MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to 2012!

We certainly have some strong ground to build on with our VCAL and VCE results being more impressive than ever before. We have strengthened our results in a range of areas including a larger percentage of students achieving 40+ study scores – outstanding achievements – and the percentage of students who have received an offer at a tertiary institution has grown from 70% to 90%. This really is a most impressive result. Well done to our teachers and our Year 12’s in 2011.

We have had a fantastic start to the new year with our focus for all members of the College community “Being the Best we can Be.” I spoke extensively at both the Middle Years and the Senior years assembly about this, and about the need for every student to take responsibility for their own learning, to take the opportunities offered at our school and to always do their best. I spoke of the high expectations I have for teachers, and that their teachers have of them, as do I. At the teachers professional learning day on February 1st we approached the same topic with the view that if teachers are “being their best” and modelling that to students then students will do the same.

Our purpose is to be here to support every student to achieve to their highest potential, and we want to work in partnership with every student and with every parent to ensure this happens. At the Senior Years assembly Faye Smith (Assistant Principal) supported program leaders and leading teachers with a presentation on “Achieving to your potential”. I have included an excerpt from her presentation and encourage you to contact Faye or any member of the senior years team if you would like further explanation.

In our determined effort to achieve high standards in all that we do, you would be aware that we have made some significant changes to the way we deal with students who are not in full school uniform. I would like to thank all families who have been supportive of our new process. It has been a delight to look out into the courtyard to a sea of black polishable leather shoes! There has been an amazing turn around in student attitude and responsibility with students, on the whole, willing to change into items provided by the school until they are able to organise their own item of clothing in line with the College uniform policy. The wearing of uniform, as with complying with any school rule, is a strong sign of respect and pride in our school.

This week our new year 7’s have been to camp and the Year 9’s have participated in a team building day at Angelsea – what a great way to start their year! They, along with EVERY other group in the school, have had a very positive start to the new year and I would like to congratulate students on the high levels of respect and responsibility I have seen over the past week.

Welcome back to Mr Trent Edwards who has spent the last 12 months in Toledo Oregon. Trent will share more of his experiences in newsletters to come. I am very aware of his relief and delight in being back in the very collegiate and supportive Lara Secondary College where our focus is on improving student learning! Welcome back also to Jane Skilten our Laboratory Technician – also delighted to be back with us after trialling a position in another school.

A very big welcome to new staff:
Jarrod Maine: Indonesian / English
Cassandra Smith: English / Literature
Meagan Hinch: Maths / Science
Breeana Moyes: Student Welfare Counsellor
Lisa Cvijanovic: Administration
Hayden Illingworth: Outdoor & Physical Education Trainee

I look forward to working with you throughout 2012

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

Lyn has briefly mentioned that we have been working hard to raise the standard of uniform compliance in the school. Teachers have been consistent and fair in their application of the policy and it has been very pleasing to see the way students have quickly responded to our efforts.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents about our jewellery policy as outlined in student planners/diaries and in the parent handbooks. Earrings should be studs or sleepers with a maximum of two per ear. Nose, lip or eyebrow piercings must be clear plastic. This is an area that has caused some difficult situations. We would ask parents and students to consider our policies when they are discussing the possibility of piercings. If students wear other jewellery it is removed and stored with TLC/Pathways teachers until the Friday of that week. And finally just a reminder that tights must be worn with the school kilt (not white socks) and the kilt must be of a sensible length.

Glenda Ward & Faye Smith
Assistant Principal
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At Lara Secondary College we have a history of underachievement in the senior school.

What does this mean?

- Underachievement is when we do not achieve the outcomes we are capable of
- Underachievement is when we do not meet our potential
- Underachievement is when we feel disappointed with our performance

How do we know that as a school we have underachieved?

- The VCAA provides the school with data to show how every student has performed in every subject compared to their potential.
- For VCE potential is measured largely through your performance on the GAT.
- Teachers or VCE and VCAL are able to determine the potential of students based on the ability they see in students in class.
- Overall, both of these measures are telling us that our students are often capable of better results than what they are achieving.

What is potential?

- We all have a different amounts of potential, and this varies from one subject to another.
- Potential is a measure of how well you are able to do, based on your existing skills and knowledge.
- Your potential as a Senior Student is based on:
  - Your natural ability
  - The learning that you have done up till now
  - The approach you have already established in tackling problems and completing tasks
  - The learning behaviours that you have developed up till now

What makes the difference? How do we meet or exceed our potential?

- Taking an active role in your own learning
- Careful planning and goal setting
- Constant review of progress against goals
- Consistent effort
- Motivation
- Ongoing commitment
- Effective organisation
- Effective time management and use of time
- Well being – school/life/work balance
- Effective use of all available resources

What have you really got to lose?

- The thing that you will remember most is the way you FEEL about how you went at school.
- If your KNOW that you did YOUR BEST and MET OR EXCEEDED YOUR POTENTIAL, you will be proud of that for the rest of your life, no matter what your results are.
From the Careers Desk

Horticulture Work Experience Taster Program
Due to the success of the 2011 program, Gforce Apprentices & Trainees in conjunction with the city of greater Geelong is again offering the horticulture work experience taster in 2012.

Is Horticulture for you?
• Do you like working outdoors?
• Do you have a passion for plants and gardening?
• Do you like working with nature?
• Are you looking for a practical approach to expressing your green thumb?
• Would you like to find out more about the world of horticulture?

Program
Working Locations will be advised during week 1 and may include:
• Botanic Gardens
• Golf Courses (Turf Management)
• Various City of Greater Geelong Parks & Gardens

Week 1, Term 1
• Monday 26 March 2012 OH&S at The Gordon
• Tuesday 27 - Friday 30 March Work placement

Week 2, Term 2
• Tuesday 2 - Friday 6 July 2012 Work placement

Week 3, Term 3
• Monday 24 September 2012 OH&S at The Gordon
• Tuesday 25 - Friday 28 September Work placement

Aim of the Program
• To increase interest in this progressive and exciting profession.
• To provide opportunities for suitable students when considering a career choice.
• To present prospective full-time or School Based Apprentices to the City of Greater Geelong.

Statement of Attainment
The Gordon will map out a program that will see students attend their Horticulture campus for 1 day during the taster to undertake a unit from the accredited Horticulture Apprenticeship and provide the student with a Statement of Attainment.

Funding
Gforce Employment Solutions will provide the Work Experience payment, work boots and pants to successful applicants.

Nell Wilson
Careers Advisor

AUDITIONS FOR
VOX ROX
Tuesday, February 7th (Music Room – 204 at lunchtime)

AUDITIONS FOR
CONCERT BAND
Thursday, February 16th (Music Room – 204 at lunchtime)

Private tuition is offered in the following instruments:
• Flute « Clarinet « Saxophone « Trumpet « Trombone
• Piano/Keyboard « Singing « Guitar / Bass « Drum

At Lara Secondary College students have the opportunity to be part of an exciting, thriving and fun Instrumental Music Program.

So if you've ever been interested in learning to sing or play an instrument (at only $50 a term!), be sure to ask Miss Vicary (Director of Music) or Miss Spiteri for an enrolment form in order to secure yourself a spot. Also, if there are any students keen to form their own musical groups, please see Miss Vicary.

What can parents and carers do to avoid asthma exacerbations at school?
• Ensure your child is always carrying their reliever medication as well as a spacer.
• Ensure that you have provided your child’s school/preschool with an updated Asthma Action Plan
• Ensure that your teenager knows how to recognise early symptoms of an asthma attack and know to use their reliever medication properly
• Ensure your child or teenager will seek help from school/preschool staff if they experience asthma symptoms
• Ensure that your child or teenager’s asthma is being well managed and that their medication and management is reviewed annually by your GP (this is a good opportunity to also update the Asthma Action Plan)
LIBRARY NEWS

LSC Book Club
Would you like to be a member of our inaugural Book Club? If so let a library staff member know that you would like to join. We will meet on a regular basis over drinks and nibbles, read and discuss a book a term, participate in literary events at the Geelong Regional and State Library, write reviews and do other activities members choose to do.

Term Reading Group
Last year we had a ‘Fright Night’ Readers Group.
Do you enjoy reading animal stories?
If so come to the library to sign up as an ‘Animal Tale’ Reader this term. Members need to read a couple of pages from about 6 books and give them an interest rating from 1 to 10. At the end of term we will finish with a movie and popcorn afternoon in the library.

Match LSC staff to their favourite book and win a prize
The Odyssey by Homer is the favourite book of Mr. ________________? Hint : plays chess
Where’s Wally by Martin Handford is the favourite book of Mr. ________________? Hint : plays football
The first student and staff member to tell a library staff member the correct match for any one of these books will receive a prize.

The Victorian Premier’s Reading Challenge
The 2012 Reading Challenge has commenced. If you are in year 7, 8, 9 or 10 and would like to do the Challenge this year please sign the register at the library circulation desk. The library will have special luncheons during the year for participants.

New Arrivals
These novels have just been published and are available for borrowing. They are on display near the circulation desk.

Me &You by Niccolo Ammaniti
“Lorenzo is fourteen and has no friends. This suits him fine but he knows it bothers his parents, so he tells them he has been invited on a skiing trip with a group from school. In fact, he is planning to spend the week in the cellar of their apartment building with a supply of canned tuna and a PlayStation. Then his estranged older sister Olivia turns up. Over the next few days, as Lorenzo helps her through heroin withdrawal, they form an intense bond. And Olivia reveals some secrets that the family have kept from Lorenzo”.

Recommended Reading
This book was fantastic. I love the characters and the combination of fantasy and reality was amazing. As you read the book everything seems believable.
Ms Faye Smith

Overdue books returned after the holidays
A big thank you to all of the students who have been returning their loans from last year.
Ms. Sartoci - Library

LARA SOCCER REGISTRATION SEASON 2012
All girls and boys welcome
Please attend registration night Wednesday 15 February 6—8pm at Lara Sporting Club
Age 5—11 $100, age 12-17 $150
A Junior Sporting Club Membership is also required if you do not have a family membership.
All players over 12 please bring a passport size photo.
Please Contact Naomi Robertson on 0417 825 465 for further info or email larasoccer2000@gmail.com

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