

The 2014 year has started smoothly and I am very pleased with the way that each student has become familiar with their new class routines, classmates and teachers. They are all trying really hard to do their best both in the classroom and out in the yard.

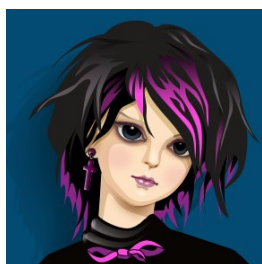
It was a pleasure to introduce our new students, those starting school for the first time and those who had moved to Concord school from other schools, at assembly. It was special to see each one of them accept their welcome certificate which acknowledged the great start that they have made. I have particularly enjoyed getting to know the new little "preps" and to share their excitement as they take on all the challenges that starting school has to offer.

The Junior program encourages the development of a range of skills and abilities that enables students to discover self-awareness, work cooperatively, solve problems and experience a sense of purpose and achievement. There is great emphasis placed on developing the skills of cooperation, care and respect for each other. At this time of the year in particular, the focus is on the importance of following section and class rules which supports the development of these skills.

The section rules are:

- Get along with others
- Keep yourself and others safe
- Look after school things
- Walk inside

The Twilight family BBQ was the first of many special events listed on the 2014 Junior Section calendar. It is also one of the most important. The BBQ is our way of welcoming our new families to the Junior Section and our "old" families to the 2014 school year. The children had a wonderful time with their friends on the jumping castle and enjoyed the opportunity to have a tattoo or their hair coloured. It has been reported that Jason, our Principal was "tattooed" but drew the line at having his hair spray painted. Hank, Colin's (Assistant Principal) dog was once again a great hit with the children who took it in turns to walk him around the campus. I am told Hank was exhausted by the end of the evening but enjoyed the attention and company that was lavished upon him! To all those who attended the BBQ, I hope you felt welcomed, and that you took the opportunity to have a chat with other Junior parents.



Our integrated unit this semester is "Animals of the World". In this unit, students will investigate a variety of animals and the habitats they live in such as the bushland, sea, rainforest, desert, farm, zoo, homes and in gardens. They will be encouraged to make links between these animals and their specific environments. Students will have the opportunity to identify animals, classify and sort them according to simple criteria in terms of body features, habitat, food and shelter needs. Students will be encouraged to notice similarities and differences between animals based on habitat, diet, body features and the way they move. They will begin to develop an understanding of the need to look after the environment to ensure the safety of animal life. Excursions and direct experiences will allow students to gain information, record their observations and share their knowledge with others. Over the semester, a range of excursions have been planned to support this unit. These excursions include the Zoo, Bundoora Farm, Aquarium, Chesterfield Farm and Werribee Zoo. You will be notified of which excursions your child's class will be involved in.

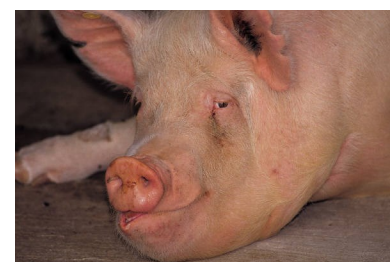


To support the introduction of this unit we have had a visit from "Wriggly Reptiles" during which students were able to touch and hold a variety of reptiles. Some students were happy just to look and listen whilst others couldn't wait to get up close and personal. A variety of pets have also come along to school for a visit. There have been guinea pigs, a turtle, a rabbit, dogs and even a ferret! It is amazing to see the different types of pets that are in our homes.



As I have wandered in and out of the classrooms over the past few weeks I have been impressed by the range of exciting activities that are presented to our students and how engaged they are with learning.

Well done everyone!



Kath Moore
Assistant Principal



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Connections

Middle Section Newsletter

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This term MSP went on camp to Ocean Grove. We had a fantastic time. The students got to take part in different activities. Some of these activities included: going to the park, swimming at the beach and visiting the Lobster Pot to find out information about different sea animals.



While on camp we went on the ferry, travelling from Queenscliff to Sorrento. We all had a great time. Some of the kids were lucky enough to spot some dolphins swimming alongside us. On the ferry ride back from Sorrento we got to see the Water Police on a training exercise. We all loved watching the boats speed up beside us and try to attach their ladders to the ferry.



'My favourite thing at camp was the park.' - Ethan

'I liked swimming at the beach.' - Holly

'I liked going on the ferry.' - Evan

'I liked seeing the other boats when we were on the ferry. They were fast.' - Elia

'The ferry was cool. It was BIG!' - Jake



MJT have been making good use of the science area in the Discovery Centre. Each Friday morning we have been investigating density through a series of science experiments. We have used oil, water and food colouring to show which liquids are less dense than others. Last week we made a simplified lava lamp which some students chose to take home. The students enjoy working in this area and show a lot of interest and excitement when participating in this science program.



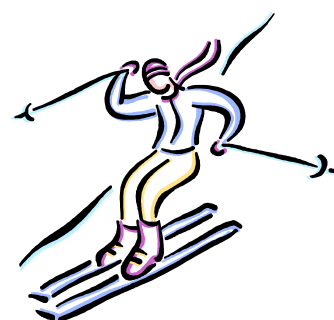
Thanks to Jesse who is based up in the Discovery Centre, he is always very willing to assist us when we are up there.



Fun Fitness is always a popular elective. It is run by the YMCA in Macleod and is a wonderful program to be part of. Steve our coach plans activities aimed to challenge the student's skill and fitness level. Steve is a gymnast himself and most times we end up with some time in the gymnastics area. It is pleasing to see that by the end of the term each student has further developed their strength, agility, skill, fitness and abilities.

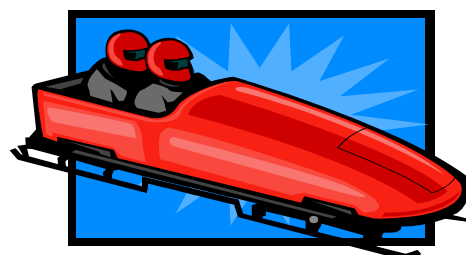


In week 5 **MTI** went on an imaginary journey to Sochi, Russia and learned about Australia's part in the 22nd Winter Olympic Games. This included studying the many unfamiliar winter events which a record 61 Aussies would compete in and took home 3 medals. Other areas of focus included the history of the games, research of a sport of their choice and also of an Australian athlete.



On Friday 21st of February we participated in our own class Olympic Games. Modified winter sports included the biathlon, skeleton, 2-man bobsleigh and ice hockey! Each student created his or her own 'Olympic Profile' that was put on display, while also receiving their own gold medal and photo with the Olympic Rings.

Each of us enjoyed learning about a new place in the world and getting a taste of something new!



Chris Norman
Team Leader

SKH's highlight has been a "Brain Dissection" lesson and also an apple and water tasting lessons for year 7 students. The students have made many discoveries about the brain or body systems already – ask them to share their learning with you. Students have produced some amazing pieces of work in their portfolios and learning journals. This includes "HomeThink". I hope you have fun working with your child on these tasks! Remember they are due back to me on a Thursday, when you will receive new work. Congratulations to SKH Class Leaders; Melinda and Tenesha and also Assad who is our class representative on the SRC.



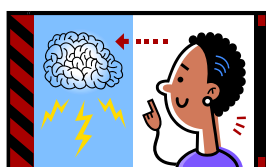
SMP has been very busy. The students have enjoyed getting to know their new classmates and are getting comfortable with their regular programs. We were very happy to welcome Penny and Shelby to our classroom. Penny and Shelby are both spiny leaf insects. All of the students have enjoyed holding them and being involved in their general care. It's been a really fun way to explore the biology of a living creature and has sparked an interest in many of the students to explore further. To date we have investigated some other insects found in our school environment such as the Katydid that was found by a student from a different class. With our new found understandings about classification of living things we were able to identify the new insect and explore its eating habits and general habitat. We look forward to sharing more of our findings as the year progresses.



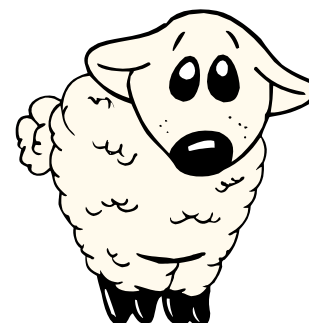
SIB and SSB visited the Melbourne Museum as part of our immersion into the Integrated Unit. We are studying the Brain and Human Body Systems this term. The exhibitions were hands-on and everyone was fascinated by the activities. Students learnt about dreams, memory, balance, joints, co-ordination as well as anatomy and function. It was a great excursion!



SKL has enjoyed showing the new students to Concord School: Rika, Con and Mia the learning and fun that takes place here at Concord School! We have been busy working on our Numeracy program and studying 'Human Body Systems' and 'The Brain'. Many of us have almost achieved our Term One goals and are working hard to complete them by the end of term. We are eager for the exciting events ahead such as, the **Secondary Spectacular** and showing our families our hard work during SSG meetings!



SJF have had a wonderful start to the school year. The year 8 students have been fantastic role models and the year 7 students have settled into the Secondary Section very well. The year 7 students have been learning all about the brain, and what we can do to keep it healthy. All students dissected a sheep's brain and thought it was pretty cool and interesting! The year 8 students have been busy learning all about the human body systems and how they work. They have been enjoying visiting the Discovery Centre to complete activities.



The Secondary Section has had a positive start to the 2014 school year. After class groups spent the first 1-2 weeks building working relationships and completing assessment tasks, students are now in full swing and are fully engaged in all formalised and structured programs.

The 2014 Secondary Spectacular organisation and rehearsals are well on the way. Laura from the Australian School of Performing Arts is working with us each Thursday to learn dances. Alix is working with students who have a speaking and acting part, learning their lines and acting their role. Behind the scenes, Carole is coordinating costume design, and Vera is working with students to create backdrops and props. Last week we had a wonderful group of talented mums and grandmothers in to sew costumes, we certainly hope we can have more of these community working bees. We are also grateful to have received some financial support from the Family and Friends Association (FFA) to fund these costumes. A big thank you to the FFA.

If your child is in Secondary, I'm sure you have heard the excitement of this year's spectacular theme, 'Mamma Mia'. Please remember to have Wednesday 18th June at 1.30pm marked in your diary for this event. This performance is open for all family and friends to attend and join in the celebration of student achievement, so spread the word!!



Christine Pillot
Team Leader

Students and staff in the Pathways section have gotten off to a flying start to 2014. We have 7 home groups this year and four new staff members! We welcome Mara who is a new teacher in our section and Jennifer who is an Education Support person who has come to us from Middle section as well as our new trainees Kate and Crystal.

In the Pathways section we offer our students the opportunity to be involved in many engaging and real life learning experiences. Our core subjects are Literacy, Numeracy and Social Competencies. Students also work towards achieving the internationally recognised Duke of Edinburgh Award - Bridge 1 and 2. This requires students to learn a new skill, be involved in physical recreation, be involved in an adventurous journey and participate in community service.

Fit For Life

Participation in the **Fit for Life** program allows students to meet the requirements of participating in physical recreation. There are 6 components in the **Fit for Life** program, 3 of which are new this year. The **Fit for Life** program incorporates Interschool Sport (cricket, netball, basketball, bowling, indoor cricket, gym program, fitness), YMCA (resistance weights program, bike fitness), Golf (new), Swimming fitness classes (new), Healthy Cooking and Outdoor Adventure (new). In all components of the **Fit for Life** program there is an emphasis on general health and wellbeing. The Body Culture program is another component of the **Fit for Life** program, where students are involved in three sessions run by consultants who discuss body image and self esteem, relationships and friendships, peer pressure and assertiveness.



Swimming

Students participate in an aerobic swim class at Watermarc, in waist deep water. Students get to work out to music and improve their fitness and coordination.

YMCA

At the YMCA students have a trainer who leads them in group fitness activities such as cycling, using resistance weight machines and group sport activities.

Healthy Cooking

Students in the cooking group make lunch for staff around the school and themselves. They research different options, shop for the ingredients and cook and deliver the lunches. This program focuses on healthy lunch options and healthy ways of cooking.

Outdoor Adventure

Students in the outdoor adventure group go to different venues by school bus, where they have a go at fishing, walking through the bush and cooking on the campfire. The emphasis of this component is for students to enjoy the outdoors while being active and social with one another.

Interschool Sport

Students compete in a variety of sports against other specialist schools. Sports played are Cricket, Netball, Auskick, Basketball, Futsal, Bowling, and Minor Games. The emphasis for this program is on good sportsmanship, trying your best and enjoying being active.

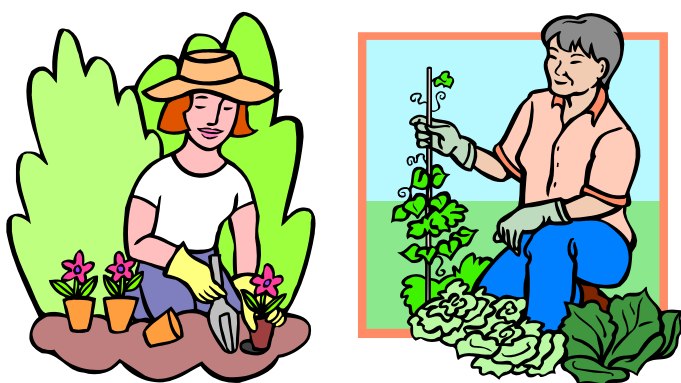
Golf

Students use public transport to travel to Latrobe Golfing Range, where they participate in mini golf and golf lessons including teeing off and the driving range. The emphasis for this program is on good sportsmanship, trying your best and enjoying being active.



Sarah Abbott
Team Leader

TSH has had a fantastic start to 2014. Students have enjoyed participating in Post School Connections activities through Ivanhoe Diamond Valley Centre and work skills at Kevin Heinze Gardening Centre. During visits to Kevin Heinze, students have weeded and prepared the two Concord School garden beds ready for planting. So far we have planted seedlings for spring onions, spinach, peas and purple broccoli. We are hoping to buy a lemon tree or two from the Kevin Heinze Nursery to add some colour to the garden beds. It will be wonderful to see these plants grow each fortnight, and we are hopeful that we will be able to use our crops for cooking activities later in the year.



Wow! What an amazing evening the **Concord Careers Expo** for 2014 was. The Concord Gym was buzzing with Yr 9, 10, 11 and 12 students and their families exploring many options for their career planning journey.

We had representatives from TAFEs, Further Education and Training providers, Employment Services, Day Services and Individualised Services.

Other support services to assist with travel training and independent living were also there. The National Disability Coordination Officer was also in attendance along with local Council personnel and Workplace Learning Coordinators from the Local Learning and Employment Network.

The CEO of the Professional Career Organisation and the Regional Career Development Officer were also in attendance and the response I have had from all concerned has been very positive. It was a wonderful opportunity to explore all these options under one roof and the service providers also enjoyed catching up with each other. It was very pleasing also to see some of our 2013 exited students coming along to tell us how happy they are with their placements this year.

It is an exciting time for our Yr 12's. Remember 'Enjoy the Journey'.

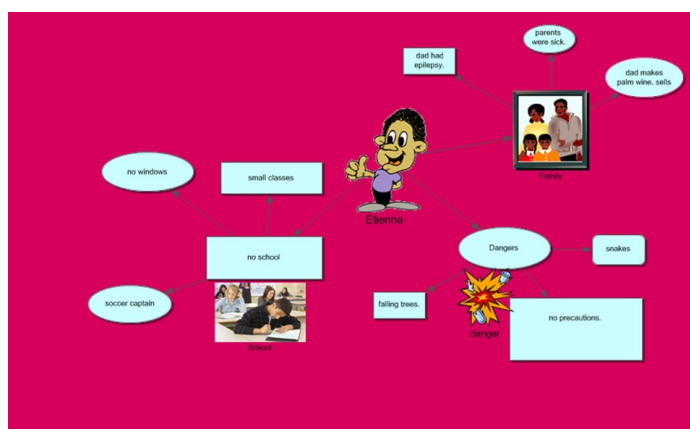
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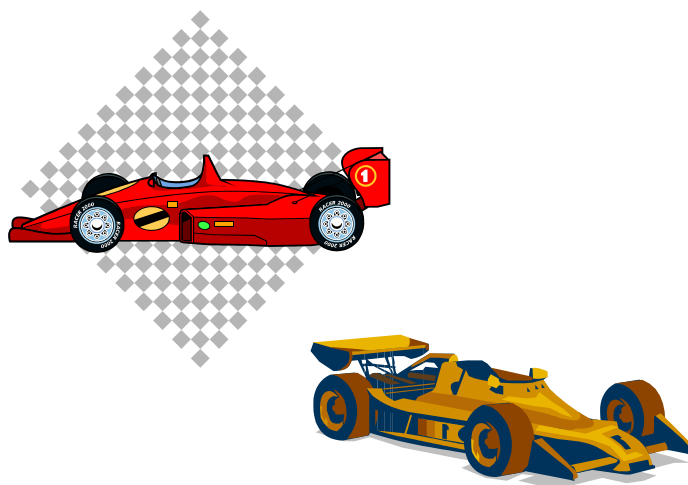
VCAL students are studying the theme of **Fairtrade** in Literacy. So far they have looked at some videos on the life of Etienne who lives in Cameroon, Africa. Students are learning what it is like to live in Africa and having to work in the cocoa fields. Etienne had to miss school to work and make money to help his family.

They created a concept map using a program called Inspiration, thanks to Pam Wright's help. Three paragraphs were written using the map and students will read these to gather feedback from their peers.

We will explore children's rights and then Fairtrade. If you don't know what Fairtrade is, keep watching this space!



As part of the Transition VCAL Numeracy program this year, the VCAL classes went to the **2014 Melbourne Formula 1 Grand Prix**. We examined the aerodynamics of the Formula 1 cars as students have been designing racing car models combining solar powered batteries and balsa wood strips in their numeracy classes. This helps us see how our designs can be modified to be faster. We enjoyed the atmosphere and experience of the Formula 1 and we also saw some extreme ramp skating and a dazzling air show. Everyone had a great time. For many of the boys a highlight was having their photo taken with some of the Grand Prix pit girls! Now we are even more excited for racing our own model racing cars!



Warren Gaff
Transition Team Leader

DADS CAN!

Are you a father of a child with additional needs? Maybe your child has a physical or learning disability. Or your child has a chronic medical condition. Perhaps your son or daughter is on the Autism Spectrum.

Do you want to be more proactive about your child's development?

If you've answered yes to these questions, you are welcome to come along to a pizza night where you can meet other Dads. It will be a laid back evening where you will have the opportunity to share experiences, information and advice.

When: Sunday, 23 March, 7.30-9.30pm

Where: 1 Kalparrin Avenue, Greensborough

***RSVP: Annette Magro, 9435 8311,
AnnetteMagro@kalparrin.com.au***

Research confirms that children whose fathers are more involved with their development show better outcomes. Research also tells us that parents who have a peer support network build better skills and confidence in supporting their child to thrive.



The Dads Can Project is made possible through the generous support of





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Arts Centre Melbourne presents

Siblings in Sync



Create
and record
music
together

REGISTER YOUR
INTEREST NOW
AS PLACES ARE
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Special Needs Access Program for Families

AGES
5 - 10

Siblings in Sync is a unique and innovative school holiday program for children with disabilities and their siblings.

It aims to:

- Foster relationships between siblings
- Provide positive shared experiences
- Give children the opportunity to express themselves
- Communicate with their sibling through creative music-making

The session is run by two Registered Music Therapists and will be tailored to suit the individual needs of participants within a small group.

Participants will have the opportunity to:

- Create music together
- Use music technology (including The Special Access Kit)

A music therapist will be in contact with you prior to your session commencing to obtain relevant information in order to plan for individual needs.

All participants must be accompanied by an adult for the duration of the sessions.

Venue: Arts Centre Melbourne, Digital Learning Hub

Times: 11am

Dates: Tuesday 8 April or Thursday 10 April

Duration: 60 mins

Cost: \$25 per family

Bookings:

For more information or to book, phone (03) 9281 8194, or email snap@artscentremelbourne.com.au

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Anonymous
Miss Betty Amsden OAM
Mrs Barbara Haynes
The Pratt Foundation

Music Therapy is the planned and creative use of music to attain and maintain health and wellbeing. It may address physical, psychological, emotional, cognitive and social needs of individuals within a therapeutic relationship. Music Therapy is a registered allied health profession.