From the Principal’s Desk

2016 - A Big Year

As another big year draws to a close it gives us time to pause and reflect on the remarkable achievements of our school community in 2016. The year 12 students have now moved from students to alumni and our year 11 students are in the process of becoming wonderful leaders like those before them. Last week year 10 students, Olivia Pert and Caitlyn Muir spoke beautifully at the official launch of Marrung, DET’s Koori Education Plan. I received correspondence from a number of people reinforcing how proud we should be of Upper Yarra students!

Thank You!
I wish to offer everyone thanks for their support of the College over the past 12 months. I also wish to offer my sincere thanks to the UYSC staff for the unwavering dedication and commitment they have shown to our students.

Farewell

Congratulations to Patricia Broom and Michael Schultz who have been successful in gaining Principal positions in 2017. Trish leaves us for a Principal position in Beechworth, whilst Michael will remain connected to the school as the Principal of Gladysdale PS. We also farewell a number of other staff including: Mr Shaun Ferris, Ms Kate Feagan, Ms Melissa Martin, Ms Terese Crea, Ms Kaylene Jarvis, Mr Angus Norwood, Mr Rhys Edwards, Ms Tarsha Edwards, Ms Melissa Jones, Ms Alexis Deed, Ms Sally Nettleship, Ms Rose Draffin, Mr Andrew Darling, and Ms Gail Donohue.

Important Dates

The last day of school is Tuesday 20th of December. Please note that school will conclude at 12.20pm.

We wish you all a very safe and enjoyable holiday period. We look forward to seeing the year 7, 11 and 12 students on **Tuesday January 31st, 2017**, and the entire school ready for learning on **Wednesday February 1st, 2017**.

The Main Office will be open on **Friday January 20th from 9.00am to 12.00pm** for the collection of school textbooks and stationery, and will re-open on **Wednesday 25th January 2017**. Another date to remember is **Tuesday 7th February**, School Photo Day.

Scott Tully | Principal
VCAL Excursion to Rayner’s Orchard

On Friday 25th November, VCAL students went on an excursion to Rayner’s Orchard at Woori Yallock. Students were given a tour of the farm by Farmer Len and introduced to a variety of fruits, which they were able to try.

Len discussed with the students how the farm is run, what it is like to own and run a business and how his business has transformed over the years to be the success that it now is. Students were also able to experience bottling their own fruit, where they peeled and cut pears, placed them in a jar with syrup and ‘cooked’.

Karen Harvey | VCAL

Best Youth Exhibit

Year 10 student, Natalie Ball created an amazing piece of art for the Lilydale Show, the theme of which was Up, Up and Away. Natalie used hundreds of metres of cotton to make an amazing design of hot air balloons floating across a tapestry. Natalie was awarded the Best Youth Exhibit across all the displays at the show. Congratulations to Natalie on her amazing work.
World Of Difference Cambodia Humanitarian Tour
Writing in the style of Edgar Allan Poe.

Upon our first interaction I became immediately aware that I was in love with her. Betrothed was my darkened soul to the enchanting eyes from which she viewed the world. No beauty dared attempt rival hers, as her jetty black hair was unparalleled. Her low voice spoke of soft languages unknown and whispered mysteries known only to the lord. The ethereal grace that gave her step was what brought her unto mine arms to be intoxicated by her saffron scent. Our love grew deeply and it soon blossomed into our fast approaching nuptials. My sweet, homely Arimathae. From the first breath I saw her exhale I knew I would love her even til death, yet not expected was how soon it fell upon us. Twas’ the dawn of the witching hour when the disease first began to consume my beautiful beloved.

Shealyn Buhler Yr 11

It was in the sultry domination of Hellenes at Chaeronea hence the banner of Phillip was staked and thereon reigned over what would become the League of Corinth. A dark, monolithic cumulonimbus lay over all but the sacredness of the dios-laden fields of Lacedaemon. However none were secure, for he had plundered them before and would do so again had it not been for the certain, timely events that plagued such debauching individuals. These years had not been alien to the Spartans, who withered in countenance through their disastrous war with Minerva’s citadel as well as the cessation of ancient alliances with the Peloponnesian likes of Mycenae and ironically Megalopoli, our fote du jour. And so here I am, drenched by what the days past have so adhesively basked me in. Homeric as Hector I can be, with a bronze headed spear of 7 cubits wielded under guise by the correction of King Apollo, we march in phalanx toward the vacuity of the good and the innocent.

Velvets meander, tarnishing the sound sodden air with pitches resembling the sour sonnets of screaming in silence. Within mere seconds, bodies clutter the foot-space of our ranks and sombrely some of the most prestigious of hoplites are cut down by the bladed spirits of the Northerners. Then cometh the diminutive cry, “The King has fallen!”

Agis, third of his name, son of Archidamus, third of his name, lies sundered and bleeding atop the shuffling shields of his comrades. With the Macedonians advancing upon his brethren Agis’ vesicles become potent at the idea of an inevitable dance with kēr, the inescapable destine of death.

On this heroic day, I witness Agis brave-heartedly command his soldiers to rout with treatise. He, hacked to a paraplegic inability for locomotion, yet stands, to preach the supremacy of true freedom in the faces of Antipater’s entourage and indeed all of Arcadia, as with a final act of courage, the King bequeaths his honored suffering and raises his xiphos high, into the heavens for even true gods to bear reception down upon the noble actions of the monarchial Elysian. And so the xiphos is met with iron in Agis’ rancour with onyx tyranny. Man after man fall by the serrated edge of the aged warrior until finally his earthly conduit is stuck down and smote by the cowardice hurl of a Macedonian javelin. Encumbered by my mortal wounds I fear not for the husky plains of Asphodel, for duteously had I accepted mine fate long ago. Rather I ponderously dwell on the revery that shall be told of this event in the days to come whilst I wait my reckoning. Whence the troubadours recite to our offspring free, “What sayest thou in thy times strife”, shall the masses call upon the three ‘for Jove, Heracles and the Agiads, Kleos aphthiton!’

Conan Palmer Yr 11

Writing to Learn

Such beauty never before seen held in my distorted gaze. Misconception at its finest the purest spirit my heart did hold. Yes, they with their ethereal delicacy lightly stepping, tiptoeing around in fear, my favourite version of them. Unbeknown to them, my observations gone unnoticed but still, they know. They can tell someone is watching them. I mean them no harm, merely a morbid curiosity of mine to sit and watch the human form, the boring mundane things that others disregard fill me with a sense of joy. So simple and pure the actions are, people are always the strangest when they’re alone. So comfortable to be themselves, no fear of judgment or rejection, beauty in the rawest form.

Rahnie Geilesky-Wilson Yr 11

It was enchanting a love that was more than love for what was never said is said now mightn’t be the end!

Ebony Lily Yr 11

Oh alas one day! my love and me now isn’t the time now mightn’t be the end! Oh alas my love for what was never said is said and a love that was more than love I allow it to be dead

RACI Chemistry in Art Competition

Congratulations to Demira Robinson and Jazmine Bull who received Highly Commended for their entry.

The aim of the competition was to demonstrate creative ways of linking art and science, particularly chemistry. Students were asked to create a two dimensional image where the subject matter must be something scientific related to chemistry.

Olga Timoney | Science Domain Leader
A Robot’s Role

UYSC students enjoyed an engaging discovery and “taster” program at the new Yarra Ranges Tech School Box Hill Institute Lilydale Campus. Students were challenged with the task of programming a 60 second routine for their robots - designed to improve patient well being in a high tech hospital environment. http://www.education.vic.gov.au/…/techs…/Pages/default.aspx...

Marrung Aboriginal Education Plan Launch

Year 10 students, Olivia Pert and Caitlyn Muir spoke as part of a panel at the launch of the Marrung Aboriginal Education Plan. This is a strategic plan with an aim to improve the success of Koorie students and to close the gap in Koorie education outcomes where these exist.

They had the daunting task of speaking at the forum in front of leaders in Indigenous education and welfare, representatives from North East region, Principals, teachers and parents.

As part of the forum they were asked to reflect upon and comment on their educational experiences and what they felt was working well in the Indigenous programs within our school.

They also suggested areas in which Indigenous education may need to be refocused and made some amendments to the suggested wording within the document.

We are very proud of how confidently they spoke and the positive way in which they represented our school.

Denise Muir | Indigenous Liaison 2017

QuickSmart

The QuickSmart students from Literacy and Numeracy celebrated successfully completing the program this year. The group received their certificates after working really hard and we are proud of their achievements. Student comments about the program are:

“The one thing I learnt was to always underline the important words so I could understand the story more.”

“Doing QS numeracy has really improved my Pat Maths score.”

“Learning my tables automatically has helped me in Maths classes.”

“The thing I learnt the most was the suffix and prefix on words.”

“In QuickSmart I learnt how to summarise stories.”
Mr Gray

Tell us a bit about yourself.

I've been teaching at Upper Yarra SC for four years after working for the previous 10 years at Lilydale Heights College. I am the Junior School Leader which places me in charge of all matters concerning years 7, 8 and 9. I love teaching at UYSC and I have enjoyed building strong relationships with students, families and our community. I plan to stay at UYSC for the rest of my working life and ensure that we create and are recognised as one of the finest schools in Victoria.

What are your passions?

My passion outside of teaching is keeping fish. I have more than 40 species of tropical fish from Australia, Africa and Central America, many of which are successfully breeding. I am currently running an Aquarium of approximately 20 tanks at school in the room between H2 and H3. I am expertly assisted by 12 eager students. I hope that in future years UYSC is well known for its Aquarium Program. I imagine this to include tropical and saltwater aquatic (underwater gardens and landscaping) as well as a successful business making sales to the public, specialising in exotic fish. All this will eventually be run solely by the students involved.

Grace Bray Yr 9

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Alpine School Update

Dear parents, students and teachers of Upper Yarra Secondary College. Caleb, Cody and I are at the School for Student Leadership and we are working on our CLP (Community Learning Project). We have decided to do things involving the retirement village in Yarra Junction. We would like to play board games and talk with the elderly people for our project but we need your help. If you have any board games that you would like to get rid of, please think about donating them to our project. There will be a box in the office for the board games to go so please put them in there. We hope for this project to go ahead and make it an annual thing. Thank you.

Grace Bray Yr 9

"Humans of Upper Yarra Secondary College"