It has been a busy first semester for students of the Middle School at Mordialloc. The first half of the year has been full of extracurricular activities such as sports days and excursions and many of our students are involved in preparations for the school Production. The Middle School Leadership team of five Year 9 students have been setting a great example for all students to follow.

In Year 7, students have well and truly settled into their flexible learning space. In term 1 all Year 7 students were involved in three days of excursions with their Family Guides to destinations such as G.E.S.A.C. that gave everyone an opportunity to get to know one another. All students have been busy filling their learning folders with quality work. This work was showcased to parents during the recent Student Led Conferences where parents were invited into the Learning Centre to discuss with their student what they have achieved during the first stages of their secondary education. Many Year 7 students were involved in the primary school visits, happy to get back to their former schools and give the primary students an insight into life as a Year 7 student at Mordialloc College, and also during our Open Day and Night to act as guides and show members of our community around their College.

In Year 8, students have entered the Enquiry Zone full of confidence to continue the excellent progress they made last year. All students recently took part in their “Party Time” election campaign where students worked in groups and had to formulate policies in the key areas such as the economy and for education. An election was held and for the first time in its history there was a tie! Students have recently investigated sustainability and themes such as their ecological footprints giving them a greater appreciation for the environment. There have been excursions to G.E.S.A.C. and to see a French film and students are busy preparing themselves for the sports Round Robin competition coming up at the end of this term. Just like the Year 7s, the parents of Year 8 students visited the Enquiry Zone for the Student Led Conferences.

After weeks of preparation including completing resumes, cover letters, OH & S. certificates and sitting interviews, Year 9 Mordialloc Experience students are off to community placements for this week. Students undertake volunteer work at a range of local primary schools, kindergartens, pre-schools, Kingston City Council, gardening and opportunity shops. This is an important time in the development of our Year 9 students as they form ties with their local community. Learning outside of the classroom about working life and learning new skills gives students a unique opportunity to begin to forge an idea of what they would like to do once they finish their schooling. Students will take part in the City Experience in the last weeks of the term where students will undertake a research project focussed on Melbourne City.

I would like to congratulate all Year 7 and Year 9 students for their excellent behaviour and professional attitude to the recently completed NAPLAN tests. All teachers involved in these tests reported that all students were very keen to do their best and for this they must be commended.

Mr George Tzimourtas, Director of Middle School

Congratulations to Ms van Maanen

Marcelle van Maanen has been appointed Principal of Mentone Primary School, starting Term 3. Marcelle has been a valued member of the Mordialloc community for the past ten years. This is an exciting opportunity for Marcelle and we wish her the very best in her new role.

Ms Michelle Roberts, Principal
Cybersafety
The Bamboo Theatre Company entertained the Year 7s this week during their well travelled popular production of ‘Cybershorts’. This production of a series of well acted short plays, cover the very important issues around keeping young people safe when using technology. While there were opportunities to laugh, students were also confronted with the reality and possible damaging outcomes of unsafe use of the internet. Covering topics such as the importance of thinking before you send any photos of yourself on to a friend or ensuring you really do know the person you are communicating with. Students were also informed of the legal issues that can arise from improper use. This production strongly supports the high importance we place on the safe use of all electronic devices at school. All students are required to sign network contracts prior to using any of the laptops and computers in the school. Our mobile phone policy is in place to minimise the opportunity for inappropriate use of phones at school. We are a registered school participating in the eSmart program. This program focusses on the safe, smart and responsible use of technology.

Di Douglas, Director of Student Wellbeing

Ancient Egypt Expo Day
On Tuesday, 21 May the entire Year 7 cohort presented their Egypt Fact Files in an exhibition to all of the students and teachers in Year 7. I think it was a very effective way to show everyone just what we had been doing for the last four weeks. We all worked extremely hard on our projects. This term the Year 7’s have been studying Ancient Egypt. We have covered all aspects of this society including: culture, people, geography, religion, events and much more. Instead of presenting all our activities and research in a set way, all of the Year 7’s were thinking of new ways to present their findings. There were lots of creative ways the students presented their Fact Files, ranging from booklets and posters to 3D sculptures and interactive digs and finds. The creativity was definitely flowing with all the new and exciting ways for the Year 7’s to completely show off their hard work and effort. I think all the students and teachers were impressed at the effort students put into their projects!

Kyle, 7D

The Royal Children’s Hospital Good Friday Appeal
During the first term of every year, Mordialloc hosts its Swimming and Athletics Carnivals with all proceeds from SRC BBQs going towards the Royal Children’s Hospital Good Friday Appeal. On 27 March, in Mordialloc College tradition, the student body celebrated the conclusion of Term 1 with the annual school athletics day. In a rainbow of House colours, students participated in all manner of athletics events from shot-put to high jump, to 1500 metres and everything in between. Also in Mordialloc College tradition, the SRC provided hungry athletes with a sausage sizzle and hot cross buns to fuel them for the day. The SRC also held an Easter raffle during the Parent/Teacher interviews at the end of Term 1 with donated prizes of Easter eggs and chocolate bunnies from staff and students for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. Through the Easter raffle and Athletics Carnivals, the SRC successfully raised a huge $2000 to go towards the more than worthy charity. The SRC would like to thank all those who donated an Easter egg, bought a sausage or manned the BBQ. Well done!

Miss Amelia Hargreaves.

Language Perfect World Championships
The Championships started at 6pm on Monday, 20 May. Compete at any time of the day or night until 6pm on Thursday, 30 May.

Go Mordialloc—we can win the World Championships
Final leaders in Language Perfect in the lead up to the World Champs:
- First place: Sophie and Rhys of 8E were overall leaders both with 1565 points
- Second place: Kristen of 7A with 1010 points
- Third place: Ege of 8E with 641 points
- Fourth place: Ana of 8A with 617 points
- Josh came second in Year 7 with 593 points

(Each student will receive a small reward from Mrs Amesbury for their achievement).
Cosi Performance
Cosi - seemingly the next bane of a Year 12 student’s existence. Last, Lance Armstrong had taken up the mantle and, before that Growing Up Asian in Australia. Cosi, the play by Louis Nowra is the linguistic beast that the Year 12 students have been studying, pulling apart, reading and re-reading to understand the deeper meaning that the text can hold. The College brought forth an opportunity for us to gain a deeper insight into the text. Thus, the cohort was left standing out in the cold, waiting for the heavy doors of C3 to open and allow us into the shadow-y lair.

Funnily, and in total juxtaposition to the above paragraph, a beaming young man in a very loud orange shirt burst out, clapping his hands together. The man, (whose name escapes me) invited us into C3 informing us that the floor was more comfortable than the chairs. The play was excellent, the acting fantastic, the script followed closely. The audience laughed at all the appropriate moments. As a teacher said, “the director struck a great balance between the comedy of the script and the sadness of the events that transpired”. In all seriousness, the play was a great production and a helpful insight into the text. Thus, the cohort was left standing out in the cold, waiting for the heavy doors of C3 to open and allow us into the shadow-y lair.

Year 11 Developmental Researchers
Last week the Year 11 Psychology class visited the prep students at Mordialloc Beach Primary School. The aim was to collect data for an upcoming assessment task about the cognitive development (thinking and problem-solving) of young children. The Year 11s were professional researchers, going through a range of activities that included counters, water containers, brightly coloured shapes and best of all, playdoh!

The prep students loved having the older kids in their class – especially the lollipops they gave them – and drew their student leader a picture to say thanks. Now all that lies ahead for the Year 11s is to write the 1000 word research report. Good luck!
Ms Shelley Muir, Psychology Teacher

Senior School Information Evening and Career Expo
On Wednesday, 19 June the annual Senior School Information Evening for Year 10 and Year 9 SEAL students will be held at the College from 6pm. This evening gives all students and their parents an opportunity to learn about and discuss pathways options for 2014 and thoroughly prepares them for course counselling which will take place early in Term 3.

Invitations with more information about the evening are being posted and emailed home this week so please look out for them and write it on the calendar! In addition, Jane Jamieson (Pathways Coordinator) has organised a Career Expo as part of the evening, which will be a valuable way for students to learn about different providers, training centres and pathways options before the information session. For more details about the Career Expo please see the flier in this newsletter. All acceptance slips for the Information Evening should be returned to the Forum Office by Monday, 17 June. If you do not receive the invitation this week please ask your child to collect one from the Forum Office.
Ms Shelley Muir, Director of Senior School

Collect Woolworths Earn & Learn Stickers
Mordialloc College has again registered for the Woolworths Earn and Learn Promotion. All you have to do is collect your sticker card from Woolworths, attach your stickers and place them in the box outside Sick Bay. One sticker is given for every $10 spent. Please help us to get as many new resources as possible for the school.
Ms Penny Trumble

Updating Student & Family Details
Thankyou to those parents who have already returned their forms with updated information. We would be grateful if the remainder could be returned to the school as soon as possible.
The straightforward guide to doing as well as possible in Year 12 Mathematics. (and, with some interpretation, any other Year 12 subject)

1. Turn up to class, and pay attention to whatever topics are being covered on the day.
2. Attempt a selection of each type of question covered in each lesson to ensure that you are familiar with all coursework, and aware of where your problems are.
3. Seek clarification from fellow students / your teacher / tutor about questions you have problems with, after attempting them.
4. Attempt all set “basic” questions to the best of your ability. This is done not to bore you, but to ensure that you are doing the basics quickly and correctly. Many exam questions are basic – you want to get them correct and not waste time on them. The other exam questions assume that you know the basics.
5. Attempt all of the “harder” questions to the best of your ability. This is not done to frustrate you, but designed to help you see the connections between the basic ideas, as well as how to apply them.
6. Do extra work in a supportive environment i.e. with other students. Research has shown that students learn more from other students than in any other way.
7. Seek assistance from your teacher, other teachers, tutors etc. with problem areas. They may explain it in a different or better way. They will not mind. On the contrary, teachers actually enjoy working with students motivated enough to do extra work in their own time.
8. Combining points 6 and 7, go to the forum after school Monday, Wednesday & Thursday.
9. Do more. Look up & practice past exam questions on the VCAA website. Read the examiner’s reports. Your exam will be written and marked by the same people.
10. Do more. There are study guides out there. “Checkpoints” is a booklet featuring past VCAA questions arranged by topic. “Study on” is a booklet linked with online computer based activities. It features all the VCAA questions from the past few years combined with a large number of similar questions written by their own writers. There are others as well, some better than others but none of them harmful.
11. Do more. There are holiday revision classes presented by many organisations, eg the MAV, Access, TSSM, Tsfx – see details in the Forum. These usually feature lectures/classes presented by other teachers, as well as summary notes and other resources.
12. Exam practice, in terms of preparing for and sitting the exam. (more relevant later in the year)

I said “straightforward”, not “easy”. Doing as well as possible is not easy, but it is not impossible. It may cost a little bit of money for resources. It will cost you time.

I wrote “doing as well as possible” not “Getting an A+“. People have differing amounts of raw ability. All you can do is maximise what you do with yours. Throughout the state, you will be in effective competition with every other student doing the same subject.

Some will have done more of points 1 to 12 than others. They will be the students at a distinct advantage to the others. More importantly they will be the ones with the self satisfaction of knowing that they have done better than they would have, had they not put the effort in. You, and only you, can choose to be one of them.

Mr Peter Collins, Mathematics Coordinator