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Shaping the Future

Why not spend your holiday writing or creating something that expresses your views about Shaping the Future? ACCESS ministries has launched a competition, with cash prizes, open to all students in Victoria. There are 5 categories to enter and all entrants have the opportunity for inclusion in a book to be published later this year. Go to www.accessministries.org.au for more details and good luck.

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25TH JUNE 2010 #7

Contents

Principal's Report	1
PolyFab donation	2
PreCAL baby care	2
RACV transmission	3
Year 8 English	3
Community Ads & Announcements	4

Principal's Report—June 25th, 2010

Inaugural Later Years Information Evening

As I outlined in the last newsletter, our first ever Later Years Information Evening occurred last night, June 23rd. The parent and student turn out was fantastic with around 150 people attending the launch of our "Programs Approach" to Later Years provision of VCE and VCAL. The evening was opened by our School Council President, Debra Hollands, who spoke with enthusiasm about the future of the school as a result of the Minister of Education's decision on June 7th. We have adopted an approach to the provision of VCE and VCAL which we believe will best meet the needs of our students and provide them with a proven pastoral care arrangement moving into Years 11 and 12. Students in Year 10 who were not represented last night have been given a copy of the program summary and the VCAA publication "Where to now?" which outlines the options beyond Year 10. Parents who wish to access the resources in the VCAA publication can visit the following website:

<http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/vce/publications/wheretowhere/wheretowherefrontpage.htm>

Feedback from parents and students who attended was excellent and I would like to thank the parents for making the time to be informed and involved. The evening was a great success and the first step in establishing Years 11 & 12 at Somerville Secondary College.

Anti-Bullying

Earlier this term we conducted a survey of all students regarding the global issue of bullying. The purpose of the survey was to allow the students to anonymously give feedback to the school on this important issue and to give the school information which would allow us to enhance our already strong approach to this issue. A small number of students were identified as significantly breaking the schools rules and expectations with regard to student wellbeing and respect. Interviews with those students and their parents will be conducted early in Term 3. Our new psychologist, Sarah Roney, will be working with the school to deliver an anti-bullying program aimed at Year 7 students. A number of programs have recently been targeted at students in Years 8 through 10.

Arriving at school

I would like to take this opportunity to ask parents to please consider what time they drop students at school in the morning. A number of staff, including myself, arrive at school before 7:30 am. I am concerned that there are students who are regularly already at school, sitting on the seats around the Year 7 and 8 building, at this time. Student supervision – in the form of "yard duty teachers" does not start until 8:10. As there are small numbers of students in the school we have a single member of staff on duty, between 8:10 and 8:30, to ensure student safety. During recess and lunchtimes there are three teachers on duty and after school there are two teachers on duty. It is a mistake to assume that just because some staff arrive around 7:00 am that they are "on duty". A significant number of staff take the opportunity to arrive early to prepare for the day but they are not "on duty" in a legal sense. Please ensure that students arrive at a time that allows the school to supervise their safety and wellbeing adequately.

Report Distribution

End of semester reports will be distributed to students at 2:20 on Friday, June 25th. Parents who have concerns about student progress are encouraged to contact the school to discuss any issues.

End of Term 2

Finally I would like to take the opportunity to thank the staff for their hard work during the term and to wish all of the members of our school community a safe and relaxing school break. School resumes on July 12th (at 8:30 am).

Chris Lloyd

Dates to Remember



25th June 2010

Term 2 ends (2:30 finish)

Reports issued

12th July 2010

Term 3 commences

Shade Sail Donation to the College



Thanks to Barry Jamieson, owner of Polyfab Australia, Our College has been able to erect a set of shade sails over our 'Teenager' playground equipment. Barry donated the material, saving the College thousand of dollars. Barry is a local business owner and has always believed in supporting the community. A great big 'Thank You' to Barry and his company!

PreCAL Day Care Nursery??



Students from Somerville Secondary College's Pre-CAL Program have been attending weekly TAFE tasters at Holmesglen Institute to explore potential career pathways. The group of 15 recently attended a taster in Community Services at Moorabbin and had a fantastic day. The group of mostly male adolescents were somewhat daunted about the prospect of handling "babies" but once in class, fought eagerly over the babies, seeking the one that they perceived to be the coolest. After pairing with a partner the "couples" proceeded to dress their baby in a variety of styles, including one very hip "gangster" baby! For a group of skating, motorbike riding, rough and tumble boys they emerged as caring and devoted new fathers, scrambling worriedly to attend to their baby's needs. At the end of a fulfilling day, the students eagerly thanked staff from Holmesglen, remarking that this was one of the best tasters they had done and it had been far better than they had imagined. "Gee Miss, we actually had fun" was the prevailing attitude from students on the journey back to Somerville.

Catherine Arnold

Pre-Cal Learning Area Head/Careers Coordinator

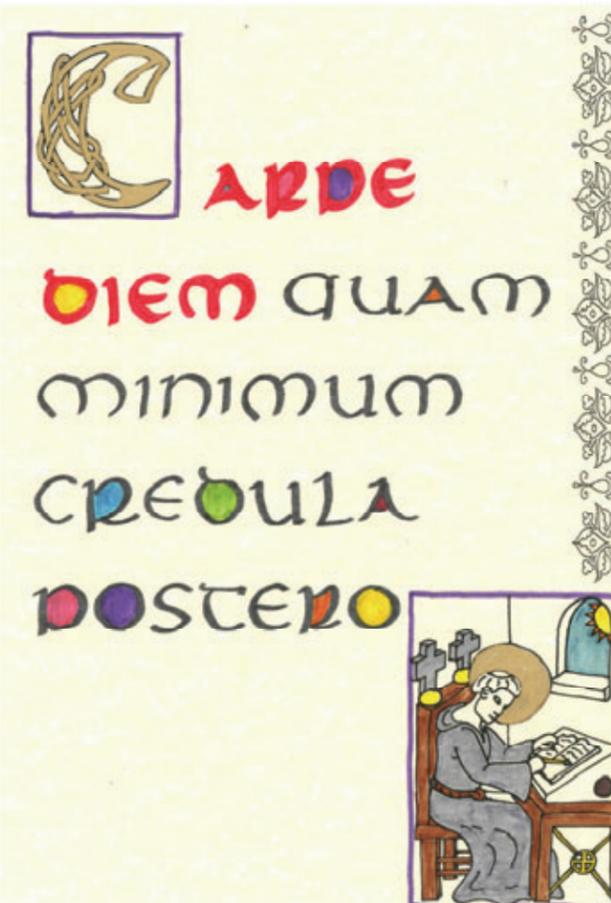
PreCAL News

Our group is a part of the year 10 Pre-CAL Program at Somerville Secondary College, and we are doing the RACV Transmission project. Adolescents from Year 10 to Year 12 from all around Victoria have the chance to do the RACV Transmission Project. We are doing this so we can aim our project to people aged between 18 to 25 to tell them about the dangers of texting while driving. Our topic is driver distraction, and our story board is about a young driver who becomes distracted while using the phone and drives his car into a neighbour's pool.



Once we had submitted our story board we were chosen as Semi Finalists and invited to attend a workshop at Etihad Stadium. This was an outstanding day and allowed us to share ideas with other students. We met with industry experts who gave us feedback on our ideas and how we can improve from it. We now have about one month to refine our storyboard and resubmit. The winning entry will be chosen and their Community Service Announcement will be made into an advertisement to be shown on Channel 7.

Dear 8 English Journey into the past



On Wednesday the 9th of June 2010, a group of selected students went on a bus trip to the State Library. We were on our way to learn more about Medieval Europe.

We were given the opportunity to complete a manuscript using the skill of calligraphy so that they looked just like the ones from the Middle Ages and we also learnt about the Latin language. Here's an example:

"Clamo, clamatis, omnes clamamus pro glacie lactis".

That's Latin for:

"I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice-cream."

There are many things we learnt on this excursion, I hope next year's group has as much fun as we did!

Chloe Lamb and Tamsin Jobling