Neerim District Secondary College

News and Views

August 19, 2016

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Grade 6 Maths Day

Our Sponsors

We would like to thank all of our generous sponsors for their support throughout this year. With your continued generosity and commitment we have been able to improve the educational opportunities available to students. We strongly encourage our parents and the wider community to please support these wonderful local businesses that sponsor our school so well.

If you wish to become a sponsor please contact Mr Stuart Nicolson at the school on 5628 1455 to discuss.
**Principal’s Report**

This term is racing ahead with all the speed of a bullet train ...

**Facilities**

The upgrade of the Food’s room continues. The front bench and demonstration area was completed over the last holidays. Rod Plant was also able to get our ‘out of order’ stoves working. We have a plan for replacing our stoves over time.

The front entrance: by delaying a little longer, the department has agreed to fix/replace all the stone brick along the front of the school. We would like to investigate the cost of employing a ‘handyman/person’ to undertake works on a regular basis. We would like to paint along the front of the school, followed by tackling the inside of the school. We need to consider replacing our floorings over the next few years.

We have been working hard to stir up some support within the department for an upgrade to our front entrance. This would see us enclosing the concreted area and creating a separate and more secure administration area. By doing this we could add in a parent/staff meeting room whilst fashioning a more inviting entrance to our school. We have contacted the builder who did the works on the Science room to get a rough estimate of the cost of this project. From there, we are hoping to take a proposal to the department.

We have jointly applied with the Tennis Club for a grant to upgrade the tennis courts. We would like to eventually re-seal the basketball courts. We believe we are now in a position to buy a new school bus. This has been achieved through the savings we make on staff absences (staff do their best to minimise their absences) this in turn means we can use this budget for school improvements. The staff have actively supported this initiative.

**Achievement and Wellbeing Results**

With the release of the NAPLAN results this week, we were extremely pleased to see substantial growth in Spelling and Writing for 2016 (two key target areas). Our vertical English program is targeting improvement in these key areas. As this program is new it will not have impacted on previous years, however, our English program has been strengthening each year with students achieving above the State Median last year in VCE English.

In the tables that follow, we want to see low numbers of students making Low growth, and high numbers of students making High growth, i.e.

**Below the red line in the low column is GOOD**

**Above the red line in the high column is GOOD**

The Student Attitudes to School Survey showed improvements in Classroom Behaviour (identified in our Annual Implementation Plan).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Our performance against the State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Behaviour</td>
<td>+5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connectedness to Peers</td>
<td>+1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Safety</td>
<td>-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Distress</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Morale</td>
<td>+1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stimulating Learning</td>
<td>+20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Motivation</td>
<td>-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Effectiveness</td>
<td>+14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Empathy</td>
<td>+16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Confidence</td>
<td>=</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Connectedness</td>
<td>+18</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Our Student Safety Mean Factor Score is 4.21** (out of a possible 5). This is very high; however, other schools across the State are also doing a good job in this area, which places us below the State Mean. Ms Hopkins has conducted a preliminary discussion with students and they have identified that it is common practice for friends to call one another names. In discussions, students say this is not an issue, however, our results on the survey say differently. We are currently challenging students’ perceptions/beliefs about this issue.

The Student Distress and Student Morale scores are flipped in this instance. You want to score less than the State in these two areas.
**Principal’s Report**

**Professional Development Day**

Last week, each teacher met at Warragul Primary School where we undertook our first day of the Marzano Art and Science of Teaching professional development. The network has been engaged in this work for 18 months or so now. This is the second wave of PD. On Wednesday, we focused on Design Questions 2 & 3:

*What will I do to help students effectively interact with new knowledge?*

*What will I do to help students practise and deepen their understanding of new knowledge?*

All up there are 10 design questions. NDSC will continue this work at the start of next year. Staff were very engaged in this work and we conducted a follow up session this Monday where teachers shared strategies they use (via a Padlet and discussion) to address a number of the elements.

**TEC Activities**

We have run a number of TEC activities this term, most recent this week the Maths Games Day. As usual, our students did a fantastic job of running the activities.

Mr Biffin has also been running Grade 6 Sexual Health and Education Sessions. These have been extremely well received by the primary schools and we have already had very positive feedback from the primary school staff.

**China Trip**

We are excited to be travelling with the primary schools next year to China. We currently have 7 students who have indicated that they would like to take part in this trip. This will also be a wonderful opportunity for our students to show leadership and model their Mandarin skills to the younger students. I will also be going on this tour, which I will pay for myself.

**Staffing**

Congratulations to Ms Kinza Potts and Mr Fahad Zakaria who have been made ongoing staff members. It has also been Educational Support Staff week – I would like to take this opportunity to thank these staff for the amazing job they do in helping students, parents and teachers every day. At times it is a thankless job, but we know that our ES staff make a huge difference to not only student achievement, but to the life and culture of our school.

Vaya Dauphin
College Principal

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**Calendar of Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates to Remember</th>
<th>August</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 10/11 Outdoor &amp; Environmental Education - Rokeby Rail Trail</td>
<td>Thursday 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 8 Camp to Rubicon</td>
<td>Monday 29 - Friday 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>VET Sport &amp; Rec - Jump &amp; Climb Traralgon</td>
<td>Wednesday 31</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Thursday 1—Friday 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>CEA 9 Plant Paddlers - Latrobe River to Lake Wellington - Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 5</td>
<td>H&amp;HD Revision Day at RMIT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 13</td>
<td>Art Excursion to Degas Exhibition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 15</td>
<td>CEA 9 Plant Paddlers - APM &amp; Gippsland Water Vortex Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 15</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Conferences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 16</td>
<td>Last day of term</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>October</th>
<th>Monday 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First day of term</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 18 - Friday 21</td>
<td>Year 11 Outdoor &amp; Environmental Education - Mitchell River Rafting</td>
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Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) - Dairy Assistance

As part of the Victorian Government’s dairy assistance package the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) is being extended to students currently enrolled in government schools whose parents own, share-farm or lease a dairy farm business; or those people whose primary occupation is working on a dairy farm.

Students currently enrolled at the start of Term 3, 2016 where one or both parents:

- own an operating dairy farm
- are share farmers on a property primarily operating as a dairy farm
- hold a lease for an operating dairy farm
- work as an employee on an operating dairy farm and this is their main source of employment.

Evidence may include:

- a dairy industry license issued by Dairy Food Safety Victoria (DFSV)
- lease documentation
- share farming contract
- agreement with a dairy production/supply company
- a letter from an employer
- a statutory declaration stating the family’s main business or employment is on an operating dairy farm (in cases where other forms of evidence are not available).
- Confirmation from a kindergarten that a younger sibling has been approved for the dairy Kindergarten Fee Subsidy on the basis of being an eligible dairy farming family (as above)

Families who received the means-tested CSEF payment are also eligible. However families that have previously qualified for the CSEF Drought assistance are not able to also access the CSEF Dairy assistance funding.

A one-off amount of $375 per student will be paid to schools. Parents/legal guardians will need to apply for this assistance via the Dairy Assistance Application Form along with evidence as requested by 18 November 2016.

For further information please contact the office.

Parents & Friends

The Parents & Friends are doing their major fundraiser for the year at the Bower Festival on Sunday 23rd October. We are asking for people to help on the day, even if it’s for a couple of hours. We need a couple of people from 9.00am to help set up and then the day runs from 10.00am to 4.00pm. We are also asking for any donations that could go into our raffle for the day also.

Students Leaving Early Need a Note to Sign Out

A reminder to parents that if a student needs to leave school during the day they must, either bring a note from a parent to hand to Office staff when they sign the Early Leavers book or a parent must come into the office to sign them out.

This is in compliance with the Education Department Policies and Procedures for Health & Safety.

Students must not leave the school grounds without permission.

Sponsor of the Week

This week’s winner is Mitchell Dawson of Year 8.

Congratulations Mitchell, a voucher to the value of $30 is on its way to you courtesy of this week’s sponsor.

China Tour

The School is organising a tour to China from 23 March 2017 to 6 April 2017. If you are interested in going and you have not already put your name down please see Mrs Guerin by Friday 26th August. The cost of the tour will be $3231.

Lost Property

Have you lost a pair of blue footy shorts size xs; a navy blue polo fleece vest size 8 or a pair of Fiorelli sunglasses left in the bus undercover area on Friday? If any of these belong to you please collect from the office.

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**GOOD NEWS POSTCARDS**

Congratulations to the following students who received a good news postcard: Cody Coad, Saskia Fong, Carl Garrett, Lauren Potts (2), Jackson Saunders, Bethany Sayburn, Jai Atkins, Loki Bromilow, Patrick Bernard, Brodie Broadbent, Jacob Coad (3), Ben Cain, Tamika Clancy, Cooper Clancy, Jesse Darcy, Jack de Kock, Andy Entsch (2), Rachel Eyles, Emma Field, Jasymn Fusinato, Matthew Gates, Eliya Geerlings, Karin Martin, Jack Mahoney, Ruby McKissack-Broad, Grace MacDonald, Isabella McDonald-Oldham, Tori O’Connor, Cooper Orwin, Flynn Pallot, Rhys Peterson, Charlie Ryan (2), Maddison Sanders (2), Hayden Swain, Corey Trifitt, Joshua White, Tellisha Clark, Bayley Gunton, Dakota Dawson, Mitchell Dawson (2), Ben Garrett, Andrew Ottrey, Tristan Martin, Rosie de Kock & Che Stephens.

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**PBS LINK IS HERE!**

Don’t forget to register details of receiving a postcard by ringing NDSC on 5628 1455 or 5628 1201 after hours to go in the draw to win a community sponsored prize.

**PBS IS A MARATHON. NOT A SPRINT.**

**AAA AWARD**

The AAA award rewards consistent effort and citizenship in our students and recognizes the contribution that they make to the life of the College.

This week’s winners are Rylee Findlater of Year 10. She has been nominated for helping out with TEC activities.

Congratulations to you Rylee. A cheque will be heading your way shortly, courtesy of the Walter Haines Foundation.

**OUR SPONSORS**

A big thanks to all of our generous sponsors for their support throughout the year. Please support the wonderful local businesses that sponsor our school so well.
**Planet Paddlers**

**Week 4 Our First Paddle!**

First we travelled to Blue Rock Dam wall where we toured the Power Station and walked under the dam wall. Thanks to Mark Price from Southern Rural Water for the tour. We then completed some worksheets about the history of Tanjil and the dam. After some instruction, we took to the water and paddled out across the dam and up the start of the Tanjil Arm. We stopped for lunch on a far bank and after a rest continued to paddle, trying canoeing techniques and discussing the environment.

**Week 5**

Students began working on some of the material they will need to present at round tables. We also considered and discussed some of the river stakeholders.

**Week 6**

**Our Next Trip**

We have had to change the venue for this trip as Lake Narracan has been drained for maintenance work.

Instead we will be paddling in the Thomson River at Cowwarr Weir. We plan to paddle upstream to the first rapids and then return to the weir to do some more paddling skills building. We plan to practise “wet exits” and rescues, so the students should expect to get wet.
LOTS OF YEAR 12 NEWS -

REMINDER: applications for courses for 2017 are open on the VTAC website. You will need your VCAA student number to create an account, the first step in the application process. Timely applications close on 29 September (cost $32.00). Late applications cost $100.00. Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS) applications are also open and can be completed after a VTAC course application (close 4 October). Scholarship applications through VTAC close on 14 October. You can change your VTAC course application as much as you wish at no extra charge.

• UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE NEWS FOR YEAR 12’s

⇒ HOW CAN I ACCESS THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE? Students from a rural or isolated area or who have a disadvantaged financial background could be eligible for a guaranteed place at Melbourne by applying through ACCESS MELBOURNE – even if your ATAR is below the Clearly-in Rank. Eligibility checklist:
○ student must have completed an Australian Year 12 (or IB) in 2016
○ student is eligible for consideration in one or both of the categories ‘disadvantaged financial background’ and ‘from a rural or isolated area’
○ the student satisfies the prerequisite subjects for their chosen course
○ achieved an ATAR or notional ATAR of 78 or more for Design or Science, 80 or more for Arts, 88 or more for Commerce and 95 or more for Biomedicine. See: https://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/admissions/access_melbourne_and_equity_programs

⇒ DO YOU HAVE AN AUDITION COMING UP? The Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) and the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music (MCM) offer Audition Preparation Workshops that will break down the audition process and equip you with information needed to succeed. These are practical sessions designed to provide you with the techniques and confidence to present yourself in the best light. Workshops are one or two day intensives and registrations are now open. Available in: dance, jazz improvisation, music theatre and theatre. Go to: http://vca-mcm.unimelb.edu.au/shortcourses

• MONASH UNIVERSITY NEWS -

⇒ WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THE BERWICK CAMPUS OF MONASH? Monash has announced that it is closing its campus at Berwick. The good news is that it will taken over by Federation University (pending government approvals). Federation University is a combination of the former University of Ballarat and the former Gippsland campus of Monash University at Churchill. Federation University will offer 15 degree programs at Berwick in 2017 in the fields of business, education, nursing, IT and science.

5.

Reminders:

• INSIDE MONASH’ UNIVERSITY SEMINARS – Final seminars in the series: Science - August 24; Teaching - September 13; Details and bookings: www.monash.edu/inside-monash

• YEAR 12 VICTORIAN TERTIARY ADMISSIONS CENTRE (VTAC) applications are open; timely applications close 29 Sept (see www.vtac.edu.au)

• MONASH ART, DESIGN & ARCHITECTURE (MADA) WORKSHOPS - 26 & 27 Sept, MADA (Caulfield campus) for Year 11 & 12’s; Bookings: www.monash.edu/mada/workshops.

1. REMAINING OPEN DAY DATES:

• Sun 14 Aug – Australian Catholic University (Melbourne), La Trobe University (Bendigo); RMIT University; William Angliss Institute

• Sun 21 Aug – Box Hill (Lilydale campus); Deakin University (Waterfront & Waurn Ponds); University of Melbourne; Monash (Parkville – Pharmacy)

• Sun 28 Aug – ACU (Ballarat): Box Hill Institute (Box Hill); Deakin University (Burwood); Federation University; Victoria University (Footscray campus)

2. YEAR 10 AND 11 NEWS – For students in Year 10 who will enter VCE next year and for Year 11 students considering subjects for 2017, go to www.vtac.edu.au and then find Explore Course Options under the heading Search for Courses. You will be able to enter an entire proposed VCE program and discover what tertiary courses are available to you (ie courses for which you have the prerequisite VCE subjects) or find out whether you need a particular VCE subject for a course you are considering. ALL YEAR 10 and 11 students are advised to use this EXCELLENT facility.

3. NEW SELECTION TEST INTO TEACHING COURSES The Commonwealth Government now requires all students undertaking Initial Teacher Education courses in Australia to pass a literacy and numeracy test in order to obtain their degree. These tests will ensure all new teachers have the literacy and numeracy skills required to meet the demands of teaching. Information and sample questions: www.studentsfirst.gov.au/teacher-quality

4. CAREERS IN PSYCHOLOGY SEMINAR – Interested in studying psychology at university? Would you like to find out about specialist areas of psychology? Each year the Student Committee of the Australian Psychological Society (APS) runs a careers seminar for aspiring psychologists. This is an opportunity for you to get your questions answered. When: 6.00-9.00pm, Wed 24 August; Where: Cathedral Hall, Australian Catholic University (ACU), 20 Brunswick St, Fitzroy. For more information and to register your attendance: www.psychology.org.au/Events/EventView.aspx?ID=16940.
• **MONASH UNIVERSITY NEWS** -
  ⇒ **WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THE BERWICK CAMPUS OF MONASH?** Monash has announced that it is closing its campus at Berwick. The good news is that it will taken over by Federation University (pending government approvals). Federation University is a combination of the former University of Ballarat and the former Gippsland campus of Monash University at Churchill. Federation University will offer 15 degree programs at Berwick in 2017 in the fields of business, education, nursing, IT and science.

  NOTE: Monash students enrolled at Berwick will continue to be taught by Monash staff and, subject to meeting the normal requirements, will graduate with a Monash degree. Some Monash students may remain at Berwick in 2017, while others will transfer to Peninsula and Clayton campuses to complete their courses.

  ⇒ **MONASH GUARANTEE NEW CATEGORY** – As mentioned previously, Monash University offers guaranteed places in certain circumstances relating to where your school is located and to your financial circumstances. You will now be eligible for a guaranteed place at Monash if:
  ○ you live in a low socio-economic area or
  ○ your school is a Monash under-represented school or
  ○ you have experienced financial disadvantage or
  ○ you are an Indigenous Australian.

  You can enter your address into the Monash online calculator to find out if you qualify. See: [www.study.monash/how-to-apply/entry-schemes/the-monash-guarantee](http://www.study.monash/how-to-apply/entry-schemes/the-monash-guarantee).

  ⇒ **MONASH SCHOLARSHIPS** – With Monash scholarship programs, students can access a range of services and financial assistance.

  ○ Merit scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement and have both financial and academic benefits. There is no application requirement as it is granted on the ATAR achieved, however, students must have Monash listed as at least one VTAC preference to be considered.

  ○ Equity scholarships are intended for those who identify as Indigenous Australian or Torres Strait Islander, or are currently experiencing financial hardship or disadvantage. Students must submit an application for equity scholarships through VTAC, along with the necessary supporting documentation. Applications close on 14 October. See: [www.vtac.edu.au/scholarships](http://www.vtac.edu.au/scholarships).


  ⇒ **MONASH PATHWAYS** – Pathway courses allow students who may not reach the required ATAR or meet prerequisites, to gain entry into Monash. The Diploma of Tertiary Studies (DoTS) and the Diploma of Higher Education (DoHE) are both equivalent to the first year of a university undergraduate degree and allow students to transition to the second year of their destination degree. Apply through VTAC. In addition, you must submit a Monash University Supplementary Information Form by 31 December.

• **LA TROBE UNIVERSITY’S HALLMARK PROGRAM** - Due to recent changes made to the hallmark program, individual hallmark courses will no longer be made available through the VTAC system. The hallmark program is now exclusive to students who receive the Vice Chancellor’s Excellence Scholarship. Students who have studied their first year at La Trobe who achieve at least a 75% Weighted Average Mark (WAM) also have the opportunity to apply for the hallmark program to commence in their second year of study. For more information see: [www.latrobe.edu.au/hallmark](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/hallmark).

  Compiled by: m.walker

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**NEERIM DISTRICT JUNIOR BASKETBALL CLUB**

**LOOKING TO PLAY A TEAM SPORT SURROUNDED BY GREAT FRIENDS AND LOTS OF FUN?**

Basketball is an all year round sport, run in two seasons, Winter & Summer. We are currently looking for new players, across all age groups, from Under 10s to Under 19s, for both boys and girls.

Why not come and play.........Please contact Paula Guy on 0430 452 662, or email the club on: neerimwolvesbasketballclub@hotmail.com

Our Club is proudly sponsored by the Neerim District Community Bank Bendigo Bank.

**BAW BAW PARENT SUPPORT GROUP**

**(FOR PARENTS / CARERS OF CHILDREN WITH AUTISM OR SPECIAL NEEDS)**

Would you like to be involved? Would you like to meet for a coffee & catch up with other parents who have children with disabilities or developmental delay? Would you be interested in hearing guest speakers or attend training on things of interest in your world like learning more about the National Disability Insurance Scheme?

Where: Trafalgar Primary School Gym, School Road, Trafalgar

Date & Time: **Thursday August 29th & October 24th** – from 7pm

Contact Yvonne yvonne.waite@noahsarkinc.org.au or 1800 010 453 or have a chat with Jenni on 0413 001 447.