



This week at Heywood & District Secondary College

A part of your community.....

From the School Council President

Welcome to our new Principal, Patricia Nunan, coming to our school from Chaffey College in Mildura and Werrimull Secondary College.

Patricia has a goal of learning the name of each student and meeting all members of the school community.

We look forward to Patricia's guidance in leading the school forward to achieve even better results.

Ross Price
School Council President.

From the Principal

Dear Parents, Carers and community members,

It has been a pleasure to accept the position of Principal at Heywood and District Secondary College. I have been a principal at Werrimull in the North-West Mallee, a broad acre wheat farming area that has been through the drought. This year's crops thankfully look like they will survive

after the recent rains. The school was a small P-12 College. I spent last term as Acting Principal at a large Year7-10 school in Mildura. Before then I was in the Otways at Lavers Hill, another P-12 College. My family live in the Otways and at Anglesea, so Heywood definitely places me closer to them and will make visiting much easier. As I grew up in the dairy farming areas of Gippsland, I am sure I will soon adjust back to the wetter, cooler climate, but I have certainly had to rug up this week.

My first few days in the school have given a favourable impression. It is lovely to be back in a school where all students are known so well individually and in one which has such a strong sense of community.

I, too, look forward to getting to know each student and ensuring that their development for lifelong learning is our core business.

Our main focus will be to develop a four-year Strategic Plan following on from the Review and report last term. We will then translate this into an Annual Implementation Plan. These documents will set future

expectations and guidelines for education at the school.

In the meantime, of course, the school business continues. The senior students are completing their October exams in preparation for their finals in three weeks' time. This can be a stressful and intense time for these students. However, their preparation has been taken seriously by the staff and I am sure that their hard work over the year will bring rewards. The October tests results will provide the students with direction on where to focus their final weeks of study and revision.

I attended the Year 10 Polish Day yesterday to have lunch with the students. I congratulate the students on their keen participation and thank the staff for the extra effort that these valuable programs offer to our students. Special mention to Kerrie Smith and Melinda Radcliffe, who did an excellent job in organising the day and to Ms O'Dea and the Year 11 catering team, who were also a credit. The school is also indebted to the Local Community Partnership for their financial support and to the sponsors, Portland Alcoa

and the Commonwealth Bank for their help. We are also appreciative of the community members who shared the lunch with the students.

The Regional Director, Grant Rau, and the Regional Network Leader, Graeme Holmes, conducted a Literacy Walk yesterday. Four classrooms were visited to observe the delivery of lessons. This will be a practice that will become more common in future as we are encouraged to reflect on our teaching effectiveness for student learning.

I look forward to meeting parents so please feel free to get in touch. I ask you to please tell the world if the school is doing something well. However, if there is a problem, please tell us as we cannot do something about what we don't know.

Patrician Nunun
Principal.

From the Assistant Principal



I extend a warm welcome to our new Principal, Ms Patricia Nunan. I look

forward to working with her, as I know the rest of our school does also.

Our Year 12's are finishing soon. The October tests have been completed, and the results will enable VCE students to really focus on fine-tuning their efforts in preparations for exams. VCAL students will have work to complete also as they put the finishing touches to their year. As these students plan for next year and beyond we wish them every success.

At our General Assembly on Monday I talked about the focus for the term of Confidence. **Building Confidence** calls on each one of us to really grapple with understanding our selves...what drives us...seeing how far we can push ourselves as we strive to see what our potential is...and to show humility rather than arrogance. **This is not a false sense of self**, but something much more sincere and well-founded, that also respects other people's knowledge, skills and abilities. The **skills** that we will all be actively focussing on developing include: **Accepting Yourself; Taking Risks** in terms of **new ideas and skills: Being Independent; Telling Yourself that You Can Do It**. I also added that we often have to contend with negative thoughts

and mindsets, such as: **Putting Yourself Down; Needing to be Perfect; Needing Approval; Thinking that You...Just..Can't...Do..It**. I would encourage parents to also reinforce the development of confidence skills and habits of mind at home.



And speaking of Confidence, the Year 10's were building their confidence on Wednesday as they underwent their "Polish" program. They did this through workshops such as: What is Success; Goal setting; Confidence; Manners and etiquette; Men's and Women's grooming; Interview skills; and Being healthy.



Thanks to Ms Smith, Ms Radcliffe and Ms O'Dea for their wonderful organisation of the day.

This week we have also started our trial Lexia reading program for Term 4. We are fortunate to have Ms Bernadette Tapscott with us for several weeks to bed this interactive program down. Already students' confidence with the program is evident, which is an extremely positive start as we go about improving student outcomes.



Robyn Sutherland
Assistant Principal.

Coming Events

October

Friday, 30th - Yr. 12 Exams commence.

November

Monday, 9th – Yr. 11 Exam week.
Friday, 13th

Thursday, 19th – Yr. 10 Exams.
Friday, 20th

Friday, 20th – Last Day Yr. 11's.
Friday, 20th – Yr. 12 Formal

Monday, 23rd – Yr. 10
Friday, 27th Outdoor Camp

Monday, 30th - G.V.B.R.
Friday, Dec., 4th

December

Tuesday, 8th - Gr. 6 Orientation Day

Thursday, 10th – Presentation Night.

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Literacy Program – LEXIA Reading

During Term 4, Heywood & District Secondary College is trialling a computer based Literacy Program called LEXIA Reading.

Students participating are tested to determine their appropriate starting point in the oral language program, giving strategies for older students, which is internet-based. Students are then able to work independently on specific skills the testing identified as needing intensive practice. The reporting system of the program provides teachers with specific information as to the one-on-one instruction each student requires.

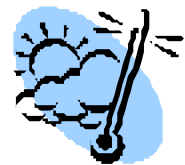
The second part of the program is LEXIA Cross-Trainer, which is an interactive game-based program that caters for students' development in

Logical Reasoning Skills and Visual Perception Development. Again students are able to progress at their own level and rate, with a detailed reporting system alerting teaching staff as to the specific needs of each student. Students participating in this trial are supervised at all times with teaching staff able to provide one-on-one assistance specific to each student's rate of development and point of need.

Sun Warning – Believe Me... The UV Rays Are Out There!

This summer we will all head outdoors to enjoy the warm weather, but many of us will also be putting ourselves at risk of skin cancer. Due to our harsh climate and outdoor lifestyle, Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world – two in three of us are diagnosed with skin cancer before the age of 70. More of us die of skin cancer than in road accidents, yet skin cancer is almost entirely preventable if you protect your skin, so play it safe in the sun.

Therefore, it is important to wear your sun hat, apply sunscreen and seek suitable shade. All of this is offered here at school – so look after yourself.



Year 7 Program – Gunditjmarra Country/Science



On Wednesday, 11th of September, all the Year 7's, Miss Hill, Miss Dridan and Ms Honan, travelled to Penshurst to visit the Volcanic Discovery Centre and Mt. Rouse.

At Mt. Rouse we went to the quarry and saw what the geologists had come and looked at. We were shown the smallest cave. Only snails lived in it. We then ventured to the top of Mt. Rouse. We could see Mt. Eccles, Mt. Elephant, the Grampians and Mt. Napier. Even though it was extremely windy, we had heaps of fun. We then headed back to the Discovery Centre.

At the Discovery Centre we completed a worksheet that was linked with all the info in the centre. We had to find

all of the answers around on the walls and on the video screen. We then went to another room to watch a slideshow about different rocks and volcanoes. Liz then showed us some of the rocks including scoria, volcanic bombs and pumice. We also discovered that green crystals found in particular rocks are called olivine. After our experience we headed to the never-ending springs where we had our lunch.

The never-ending springs means that Penshurst never runs out of water. They never have water restrictions because of that spring. We then got back on the bus and headed home.

We thank Miss Hill, Miss Dridan and Ms Honan for taking us on this wonderful experience.

*By Monique Watson and
Stacey McCabe .*

Sports News

Are you aged between 12 and 25 years of age and think you have what it takes to represent Australia at the 2012 Olympic Games?

South-West Academy of Sport has joined forces with the Australian Sports Commission's National Talent Identification and Development (NTID) program to offer young

people the opportunity to participate in talent identification screening. Anyone who demonstrates above-average potential in the tests may be invited to participate in the NTID program.

To find out more about the NTID program and to book in to the Portland Secondary College testing session on Monday October 28, visit ausport.gov.au/etid

"Mocks"

The latest fundraiser for Parents and Friends is "Mocks",



which are socks for your mobile phones. They are \$10 each. You can order them through the Office and the Library. Both places have the large range of colours and designs. The range includes electronic mocks for \$15, mock cards for \$12, and even mock twisters for \$7. You have to pay up-front. The fundraiser will run until 14/10/2009. Delivery will be a couple of weeks after that.