By now parents will have met with their child’s teachers and discussed their progress and what they need to focus on for improvement and growth in their learning. It is important for students to have the support of teachers and also of parents, and it is important for parents to work collaboratively with teachers, as the best outcomes are achieved when the home and school are working together.

When a student faces a difficulty in their learning or socially, we need to get them to think of seeking help as managing resources to solve a problem. Often students think of ‘help-seeking’ as being a deficit, but they need to understand that we are always in the process of learning, and therefore we never know as much as we should. We have to learn the skills to acquire the knowledge and understanding we need.

Some students ask for help before they even start thinking about a problem, while others avoid seeking help even after struggling fruitlessly on their own. As parents it is helpful to encourage students to ask teachers for help and then to process the help that’s given. It is never a sign of weakness to do this. What we aim to do is to develop independent learners and thinkers.

We remember the sacrifice of Australians who served their country with Anzac services for the secondary school and the Year 3-6 students. I’m sure the students have appreciated the garden of poppies which the Student Leadership Team organised, and every primary school student made a poppy for the garden. Thank you to Miss Reale for her encouragement and support of the Student Leadership Team.

Margaret Buttigieg

DIFFERING PARENTING STYLES - Alan Clarke, School Psychologist

If you’re struggling with your spouse, co-parent (or an ex) – and arguing about whose parenting style is more correct, or more effective – you’re not alone. Coming to an agreement can be very difficult. And when you’re talking about parenting, emotions can certainly run very high. If you find that you and your partner or ex often argue about key issues, take some time to discuss places you might agree.

Create a specific time to come together and talk about your differences in parenting. It’s best to do it away from home. This isn’t a time to argue, it’s a time to acknowledge that you have differences. It’s a time to talk about how you might manage those differences more effectively, for the sake of your child. As simplistic as it seems, openly acknowledging your differences, rather than staying in the tug of war between you, can help to shift things.

Once you’ve talked about your differences, affirm together that you’d like to find more common ground, in order to help your child learn and grow. Find one or two behaviours you’d both like your child to improve. Talk about ways you can clearly and effectively help your child take responsibility for improving these behaviours. Try to stay focused on specific behaviours like reducing backtalk, or completing chores, rather than broad concepts like “respect” or “attitude.” Those tend to be grey areas in which parents – and adults in general – have lots of disagreements. If you find yourselves being drawn into another argument, step back, take a break, and refocus on one or two very specific behaviours. Remember, this is about your children, not you.

Be sure to have these conversations in private, rather than in front of your child. Most importantly, agree to present a united front to your child. Let her know that she can’t get around the rules by appealing to one parent over another and playing one parent off against the other.

Except in cases of abuse, there are no clear cut right or wrong answers when it comes to parenting styles. Discussing different ways of reaching your shared family goals is a worthwhile endeavour. Just don’t let those arguments get in the way of your parenting.
Uniform Shop hours are:
Mondays 3.00 pm to 5.30pm
Thursdays 8.30 am to 10.30am

Holiday hours - Monday 4 April 3pm to 5.30 pm
Thursday 7 April 8.30 am to 10.30 am

This week 6R have been working on one of the Seven Steps to Writing Success - Step 5: Show, Don’t Tell. Can you guess what kind of day it is and what the character is doing?

It’s sweltering outside! I didn’t bother with buying an icecream, a few bucks ain’t worth ice-cream soup! It was tempting to put on my sandals, but I thought better. My usually white singlet is a shade of light grey from the amount of sweat that runs down my face. My sweat is no match to cool down my red hot skin that’s dominated my usually pale skin. Water I drink evaporates as I sip it, or at least that’s how it seems, and my legs feel as heavy as a tonne as I walk along the footpath. There are no other signs of other living beings around me. Birds with bird brains seem smarter than me for being out and about in this weather. Forget the walk in the park, I’m going back to where there’s an air-conditioner.

Robert G 6R

Last term our topic in Year 4 involved looking at the life cycles and food chains of many different living organisms. As part of the topic students then researched and created their own project about the life cycle of a living plant or animal of their choice. Each student presented their poster to the class and spoke about what they had learnt. The presentations were a great chance for all students to learn more about the life cycle of many different animals.

Kate Grech

Year 9 Religious Education students read their picture story books to the children in 1R this week.

‘It was fun to read to the Year 1 students. It was nice that they liked my story and said positive things about it. It was a new experience reading to the younger students and watching their reactions to my story. I was happy that they understood the meaning of the story and the positive value it highlighted’.

Supriya K 9LH

‘I play Amanda Thripp in “Matilda” and I got to perform in Sydney and now in Melbourne. I am lucky to be thrown by Miss Trunchbull everyday. It might look scary but I love it. I love performing in front of the large crowds and being REVOLTING.’

Tahlia W 5N

The Primary SLT were very busy fundraising for the Good Friday Appeal to help the Royal Children’s Hospital in Term 1. Some were selling raffle tickets, while some were doing a ‘How Many Jellybeans in the Jar’ competition. On the last day of Term 1 the Prep to 2 students had an Easter Bonnet Parade and the Year 3-6 students had a Pyjama Day. They were all for a good cause, as Casey Grammar donated more than they ever had before, with a total of $1354.80!

This money will help in a big way for new medicine, cures and more research to help the hospital and the children. Thank you to everyone who donated!

Teah D 6R
STUDENT LEADERSHIP - NEW & RE-ENERGISED

This year the Student Leadership Team has been meeting weekly and is involved in a lot of discussion over the ways we want to conduct our team and the events and activities we will strive to achieve this year.

Meetings will become a regular weekly event that all interested students are welcome to attend. It has been great to see a complete range of students attend from all year levels at the meetings.

We are planning on focusing on some of the same portfolios as last year including House pride, environmental and recycling activities, mentoring/buddying programs, fundraising, stress-management, whilst also becoming more involved in our school community of parents, staff and students. The Student Leaders would like to be more involved in the wider community of Casey, taking up as many opportunities to assist local community activities and at the same time, showcasing Casey Grammar School’s great leadership team and our school itself.

Led by Ms Harris and Ms Dourios, the SLT has a new motivation and new goals that we hope to accomplish by the end of 2016. These goals will aim to encourage all students to take pride in, and help make a difference, to Casey Grammar.

Please keep an eye out for notices regarding upcoming activities/events and make sure you get involved, where possible.

Brad H
Year 11 Student Leader

SECONDARY HOUSE ATHLETICS - PE DEPARTMENT

On Friday 15 April our Casey Grammar secondary school students competed in their annual House Athletics Carnival at Casey Fields. Students were colourfully dressed in House colours and many costumes were seen as students competed for House points and in the hope of breaking school records in their events. A huge congratulations to Trist who finished on top with an outstanding score of 1263. Leaver coming in second with 1234 points, third place to Reid on 1089 and not far behind on 1057 points placed Booth.

Special mentions to the following students for not only placing first in their events but smashing past records;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>New Record</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boys 14yrs 100m</td>
<td>Sahan A</td>
<td>13.06 seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls 14yrs 100m hurdles</td>
<td>Anastasia W</td>
<td>18.61 seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys 15yrs 100m Hurdles</td>
<td>Aiden S</td>
<td>13.48 seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls 12-13yrs 1500m</td>
<td>Shae L</td>
<td>5:44:69 seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls 14yrs 200m</td>
<td>Anastasia W</td>
<td>27.5 seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys 16yrs 200m</td>
<td>Travis E</td>
<td>26.1 seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls 14yrs High Jump</td>
<td>Nikita R</td>
<td>132cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys 16yrs High Jump</td>
<td>Kobe S</td>
<td>160cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls 18-20yrs High Jump</td>
<td>Maddie H</td>
<td>140cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls 15yrs Javelin</td>
<td>Olivia A</td>
<td>22.5m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys 15yrs Javelin</td>
<td>Hayden F</td>
<td>23.3m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls 14yrs Long Jump</td>
<td>Anastasia W</td>
<td>4.9m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls 14yrs Triple Jump</td>
<td>Anastasia W</td>
<td>10.3m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Anzac Day is almost here. The nation is observing a focus on Anzac in the years from 2014 to 2018. At School the Primary Courtyard is being filled with memorial poppies, reminders of the poppies which bloomed in the desolation of Flanders. My church at Beaumaris (where I serve half time) received a grant to establish a memorial and we will dedicate it on 24 April. Anzac is a powerful enduring symbol in Australia (and New Zealand).

Falling as it does near Easter the themes of selfless service and self sacrifice resonate with the Christian story of Jesus. Jesus said in John 15 – “Love one another, just as I love you. The greatest love you can have for your friends is to give your life for them”. This we believe Jesus did for us.

Not all who went to war for Australia may have been people of faith, some even embarrassed at the suggestion they were inspired by “love”. Yet their selflessness embodies so much of what we understand “love” to be, and Anzac is a time to tell the stories to our children, and to commend to them the very principles of Anzac – placing the needs and welfare of others ahead of ourselves. In so doing we will be helping to lay a foundation for a kinder and generous community of the future. Lest we Forget!

Rev’d Robert McUtchen

PRIMARY CROSS COUNTRY - PE DEPARTMENT

Students in Years 3 to 6 had a fantastic day participating in the Primary School Cross Country. We had many determined faces ready to run with everyone putting in their best effort. Each year level will be sending through the top eight students to compete at the District level on 29 April, at the Cranbourne Racetrack. The eager students are ready to go, hoping for a successful day overall with the chance to win their event.

PFC NEWS

The PFC would like to welcome everyone back to Term 2. This term we will be running the Mothers’ Day Stall on Wednesday 4 May 2016 from 9am until lunchtime and again on Friday 6 May from 8:30am until 9am. All Secondary students are welcome to browse during recess and before school. All items are still $5.00 each with a maximum of 2 items per child. The location of the stall is to be advised.

A Mothers’ Day morning tea will be held in the PAC from 9am Friday 6 May whilst the children are in class. All mothers, grandmothers, carers and pre-school children are welcome. A gold coin donation would also be appreciated.

A big thank you to all those involved in the Primary Sports Day Sausage Sizzles.

For any second hand uniform enquiries please check the Sustainable Schools website or contact Pam on 0488990190. Pam Foley.