Principal’s Report

Student Led Conferences/Exhibition of Excellence/The Big Night Out - The importance of one significant adult in a child’s life

The following is an article from Kim O’Shea ATL Leader at Felltimber.

As we approach the College’s final Student Led Conferences, it is a good time to think about the impact of one significant adult in a young person’s life.

Michael Carr Gregg, the well-known psychologist/author suggests that one significant adult in a child’s life, can have a huge positive impact on the child’s development. What this means in effect, is that if this one significant adult shows care, compassion and commitment, it makes a huge difference to the child’s development.

I know from my own experience, having been brought up by a single parent. Following my mother’s divorce from my father, when I was only two, the importance of that one single person. I moved five times during my primary school years, but there was one constant; my mother.

She always cared and I guess I wanted to work hard for her. I didn’t want to let her down. I knew she thought what I was doing at school was important. Despite her working long hours and being the sole provider, she still made the effort to closely watch how I was progressing. I knew she thought my education was important.

Children are usually inspired by that one significant adult. Thus, it is so important to show that you do care about your child’s progress. You will reap the rewards of the commitment you give in those early years for a long time in to the future.

Our next conferences are on Monday the 12th of December, commencing at 12pm and we are planning to make this a Gala event, with music and ride on mowers. For the kids, face painting and a sausage sizzle. All these activities are aimed at encouraging you to enjoy the day and bring your younger children too; who will have loads of fun and allow you to have that all important conference with your child’s teachers.

The day will culminate with the Exhibition of Excellence, where we will highlight outstanding work produced by our Arts, Technology and Language students and following the exhibition, which commences at 5pm, there is a massive concert: The Big Night Out commencing at 6pm.

It’s a time to celebrate our students’ achievements. If you can make it to your child’s conference, that in itself will have a huge impact.

Thank you Kim for your contribution to this newsletter and highlighting the importance of this day.

The code for conferences will be in next week’s newsletter and then on the website and facebook page.

e-Smart School

Our school is proud to announce we are now officially an eSmart school.

Since we first registered with the program, we have introduced many new policies and activities to improve the way our school manages cybersafety, bullying and cyberbullying. We feel confident our students, staff and the wider school community are now well supported to be smart, safe and responsible users of digital technology. We encourage everyone in the school community to continue to uphold and promote eSmart behaviours, at school and at home. If you are aware of any incidents of bullying, cyberbullying or risky online behaviour, please contact a Team Leader or Assistant Principal.

Maree Cribbes
Campus Principal

Nurse

Health Corner : Living in a Digital world

The internet and technology is an integral part of most people’s lives and has many fantastic uses. I have recently been facilitating sessions with Year 8 students about their digital lives. This has included discussion about their digital tattoo, reputation and creating a positive image. We have also focused on some of the more unsavoury issues that may affect young people, such as online friends, sharing of inappropriate images, laws about bullying, harassment and sexting and where to access help if needed. The Australian government has funded a new organisation and website to assist with managing online issues. It is the Office of Children’s ESafety commission and the web address is www.esafety.gov.au

It has the power to remove offensive content very quickly and also to contact the person that has been uploading offensive or illegal content. The site has many resources and great advice for parents and families.

Here are some suggestions for discussing such issues as a family:

- When using social networking sites such as Facebook make sure that your profile is set to private. Don’t rely on the default privacy setting.
- Review password security with your family. Create passwords with at least 8 characters-a combination of letters, numbers and symbols. Don’t use a word in the dictionary as a password.
- Talk about cyber bullying-it’s seriousness, effects and what can be done if it occurs.
- Talk about security risks associated with tempting online offers such as free downloads or ways to make online money
- Reinforce that any information shared about where you live, your school, your sporting team or age could be used to identify and track you.
- Many people are not whom they may seem to be in the virtual world.

Linda Elkington
Adolescent Health Nurse
Year 8

Developing Positive Online Behaviours and Habits
The Huon Year 8 students have been participating in health sessions with the school nurse, Linda Elkington. The focus has been to upskill the students with safe online behaviours.

Year 8 Student quotes -
Hannah Barton – the session was good. There were some interesting facts and laws that I am now aware.
Jorja Sjogren – I was chosen to be the angel in the hot seat activity. This was fun!
Campbell Hubner-Burgess – I learnt that it is so easy to be tricked and fooled online.
Jesse Osinga – I learnt about the laws surrounding social media.

Joce Ziebell, Ashlea Lawry
Year 8 Team Leaders

Absence Hotline
With the introduction of the new House Groups for the College for Headstart and 2017, the school has slightly altered the way attendance will be followed up. From the 28th of November 2016 parents will be able to ring a dedicated number at the College and leave details of any student absence that has occurred or will occur. This dedicated phone number will be monitored several times a day and will be the preferred method of communicating your child’s absence.
Early in 2017 parents will also hopefully be able to use Desire to Learn (D2L) through a Parent Portal online and make changes to attendance and look at your child’s data and any details your child has on their D2L student profile. More information about this exciting change will come shortly.
Another change that will follow from the 28th November 2016 will be an automated text message sent to your mobile phone if your child has any unexplained absence during the school day. It is critical that you have your correct contact details at the front office for this text message to be effective and to arrive to the correct person. It is also critical you confirm any absence received through this text message service through the Absence Hotline mentioned above or call your child’s teacher to query that absence.
The Wodonga Middle Years Absence Hotline number is 02 6057 9051.
If you have any queries about these changes, please do not hesitate to contact the College.

Gary Hodge
Assistant Principal

Our graduates will display confidence, be optimistic about their future and be committed to personal achievement and global citizenship.