Dear Parents,

2010 has begun very well and each Campus is running smoothly with a very positive atmosphere across the College. Teachers returned three days before the students and worked very hard in trying conditions to make sure that everything was ready for the first day.

I would like to welcome all the new students to the College and wish them well for their time with us.

KHOA PHAM

Sadly, on Thursday 18th March Khoa Pham passed away after a long illness. Khoa was a Year 10 student at the East Keilor Campus, Deputy School Captain and a well liked member of the student body. Our condolences go out to his family. Khoa could usually be found in one of two places at lunchtime; the cricket nets or the Library. I will discuss with his friends and teachers what might be a fitting memorial for Khoa. He will be sadly missed.

VCE RESULTS

The College once again achieved excellent results in 2009. The Dux of the College for 2009 was Minh Huan Dang who achieved an ENTER of 99.8. He has enrolled to study Medicine at Monash University. In addition, 13 students earned ENTERs above 90 and 28 students obtained ENTERs between 80 and 90.

COLLEGE COUNCIL

Tom Burgemeestre has retired as Council President and Sue Newbold has also retired after nine years on Council. I would like to thank them both for their great contribution. The two new Councillors are Andrew Smith and Julie Ryan Maes, who are most welcome. The new office bearers are Iris Centin (President), Shane Wilkinson (Vice President) and Yvonne Wilson (Treasurer).

PARENT INvolVEMENT

A number of barbeques and information evenings have already been held and all parents are welcome to attend College Council Standing Committee Meetings. The Niddrie Campus had a very successful working bee on Saturday 13th March. It is important that these activities provide opportunities for parents to give us feedback and express their views about the College. I would also like to provide opportunities for parents to become more involved in the College, if they wish. There will be further events planned for later in the year so if any parent has an opinion or suggestion for improving the College or would like to become more involved in the College, please contact myself or your Campus Principal.

COLLEGE FACILITIES

The College has allocated significant resources this year to improving the facilities on all Campuses:

- $250,000 for the Niddrie Campus Year 7 Learning Common, which was opened by Bill Shorten on Friday 5th March
- $130,000 for the Essendon Campus Music Technology Centre, which was opened by Bill Shorten on Friday 19th March
- Four more interactive whiteboards have been purchased ($32,000) and have been installed on all three campuses. More will be purchased as funds become available
- $100,000 has been spent at the East Keilor Campus on painting rooms and resurfacing the multi-purpose courts
- $130,000 was allocated to replacing the fence at the Essendon Campus and for re-roofing the Technology Wing

The College is also developing a plan to provide additional air conditioning for classrooms on all campuses.

SWIMMING SPORTS

The weather was kind this year and the sports were a great success, with Blue Team victorious.

STAFF CHANGES

We have a number of new staff this year:

- Jen Bashford (English/Essendon)
- Phillip McNally (Wood/Niddrie)
- Cara Hentschke (Library/Keilor)
- Kellie Brooks (Health/Essendon & Food/Keilor)
- Sherryn Lowndes (Photography/Essendon & Media/Niddrie)
- David Mccarthy (English/Essendon)

A number of staff have also returned from leave:

- Sally Lasslett
- Amy Mangion
- Sarah Forster-Muir
- Yoko Kato
- Tara Dunstan
- Debra Rakataiir
- Charles Hadeed
- Angela Hendrickson
- Melissa Hamilton
- Aphrodite Maio
The following staff have left the College and I would like to thank them all for their contributions:

- Glenda Carozzi (retirement)
- Brad Headlam (promotion)
- Donna Duke (transfer)
- Neil Beaton (retirement)
- Philippe De Zilwa (retirement)
- Gordon Edwards (retirement)
- Barb Rogers (transfer)
- Manolya Moustafa (transfer)
- Rachel Eyers (transfer)
- Laura Whiteley (transfer)
- Mimi Hasen (transfer)
- Massimo Palombo (resignation)
- Charmaine Landers (resignation)
- Andrea Medic (leave)

INCLEMENT WEATHER

All three campuses were severely affected by the storm over the March long weekend, although the East Keilor Campus sustained the most damage. Many thanks to the Principal Team and staff on all campuses for their patience in working through the poor conditions and to the parents of East Keilor students for their understanding when the campus was closed for two days. The Department of Education will cover the cost of repairs which will be completed by the beginning of Term 2.

FAME: THE ULTIMATE SCHOOL MUSICAL

The performance on Friday 29th January was an absolute highlight. Not only were all the people from Foxtel and Freemantlemedia on hand, but Anthony Warlow was in the audience and was very complimentary about our students. Logan Pereira and Samantha Bruzzese were selected for cameo appearances in the commercial production of Fame which opens in April. Everybody involved, from Ruby Rose to the camera operators and runners, had nothing but the highest praise for the students and the College. The executives from both organisations were also incredibly impressed. Feedback from Regional staff and Principals of other schools has also been nothing but positive.

Many thanks to teachers, Julie Clark and Diane Basile who put us into the running in September (against over 100 schools Australia wide), to the East Keilor Campus Principal, Mary Donaldson and Assistant Principal, Lisa Nugent who absorbed all the visitors who came during the decision making process and to all the staff from the three campuses who helped supervise the assembly and auditions. Additional thanks to the East Keilor Campus staff who had their schedules disrupted because of rehearsals and again to Mary and Lisa.

The show will air on Foxtel on the 20th April, preceded by more publicity.

JUNIOR CAMPUS OPEN DAYS

Both the Niddrie and East Keilor Campuses will be holding their Open Day on Tuesday 20th April. This is an opportunity for prospective parents and students to see the school in action.

INNOVATING WITH TECHNOLOGIES RESEARCH GRANT

The College has been successful in obtaining a grant of $3,000 to carry out a research project into the use of 1:1 hand held devices. This is an exciting opportunity for the College as the outcomes from the project will be used to improve teaching not only at Essendon Keilor College, but across the state.

TEN PIN BOWLING CHAMP

VCE student Rachael Glare has been successful in her endeavours to qualify for the 2010 Victorian President Shield Team. Selection into the Victorian President Shield Team will see the bowlers compete against all other states and territories at the highest level. This year the championships will be held at the Werribee SuperBowl from 3rd to 18th April.

We wish Rachael all the best.

DAVID ADAMSON
College Principal

MISSED PHONE CALLS FROM THE COLLEGE

The College receives quite a few calls from parents saying they have a missed call on their mobile or home phone. When you ring the College, the receptionist will not know who called you as all extensions from the three campuses show as having been dialled from the main number (8331 0100). Please ask to be connected to the Campus that your child attends in case the child is in sick bay.

OVERSEAS STUDENTS PROGRAM

A large number of students come to the College each year to study in Australia. The majority are from either China or Viet Nam and they make a significant contribution to the College, financially through their fees, but more importantly through the international perspective that they bring with them.

The College is looking for people in nearby suburbs who would be interested in offering paid homestay for an overseas student. The students attend the VCE Campus and will require full board and accommodation. Contact our Overseas Student Co-ordinator, Mr Alistair McCrum on 9319 1318 for further information.

STUDENT DETAILS

It is extremely important that all details held for students at the College are correct. If any details change e.g. home address, home phone number, parents’ work contact details, etc please don’t forget to ring and let the College know.

TERM 2 COMMENCES ON 12TH APRIL
VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED TO WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE IN SCHOOLS

The YMAP (Youth Mentor Assisted Pathways) Program’s goal is to support young people identified by schools as being ‘at risk’. The program is primarily designed to help such young people either re-connect with their education, help them to explore other educational options or help facilitate successful transition and employment pathways. In other words, to keep young people connected.

A pilot program was run in 2002 and since then 12 schools in the north-western region have been involved in helping young people in schools. YMAP is now the largest in-school mentoring program in the state.

What Type of Skills Do You Need to be a Mentor?

- Mentors need to be willing to share their life skills, be good listeners and genuinely like young people

- Mentors come from a variety of backgrounds. Some are people who have retired from full time work, parents and business people who can provide time during the day, students who are completing studies, sometimes in education or youth work

- Mentors do not judge the young people they work with. A mentor is a positive role model and influence in a young person’s life

- As Mentors are working with young people they require a Working with Children Check (for volunteers there is no cost for this check)

What Do Mentors Do?

- Mentors meet students for approximately 2/3 hours a week for a term (usually 10 weeks, though we are now introducing 15 and 18 week programs) in a time allocated by the secondary college

- Students work with Mentors on a student led project. Projects are based around the students’ career interests but can extend to a range of support strategies aimed at keeping ‘at risk’ young people connected to the system. Activities including excursions to industry and educational providers or tertiary institutions are encouraged

- Mentors are provided with a range of activities and the project worker and the teacher are available during the time the students and Mentors are together

What are the Benefits for Mentors?

- Mentors receive free training and are provided with support during the program. Training covers issues facing young people, the role of the Mentor, qualities and skills required for mentoring, communication skills and problem solving. Travel costs are reimbursed and Working with Children Checks are free for volunteers

- An opportunity to make a difference in a young person’s life and to gain skills and leadership experience along the way

What Do I Do Now?

If you wish to become a Mentor, please contact:

Greg Blake
Youth Worker Co-ordinator - Youth Mentoring Assisted Pathways Program (YMAP)

Mari Pryrnong Moonee Valley LLEN

40 Bellair Street, Kensington P.O. Box 78, Flemington 3031
(03) 93767251
Mob - 0422673847
Email - gregblake@mmvllen.org.au

STUDENT ABSENCE LINES

Essendon Campus 9319 1305
Niddrie Campus 9375 8405
East Keilor Campus 8331 0108

Please leave a message by 9.30 am on the above lines to report your child’s absence

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday 20th April
* Junior Campus Open Days
Monday 26th April
* ANZAC Day Holiday
Thursday 29th April
* College Council
Tuesday 11th May
* NAPLAN Testing begins
Thursday 20th May
* Standing Committees
Thursday 3rd June
* College Council
* Year 10 Exams begin
Tuesday 8th June
* VCE Exams begin
Friday 11th June
* Pupil Free Day
Monday 14th June
* Queen’s Birthday Holiday
Tuesday 15th June
* Year 10 Work Experience begins
Thursday 17th June
* Standing Committees
Saturday 26th June
* Presentation Ball

UNIFORM REVIEW PARENT FORUM

Niddrie Campus
12th May at 7.30 pm

All interested parents welcome
Apprenticeship and Traineeship Opportunities

- Automotive
- Building & Const.
- Business/Clerical
- Cabinet Making
- Child Care
- Education
- Electrical
- Engineering
- Horticulture
- Hospitality
- Information Technology
- Nursing
- Plumbing
- Retail
- Transport & Distribution

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