PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

WELCOME
Welcome to all our new families and welcome back to all those returning. Our enrolment will be about 110 VCAL students for 2014 – 61 new students and 49 returning. (We have a further 100 students doing VET programs.) There are limited vacancies at some levels and we are still taking a couple of late enrolments. However, the absolute cut-off date for enrolment will be 28th February. The school has grown gradually from its beginning with 50 students as senior vocational college three years ago.

NEW STAFF
Welcome to Rod Sheehan as our new Assistant Principal replacing Kath Kenny who retired at the end of 2013. Rod has an outstanding background in VCAL leadership having won “VCAL Teacher of the Year” and “VCAL Teacher Award – Best Program Development” in 2011. In the same year, he led his Senior Personal Development Skills class to win the “VCAL Student Achievement Award – Senior Team Achievement”. In 2012, he was recognised with a “National Excellence in Teaching Award”. It’s fantastic to have him “on- board”.

Welcome also to Laura Lattuada who comes to us as a highly experienced “Literacy Coach” for teachers across the northern region. Laura will be teaching Year 11 Literacy and coaching teachers on best practice literacy improvement strategies. Finally welcome to Denise Camenzuli a teacher aide who will assist students with learning tasks in the classroom and to Lisa O’Flynn who will be working in the general office and assisting students with structured work placement days.

GREAT START
It has been a fabulous start to the school year with a real tone of enthusiasm, cooperation and maturity with the students. I have walked into every class regularly over the past few days to find the students focussed and on task. We are now operating our regular timetable following the induction program of the first week. With well over half the school newly enrolled, we take time to ensure students know how we work in VCAL, what our expectations are and importantly what our school values mean. Our values which were established in a student survey two years ago are:

RESPECT POSITIVE ATTITUDE TEAMWORK RESPONSIBILITY COMMITMENT

The students spent time in small “connect groups” spelling out the types of behaviour that do and don’t demonstrate these values. With the values and behaviour expectations clear, the students were then asked to pledge to do their best, to live the values and live up to the behaviour expectations.

THE PLEDGE
Our teacher Daryl Nayler, who is also an aboriginal artist, painted a canvas representing our college community working together and the pathways students will take over the next few years. Each student and staff member then placed a coloured thumbprint or hand print on the painting to represent their pledge. (See images later in this newsletter.)

Peter Lalor VC Dates:
Feb 14….Wheel Talk Guest Speaker (all students)
Feb 21….World Superbikes Championships (selected students)
Feb 21….Incursion - Sam Bramham - Paralympian (all students)
Feb 24….Incursion - Arthur Bolkas - Motivational Speaker (all students)
Feb 25….Excursion - Aussie Icon Day (Intermediate)
Feb 27….Excursion - Sovereign Hill (Senior Students)
Feb 28….EMA Applications Close
Feb 28….Material Charges and VET fee due
Mar 3….College Picnic
Mar 10….Labour Day - No school
Mar 20,…Employment Opportunity Fair (all student)
Mar 24….PLVC vs Police Table Tennis Competition (selected students)
Mar 25….Excursion - War Memorial (Intermediate)
Apr 4….Last Day Term 1
Apr 21….Easter Monday - Public Holiday
Apr 22….Term 2 Commences
Apr 25….ANZAC Day - Public Holiday
SCHOOL COUNCIL
Our School Council has vacancies for parent representatives for this year. I encourage new parents to nominate on the form attached to this newsletter. We usually meet twice per term (8 times a year) and aim to keep the meetings brief and to the point. Meetings are always friendly and welcoming.

FAMILY BBQ
All families are invited to a social BBQ from 6 – 7.30pm, Monday 17th February. It would be great to see as many as possible – the aim is for us to get to know you, and you us. For catering, please return reply slip in this newsletter or contact the college on 9464 0122.

SCHOOL CAMP
A school camp is scheduled for May 7 - 9 at “Forest Edge Camp”, an adventure based camp tucked away on 120 acres of beautiful bushland at Neerim East in Gippsland. The camp is open to all students but preference will be given to Year 10 and 11 students. We encourage new students in particular to attend as it is part of our induction to the college. Total cost of the camp is $200, with $100 to be paid by 28th February and the balance by 17th March. (An alternative payment plan can be arranged if needed.) More information soon.

SCHOOL FINISH TIMES
A full day of our VCAL is 5 x 1hour sessions, with only one session after lunch finishing at 3.05pm. However like most senior levels in other colleges we do have some earlier finishes as follows:

Year 11 & 12 – Tuesdays & Thursdays - 1.30pm finish
Year 10 – Friday - 1.30pm finish

In effect, on these days they only miss the one hour after lunch session. This early finish is a privilege and not a right – if they are late to class or have not completed work they will stay back.

(Reminder: students do not have to attend school on structured work placement days during February, but will have to attend school on these days after February if they have not got work placements by then.)

NEWSLETTER DATES
There will be two newsletters mailed home each term as follows:
- Term 1: 11th February and 28th March
- Term 2: 30th May and 27th June
- Term 3: 22nd August and 19th September
- Term 4: 30th October and mid-December

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL’S REPORT
It is with great excitement that I join the team at Peter Lalor Vocational College. I have taught for many years as a VCAL teacher who is committed to both the VCAL program and the philosophy of applied learning. I have had a long association with applied learning, having been involved in many initiatives on a national, state and local level with respect to the design, research and advocacy of the VCAL. Needless to say, I jumped at the opportunity to become a part of Peter Lalor Vocational College.

I identified Peter Lalor College as a leading contemporary applied learning environment. By exclusively offering both the VCAL and VET programs within the curriculum it allows for better resource utilisation and dedicated staff with consistent educational values. I join a team of equally committed and skilled staff who are focused on aligning both education and student wellbeing with the objective to create genuine career opportunities for students.

In my short time at the college, I have worked with many students who are clear about their career direction and have made a deliberate choice to enrol at the college to reach their goal. Students often speak of the increased learning opportunities, specific to their needs, and the positive culture that Peter Lalor Vocational College offers. Therefore, the program is highly successful as it is meeting the needs of the students that attend. The best indicator of such success is consistent growth, and once again the College has exceeded expectations on enrolment numbers for 2014.

I look forward to the coming year and all the opportunities that will be presented. I would encourage parents to also play an important role in our school community and show support for their child’s learning. Parent support is a key factor in student success. Therefore, your attendance at school functions, 3-way conferences and any other occasion that presents would be highly valued. Furthermore, I challenge every student to take on every opportunity that presents during their time at the college.

Paul Ryan (Principal)
The Pledge

The pledge is a commitment by students to do their best and uphold the values whilst at Peter Lalor Vocational College. This initiative, introduced last year by Daryl Naylor (Student Wellbeing Coordinator), delicately blends aboriginal art and culture with school values and responsibilities. Each student and staff member has made this pledge by placing their thumbprint or handprint on the canvas. The amazing piece of artwork will be displayed prominently in the school as a reminder to those who made the pledge.

COLLEGE INDUCTION 2014

During the first two weeks of the year, both new and continuing students participated in a variety of induction activities. Activities such as connect group tasks, tabloid sports, and a bridge building challenge were undertaken. Students demonstrated excellent skills in respect, positive attitude, teamwork, responsibility and commitment. Furthermore, students were introduced to creativity that will be a skill focus for the first part of the year and integrated into all their learning tasks.
Vik Grujic— UFC Star Visit

Vik Grujic took some time out of his busy international schedule to visit Peter Lalor Vocational College to teach some of the students training techniques and to offer advice and inspiration. Vik spoke of his dedication and the importance of waking up every day to work on being a better man than he was the day before. He also highlighted the important fact that there was no place for fighting in public. He told of his humble beginnings in Broadmeadows and his journey of Mixed Martial Arts to the present where he is a global celebrity. He was impressed with our students who asked constructive questions and took a genuine interest in his message. Our local Member for Parliament Ms Bronwyn Halfpenny also attended to hear his message.

Family BBQ Reply Slip

Please return this reply slip to the General Office Friday 14th February 2014.

Name of student: ____________________________________________  Home Group: ____________

We will be attending the Family BBQ on Monday 17th February from 6 - 7.30 pm.

Number of people attending for catering purposes: ______________
School Council Elections

Schedule 5A: Self-nomination Form for Parent Member Category

I wish to declare my candidacy for an elected position as a parent/guardian representative on the

............................................................................................................ school council.

Name:

............................................................................................................

Residential address:

............................................................................................................

Home telephone: Business telephone:

............................................................................................................

Email:

............................................................................................................

I am the parent/guardian of ......................................................, who is/are currently enrolled
at this school.

............................................................................................................

I am an employee of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development  Yes / No  (please circle)

............................................................................................................

I am prepared to serve as a Parent member of the above-named school council. I hereby declare that I am not an
undischarged bankrupt and that I am not currently serving a sentence for an indictable offence.

............................................................................................................

Signature of Candidate  Date  /  /

............................................................................................................

You will be notified when your nomination has been received.

Personal information provided in this form is collected as part of the school council election nomination process. The information may
be used to determine your eligibility as a candidate. Your personal information may be disclosed as a result of inspection prior to the
commencement of voting or at any time up to one year from the declaration of the poll.

Your name will be included in a list of school council candidates and nominators (where applicable) posted in a prominent position at
the school and for candidates, on a ballot paper (where applicable).

You can access your personal information by contacting the principal on ...

You may choose not to give some or all of the information requested; however, your nomination may not be accepted. If you have any
queries about the school council nomination process, please contact the principal.