Principal’s Report

Term 1 Reflection

This has been a very exciting term with many activities. Since our last newsletter, the College has been involved in House Swimming Sports, Primary School Taste Testing Day, Open Day/Night celebrations, Teacher Professional Day and a Student Free Dress Day. Further details and photos within this newsletter. I have been very proud of the behaviour of our students during this term and most pleased with an improvement in the wearing of the school uniform. Congratulations to students for demonstrating such pride in your school. I was very pleased to receive recent correspondence from a member of the public who commended our Year 11 boys who were travelling on the train. “They were well mannered. They stood for older travellers and were not loud or intrusive in their conversations with each other”. I ask all students to continue to show respectful behaviour, not only at school, but travelling to and from school. It goes to show that the community notices! Congratulations boys, you have made us very proud.....

Student Absences/ Change of Department Policy - “Every Day Counts” Secondary School Attendance

The Department of Education is concerned at the amount of absences of Secondary School Students and has released new guidelines to ensure that student attendance is closely monitored. Amendments have been made to the Education and Training Reform Act (2006) and will come into effect as from 1st March, 2014 “Going to school every day is the single most important part of a child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind”. The Education Department has given greater autonomy to Principals to follow up on student attendance. At Noble Park Secondary College, we already have high accountability with follow up with Year Level Co-ordinators. Our rolls are marked electronically for every lesson, by every staff member, and these are followed up by Co-ordinators. If a student is absent without parent permission, from home group, an SMS message is sent home to a parent or guardian mid-morning.

As a College, we are striving to improve upon student absences at each year level. Parents are informed that it should only be in rare circumstances that their child should be absent from school. The Education Department has introduced a Regional School Attendance Officer and Principals are able to contact the Region to ensure the appropriate follow up, which may include an official ‘School Attendance Notice’ and may result in a fine. Please ensure that ‘Every Day Counts’ for your child and see that their attendance at school is every day. If there are exceptional reasons (e.g. Illness) that your child cannot attend school, please ensure that you provide written notification to explain your child’s absence to your Home Group Teacher or Year Level Co-ordinator.

Changes to Suspension and Expulsion Procedures

Effective from 1st March, 2014, the Government has changed Ministerial order 625 where “grounds for both suspension and expulsion have been updated to better enable Principals to prevent and respond to behavioural incidents that may compromise the health, wellbeing and safety of staff and students”. Further information can be assessed at:

Student Engagement and Well-Being Policy for Noble Park Secondary College

In line with the Government initiatives and changes, the College will be reviewing our Student Engagement and Well-Being Policy and in the coming weeks of Term 2, Parents/Guardians and students will be invited to give their feedback.

I wish all students a safe and enjoyable holiday break. Term 2 resumes on Tuesday 22nd April as Monday 21st April is a public holiday, as is Friday 25th April (Anzac Day).
Expressions of Interest in Helping the College in a Working Bee

Next term, the College will be conducting a working bee to improve our physical conditions of the College. If you are able to assist us for example with possibly gardening, clean up, painting etc., we would love your help. Please keep your eye open for date/s of our working bee early next term. Please contact the College on 9546 9066 to let Lesley know if you would like to offer your assistance for some time during the weekend…

Winter Uniform

Please be reminded students must be in winter uniform during term 2 and 3. Our uniform supplier, Beleza is located at 17 Ian Street, Noble Park, (ph 9540 8577).

Last Day of Term – Friday 4th April

Parents are reminded we will have an early finish on the last day of term. Students will be dismissed at 2.30pm.

Netbook Instalments

For those families paying by instalments - Term 2 Netbook payments requested to be paid by Friday 2nd May. If you are having difficulties with this arrangement please speak to either Sharyn, Debbie or Kerrie in the front office.

Scholarship Exam Closing Date

Online registrations for the Edutest Academic Scholarship examination for Year 7 Entry 2015 will close on Wednesday 16 April 2014. To register please follow the link http://www.nobleparksc.vic.edu.au/en/ENROLMENTS1/Scholarships/

For more information contact Jo Cucchiara, Assistant Principal on 9546 9066

Launch of Access Monash Mentoring Program

This year 5 of our Year 11 students will be mentored by Monash University students as part of the Access Monash Mentoring program. The program provides intensive support to selected Year 11 and 12 students who aspire to university study. It aims to support their decision making and preparation for university and careers by matching them with successful Monash University students to work in one-to-one mentoring relationships. Our selected students attended an induction day at the Monash University Caulfield Campus on February 12th and met their mentors for the first time at our school launch of the program on Friday, March 21st. Students will meet with their mentors fortnightly usually at the school and will also have opportunities to attend the university and other events together. They will explore tertiary study options and career pathways, gain great academic advice and study tips, and learn how to get the most out of their VCE experience.

To find out more about the Access Monash Mentoring program visit monash.edu/access
We are running a Maths competition – Guess the amount of money in the Jar.

When you go to a bank with loose coins, they tip it down a chute and “count” your money by weighing it. This competition draws on your problem solving skills and estimation. The prize is the jar of money (including the Chupa Chup lollipops). Our local Primary Schools have been invited to enter after they attended the College for a “Taste Tester Day” Friday 21st March.

Year 5 – 8 students have free entry for 3 guesses, Yr 9 – 12 have an entry fee of $1 for 3 guesses (money raised goes towards The Big Umbrella charity. Entries close Thursday 3rd April and the winner is announced Friday 4th April. See your Maths teacher or Ms WS for an entry form.

During our Taste Tester – we gave the students experience with Fractals which are repeated patterns, used in designing antennas and can be found in plants, animals, spider webs, architecture artwork and lightning. They also got to try lattice multiplication – the students really enjoyed their day.

In Year 8 Maths we have been studying ratios – their project was broken into 2 parts: one involved looking at the colours formed when 2 food dye colours are mixed in various ratios and the second involved looking at the ratios of the gear teeth on a 15-speed pushbike.

Farewell to Ms Papas
We would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Kathy Papas for all her time, dedication and great teaching over the past 12 years. We will miss her and wish her well in her new School.

Ms WS
Head of Maths

Year 9 Art Excursion

Monday 17th March, our 9d class went on an excursion to the National Gallery of Victoria at St Kilda Rd. Most of us were surprised at how interactive and fun everything was. When we first arrived there, we did activities that involved making things out of recycle materials; we then built bridges out of toothpicks and lollies that were strong enough to hold a book. The third challenge involved designing a self-propelled car using an elastic band. The activities were fun and everyone participated in them enthusiastically. After lunch we walked around the art gallery, we saw and interacted with some of the amazing art work that was on display.

My personal favourite in the Melbourne Now exhibition was the one with the bright lights and loud noises. It was fun and unexpected. Most of the girls were screaming at how the lights came on and the loud noises blared unexpected.

Another favourite of mine were the t-shirts, they were all smart in a way and artistic. It was fun in general.

Jitu and Adrienne
Interschool Debating

‘At first debating was difficult and quite scary but it has helped to watch and take part in debates so we know what it is like when we have to speak.’

The DAV is a non-profit association which exists to promote debate. It is the peak debating body in Victoria and runs large competitions for adults and for schools across Victoria. It provides training and resources for debaters, teachers and adjudicators.

This year Noble Park Secondary College has two teams taking part in the competition. There are five rounds. Debates take place at Haileybury College starting at 8pm.

Our D Grade (Year 8) team consists of: Christina Kok, Bismilah Zahidi, Lisa Mao, Charlene Trinidad, Nathan Chhor, Alysa Leng, Lynettah Hawes, Fardina Ahamreen, Nirmal Chand, Kyli Chan and Hashim Zia.

Round 1 was Tuesday March 4th and the topic was ‘That we should ban gender-specific advertising of toys’. Round 2 took place on March 18th and the topic was ‘That we should punish sporting teams for their fans’ violent behaviour’. Round 3 will be on April 29th.

Special thanks go to Mrs Brenda Lawson for her assistance with writing debate speeches and all the lunchtime training sessions.

Barbara Smith
Debating Coordinator

Some of our debating team:
Alysa, Fardina, Neil, Lisa, Bis, Lynettah, Nathan, Christina, Charlene

Engineers Career Expo 2014

Many of our senior students show interest in the world of engineering. They are intrigued by the different branches of engineering and how each requires diverse skill and expertise. With this in mind we decided to escort them to The Melbourne Exhibition Centre for The Engineers Australia Career Expo on March 26th.

Here, our students spoke with Civil, Chemical, Biomedical, Software and Mechanical Engineers who were willing to answer all their questions. There were many interactive activities our students participated in and from the smiles on their faces, thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Amir Taha shares his experience; “Since Year 7 I have had my mind set on becoming a civil engineer. I really didn’t know much about what is involved, the only aspect I knew about was the salary. The Expo that took place at the exhibition changed my thoughts on what was required by a civil engineer. I thought all you did was sit in front of the computer but it is not all like that. As a civil engineer you explore places and technology. One activity that I participated in was the robot that was programmed by the computer, I really enjoyed doing this. I hoped that we had stayed longer as there was more to do. I also learnt that there were more branches of engineering.”

A highly successful day for all involved.

Ms Vaina
Careers Coordinator

Harmony Day Celebrations at Yarraman Oaks Primary School

On Monday 24th March some of our students gave up their own time to perform at Yarraman Oaks Primary School Harmony Day assembly. The girls performed an Indian dance and the boys the Vietnamese Lion dance. Both performances were amazing and we look forward to sharing some more of our fabulous students talents next year.
Year 7 & 8 Anti bullying workshops

As part of the junior school Anti bullying program. The students participated in workshops.

Students were able to:

- Identify types of bullying
- Come up with and learn strategies to deal with negative behaviours
- Identify who to go to for help
- Explore the difference between passive, assertive & aggressive behaviours

Some of our year 10 peer support students came in to the workshops and assisted the students.

Some feedback from students:

- Everything was great in the workshop
- I would tell an adult and get help immediately
- I learnt the five finger strategy
  - Ignore
  - Walk away
  - Say “Leave me alone”
  - Call out loudly “Stop annoying me”
  - Tell a teacher
- I learnt ways to prevent bullying
- I know how to stand up for myself
- I know to speak out
- The workshop was good

Student Engagement Policy Review

Every school is required to have a Student Engagement Policy that articulates the expectations and aspirations of the school community in relation to student engagement, including strategies to address bullying, school attendance and behaviour.

As with most school-based policies, a Student Engagement Policy should be developed in close consultation with the school community, including school leaders, teachers, students and parents.

This will help ensure the Student Engagement Policy matches the community’s expectations and aspirations and will also provide an opportunity to encourage student participation and proactively engage with parents, guardians and carers.

A Student Engagement Policy is best developed with input from representatives from all areas of the school community, including:

- A process which elicits meaningful contributions from across the school community reflects the shared responsibility for student engagement and can be a powerful tool to build a shared commitment to the Student Engagement Policy.

Grip Leadership Program 2014

Lynda Chapman
Student Welfare Coordinator
The Right Size to Personalise

International School Student Welcome Event

The event is an opportunity for the Victorian Government to formally welcome international school students to Victoria. The event was hosted at Victoria’s most prestigious residence, Government House - home of the Honourable Alex Chernov AC QC Governor of Victoria and Mrs Elizabeth Chernov. The day started with a Welcome speech by the Governor.

Nam Nguyen was chosen on behalf of all International students to represent Noble Park Secondary College.

Year 7 Art

Ehgay
Patrick
Shakib
Tom
Cleah

Taste Testers - Transition Day

Over 300 grade 5 & 6 Students from local surrounding Primary Schools visited our College on March 26th. They became Year 7 for the day and took classes and participated in the “Great Noble Park Secondary College Amazing Race”. Included were experiments in Science, pottery in Ceramics, Harmony Day in the Library, travelling the world in English and a BBQ lunch. By all accounts a great day was had by all!
Year 10 Work Experience 2014

Work Experience is an important part of Year 10; many students look forward to these two weeks and are actively planning where they will work. The dates this year for Work Experience are 16-27 June. I would like students to begin searching for places of employment during their Term One school holidays. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to assist students in trying to research and investigate workplaces close by. If you require any assistance don’t hesitate to come and see me in the Careers Centre or call our school and speak to me, Ms Vaina on 9546 9066.

Year 10–12 Health Workshop at The Alfred Hospital

Are you in VCE and considering a career in the health industry? Why not join this workshop where you will discover information about different career choices in Health by university staff with years of experience in the industry. If you are interested you will need to register at leapintohealth@monash.edu

RMIT Experience Days

RMIT University offers a number of free events designed to encourage students from years 9, 10, 11 and 12 to engage in hands on workshops, explore life on campus and get behind the scenes, while experiencing different aspects of discipline areas. To register or to learn more about the free Experience Day events visit: www.rmit.edu.au/experiencedays

Ready Set Design

A workshop series is being held for students who are currently studying Units 3 and 4 of an art design subject and interested in studying design at university or TAFE. Ready Set Design comprises three half day workshops, held Saturdays during the school holidays. Design Bytes explores options for further study and careers in the design industry. Folio Bytes is a hands on session designed to help students develop their folios and Interview Bytes explores interview techniques and how to succeed in an interview scenario. These workshops are free and are exclusively available to SNAP schools. You can register at: www.rmit.edu.au/students/services/readysetdesign and completing the online form.

The University Of Melbourne

Melbourne University are inviting all Year 10 – 12 and their families to experience a day at the university. You will have a day to explore Parkville’s vibrant campus and find out about the range of study options that are available. A tour of the famous Victorian College of the Arts will also be available. The date is Friday 11 April between 10am – 3.30pm; you will need to register for this event on futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/events

Monash University provides FREE TUTORING Tuesdays & Wednesdays (except first and last week of term) 3.30 – 4.30pm in the Flexible Learning Centre. Fruit supplied. All students welcome
The Right Size to Personalise

Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world, so sun protection is an important issue for everyone, especially children and teenagers. Research shows that too much sun exposure in childhood increases the risk of developing skin cancer later in life.

The Minister for Health and the Minister for Education have written to every primary and secondary school in Victoria to invite school councils to talk about how to improve sun protection measures. Noble Park Secondary College will be discussing this at the next school council meeting and are committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for children to learn, play and develop.

Results of the 2011 National SunSmart Schools Program Survey highlighted some key successes in Victoria. For example, 99% of primary schools recommend SunSmart hats, significantly more than other states. But there is room to improve our sunscreen use, shade provision and protective uniforms. We can also start sun protection measures earlier in the year. These are some of the areas that our school council will explore.

We ask that parents contribute to the sun protection message at home. Parents can continue to reinforce good sun protective behaviours on the weekend and during school holidays between September to the end of April, when Victoria’s UV levels are typically at three and above (the level when sun protection is needed). Families can download the free SunSmart app (www.sunsmart.com.au) or check the weather section of your daily newspaper which indicates local sun protection times.

Thank you for your continued support. Together we can play a major role in helping to prevent skin cancer.

TEXT BOOK BORROWING PROGRAM

Noble Park Secondary College offer a program in which students with a Health Care Card can borrow text books from the library at a cost of $5 for the year. The money goes back in to purchasing more text books in an endeavour to sustain the program.

Text books are limited, however please ask, if the book you require is available you may borrow it.

Women’s Wellbeing Group

Free for all women of all ages

Come and meet other women, share your experiences and learn about different services, interesting activities and health issues.

It’s your time to relax and enjoy!

Light afternoon tea provided

When: Friday 4th April 2014

Time: 1:00 pm - 3:00pm

Where: Suite 2/ 31 Princes Highway
Dandenong (Ground Floor)

Bookings: Please call Deb or Tash 9794 8677

Please Note: Activities and dates are subject to change without notification

BELEZA UNIFORM SHOP

TERM 1 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS TRADING HOURS

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THE STORE WILL BE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS:

18TH APRIL 2014 – GOOD FRIDAY
19TH APRIL 2014 – EASTER SATURDAY
21ST APRIL 2014 – EASTER MONDAY
25TH APRIL 2014 – ANZAC DAY

THANK YOU

BELEZA MANAGEMENT
Join Us...

Multicultural Day

Thursday
May 22nd
2014

Noble Park
Secondary College
3 Callaghan St
Noble Park, Victoria 3174
9546 9066

Celebrations & Performances

Night time performance 7 – 8.30pm.
Everyone welcome. Cost $5 per person.
Money raised goes to State School relief

Children 15 and under free if accompanied by an adult.

Staff & students are invited to come dressed in Multi-cultural clothes on the day in exchange for a Gold coin donation.
(Money raised goes to State School relief).

Please come and celebrate with us the diverse cultures within our community.