MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It was wonderful to have feedback from families in response to my email last week explaining our PLC (Professional Learning Community) framework and the introduction of a third tier of intervention - compulsory lunchtime or after school tutoring sessions for those who has not yet gained a clear understanding of the essential or guaranteed curriculum. This will ensure that every child is successful in their learning.

The PLC model ensures that all students are supported at their ability level through four critical questions that teachers constantly ask:
1. What is it that we want students to learn?
   This is the guaranteed curriculum that all students will learn, know or be able to do.
2. How do we know when they’ve learnt it?
   Formative assessments throughout units of work determine this. Ask your child about entry or exit cards or activities - just one example of formative assessments.
3. How do we respond when individual students don’t learn?
   Intervention at three levels:
   Level 1 differentiation within the class
   Level 2 support provided to groups who have been identified through question 3 or 4 - within English and Maths classes one session per week
4. How will we respond when student already know?
   Students are challenged at the next level of work through a differentiated approach to teaching - enhancing concept and skill development.

Impressive NAPLAN data
NAPLAN results for Lara Secondary College have been the most impressive across all north network secondary schools. We should be very proud of our achievements but should also remember that what should be considered is what level students come from and the size of their growth from years 7 - 9. Raw scores can certainly be misleading! I am very proud to say that we have achieved growth from year 7 - 9 above similar schools in both reading, writing and numeracy.

Changes in DEECD policy:

EVERY DAY COUNTS
Please note that we have been notified of important changes to policy regarding STUDENT ATTENDANCE which have come into effect on March 1st. It is very clear that students with very high attendance rates are more likely to achieve higher standards in their learning. Recent research indicates that “every day of attendance in school contributes towards a child’s learning and that .. there is no safe threshold of non-attendance”. It is NOT OKAY TO BE AWAY.

The evidence regarding the importance of attendance is so strong that DEECD policy now stipulates that students who have 5 days of unapproved absence in any one year can be reported to the DEECD attendance officer and the family may be fined. This is an extreme situation but does signify the seriousness of the need for full attendance as a result of the impact that this has on student learning.

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION the grounds for suspension and expulsion have been updated to better enable Principals to prevent and respond to behaviors that may compromise the health wellbeing and safety of staff and students. Meetings with parents are no longer required prior to suspension but suspensions of three days of more, or 3 suspensions in a year, do require ‘support group meetings’.

What will not change at our school is our most important work - to continuously focus on developing positive behaviours. We know that this is critical in ensuring student connectedness to school and a feeling of safety and security. Our work in this area will continue with our success in receiving a grant to introduce a framework known as “School Wide Positive Behaviours”. This framework will concentrate a focus on acknowledging that students have chosen to behave and act in the agreed way, rather than a focus on those few who choose to act inappropriately.

SCHOOL COUNCIL
Nominations for School Council have closed and I would like to congratulate the following parent members of our council for 2014: Chris Anson, Cindy Cooper, Jan Bullock, Steve Bullock, Corgyne Gribby, Chris Charlson and Robert Foster.
Our DEECD members for 2014 will be Faye Smith, Tania O’Callaghan and Neville Gillett. The College Council continues to play a very important role in overseeing the operation of the school and welcomes input as a representative body of the school community.
Our next meeting on March 20th will include the Annual General Meeting open to all members of the college community from 6.30 - 7.00m. Office bearers for 2014 will be elected after the AGM.

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

Assistant Principal: Tania O’Callaghan and Senior Years Leader Lana Ryder congratulate a delighted Megan

Congratulations to Megan who was successful in her application to the highly competitive leadership Megan has been invited to attend the UBS Young Women’s Leadership Academy which will be held at Sydney University from Monday, 7 April until Friday, 11 April this year.
The objective of the Academy is to:
- introduce year 11 students to a diverse group of contemporary women leaders
- demonstrate the possibilities and satisfaction of a career in business
- encourage leadership aspirations in young women
- provide leadership skills development

The program is residential at The Women’s College, Sydney University. The academy has been designed to be a creative mix of practical and theory with industry exposure and field visits. Megan will have the opportunity to develop her leadership skills and new relationships with her peer group from other schools across Australia.

Telephone: 03 5282 8988
ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS’ REPORT

Jenny MacKay:
This week, Jenny our consultant in developing positive behaviours, returned to the school to view and celebrate the ongoing progress made in creating and maintaining calm and orderly learning environments, where expectations are high and clearly articulated to the students. She was excited by her ‘walk around’ passing through classes of all year levels, and witnessing the levels of attentiveness displayed by our students to their studies. The calmness of the environments allows our students to focus, concentrate and increases their levels of independent learning as all are responsible. Jenny was particularly impressed with the consistent focus on Learning Intentions and Success Criteria throughout the school, and the capacity of students to engage with the learning expectations of each class. Jenny met with staff throughout the day and provided feedback and suggested ongoing areas of improvement for us, to further enhance our learning environments.

Attendance:
In order to maximise student learning opportunities and performance, students must attend school regularly and without unnecessary absences. To support this, it is the expectation that students should aim to achieve 100% attendance but are to attend no less than 90% of school time as agreed in the attendance policy. Students who miss school regularly or for reasons other than illness may find that they have missed important stages in their development making it difficult to ‘catch up’. A reminder that in order to achieve the Year 10 certificate and progress to Year 11, students must achieve an attendance rate of at least 90% for each of their Year 10 subjects.

All students in years 11 – 12 must provide the College with a medical certificate or a statutory declaration outlining the reason for any unavoidable absence in order for that absence to be approved. More than 6 sessions unapproved absences in any VCE unit may result in failure of that unit. Parents of students in Yrs 7 - 10 are expected to provide a written note or to have made telephone contact to the school explaining the reason and tenure of their child’s absence where a medical certificate has not been provided. For students with ongoing medical issues requiring frequent absences a medical certificate may also be required.

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

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.

Top Screen

Joey Knox, a student from our 2013 VCE class will be represented in Top Screen presented at ACMI and Top Designs presented at the Melbourne Museum. Top Screen and Top Designs are part of the VCE Season of Excellence managed by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority. Top Screen runs from Friday 7 March to 16 May 2014. The Top Designs exhibition runs from Saturday 22 March until Sunday 13 July 2014, 10am-5pm daily (closed Good Friday).

The VCE Season of Excellence comprises twelve concerts (Top Class and Top Acts), two exhibitions, (Top Arts and Top Designs) and screenings of short films (Top Screen). All work is produced by outstanding VCE students who completed technology, design, visual or performing arts studies in 2013. Events are presented in Melbourne’s major cultural venues.

Top Screen will present films by 15 exceptional VCE students who were selected from 255 applicants that completed VCE Media.

email: lara.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au  Web Site: www.laras.vic.edu.au
YEAR 9 CONNECTIONS PROGRAM: Physical Challenges

Over the past few weeks, Year 9 students have moved into the Personal Challenge phase of the Connections Program. This involves TLC groups participating in a series of physical challenges, including Surf Kayaking, Indoor Rock Climbing, Snorkelling, Mt Bike Riding, Horse Riding and Overnight Hiking. These activities are designed to take students outside of their comfort zone and allow them to further develop skills in teamwork, leadership, organisation, persistence and self-management. The hikes are held in the Great Otway National Park between Lorne and Cumberland River. All students are provided with a back-pack and sleeping mat and organised into small groups to share a tent and cooking stove. In preparation for this experience, students have participated in workshops based on camp cooking, packing a pack, tent pitching, first aid and safety and hiking etiquette. Throughout the term, all students are required to keep a Visual Diary and reflect on the development of their Employability Skills. At the conclusion of the program, students will be assessed via a Round Table Presentation which will be held on Tuesday 1st April. More information regarding this process will be provided in due course.

Brent Hodges
Connections Program Leader

I would like to congratulate the Year 12 Chemistry class for completing the practical section of their first chemistry SAC. The students have been using volumetric analysis techniques to explore the ethanol and sulphur content in wine. Students will be completing the write up of their SAC’s on Tuesday and have been studying very hard to prepare. I am looking forward to seeing the results of all their hard work!

Sascha Foster
Science Leader and VCE Chemistry
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 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. Maybe 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 Sciences Admissions Test (UMAT) results, an interview, and theATAR. 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 multiple mini interview; the GAMSAT will not be required. Further info: www.med.monash.edu.au/medicalgippsland/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=Rii0nU9C0ps

**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
As part of the Year 10 Pathways Program, the “Keys Please” learner driver session was presented by VicRoads on Tuesday, 25 February. The session helped students to understand how to become safe drivers and emphasised that supervising drivers (parents, older brothers/sisters, uncles, aunts, and guardians) have a very important role in providing the practical driving experience for students to learn how to drive. VicRoads states that: “learners who gain an average of 120 hours of supervised on-road experience in all conditions have a 30% lower risk of crashing after getting a licence”. Information and tips on supervising learner drivers is available at: www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/supervisors.
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’ 

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