

College News



76 Booran Road Caulfield East 3145
Telephone: 9571 7838 Facsimile: 9571 0079
Email: glen.eira.co@edumail.vic.gov.au

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I was very fortunate to be invited to attend a study tour of Japan in February fully funded by The Japan Foundation with a group of 19 principals from around Australia. The tour began in Sydney at the Foundation, where we had a crash course in Japanese language. We all tried very hard to learn a range of phrases. The tour was a wonderful experience and we learnt so much about Japan – the culture and the people and the work of The Japan Foundation in supporting the teaching of Japanese language and culture.

We had many fabulous experiences including visiting several Shinto and Buddhist temples, a newly built primary school, an established secondary school and the Australian Embassy. We were amazed by the heated toilet seats that also played music! It snowed in Kyoto which was the first time the principals from Western Australia had ever seen snow. We stayed in a traditional Japanese Inn (a Ryokan) where you sleep on a mat on the floor and the breakfast included a variety of fish dishes.

I look forward to working towards having a school tour to Japan.

There has been a vast range of activities at the college this term. These are just some of the highlights from term 1.

- The swimming sports in February were a huge success yet again.
- The Year 7 and Year 8 camps saw students engaging in a range of new experiences.
- Many students represented the college in a range of interschool team sports.
- The Year 7 Family Supper Evening was a wonderful opportunity for parents to meet informally with our staff.
- Teams of students from Years 7 – 11 are participating in the DAV debating competition.
- Our wide range of lunchtime and after school clubs and activities continue to grow. Activities such as art, chess and robotics clubs are proving very popular with our students, as is the range of instrumental music opportunities including a range of ensembles.
- Singfest gave students a wonderful opportunity to perform with approximately 200 students from a range of schools.
- Our wonderful Parents and Friends Association continues to promote our community at events such as the recent Party in the Park, raising close to \$1400. A huge thankyou to Juliet Brianton, Cathy McNaughton, Ruth Gordon, Nathalie Galliot, Sharon Unger, Michael Frajman, Julia Caflich, Steven Miller,

continue page 2



Year 8 Camp



Beachside Swimming



Funky Hair Day

This newsletter is emailed home to all families twice per term. If you have any items of interest to the college community or want to advertise your business, please contact either Penny Marks or Gabrielle Darvell (Business Manager) on 9571 7838.



Anna Kats, Joanne McCutcheon, Deby David, Jacquelyn Street, Michelle Hain, Robert Hain, Michael Johnson, Jasmine Hobbs-Gordon (Year 8), Emmalee Hazell (Year 7), Francis Maimarosia (Year 7).

- Funky Hair Day activities raised \$540 for the Leukaemia Foundation. Bailey Atlas and Ben Becker were brave in shaving their heads in support of this worthwhile cause.
- Cultural Diversity Week, Harmony Day and Francophonie week saw students and staff wearing national dress or orange – the colour of Harmony Day, flipping crepes, watching Japanese drumming, learning a Hebrew or Bollywood dance and eating delicious French cakes. Some of our students studying French also performed at Malvern Primary School assembly marking this week.

School Council Elections

I was again delighted to have several parents nominate for school council. I am pleased to announce that the successful parents are Ruth Gordon, Paula Darvas and Jonathan Lock. They join Michael Seager, Rhonda Brooks and Dieter Schadt who are half way through their two year term as parent representatives.

I am delighted also to announce that Emily Brown and Nick Hamer-Smith join as staff representatives along with current members Tori Mulligan and Peter Brown.

I thank all those retiring councillors for their superb work over the past year(s): Julie Stout, Michael Frajman and Keira McLean.

We are always looking for ways to involve our parents in our community. Please contact me if you have ideas of how you would like to be involved. Our Parents and Friends group is an excellent way to meet other families and I encourage you to join.

Student Attitudes to School Survey

Our school will be conducting a survey to find out what your child thinks of our school. The Attitudes to School survey is an annual survey for Years 5 to 12 students offered by the Department of Education and Training. It is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of students' perceptions and experience of school. Our school will use the survey results to plan programs and activities to improve your child's experience at school.

All year levels will participate in this year's survey. All responses to the survey are anonymous. This year the Attitudes to School survey will be conducted at our school over the period Monday 20th April to Friday 1st May. The survey only takes 20-30 minutes to complete and occurs during class time. The survey results will be reported back to the school at the end of July.

Capital Works

The architects are now working on the Schematic Designs and are engaged in discussions with groups of staff. Staff and students have also visited a range of educational institutions to help inform our planning. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, fingers crossed we will receive the rest of our funding in the May budget. We will be ready to go to tender for builders if this is announced which would mean we could start

the works by September this year. I believe the first phase will affect the administration area and part of the Performing Arts Centre (PAC) and canteen. Classroom music will be relocated to the PAC and two new food technology rooms will be built where the administration is currently. The new gym should also be part of phase 1. We have also been given permission to replace the roof of the PAC in term 2, which will greatly improve the climate of the building.

Finally

All students will have received their interim reports via XUNO and hopefully you were able to attend parent teacher interviews in the last two weeks of term. Please discuss the progress reports with your child to assist them with planning for the next term.

I wish you all a wonderful term break and look forward to a successful term 2.

*Sheereen Kindler
Principal*

XUNO IMPLEMENTATION

We are continuing to develop our suite of communication tools on Xuno through the parent portal. Next term we will begin using the attendance feature. Parents will be able to log on and check their child's attendance in classes on a given day and monitor attendance rates over the term.

In second semester 2015 a few teachers trialled the Markbook feature which included logging homework and assessment tasks with some classes. This semester all teachers are using Markbook to log work requirements. If you need assistance navigating the Xuno portal there is an 'Options' link at the top of the screen that takes you to 'Help docs'.

If you cannot log on to the Xuno portal or have lost your login details please contact the General Office.

*Nick Hamer-Smith
Assistant Principal*

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

Applications for the Camps Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF) for 2016 are still open. Parents/Guardians are required to submit a new application every year. Schools can accept parent applications up until **3rd June 2016**.

The CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the cost of school excursions, camps and sporting activities. **If you hold a valid means tested concession card you may be eligible for the CSEF.**

Year 7 government school students who are CSEF recipients are also eligible for a uniform voucher. The school is required to make the application on behalf of parents so please register your interest at the college.

Application forms for the CSEF are available from the General Office, the College website and the Department of Education & Training website.

If you have any queries about the CSEF please contact the College on **9571 7838**.



JUNIOR SCHOOL CAPTAINS' REPORT

This year has started well with activities and events such as the swimming carnival, interschool sport, and Year 7 and 8 camps! We have SRC initiatives such as Funky Hair Day and Harmony Day in term 1.

The Year 9 Making Connections Program has already included three trips to St Kilda. In groups we've chosen a topic to survey St Kilda locals and tourists to gather information for a final presentation at the end of the term. Some year 9s have the camp to the Rubicon Nayook Campus coming up in the near future and we're all extremely excited! We would like to wish our Year 7 and 8 students the best of luck for the upcoming interschool sport days and hope that they can bring another victory for the school.

Many extra-curricular activities have been running during the term such as Book Club, Masters Club, Futsal and Robotics. If you are interested in any of the activities see Ms Tane or the teacher in charge. The activities run at lunch time or after school. The Glen Eira Magazine (GEM) has also started up again for this year and is looking for submissions! If you have any English pieces, artwork, photography or any other work that you would like to submit and have published, please head to the GEC Student hub; <https://sites.google.com/a/gec.vic.edu.au/gechub/Gem/submissions>

If you have any further queries or interests in activities please feel free to come up to us at any point, we will always be willing to help! We hope the year has started off well and that all the new students have had a smooth transition from their previous schools.

*Sean Kelly, Tuesday Mooney, Sierra Danon and Harry MacLeod-Smith
Junior School Captains*



Harry MacLeod-Smith, Tuesday Mooney, Sean Kelly and Sierra Danon

YEAR 7 NEWS

We had a great time on camp in Marysville and have settled into life at secondary school.

Teachers are continuing to get to know students through activities in and outside of the classroom. Remember our camp song: "From little things, big things grow. From Year 7s, Year 12s grow" - Dhruva & Reynolds

On Tuesday 23rd February all Year 7 students participated in a "Digital Etiquette" workshop run by Classroom Connections which encouraged and supported safe and positive online

behaviour. The next day all students participated in a Time Management workshop with Educate Elevate. Students went through important key skills including:

- How to revise - what revision can you be doing nightly, how much should you do?
- Managing assignment deadlines - step by step process
- Breaking down an assignment into 4 parts
- Homework/Homestudy timetable for each week
- How to find the time to get the work done - balancing socialising, sports, hobbies and technology time.

Students each received a booklet they could keep for future reference.

Our school community has developed a homework policy of 5 x 30 minutes over a week for a Year 7 student, or 2.5 hours a week of homework. This is based on the Department of Education Guidelines. It's important to balance homework, family responsibilities and other commitments.

Thank you to all the parents/guardians who attended the Year 7 parent evening on Tuesday 8th March. It was fantastic so see so many of you there (even though the weather was extremely hot!) Please feel free to contact us at any time.

*Shaun Reynolds and Elizabeth Allan
Year 7 Coordinators*

KEY DATES TERM 2 2016

- MONDAY 11TH APRIL – FIRST DAY TERM 2
- MONDAY 25TH APRIL – ANZAC DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY (SCHOOL CLOSED)
- TUESDAY 26TH APRIL – LANGUAGES OPEN DAY 9:15AM
- WEDNESDAY 27TH APRIL – OPEN DAY/NIGHT
- MONDAY 2ND – FRIDAY 6TH MAY – YEAR 9 CAMP (1ST GROUP)
- TUESDAY 3RD MAY – YEAR 7 IMMUNISATIONS
- THURSDAY 5TH MAY – SELECT ENTRY INFORMATION EVENING 7PM
- FRIDAY 6TH MAY – VCE & CAREERS EXPO EXCURSION
- SUNDAY 8TH MAY – MOTHER'S DAY CLASSIC
- TUESDAY 10TH MAY – SENIOR INTERSCHOOL SPORTS
- TUESDAY 10TH – THURSDAY 12TH MAY – NAPLAN (YEARS 7 & 9)
- FRIDAY 13TH MAY – GEC ATHLETICS CARNIVAL
- SATURDAY 14TH MAY – SELECT ENTRY PROGRAM TEST 9AM
- MONDAY 23RD MAY – BEACHSIDE CROSS COUNTRY
- WEDNESDAY 25TH – FRIDAY 27TH MAY – YEAR 12 PRACTICE EXAMS
- FRIDAY 27TH MAY – INTERMEDIATE INTERSCHOOL SPORTS
- MONDAY 30TH MAY – THURSDAY 2ND JUNE – YEAR 10 & 11 EXAMS
- TUESDAY 31ST MAY – WEDNESDAY 1ST JUNE – YEAR 9B EXAMS
- FRIDAY 3RD JUNE – REPORT WRITING DAY (STUDENT FREE)
- COLLEGE ONLY
- TUESDAY 7TH JUNE – GAT FOR UNIT 3/4 STUDENTS
- THURSDAY 9TH JUNE – YEAR 8 INTERSCHOOL SPORTS
- THURSDAY 9TH JUNE – YEAR 12 FORMAL
- MONDAY 13TH JUNE – QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY (SCHOOL CLOSED)
- TUESDAY 14TH JUNE – VARIETY SHOW 1PM
- THURSDAY 16TH JUNE – YEAR 7 INTERSCHOOL SPORTS
- THURSDAY 16TH JUNE – VARIETY SHOW 7PM
- MONDAY 20TH – FRIDAY 24TH JUNE – YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE
- TUESDAY 21ST JUNE – VARIETY SHOW 7PM
- THURSDAY 23TH JUNE – VARIETY SHOW 7PM
- FRIDAY 24TH JUNE – LAST DAY TERM 2

STUDENT ABSENCES

Parents are reminded that the College has a designated telephone line for notification of student absence – 9571 4178.



YEAR 8 NEWS

The Year 8 students recently attended camp Kangaroobie. We had perfect weather for all of our activities. It got very competitive out on the survivor course with staff and students all chasing one another in order to secure a little tag, and more importantly, victory of the game. We got to experience 'farm life' and were able to pat cows in the paddocks. Leah got the surprise of her life when one cow didn't want to be fed and asked her to move on. Canoeing was good fun with some students capsizing and spending their time trying to get out of the water with the canoe. Lucky the weather was warm! The beach walk was an experience - a very steep hill to climb - but the view and free time in the water was worth it at the end. Let's not forget our trip to the 12 Apostles on our final day. We tried to count how many were left but still aren't too sure. It was the perfect way to end our camp! I am sure there were many lasting memories created.

A big thank you to all the staff who attended: Mr Williams, Mr Mulligan, Ms Amir, Mr Tserkezidis, Ms Cornelia, Ms Sanchez, Ms Nishikubo, Ms Finnigan, Miss McLean, Caroline, Peter and Grace.

Our annual cross country run is held on the final day of term 1, which I am sure will be just as eventful. I hope you all have a very restful holiday and I look forward to seeing you all in term 2.

*Louise Conroy
Year 8 Coordinator*



Year 8 Camp

YEAR 9 NEWS

As part of the Year 9 'Making Connections' program, students have been exploring the St Kilda area, investigating a specific issue and conducting a survey with tourists and locals.

Our students have also been involved in exciting extra-curricular activities. Congratulations to the Year 9 and 10 girls' softball team who won all their matches! I would also like to give a special mention to Bailey Atlas and Ben Becker who participated in the World's Greatest Shave and shaved their hair to raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation.

Thank you to the Junior School Captains - Tuesday, Sean, Harry and Sierra, who attended the Year 7 parent evening on Tuesday 8th March.

Finally, in order to get ready for the expectations of Senior School, students need to get organised and establish an effective study routine. In Year 9 they should spend 45 to 90 minutes 5 times a week to complete homework. I encourage parents to check the student planner regularly and to contact me if you have any concerns.

*Celine Fompudie
Year 9 Coordinator*

SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

I'd like to start by congratulating the senior school students on a great start to the year. It's been great to see students attending school regularly and on time, in full school uniform and prepared for classes. Thank you to the many students and their parents who attended the Andrew Fuller information session on "Maximising results in the senior years of school". I'm sure all who attended will agree that they were able to take something positive away from the session. As Andrew Fuller discussed, high achieving students have a system they follow throughout their years. So it is important for students to set their Study Timetables now and stick to it.

A reminder that the brain is event driven and with focus easy to lose and hard to gain, it is important for students to minimise distractions when studying. The brain functions best when students are well rested and fed. Make sure you are getting your 9 hours of sleep and are eating a balanced diet full of brain food such as eggs, berries and milk.

With the end of term 1 quickly approaching, it is important to clarify our School Assessed Coursework (SAC) procedures. Most senior school students will have completed SACs for their subjects. Students should have dates for these SACs written in their planner, so they are able to prepare appropriately. Students must be present when SACs are set, as their date is fixed and coordinated with other subjects and SACs scheduled. Students and teachers are required to sign an "Authentication Record Sheet" in order to authenticate the work completed by students and monitor students who are absent from scheduled SACs. In the event that a student is ill and absent from school on the day of the scheduled SAC, they MUST provide a medical certificate to their teacher and coordinator in order to reschedule that SAC. If a student fails a SAC, they will be required to complete a redemption task in order to meet the outcomes for that unit. The re-sit of SACs and completion of redemption tasks are after school.



on a Tuesday and these are supervised by a member of the Senior School team.

*Haroula Christodoulou
Senior School Leader*

Have a rule and never miss it twice!



Andrew Fuller evening

YEAR 10 NEWS

With the academic year well and truly underway it is an opportune time to remind all of us (students, staff and parents) that lines of communication need to be open at all times – no matter how big or small your concern may be.

All Year 10 students attended a session with Darren Pereira on “Study Skills for Success” and I’m sure all students would agree that the session was not only engaging but informative. With his sidekick DJ playing tracks throughout the presentation, Darren was able to work through the concept of “BEST”.

BELIEF: Expect the BEST (visualisation works)
EXAMS: Strategies to relieve exam anxiety
STUDY: Focus your mind and achieve results
TOUGHNESS: Never give up

Remember that “It’s not who you are that holds you back, it’s who you think you’re not” and failure is an event and it is **feedback**. You must get out of your comfort zone in order to reach goals, so don’t forget to:

Try; Fail; Learn; Try Again; Succeed

The proposed Year 10 Camp is for the 2nd last week of the year – Camp Aralven – for sun, sea and surfing. Stay tuned for more information.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Year 10 students for the positive start to the year – remember that you need to be challenging yourself constantly. Thank you as well to all Year 10 teachers for your hard work and persistence.

*Lou Tsarpalas
Year 10 Coordinator*



Darren Pereira presentation

YEAR 11 NEWS

It has been a busy start to the year with Year 11 students thrown into the world of Outcomes and SACs. VCE is about managing time efficiently and dedicating more time to studies so that the pressure does not build up and become overwhelming.

The importance of organisation is imperative to the success of all students. It is not just about prioritising study sessions in your after school routine, it also includes getting to school on time and having the right equipment for each class. Students will be given more information about managing their time effectively in the Darren Pereira session on the first day of term 2.

On a lighter note, it was great to see the number of Year 11 students at the Swimming Carnival. So many students competed and braved the freezing cold temperatures only to power home at the end. Well done guys!

Congratulations to Andrew Wilson who competed in the Victorian State School Sports Regatta in the Male School Single Scull Open division (years 11 & 12) on Thursday 3rd March. Andrew finished first in his heat and second in the A finals. This is a magnificent result for Andrew especially as he was out of competition for three months due a collarbone injury.

*Mary Maniatis
Year 11 Coordinator*

STUDENT ABSENCES

Parents are reminded that the College has a designated telephone line for notification of student absence – **9571 4178**.



YEAR 12 NEWS

The beginning of the year is always a busy time. Students have received their Year 12 jackets, which look fantastic.

The Year 12 Committee (Katherine Aspinall, Akhil Mathew, Sophia Vamvakidou, James Brooks, Grace Chai, Zoe Tuttleby, Siena MacShane-Watts, Hanna Unger, Maya Harel and Rohan Kalanje) has begun organising the year 12 formal, which has been booked for 9th June and is a highlight for both students and staff. They are also working towards improving and maintaining the year 12 common room as well as collecting photos and information for the yearbook.

Congratulations to all house captains and vice captains who assisted house teachers with organising their team during the Swimming Carnival and to all of the students who participated to ensure that the carnival was a huge success.

Overall the cohort continues to work extremely well with students being focussed on reaching their potential by being in class, working to the best of their ability and seeking assistance when required.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or concerns.

*Laura Brancatella
Year 12 Coordinator*



Year 12 students wearing their new jackets: Maytav Yitzhaki, Katherine Aspinall and Zoe Tuttleby

SPORT NEWS

Our Houses currently named Red, Blue, Green and Gold have received new names. The names have been chosen to provide meaning, connection to the community and cultural significance to the houses. The names chosen are of significance to the local indigenous community and we are awaiting permission to use the following names:

Dantum: Red
Tharam: Blue
Yupoke: Green
Djurt Djurt: Gold

Congratulations to our 2016 house captions:

Red: Zoe Tuttleby and Ross McNaughton
Blue: Hanna Unger and Bastien Lambert
Green: Ben Hobbs-Gordon and Taylor Abbott
Gold: Sunrita Bhattacharya and Max Mitterlehner

The first duty of the House Captains was to lead the house meetings for our Swimming Carnival and organise their houses at the Swimming Sports. The day was a huge success, and could not have run as smoothly as it did without the help of the above mentioned students.

Those who were successful at our level of swimming sports then went on to the Beachside Division at Oakleigh Swimming Centre. Congratulations to all students who competed.

Further congratulations goes to the Junior Boys who were the Southern Metropolitan Beachside Sport Region Champions and to Paul-Antoine Galliot (7B) and Ross McNaughton (11B) who are the Champions for the 12-13 year age group and the 17 year age group.

Interschool sport this term has seen a great level of involvement, across all year levels in Cricket, Volleyball, Softball, Lawn Bowls and Tennis.

Highlights include:

- The intermediate girls' softball team are the beachside champions and play next term in the preliminary finals to secure their spot in the Southern Region Finals.
- Our intermediate boys' cricket team won their preliminary match against Cheltenham sending them through to the next round of the Interschool competition. The boys put up a good fight on the day, however unfortunately the day went to Melbourne High.
- The intermediate boys' lawn bowls team got through to the finals of the Beachside competition however they were defeated by Melbourne High.

Lastly we would like to recognise Andrew Wilson for his outstanding achievement in Rowing at the Victorian State Schools Regatta and wish Katie James and Josh Agar luck in the Regional Diving competition being held next term.

*Emma Power
Sports Coordinator*



Beachside Swimming Competition

**Paul-Antoine Galliot and
Ross McNaughton**





INTERMEDIATE SOFTBALL GIRLS

On the 26th February the intermediate girls' softball team played in the Beachside Division competition. We won all of our games, making us undefeated for three years in this division. The teams we played were Cheltenham Secondary College (16-1), Macrob High School (11-3) and Mentone Girls Secondary (15-2).

Since our team won all of our games, we will be proceeding to the Preliminary Finals which will be held on Monday 18th April at Jells Park. We will be playing one game to make sure we get into the Southern Regional finals.

*Sierra Danon and Emilee Layton
Year 9*



Intermediate Girls' Softball Team

SRC REPORT

The SRC has been working diligently in term 1. We have an official meeting on Mondays at lunch time in Room 109 where BIG ideas are shared and refined. Then we have additional meetings during the week to 'make things happen'. I have chosen to assist the students in making their projects successful by introducing project management techniques with the view to acquire skills which will help them in their VCE and later in life. I encourage students to plan in advance, manage their time according to their plan, collaborate with their peers, teachers and our principal, delegate the work, and follow up.

All SRC students are welcome to all positions. All students are able to choose to do what interests them most; such as leading a school change campaign, fundraising, the issues team, designing promotional posters or putting them up, speaking to every team in the morning about an SRC initiative or inviting students to raise issues. There is something for everyone. It is not too late to join us.

Clean Australia Day in schools was on 4th March. The SRC initiated a whole school approach campaign to clean GEC. The aim is to keep our school clean and raise awareness of a neater environment. Initially, we introduced the 'Empty when Full' concept to recycle classroom paper, which was talked about favourably. Then using the technique of personification where each bin outside will have a character attached with a message to throw rubbish into it.

On 11th March, we raised money for the Leukemia Foundation by participating in the World's Greatest Shave, which translated to Funky Hair Day at GEC. Two students shaved their head at school and we had hair spray stands and a sausage sizzle.

To conclude the term we celebrated Cultural Diversity Week by celebrating diversity at our college. On Tuesday we enjoyed French activities. On Wednesday we had fun with Israeli dancing. On Thursday we were entertained with Japanese activities, and on Friday, Bollywood and Zorba dancing. On Thursday 17th March we celebrated Harmony Day with both students and teachers wearing traditional dress or orange clothes. We raised money in Team and a huge cake stall with sweets from all over the world, for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

Term 1 was busy and full of opportunities to be part of the dynamic SRC team by suggesting new initiatives, leading projects and school change campaigns, celebrating, collaborating, having fun, and having your voice heard! Term 2 is around the corner and we could do with more helping hands. Please join us on Monday lunchtime in Room 109. Wishing you all a successful 2016 school year!

Dorit Tane

Student Voice, Team Program and Special Weeks Coordinator



**Ben Becker
and
Bailey Atlas
before**

**Ben Becker
and
Bailey Atlas
after**



Funky Hair Day



ENHANCEMENT & ENRICHMENT

We have been enhancing our Gifted and Talented policy by developing programs for students to help further engage them in all areas of their education. According to the Department of Education and Training, gifted and talented children and young people may have one or more gifts or talents in areas such as;

- separate academic disciplines, such as maths, science, languages or humanities
- physical, artistic or technical ability, such as sport, visual or performing arts, agricultural science or software development
- creativity, innovative thinking and problem-solving
- social, communicative and leadership

We will be looking at in-class differentiation as well as giving opportunities out of the classroom to cater for the different areas of talent. These include the Gifted & Talented Student Conference, Model UN Conference and the Science Talent Search, just to name a few.

If you have any questions about our Gifted & Talented policy, please see the Glen Eira College website or contact me via the Xuno portal.

Emily Brown

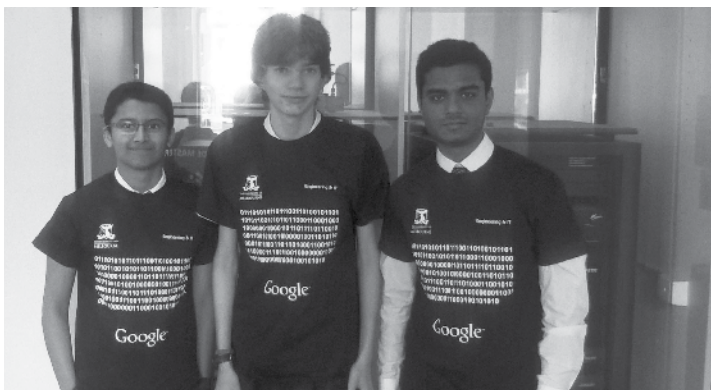
Enhancement & Enrichment Coordinator

CODE MASTERS COMPUTER PROGRAMMING COMPETITION

The GEC Code Masters team competed in the University of Melbourne "Code Masters" computer programming competition on 16th February. The team consists of Rohan Kalanje, Jesse James and Rathin Patel of Year 12. There were 36 teams competing and the GEC team did exceptionally well. The Code Masters team is a reflection of the success of the computer programming club, an extra-curricular program which provides students with an opportunity to participate in the activity they enjoy.

Ounsane Siriamphone

Technology Support Coordinator



The GEC Code Masters Team

ELEARNING NEWS

Last year the eLearning Squad brought about many great things. The progress of our squad has managed to astound me by the amount of work that has been achieved in the space of half a year. There was the Doodle for Google

competition where we had many creative entries with the theme of "If I could go into the future, I would..." The lucky winners' work will be displayed on the website soon. In recent news the new website, the GEC Hub, is up and running for the students, by the students.

Last year saw the launch of the new Chromebook program and I have to say it was a raging success! Because it was the first year to test out the Chromebooks, there were some minor complications along the way, but they were fixed with ease with the help of our eLearning squad and the IT team down the hall. I have conducted a student and teacher survey to collect feedback and opinions on the Chromebooks and on the eLearning Squad. As a result we have come to the conclusion that the involvement with new technology has benefited the needs of many students and teachers.

Here are some student opinions: Nasia thinks that our work in the eLearning Squad has been useful and helpful to her learning to access information or for general IT queries. Fergus is excited for the upcoming website and thinks the squad is well organised. Declan likes that when the Chromebooks are used correctly, they can be used as a fantastic learning tool. One prominent response I keep getting is that students don't have to drag their textbooks home each day and that you can keep everything in one place. (Eloise Wenborn, Morgan Edwards and Anisha Kaur)

Here, a teacher has expressed her opinions on the Chromebook program: "Chromebooks add value to the classroom by allowing ICT to be integrated into each class seamlessly. Technology is integrated into daily classroom life, rather than sporadically in IT rooms. Using Chromebooks allow staff to utilise the skills of our students, and engage them through merging and combining traditional teaching practice with contemporary concepts of learning." - Miss Power

This year we have launched a new website for the students, run by the students. This will incorporate all the latest news for the school and a place where you can ask questions regarding technical issues about the Chromebooks or just general IT queries. There is an area where students can report any trouble or cyber bullying. There are guides for applications if the students are unsure about how to use them. It will also include a place for people to access the daily bulletin and be notified of teacher absences. There are sections for the news on clubs and sport, and there is a calendar where you can check upcoming events. Finally we have a gallery displaying the latest photos from recent school events.

The eLearning Squad has been working hard on the website all throughout the last term of last year and we're very excited to show you this and more in the upcoming year.

Elizabeth Lindner-Craig

Year 10

DEBATING

Glen Eira College has recently started competitive debating in the Caulfield district, and our five teams competed in their first debate on Wednesday 2nd March. The five teams achieved some great results and represented the college



very well. We are very excited to continue debating season, refining and perfecting our skills!

Debating Club also includes opportunities for public speaking throughout the year. Please keep an eye on the bulletin for competitions such as the D.A.V. Junior and Senior Public Speaking Competition, and the British Parliamentary Debate. Moreover, Year 7 and 8 students who are keen to develop their skills will be able to participate in the Junior Secondary Program in term 2.

Debating is a perfect opportunity to work on critical thinking, teamwork, and effective communication – skills that serve our students well in school, work, and later in life. It's not too late to get involved. Meetings are in room 109 on Friday lunchtime.

*Georgina Peters
Debating Coordinator*



Debating participants

LANGUAGES CORNER

HEBREW NEWS

Year 9 Hebrew students are studying food.

Students have researched cultural foods from around the world and presented them creatively on a world map. One of the lessons was an excursion to the supermarket to shop in Hebrew for ingredients which they later used to prepare some food to share with the class. In groups the students designed a sign for their restaurants, a menu and then presented a role play 'At the Restaurant' with props.

To conclude the Food Study Unit, we went to Milk & Honey on Glenhuntly Road, where the students had to order their meals in Hebrew. (There was no English on the menu!)

Students enjoyed their Hebrew classes in term 1 and achieved their goals; to be able to have a simple conversation about food around the world, at home, buying and preparation of food, and to order a meal in Hebrew at a restaurant.

Year 8 Hebrew students are studying numbers.

Students prepared flash cards of numbers. They used them for games, doing maths in Hebrew, testing each other, and later for constructing sentences which include numbers such as phone numbers. Students enjoyed their Hebrew classes in term 1 and achieved their goals; to learn when to use which number (male/female), and have a simple conversation asking and giving out phone numbers. Some creative conversations were held between Disney characters or celebrities exchanging phone numbers including a prefix for a town and a country.

*Dorit Tane
Hebrew Teacher*



Year 9 Hebrew Supermarket Excursion

JAPANESE NEWS

Hosting a student from Ogaki, Japan - Thursday 18 August to Tuesday 23 August 2016

If you are interested in hosting a student from Japan for our exciting up-coming Japanese students visit, please contact the school for more information.

Every two years Glen Eira City Council accepts exchange students from the Ogaki International Exchange Association (OIEA) as part of a sister city relationship. Glen Eira College is delighted to be a part of this program in 2016 by providing our families the opportunity to host 9 students aged 12 – 15 years and three delegation leaders in August 2016. This is an excellent opportunity for the students and families to learn more about Japan, its history, people and culture and to expand their Japanese language skills.

*Emma Nishikubo
Japanese Teacher*

FRENCH NEWS

La Semaine de la Francophonie

"La Semaine de la Francophonie" was celebrated with lots of activities in our French classes and during lunchtime and recess. Our students participated in the annual "Dis moi Dix mots competition" and this year's theme was "Le pouvoir des mots"- the power of words. Some interesting "pétanque" games were played and of course "crêpes flipping" was a hit in the foyer.

French Film Festival

This year again, a lot of us attended the French Film Festival. The Year 7 French classes enjoyed "Belle et Sebastien" while the year 10, 11 and 12 French classes saw "Les Chevaliers Blancs". The teachers also had a night out watching "First

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Growth". Congratulations to Mr Tsarpalas who won best dressed for the night!

*Loveena Narayanan
Languages Coordinator*



Staff French Film Festival evening

WELLBEING NEWS

In 2015 Mission Australia conducted its 14th annual survey of young people aged 15 – 19 years. The top three concerns identified by the respondents were stress (38.4%), school (33.6%) and body image (26.5%). It is evidence such as this that informs the development of our Health and Wellbeing programs at GEC.

The "Lifestyle Check" in term 1 for year 12 students is an example of a program being run in 2016 that is proactively addressing these concerns. Our school nurse, Christalia, is running the program – she has an article about the program in this newsletter – check it out!

We begin in Year 7 with programs to build students' capacity to manage the challenges of maintaining a balanced lifestyle. In Health in Year 7 students are currently studying the benefits of an active lifestyle. This includes developing an understanding of the National Guidelines for Physical Activity for 13 – 17 year olds. In the guidelines provided by the government there is also reference to research that indicates only 1 in 10 young people are meeting the guidelines – this is a serious national health and wellbeing issue.

What is the recommended amount of physical activity per day for 13 – 17 year olds? What are the major health and wellbeing benefits of regular physical activity? What are the national activity guidelines? If you would like to know more then ask a Year 7 student, or go to <http://www.health.gov.au/>

where you will find the answers.

Students were asked to write a persuasive piece about the benefits of an active lifestyle, here are some of their thoughts! "A healthy lifestyle will give you a healthier heart, a healthier body and make your life more interesting and adventurous."

"Physical exercise and activities for teenagers are very important. They help build up bone and muscle strength, get rid of excess fat, build emotional and mental confidence and make new friends for the teenager. Why wouldn't you exercise?"

"When you are at school you feel stressed out with all your essays, reports and homework you have to do. Being physically active for at least an hour a day helps you feel more relaxed and reduces stress levels. Scientists have proven that happier kids do better in school than unhealthy and unhappy kids."

"In conclusion, exercise is very important for teenagers because it has great health, social and mental benefits which teenagers must have in order to be great adults."

Hopefully our GEC students are well above the national average and we have 100% of our students active for an hour a day!

*Jenny Sanchez
Wellbeing Leader*

FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

VCE can be one of the most stressful periods of school that your child will undertake. Even the most capable student can feel overwhelmed from time-to-time.

And what's more, stress can not only compromise your child's ability to achieve their full academic potential but it can take a toll on their health, their relationships with friends and family and their emotional wellbeing.

During term 1 I have had the opportunity to deliver a preventative health promotion program for all Year 12 students called "Lifestyle checks". The program required students to self-audit in the area of health and wellbeing, particularly in the areas of stress, anxiety, nutrition, sleep, exercise and social activities.

The program aimed to highlight the students' strengths and to identify areas of need for improvement.

Students participated in small groups of 4-6, allowing the opportunity to increase engagement and encourage plenty of discussion.

The program and health educational resources were all evidence based information from Headspace and Beyondblue.

*Christalia Formoso
Registered Nurse
Secondary School Nursing Program, DET*

GLEN EIRA COLLEGE PARENTS ASSOCIATION NEWS

The Glen Eira College Parents Association is a friendly group of parents who support our kids' school, help school families get to know each other and also have some fun. Please come to one or more of our meetings throughout the year –



advertised in the newsletter and by email or let us know if you have ideas or offers to help with fun and worthwhile activities.

If you are not already receiving our emails please go to the Parents Association page on the Glen Eira College website (under the Community tab) and click on the word 'subscribe'.

In 2016 we are planning

- Trivia Night
(volunteers needed for the Trivia Night Subcommittee)
- Movie Night
- Supper at School Production
- Election Day sausage sizzle
- Volunteers (welcome even in a small way) and other suggestions welcome.

Secondhand Uniform Sale - Tuesday 22nd March 5-6.30pm (during parent teacher interviews)

The GEC parents Association will hold another sale of second-hand and new school uniform items. Thanks to parents who contributed to the last stall which raised over \$1,100 for the school and helped families with cheap school clothes.

Trivia Night Sub-Committee – helpers needed

We have run several fabulous trivia nights at GEC and will do it again and better in 2016. We need some more helpers to assist with the event and seek prizes and silent auction items. We have several parents with experience with trivia nights so new volunteers don't need any special experience- just a willingness to help and have some fun.

Welcome to year 7 families

Glen Eira Parents Association parents attended the welcome for year 7 families on Tuesday 8th March and enjoyed chatting with new families.

Party in the Park Princes Park 21st February

How many snow cones did the Glen Eira College Parents Association sell at the busy Party in the Park in Princes Park? With handmade notebooks made by us from spare pages of students exercise rise books, homemade jam and honey, we made \$1,400 for Glen Eira College. A warm sunny day with a big crowd meant brisk sales and a chance to raise the schools profile in our local community and chat to prospective parents about the school. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard before and during the event. It was a real team effort.



GEC Parents Association's stall at the Party in the Park

Fit Fridays promoting active travel to school - riding, scooting or walking, part way is ok

Thanks to those families and kids who walked scooted or rode on Friday March 4th - Ride2School Day. It's great to see the bike racks full (overflowing!) and more kids active. This year, 2,178 schools took part in the event and more than 350,000 students ditched the car to actively make their way to school.

In 2016 Glen Eira College is encouraging active travel, especially on Fridays, with "Hands Up" counts to find out which class has the healthiest travel to school. Ride, scoot, skate or walk to school or for part of the way- it's fun, healthy and a great way to meet students' recommended daily dose of 60 minutes physical activity every day. In 2015 Glen Eira College adopted an active travel charter to encourage students and staff to travel by active means. Ride2School info and Video clip at https://www.bicyclenetwork.com.au/general/programs/179/?mkt_tok=3RkMMJWWfF9wsRoluqrLZKXonjHpfsX%2F6uwwWaSg38431UFwdcjKPMjr1YcFTMB0aPyQAgobGp5I5FENTLDYXa5kt6cKUg%3D%3D

School Holiday Programs for Teenagers by local Councils

Glen Eira <http://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/Community-services/Youth/School-holidaySchool>

Stonnington <http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/Discover/Sports-and-Recreation/Recreation-Programs/Stonnington-Holiday-Program>

Cathy McNaughton

PLAYBALL BASKETBALL REFEREE AT GLEN EIRA COLLEGE

BASKETBALL COMPETITION

Playball is hiring the Glen Eira College Gymnasium in Terms 2 & 3 2016 to run afterschool basketball each Friday 4:30 to 7:30PM for a junior Year 1 to 4 competition.

GRADED REFEREES

Playball requires some Graded Basketball Referees to officiate at these matches. Students from Glen Eira College are welcome.



Must have attended a Basketball Referee course and be a Graded Referee.

Pay as per VBRA recommended rates. Some limited places are available at GESAC to train to be a graded referee.

TO APPLY

Contact: Simon

PH: 9585 6123

info@playballbasketball.com

Playball: An affiliated association of Basketball Victoria



PLAYBALL BASKETBALL 9585-6123

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GEC SWIMMING CARNIVAL 2016

