

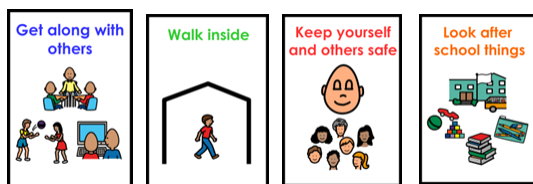
Welcome to the 2015 school year and to the first section newsletter. Lower Primary staff are looking forward to working with you and your children. We encourage your participation in our programs or special events and hope that you will take the opportunity to be involved at some time during the year. I am sure we will have a successful and happy year in Lower Primary.

I would like to especially acknowledge our new little preps, Lukas, Eliza, Shalom, Thai, Kenai, James, Lucas, Mason, Matin, Roman and Jett who have taken the first steps on their learning journey. I have enjoyed getting to know these new students, seeing their happy faces each day, and sharing in their excitement as they experience school life at Concord. I am confident that they will enjoy much success within their school program.

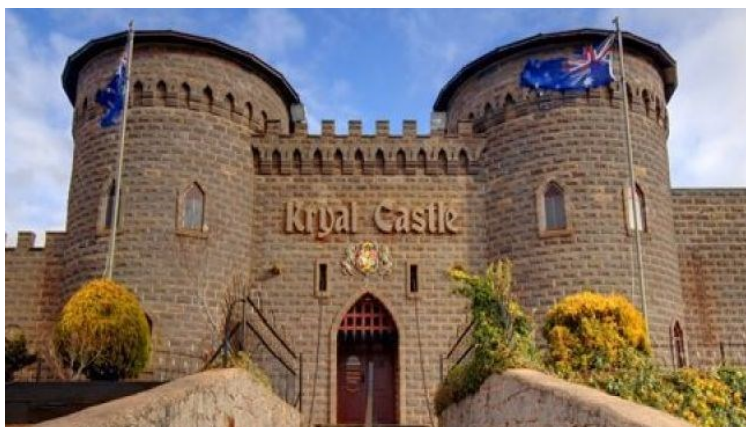
After a cancellation due to inclement weather and then further changes to the date, it was a great relief to finally see the Family BBQ come to fruition. It was a great success and attended by many families. The BBQ is our way of welcoming our new families to Lower Primary and welcoming our "old" families back. The children are always excited about sharing this special occasion with their families and friends. I hope you enjoyed the opportunity to meet other parents and staff on a social basis. I know I did!

This semester's integrated unit "Understanding Me" will provide a range of experiences that will enable students to investigate their own history and the values that they bring to school. They will be encouraged learn how to become an important member of their class and school through cooperative class work and an awareness of rules and expectations. Students will have opportunities to explore their feelings and how these feelings translate into actions. They will be provided with strategies around safe practices in and around their homes, school and community. At this time of the year and also to support the integrated unit there has been a focus on the importance of following school and class rules. Students have been learning that these rules help them to know what to do at school, and to keep them safe. As always, great emphasis is placed on developing the skills of cooperation, care for each other and the need to seek assistance from teachers if there is a problem.

#### Lower Primary rules are:



We started the camping program very early in the year with PCA & PKD venturing off to Blackwood in February. This posed a few new challenges that we had not experienced before. We had to deal with March flies and mosquitoes whilst doing campsite activities such as the Imagination Trail and Low Ropes. We believe we created a new dance called the "Dance of the March Flies", the choreography being much feet stamping and waving of hands around the face and body. At times watching staff and students fend off the mossies and flies was quite comical and entertaining. Needless to say students and staff pushed through the bugs and still participated enthusiastically in the activities. The night walk, dinner out, McDonalds, a visit to Kyril Castle and Wendouree Adventure playground all added up to a very busy camp which was enjoyed by all. The way everyone worked, played and cooperated with each other was a credit to them.



Well done everyone! A great start to the year!  
Enjoy a safe and happy holiday break.

The Upper Primary Section of the school run an Electives Program each Wednesday afternoon. We run a number of activities and each student chooses what they want to do. Students can change activities each term.

### Cooking Elective

This term, 11 students have participated in the Cooking elective. Students have learnt many skills, from washing their hands before cooking, safety in the kitchen, waiting their turn and cleaning up after cooking. Each week, students have made one or two items. Some of the items were everyday foods such as Fruit Kebabs and Banana Smoothies and others were foods such as Pancakes and Chocolate Cars. Each week, students were encouraged to taste the foods and many discovered new foods that they liked. - Karyn, Vanessa and Sammi

### Music Elective

This term the focus in the Music Elective has been movement and dance. The sessions have been dedicated to the "Just Dance" challenge where the students have been setting themselves personal dance goals. Each week they have been encouraged to dance to as many of the selected songs as possible. The aim of the challenge is to appreciate their peer's musical preferences as all songs are selected by the students, learn new and exciting dance moves and improve their fitness through dance. Well done to all the Music Elective Students for Term 1, you have all put in a tremendous effort. - Alix and Krystal

### Fun Fitness Elective

The Fun Fitness elective take place at the YMCA in Macleod. Steve is our instructor, he is wonderful with the students and always encourages them to do their best. Some activities the students participate in are riding the exercise bikes, playing games on the basketball court and spending some time in the gymnastics area. It is always great to see the students improve their fitness and skills by the end of each term. This is a great elective and all students enjoy their time when at this elective. - Jennie and Renee

### Science Elective

In Science this term we have been looking at different liquids and solids and how they react with each other. We looked at how mentos changes the ingredients in coke, lemonade and diet cola. All four bottles exploded with soft drink flying up into the air. Diet cola had the greatest explosion into the air. We have also made lava lamps, tried to blow up a balloon using water and yeast and made a skeleton from newspaper. All students in the Science elective have had a lot of fun. - Melissa and Alessia

### Consumer Skills Elective

The Consumer Skills Elective is a valuable program and encompasses many vital skills. Students walk to Andrews Place where they catch the public bus to Greensborough Plaza. This involves learning about pedestrian and road traffic safety, as well as gaining an understanding of bus timetables. Students learn how to use a MYKI card on the bus and about using appropriate behaviour on public transport. Students really enjoy the shopping experience at Coles. They learn about a variety of sections of the supermarket and food items, where to locate them in the store and use their speech and money skills to purchase an item. This gives the students lots of confidence and helps them to take responsibility for their own

belongings. This is a very worthwhile program and the students have lots of fun along the way. - Debbie and Carla

### Gymnastics Elective

The gymnastics elective is held at the PIT Gymnastics Centre in Mill Park. Sue is our gymnastics instructor. Sue has had many years of experience in this field and is great with the students. The students' participate in a variety of different activities which support in the development of their gymnastics skills. Most students' favourite activity is swinging into the pit from the ropes. - Rachael and Melissa.

### Outdoor Games

This term, in the Outdoor Games elective we have been practising our skills in a variety of sports. So far we have been playing soccer, football, basketball, baseball and kickball. The students have enjoyed being introduced to new sports and the rules in which need to be followed to play these games.

We have also been lucky this term to have a visit from the Diamond Valley Basketball Association. They have been running some basketball clinics with our students over the past 2 weeks. During these sessions, the students have been able to learn as well as improve on skills such as dribbling, shooting and passing.

The students have had a great time with these sessions and are looking forward to having them back later on in the year.

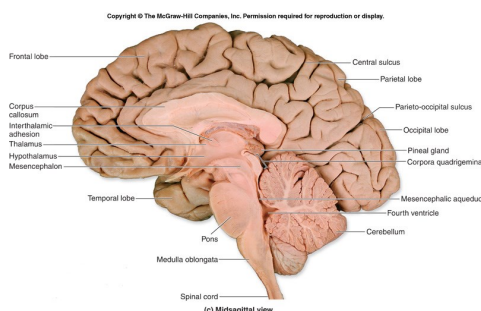
Well done to all the students in the Outdoor Games electives. Sabrina and Jesse.



Chris Norman  
Team Leader



**SKH's** highlight has been a "Brain Dissection" lesson and also this week's excursion to IMAX and the Melbourne Museum with SMP. 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 Tuesday, when you will receive new work. Congratulations to SKH Class Leaders; Tenesha and Anthony.



**SEO and SKL** have had an awesome start to the 2015 school year. We are busy learning our dances for the Secondary Spectacular and love the Hairspray soundtrack! We enjoy having Josh and Ridwan at Concord School as they add to our class dynamic. In Numeracy we are focusing on place value and sequencing. We meet as a large group for a whole class activity and then move into our four Numeracy groups. The photo shows us having fun completing one of our whole class activities. Students were fully engaged, took turns and enjoyed problem solving in pairs. Students show great success when working in a collaborative team. We have done hands on learning for our Integrated Units: The Brain and Human Body Systems. Check out the pictures of us completing our brain dissection and creating blood for the Circulatory System. We look forward to the upcoming holiday and more fun to come in Term 2.



**SCS and SSB** Fresh Fruit Fridays have been a huge hit with the students. The staff and students meet before lunch each Friday to share fruit and their learning for the week. Students talk openly about their like/dislikes and strengths/weaknesses and the opportunities they have engaged with the most during their class time. It is very pleasing to listen to the students share and enjoy these session. The fruit is also a valuable part of the sessions with students trying different seasonal fruits.



**SJF** have had a busy start to 2015. We have settled into our new classroom and have enjoyed making lots of new friends. We are very excited to participate in the Spectacular performance of Hairspray, and love practicing with our dance teacher Laura. We have found learning about the Brain and the Human Body very interesting, and even dissected sheep's hearts and brains – what an experience!

The Secondary Section has had a positive start to the 2015 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 2015 Secondary Spectacular organisation and rehearsals are well on the way. Laura from the Australian School of Performing Arts is working with us again to learn the dances and put the performance together. A number of students auditioned and picked up a speaking and acting role, which they have started to learn their lines. Once again we are grateful to have received some financial support from the Family and Friends Association (FFA) to fund costumes. A big thank you to the FFA. If your child is in Secondary 7-8, I'm sure you have heard the excitement of this year's spectacular theme, 'Hairspray'. Please remember to have Thursday 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

It's been an exciting start to the year so far in Secondary 9/10. Everyone has hit the ground running including our two new teachers. This year we welcome Kate to our team who has come all the way from England as well as Thom who has joined us from the Upper Primary team. We have also welcomed Sharee, Trish and Jess as our new trainees.

We have continued to improve on the curriculum we offer to our Secondary 9/10 students. This year students participate in 5 double sessions a week of literacy and 6 sessions of numeracy a week. For both Literacy and Numeracy students are placed in small groups so their teacher can target their individual levels and learning outcomes. We use the Australian Nation Curriculum (Aus VELS) to set learning outcomes and guide our teaching.

We have introduced the school wide Integrated Unit and in Secondary 9/10 this semester we will be focusing on 'Australia As a Nation'. This has already prompted many fascinating discussions with questions like,

- What does an Australian look like?
- What do governments do and how do they keep us safe?
- What does culture mean and how does it apply to our every day lives?
- How has Australia's history shaped the Australia we know and live in today?



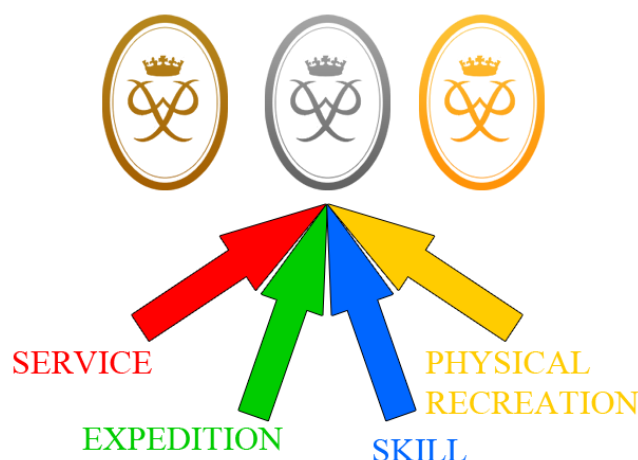
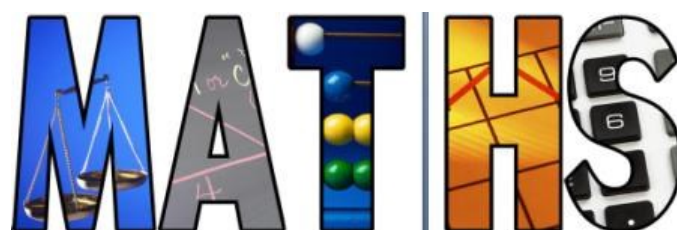
The biggest change in our curriculum has been to our Duke of Edinburgh program. The Duke of Edinburgh (DOE) Award is an internationally recognised award set up by the husband of the Queen to encourage learning to take place both in and out of the classroom. Our year 9s have the potential to earn the DOE Bridge Level 1 Award and our year 10s can earn the DOE Bridge Level 2 Award. In order for students to earn their Duke of Edinburgh award students must complete 4 different components each year.

- Students must learn a new skill (our students participate in the Encounter Skill Program for 1 semester). They are given the choice of the following subjects: Radio, Music, Documentary Making and Photography. Students participate in their chosen program for 4 sessions on a Wednesday.
- Students must participate in regular physical recreation (our students participate in the Encounter Physical Recreation Program for 1 semester). They can choose from Water Exercise, Interschool Sport and Outdoor Adventure.
- Students must attend an adventurous journey (our students attend the year 9 camp to the Grampians Dreamtime Quest Camp and the Anglesea Surf Camp in year 10).

- Students must participate in community service (our students complete either community service or a fundraising activity with their homegroup).

In order for students to earn their award they must meet minimum requirements of hours for each of these programs as well as complete a reflection journal. The work our students complete as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award will be on display at our annual on-show night for parents.

As you can imagine our students work very hard every day, so parents, grandparents and carers really should be very proud!



Tim Clarke  
Team Leader



## VCAL LITERACY AND NUMERACY

Some of our VCAL students have had technology coaching with Pam Wright. Students worked on activities related to their upcoming Grand Prix excursion. They worked on ipads using the Poplet program. With this easy-to-use program they developed concept maps and inserted photos. We will also use this program in Literacy when we are working on our paragraph writing. Below is Tori's Poplet.

Groups also worked with BeeBot cars and programmed their estimated instructions into the cars. They tried their cars on the tracks to see how accurate they were. Whilst it was a fun activity, they also used estimations, numeracy skills and teamwork. Caitlin, Fatima and Lochy enjoyed working with the BeeBots.

Pam also showed us the brand new line-reader robotic cars. They scan barcodes allowing them to follow tracks, race each other, follow a torch's light and stay within track lines. It was an exciting activity and we will develop more instructions for the cars in future lessons. Students worked well in groups which is an area we have been concentrating on in our section.

## VCAL WORK RELATED SKILLS - GENERAL WORK SKILLS

This semester the students in the General Work Skills group have decided to include a range of specialty gift bags for sale at next month's Mothers' Day Stall. The students have decided to put together gift bags with different themes such as gardening, pampering, busy mum and sweet tooth. Prices will range from \$5.00 up to \$15.00. The students are all keen for the stall to open so they can put their customer service skills to the test!

## CONCORD CAREERS EXPO

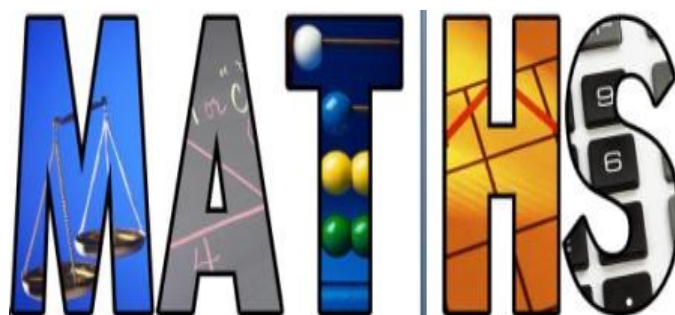
Wow! What an exciting evening. The Concord Gym was buzzing with Year 9, 10, 11 and 12 students and their families exploring many options for their career planning journey.

We had representatives from over 25 post school service providers: TAFEs, Further Education and Training providers, Employment Services, Day Services and Individualised Services and respite care. Other support services to assist with travel training and independent living were also there. The National Disability Co-ordination Office provided comprehensive transition information booklets and local Council personnel and Workplace Learning Coordinators from the Local Learning and Employment Network provided information about employment opportunities.

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 2014 exit students coming along to tell us how happy they are with their placements this year.

The year 12 students and their families came well prepared after having a 45 minute Career Planning Consultation with the Careers and Transition Co-ordinator. Throughout this interview a 'picture was painted' of the individual student identifying their history, individual strengths and weaknesses and transferrable skills. The importance of career allies and maintaining contact with the Careers Coordinator was established to remain informed of future tour dates etc. This further enhanced the career exploration process and journey.

Feedback was very positive and we look forward to conducting further parental engagement career conversation activities in the near future.



Warren Gaff  
Team Leader