The weather already seems to be warming up and the local football finals are upon us. The term is already half over. This time of the year is a busy one with Year 12 students working toward the finish of their courses while the rest of the students begin their planning for courses in 2012.

**COLLEGE PRODUCTION**

The College production was a huge success on many levels. After many months of preparation the 7 performances were quickly over. The constant feedback from staff, ex students and parents was how fabulous the production was. Many rated it the best DSC production they had seen. It was great to see so many confident and polished performances by our students. They demonstrated what great actors, singers and musicians they are. Well done to the over 70 students involved in the performances from the led performers through to the back stage support. Can I thank all members of our community who took the time to come along and watch the show your support was appreciated.

The work by staff to put it all together was enormous and deserves a mention. Thanks to Jenn Rolls, Caroline Crawford, Lynda Goldsmith and Casey Kamphuis who lead the production team. It was great to see the large number of other staff who supported the production in a range of roles.

**SPORT RESULTS INCLUDING AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVES**

We have a range of successful performances by individuals in the sport area.

Firstly, congratulations to Taylah Bott who represented the College in the Victorian under 15 schools netball team. She had a highly successful tournament and was part of the victorious Victorian team. She was then selected as a member of the Australia schools netball team to represent Australia in the international tournament early next year.

Secondly, congratulations to Blaise Hodges who also has been selected to represent Australia in the Australian floorboard team who will travel to Switzerland later in the year.

Congratulations also to Jai Martin who recently won a Gold medal at the Victorian Archery Championships.

In team sport we have just completed the Gippsland level senior winter round robin with the following results:

- Senior boys and girls basketball teams both runners up in the West Gippsland Round Robin.
- Senior girls hockey team won the both the West Gippsland and Gippsland round robins have
PARENT SURVEY

This week 10% of our parents will receive a parent survey conducted each year by the education department to give us feedback. If you receive a survey the College would be grateful if you can take the 15 -20 minutes it takes to complete the survey and return it to the general office. The feedback we get from staff, students and parents through the year is very valuable and used in the College’s decision making. Thank you for your anticipated support.

TRAIN TRAVELLERS

We have had some issues and complaints about behaviour of students on train platforms. It is important that students follow all safety rules while on the station platform. V-line and some of the public have reported high risk behaviours including stepping over the yellow line and making contact with a moving train. I encourage all parents of train travellers to reinforce the need to act sensibly and safely while on the train or on the train station platform.

2012 COURSE SELECTION

This week the College began the first stages of its course selection process for 2012. All year 7 to 11 students will be involved in this process throughout this semester and I hope parents took the opportunity to attend our course selection evening on Thursday night. If you are not aware the course selection booklet is now online and can be found on the College’s website at www.drouinsc.vic.edu.au or if you do not have the internet students can download an electronic copy off the College network. Students in years 7 to 11 have already received individual paper work which should have come home to parents.

The College’s offerings ensure many pathways and opportunities for students but consequently it is often complex and sometimes confusing. It is important that students and parents understand that research and follow up are important to ensure good decision making. Next week on August 24th, 25th, 29th and 30th the College will begin its course interview process for all year 9 to 11 students and their parents to meet with a course advisor during the afternoon or evening. Bookings for these interviews can be made on e-workspace or booked through the office. If parents have concerns about their child’s course selection or this interview process feel free to contact the College for further information. I hope all parents can attend these important interviews.

NETBOOK ROLL OUT 2012

The College will have all students with a netbook in 2012. This is a year ahead of schedule. In 2012 all new year 7 students and all year 10 students will be given a netbook. We have also committed to giving all year 9 students who do not have a laptop a netbook as well. This will mean every student at the College will have a netbook. A netbook is a small version of a laptop with a 10.1 inch screen. The netbook rolled out in 2012 will be the same model and configuration as this year that is the Lenovo mini10.

The cost of netbooks is almost entirely funded by Federal grants and College funds for year 9 to 12 students. However a small fee to parents will need to be charged and this fee remains the same for 2012. A student starting next year will be charged an initial $200 for their first netbook in year 7 and $50 a year each year from year 8 to 12. In year 10 they will hand back their 3 year old netbook and be given a new netbook for their final three years and they will be charged $50 per year.

WELL DONEs

To all students who received an award at the Celebration Assembly held in week 4 of this term to recognise student achievement in semester 1. A special thank you to the 80 parents who made it along to the assembly to share in this celebration.

Our choir and percussion group have also had success with both runners up in the Warragul Eisteddfod last week. The choir also won the trophy for most promising group.
IMPORTANT DATES:

Monday 22nd August  Keys Please– All Year 10 Period 4
Tuesday 23rd August  Yr 12 VCE Seminar Period 1&2
Wednesday 24th August  8H Straight Talk
                        Course Counselling from 2.00– 7.30pm
Thursday 25th August  Yr 12 Outdoor Ed to Mt Buller
                        Course Counselling 4.00-7.40pm
Friday 26th August  Yr 12 Outdoor Ed to Mt Buller
                        8H CFA Day
Monday 29th August  Course Counselling from 2.00pm-7.30pm
Tuesday 30th August  Yr 11 OED skiing
                        Course Counselling from 2.00pm-7.30pm
Friday 2nd September  8H Snow Trip
Friday 9th of September  Yr 11 Formal
Friday 16th September  8H V8 Supercars
Monday 19th September  VCE/VET Performance Evening- 6.00pm
Tuesday 20th September  Parents & Friends Meeting- 7.30pm
Wednesday 21st September  Finance Committee Meeting– 7.30pm
Thursday 22nd September  P/T/S Interviews– 4.00pm
                        Last Day of classes for Term 3
Friday 23rd September  P/T/S Interviews– 9.00am
Thursday 16th October  Yr 7 Boys & Girls—2nd Dose Hep B
                        Yr 7, 9 & 10 Girls only—3rd Dose HPV

Course Selection 2012

Things to note for Course Selection 2012:

The course selection interviews for current year 9’s, 10’s and 11’s are scheduled for the 24th, 25th, 29th and 30th of August. Forms will be handed in at this interview.

The all guide for course selection is the at: http://student.drouinsec.vic.edu.au/wordpress/courseselection/2012/index.html

All course selection forms for year 7 & 8 students are due by the 31st August – late forms will be entered last.

If you have any concerns you should be contacting the Careers Advisors or the Learning Culture Leaders.

We value: Achievement, Respect, Commitment, Community
**YR 7 CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY**

On Monday 1st of August Year 7 had a celebration assembly for student’s achievements during semester 1. This included normal and special ARCC awards, Production involvement, debating involvement and a presentation by the HPV (human powered vehicle) team. They told us all about the vehicle and the training they are doing. The have to do a presentation soon, so we were the guinea pigs! They did a good job – helped by Mr. King.

Congratulations to: 7A - Harvey Langford, 7B - Tegan Harris, 7C - Kristen Taylor, 7D - Kathryn Licitra, 7E - Pete Mascardi, 7F - Shannon Thoonan and 7G - Taylah Roberts Who received the special ARCC awards nominated by their home group teachers. Students received awards for the four collage values, commitment, achievement, respect and Community.

Mrs Daldry made a brief discussion on the increasing amount of rubbish found in the year 7 locker area with one warning, if this does not stop, the area will be taken away.

By Molly Wilson & Chelsea Pronk

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**Debating!**

This Term, 6 young enthusiasts were involved in the Junior Debating Program, run by the Debaters Association of Victoria. Each week for 3 weeks, the students spent many lunchtimes and evenings planning, writing and preparing their speeches. We had a lot of success beating other teams from other schools in the area and are very proud that these students chose to represent Drouin Secondary College in this manner.

Gavin Sempel, Lachlan Cramption and Will Watson comprised one team. Micheal Edwards, Emily Jackson and Bobby North-Richardson the other.

They battled it out on the debating field on topics such as whether or not we should be vegetarians, whether or not there should be harsher punishments for school bullies and whether or not parks are better than carparks.

Well done all involved.

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**EQUESTRIAN**

Last Friday 12/8/11 Jacob Wells represented DSC competing at the Whittlesea Interschool Showjumping Competition on his three horses. On his pony “Truly” he came 1st in the A2, the AM7 Jumping and the Championship round in the 90cm section and won the overall Champion.

In the 105cm section on his horse “Bundy” he placed 4th in the AM7 and 6th in the A2 Jumping.

In the 120cm section on his horse “Rahn” he place 2nd in the A2 and 4th in the AM7 Jumping, 2nd in the Championship round and was 2nd overall.

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**West Gippsland Eisteddfod**

Well done to the many soloists who have performed at the recent West Gippsland Eisteddfod. Students include Adam Johnston (1st placing in 16 & over drum solo), Tristan Walker (2nd Placing in 16 and over drum solo) Jed Jarred (Honourable Mention 15 & under drum solo), Brandon Taylor (15 & under drum solo), Rhys Turner (15 & under drum solo), Cy Monk (2nd placing in 15 & under woodwind & brass solo, 3rd placing in woodwind & Brass championship, Jill Lawrence brass & woodwind award).

A congratulations also goes to our DSC Drum Crew who received a second placing and our DSC Choir who also received a second placing along with an encouragement award for the most promising choir. Well done to Damon Jay who leads the drum crew and Courtney Woods who leads the choir, a great effort by all.
FROM THE YEAR 11 & 12 TEAM

STUDENT ABSENCES & MISSED SAC’S - Any student studying VCE must provide a medical certificate for any days absent from school. If the student misses a school-based assessment task (SAC), it is the student’s responsibility to collect “a pink extension form” from the Learning Culture Centre and complete it as soon as they return to school. The form must be given to either Mr Sharpe or Mrs Croft, whereby a time will be made to complete the task in the library after school. This time is negotiated with the student and their parents. Students are not able to complete missed SAC’s during class time. Classroom learning needs to continue.

It is important for parents to be informed of both the College and VCAA requirements. Do not hesitate to call Mrs Croft or Mr Sharpe on 56 251002 if you have any queries.

COLLEGE PRODUCTION - Congratulations and thank you to our fabulous VCE students who were totally committed to their roles and leadership. They gave up their valuable time to perform, but have also continued to work hard with their studies.

YEAR 12 GUEST SPEAKERS - Year 12 had the privilege of having guest speaker “Sonia” deliver an excellent and inspiring seminar on “Safe Partying” last Friday afternoon. All students were thoroughly engaged. Thank you to Mrs Wilson for organising this valuable and worthwhile session.

On Tuesday 23rd August the College have organised for Darren Periera to return to the College to motivate the VCE students in the lead up to their final exams. He will give the students successful study strategies on how to achieve their best and have a belief in themselves during this highly stressful time.

YEAR 11 FORMAL FUNCTION 2011 - Information has been distributed to students. This year the formal is being held at Lardner Park Exhibition Centre on Friday 9th September. The function will start at 7.00pm and conclude at 11.00pm. Students are able to invite a guest to attend this function. The cost of the night is $60 a head. Students participating are asked to return all forms and a deposit no later than Friday 19th August, 2011. All enquiries can be directed to Mr David Sharpe on 5625 1002.

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After months of preparation, the much anticipated day of departure finally arrived. The excitement that was building amongst our students as the tour approached guaranteed it would be successful. Departure went like clockwork with students arriving mostly on time and appropriately organised. Staff and students bid farewell to family and friends as our Convoy of two Coaches drove off into the darkness of a cold Gippsland Winter morning.

The first day was spent within Victoria which was familiar territory for most students. We stopped at Charlton for lunch where the devastation of the floods was still evident. Most of the shops in the town centre were still closed due to flood damage which was not yet repaired because of insurance. We arrived at Mildura with plenty of daylight so students could be taught how to erect and pack up their tents. As the sun went down, the temperature fell rapidly. After dinner, we all had the opportunity to sit around two beautiful camp fires. At only a few degrees above zero, Mildura was the coldest night of our tour. Once again this year, students missed out on the experience of camping in sub zero conditions. As expected, breaking camp for the first time was rather chaotic. Those who had actually paid attention to the instructions on how to pack up the tent were in very high demand. With a long day’s travel ahead, we still managed to feed ourselves, pack up and head off in the dark.

The journey beyond Mildura was a completely new experience for all but a few. After many hours on our coaches, we arrived at the very interesting landform of Wilpena Pound which was the focus of the next days exploration. As we approached Wilpena Pound, we stopped to gather sufficient firewood for the next 2 nights. Once again, we were able to set up camp in daylight.

The highlight of the next day was that everyone reached the Summit of St Mary’s Peak (the second highest peak in South Australia). This was not only a very significant team achievement and also a huge personal achievement for some individuals. A debrief around the campfire allowed students to acknowledge the contribution various individuals had made to facilitate this very positive outcome.

We spent the next day and a half traveling to Alice Springs arriving to set up camp early in the afternoon. Throughout this part of the journey, we observed a range of very different landscapes which form our vast barren land. Finally, we had reached the destination of our tour where we would spend the next 4 days with minimal travel. In the afternoon, students got some very welcome free time to explore the shopping centre of Alice Springs. We all enjoyed the main attraction of the Centre at this time of year which is the warmer weather. Shorts and t-shirts were the order of the day.

Later on that evening, we saw the sun set from Anzac Hill which provides panoramic views of the Alice and its surrounding mountain ranges. We returned to camp to a bit of excitement in the way of a fire in the riverbed foliage of the Todd River. The fire burned right up to the bank on which our caravan park was situated. This had been a regular occurrence in recent weeks and was a protest about problems in relation to new ID cards issued to the indigenous people.

The next day saw us exploring the twin gums, made prominent when aboriginal artist Albert Namatjira used them as a subject of one of his paintings.

From there, we proceeded to explore the beautiful rock formations of Simpsons gap and Standley Chasm.
A very pleasant afternoon was spent at the telegraph station which is now a historic museum. We were very fortunate to receive a guided tour from Alec; an elderly aboriginal gentlemen who could tell us an enormous amount of first hand history. He absolutely captivated all 75 students which is a tough task indeed. He was prepared to talk openly about being a member of the “stolen generation” but he holds no grudges believing that the decision makers of the day were doing what they genuinely thought was right.

Students were then able to kick the footy around for a while with Georgi Williams showing the boys how it should be done.

Our visit to Alice Springs happened to coincide with Territory day which is the only day of the year fireworks may legally be used. We were entertained that evening by fireworks which continued late into the night.

The next morning, we broke camp and headed for Kings Creek Station stopping on the way for a camel ride. After setting up camp at the Kings Creek Cattle Station, students had some free time. Some modelled the t-shirts they had so patiently made; others enjoyed the sunset or explored the station.

As usual, we enjoyed a lovely evening meal before sitting around the camp fire. Many students took the opportunity to sleep under the stars, which was spoiled only by a shower of rain in the early hours of the morning. Sunday morning saw us exploring the beautiful sights of Kings Canyon before travelling to the Uluru campground. After setting up camp, we were treated to a beautiful sunset at Uluru.

For many students, our last day exploring the “centre” was the most exciting as they had the opportunity to ascend Uluru. An afternoon visit to Kata Tjuta (the Olgas) brought our very successful tour of the centre to a close.

The journey home involved many hours on the coaches with two overnight stops at Coober Pedy and Adelaide. At each stop along the way, the mercury plummeted. When it became uncomfortably cold, we wanted to turn around and go back. But all good things must come to an end. As we arrived back at the College, we were sad that the tour was over but very pleased to be home with family, friends, and be able to climb into our own bed and enjoy the other comforts of home.

A highly successful tour had drawn to a close. The cohort had developed a stronger identity with some wonderful displays of leadership, teamwork and support. New friendships had been forged, much had been learned about our vast beautiful land, and many wonderful memories had been created.

A huge thanks to the team of staff who contributed to tour preparation and planning. Particular thanks to the dedicated and committed group of staff who provided students with this wonderful experience by accompanying them on tour.

Ray York
St Ita's Catholic Primary School is proud to invite you to our

TWILIGHT PARTY PLAN MARKET

Tuesday 6th September @ 7pm

St Ita's Catholic Primary School
50 Victoria Street, Drouin
(In the Multi purpose Hall at the rear of the Church)

Finger food and Tea & Coffee supplied

Entry: Gold coin donation

Featuring many local and out of town party plan and retail businesses.

- Bodyshop at Home, Lorraine Lea Linen, Tupperware, Homestyle Soap, Intimo lingerie, Envious Handbags, Sketch Kids Clothing, Michi Handbags, Mandy's Jewellery,
- Learning Ladder, Laura Benini Shoes, Annabellas, Penny Scalan, Country Clothing & accessories, Taylah Mae, Gifts & Glamour, Nature Direct Cleaning products,
- Chocoholics anonymous, Postie Fashions, Emma Lieshout's slips & kaftans,
- Nutrimetics and more ...

Most stalls have card facilities BUT a few stalls are CASH ONLY.

Please call Sinead on 0428 835 506 for further information.

We look forward to seeing you on the night.

Dear Parents,

I’m writing to ask for your help. Our school is taking part in Woolworths Earn & Learn community program. This year, they are giving away more than $5 million worth of educational resources for Primary and Secondary schools all over Australia, including ours!

From July 18th to September 18th 2011, Woolworths will give you one Earn & Learn point for every $10 you spend in store (excluding the purchase of cigarettes, alcohol and gift cards). Points will automatically appear on your shopping docket. All you need to do is save those docket and bring them to school (Woolies have given us a special collection box). You will be able to track your progress on our points barometer poster at school or online at woolworths.com.au/earnandlearn.

At the end of the 9 week program, we can redeem our collection of points against a choice of more than 7,000 educational resources. The list is extensive and includes library books, classroom equipment, art & craft materials and much, much more ...

There’s no limit to the number of points we can collect, so your participation will really make a difference. The more points we earn, the more resources we can order!

Notice to all Parents & Students

Country Bus Travel

Country buses (this does not include in town bus services) are provided as a free service to eligible students for the sole purpose of providing transport between home and school. While transport to and from other locations may have been allowed in the past, this situation has become unmanageable and unsafe. The rules governing School Buses are clear in this regard.

Transport such as:
- to the home of another student,
- to after school employment,
- to sporting and other social events,
- or to another person’s home for the purpose of child minding

are all regarded as private in nature and therefore the responsibility of the parents and students concerned.

Casual travel in the past has caused overcrowding on some buses which creates serious concerns with respect to the safety. This year most buses are already running to their capacity so seating is not available.

As a result of these issues, and in accord with Department of Education and Training and Department of Infrastructure guidelines, no bus passes will be issued for any reason other than to facilitate short term emergency housing.

PLEASE NOTE: No bus pass will be issued for any other purpose.

We deeply regret the inconvenience this may cause but we need to follow the guidelines set out by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development closely as possible, which are created in the best interests of safety for all students.

Maureen Hickman
Transport Coordinator
Drouin Secondary College

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Year 12 students...
VTAC applications are opening soon. It's important to apply for SEAS applications and Scholarships when submitting your application.
An Access Monash Officer will be coming to your school to provide information regarding VTAC, SEAS and scholarships soon.

Information regarding the VTAC process is available at: www.vtac.edu.au/

Under-represented Schools
An updated list of schools recognised by the university for SEAS and scholarships as under-represented schools is now available at: monash.edu.au/scholarships/applicants/underrepresented.html

VTAC dates
Open – 1st August (9am)
Close - 30 September 2011 (7pm)
Change of Preference Dates
28 November (9am) until 21 December (5pm)
VCE Results and ATAR website Available - 16 December (7am)
Round 1 offers - 16 January 2012
Round 2 offers - 3 February 2012
Refer to: vtac.edu.au/dates

What have we been up to?
Access Monash Officers have been hosting a number of school groups on campus recently. Students have had the opportunity to look around the Monash campuses, hear a general Monash presentation and from a panel of current Monash students including ex-students of their school now studying at Monash. We have also been visiting a number of schools across the SAM schools regions

Pictured above: Traralgon College Students at Monash Clayton 27.6.11

Open Days
Information on upcoming Universities, TAFE and ITC Open Days across the state is now available at the VTAC website. Refer to:vtac.edu.au/opendays

Leadership Day
On the first day of the July school holidays, 120 students from around Victoria attended the Leadership Day held at Monash University Clayton Campus. Two high achieving Year 12 students were invited to attend from a number of SAM Schools. On the day, students heard from a range of guest speakers including Anthony Klarica who spoke on "Untapping your Leadership Potential" and Chris Varney a current Monash student who discussed "Social Justice, what's it got to do with me?". Students also got to sit in on a Faculty based session, ranging from a mock Law Moot Court to a juggling Math Academic.*

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