SCHOOL NEWS BY THE PRINCIPAL
Aspirations are developed, they are not just inherent in every person. Through the work we are doing at school we are able to use a variety of strategies to ensure that this happens. When I look through the rest of this newsletter there is a lot of evidence that supports the previous statement.

During this time of year we have year 12 students looking at scholarships and completing applications to VTAC (Victorian Tertiary Admission Centre) for tertiary education. Year six students are into their transition program in preparation for their a secondary education and the kinder students are starting to prepare for their big change to primary school.

Parents can support students at all of these stages and those in between by talking with them about what they enjoy and how that may be built upon in the next phase of their journey. When students are encouraged to do their best, then they will be much more able to achieve their goals. This encouragement maybe through involvement in sports teams, ski programs, discussions about the news, be it local or national, study timetable, organising work experience or helping students attend open days at Universities. When more of these and similar types of activities are in place then we are able to see action that further supports the important three way relationships of home, school and student working together to get the best outcomes for each individual within the school.

We are constantly improving the resources and learning environment that we have for our students. Currently the BER program at Flagstaff is progress well with the significant work of wall removals completed and the plaster going up on Monday.

Please enjoy the newsletter. I think that there is a lot in it that we should all be very proud of.

Robert Boucher
SPORTS REPORT
The past couple of months have been very busy when it comes to the sports calendar. I hope the following summation gives readers a bit of an insight into what has occurred. I would like to apologise for the lateness of this report, but a technical glitch prevented it from appearing in the last monthly newsletter so I have updated it and hopefully you are now reading it in its entirety this month.

Tuesday 25th May - 12 students travelled to Lakes Entrance to compete in the Far East Gippsland Cross Country, run over a 3 kilometer course through the scenic undulations of Lakes Entrance finishing at the Secondary College. The team was made up of the following students, Elizabeth Richardson, Emma White, Tom Boucher-Hill, Benjamin Commins, Jack O’Connell, Tom Lawlor, Juliette Leighton, Airielle Wollmer, Rachel Cook, Tess George, Sharney Mitchell and Meg Gallagher. Congratulations to all our competitors for their efforts and sportsmanship on the day with a special mention to Emma, Ben, Jack, Tom Lawlor, Juliette and Meg who have all qualified for Southern Zone on 17th of June at Lardner Park. A big thank you to Lou Armit for her help and support on the day.

Tuesday 1st June - Two bus loads of students travelled once again to Lakes Entrance, this time to compete in the Far East Gippsland soccer/netball competition. Our year 8 girls badminton team would also have travelled with us but they have already progressed through to the next round.

Mother Nature turned on a spectacular day for us after 2 days of rain. We entered 4 netball teams - Year 7 girls, Year 8 girls, Year 9 /10 girls and Years 9/10 boys (that’s right boys), plus a year 8 boys soccer team which also included four year 7 boys to help make up the numbers. Results were mixed on the day with the year 7 girls winning against both Lakes and Orbost, the year 8 girls were defeated by Lakes, our year 9/10 girls won against Lakes but were defeated by Orbost and the year 9/10 boys (that’s right boys) were eventually defeated by Orbost while our soccer team put up a valiant effort before finally succumbing to Lakes in what was a highly competitive and entertaining match. As a result of all this our year 7 girls progress through to the next round along with the year 8 girls badminton team to be held in Sale on 16th of June. A special thank you to Suzanne De Vries-Fitzpatrick and Nicki Murphy for coaching on the day and also to Susie Grinter and Janine Gaunt for coming along to umpire for us.

Wednesday 16th June - Seven Year 7 netballers and five year 8 badminton players undertook the long haul to Sale to compete in the East Gippsland Winter Sports. Our netballers started the day in fine form convincingly beating Bairnsdale 25 goals to 5. Next task was Maffra where despite being competitive our girls fell a bit short of the mark going down 20 to 11 and then there was Sale who turned out to be a very strong unit, defeating our girls 19 to 4. Still a very strong showing from our girls who had to play all three games in a row without a break something I don’t think any other team had to do. Oh well, such is the nature of being one of the more remote schools. Meanwhile in another location in the thriving metropolis of Sale, the year 8 badminton team was having a very successful outing indeed convincingly beating Sale 6 sets to 0 thus qualifying for the Gippsland round to be held in Traralgon in August. Well done girls and we all wish you the the very best in the next round so keep on training. Many thanks to Nicki Murphy for coaching the netballers again and to Janine Gaunt for coming along and umpiring yet again.

Monday 21st June – After a decidedly early 6am start I had the distinct pleasure of travelling to Lardner Park with three of our students who were competing in the Southern Zone Cross Country, After leaving Swifts Creek in very cold and overcast conditions after overnight rain we were dreading the weather that the Warragul area might dish up, but worry not for once again the day turned out to be magnificent. Although competitors still had to run on a decidedly wet track. Our team of Emma White, Benjamin Commins and Meg Gallagher all put in very commendable efforts with Meg qualifying for the State Cross Country to be held at Bundoora Park early in term three. Good luck Meg and may you show them a clean pair of heels.
Tuesday 13th July- The holidays are over and Meg Gallagher’s first task for term 3 is to compete in the State Cross Country at Bundoora Park. Meg managed a creditable midfield finish under pleasant weather conditions on a course she informed me was indeed quite challenging due to many long inclines, congratulations Meg and thank you to Raymond for taking Meg on the day.

Wednesday 28th July- The big question is, what will the weather do for Aths day. After 25 years I’ve come to expect it to be either windy, cold, wet or all of the aforementioned in one day, so it was quite a surprise to have a frosty morning followed by a fairly pleasant day for the running of our annual Athletics Carnival. The competition was for our Secondary Students only as our primary students had already had their carnival earlier in the year. Due to structures further down the line we have not been able to combine for this event at this time although it was great to see a number of our primary students spectating during the day.

Once again it was fantastic to see the level of not only competition but also camaraderie and support for each other. It makes one realize what a great group of young people we get to work with. Congratulations to all who competed on the day, whether it was in one event or all possible events (as some students did). And now for the results. The house totals were - Wentworth in first place with 1049 points, Dargo second with 857 points and Timbarra third with 808 points. Group Champions for the day were Senior Girls – Emilka Firus on 82, Senior Boys- Brandon Betts on 110, Intermediate Girls-Danielle Ennis and Meg Gallagher tied on 75, Intermediate Boys – Brodie Cameron on 88, Junior Girls – Bonnie Fitzpatrick on 78, Junior Boys – Benjamin Commins 73. My thanks again must go to Janine Gaunt and Susie Grinter for helping me mark the ground and set up on Tuesday prior to the event.

Tuesday 10th August – Southern Zone Badminton, another early start another late finish another day of many kilometers travelled, such are the varagues of living in a remote community. Congratulations to Bonnie Fitzpatrick, Hannah Kennedy, Mariette Leighton and Brooke Pendergast who have now qualified for State Championships in this non mainstream sport, a feat accomplished by determination, lots of training and without doubt, loads of natural ability. To qualify for this level the girls defeated Drouin Secondary College 4-2, Leongatha Secondary College 5-1 and Lowanna College 4-2, an admirable effort considering the student population of these three schools compared to ours. Myself and the girls would like to thank Sue Alexander for driving, scoring, mentoring and looking after them on the day.

Friday 20th August – Today is the day to travel to Bairnsdale to compete in the East Gippsland Athletics Carnival. Weather check; windy and getting windier. We set out for Bairnsdale with a busload of enthusiastic students hoping that the wind might drop by the time we got there. Guess what, it didn’t! Oh well, on with the show. Competition was fierce all day and our students were extremely competitive despite the conditions (did I mention it was a trifle windy?). Unofficial results at this time indicate we have achieved eleven 1st placings, thirteen 2nd placings and eight 3rd placings, which should give us a team of eleven students qualified for the next round at Newborough in September. Congratulations to all students who competed on the day despite the prevailing conditions ( that’s right, remember those ever increasing winds). A big thank you to Andrea Shepherd and Sue Alexander for coming along and running the javelin pit and to John O’Neill for being the official starter, which allowed me to concentrate on our students and their schedule all day.

Wayne Gaunt
Sports Co-ordinator
This week’s social skill at Flagstaff is ‘Honesty. Classroom activities will focus on this skill and it will also be a focus for observations of positive student behaviour in the playground. Please discuss this social skill with your child at home.

Next week’s social skill is ‘Working and playing in teams’.

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Tips for Parents of Reluctant Readers. Would your child rather clean up their room than pick up a book? These tips can help you get your child back on the right reading track.

- If your child likes a movie, see if it’s based on a book, then bring home the book.
- For kids who have lost the motivation to read, use material that’s intensely interesting to them. Your child may almost have to disassociate what they are doing at school with the act of reading something for fun. Example...reading magazines, riddle books or hobby books.
SWIFTS CREEK SCHOOL COMMUNITY CONSULTATION—UNIFORM, LOGO AND MOTTO
You are invited to participate in a discussion about the future direction for our school uniform, logo and motto. This information will assist the school council to make an informed decision taking into account community input. You are welcome to attend this discussion which will take place in the library at Tambo Campus at 7.00pm on Tuesday the 31st August. If you have any questions, ideas or comments and are unable to attend please contact Anne O’Brien 5159 4342 or Pauline Canfield 5159 4267.

CHA CHA SAM
Students will participate in a special program ‘Cha Cha Sam’ as part of our school Resiliency program. On the 31st August some students from both campuses will have the opportunity to participate in song writing workshops. On the 1st of September Flagstaff students will participate in the Cha Cha Sam Concert at 10.00am. **Parents are welcome to attend also.**

GO FOR YOUR LIFE VAN
The ‘Go for Your Life Van’ will be visiting Swifts Creek on the 1st of September. Our students will participate in a variety of health related activities in the amphitheatre at Tambo Campus. This event follows the Cha Cha Sam concert in the morning. This will commence at 12.00 for Flagstaff Students.

FATHERS DAY STALL
Flagstaff Campus Father’s Day stall will take place on Friday the 3rd of September. We have a range of gifts available. Students are asked to bring no more than $10 to spend and will be able to purchase a maximum of two gifts. Students are asked to bring their money in a named envelope on the day.
Any Donations for the stall are appreciated.
Swifts Creek School Parent’s Group.

PARENTS MORNING TEA
**When:** Monday 11th September
**Time:** 9.30am
**Where:** Flagstaff Campus Library
**Who:** All parents from Swifts Creek School and Kindergarten Welcome.
Our next morning tea for parents is scheduled for 9.30 on Monday the 11th October.
An opportunity to meet other parents and have a coffee and a chat. If you have pre-school children please bring them along. We will set up some activities set up for them to do.
Year 8 at the Tambo Campus have been very busy rearing the two calves they have on loan from Ron Cornell at Clifton Creek. One calf is a freisian-holstein cross which we named Betty and the other, a lovely Jersey called Wendy.

Calves were delivered nearly three weeks ago and after a brief case of calf scours, each calf has put on approximately 10kg in weight.

Students have been responsible for their complete care, feeding and attention for the duration of the program. The level of responsibility shown by the students has been commendable. Some of the “phone trees” to ensure calves were fed on weekends demonstrates this responsibility and maturity displayed by the students. Families have also enjoyed feeding on weekends.

We were also visited by Bridget Kase from Riverlea Pty Ltd. Incidentally, Riverlea is Australia’s biggest pork producer. They supply Coles, Safeway and a significant proportion of butcher shops. They also manufacture a substantial market share of various stockfeeds.

Bridget’s insights into the dairy industry were very interesting as was her career path. Bridget also had a lot of very interesting things to tell us about pork, bacon and other smallgoods like ham! The slogan “get some aussie pork on your fork” now holds more meaning for all of us.

Calves return to their herd at Clifton Creek next week.

Students are in five teams for the project. Each team produces a selection of curriculum related assignments which are entered into the competition with other schools across the state.

On October 12th, we will travel to Bairnsdale for the Gippsland presentations. This over night excursion will involve students visiting Ron Cornell’s farm to learn how a regular dairy farm works.

We will also travel to Winnindoo where we will tour a completely robotic dairy and tour Murray Goulburn in Maffra where they mainly manufacture butter and powdered milk.

Thanks to staff at Tambo Campus for working around students being in and out of class due to feeding requirements. Thanks also to parents who were happy to help their children meet weekend feeding commitments.

Belinda Neville
Tambo Campus
Swifts Creek Football/Netball Club
Junior Awards Night
Friday 3rd September Albion Hotel 6pm
Carvery dinner. $5 children, $10 adults

Postie Fashions evening. Thursday 2nd September 7pm. 10% sales got to the club. Come early for a meal or a drink. The club made over $110 with the last visit. See the new Spring range of clothes. Enquiries to Annie Richardson 5159 4419

Senior Presentation night. Saturday 11th September at Albion Hotel. Details to follow.

Message from Gary Guitar
Gary will be at the Tambo Campus from now until the end of the term and therefore will have to put Friday guitar and ukulele lessons at Flagstaff on hold till next term. He will be giving lessons at lunchtime so if you’re interested and are on Tambo Campus ask for details.

Expressions of interest are being sought for local TAFE courses now!
Cert IV in Training and Assessment
Chainsaw
C.I.C. Industry Induction Card formerly “Red Card”
Certificate 1 in Information Technology modules:
  Word
  Excel
Horticulture:
  Vegetables – grow your own
  Improve the soil in your garden
  Sustainable gardening
  Build a Pizza Oven
  Install a micro irrigation system
For more information or an East Gippsland TAFE course guide 2010-2011
Contact Roslyn Smith, TAFE Outreach Coordinator, Swifts Creek on (03) 5159 4433 or rsmith@egtafe.vic.edu.au Courses are subject to numbers.
At assembly on Monday the 23rd August students participated in a book character parade. It was fabulous to see so many students and staff in costume and with great ideas for book characters.

The ‘Community Reading Event’ took place on Monday the 23rd August for grades 3 to 6 and Wednesday the 25th August for grades kindergarten, prep, one and 2. This involved students taking a walk in the community and community members reading them stories along the way. Our students had a fabulous time. A big Thank you to all the community members and students from Tambo campus who read to the students. This event would not have been possible without Rowena Turner who made this event a huge success for all involved. Thank you Rowena.

Grade 3/4s and some 5/6s had the opportunity to talk with the popular Australian Author, Jaqueline Harvey via our videoconferencing equipment. Thank you Barbara Napthine for organising this.

The Book Fair ran all week from Monday to Thursday. Thank you to all the families who purchased book in support of our school. 20% of money raised goes to purchasing books for Swifts Creek School.

Pauline Canfield
Assistant Principal
FLAGSTAFF BOOK FAIR PARADE

Ms Canfield & Mrs Grinter with Grade 5 & 6 Students

Mr Guerin with Grade 3 & 4 Students

Mr G & Mrs G with Prep, one & two Students
Year 7 Transition program

On Thursday the 19th of August grade 6 students from Omeo and Swifts Creek went to Tambo campus for the year 7 Transition program. Mr Boucher, Mrs Shepherd and Mrs Guerin told us about what we will be doing in year 7 and onwards. Mr Boucher produced a slide show for our benefit, showing what the school is capable of. We then had art with Miss Murphy and we made special passports for our Transition Day journey. We went to home economics where we cooked chocolate truffles with Mr Waine. That was a yummy experience. We then had PE with Mrs Guerin. She showed us around the gym and then we had a choice of sporting activities. Thank you very much to the staff who contributed to our time in Transition it was a great experience.

Daniel O’Brien and Brigette Roberts

Grade 5 visit from Omeo Primary School

While the grade 6 were having their Transition day the grade 5 students from Omeo PS came to spend the day with us. We did a range of activities together. This included teaching us how to use a Flip camera to make short video clips. We played maths games and we played slogger ball for sport together. It was a fun day where we got to work with other grade 5 students. Thank you to the staff who organised the day for us and thank you to Omeo Primary School for visiting. Next time we are going to visit Omeo Primary School.

Jarrod Bryant and Tim Armstrong.
LITERARY FESTIVAL COMES TO SWIFTS

Literary Festival comes to Swifts Creek

Students from Year 3 through to year 12 have had the opportunity to speak with some of Australia’s most popular writers this week. Through our videoconferencing equipment, we have been linked up with authors in Canberra, Sydney and Perth, and sometimes have shared the discussion with other students in New South Wales, Queensland and Wellington, New Zealand. On some occasions we have been the only school involved so our students have had direct and quite personal talks with the writers. Topics covered have included what makes a good story, where ideas for books come from, who designs the book covers and how to get a book published.

The authors and students involved were:
Laurie Wilson (journalist) with some Year 10, 11 and 12 students; Deb Fitzpatrick with Years 11 and 12; Kate Forsyth with Year 7; Jacqueline Harvey with Years 3-6; and Stephen Measday with Year 8.

Feedback about our students from the organisers was very positive, for example:
“Your students today were amazing! They were well spoken, and asked relevant and intelligent questions. You obviously have a great bunch of students!”

It is good to hear that books by these writers are now in high demand in our library.
Barbara Napthine
Assistant Principal

COMMUNITY READING EVENT

On Monday the 23rd of August, four Year 11 Students were given the opportunity to take part in the ‘Community Reading Event’. Kim Crabtree, Meg Gallagher, Danielle Ennis and Isabelle O’Brien read the Children Stories they had created for their VCE English course based around the theme of Australia to the Year 3/4/5/6.
Each story was different, but both the storytellers and the audience enjoyed the experience.
Skye Sheridan
Year 11 English teacher

Watch out for more photos of our community reading walk with the pre-school children in the next monthly newsletter.
On Wednesday, year 10 students investigated the Omeo Water Supply. The students visited the catchment at Butcher’s Creek and then the purification works at Omeo. This trip is part of an ongoing project on Water Issues in East Gippsland being undertaken by 5 students who are required to report on where and how the water supply of Omeo is sourced and processed.

These students meet every Thursday Morning in the Teleconferencing Centre to discuss various themes with students at Bairnsdale, Cann River and Orbost Secondary Schools. Visiting expert have been available to examine topics such as environmental flows - with Craig Ingram, the management of water and sustainability with Darren Chester and East Gippsland’s water supplies with Zoe Burnett. The students – Bryan Gray, Jack Diamond, Sharney Mitchell, Harry McCormick and Trent Heesom have also been taking regular samples of water from the Tambo River and posting the results on their website.

The project will continue until the end of October.

We are very grateful to EG Water -Zoe, Bryan and Verity, Darren Chester and Craig Ingram for their time and expertise.

Kate Commins
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SEPTEMBER 2010
SWIFTS CREEK SCHOOL