Over the past two weeks we have held interviews for teachers to meet with parents and students to discuss their progress and how to continue improving their learning outcomes. A child’s education is a partnership which involves a shared understanding and discussion between parent, student and teacher of the child’s strengths, their academic and personal concerns, and agreed steps for future progress. Parents are encouraged to keep in regular contact with teachers and to make an appointment to speak to a teacher or Coordinator when there are concerns.

On Wednesday we remembered the importance of the service and contribution of Australians in World War 1, especially in the Gallipoli Campaign of 1915. There has of course been much media coverage of these events both at home and abroad. Our School Captain, Samantha C, earned a place in a group of Victorian school students chosen to participate in the Victorian Government Gallipoli Centenary visit to Turkey, including attending the Dawn Service at Anzac Cove. Samantha will be sharing her experiences with us on her return, and we look forward to hearing of her adventure.

Congratulations to all the students in the primary school who were presented with awards at the Awards Assembly on Thursday. It is wonderful to see the children being acknowledged for a variety of achievements including academic, social and their contribution to their classroom and playground environment.

Margaret Buttigieg
**UNIFORM SHOP HOURS**

Uniform Shop hours are:
Mondays 3.00 pm to 5.30pm
Thursdays 8.30 am to 10.30am

The 2nd hand uniform shop will open on the last Friday of each month.

**ONLINE REPORTS - Julie Squires**

This year we are planning to publish semester reports online via the CGS 'Parent Portal' for all students in Years 5-12.

Parents will be able to print copies of student reports as required. Please note that the school will continue to provide printed copies for students in Years Prep to 4. This reflects our commitment to environmental sustainability and is a logical step given our technology based society.

**MEET THE SHERIFF - Harna Chandra**

The Year 11 Legal Studies class had the pleasure of meeting Mr Brendan Facey, the Sheriff of Victoria. Students learnt about the diverse nature of the Sheriff's work. They made connections with concepts explored in class, particularly in regards to the enforcement of infringement warrants. The students were enlightened about how Mr Facey manages his large team of staff, develops new projects to keep our roads safe and engages with the community.

**INAUGURAL HOUSE DEBATING COMPETITION**

The school's first House Debating Competition commenced this term. Debating is an exhilarating experience for students and is intended to enhance their critical thinking and communication skills. On Wednesday 22 April, an enthusiastic group of Year 8 students participated wholeheartedly in a debating workshop delivered by a trainer from the Debaters Association of Victoria. It is hoped that the students will play with the English language and its many styles of delivery throughout the competition. The participating students will undoubtedly create a forum for interesting topics of discussion.

Harna Chandra

**WAKE UP SHAKE UP AEROBICS**

The Wake up Shake up Aerobics is an enjoyable Aerobics class every Tuesday lunchtime on the courts and every Friday morning at the Courtyard, as soon as the first bell goes! It is run by the Year 6 Aerobics Monitors; Charlotte, Shayla, Tea and me. Anyone in the primary school can participate in this fun activity. We do this so everyone can get a bit of a Wake Up for their school day and we would love to see you all there! Caitlyn B 6R

**MATHS NEWS - Chris Rayeroux**

All Year 7s have been working on a Darts project which required them to draw an accurate dart board, using their Geometric skills. They were also required to obtain various 'out-shots' as it is known in the dart game to make up a wide range of scores.

They could use Bulls eyes (50 points), Bulls (25 points) or a variety of single, double or triple points to calculate these scores. They worked tirelessly and produced some outstanding boards, as can be seen.

**‘HAIRSPRAY’ - Natalie Burns**

Rehearsals for our 2015 Production of ‘Hairspray’ are well underway. Students have been participating in rehearsals on Wednesday and Thursdays afternoons throughout Term 1. We are making fantastic progress and the show is really beginning to take shape. We have a very talented cast who have been working hard to practise dance routines, learn lines, singing songs and of course painting sets! The students willingly came in for a day’s rehearsal in the holidays and many senior students returned for a second day to assist with painting our sets. You may have seen these sets backstage in the Performing Arts Centre. The show will be performed in the first week of September.
21st century students crave peer-esteem and value a sense of acceptance from their peers. Often, they are more comfortable doing what they know is not the best for them in order to fit in with their peer group rather than stand alone and do what they know is right. Their image is all important to them. Unfortunately, this often translates into students being reluctant to leave their comfort zones to explore other ways of looking at things.

Group learning is an effective way:
• to harness and value a wide range of abilities, points of view and attitudes to issues
• for individual students to use their signature strengths
• to obtain the input from students who are intrapersonal and may not contribute to whole class activities
• for students to experience peer learning and feel valued for their views and ideas
• to cultivate collaborative and interdependent habits through attentive and empathetic listening.

The keys to a well-functioning group are:
• a valuing and acceptance of individual differences; everyone has something worthwhile to contribute; expect it and respect it
• a clear set of agreed expectations to operate by for the group
• a diversity of character strengths, personalities and talents
• having a mix of Multiple Intelligences and Learning Styles.

Effective groups enhance the quality of relationships, investigations and discussions considerably through collaborative peer learning and peer esteem.

This month we recognised the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence on 20 March 2015. This was an opportunity for the community to bring the issue of cyberbullying into the spotlight, debate the major concerns and discuss opportunities to overcome this problem.

Sometimes, those people who are being cyberbullied do not have the strength, courage or knowledge to defend themselves. They can feel powerless to do something against the cyberbullying and may feel as though they are all alone. As bystanders, we make up the largest group of people who can make a stand against cyberbullying. Most of us do not cyberbully, nor are we cyberbullied ourselves, but the majority of us are aware of it going on and there is great strength in our numbers. As a collective, we can do great things. Collectively speaking against cyberbullying can also help us to raise awareness of the issue and encourage people to take positive steps to overcome it.

We can treat people how we would like to be treated by treating any reports of cyberbullying respectfully and with dignity. Not blaming the person who has been cyberbullied, nor demonising the technology but tackling the anti-social online behaviour head-on. We also need to be mindful that the person engaging in the cyberbullying might also need our support to overcome their involvement. Just as we would want someone to acknowledge the harm we might have felt, we need to recognise the harm of cyberbullying on others and, best we can, support them in minimising and overcoming that harm.

Saying that “Cyberbullying doesn’t affect me” is like saying “car accidents don’t affect me.” You may not be directly involved by the accident, but you may be caught up in the traffic behind it, or have your insurance premiums raised because there are more claims in your area, or have a longer commute if the council lowers speed limits in accident-prone areas, or pay higher taxes to improve roads or install more safety cameras or deploy more police. Cyberbullying affects us all and we have a responsibility to safeguard the values we collectively hold and address those incidents which subvert those values.

As bystanders, we can all be positive role models and behave in the way in which we expect others to behave. Instead of burying our heads in the sand, we should equip ourselves with the skills and knowledge to prevent and address cyberbullying and create positive social spaces online.

For more information, help for those who may be cyberbullied and help sheets see: http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/
Dear Friends

The centenary of Anzac is giving rise to much reflection and analysis of Australia's part in the many conflicts that have marked the 20th Century.

Casey Grammar's research project Casey Soldiers has brought to light the very human side of the First World War: brothers enlisting, parents having to give written permission for those under 21, men returning before wars end suffering lasting physical injury – who can say what mental anguish they carried? Men being put on charge for breaking bounds at camp, men wounded, sent to hospital and convalescent camp, then returned to the lines to be wounded again. Men receiving promotion from the ranks to commissioned officers; men highly decorated for bravery. We know women were involved in the nursing service, but we could not find details of their story.

These are dimensions of service which are less often named, nor can they be quantified. What it does inspire in 2015 is a profound sense of admiration and respect – and something more – at the quiet courage each of those people displayed. It is beyond our knowledge to understand the strength of character that caused soldiers to obey orders that would have no other outcome but death; the resilience to remain in the trenches despite unspeakable hardship; all things which continue to be demonstrated by Australian personnel in the Middle East as I write. So we spend a short time on Anzac Day giving as our offering perhaps the most precious thing we have – not money, but our time. Lest we forget!

FROM THE CHAPLAIN - ROBERT McUTCHEN

MARKET DAY - BRENDAN MCGREAL

As part of their studies in Small Business Management, Market Day this year was aligned with the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence 2015. After a few weeks of considered planning and constructing business models, students worked in their business groups to set up their stalls/events and execute their business plans during lunchtime on Friday 20 March. These consisted of food and refreshment stalls, LAN Minecraft sessions and even a disco!

With support from the whole school, students managed to raise $1,244.90! (Not bad for a 40min lunchtime effort! – given assessments in previous years have been held over 3 days or more!). This money will be forwarded to nominated charities/causes such as Zoo Victoria Foundation, Greenpeace Sea Shepherd Australia, Royal Children's Good Friday Appeal, Kids with Cancer Foundation, Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife and Oscar's Law.

A big thank you to the staff and student community for your support!

PFC NEWS

Welcome back to school for Term 2. We have the Mothers’ Day stall organised for Wednesday 6 May and before school on Friday 8 May. All items are still $5.00 each with a maximum purchase of two items per child. We are also organising a Mothers’ Day morning tea for Friday 8 May at 9:30am in the PAC. All mothers or carers are welcome. We will be sending out a slip to get an idea of numbers attending soon.

The Chocolate Drive will also be held this term. A notice will go out about this and those not wanting to receive chocolates should contact the school in writing.

Pam Foley