Thailand Teachers

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As I begin this newsletter, Year 12 VCE students are emerging from their first exam. It was good to hear their comments about the English exam were generally positive. Students from Years 7 to 11 will have now received their Progress Reports. Teachers will be discussing the reports with students in Learning Group and in their subject classes. We want students to really focus on one or two areas to develop and improve before the end of this term. As parents we encourage you to have these conversations about the areas in which students have improved and support them in tackling something they are finding challenging.

The Department of Education & Training has just released their plan for The Education State. I attended a Principal Forum last week where we were given an overview. The plan includes priorities for schools, Program for Students with a Disability Review, Student Resource Program Review, Equity Funding and some details about the regional restructure which will provide more support to schools. There was also a presentation of the new Victorian Curriculum to be implemented in 2017. This document is a draft summary of the school improvement priorities.

I encourage you to have a look on the Department of Education and Training website for more detailed information.

The Transition Team are currently working with primary schools and parents to ensure our 2016 Year 7 students have a positive experience as they prepare for next year. Year Level Teams will communicate with our current students over the next weeks in regard to course selection, camps etc in preparation for next year. Year 11/12 Headstart week will begin for current Year 10/11 students on 30th November.

2015 is the inaugural year of the College Council endorsed Teaching Fellowship. This award is a grant to support teachers in building their capacity as educators to further improve student learning outcomes.

The focus of the fellowship involves two main areas:

- Professional travel interstate or overseas to learn from another school system or attend an international conference.
- Obtaining a higher qualification such as a master level degree or a certificate in a specialized area of education.

The fellowship may be awarded to one or more staff members each year.

Congratulations to Mr Jaydyn King who will use the award to support his work with students in Careers and Pathways. Jaydyn will complete the Certificate IV in Career Development.

The Presentation Balls were a great success. It was wonderful to see so many families enjoying the evening and supporting the Year 10 students. Thank you to Raelene Fry, Jeannine Taylor and parent helpers. A special mention to Sue Osborne who painted the backdrop. An event like this doesn’t happen without considerable support from teachers and ES staff. Thanks to Karly Goss and the Senior LC Team, Kevin Thorpe, Josie O’Connor, Melissa Tyrell and Ross Davies. Also Brie Brooker and Skye Blythe who MCd and the Year 9 students who did a great job waiting and clearing each night.

The HPV team has competed at Murray Bridge and is now preparing for Maryborough. They also had a very successful fundraiser at the Casey event. Thanks to Ben Stein, the HPV parents group, Jen Rolls and Jaydyn King.

Broadening Horizons has been the focus for one of the Karobran groups this semester. Melinda McHutchison has been working on this with The Beacon Foundation since the start of the year. Melinda and Jenn Rolls have developed a great program with their students and the beginnings of a partnership with the West Gippsland Hospital.

Cows Create Careers another great effort by the Agriculture students and Julie Pilgrim-Cayzer.

The Thai Teacher Exchange led by Gita Walker, Rebecca Williams and Janelle Dorian has reminded us that there is a diverse education world to participate in and explore.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**STUDENT FREE DAYS - 2016**

Wednesday 27th January
Tuesday 26th April (follows Anzac Day)
Friday 10th June
Friday 29th July

The end of the school year for 2016 will soon be upon us. We will be focused on getting the best out of our students and making sure each student finishes the year achieving the best learning growth possible.

Deb Gentle
Acting Principal

“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.”

-Aristotle
Cows Create Careers

The Year 9 Agriculture class competed in Cows Create Careers, which involved raising calves and completing a 3D information poster on different components of the dairy industry, relating everything back to dairy and agricultural careers. They were up against a number of other schools from Gippsland and Melbourne East.

One of our teams ‘The Moosketeers’ came third in the senior section which was a fantastic result. The students in ‘The Moosketeers’ were Madi Ruppell, Nick Cunningham, Tori Alberni, Tanika Moore and Kiera Tilling.

Year 7 students are to be congratulated for reading over 52 million words since the beginning of the year! The target for each semester is to read at least three books and successfully complete quizzes on each. The following students have all completed quizzes between 9th October and 30 October: Taliah Brooker, Lachlan Brown, Joshua Mills, Jessica MacKinnon, Zoe Hope, Halle Braybon, Chloe Kirkman, Amber Bullen, Lauren Webb, Joshua Marriott, Rachael Diston, Tanner Hay, Xavier Swetman, Tessa Gibson, Hayley Bow, Angus Adamik, Bilynda Dunn, Thalia Mitchell, Kiarna Craig, Kierra Bain, Jodie Beard, Eirann Francis, Emily Goldfinch, Tammy Turner, Tahlia Hopkins, Hannah Rickards, Angus Hales, Alexander MacDonald, Trinity Powell, Brodie Carter, Jack McConville, Brandon Peters, Enrico Ercoles, Bailey Osseweyer, Georgia Larsen, Ruby Simpson, Jordan Carter, Natalia Dijkstra, Vanessa Gooden, Levi Sims, Raine McAlister, Samantha Titford, Russell Chaplin, Sarah Robins, Shaun Custance, Harrison Stephens, Ben Mildren, Tasha Mitchell, Cienna Byers.

Progress can be tracked at https://auhosted1.renlearn.com.au/1458054 using the student’s username and password for Moodle.
Exam Study Timetables

Here are a few suggestions on how to approach the huge task of studying for exams. Please note that the points below are only guidelines and may not work for each student. Extract those ideas/concepts that are relevant to you and compose your own study timetables.

1. Plan to have all your learning completed at least one week before your first exam.
   This will give you sufficient time to improve on weak areas, practise past examination papers and improve analysis/application skills.
   Use the last week or two to practise past examinations under exam conditions. This will enable you to consolidate/review course materials, practise timing skills as well as provide you with sufficient time to discover your weaknesses and correct them before the actual examinations are held.
   Please do not panic if you haven’t learned all your materials by the deadline (one week before the first exam). You will still have plenty of time remaining in the last week to learn the rest of your materials.

2. In order to obtain the higher scores, students need to be prepared to put in the required time and effort.
   Those students who have not been reviewing materials after they have completed that topic may need to allocate up to approximately 30 hours per term per subject (60 hours to prepare for one mid-year examination) if they wish to reach their maximum potential.

3. Divide each subject into sections of different sizes and in accordance with the number of days available for learning before the actual examination.
   For example: If there are 28 days before the examinations, divide the materials to be learned/reviewed into 21 sections or sets. This will leave a seven day buffer for students to get through the examinable materials under low stress conditions and/or perfect their examination skills.
   **Note:** Divide sections of work that you hate and/or cannot understand into small volumes.
   • Divide sections that you “sort of understand” into medium page length volumes.
   • Divide materials that you find easy or that you enjoy into larger volumes.

4. Rank each section of work in the order that you would prefer to study them.
   **Note:** Topics that you do not like or regularly put off are typically the topics that you do not understand and that require the greatest amount of attention. These sections of work should be addressed first so that you have plenty of time to absorb, understand and commit information to memory.
   • If you have a lot of homework to do, are feeling tired or demotivated, choose an easy section of work to learn or a set of notes that are small in volume.
   • Compile a list of all topics to be studied. Cross off each topic as it has been committed to memory.
   **Note:** Students need not dedicate one night per subject when studying or formulating study timetables. Some students may prefer to divide their available time each day to multiple subjects.
   For example: 1-2 subjects on weeknights, 2-3 subjects on weekend days.

Exam Room Hints...

1. You have ten minutes before the commencement of reading time.
   This gives you some time to calm down and get yourself into the right mental attitude for some efficient writing.

2. Make sure you have the correct exam paper.

3. Read the instructions carefully.

4. Read through the whole paper quickly in about two-three minutes. This will give you an overview of the exam. Go back and read the question again carefully.

5. Don’t spend time thinking about questions you are confident you can answer. Instead think about key words in the question, especially ones that tell you what to do like outline, prove, state, summarise etc.

6. With complex questions consider any key pieces of information. Think about what you know about the topic from details given.
   Don’t become anxious if the wording seems strange and unfamiliar. The material being examined must come from your topics in one way or another. Put the main ideas in the back of your mind while you are doing other questions.

7. With questions containing an either/or section, make a decision about one of them and forget the other options.

8. If you feel panic creeping in, stop immediately and take some deep breaths. Think about some related areas to the topic that you know really well and then re-read the question.

9. Don’t waste your time ruling up pages.

10. Name and label all answers clearly.

11. Write clearly with a pen and not in pencil.

12. Start with a question that you feel you know quite well – it may not be the first one on the paper. This will get you off to a flying start and give you confidence.

13. Block out the other people in the exam room – don’t worry about how they may be going, you have enough to do looking after yourself.

14. Make sure you read each question carefully. A brilliant answer to the wrong question gets no marks.

15. During an exam you may be writing an answer for one question, when you think something important about another question. Write a quick note on your question paper or spare paper to remind you later of information that came to mind. If you do not note them straight away, then you can forget them just as easily.

16. If you have to remember certain facts or formulae in order to answer specific exam questions, it may be helpful to note them on your question paper as soon as possible. By doing this you can concentrate on tackling the questions without worrying about recalling the required facts when you need them.

17. You are not permitted to leave the exam room before time is up. If you finish early, use any spare time to improve your answers. Read through your answers to see if you can think of better words or phrases. Check that decimal points are in the right place. Are all the diagrams and graphs properly labelled? Are all the answers numbered correctly?

18. Don’t panic if you run out of time. Give an outline of the way in which you would answer the question if there was more time.
Singing for their supper...

On 14th October, students completing the second year of their VET Hospitality course prepared a delicious three course meal for the Baw Baw Singers Group. The night had a fantastic atmosphere in the Food 4 Thought restaurant with the fine food accompanied by some beautiful vocal performances from the group, the chef’s favourite obviously being ‘Food Glorious Food’.

End of Year Music Concert

On Thursday, 15th October, eighteen of the school’s instrumental music students performed solos and duets at the End of Year Music Concert.

The Wind Ensemble also performed an arrangement of Adele’s Rolling in the Deep and the Guitar Ensemble performed a Spanish tune. However, the show was stolen by the members of the drum crew who appeared on stage randomly throughout the concert with brooms. Inspired by the percussion group Stomp, they finally came together at the end of the concert to perform with their brooms.

Well done to all the students who performed, it was a great evening showcasing the talent of our school. Many thanks to the families and friends who provided an audience for our students and thank you to the teachers who helped prepare the students for their performances.
From time to time throughout the year, Careers offers students the opportunity to participate in a range of opportunities to get a taste for particular careers. Lately, students have attended the Emergency Services Careers Information Days and a day at HMAS Cerberus with the navy.

Early in Term 4, five DSC students, along with students from other West Gippsland and La Trobe Valley schools, attended the Emergency Services Careers Information Days, organised by the Baw Baw Latrobe LLEN. On Day 1, students heard from a variety of people about careers in the police force and visited both the police station and the ambulance station in Traralgon. On Day 2, students went to the Traralgon Fire Station where they learnt about life as a fireman and how to become one. A demonstration was carried out; rescuing a person (dummy) from one of the back sheds. This was followed by a visit to HEMS2 at the Latrobe Valley Airport. Here they learnt about the air ambulance helicopter and the amazing pilots, paramedics and crew who work in them. Lastly, it was a visit to the SES Office in Moe, followed by an operational demonstration at the Newborough base.

A sensational two days were had by all. We are very grateful for the time and effort that all of the professional staff in the Latrobe Valley Emergency Services devoted to inform our students about the rewards of a career in the Emergency Services. Thanks very much to Kylie Downey at the LLEN for her organisation of this event.
Year 11 Agriculture

Year 11 Agriculture had a great learning experience on their two day camp to the Mornington Peninsula. They went to a winery, learning about all the things involved in growing grapes. We also visited a goat dairy where cheese tasting, kid patting and milking were real eye openers. The camp was completed with a talk about strawberries and getting to pick our own punnets of yummy strawberries.

8H Volunteers make a difference

As volunteers, members of the 8H Leos team assisted the Lions Club at a very successful Garden Expo.

The Garden Expo is enormous, running over two days with over 160 exhibitors and thousands of people attending.

The boys were of great help to the Lions Club by working at the entry gate, running a children’s potting table, selling raffle tickets and helping to set-up and pack-up stalls.

Giving up their time to volunteer over the weekend showed enormous community spirit.

Well done boys!
Excitement, pre-journey jitters and anxiety were just a few feelings going through many of the Duke of Edinburgh students’ minds as they set off for their first Adventure Journey. The journey would take them walking with fully loaded backpacks along the Bass Coast Trail from Punchbowl to Kilcunda, some of the most spectacular coastal scenery in Victoria. After a night in tents at the caravan park it was onto Lysterfield Park for two days of mountain bike riding, learning skills, confidence and control on differing terrains.

The students worked on their curriculum values to show leadership, teamwork ethics and develop decision making skills. Character strengths were a major focus too and students realised their potential and the potential in other students. Overall, it was a wonderful experience with 19 very talented students who overcame their fears and realised the strength of the mind. A special thank you to Kerrie Wainwright, Jack Barnes and the team at Nayook Outdoor Education Centre, who all made the camp an amazing memory for our students.

*Gita Walker*
Duke of Ed Coordinator
Thai-Bridge Project visits Drouin for 2015

Recently Drouin Secondary College had a visit from three teachers from the Rajavinit Mathayom School in Bangkok. The teachers were at DSC to observe and learn about our Professional Learning Teams; where teachers develop and share techniques and strategies to best suit the needs of student abilities.

The teachers were very impressed with the diversity of subjects and styles of teaching delivery, and the care and passion DSC teachers have towards their students. The teachers were working closely in the areas of English, Maths and SOSE and hope to return to Bangkok to initiate similar working teams. Rebecca Williams, Janelle Dorian and myself will be visiting Bangkok in January to support the further development of the PLTs.

This has been a wonderful opportunity to share our knowledge and skills and learn more about the Thai culture and education. The program is sponsored by the Asia Foundation through the Thai-Bridge project at Melbourne University. This is the second Thai-Bridge project DSC has participated in, sharing cross cultural ideas, values and lifestyle.

_Gita Walker_
Alcohol is a drug. It acts as a depressant (slows down the central nervous system) and has numerous other effects on the body. Adolescents have less physical tolerance to the effects of alcohol. Adolescence is a time when the brain is still rapidly developing and it is therefore more susceptible to damage due to drinking alcohol. There are a number of other harms associated with alcohol that are more likely to occur during adolescence.

**Short-term problems caused by alcohol intoxication**

Alcohol intoxication in young people can result in significant harms, including:

**Physical injuries and risk-taking**
Adolescents who binge drink (drink a large amount in a short space of time) are more likely to engage in risky behaviours that can result in serious injury, such as falls and road traffic accidents. Adolescents who drink are also more likely to engage in risky sexual activity, exposing themselves to sexually transmitted infections. Alcohol contributes to the three leading causes of death among young people (unintentional injuries, homicide and suicide).

**Violence and sexual assaults**
Young people who drink heavily are more likely to become involved in violent confrontations, either as aggressors or victims. Both boys and girls are more vulnerable to sexual assault when intoxicated with alcohol.

**Suicide and self-injury**
Risk of suicide and self-injury is higher in adolescents who drink heavily or frequently. Alcohol increases the risk in several ways. It can intensify feelings of anxiety, depression and aggression, while at the same time undermining the person’s ability to cope. It can also make a person more likely to act on suicidal thoughts.

**Long-term problems as a result of adolescent alcohol use**
Adolescents who drink are at a greater risk of a broad range of psychological and physical problems in adulthood. These include:

**Alcohol abuse/dependence**
Evidence indicates that any drinking during adolescence increases the chance of developing a drinking problem in early adulthood, and the earlier someone starts drinking the greater the risk.

**Depression and other mental illnesses**
Young people who suffer from mental illnesses are more likely to use alcohol to help them cope. While alcohol can make people feel better in the short term, heavy drinking can make these problems worse.

**Social problems**
Abuse of alcohol is associated with dropping out of school, unemployment and social isolation.

**Physical health problems**
Persistent heavy drinking can produce a range of physical health problems, including liver disease and brain damage.

More information can be obtained from:
https://drinkwise.org.au/

Laura Van Stijn
Secondary School Nurse – Drouin Secondary College
Year 10 Dukes visit career fire fighters in Morwell

Year 10 Dukes are still busy this term. This week the team was experiencing what life is like for permanent firefighters in Morwell.

The students realized the unpredictability of the job when we arrived to a bare station with fire fighters on a job at the Power Station. The morning saw students controlling the 19 metre aerial boom and an impressive display from the Bronto platform, rising 42 metres in the air, used for rescue and fire-fighting.

Another session involved ropes rescue and harnessing up to carry a person from a steep incline. Students gained respect and appreciation for the diverse work fire fighters do on a daily basis.

Thank you to the Morwell and Traralgon CFA Brigades for their insightful discussion regarding their career.

Mrs Walker & Mr Monk
### WEEK 6

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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>10/11</td>
<td>AIME Days Fed Uni - Years 9, 10 and 12 Koorie Students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>11/11</td>
<td>Year 10 Dukes Camp Remembrance Day SSV State Hockey Finals VET Orientation Day</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>12/11</td>
<td>Year 10 Dukes Camp</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>13/11</td>
<td>Year 10 Dukes Camp Final day of Years 10 and 11 classes Year 9 French Restaurant visit</td>
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### WEEK 7

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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>16/11</td>
<td>Years 10 &amp; 11 Examinations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>17/11</td>
<td>Parents and Friends Years 10 &amp; 11 Examinations</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>Year 12 Valedictory Dinner Years 10 &amp; 11 Examinations</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>Years 10 &amp; 11 Examinations HPV Maryborough Blackwood Centre Information Sessions</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>20/11</td>
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<td>23/11</td>
<td>Years 10 &amp; 11 Examinations</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>24/11</td>
<td>8HOL camp Nayook team building College Council Meeting Years 10 &amp; 11 Examinations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>25/11</td>
<td>8HOL camp Nayook team building Years 10 &amp; 11 Examinations</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>26/11</td>
<td>8HOL camp Nayook team building VCE/VCAL Course selection interviews</td>
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<td>8HOL camp Nayook team building VCE/VCAL Course selection interviews</td>
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### WEEK 9

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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>30/11</td>
<td>Headstart Years 7 - 9 Exam Week</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>01/12</td>
<td>Headstart Years 7 - 9 Exam Week</td>
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<td>03/12</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>04/12</td>
<td>Headstart Last day for Years 10 and 11 students Years 7 - 9 Exam Week</td>
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### WEEK 10

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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>07/12</td>
<td>Year 9 into Year 10 Transition Day</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>08/12</td>
<td>Years 7 2016 Orientation Day</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>10/12</td>
<td>Final Classes - Years 7 to 9</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>11/12</td>
<td>Second Year 7 2016 Orientation Day Years 7 - 9 Activities Program begins - Beach Day</td>
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### WEEK 11

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<td>Years 7 - 9 Activities Program</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>15/12</td>
<td>Parents and Friends Years 7 - 9 Activities Program</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>16/12</td>
<td>Presentation Evening Years 7 - 9 Activities Program</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>17/12</td>
<td>College Environment/Community Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>18/12</td>
<td>Final Day of Term 4</td>
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### Volunteer – Maintenance

Occasionally at the College we require support to complete general maintenance tasks. Are you someone or do you know someone who has time to give and can carry out general maintenance tasks? Please contact Josie O’Connor Business Manager at the college if you think you may be able to support the College.
UNIFORM SHOP OPENING HOURS
(REGULAR HOURS)

Thursdays 10am to 6pm

First Saturday of Month

In addition to the normal Thursdays 10am - 6pm and the 1st Saturday of the month 9.30am-12.30pm, the Uniform Shop will also be open on the following days:

2015 – Term 4
• All Saturday mornings from 14th November to 19th December inclusive 9.30am - 12.30pm
• Orientation Days Tuesday 8th December and Friday 11th December 10am - 6pm
• Thursdays 10am - 6pm continue as normal to 17th December - this will be the last Thursday for 2015

2016
• All Saturday mornings from 16th January to 6th February inclusive 9.30am - 12.30pm
• Thursdays as normal from 21st January (Book Buying Day)
• Friday 22nd January 10am to 6pm
• Wednesday 27th January 10am to 6pm
• Friday 29th January 10am to 6pm
• DSC School start date for 2016 – Thursday 28th January 2016
• Please contact the Uniform Shop if you would like to book in for a 30 minute fitting session. These are available Saturday mornings.

Contact Hours: 8.15am – 4.30pm
Ph: (03) 5625 1002
Fax: (03) 5625 1297
Email: drouin.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au