eLearning Report

Network Upgrade
During the July holidays, the College network underwent a significant upgrade. With the help of technicians from Project 96, we stripped back the network, replaced all out-dated hardware and rebuilt our infrastructure to provide fast, reliable and flexible access to students and staff. This was the first stage of a two-phase plan to strengthen our network and enable us to introduce a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy in future years. BYOD approaches focus on students having full-time access to a personal digital device (laptop, tablet etc) on a 1 to 1 ratio, allowing them to take more ownership of their work and manage their learning in a much more personalised manner. In September/October we plan to complete the network upgrade by redesigning and replacing our wireless systems, allowing us to provide access, not just on a 1 to 1 basis, but for multiple devices for each student.

Cyber Safety

The growth in use and ownership of personal digital devices in recent years has opened the door to a world of new and exciting possibilities for student learning, communication, interaction, access to information, etc. Yet with the pervasive nature of these technologies comes the equally significant and important need to be conscious of cyber safety. Mordialloc College takes cyber safety very seriously and we are well underway in becoming an eSmart school. We know that it is often difficult to keep abreast of the devices, sites or software your child is using. While there is much to know and consider when addressing issues of cyber safety, here are Mordialloc College’s simple guidelines for ‘staying safe’ and supporting your child to become a responsible digital citizen:

1. Communicate. The best approach is to learn as much about your child’s online and digital use. Begin a conversation with your child as to what they access online, how they use various technologies etc. Create a positive, clear and mutual understanding that sets clear expectations for behaviour and habits.

2. Monitor. Use safety software to filter or keep track of what your child is accessing. Or, if software isn’t available, establish a system where your child works in a shared space or is supervised in some manner. This may simply involve placing computers/consoles in family rooms or restricting internet access at certain times.

3. Research. Become familiar with the popular sites, apps etc and any issues or trends that are arising. You don’t have to become an expert—simply signup to newsletters or visit the following sites for clear and simple information.

4. Report. Report any concerning behaviours or interactions immediately. If these are school related, contact your child’s Coordinator. It may help in any investigations to keep evidence via a screenshot or similar.

5. Block. Most social media platforms have the ability to report and block content. If this is not possible, blocking sites might also be an option.

There is a wealth of information, resources, tips and strategies available for helping parents, schools and students. Here is a list of excellent organisations and resources that provide support, understanding and strategies for both parents and students to discuss and address issues around cyber safety:

**Cyber Smart:** (http://www.cybersmart.gov.au)
An excellent site with a fantastic section for parents, including (cont’d overleaf)

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Mordialloc College staff and students share and proudly demonstrate our agreed values of Personal Best, Integrity, Respect and Responsibility

1 Station Street, Mordialloc 3195 Australia  Telephone (+613) 9580 1184  Facsimile (+613) 9587 5443  email mordialloc.co@edum.vic.gov.au  www.mcsc.vic.edu.au
resources designed specifically for families. Covers a range of topics including bullying, sexting, excessive internet use and mobile phones.

**Think U Know:**
(http://www.thinkuknow.org.au)

Another great site for understanding and responding to common cyber safety issues. Provides excellent information on reporting and responding to issues. Provides a short, monthly newsletter that keeps you up-to-date with new trends and strategies.

**Bully Stoppers:**

**Bullying No Way:**
(http://bullyingnoway.gov.au) Another site giving simple, practical information for parents.

**Digizen:**
(http://www.digizen.org) A comprehensive site offering information on social networking sites (eg Facebook) and other digital trends. Engaging activities and clear expectations.

**Chat Danger:**
(http://www.chatdanger.com) A simple, yet practical, site offering advice and strategies to stay safe on phones, the internet and other chatting devices.

**Google Apps**

All students now have access to the College’s Google domain: www.google.com/a/mc.vic.edu.au. This provides them with:
- 5GB of online storage
- An email account
- The ability to share and submit work
- Access resources anywhere, any time
- Means of communicating with teachers

We will be developing the domain further over the coming months, adding more resources and using it more for communicating with students, and welcome any feedback from students or parents. If you are interested and wish to learn more or would like to provide feedback, please feel free to contact the College.

Joshua Flood, Director of eLearning

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**Jeans for Genes Day**
Thursday 15 August
Support the SRC and wear your jeans to school (but correct uniform on top) and bring a gold coin donation. Cup cakes will be for sale at recess outside the Forum for $1 each.

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**Host Families Needed for New Exchange Students in 2014**
There are girls and boys aged between 15 and 18 from exciting countries like Italy, Belgium, Germany, Holland, Switzerland, Brazil, Norway, Argentina, Finland, Canada and Austria hoping to come here to study for 3, 5 or 10 months from February next year and stay with a volunteer family that is willing to host and welcome them. If you feel you could do this for them for the length of their stay or even some of it, please contact Klaus Schumann, WEP Community Coordinator on (03) 9758 4279 and advise me of your interest.

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**Congratulations to Benjamin of Year 9**
Benjamin was placed first in the National and State Crossbow competitions and broke two national records.
This week saw the Humanities learning area celebrate all things legal, historic, geographic and economic throughout the school.

We started Humanities week with a ‘flags of the world challenge’ and a ‘Famous Faces quiz’ in the VCE Forum. The Middle school was treated to the lunch-time film “A Knights Tale” and on Wednesday the Year 7’s wrote personal letters to themselves for a time capsule that will be opened for reflection at the end of their Year 12 schooling in 2018.

The Year 9 Geography class created an ‘Amazing Race’ around the school using mapping skills to find clues about world facts and Friday will provide the grand finale with a staff vs student Humanities competition in the Learning Centre.

Mr Andrew Palfery

With our iconic red brick frontage, the College has been a visible part of Mordialloc’s history since the 1920’s.

In 1922 a survey of local primary schools was undertaken and replies indicated that 346 pupils would be interested in pursuing further education at a local high school. After persistent lobbying by local residents, Mordialloc-Chelsea High school was opened for teaching on February 18, 1924 but the iconic red brick building we see today was not actually completed until 1928.

We have a treasure of old books, photographs and artifacts going right back to the beginning of the school, on display in the foyer of the school office. So next time you are in the school’s entrance hallway, make sure you take a look at the memories of students gone and how our school has grown and changed over the last 89 years. It is also worth noting that for the curious historians amongst us there is now a Mordialloc historical walking trail produced by the Kingston Council that guides walkers to local icons and buildings around Mordialloc (including our school). For a copy of the self-guided tour go to the Kingston Council website: http://localhistory.kingston.vic.gov.au/htm/article/indexhwg.htm

Here is a sample from our archives. This creative writing task is taken from the 1932 School magazine “The Viking”. It is fascinating to read the student contemplating what life would be like in 50 years beyond their own schooling (1982). They predicted technologies like moving stairs (escalators), TV’s and phones in every room, although they were a little off with the anticipation of teachers flying their own planes to school!