Considering that we are almost at the halfway point of the year already, I thought it would be a great opportunity to check in with our junior students to see how 2013 is going for them.

I spoke with Matt and Will, both from my Family Group in Year 7, and I asked them what they thought about being at high school. "I am really enjoying it, it is so different to primary school", says Matt. "For starters there is more sport, which I love. It is also great having more than one teacher. We have Mr Wisch for Maths and Science, and Miss Wood for English and Humanities." Will agrees - "I’m enjoying myself this year, mostly because of all of the great friendships I have made, not just with people in my class, but across the whole year level".

Both boys like the fact that they have ownership over their learning. "We have more choice and freedom to work the way we learn best", says Will, “With our projects, we can choose the way we present them – I can play to my strengths".

Matt discussed the learning devices they have access to. "There is so much more opportunity for us to use technology like iPads, netbooks and Macbooks. Also, our group work has become easier since we have learnt how to use Google docs – everyone in our group can work on the same document at the same time, which means that everyone contributes equally to the task.”

Will has enjoyed the variety of topics that have been covered so far in Year 7. "I really liked the Real Game project – we all got given a job and had to budget and figure out how to live on our wage. It made me think about things I haven’t thought about before, like paying rent and buying furniture."

Matt is liking the way that the students do Maths in the Learning Centre. "We have been split into groups and work with people who are at the same level as we are. The work is not too hard, but not too easy either – it’s challenging in a good way.” Both students said that they really liked the fact that the Year 7s have their own area in the yard. "It allows us to feel safe at school", says Matt. "I love it when we get to work in the Hub and in the Discovery Centre too", says Will. "Both spaces and the Learning Centre are great environments to work in”.

Matt & Will

I also had a chat to Imogen and Hannah from Year 8, who are very much enjoying the year so far. “The timetable for Year 8 is very different to that of Year 7”, says Imogen. “We don’t spend all of our day in the Enquiry Zone; our specialist classes are scattered throughout the day, so it’s a lot more like the older year levels”.

Hannah, a new student this year, has really settled into school at Mordialloc. “I really feel like part of the class, even thought the rest of the Family Group has known each other for a year. Through class activities and a session that we call Family Time, I’ve gotten to know everyone really well.”

Imogen is enjoying the more challenging curriculum of Year 8. “In specialist classes like Technology and Art, the projects are a lot more in depth and we get to have a go at using a lot of other art forms like lino print and sketching as well as clay. Even in sport we are getting a taste of a wide variety of sports so that we (cont’d overleaf)
Lost Uniform
Unfortunately, despite many reminders to take care of their property, students may leave uniform items, jumpers in particular, in class or out in the yard and they can be mistakenly picked up by another student. Please check that the uniform items you have at home are labelled clearly with your son/daughter’s name. If your child finds they have mistakenly picked up the wrong jumper etc. please return to the relevant Year Level Coordinator at the College.

On Thursday, 16 May, a group of Year 11 students, Simone, Leandrie, Jordyn, Daniel and Ellie and I (Gemma), went on a full day excursion to the Melbourne University, for the U.N. Human Rights Youth Summit, along with Ms Douglas and Jenny Muir and some students from Bentleigh Secondary College. We volunteered to sacrifice our time to represent our school at a conference for LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transsexual) rights. The conference was open to all students, not just those who identify as LGBT. The conference was supported by the Safe Schools Coalition, United Nations Youth, and Minus 18, among other organisations set to represent youth organisations.

The day began for most of us at 7:30am when we met up at Mordialloc station. We joined a few students from Bentleigh station on the way up there, and were finally all together at Flinders Street Station. From there a quick tram ride and a walk away we arrived at the University, put on our given badges and entered the auditorium. Michael Kirby, a retired but notable lawyer, was giving a speech about his personal experience with homophobic countries, and talking about efforts that have been made, are currently being made and could be made, to put a stop to laws condemning it. That was followed by a quick Q & A for anyone left with questions.

After a short break we split into focus groups. A few icebreaking games got us all communicating and enjoying the company of new friends, as well as giving us a better understanding of the discrimination against LGBT people. We discussed our own opinions and opened up to each other, getting to know everyone in our group a little better.

Another break later was then followed by a discussion with a professional. Still in the same focus groups we all got talking to our speaker and gained new information. There was a lot to take in and we all learnt different things depending on what subject we were slotted into. For example I chose rights of Asylum and so my particular speaker was a lawyer fighting against laws discriminating LGBT people, especially in terms of refugee status, as some laws were preventing safe passage for those LGBTs stuck in that situation. Others were involved in different discussions to me. The thing I am most proud of, the best outcome of that day, is the amended resolution which we put together to go to the United Nations. We as a youth CAN make a difference, and so in our focus groups we put together some clauses to pull together and make a large resolution to be presented to the United Nations. Human Rights belong to ALL people, not just straight people, and we want to see this change go through. Discrimination against LGBTs is something we will NOT stand for, so we are making a stand against it. That is what this day was all about, and we very much thank the school for involving us in this organisation.

Gemma, Year 11

The U.N. Human Rights Youth Summit

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Gemma, Year 11

Australian Mathematics Competition

On Thursday, 1 August many students around Australia will participate in the Australian Mathematics Competition. All SEAL students from Mordialloc College from Years 7 to 10 will be entered in it automatically, as per previous years. The competition is open to all students who wish to participate – including Years 11 and 12.

There are certificates, prizes etc. If you are interested/curious the website is www.amt.edu.au/eventsamc.html (includes tab for practice questions). If you are then keen on participating, give your Maths teacher, or me, your name and $5.00, as soon as possible but definitely on or before Monday, 17 June, as that is when I need to put the entry form in.

Mr Peter Collins, Maths Coordinator

Imogen and Hannah are involved in the 2013 musical production of ‘Singin’ in the Rain’, and are thoroughly enjoying it. “It’s really great that we get to know students from other year levels”, says Hannah. Imogen agrees; “The older kids are just really friendly and inviting. We get to spend a lot of time with the Year 11 and 12s in the cast and that has its advantages; it has really improved my confidence generally at school.”

Sounds like 2013 is shaping up to be a great year for these students and for all of the Middle School. Until next time, this is Miss Wood, signing off.
Rainbow Day
On Tuesday, 21 May, Mordialloc College celebrated IDAHOBIT day – that is the International Day Against Homophobic, Transgender and Intersex Bullying – commonly known as Rainbow Day. During this day many of our school community wore a rainbow accessory at school. They were demonstrating that they believed that all people have the right to live in a fair and safe world. This also showed that they believed that any form of bullying related to one’s sexual or gender diversity is not acceptable.

One in 10 people will identify as being diverse in sexuality and or gender (DSG). This is a statistic that is throughout the world and history. It is also known that most young people who identify as DSG will experience verbal, social or physical abuse and 80% of this typically happens at school (Hillier et al, 2010). This is distressing to them, not because of their diversity but because of the abuse. The students of Mordialloc College took a stand against this with the colours of the rainbow being quite prominent on the day. The students who are members of the MCSA group (the ‘gay/straight’ alliance group) worked hard for the weeks before making rainbow icons, ranging from ribbons to badges. These were distributed throughout the day. It is fair to say that most members of the school community wore the rainbow colours. This showed an outstanding support for our students who may identify as being DSG. Many thanks to the school community for supporting this initiative.

Jenny Muir, Adolescent Health Nurse

Woolworths Earn & Learn
Thank you to everyone who has been collecting stickers from Woolworths in the ‘Earn & Learn’ campaign. Please send any booklets and loose stickers along to the school so that we can finalise our tally. There is a collection box outside Sick Bay or they can be dropped into the Hub.

Penny Trumble

Fish Tank or Bowl Wanted
We would like to have a goldfish or two in the Hub. If you have an old fish tank (small) or bowl that you no longer use, we would be very grateful. Please email me (trumble.penny.a@edumail.vic.gov.au) or give me a call on 9580 1184.

The Language Perfect World Championships have ended! HOORAY for the Mordialloc students below who gained awards for their efforts.

Gold Awards: Ege 3370 points (Top of Mordialloc College!); Jeremy 3230 points
Silver Award: Lauren 2003 points
Bronze Awards: Cameron 1008 points
Credit awards:
Kristen 1917 points (Top of Year 7!! Yay!),
Hannah 743 points,
Ana 733 points (Top of 8A!),
Noraine 678 points
Samatha 656 points
Levi 604 points (Top of 7C)
Nathan 563 points (Top of 8C)
Nhial (553 points
Imogen 534 points
Iris 04 points
Congratulations to all those who participated in the champs. The awards will be given out at the whole school assembly at the end of term 2.

To comprehend the effort these students have put into Language Perfect: in French Jeremy has had 5612 correct answers, 144 incorrect answers with 1074 questions learnt. Ege, who won the best score at Mordialloc was 4490 in the world, ranked out of 200,000 kids. That’s amazing! Out of almost 100,000 Aussies, Jeremy was ranked 2672 and Ege was ranked 2927. Congratulations go to the 8E SEALS who were the best class, taking gold, silver and bronze awards and achieving 29,793 correct answers with 2018 incorrect answers, having learnt 6920 questions. Our school students answered 95,353 questions in this competition.

Thanks goes to Language Perfect for giving our students free entry to this exciting World Championship—a great effort for our first year. Maybe we can even go higher in 2014!? Let’s see!!!! Special thanks to Ms Trumble and Ms Beckwith for putting up with us in the Hub so often!

Ege
Jeremy
Lauren
Cameron
Kristen

Bronwyn Amesbury, French Teacher
Kingston Division Cross Country: Wednesday, 29 May

Notable performances and students who qualified for the SMR Cross Country on Monday, 17 June at Ballam Park, Frankston:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GIRLS</th>
<th>BOYS</th>
<th>17 to 20 BOYS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serena (4th)</td>
<td>Robert (3rd)</td>
<td>Matt (6th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridget (16th)</td>
<td>Joel (4th)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelsey (13th)</td>
<td>Kyle (5th)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Billy (4th)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>David (10th)</td>
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OPEN HOUSE

Mordialloc Masonic Hall

Kingston City Council invites you to attend one of our Open House sessions at the Mordialloc Masonic Hall.

The structural works for the building are complete.

We now need the community’s help to decide the best use for the building.

Come along to one of our Open House sessions to have a look around and tell us what you think should happen inside the hall.

What services, programs, groups or activities would you like to see come to life in the Mordialloc Masonic Hall?

Council wants to hear as many ideas as possible. We will then collate them and work with the Community Reference Panel to identify proposals for the future use of the hall.

Have Your Say!

1 June to 9 July 2013

You can also provide feedback by:

Online:
Go to Have Your Say at www.kingston.vic.gov.au

Write to:
Newton Gatoff
Team Leader Property Services
Kingston City Council
PO Box 1000, Mordialloc, 3195

Email:
info@kingston.vic.gov.au

Phone:
1300 630 306

Drop in for a snack and a chat:

Wednesday 12 June 2013, 10am to 1pm
Wednesday 19 June 2013, 3pm to 7pm
at 81 Albert St, Mordialloc, 3195

For enquiries please contact:
Newton Gatoff
Property Services Team Leader
Tel: 9525 4549
Email: newton.gatoff@kingston.vic.gov.au

Kingston Libraries and Kingston Youth Services

Present

Readz @ 4PM

Teen Book Club

Ages 12-16

Books VS Movies

THURSDAY 27th JUNE

CHELTENHAM LIBRARY

12 Stanley St, Cheltenham

Get set to cheer on your favourite YA stories as we pit the books against their silver screen adaptions!

Is team Edward cooler in the book than team Jacob on the screen?

Do you prefer Katniss Everdeen shooting arrows on paper or surviving on DVD?

Pizza will be provided for spectators.

Book your ring side seat at your nearest Kingston Library Branch or phone 1300 135 668

www.kingstonlibraries.net

facebook.com/KingstonYouthandFamilyServices
Mordialloc College’s 2013 production is not to be missed!

A stage and cinema classic, *Singin in the Rain* tells the hilarious story of 1920s Hollywood, and the transition from silent films to ‘talkies’

**Performance dates:**
- Wednesday 31 July
- Thursday 1 August
- Friday 2 August

**Shirley Burke Theatre:** 64 Parkers Road Parkdale

**Adults:** $23 ; **Concession:** $18

**Tickets available from Office**
410 CITY OF BAYSIDE SQUADRON
NOW RECRUITING FOR SEMESTER 2!

Open Day:
Sunday 2nd June 11am-3pm, Labuan Barracks, 67 Royal Avenue, Sandringham

Recruit Information Night:
Friday 26th July 6:00-8:30pm, Labuan Barracks, 67 Royal Avenue, Sandringham

Enquiries:
Pilot OfficerAAC1 Daniel Robertson
Phone: 0405 653 222
Email: csa437ogc1@aaafc.org.au

BALLYANG EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL
TO CELEBRATE 100 YEARS!

1913 — 2013

Calling all past teachers, students and parents! Please come and join us in celebrating our 100th Birthday on Saturday Nov 16th 2013.

Some activities on the day will include a tour of the school, a dinner, a celebration cake, roll calls, a time capsule and opening of the Centenary Garden.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!
We are seeking all photos and memorabilia to include in a commemorative book which will be available for purchase and displayed on the day.
In addition, if you know of anyone who can help with our search, please inform them of our upcoming event.

Please contact the school to register your details for an invitation:

Phone: 03 5369-5148 or email us at:
ballyang.east.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CADETS
Cadets – Air Force's future
www.aafc.org.au