Principal’s Report

In the next few weeks of term we look forward to our Year 8 camp, Year 7 BBQ, LMR Swimming Carnival, NCD Triathlon and a series of professional development activities after school with St Arnaud Primary School and St Patrick’s as part of our learning alliance.

I was fortunate to attend the Mind / Brain conference in Melbourne last week with about 20 other principals from the Wimmera. There were many good ideas presented but it was also heartening to hear endorsement about the programs and in particular the approach we are adopting at St Arnaud Secondary College with regard to visible learning.

Not that I think it is a huge problem at present but I would like to draw parents’ attention to bullying and in particular cyberbullying.

**BULLYING**

**Bullying** is when someone or a group of people with more power repeatedly and intentionally causes hurt or harm to another person or group of people who feel helpless to respond. Bullying can continue over time, is often hidden from adults and will probably continue if no action is taken.

**Bullying isn’t:**
- single episodes of social rejection or dislike
- single episode acts of nastiness or spite
- random acts of aggression or intimidation
- mutual arguments, disagreements or fights

**Cyberbullying** is overt or covert bullying behaviours using digital technologies. Examples include harassment via a mobile phone, setting up a defamatory personal website or deliberately excluding someone from social networking spaces. Cyberbullying can happen at any time. It can be in public or in private. It is sometimes only known to the target and the person bullying.

People who cyber-bully:
- pretend they are other people online to trick others
- spread lies and rumours about their victims
- trick people into revealing personal information
- send or forward harmful text messages
- post pictures of victims without their consent

Why do people cyber-bully each other? Some people don’t think their actions would embarrass, offend or frighten someone. Other reasons include:
- they think it’s amusing
- they don’t think about the consequences
- they enjoy pretending they’re someone they are not
- friends encourage them
Parents’ Club
Our AGM was held on Monday and our new committee is as follows:
President- Leanne Walker
Secretary- Darleen Baldock
Treasurer – Nicole Amos
Below are the meeting dates for the year. New members always welcome. We also welcome Di Horsfall and Lindee Parry.
June 15th, September 7th, November 9th, December TBA
Parents’ club distributed fundraising money to the school. $1500 for class text, $276 to the Physics department for a recorder. Request also for any old board games to be donated to the library.
The House Athletic Sports will be on the 24th March and we will be running the canteen. Chips, dims sims, donuts, savs drinks etc., will be available.
Regards
Darleen Baldock

Bullying information
27 per cent of young people report they are bullied every two weeks or more often
Cyberbullying happens to about 1 in 10 Australian young people every few weeks or more often
Many young people who bully online also bully face-to-face
Some young people who are bullied later go on to engage in bullying others
Bullying can seriously damage physical, social and emotional health
Bullying hurts the perpetrator as well. Young people who bully over time are more likely to engage in ongoing anti-social behaviour and criminality, have issues with substance abuse, demonstrate low academic achievement and be involved in future child and spouse abuse

Before you post anything online
Take time out if you feel upset or angry – throw a ball around, go for a run etc.
Stop and think before sending messages
Re-read what you are going to send and make sure it’s going to the right person
Try talking face-to-face with someone if you are upset with them
Always ask someone’s permission before posting a photo of him or her on the Internet

Remember if you wouldn’t say it in person, don’t say it online

Branko Lukic
Principal

Brenden Barry- An introduction
I am the new specialist technician, which means I work at multiple schools keeping the computer networks and equipment under control. I have worked with 16 schools over the last 9 years, from schools with 6 students to schools with 800.

In Melbourne, I did a lot of volunteering with soup kitchens and kids with disabilities. So, while I am here, I’m trying new things and taking life as it comes. I have joined in lawn bowls, chased kangaroos and even called the bingo one night in Donald.

I am enjoying my ‘tree change’ in St Arnaud and eventually hope to involve myself more in both the schools and community. You might see me around the parks of Murtoa, the shops of St Arnaud or the Avoca swimming pool. I think the lifestyle here is right for me and I hope to stay for a long time.
This year Hockey Victoria is providing a Regional Zone Development Program as a lead into the 2015 G.J. Gardner Junior State Championships.

The program is designed to assist players in Regional Zones in their development and provide exposure to a training program that is focused on the ongoing development of the players regardless of whether they make the final team. Participation in the program is necessary for those wishing to be selected in the Lightning team. However players not wishing to participate in the JSC are also encouraged to be a part of the Regional Zone Development Program.

The following Lightning Development days have been scheduled:
- Sunday 22\textsuperscript{nd} March Bendigo 10am – 4pm
- Sunday 12\textsuperscript{th} April TBA 10am – 4pm
- Sunday 26\textsuperscript{th} April TBA 10am – 4pm
- Sunday 10\textsuperscript{th} May TBA 10am – 4pm

Further training sessions for the selected JSC team will be scheduled.

Participants must be Under 17 (16 years of age or younger as of 31\textsuperscript{st} December 2014). Participants must also be 10 years of age or older as of 31\textsuperscript{st} December 2014 to be eligible.

Registration: Participants will be able to register at the link below from the Tuesday 24\textsuperscript{th} February at 9am
https://eventdesq.imgstg.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=main&EventDesqID=12086&OrgID=10870
**Australian Mathematics Competition**

**All students** are encouraged to participate in the Australian Mathematics Competition which will be held on **Thursday 30th July (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 achievements. Prizes are awarded to the top students.

Entry fee and enrolment details will be sent out next term. However, if you would like to express an interest in participating in the competition, please see Mrs Jackson.

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**Calendar 2015**

**Term 1 Semester 1**

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<td>Monday 9th March</td>
<td>Labour Day Holiday</td>
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<td>Tuesday 10th—13th March</td>
<td>Year 8 Rubicon Camp</td>
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<td>Wednesday 11th March</td>
<td>Year 7 BBQ 6 pm</td>
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<td>Friday 13th March</td>
<td>Interim Reports Distributed</td>
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<td>Tuesday 17th March</td>
<td>LMR Swimming</td>
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<td>Thursday 19th March</td>
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<td>Tuesday 24th March</td>
<td>House Athletics</td>
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<td><strong>Friday 27th March</strong></td>
<td><strong>School Photos</strong></td>
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**Term 2 Semester 1**

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