MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We have a continued focus on improving student learning across the school and an important program relating to this is the expansion of our SUCCESS PLANNER program at Years 10 - 12. Mr. Mark Hardley is responsible for the leadership of this important program, in consultation with the Senior Years team. It covers a wide range of areas vital to student success, including goal setting, study skills, time management, exam preparation and student motivation.

If you were unable to make the parent evening please don’t hesitate in contacting Mark or Lana Ryder, our Senior Years leader for further information regarding how you can support your child through the important strategies introduced in this program.

We continue to promote our College Values of EXCELLENCE, TEAMWORK, COMMITMENT underpinned by RESPECT as the means by which our entire school operates. For parents who are new to the school I have included our VALUES, definitions of those values, and associated behaviours we now expect of all Lara Secondary College community members.

This week all teachers will be using our College Values to establish agreed behaviours and expectations with students in every classroom. This is essential to ensure that the very best learning opportunities are maintained in calm, orderly and learning focused classrooms.

Along with the continued pursuance of academic skills we know that equally important is the development of work place skills. Committing to work as a part of a team is an important skill and this week we have also celebrated our School Swimming sports. The house competition is as strong as ever and I congratulate our new house captains on their enthusiastic approach to this event.

You will find a full report of the event in the next edition of our College Times.

You will also find included in this edition of the times information regarding elections for College Council.

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

One of the great things about being in a school that is now in its tenth year is that while each year is different we now have our own little ‘traditions’ that indicate that we are on our way. Year 9s have started their overnight hikes as part of the Connections program. The Year 8s have been visited by crocodiles, spiders and snakes through an incursion by Roaming Reptiles. This is part of the ‘Where In the world’ first term theme. Shortly the Year 8s are going to the zoo to further deepen their understanding of how environment influences evolution. Year 7s are really getting into the swing of things now having completed their ‘Setting up for success’ program which introduced the good learning behaviours essential in secondary school.

Other signs that the school year are well underway include the fact that Year 10 and Year 7 students have been given forms for the annual immunization program. Barwon Health have asked that we communicate to parents about the Year 10 whooping cough booster in particular. There has been an alarming increase in the number of cases of whooping cough in Victoria and this has paralleled a decline in the number of Year 10 students being vaccinated. Please read the information attached to the immunization forms and carefully consider your decision about this.

Photograph day has come and gone as well. If you have queries about photographs or wish to put in a late order please contact Arthur Reed Photographs. Student ID cards will be available in approximately four weeks.

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

In the second week of school the year 7 classes headed to Camp Coorie-mungle near Port Campbell. Students enjoyed a range of activities including high ropes, canoeing, rock climbing and the giant swing. Anyone with a fear of heights would have found the camp particularly challenging, however most students worked hard to overcome their fears and achieved excellent results on all the challenges. At night a trivia quiz and disco kept the students entertained and ensured that most were asleep at a reasonable time. The giant swing was definitely the highlight judging by the screams which accompanied the activity. At the end of the week staff and students headed home for a well earned break.

Tracy Van Gemert
Yr 7 Program Leader
CONGRATULATIONS HARRISON G AND ZAK T

The Lions Youth of the Year Quest is a community project designed to encourage, foster and develop leadership qualities in young Australians. More than 2,000 people compete in the Quest each year, with winners making their way through zone, region, district, state, and national finals.

Harrison 12KJ, Zak 12KJ and Lisa 12JC entered the Lara division of Lions Youth of the Year with Lisa unfortunately feeling unwell on the day and having to withdraw.

Last Monday great mates Harrison and Zak battled it out, at the public speaking section of the event, witnessed by three judges and a large group of Lara Lions Club members. This represented only 20% of the marks required to be the winner. Harrison and Zak were interviewed earlier during the afternoon for the 80% of the marks available.

On the night Harrison spoke eloquently on the subject of all people having and being influenced by their own individual history whilst Zak spoke passionately about the benefits of participating in sport for individuals and society in general.

Harrison and Zak were both winners on the night with Zak winning the Public Speaking award and Harrison progressing through to the zone final by winning the Lara Lions Club division of the Lions Youth of the Year Quest.

It was a pleasure for Lyn Boyle and I to be present and watch not only sensational public speaking by Harrison and Zak but also to see the friendship and camaraderie that they shared on the night.

We all wish Harrison the best for the zone final on this Sunday night and congratulate Zak for on his achievement.

Clive Allen-Paisley—Community Liaison Coordinator
Email allen-paisley.clive.l@edumail.vic.gov.au
Mob 0405959111

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SETTING UP FOR SUCCESS

For the senior students of Lara S.C, Thursday 16th of February held a different tone to the daily routine of classes and homework. Darren Piera, a motivational speaker, was introduced once more into the school with a new program aimed at helping those undergoing year 11 and 12 to tackle their studies with positivity and effective planning. His charismatic and amusing presentation engaged the students, while consistently involving the audience by asking them to repeat the main points of his program, demonstrating one of his primary research findings in that repetition and active involvement are crucial in the retention of memory.

Darren demonstrated to the crowd that stimulating and constructive self-talk is the key to realising success. He taught the students helpful tips and methods to employ when feeling overwhelmed, and showed them a range of options on how to keep healthy.

On the day Darren stressed the importance of the students not giving up what they love doing, but instead plan their work around these activities, treating them as rewards for completing their studies. This, coupled with his unique tips on effective studying, such as listening to classical music or pacing while learning, provided the students with a new way of approaching the challenges they face during VCE.

The day was concluded in a fun, entertaining team building challenge which had students split into pathways classes and designing and constructing a superhero from newspaper, balloons, a garbage bag and sticky tape. The representatives from each class, all dressed in varying displays of hilarious and ridiculous costumes, showed off their outfits on the catwalk in front of the students, with the teachers deciding the ‘Superhero of 2012’ winner.

Paolo 12MS, with his tri-boob caped costume took the prize, which granted him the power to have one of the teachers wear a horrid, floral shirt at assembly the following week. Tense anticipation followed, until Mrs Joblin was deemed the person to don the shirt, to raucous applause from the crowd.

The day was aimed at providing the students with a positive and motivating start to the year, and was a resounding success.

Harrison 12KJ
School Captain

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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.

Email: lara.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au
School Council Elections 2012

What is a school council and what does it do?
All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?
There are three possible categories of membership:

- **A mandated elected Parent category.** More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.
- **A mandated elected DEECD employee category.** Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- **An optional Community member category.** Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?
Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?
The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider:
- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?
No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?
The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March. If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember
Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
Consider standing for election to council this year
Be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact the principal for further information.
CareerSpace

CareerSpace will keep you informed about career events like Open Days and Career Expos, courses, education and training institutions, applying for courses, career seminars, and the like. It is then up to you to attend the events that will help you to make decisions.

Choosing a career can be challenging, however, students who start early and do the research, checking out courses and careers, almost invariably find it easier to make decisions.

Try not to think too far ahead. We don’t know what new careers will be available in 20 years time; looking five years ahead is a more realistic time period to consider.

HOW WILL YOU CHOOSE A CAREER?

- Will you do what your parent does?
- Will you do what your parent wants you to do?
- Will you do what your friend does?
- Will you do what ‘falls’ into your lap?
- Will you choose something without really checking out what it involves?
- Will you choose something that you think will make you lots of money?
- Or, perhaps, you will try to put off thinking about it at all.

None of the above methods is necessarily the wisest. You may be different from your parents. You are probably different from your friend. You need to find out what suits you because it is your life and you will hopefully be fulfilled and happy in your career. So….

THINK ABOUT THE FOLLOWING:

- What subjects do you like most at school?
- Do you enjoy sport and being active?
- Are you a ‘hands-on’ person?
- Do you enjoy reading?
- How do you spend your spare time?
- What are you good at?
- What is important to you?
- Do you like the outdoors?
- Do you find science interesting?
- Do you like helping people?
- Are you creative?
- Do you like to design things and find out how they work?
- Do you like to work with others or do you prefer to work on your own?

Your answers to these questions will give clues to help you decide.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU CAN STUDY AFTER FINISHING SCHOOL?

If you hope to study at university you will be after a degree. While studying your first degree you will be an undergraduate; if you do further study later on you will be doing postgraduate study. So look out for undergraduate courses for now. There are several universities in Victoria –

- Australian Catholic University (known as ACU) with campuses in Melbourne and Ballarat
- Ballarat Uni - Camp St, Melbourne Institute of Technology, Mt Helen
- Charles Sturt Uni (CSU) - actually a NSW uni but with a campus at Albury-Wodonga
- Deakin Uni - Burwood, Geelong, Geelong Waterfront, Warnambool
- La Trobe Uni - Albury-Wodonga, Bendigo, Bundoora, Mildura, Shepparton
- Monash Uni - Berwick, Caulfield, Clayton, Gippsland, Parkville, Peninsula,
- Melbourne Uni - Parkville, Southbank – VCA
- RMIT Uni –Brunswick, Bundoora, City,
- Swinburne Uni- Hawthorn, Lilydale, Prahran
- Victoria Uni - often known as VU; City, Footscray, Melton, St Albans.

University study is required to fully qualify for many careers such as engineering, medicine, physiotherapy, teaching and accounting.

If you study at TAFE you will obtain a certificate, a diploma, an advanced diploma (or in a small number of cases), a degree. You can complete pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeships at TAFE as well. TAFE Institutes are located throughout Victoria. Many students start their tertiary studies at TAFE and then articulate (with credits) to university. Conversely, many students with a university degree subsequently complete a TAFE qualification (Note: this now has implications for TAFE fees as students who have a qualification and wish to complete a lower level qualification are charged full fees). TAFE courses cover a huge range of areas like childcare, Aged Care, hospitality, design, building, and medical administration. Some universities have a TAFE as well (eg RMIT); some TAFEs are stand-alone (eg The Gordon)

There are also many independent colleges. These cover a range of areas such as photography, naturapathy, design and sports therapy. Fees are often quite high at these colleges as they are often not government funded.

A useful website to see when considering tertiary fees is www.goingtouni.gov.au.

Some other ways of gaining qualifications are through the Defence and Police Forces.

SO YOU WANT TO BE A VET?
The University of Melbourne is the only university in Victoria to offer a veterinarian qualification. The university is holding an Open Day at the Veterinary Hospital to which all are invited. Attend lectures, pet demonstration, tours and get course advice.

When: 10am-3pm, Sun 25 March; Where: 250 Princes Hwy, Werribee;

See: www.vet.unimelb.edu.au

FOLIO PREPARATION AND CAREER DISCOVERY COURSES – Many design courses at university and TAFE require applicants to present a folio of their work as part of the application process for their courses. They want to find out about your ability and creativity. If you think you could use some assistance with your folio you might want to consider RMIT short courses. Some of these are held in the evening and some in school holidays, covering things like AutoCAD - QuickStart, drawing techniques, folio preparation in fashion drawing, in textile design, in graphic design, in interior decoration and in visual/fine art. There is also a career discovery course in building design. For more information: www.shortcourses.rmit.edu.au, or phone 9925 8111.

DO YOU WANT TO STUDY A MONASH UNIVERSITY MEDICINE OR HEALTH SCIENCE DEGREE? If so, you may need to complete the Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT) as part of the application process. The test is required for Monash University medicine, pharmacy, pharmacy/commerce and physiotherapy degrees. Selection for medicine uses the UMAT result, an interview andATAR. Pharmacy uses the UMAT and the ATAR. Selection for physiotherapy uses the UMAT result, an interview (some applicants only) and the ATAR. Some interstate universities also require the UMAT.

The UMAT is being held on Wednesday 25 July, 2012. Applicants for the test will need to register on line from a date yet to be announced. The test is administered by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER).

The UMAT is a multiple choice test. There are practice tests available for purchase online; courses are also available that may assist you in preparing for the test.

2012 Defence Technical Scholarship

The application period for the 2012 Defence Technical Scholarship commences on 01 February 2012 and is open nationally to all year 11 and 12 students studying Mathematics and a Technical subject. Application period closes 9 March 2012. See Nell asap.

Apprenticeships/Traineeships


Please have candidates email their applications directly to: gladmin@gforce.org.au or direct any enquires to myself.

NELL WILSON—CAREERS ADVISOR
LIBRARY NEWS

LSC STAFF FAVOURITE BOOK COMPETITION

So far these are the books:
The Odyssey by Homer – Mr Alexander
Where’s Wally by Martin Handford – Mr Hassett
Jurassic Park by Michael Crichton – Mr Edwards
Shantaram by Gregory David Roberts – Ms Cauberg

The prize winners are: A. Willis, G. Hamilton, H. Storey, S. Hamilton, Ms Vest

Gerdtz, Mr Edwards

Match LSC staff to their favourite book and win a prize

Every Monday in the Student Bulletin some titles will be listed.
The first student and staff member to tell a library staff member the correct match for any one of the 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 purchased and are available for borrowing. They are on display near the circulation desk.

Jurassic Park by Michael Crichton – Mr Edwards

Shantaram by Gregory David Roberts – Ms Cauberg

The Odyssey by Homer – Mr Alexander

Ms. Sartori - Library

Lara Secondary College
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NEW CYBER SAFETY INITIATIVE LAUNCHED

In January the Australian Government launched ‘The Easy Guide to Socialising Online’ website, which provides information about 26 social networking sites, search engines and online games.

The website is part of the Australian Government’s $125.8-million Cybersafety Plan, and has input from the government’s Youth Advisory Group on Cybersafety. It is the second cyber-safety site to be launched by the government as part of this plan – the first was the ‘Cybersmart’ site.

‘The Easy Guide to Socialising Online’ site enables users to learn the practicalities of adjusting privacy settings, reporting inappropriate content and other safety features for each of the 26 sites listed. Parents, educators and young people themselves are encouraged to use the site – described by psychologists Dr Michael Carr-Gregg as the ‘Rolls Royce’ among similar sites – to maximise their online safety.

To check out the site and learn more, go to: www.dbcde.gov.au/easyguide.

eheadspace

eheadspace is a confidential, free and secure space where a young person or their family can web chat, email or speak on the phone with a qualified youth mental health professional.

You might use eheadspace if you:

• want to chat about what’s going on in your life
• need advice
• are worried about your mental health or feeling depressed or anxious
• are feeling isolated or alone
• are worried about your drug and/or alcohol use
• are worried about a friend or a family member

eheadspace aims to offer flexible mental health support to young people 12-25 years of age and their families or friends. eheadspace is not a crisis service.

eheadspace acknowledges that not all mental health problems can be appropriately addressed online. When this is the case, young people will be supported and encouraged to attend face to face services at a local headspace centre.

Young people or family members must register at www.eheadspace.org.au to use the service. You can also visit this website for further information, or call 1800 650 890.