Newsletter
Swifts Creek School
June 2014

Everyone learning to be the best they can be, academically and as global citizens. We will succeed together by showing:

Courage  Joy  Kindness

Ag/Hort Heifers

Woodwork display at the Gallery

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Principal’s Report

What a term. We have been busy, busy. No doubt when the reports come home in the mail next week both students and parents will be pleased and excited with the learning that has gone on. In the reports there are many strategies for success to improve student learning outcomes. It is most important that each student takes the time to read, understand and then, next term, implement these.

We have had a number of our previous students talk at our assemblies this semester. They have all had a common message to share with students even though they are all doing different things, which is that diaries are important tools, not just when you are at school but also out in the real world. They help you organise yourself so that you are not trying to do too much at the last minute or not meeting set deadlines.

As a school we often provide opportunities for students beyond the classroom. These are designed for each student to develop important employability skills such as teamwork, cooperation, independence and adaptability. Through these you are able to develop the skills that will help you to fit into your different settings beyond school.

Being grumpy is easy, but if you are grumpy to others that is how they will treat you, so maybe it is better that you are kind to others; and if that is a bit tricky, then you need to ensure that you are treating people the way that you would like to be treated.

Once you start work or are at Uni, if you are not sure about what you have to do you need to ask. Sometimes this may mean asking in a few different ways until you are able to understand the expectations of you. When you seek clarification everyone benefits and everyone is happy to help you because no one, especially your boss, wants you doing something wrong or dangerous.

It is easy to learn a little each day and get a bit better. If you not careful you can get really busy and forget to recognise the new thing you can do well, or that others value your contribution. So make sure that you do stop and celebrate, sharing the joy of your achievements with others.

In summary

1 Use your diary
2 Take up the opportunities presented to you
3 If you are kind to others, that’s how they will treat you
4 Sometimes you just have to be brave; courageous people seem to enjoy themselves more.

Flagstaff Campus Rewards Day—TOMORROW

Flagstaff Campus will be going on a bike ride around the back road of Swifts Creek tomorrow, Friday 27th. Please bring your bike to school with working brakes, pumped up tyres and your helmet. If you do not wish to ride, Miss Canfield will be walking with those who choose not to ride. Parents are most welcome to attend.
**Reading Tips**

Building Your Child’s Vocabulary

There are easy, non-threatening ways to get new words into everyday talk. To introduce new words, keep the following four helpful hints in mind:

- First, provide a simple, kid-friendly definition for the new word: *Enormous means that something is really, really big.*

- Second, provide a simple, kid-friendly example that makes sense within their daily life: *Remember that really big watermelon we got at the grocery store? That was an enormous watermelon!*

- Third, encourage your child to develop their own example: *What enormous thing can you think of? The bulldozer near the park was enormous!*

Lastly, keep your new words active within your house.

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**MUNA**

Recently Tom Boucher-Hill, of Year 11, attended MUNA. MUNA stands for Model United Nations Assembly. MUNA simulates the workings of the U.N. Assembly by having teams of students represent a particular U.N. country in debates on matters of world political and social concern. Tom chose to represent Germany.

Tom travelled to Neerim South for a weekend of MUNA. He said it was a really interesting experience to meet other young Gippslanders with similar interests, and to learn more about the workings of the UN. Tom attended MUNA thanks to support from the Mitchell River Rotary Club.

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**Thank You**

Thank you to all that sent in the mast heads from the Herald sun. We have now entered to win $10,000. The winner will be in July 3rd Herald Sun. A very special thank you to staff at Darby’s for helping us collect the mastheads. The total was 168.

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**Farewell from Gary**

After nearly 5 years in Swifts Creek and 3½ at Swifts Creek School, I’ve decided it’s time to strike out for pastures new.

I’ve had an amazing time here, particularly so since originally I really intended only coming up for the weekend! To all the students, staff, parents and members of the wider school community with whom I’ve come into contact over the time, I’d like to extend a hearty thanks and wishes for a happy and healthy future.

In the short term I’ll be going to Brazil to follow the magnificent spectacle of the World Cup and after that who knows? Maybe we’ll see each other in the future but if not, good luck and – as we say in Scotland – ‘lang may yer lum reek’.
Melbourne Camp

The Outdoor Education applied learning class piled into the mini bus on a sunny May morning bound for Melbourne. Our first stop after a quick lunch was Bounce INC (a trampoline facility) because everyone wants to fly through the air and bounce off walls after a long bus trip. We had an hour to perfect our aerial sports techniques on a variety of trampolines. There were many back flips, front flips, and trampoline relay races followed by a game of trampoline dodge ball. Unfortunately our airborne adrenaline rush had to come to an end. We made our way to our accommodation at YHA North Melbourne where we were settled in. Our rooftop meeting point boasted an amazing city view. For dinner we headed to the Abbotsford convent and ate at a restaurant called Lentil as Anything which is a not for profit organisation where guests contribute what they feel their meal and experience is worth, according to their own financial ability. This was a new experience for the majority of students and staff however the food, experience and atmosphere was great.

After an early wakeup call and breakfast we made our way to the Royal Botanic Gardens where we had a lesson on climate change and carbon features. The students were able to measure soft, hard and rainforest wood to determine how much carbon dioxide is stored in each tree. We learnt how the carbon cycle and plants can help moderate climate change. The afternoon activity was rowing at the Essendon rowing club on the Maribyrnong River. Groups were formed and techniques mastered on the ergo rowing machines. The boys were the first to try their skills in the boats of four while the girls played the ‘fish game’ on the stationary rowing machines. After some practice and technique mastering boats soared past the club house. The crews worked well as a team and communicated with their cox to make their movement fluid. Mercadante on Lygon Street was our dinner location for our final night on camp. The restaurant owner kept the meal interesting with his antics throughout the meal. Rock Climbing concluded the days’ activities.

Only a handful of the students had experienced rock climbing before. It was a great experience and they picked it up quickly. Some of the students were able to Spiderman up the climbing wall with no fear, others were a little hesitant at first; however, they all challenged themselves and achieved a goal they set for themselves.

Our final day arrived just as we had begun to settle into camp life. Breakfast and pack up were followed by our last activity, a two hour regaining adventure around the CBD of Melbourne. Students were broken into five groups and provided with a map and clues for landmarks with in the city. Each group had to navigate the city and collect evidence throughout. A few groups were able to navigate the city well and covered a lot of ground. Overall a great experience was had by all.
Too Many Elephants in this House.

In Eric’s house there were too many elephants - in the living room, in the kitchen, in the bathroom, even in his bedroom! The elephants take up a lot of space, but Eric loves every one of them. So when his mum says they have to go, Eric comes up with a clever solution to a very BIG problem...

This was the case recently when the Year Eights from the Swifts Creek School presented ‘Too Many Elephants in this House’ by Ursula Dubosarsky to celebrate National Simultaneous Storytime in the High Country. This is the sixth year they have performed at both Omeo Primary School and Swifts Creek School and once again they thrilled the audience with a lively and entertaining play which was enjoyed and appreciated by all in attendance.

Wearing the costumes the students had created, they took on their chosen character persona with ease. They were funny and animated, as they played out the tale about imagination, compromise and learning that if we think hard there is always a solution to a problem.

Many parents took the opportunity to come along and enjoy the story and it was great to see such a wide range of ages involved, from babies and toddlers, kindergarten students through to Swifts Creek Flagstaff Campus prep to year six students. Just as professional as the costumes they made, were the elephant biscuits the Year 8’s had prepared fresh from the food room to share with the audience.

Following the storytime and morning tea, the Year 8 students then interacted with the pre-schoolers, helping them colour and cut out an elephant jigsaw puzzle each. They also received an elephant sticker as they returned to kindergarten and school. Participating families were given a copy of “Too many elephants in this house’ book to take and re-live the story in their home environment.

Schools as Hubs Coordinator Rowena Turner said, “National Simultaneous Storytime aims to celebrate and acknowledge the vital work being done in libraries, schools and communities around Australia to promote and develop young people’s literacy awareness and skills. It was terrific to see students and families from the High Country join in with the event which had registered organisations reading the picture book “Too Many Elephants In This House” to more than 400,000 children across Australia.”

This was an extremely valuable learning opportunity for all students to experience. The younger students were both delighted and inspired by seeing their older peers engaged in a story, and this highlights the importance of all ages reading in a fun and enjoyable environment. Thank you to the Year Eights and their teacher Sarah Carr, for their valuable involvement in celebrating the National Simultaneous Storytime for 2014.
Education Maintenance Allowance

Information about changes to Education Maintenance Allowance as a result of the School Reform Agreement made between the Victorian Government and Commonwealth Government.

What is EMA?
The Education Maintenance Allowance currently provides financial assistance to low-income families to help meet costs associated with the education of their children.

How it is paid?
Parents can currently elect to have their EMA paid in one of the following ways:
- paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into the parent’s bank account; or
- paid directly to the school to be held as credit which the parent can use towards education expenses; or
- paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

In 2013 over 70 per cent of parents receiving the EMA chose to have their EMA paid directly to their school. Each school would then use the funds for a range of expenses for that child.

Who is eligible?
The EMA currently provides financial assistance to Victorian families on a low income to help with the cost of educational items such as textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions.

It is a means-tested payment - parents must hold a Centrelink or Veterans Affairs concession card to be eligible.

What is changing?
In the recent School Reform agreement signed with the Commonwealth, the Victorian Government has changed the way it helps low income families with education expenses.

From 2015, the Government will distribute the funds previously used for the EMA directly to schools. DEECD will develop the arrangements to be used to distribute these funds to schools – consultation will occur with stakeholders about this.

Why?
Under the recent School Funding Reform an additional $12.2 billion will be allocated to Victorian schools.

Will my child be worse off?
No. Education funding for children will increase but will be delivered to your child in a new way through their school. The new agreement provides that schools with the most vulnerable students will receive the funding they need.

The students who will benefit the most from this funding agreement are those who are the most vulnerable.
At the start of 2013 we had to establish an agricultural or horticultural business to run throughout our two year Ag Hort class. We decided to breed beef cattle, because this is what we were interested in. We have the facilities available down the back of the school and have access to hay and services. We began the year by purchasing 4 heifers from Kate and Bruce Commins.

After the cattle were settled in down on the 4 acres at the back of the school, we organised Tim Faithfull to come and AI them, this involved giving them a series of injections over a certain period of time. We gained a lot of knowledge from this as we were able to do some of it ourselves, like giving them some of their injections and pulling out the seeders that are made up of a silicone/progesterone matrix, that is designed for the release of progesterone. Once they were all in sync, they were AI’ed and were also put out with a bull, which was a low birth weight Hereford bull, from Barry Newcomen, just to be certain.

Nine months went by and about a week after the cows due date we got Tim Faithfull to preg test them and we found out that only 3 were in calf. We had some idea before that, but after being preg tested we were then certain and are now able to sell her.

All of the 3 heifers that were in calf, calved easily and did not need any assistance what so ever. Our final outcome was 2 heifers and 1 bull calf. They will all be sold at the end of the year, along with the cows, that will be preg tested in calf (hopefully).

We have had to feed out quite a lot of hay, which we would kindly like to thank, Mr Boucher, Bill Batty, Darryl Gallagher and Mick for either donating or selling us their fine hay. We greatly appreciated it and so did the cows. Overall breeding these cattle have been a lot of fun and a great learning opportunity, and we look forward to doing it for the rest of the year and maybe after that.

Jess & Darcey
Dental Checks

Winter Sports
Cross-Country at Lardner Park Warragul

Yabbies visit 3/4 classroom

Middle Years
Pupil Free Day

Yesterday we were at work whilst our students enjoyed a day away from their learning. We had over seventy participants from nine different schools across the Cluster to listen to a presentation from Wayne Craig. Wayne was a Principal and is a former Regional Director who now works for an international company providing advice and direction around the world on education.

The following slides are a selection of what we viewed yesterday. These give a quick snapshot into what was covered during the day. The summary of the information is that the world in which we are operating is changing rapidly and that it will continue to change. The skills and knowledge that our current students will require to be effective in this changing world requires that what we do in schools must be done differently to meet these demands. As educators we are going to be equipping students for jobs that do not currently exist so we need to continue to reform our practice to allow for this to occur. This transformation takes time and will be a long term process.

Robert Boucher
THE KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY: The demand for skills has changed

The dilemma for schools: The skills that are easiest to teach and test are also the ones that are easiest to digitise, automate, and outsource.

IMPROVING OUTCOMES

Attendance and Retention
High Expectations
Inquiry Focus

Content Knowledge
Pedagogic Knowledge

Parent & Community Relations
Structures & Processes

Achievement

PATHWAYS & TRANSITIONS

Authentic Relationships
Classroom Climate
Support

Structures & Processes
School Climate
Authentic Relationships
Partnerships
Classroom Focus

Whole School
Teacher
Whole School/ Teacher

TRANSFORMATION

Sustained, significant and systematic change that secures success for all students in all settings.
NEW BOOKS
@ Tambo Campus

ALEXANDER ALTMANN A10567
SUZY ZAIL
Inspired by a true story, this is the tale of a young Jewish boy who must learn to trust others to survive. Fourteen year-old Alexander Altmann doesn’t need to look at the number tattooed on his arm. A10567: he knows it by heart. He also knows that to survive Auschwitz, he has to toughen up. When he is given the job of breaking in the commander’s new horse, boy and beast’s survival becomes intertwined. Alexander knows the animal is scared and damaged, but he must win its trust. If he fails, they will both be killed.

CROSSING
CATHERINE NORTON
Cara lives with her parents and her younger sister. When Cara’s parents have to leave for a month on Government business, they leave Cara in charge of the household. It is challenging and lonely for Cara and she suffers a crisis of faith in the system and government that she has been taught her whole life to serve with full devotion. The grey view from her window of the Wall which separates her homeland from the country of which it was once a part, is echoed by the greyness in her thoughts. As the story progresses, Cara comes to see that the Wall is more than just a physical barrier and that she is the only person who can decide how much of a mental barrier she allows it to be.

SHADOW SISTER (Dragonkeeper Book 5)
CAROLE WILKINSON
Tao is learning to be a dragonkeeper. With no-one to teach him, it is not easy. He must keep Kai safe but there is danger at every turn – they are pursued by a gang of murderous nomads, tricked by unseen spirits, attacked by a giant seven-headed snake and disoriented in the realms of the dead. Most terrifying of all is the ghost who can turn blood into ice. Tao knows he must prove he is truly worthy of the name dragonkeeper. But the road west is never straight and nothing for Tao and Kai is what it seems.

THE HAUNTING OF LILY FROST
NOVA WEETMAN
When Lily’s parents decide to move to the country, she is angry and fearful of losing touch with her best friend Ruby. But something about the old house they move into lures her to the attic. A feeling. A presence. A spirit. And then Lily learns that she is living in the house of missing teenager, Matilda – or Tilly, as her friends knew her. Lily tries to uncover the truth behind Tilly’s disappearance as she cannot escape the feeling that something – or someone – is trying to tell her something. Is she being haunted by Tilly’s ghost or is it all in her imagination?

THE OTHER SIDE OF NOWHERE
STEVE JOHNSTON
When Nick organises a sailing trip to Lion Island with his friend Johnno, Johnno’s brother Matt and their cousin George, everything goes wrong. A freak storm hits the yacht. The boat is destroyed and the four friends nearly drown trying to reach the safety of a beach on Lion Island. Johnno and his friends soon discover they are sharing the island with some dangerous men. When the men take Matt hostage, Johnno and the others launch a high-risk rescue mission through the inside of a cliff to the cave where Matt is being held. But when Johnno reaches Matt, he finds the goods the dangerous men are smuggling: people. With other lives now in the balance, Johnno and his friends embark on a raft of daring escapes and explosive tactics to outwit the traffickers.
PANDORA JONES: ADMISSION
BARRY JONSBerg
Pandora Jones wakes up to a morning like any other. Then her substitute teacher dies of a coughing fit in front of her and within eight hours everyone she knows is dead and the city has become a graveyard. Two months later, she wakes from a coma and discovers herself in The School, a mysterious and secluded compound where four hundred students are enrolled in a course focused on survival. She is told it wasn’t just Melbourne that died, but the whole world. Pandora and her fellow students are the only hope for the survival of humanity. But Pandora has strange dreams that don’t fit in with her memories of what happened in the outside world. It becomes clear to her that The School is not telling the students the whole story. Pandora is determined to discover the truth.

THE ADVENTURES OF SIR RODERICK THE NOT-VERY BRAVE (for subscribers only)
JAMES O’LOGHLIN
When Queen Emily sends her knights on a grand mission, Sir Roderick reluctantly ventures beyond the Forest of Gilderang to the Circle of Mountains, home to the most feared creatures in the world – giant cockroaches. En route, he meets an invisible girl, a talking bear and the most famous sorcerer in the land. When war threatens, Roderick must choose between a chance for glory and doing what’s right. Themes include courage, self-belief, problem solving, leadership, family, friends, morality and power.

WHERE THE ROCK SPLITS THE SKY
PHILIP WEBB
In a land where it is permanently dusk, Megan wonders what it would have been like for her all those years ago, when the Earth still spun on its axis. Hotly pursued by the mysterious ‘Jethro Gang’, Megan and her best friend Luis head off to track down Megan’s missing father, who is thought to have disappeared in the Zone – a vast area in the American mid-west in which machines no longer work, whole towns defy gravity and invisible forces have a stranglehold on the inhabitants. Megan and her companions make their way through the Zone, encountering an array of characters, each in their own way affected by conditions in the Zone. Using the tracking skills passed down from her father and listening to the ‘quivers’ she is attuned to, Megan negotiates this hostile terrain in order to find her father. But, unbeknown to her, Megan is also racing toward her date with destiny, one that will reveal the truth about who she really is.

FIRE & FLOOD
VICTORIA SCOTT
Tella Holloway is losing it. Her brother is sick and when a dozen doctors can’t determine what’s wrong, her parents decide to move to Montana for the fresh air. She’s lost her friends, her parents are driving her crazy, her brother is dying – and she’s helpless to change anything. Until she receives mysterious instructions on how to become a contender in the Brimstone Bleed. It’s an epic race across jungle, desert, ocean and mountain that could win her the prize she desperately desires: a cure for her brother’s illness. But all the contenders are after the Cure for people they love and there’s no guarantee that Tella (or any of them) will survive the race. The jungle is terrifying, the clock is ticking and Tella knows she can’t trust the allies she makes. And one big question emerges: Why have so many fallen sick in the first place?
**Careers Report**

Already in 2014 students have been involved in a number of career related activities. These have included: Year 10 Work Experience, the Inspiring Young Women’s Event, the Bairnsdale Career Expo, the VCE Camp and the Tertiary Information Service Day. In the next few months Year 12 students will be using the information gleaned from these experiences to apply for tertiary study either in Victoria or interstate.

On VCE Camp, students visited Charles Sturt University Thurooona Campus, Latrobe University Albury-Wodonga Campus and Wodonga TAFE as part of their two year orientation of different tertiary institutions. The intention of these visits is to provide students with a broad range of experiences so that they can then make informed decisions about possible future career pathways.

For Year 12 students this was followed up with a Tertiary Information Service Day in Bairnsdale in May where the application process for Tertiary Study was explained, as well as possible future pathways. The importance of researching courses, scholarships and accommodation was emphasised, as was attending Open Days. There was a broad cross section of tertiary providers present and students were encouraged to ask as many questions as possible about courses of interest to them. These visits will assist Year 12 students in the next few months when they are applying for tertiary studies in August and September, after receiving their VTAC (Victorian Tertiary Admission Centre) Guides at the end of July.

It is important that students, including Years 10 and 11, attend Open Days in August and September to find out course information, accommodation options and to see if they would enjoy studying at these institutions. The dates for these Open Days can be found at this website: [http://vtac.edu.au/opendays.html](http://vtac.edu.au/opendays.html). Students and parents should be planning now which Open Days to attend as they can occur on consecutive weekends during the Netball/Football Season and involve a considerable amount of travel. Year 10 and 11 students should also plan their Open Days over a few years to avoid spending a lot of time attending Open Days in Year 12 when they have a heavy work load.

Year 12 students, in addition to completing their VTAC application by the 30th of August, will need to complete a Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS) application by the 7th of October and a Scholarship application by the 17th of October. Students wishing to apply interstate need to make another application to the relevant organisation for that state. For example, UAC in New South Wales, or QTAC for Queensland. Hence next term will be very busy for our Year 12 students as additional paperwork may need to be sent to support these applications which may be financial or medical in nature. Students need to be well informed and organised in order to meet these deadlines to avoid being disadvantaged.

Suzanne de Vries-Fitzpatrick

Careers Coordinator.
Film Screening
‘Khumba’

Follow Khumba’s quest to earn his stripes

This South African animated comedy film follows the journey of a Zebra born with stripes on his front half only. Shunned by the rest of the herd who think he is cursed and the cause of the drought, Khumba embarks on a journey to find a water hole and get his stripes.

The screening is for children aged between 5 and 12.

Popcorn and drinks will be provided.

Monday 7 July
Omeo Service Centre
2.00 pm – 3.30 pm

Bookings essential.
Phone 5152 4225 or book in person at the library for this FREE event.
## July 2014
### Swifts Creek School

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### Further Events
- **August 5, 11, 19, 28th**: Snow Program
- **Sept 19th**: Last Day Term 3

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