

NEWSLETTER

19 March, 2010

Volume 12 Issue 4



College Mission . . .

Building on a foundation of Christian values, the mission of Aitken College is to enable students to become informed and compassionate members of the wider community by inspiring academic achievement and creativity, nurturing self worth, encouraging environmental responsibility and committing to service with and for others.

Term dates for 2010

Term 1	1/2 February	to	26 March
Term 2	14 April	to	25 June
Term 3	19 July	to	17 September
Term 4	4 October	to	10 December

Important Diary Dates for 2010

Thu	18 Mar	Parent Teacher Interviews (Prep-12)
Thu	25 Mar	Parent Teacher Interviews (Prep-12)
Fri	26 Mar	Term 1 concludes
Mon	12 Apr	Staff Conference Day (student free)
Tue	13 Apr	Staff Conference Day (student free)
Wed	14 Apr	Term 2 commences
Mon	26 Apr	ANZAC Day Holiday
Mon	14 Jun	Queen's Birthday Holiday
Tue	15 Jun	Report Writing Day (student free)
Fri	25 Jun	Term 2 concludes
Mon	19 Jul	Term 3 commences
Fri	17 Sep	Term 3 concludes
Mon	04 Oct	Term 4 commences
Mon	01 Nov	Mid Term Break
Tue	02 Nov	Melbourne Cup Day Holiday
Wed	24 Nov	Report Writing Day (student free)
Wed	08 Dec	Presentation Night
Fri	10 Dec	Term 4 concludes

Thought: "Greater love has no one than this that He lay down His life for His friends".

John 15:13

From the Principal

I have been pleased to see a large number of students voluntarily **participating in school activities**. Currently we have students who are rehearsing for the College musical, the Performing Arts Captains' Concert and Aitken songsters as well as training for sporting teams. The recent Galway Gala days saw students from Years 7-12 participating in the summer sports competition and the recent Galway swimming program was quite competitive. Well done to the students involved. It was also pleasing to see the House spirit exhibited at the recent House athletics carnival.

Congratulations to Brynley Cooper who represented Aitken College in the recent Head of Girls Rowing competition held at Nagambie. She achieved first prize in the B division and was presented with a silver cup and medallion. (See picture below.)



Please use the opportunity provided by the forthcoming **Parent/Teacher interviews** to discuss your child's progress with the relevant class teacher. It is good for you to meet with the staff who are engaged in educating your children, and for them to meet with you.

Thank you to all of those parents who drive safely in the College and who observe the signage. When I was recently out in the grounds I counted approximately 450 cars (thank you to those who waved) driving through our premises. Please continue to **drive safely and patiently** so that your children's welfare is protected at all times.

Major landscaping and paving works are currently underway outside of the Administration building. Thank you for your patience whilst this work is being undertaken. It will give a much needed facelift to the front part of the school. The other BER projects are also progressing well as you will have noticed.

Aitken College Foundation: A reminder that you can still contribute to the Aitken College Foundation. Any family contributing \$500 or more in 2010 will also have their donation acknowledged by their name appearing on a plaque to be placed in the gymnasium or library extension and will receive a tax deductible receipt.

Emails to Parents: We are currently trialling an emailing system to parents to keep you informed about College events. Any feedback will be appreciated.

Winter Uniform: During term 2 and 3 students are to wear winter uniform. If it is unseasonably warm for the first two weeks of term 2, students may wear summer uniform. Please ensure that if you require winter uniform items that they are ordered at Trenz in the Gladstone Park Shopping Centre.

*Mrs Josie Crisara
Principal*

From the Deputy Principal

Parent-Teacher interviews have been held during these last two weeks of Term 1. A five minute interview is not a large amount of time, but enough to meet your child's teacher and review the progress reports that were sent home this week. Please make it a part of your weekly routine to be monitoring your child's progress at school; the first place to start is a daily or weekly check of the student diary in which your child should be recording homework, assignments and upcoming tests. The diary can be a starting point for a conversation about what is being learned in each subject. Take an interest in assignments and test results. Students will benefit from a parent proof-reading their work; it is a good habit to have, asking another person to read through what we have written and to comment on it.

Parents of students in Years 7 to 10 may have noticed that interschool sport in the Galway group of schools has a new format this year; instead of a fortnightly competition students will participate in two full-day round robin carnivals each term. This has already commenced successfully and will be a more efficient use of time and buses.

*Mr Kim Forward
Deputy Principal*

Brookhill School Notices

I would like to start this week's newsletter article by congratulating the Year 11 student group on their participation in Clean-Up Australia Schools Day on Friday 5 March. On this day, all Year 11 students went to the Williamstown foreshore area and took part in rubbish clean up. The Aitken effort was a part of a national clean up that took place over the weekend Friday 5 March to Sunday 7 March. Every student involved participated enthusiastically in our clean up effort and a huge pile of rubbish was collected. Our efforts were noticed, with several local people personally thanking students and staff members on the day. The students involved gained a lot from the experience. In addition to seeing just how much rubbish was to be found in an area that looked to be fairly clean at first sight, they also learnt how satisfying it can be to undertake community service work. The afternoon was devoted to the annual House Sand Castle competition. The creations were big and elaborate this year. Staff will judge the winner of the best Sand Castle and the winner will be announced at assembly next term.

Congratulations are also due to all Brookhill students on their behaviour, participation and results at the Senior House Athletics carnival this week. The attendance level was excellent and all events were full. Students had lots of fun and several College records were broken on the day. Cameron House had a very tight victory which was due mostly to their fantastic participation rate. The Year 12 group can be very proud of their last House Sport outing at Aitken College.

I would like to finish this report by reminding everyone of the upcoming interim reports and parent-teacher interviews. Please take time to read your child's report and talk to them about its contents. These reports are an important part of the College's communication to parents. They give you a chance to get on top of any little problems at an early stage of the year, before they become big problems. I also urge you to make appointments with all of your child's teachers for the upcoming parent-teacher interviews. Even if everything is going well, it's a good chance to put a name to a face and establish lines of communication for the future.

In particular, parents of Year 12 students should be taking this opportunity to meet with all of their child's teachers. For Year 12 students, now is the time to get on top of any little (or big) problems; by third term, it is too late to make any changes that may need to be made.

*Mr David Murphy
Head of Brookhill*

Glenarthur School Notices

With pleasure I repeat my words from the last assembly [which was a formal opportunity to praise your children] – the students were absolutely wonderful representatives of the College during our recent Open Day. Many visitors commended their politeness and grooming. Thank you for your efforts.

Oxygen Factory Lifeskills student seminar run by Mr Glen Gerryn - Advance notice - Parent Evening 3 March 2011: Once again, Glenarthur students found this annual event most helpful, entertaining and thought provoking. Here are some comments: *educational, inspiring, stretched our imagination, helped us set our goals, dream big, follow your heart, motivating, take care of yourself, care for friends, we can achieve more than we think...* I would like to hear from parents who would be interested in attending an evening seminar, run by Glen Gerryn; the suggested date is Thursday 3 March 2011 at 7.30pm. Parents of Years 7-9 are invited. The cost will be about \$8-\$10 each, depending upon the number attending.

Athletics Carnival 15 March: Thank you parents, for ensuring your children wear the correct House-colour t-shirt and sports uniform. It was good to see so much happy participation by well-presented students. Quite a few records were broken and a Year 9 student set a new high-jump record. More details will follow. The PE faculty staff, and in particular Ms Julie Brown, organised a wonderful day.

Parent-Teacher Interviews - Thursday 18 March & 25 March: This is a very good time to engage in positive discussion with your child about the trends indicated in the reports and to work with the teachers to try and ensure the best possible educational outcomes. You should have received an interview booking form and the Interim Report by now.

In May, Year 9 students will participate in the government operated **NAPLAN** statewide testing in all schools in English and Mathematics. These tests are used to provide the government with general data. Each family will receive an individual set of results for any child who has taken the tests. We encourage parents to appreciate that these tests are by their very nature general in their outcome and should be viewed with an awareness of their limitations. Please feel free to contact us at the College should you wish to discuss the NAPLAN testing.

*Mr Shelton Bond & Mrs Elpis Vlahopoulos
Head and Assistant Head of Glenarthur*

Dunhelen School Notices

After a very busy term, things are slowly settling down in Dunhelen and all students are beginning to get used to the Dunhelen routines. Although this doesn't mean that we haven't still got lots going on!

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce to Dunhelen's House and Class Captains for 2010. Each of them has already been hard at work, assisting with Open Day earlier this month as well as organising and marketing the first Dunhelen Social last week. I look forward to working further with this very talented group of students in the Dunhelen Council this year.

School Captains	Catherine Ward (7K) Marcus Hondrogiannis (7K)
House Captains	
Brodie	Sarah Nair (7A) Michael Di Martino (7C)
Cameron	Alisha Morgan (7K) Luke Capuano (7K)
Clarke	Liana Nesci (7P) Mitchell Heyes (7P)
Millar	Sarah Carrigg (7H) Nathan Northby (7A)

SEMESTER 1 CLASS CAPTAINS 2010

6K	Jayme Sugameli Jackson Emiris
6S	Julia Kerry Joshua Hodinj
7A	Taila Marra Kyle Henry
7C	Jessica Lucic Timothy Barresi
7H	Victoria Belcourt Nicholas Litver
7K	Emilie Kaparis Nicholas Tsalapataris
7P	Sabrina Nassar Melvin Ju

At the beginning of the month, I was fortunate enough to accompany the Year 6 students on their annual excursion to Sovereign Hill. Ballarat welcomed us with some lovely, sunny weather and students and teachers alike had a fantastic day together getting a taste of what life was like in the 1800s, during Victoria's famous gold rush!

*Miss Sheridyn Davies & Mrs Francis Scuderi
Head and Assistant Head of Dunhelen*

Year 6 Sovereign Hill Excursion

On Thursday 4 March, all the Year 6's travelled to Sovereign Hill in Ballarat to learn about life on the Goldfields. We split into groups of 10 and went on our way. Most groups chose to begin the day walking down Main Street, where all the shops are. Our favorite shop was the lolly shop, mainly because we were surrounded by some really tasty and colorful lollies. We also went bowling, but it wasn't bowling as we know it today: we had to throw the ball with both hands and then pick up our own pins! There was no modern technology involved, but the best part was, it was free! We also participated in the Red Hill Mine Tour. It was scary at the beginning, being so far underground; it felt like the walls were going to collapse on us. On this tour we got an insight into what it would have felt like to work in a gold mine. We also panned for gold, which involved a lot of hard work. The last thing we did at Sovereign Hill was to learn about how the Chinese people were treated on the Goldfields. This was more a lesson than an activity, but we learnt a lot and had the opportunity to practice writing in Chinese using the old-fashioned ink and brushes. Overall, we thoroughly enjoyed our day at Sovereign Hill and hope we have an opportunity to go again one day.

By Alexia Costantino and Lily Buch, 6S



Earlier this week the School Captains attended a leadership day organised by Impact Leadership. They were told that anyone can be a leader so this applies to all students in the school. Here we are not talking about a person with a badge and a particular responsibility but a person who uses their interests and talents for the good of others. They were told that it is important to be oneself and this applies to us all. Everyone can wear their uniform correctly, be on time, take notice of others, volunteer to help out, try their

best, think of others and take pride in their school. If we all did so what a wonderful place it would be.

It is important to wear the school uniform correctly. It is important to be on time. It is bad manners to be late. Thinking of others before oneself is a wonderful attribute to have and it is so nice to see so many children doing this. Taking pride in one's school can involve keeping the classroom and playground tidy, not dropping litter and picking up things that are lying around.

On Monday we have the House Cross Country. Parents are welcome to stay for this event which will be held in periods 1 and 2. We have our Easter service during period 2 on Tuesday, and the House Activities presentation during period 5 on Thursday. The Year 4's are looking forward to their Night of the Notables on Friday 19 March. It is always a good night.

*Ms Barbara Wyatt
Head of Cumberland*

Fairview School Notices

Easter Service: Please be advised that the Easter Service for Prep to Year 2 students will be held on Tuesday 23 March at 9.00am and will conclude by 9.50am. There will be no assembly on this day. Families are very welcome to attend this service and share this time with us. Parents must sign in at Reception prior to going to the Chapel and Performing Arts Centre.

THRASS Parent Sessions: I would like to thank the teachers for their support and organisation of our very successful THRASS parent sessions. Parents who attended will be required to complete a feedback sheet; they will be sent home next week. This is crucial for our evaluation of the program and to ensure it is meeting the needs of our parent community.

Theatre Production: On Thursday 6 May 2010 the Preparatory School children are extremely fortunate to be attending the Wombat Stew Theatre Production at the Clocktower Theatre, Mt Alexander Road Moonee Ponds. The children will be involved in a literacy unit to support this wonderful experience. Wombat Stew is a much loved picture story book which was published in 1984, written by Marcia K Vaughan and illustrated by Pamela Loft. It is a story based on a dingo catching a wombat and deciding to make wombat stew. I won't spoil the ending for you if you haven't read the story! I recommend it for your holiday reading.

The permission slip is due back to your child's homeroom by Wednesday 24 March 2010. If they have not brought a letter home, please speak to your child's homeroom teacher.

*Ms Kerrie Neophytou
Head of Fairview*

Careers News

Career News No. 4: The fourth edition of Career News for 2010 has been posted on the College website. The following link will take you to the careers newsletter: <http://aitkencollege.edu.au/?id=237>.

This edition contains information about Projects Abroad, working with animals, visiting university campuses during the school holidays, a career in Agriculture, the Institute of Forensic Medicine information afternoon, an introduction to hairdressing opportunity at Pivot Point in the school holidays and more.

You are also welcome to contact Careers Staff in Room B21 or via email careers@aitkencollege.edu.au or telephone 9333 1866.

*Mrs Clare Borg and Ms Rae Gibbs
Careers Advisers*

Chaplains Corner

As we prepare for our Easter services, I would like to focus on the 'new life' that is on offer to us all. Jesus went to the deepest darkest place of this world, so that when we find ourselves there, He can show us the way back. The resurrection of Jesus Christ reveals: 'when all is lost, there is HOPE', and that after death, there is new life! Often we need to choose to die to things before we can have the new life. For example, I needed to die to the thought that 'I was stupid' before I could follow God's call to ministry and consider going to university. Many of us have these beliefs about ourselves and they actually drain the life out of us. If you have one such belief that you are wanting to work on, watch this space next term for the listening skills seminars, especially the one on 'why we believe what we believe'. Until then, may you be blessed with the awareness of 'New Life' this Easter season.

School families are welcome to attend all worship services at the school. They are as follows:

Monday 22 March

Period 2	10.00am	Years 6 and 7
Period 4	12.20pm	Years 8 and 9
Period 3	11.20am	Years 10 to 12

Tuesday 23 March

Period 1	9.00am	Years Prep to 2
Period 2	10.00am	Years 3 to 5

Wednesday 24 March

ROC Easter worship (upstairs in the CPA) at 6.00pm.

*Rev Jeanne Beale
Chaplain*

Performing Arts News

Last Friday night's **Trivia Night** was a great success. More than seventy people attended the night, which was organised and run by Friends of the Arts. A staff and parent team, led by Mrs McKay and calling themselves The Pretenders won the evening. Thank you to all who attended and to those who donated prizes, especially **Seafood Delish Restaurant, Greenvale; Craigieburn Pharmacy; Sue Maric from Independent PartyLite and Kerry Looi for their generous contributions.** My particular thanks to the Mantynen family and other members of FOA who set up and helped to clean up the common room.

Next week's *Performing Arts Captains' Concert* is again shaping up to be a highlight of the concert year. 'Express Yourself' will help raise money for the Starlight Children's Foundation. More than fifty performers will take to the stage in a range of performance styles. The evening will also include a first look at the musical cast who will perform a number from *Jesus Christ Superstar*. So come along on Wednesday 24 March, starting at 7.30pm. Bring along a gold coin donation and see some of the great talent we have at Aitken unearthed.

A reminder to the musical cast to get Contract of Participation forms and production fees in before the end of the term. The musical cast will also be away for a three day camp over the holidays. In response to a number of phone calls, *Jesus Christ Superstar* will take place from Friday 30 July with five performances planned. Tickets will go on sale from 14 June at www.trybooking.com.

Before we get to the musical though, I encourage you to come and have a look at the VCE Theatre Studies play *Minefields and Miniskirts*. This slightly confronting play deals with the experiences of the Vietnam War by five women who encountered it from a range of different perspectives; one, a journalist, another, a cabaret performer, a nurse and a volunteer and finally the wife of a Vietnam Veteran. The play was first produced at the Malthouse Theatre in 2004. It was written by Terrence O'Connell based on stories from a book by Siobhan McHugh. This is a major assessment task for the VCE students and apart from acting, the students are responsible for all areas of the production. The play also features some well-known songs from the era and will include multi-media elements to help tell the story.

Some of the subject matter and language may not be suitable for all age groups but that often happens when a play is based on real life events. Early rehearsals suggest it will be a play well worth seeing. Tickets go on sale from 19 April, again at www.trybooking.com.

Mr Michael Cooper
Director of Performing Arts

Harmony Day

All students in Year Prep to Year 7 will be involved in Harmony Day. Aitken will celebrate this day on Thursday 25 March. Students in these classes will be asked to prepare a flag on a single sheet of A3 paper. This flag will be one which represents something of their family heritage. Children are encouraged to discuss this with their parents so that a suitable choice can be made. Homeroom teachers will assist in giving time to prepare the flag, and it can be completed at home. On Thursday 25 March, we will have a group photo of all the flags. By drawing and colouring the flag of choice students will learn something of what it represents, and will allow for positive discussion with family and friends as to why the flag was chosen. This activity will symbolize something of Aitken College's diversity and harmony.

Please note that this activity is not restricted to flags from outside of Australia. If the Australian flag is the one which best suits, then this is entirely acceptable.

Mr Chris Ward
Director of Chaplaincy

Moonee Valley Bus Lines Sunbury Bus Vacancies 2010

Moonee Valley Bus Lines will have a limited number of vacancies on the school bus that travels from Sunbury to Aitken College via Bulla. If you are interested in utilising our service, please do not hesitate to contact Lisa Kennedy at Moonee Valley Bus Lines on 9310 5286