Newsletter
Swifts Creek School
October 2013

Courage  Joy  Kindness

Year 12

2013
Principal’s message

We had the pleasure of saying goodbye and good luck to our Year 12 students on Monday at the Big Breakfast. This day marks the end of formal classes for them as they now revise and prepare for their VCE exams which start with English today and conclude on November 19th. As we traditionally do, we also welcomed our incoming Year 7 students at the Breakfast.

Our Year 12 students who will be sitting the VCE exams have worked over the last thirteen years with the support of their parents, family and friends. With the assistance, guidance, care and diligence of many teachers over their time at school these students can look forward to the last stages of their compulsory educational journey. We trust that they going into the exams confident that they will be able to show what they know and what they can do, and be proud of the success they have earned.

The foundations for success on exam day are laid over many years, well before the end of secondary school is in sight. It is important that our younger students, who do not have the pleasure of the Year 12 exams just yet, are nonetheless thinking about this. They need to ensure that they are courageous enough to make the most of the learning opportunities presented to them. The reality of this is that all of our students must ensure that they work for their futures and don’t just live in the moment.

As I have said many times this year, the more you learn the more you know, and the greater your choices will be. People with many choices appear to be happy and to enjoy their lives. Ideally that would be what all of our students will work to achieve. Through the efforts and skills of all of our teachers, we can work with together for everyone to be the best they can be. For this to be a reality it means that students need to play their part, and work with their teachers, listening to instructions and advice, and completing tasks to the best of their ability. An attitude of “It’s done” will not bring maximum choices; “It’s my best effort” will bring those maximum choices.

A key aspects of being the best you can be as a student is learning not just about the school work, but also learning social skills, and developing an awareness of the responsibilities that society places on you as you progress from the early years to being an adolescent and on to being a young adult. Our school values of Courage, Joy and Kindness provide a great script for all members of our school community regardless of age. If you ever ask yourself the questions “Are my words kind to others? Am I spreading joy or distress by my actions?” and are not proud of your own answers to these questions, then the words or actions need to change so that there is no doubt in your mind - or the minds of others - that your words and actions are making the world a better place.

We all have responsibility to be courageous in our deeds to enable our school to be a place where everyone can be the best they can be in a joyous and kind environment where we work together to help each individual achieve their best, academically and socially.

Prep/1 with their new iPads
Year 11 Biology Fieldtrip to Werribee Zoo
On Monday the 14th of October, Year 11 Biology students attended Werribee Open Range Zoo to undertake a fieldwork study of their replanted Grassland Ecosystem. Students looked at the interaction between the living and non-living factors in the ecosystem and undertook quadrat studies of the grassland to estimate densities of species. In Victoria grassland ecosystems currently make up only an area of .5 % and have been reduced by 85% since 1750 due to farming and urban development. The area we studied was heavily fenced to house 5 Eastern Barred Bandicoots so that foxes and feral cats which prey on these Bandicoots could be kept away. The Zoo has a captive breeding program for the Eastern Barred Bandicoot as it is now considered extinct in the wild in Victoria. After our fieldwork, we had a safari bus tour of the open range where we were able to see Giraffes, Rhinos, Zebras and other endangered animals from across the world. Owing to inclement weather we had to cut short our visit to the Zoo earlier than expected, but we were able to take an educational walk around inside the historical Werribee Mansion next door. Thanks to Darcey, Hannah, Brooke, Bonnie, Samantha and Amy for a very enjoyable fieldtrip.

Caroline’s Deaf Sports Day
On Thursday 24th October I went to Melbourne for the Deaf Sports Day. I met deaf children from Shepparton School. I met Pearl from Shepparton. She is the same age as me. I was second in 100 metres Sprint. I was fourth in long jump. I am happy I got two ribbons. I enjoyed the sports, I think I will want go to deaf sports again next year 2014. The Shepparton school won the sports day and I was in that school group. Here is a picture you can see what I doing in sports.
By Caroline Firus.
**Adamoriginal performance**

Adam Hill, a Dhungatti Aboriginal artist, visited Swifts Creek recently to share his talents and his stories with us.

Adam combined details of his own life story with traditional story telling. He made us laugh as we learnt about the music and traditions of three Aboriginal tribes from different parts of Australia. Adam demonstrated the complex “Tongue Talk” techniques and various playing styles with the Yidaki (didgeridoo), and then finished with a display of his basketball prowess.

It was great to see students big and small so engaged with the learning Adam offered.

**Agriculture.**

Three students are studying Agriculture at VCE level; Brooke Pendergast, Darcey Boucher-Hill and Jess Marshall.

Early in the year the 3 girls selected and purchased 4 Hereford heifers at the Ensay Calf Sales for a class project. The girls planned to join these and raise their calves for sale, or to retain them, if they were female. The cattle project has been central to learning about ruminant digestion, nutrition, pastures, and soils.

The heifers were vetted empty by Tim Faithful, who later came back and gave the cows prostaglandin injections to bring them into season. Tim and the girls took the SIDRs out and the cows were given AI later in the week. After close observation it was suspected that one heifer was back in season so a bull was brought in to make sure that all were pregnant. The cows will calve early in March.

Brooke Pendergast has gone on to set up a pig breeding project at Benambra, intending to sell piglets before Christmas. Darcey and Jess regularly monitor the cattle, watching for bloat and ensuring that their girls are doing well. Next week they will be spraying the weeds, especially thistles which are becoming a problem.

This week Leo Hamilton is coming to advise the class about agronomy and draw up a plan for the pastures at the back of the school to ensure that there will be a strategy for pasture improvement to ensure good feed in the future.

The school purchased a set of Ruddweigh scales in 2004. Unfortunately half of these very expensive scales has disappeared. If any has heard of its whereabouts or even has a set of old scales which we could salvage half of…. - that would be wonderful.
State Athletics

Over the last two weeks we have had students from both Tambo and Flagstaff compete at State Athletics. Cody Graske and Melinda Armstrong both participated in the School Sport Victoria State finals for track and field Secondary while Jai Hayward and Catherine O’Brien competed in the Primary competition. Melinda came home with a 5th placing in high jump and 7th placing in discus and javelin. Cody placed 7th in discus. Catherine and Jai both competed in discus, Jai placing 6th and Catherine placing 7th. Jai competed and placed 9th in shot put.

We are very proud of each of the student’s achievements and know that competing at this level will only help them to set their goals in order to get there again next year. Well done to all of you and a very special thank you to your parents who travelled to Melbourne to be there with you on the day.

Susie Grinter

Our first Year 12 VCE Studio Arts class embarked on an excursion to Melbourne late last term. Whilst in Melbourne students were encouraged to embrace and discuss an array of art works. A city walk lead them through one of the most famous street art lanes in the world, Hosier Lane. Later, students were given an introductory talk about Claude Monet’s style, history and inspirations at the Monet’s Garden exhibition. Students experienced a range of gallery spaces from public to artist run spaces. A final stop at the LaTrobe Regional Art Gallery offered the students more insight to the requirements of their upcoming exams.

Nikki Murphy
Year 9 say Goodbye to TYPO

Swifts Creek Year 9 spent the week of 21-25th October at Typo Station in the King Valley for the 3rd – and sadly – last time this year.

After a short stop in Bright en-route to the Station, where the highly mature Year 9 males purchased their obligatory cuddly toy from the OP Shop – Michael and Tyler just can’t sleep without one, we arrived at Typo in mid-afternoon, just in time for some fishing.

The class were responsible for planning the week’s activities and had pencilled in a number of outdoor pursuits as well as the tradition of ‘giving back to Typo’ community work at the Station.

Giving back to Typo involved the demolition of the not much missed original shower block where a hot shower was a mere
pipe dream - unlike the new super duper modern block where a hot shower is a bit of a nightmare – (it can only last 3 mins at the most).

Tuesday saw us riding down the King River in sleds and canoes – and on Wednesday we experienced what Typo Staff call ‘solo bush time’ a few hours of solitude in the most perfect rural setting.

As it transpired, the wind was so ferocious the planned abseil had to be abandoned on safety grounds but this did result in an impromptu hike to Paradise Falls and an extended camp out back at Typo where Kyle AKA ‘The Creepster’ proved himself to be Swifts Creek’s answer to George Clooney – in the eyes of the girls undertaking work experience at the Station at any rate.

All in all another great week – thanks to all concerned, especially Matt the Chef, Ari, Lachie, Rod O’Connell, Sue and Jackie.

Gary Johnston Year 9 HG Teacher
Air Pollution and Asthma
School age students and young children with asthma can often have breathing difficulties when exposed to air pollution. Air pollution can occur:
Outdoors – smog (made up of nitrogen oxides and ozone), bushfires, cigarette smoke.
Indoors – formaldehydes/resins (some building materials), volatile organic compounds (found in paints, furniture, cleaning products), cigarette smoke, poorly maintained gas appliances.
The most important way to reduce the impact of air pollution on your child’s asthma to avoid the pollutant completely if possible.
   Stay indoors on high smog days, close windows and external doors
   Make sure you have a bush-fire plan if you live in a bushfire prone area
   Make sure your child’s asthma is well controlled and that you and your child know what to do if their asthma gets worse
   Make sure your gas appliances are serviced regularly by a registered or licensed gasfitter and that there is adequate ventilation in rooms containing gas appliances
   Choose building items, furniture, paints and wood items that are certified to emit low levels of formaldehyde and volatile organic compounds.
For more information about air pollution and asthma, contact The Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 ASTHMA (278 462) or visit www.asthma.org.au.
The Country Women’s Association of Victoria Inc

The Country Women’s Association is a non-party political and non-sectarian organisation, for country and city women everywhere. Our focus is on providing opportunities for friendship, personal development and advocacy in support of relevant social issues.

CWA of Victoria is in tune with the needs of women today and all issues which affect women and their families, local district, towns and the State.

All women and girls of all ages are welcome.

INFORMATION NIGHT

WHEN: 11th NOVEMBER 2013
WHERE: OMEO HOSPITAL
        MEETING ROOM
TIME: MONDAY 7.30 P.M.

FRIENDSHIP, PERFORMING ARTS, SOCIAL ISSUES, COMMUNITY SERVICE, CREATIVE ARTS, PHOTOGRAPHY, PUBLIC SPEAKING, SCHOLARSHIPS ETC.
# November 2013
Swifts Creek School

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- 5/6 Camp
- Yr 11 Work Experience

**Further Events**

- **Dec 2nd-6th** Year 10 Work Experience
- **Dec 6th**—Pupil Free Day
- **Dec 3rd**—School Council
- **Dec 18th**—Celebration Night

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