PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Six weeks into term, and there are already many events to report beyond the everyday learning within the classrooms. Some of these include reports on

- the year 8 camp – Emily Unt Wan, Year 8 Coordinator and some of our Year 8 students tell us of the fun and challenges of the Lake Dewar camp
- year 7 Williamstown Beach Day – homegroup teacher, John Box tells us about the good time had by all in spite of it definitely not being beach weather on the day
- the junior swimming sports, where participation levels were high, and some of our new young swimming champions emerged
- year 9 visit to Victoria’s newest university, Federation University, just outside Ballarat - a part of the year 9 Careers Program, organised by Chris Lovelock, the Years 7-10 Careers coordinator
- attendance by some of our Year 8,9 and 10 students at an evening lecture by astrophysicist, Dr Alicia Oshlak at the University of Melbourne to commemorate International Women’s Day - thank you to Adam Taylor (Science Coordinator) and science teacher, Elaine Rose for chaperoning the students to this event
- Year 12 Physics students day at Luna Park with teacher Tom Falzon exploring and experiencing the laws of motion
- Year 9 Hot Docs project students visit to Sandringham SC with their teacher Sue Dwyer, for the launch of the Bayside Youth Documentary Competition, into which they will enter their documentaries produced in the course of the project – hopefully they will follow in the footsteps of former Hot Docs students who have firmly established a record of FCC students taking out the major prizes at the competition held annually in Brighton.

MID-TERM PROGRESS CHECKS

The first checks on how our students have settled into their studies this year have now been distributed to parents via Compass. If you have any queries regarding your child’s progress check, please feel free to contact the Year Level Coordinator to follow up on your concerns. Some students will have been assessed as requiring redemption classes. This simply means that students have not yet submitted all of the set work in a particular subject, and will need to attend after-school supervised sessions until this work is completed. It is important that these students attend to any overdue work, as it is a way of keeping on track for success in the subject/s at the end of the semester.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS will be held on Thursday 24th April in the first week of Term Two. Online bookings and further information about this day will be available on Compass before the end of this term.

NAPLAN 2013

The NAPLAN data for 2013 has now been released publicly, and while these tests have their limitations, it is pleasing to note that they indicate that Footscray City students are making very good progress in their learning. The central focus of the college is to provide maximum opportunity for every student to achieve the best level of progress or growth in their learning that they are capable of, and the NAPLAN results give an indication that we are on track with this.

NAPLAN test do not provide detailed information on individual students’ learning progress, but the results nonetheless provide a broad indication that our students are generally progressing well. The data indicates that the learning growth of our students from Year 7 to 9 is clearly above the State average in the three areas measured - Reading, Writing and Numeracy. In fact, the indicated growth in the Writing of FCC students is considerably well above
It takes place in the cinema film club, is back and better than ever this year! It gives students the opportunity to watch films from various times, genres and countries. It takes place in the cinema every Monday and Wednesday at lunchtimes. We'll begin on Monday 17th March with the Coen Brothers' early comedy, RAISING ARIZONA. If you are interested please sign up in the library (maximum 20 students). You will need to get a permission slip signed by your parents and returned to Daniel before watching any films.

CiNECiTY 2: The Return
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concepts they've been learning about in the classroom on 9 different rides. These included rides such as "the Enterprise" - a fast-spinning disc that demonstrated concepts of circular motion; "Scenic Railway", a roller coaster on which students discussed energy transformations and the "Twin Dragon" a pendulum-like ride demonstrating oscillating motion. Students also enjoyed investigating Newton's First Law on the dodgem cars - demonstrating that you will continue at constant speed until something (like a wall or another car) stops you. My personal favourite was the carousel which, while demonstrating yet more physics concepts, moved at a far more suitable speed for my tastes (and for some students too, I suspect). Most would agree that this is an excellent 'classroom' environment.

More information about the physics of Lunar Park and other Physics based activities can be found at http://www.vicphysics.org/lunapark.html

AMAZING SPAGHETTI MACHINE

It has begun! The Amazing Spaghetti Machine competition Organised by the Melbourne School of Engineering at the University of Melbourne. Students met for the first time last Tuesday and already the level of enthusiasm by this year's team bodes well for the defending champions. The contest is an annual competition for school students in which knowledge and skills in maths, science, engineering, and project management are put to the test in the creation of a 'spaghetti machine' — the Italian term for an overly complex machine or device that is used to perform a relatively simple task. This year's competition is earlier than normal, May 27th, so the pressure is on.

FCC has entered this contest every year and interested students should contact Adam Taylor ASAP as many great minds make a GREAT machine.

Team members meet in the Science room every Tuesday lunchtime, bring your lunch. We are always looking for old toys, marbles, ball bearings, car/train track and so on. Anything that can be incorporated into the team's machine.

Further information can be found at the website, http://www.eng.unimelb.edu.au/spaghettimachine/

YEAR 8 CAMP

Emily Unt Wan - Year 8 Coordinator

Early this term, year 8s attended camp at Lake Dewar Lodge in Bacchus Marsh. The camp, run by YMCA, offers a variety of fun and challenging activities such as stand-up paddle boarding, kayaking, tunneling and mountain biking, all of which were thoroughly enjoyed by our students. The students also completed a stunning gorge trek, which proved to be a challenge and a highlight for many students and teachers. The food was excellent (I've never seen teenagers eat so many vegetables!) and the YMCA staff were outstanding.

It was wonderful to get to know the students in a more relaxed setting and find out a little more about what interests and motivated them.

Overall, the camp was a great success and the year 8 group made us extremely proud with their consistent effort and sheer determination. A few stand out students were identified at an awards presentation on the second night. Congratulations to these students and to the entire year 8 cohort.

Lastly, a huge thanks to the staff who attended the camp, especially Ross Eberhard who planned and organised, what could honestly be, the best camp I've ever been to.

Here are some comments from the participants:

This year, Year 8 students of Footscray City College went to Camp Lake Dewar Lodge. It was a great success for all students and teachers involved, and fortunately the weather was wonderful throughout our stay. Camp activities promoted making new friends and working together, which was fun and rewarding. Students almost unanimously decided that the stand up paddle-boarding was their favourite activity. The food at camp was also tasty, which was quite a surprise. Overall, camp was a great success which we all enjoyed. A big thanks to all those who helped make this experience possible.

Quincy and Spencer Davis

This year, the 2014 Year 8 camp was amazing. It was held at Lake Dewar Lodge, which was good in itself. The food was great, the accommodation was great and the activities...They
were the best bit of all. As soon as we got there, there was no time for rests. We were thrown straight into the activities, and they kept us busy all day. There was paddle boarding, gorge treks, kayaking, tunneling, flying fox and mountain biking. We watched movies, did trivia, dressed people up in toilet paper and were generally exhausted by bed time. It was amazing and highly recommended for the years to come.

Eliza Lucid

On the 10th of February almost all of year 8 went to Lake Dewar Lodge for camp which presented a wide range of fun activities. The majority of the students agreed that stand up paddle boarding was the best activity. The weather was great on the days so it didn’t matter if we fell in. Some of the activities on the camp were pretty physical and tiring so most people deliberately fell in the lake so they could have a swim. It was a great camp with good tasting food (Phew!) and everyone worked together in their groups which helped bring the students and teachers closer together and have a great time.

Sam Sharkey

YEAR 7 HIT WILLIAMSTOWN BEACH!
After a cloudy morning, our year 7s enjoyed a fantastic day at Willi Beach on Thursday. Accompanied by their homeroom teachers, a group of year 11 students and two lifeguards, the students braved the chilly breakers, played beach soccer, buried each other in sand and tugged o’war under an increasingly hot sun. With an onshore wind coming in fairly strongly, the students were able to paddle on to the odd wave for a bodysurf and practice their duck diving skills. The smell of sizzling snags brought the kids running up the beach for lunch on the esplanade, followed by more fun in the afternoon. By 2 o’clock, everyone, sun-drenched and sandy, piled back on to the buses and headed back to school. As hoped, the students had the opportunity to socialise with kids from across the year 7 cohort and firm up those relationships that will help them transition into life at FCC. A huge thanks to all involved!

John Box - Year 7 Homegroup teacher

YEAR 7 & 8 SWIMMING SPORTS
Congratulations to all the Year 7 & 8 students for their behaviour and participation at the recent school swimming sports held at Oak Park pool.
Special congratulations to the following students who were the top swimmers for 2014:

Year 7
Girls 1st: Olivia Battaglia 7JD 2nd: Erica Giudici 7SK
Boys 1st: Jackson Glover 7SK =2nd: Lewis Perso 7JB & Darcy Altschwager 7JB

Year 8
Girls 1st: Caitlin Holland-Symons 8SK 2nd: Julia Nguyen 8ME
Boys 1st: David Nguyen 8SK =2nd: Rhys Lewis 8SK & Archie Beattie 8ME

The final results were as follows:
Year 8: 1st: 8ME 194pts, 2nd: 8SK 166, 3rd: 8DB 158, 4th: 8RW 103 & 5th: 8PD 83

Also, thanks to all staff & students who assisted on the day
All the winners will now go onto represent the school at the Interschool competition in early March.

Mark Komp - Sport Coordinator

LAUNCH OF 2014 YOUTH DOCUMENTARY PROGRAM
Year 9 Hot Docs students travelled to Sandringham Senior Secondary College for the launch of this year’s Youth Documentary program, which is funded by Bayside City Council. They spent the day meeting filmmakers, learning about different styles of documentary and helping to make a doco of the day. In small groups, students from all the participating schools recorded 10 seconds of footage each in a kind of "chinese whispers" story that has been uploaded to the YDP website.
As part of this program, Hot Docs students work in small groups to make short documen-
tories about topics or issues of their own choice which will be shown in the Palace Cinema as part of the Bayside Film Festival in August. Bayside provides some sessions with a visiting professional filmmaker, who helps with technical and storytelling advice. In previous years, FCC students have made some outstanding docos and won several awards for their work. It will be exciting to see what they produce in 2014.

*Sue Dwyer - Hot Docs teacher*

**YEAR 10’s VISIT THEIR RELIES**

Last Wednesday Year 10 Psychology students attended Melbourne Zoo to take part in a special Zoo program called “Mere Monkeys”. The program was designed to introduce students to the ethics of using animals and humans in psychological research. The presenters also facilitated discussion on the ethical dilemmas that zoos face in caring for and breeding endangered species. As part of the program, students learnt the difference between qualitative and quantitative data and then collected both types of data during observation of baboon behaviour.

*Sue Dwyer - Psychology teacher*

**YEAR 9 STUDENTS VISIT VICTORIA’S NEWEST UNIVERSITY**

Most people know little about Federation University. This is not surprising as it is Victoria’s newest Regional University. Located in 10 kilometres from the city centre of Ballarat, the campus is set on 110 hectares of natural bush land, which attracts colorful bird species as well as resident kangaroos and koalas.

The Campus has an impressive selection of sporting and leisure facilities including an indoor swimming pool/aquatic centre, indoor and outdoor tennis courts, an all-weather athletics track, two gymnasiums, a weight training studio, heat chamber, squash courts, a canoeing lake, several sports fields and picturesque walking tracks.

The campus boasts up-to-date teaching and research facilities, library, studios and lecture theatres and a children’s centre.

Study can be undertaken in up to 50 specialised areas throughout the faculties. The Mt Helen Campus is also home to the Ballarat Technology Park, with major employers such as IBM and the State Revenue Office among its tenants.

All of our year 9 students were impressed with the guided tours and general address about the University. Federation University has an impressive selection of courses and the web site can be found at www.federation.edu.au

Fed Uni has developed a helpful booklet to assist Parents with guiding your child through future study choices. The booklet can be downloaded at www. federation.edu.au/future-students/information-for.../information-for-parents

Our next Year 9 Pathways Excursion will be to the The Age VCE Careers Expo in early Term Two.

Year 10 students will be visiting Deakin University Burwood Thursday March 13.

*Chris Lovelock - Pathways Coordinator*

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**ROTARY EXCHANGE**

We are seeking well-qualified Rotary International Youth Exchange student applicants to travel, live and study overseas for 12 months, as Rotary International Ambassadors to represent District 9800 from January 2015.

The closing date for 2015 Outbound Student applications is Friday 18th April 2014.

Also, we are inviting potential Host Family volunteers to consider joining our Family of Rotary, to provide assistance and support to the program.

Contact; Vanda Mullen, ph 0408 109 368

www.rotaryyouthexchangeaustralia.com.au

Have you ever thought how good it would be to be able to:

Learn what it’s like to live in another country?

Learn a new language and experience a different culture.

If you are in years 9, 10 or 11 now Rotary Youth Exchange can offer this and more.

Contact; Vanda Mullen, ph 0408 109 368

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