Focus Week One

Ministry of Performance: “We are all equal”

Following article written by Madeline Cram, 9 Red

This week the Year 9 students completed their first Focus Week. There was a broad range of activities, which included Mighty Melbourne, Active Kids, Ecosystems, Ministry of Performance plus many others. The Ministry of Performance group did an excellent take on what equality meant to them.

We looked at many influential people from history and what they had done to change the way that we treat others. There were many themes that could have made a great performance, but in the end we selected “We are all equal”. We all had a chance to work on new drama and music technology skills. Once we had decided on a theme we began to write scripts that would soon become our performance.

Our wonderful actors had the chance to step into the influential shoes and retell the stories of the lives of Nelson Mandela, Malala, Rosa Parkes, Abraham Lincoln, and the like. Our amazing sound crew, Visual Arts team and our stage manager, along with the incredible director, put on one of the best performances Canowindra has ever seen. We all had fun creating the performance and enjoyed working as a team.

The performance went superbly well and I believe that all students went away thinking about the fact that people are still not treated with equality. The actors were so in character that the people that they were pretending to be just came to life. The theme was very strong and the accents were very pure. We hope that all staff members and students enjoyed our take on equality.

Ecosystems Reflections

Students were asked to reflect on how their thinking about our local ecosystem, the Western Volcanic Plains, had changed during the week. Following are some of their thoughts:

I used to think there were trees, it was polluted and there wasn’t much around.

Now I think it’s very fragile and by taking away one thing or introducing another thing, you can ruin an ecosystem. We have had a huge impact on the ecosystem. Food webs are very important. Native animals are dying.

I used to think that it was well managed and that we still had many native animals. I barely knew what it was.

Now I think that there are many endangered species in our ecosystems.

I used to think that it was just about trees and nature. I didn’t know much.

Now I think that there is a lot more to our grasslands. There are millions of different species. There are lots of endangered animals.

I used to think I didn’t know a lot about our local ecosystem.

Now I think that Eastern Barred Bandicoots are endangered. Cats and foxes are the reason why some species are threatened. We need to get rid of foxes and protect endangered animals from predators.
I used to think that there was a lot of grassland, flora and fauna, including trees. Now I think that there is less than 20% of the native grassland left around Melbourne. There are a lot of endangered species. We don’t have many trees.

**Active Kids**
The Canowindra students worked with Junior School students from the Taylors Lakes Campus as part of Focus Week: Active Kids.

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**New Chaplain for Canowindra**

*Following article written by Rev. Kim Cruickshank, Senior Chaplain, Keilor Campus*

Great news for Canowindra. This year, Canowindra students and staff have their own chaplain, **Rev. Helen Dwyer**.

Helen comes to us as a priest with broad experience. She will be among us each week, on Thursdays and Fridays, spending the first part of each week as Aboriginal Reconciliation Liaison Officer for the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne.

We welcome Helen and look forward to her commissioning soon.

Rev Pene continues as Chaplain to the Junior School and Middle School, Taylors Lakes Campus.

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**Canowindra Goal Setting Day**

Students should be well prepared for **Goal Setting Day** on **Tuesday 3rd March**. Students only attend Canowindra for their Goal Setting Interview and should be in full Canowindra uniform.

Students who have a voluntary service placement should do their best to attend at the usual time if possible. They should ensure their supervisor signs the record book so we can keep details of dates and times are up to date.
Coming Events

**Tuesday 3rd March**
Goal Setting Day

**Monday 23rd March**
Focus Week 2