Welcome to the first edition of the Education Newsletter for 2017! It is a significant year for the area as we commence the first full year of a new structure that has seen the merge of the Warrnambool Network with the Corangamite Network to create the Great South West Coast Network of Government Schools. Our group is charged with responsibility of the education and care of all government school students across the south west and has already commenced work on addressing common issues across the region.

As Chair of the Network I am excited at the opportunities that 2017 will present our students, schools and communities. I encourage all parents and guardians to actively engage in their child’s education, be involved in school activities and support the wonderful opportunities that government schools provide.

Peter Auchettl
Chairperson of the Great South West Coast Network of Government Schools and Principal of Warrnambool Primary School

Great South West Coast
Network of Government Schools

| Allansford Primary School |
| Brauer College |
| Camperdown College |
| Cobden Primary School |
| Cobden Technical School |
| Cudgee Primary School |
| Derrinallum P-12 College |
| Grasmere Primary School |
| Hampden Specialist School |
| Hawkesdale P-12 College |
| Koroi & District Primary School |
| Lismore Primary School |
| Macarthur Primary School |
| Merrivale Primary School |
| Mortlake P-12 College |
| Noorat Primary School |
| Nullawarre & District Primary School |
| Panmure Primary School |
| Port Fairy Consolidated School |
| Simpson Primary School |
| Skipton Primary School |
| Terang College |
| Timboon P-12 School |
| Warrnambool College |
| Warrnambool East Primary School |
| Warrnambool Primary School |
| Warrnambool Special Development School |
| Warrnambool West Primary School |
| Woodford Primary School |
| Woolsthorpe Primary School |

Every child, Every opportunity, To shine.
Hands on Learning

Mortlake College is now in the second year of the innovative (HOL) “Hands on Learning Program”. HOL takes a number of students out of class one day a week fostering teamwork and leadership. Students and two artisan-teachers share breakfast and lunch and work together to create valuable building structures for the school and community.

Students develop critical skills and abilities to succeed in work and life in the 21st Century:

- collaboration
- problem solving
- character
- communication
- resilience
- critical thinking
- empathy
- creativity
- citizenship

Self-esteem, friendships, and a sense of belonging grow as students become more content at school. Motivation, focus and the ability to set goals increase when they return to class - building the platform for improvements in literacy and numeracy.

The opportunity to succeed in a different environment builds self-belief and confidence, making their time back in the classroom more effective. There is no cost to the students. HOL started at Frankston High School in 1999 and now runs in schools right across Victoria. An appointed Artisan teacher, Ben Cross and Ross Trahair will work with the HOL team at Mortlake College.

The students have undertaken many projects throughout the local community. This includes building playground equipment at the local kindergarten, painting the perimeter fence at the town oval. At school, the students have built a ‘Buddy Seat’ and completed a wide range of gardening and construction projects.
“A-MAZE-ING” 2/3
STEM ACADEMY

All students from Grades Foundation to Six are actively immersed in STEM. Our school is committed to creating critical thinkers through instilling a sense of intrigue and wonder. We encourage our children to challenge their world, understand new concepts, make well-informed decisions and pursue new interests.

- Robotcs -

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics are fully immersed into daily learning in the Grade 2/3 STEM Academy. This term, there has been a spotlight on the interesting world of mazes. This theme has sparked much curiosity among these talented learners and our learning has filtered out in exciting directions.

- Hands on construction -

- reflection & analysis -
STUDENT LEADERS’ CONGRESS
Eight of our grade 5 & 6 student leaders attended the Student Leaders’ Congress at Deakin University on Friday, 3rd March. Vicki Jellie, from Peter’s Project, gave a wonderful presentation about her experience as a leader and the importance of never giving up and being persistent and passionate. Hugh van Cuylenburg, director of The Resilience Project, spoke about the importance of promoting mental health for young Australians, and how to be resilient and mindful in your capacity as a leader. Our students came up with some great ideas about how we can promote mental health and develop the resilience of young people, and shared ideas with students from Cudgee Primary School and Nullawarre & District Primary School. We have a number of possibilities for our 2017 Student Leaders project, which we will explore over the next few weeks. It was a very worthwhile day and one the students enjoyed.

QUOTES FROM OUR STUDENTS
I was really surprised when Hugh spoke about how kids in the far north of India were always happy and grateful for what they had and for being able to attend school, even though they had to make their own toys, slept in the street and had to walk miles to find water. I was very impressed with how Vickie Jellie raised her target of 5 million dollars in 9 months, for Peter’s Project. It was a very enjoyable day and I had fun learning about leadership and mindfulness and how you can change things with one little idea. I also enjoyed hearing about Hugh and Vickie’s experiences. I had fun coming up with our idea for a project and hearing about others’ ideas for projects. Annabella

I enjoyed the way they used stories to entertain us while providing us with important messages about leadership and mental health. Hugh spoke very clearly and in a way everyone could understand. He used examples to illustrate his points. He spoke about how, in Australia, we can just turn a tap on to get water, but we don’t take time to appreciate that fact. Yet, in India, one of the students had to walk for half an hour to a river with buckets on a stick over his shoulders to get water and then walk half an hour back, boil the water and wait for it to cool before they could drink it. Yet, they were grateful for being able to have water and just grateful to have what they had. Kimberley

I learnt that many of the things we have we take for granted, but if we didn’t have those things we would think very differently and be more mindful of and appreciate what we had. We would be a lot less wasteful because we would have to conserve the materials we have and our resources, which would make our world less polluted. We would also be fitter and healthier because it would be a lot more labour intensive to survive without our modern day appliances and conveniences. I enjoyed the day very much and it was an extremely good experience to develop our understanding of what other people have to cope with and how we get very angry about things that aren’t worth getting upset over, like not being able to get on to the internet. I also learnt if you get involved with things outside your community and interact with people from other cultures then you appreciate what you have and become more mindful because you realise some people have a lot harder lives than us but still appreciate what they have, a lot more than we do. Brodie
It’s been a fantastic start to the school year with plenty on offer for students and parents alike. Our annual Whole School Picnic was a terrific opportunity for new and old families to catch up over a meal in a relaxing environment. Although a bit chilly at the start, by 6pm the sun was out and everyone had a great time!

Early March saw our student leaders attend the Leaders Congress at Deakin University where they identified, then worked on, a project to help a community group. Every student relished the opportunity to be part of such an exciting day and especially enjoyed the two key note speakers.

Thanks to Simon Perry and Daniel Watson for providing a leadership experience that has genuinely resonated with our students!

Another terrific occasion was a visit to the Embroiderers Guild Exhibition where our Junior School Council Executive unveiled a magnificent piece of work undertaken by the ladies over the past 18 months.

The work depicts an image of each of our four House groups surrounding the Warrnambool Primary School logo. This impressive piece was presented to the whole school at our Friday assembly, and now hangs proudly, for all to see, in our front of office space. Our heartfelt thanks go out to the large team who designed and created a piece of history!

What better way to spend a Friday night after school than to roll up the sleeves and help out with some gardening?! That’s what staff, parents and students did in late February as every playground and most sand pits were topped up with fresh soft fall and sand respectively. Then, just to top off the evening, a fresh layer of mulch was spread on the garden beds behind the BER, rubber matting was laid in front of the amphitheatre and blue stone dust spread around the entrance to the Japanese Garden. What was very clear was the children had a terrific time and the pride and care in which they went about the task was obvious. Well done to all!
House Leaders Induction & Introduction to Year 7’s.
‘The Induction was a great night, especially for the students being recognised for their leadership roles within their houses. To be able to walk up on stage and be acknowledged by the students, teachers and parents was a great feeling. It was a new initiative within the houses and hopefully one that we can continue into the future. I have no doubt that our year 7 students have a place in the college’ – Emily Duncan.

Swimming Sports
We had another very hot day for our College swimming sports this year. The students and staff did a fantastic job proudly supporting their houses, whether in the pool or cheering loudly from the hill.

Sunsmart
Students and staff across the school attended a presentation on Monday exploring how best to protect oneself from the damaging effects of overexposure to the sun. We were intrigued to learn that sun damage is entirely unrelated to temperature and exclusively caused by UV exposure. Students and staff were reminded to follow the ‘slip, slop, slap, slide and seek’ guidelines in order to enjoy their time in the sun safely. This timely presentation helped us to enjoy our Athletics day even more.

Athletics Carnival
Congratulations to all competitors that participated in the Athletics carnival on Tuesday. It was fantastic to see so many students working hard in hot conditions to gain points for their respective Houses. The day was like a kaleidoscope of colour, effort and fun. It was great to see quite a few parents and grandparents supporting students and Houses there too.

Extra-Curricular Activities
We are entering a very busy part of the term for extra-curricular activities. It is brilliant to see our staff giving up their personal time to go on camps, excursions and sporting competitions. These trips help build tremendous student/teacher relationships and help build confidence and resilience in our students.

Merinda Ugle-Hagan will test herself against some of the country’s best young talent at the Budgies Indigenous Schoolgirls Netball Championships. She earned a spot on the All-Australian team. All the best Merinda! Merinda also won the VicRoads Indigenous Secondary School Scholarship Award, which aims to help raise the VCE completion rate of Indigenous students. Congratulations!
Every Friday after school the Gunditjmara Aboriginal Co-operative Youth Group attends a supportive program of community engagement, education sessions and learnings within the Warrnambool area. Joey Chatfield, in partnership with the Local Aboriginal Justice Action Committee (LAJAC)/Regional Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee (RAJAC) arranged for a number of police to be involved with the kids. The kids have enjoyed the visits and gained a better understanding in both the cyber bullying program and the policing program held at the Warrnambool Police Station. A great number of kids of all ages and their support members attended. They were shown the fingerprinting area, highway patrol unit, OSTT unit, Crime Scene Unit, general policing information and practice.

We would like to acknowledge all those police members that put their hands up to help out and participate in the event in partnership with Gunditjmara Aboriginal Co-operative. Our Police Aboriginal Liaison Officer’s (PALO’s) Sgt Jason PUSCHENJAK, SC Emily DURHAM, Sgt Craig JENKINS and also other police members Snr Sgt Shane KEOGH and LS CONS Michael GLOURY. The kids were very much appreciative of the information and the interaction with the kids was fantastic.

Thank you to Koorie Education, South Western Victoria Region, for permission to publish this article. This article was first published in Karratpeeteen (Message Stick) Indigenous Newsletter, March 2017, page 18.
Upcoming Events

Carol’s Retirement Farewell

Come and say “Thanks and Farewell” to Simpson Primary School Principal, Carol Fulford, as she embarks on retired life!

Thursday 30th March
1:30pm

Simpson Football Club Rooms @ the Rec Reserve

Tea & Coffee available
Please bring a plate to share for Afternoon Tea

Queries to Hellen 0437 431 169 or Coral 0437 947 487
Brauer Amateur Dramatics
Presents

Robin Hood
By Greg Banks

Primary School Performances

Wednesday 17th May 10am and 1pm
Thursday 18th May 1pm
Friday 19th May 1pm

For Bookings Contact
Paul McFadden—5560 3808
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eWe’ll be heading off from Echuca heading to Port Fairy and raising money for the Warrnambool hospital Palliative Care Ward. All donations will be used to purchase new beds for patients and their families to make their stay in the ward more comfortable.

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Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman
Book By
Julian Fellows
New Songs and Additional Music and Lyrics by
George Stiles and Anthony Drewe
Co-created by
Cameron Mackintosh

Brauer College, Anderson Theatre
School Matinee Performances
Tuesday 15th August
Wednesday 16th August
Thursday 17th August
Friday 18th August

For Bookings Please contact Paul McFadden on 55603808
or email—mcfadden.paul.r@edumail.vic.gov.au

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The Great South West Coast Network of Government Schools newsletter is published in December, March, June and September.

If you are interested in learning more about the Great South West Coast Network of Government Schools or becoming a business sponsor, please contact Rachael Choppin on (03) 5565 4253 or grasmere.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Wishing you a happy and safe school holiday.