



Mallacoota P-12 College

Newsletter

Tuesday 8th December, 2020

Week 10 of 11

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



Last Friday evening our Year 12 students, along with many of our staff, came together to celebrate the completion of their education at Mallacoota P-12 College. Throughout the evening, students and staff enjoyed a wonderful trip down memory lane, reflecting on not only some of the amazing and interesting events, activities and achievement of our students, but also marvelling at the fact that it seems like just yesterday we welcomed them into our school for the very first time. As is often the case, many of these students have spent their entire 13 years of schooling at Mallacoota P-12. Some have come more recently, and sadly, some have moved onto other places along the way. Either way, this was a celebration for them all, with those no longer at MP-12 included in the wonderful slideshow presented on the evening.

To add a touch of humour, the students reversed the usual scenario and presented each staff member with an award, highlighting a skill, talent or attribute that the students connected with them. Being the inclusive group that they are, they even printed up certificates for staff who have moved on since teaching them somewhere along their educational journey.

The evening was, of course all about the celebration of our students' achievements, but a highlight for me was that every element of the evening, from the casual conversations and the speeches to the award giving, were all testament to the amazing relationships that our staff and students share. Living, working and

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Reminder:
Term 4 finishes on Friday,
December 18th at 12.20 pm

WHAT'S ON

DECEMBER

- 7-11** Year 6, 7, and 8 Activities Week
- 7-11** Bronze Medallion Course
- 8** Evacuation Drill
- 8** After School Netball
- 8 & 9** Boite Schools' Chorus visit
- 9** Bushfire Season Emotional Preparedness Session for Primary Parents (3.30 - 4.30 pm)
- 10** Bushfire Season Emotional Preparedness Session for Secondary Parents (5.00 - 6.00 pm)
- 13** 'Wheels of Wonder' film screening, 5.00 pm
- 14** Nüdel Kart
- 15** Celebration (Presentation) Evening
- 18** Term 4 ends, 12.20 pm finish

NIPPERS

It's with regret that I am announcing that the Primary Nippers program will be postponed and will not take place this year. Unfortunately, due to staffing and wellbeing challenges, we do not have the numbers to run a safe and viable program.

Simon Berry

From the Library:

Could students please return their library books this week, to enable them to borrow for the holidays.



Many thanks, Trudy Reichelt



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attending school in a small community has its challenges, but there are many rewards and I truly believe that the students of our town benefit from the positive interactions they have with our staff, both within and beyond the school boundaries, in community and service organisations, sporting clubs and through wider community connections.

We congratulate our class of 2020 and wish each of them all the very best in whatever they choose to do beyond the P-12 years. We know this wonderful group of young adults have many amazing experiences and opportunities at their feet and they are well equipped for success.

While we farewell our Year 12s, this week we are fortunate to be able to increase the Kinder Transition program and welcome next year's Prep class into the school for some classroom activities. This is an exciting time for the students and parents of what will become our Mallacoota P-12 College class of 2034- eek! We will cherish every moment with them as we know the time will fly by oh so quickly.

Last week's newsletter included information about NÜDEL KART and some fun sessions that will run for the Kinder and Primary students during Monday 14th December. The team from Playground Ideas will be here over the weekend of 12-13 December and have a film that they are offering to screen at school on the evening of Sunday 13th from 5:00pm. The film, 'The Wheels of Wonder' follows a team of ambitious social impact creators as they enter Lebanon's capital, Beirut, with a curious project. Their mission: to trial and test an unusual prototype play cart with the hope of improving the lives of refugee children through "loose parts" play.

This thoughtfully told story highlights the importance of play, which is said to be as crucial to a child's brain development as food and sleep. The film shines a light on the immense challenges facing those who have been forcibly displaced, but transcends politics with uplifting moments of strength and resilience in the face of adversity.

A trailer of 'The Wheels of Wonder' along with online bookings (hurry- limited numbers) can be found at: <https://www.nudelkart.com/moviemal.html>

In light of the challenges and changes to the usual learning programs across all government schools this year, the Department of Education and Training have provided schools with advice on modified requirements for reporting student progress in our Semester 2 reports. At Mallacoota, we have decided to provide additional information for English and Maths, in order to provide context to the Victorian Curriculum score being provided. Information went out to families last week, outlining the information that parents can expect in their child/ren's reports. Please

note that reports for Year 11 students will remain as normal for a VCE report and that Semester 2 reports for Year 12 courses are provided by VCAA (Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority).

Booklists and Subject Selections also went out to all families last week. The Department of Education and Training have made some changes to the way booklists and fees are structured. This was outlined in an accompanying letter. VCE Subjects on offer for 2021 are based on information provided by students, along with what is possible for school of our size and in the best interests of our students. Where we are unable to run a subject face to face, students may have the opportunity to complete their chosen subject via Virtual School Victoria. Students completing subjects this way receive support from Mallacoota staff. Next year we again offer an opportunity for our VCE Biology students to receive their tuition using a combination of face to face and virtual learning platforms delivered by an experienced Biology teacher from Orbost Secondary College. This opportunity is supported through a VCE Collaboration Fund. If you have any questions, please contact the College Office.

uEducateUs was rolled out this year as a communication tool between school and parents/carers. Using the uEducateUs app on your mobile phone or device, you can:

- Inform us of student absences, late arrivals and early departures.
- Receive notification if your child is absent without prior notification.
- Receive the newsletter and other notices relevant to your child/family.
- Receive permission slips and provide consent for camps and excursions.
- Book parent teacher interviews.

...and much more. Next year, we will continue to use this and look forward to all parents accessing their uEducateUs accounts. It really is simple and user friendly and allows us to streamline our communications with you and keep you up to date with what you need to know.

If you are not already using uEducateUs, we will provide login details early in the new year.

We are planning towards a modified presentation evening to be held on Tuesday 15th December. Families will receive information about the event by the end of this week. All families and students are encouraged to attend as this is a celebration of the wonderful things that have been achieved by our students this year.

Exciting news! our school is set for a number of upgrades over the coming months. Firstly, our science portable will

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receive a makeover, with much needed upgrades. Much of the roof on our main building will be replaced and a rearrangement and refurbishment to our administration block are also set to begin early in the new year. And, we may also have been successful in a grant application to upgrade our school entry and car park area.

Lastly, a timely reminder to parents who are coming into the school to please enter via the College Office and sign in. This is a requirement not only within the current Covid restrictions (for contact tracing if needed) but also in the

case of any type of emergency or evacuation, be that a drill or the real thing. We must ensure that we know exactly who is on site at any given time. We appreciate the additional effort that this takes and thank our families for supporting our procedures to keep everyone safe.

Best wishes,

Kathy Scott and David Mowbray

A Letter to the Year 12 Students and their Families

2020. What a year to do Year 12!

At Tim's insistence our school started on the first day of the Victorian term - despite my complaining, 'Can't we have a week or two to get organised?' The fires had thrown everyone in town into chaos. We were still needing to wear masks for the smoke at this stage.

And to my surprise the kids came. And the Year 12s were all there whenever they were allowed to be, and engaging online when they weren't, from their first day to their last day of the school year.

I think school was their safe place and class was my safe place this year. Too much to do at home - trying to get things in order and the same at work when not in class. And Covid 19 only added to all that. Modified curriculums, figuring out how to teach online, finding usable resources and getting kids using them, postponed exams...

Student learning was slow progress after the fires - too much on their minds. I started opening the school on Saturday mornings (unpaid) to give them the opportunity to get a bit more done. And a few came to that too - all year at times when we were allowed on site. Other teachers also ran weekend sessions and before and after school sessions.

Our Year 12s were keen and serious, when many in the state gave up, and most staff rose to the challenge to support them.

Year 12 is the hardest year of most Year 12s lives. This year is the hardest year I have seen for year 12 (and I've seen a good 25 year 12 classes through).

Our VCEs and VCALs and staff have done an incredible job in this amazing year. I will remember them forever. If you see them in the street, tell them how good they are.

The negative narrative that has been expressed by some in our community has been to the detriment of staff and students who have worked so hard in such trying times.

And to my 2020 Year 12 class. Sorry I didn't make a speech on Friday night. I was exhausted, and angry, and was afraid I would bring things down on such a great night. You are amazing.

These are my sentiments only - not a statement from the school.

Peter Embleton,
Later Years Lead Teacher,
Mallacoota P-12 College



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Dear Parents/Carers,

The Be You Bushfire Recovery Program, as part of Headspace Schools, will be facilitating two webinars to support parents of students at Mallacoota P-12 in their emotional preparedness for the upcoming bushfire season. Please note that registration is required. Please follow the link on UEducateUs to register and you will be sent a Zoom link prior to the session.

Parents of Primary School Students

Topic: Emotionally Preparing as a Parent for the Upcoming Bushfire Season

Description: This interactive session will be led by the Be You Bushfire Response Program to discuss practical and emotional preparedness for bushfire seasons. The session aims to build knowledge and practical strategies to support parents as they navigate this challenging topic.

Date and Time: Wednesday 9th December, 3:30pm – 4:30 pm

Parents of Secondary School Students

Topic: Emotionally Preparing as a Parent for the Upcoming Bushfire Season

Description: This interactive session will be led by the Be You Bushfire Response Program to discuss practical and emotional preparedness for bushfire seasons. The session aims to build knowledge and practical strategies to support parents as they navigate this challenging topic.

Date and Time: Thursday 10th December, 5:00pm – 6:00 pm

Tegan Moore, Mallacoota P-12 Social Worker



E Safety Resources

We are in the digital world. Young people are able to navigate through their computers, phone and the internet like never before. Names like tagging, trolling, cyberbullying and not so discreet websites are out there. Fortunately there is some up to date information to support teens, parents, carers plus educational 'kids' activities on a government website. <https://www.esafety.gov.au> .

Resources include E Safety for parents, cyberbullying, online safety, time online inappropriate content, grooming and how to use 'parental controls tools' which include filters parents can put on their wireless home internet. There is also 'What to do when....'

The control tools for carers may include:

- can block children from accessing specific websites, protocols or applications
- filter different kinds of content, like sexual content
- allow parents to monitor use with reports on sites accessed, the length of time and frequency of access
- can be used to set time limits, blocking access after a set time — handy if you are not home and want to limit the time your child spends on a game or social media
- allow parents to change the tool settings to reflect each child's age and skills.

Some mobile phones do now have internet blocks or can be set up to block content. For further information see <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/skills-advice/taming-technology>

Other suggestions:

YouTube for children app. <https://kids.youtube.com/>

Cyber safety information <https://www.esafety.gov.au/>

E Safety guide for parents PDF <https://www.esafety.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-09/English%20-%20Parents%20guide.pdf>

Cyber safety security for family

<https://www.staysmartonline.gov.au/protect-yourself/protect-your-stuff/cyber-security-your-family>

<http://www.netnanny.com>

Helen, School Nurse.

Resources: <https://esafety.gov.au/>



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GROWING BACK EAST GIPPSLAND

HOPE AND REGROWTH - 2021 THROUGH THE EYES OF GIPPSLAND STUDENTS.

"We chose a rainbow to represent the hope we share of our region gaining back its strength in all the areas we have had a loss." - Prep to grade 6 students Lakes Entrance Primary School.



There's been plenty for us to grumble about during 2020.

A year that started with bushfires, was dominated by a global pandemic, and punctuated by floods has left many of us counting down to 2021.

Among the disappointment, heartache and confusion of 2020, Gippsland students have used art to add some colour to 2021.

In a unique calendar featuring paintings, drawings, photographs and sketches, students aged from 6 to 15 have shown what "Growing back East Gippsland" means to them.

For one, it is the fresh shoots from a log in the forest, for another it's spring flowers and the hope the blooms represent.

East Gippsland Art Gallery director Crystal Stubbs said creativity plays an important role in recovering from tragedy.

"It's a great idea, it is well documented that creating art can improve the mental health of people who have experienced trauma," she said.

"What was nice about this project is that it gave the young people of East Gippsland an opportunity to creatively display how they felt post-bushfires and, with the calendar, a platform to showcase their work."

Michelle Hibbert, Bushfire Recovery Manager at the Dept. of Education and her team were a fantastic support, along with the East Gippsland Art Gallery to encourage schools to submit artwork for the calendar and collect finished pieces during the Victorian COVID-19 lockdown.



"We always had an abundance of little wrens here. After the fires there was none. No birds. We didn't know if they would return. It took three months for the birds to come back. We were excited to see them alive." - Bridie 10, Mallacoota P-12 College.

Each calendar picture is accompanied by the student's photograph and an explanation of their artwork. It is a true insight into the resilience of the next generation and the Gippsland community spirit.

All money raised through the sale of calendars will be donated towards bushfire recovery efforts in East Gippsland communities.

This initiative is an opportunity to give-back to a community that's looking forward to a bright future.

Bulk orders of the calendars are available for corporate Christmas gifts, or to just add some love and light to office walls.

Kick 2021 off on the right foot with some inspired Gippsland student artwork.

BUY THE CALENDAR at <https://gippslandia.shop/>



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Classical Strings and **AFRICAN DRUMS**



With members of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and Kofi Kunkpe and Stella Savy from the Boîte Schools Chorus visiting Mallacoota over the last few days, Mallacoota P-12 students have had some fabulous opportunities to meet and make music with some world class musicians!



TERM FOUR CALENDAR

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK 10	December 7 Year 6, 7 & 8 Activities Week Bronze Medallion Camp	December 8 Evacuation Drill Boîte Schools' Chorus Bronze Medallion Camp After School Netball 4.30 – 5.30 Primary 6.00 – 7.00 Secondary	December 9 Boîte Schools' Chorus Bronze Medallion Camp Bushfire Season Emotional Preparedness Session for Primary Parents (3.30 - 4.30 pm)	December 10 Bronze Medallion Camp Bushfire Season Emotional Preparedness Session for Secondary Parents (5.00 - 6.00 pm)	December 11 Bronze Medallion Camp
WEEK 11	December 14 Nüdel Kart ('Wheels of Wonder' film screening, Sunday 13/12/20 at 5.00 pm)	December 15 Presentation (Celebration) Evening	December 16	December 17	December 18 Term 4 ends, 12.20 pm finish