Meet our 2014 School Captains

**Tim**
I’m Tim and I am currently studying VCE. I completed VCE Accounting in 2013, and am currently undertaking: Specialist Mathematics, Mathematical Methods, Legal Studies, English and Economics via Distance Education. This year I plan to get the desired ATAR to get into my preferred course, which is a Bachelor of Commerce/Law at Deakin – requiring an ATAR of 84. I wanted to become school captain to ensure that our school will keep progressing to become better and better.

By being a school captain I am aiming to develop my leadership and interpersonal skills, while not only benefiting myself – but assisting in making the school as great as it can be.

**Rochelle**
Currently completing year 12 VCAL, I am studying Numeracy (Maths), Literacy (English), PDS (Personal Development Skills) and Food Tech. I am also completing my second year in VET Hospitality. I really enjoy the course and would like to become a chef when I leave school.

My ambitions for this year are to pass year 12 at a senior level of VCAL, get the most out of the year and enjoy my last year of high school as much as I can. My ambitions for my future are to have a stable job, own or be renting a house or unit and to be happy with my life and accomplish what I want.

I wanted to be one of the school captains for 2014 because I thought it would be a great experience for me. I would like to achieve more confidence in myself from being in this role and for school this year; I would like to achieve the best possible outcomes.

**Hannah**
My name’s Hannah and this year I am in VCE. The subjects I’m doing are English, Further Maths, Health and Human Development, Legal Studies and Media. I also completed year 12 Psychology last year.

I wanted to be school captain this year because I enjoy representing and working with my peers and being an effective and respected leader. I want anyone to be able to look to me for help and I want to assist in making the school a better place in my final year here at Lara Secondary College.

My ambitions after school are to either get into primary teaching or midwifery whilst advocating for equality, in particular gender equality.

**Isaiah**
This year I am completing Year 12 VCE. I’m currently studying Further and Methods Math, Biology, Chemistry and English, and have already completed year 12 Psychology. This year I am just trying to do the best I can, although I do wish to study Zoology and/or chemistry pathways at University. I decided I wanted to be School Captain for Lara to show people that school is a great place and our school is quite fun, also I like the idea of having a leadership role for something.
MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Our continued focus in 2014 is on ensuring that every student achieves success. This can only be achieved through a determined and highly structured approach in ensuring high levels of student learning and high levels of student wellbeing.

Student Learning
Last year our school adopted the instructional framework of the highly successful Professional Learning Community (PLC) model. Richard and Rebecca Defour are the dynamic leaders of this framework and have worked with schools all over the globe to support schools in adopting the framework. If you are interested in finding out more about PLC there are numerous YouTube clips or you may like to visit the website www.allthingsplc.info. The first tab (ABOUT) will give you information about the power of PLC and evidence to support its impact.

As a PLC school our teachers work in teams each week to ensure that they establish clear and consistent curriculum, that student learning is closely monitored and that if students are not able to achieve to the agreed standard they are supported in a variety of ways to do so. This support begins within the classroom through differentiating instruction, or modifying what or how something is taught to suit the needs of the individual student. Further support is provided through extra teachers once a week in English and Maths classes in the Middle Years. The third tier of intervention to ensure that all students learn is through providing EXTRA TIME for students. In the coming weeks our tier three intervention or “tutoring” classes will begin to ensure that extra time is provided and that all students are learning. A letter detailing the process has been sent to all families this week.

Student Wellbeing
This year we have been successful in securing a grant to further support our work in ensuring high levels of student wellbeing. This week the Principal Team and our Developing Positive Behaviours (SWPB) Leading Teacher, Ben Johnson, attended professional learning for the implementation of a very impressive framework: “School Wide Positive Behaviours.” We were all very excited about the way this wellbeing framework fits so well with the work that is already being undertaken at Lara Secondary College. The Minister for Education, Martin Dixon is a strong supporter of SWPB and introduced George Sugai from the University of Connecticut. Mr Sugai will work with our school, and others involved in the adoption of SWPB, over the next two years as we embrace this strong philosophy of focusing on student positive behaviour rather than on the negatives!

Both PLC and SWPB are just the right frameworks for us to structure our work to continue to improve student learning outcomes - the big picture of education for Lara Secondary.

On more day to day matters we have some very excited and tired Year 7 students (and teachers) returning from their camp at Marysville after three days away, and our first Year 9 group and their dedicated teachers have faced the challenge of the overnight hike in Connections. Our year 11 and 12 students should have a strong focus on their studies and we look forward to working with parents to support this at our upcoming Senior Success Evening.

Lyn Boyle
Principal
boyle.lyn.c@edumail.vic.gov.au
ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS’ REPORT

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL NEWS
As students are settling back into school the novelty of returning may be beginning to wear off. Seeing your friends again, meeting new classmates and knowing who all your teachers are going to be becomes old hat. This makes arriving at school on time more difficult, and slowly the once or twice becomes an all too familiar pattern. It is important that all students arrive at school prior to the start of the day, and with enough time to prepare themselves mentally and physically for the day. This process is crucial in enabling them to organise themselves with the correct texts and equipment for the correct classes, check in with their friendship group and set themselves up for a successful day.

The other key to a successful start to the day is to ensure a nutritional breakfast has been eaten. Breakfast is exactly that – to break the fast of not eating for an extended length of time as our bodies have been resting. Concentration is compromised when the body is hungry, which then directly impacts upon the capacity of students to function at a high level in their classes. Breakfast can be as simple as a slice of wholesome (ideally) bread with topping, or as decadent as bacon and eggs with all the trimmings and all manner of foods between. With these in place, your child is being supported with a great start to a positive day.

SCHOOL PHOTOS
A huge congratulations to all families with students looking fabulous for the school photos. There were a few students absent on the photo day, and we also have some students new to Lara Secondary College who have started here and missed having their photo taken.

Luckily we were able to secure a second date, as a catch up session, which has taken place TODAY for those who missed out. This has meant that the production of the photos will be delayed for 10 days as they have had to wait for the completion of all photos, with the photos expected to arrive at school by the end of Term 1.

IMMUNISATIONS
All students in Years 7 and 10, and the Year 9 boys, are due for immunisations in 2014. All cards were meant to be returned regardless as to whether you wanted your child to be immunised or not. If you did not return the immunisation card, you are still able to contact Barwon Health to complete the appropriate documentation. Please do not contact the office as we no longer have any spare immunisation cards available.

The first group of students to be immunised are the Year 7 students and Year 9 boys. We have received confirmation that there is a worldwide shortage of the chicken pox vaccine so rather than having this with the first dose of Gardasil they will now have it with the third dose, in November.

If you have any questions with regards to the immunisations, please contact Barwon Health.

Tania O’Callaghan & Faye Smith
Assistant Principals
Ocallaghan.tania.l@edumail.vic.gov.au
smith.faye.l@edumail.vic.gov.au

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

The Music Department have started 2014 with a bang! Monday and Tuesday saw all year 7 classes visiting the music room for Instrumental Try Outs. The students had a great time making some big sounds on trumpets, trombones, clarinets and saxophones. We hope this has sparked some new interest in music and students are now bringing back enrolment forms to undertake instrumental lessons.

We currently have 55 students across the school enrolled in music lessons and our tutors’ timetables are filling fast. Should you wish to enrol, please get a form from the front office, fill out the details and sign the bottom, and return it to the front office with your payment.

Lessons only cost $50 per term and instrument hire is free, so get it while there are still lesson times available.

If you have any questions please contact Miss Rebecca Newman, Director of Music.

SUCCESS IN THE SENIOR YEARS AT LARA SECONDARY COLLEGE

We would like to invite all Year 11 and 12 families to our Success in the Senior Years Information Evening on Tuesday 11th March at 5:30pm in Room 311.

Join our Senior Years team for a sausage sizzle from 5:30pm followed by informative presentations focusing on the VCE and VCAL programs at Lara Secondary College beginning promptly at 6pm until 7pm.

The journey through the Senior Years can be stressful and challenging and at times parents can feel unprepared to support their child with their studies. As both the VCE & VCAL are formally recognised qualifications, a number of requirements exist for satisfactory completion.

Parents and students will learn about expectations and responsibilities for successful completion including attendance, authentication and assessment.

Parents will be informed about tips and strategies to support their child to achieve their best results through study, organisation and balancing their school, work, personal and social commitments.

We look forward to seeing many families on Tuesday 11th March.

Lana Ryder on behalf of the Senior Years Leadership Team

School Levy Payment Plan

As the start of year can be a little daunting financially for families, we are offering payment plans for 2014 Booklist Levies. If you would like to commence a payment plan now to ease into the year, by making small regular payments over a period of time, please contact Karen Wilson or Shirley Niblett in the College office to fill in the Payment Plan Form and commence payments.

Options include BPAY, cash, EFTPOS, Credit Card, cheque or Centrepay.

Phone 5282 8988 for Karen Wilson or Shirley Niblett.
Sovereign Hill

On Monday February 17th Year 10 Ready Set Work attended Sovereign Hill to investigate the history of work in Australia. Students participated in a tour of the industrial revolution, women’s work, gold pouring and gold panning. Students will be comparing these jobs with current day equivalents as part of the Term One curriculum. The following photos were taken on the day.

The girls participated in the program ‘A Women’s Work is Never Done’
Choosing a career can be a difficult task. There are so many options, so many courses, so many institutions to choose from. Remember, it is likely that you will have several careers in your lifetime, so don’t think too far ahead. Careers that you may be involved in later on may have not yet been invented!

So, how to choose? Important things to consider: What do I enjoy doing? What subjects do I like most? How do I like to spend my spare time? What are my hobbies/interests? What do I value; what is important to me? Answering these questions will tell you things about yourself that will assist you in gaining career ideas. For instance, perhaps you like designing things, enjoy Visual Communication, draw designs in your spare time, and have a passion for the environment. Clearly, you might consider architecture, perhaps designing buildings where heating and cooling costs are reduced as much as possible. Or perhaps you like helping people, are interested in studying Health and Psychology, and it is important that you work as part of a team. You might then consider nursing, health promotion, paramedics or counselling, for example.

**NEWS OF MEDICINE AT MONASH UNIVERSITY** – Monash has two medicine/surgery (MBBS) degrees. 1. The undergraduate degree at Clayton selects students on the basis of their Undergraduate Medicine and Health Science Admissions Test (UMAT) results, an interview, and the ATAR. Applicants cannot have commenced another university degree. 2. The Gippsland Graduate-entry program currently selects students on the basis of undergraduate degree results in an appropriate degree and Graduate Australian Medical School Admissions Test (GAMSAT). However, from 2017, at least 50 of the 75 domestic places available into the Graduate Entry MBBS will be reserved for students who have completed Monash University’s Bachelor of Biomedical Science. The remaining 25 places in this program will be open to students who have completed the following Monash University degrees: Bachelor of Biomedical Science (including double degrees), Bachelor of Pharmacy, Bachelor of Physiotherapy and Bachelor of Science (dependent on the completion of designated units). Selection of students for the Graduate-entry MBBS will include a multi mini interview; the GAMSAT will not be required. Further info: www.med.monash.edu.au/medical/gippsland/mbbs-pathways.html; ph 1800 MONASH (666 274) or email future@monash.edu.

NOTE: Other institutions in Victoria offering medicine degrees are: University of Melbourne (post-graduate) and Deakin University (post-graduate). Many applicants for medicine degrees apply for interstate universities, and sometimes for NZ universities (Universities of Auckland and of Otago), to increase their chances of being accepted into a medicine degree, as competition for places is fierce.

**WHAT IS THE UNDERGRADUATE MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES ADMISSION TEST (UMAT)?** Results from this test are used as part of the selection process for some Australian and New Zealand university degrees. In Victoria the only university degree now requiring this test for Year 12 selection is Medicine at Monash (Clayton) (physiotherapy no longer requires it). However, some interstate and NZ universities also use it. Registrations for UMAT2014 are now open, and close at 5pm (EST) on Friday 6 June. The test will take place on Wednesday 30 July 2014. The UMAT Information Booklet is available from the UMAT website: www.umat.acer.edu.au.

NOTE: Practice materials are available through the UMAT website and can only be completed online. There are currently three full-length tests available. There are also some ‘how to’ clips and a quiz available on the UMAT website. Watch the videos and complete the quiz questions before registering for the test. Further clips will be released over the coming months.

**HELPING STUDENTS WHO WISH TO ENTER THE MEDICAL PROFESSION**

When it comes to a career as a doctor, midwife, dentist or nurse the decision to study for this is a big commitment for students and their families. Gap Medics offers students (aged 16 and over) the opportunity to see what the world of medicine is really like. Students travel to Tanzania, Czech Republic or Thailand to shadow experienced healthcare professionals. Not only can this experience help students make the right decision about a future career, it can enhance their applications to medical school. Students are met at the airport by one of our specialist staff members and are looked after by an extensive staff team throughout their stay. Any students who are interested please visit www.gapmedics.com.au or call 0044 191 230 8080 or email info@gapmedics.com for a brochure Samantha Bennett

**INTERESTED IN HEALTH SCIENCES, BUT UNSURE OF YOUR DIRECTION?** Deakin University advises that if you are interested in a career in health but are unsure of your direction, the Bachelor of Health Sciences could be a good option. The degree draws from and complements the specialist fields offered by the Faculty of Health and enables you to structure your course and combine fields of study according to your interests and career ideas. Possible areas of study include: environmental health, exercise science, food studies, health promotion, nutrition, disability, psychology and sport coaching. Other universities offer a Health Science degree, but with different ‘major’ studies.

**SEEKING A CAREER IN THE WORLD OF FASHION MERCHANDISING, RETAILING OR MARKETING?**

You want to travel the world as a fashion buyer, create exciting merchandising displays, develop a fashion website or market a fashion brand using social media? If you are creative, enjoy using social media and technology and are business minded, the Bachelor of Fashion Merchandising course will inspire you to pursue your ultimate fashion retail career. Check out YouTube clips: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RiIl0nU9C0ps

**ARE YOU LOOKING FOR AN ARTISTIC EXPERIENCE?** RMIT offers many short and single courses taught by experienced lecturers and established artists. Some examples are in: drawing, painting, photographic screen printing, lithography, sculpture, casting, jewellery and audio technology. Further info: Short and single courses: ph 9925 8111, www.shortcourses.rmit.edu.au.

**Get your Tax File Number Application Form from the Careers Room**

School Holiday programs for VCE students 1. LEAP into Engineering: “Advanced Engineering (ELP) two day workshop (9th & 10th July) in Geelong is open for individual students to apply for. http://www.leap.vic.edu.au/leap-activities/engineering/events/181-advanced-engineering-workshop

Students should be Y11/12 and currently studying Maths Methods. This event will be run by the Engineering Link Group and LEAP is sponsoring a number of free places.

2. LEAP into LAW: The LSAP (Legal Studies & Australian Politics) events for the year are live on the website for individual students to apply for. Two options July and September http://www.leap.vic.edu.au/leap-activities/law
School Council Elections (2014)

What is a school council and what does it do?
All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?
There are three possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent category. More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.
- A mandated elected DEECD employee category. Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- An optional Community member category. Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?
Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?
The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider:
- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?
No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?
The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember
- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact the principal for further information.
**FOOTBALL CLUB**

Lara football club junior registration Day.

All age groups

**When:** Sunday Feb 23rd 10am-12noon

**Where:** Lara sporting club rooms

We need more 12-18 year olds to join our Senior class

For 2014 enrolments and enquiries Ph: 5282 8490 or 0419 543 706

Email: dancefever95@live.com

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**DANCE CLASSES**

10 LOCATIONS ACROSS GEELOMG

Mixed Style Dance Classes (Jazz, Hip Hop, Contemporary, Cheer)

Ballet Classes - Adults & Children (Royal Academy of Dance Syllabus)

Boys Only Break-dancing Classes

Class fees: $25 per class (per week)

Free places available. Seniors & Active Participant Card holders are eligible to complete classes for free.

Contact Karen: 03 5276 1357 / 0432 493 527 or karen@karenfeldmandancestudio.com

www.karenfeldmandancestudio.com

Modern Jazz/Funk, Hip Hop and Tap!

Classes at Hamlyn Heights & Lara.

No exams, no competitions – Just Fun with an end of year performance.

Competitive rates. Come along and learn all the latest dance moves!

Fun morning class for 1 ½ - 3 year olds in Lara.

All ages from 18 months – 18 years ‘Girls and Boys’