



Heatherwood School

April 2016



A WORD FROM OUR PRINCIPAL MR PAUL HILLS

Welcome to second term. Currently Futures for Young Adults (FFYA) interviews are being held for families who have students in Year 12. This is a very important part of the schools transition program as our young adults continue their planning of years after Heatherwood. Please remember it is never too early to think about and have discussions about planning for the future and becoming aware of post school options.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will be phased into the North Eastern Victoria Region (of which the school is part) during the second half of 2017. As the school gains further information about the scheme, such as who is eligible and how it can be accessed it will be communicated to the community in the newsletter.

The school has had plans drawn up to extend and improve the drama and art room, which will result in increased opportunities for students in these areas.

Heatherwood has been very fortunate to receive donations of additional resources. The Aitken family have donated a digital cutter for the art room. We have also received a table tennis table and equipment from Mr Peter Madzell which the students will use extensively. We have also received money from the Avitabile family which has enabled the school to purchase 10 new tents and equipment for the art room. I would like to thank each family for their contribution to the school.

Thank you for your ongoing support for the school.

Paul Hills

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DATE	EVENT
May 16th-27th	Year 11 Work Experience
June 6th-9th	Year 7 Phillip Is. Camp
June 13th	QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY NO STUDENTS REQUIRED
JUNE 24TH	LAST DAY OF TERM 1 STUDENTS DISMISSED AT 1:50
JULY 11TH	TERM 3 COMMENCES

LOST PROPERTY

Lost property is kept in the lost property basket located in the sick bay. Every effort is made to locate the owner. Articles not claimed by year end are forwarded to a welfare organisation. Please encourage your child to check the basket for missing items.

**PLEASE LABEL EVERY GARMENT
CLEARLY.**

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL - LESLEY FOSTER

Welcome Katherine Walsh

Katherine joined Heatherwood at the end of Term 1 as a full time teacher. She is teaching a class in the Middle School, previously taught by Helen Donald (M9). Helen is now teaching part time and working with Kath Horgen.

Katherine comes to us with a wealth of educational experience, both in Melbourne and Europe. She has taught English in a range of schools in Istanbul, special education in Melbourne and English as a Second Language. She has wide interests in reading, riding bikes and travel.

Katherine brings to the school considerable knowledge in the area of special education and working with students with disabilities. We welcome her to the school and look forward to introducing her to you as parents and carers.

School Wide Positive Behaviour Support

Every week, students at Heatherwood are acknowledged for the efforts they make to show respect, help others succeed and do their best. Staff members carry character cards on their lanyards and when they see students contributing to the values of the school, they hand out character cards so that they know their efforts are appreciated and that they are helping to make Heatherwood an outstanding School. At every assembly, students names are put in a barrel and students can receive a small reward as a token of appreciation for their commitment and dedication to making Heatherwood a better place. Thank you to all students for your efforts.

Community Partnerships

Heatherwood has partnerships with a range of universities and training organisations. Over the last two weeks we have welcomed Deakin trainee teachers, Kiah and Emily who have been working with Robin Vierke and Stefanie Koops, assisting in the classrooms and specialist areas. Shalini who is studying Certificate 11 in Disability, has been working with Lynn Penrose in the Skills Kitchen and in the classrooms. Next Wednesday, a number of Doncaster students will attend Heatherwood for 2 sessions to work with students. This is a four week program and is very successful in assisting Heatherwood students to learn alongside their peers from another school.

SMART Goals

All students will be bringing home short 5 week goals in English and Maths. These are designed so that

they can make small incremental gains in learning and work towards developing consistent achievements. As students achieve their goals, new ones are developed through discussion with them. Some students work really hard to reach these targets and feel very proud when they can do something they couldn't do before. Please support these goals and help your son / daughter to develop confidence in their ability and effort.

Manningham Council Welcome to Refugees and Immigrants

Manningham Council delivered a Welcome Tree to Heatherwood this week. Students and staff have been filling the tree with message leaves of welcome. Later in the year, the council will have a formal celebration and acknowledgement of this program at the Council Offices. Heatherwood students will receive an invitation to attend and continue to contribute to this initiative by the council.

The Kindness of Others

Thank you to Peter Madzell for the donation of a Table Tennis Table to the students of Heatherwood School. With fitness as a high priority in the school, this will offer our students another opportunity to engage in a healthy activity. As a team game, students can also engage with others to learn new skills, have fun, play and socialize with others. We really appreciate this donation. Thank you.



L-R: School Captain, Jason Pickett, Dot, (Manningham Council), Kyle Horne, Darion Foster, Lesley Foster, (AP) and School Captain Molly Drummond

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome to second term! The Year 7s and 8s have been off to a running start and are already getting stuck into some busy programs. A few classes have begun their swimming program for P.E. and J4 have conquered the 1,000 Steps. This fitted in nicely with work that classes have been doing around the ANZACs as this popular walk includes a Kokoda Track memorial.

Each class participated in a very hands-on presentation by Catherine from the Shrine of Remembrance. This gave us an insight into the life of diggers in the trenches in World War One, including some real artefacts from the war and replica uniforms from that era. The artefacts led to some great discussions around the hardships of life on the front line and the roles of different people (and animals) in the war.



Also, to commemorate the ANZACs, some classes have made ANZAC biscuits in Home Craft. The students learned that the biscuits were made with ingredients that

would not spoil so that they would last a long time on the battlefield.

The Year 7s will be heading off on their camp to Phillip Island from June 6th-9th. A reminder to keep those permission forms coming in.



We look forward to an action-packed Term Two!

BOGONG OUTDOOR ED. CAMP - YEAR 10

The last week of Term 1, Year 10 students went up to Bogong Camp. All students had a great time in a beautiful mountain setting. It took us 5 hours by bus to arrive at camp. Our accommodation was a 2 or 3 bed bunk rooms, boys downstairs and girls upstairs. Some of our activities on camp were a bushwalk at Falls Creek to Wallace's Hut and Mt. Cope, canoeing on Lake Guy, rock climbing and abseiling down a rock wall, and a high ropes/ "Possum" swing. We had some delicious meals on camp including upside down hamburgers, pizzas and tortillas. Students were all involved with putting together their hamburgers, pizzas and tortillas. Food was delicious and the Chef Phil would talk about the meals each night.



Canoeing on Lake Guy



Bogong Camp Site



Bushwalking at Falls Creek



Dinner preparation- Pizza!

TRADE KITCHEN NEWS

My team is very excited to have new Year 10 groups experiencing the Trade Kitchen this term. We also welcome some more experienced senior students refining their hospitality skills. It's been great to see them each day in their correct black uniform and enthusiastic about learning the ropes of a busy kitchen.

The following students have been recognised for their great team work, attitude and effort in the past week and have been awarded 'Chef of the Day'.



*Brohdi Male-M8
Brandon Matthews-M7
Tai Tran-S4*



*Gemma Clements
Trade Kitchen*



Chelsea and Rachel making tasty rolls.



Chloe preparing custard tarts with raspberries fresh from the school garden!



Jessica preparing a nice dice.



Brohdi checking the temperature of the dim sims.



Lily and Brandon Working on their knife skills in the afternoon session after the busy lunch time rush.

VISUAL ARTS NEWS

During Term 1 Year 7 classes created faces and experimented with using the iPad and arts. Year 8 learnt about black and white photography. Then using the concept of a 'selfie' painted a portrait of themselves from the past.

Middle school students have worked with the concept of cartoons and movement. Social comment and animation. Senior students are developing their individual style and choice of materials.

Student work can be seen on display around various hallways in the school. I am very proud of our students and their creative pursuits in Visual Arts. During Term 2 we will be participating in a number of exciting competitions and projects.

A very big thank you to the two special families

who have contributed to our program this year with wonderful donations. Our students are now utilising mannequins, easels, and iPad stands and are so proud of their new equipment to support their learning. Thank you.

Thank you to Michelle Aitken and family who have donated a digital cutter. You may be asking, "A what"? Well watch this space as the artroom enters the digital world of creative cutting with lots of assistance from Michelle and the students, who never cease to amaze me when it comes to computer skills.

*Sue Nicholls
Visual Arts.*



POSITIVE ANIMAL WELFARE SUPPORT (PAWS)

Our school pets again have had a wonderful holiday break. Snowy and Rainbow were taken care of by Wendy Thomas. What is it with our school guinea pigs? This time they came back with soft rugs for patting and big happy smiles. Thank you so much for their excellent care.

A big thank you to Braham Morris and his family who took Rhyder home over the holidays. Ryder, now likes to watch television when he sits on your shoulder.

Theodore and Britney came home with me this holiday and I learnt a valuable lesson about being careful with the heat lamps. I have a new sign on their enclosure that warns me and students not to handle the animals near the lamps.

I am proud to announce that we have a new school pet. A baby blue budgerigar called Sky. Leigh, one of our students, breeds budgerigars and he will be able to give us lots of valuable information about how we can train him/her, (still a little unsure of the sex while we wait for the circles on the cere to form).

Please ensure that the PAWS forms are signed and returned to the class teacher. This enables the school to keep up to date records in relation to allergies, fears, and phobias about interaction with animals at school.

*Sue Nicholls.
PAWS Coordinator.*



CENTRELINK INFORMATION SESSION

When your child reaches the age of 16 years they are entitled to receive the
'Disability Support Pension'

With the possibility of receiving additional allowances/supplements.

We have invited Mirko Oklobdzija who is a financial Services Officer from Centrelink to provide information about carer/disability income support payments. He will also provide information about the Special Disability Trust.

All parents of students about to turn 16 are welcome to come along to hear from Mirko who will provide information about the following and if time permits he will answer individual queries.

- Disability Support Pension
- Mobility Allowance
- Pensioner Education Supplement
- Special Disability Support Trust

When: Wednesday 8th June

Where: Heatherwood School Library

Time: 1.30 – 2.45pm



CARING CONNECTIONS: Information & Support for Kinship Carers

"Caring Connections" is a program suitable for all kinship carers. It gives an opportunity for carers to share their common experiences and learn together with others in similar situations. Topics discussed will be relevant to the daily experiences & challenges of caring. Participants are invited to attend the full 5 session program, but can choose to attend individual sessions of interest. There is **no charge** to attend.

CARING CONNECTIONS workshops available in 2016 will offer:

Information and Understanding about...

- ✦ how trauma & disruption can affect children, and the ongoing effects this may have on their behaviour & development
- ✦ grief and loss experiences & how they can affect children and carers

Effective Strategies for the care of children and young people...

- ✦ that are practical & will support you to respond to a variety of behaviours & challenges

Ideas & Activities that...

- ✦ build on your family and child's strengths
- ✦ support positive, life-long relationships

OPPORTUNITIES TO -

- ✦ meet and talk with other kinship carers in a confidential group. Share your experiences - as much or as little as you wish - in an atmosphere of support & respect

Kinship Carers who have been part of Caring Connections groups share their views:

Julie, a kinship carer for a long time says: "I wish this course had been available when I was first caring for my grandchildren. It has changed the way I understand the effect of their [early experiences] on them and what their needs were...it is an ongoing challenge. It would be so much better [if carers could come] earlier on"

Marie, a carer for just a short while says: "I am bonding so much better with my grandson...learning and sharing...all the information with my family. My grandson and I are communicating so much better...my understanding has really changed. We see a big, difference, you'll never be sorry if you go to something like this."
[* names changed for privacy reasons]

BACKGROUND – Kinship carers include any relative, grandparent or family friend who has taken on the care of children unable to live with their own family. Commitment to the family and the well-being of these children is a strong value for kinship carers. However, a kinship caring role often comes with little time to prepare for taking on day-to-day care of children & less opportunity to consider the impact this major change may bring. Carers find that making time for themselves to sustain their own **well-being** and capacity can be a challenge.

Children & young people who need kinship care may have experienced trauma, separation, family change and crisis, affecting their development and wellbeing. The experience of coming into kinship care is a life change that can give children stability within their caring network. At the same time, children and young people commonly experience feelings of grief & abandonment [loss of a sense of family & home, school, friends, possessions, pets]. Children may display challenging behaviours & outbursts of strong emotions that their carers find difficult to understand and deal with.

"Caring Connections" will be offered in selected areas across Victoria during 2016 for any Kinship carer wishing to attend. Lunch is included.

2016 Dates Term 1: Dandenong Term 2: Bendigo

For more information or to register your interest in attending:

Email: kinship.program@anglicarevic.org.au Freecall: 1800 809 722

There is **NO cost** to attend this program thanks to Victorian Government funding support.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST



HAVE FUN, GET FIT AND LEARN SOME SWEET NEW DANCE MOVES TO SHOW OFF AT TWILIGHT DISCOS AND FRIENDS PARTIES!

FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

DANCE PROGRAM

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Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge

The Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge is now open and Heatherwood School is excited to be participating.

The Challenge is open to all Victorian children from birth to 16 years in recognition of the importance of reading for literacy development. It is not a competition; but a personal challenge for children to read 15 books by September 9, 2016.

If you would like your child to participate, please sign and return the consent form that was sent home with your student.

All children who meet the Challenge will receive a certificate of achievement signed by the Victorian Premier and can choose to have their name included on the online Honour Roll.

For more information about the Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge and to view the booklists, visit: www.education.vic.gov.au/prc