As we draw towards the end of another school year, it is a time for reflection on what we have done well, and what we can improve. This applies to each student and teacher individually and to the school as a whole. One of the goals of the School Improvement Plan is to create a strong learning culture built around high expectations for all students, with a ‘growth mindset’ being demonstrated in all areas of the school. I congratulate all students who have grown in their learning and achieved across the curriculum – in academic performance, in the Arts, sporting achievement and in giving service to others within the school community and beyond in the wider community.

At the end of this year we farewell a number of the teaching staff who are leaving Casey Grammar. Mrs Gillian Spunner is retiring after a long and varied teaching career, the past eighteen years of which have been with us. We wish her well in her retirement, and trust she will have a long, happy and healthy retirement. We also say farewell to Ms Harna Chandra, Mrs Gabby Spano, Mrs Elizabeth Haigh, Mr Nathan Nabben and Mr Ian Van Schie. Miss Katherine Minne is taking a year’s leave of absence to travel and teach overseas. I have already informed the school community that Mr Travis Hopgood is leaving. I’m sure you would join me in wishing the teachers who are leaving well in whatever ventures their futures bring, and we thank them for their contributions to the life of our school.

I encourage parents to keep their children interested and engaged in what is happening in the world around them during the holidays, keep them reading, eating and sleeping well and limit screen time so that they can relax and enjoy the holiday break. May I wish all our school families a safe and healthy Christmas and New Year season, and look forward to the 2016 year ahead.

Margaret Buttigieg

What a successful year it has been for our primary basketballers! This year we entered 6 teams into the Hoop Time Basketball Competition. We had two Year 3-4 Future Stars Teams and four Year 5-6 Teams (2 Future Stars and an All Stars Girls team and All Stars Boys team). The All Stars Boys team made it to the Regional finals, which is a fantastic achievement putting them in the top 112 teams out of 569 All Stars Boys teams entered across the state. The All Stars Boys team made it to the State Finals; they fought hard all day giving each game their all. The girls should be commended on their commitment to attending training sessions both during school time and after school along with their ability to play as a team and their sportsmanship. Also thank you to Craig Dexter and April Diss for helping coach the girls and to Ben M and Steve B from Year 9 for their coaching efforts as well.

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

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 non-perishable foods such as:
- Christmas cakes and puddings
- Canned foods
- Instant coffee
- Sauce, chutney and relish
- 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

Each class will have a basket for donations, which will be collected on Wednesday 2 December. These donations will go towards making someone else’s Christmas even more special. An award will be given to the primary class with the most donations.

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

Year 6 Student Leadership Team

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Mal Dunkley

Jump Rope 4 Heart was once again run at Casey Grammar in 2015. The primary students were busy raising money for the Heart Foundation in the weeks leading up to the jump off during Health and PE Week in the second week of Term 4. The results have finally all been collated and shows some outstanding fundraising!

Well done to all the students who raised money for this fantastic cause. A special congratulations to 2B for raising the most. A special mention should also be made to Madyson H, 2B ($476.59), Alma T, Prep P ($336) and Ella T, Prep P ($171.75) for being the top 3 fundraisers within the school.

The total of all money collected (in school and online) this year was $2763. This is an amazing result, we raised more than double compared to last year!

Ali Bishop
Year 7 Excursion

On 18 November, the whole of Year 7 visited the Jewish Synagogue and Museum in St. Kilda and the Yun Yang Buddhist Temple in Narre Warren.

At the Synagogue, the boys had to put on a traditional Jewish Yamakah before they could go in. The guides talked about the Jewish traditions. We had a ceremony where they re-enacted the traditional Sabbath ritual. They demonstrated blessing of the candles, bread and wine. They shared the bread and grape juice with our group. In the museum we looked at Jewish people who were heroes in Australian culture such as Sir John Monash.

The Buddhist Temple had a beautiful landscape with statues, a waterfall and bridge. All the Year 7s took their shoes off and went into the temple where we then Meditated for a few minutes. It was a great day and we learnt new things about different religions. Eloise S

Wildlife Coastal Care

The water splashed by the sides of the boat, the wind whipped at our clothes and faces. It was like a David Attenborough documentary in 3D!!! The lucky four Year 5 students who got to explore marine life were none other than Nathan, Robert, Caileigh and Sienna. As well as the Year 5’s, Miss Reale and Miss Hill were there too. Our transport was the Kasey Lee. The seals waved and said hello as we sailed past their rock, Seal Rock. The staff of the Kasey Lee taught us new and interesting facts about Australian fur seals. The one downside was seeing yellow foam and smelling the revolting seal smell… But a day off school and a relaxing cruise was a great way to spend our day!

Robert G and Nathan O

Four lucky students were chosen to go on the Wildlife Coast Cruise with Miss Reale and Miss Hill on Tuesday 24 November. We went on a boat and saw the coast of Phillip Island, and the wonderful Seal Rock. These students were Sienna.L, Caileigh.G, Robert.G and Nathan.O.

The Seals were very cute but they really smelt, they smelt so much that even Miss Reale felt a bit sick! They were doing all sorts of adorable tricks, like jumping in and out of the water and popping their heads out of the sea randomly. Some even came up close to the boat, it was really funny.

The ocean was really rough on the way there, it was like a rollercoaster. The window outside of the boat got really wet and it was really bumpy when you walked out on the deck. It was an amazing experience we will never forget!

Sienna.L and Caileigh.G
FROM THE CHAPLAIN - Robert McUtchen

Dear Friends

Last Sunday I was privileged to baptise my grand daughter. There were children everywhere – mainly under 5. Several of the guests confided that they were hard pressed to explain to their children what Baptism was really about. Consequently I spent a while explaining each step of the ceremony to the children.

All this got me thinking – what do we tell our children Christmas is really about? The basic elements are:

Jesus’ birth at Bethlehem is understood to fulfil an Old Testament prophecy God would send a Saviour who would forever change for the better the relationship between humankind and God.(fulfilled at Easter, but the story begins at Christmas). Commemorating this event is a moment of Joy celebrating God’s love and care for humankind.

Stories describing special events associated with the birth of Jesus including appearances of an angel to Mary and others, a stable as the place for Jesus’ birth, angels appeared to shepherds who go to see the new-born Jesus, the visit by “astronomer wise men” from the East (probably Persia) to the new born Jesus, Jesus’ parents subsequent escape to Egypt for his safety (giving rise to the motif of Jesus the refugee) to escape a murderous plot by King Herod to kill all male children who might be a threat to his rule.

Giving and receiving gifts. Christians believe that Jesus coming into the world as a human was God’s special gift to humankind. In response to God’s own giving, we give gifts to each other.

Children and their families from Primary school at Casey Grammar have really taken up the idea of gifts and giving. Year 6 students, particularly Miss Reale’s class, with Mrs Horton in the Library, collected a large quantity of gifts and food which the Salvation Army will distribute to needy families. The First letter of John in the New Testament sums it up: “This is what love is: it is not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the means by which our sins are forgiven. If this is how God loved us, then we should love one another”. 1 John 4: 10 – 11.

I wish you all a blessed, safe and happy Christmas and a refreshing holiday.

STATE HOCKEY

A major highlight of this year was the State level Hockey competition in which the Year 7 Girls competed against the top 8 schools in Victoria. This was held on Monday 16 November 2015 at Footscray Hockey Centre.

The girls braved an early 7.00am departure from school, filled with a mix of excitement and nerves to travel to Footscray Hockey Centre.

The first game was against Balwyn which they lost 2 - 0. The girls put in their best efforts. The second game was played against Bendigo South East, our best match for the day. We scored the first goal of the game and the celebration was like we had won the grand final! Bendigo South East quickly responded with a goal, leaving us at 1 - 1. We were unable to secure a second goal for the win. Our next game was against the now State Champions Maribyrnong. By this stage the girls were fatigued, as the weather had started to heat up and the continuous running and persistence at the ball started to take its toll. We turned our remaining energy to developing the team for next year; trying new positions, roles and strategies against a high calibre team from Maribyrnong. The result was 5 - 0.

The girls committed themselves to attending many after school training sessions and lunchtime practices prior to this event, to further improve their skills and teamwork. Well done girls on your hard work and your efforts to reach this level of success.

Kate Anderson

PFC NEWS

The PFC is holding a big second hand book and second hand uniform sale. All books are left over from last year’s sale and will be going for $5.00 and $10.00. All uniforms must go, so come and make us an offer. Items will be starting from $1.00. All left over items will be put on the Sustainable Schools website. The sale is in the PFC room close to the Science building and will be on Friday 4 December. Times are from 8:30am to 9:30am and 2:30pm to 4:00pm.

The PFC would like to thank students, parents, staff and teachers for their support in 2015. We hope you all have a safe summer holiday and that we will see you next year.

Pam Foley