YEAR 9 CONNECTIONS PROGRAM
MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Congratulations to all performers from years 10 -12 for their participation in Take Over at GPAC on Tuesday evening. Lara Secondary not only dominated the program in terms of the numbers of groups presenting but we also shone in performing in a most professional and enormously entertaining manner. Each of the performances was truly outstanding and it’s very clear that we have some budding professional performers within the group. Well done to every member of the group including performers, back stage and sound & lighting technicians, to Suzan Nielsen an Year 10 Be Creative teacher and to our Director of Performing Arts, Michelle Fitzgerald.

As a result of our brilliant history of excellence in the performing arts we have had great support from Tony Ansett, local member for Wydamere, who has been working with us to construct a plan for the development of Lara’s own Performing Arts Centre. A very exciting announcement was made at the City of Greater Geelong 2013 budget presentation breakfast last week with the announcement that Tony Ansett has allocated $80,000 to initiate the development of our Performing Arts Centre in the Middle Years area, with a further $10,000 being allocated to Lara Secondary College for the Lara Youth Festival. Our performing arts centre will be developed within the Middle Years area and include a commercial screen and projector, lighting, stage, sound and eventually mobile seating. This is a fantastic outcome for not only our school but for the Lara community who will be invited to share this outstanding resource once it is fully established.

Our recent Information Evening was extremely well attended with around 350 visitors who spent time in classrooms and were presented with an outline of our core purpose and programs. I was very impressed with presentations from our Student Representative Council including Georgia Year 7, Iziah Year 11 and two of our school captains, James who spoke of the enormous benefits of the VCAL program, and Chris who shared information of the benefits of the VCE program.

At this time, and during a visit to our school by the Principal and leadership team from Oberon Secondary College who were seeking input into our successful leadership structure, I was able to reflect on the impressive developments and success of our college;

We have ensured that our work is directed at our core purpose - improved student learning, and I am confident that our Professional Learning Community focus over the coming years will see even further improvement in student learning outcomes. We are truly focusing on student data, using this to inform our teaching and to differentiate accordingly to ensure all students are learning at their own level and to an agreed standard.

At the information evening I shared with our audience the following key features of the success of our College;

- Attitudes to school data is above state average in all areas
- Growth of student learning between year 7 - 9 (NAPLAN) is above state average
- School attendance data above state average across the school
- All Year 12 students who applied for tertiary entrance were successful with over 75% awarded their first preference

We should be very proud of our work and of our achievements and I look forward to your feedback in an upcoming parent survey after finalizing the survey with our Parents and Friends Group.

Lyn Boyle - Principal
boyle.lynn.c@edumail.vic.gov.au
We have already mentioned that exams will be taking place for students in Years 9-12 in the week beginning on Tuesday 11 June. While our more senior students have developed study skills and habits, here are some suggestions about how Year 9 students in particular can be helped to prepare for their exams in English, Maths, Humanities and Science.

Arrange a consistent place in the home for the student to complete homework and study. Some Middle Years students may be perfectly happy studying in their rooms but many of them will prefer to do this at the kitchen or dining room table so they do not feel shut away from the rest of the family. This is fine and they will move into a more secluded place as their work becomes more demanding. Lying in front of the heater with the television blaring is not a good idea.

Encourage your child to use their school diaries to organise their study time. Students will have eDiaries or a hard copy version. If your child does not have access to a school diary, ask them to speak to their TLC teacher about this.

Keep or get really organised. One of the things Year 9 and 10 students can do is bring home their workbooks and go through them and organise all their handouts, assignments, tasks and learning intention statements. Just putting these in order and reading through them is helpful.

Talk about topics at dinner time. Ask your child about what is in exams (their teachers will have made this very clear during revision week) and discuss some of the issues they have to deal with, for example how having dreams can change a person’s life for the good – is this really true? This is a context theme for Year 10s in English. When students have to remember ideas and facts for an exam, creating cards that just have the title on one side and then dot points on the other can be very effective. Students will visualise the card in the exam and this will trigger memories. Once students get the hang of this type of study technique they are able to change it to suit their particular learning style.

Encourage your child to have a good sleep before an exam and keeping away from the sometimes hysterical texting and Facebook comments that can just increase nerves.

Encourage your child to have a good breakfast on the day of the exam.

After the exams, congratulate your child for passing another milestone in their journey towards being young adults. Help them to decide how/what they have learnt from this experience and how they can improve for the end of the year.

Good luck to all students in Years 9-12 completing exams from Ms Ward and Ms Foley (Acting Assistant Principal while Faye is on leave).

Glenda Ward & Sarah Foley
Assistant Principal
ward.glenda.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

Uniform Policy
As it gets colder some girls are wearing pants that are tight and flared. These pants are not part of the school uniform policy. If girls wish to wear pants, they need to be school uniform pants purchased from uniform suppliers.
ICT For Real Lunchtime Activity

A lunchtime activity will be commencing soon for students who really like ICT. The activity will include hardware and coding and will involve devices that can be set up to do lots of real life stuff, with Mr Foster sharing his knowledge and skills. Places will be limited, so, if you would like to join in, then ask your TLC or Pathways teacher to email Mr Lydall to put your name down.

Year 10 Guest Speaker

On Wednesday the 15th of May, in Year 10 Journalism, we had a very special guest speaker, Simone Smith, who came in to talk to us about being a journalist. Simone is an Agricultural Reporter for The Weekly Times Newspaper, mainly writing in the Dairy industry. She spoke to us about the kinds of things being a journalist entails and the kinds of stories that she has written. She also told us about her pathway into journalism, which fits in well with what we are covering in our Pathways classes at the moment. It was a very good experience for us and we learnt so much about the Dairy Industry and being a journalist in general.

By Darcy 10FTP

Year 9 Connections Program: Term 1 Personal Challenge Review

The Connections Term 1 Personal Challenge Program certainly was a terrific way to commence 2013 for our Year 9 students and staff. In TLC groups, students took part in a series of physical challenges, including Team Building Initiatives, 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 and self-management, to name a few. The hikes took place in the Great Otway National Park between Lorne and Cumberland River. All students were 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 participated in a series of workshops based on camp cooking, packing a pack, tent pitching, first aid and safety and hiking etiquette. Throughout the term, all students were required to keep a Visual Diary and reflect on the development of their Employability Skills. At the conclusion of the program, students were assessed via a Round Table Presentation where they were required to explain their involvement in the program and what they had learnt and achieved throughout the term. Here's what a few of our students said about the Connections Program after completing their Round Table Presentation;

"I found stepping out of my comfort zone the biggest challenge in Connections. My favourite activity was snorkelling because we got to see underwater life."   Chris (9 Green)

"Connections really challenged us personally and made us closer as a class."   Jasmine and Chloe (9 Orange)

"I really enjoyed Connections because each class became closer as a group and built a stronger bond. My favourite activity was the hike because we spent lots of time together and had a great time."   Brittany (9 Purple)

"Connections helped us build on very important life skills such as teamwork, communication, leadership and problem solving. My favourite activity was the hike because I was able to practice being a leader. I now feel confident to lead a group."   Rhys (9 Purple)

"Connections was a really fun experience and I enjoyed it. The theme was Personal Challenge and most of the activities were very challenging."   Kia (9 Blue)

"Connections was an exciting experience. I liked all the activities and it was another adventure in my time here at Lara Secondary College. We participated in many personal challenges and we were able to overcome our fears."   Avrilee (9 Blue)

"I liked being outdoors during Connections. Rock climbing was the most challenging for me because I'm scared of heights, but I was able to overcome my fears and get to the top."   Brad (9 Red)

"Connections was physically challenging and my favourite activity was the hike!"   Bailey E (9 Red)

The following students are to be congratulated for receiving top marks in their Round Table Presentation;

Avrilee B (9 Blue), Chantelle B (9 Blue), Chloe C (9 Blue), Tayla K (9 Blue), James O 9 (Blue), Ashleigh M (9 Green), Michael M (9 Green), Jasmine P (9 Orange), John R (9 Orange), Caleb Gee (9 Purple), Amy B (9 Red), Kyle E (9 Red), Keenan F (9 Red) and Jasmin L-G (9 Red).

Each of these students received a Certificate of Excellence Award and a canteen voucher to recognise this achievement. Many thanks to all our Year 9 students and Connections staff / volunteers for making it such a terrific start to the year!

Brent Hodges
Connections Program Leader

Soup Kitchen in Canteen

On Thursday the 20th of June the canteen will be selling soup for $2.00. All money raised will go to homelessness in Geelong.
Reminders
- ‘At Monash’: Education and nursing 21 May; Biomedical science, radiography, and nutrition and dietetics 29 May; Engineering 30 May. All 6.30-8.00pm; Registration: 1800 MONASH or www.monash.edu/seminars
- UMAT: Registrations close 7 June; test date: 31 July, 2013. The UMAT is required for Monash medicine and physiotherapy and for some interstate courses. See: http://umat.acer.edu.au
- Indigenous student experience Monash day - Wed 5 June; RSVP: 20 May to kristel.keleher@monash.edu (ph 9905 8699); Info: www.monash.edu.au/study/life/indigenous.

BARWON HEALTH Careers in Health Pilot Program
Barwon Health is offering one week’s Work Experience for 16 Year 10 students from Geelong region schools: Monday 12 August to Friday 16 August, 2013.
A broad range of occupations will be covered: Medical, Nursing, Allied Health (physiotherapy, podiatry, speech therapy, occupational therapy, social work, dietetics), IT, Health Promotion, Aged Care, Leisure & Lifestyle, Acute Care, Home Care, Mental Health.
Day 1: Introduction to Health Care – including working in teams
Day 2: Clinical Skills – including simulation activities
Day 3: Boardroom Day – including
Day 4: Community Focus - simulations and what it is like to study health - Gordon & Deakin students
Day 5: Consolidation and reflection – patient’s experience, what are my skills and aspirations?
   Maximum number: 16 students
   Hours of attendance: 9.00 am – 3.00 pm
   Locations: Geelong Hospital and Kitchener House, Ryrie Street, Geelong
              McKellar Centre, Ballarat Road, Geelong
              g mock executive meeting and mock incident

Students must:
Be in Year 10
Have a genuine interest in Health as a career option
Be able to attend all five days of the Work Experience program from 9.00am to 3.00pm
Be prepared to participate fully in all activities offered as part of the program
Make their own way to and from the venues
Have the endorsement and signature of their school
Have the endorsement and signature of their parent/guardian
Complete this Application Form and return it by Thursday 13 June to their careers teacher
or by post to Robyn Dolheguy, Geelong Region LLEN, PO Box 752, Geelong 3220 or scan and email to rdolheguy@grllen.com.au

CAREERS IN SPORTS MEDICINE – Olympic Park Sports Medicine Centre is conducting the annual Careers in Sports Medicine Evening. The aim is to build awareness of the health professional involved in caring for athletes, whether they compete for Australia or exercise for fitness. Sports medicine, nutrition, podiatry, psychology, massage therapy, physiotherapy and exercise physiology practitioners will each give short talks and answer questions. Information handouts will be available. When: 6.30-7pm (registration); 7.30-9pm (talks), Wed 19 June; Where: AAMI Stadium, 60 Olympic Blvd, Entrance F, Gate 4, Corporate Entrance, Olympic Room 3 (see www.opsmc.com.au for map); Parking: Via Entrance D, Multi deck Eastern Plaza Carpark (Off Olympic Blvd); Cost: $25 per student; Registration: http://www.trybooking.com/CSIP; Info: megan.marchall@opsmc.com.au

CHANGES TO HECS-HELP – HECS-HELP is an Australian government loan scheme to assist eligible students in Commonwealth Supported Places (CSP) at university pay their student contribution amounts. Subject to the passage of the legislation, from 1 January 2014, the government will remove the upfront HECS-HELP discount of 10% for eligible students who pay their student contributions upfront and the voluntary HELP repayment bonus of 5%. Currently the HECS-HELP program allows eligible CSP students to defer their student contributions and repay it later through the tax system. CSP students who elect to fully pay, or part pay $500 or more of their student contribution amount upfront receive a 10% discount. People who have a HELP debt and make a voluntary repayment of $500 or more towards their debt currently receive a bonus of 5%.

VET OR KEEPER FOR A DAY PROGRAM Healesville Sanctuary and Werribee Zoo are holding holiday programs once more. See: www.zoo.org.au/holidays

email: lara.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au Web Site: www.larasc.vic.edu.au
WHAT IS MECHATRONICS?

Mechatronics at the University of Melbourne integrates mechanical, electronic and software engineering, offering graduates well-paid career opportunities in diverse fields like aeronautics, robotics, energy and biomechanics. Graduates work on the development of ‘smart’ products and systems such as computer-controlled robots, washing machines, automotive equipment, medical imaging systems, wind and wave generators and hybrid and electric vehicles. See: [www.eng.unimelb.edu.au/study/graduate/master-eng-mechatronics](http://www.eng.unimelb.edu.au/study/graduate/master-eng-mechatronics).

Mechatronics engineering is also offered at Deakin, Monash, Swinburne and RMIT universities, and at Chisholm and Swinburne TAFE. You will need to study VCE 3/4 Maths Methods for all the university degrees, and some require chemistry or physics as well (eg Monash). Specialist Maths would be very valuable. NOTE: La Trobe university is offering mechatronic engineering from 2014 (subject to approval).

CHECK OUT RMIT

RMIT is conducting ‘Experience Days’ in the next school break. What’s on?

1. July – accounting and finance; fashion and textiles
2. July – community justice; electrical and computer engineering
3. July – aerospace, mechanical and manufacturing engineering; health and medical sciences
4. July – advertising, marketing and public relations; environment
5. July – computing and IT

To get more information and to register go: [www.rmit.edu.au/experiencedays](http://www.rmit.edu.au/experiencedays)

SCIENCE IN THE CITY – LAB TOURS

Science at RMIT is about providing practical solutions to real world problems. Students and parents can visit RMIT’s state-of-the-art learning laboratories and see first-hand the broad range of equipment and facilities and discover science. When: 11am-1.30pm, Tues 2 July or 2-4.30pm, Wed 25 Sept; Register: [www.rmit.edu.au/appliedsciences/discover](http://www.rmit.edu.au/appliedsciences/discover).

MEDICAL LABORATORY VISITS

RMIT is offering hospital laboratory visits so you can experience life behind the scenes. Covering laboratory medicine and nuclear medicine, held at major teaching hospitals. When: Mon 8 – Fri 12 July; see list at registration: [www.rmit.edu.au/medicalsciences](http://www.rmit.edu.au/medicalsciences).

A CAREER IN ICT?

Interested in IT but unsure of course and career pathways? Then what about attending the ‘My Direction’ student conference? Aimed at Year 9-12 students, you will find out about learning and career possibilities, about courses, prerequisites for upper secondary and tertiary study, and hear from an industry perspective. Senior students will also be able to attend exam preparation sessions. When: 9.30am-1.30pm, Sun 2 June; Where: RMIT Academic Building, Building 80, 445 Swanston St, Melbourne; Register: [www.vitta.org.au/events/event/my-direction-vitta-student-conference](http://www.vitta.org.au/events/event/my-direction-vitta-student-conference).

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY NEWS

La Trobe is introducing three new degrees in 2014:

Bachelor of Engineering (Melbourne campus)

Bachelor of Exercise Science (Melbourne and Bendigo)

Bachelor of Mechatronic and Robotic Engineering (Melbourne)

Some wonderful new buildings have opened at La Trobe recently. The Centre for AgriBioscience is a $288m facility with state-of-the-art resources; around 450 scientists will work in this building researching things like agriculture production, pest control and infection control. The new Institute for Molecular Science building is used for research and teaching biochemistry, chemistry, genetics, plant biology, physics and molecular archaeology. Anyone considering studying science would be wise to keep La Trobe in mind.

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EXPERIENCE LA TROBE

Students and parents are again invited to ‘Experience La Trobe’. Find out what is it is like to be a student for a day. Explore courses, meet staff, see facilities, and get your questions answered. Who: Year 10-12 students; When: Melbourne (Bundoora) Wed 10 July, Bendigo: 12 July; Register: [www.latrobe.edu.au/experience](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/experience), free, with lunch and entertainment supplied.

MONASH UNIVERSITY NEWS

Bachelor of Medicine/Surgery – all interviews for entry into Monash University’s MBBS program in 2014 will be held in January 2014. In the past, most interviews have been held in December with a small number in January. Students will be offered an interview based on their UMAT School.

The Gordon is offering a Try a Trade Program during the July school holidays.

- practical trade activities in Carpentry, Painting & Decorating, Cabinetmaking, Bricklaying, Plastering
- development of a portfolio using online communication
- presentation from building contractor and former Gordon Apprentice of the Year, Shaun Polger
- BBQ lunch on the last day.

Students will complete accredited units in Surface Preparation and Communicate Electronically.

*170 short courses to choose from including Barista, White Card, Wildlife Care, Animal Nursing, Fashion, Photography, Spray Tanning, RSA, Hospitality Skills, Hair, Nails and Make-up.

More than 40 new courses on offer!
LIBRARY NEWS

New Arrivals (Traditional format books)

Recommended Reading
“The Immortals” is a well written series by Alyson Noel. It is a love and romance type of book, but it also has a bit of excitement and action in it.

Kiandra C. 9B

Lara Secondary College’s EBook Lending Library
All registered students can borrow. For details how to register and borrow go to http://larasc.wheelers.co/
If you haven’t read an eBook before do download one, you will be impressed.
New eBook additions to our library

Do you and your children have a Geelong Regional Library Corporation Membership Card?
If you don’t, do consider signing up. Please be aware that you will have to have proof of identity with your home address eg. driver’s licence or gas bill when requesting a membership at a branch most convenient to you.

Remember you don’t need to leave your lounge room to go to a library!
Members with a pin number can borrow ebooks, emagazines or e-audiobooks anywhere on their portable device and access the many online data bases.

Book of the Year Short List – 2013
The books below are on the Short List for older readers. All of these are available for borrowing in our library. Usually every book nominated is a good read. The winning title will be announced on Friday the 16th of August.

Ms Sartori
Librarian