There have been a number of events that have occurred over August and September, which have demonstrated how we work together with staff and members of our community.

**Working Bee**

The recent Saturday Working Bee was a huge success, with a large number of community members, made up of students, parents, and staff attending the day. There was a great deal of work completed, with the front of the school cleaned, plants pruned and fresh mulch distributed across the area. We also had post and rail boundaries erected in the car park. I would like to thank all members of the Kurunjang community that gave up part of their weekend to help improve the college grounds.

**Cultural Diversity Day**

Many students and staff dressed in traditional costumes during our annual Cultural Diversity Day. There were a number of activities that displayed a variety of different cultures and traditions to our students and staff. There was dancing, henna painting and sporting activities as well as traditional food cooked by families, staff and students. Many students and staff shared a delicious food that was prepared for the day. The VCAL students organised a sausage sizzle and bake sale as well as the selling of friendship bracelets. The day culminated with a fashion parade in the Gym, where students presented their national costume and spoke about its significance to their culture. Our students were exposed to rich discussions regarding different cultures and traditions that exist in our college community. There were a number of staff and students that helped plan the events. I was pleased to see students getting involved and learning more about the different cultures and celebrating diversity at our college.

**Student Progress and Parent Teacher Interviews**

Student skills and knowledge that have developed over the term can be seen in the student’s workbook and assessment pieces. I am delighted to see our students producing projects that can be proudly presented in our reception area, ranging from large pieces of furniture to paintings and drawings. While visiting classrooms, I have observed students learning and participating in group work and discussions with quality work being accomplished. During parent teacher interviews, we will be discussing the work that has been completed and any areas that need to be addressed. It is extremely important to have discussions with families regarding their children’s progress, so that academic excellence and progress can be acknowledged and areas of concern can be addressed.
Whether it comes from academics, social, family, or self-expectations, anxiety is becoming ever present within a high school student’s life. Many adolescents often feel the symptoms of anxiety. Anxiety is normal and is typically a reaction to stress. It’s normal to feel anxious or worry once in a while. It is good to remember that many of your peers may feel worried about similar issues and you are not alone. Here are some known strategies which help reduce anxiety:

- Be mindful of how your thoughts, feelings and behaviours interact with each other; and how they can increase or decrease your anxiety.
- Mediation and relaxation – Mediation helps a person calm down and reflect. A great free app is called Smiling Mind.
- Be active – even if it means taking the dog for a walk
- Be positive – mentioning 3 good things that have happened to yourself each day can improve your mood.
- Sleep! – have the right amount of sleep. A teenager requires 8.5-9.5 hours a night. Start to unwind 30-60 mins before you go to bed. This includes no blue light technology (mobile phones, iPads, PCs, TVs, etc.) an hour before bed.
- Talk to others about your concerns – Whether it be family, friends or people school. The school has a well-being team who would be happy to talk to you!

Remember, school is one part of your life. Enjoy and embrace the good experiences you have whether it be with friends, teachers, or even participating in a class you like.

Jessica Borysiewicz,
Provisional Psychologist (DET – Student Support Services)
VCAL NUMERACY

Recently we had the pleasure of having Alicia from the Commonwealth Bank present a series of workshops to our VCAL Numeracy students on money matters that are most relevant to them. Some of the information covered related to earning and saving money, basic steps to starting up a small business and specific information for making the most of the money students earn in their after school jobs. Alicia provided Kurunjang Secondary College’s VCAL students with a range of resources that they can access in and out of school. It was certainly very beneficial for our students and we hope to have Alicia back to KSC in the future for follow up workshops.

MATHS

Week 8 was Numeracy week!

Tri hexa flexa gons were a challenge for teachers and students to make. These are clever, six sided shapes that can be folded and turned to give three different coloured faces. They start from a flat template that is made up of ten equilateral triangles.

A nine letter word or jumbled word ran in each daily bulletin for staff and students to puzzle over. The first correct entry for each year level and staff received a small prize. If participants couldn’t find the nine letter word they were encouraged to make as many small words from the nine letters as possible, with some amazing results!

The 9 letter words for Numeracy week were:
Rectangle, Multiples, Octennial and Twentieth.

Wednesday’s jumbled words all related to jobs with a numeracy link.

The jumbled jobs were: Statistician, Accountant, Financier and Economist

Thank you to everyone who participated.

All students should now have submitted their Common Assigned Tasks, assignments and homework to maths teachers, so they can start term 4 organised and up to date. Please encourage your student to come to study hall for Numeracy assistance, or if they need to complete overdue CATs or homework.

Study hall runs in the college Library every Monday and Thursday, and in Week B also runs Wednesday 3.15- 4.15pm.

If you need further information about your child’s Numeracy please contact their Maths teacher, Learning Area Leader, Mr. Daniel Homburg or Numeracy Leader Mrs. Lou Bentley
Melton City Council held a book launch at Melton Library. The book that was launched was a community book produced by students aged from 12 - 17 from both Caroline Springs and Melton. The result was two stories published into the one book called "Changelings".

One of our Year 12 students, Laura Davis, was involved in the writing and illustrations of the book. She designed the 'Melton' cover side of the book, drew some of the illustrations and was involved in the writing of one of the chapters.

A copy of "Changelings" is available in our College Library. Have a look at it when you have the opportunity.
Please congratulate Laura when you see her. To have 2 books published under her name in recent years is a big feat, especially being so young.

Caroline Torode
Head of Senior School

To Alisan Saglam, fashion is wearable art!

It transcends the mundane- mass produced items of clothing found in our typical retail department stores, challenging notions of the everyday fashion.

By exploring the costume side of fashion, Alisan challenges the 'notion of fashion that determines what is acceptable and what is not, will potentially not exist'.

Inspired by Lady Gaga, Alxander McQueen, and a 2015 Top Arts Finalist; Alisan’s garment consists of an elaborate set of wings, and a leotard.

Lady Gaga’s preaching to ‘accept your uniqueness to spread peace and kindness’ is symbolised in the construction of the wings represented by dream catchers made from natural wine twine with various braids to represent biological DNA structures. A wire sculpture of a ‘tree of life’ is centrally placed in the dream catchers.

The construction of the leotard further reinforces his concepts of using natural fibres. Here, Alisan has taken it up a level by creating his own fabric which is also bio-degradable, impermanent just like the cycle of life.

Grown by using tea- ‘a symbiotic culture of yeast and bacteria’. ‘Bio couture’ is a type of fibre that resembles that of human skin, thin, transparent and fragile. This with skin toned lycra forms the leotard.

Entwining ideas from biological science, Fashion design and fantasy, Alisan’s artwork strongly connects to his processes displayed in his folio.

Alisan Saglam's final Artwork made in Studio Arts will be modelled in the upcoming Fashion Awards Australia, early October.

Congratulations Alisan!
We made The Victoria State Finals... the calibre of the other three schools ...which included two elite rugby academies stacked with state players from both rugby codes was as expected very high ...how would our depleted team with players withdrawing last minute cope with these well drilled and experienced teams... although it turned out that we were out matched...our lads never gave up and kept turning up even though it was obvious we could not win... our 13 with no subs showed real mental grit...

For the record: remember each player played all three games without any subs.... Captain Elijah with limited possession tried to get our lads on the front foot and many times helped out on defence against the 'man mountains' that were running through our line...although pressure was on Elijah without Jacob in the halves...he stepped up as he does...more importantly his talk was always positive looking for solutions to things like the gang tackles our team faced... Roland seeing our numbers were down agreed to play...he answered the call even though he was not 100%...on attack he made his trade mark bollocking runs dispatching defenders left right and centre... and although his defence was strong...it was his positive talk to his team mates that was priceless.... Isaac worked hard all day distributing the ball...he worked well with Elijah filling in for Jacob...and so many times he tackled his heart out on defence... putting down much bigger players....The brothers Neihana and Tipene did not let anyone down... Neihana only 75% good with his ankle all strapped up had a great day tackling and as his confidence built made some good breaks running in straight lines... Tipene did what was asked of him...he put his body on the line making some beautiful tackles bringing down the 'man mountains'... and every so often when given the opportunity showed some real pace and agility on attack...great to watch... Bernard our u14 Captain had the big job of prop with Tamati our main prop out...Bernard ran the ball well and as the games progressed became good and efficient at holding the attacker down in defence... Amadeus with limited opportunities moved well with ball in hand...on defence showed plenty of heart and with more experience his technique will continue to improve.... he has the ability to go far... Louis our 'silent assassin' continued to show up on defence flying through the air at the 'man mountains' that continued to come his way.... and if required took the ball up, well done.... Kang... today he tackled and he ran the ball up... he never lost the ball and with all hands on deck, Kang was definitely involved in the game... he got to see the importance of those lunchtime sessions on safety as he saved himself from being hurt several times... to me Brian actually lifted to the occasion and played his best football... on attack he took the first hit up that no one wants to take.... Technically he positioned himself well on attack and on defence kept making the tackle remembering to hold the player down.... The ball did not really come Gareth's way on attack, but when it did, he did his job and on defence although bumped off several times would keep coming back to tackle the 'man mountains'...technically his game has improved every tournament which is choice... Blake was another of the lads who knowing we were struggling for numbers agreed to play on the day... Blake tackled all day always willing to put his body on the line...one play he put his whole body in front of one of the 'man mountains' and it did slow the attacker down for Roland and another of our lads to help bring him down... Blake like many of the senior players was extremely positive when the lads were under pressure or feeling a little down.... Finally, Tere a little rusty with his timing on defence still put his body on the line and tried his heart out... with many of our players away Tere like many of our lads had to play out of position... what I admire was Tere's willingness to change positions and do whatever was good for the team....

To me as Coach the character of a person is shown when the chips are down...these players may have wanted to run and hide but today they stood tall and represented Kurunjang well...today I felt like many of our lads had heard about the reputations of the players from these sports schools....some may have been a little scared...however the lads still turned up on the day... I felt a huge sense of pride....I would not swap any of our 13 lads for anyone to me, they showed heaps of mana and walked with a sense of fa'aloalo..... no one can take away the fact that they earned the unique privilege and opportunity to play against the best... most players only get to sit on the side and watch.... Today they were numbered among the elite... these events for some happen only once in a life time...so lads I hope they enjoyed that moment... that moment is now a memory that we all share....

54 intrepid adventurers stepped aboard a plane headed for the Apple Isle, known as Tasmania on Tuesday 25th August. Packed with layers of thermal clothes, expecting the finest rain and wind that Tassie can offer we stepped off the plane into…
Perfect Cloudless Blue Skies and 19 degree temperature!!!
Tasmania brought perfect postcard weather for 3 out of the 4 days while we explored its amazing history, environment and chocolate factories. Our trip had a lovely mix of local bakeries (the sausage rolls got a hammering), the Cadbury Chocolate Factory and some coastal views that were drop-dead beautiful.

No Tasmania adventure is complete without a visit to the Cadbury factory – and after a presentation of the history of chocolate making at the factory, the students (and a few eager staff *cough* Mr. Cole *cough*) were given some samples of unprocessed chocolate (very bitter) and some sweet off –products (pure sugar goodness). Then came the shopping time and it was like Boxing Day sales at Myer. Who could fill up their baskets quick enough with freddos, sour snake (not chocolate but very popular) and boxes of chocolate that were sure to push the elastic in a few waistbands.
After the sugar high – the students explored beautiful terrain and some amazing coastal views we arrived at Balmoral Inn to have our first overnight stay. The first thing apparent was that cuddly animal onesies are still very popular!
Our second day in Tassie led us to the amazing historical site of Port Arthur. We given a great tour of the place focusing on some of the amazing convict stories (both fascinating and slightly scary) and the way life was run at the prison site. Students explored the grounds and visited the lonely cells, the completely dark solitary confinement spaces and the work areas. We were also treated to a cruise around the port including views of the Island of the Dead where around 1100 people have been buried – some with no grave markings at all. The evening saw a return to the site for the famous Ghost Tour where people were able to imagine noises, footsteps and worry about whether they should be wearing red! Very entertaining.
Our final day in Tasmania saw us make the long trip up to Launceston stopping by to see a famous blow-hole and Cataract Gorge – with a massive suspension bridge. It was hard not to imagine Indiana Jones while crossing it. Surrounded by wild peacocks and beautiful grounds it was a lovely relaxing couple of hours before a final souvenir shop in Launceston.
And then it was time for the Spirit of Tasmania. A beautiful new vessel leading us back to Melbourne we enjoyed the calmest seas possible (another lucky turn of events) and the children enjoyed exploring the boat, the completely black seas of bass straight and some small cabins. The boat ride was completely uneventful except for the occasional outburst of “I’m the King of the World!” and other very witty Titanic references.
Some very tired students and staff landed in Melbourne at around 6am and headed back to school for pickup and some afternoon naps. Our students had a blast of a time and it must be said that I have rarely been involved with a group of students who have represented the school with such aplomb and they made everyone of our Kurunjang Community members proud.
By the way – I’m only about 1/10th of the way through my bag of picnics…..

Shane Cole
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
School honours variety

The cultural balance of Kurunjang Secondary College was celebrated in 2019 with a multifaceted day. On September 4, all students were encouraged to dress in their school uniform and don their cultural dress to recognise and embrace the school’s cultural diversity.

Teacher David Spence and VCAL students hosted a morning tea with sweet snacks and recipes by them selves, including scones, cupcakes and muffins.

Morning tea, during lunch, the performing arts department deployed a range of dance clinics and art workshops a multicultural day which included dance lessons, painting, creative writing, art, and drama performances.

The day finished off with a fashion show, accompanied by a music and dance performance.

“This day was designed to showcase the best of the multicultural student body, and make us an amazing community,” Mr. Gorton said.

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