

## Principals Report

### Engaging the students of Wodonga Middle Years College with Asia

General Peter Cosgrove stated that, *“Good neighbours learn to speak each other’s languages... Good neighbours learn to respect each other’s religious and cultural beliefs. Good neighbours learn to allow for differences and to be inclusive. Good neighbours spend time with each other. Good neighbours understand that contentious issues should be resolved through negotiation.”*

Victoria and Australia alike require citizens who are globally engaged, comfortable with diversity and with the skills to effectively operate across cultures with different world views and belief systems. However, our students, mainly from Anglo-Saxon backgrounds, are limited in their experiences and exposure to the big wide world. It should be our school’s priority within this community to ensure we are actively engaging these young Australians in the world in which they live, paying particular attention to the Asian region, as we are most geographically connected with this part of the world. We need to focus on Asian Engagement.

‘Asia-engagement’ happens when a school’s program:

- contains sequenced learning about Asia
- includes a focus on Asian across learning areas
- includes skills, understandings and knowledge of Asia
- provides an opportunity to learn an Asian language
- helps create student connections with the region

In spite of how simple it looks and sounds, if this is to be achieved a cultural shift within the College would be required to ensure there is a visible presence of Asia and Australia within the curriculum.

We are part of the way to developing Asia Engagement. There is more we can do and need to investigate further.

- The study of LOTE and the attitudes of the College community (staff, students and parents) in regard to its importance within the local and global communities
- In-country study tours for both languages offered to students at the College
- Opportunities for students to experience other cultures first hand including China
- Sister school relationships in both Indonesia/Malaysia and Japan (however this should not exclude other countries)
- Exchange programs for both staff and students
- Developing and engaging students during the transition from Middle Years to Senior Years ensuring they are able to continue language studies.

What could our students get out of a program with a stronger and richer infusion of Asia-related content? We would welcome any comments from our parent community on the need for our College to engage more with Asia to assist our students to thrive in a more internationalised world.

(Edited from a discussion paper presented by Michelle Heintze on reshaping our direction.)

**Vern Hilditch**  
Principal

## Assistant Principals’ Report

### Adolescent Attributes

Below is an extract from Department of Education and Training publication– “Understanding Year 9 Students”. This information is really important for parents and teachers to understand as it may help explain the behaviour of many adolescents.

#### Emotional Response

Parents, teachers or those who are familiar with adolescent behaviour, such as being happy one moment and absolutely miserable the next, tend to associate this type of behaviour with hormonal changes as the child enters puberty. However, the discovery of brain development in recent years suggests that the observed behaviour could be attributed to the immature frontal lobe. In addition to being responsible for cognitive flexibility such as planning behaviour or devising strategies, the frontal lobe has also been found to have a regulation function of the seat of emotion that is situated deep in the brain. Since this area is still being developed during adolescence, the regulation function is immature and it is only with age that this function improves. This finding may provide an explanation for the inclination of adolescents to respond with emotion and for why these types of behaviour tend to level out a year or two post puberty.

#### Social Interaction Skills

Adolescence is often marked by an increase in conflict between an adolescent and his/her parents. Social interaction and affiliation with peers take on particular importance and provide a significant source of positive experiences.

The miscommunication between adolescents and adults could be caused by the way in which the adolescent brain is wired to respond to the outside world. Adolescents have been found to be unable to correctly read all the feelings in the adult face. For example, adolescents may see anger when there is no anger or sadness when there is no sadness. Thus, when adolescents are relating to their parents, teachers or other adults, they may be misperceiving or misunderstanding some of the feelings that adults take as the norm. They may also have difficulty reading normal adult body language and therefore have difficulty modifying their behaviour unless it is explicitly explained.

### Attendance is Important

Students need to attend school regularly in order to make the most of educational opportunities.

Students are expected to attend school on all designated school days. Government legislation requires young people under the age of 16, who are enrolled at the school, to have a commitment to attend on all designated days.

If a student is absent for a legitimate reason, it is important that upon their return to school, they bring a note signed by their parent or caregiver explaining the absence.

Notes should be given to the A-Team teacher.

It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that their child attends school on all designated school days and that if they are absent it is for a legitimate reason.

**Alyson Miller, Maree Cribbes**  
Assistant Principal

### Huon Homework Club

Each Thursday in the Huon library 3.15 - 4pm  
A staff member will be available to support students with their homework.

## Year 9

### Student Leadership

On Thursday the 12th of March, the Year Nine Leadership team from both Huon and Feltrimber Campuses met up at Hollywoods on Beechworth Road for lunch. We shared seven pizzas between the 13 of us.

After we had lunch, we split up to our groups on what kind of leader we are. So the Campus Captains from each campus would sit together, the sports leaders from each campus would sit together etc. We talked about what we would like to plan for the schools throughout the year as a combined campus.

We would like to thank Mr Pleydon and Ms Kellahan for taking the time for making this meeting happen and for lunch.

*Meg Bodsworth*

## What's Happening in My Class...

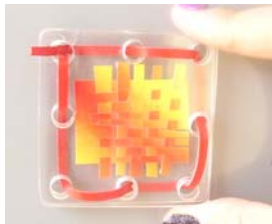
### Jewellery - Transparent Medallion

Jasmina Radoicic has designed a highly imaginative woven central design for her medallion.

Marg Leddin and Damien Healy team teach a very industrious group of students. They are currently designing and producing brass and copper pendants.

All technology students follow this design process :

1. Investigation - Exploration of a concept or idea. Learning of required technique
2. Design - Individual designs inspired by investigations and explorations
3. Production - Production of final design
4. Evaluation - Use of rubrics
5. Reflection - Students looks at what they have learnt and areas they could improve skills



### Year 8 Fashion and Textiles

The Year 8 Fashion and Textiles class has been very busy of late creating some wonderful stuffed toys. There have been some great fashion statements made and the girls are looking forward to their next creative task. So look out for the display of our work in the library at



Feltrimber in the coming weeks.



### Cultural Diversity Week

That exciting time of the year for our school is coming in the week of 23 - 27 March when we get together to appreciate the cultural diversity in our school and community. To mark the event we are holding a Cultural Diversity day on Friday March 27 at Feltrimber. Last year



WIN news showcased our cultural event on the news and this



year we are hoping to make it even bigger and more exciting. So put your thinking caps on and think about how you would like to showcase your culture or a culture that you identify with at our Big day. The Arts Technology and LOTE teams invite all members of our school community to get involved whether it be with a food

item, musical item or even an activity for people to get involved in. We are looking forward to your ideas that will help make this a fantastic day.



### International Education Week

Student at Huon Campus celebrated International



Education week during the first week of March.

They celebrated in different ways, with Year 7 Food classes preparing a Mexican feast and an Italian Banquet.

Some visiting exchange students

came to the campus and shared their experiences with our students.

### Art, LOTE and Technology Team



## Year 8

### Homework

Thank you to all the parents who shared important information with their child's A Team teacher at the parent / teacher interviews on February 25. Many parents asked the question "How much homework should be done by child in Year 8?" or "My child says they have no homework. Is this true?"

Our College policy recommends for Year 8 students, 30 minutes per night, five nights a week. Teachers will assign some tasks and assignments specifically for home learning, for example a weekly maths homework sheet. However, teacher set work is not the only component of home study. Students should take the time to read over their notes from class, identifying and clarifying main ideas and questions and completing their summaries. This practice is an element of Cornell note taking, a central component of the new student binders. Daily home reading is another important aspect of home study. This can include novels, newspapers or magazines. Anything that will engage and encourage your child to read.

All student binders include a weekly planner and assignment log to assist students with their home learning organisation. It is essential that the binder is taken home each night.

*Year 8 Team*

## Year 7

### Camps

The Year 7 camps are fast approaching and all students should be submitting their medical forms and finalising payments. The Huon Campus will be heading to Howman's Gap with 7A, 7B, 7C and 7D leaving on Monday 23rd March and 7E, 7F, 7G and 7H leaving on Monday 30th March. The Felltimber Campus camps will be held at Harrierville and will depart early in term 2. The transition camp is a very important part of the year 7 program and helps students develop relationships with their peers and teachers. Any students who are unable to attend the camp are expected at school as normal.

### Swimming Day

On the afternoon of February 25, Year 7 students from both campuses attended the Wodonga Outdoor Pool. On arrival at the pool, students shared lunch in their A Teams with a variety of food being sampled. After lunch, students were able to enjoy activities such as the ironman/ironwoman, a bombing competition and the waterslide. It was fantastic to see the year 7's enjoying each others company and making new friends from both campuses.



*Year 7 Team*

## Year 7 IMMUNISATION PROGRAM

An immunisation program is being conducted at the College on:

Friday, March 27 - Huon Campus  
and

Monday, March 30 - Felltimber Campus

Consent cards and information have been given to students and should be returned to the College by **March 24**.

**If your child has already been vaccinated or you do not wish for them to have the vaccination you are still required to return the completed consent card.**

If your child misses out on their vaccination on the day, a catch-up session will be held at the Senior Citizens Hall, Hovell Street, Tuesday, April 14, 4.30pm - 6.00pm.

- ◆ all students will receive the first dose of Hepatitis B
- ◆ girls will receive the first dose of Gardasil

The chickpox vaccine is also available to students who have not been previously vaccinated or who have not had the disease.

Please call Wodonga Council's Environmental Health Department on 6022 9300 for further information.

Return your forms by the above date to go into the draw to win a Nintendo Wii.

## Chess Club

Welcome to more new players. We had a small but enthusiastic group this week.

Results:

"Sandro" had a dark cloud descend over him courtesy of "Shadow".

"The Cube" squared off with "Adro"

"Capt. Wart Hammer" put "Dragon Fire's" fire out!

"Dragon Master" showed "Despair" what it's all about.

"Chess Master" tried but "Lachlan" had other ideas.

A draw for "Dakota" and "Ebony".

3 points for "Siren" and "The Storm".

Ladder on the window of the Integration room.

The Chess Tournament is this Friday. Good luck to those of you who are playing.

*Helen Boulton*

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## Sport

### Houn V Felltimber Year 9 Cricket

Rain was the most unlikely winner of the annual Year 9 cricket match between Felltimber and Huon on Thursday. Despite being washed out in the afternoon, the boys showed some good form to take into the next round as our representatives of the College. The game was played in good spirit showing that there is a firm but friendly rivalry within the College.

Our next match will be against the Year 10 team from Wodonga Senior Secondary College. Well done to Mr. Hodge and Mr. Henricus for their expertise in umpiring!



## Community Notices

### Parkland Tennis Club

Parkland Tennis Club Inc. conducts Saturday morning tennis competition for Junior players in the Albury-Wodonga area and would appreciate your assistance in advertising this to children and their parents at your school. Our Club is primarily a non-profit organisation offering the younger age group the opportunity to learn and play tennis at a very reasonable cost.

Should you have any queries regarding our competition, please contact Philomena Dobson on 6059 7474



To kick off National Youth Week, Youth Services is hosting a huge festival and skate boarding competition. The event will feature pro skating demonstrations, live bands, food, amazing street performers, the "Pinnacle of

Terror", prizes and market stalls. This is an all ages, smoke, drug and alcohol free event for skaters and non skaters alike.

Enquiries to Youth Services 6022 9700

Date: Sunday, March 29

Venue: Willow Park Skate Bowl

Cost: Free



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## ACA Australian Cricketers' Association

### Cricket Match

ACA masters

v

### Albury Wodonga Invitational XI

As you may have heard in the local media, the Australian Cricketers Association (ACA) in conjunction with Local Government from the City of Albury, City of Wodonga plus Cricket Albury Wodonga, Cricket Victoria and Cricket NSW are bringing to town a team of ACA Masters for a game on Friday March 20 at the Lavington Sports Ground for 7.15pm under lights. Children under 16 enter for free.

The ACA team will be captained by Australian legend Andy Bichel and will include former Australian stars Terry Alderman, Greg Campbell, Greg Matthews and Wayne Holdsworth, as well as current State players including Adam Crosthwaite (Bushrangers), , Brendan Drew and Michael Dighton (Tassie Tigers), Mark Cosgrove and Mark Cleary (SA Redbacks).

The Cricket Albury Wodonga team will feature our own legendary Tim Kennedy - highest wicket taker in Provincial A Grade this season.

## Dates to Remember

Dates for 2009	Activity
Monday, March 16	► NEDSSSA Super 8 Cricket
Tuesday, March 17	► Parent Club Meeting 1.30pm at Felltimber
Wednesday, March 18	► EZ Swimming
Monday, March 23 - Wednesday, March 25	► Huon - Year 7 Camp (7A,7B,7C,7D)
Thursday, March 26	► Huon Athletics Carnival
Monday, March 30 - Wednesday, March	► Huon - Year 7 Camp (7E,7F,7G,7H)
Tuesday, March 31	► Felltimber Athletics Carnival
Friday, April 3	► Last Day Term 1
Monday, April 20	► First Day Term 2
Monday, April 27 - Friday, May 1	► Felltimber - Year 7 Camp (April 27 - 29: 7A,7B,7C,7D) (April 29 - May 1: 7E,7F,7G)

## Canteen Roster - Felltimber

Monday, March 23	Katrina Dawes
Tuesday, March 24	Anne Whitehead
Wednesday, March 25	Helen Deegan
Thursday, March 26	Dot Wallace
Friday, March 27	Marg Quine