Some of our students who are attending the Alpine School this term. More on Page 5

Principal’s Notes

Alpine School:
Our four Year 9 students attending the Alpine School at Dinner Plain this term are at the half way mark of their stay. Dalton Ham-Jones, Samuel Hill, Mikayla Austin, and Harry Kenny have been participating in the innovative education program now for five weeks. For the first week they were not allowed to contact the ‘outside world’ at all. No mobile phones, computers or ipads, but now they have limited access to communication with their families. After a mid-stay visit from parents and family in the next two weeks, Ms Narelle Kelly and I will be attending a special presentation day on Friday 4th December to share the celebration of their program in the Victorian Alps. I am looking forward to catching up with our students in early December and hearing about their experiences.

Student Well Being Programs:
Thanks to the organisation of our Well Being Co-ordinator, Miss Kelly Taylor and Mrs Bernie Cook our students will again have the benefit of being able to participate in two excellent programs. Both programs will be run this week, Year 9 Peer Support on Thursday and Year 10 Supportive Friends on Friday. Students will be part of a training program that will help them self-reflect and to assist their peers if they are in need of support or some level of intervention to avoid distress or conflict. The students stand to gain some invaluable personal ‘tools’ that they will be able to use at school and of course in their lives in general.

VCE Art:
The display of the Art work of district students opens tomorrow night, Friday 6th November at the Hamilton Art Gallery. The annual exhibition is a wonderful showcase of student work and is a ‘must see’ for any students hoping to study Studio Art or Visual Communication in the future. I recommend the exhibition to all art lovers.

Representation of Baimbridge College:
Fashions come and go but Baimbridge College has a set uniform and whenever we go into the community we expect students to be in full uniform. Presentation of staff and students at public events makes a large difference to how we are perceived by the public. While issues such as hair colour have never been particularly significant in classes, in the past and recently some students have chosen to colour their hair quite brightly. I have therefore made a point of explaining to them that the school reserves the right to determine who represents it at public events and outlandish hair colours may mean that they will not be allowed to represent Baimbridge College at a community event.

Interim Reports:
Are you still wondering where your son or daughter’s term III report has got to? It is on Compass under the reports tab.
At School Council recently students have asked for a review of our current mobile phone policy. In order to gauge opinion the student body was surveyed on Compass about their feelings about the policy and a similar survey has gone to parents. While we have had an excellent response from students about the survey the response from parents has been virtually non-existent. I urge parents to provide input as well by participating in the survey on Compass.

The policy as it currently stands is that students are not to use their mobile phones at school. They are advised to lock them in their lockers during the day. Penalties for breaches are listed as confiscation for the rest of term as well as two after school detentions.

The reasons for this stance are the commonly accepted issues with cyber bullying, photographs and their distribution without permission, the desire that students focus on their schooling and interpersonal skills rather than becoming caught in the cycle of texts and phone calls and of course making sure that classes are not interrupted by calls and texts (manners). We have receptionists at school that will take and deliver messages to students and should a message be private or an emergency exist the school can use its resources to support students in difficult times.

Bus Scholarships:
A small number of very capable students have been awarded bus scholarships for 2016 so far. Congratulations to these individuals, we look forward to having them as Baimbridge College students in 2016.

With the tightening up of eligibility rules for free bus travel, many students are no longer able to attend their school of choice without incurring quite large fees for bus travel. If this affects you, I would like to remind families that Baimbridge College is able to make available a bus scholarship to students who live outside our ‘catchment’ and satisfy a set of school based requirements. The scholarship will pay bus fees for a limited number of successful applicants. If you would like to apply for one of these scholarships please apply to me in writing and we will arrange an interview. Scholarships are valid for one year and may be reviewed more often if circumstances change.

Baimbridge College Website (www.baimbridge-co.vic.edu.au):
I would like to remind parents that Baimbridge College has a website that contains virtually all the information that a parent or student could need about Baimbridge College and its processes. I encourage parents to familiarise themselves with the website as it contains a very comprehensive list of school information. If you still have questions after checking the site please contact our office on 55722788.

Compass:
Our online student management system, Compass, has been enhanced this year. Parents should have their own personal log on which is different to their son or daughter’s. The system is accessible anywhere the internet is available on computer, smart phone, tablet or other mobile device.

If there are any questions or concerns I urge parents and guardians to contact myself, our Assistant Principals Mr John Hill and Miss Rosemary Morgan or the relevant Co-ordinators.

Robert Vecchiet, Principal
Last Thursday, the regional Koorie Engagement Support Officer (KESO) team and the Glenelg & Southern Grampians LLEN invited all Indigenous secondary students in the Glenelg & Southern Grampians region to attend the Second Career & Aspirations Day for 2015, held in Heywood and Tyrendarra. Of the 20 students to attend, Baimbridge College was represented by 7 students from Years 7-10.

Starting at the Heywood Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) depot, Specialists and Road crews explaining their current projects such as Glenelg Ark, Feral animal and plant control, road maintenance and fire control within the National Forest regions in the area. After some hands on with the firefighting equipment, it was off to Tyrendarra and a BBQ lunch.

To end the day, a tour of the Tyrendarra Indigenous Protected Area by the Gunditjmiring Land Management team who explained eel farming techniques and land conservation practices as followed by the Gunditjmara people.
On Wednesday the 16th at 6:30 am I set off to the Melbourne airport where we met all the other people that where travelling to the USA. I found airport security weird, considering that I have never flown before. We all loaded the plane and awaited our long 14 hour flight. Everyone was too awake to try and sleep even though most people stayed awake the night before to try and get sleep on the plane. My very first plane trip was very uncomfortable and I couldn’t sleep at all. One of the people I meet was Isaiah, he and I played the games on the screens for three hours. We played card games and he showed me magic tricks with the cards. The plane food wasn’t very satisfying due to the fact that it was horrible. I watched so many movies to try and fill in time but the trip took forever. Finally we landed in Los Angeles California, the airport over there was so big. Yet again we had to go through more security and passport checks, when finally we walked outside, we found out that one of the mothers had left her bags at the of the passport check ins, so we waited an hour for her to get her bag back. We went outside and it was like a heat wave. The cars were so big compared to the ones in Australia. The other odd thing that everyone noticed was that every time we went to look before crossing the road everyone was looking the wrong way due to the fact that over there they drive on the other side of the road. We found our bus and when everyone went to get on we all nearly ran into the driver’s window because that’s the normal side for us to get on. We headed to the famous beach Santa Monica, California. It was huge and so pretty. The board walk had its own theme park and on the beach there was so much sand. They said that there is enough sand to cover two side by side footy ovals in Australia. At this point it was lunch time and it was already 38 degrees. We went and got lunch and when we all went to pay we didn’t know which coins meant what. We headed back to the beach and ate our lunch. Our hotel was just up the road from Disney Land and California Adventure Park in Anaheim. It was so pretty. The pool was massive. We headed to Knots Berry farm which had 13 roller-coasters and is a massive adventure park. On our second day we just went for a walk around to Disney Land and they showed us the close shopping factory outlets. We then came to our day of competing and got everyone was nervous. Lucky that the weather wasn’t too hot due to it was only 38 degrees we headed to what they call Kill Hill. It was so good to run on even though it was sand and roads where over here we run on grass and mud. Australia ended up pulling up very well we took out all categories in the varsity and in the open. I won my race which was in the varsity. Varsity was the top seven fastest completers and open was the next but they were all very fast times and very close times though out the day. We then went shopping at a massive factory outlet. All of us though that it wouldn’t end. The next day we left to Los Vegas, Nevada. Half way between LA and Vegas there was the largest roller-coaster in America it was called the Desperado. It took a minute to get to the top then it dropped 155 feet straight down so then you go underground. It was the most amazing roller-coaster ever. It took us five hours to get from LA to Vegas. We got there and found it was so big but we couldn’t see much due to all of the tall buildings. We stayed in Vegas for a week and we had a fun run that got us to join in with a school over there, Coronado high school. It was so hot in Vegas, it got up to 46 during the day and at night was 20 degrees, it was SO hot that even the pool didn’t cool us down much. We always went out for tea to the famous Excalibur, it was an all you can eat restaurant that was shaped like a giant castle. We headed to Williams and everyone felt at home, it was a very small town. It was only 32 each day and at night made it down to 15 so it was quite cool compared to what we had experienced in Las Vegas. We went to the famous Italian restaurant, the food was amazing the plates were so big. We then headed back to Vegas. We stayed there for one night and headed off back to Los Angeles. We then packed up all our stuff and for some it took some effort to get it to fit back into their suitcases. We sent off for the airport as we said goodbye to America we all waited our long journey of 15 hours to come back home. Everyone slept on the plane most the time and were pleased to see their families again.
During week one our students ventured out on their first major team building activity, Bridge Building. It was an opportunity for them to learn about what is involved for their team to work together and also more about their team members. It certainly was a day full of challenges and adventure on the Victoria River.

Reflection is a large component of the curriculum at the Alpine School Campus and the students have already started this. Each day they have a class known as DEARR (drop everything and reflect and read) at five o’clock for half an hour. This serves as a great time for reflect on their day, what they learnt and how did some things make them feel through experiential and reflective learning.

Tuesday and Wednesday last week, the students took part in their first expedition in 2b (Baimbridge, Mount Eliza and Rosebud SC’s). This for many of them their first bushwalk and night spent in a tent. Leading up to this expedition some of the young people expressed feelings of anxiety and the fear of the unknown, however it proved to wonderful experience for them all. Mother nature turned on the best summer weather for them. They had a spectacular first day with sunshine and little wind. The second day was also beautiful but complete with leeches! Staff were extremely impressed with the resilience they showed, the terrain was difficult but they preserved in a positive and inclusive manner. They didn’t let the conditions stop them from having a good time. They were also self-sufficient and carried their own tent, Trangia (cooking stove), food, water and clothing.

School does not finish at 3:30pm at the Alpine School. Each evening the students have a night class from 7:30pm until 8:30pm. These classes cover a range of topics and may include Passport work, films, guest speakers and group work activities. The students are getting quite used to these classes now and are coming prepared and learning ready. Staying focused and switched on at 7:30pm, after a day of school is quite the challenge, (this is often when most of us are head to the couch for some R & R) but not for this cohort! The students are also getting more involved in these classes; sometimes running sections, peer teaching and managing small working parties. It is a true testament of them stepping up and taking ownership of their own experience at the Alpine School.

Our students in attendance are Mikayla Austin, Dolton Jones, Samuel Hill and Harry Kenny.
We have been allocated 2 places for this forum, if you are interested and can get your child to Melbourne we would love to hear from you!
The canteen will close on Friday December 4, lunches and recess will need to be provided after this date.

The canteen is always in need of volunteers, as you can clearly see by the gaps in the above roster we are in need of more assistance. We are very grateful for all that we receive - if you can help out at any time please call Adie on 55 722 788.

Don’t forget to like our Facebook page for an insight into the lesser known aspects of the College, this week we found a jam session going on at lunchtime on the casual day on Thursday - it’s moments like this that make our school a community.