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College Newsletter
Thursday 17th August, 2017
Issue No: 9

Important Dates To Remember	
Friday 18 th August	Curriculum Day
Wednesday 23 rd August	Primary District Athletic Carnival – Newport Athletic Track
Friday 25 th August	College Assembly 11.10am
Tuesday 19 th September	Parent Teacher Interviews
Friday 22 nd September	Last Day Term 3 2.30pm dismissal

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Our school has fantastic students!

I have been visiting many classes over the last few weeks and chatting with lots of student at their break times. I have been listening to ideas and have been asked lots of questions. In turn I have asked questions and been able to get a sense of what is like to be a student at our school, Laverton P-12 College. From Prep to Year 12 students each day are being shown how to connect ideas, have deeper understandings, use words effectively, solve problems, pose questions, develop skills and how to use teacher and peer feedback to improve their learning and levels of achievement.

I am very impressed with the work students are doing in classes and with their level of effort. Each lesson, students having a learning goal, a hook (like the use of visuals, short clips), connecting to their prior knowledge, are adding new understandings and or skills through saying, doing, making, reading, writing, creating, applying, analysing, identifying similarities and differences, exploring, discovering (often with web-based applications), solving, questioning. Students face challenge, cultivating their understanding through practice and application and have time for review and feedback to support the next steps in their learning. This is part of our IMPACT common model of instruction and is a guide for teachers to follow.

Our work with Berry Street has helped us be more effective at encouraging student effort and learning. You may have heard your child talk about a brain-break or being in control of their emotions and teachers building positive learning relationships with students. All staff are taking more care with ‘what we say’ and ‘how we say it’. We want our students to hear more helpful, respectful and encouraging messages from

teachers and education support staff and feel a sense of belonging with the class and become more effective with the learning to do. This links closely to our school values of ‘Learning0Belinging-Succeeding’. This is very important for our students as teachers act as both role model and support for students. We work with our students every day to build their capacity to be more resilient, have more positive coping mechanisms and develop their skills to be more effective learners. Building on our student’s strengths, teaching them skills and ways of thinking, our students should become more successful.

We are aiming for an additional 10% increase, above what is expected, for student achievement for 2017. We have already seen significant improvement in the reading levels of students, especially at Years 7, 8 and 9. As a result we should more students at, and above, the expected level of achievement and see fewer students below the expected level. Every day what students are asked to do in classrooms affects their learning: all of our staff spend time doing lots of planning together to have our students do things that are more effective and increase the level of learning.

Thank you for your help with uniform too in recent weeks. Students are looking better in their correct jumpers and jackets and we appreciate the effort made by our families. It’s pleasing too to see an increase in attendance here at our school. We want all students to be safe at school, to enjoy school and to be learning. These three things can often be higher when students have friends in the class, like the subject and enjoy the things they are asked to do in class. Please let your child’s teacher know if you notice your child is reluctant to attend school and we can look at ways to support you and your child.

NAPLAN results will be sent home from next week. NAPLAN measures reading, writing, spelling, grammar & punctuation and numeracy. Our school has improved in some areas at some year levels and there’s more work for us to do. NAPLAN is only one measure of your

child's performance and your child's teacher and the recent reports present a more in-depth look at your child's progress. Our data sets and evidence of your child's learning provides a clearer and wider picture of your child's learning.

Your feedback on anything here at school is welcome...please feel free to make a call, send an email or have a chat. We have Parent-Teacher interviews in Week 10 (Tuesday 19th September) and please make use of this time to meet with your child's teacher to talk about their progress. Please do not feel you have to wait till this time to speak to your child's teacher: all staff are happy to listen chat through any concerns you may have.

Richard Jones
College Principal

DISCOVER, EXPLORE, CREATE NEWS

GRADE 1 INQUIRY

Grade Ones are learning about the human body this term. 1B had a surprise visit from Mr. Skeleton to help us learn about the bones in our bodies! After taking a good look at him we were able to use pasta, glue and paper to create our own skeleton bodies. You can come see our work in our classroom in the Create building.



GIRLS TALK AND BOYS TALK

Year 7 and 8 girls and boys were recently given the opportunity to be the audience for Class Act Theatre's production of Girls Talk and Boys Talk. On August 3rd, the girls heard stories based on real life accounts from real girls and women. On August 10th, the boys listened to stories based on real life accounts from real boys and men, presented in a series of monologues. These plays examined crucial issues for girls and boys in the 21st century.

Topics covered in the productions were:

- Identity and role models;
- Eating disorders;
- Body image;
- Sexuality and pregnancy;
- Self-esteem;
- Peer pressure;
- Bullying, harassment, homophobia and homosexuality;
- Friends and Relationships;

- Academic performance;
- Disruptive and anti-social behaviour, violence and self-harm;
- Communication and self-expression;
- Puberty & menstruation; and
- Transition to manhood.

Overall, the students were very engaged and based on their feedback below, they really enjoyed it!

It was very interesting, funny and informative. I am now not so afraid to express what I'm going through and believe that everything is going to be fine.

Girls talk was really good. I liked how they made it so fun and entertaining for us, and also how they put hard things to talk about so easy and not yuck at all. It was funny and I learnt a few things as well.

It really helped me because it taught me that everyone is fine just the way you are. You don't need to change yourself for other people.

I really love how they explained girls talk by acting it out and I really enjoyed it. I learned a lot of things about us girls and how we're going through teenage age. I really liked it.

I really enjoyed the girl talk and I really needed it. They are really funny and I think I have learnt a lot. I hope we can do it again.

It was the funniest thing I ever watched. I learnt that life isn't about impressing people, it is about showing people who you really are. I would love to watch it again.

It helped me by opening up and letting me know that if there is ever a problem I should open up. It was very interesting and explained a lot about girls and how they act and what we should do when we need help. I think it was great.

It was educational and fun at the same time.



KAREN CULTURAL DAY



IMPORTANT DATES

- Year 10 into Year 11 Information Evening 23rd August 6.00pm-7.00pm
- Year 10 into Year 11 Course Counselling 31st August - 8th September
- Year 11 into Year 12 Course Counselling Monday 11th September –Friday 15th September
- Year 12 VTAC Applications commence 7th August

CANTEEN

When placing lunch orders make sure the money is placed in a brown paper bag with the child's name, grade and order clearly written on the bag. Correct money is appreciated and updated price lists are available from the canteen. Online ordering is also available.

We also offer take home meals –

Lasagne, pasta, fried rice, parma and salad, chicken schnitzel and salad, Caesar salad. For other meals see Lina or Rita in the canteen (24 hrs required). We also make birthday cup cakes that can be made to order for your child's party.

Thank you for your support.

ABSENCES

Please call the College if your child is away. Remember **'It's not ok to be away'**. The DEECD recommends that the maximum number of approved absent days for any student should not exceed more than 6 days for the whole year.

CONTACTING THE SCHOOL

Telephone contact can be made with the College by contacting on 9369 1833. If you need to collect your child early please report to the Main Office so that your child can sign themselves out. The College will not allow students to leave early unless arrangements have to leave school early unless collected by an authorised adult.

CHANGE OF DETAILS

Please make sure you advise the College of any changes in details, phone numbers, address, emergency contacts etc.

BOOK WEEK

Escape to Everywhere

Book Week will once again be an exciting time for the students at Laverton P-12

• In our Library students have been listening to the Book Week short listed books and will be able to vote for their favourite.

• Mrs Dunn has also collected books to be given to each student P-12. Students will be able to choose the book of their choice to be kept to take home and add to their library.

• For the Prep – 6 students we have a performance related to the Book Week theme on Monday 21st. The Actors coming to the school have an interactive drama that relates to the books and characters they have been learning about in the class lessons and in Library.

• We will have a dress up parade scheduled for Friday morning, where once again students can dress as their favourite book character. This will start at 9:30. Parents and Friends are welcome to come along to the Parade.

HEALTH & WELLBEING

SOAPY HEROES

On Monday, Prep and Grade 2 students from Laverton P-12 College helped launch the joint Department of Education and Training and Department of Health and Human Services Soapy Hero campaign.

Our actors were:

Raymond Chen Prep A

Eva Nikitas Prep B

Chaitra Mandava 2A

Matilda Hinton 2B

The students made hand washing fun with a Glitterbug kit as part of the launch.

The Glitterbug kit was a fun and interactive way for our students to show how well they've washed their hands, after washing with the lotion an ultra violet torch shone onto their hands could show how the hand washing had removed the germs.

Teachers will be able to have lessons showing the animation with Gerry the Germ, and students can have their own chance to be a Soapy Hero which will really highlight the importance of proper hand washing.

By providing soap and teaching students how to wash their hands properly, we can help to prevent the spread of infectious diseases and reduce teacher and student absences.



Love Books?! Want to read more of them?!
Come join Book Club!

Monday lunchtimes in the Discover Building, Room D11 ☺



Information for parents and guardians

An outbreak of an infectious disease, such as [gastro](#) and [the flu](#) can significantly impact a school community and make children very sick.

There are a few ways to help your child stay healthy at school:

- talk to them about the importance of hand washing
- make sure they know how to wash their hands properly – use our ‘Soapy Hero’ resources to help
- check if your school provides soap in the student toilets.

Soapy Hero training steps

WET your hands with water

RUB soap all over your hands for as long as it takes to sing “Happy Birthday” twice

RINSE the soap off your hands

DRY your hands with a clean towel, paper towel or under a hand dryer.



WHAT IS SEXUALITY?

Sexuality is diverse, and deeply personal. Understanding our sexuality is about the sexual feelings and attractions we feel towards other people, not about who we have sex with. There are different types of sexuality, and it can take time to figure out

what fits right with you. If someone doesn’t like your sexuality, find out what to do and who you can talk to. Understanding sexuality

Everyone’s sexuality is different, and it’s not necessarily as simple as ‘gay’ or ‘straight’. Some people are attracted to only one sex, and others are attracted to a diversity of people regardless of sex, with a lot of different preferences in between. Some gay, lesbian or bisexual people say from an early age that they “felt different”, and had crushes on friends of people of the same sex, only associating these feelings with being gay or bisexual later on. Many people don’t discover their sexual attractions into much later into adulthood and it can be just as confusing then. Your sexuality will become clearer over time. Don’t worry if you aren’t sure. Being young is a time of figuring out what works for you and strong feelings and exploration are often part of that. In time, you’ll find that you’re drawn mostly to men or to women or to both or to neither, and you’ll know then.

Types of sexuality

There are a few common labels people use to identify their sexuality. Your sexuality is not defined by who you have sex with – it’s about how you feel and how you choose to identify yourself.

Straight. Attracted mostly to people of the opposite sex or gender.

Gay. Attracted mostly to people of the same sex or gender (used by guys, and often girls too).

Lesbian. Attracted mostly to people of the same sex or gender (used by women).

Bisexual. Attracted to both men and women. Some people use terms like pan or pansexual to say they’re attracted to different kinds of people, regardless of their gender.

Asexual. Not really sexually attracted to anyone.

What you call yourself is up to you – some people choose labels like queer, questioning, open – whatever. The important thing is that you choose what feels comfortable. You don’t have to label yourself today or ever. For many people this might change over time too. There are lots of other labels people choose for their sexual identity, such as queer or pansexual.

Dealing with people who don’t like your sexuality Some people in society have difficulty accepting people who are different, whether it’s because of their race, their sex, their sexuality, their religion... the list goes on. They might discriminate against people, bully them, or even sometimes be violent. No matter the reason behind it, it should not be tolerated, and you don’t need to deal with it by yourself. There’s a bunch of people who can help you figure out how to respond. For all of us, it’s important to recognise that we are all different, and the things that are right for us are different to the things that are right for someone else. We should be respectful and positive about people’s sexuality or sexual relationships, and support their right to explore their sexuality in a safe, consensual and responsible way. In just the same way, we should


understand that everyone has the right to make decisions about their sex or gender identity to suit the way that they feel inside. It is ok to have an identity that is different to what we were told to expect. Diversity of sexuality, sex and gender is a natural and normal part of the human experience, and a valuable part of who we are.

Talking to someone about sexuality

There are people in every state and territory in Australia that you can talk to about questions, experiences or concerns with sexuality or gender, or for support or help. Find out about what kind of help you can access.

References and further information:
www.reachout.com.au

Michelle Hynson
Secondary School Health Promotion Nurse
Thursday and Friday.



**Williamstown Wolves
Baseball Club**

**GIRLS
COME & TRY
DAY**

**T-Ball ages 4 - 7
Junior Baseball ages 8 - 17**

10am - 12 noon

Sat 26 August @ Greenwich Reserve
The Strand, Newport

Come for the Baseball, stay for the prizes and special guests.

**For more information or to
get involved, contact the club.**

williamstown.baseball.com.au
juniors.wbc@gmail.com (Sarah)
0419 750 916 (Ray)