Year 7 Picasso Inspired Self Portraits

Photography by Karen Mayo
MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Semester Two and Reports:
The move to Semester Two has been a smooth transition despite staff taking on the challenge of the new semester and at the same time finalising reports. The third session of proof reading will take place this week with reports being distributed early next term. To support your child to be highly successful it’s important, not only to share the report with your child and discuss the report, but to attend parent/teacher interviews to meet with teachers to ensure that there is a shared understanding of what your child, you and the school can do to maximize the learning for your child.

We understand that it’s critically important that we work with families to do our best together to support each individual student. Along with a clear framework for teaching and learning, we offer so many opportunities for support. It is really encouraging to see increasing numbers of students attending Homework Help, Outcome Completion and Intervention as support sessions throughout the week.

Please see detailed information relating to reports and Parent Teacher information sessions later in this edition of the College Times

Attitudes to School Survey Results:
All students completed the Attitudes to School survey earlier this term. This survey reflects how students are feeling about their learning, the teaching and their wellbeing. The survey is undertaken in every school across the state and enables us to compare from year to year student attitudes, and to compare how our school is achieving compared to the state average.
The DEECD results are not available until the start of August so we have collated results from a random sample (50%) of the students and analysed the results through an online tool which provides very accurate data.

I am delighted to say that the results show impressive overall gains across the school (year 7 - 12) with the whole school data indicating above state average in almost every area.

Along with the analysis of the survey results as a school cohort and in individual year levels, in 2014 we have moved to include year level focus groups. A random group of students are selected each term to ensure that we are aware of students view on what it is that helps them learn most effectively.

In focus groups our wellbeing leader, Ben Johnson, or a member of the Principal team, works with Year level program leaders to discuss a series of questions with the students. The key question asked to all groups is “what is it that teachers do that helps you learn” along with other questions from the survey relevant to each year level. These two important sources of information provide direction to staff who workshop, in year level teams, issues and actions to ensure ongoing improvement.

I look forward to providing you with more details from the Attitudes to School when the DEECD results are formalized.

Farewell:
This week we farewell one of our most passionate and dedicated teachers, Suzan Neilsen. Suz has given her heart and soul to our school - a talented art teacher, enthusiastic drama teacher and the most recent member of our leadership team - taking on the role of Middle Years Leading Teacher.

Suz does not do anything in half measures and really has worked enormously hard in her roles as teacher and leader at our school with some brilliant outcomes in both areas.

We wish Suz the very best as she leaves to have her first child, and at the same time we look forward to having you back in the team very soon!

Finally:
Year 12’s organise your time well and build in study time regularly throughout the break - in accordance with the recommended number of hours. If you do this you can be your best… that’s all we ask - and all you should ask of yourself.

I would like to wish everyone a happy holiday and restful break.

Lyn Boyle
Principal
boyle.lyn.c@edumail.vic.gov.au

College Calendar

July
14th
First Day of Term 3
17th
Year 10-11 VCE/VCAL Information Evening
22nd
Year 7 Medieval Day (Incursion)

Year 10 - 12 Parent Teacher Interviews (2pm—8pm)
Please Note: There are no classes for students in years 7 – 12 during session 4

28th
Year 7, 8 & 9 Debating Team (Geelong Grammar)
31st
Year 11 into 12 Course Counselling

August
3rd—Kumamoto Daichi visit
10th—Year 10 into 11 Course Counselling
12th—Year 12 VCAL Literacy Holocaust Museum
20th—22nd—Year 11 and 12 Senior Snow Trip (Mt Hotham)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL PARENTS

Senior Years Parent Teacher Interviews

Tuesday 22nd of July, Week 2 of Term 3, is an important time for parents and students, as we will be holding our Senior Years Parent Teacher Interviews. This is for all parents who have students in Year 10, 11 or 12.

All bookings will be made via the online booking system, which can be found at http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/.

The password to access the interviews is KMLZ9

Ten minute interviews can be booked with your child’s teachers using the online system. Students will be required to attend classes as usual up until lunchtime on Tuesday.

There will be no classes during Session 4 on this day. It is strongly recommended that your child attends all interviews with you.

All Parents Please Note

To allow for Middle Years teachers to be available for interviews as well, there will be no classes running for any student in Years 7-12 during Session 4. All students will be dismissed at 1:15 on this day. If you require supervision for your child during Session 4 please contact the school and provision will be made.
ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS’ REPORT

Yr 12 Photos
The official Yr 12 photos will be taken next term with photo day being Thursday, 17th July. The photographers will be here for a 9 am start, taking photos of the entire group as well as the School Captain photos.

Yr 9 Round Table Presentations
Congratulations to so many of our Yr 9 students on their fabulous presentation of their Visual Diary. The effort put in to present their learning, making their speeches and completing this assessment was to a very high standard. There were many nerves happening prior to their interview time and staff assessing students were impressed with the manner in which students conducted themselves.

For the students who were unable to be present on this day, an alternative interview time will be provided for early Term 3, so that they can successfully present their learnings and complete their assessment.

Yr 8 Market Day
Our assembly room, 311, was a hive of activity on Wednesday with the Yr 8 students organising Market Day for the student community. The diversity of stalls was amazing with many students promoting their wares and others buying with much enthusiasm. Some stalls, due to lower demand, had the foresight to reduce their prices quickly to remain attractive to potential buyers, whereas other stalls had official ‘spruikers’ equipped with megaphones to attract potential customers. The bravery award of the day goes to Ms Danielle Shay who willingly participated in the ‘water bomb’ stand as the target. This was a big achievement on such a cold and windy day, with the wind working to her benefit at times. A sensational effort by all staff and students involved in such a monumental day.

Tania O’Callaghan & Kate Ivermee (Acting)
Assistant Principals
Ocallaghan.tania.l@edumail.vic.gov.au

‘Like’ us on Facebook!

We’ve recently created a Lara Secondary College official Facebook page. www.facebook.com/LaraSecondaryCollege.

‘Like’ us to keep in touch with some of the fantastic events happening at our college and to celebrate the achievements of our students.

Our Lara Secondary College Facebook page is going strong - now with over 500 likes! 20.5% are from people aged 13-17 Years Old, 34.1% (Aged 18-24), 45.4% (Aged 25+).

‘Like’ us to keep in touch with some of the fantastic events happening at our college and to celebrate the achievements of our students. You’ll find recent posts such as the Year 7 Picasso Art student work, Lara Lake PS Junior Science Day, Hands on Learning and our Mentoring Program Trivia Night.

Kelly Butler (ICT Admin Leader) and Sarah Foley (Student Learning Leader)

Upcoming Events

Term Three Week One: Thursday 17th July - Year 10 VCE/VCAL Information Evening
Term Three Week Two: Tuesday 22nd July - Senior Years 10 - 12 Parent Teacher Interviews (2pm—8pm)
Term Three Week Three: Thursday 31st July - Year 11 into 12 Course Counselling
Term Three Week Four: Thursday 7th August - Year 10 into 11 Course Counselling

Connections Peer Mentoring

This term the Peer Mentoring Group worked closely with Lara Primary School. Each week we would spend the morning session with different Lara Primary School students building relationships with the students and helping them with Literacy, Numeracy and various other new skills and activities.

This experience helped us develop better communication skills as we had to talk to the students.

During Session 3 one of the Lara Primary School classes would visit us and we would run an activity for them. Some of the activities we created and led with small groups were Literacy, Numeracy, Art and Sport.

We also made Truffles one week which was really fun and yum! This program was really good and I learnt a lot.
Reports and Parent Teacher Interviews

Teachers are currently writing the end of semester reports which will be distributed at the start of Term 3. The process in writing, printing, collating and proof reading is a lengthy one and despite reports being written this term it is not physically possible to distribute them until next term. We have considered many options and possibilities but to date the current timing is the best we see available.

What we have modified is the way that reports will be distributed and the timing of Parent / Teacher interviews for our senior students. In an attempt to create more opportunities for parents to visit as many teachers as possible we have separated the Senior Years parent teacher interviews and Middle Years portfolio presentations as follows:

Year 10 -12
Reports will be available for collection from the office on Monday July 21st from 8.00am – 11.00am and from 2.00pm – 4.00pm AND on Tuesday from 8.30am to 4.00pm
Parent/teacher interviews for students in Years 10,11 and 12 will be held on TUESDAY JULY 22nd from 2.00pm – 8.00pm.

Students may collect reports at the end of the day on Monday or Tuesday if a note is brought from parents.

There will be no classes across the school on Tuesday session four on July 21st to allow for all teachers who teach in both Middle Years and Senior Years to be available for interviews for years 10 – 12 classes. This was a significant issue last year and we hope that this will resolve the problem.

Years 7 – 9
Reports will be mailed home on Thursday July 18th.
Portfolio presentations along with COURSE COUNSELLING for students moving from Year 9 – 10 in 2015 will be held from Wednesday September 3rd – Friday September 5th. There will be no year 9 classes running over these three days.
Portfolio presentations will be led by students with their pod teachers in Years 7 & 8 on Thursday September 4th and Friday September 5th. There will be no Year 7 – 8 classes running over these two days.

Information regarding the online booking system process for booking appointments with teachers will be provided next week in the Family Informer.

Kate Ivermee
Acting Assistant Principal

UNIFORM←←←←←→→→→→

With the implementation of new uniform items during this term, we have strongly encouraged families to transition to the correct uniform so that all students had the appropriate items by the start of Term 3. The new sport shorts (with our new logo) are available, as are the correct navy trousers for girls and these can be obtained either from Corio or Bellarine uniform shops.

Changes to the expectations surrounding jewellery is still in a trial phase and has currently been outlined to the students as follows:

- Two earrings per ear, wearing either plain studs or sleepers
- Two charity bands
- Two extra pieces of fine silver or gold jewellery are permitted. This may include a ring, necklace, bracelet or bangle.

Jewellery will need to be removed in any practical class where it might cause injury, as will nail polish when in a foods class unless the student chooses to wear gloves.

Nail polish should only be of a neutral or very pale pink colour or French manicure. Students wearing nail polish of other colours will be sent to the office and provided the opportunity to remove their nail polish so that they can return to class.

The expectations surrounding all other items of uniform remain unchanged. Hoodies are not part of the school uniform and should not be worn under school jumpers. Layering in winter is strongly encouraged to ensure students are warm but layers must match existing school colours e.g. white long sleeves under jumpers. School socks should be either plain white or black with no logos or advertising symbols.

Any uniform items with the current logo may still be worn.

Congratulations

On Saturday 14th June, Kade D from 8 Blue competed in the Victorian Titles for Motorcross. He competed in 3 races on the day, placing 2nd and two 3rd’s. Kade was awarded with 3rd place overall. He is currently sitting in 4th place for the Victorian Championships, only four points behind the 3rd place holder.

The final race will take place at the end of this month, with Kade hoping to place 3rd overall in the Victorian Championships. Kade has been riding motorbikes since he was two years old and trains every week. He is currently on the Peter Stevens Motorcycles Racing Team.

We wish Kade all the best for his upcoming events.
Mentor Trivia Night

This week, as part of our Year 12 mentor program, 50 students and their mentor teachers participated in a trivia night. The Mentoring Program provides guidance and mentoring to Year 12 students from staff throughout the year. Each student is matched with a staff member, and then they meet regularly to assist with goal setting, student well-being and to provide an alternative point of contact outside of home. This is a voluntary program where teachers give up their time to meet and discuss the student’s progress, sometimes off site, sometimes just during recess and lunch.

The Trivia night was run extremely well by Ms Newman and Ms Spiteri and included six rounds of questions with other challenges such as Famous Faces, Cryptic Word puzzles and a team name competition. The highlight of the night was the eating challenge where a student was fed by a team member, blind folded, from behind and with plastic spoons. The problem was that the bowl contained berries and strawberries, mixed with plenty of whipped cream, corn flakes, food dye and marshmallows. Lots of positive feedback from all involved. The winning team was Ms Joblin’s team, amongst much controversy. Our next event for the mentors is a Laser-tag challenge in Geelong.

Hands on Learning

Hands on Learning began at Lara Secondary College in Term 4, 2013 and has been going strong ever since. Selected students from years 7-10 participate one day a week and engage in activities and projects that predominantly include building and construction, but also cooking, maintenance and repair, gardening and design.

Whilst these projects keep the students busy, the primary focus of the program is to help students in a variety of ways that might include managing stress or conflict, learning to problem solve, learning social interaction and engagement or developing leadership skills. They do this through concentrating on individually tailored "Focus Plans" which they are encouraged to adopt as a sort of life motto for a period of time, and to utilise their focus plans not only in the HOL team, but in their classrooms, home life and social circles as well.

A typical day has students arriving at the HOL shed at 9am, cooking and eating breakfast together and then discussing the focus plans for each student and going through the daily tasks. The students then set about working on their projects for a few hours before convening for lunch which can sometimes take place at school, but sometimes out in the community, or even up in the You Yangs. We then do a daily reflection and assessment together where students rate their own performance and how they managed to utilise their focus plan.

Since taking over one of the storage sheds as our home base, HOL teams have extended the shed, built cupboards and storage spaces, constructed a makeshift dining table, plumbed in a sink and have almost completed a fully functioning kitchen which will allow us to incorporate more cooking activities in our plans once it is up and running. They have also helped out in other projects around the school, including planting the memorial garden and have been approached to take on some community projects as well, such as building a barbecue area at Hoffman Walk.

The photos show some of the wonderful members of the HOL teams hard at work and taking pride in their accomplishments.
Belmont High and Trinity College Band Workshops

Lara Secondary College were delighted to welcome two music groups to our school to workshop with our Wind Ensembles. Thursday 19th June saw 20 students from Belmont High School workshop ‘Doomsday’ and ‘Little Talks’ with our students. Both groups were excited to be playing songs from different genres and Lara students appreciated the chance to play with a rhythm section and vocalist. On Monday 23rd June we worked with 20 students from Trinity College Colac on ‘Chicken Dance,’ ‘Adams Family,’ ‘A Trumpeter’s Lullaby’ and ‘Doctor Who.’ This experience again broadened Lara student’s understanding of new genres of music and challenged their playing ability. The Music Department is very grateful for these experiences and hope to take part in many more in the future. Thank you to Miss Rose Humphry and Miss Kelly Kerr for organising students to visit and to all students who participated.

Year 7 and 8 Chemistry

On Thursday 19th a group of selected Year 7 and 8 students, along with the Year 12 Chemistry class visited Lara Lake Primary school and ran a series of science experiments with all of the Grade 1 and 2 students. Each small group of Secondary students presented a total of 7 lessons each throughout the day. Each and every Lara Secondary student demonstrated our school values of Excellence, Commitment, Respect and Teamwork and the feedback from the primary students and teachers was exceptional. Well done to all students involved!

Sascha Foster.

These are the wonderful Thank you letters our students have received from the children of Lara Lake Primary.
CONNECTIONS PROGRAM UPDATE: Together We Do Better for the Community and Environment

Year 9 students completed their Connections Round Table Assessment earlier this week. This involved delivering a speech, depicting their experiences and achievements in the various focus groups, to a panel comprising a teacher, community member and fellow student. Once again, students were required to explain the aims of the program and provide a summary of what they had learnt and achieved. All students were also expected to keep a Visual Diary of their experiences, feelings and reflections, as well as an Employability Skills Workbook to demonstrate progress in the areas of communication and self-management. Students concluded their assessment by writing a personal reflection which will be included in reports. Below are a few comments from students on completion of their work in Connections this term.

St Laurence Park (Mrs. Thompson)
Throughout the term, students visited Costa House aged care facility on a weekly basis where they interacted with the residents. Students were also required to research and organize an excursion for the residents, which formed one of their key assessment tasks.

“I chose this focus group because I wanted to meet new people as well as learn about their lives. An example of when I used communication and initiative was when I instigated a conversation with one of the residents during our RAAF Museum excursion. I also learnt from one of the residents that Australia has a lot of beautiful places to visit and experience.” Zane G (9 Yellow)

Peer Mentoring (Miss. Ivermee)
The Peer Mentoring focus group aims to develop students’ confidence, communication, teamwork and initiative by working closely with their peers and students from Lara Primary School. Each week, students spent the morning in Grade 1/2 classrooms, participating in various activities and assisting with reading, writing and mathematics tasks. Students also spent time designing activities to implement with a small group back at Lara Secondary College.

“I chose Peer Mentoring because I wanted to work with younger people.” Jasmine R (9 Purple)

“An example of when I used initiative was when I helped out the sports teacher with a class. Something I learnt this term is how hard it can be to plan a lesson for students.” Anthony H (9 Purple)

Animal Welfare (Mrs. Collins)
The aim of this focus group is for students to develop an understanding of animal welfare, why it is important, and what we can do to help animals. Throughout the term, the class visited a range of rescue and adoption centers, including Jirrahlinga Koala and Wildlife Sanctuary, Geelong Animal Welfare Society, RSPCA, North Melbourne Lost Dogs Home and Werribee Zoo. Students also learnt about important issues relating to animal welfare, such as the cat population crisis and the need to have pets micro-chipped and de-sexed.

“I chose this option because I thought it would be very interesting to learn about animals and how people are trying to help them.” Brio- n J (9 Yellow)

“I enjoyed learning about animals and how to help them. My highlight for the term was visiting the animal rescue and adoption centers.” Rebekah J (9 Yellow)

Heron Yacht (Mr. Niblett)
“I was involved in the Heron Yacht focus group and I chose this option because I thought it would be a good preparation for my future employment.” Brandon W (9 Red)

“I chose the Heron Yacht option because I enjoy working with wood and tools. An example of when I used initiative this term was when I took the role of being a team leader.” Corey B (9 Blue)

“Something I learnt during Connections this term was how to make epoxy resin.” Riley V (9 Blue)
Community Sport Leadership (Mr. Johnson)
Students involved in the Community Sport Leadership focus group learnt about different coaching styles and how to plan and deliver a structured sports lesson. Students were assessed on how well they prepared their lesson, as well as their leadership and general conduct during our Community Sports Day for 125 Grade 3 & 4 students from Lara Primary School. Each of the Year 9’s performed extremely well and the day was enjoyed by all. Recently, students also attended an excursion to Etihad Stadium where they gained an insight into a professional sporting environment.

"Community Sports Leadership was enjoyable - we ran mini basketball sessions with Grade 3/4’s from Lara Primary School and had a tour of Etihad Stadium which was pretty cool!" James C (9 Green)

"I really liked this Connection because it was good to learn something different” Lachlan J (9 Orange)

Fish for the Future (Mr. Hodges)
After experiencing the thrill of catching, cleaning, cooking and eating our catch at Tuki Trout Farm earlier in the term, students have since participated in field trips to Barwon Heads and Spring Creek at Torquay. More recently, we also assisted DPI Fisheries Officers with the release of 900 rainbow trout into St Augustine’s Waterhole, which is situated in Waurn Ponds.

“I chose this focus group because I like fishing and wanted to learn some new skills. Something I learnt this term was the various types of fish which live in our local waterways.” Adam R (9 Yellow)

“Something I learnt this term was how to correctly release a fish to give it the best chance of survival. My highlight for the term was being involved in the trout release.” James G (9 Purple)

“An example of when I used communication was when I helped others with how to set up their rod, bait up and cast properly. My highlight was our first field trip to Barwon Heads where as a group we caught and released more than one hundred fish, including seven different species.” Lachlan B (9 Purple)

Duke of Edinburgh (Miss. Hastie)
Duke of Edinburgh students have been working towards completing each of the four major components - physical activity, skill, community service and adventurous journey. The Dukes Program continues into next term and it is anticipated every student will achieve the award.

“I chose this option because I was looking for a Connections class that would be fun, yet also challenging.”

“Something I learnt during Connections this term was to try my best and always give 100% effort.”

“The best thing about the Dukes program is being able to choose a skill you’re interested in to improve. My goal was to improve my carpentry skills, and I built a coffee table.”

Pulse Community Radio (Mr. Maine)
As part of the Pulse Community Radio focus group, students prepared, researched and recorded a thirty minute radio segment for broadcast on 94.7FM The Pulse. Unfortunately, circumstances beyond our control prevented a final edit from occurring, but all groups produced some amazing work; interviewing, conducting surveys and recording their segments on a topic affecting young people in the Lara area.

“I chose this option because I listen to the radio every day and I wanted to know how it all works. Something I learnt was that the Pulse radio station has a satellite feed and can broadcast in South Africa. My highlight was learning to use the recording booth.” Reece K (9 Green)

“I chose this option because I thought it would be fun to create a radio segment. My highlight for the term was recording in the studio.” Liam B (9 Green)
LIBRARY NEWS

BOOK REVIEW COMPETITION
Students who write a book review for any eBook or traditional book borrowed from our library can enter the draw to win a KOBO Reader. Five other entrants can also win an iTunes voucher. Winners will be drawn on the 10th of November. Place your review in the “competition box” in the library, the more reviews you do the better. Book Review forms are available at the circulation desk.

RECOMMENDED READING

13 by James Phelan
It had a good story line and it also had a lot of good parts in the story and it had a lot of action. Brandon M. 7O

Halo: The Cole Protocol by Tobias Buckell
It had a lot of action and it taught me some things I did not know from playing Halo.
Brandon M. 7O

(Brandon’s reviews have been placed in the competition box)

SPINE CRACKERS
Most book club members have finished reading Marcus Zusak’s The Book Thief and we recently watched the movie in the library. The majority of us thought the movie was great.

“I liked this book because of how beautifully it was written and it was so detailed it made you feel like you were in the story. This would have to be one of the most touching books I’ve ever read. The book was better than the movie in many ways but the movie showed emotions the book couldn’t.”
Spine Cracker Bailey B. 10FTP

A copy of The Book Thief dvd is available for students to borrow from the library. This is one of the most in demand books at Lara SC. Out of 20 copies there are usually only 1 or 2 on the shelf available for borrowing.

eReading
We officially launched our OverDrive Digital Library to staff at a special morning tea last week and teachers can book their class into the library next term for a refresher on “How to borrow eBooks”. Students who want to do some holiday eReading can borrow from our Digital Library 24/7. If you are signing in for the first time the OverDrive borrowing instructions are user friendly.
http://larasc.lib.overdrive
Use your network password to sign in.
Don’t hesitate to see Ms McCrea or me in the library if you have any problems.

COUNCILLOR COMMUNITY GRANT FOR eBooks
I am pleased to say that students have been recommending titles they would like to eRead and our eCollection is steadily growing. Lara Secondary College was most fortunate to receive a $2,500 Councillor Community Grant at the end of last year to assist us in purchasing eBooks for our Digital Library in 2014.
New additions to our Digital Library

Highly Recommended eBook:

Author Mark Greenwood visited our Year 7 students in term II. Jandamarra has been shortlisted for the 2014 Children’s Book Council Eve Pownall Award for Information Books.

We also have a traditional hard back copy.

Most popular eBooks at Lara SC so far:

New “traditional format” books

‘The Fault In Our Stars’ by John Green is currently our most borrowed traditional novel along with the ‘The Book Thief.’

Enjoy the holidays, relax and read!

Ms Sartori - Library
Engaging Parents in Education

Whilst I was looking at various sites online to catch up with the latest information, about the High Court Case in Queensland about Chaplaincy funding. I came across some very informative sites to support parental engagement in their sons and daughters education and wellbeing.

The first of these is the StudentsFirst website The link is:  

The topics on this site are:
- How can you be actively engaged in your child’s education
- Getting involved in your school community
- Talking to your kids about safety and wellbeing

The second site is the Safe Schools Hub for Parents The link is:  
http://www.safeschoolshub.edu.au/for-parents

The topics on this site are:
- Connecting with your child’s school (2 resources)
- Your child’s wellbeing (3 resources)
- Communicating with your child (2 resource)
- Staying cybersafe (5 resources)
- Bullying (3 resources)
- Encouraging self-respect and protective behaviours (2 resources)
- Harassment and discrimination (6 resources)
- Anxiety and depression (8 resources)
- Special needs (4 resources)
- General resources (7 resources)
- Texts (3 resources)

As you can see there are numerous resources within each topic

I would appreciate, if you read and find the above sites helpful to you, if could you email me so that I can share this with other parents.
Think Twice

Lara Secondary College takes pride in being the facilitator to support all students to realise their potential. This applies to their academic outcomes as well as their individual personal and social development. We are always endeavoring to be pro-active in actions to support all students to achieve their goals. An example of this can been seen in our partnership with, the Leaders of Geelong, Ambulance Victoria, Barwon Health, Victoria Police, Department of Justice, pilot project Think Twice.

The Think Twice project team were Leaders of Geelong participants Adrian Bickley, Victoria Police, Michael Trotter, Barwon Prison, Greg Altmann, Lake Imaging, Melissa Pearce, Bendigo Bank, Clare Walter, Truffleduck and Adam Perus, Westpac Bank came together “with the simple aim of improving the health and wellbeing of young people in our community. It was the belief that if our team could get young men and women to think twice before they acted, our community would be a healthier happier place to live.”

 Leaders of Geelong’s report on the Think Twice campaign can be read on, http://www.committeeforgeelong.com.au/media/24247/think_twice_final_report_26_march.pdf and within the report they discuss their journey and relationship with Lara Secondary College which led to the first pilot project.

The Journey

Lara Secondary College - Year 10 Students

“During our initial research, we came across Communities That Care, (reference to the group was detailed in our background report). It was through our ongoing work with this group that we built up a rapport with one of the committee volunteers, Clive Allen-Paisley, who shared our desire to make a difference with young people. Clive has a long history of supporting local initiatives. He has been a keen advocator and educator through the Keep'em Safe project and his paid employment as Community Liaison Coordinator at Lara Secondary College.

Clive was most enthusiastic during the evolution of our project and acted as a sounding board and reference point. A common vision was shared that encouraged students to think twice about the decisions they made and to look after their mates particularly when drugs or alcohol were involved. This was very different to the age old message telling their mates particularly when drugs or alcohol were involved. It was Clive that provided us with the introduction to the education system, advocating his local school board and securing us with the opportunity to have access to a faction of students from Lara Secondary College to become our pilot group. (Continued on page 13 >)
Throughout the research a gap became evident in educating youth to think twice. Consistently, most of the programs we became aware of were targeted at youth either in an “after the event” fact, or to those who are already in the correction system. Additionally, recognising that children growing up in stable family environments can also be influenced by their peers and often make decisions on popularity verses risk or consequence. These two ideas guided the selection of the nine students by Clive and School Counsellor Ellie Prior. The project team also identified that an even gender mix of students would be preferable and that they should demonstrated qualities of influence and leadership amongst their peers.

Of the nine students chosen, there were four females and five males.

The content of the day, both verbally and visually was designed to portray a message of ‘Think Twice’ when confronted with a situation and your likely behaviour especially if drug or alcohol are involved. The students and counsellor were briefed on this and were also advised of their ability to opt out on the day with anything they found confronting or overwhelming. “

The second pilot program took place last Tuesday and the participants from Year 10 were Brock R, Mikayla C, Michael C, Bailey B, Lily K, Caity J, Richard M, Caleb G, and James S.

All of the students above certainly showed on the day that they possessed the qualities “of influence and leadership” and also reflected the school values of respect, teamwork, commitment and excellence.

Their engagement and thoughtful questions with the paramedics, Ken the road accident survivor, and the two inmates from the Barwon goal and all others involved made Ellie and myself very proud of these young men and women. They were a credit to themselves, their parents and the school.

**Caleb G. being instructed on CPR**

**Think Twice Team and Year 10 students**

**Clive Allen-Paisley**

**Community Liaison Co-coordinator**

**Email**: alen-paisley.clive.l@edumail.vic.gov.au
Advertisements

Lara Secondary College are welcoming Kumamoto Daiichi HS From 3rd August to 10th August

Would you like to HOST? It is a GREAT experience for the whole family.

- Students can travel by bus to & from school where they will attend classes and go on some organised excursions
- Japanese language not necessary
- Provide normal Australian meals
- Separate room not necessary

Volunteer host families will receive a stipend to assist with hosting costs

For further information - please call: Lynn on 0427 507 990 or 5248 5066  Email: lynn@aliu.com.au

$1000 REWARD
Leading Australian Artist Marc McBride is offering a reward for the return of three art works left at the Lara Library last November.

These art works are highly sentimental to Marc McBride and he will also give the finder three original art works as well as the reward.

If you have any information please contact Rob Leonard 0450 093 990