

## PRINCIPALS REPORT

**Term 2** has certainly been eventful. It started with all staff participating in professional learning relating to the Healthy Minds program which will commence in Term 3 for Year 8/9 students. Information about the program can be found below, along with information about the Year 7 eSmart Digital Licence program.

### **Block A**

In the second week of this term, part of the ceiling in Computer Room 1 collapsed during preparatory work to replace it. This occurred when there were no students in the room and the member of staff carrying out the works was uninjured. Prior to this the ceiling insulation was tested for asbestos with the results showing none is present.

Following the required DET process a WorkSafe inspector attended the site and issued a prohibition notice for the whole of Block A (the main building as you enter the school) because of safety concerns with the ceilings in other rooms and the corridor. Staff and students had to vacate the building immediately.

School phones, photocopiers, the sick room, the resource centre, computer room 2, science laboratories, staff toilets, the staff room and staff work rooms, staff and student resources, and the server were all inaccessible.

During that time staff were "housed" in a classroom and communication was via XUNO and Facebook.

The Victorian Schools Building Authority (VSBA) is currently working with the school to ensure Block A is safe for use. During the weekend following the collapse and during the first few days of last week a builder propped the ceilings in identified rooms. WorkSafe lifted the prohibition notice and issued an Improvement Notice which we hope is lifted this week when the WorkSafe inspector visits the school.

VSBA will replace the ceilings in all rooms and the corridor in Block A. I am currently waiting for a timeline but hope most of the work will be completed during school holidays thereby reducing disruption to teaching and learning.

I acknowledge the wonderful staff and students of CSC for the prompt and efficient way they vacated Block A and for their resilience, optimism and positive attitude during what has been a very challenging situation.

On behalf of staff, I thank parents/carers and our school community for your understanding and patience.

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## **Staff Professional Practice Day – Wednesday 25th May – STUDENTS WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND SCHOOL**

For Term 2, 2022, the Department of Education and Training has provided schools with the option to hold each teacher's allocated professional practice day on the same day for all staff. This is to enable the most effective and efficient use of this day.

As a result, we have scheduled our professional practice day for **Wednesday 25th May**. Students will therefore not be required to attend school on this day.

### **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!

### **Communication**

***At Casterton Secondary College we believe parents/carers are partners in the education of children. Regular two-way communication between parents/carers and school is essential in helping young people achieve their potential.***

At Casterton Secondary College we continue to work hard to promote positive and successful learning environments for the students and staff. We are pleased with the development of engaging curriculum and constructive relationships. Our students are in a good place for their growth of their individual pathways with dedicated staff to support them.

We are pleased that many parents choose to contact the school when they require clarification. It is these conversations that promote the parent/student/ teacher relationship as a useful tool in the student's educational journey. Details, policy, processes and servicing by the appropriate people are key factors in clearing up any uncertainty. We value these conversations.

At times people choose to discuss issues outside school without the correct information or facts.

We encourage all our community members to contact our school so that the correct information continues to be a positive aspect in our students' future and wellbeing.

## **Schools Mental Health Fund and Menu**

1. The Year 8 Healthy Minds program provides students with 'preventative psychology' training to prevent and reduce the risk of symptoms of anxiety, depression and eating disorders, while also building wellbeing and resilience. Included in the program are:
  - a combination of face-to-face visits and remote delivery
  - a whole day staff training workshop on Tuesday April 26<sup>th</sup> (pupil free day)
  - Parent information evening – Seven Secrets to a Healthy Mind (date to be confirmed)
  - Year 8 term-long program
  - Student workbooks
  - Weekly parent modules so parents can follow along with the core content
2. The Year 7 eSmart Digital Licence program is an initiative of the Alannah and Madeline Foundation that aims to reduce harms to student wellbeing, mental health, education and relationships associated with bullying, by preventing and responding to incidents of bullying and cyber bullying, creating a culture of smart, safe and responsible use of technology, and encouraging and fostering the development of pro-social behaviour across the school community.
  - The eSmart Digital Licence program is a gamified learning experience to build digital intelligence.

## **NEWS**

### **Progressive House Points Tally**

Muntham: 1906

Wannon: 1693

Glenelg: 1906

### **End of Semester Exams**

All parents / carers and students recently received a XUNO message about the arrangements for the rapidly approaching exams. Please ensure you are all aware of this.

### **School Dental Initiative**

All students have received a consent form for the School Dental Van visit in term 3. An explanatory XUNO message has also been sent to all parents / carers.

The consent forms are to be returned to Mr. Webb by **Friday June 3**.

### **Term 1 Writing Challenge Winners**

At the start of every day, all students in years 7-10 practice improving their creative writing skills. The Writing Challenge at the end of each term, encourages and rewards students for their efforts in their daily writing. The term 1 2020 winners, received either a novel or a voucher to purchase a book of their choice.

7- Elly Needham

9-Matilda Thompson

8P- Abby Black

10-Chelsea Hulm

8N- Alex Hill

## NOORLA YO- LONG EXCURSION, TERM 1- Year 10



The end of Term One saw the Year 10 class enjoy a day trip to Noorla Yo-Long. The group worked through different team building activities, growing their confidence as the day progressed. Each student embraced the challenges they were set, and they each bravely had a go at attempting all tasks, including the high ropes course. The group received lots of encouragement and were given advice and instructions from the organisers throughout the day, explaining how these skills will benefit them in their daily life, schooling, and future careers. It was a truly rewarding experience for all involved.

## ANZAC DAY



The students, with only two days to sell, made a large dent in the supply of ANZAC day badges. Thank you to those who supported the appeal through the school.

Teacher: Sarah Moss receiving a box of badges from Damien Henty-Anderson, Secretary of the Casterton RSL Sub-Branch.

Our School Captains, Rhys Southern and Maddie Robinson laid the wreath at the ANZAC day service held in Casterton



## Colour will be on show in spring

On the last day of term one, the students assisted with the bulk planting of bulbs to help bring a rush of colour at spring. Stay tuned for our first bloom to appear





## 100% ATTENDANCE Rate in Term 1

**Congratulations** to these students on receiving awards for having 100% attendance during the first term

**Back L-R,** Kaitlan Johns, Maddie Robinson, Rhys Southern, Lachlan Humphries

**Front L-R,** Makayla Rees, Indi Longhurst, Kirby Vise, Brooke Humphries Jake McCombe

**ABS-** Harry Butterworth, Ruby Williams, Nicole Cornish.

## HEALTHY MINDS TRAINING brought to the College



Healthy Minds is the world's first psychological skills program and has been developed with the aim to eliminate preventable psychological disorders. It is designed to provide staff and students with skills and knowledge to maintain mental health and wellbeing. This program will be rolled out at the college during the year.

Award-winning psychologist and director of Healthy Minds Dr Tom Nehmy

## F2D-FIT TO DRIVE FOUNDATION PROGRAM

*Renae Newell*

The Year 11 students participated in the F2D program which is aimed at young people to engage with them and to deliver a safety message that will empower and support young road users to achieve zero deaths on



Victorian roads. The 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 highlighted how easily it is to be distracted or peer pressured into unsafe situations.

# CROSS COUNTRY

Joey McArlein



**L-R** Riley Munro, Makayla Hutchins, Sid Herbert, Madeline Patton, Archie Lane, Eily Taylor

The House Cross Country was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May this year with the traditional route of 'Hansen Hill to Suicide Hill' being taken as in previous years. The students headed off after lunch with the rain holding off during the early afternoon.

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

The winners were.

**14 age group:** Eily Taylor & Archie Lane

**16 age group:** Madeline Patton & Sid Herbert

**21 age group:** Makayla Hutchins & Riley Munro

The overall house championship results finished with **Wannon** coming 3<sup>rd</sup> with 337 points. This was followed closely by **Glenelg** on 355 points. Leaving **Muntham** on 385 points, coming out as the victorious house.

Special thanks go 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.





## DAIRY FARM VISIT

*Annalee McKinnon*



Students enjoyed a highly informative talk on all aspects of a rotary Dairy Farm, given by Lachie Tindall during an excursion to the Tindall's Dairy Farm.

Both the Year 8P Agriculture class and Year 11/12 Agricultural and Horticultural studies classes visited Tindall's Dairy farm. The year 8 class has been investigating the Dairy Industry including dairy production, breeds of dairy animals, dairy products, the digestive system of ruminants and feeding of calves and cattle. As part of this Tindall's dairy was also kindly enough to donate two calves to the Casterton Secondary College where the Year 8 students will be responsible for raising them for the rest of the semester. As part of the visit, the Year 11/12 students focused on technology and innovation and the inputs and outputs of production systems that affect social, economic and environmental sustainability of the Dairy Industry. Being able to see first hand how a dairy farm operates and participate in discussions with farmers helps piece together and cement key knowledge learnt in class. The practical aspect of feeding and caring for calves allows them to develop key skills that will apply many other areas. We are so lucky to have the opportunity to participate in activities such as this.

## VINTAGE BEGINS AT SCHOOL

*Brett VanAs*



## CASTERTON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL PROGRAM-CANOEING

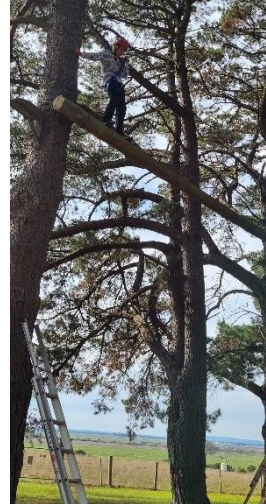
*Rena Newell*

The Casterton Memorial Hospital provided our students with the opportunity to develop and learn the skills for canoeing down at the Ess Lagoon. Thank you to Lucinda Jenkins for all her organisation to allow this fantastic opportunity for our students.



# NOORLA YO-LONG YR 8

Ann Hirst



Year 8 had the opportunity to experience Noorla Yo-Long with a day spent traversing the high wires. This program is run by the Police in South Australia and shows students how to work together and to work through any issues that may arise in life, 1 step at a time. A few of our students had fears of stepping off the ground and up several metres in the air but by the end of the day, all students had accomplished much more than what they thought originally. It was an excellent eye opener on how to work past fears that are holding us back.



# NOORLA YO-LONG, YR 7

Joey McArlein



On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May, our enthusiastic Year 7 group headed to the other side of Millicent to experience this camp which has shown to be extremely popular among the students.

The students started the day with trepidation but that soon changed over to excitement as the students could see how they could overcome obstacles holding them back.

The theme of the day was jumping out of your comfort zone in order to extend your own boundaries. It was evident on our trip back the students comfort bubble had grown tenfold!

# GLENELG DISTRICTS CROSS COUNTRY

Joey McArlein

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of May, 11 of our students competed in the annual Glenelg District Cross Country event. This year it was held at Portland and the running route was around the Fawthrop Lagoon area. The eager runners spent the trip mentally focussing for their performance, the entire trip, ready to represent their school to the best of their ability. The weather could not have been more picturesque! With the sun shining and not a breath of wind.

We had a few excellent results for the day:

- **Madeline Patton:** 2<sup>nd</sup> in U/16 Girls
- **Archie Lane:** 2<sup>nd</sup> in U/14 Boys
- **Indi Longhurst** 7<sup>th</sup> in U/15 Girls
- **Ricky Kaliebe** 7<sup>th</sup> in U/15 Boys
- **Makayla Hutchins** 7<sup>th</sup> in U/17 Girls

A massive congratulations to all our competitors who ran during the event, A handful of our students now have gained the opportunity to go to the Greater Western Region Cross Country on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May. A big thank you to all involved in organisation and parents for supporting the event as always.



## CAREERS UPDATE

*Delma Fidler*

### **Work experience**

Year 10 students have a busy few months ahead career wise. Ms Newell has distributed a timeline and an information session has been scheduled for Monday the 30<sup>th</sup> of May. We will outline the work experience program/requirements at this session in detail. However, it is worth starting to have discussions with your child and any possible host employers. This year the program will be conducted from Monday 8<sup>th</sup>- Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> of August.

In the upcoming weeks the students will:

- complete a My Career Match quiz and workbook. This provides feedback and suggested possible areas of interest based on the quiz results.
- complete a resume, to present to potential employers
- obtain a Safe@work certificate required to undertake work experience.

Post the information evening all students will need to make an appointment with Mrs Fidler to discuss their progress in securing a placement.

Please contact me in the careers office if an employer needs further information or any details clarified.

Ideally placements should be finalised by the first week back in term 3 so that the accompanying paperwork can be completed.

### **Careers Expo Western Victorian Careers Expo Tuesday June 21<sup>st</sup>**

In fantastic news, the Wimmera Careers Expo will once again be open to students, rather than being held digitally, as in the past two years. The Expo is held at Longerenong and provides an excellent opportunity for our year ten students to access Universities, Tafe and Tertiary providers from both Victoria and interstate. Students have the chance to gather information, ask questions and explore pathways. There are also representatives from the Defence Force, Police, Ambulance and Fire- brigade in attendance. Those students who are more interested in the trades have the opportunity to "Try a Trade" where they have the chance to actually learn some skills and gather information about apprenticeships and the workforce. It is anticipated that we will be leaving at 8.00am and returning in time for the students to catch their regular school bus home. More information and an indemnity form will be sent home in the up-coming weeks.

### **Morrisby Program**

Once again, our year 9 students will be participating in the Morrisby Assessment program. This program has been very well received over the past three years. It has been designed to provide students with information to help make better choices about subject selection, vocational education and training, senior secondary school certificates and further study.

The service uses a personal online career discovery tool (Morrisby Online) which provides objective and relevant information about the student and the opportunities available. As part of the service, the year 9 student will receive a confidential profile generated through the online career discovery tool.

Once, the online profile has been completed, students will be provided with a report and a 1:1 career feedback interview, conducted in July. Parents and carers will have the opportunity to attend this session. More information will be provided closer to the date.

## **Resource Centre News**

This year Education Week is conducted on the 22-28<sup>th</sup> of May. The theme is centred around celebrating Victoria's 150 Years of Public Education with our school community.

Our school has been part of Victoria's education story for 67years, on its current site. In this time, we have shared many wonderful moments and significant milestones with our school community. With the help of Mr. Goodwin, we have managed to display our school magazines from 1955 through to current editions. Although there are a few gaps, the students have already enjoyed looking for parents and relatives in the older editions.

We have purchased a large order of new books with an emphasis on the criminology genre, as requested by many students. We also have some new series on our shelves.



# ACCESSING HELP FOR MY YOUNG PERSON WEBINAR- May 25<sup>th</sup> 7PM

This session is based around increasing your knowledge of the mental health and difference levels of support.

Headspace are presenting an informative webinar on accessing help for your young person and recognising mental health difficulties. Another key focus is the controversial approach to mental health and wellbeing, practical strategies, and resources to support mental health and building awareness of local support available to young people.

All those who register will receive a digital information pack, after the webinar, that includes key messages as well as links to resources and support services.

Please see the attached flyer for more information about this free webinar and how to register.



## Accessing help for my young person: parent / carer webinar

headspace National in conjunction with Casterton Secondary College are presenting a webinar for parents and carers of young people to investigate mental health support services.

Information presented will cover:

- Strengthening your understanding of mental health and wellbeing.
- The conversational approach to mental health and well-being.
- Practical strategies and resources to support mental health.
- Building an awareness of local, state, and national support services available to young people.

This session is intended to increase your knowledge of the mental health sector and different levels of support.

**When:** Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>

**May** at 7:00pm AEDT

**Where:** online via zoom

**How do I register?**

[Click here](#) to register via Eventbrite, or copy the following URL into your web browser:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/casterton-secondary-college-parentcarer-webinar-accessing-help-registration-300273274447>

After you have registered, you will receive an email confirmation from Eventbrite which will include the Zoom meeting link to access the webinar. Please note this webinar will not be recorded.

All those who register will receive a digital information pack, after the webinar, that includes key messages as well as links to resources & support services.

**Contact**

For more information email:  
[programsupport@headspace.org.au](mailto:programsupport@headspace.org.au)

Headspace National Youth Mental Health Foundation is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health