MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Ten Year Celebration:

What a fantastic 10th birthday party we celebrated last Friday... there were so many highlights: past and present students performances in drama and music, a video of students from year 7 through to year 12 singing ‘happy birthday Lara’ ... and the comments made by students about our great school and what it means to them. Lunchtime activities were led by 17 of our teachers and support staff with a large number of staff also making enormous commitments to the preparation of our evening celebration both where the Honourable Richard Marles MP and Counsellor Tony Ansett were in attendance. The event was also attended by our founding Principal, Greg Sperling, along with many of our 2003 Year 7 students who are now – nurses, teachers, engineers, scientists, hotel managers, architects, artists, performers... and the list goes on.

Congratulations to our high achieving students:

* Hanna T Year 10 who is currently attending the Canberra. National Schools Constitutional Convention. Hanna was selected from students across the country to attend this prestigious event.
* Chelsea R Year 12 who placed first place in SIX events at the GSSSA.
* Kate W Year 10 who has been selected to represent Victoria in the under 18 softball team to play in Perth next month.
* Brett M with the brilliant achievement of VET student of the year.
* Averill B Year 9 has been successful in her application to go to Italy as an exchange student in 2014.

Congratulations also to our newly appointed College Council: We welcome new counsellors, Lisa Sobey, Lee Green, Robert Foster and Jan Bullock to our very enthusiastic College Council, with Cindy Cooper retaining her position as a parent representative. Congratulations to Neville Gillett who was elected Council President, Chris Anson Vice President and Judyanne Gillett as Treasurer. Our DEECD representatives are Glenda Ward, Faye Smith and myself.

2013 focus:

It has been a great start to our year in terms of an even greater focus and highly structured approach to improved student learning through the PLC (Professional Learning Community) model. We are very impressed with improvement in student attitude to learning and student behaviour and the impressive feedback and results we have had in relation to both.

Last week our consultant in “developing positive behaviours” Jenny Mackay (author of The Coat of Many Pockets and well renowned expert on positive student behaviour) observed all year 7 – 9 classes last Monday and several year 10 – 12 classes. She spoke extremely highly of the calm orderly and productive environments of all classes. What a great result for our teachers who have worked so hard to ensure a calm and orderly environment over the past three years of work with Jenny. Our staff and student surveys continue to reflect this improvement as do our results in measured student outcomes in literacy and numeracy. Jenny continues to support us in ongoing work to maintain, and in some areas, further improve our achievements and our work. Improved student learning can only occur in an environment of calm and order and I am very impressed with our current achievement as confirmed through Jenny’s observation.

Parent impact on student learning:

Along with the obviously high importance of effective teacher instruction, international research (John Hattie) clearly indicates that the success of any child is greatly influenced by the interaction between parents/guardians and the school. For this reason we urge you to ensure that you are in continuous contact with your child’s teachers via email or phone. Your next opportunity to make this important contact is at the three way interviews at the start of term two.

Student/Parent/Teacher interviews

As I have mentioned in the previous College Times, there will be no interim reports posted to parents. As a result it is vital that you attend parent/student/teacher meetings in week one of term two. I urge you to meet with as many teachers as possible. The very best outcomes will be achieved for your child if we work together to support both academic and social development. If you are unable to make an appointment at the specified times you are certainly welcome to contact the school at any time to speak with your child’s teachers.

The booking of interviews will be ONLINE this semester: more information on the last page of the College Times.

Lyn Boyle - Principal
boyce.lyn.c@edumail.vic.gov.au
ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS REPORT

Technology is a wonderful thing isn’t it? Last week I spent a bit of time with the Year 8s who did not attend camp. They had a project to complete in groups, where they had to make up a country.

They needed to decide on the location of the country, its fauna and flora to some degree, the people who inhabit this land and their customs such as dances, food and fashion.

On Friday, they had to make a presentation concerning this country using their ipads. I was, quite frankly, amazed at the skill of some of the students. With little fuss they were able to make masterful presentations using the software available. This meant that they were also able to concentrate on the quality of their information. Was the economy of their country sustainable? Were the animals they had designed likely to be found in that part of the world? Students will be able to include this work in their digital portfolios later in the year.

However, to be honest for every giant step we take in terms of technology, we often have to take little steps back too. I want to spend a bit of time in this newsletter letting you know what is happening with ediaries.

We were so excited by the prospect of having a web-based diary that would be available to all students, regardless of the device they were using that we did not realize the complexity of the kind of information we would be required to input before we could fully utilise all of the functions of the edairy.

What is happening now?

In the last week of this term all students who have paid for diaries will be invited by their gmail accounts to join the diary. Your child will be able show you how the diary works as they can log in at home.

In early term 2, we will ensure that teachers of Year 7 and 8 will be able to use the function that enables them to send notifications of homework and other important dates to all students in their classes very quickly and easily. This will again put the student at the centre of communications with the home.

During the rest of the year we will build up the functionality (I cannot believe I am using such a “techy” word) to all students who want it. This will include a function that will allow parents to be automatically notified of homework that their child receives.

We will be very interested in your feedback as we roll out the ediaries. We also have 350 paper diaries. If you wish your child to have one of these, and you have paid for the edairy, your child just needs to speak to their TLC or Pathways teacher.

Of course the other side to all of this is that technology has given us multiple ways to communicate: at times nothing beats a phone call or a face to face chat. Above all else we want to build and strengthen our communication with home because we know this is in the best interests of our students.

Glenda Ward & Faye Smith
Assistant Principal
ward.glenda.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

Boys Senior Tennis

We had a very successful day at the Belmont Lawn Tennis Club on Friday the 8th March. After progressing through to the Semi Final by winning our Barwon Section, we defeated Belmont High School to then play off in the Final for the Geelong section against Bellarine Secondary College.

Bellarine defeated us in the 3 matches of the play off but a highlight was the match between our number 1 seeded pairs. The Bellarine 1st seeds had not dropped a single game in all their qualifying matches. Our boys Dylan Vand Daniel W went down 5 games to 6 in a most entertaining match.

Scores throughout the day were;

Seeded players


So playing doubles with their respective seeded numbers.

Vs. Geelong High

1&2 won 7-3 1&2 lost 0-7
3&4 won 6-1 3&4 lost 2-7
5&6 won 6-0 5&6 lost 2-7

Vs. North Geelong Sec College

1&2 won 10-1 1&2 won 7-2
3&4 won 4-3 3&4 lost 2-7
5&6 won 6-0 4&5 won 6-0

Semi Final

Final Vs. Bellarine Sec College

1&2 lost 5-6 1&2 won 7-2
3&4 lost 2-7
5&6 lost 0-10

Shaun Taylor
Senior Boys Tennis Coach

Senior Interschool Volleyball

On Friday 8th March our school was represented at the Geelong Interschool Volleyball Championships held at the Corio Leisuretime Centre. Our girls played extremely well throughout the day, only losing one game and finishing third overall. Best players were Netta M(Captain), Jemma A and Jenae M.

Our boys also played well and finished fifth overall. Best players were Chris L, Hayden W (Captain) and Eli N. Our teams showed great skill and sportsmanship. Congratulations to all students who represented our school in such a positive way.

Lana Ryder
Volleyball Coach

Term 2 Instrumental Lessons

As term 1 is coming to an end, we ask all families to ensure instrumental music lesson payments are made before the holidays start. This will ensure all re-enrolments can be processed before term 2 starts and all students will then be able to receive a full term of lessons. If you have any questions or concerns please call the front office.

Rebecca Newman
Director of Music
Congratulations to the following students who were chosen to represent the school at the Western Metropolitan Swimming Carnival last week: Chelsea R, Georgia G, Meagan H, Shauna G, Josh M, Liam H, Liam B, Brody K and Lucy B. The students were up against some very talented swimmers from specialist sports schools such as Maribynong Secondary College. Well done to all of our swimmers and a special mention to Chelsea R who is going on to the State Championships at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre next week. Chelsea has qualified to compete in five events. We wish her the best of luck.

Rob Galtry
Welcome to all
Every Monday & Thursday 8.00—8.45am
Available: Toast and spreads, assorted cereals.
(Hot meals available occasionally).
Sponsored by the Gateway Church Lara.

Indonesia Study Tour
A very exciting start to the year with a fantastic response to Lara Secondary College’s very first Indonesian Study Tour! Our information evening was a roaring success with over twenty families attending. Following the information night we have had 18 students confirm their participation meaning the tour will definitely be going ahead this September.

This study tour gives LSC students will have the opportunity to grow their language skills in a way that only in-country experience can. Keep an eye out for further updates.
Sampai nanti,
Pak Maine

LSC 10th Anniversary catering team
The VCAL Foods class has plenty to be proud of and I have been so impressed with their commitment to the task presented to them. We were approached several weeks ago by Ms Smith to take on the role of catering managers for the 10th anniversary evening event. This would entail finger food and drinks for approximately 300 people.

The class set about planning, practicing and preparing various food items that could be made and frozen ahead of time as well as practicing service techniques and learning how to multiply foods for large quantities.

On the day, the team worked hard to prepare ribbon and point sandwiches, fruit platters, fill pastry cases, make blinis and scones, meringues as well as litres upon litres of fruit punch and much, much more.

Once the school day was over, the catering team swung into setting up the 300 area ready for hot and cold drinks plus food service stations.

Just prior to the invited guests arriving, the VCAL team changed again into their school uniforms and became the food and drink waiting staff until 10.00pm. Over 80 litres of refreshments were served by James and Tom, 1500 items of food served by Rochelle, Melissa, Emma, Jaycob, Robert and Nick.

Finally, the evening required a massive clean-up where all those still standing washed and polished over 200 glasses.

Whilst several students had SBA and workplace commitments on Friday, every member of this class has taken some part in preparing for this event and they are to be commended for their efforts and professionalism.

A special mention, however, must go to the commitment of Nick L, James L, Tom Mc, Rochelle A and Robert H who worked all day and all night with only a few quick breaks for recess, lunch and dinner.

In addition, an acknowledgement of Clive Allen-Paisley, Mrs Harbridge and Mrs Borchard for their tireless support and help with this event but the biggest thanks must go to Sally Ong for spending many hours purchasing all the groceries required and ensuring everything needed was available.

Kerry Mills
VCAL Foods teacher

Alpine School Snowy River Campus.

Next term we have five year 9 students who were selected through an application process to be part of the extended Alpine School Community at the Snowy River Campus. The snowy River Campus is one sector of the Alpine School, School For Student Leadership is a Victorian department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) school specializing in leadership and personal development education focusing on year 9 students.

James S, Shaun H, Caity J, Tanisha R, and Chanai J were our successful students who have gained a position at Snowy River. They will be based at this school for 5 weeks situated on a 20ha space in the Marlo Airfield reserve in Far east Gippsland. They will be attending with up to 45 other students who are selected from other schools in metropolitan and country regions.

The program offers development for students skills in leadership, enterprise education and team based learning using a community learning model. It promises to be a very exciting, cultural and most fulfilling opportunity. Good luck to you all. Soak up all that the Alpine school program offers.

Shaun Taylor
Alpine School Liaison
“Family” as mentioned in the above heading, is intended to include “All the various arrangements that people make to ensure our young people and others are nurtured and cared for”. This includes career relationships, extended families and blended families in addition to nuclear families.

The logo is a symbol of both families and Lara Secondary College working together in a partnership for the benefit of all of our students. We value parental engagement and the benefit it brings to all our students.

**Partnerships about What?**

Effective partnerships are always about achieving some mutually desired purpose or outcome. At first glance, the overall purpose of family-school partnerships could be seen as generically about ensuring students make the grades, pass the tests, keep ahead of the work, achieve results in various fields that can open up career opportunities. It could appear that the more “academic” learning and development aspect is the focus. However our fundamental desire is to engage and partner with families, in respect to student social and emotional development and aid their ability to cope in the face of the negative experiences that everyone confronts sooner or later.

So Lara Secondary College’s approach is one of a holistic partnership incorporating all of the above.

**Positional Power and Soft Power!!!**

In my role as Restorative Conference Facilitator, I telephone parents, after their son/daughter has had a restorative with a teacher to inform them that their child had been exited from class and had participated in a restorative. These can quite often be positive conversations if the child has taken personal responsibility for the behavior and committed to working with the teacher to ensure that they will endeavor to modify the particular behavior.

While reading Michael Grose’s article about Positional and Soft Power I thought this was relevant for every parent/carer and also for every teacher and staff member within the school. I will be sending it to all staff.

I have no doubt that we build stronger relationships with our students when we utilize soft power over positional power.

I hope you find what Michael has written, informative, and I would be very interested to receive your feedback and thoughts about it.

My email address is allen-paisley.clive.l@edmail.vic.gov.au

Wielding ‘soft power’ at home

Your parenting authority works well with easy, compliant children but teenagers and demanding kids require some pretty nifty communication skills if you are going to win their co-operation.

“How do I get my kids to cooperate with me?” This question reflects a frustration that many parents have with their ability to influence their children. It’s also indicative of the changing times in which we live where kids don’t necessarily blindly obey their parents, as they did until a few generations ago. As a parent you have two sorts of power: positional power and soft power.

**Positional power** is better known as your authority as a parent. Parenting has a huge vocabulary built around ‘positional power’ with terms such as discipline, punishment, child management and behaviour management to name a few. 20 years ago the term parenting was code for behaviour management. It was mostly about helping parents exert their ‘positional power’.

The second type of power is **soft power** and is mostly about effective communication. It’s about influencing rather than simply exerting your authority over kids. Interestingly, your authority works well with easy, compliant kids but teenagers and demanding kids require some pretty nifty communication skills if you are going to win their cooperation.

Don’t get me wrong. It’s okay to use your positional power. Kids need to know that someone is in charge. They need parents who feel comfortable in their role. But relying solely on positional power is hard work.

A statement directed at you by a child along these lines: “You can’t make me do anything I don’t want to do!” is a challenge to your position as parent.

When positional power fails, which it inevitably will, you can only rely on soft power to influence your kids. Here’s the rub: there is nothing soft about it because it carries significant weight when all else fails!

**Here are 5 ideas to make you less reliant on using positional power and help build your soft power skills:-**

1. **Get** your head around the fact that discipline (there’s that positional power thing again) is not about winning and losing, but about teaching kids how to behave and be responsible for their behaviour. The key to successful discipline with adolescents is to speak to them in ways that don’t threaten their need to feel like they are in control.

2. **Choose** a role model who wields soft power well and start to copy their way of speaking and acting with kids.

3. **Talk** about the difference between positional power and soft power with your partner or a friend to help you clarify the differences, as well as find an ally to support you.

4. **Make** soft power your priority for a week and see how it feels to influence rather than brow beat; to mediate rather than negotiate; to use consequences rather than yell when kids don’t cooperate with your way of thinking.

5. **Practice** one skill at a time. Read books, blogs and other resources to help you understand more about soft power, then gradually practice and experiment with new ways of communicating with kids.

Next time you speak to your kids in a potentially tricky or challenging situation check to see if you are using positional power to win the situation or soft power to win the kids over to your way of thinking.

Hopefully, its soft power that you are using to win the day!
Senior Years Accelerated Maths Program

At the end of 2012, 25 Year 9 students were selected to be part of an Accelerated Maths Program in 2013. The selection process was based on the student’s excellence results in their Middle Years Maths classes. The accelerated program means that these students are currently undertaking Unit 1 Year 11 General Mathematics and in Semester 2 they will complete the Year 10 Methods Units. This will give students the background knowledge to enable them to complete Units 3 and 4 Further Mathematics and Units 1 and 2 in Mathematical Methods in 2014.

The benefit of completing Senior Mathematics studies in this manner is that the students will be able to complete two Year 12 Maths subjects within their VCE studies. By completing Year 12 Further Mathematics while in Year 11, students only need to complete Units 3 and 4 Mathematical Methods in Year 12. This then allows students to still be able to complete a variety of other Year 12 subjects. For capable maths students, this provides a means of accelerating in VCE in their area of strength, and also allows them to complete a sixth Unit 3 and 4 subject, which will contribute towards their ATAR.

Earlier this week some of the students in this class were interviewed about the benefits of being a part of this program. The responses include; it allows us to push ourselves higher and to help me in the future, it’s an opportunity to excel in maths, it allows me to finish one maths subject earlier than the rest of the year level, helps me reach my potential, allows us to complete more year 12 subjects, extend my knowledge, work with others who are at the same level in maths. They were also asked what they have liked about the subject so far. They responded with; I like using the graphing calculator, I like the feeling I get when I am completing higher and harder work, I like the challenge, I like everything about it!

John Calnin is the teacher of this class and is really enjoying the students taking on this challenge.

Good luck for the rest of the year.
Kate Ivermee
Numeracy Leader
The Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (VIFM) offers secondary school students in years 10, 11 and 12 the opportunity to attend an Information Afternoon. The interactive session will give you an insight into the broad range of career options available in forensic medicine and science. Experts in fields such as:

- forensic pathology,
- forensic toxicology,
- anthropology,
- odontology (forensic dentistry)
- histology,
- clinical forensic medicine and molecular biology (DNA)

The speakers will advise what it's like to work in their chosen fields and what pathway got them there. There are 2 Information sessions per year during school holidays.

**WHEN:** Friday 5 April 2013, 12.30 - 4.00pm.
**VENUE:** Corinial Services Centre, 57-83 Kavanagh St, Southbank - Plueckhahn Lecture Theatre.

*Places are limited and fill quickly - you must complete the registration via the VIFM website on [www.vifm.org](http://www.vifm.org)*

*Please note – due to high demand, unfortunately VIFM does not have places for parents/guardians.*

**Alcoa Future Leaders of Industry - new programs in robotics, clean manufacturing and a BioLab session**

Yr 10 students interested in a career in science/maths/engineering are encouraged to put in an application – pick up from Careers Room asap.

**So You Want to be a Doctor?**

Thinking of applying for an undergraduate medicine course after year 12?

Perhaps you are planning a science / biomedicine degree first followed by post graduate study in medicine?

You will need to know as much as you can about:

- CSP, bonded, full fee, international study options
- Local, interstate and overseas options
- Application procedures and how they vary
- Different application timelines for different courses
- UMAT / GAMSAT
- What to expect in an interview . . . . . . . . . . . . and much more

**Medical Information Evening - Deakin University - Waterfront Campus 7:00 pm, Wednesday April 24, 2013**

Percy Baxter Lecture Theatre

Proudly sponsored by Geelong Careers Teachers Association and Deakin University.

**All students and parents welcome.**

Enquiries: Peter Craig 52739265 on behalf of GCTA

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The Korin Gamadjji Institute at the Richmond Football Club is proud to announce that the 2nd Dreamtime Careers Expo will take place as a lead into the 2013 ‘Dreamtime at the G’ game between Richmond and Essendon. With over 40 stalls and panel discussions with Indigenous industry professionals, The Expo will encourage Koorie students to dream of diverse and inspiring careers and will provide tangible next steps in making these dreams a reality.

**When:** Saturday, 25 May 2013, 10:00am - 3:00pm

**Location:** Korin Gamadjji Institute, ME Bank Centre, Richmond Football Club, Punt Road Oval, Richmond.

The 2013 Dreamtime Careers Expo will have both a Learn and an Earn Board for each stall holder to display current opportunities for Indigenous students and job seekers. The Learn Board will be of particular interest to students, as it will be a large display of scholarships, traineeships and cadetship opportunities.

**Students will be invited to complete The Learn & Earn Challenge with a number of tasks requiring interaction with stall holders in order to receive their free General Admission Ticket to the ‘Dreamtime at the G’ game.**

All students and teachers who register by Monday, 1 April 2013 will go in the draw to win the Early Bird Prize Pack with signed AFL merchandise.

For all queries, please contact Jirra Harvey at jirra@kalinya.com.au

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**High School Projects**

**Destinations and dates announced for 2013**

We are extremely excited to announce our High School Projects for 2013! The two week High School Projects are a jam-packed two week group trip with students from all over Australia and New Zealand. Students in year 10 and 11 (years 11 and 12 in NZ) can choose to join the groups individually or with friends. The service trips will run this summer from December 8th to the 21st in China, Cambodia, Nepal, South Africa and Sri Lanka. The projects are a rich mixture of volunteer work or work experience and cultural activities, so you can really get to know the country you’re in! From helping children in Cambodia or teaching English in China to shadowing doctors in Nepal or gaining an insight into human rights in South Africa – there is sure to be a programme which interests you! Why not make these summer holidays unforgettable and give back to a developing community a world away?

In the past the two week high school programmes only ran in the winter holidays to coincide with the northern hemisphere summer, but we find these dates don’t work as well for us in the South! After the success and popularity of the summer programmes in 2012, we are excited to announce dates and destinations for summer 2013! You can download the leaflet or take a look at all of our High School Projects here!
LIBRARY NEWS
Lara Secondary College now has an eBook lending facility!

Students today exist in a digital world and Lara S.C. commits itself to preparing students for this world. eBooks can help inspire students to explore books in a whole new way. Students can borrow and download eBooks to read at home, at school, on the bus – wherever, whenever.

Our ePlatform address is: http://larasc.wheelers.co/

Do login to have a look at our eBook library, and better still, if you are a Lara S.C. student, register to be able to borrow. We don’t have many titles at the moment but are adding to our eLibrary everyday. Ms McCrea & Ms Sartori are eagerly waiting for students to request eBooks. Get on to www.wheelersbooks.com.au to check out their catalogue for eBook titles you would like us to purchase. Below are some of our eBooks available for borrowing:

Happy holidays & happy eReading from Ms Sartori & Ms McCrea

New Arrivals (Traditional format books)

The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore by William Joyce

Summary: Traces the life of Morris Lessmore, a writer obsessed with books who is swept away in a storm and finds himself in a house inhabited by a host of friendly books. Morris cares for the books, in turn the books care for him as he ages.

You might like to watch the Academy Award winning short film inspired by this book. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPUp-_tZV9E

There are many new books in the library that have recently been processed ready to borrow. Do come in the last week of term and borrow for holiday reading.
Three Way Interview Process—Online

How do I book an interview for my child:

Step 1

Step 2
Where it says Event Code Type: JZJKH
Click Go

Step 3
Complete your details and your child’s details in the “Enter Your Details” screen, then click GO

Step 4
Choose each of your child’s subjects and teacher on the “Choose Teachers” screen, then click GO

Step 5
Choose your prefer date and time form those available on the “Choose Times” screen.

The interview times will be emailed to you automatically when the process is complete.

What does the website look like?

You will receive an email next week with your child’s subjects/teachers to assist you with this process.