As we draw near to the end of the school year students, particularly in the secondary school, have been doing exams and other end of year assessments. A question which is sometimes asked is what is the point of all the testing and examinations our students go through at school?

One leading education expert, John Hattie, of the University of Melbourne, believes the purpose of most assessments is not to measure precisely how much students know at a given time. Rather, it is to provide information to teachers about the impact of their teaching on students, so that educators have the best information possible about how they need to change and adapt.

May I remind parents of the Services of Thanksgiving and Presentation of Awards which will be held in the Performing Arts Centre at the following times:

Year 3 -6 Service on Thursday 1 December at 7.00pm
Secondary Service Years 7-11 on Monday 5 December at 7.30pm

Students are expected to attend this service, parents are most welcome and school student leaders will be announced.

Margaret Buttigieg

These are some landscapes painted in water-colour by 6T. Students were asked to take a minimalist approach and keep detail to a minimum and rely on colour and simple lines to create their landscape pictures.

Mal Dunkley
**UNIFORM SHOP HOURS**

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

**2017 BOOKLISTS**

2017 booklists have now been sent home with students. Additional copies will be available on the school website.

Orders should be finalised by the last day of school – 9 December – either online via the Campion website or by the completed form being handed into the school office.

The collection date for orders will be Thursday 12 January 2017 between 2:30pm – 6pm in room V1 in the VCE Centre. Orders not collected on this date will be returned to the Campion Education warehouse and you will need to make separate arrangements with Campion for these orders to be collected.

**LOST PROPERTY**

There are many items of lost property that are unidentifiable as they are not labelled. Please ensure that you label all school items with your child/rens name so that if the item is handed in to Lost Property we can return it to your child. If you are missing any items please come by the administration office to take a look.

There are 7 pairs of unclaimed glasses at Reception. Please ask to see them if you have lost a pair. They will be disposed of after the end of term.

**CASEY GRAMMAR ART SHOW**

**PFC NEWS**

The Primary School book is currently at the publishers and will be ready to purchase by the last two weeks of term. Details of when and how to purchase and cost will be provided soon. These books make great mementos of your children’s Primary school years and make even better presents for family and friends. The sale of these books will also go towards school fundraising and ultimately benefit your children.

The PFC has had a successful year with the support of staff and parents. The first meeting for next year will be in the second week of first term 2017. Anyone wishing to join us can contact Bharti on 0419 184 245.

For secondhand books and uniforms, please use the Sustainable Schools website. It will not cost anything to join as Casey Grammar has paid for your subscription as a parent. If you prefer, you can contact Pam on 0488 990 190 to enquire about second hand uniforms sold through the school by the PFC.

Pam Foley

**SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS APPEAL**

The Primary Leadership Team at Casey Grammar is helping the Salvation Army to create hampers for people in need this Christmas. To do this however, we need help from you! All you need to do is bring along a donation, in the form of food or a gift.

Food items need to be within use by dates and non-perishable foods such as:
- Christmas cakes and puddings, mince pies
- Canned foods - fruit, baked beans, soup, vegetables
- Instant coffee, tea, sugar.
- Sauce, chutney and relish, jams, spreads
- Dry foods like rice, spaghetti etc.

You may also wish to bring in non-food items such as:
- Bonbons, serviettes, decorations
- Toys and other gifts
- Toiletries

Each class in the Primary School will have a basket for donations; Secondary students can leave donations under the tree in the library. Our Christmas donations will be collected on Wednesday 7 December. These donations will go towards making someone else’s Christmas even more special.

Thank you for joining in on the ‘Christmas Spirit’!

Primary Student Leadership Team
Casey Grammar is introducing a new learning enhancement program called QL. It has been designed with the needs of highly able students in mind. Students will be challenged by new, more complex, ways of thinking.

The program is year-long, culminating in a learning exhibition at the end of the year. Students will still attend normal classes but will also have an 'opt out' option to participate in the program. This 'opt out' time will enable them to engage in the full range of activities or to choose only those of particular interest. All activities will be designed to enrich, provoke and stretch students to maximise their academic potential.

Each participant will map their unique learning journey through digital learning portfolios. Progress will be monitored throughout the year to ensure growth, commitment and high quality learning.

In 2017 the program will be available to students in Years 7, 8 and 9. It is a select entry program and all applicants will be required to sit an entry test before they are offered a place.

Numbers are limited. The first round of places will be offered in December this year, with a second and final round of offers in late February/early March 2017.

Participation will not involve any extra cost to parents. Parents will be informed as further details become available and when the application form will become available on the website.

Julie Squires
Senior Head of Teaching and Learning

**YEAR 7 2017 ORIENTATION DAY**

My favourite activity was Science and getting my lock code. ~George K

On the Year 7 Orientation I loved how many people wanted to come to our school and make friends. ~Connor M

I loved how people wanted to be my friend and that some of the new students wanted to play with us. ~Amy N

My Favourite activity on Year 7 Orientation Day was Science. Ms Gilbert also said that I had the neatest desk, as I had all my chemicals lined up in order. ~Cooper S

Orientation Day was fantastic. Getting to know how it feels to be a Year 7 for a day. I made lots of new friends and got to know more about the Year 7 teachers. My favourite part of Year 7 Orientation Day was making new friends. ~Kiarra S

**MUSIC NEWS - Simon Chiodo**

The Music Department has had a very busy performance schedule over the past 3 weeks. It started with our End of Year Concert on Wednesday 9 November. This was a wonderful evening, with a variety of musical items from all of our school ensembles and senior music students.

On Tuesday 15 November the Intermediate Band and Training Band performed at the Victorian Schools Music Festival. The event was held at Deakin Edge, Federation Square in Melbourne and involved over 2000 students from 70 Victorian schools. Students received excellent feedback on their performance and participated in a tutorial with guest adjudicator Cynthia Hawkins. They all thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Finally, last week we held our ‘Lunchtime Concert Series’. This was a series of informal concerts held at lunchtime where students had an opportunity to perform in front of their friends and teachers. Congratulations to all the students who performed. They all played very well and should be proud of their performances.

Simon Chiodo
LIBRARY NEWS

The library is busy with Christmas books and a Christmas colouring competition. Under our Christmas tree there are boxes filled with gifts and food donations to support the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal. The Primary students and especially the Year 6 elves (leaders) have been busy thinking of others and supporting this worthwhile cause. Your donation of non-perishable food or gifts is still welcome until 7 December when the food will be collected for distribution to local families in need.

Secondary students in Year 7 and 8 have commenced their literature groups in English and will be reading and studying a novel until the end of the year. Activities will include creating book trailers and posters.

Students are encouraged to check their Borrow Box details with library staff before the holidays to access e-books and audio books so they will never be without something to read. There are several new titles available now.

With only two weeks left until the end of the year, the library staff would be grateful for your help to return all school library books. Thank you to all our cheerful volunteers throughout the year for your support with book fair and special thanks to Jill our Friday volunteer, and Di our tireless, Scholastic Book club organiser.

Mandy Horton

HATS SHOULD BE COMPULSORY IN ALL SCHOOLS

Children require to be instructed on their health and safety. Hats are a crucial way to begin. Hats prevent children from a multitude of diseases and irregular difficulties. Is a suffering child in your best interest? Then help them be protected from deadly sun rays. Ignorant people disagree with this topic, as they believe that hats look disgraceful with the uniform, but the health and education of students are a much higher priority. Hats should be compulsory in all schools across this vast continent for a reduced amount of red, hot sunburnt kids!!

UV rays are a deadly type of light that is the main cause of skin cancer! Sunburn is what these UV rays cause. With hats, you will be 100% protected and hats are not even that expensive, so shortage of money is not an excuse. People who don't wear hats are usually ill from too much sunlight, causing illness such as sunstroke and dehydration. Sunstroke can have many effects, such as headaches and being nauseous, which can affect a child's learning. Sunburn can be dangerous and could even lead to death, which definitely won't help your kid in a Maths test! Your skin starts to peel away, as it's hit with radiation when you are sunburnt. People state that it is extremely painful when you are exposed to the sun for too long. The opponent states that hats can be inconvenient to wear, but it is a disgrace to believe that sunburn, sunstroke and cancer is more appropriate for a person than being safe with the slight inconvenience of wearing a hat at school.

If hats are compulsory at school, students would get into a good habit of wearing a hat. This would then help them later in life because people who have learnt to wear a hat outside could pass this information and habit onto their children, teaching them about the safety of hats and the way they protect us. The reason we require a hat with a brim, is because the government states that hats with a brim are the most sun smart and safe. This habit of wearing a hat would lead to less deaths from skin cancer for future generations because they know what to do, why to wear them and when. Hats can help to protect not only us, but everyone around us. We need to teach others about being SunSmart to keep them safe from the scorching sun! Hats should definitely be a compulsory part of the school uniform.

We need to stop allowing kids to encounter this torture! Hats definitely should not be optional, you cannot disagree with the fact that kids need to become accustomed to the usage of a hat. Agree with staying safe and sound or pay the price of sun exposure for your child, as they can get problems such as inconvenient sunburn and a remorseful case of skin cancer! Hats make us a more health conscious school, which creates a reputation as a SunSmart school. The decision is yours, what do you think? We think hats should most certainly be compulsory in every school across Australia, for the benefit of the youth, to keep them safe throughout their entire life!

Nicholas and Robert 6R