Dear Parents, Students, Teachers and Members of the Wider School Community,

FOCUSING ON WHAT MATTERS

As parents of young people, I don’t need to tell you that adolescence and early adulthood is a challenging time of life. Whether at school or home, we are dealing with an age group that is sometimes childlike, and at others, very mature. Our role as the adults responsible for our future citizens is to provide a balance between structure and support, and freedom and independence. There has never been any doubt in the research, that adolescents need strong frameworks and dependable people around them, to allow them to develop and explore safely. They also need the capacity to reflect and learn from their mistakes, so that they develop resilience and perseverance, qualities that are essential to success in later life.

In the school environment, as in the home, the frameworks are rules, expectations, consistency, and appropriate role modelling and it is the presence of these frameworks that allows us to do our best work as educators by focussing on teaching and effective learning. People sometimes ask why it matters if a student is in incorrect school shoes, or wears a casual jacket over their uniform on the way home. The answer is that on a case by case basis, it probably doesn’t matter, but a school is an organisation, and maintaining high expectations allows it to run smoothly. It sends the message that we value the organisation, but also that the way we value each individual in an organisation is to offer them the very best opportunities related to their reason for being part of it – successful learning.

There is plenty of opportunity for our young people to express their individuality outside of school, and indeed, probably for the rest of their adult lives. Our task as educators is to acknowledge each individual plan for the future and work towards enabling that plan to become a reality.

YEAR 12 – A Very Important Year

Currently, members of the principal team are meeting individually with each year 12 teacher. We are asking them to discuss their class in terms of early assessment, and to outline their plans for their students. This includes how they are supporting those who are struggling, and what they are doing to challenge and extend the highly capable students. One strategy that we are asking teachers to adopt in coming weeks is to have each student set a personal goal for their subject – a predicted study score out of 50. VCE is a highly competitive year, where a student’s result is not just a consequence of their own work, but a comparative ranking. Because the majority of those doing VCE are looking for as high a score as possible for University or Tertiary entrance, the competitive nature of the year must be well understood. The experts tell us that successful students must do at least 20 practice exams, and should be revising and note taking to summarise their lessons every day after school. This is in addition to homework set by the teacher.

We are certainly encouraging our teachers to set high expectations for our students, and to ensure that the appropriate support exists to enable them to meet those expectations. The best measure of a successful year 12 is for students to be able to look back and say ‘I did as well as I was able to do and I could not have done any better’. That is something to be proud of!

Year 9 Camp

Congratulations to staff and students on the recent Mindware camp. It was a challenging and motivating experience for the students, and a very appropriate way to reinforce the focus of the Mindware program, which is on developing skills of independence, team work, measured risk taking and the enjoyment of new experiences.

Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews

These will be conducted at the college on Tuesday March 26 from 2-8pm, for all year levels. Bookings are now open through the Student/Parental Portal. All parents have been sent an SMS with log in details, if you have not received these details or are experiencing any difficulties please contact the College. It is most important that students accompany their parents on this occasion – success at school is a three way partnership and without students involved in discussions about their learning, we are sending a wrong message about the role they play in the equation.
Progress reports
Industrial action by the Australian Education Union has placed a ban on teachers providing comments to parents on reports. It is extremely frustrating to most teachers that we have found ourselves in this situation, as a result of the government’s lack of willingness to negotiate to ensure that our state system of education keeps pace with that of other states. It does not sit comfortably that we cannot communicate in this way to our families. I would like to encourage you to take the opportunity to express your concerns to your local MPs.

Athletics sports
The whole school athletics day is coming up in the last week of this term. The year 12s are really hoping for the best turn up ever, and along with the organising team, have a great day of fun and participation planned. It is expected that all students attend on the day. If they are not competing, there are plenty of activities for them to be involved in. Please support us in this opportunity to develop and enjoy a positive ‘school spirit’, by ensuring your son or daughter attends. Payment of the sports levy if necessary, and permission forms, must be completed by Monday 18 March and returned via form assembly. Permission forms have been distributed and will also be available through the student/parent portal on the website.

Early leavers
On the odd occasion that your son or daughter must leave the college prior to the end of the school day, it is critical that they report to the general office and provide a note from you giving permission. Alternately you can email your permission through to the college in advance.

Exams
Staff have recently been talking about exams, and the place they have in the diverse assessment package that each teacher uses in their classes. For many parents, the experience of assessment they had at school was based heavily on exams, with some assignments, projects and tests as less important elements. The work undertaken by teachers in this regard today is far more complex and comprehensive.

In first class educational organisations the main role of assessment is to improve learning. Exams play a different role in that they summarise learning. When they occur at the end of something, students might take note of their result or the comments teachers have written, but in general there is little opportunity to learn from the exam experience.

At year 12, exams come with the territory, and we know that students need to be skilled at ‘performing’ under exam conditions. This is one of the main reasons why we have decided to include formal exams for students in years 10-12, as preparation for the demands of VCE. But this has to be kept in the overall context of learning, which must be our main focus.

For that reason, year 10 semester based exams will occur well before the end of semester. They will form one part of the total assessment package teachers will be using to make a decision about each student’s achievements. Whilst all teachers will use the exams to help students practice exam technique, the earlier occurrence will allow them to work with students to identify areas of weakness, and use the remaining weeks of term to improve their skills and understandings. An additional assessment will be planned before the end of the semester and an overall judgment made on the basis of all the assessment.

We understand that this may be different to what has happened in the past, but it does allow the learning to be front and centre, and particularly at year 10, we want to send a strong message that it is an important year that really sets students up for success in years 11 and 12.

Angela Pollard, Principal
**Year 7 Corner**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Achievement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FINN BARDOLPH</td>
<td>For fantastic work in Textiles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FERN EDWARDS</td>
<td>For fantastic work in Textiles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOPHIE VAN DER LINDEN</td>
<td>For fantastic work in Textiles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINLAY JOHN-LEWIS</td>
<td>For fantastic work in Textiles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OLIVER FARNHILL</td>
<td>For fantastic work in Textiles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAZMIN SABETO</td>
<td>For enthusiastic work in German and embracing every opportunity to learn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELIZA WILSON-MCDONALD</td>
<td>For being a great role model in English and Geography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIA RIDDLE</td>
<td>For creation of The Summit Camp T-shirt as a part of a marketing project in English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASHA ISAAC-HALBERT</td>
<td>For being a great role model in English and always happy to assist her peers</td>
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**OTHER NEWS**

A number of our Year 7 students are going to visit their former Primary Schools to speak to the Grade 4 to 6 cohort. They will be presenting their report on their first weeks of Secondary School – read about this in the next Newsletter.

On the 5th March at our assembly our new Year 7 leaders had their first chance to address all Year 7 students and spoke about the following:

**LESSONS FROM THE SUMMIT CAMP**

One of the main principles The Summit camp taught us was **not to be afraid** of trying something new, even if it is something we could be very uncomfortable with or even scared of. **Trying new things helps us achieve something we thought we couldn’t.**

This applies to us every day, everywhere, including school.

**SO WHAT CAN WE DO AT SCHOOL?**

1. **SET A TARGET** – set a goal/task you are sure you can achieve – **AND DO IT!**
2. **SET A STRETCH** – set a goal/task you are not sure you can achieve – **AND TRY IT!**
3. **SET A SUPER STRETCH** – set a goal/task you are not comfortable with or think it’s hard to achieve – **AND GO FOR IT!**

*Even if you do not achieve your super stretch this time, you are on the way. YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU ARE CAPABLE OF UNTIL YOU TRY IT!*
The 2013 student leaders are excited for the busy year ahead. First of all, congratulations to our very own Jordan Barnes who won the Lions Youth of the Year Public Speaking Award. The public speaking competition was held on Saturday 16 February, and the following Tuesday and it required Jordan to do two impromptu speeches that had to go for 2 minutes, delivered in front of all the members of the local Lion’s club and the judges at a special dinner. After the impromptu speeches, Jordan then had to get up again and do a speech on a topic of her choice, lasting a minimum 5 minutes. Jordan’s topic was on ‘The Community’ and the subject matter, her amazing ideas and her passion, all flawled the judges and the room. Jordan did a fantastic job and everyone there, agreed. Overall, Jordan missed out on the Lion’s Youth Award, but she won the next best thing, the Public Speaking Award! Well done Jordan!

The Year Ahead

The Student Leadership group have been busy planning for a range of initiatives designed to benefit the wider school community. Some of the ideas that the

Student Leaders intend to pursue throughout the year are:

**The World’s Greatest Shave:** The Student Leaders were keen to have this be the biggest ever shave at MESC. We will have the local hairdresser from Reiffel Hairdresser in the Village come to the school to help out and we encouraged as many Senior boys and teachers to get involved. Embarrassing photos to follow.

**Yr. 8 and 12 Buddies:** Following on from the current Yr. 7 and 11 ‘Peer Support’ buddy system, we plan to kick off a similar system for the Yr. 8’s and 12’s, hopefully including a variety of fun activities and excursions. The aim is to join these to year levels up as Mentors and Buddies and to encourage friendship and fun across the school.

**Give 10 Minutes:** This is a school community service initiative, in which students will be encouraged to give 10 Minutes of their time to help the school, for example, picking up rubbish, designing new spaces in the yard etc. More information will be forthcoming but we are hoping that the whole school gets behind this great idea. Incidentally, this idea stems from Jordan’s amazing Lion’s speech.

**School ANZAC Day Assembly:** This year, the Whole School Assembly in commemoration of the ANZACs will be run by the Student Leaders, beginning a new tradition for students and once again allowing the school to show their respect for the ANZACs.

**40 hour famine:** We hope to run a Sleep Over at the school in August to support World Vision’s 40 hour famine. World hunger is a big issue and this will hopefully raise awareness within the school community. [www.40hourfamine.com](http://www.40hourfamine.com)

**Relay for life:** A unique event where teams of 10 to 15 challenge themselves in a relay style overnight run or walk to raise money for cancer research. Various dates apply in our local area, including the Frankston dates of 21-22 September at the Ballam Park Athletics Track. A team from the school will be entered in the event. We are hoping to have a team of students and staff entering. To find out more go to [www.relayforlife.org.au](http://www.relayforlife.org.au).

We are also planning a new anti-bullying initiative, school activity clubs, Youth week activities and refurbishment for various spaces and rooms in the school. The student leaders are now also hosting their Sub School Assemblies each fortnight, and any whole school assemblies as well. Keep an eye out for further information on these activities.

Brendan Young
Student Leader Year 11

Mount Eliza Secondary College Swimming Carnival

On Tuesday 19th February Mt Eliza Secondary College held its annual swimming Carnival at The Pines Forest Aquatic Centre. Students from Year 7-12 represented their houses with great enthusiasm competing in all swimming events, as well as making the most of the waterslide.

Congratulations to the winning house Manyung (Red) with 592 points, Kirrang (Yellow) coming 2nd with 582 points, Warringa (Blue) coming 3rd with 528 points and Kimmuli (Green) who finished 4th with 518 points, our closest swimming carnival yet and a fantastic effort by all!

**Ours age group champions for 2013 were:**

**U/13 Girls:** Sophie Van Der Linden
**U/13 Boys:** Finn Bardolph
**U/14 Girls:** Zoe Pragt
**U/14 Boys:** Alexander Young
**U/15 Girls:** Jessica Van Der Linden
**U/15 Boys:** Remmie Bye
**U/16 Girls:** Katie Latocha
**U/16 Boys:** Jesse Collins
**U/17 Girls:** Sam Pattison
**U/17 Boys:** Brendan Young
**U/21 Girls:** Tanzin Ramsay
**U/21 Boys:** Phillip Boyle

We also had some exceptional swimmers who broke records throughout the day: Sophie Van Der Linden (U13 50m freestyle and butterfly), Jessica Van Der Linden (U15 50m butterfly), Jesse Collins (U16 50m freestyle and Open 200m freestyle) and Nick Lamacchia (U16 50m butterfly). A big congratulations and thank-you to all of the students with their efforts, the teachers for their assistance throughout the day and the parents who came along to support the successful carnival!

Casey Howell, Head of Sport
NEWSLETTER
Please note that our newsletter will now only be sent by email distribution to the email address that has been provided to the College. If you wish to receive a hard copy please let us know and we will be happy to post you out a copy. It is important that we have the correct details so that you receive important information on upcoming events and activities.

NEW WEBSITE AND PARENT PORTAL
We are happy to announce that our new college website and Student & Parent Portal is now online. The new website includes videos, pictures and a fresh new look. The Student & Parent portal has replaced our DayMap system and offers parents and students many more features. The new portal will allow parents to view each child’s homework, attendance and academic reports. Please login and check your contact details and notify hfowles@mesc.vic.edu.au if they require updating. We welcome any feedback you have relating to the new portal and website.

STUDENT BELONGINGS
Students are advised not to bring expensive belongings to school other than equipment required for learning. Mount Eliza Secondary College does not have the authority to reimburse parents or replace students’ personal belongings that are lost or stolen. For security purposes, parents please remind your children to always ensure personal belongings are placed in their lockers and securely locked with their padlock when not being used.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE
Parents are reminded that DEECD and Mount Eliza Secondary College do not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and guardians are responsible for the cost of medical treatment for injured students and transport costs including Ambulance transport in an emergency situation. Student accident insurance policies are available for purchase through a number of insurance companies. Mount Eliza Secondary College is not in a position to recommend an insurance company as this is a personal choice depending on your circumstances. Parents are also reminded that DEECD and Mount Eliza Secondary College do not provide insurance for personal possessions of any description including motor vehicles, for damage or theft at the College or on the College grounds. If insurance coverage is required we recommend you contact your insurance provider for further information.

PLEASE DO NOT USE THE STAFF CAR PARKS FOR STUDENT DROP-OFF
Apart from the 2-minute drop-off zone out the front of the College, additional drop-off points are available in Baden Powell Place behind Eden Gardens Nursery, along the rear school boundary in Mount Eliza Way and in Leicester Avenue which can be accessed via either Mount Eliza Way or Canadian Bay Road. All of these drop-off points have direct access to the College grounds and no child entering via any of these points will be required to cross any roads to get onto the College grounds. Please consider the safety of all our students and use one of these drop-off points and NOT the staff car park driveways.

COLLEGE COMMUNITY GROUP FUNDRAISER
The Mount Eliza Secondary College Community Group (CCG) is holding a “BBQ Fundraiser” at Bunnings Mornington on Sunday 24th March 2013 and we would appreciate any help you are able to offer on the day. All barbeque equipment is supplied including aprons and gloves, helpers must wear ‘closed toe shoes’ to comply with OHS on the day. Funds raised by the CCG go towards a number of projects and programs at the College for the benefit all students. Please contact dennisramsay@netspace.net.au if you are able to assist.

Vaccination Dates for 2013

Round 2. 15/4/13 at 9am
Year 10- Boostrix (all students)

Round 3. 13/5/13 at 9am
Year 7 HPV-dose 2
Year 9 HPV-dose 2 (boys only)

Round 4. 16/9/13 at 9am
Year 7 HPV-dose 3
Year 9 HPV-dose 3 (boys only)
**MINDWARE CAMP**
On the 4th to the 6th of March the Year 9 students participated on their adventure Mindware camp. We were all able to do a range of activities including Archery, High Ropes course, Mini Golf, Hut Building and Flying Fox. Mindware is aimed at allowing students to discover who they are as well as their strengths and weaknesses. This camp helped us to be able to conquer our weaknesses and work in teams to achieve things as a group with the support of our peers rather than facing it alone.
Throughout camp the food was REALLY good and the staff members at the camp site were wonderful, supportive people. The camp was only 3 days but it was 3 awesome days of activities, friendships and achievements. I would like to say a big thanks to the teachers for taking us to camp.

*Deborah Hill - Year 9 Student Leader*

**SCOPE TRAINING FOR VCAL“ CCATS”**
Year 11 VCAL students at Mount Eliza Secondary College have had a very busy start to the year as they embarked on training for the Bronze Level Certificate in the Scope Young Ambassadors Programme. The programme is designed to assist young people to understand the best ways of working in the community to see all people as equal and not to see a disability as a hindrance to participation and acceptance. Coach Emily Buxton-D’Arcy of Scope’s Southern Region has engaged the Year 11 students in a series of workshops that exposed them to the needs of a range of people who have mobility, communication and learning challenges. She has taught them how to communicate, assist and include people both within the business environment and in recreational pursuits.
They worked with Ron, who following a stroke has been left with mobility constraints and has to communicate with the aid of an electronic device and Jaimie who at age 29 has been classified as legally blind after recently losing his vision.
Practical experience was gained when the class worked at South East Industries, a Scope factory, in Oakleigh for a day. The work involved shadowing and interacting with the workers to understand the challenges that they face every day. Our students also gained valuable insight into a real employment experience as they were put through the new worker induction programme on Occupational Health Safety and then joined in work in food packaging.
As VCAL students are required, as part of their Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning programme to have at least one industry or trade training contact each week thus the experiences through Scope should prove invaluable. The Students, known as the “CCAT” Community Communication Action Team are now going to pass their new understanding of disability to others in the College through a series of workshops that they will lead themselves.

**GOULD LEAGE TRAINING FOR TEAM VCAL**
Team VCAL (YR 12), the are well on their way to developing an understanding the need to reduce, recycle and rethink the creation of waste. To help them in their investigation Peter Morgan from the Gould League will present a seminar on biodiversity and the capacity for them as young people to develop an area of the college grounds to maintain and promote biodiversity. This is the first stage in a programme called Students Futurescaping the Environment, funded by the Education Department.
To assist them in their work of environmental protection the VCAL students will lead a Clean Up Australia style activity with Year 7 to 10 students on the 19th March. The aim is to raise awareness of the type of material that becomes environmental waste.
Each Year 7 and 8 class will also have assigned to them Team VCAL students who will work with the class to develop and extend their environmental awareness and participation in protecting our local environment.
**TERM DATES 2013**

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<tr>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th>31 January—28 March</th>
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<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>15 April—28 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>15 July—20 September</td>
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<td>Term 4</td>
<td>7 October—20 December</td>
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**IMPORTANT DATES TERM 1 2013**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 19 March</td>
<td>-5.30pm-7.30pm Open Day for Prospective Parents and Students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 20 March</td>
<td>Yr 8 Sport Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 21 March</td>
<td>School Tour - 9am-11am Southern Metropolitan Regional Swimming and Diving</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 25 March</td>
<td>School Athletics Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 26 March</td>
<td>School Tour - 9am-11am Early dismissal 1.03pm Parent Teacher Interviews—2pm-8pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 28 March</td>
<td>End of Term School Tour - 9am-11am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 15 April</td>
<td>Start of Term 2 Round 2. Year 10- Boostrix (all students) 9am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 25 April</td>
<td>ANZAC DAY—Public Holiday</td>
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“You can now follow us on Twitter and Facebook to find out about upcoming events at the College”

http://twitter.com/mtelizasc
http://on.fb.me/zWNp06