Numeracy Update

AUSVELS Transition and Testing

This year begins the transition from the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS) to the Australian Curriculum through the implementation of AusVELS, which sees changes to curriculum standards in Maths, English, History and Science. Teachers have been busy updating curriculum documentation to bring everything in line with AusVELS. So a student beginning Year 7 should be Level 6.0, by midway through Year 7 they should be 6.5 and by the end of Year 7, they should be Level 8.0 and so on.

All Maths teachers have been working on their documentation of curriculum to ensure we adhere to the AusVELS standards and there is consistency in what we deliver in the classroom, through the benchmark tasks we ask students to complete and through the feedback given to students. All students should be undertaking pre-assessment (at the beginning of each unit of work to find out what they know already) and post assessment (at the end of a unit of work to find out what they have learnt). Students should be attempting problem solving tasks and a common assessment task (which is an application task for them to demonstrate the skills they have acquired and to extend their thinking). Students have a curriculum outline or Maths tracker that outlines all set classwork and benchmark tasks. If you would like to know what your child is currently studying in Maths, these documents will provide you with the details of everything they are studying in Maths and any homework they may have.

In September, the College will be carrying out systematic testing of all Year 7-10 students in On demand testing for both English and Maths. This online testing program provides teachers with another source of data on the progress, or lack of progress of each student and helps each year level team and the College as a whole determine whether we are meeting the needs of all of our students. It also allows us to triangulate our AusVELS teacher judgements, that parents see on the mid year and end of year reports, with the On demand test results, NAPLAN test results and classroom benchmark tasks to accurately assess where students sit on the AusVELS developmental continuum. We encourage all students to try their best in all forms of testing to ensure the data we obtain gives us an accurate picture of their skills and abilities in all areas of Maths and English.

Maths Competition

Recently, all SEAL students participated in the Australian Maths competition. We know all students would have given their best effort and we wish them all luck. The results should be available later this term.

Numeracy Week

Numeracy is a shared commitment of all students, schools, families and communities. It is Numeracy Week in week 9 of this term (9th – 13th September). Our aim is to promote, share, strengthen and build on the language and numeracy capabilities of our students. There will be a range of fun activities open to all students of the College running through lunchtimes and during class time to promote how fun, exciting, challenging and rewarding Numeracy knowledge can be. We encourage all students to get involved. More information will be made available over the next few weeks.

Homework and Online Resources

What homework should students be doing for Maths?

Just like athletes who have to train and practice to achieve success in their chosen sport, we need to train and practice our Maths skills to help fully understand and consolidate Mathematical ideas introduced in class, to achieve our personal best and improve our Numeracy results.

It is an expectation that students who do not complete classwork, should be finishing it off at home. Classwork can include exercises (cont’d overleaf)
from the textbook, puzzles, problem solving, application projects or revising for tests. If students are having difficulty with anything they have studied at school in Maths classes and parents are not confident in helping their child with certain skills or ideas, there are a number of different avenues to pursue:

1. Students should try to complete their work at home and, if they are having difficulty, seek assistance from their classroom teacher.
2. Students can look back over the examples provided in their textbook—these often provide step-by-step instructions on how to solve Mathematical problems.
3. There are numerous tutorials available on the internet with worked examples that may provide students with the steps to help them complete their task.
4. Year 7 and 8 students have access to Mathletics (http://mathletics.com.au/) from school and at home. Students will need their login code and they have access to quizzes and games that help them practice their Maths skills.

Some other free websites that may be of assistance are:

- www.khanacademy.org/: this website provides tutorials in all subject areas, not only Maths
- www.mathplayground.com/: this website provides both tutorials for Maths and also games and problems to practice
- www.coolmaths.com/: this provides tutorials, fun games and problems to practice
- www.sosmath.com/: this provides tutorials, games and problems to practice
- www.mathisfun.com/: this provides tutorials, games and problems to practice

Ms Bryony Lowe, Director of Numeracy Improvement

Year 9 SEAL’s ‘Mission to Mars’

On Wednesday, 14 August, the Year 9 SEAL group visited the Victorian Space Science Education Centre (VSSEC). We went there as part of the ‘Mission to Mars’ program. Before the excursion we completed mission training and developed our knowledge of Mars to prepare for the activities. At VSSEC the class was split into two groups. The first group was upstairs in Mission Control with the job of directing the astronauts via headset and making sure that they survived the trip to the surface of Mars. The second group were astronauts and were suited up with an air pack and helmet before travelling to the Mars surface. Each astronaut and mission control officer was assigned different roles and had to be directed to different areas of the surface to complete a range of surveying tasks. After morning tea we swapped roles and, in the afternoon we analysed our findings in the laboratory. Overall it was a fun day!

Amy, Year 9 SEAL

We Have Joined Facebook!

You can find Mordialloc College on Facebook by typing Mordialloc College into the search bar, then click ‘Like’. If you like us you will receive information about upcoming news and events within your newsfeed. Just another way we are improving digital communication within our College community. For more information contact Mrs Lisa Ip.

Mordialloc College Annual Spelling Bee

There was a nice turn out of students in the Hub during lunch on Monday, 19 August for the Mordialloc College annual Spelling Bee. The junior levels (Year 7 to 9) outshone the seniors in attendance, enthusiasm and general orthographic ability. Gary and Josh had a particularly entertaining battle for the Year 7 title.

The Year Level Champions were as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Champion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>Gary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>Noraine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>Josh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td>Scott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 11</td>
<td>Kayleigh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 12</td>
<td>Jericho</td>
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SALES PERSON REQUIRED

We require an adult sales person for our on campus Mordialloc College School Uniform Shop.

Computer knowledge and retail experience an advantage.

Hours will vary from approximately 9 – 35 hours per week consisting generally of 2 or 3, three hourly shifts before and after school and, predominately during school terms.

The expected commencement month is November 2013.

Please register your interest by emailing Mary Morgan: mmorgan@dobsons.com.au at Dobsons Pty. Ltd.
As previously communicated, from the 1st December, the College’s uniform supplier will be Dobson’s, not PSW. Dobson’s are a well-known family uniform supplier business and I am very pleased to announce that they will be setting up a uniform shop for our school community on site here at the College, located off the hall foyer. PSW are working with the College to provide the smoothest possible handover which has been much appreciated. I thank them for their professionalism and support of the College over the past five years.

From now until the end of term 3, PSW are offering 30% off all stock with our logo on it. All current stock is to be located at the Frankston store (no longer at Cheltenham) until the end of term 3. This is a great offer, especially for any student requiring a new jumper (e.g. ALL Year 9 students will need a grey jumper for next year as a member of the Senior School in Year 10).

It is important to note the items being phased out when considering your purchases. The Spicer jacket will no longer be part of the uniform next year, and the white polo shirt for boys as part of their summer uniform will be phased out by the end of 2014. However, the white polo top can be worn as part of the PE uniform.

Ms Michelle Roberts, Principal
Picture Time Competition

Insights into Dyslexia through Arts

Picture Time is about letting the world know how dyslexia impacts you or someone else’s life — whether you are a person with dyslexia, or know someone with dyslexia such as a brother or sister, parent, spouse, friend, teacher or co-worker.

How you want to picture dyslexia — is entirely up to you! You can draw, paint, make a sculpture or collage about your experiences. You can write a story or a poem. You can make a short film. Or take a picture. You can even write a song and sing about it. It’s up to you!

The three categories of entries are:
Primary School; Secondary School; and Adults 18+.

An exhibition and the announcement of the winning entries will be held on Friday 18 October 5.30 - 7.30 at Box Hill Institute TAFE Convention Centre - Fountains Restaurant. Further details on exhibition to come!

Picture Time submissions close 30 September 2013.

For more information including Conditions of Entry and Entry Forms visit:
www.ldnetwork.net.au

Transport in Kingston - Have Your Say!

Have your say in our transport consultation to help Council know about the experiences of people in our community when they travel to places they need to go to. We want to know what makes it easy and what the issues are.

This consultation is the first step in creating an important guide for the future of transport in Kingston.

Have your say in our transport consultation by:
- Going to the Kingston website and sharing your thoughts online: www.kingston.vic.gov.au/transportconsultation or
- Completing a paper survey at Council’s Customer Service Centres and libraries or
- Phoning Erin Pattie to request a survey to be sent to you, on telephone 9581 4806

Consultation closes Wednesday 11 September 2013

Contact:
Erin Pattie, Kingston Council
Tel: 9581 4806
Email: erin.pattie@kingston.vic.gov.au