Exam Week This Week

Year 10 students are undertaking their Humanities exam as I write this; they have already completed their English exam, and will do Science and Mathematics on Thursday, while tomorrow they will have either their VCE subject exam or Precinct Campus Orientation, depending on their program, and will have the first step in their planning for Year 11.

Year 9 students have English and Mathematics exams tomorrow.

There are a number of reasons for giving students examinations in these year levels:

- It helps prepare students for future similar assessments such as VCE exams, aptitude tests and entrance exams
- It gives the student and their teacher a measure of the skills they have already mastered and what needs more work
- It helps students to take responsibility for their long-term learning. It is not sufficient to learn a skill or fact for a few days. To have “properly” have learnt something, it must still be in the long terms memory for future use.

In the days after these exams, students will review how they went with their teachers, who will give them strategies on how to approach this kind of assessment more effectively in the future, as well as what skills and knowledge do they need to review.

Please encourage your students to talk about their exam experience at home; if you feel they have been unduly stressed or otherwise affected, please contact the year level leaders for advice.
It is a fact that bullying occurs in all facets of our society, including in the workplace, amongst family and friends, and of course at school.

Bullying seems to be a part of some peoples’ nature, but this doesn’t mean it’s ok. The website www.bullyingnoway.gov.au has a lot of information about what to do if you are being bullied, what parents can do to support their children and even what bullies can do to help themselves. Below are some extracts:

**What doesn’t work when dealing with bullying?**

Short-term ‘solutions’ alone, like punishing the student doing the bullying, do not improve the relationships and social factors which allow the bullying to happen.

Although the bullying may stop in the short-term, unless these factors are addressed, it is very likely to reoccur or become covert (hidden). Punishment as the only intervention is not effective in preventing bullying.

Interventions need to be matched to the particular circumstance of the bullying. No single approach to bullying is appropriate or effective in all circumstances or for all people.

What can parents do if they are told or suspect that their child is bullying others?

The Bullying - No Way! Website provides information about things to do. If a parent suspects their child has been bullying others, they can talk to their child about:

- why they have been behaving this way
- taking responsibility for their behaviour
- how to sort out differences and resolve conflicts
- how to treat others with respect
- the effect of bullying behaviour on others
- the need to repair harm they have caused to others
- the need to restore relationships.

Parents may also like to talk to their child’s school to come up with a plan to help their child learn more appropriate ways to behave.
Year 7 and 8 Swimming

Kurnai College and The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development place a high priority on the teaching of swimming in Victorian schools. Every year, too many drowning deaths occur in Australian waterways. 284 people drowned in Australia between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2012, with 37 of these in Victoria. Many of these people did not intend to enter the water; they were involved in recreation such as land-based fishing or boating when misadventure struck.

There has also been a 45% increase in drownings in inland waterways in the 12 months to June 2012.

It is therefore of great importance that all students are given the opportunity to learn to swim and perform simple but effective lifesaving techniques.

Our program consists of ten, one hour lessons with a trained Austswim instructor - one lesson per week in each student’s Physical Education class, in an indoor pool. Lessons consist of stroke improvement, basic lifesaving, fun activities and ten minutes free time at the end of each lesson.

Please note the following information:

- All students in the class need to have returned the permission form so that they can travel to the pool and participate in the class.
- Students who cannot participate in any session are still required to travel with the class and will complete swimming related theory work at the pool under the supervision of their Physical Education teacher.
- Students who cannot participate in the program at all are also required to travel to the pool and therefore need to return their permission form. Students cannot be supervised at school as their classroom teacher is at the pool.
- Students who do not return their forms by the start of the program will remain at school, and be supervised in Year 10 classes until such time as their form is returned.

Unfortunate Incident

On Thursday, an unfortunate incident occurred where a situation, that had arisen outside the school at a local shopping centre, was brought into the school by one of the people involved.

I wish to assure our Learning Community that this incident is now well under control and the person responsible has been dealt with by the authorities.

Fortunately, such incidents are a rarity at our school and I would like to reassure you all that Morwell campus will continue to be a safe happy place for all to learn.
Kids Teaching Kids Is On Again September 11th

We have just received news that we have been successful in obtaining a grant to host the Kids Teaching Kids event in September again this year. We wish to thank Kids Teaching Kids and Target for sponsoring the event and supporting our school to participate.

We look forward to our Year 7 students preparing for the event by studying an area of interest in sustainability. We have had many of our feeder schools accept the invitation to be part of Kids Teaching Kids again, and we will surprise the audience with a few new workshops.

Watch this space for further updates.

Mrs Lisa Benn

Uniform

Could parents please ensure you name all your child's school uniform, so if it is lost we are able to identify whose piece of clothing it is and return it to the student.

We have a substantial amount of lost property (clothing) at the office without names on them. You are more than welcome to come to the office to have a look.

A reminder to call our absence hotline 5165 0611 preferably before 9.00 am if your child is not going to be at school. This will ensure your child’s absence is recorded correctly and you don’t receive a phone call from our office.
Local Indigenous Artist, Ronald Edwards talk to Year 7’s

On Thursday the 22nd of May, Ronald Edwards gave our Year 7 students a very informative talk about the Dreamtime Ancestors of the Gunai Kurnai tribe. Borun (the Pelican) and Tuk (the Duck) dreamtime story was told and Ronald explained the symbology used in his paintings to capture the story and explained how the symbols are different depending on your Dreamtime Ancestors.

It was awesome to see the students asking lots of questions and being inspired to create their own drawings based on their own experiences. Ronald also shared with us what brushes and paints he uses and how we must seek permission to use the traditional symbols before we use them. We were all very inspired and educated about the Gunai Kurnai culture and look forward to learning more.

Ronald Edwards talking about the different Koorie tribes found across Australia and how they all have their own symbols that they use in their paintings. No dots are used in the Gippsland Koorie artworks.
Year 8 News

Karoonda Camp

The Year 8 camp is currently being organised and will run in the first week of term 4, from the 6th -10th October. The camp will be at Karoonda Park. Karoonda Park is located near the Alpine and Snowy River National Parks, wilderness areas and state forests. It provides a convenient base for exploration of this special country.

The activities will include a range of outdoor adventure and farm experiences such as horse riding, abseiling, white water rafting, caving and ropes courses. Students will be able to challenge their personal boundaries in a safe and supportive environment and will further develop their team building and social skills. It is estimated that the camp will cost approximately $430.00. Further information and permission forms will be sent home next week.

Kurnai College Four Pillars

Engagement:  We actively participate in our own learning
Excellence:  We do the best that we can do
Work Ethic:  We are committed to working hard
Relationships: We value and respect each other
Year 9 News

Furniture Restoration

Desks

Recently, our class refurnished a desk. For a couple of weeks, we started off by sanding. We then took a few lessons to stain the individual parts (of the desk). It was a long process, however we did it much quicker than we expected- and, overall, everyone enjoyed it!

Drawers

Also, recently, we completed refurnishing drawers. However, this one took a bit longer, as- unlike with the desk- we could not use the orbital (electric) sanders. This object had to be hand-sanded. It was also required that we (had to) find the handles (for the drawers). Like the desk, stain was then applied, although we used a bit more steel wool on this one to make it look antique- (whilst fresh).
Year 10 News

The Great Debate

Each year, Year 10 students are invited to participate in a debate with Lowanna College at the Rotary Club of Morwell. The debate is held during a weekly meeting at the Morwell RSL. This event is highly regarded by the Rotarians, some of which are former Kurnai College staff members. The debate offers an opportunity for our students to showcase their mastery of the English language and their persuasive techniques. The topic this year was one which our students have much firsthand experience. “New age technology has an adverse effect on young people’s ability to form meaningful relationships.”

Arguing the affirmative proved to be difficult for our team who firmly believed that new technology in fact helped foster meaningful relationships! The road to the final presentation was not an easy one with a change in date, work experience and the members of the team changing on a number of occasions. Unforeseen circumstances saw our team down to one member on the night of the debate! For many, this would have been the final straw resulting in a withdrawal from the event but the resilience and fortitude of the remaining team member, Jade Smith, resulted in her delivering the 3 speeches for the affirmative. Jade won the event on points however, due to a technicality (not being a team), the judges were unable to award her the trophy.

We congratulate Jade on a courageous effort!

First Step

On Wednesday, all Kurnai Year 10 students participated in the “First Step” towards selecting subjects to study in 2015. In reality, this was not the first step, but another along a continuous path towards understanding themselves and their goals.

Work experience earlier in the term allowed students to get a taste of different careers and helped them understand a little better their own likes and strengths. “First Step” at the Precinct campus allowed students to learn a little about what different subjects might entail and the opportunity to find out a little more about VCAL and VET, acronyms they hear about but don’t necessarily yet understand.

Talking to your child about what they liked and disliked can help them clarify their thinking about their pathway. At school we will be spending time in class during the next term to help them make choices to best suit their goals.
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.

## Upcoming Excursions / Camps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 10 Animal Studies</td>
<td>18/3/14 to 24/6/14</td>
<td>$NIL</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glee Club</td>
<td>28/2/14 to 12/12/14</td>
<td>$NIL</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 9 Salvation Army Op Shop</td>
<td>25/2/14 to 12/12/14</td>
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<td>Ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 9 Mid Valley Kinder</td>
<td>1/5/14 to 5/12/14</td>
<td>$NIL</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 9 Primary School Visits</td>
<td>2/5/14 to 5/12/14</td>
<td>$NIL</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 9 Mitchell House</td>
<td>5/5/14 to 1/12/14</td>
<td>$NIL</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 7 Gippsland Water Factory</td>
<td>19/06/14</td>
<td>$6</td>
<td>Before 2pm 17/06/14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 10 iTrack face-to-face</td>
<td>18/06/14</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>Before 2pm 11/6/14</td>
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<td>Year 7/8 Swimming</td>
<td>21/07/14 to 12/12/14</td>
<td>$NIL</td>
<td>Before 2pm 17/7/14</td>
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<td>Year 7 Winter Sleepout</td>
<td>26/07/14 to 27/07/14</td>
<td>$NIL</td>
<td>Before 2pm 18/07/14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 10 Central Australia Camp</td>
<td>10/9/14 to 19/9/14</td>
<td>$855</td>
<td>$200 19/6/14 &amp; 17/7/14 &amp; final $55 31/7/14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 10 China Trip</td>
<td>10/9/14 to 25/6/14</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>Before 2pm 25/6/14</td>
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PBS Postcards

Every week staff at Kurnai College identify students who they feel are reflecting the four pillars of Kurnai College and send them a postcard. The pillars are **Relationships, Work Ethic, Excellence and Engagement**. Congratulations to the following students who received a postcard recently.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relationships</th>
<th>Engagement</th>
<th>Work Ethic</th>
<th>Excellence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tanner Higgins</td>
<td>Christina Nicolopoulos</td>
<td>Elsa Marino</td>
<td>Chelsea Radford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dennis Morris</td>
<td>Tanner Higgins</td>
<td>Millie Helmuth</td>
<td>Emily Kerstjens</td>
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<td>Sam Weuffen</td>
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<td>Josh Bloomfield</td>
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<td>Jacinta Davis</td>
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<td>Annalise Taylor</td>
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<td>Gemma Francis</td>
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<td>Ellie Pollutro</td>
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**HOMESTAY FAMILIES REQUIRED FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

Homestay/Host families provide an authentic, safe environment for 15 – 18 year old overseas students, coming to Australia, for study.

Homestay families are **paid a fee** to cover weekly food and utility costs. Students’ stays can vary from one year to three years.

If you, friends or family are interested and would like further information please contact **Geoff Block** or **Corine Noblet** at Kurnai College on **(03) 5132 3800**.
Wanting to get back in to Study?

Kurnai College is providing an opportunity for local youth, young mothers and adults to reconnect with their education!

We will be holding an information session, with free morning tea, to discuss this opportunity for you to complete a Certificate 1 in Information Technology, Digital Media & Technology Implementation.

Date: Tuesday 24th June, 2014
Time: 10.30am – 12.00pm
Salvation Army Hall, 57 Bridle Road
(Corner of Laurel Street and Bridle Road)
Call: Julie on 0427 725 595 or
Sarah on 0418 523 861

# Free for students under 21yrs
# Free Child Care
# Only one day per week

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Community News

Latrobe City Sister Cities

MUSIC EXCHANGE
ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE

Sunday 15 June, 2pm
Latrobe Performing Arts Centre

FEATURING
LATROBE CITY MUSIC EXCHANGE ENSEMBLE

ENTRY: Gold Coin donation
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL: 5176 3333

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY
Triple P. Stepping Stones

TRIPLE P. STEPPING STONES IS A PARENTING PROGRAM SPECIFICALLY FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, AND HELPS FAMILIES DEAL WITH EVERYDAY PARENTING ISSUES AS WELL AS MORE COMPLEX PROBLEMS.

This program will be facilitated by Parentzone Gippsland. The aim of the program is to increase parents skills and confidence in raising their children with disabilities. The program will cover:

- Goals for change.
- Positive parenting.
- Developing a positive relationship with your children.
- Understanding causes of children’s behaviour.
- Ways to encourage cooperative behaviour.
- Strategies to deal with difficult behaviour.
- Educating children on new skills and behaviours.
- Family survival skills.

Dates:
Friday mornings for five weeks
- 30th May 2014
- 6th June
- 13th June
- 20th June
- 27th June

Time:
11.00 am to 1.00 pm

Venue:
Meeting Room
Bairnsdale West Primary School
Wallace Street
Bairnsdale

Off street parking available
Please sign in at the front office

This group will provide parents with the opportunity to meet with other parents in a safe and confidential environment.

Sessions are free.
Please register your name before commencement of the program.

For more information or to register please contact:
Parentzone Gippsland at Anglicare Victoria Morwell office - 5133 9938
or Anglicare Victoria Bairnsdale office - 5152 1213
Invitation

The Smith Family together with Kurnai College, are presenting a Parent Engagement Workshop on “Supporting Your Child with Their Homework”

Where? Library at Kurnai College’s Morwell Campus.

When? Thursday June 19th at 7.30-8.30 pm

Who? The workshop will be run by Holly Campbell a teacher at Kurnai College’s Morwell campus, who has lots of great ideas that she is willing to share. Holly says:

Why? “Kids are more successful in school when parent’s take an active interest in their studies—it shows kids what they do is important. Come along and join us for this free workshop and pick up some hints and tips on how to support your child in their learning.”

A supper will be provided for all to enjoy at the conclusion of the workshop.

We would appreciate an expression of interest from you if you would like to attend.

Please call The Smith Family Program Coordinators Terri or Alicia on 5133 9065 if you would like to attend.
Premier’s Spirit of ANZAC Prize

2014-15 Competition Now Open!

The Premier’s Spirit of Anzac Prize is an annual competition held to select Year 9 or 10 students for an overseas study tour of sites where Australians have served in war, centred on Gallipoli or the Western Front.

The 2014-15 Premier's Spirit of Anzac Prize will provide 12 students with the opportunity to participate in the study tour. In addition, regional finalists will tour a significant Australian location and will be invited to attend lunch with the Premier of Victoria.

The competition is open to students in Years 9 and 10 currently enrolled in Victorian Government, Catholic and Independent Schools. Students need their parents’ permission to enter the competition.


A reminder to call our absence hotline 5165 0611 preferably before 9.00 am if your child is not going to be at school. This will ensure your child’s absence is recorded correctly and you don’t receive a phone call from our office.