Principal’s Report

Welcome to the first edition of our new monthly newsletter. We are continuing to improve the way we do things, and a focus of recent work has been the way in which we communicate with families.

In early Term 1 we were able to open the Compass Parent Portal, and have received a lot of positive feedback from parents. Following a review of our newsletter (thank you to the many parents who provided feedback), we have moved to a monthly newsletter in this style, and will use the Compass News Feed to provide continuous, targeted news items to families. From our next edition onwards, the newsletter will be published on the first Friday of every month. It will be available via email, our website, our Compass site and hard copy from our front office.

The Compass News Feed can be accessed in one of two ways – using your Compass computer login (link via our website), or by installing the Compass ‘app’ on your phone. Simply search “Compass Education” in either the iTunes or Google Play store. Using this newsfeed we can target information specific to year levels, so the information you see will be more relevant.

Staffing Update
As you may have heard, Assistant Principal Kiley Cunningham has obtained an Acting Principal position at Longford Primary School, for the remainder of Term 2. Kiley will be greatly missed over this period, but we know she will do great things and wish her well. During this time our Nathan Wallace will cover Kiley’s role, and Katie Hodge will oversee Middle Years. We’re very fortunate to have a range of strong leaders in our school ready to step in when needed.

We look forward to an event filled term, as we continue to develop and support our young people to become the best they can.

Adam Hogan
Acting Principal

Upcoming Events

April 2016
25th ANZAC Day - Holiday
27th Tis Tour Year 12

May 2016
6th VCE Music Top Acts
10th-12th NAPLAN
11th Year 11 Biology Trip
11th-13th Healthy Natural Environments
25th Canoe Trip

June 2016
2nd EXAMS Start
9th-11th School Production

School Council Meeting
17th May, 2016 – 7pm
Venue: Office Conference Room

Parents’ Club Meeting
7th June, 2016 – 7pm
Venue: Main Staff Room
Naplan

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) 2016 for Years 7 and 9 students will be held on Tuesday 10 May, Wednesday 11 May and Thursday 12 May 2016. NAPLAN tests assess student knowledge and skills in Writing, Reading, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy.

The results of the tests provide information for students, parents, teachers and principals which can be used to improve student achievement.

All students are expected to participate in the NAPLAN tests. Catch-up tests will be available for individual students who are absent on test days on Friday 13 May 2016.

Exemptions may be granted to students with significant intellectual disabilities and to students who have been learning English for less than one year. If your child is eligible for support due to disability or an exemption, you should discuss this with his/her Year Level Coordinator (Year 7 Ms Scully or Year 9 Ms Ray) prior to the tests. Parental consent is required before any support due to disability or exemption is granted.

Students may be withdrawn from NAPLAN by their parent or carer. This is a matter for consideration by parents/carers in consultation with the principal. If, after consultation, you decide to withdraw your child, you must sign a Student Withdrawal form. These forms are available at the school.

Later in the year you will receive your child’s personal NAPLAN report. The report will describe your child’s particular skills in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy. The report will also show how your child performed in relation to national minimum standards. These describe the minimum acceptable standards for students across Australia.

For more information about the tests, please visit the VCAA website at www.vcaa.vic.edu.au or the NAP website at www.nap.edu.au

Sub-School News

Senior Years - 11 & 12

Students and Parents are reminded that the VCE study centre is available for students until 5:00pm on all school nights. On Monday and Thursday night students will be able to enjoy an afternoon snack of milo and toasties before completing some study. A variety of teachers have volunteered to staff these sessions so please make use of this time.

TIS Tour

The Tertiary Information Service Tour is running on Wednesday the 27th of April. This session is structured to allow students to plan their transition options. If students or parents have questions in regards to the tour please contact Karen Burgess.

The Senior Prom

The date for this years Prom is the 10th of June, this day is the last day of Semester 1 for our year 11 and 12 students. Semester 2 will begin on Tuesday the 14th of June.

Revision Sessions

Over the coming weeks students will be provided with information through a variety of Unit 3 revision sessions. These sessions are valuable for all students as they revisit topics that were studied across the semester, including HeadStart. Access Education provides our students with heavily discounted tickets; these sessions are run over three days at either Monash Clayton or LaTrobe University (Bundoora).

Athletic Sports

The Senior School was well represented at the Athletics sports on Wednesday the 20th of April. Congratulations to all students who came along and competed on the day. There were fantastic results on the day, please look out for these in future additions.

Middle Years 7 & 8
A talent show will be held at lunchtime on Tuesday 26th April in the Amphitheatre. Students interested are to see their links teachers to sign up.

Administration

School Costs

We have recently sent out family accounts so this is a friendly reminder that payment for Compulsory Charges for Semester 1 are now overdue. For Food Tech there is the option of paying the discounted amount that appears on your family statement as a bulk charge or paying the fee weekly at the front office and presenting the receipt to the Food Tech teacher as proof of payment. Students can find out the weekly payment amount for Food Tech from their Food Tech teacher.

Payments to the College can be made by cash /cheque/eftpos/creditcard/BPay/Centrepay. Credit card payments can be made either in person or over the phone. BPay information appears on your family statement.

Parents are also reminded that the College can receive payments from Centre Link via CentrePay. If this option is preferable call at the College’s front office and you will be given an application form to complete.

Any Parent/Guardian needing financial assistance with any aspect of the education provided by the College is very welcome to discuss the matter directly with the Principal by phoning 5147 1790.

Wellbeing News

Alcohol And Drugs Workshop

Buses and Attendance
General Information

School Production - Help needed
“Through The Looking Glass”

Maffra Secondary College’s 2016 Production is well underway and the production team are seeking assistance from a carpenter or handyman to help with securing fixtures for the set.

If anyone with tools and some spare time can assist, please contact Sarah Whitwam.

Host Family Wanted

This year Maffra Secondary College is privileged to have a volunteer Chinese Assistant to help with our Chinese language classes. Gillian Peng has been working at our school and at Maffra Primary School since January and has been staying with a staff member and their family during the initial settling in period.

We are now seeking expressions of interest for families who might wish to host Gillian until the end of the school year, or at least one term. The family would need to provide a room for Gillian and welcome her as a member of the family and allow her to participate in all aspects of family life. The family would be encouraged to exchange ideas and provide exposure to the cultural and social environment of the home and district.

As your child is studying Chinese this would give them a chance to interact with a Chinese speaker on a daily basis as well as gain valuable cultural insights.

There is an allowance paid to contribute to the costs associated with supporting an extra family member. If you are interested in this opportunity contact Donna Missen at missen.donna.L1@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Maffra Secondary College
Careers Expo Information Night

Date: Wednesday 20th July
Where: TBA
Time: 6.00pm – 8.30pm

Local Employers: (Available to discuss career opportunities)
Dep’t of Environment & Primary Industries (DEPI), Apprenticeships Group Australia (AGA), Central Gippsland Health Service, Wellington Shire Council
Tertiary & Further Education:
Federation Training, Federation University, Australian Catholic University, Community College Gippsland, Tractor Design School, Beauty EDU, Engineers Aust., Australian Institute of Personal Trainers, J.M.C. Academy, TBM Training
Community Groups:
CFA, SES, Victoria Police, Gippsport, RAAF – School of Air Traffic Control, Vic. Forests, Victorian Assoc. of Forest Industries, National Disability Co-ordination, Defence Force Recruiting Officer (NDCO), National Centre for Dairy Education Australia (NCDEA), and many more...

Contact the College for any further details on:
Ph: 51471790 or email: maffra.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au
Course information for students studying Year 10-12 in 2017
Sporting News

Victoria School Sports Awards

Recently Bec Ingram was awarded a Sporting Blue by School Sport Victoria for excellence in volleyball during 2015. This is the most prestigious certificate awarded by SSV. Bec represented Australia in both the U17 Beach and Indoor Volleyball Squads in America in July 2015.

She co-captained the Victorian U17 Girls Volleyball Team which successfully defended its national title in September, received Most Valuable Player in the final and was named in the Australian U17 All-Star team. Bec won the Australian U17 Beach Volleyball title in April and as a result of her achievements has been nominated for an Australian Talent Squad.

Bec has recently won the 2016 National U19 beach volleyball titles and has been chosen to represent Australia in the Asian Championships in Laos next month.

Interschool Volleyball

We took 5 teams to Morwell for the first round of the Interschool sport competition, with our year 7 boys receiving a forfeit to the next round. We had the biggest squad there, with 35 athletes coached by Mr Young, Mr McIntosh and Ella Bailey.

With no room for error in a 20 minute game both intermediate teams started fast and quickly established early leads in each set. Both boys and girls teams progress through to the next round, with our girls’ team looking to qualify for the State final for the first time.

The boys will be seeking to reach the finals for the fourth year in a row.

Our year 8 girls’ team was down in size but up in skill and teamwork, winning both matches comfortably. They are hoping to go one better this year and make State finals, being narrowly eliminated by one point last year.

Both the year 8 boys and year 7 girls had nail biting finishes, with both winning by less than a handful of points. Strong serving from both teams was the secret to success.

With the next round a month from now we want to see trainings well attended as every one of our 6 teams has a really strong chance of making State finals this year.

Well done to Mr Young for his many hours of dedication given to training and coaching volleyball.

Maffra Beach Volleyball Success

Maffra Secondary College recently took 13 teams to South Melbourne beach to compete in the Beach Volleyball Schools cup. Players ranged from year 7 students up to a pair of year 11 students. The first two days had beautiful 30 degree weather which was perfect for beach volleyball. Unfortunately the last day way only 18 degrees, with strong winds and heavy rain.

Despite the 4 hour drive and battling Grand Prix traffic all teams had a great day. With many players never having played on the beach before this tournament the focus was on gaining valuable experience and having fun.

The year 10 boys’ team had a great day, playing some really strong volleyball to bring home Maffra’s first Beach Volleyball gold medal, beating Rowville in the final 2 sets to one.

Left: Jim Fink, Roydon Fulton, Matt Angliss, Kowen Kincaid Shingles and Walker Newman
Interschool Baseball

Our Year 8 and 9 Boys baseball team played a tough game against Lavalla. While most of our boys had some cricketing prowess, we were a little intimidated to hear the Lavalla team contained National, State and Representative baseball players.

However, our boys took the diamond with enthusiasm and played very well.

In the first innings our pitcher, Shane Atkinson, managed to strike out two of their batters. Andrew Veale then took a terrific catch at first base to force the changeover. He followed that up with a strong infield hit, but unfortunately we weren’t able to get any home.

In the second innings Aaron Atkinson took the mound and again struck two batters out. Reilly Cannon showed his skills with some smart fielding at short stop to keep the runs to a minimum.

The third innings saw another change of pitcher, this time Jake Giles threw some strong balls in. Rhys Davis and Rohan Abbott were the pick of the fielders, combining well in the outfield to stop some home runs from being scored. Cal Shingles was strong with the bat, while Jake Giles was starting to make a habit of hitting some massive foul balls. Shane Atkinson finally latched onto one sending it well into the outfield, bringing both Ben Caithness and Rohan Abbott home for our first score.

Kane Dixon was called into pitch, where he did a solid job, allowing Aaron Atkinson to show his skills fielding in right field. Reilly Cannon forced the final ‘out’ with some quick thinking scrambling his way back to first base. Rohan Abbott and Aaron were again solid with the bat but unable to score.

Ben put his body on the line in the bottom of the fifth, nearly catching a line drive of the neat pitching of Reece Bedgood.

Maffra finished the game with their heads held high, final scores 2-13 to a very strong Lavalla side. The boys conduct was exceptional and their persistence evident in what was a steep learning curve. Thanks also to the Lavalla staff and students for helping the team out with rules and tactics during the game. Hopefully the boys will regroup and return stronger next year!

Interschool Tennis

On the 15th April, 5 Maffra Secondary College tennis teams competed in Traralgon.

The year 7 girls’ team had only one match against Catholic College Sale. Although they played very well, they were unable to beat their strong opponents.

The year 7 boys’ team started the day by winning against Lavalla B. Unfortunately they ended the day with defeats at the hands of Lavalla A and Catholic College.
A win against Sale College A was a good start for the Year 8 boys’ team. They then came out victors in a very close match with Sale College B. They ended the day by losing a close match against Lavalla and Catholic College Sale.

The Intermediate boys’ team played two matches in their pool and went down to Catholic College Sale and Lavalla.

The Intermediate girls’ had a good start to the day beating Kurnai and Yarram Secondary College. They then lost to a strong Catholic College Sale team and won close match against Lavalla.

All players represented the school well, put in an excellent effort and displayed good sportsmanship.

Congratulations also go to Jasmin Underwood and Michael Johnstone who had won their way through to the Gippsland finals along with our 13 yr old girls relay team (Sophie Allen, Jana Henning, Olivia Jansen and Jasmin Underwood) and 15 yr old boys relay (Kade Bates, Sam Dywer, Max Gravener and Kaiden Jansen) who also competed.

A special mention goes to Emily Cooper and Bailey Randall who competed in the multi class and now progress to the State Finals at MSAC on Tue 19th April.

Written by Adelle O’Doherty and the 4 tennis team captains.

Interschool Swimming

Congratulations to the 17 year 10 students who assisted with the officiating at the Gippsland Swimming Carnival on 17th March. They were commended for the excellent work they did on the day by Andrew Marks and Rick Thomson who are the Gippsland regional representatives.
WELLINGTON HOCKEY CLUB
Wellington Hockey Club is seeking new players for the winter season which commences Saturday 16th April. Wellington Hockey Club is an award winning Club with a focus on inclusion, participation and fun. We have teams for Under 11s, Under 13s, Under 15s and Under 18s as well as Women and Open teams. New players are always welcome.
We are a family friendly GoodSports accredited Club with qualified Coaches, who specifically cater for new players, player of all abilities and persons with a disability. We provide equipment loans, including uniform, and keep our fees low.
Our Friday night social games at GRSC also return on Friday 15th April also - Juniors at 4.15, All Abilities at 5.00 and Seniors at 5.45. All welcome.
Enquiries: Richard Hill 51 497945 or rthill@iinet.net.au

Animal Aid needs your unwanted towels and blankets
Animal Aid is a not for profit organisation that is an adoption agency and also runs the Wellington Shire pound. Their aim is to reunite lost pets with their owners as well as find new homes for surrendered animals. Animal Aid is in desperate need of old towels and blankets. They need to ensure that they have enough supplies for bedding and cleaning to see them through the winter. They ask that all donated goods are washed and placed in a bag ready for collection.
If you have any blankets and towels you no longer need and are willing to donate them you can leave them at the Maffra Secondary College front office.

Thankyou,
The staff and volunteers at Animal Aid

COMMUNITY OPEN DAY AT RAAF BASE EAST SALE
The Australian Defence Force is an important part of the Gippsland community. The Community Open Day is an opportunity to thank the community for their support and show them the changes that have occurred on the base over the past few years. Air Base Executive Officer, Wing Commander Marty Quirke said the Community Open Day provides an opportunity for Gippsland and especially local residents to see the results of the recent Base Redevelopment Project.
“A number of the training schools will be displaying their facilities and training simulators to the public, along with static aircraft and military ground displays, the public will have a rare opportunity to see a day in the life of RAAF Base East Sale.”
“We undertake critical training for Air Combat Officers, Joint Battlefield Airspace Controllers and flying instructors here at RAAF Base East Sale. With the Officer’s Training School also on base, every RAAF Officer spends a portion of his or her initial training in the Sale community.
“Amongst the displays at the Community Open Day, will be the PC-9A, CT-4B and the King-Air B350, so people will be able to get up close and see the locally based aircraft,” Wing Commander Quirke said.
The RAAF Base East Sale Community Open Day will be held on 08 May 2016 from 10am to 3pm. Free tickets for the event will be available at bit.ly/RAAFeastsaleopenday over the period 19 Apr to 03 May 2016 unless claimed earlier. A total of 5,000 tickets only will be issued. In addition to a valid ticket, people over 16 years must also have photo identification.

Further information:
xxx, Regional Manager – xxx Defence Media Operations – 02 6127 1999 or 0408 498 664
### School Canteen Volunteers

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<td>Emma Williamson</td>
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**Maffra ANZAC Day – Dawn Service**

Monday 25th April 2016, 6.00am-6.15am
Dawn Service at 6.00am at the Cenotaph in Johnson Street, Maffra. Includes a wreath laying ceremony and the general public placing poppies. Return to the clubrooms for breakfast.

**Maffra ANZAC Day – March and Commemorative Service**

Monday 25th April 2016, 9.00am – 11.00am
March commences at 9.00am down Johnson Street and stops at the cenotaph at approx. 9.10am-9.15am. A short ceremony at the cenotaph, including a wreath laying ceremony, is followed by a service in the Memorial Hall. Everyone is invited back to the clubrooms at the conclusion of the service.