

PRINCIPALS REPORT

Welcome to Term 2. I'm pleased to report students have settled into a routine and appear happy to be back. Throughout the newsletter you will read about the many varied activities students have been engaged in, it has been a busy start to the term!

ANZAC Day

The school commemorated Anzac day in a number of ways. A display in the Resource Centre encapsulated what ANZAC Day means to proud Australians.

- Classes took on the role of family and service men/women and exchanged letters whilst our armed forces were posted overseas during the war. It provided students with an opportunity to better understand the impact war had on those serving and their loved ones at home. The letters were displayed on a long banner decorated with poppies that students made.
- Staff, students and parents/carers loaned the school treasured memorabilia that belonged to their loved ones.
- Teachers took their classes to the Resource Centre to look at the display and learn more about the ANZACs.
- The school supported the RSL by providing afternoon tea for the people who gathered at the Town Hall, following the service. Students made 200 Anzac biscuits and poppy bags (small paper bags with a paper poppy flower attached) to house the biscuits. The school also provided sandwiches, ordered from Herbert's Bakery and Casterton Central.
- Residents from Edgarley attended a morning tea at the school. They reminisced about their own experiences when viewing the display, watched film clips from the war archives, chatted to Year 7 students and listened to/sang along with wartime entertainers, including Vera Lynn.
- School Captains Lily Pilmore and Eloise Hippert laid a wreath during the ANZAC Day ceremony and marched in the parade on Sunday morning. They were supported by John Webb and me.

General News

- The Casterton Masonic Lodge has donated 2 bench seats for student use, which will be placed at the front of the school
- Block "A" cover way has been completed and is now being used

2019 Annual Report – can be found on the CSC Website

The Victorian community's experience of COVID-19, including remote and flexible learning, had a significant impact on normal school operations. This impacted the conduct of assessments and surveys. For example, in 2020 school-based surveys ran under changed circumstances, and NAPLAN was not conducted. Absence and attendance data may have been influenced by local processes and procedures adopted in response to remote and flexible learning. Schools report on achievement, engagement, wellbeing and our financial performance and position. Below is a summary of some sections of CSC's report.

• **Achievement**

Despite the challenges of remote flexible learning, **the VCE mean study score for 2020 was 33, better than the mean for similar schools and the state-wide mean (including Government and non-Government schools).**

Similarly, the 4-year average was also higher.

Our school was ranked 79 out of 582 Victorian schools (including all independent, government and catholic schools). 100% of VCE students satisfactorily completed their VCE.

Strategies in place to assist students in VCE include before/after school classes, skills workshops and other relevant seminars, and VCE exam revision classes/resources.

A rigorous VCAL program prepares our students for further education, training or employment by providing them with work-related experience, literacy and numeracy skills and opportunities to develop personal skills.

All VCE/ VCAL students go on to further study, apprenticeships or employment.

- **Engagement**

Although the 2020 Student Attitudes to School Survey (SATTS) was optional the school decided to participate in the survey. Remote flexible learning also created challenges for the timing of the test. These factors had the potential to affect the consistency of data in relation to the 4-year average of the survey findings.

Following our participation in the SATTS survey, the DET informed Casterton Secondary College that: Data for your school have been identified as largely consistent with previous years, however 2019 data should still be used for setting targets.

Our Student Attitudes to School Survey results were well above the State, Network and similar schools for 2020 and over a 4-year average. The results indicate our students feel safe and connected to the school.

Students positively endorsed a stimulating environment, sense of confidence and the management of bullying. They look forward to attending school, are happy to be at Casterton Secondary College and feel like they belong at the school.

During remote learning students received daily instruction from their teachers for all timetabled classes, through XUNO and WebEx. Absences were followed up daily. Students identified as requiring additional help with tasks were provided with a high level of support from ES staff and MYLNS improvement teachers.

This ensured students transitioned seamlessly when face-to-face teaching resumed.

Student attendance rates in all year levels other than Year 8 ranged between 93% and 96%. The Year 8 attendance of 89% was impacted by a very small number of school refusers. ***The average number of absence days was well below that of the State and similar schools. In 2020 the average absence, 7-12, was 12.8 days.***

- **Wellbeing**

The 2020 percentage retention rate of students who remained at school from Year 7 to Year 10 was slightly lower than similar and state schools. The retention rate of 68.4% reflects the small number of students who left the town with their parents/carers due to employment opportunities.

The Exit Destinations measure uses 2019 data and excludes destinations recorded as "unknown". ***The percentage of Year 10-12 students in 2019, exiting to go onto further studies or full-time employment was 97%, above similar schools and the state.***

Student learning pathways in the Post Compulsory years included combinations of VCE studies, VCAL, School Based Apprenticeships and Structured Workplace Learning. Whilst there were challenges due to Covid-19, students were able to satisfactorily complete their courses.

Uniform

With the cold weather fast approaching it is timely to remind students of the uniform policy. We expect all students to wear correct uniform. Please refer to student planners for an outline of the college uniform, hair and accessory policy. Congratulations to the students who wear the correct uniform daily!

Parent/Carer/Teacher/Student Interviews

Thank you to the parents/carers and students who attended interviews last term. Parent/teacher/student interviews are vital for building positive relationships between parents and teachers, and achieving the best educational outcomes for students. They provide an opportunity for you to sit down one-on-one with your child's teacher to talk about their progress and to discuss any concerns you might have.

Staff of Casterton Secondary College are extremely proud of our students – their achievements, their attitude and their behavior.

Our students are ***engaged in learning; receive explicit and purposeful teaching, and differentiated tasks; literacy/numeracy support across all areas of study; and engage in a careers program from Year 7.***

We know our students, care about our students and support them to achieve their pathway of choice. CSC provides students with opportunities, through a Pastoral Care program and across learning areas, to develop the qualities that will enable them to become effective members of a global society.

I often ask myself, "Why would anyone want to send their child anywhere else?"

Meridith

ANZAC DAY -2021

Delma Fidler



A fabulous ANZAC day display of letters written by students depicting those sent home from WW2 in the Resource Centre



College Captains Eloise Hippert & Lily Pilmore representing the College at the wreath laying for ANZAC Day
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A lot of the Army memorabilia has been kindly lent to the school by Jeff Goodwin & Faith Roper



Casterton Primary School students enjoying the ANZAC display in the resource centre

To commemorate Anzac Day, the Resource Centre at Casterton Secondary College was the home to an extensive display of wartime memorabilia. Students composed letters from the trenches whilst another class replied from the home - front. The room was adorned with framed pictures from the Canberra War Memorial as well as photos and information that staff and students donated to be displayed.

The display was opened to the public and community groups to view, RSL representatives, students from the Casterton Primary School and community members made the most of the opportunity to visit. The residents of Edgarley enjoyed a cup of tea and a biscuit after viewing the display whilst the music of Vera Lynn was piped through the speakers.

The Students enjoyed looking at the large collection of books and a globe that marked countries where Australian soldiers had served. The display case containing, flasks, wire cutters, army kit and medals proved to be a popular part of the display. However, the two replica soldiers in original uniform, with one in a bunker holding a field phone appeared to generate the most conversation.

Thank you to the many contributors who kindly donated memorabilia, which enabled the display to be enjoyed by so many.

VISUAL ART

Faith Roper



Casterton Community



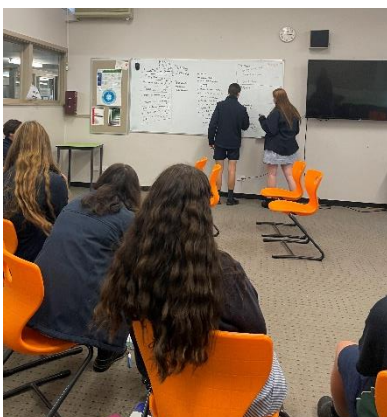
Renee Killey presenting Phoebe Carlin & Zoe Betinsky with plants for the design of logo for the Community Garden

The Year 9 Visual Art students used their digital art and design process skills to create logos for the new Casterton Community Garden. It was the first time for most students using Adobe Illustrator and they all tackled it with eagerness. Renee Killey, from the Casterton Community Garden found it very difficult to choose a winning design and decided to put them up on Facebook for a public vote. Renee attended the Year 9 Art class this week to talk about the Community Garden Project and announce the winner.

Congratulations to Zoe Betinsky for receiving the most votes and also congratulations to Phoebe Carlin who was a close second. Renee presented all students with a packet of seeds so they can try to grow their own vegetables.

F2D- FIT TO DRIVE PROGRAM, YR11

Renae Newell



The Year 11 students participated in the F2D program which is aimed at young people to deliver a safety message that will empower and support young road users to achieve zero deaths on Victorian roads. Their aim is to change and influence attitudes and behaviours in relation to risky road use and support them to take responsibility for keeping themselves and others safe. During the session they discussed road rules and looked at risky situations that could arise and how to deal with these situations. The interactive program showcased how easily it is to be distracted or peer pressured into unsafe situations.

COLLEGE AWARDS- First term

John Webb



Above are recipients of the following awards, Congratulations to all
The students who received an award

*Easter Bunny managed a visit in
time for the holidays*

Citizenship Awards Term1

The students listed below were presented with Citizenship Awards at our end of term assembly. These were presented in recognition of assistance given by these students at one or more of the following: Casterton Primary School Athletics, District Primary Schools Athletics, CSC House Athletics, GD Athletics.

Jackson Fitzgerald, Sid Herbert, Zac Nash, Pete Pollard, Cruz Tucker, Tyler Woolley, Cory Wombwell, Phoebe Carlin, Milly Campbell, Aaron Jeffrey, Angel Pederick-Stewart, Riley Hornibrook, Abbey Munro, Zoe Betsinsky, Jesse Luers, Felicity Hall, Josh McPeake, Alex Hornibrook, Indi Longhurst, Jedd Rhook, Jack Wombwell, Rankin Cleary, Ben Rafferty-Heaton, Mylie Ireland, Amelia Bailey, Eli Koscal, Eloise Hippert, Kodi McLean, Reghan Parsons, Abby Black, Ashley Barker, Jess Sambell, Aaliyah Young, Ebany Jarrad, Amber Spratling, Oscar Barden, Nicloe Cornish, Olivia Nolte, Feba Thankam Shiju, Sophie Hart, Caitlyn Gorman, Georgia Taylor, Savannah Schurr, Kaidee Sambell, Amelia Richardson

James Mason, Matilda Thompson, Maddy Robinson, Amy Crauford, Chelsea Hulm, Shae Ryan, Tamsyn Black, Elle Mason, Ella Kerr, Selena Black, Ivy Lane, Ashley Hornibrook, Ebony Mutch, Shaely Bromage-Charlton, Hannah Luers, Braeden Marrett, Jack Smith, Titan Smeaton

AWARDS- Continued

100% Attendance Term 1

Congratulations to these students who had a 100% attendance rate in term 1:

Ella Kerr, Tom Rowland, Ivy Stewart, Cruz Tucker, Cory Wombwell, Shae Ryan, Kate Tomkins, Tyler Woolley, Eli Koscal, Kirby Vise, Blake Kurzman, Jedd Rhook, Matilda Thompson, Riley Hornibrook

Values Award Nominees Term 1

In recognition of commitment to our school values (Respect, Accountability, Persistence), work ethic and behaviour.

Year 7: Archie Lane and Phoenix Lykke

Year 8: Genevieve Sellers and Chelsea Hulm

Year 9: Josh McPeake and Alex Hornibrook

Year 10: Amber Spratling and Sophie Hart

Year 11: Pete Pollard and Ashley Hornibrook

Year 12: Josh Jeffrey and Braeden Marrett

At out end of term assembly, the names of each of these nominees were placed in a bowl and two names were drawn out. The two lucky recipients of a \$10 voucher at the canteen were Pete Pollard and Josh McPeake.

Progressive House Points

Muntham: 1556.5

Glenelg: 1353

Wannon: 1232.5

WRITING CHALLENGE AWARD WINNERS

The writing project is one of the many ways students at CSC are supported and encouraged to improve their writing skills. Writing is critical for success in education and employment. It also aids students daily social interactions, self-expression and reflection on current events. The students spend 10 minutes every morning writing on a different topic. Both students and staff have input into the prompts in each term's writing project booklet. The writing challenge, held once a term, is part of the writing project. They spend each morning of one week, planning, responding to and editing their chosen prompt. This reinforces the skills that have been developing each morning during the writing project. A student from each class, yr. 7 to yr. 10, receives a writing challenge award (a certificate and a novel of their choice)



Ella Kerr, Zoe Betinsky, Georgia Taylor, Ell Mason & Feba Thankam Shiju are the recipients of the writing challenge

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VINTAGE 2021

Brett VanAs



As part of their studies in Chemistry, the Year 10 students explore the reactions that take place in the wine making process. Our cabernet grapevines have been very productive this year. The students harvested the vines this week, picking 480kg of fruit, with an abundance still left on the vine. The grapes were taken back to the Applied Science Centre and the students processed the bunches through the "crusher", where destemming takes place. The remaining lightly broken grapes, called the must, are collected in a vat where yeast was added for the initial fermentation.

The students' efforts must be applauded as they dived into all aspects of the work with enthusiasm and assurance.



PRESSING OF THE GRAPES

Rob Walker

The year 10 science students under the guidance of Mr Van As and Mr Balzan have pressed cabernet sauvignon grapes harvested from the school vineyard. Primary fermentation took a week and the juice was squeezed out of the crush and poured into the secondary fermentation cylinder. Under the action of malolactic bacteria the more acidic malic acid will be converted into the smoother less acidic lactic acid. Eventually the wine will age in a French barrel and hopefully develop the flavours that could result in another gold medal for Casterton Secondary College. Well done to all staff and students involved and once again we thank Wynns of Coonawarra for their help and advice.



CROSS COUNTRY

Joey McArlein



*Kate Tomkins, Georgia McPeake, Zac Nash, Josh McPeake, Indi Longhurst, Madeline Patton, Archie Lane
Age group winners.*



*Kaitlan Johns, Caitlyn Gorman & Amelia Luers, pacing
along*

*Caeleigh Humphries & Chloe Kerr with energy
to spare!!*





Phoenix Lykke & Arjun Yadav



Jack Wombwell

The house cross country was held on the 29th of April this year with the traditional route being taken. The students headed off after lunch with terrific clear skies on what could be argued as a perfect day for the event.

The event was once again run in 3 age groupings, boys and girls 14 and under, 16 and under & 21 and under.

The winners were;

14 age group: Indi Longhurst & Archie Lane

16 age group: Madeline Patton & Josh McPeake

21 age group: Kate Tomkins/Georgia McPeake & Zac Nash

The overall house championship results showed Wannan coming 3rd with 337 points. This was followed closely by Glenelg on 355 points. Leaving Muntham on 385 points, taking the chocolates for this year.

Special thanks goes to all staff members who manned the stations and results tables to ensure that the event ran smoothly. Another thanks goes to parents and students who helped out through the afternoon, without this help events such as this could not run.



The finish line and well deserved ice blocks

GD CROSS COUNTRY

Joey McArlein

On the 10th of May, 12 of our students competed in the annual Glenelg District Cross Country event. The eager runners were jumping out of their skin the entire trip there, ready to represent their school to the best of their ability. The weather gods had produced what could be known as 'stereotypical' cross country weather; cold, wet, and windy!

We had a few great results at the end of the day:

- Madeline Patton: 2nd in U/15 Girls
- Georgia McPeake: 3rd in U/17 Girls
- Kate Tomkins: 1st in U/21 Girls

A massive congratulations to all of our competitors who ran during the event, a handful of our students now have gained the opportunity to go Greater Western Region Cross Country on the 31st of May. Big thank you to all involved in organisation and parents for supporting the event as always.



Kate Tomkins 1st



Zac Nash



Georgia McPeake 3rd

Yr 11 VCAL, Personal Development, Pushbike smoothies.

Steve Rathmell

The year 11 VCAL students have presented a health and nutrition focussed activity for the year 7 students at Casterton Secondary College during the last two weeks.

The students organised a few team building games and the year 7's showed excellent communication and resilience to complete the games successfully.

The students also made use of the Glenelg Shires Smoothie Bike to learn the importance of eating a healthy and nutritious breakfast as well as exercising regularly.



Nicole Cornish mixing up her smoothie



Kaitlan Jones, Mylie Ireland, Blake Kurzman & Alex Hill enjoy the spoils of their bike smoothies



Alex Hill working his way through the ropes



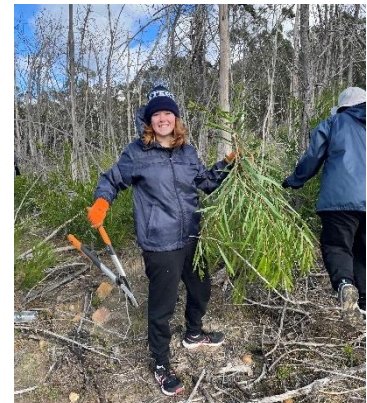
Phoenix Lyyke moving through his game blindly

Yr 11 & 12 OUTDOOR & ENVIROMENTAL STUDIES Camp

Renae Newell

The Year 11 & 12 students headed off bright and early to Halls Gap. Upon arrival at Lake Bellfield, we knew our first activity stand up Paddle boarding, was not going to go ahead due to the wind. Instead, we headed out onto the lake for canoeing. Here our teamwork skills were challenged when working in pairs or threes to try and complete a number of activities. One canoe had a slight disadvantage as it managed to keep taking on water, but it didn't stop their enthusiasm to win. After drying off, we ventured onto the zoo, where we learnt about their breeding and captive programs and the students even had the option of touching a snake. From here we went to set up camp. Despite the rain, the students managed to set up their tents, followed by dinner and games before bed. The next day, the students went to participate in a conservation program with Parks VIC, where they removed an invasive species, sallow wattle from the banks of Lake Bellfield. Although a native species, it has begun to take over bushland, smothering other native species. After successfully removing about 300m worth of sallow wattle, the students headed off on a very windy hike to the Pinnacle.

Overall, the students had a very successful camp, meeting various main components of their curriculum, exploring outdoor environments, discovering outdoor environments, relationships with outdoor environments and sustainable outdoor relationships.



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Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Unfortunately some parents/carers are still picking up and dropping off students across the road adjacent to the bus drop off zone. This is an unsafe practice putting students, bus drivers and members of the public at significant risk

Parents/Carers are again reminded to avoid dropping off and picking up students on the north side of Mt Gambier Rd, across from the school, as we do not have a designated crossing supervisor. Students crossing the very busy road are at risk of serious injury, especially when visibility is restricted when buses are parked outside the College grounds.

Parents/carers are reminded that members of the public are not to drive their cars onto school grounds via the White Street entrance at any time. This is a potentially dangerous practice as students are always present in that area.

Parents/carers are asked to use the Stadium carpark; which is a safe place to drop off and collect your children before and after school.

Your cooperation with the above request would be appreciated to ensure the safety of our school community.

Never enter the Bus drop-off zone to cross the road.

Steve Rathmell & Faith Roper

OHS Nominee/Manager.

SCIENCE, Yr 11

Brett VanAs

As part of their studies on body systems, the Year 11 Biology students underwent every biologist's initiation of a rat dissection. The students' approach varied from tentative to eager, but all treated the animal with respect.



Makayla Hutchins & Madeline Patton



Kais Parsons & Riley Hutchins