Principal’s Report

Over the past six months Sue Upton, our senior school and curriculum coordinator, together with Dave Reynolds and Barry McKenzie, from the North Central Local Learning and Employment Network, have been working on the establishment of a Year 9 pilot ‘student-in-industry experience’ program called ‘Broader Horizons’.

The aim of this program is to give a number of our Year 9 students the opportunity to experience life in the workplace with a focus on one of three industry areas – Health (East Wimmera Health Service, Agriculture), (via local employers/businesses) or Local Government (Northern Grampians Shire).

The student experiences will take place on a Wednesday (in place of their normal Middle School elective program) for a period of approximately five weeks (depending on the industry area). A detailed outline has been mailed to parents of students in year 9 and we look forward to hearing more from what will, hopefully, be an exciting addition to our program.

For some of our students, the current exam period will be the first rigorous exam sequence they have encountered. Each student will have their own way of preparing for exams, however there is some general advice we can provide to students and families.

It is not possible to acquire a depth of understanding of a whole semester of study by ‘cramming’ for an exam. There is no substitute for consistent preparation throughout the year.

Unfortunately, some students tend to amble lazily through first semester in the hope that some intense study just prior to exams will be enough to get them through. A well prepared student who has worked consistently will always outperform a more able, but poorly prepared, peer.

Sitting for exams is a practiced and acquired skill. Undertaking practice exams under simulated exam conditions is an excellent preparation. It is for this reason that our year 10 students undertake examinations.

The most important lessons you can learn from these exams is how you might best improve. In what ways could you have prepared yourself more effectively? Did you revise your course consistently across the semester or leave things to the end? What component of the course are you confident about; which will require further attention?

Equally, when your corrected exam papers are returned to you, what can you learn from them? Where did you gain or lose marks? Where could your exam technique be improved and what components of the course do you need to revise? Without this reflection, you are unlikely to do better next time.

And finally, make sure you keep exams in perspective. They are one of many components of your course assessment and final results.

Branko Lukic
Principal
**Year 7 News**

Well, the end of the first semester for our Year 7s is quickly drawing to a close. I hope that you all enjoyed the long weekend and caught up on some rest and relaxation.

A reminder that reports are currently being written and it is therefore vital for students to continue working to the best of their ability in all areas, ensuring that all tasks are up to date and any overdue work has been handed in to teachers. See below for what’s happening this week at school.

Science - Below are a couple of photos from our elephant’s toothpaste practical experiment for both classes. This week is our last week doing our ‘solutions’ topic.

PE – In theory classes students are watching the film ‘The Sandlot Kids’ which focuses on friendship groups, leaderships, taking responsibility for actions and building resilience. Students will do a short film analysis which relates to these values and then complete some practical tasks based on the film.

Maths – Tests have been handed back to students on the topic of ‘area and measurement’. Having seen these tests and discussed the results with Mr MacGowan, who was very disappointed, it is evident that students really need to increase the level of revision they are undertaking at home. Completing one MathsMate sheet once a week at home is clearly not enough – students should be spending at least 30 minutes a few times a week consolidating what they have covered in class. The college invests a huge amount of money in our Maths programs and it is therefore vital that this commitment is being followed up at home. The major issue seems to be that students do not show their working out or read the question – errors that, if not corrected, will see them suffer enormously in their VCE Maths in later years – it is never too early to get it right!!

Hopefully, all families have received their invitations to our Year 7 Family Day in the last week of term. This event is on Tuesday the 24th of June from 1:00pm to 2:00pm in the Science building. Students will assist with cooking the BBQ and afternoon tea. Parents are encouraged to stay around for lunch and are welcome to attend afternoon classes, too.

A reminder that we have a pupil free day coming up on Monday 16th June which is our report writing day. A fantastic opportunity for lots of revision and work catch up!!

**Homework/Events/Subject topics – Year 7**

- **English Basics** – students should have started Unit 10
- **English spelling test** – regular weekly revision
- **PE** – Sandlot Kids film study (students could add to this over the next week)
- **Maths** – Maths Mate Week 7
- **Science** – revision of ‘solutions’ topic

*Roxanne Egan (Yr 7 Coord) on 54 951811 or egan.roxanne.j@edumail.vic.gov.au*
**Year 8 News....**

A lot has been happening in Year 8 at the moment!

This week all Year 8 Students took part in a Careers workshop, held by the Regional Schools Outreach Program from Federation University. This gave students a good insight into what options there are outside of school and the different pathways which people can take. It also helps reinforce what is being taught in their careers subject as well. Also, it was fantastic to see so many students and parents at the information dinner held on Wednesday night.

Last week the Loddon Mallee Region Cross Country Carnival was held at Lord Nelson Park. St Arnaud, as a school, was well represented with a fantastic turnout from the Year 8 students who participated. Well done to all involved!

As we approach the colder months, it’s important everyone stays healthy and keep the dreaded cold and flu at bay. Simple manners such covering your mouth when coughing and blowing your nose if it’s running go a long way to stopping the spread of germs, which is particularly important this time of year.

As we head toward the end of term, it is a very busy time (both for students and staff). Students are reminded that school does not finish early and the last two weeks is not a “holiday period” – students need to make sure they continue to work right up until the end of term. This can be done by making sure homework is submitted prior to, or on the due date, come well prepared for class and ensuring students come with the right attitude!

**Current homework pieces/projects students are working on at the moment:**

English – English Basics Tasks, Edward Scissorhands
Maths – Weekly maths homework sheets
Music – End of semester tests and Assignments

Mr. Knight
On Tuesday 10th & Wednesday 11th of June, Years 8 & 9 students participated in either, ‘The Future Is Now’ (Year 8) or the ‘Focus on Your Future’ (Year 9) programs. Both were run by the Regional Schools Outreach Program from the Federation University Australia.

During the workshops, the students readily took advantage of the chance to focus on their aspirations and to put into place some goals for their futures.

Parents and families of both year levels were then invited to a special evening and dinner at the College on Wednesday June 11, at 6.30pm.

The dinner provided the opportunity to hear from a range of guest speakers.

Year 8 parents ...

• heard from rural guest speakers about their careers
• saw their child’s achievement recognized
• could chat to program staff and students about future study options

Year 9 parents...

• listened to practical ways to help your child study
• explored useful pathways and career information
• talked to current university students about their experience

Federation University Australia
SECONDARY SCHOOLS SQUASH REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

St. Arnaud Secondary College had a Year 9 team participate in the Secondary Schools Squash Regional Championships in Melton on the 29th of May. The St. Arnaud team was Toby Pickthall, Dillon Baldock and Brady Tillig. The competition was made up of teams of mixed Year 9 or Year 10 students. The boys played well but found some of the stronger teams made up Year 10 students too difficult to beat. The boys ended up placing 7th in the competition. They played some great squash and should be commended on their efforts. Because they are only Year 9, they will have the opportunity to compete at the same level of competition next year. Special thanks to Trevor Baldock for driving the boys to Melton.

Maddi Lonergan
Sports Coordinator

Australian Mathematics Competition

All students are encouraged to participate in the Australian Mathematics Competition which will be held on Thursday August 7th 2014 (note this date on your calendar). This competition is a mathematics competition containing multiple-choice problems and extended response questions. Many of the problems are set in situations to which students can relate. Students of all standards will find a point of challenge during the test.

This competition gives students external recognition of their achievements with all students receiving a certificate showing their level of achievement. Prizes are awarded to the top students.

Please see Mrs Jackson if you are interested in participating in the competition and more information will be forwarded to you.
Join Netball Victoria’s coaches to learn some new tips & skills and receive some great giveaways.

**ARARAT**
Venue: YMCA Stadium  
High Street, Ararat  
Date: Thursday 3rd July 2014  
Time & Ages: 10am-12pm / 10-15 years

**HORSHAM**
Venue: Horsham Lanes & Games  
Jenkinson Ave, Horsham  
Date: Thursday 3rd July 2014  
Time & Ages: 2:30pm-3:30pm / 5-9 years  
3:45pm-5:45pm / 10-15 years

**ST ARNAUD**
Venue: St. Arnaud Indoor Sports & Squash Stadium  
Cnr Bowen & Navarre Streets, St Arnaud  
Date: Friday 4th July 2014  
Time & Ages: 10am-12pm / 10-15 years

**BENDIGO**
Venue: Flora Hill Indoor Sports Stadium  
56 Ells Street, Flora Hill  
Date: Friday 4th July 2014  
Time & Ages: 3pm-5pm / 10-15 years

To book your place, visit www.nvclinicsandcamps.com.au  
For further information call 03 9321 2222

**$40 Per Participant**
LITTER SURVEY

The Year 12 VCAL students are working on a project to reduce the amount of litter in our school grounds. The students have been collecting evidence of the amounts and type of litter left on the ground, in garden beds and in areas such as the oval and outside the canteen. As part of the project the Year 12 students have been decorating used 60 litre bins to improve the collection of rubbish produced at recess and lunchtime.

To encourage greater community participation and awareness in this the project the students would appreciate it if you would take the time to complete this survey and return it to the front office of the school by Friday the 20th June.

Parent/Guardian  Student  Staff  Community member

Do you think that there is a problem with litter in the school grounds?

Yes  No

What do you think makes up the most litter in the school grounds?

Wrappers  Straws  Drink containers  Food scraps  Glad wrap

Do you think that there are enough bins provided for rubbish?

Yes  No

Who do you think is responsible for picking up the litter that has not been placed in the bins provided?

Students  Teachers  Cleaners  All of the above

Comments
### Calendar

#### Term 2
- **Monday 16th June**: Report Writing Day— No students required at school
- **Thursday 19th June**: Salvation Army Breakfast
- **Friday 27th June**: Last Day of Term 2. 2.30pm dismissal

#### Term 3
- **Monday 14th July**: School resumes
- **Thursday 17th July**: SSV Cross Country
- **Friday 18th July**: Semester One Reports distributed
- **Wednesday 23rd July**: Year 7/8 Squash State Final
- **Thursday 31st July**: EWH Breakfast
- **Thursday 7th August**: AUST Maths Comp
- **Friday 8th August**: Adidas Fun Run
- **Wednesday 13th August**: Interim Reports Distributed
- **Thursday 14th August**: Boys State Hockey
- **Friday 15th August**: NCD Golf
  - **Winter Sport**
- **Monday 18th-22nd August**: Year 9 Enviro Week
- **Monday 25th August**: Parent Teacher Interviews
- **Tuesday 26th**: Immunisations
- **Monday 1st September**: Year 12 Relay 4 Life
- **Tuesday 9th September**: NCD Athletics
- **Friday 19th September**: Last day of Term 2. 30 dismissal

### Parents’ Club

**Meeting Dates 2014** – 7pm at the Botanical Hotel for tea. It would be great to see some new faces, and obtain some fresh ideas on our committee and everyone is welcome to attend.

- **16th June**
- **15th September**
- **10th November**