

## Year 11 and 12 Report

The **Year 12 Parent Teacher session** was held this week and provided parents with the opportunity to discuss with teachers the progress of their children. During this session we thought we would trial an approach where we provided parents with information on careers and pathway planning, how Year 12 students can best be supported by their families and how the **Elevate Education Program** can assist. This program is designed to provide students with a range of revision, study and time management skills to better manage their Year 12. Feedback from parents who attended was very positive. The Senior School Leadership Team thanks Assistant Principal Ms Camozzato, Careers Counsellor Mr Towers and Year 12 Leader Mr Schorback for the workshops they prepared and delivered.

The **Year 11 Parent Teacher session** will be held on Tuesday 28th April from 3.30pm until 6.30pm. Students will be given more details and a booking sheet in the first week of next term.

Last week Year 11 and 12 students had a presentation by Werribee Police in relation to safe driving and behaviour on our roads. I'm sure that all parents have concerns regarding their children driving or accepting lifts in friends cars. The presentation focused on making sound decisions and being highly aware of peer pressure. We certainly thank both Senior Constable Ross Whittington and Leading Senior Constable Steve Cook for their organisation and presentation.

If you have any concerns regarding your child's education please contact Year 12 Leaders Mr Schorback and Mr Lekatsas, Year 11 Leaders Mr McGuiness and Mr Young and VET Coordinator Ms Avellino.



Assistant Principal David Smillie

## Year 11 Psychology at the Zoo

Year 11 Psychology students, accompanied by teachers Ms Kula and Ms Hutchings attended a fun Mere Monkeys excursion last week, to examine psychology research methods and partake in a collection of data. It was a great day – we had lots of fun!

Manika Mendiratta



Above, Year 11 Psychology at the zoo.  
Left, Tristan and Sam getting up and close and personal with a snake rescued by the zoo from the illegal animal trade.

## AFL Football is back...is anyone interested?



"I'm not into football. I used to go for Collingwood but I'm growing out of the whole football "phase". Our family are all into basketball. We play at Altona. Males in my family go for Essendon and females Collingwood, so each ANZAC Day we all watch it."

Melanie Salvo



"No. I don't follow it because I'm not into AFL football, which just isn't interesting to me. I do athletics for Western Athletics, and I like the sprints and the jumps. I'd rather watch athletics because my whole family is involved in it and you can get autographs from the stars."

Natasha Roman



"We barrack for Carlton and go to the games a couple of times a year. It will be good to see how Ben Cousins copes with all his drug problems and how Carlton start off the season. I've met Mark Murphy, Bryce Gibbs and Matthew Kreuzer. I think the attention to footballers as role models is unfair- we all muck around some times but we don't get that sort of media attention!"

Jackson Wood

## Helpzone

Home work, school assignments,  
revision time:  
3.00 - 4.30pm  
Monday and Wednesday  
in the Library  
Provided by Melbourne Uni student "AJ"

## Raw on the Dancefloor

*Raw on the Dancefloor* is a yearly dance competition specifically for fresh crews. Grange students Alexander Jurukovski, Jordan Cortes and Simon Zhang are part of a crew named UNDEFINED Dance Crew which also consists of dancers around Melbourne. UNDEFINED earned the title of the 2009 champions of the *Raw on the Dancefloor* hiphop competition.

Before they were in UNDEFINED our boys were part of a crew called RHYTHMIX and also came 1st place in the first ever *Encore* competition.

UNDEFINED has upcoming competitions such as the Australian Hiphop Championships, Looze control and Groove.

Alexander commented "We've only been dancing for 7 - 8 months and this shows how far your heart and determination can take you. We encourage hiphop dancing for everyone and anyone because if you put your mind to it anything is possible. So you think you can dance next year!" Miss Hahne, Miss Meredith and Miss Kula attended to support the boys.



SL@W DOWN.  
THERE ARE NEW  
SCHOOL RULES.

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Correspondence to

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# The Grange P - 12 College Parent Newsletter



March  
2009

### Principal Team

College Principal  
Angelique den Brinker  
Preps - 4 Assistant Principal  
Mandy O'Mara  
5-6 Assistant Principal  
Peter Knight  
7-8 Assistant Principal  
Karen Baker  
9-10 Assistant Principal  
Meredith Clencie  
11-12 Assistant Principal  
David Smillie  
College Operations  
Assistant Principal (Deloraine)  
Graeme Scott  
ICT Assistant Principal  
Laban Toose  
Student Wellbeing  
Assistant Principal  
Joanne Camozzato

### Leadership Team

Year 12 Leaders  
Simon Schorback, George  
Lekatsas  
Year 11 Leaders  
Shaun McGuiness, Gareth Young  
Year 10 Leaders  
Kim Ireland, Sheryn Toner  
Year 9 Leaders  
Jeanette Seamons, Taryn Walker  
Year 8 Leaders  
Lauren Swanson, Tamsin Metcher  
Year 7 Leaders  
Debra Francis, Michelle Nowak  
VET  
Sandra Avellino  
VCAL  
George Lekatsas  
Student Wellbeing  
Julia McCahon  
Health Promotions Nurse  
Clare Liew  
Careers  
Richard Towers  
MIPs / Work Education  
Sarah Papadopoulos  
Pedagogy Coach  
Nadia Tkaczuk

### Admin. Team

Business Manager  
Irene Blake  
Human Resources  
Heather Gleeson  
Office Manager  
Dianne Swann  
Finance Manager  
Samantha Kelly  
Accounts Receivable  
Deanne Michael

### Newsletter Team

Gerald Kearney  
Tracey Hart  
Sandi Chua



## From the Principal...

Dear Parents,

We have had a very smooth start to the school year and some very good news with the College receiving substantial funding from the Commonwealth government. We will be purchasing new lockers and building locker bays to ensure all students have a safe place to keep their things at school. Previously, this has been an issue but in the coming months we will see major improvements.

The College will also be installing a new fence around the entire grounds over time, starting with the fence that adjoins the path and soccer field. It will improve safety for students and the College and enhance the look of our school.

The College Council has approved the development of a master plan for the grounds at both campuses. This will be completed in the coming months and implemented in stages. We will be working on improving our environment and ensuring it is sustainable as well. We will be installing recycled water for the oval when the water becomes available, and tanks to collect the rainwater to water the gardens.

The College continues to develop its curriculum program and this year we have teaching coaches to support the teachers in professional learning that will develop teaching practice and in turn improve student outcomes. We have seen improvements in literacy in Years 7 and 8 this year and we will continue to focus on literacy and numeracy with the support of our coaches through this year and into next year.

Our school has a lot happening and the improvements and developments that are taking place are supporting our students to do their best. I encourage all parents to participate in school activities, parent interview nights, talking to their children about what is happening at school and visiting our website to ensure our home-school partnership is working well. Our website address is [www.thegrange.vic.edu.au](http://www.thegrange.vic.edu.au)

College Principal Angelique den Brinker

## Middle School report

After a very eventful first term, Middle School students and teachers are looking forward to the holiday break.

This week, Year 7 students participated in an International Foods Feast Day. This was the culmination of their Inquiry project work investigating their family countries of origin. Students brought in traditional dishes representing many nations, for a shared lunch. They then presented their research projects.

Year 8 students returned exhausted but enthusiastic after the Year 8 Camp on the far West Coast. Students had the opportunity to work with farm animals and participated in a range of outdoor challenges.

The College has been working to implement the Western Metropolitan Region 'Blueprint for School Improvement'. This involves a strong focus on improving the literacy and numeracy skills of students. Teachers have undergone coaching and professional development to support them in their teaching practice.

Research shows that there are a number of important steps to improving student literacy:

1. Daily independent reading: students should try to increase the amount of time spent each day on reading material that is suited to their reading levels.
2. Students need to read a variety of material that they can comprehend: fiction, non-fiction, newspapers, magazines, texts with pictures, textbooks etc.
3. Students need to build up the amount of time they are able to spend 'on task'. This is called 'learning stamina' and it involves persistence and the ability to concentrate on the work. Parents can support students by encouraging them to practice daily reading at home and by providing a variety of suitable reading material.

Assistant Principal Karen Baker

## Grange team in Relay for Life

"Our team was the Running Bears. The whole event was fun and I was proud to be a part of it. We were supporting people with cancer. I had so much fun and I spilt coffee all over myself and even managed to get Ms. Boccabella as well."

- Gin Nicholson

"Relay for Life was a very interesting experience. The pain is excruciating, but I know that I am helping all of the cancer sufferers. I ran 20 laps, and I felt very proud. We just need to remember that the littlest things count for very big reasons. This was a very fun experience. - Hunter Du Pre"

Congratulations to organiser Belinda Skinn.



*Have a safe and enjoyable holiday!*



## Year 9 and 10 Report



Assistant Principal Meredith Clencie

Year 9 and 10 students have made an excellent start to the year – their level of effort and cooperation with teachers has been very pleasing. Year 9 students on their Project Day have been engaged in Sailing on SS Enterprize, participating in Cityscape activities, visiting the You Yongs and preparing for Grampians Extreme. For the first two weeks of next term, our Evolve@Typo students and teachers will be in the Victorian High Plains participating in leadership and outdoor education activities.

Year 10 students have adapted well to the senior school environment and the increased workload and expectations of this year level. To support students in their schoolwork, we ask parents to make every effort to attend the next parent teacher interviews to meet and speak with teachers.

With colder weather coming up next term, we remind students that the only outer garment allowed is the college jacket, available from the uniform suppliers.



Djurđa and Elona from Year 9 on board the Enterprize

## Debate and public speaking update



Debaters Crystal-Lee, Helene and Natasha

Recently our debaters participated in their first of five rounds of the school competitions in Williamstown. Two teams debated against Thomas Carr and Westbourne contending that 'literature ought to be valued higher than science'. Team members were: Natasha Roman, Daniella Roman, Crystal Smith, Crystalee Durose, Helene Espirito and Ashlee Brown. Both teams competed valiantly, demonstrating a terrific understanding of the debate method and showing solid public speaking skills. Their well researched and presented arguments were indicative of their high commitment to this intellectual sport. One of our teams was successful; defeating their Westbourne competitors while the second team came in a few points behind. All participants should be proud of their performance because they represented The Grange with great sportsmanship and pride. Special thanks must go to the other team members who helped them to prepare (Amanda Durose and Jessica Rutherford) and to all the teachers in the L.S.F. learning space, who offered their contentions and tremendous support in this endeavour.

In the early second term there will be a Year 7/8 public speaking competition for a three minute prepared speech. So far we have 15 competitors, but we're hoping to gain a few more. Everyone is invited to come and cheer-on the speakers. More details to follow next term.

Michelle Nowak

respect / teamwork / self discipline / learning

## SRC Report

The SRC has voted for a charity to support in 2009, **Beyond Blue**. Beyond Blue aims to build a society that understands and responds to the personal and social impact of depression, works actively to prevent it, and improves the quality of life for everyone affected. (Beyond Blue were behind National Youth Week, see details below.)

### Relay for Life

Last weekend (28th/29th) the SRC participated in The Relay for Life. 2008 was dedicated to raising funds for the Cancer Council and in particular The Relay for Life. We raised over \$2,500. The relay for life is an event which takes part over a 24 hour period. Each team was required to carry their baton around the track for the duration of 24 hours. Our team (Bear Essentials) did a terrific job and completed the event with pride, so well done to every one who contributed.

Shannon Abbot Zanata

## Blood donations begin

Our first lot of brave students have made the trip to the Southbank Blood Donor Centre to donate their blood. On the 18th of March Brittany White, Asu Faamau, Jack Wellwood and Laura Warren kicked this year's 'Young Bloods' program into action. They all were very keen to assist the many people each day who are in need of blood; especially more recently those affected by the Black Saturday bushfires. Congratulations to these students. If you are aged 16 or over and would like to join the Young Bloods Program, please sign up when advertised or see Miss Skinn in F Block office.

Belinda Skinn



## Student Wellbeing National Youth Week

The end of term has been action packed. The school has participated in a range of very exciting National Youth Week celebrations. The student versus staff soccer match was a willing battle with the teachers stating they believe they won!

A Dance competition was held at lunchtime with both students from Deloraine and Callistemon performing their choreographed routines, cheered on by an enthusiastic audience. The judges were so impressed that they decided to award the prize to all the contestants. The prize will be a Hip Hop Dance workshop in Term 2 with a professional dancer. The SRC followed this with a very successful BBQ on the following day. The students were able to cook, and serve 100s of students in a very efficient and professional manner.

Approximately thirty students had the opportunity to participate in a football workshop with the Werribee Football Club. The Werribee club has been very generous with their time running lunchtime activities. Finally, well done to the students who entered the National Youth Week photographic competition. The entrants exhibited in the library.

A big thank you to goes to organiser, school counsellor, Evonne Kurpiewski.

Assistant Principal Joanne Camozzato



## VET news

### VET students in New York!

Over the last three years The Grange P-12 College has delivered VET Business in conjunction with TDT Victoria and Toll in the form of Toll Virtual Victoria.

In February 2009 Virtual Enterprise Australia announced the 2009 Pilot National Business Competition. This competition was made possible thanks to the support of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, TOLL Corporate and the Transport and Logistics Industry Skills Council. In 2009 the pilot competition was open only to students from TOLL Virtual Enterprises.

Six winning students (two from TOLL Virtual VIC, two from TOLL Virtual WA, and two from TOLL Virtual ACT) had the chance to compete in the Merrill Lynch Global Business Challenge in New York City, U.S.A. from Sunday, March 22, 2009 through Monday, March 30, 2009. The program includes a seminar, tours, and the core of the program, the Global Business Challenge and the International Trade Fair in New York City. Congratulations to our winners of this competition: Erin Pook and David Partington who are currently in New York enjoying themselves.

### Industrial kitchen

In a quest to ensure that our students are training in facilities that are comparable to that in industry The Grange P-12 College has converted one of our classrooms into an industrial kitchen. VET Hospitality students are now able to become familiar with equipment that they will use once out in industry.

As a part of their training their teacher Jeannette Seamons is encouraging them to cater for such events as school council dinners with many more events planned during the year.

Sandra Avellino VET Leader



## Careers news

### Year 10 indigenous students excursion

In the first of a series of visits, eight Year 10 students, of indigenous Australian and global indigenous background, accompanied by Mr Towers, attended Victoria University, St Albans campus for the day on Tuesday 24 March, participating in lectures to first year indigenous university students on the topic of Aboriginal kinship. Our students were exemplary representatives of the school on the day. The students were actively engaged in the learning environment. Our students actively contributed their ideas to the discussions that formed part of the lectures, their ideas and contribution acknowledged by the university lecturer and students.

Thanks must go to the staff and students at the Moondani Balluk Indigenous Academic Unit at Victoria University for their warm and inviting welcome to us and for the fantastic bbq lunch provided. Congratulations to Lia Pa'apa'a, our college Australian & Global Indigenous teacher, for her work in putting the day together.



"I found it very interesting finding out about indigenous cultures. The rules can be amazing. In some cultures people can't even look at each other, they have to walk backwards down the street, it has to do with respect-

Ebony Hurlston

### University of Melbourne

– Access All Areas - Friday 17 April

The University of Melbourne is conducting a day long event designed for Year 10 -12 students and their families, offering a personalised insight into the university. The event provides the opportunity to gather information and talk to University staff about all aspects of studying and life at Melbourne. Find out about: Courses and careers information Careers and graduate pathways The program will be held at the Parkville campus. For more information go to <http://www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/events/vic/accessallareas.html>

### La Trobe University

Talk and Tour: Tuesday 7 April

This is a great chance for senior secondary students to visit La Trobe with their parents and get to know the Melbourne (Bundoora) campus first-hand. The program begins at 9.30 am with a general talk for students about undergraduate courses and all the campus has to offer. Parents can attend a separate talk tailored specifically for them. After this, we introduce participants to faculty representatives so they can ask questions and get more detailed information. There's a free morning tea as well. Students can also chat with some of our current students about their experiences of course selection, pathways, transition, and day-to-day life at La Trobe. The day wraps up with a campus tour where visiting students will visit specialist teaching labs and main academic areas, as well as our amazing library and our sports and recreation facilities. There's an optional accommodation tour as well, if they'd like to see our on-campus colleges. The university has some beautiful picnic spots, and some great cafes if students want to sample what the campus offers. And if students would like to see more, there's plenty to do – exhibitions, the Wildlife Sanctuary, the Sports Centre and more. Online registration available now at [www.latrobe.edu.au/study/events/talk-andtour-2009](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/study/events/talk-andtour-2009).

Richard Towers

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