Information Evening

Following article written by Tracy Fielder, Head of Junior School, Taylors Lakes Campus

Last week saw successful and very well attended information evenings take place at the Junior Schools of both campuses. We thank all who were able to take part in these very important evenings, which outline the year ahead for both you and your children at Overnewton. Staff associated with the Junior Schools were there to be introduced and offer their insights into their curriculum areas. Parents were provided with a range of information by year level Home Group teachers and we hope that this has allowed parents to have a clear understanding of the year ahead.

Focal points for the Junior School in 2015 include the continued implementation of an imbedded Information Technology curriculum and the use of iPads in the day-to-day learning of our students. Further to this there will be a continued focus on Cross Curricular Learning through an inquiry approach and advancing skills in spelling using THRASS as the main tool for learning.

During the initial address at the Junior School Information Evening the idea of ‘trust’ and ‘relationships’ was discussed.

- trust of the child in the teacher, which must be earned and immutable;
- trust of the teacher for the child, which may be broken from time to time but must always, be renewable;
- trust of the family in the teachers and College, who may not always agree, but must always remain open.

As much as humanly possible, all decisions made are for the good of the students and their educational journey. Understanding the trust that is required between all of us for the good of each child is a vital element in their success. We ask that you continue to place your trust in the wonderful teachers who work with your children. You may not always agree with them, but the decisions they make about each child are constantly in the best interests of them both academically and pastorally. It is important that you feel comfortable to question and ask for clarification as required, in order to gain an understanding of the educational needs of your child so that we are all able to work together effectively.

An area of growth for the staff over the past few years has been the amount of time they give to analysing student data, moderating individual student work so that there is a consistent approach to assessment, collaborating on an in-depth and consistent curriculum and ensuring the students obtain the absolute best opportunities to succeed. Consistency is an absolute must in our Junior School and I know that this has become more and more evident over recent times.

There is so much more to teaching children in this day and age. No longer are teachers filling empty vessels with content and knowledge, but we are supporting them to become problem solvers - providing them with a variety of ways to think creatively and critically in order for them to succeed in this new world.
Education today needs to give students the skills to work and communicate effectively and the skills for living in a complex world. Students require skills that are deeper than in the past. They need qualities to get them by in a changing world. This means changes in teaching methods also. When a teacher leaves the front of the room, kneels beside a student to coach them through a problem, offers feedback designed to promote confidence and perseverance, and becomes a true partner in the learning process, the relationship between teacher and student automatically shifts.

It’s no longer about *telling*; it’s about listening, observing, and creating the channel of trust that opens up a personal connection between two individuals. We are here as a team and together the goals will be achieved - not always without difficulties along the way, but nevertheless, the end result is achieved together.

**Students**

Our students have now been at school for over two weeks and are well and truly into their new routines. The Prep students have settled particularly well and are now at school full-time. It certainly does not take long to have these young people feeling like they belong to their new community. A highlight for them has most definitely been spending time with their Year 4 buddies. The first meeting caused great excitement for both year levels. It was heartening to see the joy on the faces of the Prep students as their buddies greeted them. The new connections made between our eldest and youngest Junior School students encourages positive relationships and certainly writes a page in their Overnewton journey that I’m sure will be a favourite for years to come. We look forward to the many stories that will be shared between the Prep and Year 4 buddies this year.

All classes spent the first week of school building relationships, revising the College values and devising their Classroom Essential Agreements. Students in all year levels will continue developing their understanding of the values and will begin with explicit work on the value of *Community* by using guiding statements, through regular Circle Time activities and the development of their Classroom Essential Agreement. They will become familiar with the College Profile terminology such as *responsibility*, *care* and *commitment* through explicit weekly sessions. As the year progresses many more profiles will be introduced through the exploration of the other three College Values; Learning, Respect and Environment. It will be important for our staff and students to continue to build on the work developed last year by living the College Values and abiding by standards the students devise and agree to with their peers and teachers.

It has certainly been a busy, yet smooth start to the school year!

**Year 3, Cross Curricular Learning; A Provocation, Taylors Lakes Campus**

*Following article written by Nicola Treacey, Deputy Head of Junior School - Pastoral, Keilor Campus*

Armed with clipboards, iPads and writing pencils the Year 3 students were immersed in their first provocation for this year. Rather than giving the students their new central idea, staff created an authentic setting where the students experienced first hand, watching, listening and wondering about all that was put in front of them. This ensured that those who had prior knowledge on this area of study were given the opportunity to demonstrate their current thinking and understandings. Each student visited the three Year 3 classrooms set up with artifacts, visuals, and audio in order to prompt their thinking about the area of learning that will be presented to them in Cross Curricular Learning this term. They all wrote and used their iPads to capture what they saw, heard and were thinking about. It was obvious that among the students there was a wealth of knowledge already; this determines the direction and the thinking that will take place as they inquire and investigate the central idea for this term.
Year 3 now look forward to exploring this further as they inquire into the central idea: “Indigenous communities are enriched by their own historical perspective”.

3BF Provocation

4MO, Junior School Keilor Campus

Following article written by Kersti Mowat, 4MO Teacher, Junior School, Keilor Campus

This term Year 4 is inquiring into how relationships are enhanced by learning about other peoples' perspectives. To provoke thinking, students were shown a video clip called ‘Take a Seat – Make a Friend’. Throughout the clip, they are shown two strangers entering a ball pit, with the agreement that each will remain in there until they have found something in common. The pair establishes a conversation by asking questions to probe for information. This situation was recreated for the Year 4 students. The purpose of the task was to highlight different perspectives, values, ideals and then find a common ground for two known people to build a relationship upon.

Student thoughts after the provocation:

“I learnt something new about someone I already knew.”

“Imagine if we had a huge ball pit...we would want to make new friends all the time!”

“Making up a secret hand shake was awesome.”

“Are we learning about how to make friends or is it something bigger that we have to think about?”
Tuning in to Kids Parenting Program 2015

Following article written by Jacqui Garkel, Student Counsellor, Junior School, Keilor Campus

Overnewton Anglican Community College will be conducting a group parenting program for parents of students in the Junior School during Term 2, 2015.

The Tuning in to Kids Program will be facilitated by our school counsellors, Jacqui Garkel and Shivon Barresi, and will run over a six week period for two hours per week.

Who: Open to parents of Junior School children
When: Term 2, 2014
Where: Taylors Lakes Campus
Dates of commencement: Wednesday 22nd April (second week of Term 2)
Time: 6.30pm to 8.30pm
Expressions of interest emailJacqui Garkel.

What is the Tuning in to Kids program?

Tuning in to Kids™ is a parenting program that helps children learn to understand and regulate their emotions. Previous research has found that parenting styles can influence a child’s emotional intelligence. Emotional intelligence is the ability to understand and control your emotions, as well as being able to communicate to others about how you feel. Children with good emotional intelligence often have better emotional, social and physical functioning, as well as fewer behavioural difficulties.

Tuning in to Kids™ is a parenting program that aims to give you helpful ways of teaching your child the skills of emotional intelligence. The program teaches you about how you, as a parent, can help your child develop good emotional skills. It teaches parents:

- awareness and regulation of their own emotions
- awareness of their children’s emotions
- to use children’s emotional experiences as an opportunity for closeness and teaching
- skills in assisting children to verbally label and manage their emotions
- skills in assisting children in problem solving
- to guide children’s behaviour with appropriate limits.

Tuning in to Kids™ involves watching video material, group discussions and exercises, role-plays, reading information and home activities, where you try out different ways of responding to your child’s emotions. Parents are encouraged to share experiences and ideas within the group and group leaders may use these as examples to
explain and teach the skills of emotion coaching.

**What is Emotional Intelligence?**

Emotional Intelligence is about using your emotions to guide you through the world. It is about being able to use your own knowledge of emotions to make decisions, to calm yourself down, to manage anger and conflict, to help you in your relationships with people, to know what is happening in social situations, and to assist you in many aspects of life where you or another person are involved.

Developing Emotional Intelligence increases your ability to:

- understand and talk about emotions
- understand other people’s emotions and respond with empathy
- motivate yourself optimistically – to plan, set goals and focus attention
- handle relationships successfully – problem solve around emotions and manage behaviour – including resolving conflict thoughtfully and non-violently.

For more information about the program visit [www.tuningintokids.org.au](http://www.tuningintokids.org.au).

A comment from a parent who was involved in the program last year:

"I thoroughly enjoyed the last six weeks and the opportunity to understand how I can better connect with my children. I learnt more about my emotions and myself during this course, which directly impacted the way I was parenting my children. Initially this was confronting but it was also the key to understanding how I can relate more positively and effectively with my children, and it was all worth it. I am so much more understanding and patient with my children and with all the examples you shared and tools you offered us over the six weeks, I have noticed immediate results."

**Places are limited.**

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**House Program – Keilor Campus**

*Following article written by Sharyn Gubbels, Gabrielle Cashmore, Rachel Crandles and Kersti Mowat, Junior School House Coordinators, Keilor Campus*

The Junior School House Program is designed to ensure that students integrate and support each other across year levels. The activities are planned to enhance the curriculum and to give all students an opportunity to participate.

To help launch the House Program for 2015 and celebrate this year’s introduction of ‘Nude Food’ within the Junior School, all families are invited to our **Nude Food Breakfast Picnic** on **Thursday 26th February from 8:20am to 8:55am** in the Amphitheatre. We ask you to bring along your breakfast (rubbish free, or ‘nude’) and a picnic rug or chairs to enjoy with other children and their families. Tea and coffee will be provided for parents, but please BYO mug.

Nude food is a fantastic opportunity to teach children about how their actions can impact the environment, focusing on the positive message of nude food equaling a healthy body and a healthy planet. Students are encouraged to bring in nude food (no wrappers, plastic wrap, etc) in their lunchbox each day. They will receive one House point for every day that their lunchbox is nude (wrapper-free)! These points will go towards the House trophy presented at the end of each term.
Ideas on how to reduce lunchbox rubbish:

- Purchase lunchboxes that are the same size as sandwiches, to avoid the need for plastic wrap or zip lock bags. Ensure it is BPA free.
- Buy less single packaged snacks and spend more time in the kitchen with kids cooking yummy biscuits, slices, muffins etc.
- Use reusable drink containers and avoid buying drink poppers. They cannot be recycled due to the fact that they contain so many materials including; plastic, paper and foil.
- Instead of giving the children disposable spoons or forks for their yoghurt or fruit snacks, use old stainless steel cutlery or get some from a second-hand shop. So if it gets lost it won't be such a big deal.
- Purchase biscuits and crackers in bigger packs that you can then serve in small reusable containers.

We look forward to seeing you at the Nude Food Breakfast Picnic!

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**Star Students, 11th February, Junior School, Taylors Lakes Campus**

**1N Victoria Avgoustatos** for a strong start to Year 1, and for role-modeling the key words in our Classroom Essential Agreement. Well done!

**1M Lucas Di Berardino** for his first-class start to Year 1 and the wonderful effort he has put into all of his work.

**2A Lucas Samuel** for writing a recount with structure and detail.

**2A Noor Ali Zafar** for expert listening and following directions.

**2O Jessie Dai** for having a great attitude towards her work and always doing her best.

**2O Justin Nguyen** for his perseverance with his two times tables on Study Ladder. Well done Justin!

**2R Lucas Wojton** for displaying the College value of 'Community' through helping others in the classroom.

**2R Georgia Borg** for settling into a new school and establishing friendships in the classroom.

**3G Reece Johnson** for working for our Year 3 community and helping other students to learn to work using iPads.

**3G Jack Jevic** for working hard to help us create a Year 3 community of learners.

**3BF Natalia Marvilla** for the positive connections she has made to her classmates and Overnewton in her first weeks at the College.

**3BF Samuel Nastasi** for being the eyes and ears of our classroom, always ready to offer ideas and ways to assist others.

**3M Liam Apap** for an excellent start to Year 3 and modeling exceptional behaviour.

**3M Melody Hudson** for being a brilliant Team Leader in the classroom.

**4I Innila Mohan** for being kind, caring and helping students settle into the classroom. Great start to the year!

**4I Lauren Tarquinio** for writing a very detailed and descriptive holiday postcard. Well done!

**4L Gabby Edwards** for displaying an open mind and being a caring friend. Keep it up Gabby!
4C Serena Olubowale for asking relevant questions about her learning.

Students of the Week, Junior School, Keilor Campus

Congratulations to the following students for being awarded Student of the Week

Prep BK Josiah Anderson for showing great bravery with all new experiences at school.

Prep K Ethan Salerno for showing kindness to his new friends.

Prep P Zachariah Lim for beginning each new day in Prep with a happy smile and a ‘can do’ attitude.

Prep R Lucas Temelkovski for always walking into our classroom with a big smile.

1CA Maya Koren for using awesome listening skills and contributing valuable thoughts to discussions.

1S Allan Haweil for working quietly and being a caring classmate.

2M Jake Asencarov for completing some outstanding work tasks independently.

2P Luke Bontorno for his warm smile and positive attitude towards his learning.

3C Claudia Mladenovic for asking questions with increased confidence.

3E Eleni Brouskos for applying herself to all classroom tasks with a positive attitude.

3S Max Isai for showing kindness for his peers and teachers.

4MP Joshua Bourne for settling into his new school beautifully.

4NK Cooper Durrant for displaying courage and strength in his learning.

4P Stephen Condello for making positive contributions to class discussions.

Scholastic Book Club Ordering

LOOP is the new Scholastic Book Club's Linked Online Ordering and Payment platform for parents. If you want to pay by credit card for your online book club order, this new platform makes it easy. It eliminates the need for paper order forms and your order is submitted safe and sound.

Log in to the Scholastic website or download the new iPhone and iPad app from the App Store.

Coming Events - Junior School, Keilor Campus

Summer Uniform and College Hats

Friday 20th February
Chapel, Prep to Year 2, 1.40pm-2.15pm
Year 3 and 4, 2.45-3.20pm, Assembly Hall, 4P Hosting
Zooper Dooper Day

Monday 23rd February
Assembly, 2.30pm, Assembly Hall
Wednesday 25th February
Year 3 Indigenous Communities Incursion

Friday 27th February
Chapel, Prep to Year 2, 1.40pm-2.15pm
Year 3 and 4, 2.45-3.20pm, Assembly Hall, 4NK Hosting

Wednesday 4th March
Years 4 to 6 District Swimming Carnival

Friday 6th March
Chapel, Prep to Year 2, 1.40pm-2.15pm
Year 3 and 4, 2.45-3.20pm, Assembly Hall, 4MP Hosting
Zooper Dooper Day

Monday 9th March
Labour Day Public Holiday

Coming Events - Junior School, Taylors Lakes Campus

Wednesday 25th February
Year 3 Incursion

Thursday 26th February
Prep BBQ, 5.30-7.00pm
Assembly, 3M Class Presentation

Friday 27th February
House Synergy Day

Monday 9th March
Labour Day