to contribute to their efforts you are welcome to make a donation at the general office and donations over \$2 are tax deductible. You may also donate on line at www.relayforlife.org.au and the team name is **Kurnai Eights**. All members of the school community are welcome to come along and walk with the Year 8 students and staff. The Relay For Life begins at 4 pm on Saturday and finishes at 10 am on Sunday.

COLLEGE MAGAZINE

Parents who wish to purchase the College Magazine will need to make payment of \$15.00 to the general office before the end of October.

COLLEGE MUSIC

Music Performances:



Up and Coming Performances:

Be Our Guest #3

At Kurnai College Morwell Campus on **Monday 15th October, commencing at 6:30 pm (finish approx 7:30 pm) in Music Complex (room E2)**

Those involved are: all Morwell Campus music students, as well as a Year 12 VCE guitar soloist, a Year 12 VCE vocal soloist plus others from across the College.

Refreshments available.

Entry cost: donation



The On The Road Again Primary Schools tour.

From Thursday 1st November through till Monday 19th November.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

'CONFIDENT PARENTS, CONFIDENT CHILDREN'

Is a Parenting Program that helps parents to learn new parenting strategies and build positive relationships in their family. This program will be facilitated by Parentzone Gippsland. The content will be based around the needs and interests of the participants and may include any of the following topics ~

- Factors that influence how we parent.
- Child development.
- Developing a positive relationship with your children.
- Understanding causes of children's behaviour.
- Ways to encourage cooperative behaviour.
- Strategies to deal with difficult behaviour.
- Self Esteem—theirs and yours.
- And any other issues that are challenging you as a parent.

For more information or to register please contact: **Parentzone Gippsland** – telephone 5133 9998

MORWELL JUNIOR FIRE BRIGADE is looking for more members.

The junior brigade consists of girls and boys between the ages of 11 and 16. The aim of the junior brigade is to promote team building skills, fun, fitness and basic fire awareness and to provide basic training for those wishing to continue on to the senior ranks.

The junior brigade meets every Wednesday of the school term between 7pm and 9pm at the Morwell fire station, McDonald St Morwell. Any parents wishing to stay and wait or that may be interested in the senior brigade of the Morwell Fire Brigade please feel free to ask the coordinator on the night.

The junior brigade is not all training and the juniors participate in many fun team building activities and community activities. Trips or excursions are organized from time to time as well.

All activities are fully supervised and any activity that requires a junior member to leave the station will only be with parent/guardian consent. For more information please contact Morwell Fire Station on 5134 4544

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Better hurry! This offer ends 3 February 2013.