PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

4-Way Conferences Thursday 17th July 1.30-7.30pm

A plea for parents to book a time on this day please as it causes extra work if staff have to arrange alternative times. The students are required to do a presentation on their learning progress and this is part of their speaking oracy assessment for Literacy. Therefore it is a compulsory learning task for their VCAL assessment.

Education Department Visit

I showed David Kilmartin, former Principal of Thomastown West Primary School and now a Senior Officer with the Education Department, through the college earlier this month. He was struck by two things in particular. The calm, industrious tone in the school, with students focussed on their work. Secondly he was amazed at the diversity of activities and community groups using the school: the Community Garden, Men’s Shed, English Language Classes, Arabic Women’s Group, Helping Hand Group all happening at the time, as well as the Everest International School, the Trade Training Centre, Commercial Kitchen, Hair & Beauty Salons etc… The college promotes and prides itself not just as a centre of applied learning for teenagers but as very much a community hub of learning for the wider community.

Positive Education and the Character Strength of GRIT

Our focus for this term is on the character strength of GRIT – that quality of perseverance, persistence, finishing what you start and not giving up when the going gets tough. Next term we focus on the character strength of TOLERANCE - it fits very well with our anti-violence program in Term 3

Staffing

Russell Willis will continue in the role of Student Welfare Coordinator working on-site every Monday morning and all day Thursday until the end of 2014. We have also employed an experienced Youth/Welfare Worker, Gabby Panozzo, into a new role of Teacher Support/Community Links Broker to commence from the start of Term 3. Gabby has already worked here on project day with Year 10 students and will replace Darryl Nayler working as part of a teaching team at all levels on project days.

Paul Ryan
Principal
Old Melbourne Gaol Excursion

Intermediate C students attended the Old Melbourne Gaol on Thursday 19 June. The gaol is located in Russell Street in the city.

We are studying human rights and crime. We went on the “Watch House” tour which showed us what it was like to be arrested. Touring the gaol gave us an opportunity to see the history of crime. We looked inside some cells that criminals spent their days in. Some of the drawings and writings on the wall were very explicit.

I enjoyed the chance to walk through the gaol. I would recommend anyone to go and see it. It’s a very good way to get an understanding of other people’s lives as criminals.

Anthony Calleri

PLVC Footy Team battles the Blues

As a lead up to our match against Roxburgh Park College we trained with Carlton players Troy Menzel, Andrejs Everitt and Nick Graham. In a tough one hour workout the Blues Boys put our team though some competitive handball and kicking drills defying our boys move the ball around to get passed them as they position themselves between the two ends. Our players really enjoyed the workout and experience and displayed a good cooperative team spirit with the Carlton players.

The “blues” continued the following week as we went down in our match against Roxburgh College in a very competitive match. In shocking weather conditions, with a team depleted by and missing some key players we battled valiantly in the wind and chilling sleet to be in front at half time and less than two goals down at three quarter time. However with only 16 players on the field during the second half we fell away in the final quarter to lose by six goals.

Thanks to Pagia Parker, Travis Grinham and Tyler Bonson who generously made up the numbers at the last minute to give us only 19 available players – and they all battled on the ground for the full time despite the bitter conditions. For all the players who withstood the conditions and kept trying to the end it was a true example of GRIT. It was very disappointing as coach to see some other players pull-out at half time and let their team-mates down. Harry Hicks, Brandon Curtis, Nathan Petkopoulos were the standout players, Marco Callerame, Justin Marmo, Pagia Parker, Jesse Simmons also showed flashes of good play.
Last week on Thursday 19th June, we went to the Holocaust Museum in Elsternwick. Before we walked in there were ‘relief’ sculptures on the façade of the building. There were hands pleading for help, barbed wires all intertwined and various iron plates of the horror of the concentration camps. This was very impressive. At the entrance, there was a flame lit to remember the 6 million Jews that were killed during World War 2. I felt weird before we walked in, almost sick in the stomach (Anthony Motta 11A Literacy)

I felt nervous whilst waiting in front of the Holocaust Museum...I didn’t know how to react or behave...I felt over-whelmed. Inside the Museum, there was a photograph of children crying for help from the other side of the barbed wire. You could see the fear and terror in their innocent eyes. You could almost smell the starvation. This picture really affected me because no child should go through that at such a young age. (Taylor Phillips 11A Literacy)

I was really excited because we were learning about it in Literacy...I just wanted to know exactly what they all had been through. My favourite part of the excursion was meeting and talking to Fred Steiner, the Holocaust survivor. What really shocked me about his story was that he only weighed 22 kilos after he survived Auschwitz concentration camp. (Alex Kokkinos 11A Literacy)

As we were walked in and waited for our Holocaust speaker, Fred Steiner, I kept thinking – ‘how could someone do that to another human being?’ What shocked me most was when Fred was asked if he hated Germans. He replied, ‘I don’t hate ALL Germans, they were not ALL responsible’ I thought how he could be so forgiving after all that had happened to him? (Michelle Yacoub 11A)

Before entering the Holocaust Museum, I was moved by the hand ‘relief’ sculptures because I believe they symbolised people in pain and reaching out for help...The one item in the Museum that left an impression on me was a little red dress...it belonged to a little 3 year old who did not survive the Holocaust, but her parents did. Our tour guide informed us that a gentleman once came looking specifically for the dress, as it belonged to his step-sister. His parents, who had survived had moved to America and had started a new life and he was their son! I found this to be incredible! (Luke Rocca 11B Literacy)

If what had happened to Fred Steiner, the Holocaust survivor, who looked after the Commandant’s horse and ate the scraps fed to the horse, I don’t think I would have gotten over that let alone, survive!... (Amber Tuck 11B)

http://jhc.org.au/gallery/markeds Really moves me. It shows how Jews were treated by the Nazis in WW11. Losing their names and being marked as a number is incomprehensible. They lost the simple human right to their own name. The emotional and mental trauma that this would have caused on them must have been tremendous (Curtis Box-Billett 11B Literacy)
Spread the word about Peter Lalor Vocational College. Pass on our Open Day & Information Night flyer to a friend that might be interested in checking us out...

4-WAY CONFERENCE BOOKING FORM- July 17th, 2014

STUDENT NAME: ________________________________

PARENT(S) ATTENDING: ________________________________

CONNECT TEACHER: ________________________________

TIME PREFERENCE (Please circle): 1.30 - 2.30 / 2.30 - 3.30 / 4.30 - 5.30 / 6.30 - 7.30

RETURN THIS FORM TO YOUR CONNECT TEACHER ON 14th JULY 2014 IF AN APPOINTMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN ORGANISED.
Education Maintenance Allowance

Information about changes to Education Maintenance Allowance as a result of the School Reform Agreement made between the Victorian Government and Commonwealth Government.

What is EMA?
The Education Maintenance Allowance currently provides financial assistance to low-income families to help meet costs associated with the education of their children.

How it is paid?
Parents can currently elect to have their EMA paid in one of the following ways:

- paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into the parent’s bank account; or
- paid directly to the school to be held as credit which the parent can use towards education expenses; or
- paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

In 2013 over 70 per cent of parents receiving the EMA chose to have their EMA paid directly to their school. Each school would then use the funds for a range of expenses for that child.

Who is eligible?
The EMA currently provides financial assistance to Victorian families on a low income to help with the cost of educational items such as textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions.

It is a means-tested payment - parents must hold a Centrelink or Veterans Affairs concession card to be eligible.

What is changing?
In the recent School Reform agreement signed with the Commonwealth, the Victorian Government has changed the way it helps low income families with education expenses.

From 2015, the Government will distribute the funds previously used for the EMA directly to schools. DEECD will develop the arrangements to be used to distribute these funds to schools – consultation will occur with stakeholders about this.

Why?
Under the recent School Funding Reform an additional $12.2 billion will be allocated to Victorian schools.

Will my child be worse off?
No. Education funding for children will increase but will be delivered to your child in a new way through their school. The new agreement provides that schools with the most vulnerable students will receive the funding they need.

The students who will benefit the most from this funding agreement are those who are the most vulnerable.