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Newsletter No. 17

October 30th 2009

Important Dates For Term 4 - 2009

October		
Friday	30 th October	External exams start for all unit 3 and 4 students – And finish on 19 th November
November		
Monday	2 nd November	Year 11 SWOT VAC day
Wednesday	4 th – 9 th November	Year 11 exams
Monday to Thursday	9 th – 12 th November	Year 8 Tasmania camp for Gwonawa students
Tuesday to Friday	10 th – 13 th November	Year 8 Tasmania camp for Bulen, Mirrim & Warin students
Thursday	19 th November	Last day of school for year 11 students
Friday	27 th November	Last day of school for year 10 students
December		
Tuesday	1 st December	Year 9 Journey celebrations
Tuesday	8 th December	Grade 6 orientation day
Monday to Thursday	14 th - 17 th December	End of year activities week

Principals Message

Dear Parents,

I am very pleased to inform our parent community that Kambrya College has achieved its best ever NAPLAN (National Testing) results in the college's eight year history. Results for years 7 and 9 reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation and numeracy showed strong growth from the 2008 results. The most outstanding improvement took place in the area of year 9 writing where the college achieved results above national and state benchmarks. I would like to congratulate our teachers and students on achieving these fine results.

Our aim is to build on this success in 2010. The college has a number of plans in place to strengthen student learning in literacy and numeracy:

- Appointment of leading teachers for literacy and numeracy who will guide and support teaching and consistent assessment in these key areas.
- Setting up a literacy room with a full time literacy teacher. This teacher will invite each English class in years 7 and 8, along with their regular English teacher to participate in a high powered skills based literacy lesson once a week for the whole year. The lesson will focus on building spelling, grammar, punctuation skills and ensure that each student is provided with regular homework to consolidate skills learned in these areas.

Michael Muscat
Principal

From The Office

Introduction of the Victorian Student Number

Our school is working with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to allocate a Victorian Student Number (VSN) to each student at the school.

The VSN is a student identification number that is being assigned to all students in government and non-government schools, and students in Vocational Education and Training Institutions. The number, which is unique to each student, will be used as a key identifier on a student's school records, and will remain with the student throughout his or her education, until reaching the age of 25. The VSN is nine digits long, randomly assigned, and tied to stable information about the student (name, gender, date of birth).

The introduction of the Victorian Student Number will provide the capability to accurately detect patterns of student movement through, and departure from, the Victorian education and training system. It will greatly improve the collection and analysis of timely and accurate data about education in Victoria. The Department collects information to track improvements made to the education system, identify areas that require further improvement, and to analyse trends and identify future needs. The VSN will improve the accuracy, reliability and completeness of this information, providing a better basis for assessing needs and developing policies to meet them.

You will see the VSN appear on student report cards, enrolment confirmations, and exit confirmations.

If you want to know more about the VSN please see

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/management/governance/vsn/overview.htm>

Sports News

State Athletics

Kambrya College had four students represent the school at the State Athletics Championships held on the 20th of October. Congratulations to the following students who competed and did our school extremely proud.

Maddison Blackburn 1500m 6th place
Mel Hunter 1500m 8th Place
Steve Morey Discus 2nd place
Jake Clausen 200m 5th place.

Year 10 Personal Project

My name is Emily Werry I am in year 10 and as part of my Personal Project I decided that I wanted to try and raise money and awareness for breast cancer.

In 2007 my Nan past away from secondary breast cancer and it was something that is very close to my heart.

I held two fundraisers one in September and one on Friday the 16th of October to achieve this goal. In September I held a jeans day for the teachers and I raised \$300 for the Oliver Newton-John Foundation with the help of all the teachers who supported me; however the morning tea on Friday was the most successful.

Working alongside Judith Graley MP of Narre Warren I managed to hold a morning tea and I raised \$1800. The total tally is yet to be calculated as I am still receiving funds. All up I have raised \$2000 with the help of family friends and teachers.



VCE English News

As part of the VCE program for 2010, the school has arranged for the Term 1 text books to be available for purchase on Friday 30th October 1.00 pm at Kambrya College Library. It is essential that students have a copy of the text as they must have read the book by the first day of school next year. In order to purchase your copy, students need to bring \$19.95 on Friday. Alternatively, the books are available at any leading book stores.

- YEAR 11 – 'THE BOOK THIEF' - \$19.95
- YEAR 12 – '1984' - \$19.95

Music News

Any students intending to continue with Instrumental Music lessons in 2010, or who are undertaking a VCE Music subject **MUST** complete a re-enrolment form and return it with payment by Wednesday 9th December.

Enrolment for 2010 is for the **entire** year. You may pay the levy at the beginning of each semester. Payment plans can be arranged with the office. For those students who re-enrol by December 9th will begin lessons the first week back in 2010.

Fees

Woodwind (Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, etc)
\$200 per year

Brass (Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba, etc)
\$200 per year

Voice, Guitar, Bass Guitar, Drums/Percussion
\$600 per year

Hire instruments

Year 7 students get priority for the College's hire instruments. Therefore, if your child is continuing lessons but at present hiring an instrument, it may be of benefit to begin looking into purchasing an instrument, as when the 2010 year 7s enrol, they will have priority of the school instruments.

There are many reputable brands out there, but unfortunately some quite questionable ones. Please contact your instrumental music teacher for more information on purchasing a good quality instrument.

LOTE News

2009 Japan Trip School Report

Kambrya College's second successful intercultural exchange trip to our friendship school in Japan, Hatsushiba Ritsumeikan, took place in the final week of Term 3 and the first week of the September school holidays. Students gained a wealth of first-hand knowledge of the culture and language of Japan. Both staff and students enjoyed the warm hospitality of our hosts and our relationship with our friendship school was further strengthened.

The first week was spent attending classes at Hatsushiba Ritsumeikan. Students were introduced to traditional culture such as Kendo, Tea Ceremony, Shodo (traditional calligraphy) and Udon (noodle) and Okonomiyaki (Japanese pancake) making. Understanding of Japanese history, culture, daily life and sport was strengthened via a variety of lessons from the teachers and students at Hatsushiba Ritsumeikan. After hours, our students were introduced by their host families to modern Japanese culture through visiting shopping precincts, using 'Puri Kura' (Print Club booths) and eating lots of delicious, although unfamiliar foods.

A two-day trip to Kyoto took us to century-old temples, such as the Kiyomizu-dera, the Tenryuji and the breathtaking Kinkakuji (the Temple of the Golden Pavilion).

In our second week we travelled to western Japan and visited the Peace Museum in Hiroshima, stood in awe at the Genbaku Dome (one of the few buildings to survive the nuclear explosion in 1945 and which has been retained as its symbol of the bomb's destruction) and wandered around the beautiful Itsukushima Shrine on the island of Miyajima. In the evening we enjoyed an entertaining and very loud night of Karaoke.

On our return to Osaka, we visited another of our relationship schools, Sakuranomiya High School, a specialised sports college.

Our sixteen students from Years 10 and 11 adjusted to life in a Japanese school quickly and enthusiastically, and embraced all that was offered. Each one was an outstanding ambassador for Kambrya College and Australia.

In March 2010, students and teachers from Hatsushiba Ritsumeikan Junior High School will be visiting the College.

As always, we will be looking for host families. If you are interested in hosting a Japanese student for two weeks, please call Jane Herbert at the College on 9707 7600.

Alpine School

Over term three, for 9 weeks, myself, Scott Simpson and Jess Reynolds were a part of Gnurad Gundidj campus (Alpine School) the school for student leadership. We arrived at the school and came with open minds and had no idea of what to expect. We never knew that it would be the best experience of our lives. We lived with 11 completely insane teachers, 4 overnight supervises, 6 dogs and 42 other students from all around Victoria. Each city student was partnered up with someone from the country for their roommate. From the first day until the last (12th of July-12th of September) we were pushed beyond belief to get the most out of this experience and were faced with so many challenges, not just with all the activities we did but living with 42 other students and no escaping. It's one of the many things you have to learn to deal with while up there.

Bridge building, thinking and learning, expeditions, circus night, photography, surfing, bike riding against 70km head winds, canoeing, peer skills, raft building, beliefs and values, hiking, making friends that will last a lifetime and so much more were only a couple of things that we had done while up there. You couldn't say what the best activity was, but the best thing up there that all of us would agree on was the people you meet, because they just become your family. For 9 weeks we all lived in such a tight community, and you become a massive family including the teachers.

As it seems all of fun, it is all of fun but there comes responsibilities as well. It wasn't up to the teachers to clean 45 plates, forks, knives, cups, clean all the toilets or keep the dining area clean, it was up to the students. There were three types of duties that each school would do at least once a week. Even though there might not be any formal classes like maths, English or science, you learn so much more different skills in life. With the duties you make it a whole heap of fun, so it doesn't become a chore.

There are two certificates each student achieves up there. One being you safe food handlers and the other being your first aid. Why learning about safe food handlers and first aid certificate, you don't just get told about it, the teachers make it fun about the way you learn, with everything not just the certificates. They have role-plays, they interact with you and just make it interesting and engaging the way you like to learn. You get this type of learning with every class you do and the rest of the learning with all the activities and the

whole part of independence (e.g. doing your own washing, keeping your room clean).

The year eights that have been selected I can guarantee that you are in for a once in a lifetime opportunity and you will love it, and to all the year 7's that seem interested in this then don't loose interest because it will be the best experience in your life.

This experience has changed us three for the better. I think it is easy for all three of us to say and all the other 42 other students that it was the best experience of our lives and something that we will never forget.

We would like to thank Kambrya for offering us this amazing opportunity.

Brydie Black



Writers Workshop

The Writers Workshop is dedicated to bring out the best in young writers and each week students learn a different writing task. I'd like to share the following piece with you.

'The Shed' by Ashleigh Wright
'Writers' Workshop'.

Journey Teacher: Ms Mal Simmons.

I sat next to my window with the warm glow of the pure gold sunset on my face. I caught myself gazing at the last memory of my father. The shed always cut through the marigold happiness of the afternoon. The epic failure of my dad's building company affected a lot more than the financial status of my family, it tore us apart, and it took away my father.

It was windy, and occasionally the ripped, worn out rags that covered the shed's windows, would reveal the rope swinging from the tatty roof. While it hurts to think how that rope changed my life, I couldn't look away. As much as I tried to move on with my life, I couldn't recover from the pain I felt inside.

I liked this time of day, though I feared what came soon after. The night intimidated me, it took control of me. Darkness filled my heart and forced me to listen to the creaking of the shed. It intoxicated me like a curse, or disease.

My door quietly creaked open; I turned my gaze to the doorway, where my grandmother stood. "Grandma, why haven't we gotten rid of the shed?" I asked curiously. I vacated the seat next me, in hope that she would come and sit down with me. But she just stood there. I wondered whether she was angry with me for asking. But she casually strolled out of the room. It confused me immensely, until she returned with a torn photograph in her frail hands. "What's that?" I asked, content with the knowledge she wasn't annoyed with me. "See for yourself." she said, as she handed it to me.

I found myself looking at an image, of a younger, happier father I once knew. I examined every aspect of that photo it was the shed. It was my father, with his father building the shed, the very shed that my dad's life had ended in. "He said a part of him was in that shed, he loved building it so much it inspired him to open up shop, as a builder." My grandma informed me. "He hoped you would do the same one day; build something that you loved, that contained a piece of you."

A wave of guilt washed over me, maybe we shouldn't have despised the shed for so long. "I thought it to be an insult to his memory to destroy it." My grandma was right; she slowly wandered out of the room once again. I looked at the picture, and then to the shed, only this time the shed looked comforting. The wind had slowed to a stop and the sun remained bright. The shed sat in the paddock, I smiled. I now knew I had a part a part of my dad with me, it was in that shed. Always.

There was now one thing left to do; the rope had to be taken down. It possessed a tantalising disposition from where I was seated, staring through the window. No matter how much it would hurt me to move towards that shed, I was going to take it down. I ran past the kitchen where my grandmother was preparing dinner, and slammed the front door with a loud thud.

Much to my surprise, I grew more & more confident in myself as I approached the shed. I shut me eyes, took a deep breath & I reached for the door, the door creaked open while I prepared myself for what lay inside. I opened my eyes to see the rope tantalizingly swinging only centimetres from my face. 'Do it for dad, do it for you.' I breathed quietly. I grasped the rope strongly & ripped it from the roof. That was it. In my hand I had the last bad memory of my father. I ran back inside with the rope in my hand. The wind was blowing through my hair; I sniffed as a tear voluntarily escaped my eye. I slowed as I approached the house again, preparing to walk into the kitchen. When I reached the kitchen, I slammed the rope down on the table. My grandmother turned around frightened by the loud noise. More tears escape but I smiled. My grandmother looked at my face, then to the table where the rope lay. She smiled, and calmly walked over to where I stood. I looked up at her, she smiled and rapped her arms around me, and then she said something to me that I will never forget, 'I knew you could find the courage to do it.' I felt strangely liberated by this, dad knew this too. Despite all that had happened, I finally knew that things were going to be okay.

Humanities News

Year 7s are currently exploring Economics, through the study of East Timor and its economy. They are working towards their last year 7 Humanities CAT, in which they will be required to budget for and design their own East Timorese village. This is an exciting, integrated assignment, which year 7 teachers are looking forward to receiving from their class.

Year 8s are working on Mission Earth this term and gaining a basic understanding of government and politics. They are going to be required to complete a project where they do a presentation of their research project on 'systems of government, past and present'.

Year 9s are studying Geography this Term. On 4 November all Humanities students are required to attend a fieldwork excursion to Phillip Island. The students will map and view different coastal landforms which will consolidate their class work. Year 9 students have a major common assessment due on designing an Eco Resort.

Year 10s are finishing up their term on Civics and Citizenship where they are gaining better understanding of our legal system. They have two common assessment tasks due. One should be interesting because they are taking the role of an interviewer and videotaping a social issue.

VCE students are preparing for their end of year exams. It is a stressful time of year for them and their teachers have all made time to assist them in their review. Make sure your student asks for assistance if they need it. The following are the times for the exams in Humanities:

4 Nov Sociology 3 – 5:15

5 Nov Accounting 11:45 – 1:30

6 Nov Economics 3 – 5:15

10 Nov Australian History 3 – 5:15

11 Nov Legal Studies 3 – 5:15

12 Nov History – Revolutions 11:45 – 1:30

13 Nov Geography 11:45 – 1:30
Business Mgmt 3- 5:15

16 Nov Philosophy 3 – 5:15

Arts News

VCE Arts & Tech Night

On October 14 Kambrya celebrated a VCE Arts & Technology evening. Parents were entertained with films, drama, as well as art works, Design & Technology projects and were well fed courtesy of the VET Hospitality students.



