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Junior Section Newsletter

concord.sch@edumail.vic.gov.au www.concordsch.vic.edu.au

411 Grimshaw Street, Bundoora 3083 PO Box No. 90 Bundoora 3083

Grimshaw campus T (03) 9467 3972 F (03) 9467 8018

T (03) 9432 7978

Junior campus

F (03) 9432 4593

12th June 2014 Newsletter No. 9

What an action packed term it has been! There have been so many different experiences that have developed, challenged and reinforced students learning. Our students' focus on learning and on developing positive relationships with others has been a credit to



As the "Animals of the World" unit of study comes to a close it is evident from the projects, photos, creative writing, art works and discussions that have been completed over the semester. students have learnt a great deal and have extended their knowledge and understanding about animals and their environments. Students have investigated a variety of

animals and the habitats they live in, and have identified, classified and sorted them according to simple criteria such as body features, habitat, food and shelter needs. Excursions and direct experiences have allowed students to gain information, record their observations and share their knowledge with others. There have been visits to the Zoo, Bundoora Farm, Aquarium, Chesterfield Farm and Werribee Zoo. These excursions have been very exciting and important aspects of our integrated unit program. They have provided purposeful hands on learning and opportunities to develop inquiry skills.

The specialist programs, Art, Performing Arts and Library have also focussed on and reinforced the learning happening in classrooms. Students have completed collages using mixed media to create animals and their environments within the Art room, listened to a range of related stories in Library and became 'animals' responding to a range of music types and drama activities in Performing Arts sessions. The 'Drama Tool Box' came to school to work with our students through drama workshops. Students had great fun exploring the Amazon jungle using costumes, movement to music and drama. Everyone had the opportunity to dress up as scarlet macaws, tarantula spiders, iguanas, jaguars or monkeys. The workshop culminated in a hunt for jungle treasures where animals discovered the joy of sharing with each other in their environment. The students loved the workshops. They directly linked to the unit of inquiry, and were a fantastic stimulus for further learning. Thank you to Belinda, our Performing Arts teacher for organising this engaging incursion.

To celebrate **Mother's Day** our mothers, grandmas and other family members were entertained by small performances in each classroom followed by a special afternoon tea. The Junior students always love doing something special for one of the most important people in their lives.....mum. So they had been preparing for this day for some time. There had been lots of singing practice, cooking, present and card making which resulted in a fantastic performance and scrumptious afternoon tea! I was in the Prep room to see and hear a special story called 'Love You Forever' and the sentiment portrayed in this story brought tears to my eyes. It was wonderful to see children across the section sharing the special treats they had made and spending some special time with their mums and other family members.

During **Education Week** there was so much going on! The theme this year was 'Scientists doing amazing things' and students and teachers were encouraged to get involved, intrigued and inspired by science! The Junior School opened its doors to the parent community, holding an open morning where parents were invited to engage in science with their children. Basic science concepts were investigated through a range of fun hands-on activities which gave students and parents the opportunity to experiment and solve problems together. Experiments and activities included making volcanoes, air rockets, ocean habitats, billabongs and the 'science of animal movement'. Parents and their children became scientists doing amazing things together!

Camp always provides opportunities to make new friends, have fun, try new things, overcome challenges and learn new skills. JCA & JKD headed off to Blackwood, many of them for the first time, to do just that. The Blackwood Camp site itself provided a variety of activity sites designed to challenge students both individually, and, within a team environment to further their personal, emotional, social and physical development. As part of the 'Imagination Trail' students took part in the team building activities 'Mouse Trap' where they had to work together to make a pathway using PVC tubes that golf balls could run down, the 'Teamwork Walk' where students supported each other as they went over, under and through a range of obstacles and 'Hole In One' where students held a large wooden frame and worked together to get coloured balls into the right holes. The Low Ropes was another great opportunity for students to challenge themselves beyond their comfort zones. Students had to help, support and encourage each other throughout the climbing elements, each having a specific role within the activity. Everyone worked as a team to complete all of these tasks, and it was great to see them encouraging each other and giving 'high 5's' or a 'well done' when they finished.

The Night Walk! What can I say about walking through the bush at night with only your torch and a glow stick to guide you. It is a challenge! The students were fantastic and Chris the Blackwood teacher said we were the best and quietest group he had ever taken on the night walk. We were so guiet we even got to see a tawny frogmouth owl which was amazing! Along with the visit to Ballarat Wildlife Park where students got to pat a koala, a wombat and numerous kangaroos. the traditional dinner out and McDonalds on the way home, this camp was one to remember. The staff would like to congratulate the students of JKD & JCA on their camp behaviour. and for the way they participated enthusiastically in all activities. A great time was had by all!



**Kath Moore Assistant Principal** 



SCHOOL

# Connections

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### Middle Section Newsletter

At the end of last term **MKO** went on camp to **Safety Beach**. We were very lucky to have some nice weather to enjoy the activities. The students visited the '**Fairytales**' **Sand Sculptures** exhibit in Frankston as well as many parks and beaches. They enjoyed splashing in the water, building sandcastles and collecting shells; some even managed to spot a hermit crab or two burrowing into the sand.

Tristan's camp highlight was seeing **Postman Pat** at the **Sand Sculptures** and Thomas liked seeing the **Angry Birds** display. Ant enjoyed collecting jellyfish at the beach, whilst Anna preferred to collect shells. Emily enjoyed splashing in the water with Zoe and Andrew while Alvin and Luciano enjoyed exploring the different playgrounds we visited.

We all had a great time on camp!

**MRM** had a fantastic time on our camp to **Yarra Junction**. The weather was raining and very cold but this did not stop us from participating in any of our activities.

**Puffing Billy** was the highlight of the camp and all students were really excited to ride on the train. We had a great volunteer in our carriage who shared lots of relevant information about this unique railway.

The students have commented on their favourite thing about the camp.

Alec: I loved putting my feet out the window on Puffing Billy.

Luca: My favourite activity was Puffing Billy.

Achol: McDonalds was the best.

Emma: Having lunch at the park.

Daniel: I loved everything at camp.

Christopher: I really liked Puffing Billy.

**Cassidy**: Playing twister with everyone was so much fun.

What a great time **MFC** had at camp! The excitement never seemed to wear-off although the rooms were very quiet on the second night.

**Day 1:** The students of MFC tackled the challenging low ropes course and were great at encouraging and supporting their peers in completing all obstacles. There were some wonky legs in the evening. Thanks to **Chris N** for making our yummy pizzas for dinner.

Day 2: Off we headed to Sovereign Hill. There was no down time with all the activities it has to offer. The red coat soldiers firing their riffles, the Red Hill mine tour, candle and lolly making, shopping, bowling, a theatre performance in the street, a horse and carriage ride, dressing up as ladies, gentlemen and miners and of course panning for gold (to no prevail). The local pub for dinner is always a highlight for the happy campers.

Day 3: The students showed off their archery skills in bursting balloons and almost hitting bullseye's. The day continued with exhausted students (and staff) having lunch at **McDonalds** and heading back to school.







Chris Norman Team Leader



# Connections

Secondary Section Newsletter

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**SKH** having been working on money and financial matters in numeracy. Students have worked independently or cooperatively in small groups. Students have enjoyed the money challenges, particularly when they are rewarded for their effort. Last week the task was: 4 people having lunch at **Dominos**. Create a menu for each person and work out individual cost and then the total cost. The team leader has \$100 - how much change will they have after lunch? Students to work out the answer by subtracting the bill total from the \$100 but also to give me an alternate creative answer too the person who took the others out for lunch, still has \$100 - why? William, Tenesha and Zac P enjoyed their pizza lunch!

SIB and SSB has enjoyed having student teachers Rachel and Steph work with them over the term. It's been fun and everyone has benefited from all the positive teaching and learning happening in our classrooms. We have been investigating fractions in Numeracy and can model and represent fractions in real-life situations and problems, and we love using fractions in cooking too. We have used Pizza fractions and identified parts of a collection as well as equivalent fractions and simplifying fraction card games. SSB and SIB continue to use Circle Time to focus on team work and feelings. Some of our favourite activities include the **African River Crossing**, Sentence Starters and Stand Up and Swap Seats. We are proud of the peer relationships and positive role models we are developing as classes and love learning new things about each other. We are writing stories for our Integrated Unit and some of the ideas include car theft, football magic, anti-bullying and a twist on a couple of fairytale classics! We can't wait to publish and illustrate them. SIB had a great time at the Baseball Clinic and learnt catching and batting skills. SSB showed off their basketball skills and effective team work on the courts. Beth and Di continue to work hard to support all students and staff and we appreciate them everyday. Thank you.

SJF is really enjoying learning all about Children's Literature. We caught the train into the city with SKL to explore the 'ACMI Dreamworks' exhibition at Federation Square. We loved seeing how Shrek was made! This week we have begun planning and writing our own Children's Literature stories, some are funny and others are really scary and adventurous. We can't wait to read each others stories!

**SMP** has seen lots of hard work being done. We are really getting our heads down and working well in numeracy and literacy and making sure we are working towards our goals. We loved our visit to the 'Dreamworks' exhibition with SKH. We learned heaps about how stories become animated movies and the steps involved in the process. We loved looking at the clay models and storyboards and enjoyed using the animation programs in the exhibition, but nearly everybody's favourite thing was the Dragon flight. That was a 3D experience from 'How to Train your Dragon2' The actual animators from the movie created the Dragon Flight experience just for the exhibition. Some of us stayed in there for more than one flight, but it made some people quite sick.

**SKL** has been very busy during Term Two. We have enjoyed such things as Footy Day and having our parents visit our classrooms for Education Week! In numeracy we are participating in activities and completing work to help us improve on telling the time. 'Children's Literature' is our Integrated Unit for this term; our class and SJF

went on an excursion to the 'Dreamworks' Exhibition to check out how characters are created. We are having a lot of fun writing and illustrating our own stories to share with our friends and families.

Secondary Spectacular "Mamma Mia" rehearsals have been in full swing since the start of term 2. Laura from the Australian School of Performing Arts has choreographed the show and has been working with classes to learn and perfect their dance routines. Students have embraced and are enjoying dancing to Abba music and working with Laura. Alix, Concord School's Performing Arts teacher has been working with the main characters of the show to develop their acting and speaking roles. This year we have also had a wonderful team of family volunteers who have sewed many of the glitzy costumes, led by costume coordinator Carole. The Secondary Students are now very enthusiastic about their performances in a couple of weeks time. On Tuesday 17th June they will perform to the whole school and then on Wednesday 18th June, they will perform to their family and friends. Please note this in your diary, as it will be an event you won't want to miss!



**Christine Pillot** Team Leader



# Connections

# Pathways Section Newsletter

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# **CAMPS**

Students in Pathways work tirelessly to complete their **Duke of Edinburgh** certificates. In order to earn this prestigious award the students must complete the following four tasks:

- Learn a new Skill (which they do as part of their Encounter Program)
- 2) Complete regular physical activity (students participate in the weekly **Fit For Life Program**)
- 3) Participate in Community Service
- 4) Go on an **Adventurous Journey**

The students complete the fourth part of their certificate this term when they attended section camps. The year 9's attended **Camp Manyung** (on the Mornington Peninsular) and the year 10's attended the **Anglesea YMCA** camps.

Students had an absolute ball on both camps, and all students were able to participate in every activity. Activities included the giant swing, flying fox, tree top challenge, hours of table tennis (year 9 only), surf lesson (year 10 only), canoeing, low ropes course, beach volleyball, beach orienteering and beach games.

Of course Pathways Students aren't happy unless they are given plenty of 'Chill-ax' time, and so on both camps this was high on the priory list. Students were able to play their MP3 devices through speakers and just sit around on couches chatting and making friends.

A highlight of the year 9 camp is the layout of the campsite with all students and staff living in a single 'house' for the three days. With a giant lounge room and an even bigger dining room table, there is a huge opportunity to make new friends and build on existing friendships.

The year 10 students are put in groups of 4 or 6 and are effectively given their own cabin (with ensuite) to manage for three days.

Of course meal times are a vital part of any camp (who says chocolate ice cream toping can't go on sausages and hot chips).

All in all both year 9 and year 10 camp was a wonderful adventure for all participating students. All of the staff members who attended greatly appreciated the opportunity to get to know the students in a different light, have so much outlandish fun with them and see what is often a more caring and nurturing side of the students come out as different needs arose.

Sarah Abbott Team Leader











# Connections

**Transition Section Newsletter** 

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### Year 11 Canberra Camp 2014

A group of 10, Year 11 students have recently undertaken an educational tour of our National Capital. While on this tour, they participated in a variety of educational programmes that focused on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy. Places visited included the Australian Museum of Democracy at Old Parliament House, Telstra Tower at Black Mountain, the Electoral Education Centre, the National Botanic Gardens, the National Zoo and Aquarium, the Australian Institute of Sports and the National Science and Technology Centre – Questacon, the Australian War Memorial where we were invited to lay a wreath at the last-post closing ceremony, and New Parliament House where Jenny Macklin, Federal Member for Jagajaga who took time out of her busy day to meet with us before our tour.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit their National Capital as part of their civics and citizenship education. To assist you (the parent) in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of \$30 per eligible student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER) programme toward the travel expenses incurred. This contribution will be paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.

We would like to thank the Australian Government for their support of this program and we trust that the excursion was a rewarding experience for our students.

### **Fair Go Night**

Transition students have been studying **Fairtrade** in Literacy this term.

We have been looking at child labour, child rights, chocolate companies, dangerous work practices and social issues around fairtrade.

If you are interested in finding out more about this subject go to **www.fairtrade.net** 

\* Next term Transition will be having an awareness night showcasing what students have learnt.

FAIR GO NIGHT: Wed. 23rd JULY 6.00pm

All students will have an active role eg; fashion parade, BBQ, selling raffle tickets and hot drinks from the coffee car.

### **Nude Food Day**

As part of the VCAL program, the students undertaking the Environmental Studies integrated unit study issues of our environment with a particular focus placed upon sustainability, recycling, ecosystems and water management (being water wise).

With that in mind, the current **VCAL Environmental Studies** group are promoting and participating in a **Nude Food Day** with the Middle section students. **Nude Food Day** is a fantastic opportunity to teach students about how their actions can impact the environment and

their health. Focussing on the positive message of 'nude food = a healthy body + a healthy planet', we want students (and the wider community) to be empowered to choose healthy, package-free food for their lunches and snacks. Less packaging leads to a healthier environment as it reduces litter and decreases consumer demand for things



such as fossil fuels (used to manufacture plastics, for example)

On **Friday 30**th **May**, the **VCAL** students presented their proposal to the Middle Section students and teachers. After a positive response, the Middle Section students will be participating in a **Nude Food Day** on **Friday 13th June** to help the environment and themselves.

We hope that all families will support us on this day.





Warren Gaff Transition Team Leader

# Cybersafety, bullying and the use of Social Media and mobile technologies

Whilst social networking provides a way for people to connect, it also provides an opportunity for Cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is the **repeated use** of direct verbal or indirect bullying behaviours using digital technologies. Unfortunately, many incidents that occur at school often have their origins in the inappropriate use of social networking sites outside of school hours.

It is important to note, however, that not all behaviours are instances of Cyberbullying. Bullying behaviours are when someone, or a group of people, deliberately upset or hurt another person or damage their property, reputation or social acceptance **on more than one occasion**. As distressing as it may be, single-episode acts of nastiness or meanness, or random acts of aggression or intimidation **are not the same as bullying**.

In order to support our students, Concord School employs specialist staff and implements many programs and strategies to educate students and to promote and an inclusive, safe and productive environment. Some examples of these are:

- Student Wellbeing team
- Student Engagement policy
- Mobile Phones and Personal Portable Technology policy
- Anti-bulling policy
- Human Relations education (year 7 to year 12)
- Peer mentor/buddy programs
- Restorative Practices (conflict resolution)
- Social Competencies programs
- Student behaviour management plans
- Section-based behaviour management guidelines

When at school, students are not permitted to access the internet, to text or to make calls using their own personal phones. There are clear consequences for break this rule

### Supportive Families

One of the most effective supports that the Concord School community has in tackling these issues are the families of our students. Many incidents that occur on social media or via mobile phone are at night or on the weekends and, therefore, school staff cannot monitor or prevent this. Given this, we ask for our families to be vigilant about the use of technology as parental supervision is the best protection against students being the victim of cyberbulling. Furthermore, a high level of supervision also ensures your son or daughter is safe when on-line.

If families become aware of instances of Cyberbullying, evidence of this occurring should be kept. Families can also employ strategies such as:

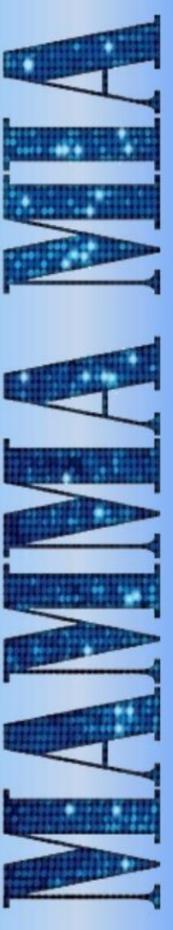
- reinforcing the importance of keeping personal details private
- **permanently** blocking the access of others (e.g. on Facebook or through the mobile phone call settings)
- educating their son or daughter about accepting friend requests
- restricting times in which the use of on-line or mobile technologies are used in the home

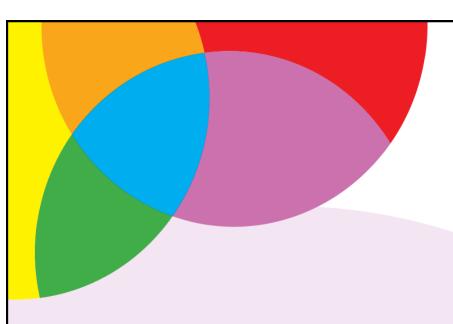
As always, it is helpful to the school staff if we are made aware of instances of Cyberbullying

Warren Gaff – Transition Section Team Leader Sarah Abbott – Pathways Section Team Leader

# Secondary Spectacular Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June @ 1.30pm









**ALL ABILITIES NETBALL** 

FREE School Holiday Programs

An exciting opportunity for children and young adults to be involved in an All Abilities netball school holiday program.

- Coaches, umpires and venue staff will be sensitive to the needs of individuals for maximum enjoyment.
- Develops teamwork, fitness, hand-eye coordination and self-confidence.
- Helps improve independence, communication, self-awareness and social inclusion.
- The program aims to integrate participants into a weekly competition.

Netball endorsed programs with qualified coaches and staff with Disability Services qualifications.



# **PROGRAM DATES**

TUESDAY 1 JULY 2014 TUESDAY 8 JULY 2014

Darebin Community Sports Stadium 855 Plenty Road, Reservoir

### CONFIRM YOUR PLACE BY CONTACTING

Bernie McGrady on 9321 2215 or bernadette.mcgrady@netballvic.com.au







Coaches with a passion to provide sport and recreational activities to people with all abilities.

- Coaches, umpires and venue staff will be sensitive to the needs of individuals for maximum enjoyment.
- Program designed by staff with qualifications in disability services and coaching accreditation.
- Program aim is to integrate participants into a weekly competition.



Come join AFL Victoria and Carlton Football Club



9AM-3PM

Proudly supported by Carlton Football Club



Come join us at Bundoora
Parade College

Parade College 1436 Plenty Rd, Bundoora Wednesday 9th July, 2014

A day packed full of footy fun!

Loads of games and fun to be had

Learn about life as a Carlton Footballer

\*Note CFC player appearances subject to availability due to training / rehabilitation commitments

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