From the Principal

As we are finishing off the semester of learning, it is often a time to reflect on what has been achieved, the things that have limited our success as well as celebrate our achievements. I always find it interesting to speak to our past graduates about their schooling and ask them what they remember. Often their memories of school are those “special days”, stories about camps, sporting carnivals, excursion or memories about hearing a motivational teacher or speaker and how it inspired them.

As a College we believe it is important to have a range of activities that enhance and support students learning both within and outside the Classroom. Learning can occur in a classroom but real life experiences do make a difference to a young person’s perceptions of the world and themselves. There has been over 45 day of learning outside of the ‘classroom’ at the school already this term. This has included camps, excursions to Art Galleries, United Nations Forums, Cyber safety workshops, Range of sports including Soccer, Netball Fun Runs and Cross Country, Justice Department presentations, Science Excursions and Hospitality excursions to local café’s. It is through these types of activities that the curriculum comes alive for students. They have the opportunity to apply and expand their learning in a different context and situation. To hear from Community members and experts about their personal experiences motivates and inspires students to consider their knowledge and future directions. I hope that you follow up with your child regarding these activities and hear how they have supported them in their Learning.
Grief, Loss and Bereavement

Following the loss of someone close, most people will experience grief and sadness. The death of a young person, like Demi Jovanovich, that is sudden, unexpected and a result of her taking her own life can, however, add a whole range of additional responses. These responses could include such feelings such as confusion, frustration, guilt and anger. These reactions can be particularly difficult for young people.

We are aware that the majority of students at CSC have not been directly affected by Demi’s death and that most of those who are will, with time, be able to work through their grief and carry on with their lives. For the sake of all students and their families we have focused on the reassurance and security that can come with a normal, familiar routine. Even so, we would like to reassure parents that we are continuing to monitor our students at CSC and that we have implemented a range of support options and activities (see previous letters and emails sent over the past few weeks).

Young people respond best to other young people, so we have asked our students to be supportive of their peers and to take note of those they feel may need any extra support. It is very important that young people keep an eye on each other and speak up to adults if they have concerns about others, or themselves.

We would also encourage parents and families to be watchful and responsive to the young people in their lives over the next days, weeks and even months. There can be many possible signs that something may be wrong – these can include changes in behaviour, a loss of interest in events and people around them, difficulty concentrating, persistent feelings of anger or resentment or persistent changes in sleeping and eating patterns. Should you have any concerns about a person, don’t be scared to ask them. Offer them the chance to ask any questions they may have. This is particularly important if they attended the funeral and it was their first experience of a funeral. If they don’t want to talk now or to you (they are adolescents!) encourage them to talk to a responsible peer or another adult. If your concerns persist, seek advice from the school.

The impact of a death by suicide can be far reaching for a community, so we have also organised an information session for parents and members of the community that will be held at the Blakeley Rd Campus Wellbeing Building on Wednesday 28 May at 7.00pm. We hope that this will help people to better understand suicide and provide ideas for supporting those who may be at risk, or have been affected.

Cybersafety sessions were also held for all students from Years 7 -11 and interested parents last week, and these sessions included useful advice about responding to the social media content which is sometimes generated in the aftermath of a tragedy. For more information about the advice offered at these seminars, please refer to the Cybersmart website (http://www.cybersmart.gov.au).

We hope that this information is useful and encourage anyone who has questions or concerns to contact the school. Additional support material is also available if required.

Paul Frye
Assistant Principal – Student Engagement and Wellbeing

MAKINGtheLINK

Castlemaine Secondary College has partnered with Turning Point and Monash University to introduce the MAKINGtheLINK health education program to the year 9 curriculum.

The program teaches young people to link their friends up with professional help if they are concerned they may be developing a mental health or substance use problem. While there are many health education programs that are effective in improving young people’s knowledge of mental health and substance use, there is no other program that explores the barriers to helping a friend, teaches students the skills necessary to overcome these barriers, and assists them to facilitate professional help-seeking.

Turning Point has received funding from the Commonwealth Government to trial the program in several Victorian schools. Castlemaine Secondary College is one of these schools. In order to trial the efficacy of the program, year 9 students will complete 4 online surveys over the course of the year in order to gain information about their current help seeking strategies.

You can find more information about the program and the related surveys here: http://www.turningpoint.org.au/Education/infosheet.aspx
Library News


June 16 – 20’s Literature Week at Castlemaine Secondary College. There will be visiting authors, literature-based workshops, film viewings, competitions and more.

As part of the celebrations we are running a **FLASH FICTION WRITING COMPETITION**

Student can write their own SHORT, SHORT story and be in the running for some great prizes.

Choose from any theme, idea, genre you like.

Maximum word length is 200 words.

Separate winners will be announced for each year level (if enough entries).

Entries must be typed.

Each entry must have a title (not included in word count).

Competition closes Monday 16th June.

*Entries to be submitted to Ms McDonald in the Library.*

A student in profile:

**Name:** Tamara  
**Year level:** 9

**What book are you reading now?** Monsters of men by Patrick Ness

**What was the last book you read?** Cosi by Louis Nowra

**What do you like about reading, or why do you think it is important?**

I like the fact that reading helps with all areas of education and that because of how many actual books and texts there are to read, it is near impossible to get bored with reading.

A staff member in profile:

**Name:** Melanie Mitchell  
**Subjects taught:** FLO – Flexible Learning Options Coordinator

**What book are you reading?** Coal Creek by Alex Miller – local author

**What was the last book you read?** The Rosie Project by Graeme Simsion

**What do you like about reading, or why do you think it is important?**

Reading is a strategy I use to switch off from my day. I love reading for many reasons. I learn about things which interest me, it creates distraction from my work, I increase my vocabulary and it challenges the way that I view things.

I do have a passion for reading Australian authors of which there is a plethora: My most favourite author is Tim Winton who depicts everyday people and their extraordinary lives. My love for books will never diminish.

College Fees and Subject Contributions

The Castlemaine Secondary College Council works hard to ensure that Parent fees and contributions are kept to a minimum. In order to ensure that this can continue and that student continue to have access to the broad curriculum that the College offers, it is important that parents understand the importance of timely payment for agreed subject contributions.

At Castlemaine Secondary College, parents are only asked to pay for essential education items including:

- items which students take possession of, including text books and student stationery
- materials for learning and teaching where your child consumes or takes possession of the finished articles (for example, home economics, ceramics, photography, catering).

All families will now have received notification of any outstanding payments from the College. We would really appreciate if families could ensure that their accounts are up to date as soon as possible, or contact Karen Burton at the College if you are experiencing any financial hardship, we would be really happy to be able to assist.

If you have any queries in relation to your accounts, please contact Karen Burton at the College BR Campus office on 5479 1111.
Term 2 Outdoor Ed News

Term 2 has been a busy time with camps taking place in all senior year levels. Our recent camps included 9S and Year 10/11 students traveling to Mt Kooyoora to study both the place, and activity areas of bushwalking, navigation, Rock Climbing, Abseiling and Caving. In the same week we also had a group of Year 11 students explore the Victorian high country on an multi day bushwalk. The following week 9S and our Year 10 mainstream students attended a 3-Day paddle trip on the Murray River, we enjoyed fantastic weather and conditions for the trip. Last week I took 10S up into the Alpine national park for an extended day bushwalk across the “Bluff and Mt Stirling region”. Again we had some of the best possible weather in May! I would like to take the opportunity to thank the sessional staff and 3rd Year University students from Latrobe University Bendigo for the assistance in making these trips possible. I would also like to congratulate our students on impeccable behaviour on these recent trips away. I look forward to the snow in Term 3!

College Production 13

The school musical production of 13 is well on the way with rehearsals in full swing. Isabella and Nioka are really looking forward to their star roles.

Isabella Is playing one of the teenage girls at the mid western school, called Kendra and she specially loves the singing and dancing, acting and says comedy element is quite fun to play. Nioka has the role of Charlotte and also really loves the whole dancing, singing and choreography, and says that “the way it is written about kids our age, it makes it really good. You can relate - when you have to say something in the play it feels real.” Both agreed that it is really well directed by Darren and Kirsten. There wouldn’t be a musical without them.

In last years production Nioka played the lead role in Oliver and Isabella was in the chorus. Both these talented actors had acting experience at primary school and agreed that this is a great play both to act in and to watch.
VCAL Gardening Project

Two Year 12 students Morgan and Stacey are running the gardening project. They are propagating cuttings and seeds to raise funds to VCAL projects and certificates. They have joined Castlemaine Gardening Club to expand their knowledge and skills. Through the gardening club they have undertaken assisting Winters Flat Primary School with their Community Garden.

The girls have fixed up the hot house on our Etty Street Campus, which is full of plants and looks great (come and visit if you can). They plan to have 2 sales this year. Autumn/Winter and Spring/Summer. Majority of plants will be for sale on line and at Castlemaine’s garden sale in November.

To all gardeners out there a request please. If you have any cuttings, seeds, smalls saplings/baby shrubs growing we would greatly appreciate them please. We will gladly accept any old pots, trays any gardening supplies (great time to clean up??). Also we are desperately looking for mesh/metal shelving or any straight planking (cupboard size) to help make shelving.

Cheers Jan, Morgan and Stacey

Youth Week!

Castlemaine Secondary College celebrated Youth Week: “Youth Under The Sails” during Monday 28th April – Friday 2 May. There were many free events and activities across both Etty Street Campus (ESC) and Blakeley Road Campus (BRC) throughout the week. Two big celebration days were held, Wednesday at ESC and Friday at BRC.

Youth Week at CSC was possible through a grant from the Commonwealth and State governments. The Year 12 VCAL class planned, organised and ran events through the course of the week as part of their PDS program. This grant was spent on all the students who participated. This ranged from free barbecues, fairy floss, jumping castle, musicians, lolly count and raffles (which include 2 x $50.00 Target vouchers, 2 x $50.00 iTune vouchers and chocolate). Local community groups were invited to come along and show what they offer our youth in terms of services, goods and how to get involved.

These community groups include: Bendigo Tafe, Castlemaine Community House, Castlemaine Continuing Education, Castlemaine Football / Netball Club, Castlemaine Health, Castlemaine Scouts, Castlemaine Tennis Association, CFA, Chirp, Cobaw/Wayout, Conservation Volunteers, CVGT, CWA, Freeza, Friends of Lolotoe, Lions Club, Mt Alexander Shire, SES, WMAFM Radio and Department of Human Services: Youth Affairs.

On both BRC and ESC the events included longest footy kick and movies with popcorn on Monday, arm wrestling, movies and basketball shoot out on Tuesday and on Thursday was the spaghetti eating competition. From these events we crowned campus champions of longest footy kick, arm wrestling and basketball shootout. Each champion was awarded a $20.00 Subway voucher.

On Wednesday April 30, ESC held their main celebration day. It involved free bbq, fruit, music by Ghouls Gambit, community exhibitors pirate dress up day (with prizes) and raffles. Highlight of the event was college longest footy kick, arm wrestling and basketball shootout championships. Each college champion won a double cinema voucher. The staff arm wrestling was also a major highlight.

On Friday May 2, it was BRC’s turn for celebration day. The out of uniform dress up theme was “Heroes” and it raised $207.00 for the PAC charity. BRC also had free bbq, fruit, music, community exhibitors and raffles. Fairy floss and the jumping castle were highlights for the event. The YakYakYaks were the MCs for the events and did a vox pop (link available http://we.tl/sTgcW6kNAe).

We would like to thank Growing Abundance, Subway, Hot and Crusty Bakery, Hardwick Meats, CSC SRC, Won Step Jump Castle (Darren and Debbie), Ghouls Gambit and the YakYakYaks for their support and donations. All and all it was a great week full of fun activities and events for all students.

Written by Year 12 VCAL class
French United Nations Day

Six students from Years 11 and 12 - and one from Year 10 - travelled to Melbourne last Monday as delegates to a French United Nations Day at Treasury Place in Spring Street. Matilda, Ruby, Tahnee, Ashley, Maddy, Cadel and Nicholas represented two French speaking countries, Tunisia and the Comores, in a debate on the rights of refugees.

Hundreds of students from across the state had volunteered to participate in the day, which was conducted entirely in French. Many of the ‘countries’ present had strong views on the issue and it made for a lively discussion as a new resolution calling for increased support of refugees and an end to mandatory detention - especially for children - was debated.

Our students performed wonderfully, both in reading their statements and fielding impromptu questions, and then in proposing an amendment of their own - one that called for increased recognition of environmental refugees: those made homeless by rising sea levels, natural disasters and other effects of global warming. And their amendment was passed with more votes than any other!

Congratulations to each one of them - and we hope that someone out there manages to see the interviews they recorded with the film crew from Channel 31!

Lynn Sunderland

KidsMatter—Student-led Inquiry Workshop

As a MindMatters school, Castlemaine Secondary College is recognised as being committed to supporting the mental health of our students. On Tuesday 6th May, four of our year 10 students participated in the KidsMatter Victorian State conference: Partners in Wellbeing. Rose Byrne, Patrick Holmes, Maxx Parsons and Callan Walsh worked with students from Methodist Ladies College, facilitating table discussions of students from Victorian primary schools. The students from these schools had participated in an inquiry into what makes a positive school. Our students helped them organise the results of their inquiry and facilitate further discussion as a group.

The students highlighted issues such as no bullying, an environment inclusive of parents working with students and respect for everyone in the community. With many of our feeder schools using the KidsMatter framework it was a great opportunity for the college to support the continuum of mental support for young people from primary to secondary school. It also opens up the potential for a local inquiry among our schools to develop a consistent experience of positive mental health and wellbeing from Prep to Year 12.
Attendance

As a school we are trying to ensure that we increase our student attendance at school and involvement in learning as per our strategic plan. It is a plan being undertaken by the schools by in the Mt Alexander Shire. There will be a forum regarding this topic with Community Leaders in August this year. The idea is to ensure that our graduates understand the importance of commitment to learning or work. If you are traveling it may be an acceptable to take time off school. However a day absent for a Birthday or for Shopping may be giving our students that days off in the work place for similar are Ok. A message that many employers would not support. It is often through their experiences at school that future practices are established. It is difficult for a school to ensure learning quality when a student has over 20 day’s absences.

The new government legislation passed in January now means that parents can be fined up to $70 for student unexplained absences. As a parent you are able to monitor your child attendance through the Student Management Tool. If you have lost your log in or require assistance about this system please contacts the office at the school and they will assist you.

Year 10 & 11 Semester 1 Exams

As you are all aware, the Semester 1 exams are approaching. They begin on Thursday the 5th of June and conclude on Thursday 12 June. The timetable is shown over the page.

For year 10 students, your first exam is at 1:30pm on Thursday the 5th of June, and it is expected that you will be in your regular classes for periods 1, 2, 3 and 4. You will then have a lunch break from 12:45pm until 1:25pm.

For all 10/11 students, you are not required at school if you do not have an exam scheduled, however supervised study spaces in both the library and canteen will be available for those who wish to stay on campus.

Please note that VET and VCAL classes will run as normal through exams and you should only be absent from these classes if you are sitting an exam.

Also note that if you are a year 11 student undertaking a Unit 3 subject, then you should attend your Unit 3 class and reschedule your year 11 exam (unless negotiated otherwise with your teacher).

Rules for the conduct of examinations

1. Student must ensure that they arrive on time for all examinations. If students are late they may be refused entry to the examination centre.

2. A student must observe all proper instructions or directions given by an examination supervisor.

3. A student attending an examination may bring only materials and equipment approved for that examination into the examination room.

4. A student must not possess in an examination room mobile phones and electronic devices.

5. A student must not bring into or possess in the examination room any drinks or food except bottled water.

6. A student must not communicate with another student while the examination is being conducted.

7. A student must not cause any nuisance, annoyance or interference to any other student while in an examination.

8. A student must not begin to write or mark his or her paper or response material in any way, or use a calculator, until advised by a supervisor that writing may commence.

9. A student will not be allowed to leave the examination centre until their exam has concluded.

10. A student must cease writing when instructed to do so by a supervisor.

11. A student must remain silent and seated in his or her place at the end of the examination until response materials have been collected, and an announcement is made to students to leave the examination room.

12. A student must not leave his or her seat until directed by a supervisor.

**EXAM TIMETABLE ATTACHED TO END OF NEWSLETTER**
Community News

Air Force Cadet Scheme

The local unit of the Australian Air Force Cadets now has vacancies for young men and women between the ages of 13 – 18 who are interested in aviation or a military career to join in 2014. The unit meets every Friday night during school term at Mt St Quinton Barracks at 10 Market St Kyneton.

There will be an information evening for interested teenagers and their families to attend on Friday 06 June at 7pm. Please direct any inquiries to FLGOFF (AAFC) L. Perez Ph 0400644900 or email: co.430sqn@aafc.org.au.
All VCAL and VET classes will be running during exam week - You must attend unless you have an exam!

* 60-minute exam