MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Our masterpiece “Mullet the Musical” is now less than a week away! Students and staff have put in an enormous amount of work and word on the grapevine is that this is the best production ever for Lara Secondary. The quality of musical productions and rock eisteddfod has been outstanding so I am very much looking forward to going along to celebrate with all involved on closing night.

Not only have we been busy with rehearsals but in my absence there has been enormous amounts of planning being done in preparation for 2013. The Year 9 – 10 expo held on Friday was a great success. Year 10 students presented their central studies classes to Year 9 students who will be applying for the course of their preference at the combined Student-led conference/course counselling interview. On the same day our Leo’s group had organized an author to work with our Year 7 students to round off an action packed literacy/numeracy week, our Year 10 Queensland trip returned and the New Zealand tour was on the verge of heading to Melbourne airport to begin their adventure in Queenstown.

I would like to express my appreciation to the very capable Faye Smith, supported by Glenda Ward and acting Assistant Principal Damian Marra for their work during my leave. An important aspect of the trip was a conference in Seattle – Building professional learning communities – which confirmed that the work that we are doing in building teacher capacity and in constantly looking for ways to support teacher collaboration in their work is without doubt the right work to ensure that every student learns. I look forward to working with the leadership team, and teaching staff in designing the next steps in our process for 2013.

This week the school farwelled Brain Trotter after 36 years in the education department. Brian was acknowledged for his generosity and support in many areas across the school after beginning his career in 1977 at Galvin Park.

It is with great reluctance that I announce that we will be farewelling Damian Marra at the end of the school year. Damian has gained an Assistant Principal position beginning in 2013 at Bellarine Secondary College. This is certainly well deserved but we will greatly miss Damian and his leadership at our school.

Finally I would like to thank the 97 families who completed the online parent/student survey. I will share results of the survey with you in the next edition of the CollegeTimes.

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

college calendar

10/09 ‘Mullet the Musical’ Tech Rehearsal 9am - 5pm
9 Yr 9 Fish for the Future Connections to DPI Fishing Lakes Trout release 9am - 3.20pm
VCAL Rockets Gym visit 10.15 - 11.30am

11/09 ‘Mullet the Musical’ performance for Yr 7 & 8’s at GPAC 11.30 - 3.20pm
‘Mullet the Musical’ Performance at GPAC 7pm

12/09 Red Frogs Presentation 10.30 - 11.30am
‘Mullet the Musical’ Performance at GPAC 7pm

13/09 Yr 12 Studio Arts to Geelong Gallery 9am - 3.30pm

14/09 Yr 11 Physics to Science Works 9am - 3.20pm
10RSW to Vic Market 9am - 3.20pm
The Endangered Challenge at Melbourne Zoo 9am - 3.20pm
Yr 10 Keys Please 9am - 11am
VCAL Rockets Gym visit 2.05 - 3.20pm
Duke of Edinburgh Adventurous Journey (Otways) return 3.20pm
10FTP Hike (Cape Otways) return 3.20pm

17/09 VCAL Incursion - Grade 6 Lara PS students 9am - 1.15pm
Lightening Chess Tournament 9am - 3.20pm
Yr 9 Sport ELO to Elcho Golf Park 11.30am - 1.30pm
VCAL Incursion - Grade 6 Lara PS students 9am - 1.15pm

18/09 Yr 11 ODE to Anglesea 9am - 3.20
Yr 11 Business Management Marketing Excursion to Melbourne CBD 9am - 3.20pm
VCE Music Evening at Lifeway Baptist Church 7 - 8.30pm

19/09 VCAL Incursion - Grade 6 Lara PS 9am - 1.15pm
Yr 9 Student-Led Conferences / Course Counselling
Yr 11 Career Pathways Interviews 9am - 4.30pm
Yr 8 ‘Bully’ Cinema Excursion 10.15 - 2.45 pm

20/09 VCAL Incursion - Grade 6 Lara PS 9am - 1.15pm
Yr 7 & 8 Student-Led Conferences
Yr 9 Student-Led Conferences / Course Counselling
Yr 10 PE Boxing Geelong’s Gym 1 - 3.20pm
Parent Teacher Interviews 4 - 8pm

21/09 LAST DAY OF TERM 3—STUDENT FREE
Parent Teacher Interviews 9am - 12.30pm
Yr 7 & 8 Student-Led Conferences
Yr 9 Student-Led Conferences / Course Counselling
Unit 3 & 4 English Practice Exam 9am - 12.15pm
ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS REPORT

I know we talk a lot about parent involvement but all the research does indicate that certain kinds of involvement do make a real difference to student learning outcomes. We believe that our student-led conferences (something else I have been talking a lot about recently) provide an ideal avenue for the kind of teacher-student-parent conversation that results in improvements.

Earlier this year, our leadership team looked at a research document from IowaParents.org which highlighted key findings which included:

- Guide their students toward postsecondary education – This is exactly what happens with our information nights and course counselling interviews.
- Make sure they read and do their homework – Being able to email homework has given parents another avenue for talking with their students about homework. Eventually being able to view homework on the Ultranet will be even better.
- Stress the value of education – All the research suggests that simply letting students know that you value their education leads to improvements in student outcomes and students staying in education longer.

This research review also “recognised that a family’s income level did not affect the family’s level of involvement ... Parents with high involvement rating tend to have students with higher grades and scores (very American way of referring to outcomes) no matter what was the level of family income or background”

Glenda Ward & Faye Smith
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Literacy and Numeracy Week at Lara Secondary College

Last week students and staff at Lara SC celebrated Literacy and Numeracy Week, a national initiative, in a variety of fun and memorable ways. On Tuesday morning students in years 7-9 participated in a variety of literacy and numeracy activities. Kane Dougherty took a team of students to Lara Primary School to participate in a reading relay with the primary students which was enjoyed by all involved and strengthened the relationship between the two schools. The wider College community has also been involved this week with a LSC Book Drive which saw community members donating novels suitable for years 7-10 readers to boost our library’s collection.

Parents of 2013 Year 7 students came along to our Literacy and Numeracy Information Evening on Tuesday. Here students and their parents had the opportunity to participate in some learning activities to demonstrate how Literacy and Numeracy classes operate at Lara SC. Lara Secondary College’s Annual Literacy and Numeracy Week Writing Competition was open to all students and attracted numerous eloquent and entertaining entries. Stay tuned to read the winning pieces in the LSC Magazine at the end of the year. Winners will also be announced at a school assembly.

In session four on Thursday a hush fell upon the whole school as staff and students in every classroom set aside their regular activities and instead enjoyed half an hour of Universal Sustained Silent Reading. Regular reading helps us improve our ability to learn, communicate and think, and this was a very popular whole school activity. The week finished up with a celebratory morning tea in the main staffroom, where teachers ate cupcakes decorated with a Literacy and Numeracy theme and enjoyed some word and number games. Thank you to all the staff involved in the organisation of the week’s events, and to all students and staff who took part.

Monica Sherry & Kate Ivermee
Below are some more tips from Michael Grose who is the director of ParentingIdeas and Australia’s leading parenting educator. He works with parents, and helps schools support their parent communities.

“Every parent I know wants to be the best parent they can be. Yet despite our best intentions we often develop poor parenting habits that don’t do our kids any favours.”

“With spring in the air it’s an ideal time to do a little parenting spring clean to make sure you are on track to raise happy, confident and resilient kids.”

Here are ten parenting tips designed to put on a little psychological muscle in your kids:

1. **Encourage effort more than the results of what they do:** Descriptive praise is better than generalities. Better still, as kids get older focus your comments more on effort, improvement and contribution than on results. While we are at it, don’t make kids reliant on what you think as a source of self-esteem.

2. **Get kids to help without being paid:** A little payment for jobs is okay, but don’t go overboard. Teach kids what’s in it for ‘we’ not ‘me’. By the way, the use of rosters is a great way to get kids to help.

3. **Balance free time with organised time:** For learning reasons (kids learn a lot when self-directed) and mental health reasons make sure kids have plenty of MOOCH time.

4. **NO deals with kids:** If you bribe kids to behave well you teach kids that they get what they negotiate. That’s hard work in family-life. Better to give them a treat after they’ve behaved well to show your appreciation rather than make their good behaviour contingent of a reward (also known as bribery).

5. **Train your kids to speak for themselves:** Give your kids the words they need to speak for themselves in all situations including when they are not with you.

6. **When kids can, they do (make lunches, get selves up, etc):** Sometimes we do things for kids that make us feel like a mum or a dad. Your job is to make yourself redundant as a parent so teach kids to do/make/speak for themselves and work your way out of a job. **NB:** You never become redundant as a mum or a dad, only as a parent.

7. **Don’t give them things just because they ask:** Character is built through impulse control. Resist giving them what they want even though you have the capacity to give them what they want. Waiting, saving and goal-setting are admirable skills that are developed through scarcity.

8. **Give kids a chance to sort out their fights and squabbles:** The default mechanism for most sibling conflict is compromise. We’ve just got to give kids a chance to work things out themselves. There are legitimate times to get involved but we need to know what we are doing and why.

9. **Use consequences to develop responsibility:** Don’t rescue kids when they leave that school lunch at home; when they are late for school or they are less than pleasant to another child. Allow consequences to teach your kids the important lessons of life. That is, you mess up sometimes but you can make up and/or move on but first you must learn from the experience.

10. **Put the camera down – be in the moment:** Make sure your mind is where your body is and be fully present when you are with your kids. Take more mental pictures than photos and build your family memories.

**Clive’s comments:** All of the above can have a flow-on effect at school but I think that the one I would highlight is number 1. If we discuss with our student, son or daughter their opinion about if they perceive they are putting in 100% effort both at school and at home, the conversation may surprise us sometimes with their honest assessment.

I had this experience only this week when I was facilitating a restorative conference and I asked the student if he was really applying himself at school and he replied that he was only putting in 70% effort. We were able to then discuss some strategies for him to try improve his effort and I was able to pass this on to his parents so that they could support him at home to achieve the very best that he is capable of.

Kids are generally pretty switched on about the amount of effort that they are giving, as the above example shows, but may need our support and guidance at school and home to give them the tools to maximize their effort which will improve their contribution and improvement. Ask the question!

I would enjoy receiving your email if you “ask the question” as to the response you received and if it was a positive opening question that fostered a discussion.

**Clive Allen-Paisley**
Community Liaison Coordinator
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**Music Note**

**ENROLMENTS OPEN FOR TERM 4**

Enrolments are now open for term 4 music lessons. It costs $50 a term to learn any instrument of your choice this is a bargain so if you are interested in learning an instrument in term 4 see Miss Vicary for more information or email vicary.joanne.k@edumail.vic.gov.au

Enrolments close Monday the 8th of October at 4pm

**Music Partners Needed**

We are currently looking for Trombone and Trumpet partners. For more information talk to Miss Vicary or email vicary.joanne.k@edumail.vic.gov.au

**VCE Music Evening 18th of September, 7pm Lifeway Church**

We are proud to announce that our VCE Music evening will be held at Lifeway church on the 18th of September for a 7pm start. This is a brilliant evening of beautiful music and is a special event. This is the celebration of our year 12’s last and final performance for the year so don’t miss out on seeing these amazing young performers.

Cost: Gold Coin donation

**Lunchtime Concerts**

We have been enjoying the pleasure of students performing at our regular lunchtime concert. Talk to Miss Vicary for the opportunity to perform at the next event.

**School Music Ensembles Auditions**

VoxRox Senior and Junior are the college’s advanced singing groups, if you are an amazing singer and would like to audition come along on Thursday the 13th of September at lunch in 204. For more information see Miss Vicary.

**Jazz Band/ Concert Band** rehearsals are now being held Mondays at 3.20pm

**Latin Guitar Ensemble** rehearsals are now being held Tuesday at 3.45pm

**L.S.C Boys** (New Rap / R and B group) now rehearse Tuesday lunch in 204. Auditions will be on Tuesday 11th of September. For more information see Miss Vicary.

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**Senior English Study Sessions**

As part of Lara Secondary College’s commitment to providing our students with every opportunity to succeed in Senior English, we hold weekly Study Sessions on Wednesdays from 3:30pm to 4:30pm in the Room 403. Staffed by Senior English teachers, these sessions provide students with an opportunity for extra discussion and assistance. During a Study Session students can discuss class work with a teacher and peers, complete homework and prepare for assessment tasks, SACs and exams. Students may attend Study Sessions every week, as needed or when recommended by their English teacher.

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**Maths Help**

Every Monday from 3:30pm till 4:30pm.

Room 113, opposite the 100 Staff room.

If your child needs support, help or just some quiet time to do his/her homework, then come along and join Mr Calnin. All year levels are welcome, just bring some work to do and a smile.

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**Tickets still available for Mullet The Musical**

**Tuesday 11 and Wednesday 12 Sept at 7pm Drama Theatre, GPAC $20**

Don’t miss out!
Careerspace

Want to pay your 2012 VTAC processing fee but don’t have a Debit or Credit card?

What you can do is purchase a VISA prepaid card from your local Australia Post. Details on how to do this can be found at http://australiapost.com.au/personal/loadandgo-reloadable-prepaid-visa-card.html

Once you’ve got your card, log into your VTAC User Account and follow these steps to pay your VTAC processing fee:

1. Select ‘Pay application processing or VCA fees’
2. Select ‘Pay with payment option’
3. Select ‘Pay with PayPal’
4. If you registered your VISA prepaid card online with Australia Post, then you would enter the address you entered on the Australia Post website.
   OR
   If you didn’t register your card online with Australia Post, you can use any address you choose.
5. Select ‘Review and continue’ to confirm the details entered and submit your payment.
LIBRARY NEWS

LSC STAFF FAVOURITE BOOK COMPETITION

The Long Dark Tea-time Of The Soul by Douglas Adams is the favourite book of Mr Lydall, The Art Of Racing In The Rain by Garth Stein is the favourite of Ms K Wilson, The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton is the favourite of Mr Hodges and Chinese Cinderella by A. Yen Mahis Ms Forrester’s. The latest prize winners are Ashleigh G, Mr Malcolm, Olivia R, Jess B, Ms Nielsen, Ms Johnstone, Khaled O, Josh L, Kyle A, Tyler W & Ms Harvey.

SOME NEW ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

AUTHOR PAUL COLLINS AND ILLUSTRATOR MARC MCBRIDE VISIT AND WORKSHOPS

On the 31st of August we had the pleasure of Paul and Marc visiting Lara Secondary College thanks to the support of the Lara Lions Club and the Australian Children’s Literary Board. It was an enjoyable way for our year sevens to conclude literacy and numeracy week activities.

Paul Collins Visits Lara Secondary College!

In a two hour session with Paul Collins you can learn a lot! In the session we drew a geographical map of the world that our story was going to be set in, and came up with the plot for our story. After the session we each had an entire story ready to be written! Some people worked in groups to write the story, but others went solo. We all got something out of it and I think the English teachers of the students in those groups will start to see an improvement in their narrative writing.

Liam B 7 Green

In Marc’s workshop he gave the students many tips and showed them how he draws his dragons using stencils and airbrushing. He made it look so easy. In the time he was here he produced 3 stunning dragon pictures. They are currently on display in the library along with How to Draw and monster books by Marc and novels written by Paul that we have available for borrowing.