

NEWSLETTER

7 May, 2010

Volume 12 Issue 7



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 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

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: "The whole of science is nothing more than a refinement of everyday thinking."
Albert Einstein

From the Principal

Naplan Tests: The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students will be held on Tuesday 11 May, Wednesday 12 May and Thursday 13 May. These tests are conducted by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) on behalf of the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs (MCEECDYA).

The results of the tests provide diagnostic information for parents and teachers about a child's performance in Literacy and Numeracy. This information can be used to support teaching and learning programs and improve student achievement. If your child has a disability which needs special consideration you should discuss with your child's teacher whether or not your child should undertake the test.

Later in the year, you will receive your child's personal report. The report will describe your child's particular skills in reading, writing, language conventions and numeracy. The report will also show how your child performed in relation to national

minimum standards. These describe minimum acceptable standards for students across Australia. For more information about the tests, please visit the VCAA website at www.vcaa.vic.edu.au or the NAPLAN website at www.naplan.edu.au

A reminder to parents that NAPLAN is only one form of testing. Feedback provided on student work, parent teacher interviews and reports give a much better picture about your child's progress. You are welcome to contact your child's teacher if you require further information. The controversy relating to how NAPLAN data is presented on the My School website and then used to make judgements on schools is the key issue. A child's education is much more than a result on a diagnostic test.

Our BER building program is progressing well. The Library, Learning Centre and Gymnasium are framed, our shade structures are taking shape as is the landscaping.

I have had numerous people ask which flags will adorn the flagpoles. Obviously, we will have the Australian and Aboriginal flag and the third may be the Aitken College flag or the Uniting Church flag.

I encourage parents to continue to contribute to the Aitken College Foundation (Building Fund). A reminder that a \$500 donation in 2010, will entitle you to place a name on a plaque, acknowledging your contribution in the library or gymnasium. Please complete the Aitken College foundation form at the end of this newsletter.

Development in Adjoining Property: Preliminary works have commenced on the property next door to the College. Can I assure families that the Project Manager is in constant contact with the College regarding matters that might directly impact on the school.

*Mrs Josie Crisara
Principal*

From the Deputy Principal

Broadmeadows Shopping Centre - Better Schools! Aitken College is part of the Broadmeadows Shopping Centre Better Schools Program. Just take your receipts

to the Customer Service Desk, nominate Aitken College and we gather points towards great prizes for the school.

Security of personal belongings: Families are reminded that students should not bring valuable personal items to school. Most students should not need to bring a mobile phone to school and ipods are not permitted. Large amounts of cash should not be carried. Students are responsible for the security of their belongings and any valuables should be kept in lockers from Year 8 upwards; valuables are not secure in school bags or blazer pockets. The College takes no responsibility for lost or stolen items and is under no obligation to investigate any losses of items that should not have been brought to school. Students may ask their homeroom teacher to care for a valuable item for them but this should not be on a regular basis.

Sports Bags: The College sports bag must be used to carry their PE and sport uniform. The College backpacks are not to be used for sports clothes and must not be taken into the gym change rooms. Parents are requested to ensure that their children are using their sports bags.

*Mr Kim Forward
Deputy Principal*

Glenarthur School Notices

Thank you from the Year 8 students to Miss Koukoullides: Quite a number of students asked me to pass on their thanks to Miss Koukoullides for an absolutely wonderful **Mediaeval Day** of fun and frolic. The lessons and activities were informative and enlightening. A great day in the sunshine, building happy memories.

Tree planting: Thank you to Mr Lal and 8L who supported Mr Sadler in this most worthwhile activity.

National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy 2010: The NAPLAN tests commence next week. There is no preparation required for these government-organised tests. Children and parents should not be stressed about them. If you wish more information, please contact either Ms Batch or myself.

ANZAC Service: Our students have created a tradition of raising awareness about, and funds for, good causes over the years. The school commitment to the ANZAC Day Appeal once again raised almost \$1000. In the process students achieve an understanding of significant values in their society that link to the values the College has at its core. Our thanks to all students and staff who participated in the service and helped to mark the solemnity of this day. We were grateful for the support of Victoria Police, who supplied a bugler and piper. The opportunity for students to become involved and to think about our duty and debt reinforces sound community values.

Student Exchange: Mr Brian Curley, a member of our extended College family, spoke to the assembly about this interest. Booklets are available from me.

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

Dunhelen School Notices

This week has seen our Year 7 students survive one of the more unpleasant events in Dunhelen, immunisations. Most students bravely faced the needle and I would like to congratulate them for their conduct.

Year 3-7 House Athletics Carnival: I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all Dunhelen students on the wonderful level of participation and House spirit displayed at 2010's Years 3-7 House Athletics Carnival on Thursday 15 April. I would like to congratulate the following students for their achievement in being recognised as champions on the day:

YEAR 6 CHAMPIONS	
Sachin Pathmaperuma	Tanyel Mutlu
YEAR 7 CHAMPIONS	
Alex Galie	Hannah Mrakov



On Thursday 15 April all Dunhelen students (as well as the Year 3-5's) travelled to Meadowglen Athletics track to compete in the House Athletics Carnival. Despite the light showers and cold conditions everyone had a fun time participating in the track and field events. A number of Dunhelen students achieved their personal best times and as a result went on to represent Aitken College in Galway Athletics. As new students to Aitken College we enjoyed the team spirit and support from our team mates, teachers and parents. The day was a lot of fun, with a high level of participation from both boys and girls. Each House showed its support by displaying their team colours using banners, balloons, coloured tape and stickers.

Congratulations to all the Houses and especially to the winning House - Cameron. Sachin Pathmaperuma & Tanyel Mutlu of 6S, and Alex Galie & Hannah Mrakov of 7K were awarded year level champions. We would also like to thank all the teachers and parents for their support and organization of the event.

Hannah Mrakov and Emilie Kaparis, 7K

Finally, I would like to issue the following reminders for our Dunhelen parents:

House Cross Country: All Year 6 and 7 students are expected to take part in this event during period 3 on Thursday 13 May. Students are permitted to wear their sports uniform to school on this day but are expected to change into their full winter school uniform at the

end of period 3. Students are encouraged to wear their House t-shirt.

Try-a-Trade Excursion: For the first time, a small number of Year 7 students have been selected to participate in this annual expo at the Broadmeadows Town Hall on Wednesday 19 May. The selected students received permission notes this week. It is sure to be a most informative morning.

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

Cumberland Notices

Well done to all students who competed in the Year 3 - 7 House Athletics. There was almost 100% participation in events and this was most impressive. House spirit on the day was lively and enthusiastic. Students looked wonderful in their House t-shirts and the sportsmanship that was witnessed was most pleasing.

Thank you to the parents who organised the Mothers Day stall. I wish all mothers a happy Mothers Day and I hope that you enjoy your 'surprises'.

*Ms Barbara Wyatt
Head of Cumberland*

Fairview School Notices

Do you want a challenge? Raise a child! I am the first to declare, 'I don't have all the answers!' However, our society is constantly changing and the consequence is the way in which our children interact with their environment.

Was it better when we were children, or is it better now that our children have so many choices? What do you think?

Our lives have become extremely busy with work and daily rituals. We sometimes overlook how we can structure our day to ease the pressure and support our greatest asset, our children. Children require the following in all aspects of their lives.

- Love and Friendships
- Fun
- Praise
- Engagement
- Structure
- Consistency
- Routine
- Discipline
- Limitations

Successful engagement and learning focuses on all of these areas. They are also guidelines to help any child in their learning and home environment. As much as I accept that a caring and supportive environment has the ability to help a child to achieve their potential, they also require order in their lives. This includes structure, consistency, routine, discipline and limitations. These are incorporated in your management and discipline approach.

It is imperative to remember that we must not compromise our discipline beliefs and structure due to external demands.

Points to remember:

- It is important to respond to your child in the manner that feels in keeping your beliefs and values.
- Talk with your child about your family's beliefs, rules and consequences.
- Use appropriate and non-ambiguous language (including tone).
- How much time does your child spend unsupervised, watching TV in their bedroom or on the internet?
- When was the last time you played a boardgame together?
- Do not give in quickly, because children do not forget the time they 'won'. Constantly meeting their demands reinforces challenging behaviour.
- Implementing discipline strategies is difficult and home rules must be consistent and fair. Both parents must work together.
- The home routine and structure needs to be clear and understood by all family members. Providing limitations makes a household flow easier.
- Body language and eye contact is crucial when talking to children.
- Rewards are always appreciated by children. It is imperative that you do not bribe your child; they then have control over the situation.
- A child should not be making a crucial family decision; this is left for the adults!
- Children should not be told of their parents' concerns/problems, this is where we need to protect them.
- Most importantly have fun, enjoy your children while they are young!

The following African Proverb is very true: **It takes a village to raise a child.** Therefore, please do not forget that we are here to support your family.

Mothers Day Stall: I would like to thank Mrs Bianchi, Mrs DeMaria and many other parents for all of their assistance with the stall. I am not able to organise such events, without the assistance of the parent helpers. Happy Mothers Day to all of our Mothers and Grandmothers. Have a wonderful day!

*Ms Kerrie Neophytou
Head of Fairview*

Careers News

Career News Nos. 6 and 7: The sixth and seventh editions of Career News for 2010 have been posted on the College website. The following link will take you to the newsletters: <http://aitkencollege.edu.au/?id=237>. Edition 6 contains information about the ADF Gap Year, Focus on Melbourne seminars where you can obtain information about the courses offered by the University of Melbourne, an employment Expo in Moonee Ponds, free VCE revision lectures at VU and more and Edition 7 has information about surveying, studying to be a Paramedic, two Sports Medicine and Sports Science seminars and information about a new degree in Dietetics at La Trobe and in Occupational Therapy at ACU.

Year 12 'Transition Seminar': The Year 12 Transition Seminar took place on Tuesday 20 April in the CPA. All the Year 12 students had the opportunity to listen to the post secondary school experiences of seven of our ex Aitken students who talked about their journey upon completing secondary school and shared some observations and advice with our current students - such as, what they know now that they wish they knew then.

Alex Agrotis talked about her unhappy first year experience in the Health Science Faculty at La Trobe University and the steps she had taken to turn this around so that her second year in Occupational Therapy was far more positive. Thomas Burt discussed the differences between TAFE and university, how much he was enjoying his hands on Product Design course and the exhibitions he was involved with. Katelyn Fraser entertained us with her tales of life on teaching rounds and the excellent training she was receiving as part of her Prep - Year 12 Education course at VU. Leah Glynn and Travis Germaine were both very happy with the experiences they were gaining through their Melbourne Model courses - Arts for Leah and Environments for Germaine. They were enjoying the variety of subjects they were able to study as part of their degrees and the flexibility they had to follow various interests as part of these courses.

Shannon Jenkins had some excellent tips for the students about how not to make a mess of your VCE and the importance of doing your best and working to capacity so you did not receive any nasty surprises at the end of the year. He also recommended the VU PPP (Portfolio Partnership Programme) to students who were keen to study a course offered by VU. (The PPP is an alternative entry scheme for VU about which students will receive more information in Term 3.)

Cameron Smith spoke eloquently about following your dream and not getting side tracked by better results than expected or focusing too much on Clearly - In's. He described how he changed pathways once he realised he was not nearly as passionate about studying science as he was about flying.

All the speakers described the adult learning environment post secondary school, the necessity of taking responsibility for your learning and not expecting academic staff to follow up on outstanding items or even to really know their students. They also stressed the importance of joining in the on and off campus activities as a way of meeting and getting to know other students (a tertiary campus can be a very lonely place), of keeping up to date with reading and work requirements outside the lectures and making sure life was a balance of academic study, casual work and socializing. The Year 12 students listened attentively and obviously appreciated the chance to hear from those who have gone before them.

As a result of this session many Year 12's have followed up by making Careers appointments and are taking steps to research and plan for 2011. Heartfelt thanks to the ex students who took time out of their very busy schedules to share their experiences with our students. Many thanks to the College for their support of this activity, the Aitken staff who helped with

supervision and all who contributed to the great success of the event.

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

This week I watched excited children file through the foyer of the CPA to buy some lovely treats for their mum for Mother's day. Even if it is something that mum doesn't necessarily like, hopefully, she will get the feeling that it has been purchased with the purest motivation and every parcel is being given with love. That is the real gift isn't it the joy and the love that comes with the parcel. The contents of the parcel are almost insignificant, except for the fact that it gives an understanding of what your child thinks you will like. I think we catch a glimpse of God's love through our children when they desire to make us happy. I pray that all mums can see, hear and feel the gift of love that comes with every package. May God bless your Sunday!

*Rev Jeanne Beale
Chaplain*

Science News

Aitken Science Week 17-21 May: Students are invited to get involved in a range of exciting lunchtime science activities from Monday 17 May to Friday 21 May. Some of the activities include chemistry demonstrations and experiments, using microscopes to look at water bugs from our creek, rockets, mentos and coke challenge, playing with science toys, visiting our baby goats, making playdoh animals and much much more!!! So keep an eye out in your homeroom for when and where these activities will take place!

*Mrs Viv Eckersley
Head of Faculty - Science*

Physical Education News

GPPSSA District Year 5/6 Sport: The Year 5/6 students have begun training for the Gladstone Park Primary Sport Association district winter round robin competition. Selected students will be competing against Isik College, Gladstone Views, Gladstone Park, Westmeadows and Good Shepherd Primary Schools in Terms 2 and 3 in the winter competition. Good luck to all the teams in their round 1 matches against Good Shepherd.

GPPSSA Cross Country: Selected Year 3-6 students represented Aitken College at the GPPSSA District Cross Country carnival which was held at Meadow Heights Primary School last Friday. Students are to be congratulated on their fantastic efforts. I would also like to thank Mr Nigel Keegan and Mr Michael Slee for their assistance on the day. I wish the following students good luck as they now move on to represent the District at the Region Carnival on 9 June at Brimbank Park.

Results:

U/10 Girls	2 nd Gianni Siracusa 3 rd Carla Demirtel 4 th Shannan Baker	3Z 4SP 4SP
U/10 Boys	3 rd Aaron Boundy 4 th Lachlan Johnson	4S 3H
U/11 Girls	1 st Cheyanne Bir 2 nd Seren Akyuce	5R 5G
U/11 Boys	3 rd Corey Baker 4 th Daniel Mudrinic	5R 5R
U/12 Girls	5 th Coby McTaggart	6K
U/12 Boys	3 rd Lachlan Mills 4 th Sachin Pathmaperuma	5G 6S

*Brigitte Seivers
Primary Sports Co-ordinator*

Performing Arts News



From July/August 1962 until 1975 a new chapter in Australia's history was born with our involvement in the Vietnam War. Even today, opinion is divided and feelings run strong as to whether we should

have been involved or not. Nonetheless, the stories of those who went and those who were left behind, have contributed to the Australian spirit and our identity as a nation.

The VCE Theatre Studies play *Minefields and Miniskirts* explores the experiences of the Vietnam War through 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. It was written by Terrence O'Connell based on stories from a book by Siobhan McHugh.

Based on real life experiences, the play unravels the different yet connected stories of these women, their diverse experiences and their battles with work, finding love, providing support and living everyday surrounded by war. The production of a full-length play constitutes two learning outcomes in Unit Three of VCE Theatre Studies. Students are responsible for planning and designing all elements of the production. They are assessed on the planning and rehearsal process as well as a folio of design work.



The cast consists of five female students; Rachel Edmonds, Marina Yakou, Shirin Karkaria, Amelia Wilson and Sarah Quinlan. The remaining members of the class, Sarah Dickinson, Brenton McCoullough

and Rezzan Ufacikligil, have undertaken the roles of stage management, audio and multimedia.

The students are in their final stages of rehearsals for what looks like being a great theatrical experience.

There are three performances only, May 20, 21 and 22 all commencing at 7.30pm in the Chapel and Performing Arts Centre.

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. The play also features some well-known songs from the era and will include multi-media elements to help tell the story.

Tickets are \$16.50 adults and \$11 concessions and go on sale from April 19 at www.trybooking.com. There is also a family ticket price of \$48.80 which covers two adults and two concessions. All tickets also incur a 30c per ticket booking fee.

*Mr Michael Cooper
Director of Performing Arts*



OSHC NEWS THIS WEEK

'we make kids smile'

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
 Term 2 Week 4	Ball Tiggly & Colouring competition	Outdoor/ Indoor activities/games & Musical Chairs	Mother's Day preparations	Outdoor/Indoor Activities/games & Cooking :pikelets	Indoor/Outdoor activities/games & Mother's Day crafts

N Welcome to OSHC at Aitken College!

E This week we will be busy at work preparing something special for those special people in our lives whose special day is coming up this weekend! Happy MOTHERS DAY to our wonderful mums. As the weather gets colder OSHC will spend more time doing indoor activities with children, however, we will endeavor to take them out (weather permitting) as much as possible to allow them to 'play' out all their energy and gain some fresh air and healthy physical activity.

W **Room Changes for Term Two**

S We will be having room swaps during this term. The dates for room changes to take note of when collecting your children from AFTERCARE are as follows: **Wednesday 9 June, Wednesday 16 June and Monday 21 June.** On these dates OSHC - AFTERCARE ONLY, will be held in common room 2 - which is located directly opposite CR1 and across the court yard, where we often take the children to play with computers. The entrance is directly accessible from the car park. If you are unsure please ask one of the staff to show you at some stage, when you collect your child. Thanks for your co-operation and understanding in this matter.

Phone Reception

Just a note to those of you who sometimes call the OSHC phone and cannot seem to get through... this is because the area we are in does not have a strong network coverage and there are times when we have no reception at all. So sometimes we may not receive messages or records of missed calls till much later in the evening etc. If you need to book your child in on the day, you need also to be sure to notify the school early in the day to pass the message onto your child to come to OSHC. Unfortunately, we are not able to go and collect them. This is only done for preps. Please do as the answering machine message suggests when you ring through, leave a message - we will get it (it is only sometimes there is the delay) but if you do have a booking for your child on the day make sure you notify the school early and then we will also be told. Thanks for your co-operation in this matter. OSHC Phone: 0401 050 498.



Madeline Reynolds and Madison Hall showcasing some fancy lanterns made by students at OSHC

**IMPORTANT
NEW
ENROLLMENTS**

We would like to encourage parents to register online on the Camp Australia web site: www.campaustalia.com.au and follow the links. This ensures quick transfer of information and quicker confirmation on bookings. Once you have registered online please notify OSHC staff as to what days your child will be attending as the rolls are often printed at the beginning of the week - new bookings are pencilled in, though it will be printed on the following week's roll.

**OSHC PHONE:
0401050498**

OSHC TIMES
BSC:
 7:15AM - 8:30AM
ASC:
 3:00PM - 6:30PM