Welcome to our final newsletter of 2016. What a year it’s been, with many great events and achievements to celebrate.

We’ve worked hard this year on bringing the powerful concepts of Challenging Learning to our classrooms, and working with our students to adopt a Growth Mindset. It’s been fantastic to hear our student using the language of persistence, determination and that if they can’t do something, it’s because they just haven’t learned how to yet.

We had students engage in a range of highly successful real world learning opportunities, including our renowned Broadening Horizon’s Science program, our Corporate Immersion program, three international trips and a huge range of camps and excursions across all year levels.

More recently, it was great to celebrate with our Year 12 students at their valedictory dinner. Our guest speaker and past student Leigh McQuillen shared his own very engaging story of determination and persistence in achieving his goals, as well as giving some sound advice to students as they embark on their future beyond school.

Last week our college provided strong support for the Champions of Change: Elimination of Violence Against Women event for Wellington. In particular, two Year 8 students, Chelsea Smith and Alyssia Stephens were ask to present as guest speakers based on their Broadening Horizons Science project, *The impact of stereotypes on young people*. They did a remarkable job of representing our college, impressing many of our community leaders who were surprised to learn they were actually in Year 8!

As we look forward, we are busy setting up for another exciting year in 2017. As many of our families may have seen in the Gippsland Times, we’ve commenced a major renovation of our Senior Study Centre, which links with our realignment of two sub-schools and a strong focus on building a positive climate for learning. We know that relationships, collegality and how students feel about their school has a significant impact on how they learn, so this remains a key priority for us.

As we draw to a close with the final week of Head Start and Activities Week, I’d like to take this opportunity to thank all of our families and the broader community for your ongoing support of our college, it’s a significant part of making us who we are. Have a great Christmas and safe New Year.

Adam Hogan, Acting Principal
Assistant Principal’s Report

Cheryl Evans

Annual Presentation Night

Preparation for our Annual Presentation Night has commenced. This will take place on Thursday 15th December commencing at 7pm at the Maffra Memorial Hall. Once reports have been finalised early next week, students who are receiving awards will be contacted via phone and a letter home.

There are a variety of awards / scholarships on offer for our students and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our local businesses and community groups who support our evening with generous donations. Our awards ceremony acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of our students in a variety of areas which are aligned with the things that we Value as a College: RESPECT, LEARNING, ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY. These include awards for; Individual Learning Excellence, recognition of students who can work collaboratively as part of a team, are respectful to staff and their peers, are empathetic towards others, have demonstrated excellence in student leadership and are active contributors to not only our College but also the wider community.

Lockers

All students in 7-10 will continue to use their allocated lockers until Friday 9th December. At the end of HeadStart, all students are asked to remove everything from their lockers so that they can be cleaned and where necessary replaced. We ask that all students remove their padlocks and books from their lockers on Friday 9th December. Any locks and or books remaining in lockers after this time will be removed and disposed of accordingly.

A reminder that students participation in activities will need to bring their lunch to school as the Canteen will not be running during this time.

Assistant Principal’s Report

Nathan Wallace

Civic Reception for Governor General

On Wednesday 9th November, I accompanied Emma Hellings and Tanika Smith while they performed their first official duty as the 2017 College Captains by attending a civic reception to welcome the honorable Sir Peter Cosgrove Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia and her Excellency Lady Cosgrove. After being introduced by the Wellington Shire Council Mayor, Sir Cosgrove spoke about his passion for visiting rural communities and how talking to ‘salt of the earth’ people re-energised him for his hectic schedule. After the formal speech, the Governor General and Lady Cosgrove were very generous with their time by moving around the room and conversing with each group.

Emma and Tanika were articulate and engaging in their conversation and learnt a great deal about leadership from their conversation. Tanika shared stories from her exchange in Finland that sparked interest from both the Governor General and Lady Cosgrove. I believe Sir Cosgrove and Lady Cosgrove were impressed by the caliber of these young leaders, as was I. Both girls should be proud of their first official engagement as College Captains.
I am excited to be taking on this role with such a vibrant and exciting group of young people. From the beginning of Head Start I will be available to speak to both students and parents between 8.30 and 9.10 am. Uniform, equipment and netbook issues will be addressed at this time and you will be contacted as and when necessary.

Please feel free to email me or call and leave a message with Debbie or Lisa about your child’s education and progress. This includes uniform, wellbeing or learning issues. I will endeavour to get back to you the same day or during busy times within 48 hours.

In 2017 we are heading to The Summit for Year 8 camp in October. The approximate cost of this will be $350. I will confirm this amount during term 1 to give us all time to save for the big adventure. All students should attend this camp, as it is a once in a lifetime opportunity to spend time challenging personal goals. Please remember that CSEF is available to support funding the camp. For more information or to find out if you are eligible for CSEF, please contact the main office.

Assembly for Year 8 will take place on Friday afternoons from 3.00 – 3.15, in the middle Years Learning Street, this is an opportunity for students to celebrate successes, preview the week ahead and engage with the school positive behaviour policies and procedures. These assemblies will take place in the Theatrette during Head Start and all parents/carer s are welcome to attend. If you do attend please ensure you sign in at reception before you make your way over to the assembly.

The location of the assembly will change if the timetable changes, we will notify you of this change and reception will be aware of the location when you sign in.

I look forward to seeing you at the assemblies and at other times during the year.

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**VCAL News**

Congratulations to the VCAL students who have made an impressive start to their studies.

**STRUCTURED WORKPLACE LEARNING-** In 2017, students are expected to start their work placement (SWL subject) at the beginning of Term 1.

This week I advised ALL students to start contacting employers over the next week regarding their TUESDAY work placement for next year. A couple of students have already advised me that they have organised a contact this week ready to start first week back at school-well done to them!!

**VCAL CAMP** is scheduled for **February 20-22** and the approximate price will be **$350.** I am applying for funding to try and reduce the transport costs but will not know the result of that until early next year. This camp is **a major outcome** for the subject Personal Development in first semester and students are expected to attend. This camp also allows students to develop teamwork and leaderships skills which form an important part of the VCAL program.

Below is a pic of some of the students undertaking a teamwork challenge during PD class.

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**VET (TAFE) News**

Due to external decisions, there have been many very recent changes to the TAFE courses on offer for 2017 which has unfortunately resulted in students not being offered their chosen subject. With the involvement of the Principal and career’s team, I am still working through some of these issues and hopefully by the end of Head Start they will be resolved. A letter is being sent home this week regarding the current arrangements and costs. I have also placed the charges information on Compass under Student’s TAFE subject as a Class News Item. ALL TAFE CLASSES BEGIN ON FEBRUARY 9TH.
Science

### Year 8 Science Trip to Buchan Caves

On a warm day in November, the year 8’s headed to Buchan Caves to investigate the geology of the local area. We were treated to a guided tour of the Royal Cave, many students overcoming their fears to squeeze into tight spaces. Most students identified the fossil of the mega-fauna kangaroo as a highlight.

After lunch, and some research in the information centre and reserve, we were treated to a talk from Grattan Mullet, a local man who works at Gunai Kurnai Land and Waters Corporation. He explained how the organisation works with Parks Victoria to protect and maintain the cave system, and gave the students great insight into how the caves were used by Aboriginal people.

Finally, we completed a hike up Moon Hill to admire the view, and have a closer look at a collapsed cave on the way.

Thanks to Matt Redenbach and David Montague for assisting on the day, and all the year 8 students for representing Maffra Secondary College well.

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Science

After the stress of the exams, some of the Year 10 science students spent the last week of their year 10 classes completing some scientific challenges. One of them was to study Archimedes’ floating principle with the task of constructing a plasticine ‘boat’ that would hold the most marbles. After some modifications, the ‘winning’ design was able to contain 44 marbles! Below are some of the designs— a good team effort!
Language

Selamat Jalan and 希望能再一次见到你

Goodbye and thank you to our 2016 Language Assistants

The end of the year is approaching and we are very sad to be saying goodbye to our lovely language assistants, Gillian and Disti. Since they arrived at the beginning of the year they have been a bright presence in our classrooms and around the school. Through Gillian and Disti, our students have had the opportunity to regularly converse with native speakers, to learn about the culture of China and Indonesia first hand and to have extra help and attention in class.

Both assistants have also worked tirelessly outside of class producing helpful resources to improve student learning. We are glad that Disti and Gillian have had an opportunity to join students on camps in Licola, Darwin and elsewhere, and we know they have learned a lot from the experience as well. The Languages Domain will miss these two treasures greatly, and the students even more so. We wish them luck with their next steps and we hope they will be back for a visit!

The Arts

Arts 2017

In 2016 we have seen the Arts, both Visual and Performing grow within our school. As a staff we are thrilled to see this growth and want to further support and engage our students in their Artistic pursuits.

To do this, we are seeking your support in 2017. We would like to form an Arts Committee, consisting of Staff, Parents, friends of the school and of course our 2017 Arts Captains. We foresee this group meeting regularly throughout the year to share ideas, connections and brainstorm how we can continue to build the profile of Arts in our school whilst helping our students to engage with the wider Arts community in our local area.

Already on our Arts calendar for 2017 is a float in the 2017 Maffra Mardi Gras, our School Musical a refreshed and energised Art Show as well as several performance opportunities throughout the year with the inclusion of theatre studies back into our VCE program.

If you or you know anyone who would be interested in joining our MSC Arts Committee in 2017 please express your interest or inquire via email to Fiona Ray: ray.fiona.f@edumail.vic.gov.au

We would greatly appreciate as much support as possible and value the opportunity to work with you in building the Arts Learning Area at Maffra Secondary College.
**Sport**

**Year 7 & 8 Boys Hockey**

Our keen year 7 and 8 boys headed down to Drouin to play in the Gippsland Championships for hockey. The boys were pitted against Chairo College in the first game who proved to be too strong, taking out the match 9-0. Arzel DeLa Cruz had an outstanding game in goals, while Lachie White controlled the middle. Andrew Veale was a valuable late inclusion, tackling very well on the half back line. John Booker and Cohen Van Sluys ran hard through the middle showing flashes of brilliance, and Reilly Cannon was also really strong in the half back line. Despite the score line the boys stood up well to the challenge and represented the school with pride.

Our second game against Nagle College was a very even affair. The final result was a 0-0 scoreline however our supporters were overheard proclaiming that Maffra played the better game. Curtis Cook was strong on the wing, and Aiden Clark showed skill at centre forward. Kane Dixon was our replacement goalie and kept well, kicking the ball with authority. Bevan O’Doherty held the backline together, and Jack Hoffman was near unstoppable out wide. Josh Lenehan was making great position on the wing, while King and Ken ran hard through the middle.

Well done to all the boys for representing the school so well, playing with good sportsmanship and skill.

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**Volleyball State Finalists**

The year 7 boys volleyball team qualified for the State School Sport finals with some close wins in the the Gippsland round early in May. With the minimum 6 players we went to Dandenong expecting to find the competition too strong, as some of the boys had not touched a volleyball since May. With plenty of warm up time (we got to the stadium an hour and a half early) the boys settled well, but with some settling in errors we lost the first set easily. With a focus on serving, communicating and support we shot to an early lead in the second set and managed to hold that lead with some strong serving from Darren, Rohan and Bevan. The deciding set was a close tussle, with Maffra finally coming out on top after a strong showing from Lucas at the service line, and Darcy taking every opportunity to jump high and hit the ball hard.

Our next match was also a close tussle, coming from behind to beat a Geelong school in 3 sets. The stand out in this match was Sam’s serving at the death, knocking in 4 hard serves to give us victory. This result surprisingly saw us progress to the semi finals. Our last two matches saw us outclassed by established volleyball schools Monbulk and Eltham. Despite losing the last two matches the boys left in particularly high spirits, having far surpassed their initial goals for the day.
**Bus & Attendance**

**Kath Shepheard**  
Bus & Attendance coordinator

**Buses**  
The bus applications for 2017 are now very overdue. If you haven’t filled one out please ask your child to bring one home. They are available at the front office or from Mrs Shepheard. If you have any queries, please contact the Bus Co-ordinator on 51471790.

**Attendance**  
Please continue to send SMS messages about our child absences on 0419 345857. This number is for SMS only.

**Reminders**

**DEB BALL PAYMENTS**  
Final payments of **$180 for boys & $80 for girls** will be due by the 9th of December, 2016.  
**PLEASE RETURN ALL FORMS AND PAYMENTS ON TIME!**

**KOKODA FUNDRAISING**  
The students who completed the Kokoda Track are asking for assistance from the Maffra Community. They will be holding several fund raising activities at the school over the next few weeks to raise money to hire a porter to transport exercise books, pens, posters and chalk to the Kagi School (the village in which they spent 2 days in the middle of their trek) as they have very little in the way of educational aids.

If you have any exercise books, pencils, pens, chalk, educational posters or the like which are in reasonable condition, could you drop them to the ‘Kokoda kids’ at the main office and we will arrange for them to be transported to Kagi.

**SECOND HAND BOOK SALE**  
The second hand book sale will be held in the Middle Years building on **Tuesday 6th December from 9.30am – 11.30am**. If you have text books to sell, please bring them to the office by **4pm Monday 5th December**. Please find attached to the Newsletter a list of re-sellable books for 2017.

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**Energy Breakthrough 2016**

This year’s energy breakthrough teams have done a fantastic job this term. We were split into two year 9 teams called ‘Arachnophobia’ and ‘Mamba Out’, as well as the after school team ‘Kaleidoscope’. All teams have put a lot of time and effort into their vehicles. I would like to thank our sponsors Wynnes Coaches for the transport, Bedggoods for the truck, East Coast Plastics for the materials, Esso ($1000) and Rural Co. Property Gippsland ($500) and materials donated. We have also had huge support setting up our ‘Lucky 13 Raffle’ this term with Country Motorcycles, Wilmour Motors, Vern Graham, Stobies Land and Surf, Brown/Wigg, John Deere, MG Trading, Showcase Jewellers, Avon Ridge, Elders, Maffra Community Sports Club and Fitness 4U all donating some great prizes. We also want to give a massive thank you to the Maffra Secondary College Parents’ Club for raising $2500 towards purchasing a new racing trike for our senior team.

Thank you all, we really appreciate it.

By Shae O’Neill

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**School Canteen**

The canteen will be closed as of Monday 12th December 2016  
There will be no canteen running during Activities week!

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**A Big Thank you**  
I would like to thank All Parents, Grandparents, Teachers and Students for all their help they have given in the canteen this year.

It was so greatly appreciated, to those who received last minute phone calls to help out, Thank you so much. Without everybody’s help the canteen would not be able to run as successfully as it does.

Wishing Each and Every Family a Very Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year

Looking forward to seeing all New Families and Volunteers in 2017.

Thanks Again

Tracey Green
You can make a difference!

Gippsland & East Gippsland Aboriginal Co-operative (GEGAC) is looking for people to become carers in the East Gippsland region.

Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people are needed to be carers

Did you know?
- Carers receive a non-taxable reimbursement while they are providing care.
- Caseworkers are available 24/7 for support and advise.
- Carers come from all walks of life.

If you would like further information on being a foster carer and the training available please contact GEGAC Koorie Kare on: 5150 0716

Bonjour! G’Day! Guten Tag! Ciao!

Southern Cross Cultural Exchange will be welcoming some excited and enthusiastic students into Victoria in FEBRUARY 2017.

These wonderful exchange students will be arriving from FRANCE, ITALY, GERMANY, DENMARK, SWEDEN, AUSTRIA, and JAPAN.

We would love to hear from WONDERFUL FAMILIES in your area who are interested in sharing their Australian life and culture.

If you would like to welcome an AMAZING exchange student into your home, life, and heart in February 2017, please contact Southern Cross Cultural Exchange.

Call 1800 500 501 toll free or email cheryl.p@scce.com.au

www.scce.com.au
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