Message from Campus Principal - Michelle

Mine Fire Update

Thankfully the fire in the Hazelwood Mine is now well under control, and is producing very little smoke and ash, particularly in Morwell East, so from next week, we assume that we will begin to return to normal. The voluntary relocation advice has been lifted, so we assume that students who have been staying out of the Valley will now begin returning; in fact the majorities already have.

Our students have enjoyed a large number of respite activities, the cost for which has all been stood by DEECD. The key issue we face now is helping students resume normal regular attendance patterns and getting back to work at the expected level.

We know that many of our learning community have experienced a lot of difficulty over the past 6 weeks, and just because the fire is all but extinguished does not mean that everyone will adjust back to everyday life immediately. We are arranging to have additional counselling support available to any students who feel that they need any help with any aspect of their life whatsoever.
School Attendance

New attendance guidelines came into effect on 1st March. Please note the following:

We want all students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

Missing school can have a major impact on a child’s future – a student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By the time they reach Year 10, they will have missed more than a year of school.

There are NO “safe” number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Coming to school every day is vital, but if for any reason your child must miss school, there are things we can do together to ensure they do not fall behind:

Speak to the year level team leader and find out what needs to be done to keep up. Students can develop a learning plan, and you can assist the child to monitor their progress.

From 1st March, new laws mean that parents can be fined if they do not send their students to school without an acceptable reason.

If your child has attendance problems, let the year level team leader know so that we can work together to get your child to school every day.

A Taste of Africa Experience

Thanks to Regional Arts Victoria, Year 7s were treated to a very special performance and series of workshops today by the Ashanti Theatre. Students participated in drum and dance lessons, and heard about the culture and traditions of the members of the theatre group.

This production was offered free of charge as a part of the Mine Fire Recovery plan.
Learning Behaviour Updates and Parent – Teacher Conversations.

These updates will be prepared by teachers early next week, then published on Compass soon after – we will text you when these are available.

Parent – Teacher Conversations will be held on 3rd and 4th April, that is, the last two days of Term 1. Bookings will soon be available on Compass – contact the General Office if you require assistance with this.

Kurnai Art Exhibition

We are proud to announce that some works completed by our Year 10 class of 2013 are currently on display at the Latrobe Performing Arts Centre, Grey Street, Traralgon.

College Swimming Sports

The College Swimming Sports were held recently on a perfect day at the newly refurbished Moe Pool. Students enjoyed the newly grassed areas as well as the much improved smaller pools, whilst others took part in the formal and informal event.

Overall Results:
The winning house team was Forsyth (Blue) with a strong 668 points, with Siddle (Yellow) coming in second with 585 point. Freeman (Green) were in third place on 559 points, while Thorpe (Red) were well back in the field on 385 points.

The Encouragement Award went to Siddle (Yellow)

Highlights from among the Morwell Campus students:

- **Caiden Gill** - smashed the 50m butterfly record, slicing a huge 4.46 seconds off the previous record.
- **Caiden** also wiped out an 8-year old record in the Ironman competition with a time of 3:29.53 while the previous record was 3:55.00.
- **Racheal Peter** - 1st in Breaststroke, Freestyle and 3rd in the Butterfly.
- **Ellie Polluto** - 1st Backstroke, 2nd Breaststroke and 2nd in Freestyle.
- **Mathew Polluto** - 1st Freestyle.
Year 7 News

Year 7 continues to be busy. Students are working hard to tie up units of work whilst spending time out of the school and engaging with other extra-curricular activities as well.

The students are currently finishing up their Investigate units on Ancient Rome and will be moving on to a study of Ancient China next week. I encourage you to look at your child’s work. All of the lessons are online and the students can easily take you through them at home. All students will be completing a test today and will be required to go home and research the mistakes they have made next week.

Last week, the students went to Lowanna College for a day as some relief from the smoke. Lowanna was very welcoming and the students engaged well with Maths, English and Art curriculum for the day.

Regional Arts Victoria arranged a free incursion on Tuesday from the Asanti Dance Theatre Company to demonstrate African culture and dancing. The group, from Ghana, are one of the most engaging incursion groups we have ever seen. The students loved watching their dancing and engaging with the performers. Each student participated in workshops on dancing, drumming and cultural awareness.

Yesterday, the cohort travelled to Scienceworks as another smoke relief excursion. They had a great time in the Sportsworks exhibition as well as the new ‘Thinking Ahead’ exhibition. It was great to wander around and see all the students engaging with the exhibitions. Some have emailed videos of what they did to themselves.

In each of these cases we have found the students behaviour to be exemplary and we are proud to take them out and receive the compliments from public and organisations on what a fantastic, polite group of students they are.

Our students are participating in a discussion group today on ‘Growing Up and Puberty’. They are going to talk about all the issues being faced as they enter adolescence in a frank and open environment. One of the foci of this session is on personal hygiene, including regular washing, use of anti-perspirants and clean clothes.

Please keep in mind that parent/teacher interviews are on the horizon and plan to attend with your child to discuss their progress with their teachers. Also, Camp Coolamatong forms and deposits were due back today. This camp is an important aspect of the Year 7 curriculum and assists in building the relationships the students will have throughout their secondary schooling. It is a fantastic camp with great activities and food at a really good price. I will be catching up with the families of students who aren’t attending in the coming week.
Year 8 News

GUMBUYA PARK

On the 7th March, Year 8s went to Gumbuya Park for a team building day. We travelled by bus and spent the whole day at Gumbuya Park. We looked through the animal and bird enclosures in the hour we had before the rides opened. We had a great time on the rides. The whole day was a great experience and opportunity to get to know new students and our new teachers.

By Kaylie and Cheyane

Recently the Year 8s went to Gumbuya Park for a team building day. We were a bit worried when it was raining as we drove out of Morwell but the weather cleared in to a fine and smoke free day. We had time to look at the animals. Trey, our American exchange teacher, finally got to see a wombat. The mini cars and go carts were fun and despite running over my hand, I am not put off toboggans for life. Thanks to the teachers for cooking a BBQ for lunch. The dim sims on the barbie nearly went as fast as I went down the toboggan and with less collateral damage! Overall everyone had a great day out.

By Jazmine Cowell

SMOKE RELIEF AT CHURCHILL

The smoke in Morwell has affected the town in many ways including school and the number of students attending. Many students have moved away from the area until the smoke clears. To help us get out of the smoke for a while, we went to Churchill Kurnai for the day last Wednesday. It was interesting to see the other campus. Many of us had not been there before. We completed alternate activities for the day for English and science. I particularly enjoyed the science challenges and working in groups that were different to our usual form groups. We had different recess and lunch times to the Churchill students. We all really appreciated the free lunch from the canteen.

By Zac Brown

On Wednesday 12th March, Year 8 students from the Morwell Campus travelled to the Churchill campus to get some relief from the smoke. The mine fire smoke has caused some of the local residents to temporarily relocate and our school has been organising breaks for us as well. Churchill campus let us use their Language Centre for the day. We had separate breaks to the Churchill students and received a free lunch and drink from the Churchill canteen – thanks! Our classes were joined together and we covered alternate activities for the day for English and Science. The activities were interactive and designed to be fun. The day was enjoyable and we had great weather – no smoke! It was a great morale boost. Thankyou to the Churchill campus for supporting us and showing great hospitality.

By Nathan Britt

CAREERS AWARENESS PROGRAM

As a part of the careers awareness program, students will have the opportunity to visit AGL Loy Yang Power Station on the 1st and 2nd of April. This excursion is funded by AGL. The purpose of the day is to gain insight into and highlight the wide variety of career options available in one of the larger organisations and industries in the Latrobe Valley. The excursion will run over a half day. Year 8 groups will rotate through the four sessions. Permission notes have been sent home and are now due back.
I would like to congratulate Year Nine and the team for their behaviour and efforts over the past few weeks. We have had a lot of upheaval due to the smoke from the fires and the Staff and Students have really pulled together to make things work smoothly.

Firstly our teambuilding day was brought forward and we had an amazing day at the beach. Everyone had great fun playing beach games, surfing, rock-pooling or paddling in the waves. The surfers were particularly impressive and some students even managed to catch waves and stand up on their boards. The day was enjoyed by everyone who went and we achieved our aim of bonding together as a team.

Our second outing was a respite visit to another school. Year 9 had the opportunity to visit Yarram and we were really impressed with the behaviour of the students that day. All the students who went produced some outstanding work and their work ethic was fantastic. I was extremely proud of the students as they were a credit to themselves and Kurnai. The bus driver even commented on how polite and respectful they were.

Our final respite visit caused much jealousy among other year levels. We had the luck to go to Werribee Open Zoo. We had a great turnout for this day. We set off first thing and got there in time to go on our safari tour where we saw giraffe, rhinos, camels, and antelope in addition to others. After this the students were allowed to walk round to see the other animals. A favourite of mine was the meerkats which were very cute and cuddly looking. Unfortunately we weren’t able to bring any of the animals home with us but Ms Baxter may have some more ideas for her animal studies class.

Hopefully with the easing of the smoke conditions, normal school operations will resume and Year Nines can, with the rest of the school have a positive and constructive close to the term.

Many Thanks.

Emma Hudson and the Year Nine Team
ENGLISH

Students have been busy in English discussing the use of humour in serious issues and whether fairy tales are too scary for children. Students have also been writing, writing, writing......Why do we ask them to write essays? Why do we care?

“We ask students to write papers so they can learn how to write. The topic and content areas are secondary. Knowing how to write cogently and construct a written report that has elements like an introduction, a body and a conclusion is a useful skill to know. It is also useful to know how to construct sentences, form an argument and persuade a reader.

Why? Because when you leave school and get a real job, you may have to write something. A report. A letter. A policy. Whatever. You may need to convince someone that you actually know what you are talking about. You may need to show someone (your boss, for example?) you can string together ideas with some semblance of logic and coherency.”

Dr. Sarah Elaine Eaton is an educational leader, researcher, author and professional speaker.

SCHOOL CAMP

The year 10 school camp to Uluru is a fun and eye-opening experience. Our students get to appreciate how vast and diverse our country is, experience cultural and geological landmarks such as Uluru and enjoy learning more about our indigenous heritage. Although permission forms are yet to be organised, payments towards the cost of the camp can be made at the office to help with your family’s budget. It is anticipated that the cost of the 10 day camp will be approximately $900.

KEYS PLEASE

On Wednesday March 26th, all year 10s will participate in the “Keys Please” presentation by Andrew Milbourne from the Victoria Police. Keys Please is a pre-licence education program that focusses on the learning to drive period. Please refer to the attached flyer.
Each Year 120 People Are Killed And 2,300 Are Seriously Injured In Crashes Involving 18-25 Year Old Drivers – This is one third of the Road Toll.

Driving is a complex and dangerous activity. It takes time and experience to become a safe driver. New drivers make mistakes which can have lethal consequences, as demonstrated by their very high involvement in fatal crashes.

The facts are simple:

Probationary drivers are involved in casualty crashes at triple the rate of more experienced drivers. More young people die from road crashes than any other cause.

Research shows that learners who practice more are safer as newly licensed drivers. Learners with 120 hours supervised learner practice have a 30 per cent lower crash risk in the first two years of licensed driving than learners with around only 40 hours of supervised practice.

Effective supervising drivers can help the learner make the transition from learner to solo driver and this is where Keys Please fits in.

The first step into the driver’s seat:

Keys Please is a free, 70 minute session for learner drivers or soon to be learner drivers. This interactive forum shows how to get the maximum benefit from the Learner period through:

- Promotion of 120 hours of supervised driving experience for learner drivers
- Stages of learner development
- Successful supervising tips
- What to do first?
- Supervisor’s and learner’s common concerns
- Hazard perception and identification
- Building experience in a variety of conditions
- Tips to help learners develop hazard perception skills
- Useful resources

March 26th Common Room
YEAR 10 ART STENCIL INCURSION

On Monday the 3rd of March the Art department hosted a guest Stencil Artist, Jessica Kease who goes by her Artists name “23rd Key” who came to the class to demonstrate how she makes her multilayered cool stencils.

23rd Key won the 2011 National Stencil Art competition and since then she has made many more works, some are even more detailed than the winning entry.

The Year 10 Art class had the opportunity to learn how to make the layered stencils and practised themselves by using 23rd Key’s stencils. Most of the students had a go at using the spray paint through the ready-made stencils and 23rd Key signed the prints. This was awesome.

Thank you to 23rd Key for giving up a day’s work so she could be with the class for the 2 periods and a big thank you for all the resources she gave us: leaving the Melbourne Tram and the Microphone stencils and detailed Photoshop notes on how to make the stencils.

Lisa Benn
Art Department
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 9 Salvation Army Op Shop</td>
<td>25/2/14 to 12/12/14</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>Before 2pm 12/2/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 10 Animal Studies</td>
<td>18/3/14 to 24/6/14</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>Before 2pm 17/3/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7-12 Volleyball</td>
<td>28/3/14</td>
<td>$7</td>
<td>Before 2pm 26/3/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 8 AGL Loy Yang</td>
<td>1/4/14 or 2/4/14</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>Before 2pm 31/3/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 10/11 Inverloch Surf Camp</td>
<td>3/4/14 to 4/4/14</td>
<td>$90</td>
<td>Before 2pm 27/3/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7 Camp Coolamatong</td>
<td>10/6/14 to 13/6/14</td>
<td>$245</td>
<td>Permission form and $50 deposit by 2pm 21/3/14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

**Relationships**
- Mick Berger
- Aaron Murphy
- Nic Mills
- Ian Gibson

**Engagement**
- Tyler Powell
- Tanisha Huton
- Corey Hall

**Work Ethic**
- Katrina McMillan
- Jemma Lade
- Emma Darling
- Lisa Tumney
- Josh Lawrence
- Bree Mollard
- Skye Woods
- Jaden Gregory
- Andrew Lethaby

**Excellence**
- Stacey Rogers
- Josh Lawrence
- Grady Long
- Cara Mayberry
BYOD (Bring Your Own Device)

As of 2014, students attending Kurnai College may make use of a variety of devices to access the College curriculum resources using WIFI. This includes iPads, tablets, Netbooks and laptops. This will provide a series of opportunities for students to learn more efficiently and effectively. The number of skills that are needed in an ever-changing world means that, as a school, we need to adapt and meet demands of society and implement a system that better reflects the way in which students learn. For these reasons students need to have their own device that they can rely on to get their work done.

Why are we going BYOD?

With the cuts to the National Secondary School Computer Fund, the College can no longer provide netbooks to students. Students who received netbooks under the old program will continue to be supported until they complete school. All other students will need to supply their own device from 2014.

Recommendations

The following table summarises the Minimum Specifications to consider when shopping for a laptop/tablet device for BYOD:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Device</th>
<th>Operating system compatibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>iPad</td>
<td>iOS 4 or higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Android</td>
<td>Versions 4 (Ice-cream sandwich) and higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macbook</td>
<td>OS 10 or higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microsoft Windows</td>
<td>Windows 7 or higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chromebook</td>
<td>Any</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please note that 10 inch devices or bigger are recommended, as smaller devices have less benefit to students and can cause more problems than benefits.
Accessories recommended with tablets and laptops.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Device Name</th>
<th>Recommended Accessories</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Android, iPad and other tablets</td>
<td>Keyboard, good strong case</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laptops</td>
<td>Good strong case</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Highly recommended devices

With the huge number of devices on offer there are a few we recommend. Please note that devices change very frequently.

Tablet computers such as;
  - Microsoft Surface RT and Pro tablets.
  - Windows 8 tablets
  - iPad
  - Top branded Android tablets (ask in store or school).

Any Laptop that has been made in the last 2 years will be effective regardless of their specification, power etc. Battery life will need to be considered as laptops run out of power much faster than tablets.

Must Haves

Devices will need to have an up-to-date anti-virus protection program installed. If a device is considered to be a threat to the network then it may not be allowed access.

Where to buy?

Currently Kurnai students will be able to receive a discount from Harvey Norman Traralgon store only. Proof of enrolment is required.

More devices can be readily found and purchased through most electronic stores or online.

Parent involvement

It is important that parents be involved in checking students’ devices consistently to make sure they are maintained and up-to-date. Students will load games, music and video on the devices which can take a lot of power away from the machine and slow it down.

Student Responsibilities

Students need to ensure their device is fully charged before they come to school and maintain their devices in good working order. When at school the required safe and effective use of IT devices needs to be followed.

For further information

If you have any further questions please email your query to one of the emails below;

Gowing.dean.d@edumail.vic.gov.au  garth.joshua.p@edumail.vic.gov.au
Up And Coming Performances:
Monday 31st March – 6:30pm at Churchill Campus Theatre
Groups featuring: The Afterschool Band, Year 7 Brass-In-Class and Vocal Groups
Donation entry

Kurnai Idol Auditions
Auditions will be happening across each campus prior to the end of term. Individuals wanting to audition need to prepare ONE song to be sung without any musical accompaniment. Auditions will occur during lunchtimes on the following days:
Morwell Campus – Monday Lunchtime (24th and 31st March)
Precinct Campus – Monday Lunchtime (24th and 31st March)
Churchill Campus – Friday Lunchtime (28th March)

Performance Review
Students enrolled in year 11 and 12 VCE Music Performance class at the Precinct campus were treated to a concert at the Melbourne Recital Centre, which featured performances by the year 12 students of 2013, performing items from their End-Of-Year examination.

The calibre and musical diversity of the concert was great. The concert showcased a diverse variety of musical solos and ensembles that can be created within the VCE subject ie a classical trio consisting of violin, cello and piano; to a Percussion Ensemble; and other featuring Jazz, Soul, Rock outfits, as well as Drum Kit soloist.

Students got the opportunity to meet some of the performers at interval and got some insider tips to get the best possible results.

Working Partnerships
This year sees the implementation of the Year 7 Brass in Class music class at Churchill Campus. Through the partnership with the Latrobe City Brass Band, a class set of brass band instruments have been made available so that students can select the instrument of their choice, and literally put into practise their music reading and creating skills onto the instruments each student has chosen to learn.

All Year 7 classes will eventually have the opportunity in participating in this class throughout the year. Students get the choice of learning the trumpet, cornet, tenor horn, trombone, baritone, euphonium and tuba, with a performance at the end of the term.
Recently Kurnai College purchased a number of instruments from the Morwell Salvation Army to add to the Brass In Class group of brass instrument. Both organisations have been assisting each other through music activities for a number of years. Pictured from left to right are Lt Ashley Proctor- Salvation Army Corps Officer, Joseph Bonnici- Kurnai College Music Director, and Peter Roberts- Salvation Army Creative Ministries Director.

**Fundraising... Drink Cans**

@ Morwell Campus – Bags can be left outside the Music Complex (Room E2) on Mondays and Tuesdays.

@ Churchill Campus— Bags can be left at the front office for collection.