College Newsletter March 2015

College Council election results

The number of nominees for College Council matched the number of vacancies advertised to the college community. Consequently I am pleased to announce that Claire Bennett and Arif Oztan are duly elected to our College Council for 2015-2016. 

Our 2015 members are:

* Andrea Mansell – parent  
* Norma Bertram – parent  
* Claire Bennett – parent  
* Arif Oztan – parent  
* Jamal Abawajy - community  
* Tess Turner – community  
* Rosa Marchionda – DET staff  
* Suzie Gerada – DET staff  
* Michael Fawcett – Principal/Executive Officer

Landscaping works

During Term 1 the college has completed significant landscaping works around the grounds of the college. Parents will have noticed the fencing works being carried out around the whole school site. This work will be finished over the holiday break ensuring the school is fully fenced.

We have also spent a considerable amount on landscaping the area round our new portables. This area will be available to students for relaxation at breaks from start of Term 2.

Tarneit Senior College - before and after school

It is great to see so many of our students getting to school early and staying back after school to work with our staff. Please be aware that the college does not officially open each morning until 8.30am. Students who arrive prior to this are welcome to work in Building B but they are not supervised until 8.30am.

The number of students staying at school after 3.00pm has been incredible this year. Our students are involved in a range of activities with the main one being working with individual teachers to improve their academic understanding. Wednesday after school is our main organised study session but students are welcome to stay back any night for extra help. Monday and Tuesday nights are our staff meeting nights so in general these nights will not be used by staff for study sessions with students.

We expect that any student staying back after school will have notified parents that they are here at school. No after school session is compulsory but many will be highly recommended for students to attend.
Student Attendance

The college has a 90% minimum attendance requirement for students to pass at each year level. For our new Year 10 students this may be the first time they have experienced an attendance requirement of this nature. We currently have too many Year 10 students attending below this level. They will not pass unless their attendance improves in term 2. If you are experiencing difficulty in getting your child to attend each day please contact the college for support. House Leaders are contacting all families of students who are at risk of failing due to attendance.

Artist in Residence

TSC currently has an ‘artist in residence’ on campus. Romain Le Badezet is a French artist living and working in Australia for 2015. Romain will be working at TSC and will be creating 4 art pieces for the college. This is a cultural experience for students who will get to witness an artist in action from planning to final product. Romain will not be working directly with students but will interact with all of us daily as he goes about his craft. Check out Romain’s work at http://romainlebadezet.jimdo.com/

Penrose Promenade works during Term 2

City West Water has notified the college that there will be road works along Penrose Promenade during term 2. Sections of the road will be closed and traffic will be diverted along Begonia Rd at times. This will cause disruption and heavy traffic around school drop off and pick up times. Please factor this into your daily drives to school.

Voluntary School Fees

Thanks to the many families who have paid their voluntary school fees for 2015. These fees are a vital component of our budget and enable us to purchase additional resources for your child. We ask those parents who are yet to pay the fee to contact our Business Manager Kathrine Rix to organise payment. Payment plans are available to suit family needs.
Yr12 Outdoor & Environmental Studies

On Tuesday 17 March the Yr12 Outdoor & Environmental Studies class participated in a day excursion down to the Aboriginal Cultural Centre in Torquay and Paddle boarding in Anglesea. Students gained lots of valuable information at the Aboriginal Cultural Centre that linked all the theory content of the course together that we have studied so far. Paddle boarding proved to be a bit harder than it looked for some but all had a great time experiencing this activity for the first time. Students are now in preparation for their first camp of the year that will be at the Grampians National Park early next term.

Yr11 Outdoor & Environmental Studies

On Tuesday 10 March the Yr11 Outdoor & Environmental Studies class participated in an excursion into the city. Students gathered information about the Melbourne Botanic Gardens and how this Urban Metropolitan Park is managed and maintained. Students looked at the diversity of the plants and trees in this area and linked it to current learning outcomes. Students then participated in an amazing race around the city to test their navigational skills and out run each other to the finish line. Overall it was an enjoyable day in a different learning environment.
ANZAC Presentation


No Bullying at TSC

All our students signed an anti-bullying pledge recently. The signing ceremony is a symbolic statement to each other that we don’t want bullies in our school community. The signed pledges are displayed on the walls of our school as a message to anyone who may make the mistake of thinking it is ok to bully or harass another member of our school. Not only is it not OK, it is also illegal to harass another person in a workplace such as a school.

Annual Report

The college 2014 Annual Report will be available for community reading on our website in late April. The Annual Report contains the following elements:

- School Performance Summary 2014
- Financial Performance & Position

The school performance summary is positive for our school. Available data reflects academic results, strong levels of parent and student opinion of our school and relatively high levels of student attendance.
New smoking bans to apply on school grounds and at school entrances

From 13 April 2015, smoking will be banned within four metres of an entrance to all primary and secondary schools in Victoria, and within the school grounds, under an amendment to the *Tobacco Act 1987*. A similar ban applying to the entrances and grounds of Victorian childcare centres and kindergartens will be introduced at the same time. While smoking was banned on the grounds of all Victorian Government schools by the Minister for Education in 2009 via a Ministerial Ban Order, the new bans are enshrined in legislation and will also apply to Catholic and independent schools in Victoria, thereby ensuring a consistent approach across the government and non-government sectors. It is a legislative requirement that each school installs suitable ‘No smoking’ signs at all entrances to the school premises.

Yr12 Chemistry

Year 12 Chemistry students had a very fun and informative experience at Ecolinc recently, learning how to use the Atomic Absorption Spectrometer (AAS), the UV-visible spectrometer (UV-vis) and the Infra Red (IR) spectrometer. They analysed a variety of milk samples for their calcium and protein contents, and also compared different brands of milk for lactose, fats and carbohydrate quantities. Ecolinc staff were very impressed with our students, and praised them for their dedication and interest in the work. Well done Year 12s!!

Student Voice

The SRC forum held at The Grange College was very influential and allowed us to network with other schools and gain insight into how others run their Student Representative Councils. On the 11th March, we were introduced to a mass amount of other student leaders from different schools and we were given an activity that allowed us to present our thoughts and feelings on our school community and roles. Everyone quickly got engaged in expressing themselves. The Federal Labor Member for Lalor, Joanne Ryan, took us through the process giving us the opportunity to converse with other students and it enabled us to take on board their opinions of their schools as well as ways to improve it. The day ended with a well-deserved lunch, as well as a group photo alongside an ending speech. We walked out of The Grange with confidence due to the innovative ideas that we will be able to use in future situations and events at our school. *- Joel and Biftu*
School Diary Use

A four year study at our previous school on what constituted a successful student at senior college revealed key elements of how to succeed at the later years. A major factor in being successful at yr12 is organisation. Our research revealed to us that every student in the top 10% of Yr12 results in our previous school over this four year period used their school diary effectively. There were no exceptions to this. The relatively simple process of using a school diary every day to record work, due dates, teacher feedback and communication with and from parents will improve your child’s results. We urge all parents to ensure their child has a diary and that they are using it every day. We welcome parent comments in diaries as well. Diaries can be purchased from the general office at the reduced rate of $12 from the start of Term 2.

Food Technology

Year 10 students have just completed their first Design Brief. Students were skilled up on making a plain classic risotto and then had to design a healthier version that included as many food groups and incorporated some current trends in food flavours. Students worked brilliantly during production to create some tasty dishes.

Flag Display

As part of a Multicultural Grant; the College purchased 60 flags in 2014. The flags represent all the nations our students and families come from. We really are a multi-cultural school! If your child believes their flag is not one we have please contact the school so we can get one ASAP.
Holidays

We wish all students and families a great holiday break. Our Year 12 students need to relax during holidays...but not totally – this is an important time to revise work completed during Term 1. The college is also running a small number of ‘holiday classes’ in Year 12 subjects – teachers will have already organised these times with your child. This work is ‘revision’ work – no new topics will be covered during these classes.

Term 1 concludes

Term 1 finishes on Friday March 27 at 2.00pm. All students are expected at school on this day and normal classes operate. Term 2 commences on Monday 13 April.

Michael Fawcett & Rosa Marchionda
Principal Team