We can make the change: a student’s perspective

"This year our College theme is “We can make the change”. The definition of the word “change” is to make or become different and we believe everyone has the ability to make a change; it’s whether you choose to take the challenge or not.

No matter if it’s in the classroom, out in the yard, or even outside of school, if you see someone not doing the right thing, then say something. That’s all it takes. As Mr Laussen said, “Stop and make a stand, that’s all it takes.” Each one of us can make a stand and together we can make a change for the better. The 2014 college theme is important to Overnewton because it demonstrates that you don’t have to be a leader with a badge to make a difference, you just have to lead yourself and be the best you can be.

Overall, this theme means that you and I, anyone and everyone, can make a change. Whether it’s big or small, everyone can make a change in some shape or form."

This piece was written by Catherine Grech, one of the Middle School Captains, and was delivered at assembly. It gives us all a practical application of the College theme.

Taylors Lakes House Swimming Carnival

The Taylors Lakes House Swimming Carnival was held at the St Albans Leisure Centre. House spirit was strongly on display and the participation from students was wonderful to see. The weather was hot and all competitors were keen to participate. Thank you to the House co-ordinators, staff, parent helpers and students for their enthusiastic support, co-operation and participation.

Year 6 Instrumental Program

The Year 6 instrumental program offers your child a unique opportunity to play an instrument throughout 2014 as part of the Performing Arts curriculum. This program has been running successfully for more than fifteen years and allows students to experience the joy of learning an instrument. The educational and social benefits of playing a musical instrument have been well researched and documented. Enhancing numeracy, reasoning and fine motor skills as well developing teamwork, empathy and independence are just a few of the benefits that students will gain.

To assist students in their instrument selection and to provide further information to parents/guardians, a “Band Expo” was held on Monday 17th February for Keilor students and the same evening will be held on 25th February for Taylors Lakes Campus students. The Band Expo will give every student the opportunity to play the four available instruments and to make their final selection, with the support of an adult family member.

Australian Government assistance for Canberra study tour

In Term 1, students from Overnewton College will undertake an educational tour of the national capital. While on this tour they will participate in a variety of educational programs focused on Australia’s history, culture, heritage
and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit their National Capital as part of their civics and citizenship education. To assist in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of $30 per eligible student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER) program toward the travel expenses incurred. This contribution will be paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.

We would like to thank the Australian Government for their support of this program and we hope that the excursion is a rewarding experience for all students.

**Coming Events, Middle School**  
**Term 1**

**February 25th**  
Taylors Lakes Campus Year 6 Band Expo (Multi-Purpose Hall 7.00pm)

**February 26th**  
Year 4-6 District Swimming Carnival

**March 10th**  
Labour Day Public Holiday

**March 17th**  
Parent Education Evening

**March 21th**  
Harmony Day

**March 24th**  
Taylors Lakes Campus Middle School and Year 9 Athletics Carnival

**March 24th – March 28th**  
Keilor Campus Year 8 Camp – Canberra

**March 24th – March 28th**  
Keilor Campus Year 7 Camp - Paynesville

**March 31st**  
Keilor Campus Middle School Athletics Carnival

**March 31st – April 4th**  
Taylors Lakes Campus Year 8 Camp – Canberra

**April 4th**  
End of Term 1