From the Principal

LAST REMINDER THAT TONIGHT IS THE SCHOOL AGM – 6PM IN THE ICT/LIBRARY

Thank you to all the parents that have responded about the Parent Focus Group meeting on the 20th March at the school. If you have not returned the slip please do so asap. This meeting is for all parents (except school councillors) to have a voice in the direction of the school, please think seriously about attending this forum.

Congratulations to Mark Thomson for being named the best and fairest for the SCA Under 16’s. This is the second year running Mark has taken out the top award. Also to Ashley Rowe who has been successful in his endeavour to make the Bendigo Pioneers football squad. Ash has been training hard over the summer and has been travelling to and from Melbourne and Bendigo. His commitment and attitude has been outstanding. We wish him all the best this year with his footy. It is fantastic to see our students do so well out of school but these two students are also putting in 100% to their studies.

The end of the term is fast approaching and mid-semester reports are currently being written. All students should be completing some form of homework each and every night – this will range from reading through to more complex tasks – please ensure your child is completing their required homework so as they can be as successful as possible. If you require a meeting with any teachers please ring and make an appointment.

Erin Fush
Earlier this term I addressed the issue of cyber safety in the Pipeline. Some of the language used when discussing appropriate online behaviour can be confusing, therefore I have included some examples below.

**Netiquette**

Sometimes it’s easy to forget that the other person you are chatting to on IM, playing a game with, or posting to their profile is a real person. It’s easier to say and do things online that you might not do in ‘real life’. This may hurt that person’s feelings or make them feel unsafe or embarrassed. It’s important to be kind and polite to others online—and to stop and think about how your behaviour will affect them.

**Tips**

- **Treat other people the way you would like to be treated.** Avoid using bad language and don’t say things to someone to make them feel bad.
- Learn about the ‘netiquette’ of being online. What’s considered okay to do and say and what isn’t? For example, if you type a message to someone in UPPER CASE they may think you are shouting at them.
- If someone says something rude or something that makes you feel uncomfortable, **don’t respond.** Leave the chat room or forum straight away.

**Tell your parents** or another adult you trust if you read upsetting language, or see nasty pictures or something scary.

**Your digital footprint**

It’s great to share things online with your friends. Part of the fun of sharing videos, images and other content, is that lots of people can view and respond. Remember that what you share with your friends may also be viewed by others who you don’t know. They may also be able to look at it for years to come. Everything you post adds up to make your digital footprint and, once it’s online, it could be there forever. So think before you post.

**Tips**

- **Keep your personal details private.** Use an appropriate nickname instead of your real name. Ask your parents before giving anyone on the internet your name, address, phone number or any other personal details.
- **Don’t share** your username or password with anyone.
- **Think** before you hit send or post. Once posted, it can be difficult to remove content.
- **Don't post** anything you don’t want others to know or find out about—or that you wouldn’t say to them face to face.
- **Remember** that private images and videos you send to friends or post on a social networking site may be passed on to others and uploaded to public sites.

**Be respectful** of other people’s content that you post or share. For example, a photo that your friend took is their property, not yours. You should post it online only if you have their permission and make a note about where you got it from.
Hello again folks. I hope you all had a relaxing and safe long weekend. The weather was wonderful and I hear word of more rain for later on in the week so here’s looking forward to that coming to pass.

I have just come from my MIP’s class and I thought I would share something with you that came up in it. For those who are unsure, MIP’s stand for Managed Individual Pathways and it is in these classes that year 9’s and 10’s explore the many facets of career development and begin to set a course involving their own futures.

Students were outlining possible career pathways and looking at resources for finding jobs and careers. And they were then asked to link personal values with possible career options and how their values would influence career choice.

Looking around the class there was only one student that didn’t come from a farming background and so it wasn’t a surprise that many wanted a career on the farm and values such as freedom in working hours and flexibility in task management were high among personal priorities. I then posed a question for the group. Is your farm capable of sustaining a living for you and possibly your future family, as well as those already dependent upon it?

Now of course I did not require the students to answer the question but I wanted them to pause and think. For most of them it is a mere two maybe three years until they hit the workforce and I suggested that if a career on the land with their family is what they want, that they need to engage their parents in the conversation. I suggested that students simply sit down with their folks and asking what their place was in the future of the farm. I explained that in any other industry if it could not afford to hire an employee, then they didn’t hire one and that farms were a business like anything else.

I am always championing open communications between parents and their children regarding careers and wellbeing and this is no different. If you know your child wishes to have a future on the land then it may not be too far away before it becomes a reality. Sit down with them and start the conversation. You are the experts in your field and so you are your child’s best option for advice. What is the plan for the farm? Where do they fit in? What pathway options are there? I think it will be a very valuable conversation.

Students are also reminded that the anonymous “Wellbeing Box” is set up in the library and that students can contact me through that should they require it. I can also be contacted on my email at morrison.kelly.j@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Helpful Hint:

I would not presume to offer business advice to business people.

Perhaps involving your children in future planning of the farm when you feel it is warranted will assist them in pathway planning.

Please contact the school if you would like any assistance or more information on this.

Be Well

Kelly Morrison
Wellbeing Coordinator
### Dates to Remember

**March**
- Work Experience Yr 10 & 11: 26th–30th
- Tasty Thursday: 22nd March
- End of Term 1: 30th March
  - 2.00pm Finish

**April**
- Term 2 starts: 16th April
- Alpine School Commences: 23rd April
- Anzac Day No school: 25th April
- Cross Country: 27th April
- Tasty Thursday: 26th April

**May**
- SSSA Cross Country: 23rd May

**June**
- Student Lead Conferences: 15th June
- 9-12 Exams: 18th June
- Students return from Alpine School: 23rd June
- Xmas in June: 29th June

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### School Lunch

Orders are available this Wednesday & Thursday from the Hotel

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### WCS Reunion

Did you go to WCS during the 70’s and 80’s???

We are looking to organise a reunion in October 2012 and need your help. (Exact date to be confirmed).

First step is to gather names and contact details of past students, so......

Please e-mail your :Name:, Address:, Phone:, e-mail:

Years at WCS - Prep Yr 7

Other

We would also love to have people from various year levels to help find class mates. Let us know if you would like to help.

Looking forward to hearing from you

Vanessa Schwarz (Higgins)

wcsreunion2012@y7mail.com