Our Primary School Assemblies have again this year been wonderful displays of the students' talents and a demonstration of their learning at every year level. The preparation for the assemblies in itself is part of the learning for students, and I have been impressed with the growth in confidence in most of the students during the year. We have enjoyed a great variety in the content of the assemblies and I congratulate the primary teachers on their creativity and commitment to this task. The support of parents is appreciated, as there are often costumes to help with, not to mention providing a supportive audience for the children.

At this time of year our VCE students are into their final exams, and the secondary students should now be organising their revision for the end of semester assessments. As with anything worth doing, organisation, hard work and persistence are qualities which produce results. I trust parents will encourage their students to be organised, take their homework obligations seriously and prepare for a successful end of the academic year.

I would like to encourage parents to attend the end of year Music Concert in the Performing Arts Centre on Tuesday 10 November at 7pm. The students have been practising hard in preparation for the concert and would love to share their music and show how much they have achieved this year.

Margaret Buttigieg

MUSIC NEWS - Simon Chiodo

On Sunday 18 October, the Senior Concert Band performed at the Mornington Main Street Festival. The Band's performance was outstanding and the students had a wonderful experience playing in front of a packed audience. Thank you to all the parents and staff who came along and supported.

Our Annual End of Year Concert is being held on Tuesday 10 November at 7pm in the PAC. This will be an exciting and entertaining evening, showcasing over 120 of our talented and dedicated music students. The evening will include performances from each of our school ensembles and the Year 3/4 Choir. I would like to encourage the school community to attend this wonderful event and show your support for our exceptionally talented students.
UNIFORM SHOP HOURS

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

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

On Friday 16 October, the Casey Grammar Equestrian Team competed in Interschool Show Jumping Spring Show at Ayer Hill. The girls rode very well and had a great day representing the school. Pictured is Taylor D in Year 8, who placed 3rd overall.

UNSW MATHS COMPETITION

Tuesday 11 August was the day the students from Years 3-6 who participate in extension Mathematics classes, tested their mathematical abilities by competing in the University of New South Wales Mathematics Competition. The participating students were looking forward to a challenging Mathematics test.

All the students did their very best and had many pleasing results. The pressure was what kept us going. We had 45 minutes to answer 40 mind bending questions, which means, for all you mathematical nerds, that you would only have 67.5 seconds to answer each question! Here is a photo of the students who were able to achieve a Distinction or higher in the competition. Congratulations to all the students who made it to the competition and gave it their best shot!
Robert G & Cooper S

‘CLICK AGAINST HATE’

Last week the Year 5 and 6 students had an incursion called ‘Click Against Hate’. ‘Click Against Hate’ is a program for girls and boys to learn about cyber bullying and other issues affecting young people. We learnt about how not to be racist or judge a person by their image. Lindy, our presenter, also taught us that no one is born hating and that we learn to hate. This incursion was great fun and near the end we got to make some posters. Some posters were about racism, violence against women and cyber bullying. This program was a great way to talk about these types of issues and express ourselves.

By Sussu & Millie 6R

MEDIA EXCURSION

On Monday 26 October, the Year 10 Media class ventured to Chanel 10 Studios in the Como Centre, South Yarra to watch a live taping of ‘The Project’. It was a fantastic evening and the students got an insight into the filming and production that goes into a live broadcast.

Natalie Burns
Head of Drama

MUSIC ACHIEVEMENT

Brittany P from Year 10 recently completed her 5th grade AMEB Clarinet exam and got a B+. Congratulations Brittany!

Antoinette Seal
The last several weeks’ lesson plans have focused on raising students’ awareness that there are better and more resourceful ways to prepare and revise for assessment, tests and exams. This week the focus is on how to actually sit the test/exam.

A regularly rehearsed technique will reduce any anxiety students may experience and build resilient habits to perform at their personal bests. Many students just arrive for exams without any practised routines and hope they will be able to answer the questions well. To enable students to adopt confident and growth mindsets when sitting tests/exams, they need to be taught how to sit exams and have sound plans of attack to follow.

When students feel that they are in control and can handle anything the exam may present, positive ‘can do’ attitudes enable them to shine. Just as in any pursuit, it is very obvious to everyone watching which individuals and teams are well drilled to achieve optimum performance; students are no different.

Practise for the day of the exam/test by:
• getting up in the morning and having a set routine including breakfast
• having comfortable clothes and shoes to wear
• travelling to and arriving at the exam venue 15 minutes before the start of the test/exam
• having your equipment ready to go

Just like coaching a sporting team to develop players’ skills so they become embedded habits which they can deliver on game day pressure situations, so too must we coach our students to develop habits to perform in assessment situations.

There are a variety of reading strategies available to improve the way students absorb knowledge and store it in their memories. There are also several different types of reading which can be used depending on the students’ purpose for reading, for example:
• locating information
• memorising
• summarising
• revising
Effective reading is choosing the most appropriate type of reading for their purpose.

On Tuesday 27 November, the Year 6 students had an CSI Investigation Incursion, as part of our Science Studies. We did many tests on multiple pieces of evidence, such as blood, teeth moulds and hair samples, to find out who the murderer was. It was a really fun day.
Jordan G 6R

Two Year 7 students, Maneesha C and Asmetha A have been shortlisted in the ‘Fresh Words Young Writers Competition 2015’.

Maneesha’s piece entitled ‘Writer’s Block’ is a lovely exploration of the how this common writers’ challenge can be utilised as inspiration.

Asmetha’s poem ‘Winter’, was an attractive portrayal of the various experiences of the common person in that season, with a keen sense of the visual and tactile in the cold incorporated throughout.

This is a fantastic achievement and the City of Casey Youth Services will celebrate their talent at a special awards dinner on 12 November.

Jesse Delaney
FROM THE CHAPLAIN - Robert McUtchen

This is a time of year for remembering.

Marking the end of their final year at school Year 12 students gathered for the Valedictory Chapel on Monday 20 October. Several students had prepared reflections on leaving Casey Grammar and “school days”. Some great stories were told of amusing and significant moments in up to 13 years of education at Casey Grammar. There was a common thread – a consciousness of time, how quickly it has passed and a deep appreciation of what a journey it had been for each student. Chapel concluded with prayers of thanksgiving for their years of schooling, and for the coming examinations.

Another kind of remembering is All Saints Day, on 1 November. I suspect for many it will be Halloween and its “customs” which will be noticed. All Saints Day is Christian tradition thought to date back to the 8th Century. It gives expression to the belief there is a prayerful spiritual bond between those in heaven (The Church Triumphant) and those living (The Church Militant). All Saints is an opportunity to intentionally remember and give thanks for those we have known and loved who have been important in our lives for whatever reason.

Remembering helps keep an awareness of the way our lives are influenced by other people. The VCE students will be remembering some of the teachers who have been influential in their lives. Please keep the VCE students in your prayers as they proceed through their examinations.

CHANGING UNHELPFUL THINKING IN TEENAGERS - Alan Clarke

As parents we often go into instant problem-solving when our children have challenges. Sometimes, particularly when emotions are running high, it is worthwhile to delay problem-solving in favour of listening to our children and letting them know that you understand what is going on. This involves statements such as “So you’re saying that ….” It is worthwhile to use speculation in your conversation. For example, “I wonder if you are thinking that the only reason that your friend didn’t ring you is because they don’t like you” or “I wonder if you are thinking that you have to get an ‘A’ for every assessment.

Other ways to support your stressed teenager include:

1. Work out what’s causing the stress – for example, your child gets a last-minute text from a friend to cancel going out.
2. Encourage your child to identify the thoughts connected to this situation or event – for example, ‘He doesn’t really like me’, ‘She should have told me sooner’, ‘My day’s ruined’. They will need help and examples to do this. Again, listening is the key for you to identify their thinking patterns.
3. Help your child decide if the thoughts are helpful – for example, how does your child know her friend doesn’t like her? Is it possible the friend couldn’t have told her sooner? Are there other good things your child could do with the day?
4. Encourage your child to suggest some other thoughts – for example, ‘I don’t really know why he cancelled – there could be an emergency’, ‘This gives me time to do other things’, ‘I’m disappointed but I have coped with disappointment in the past’.
5. Help your child notice that when she changes her thinking, her feelings also change – usually for the better.

PFC NEWS

The PFC will be having a big Second Hand Uniform sale and Second Hand Book sale in November. We will advise of the date in a later Newsletter.

We need to clear out as many items as possible, so come and grab yourself a bargain. After this sale all items will be put onto the Sustainable Schools website.

Pam Foley