Principal Report
Phoenix P-12 Community College – 2014
What an AMAZING year!

2014 has seen significant progress made in imbedding our new College identity based on offering exceptional pathways and opportunities for every student across the broader Ballarat community. The emphasis of this year has been to consolidate goals, targets and a school improvement platform that is underpinned by a focus on HIGH EXPECTATIONS across all aspects of College life.

The great success of every initiative during 2014 has allowed us to deliver the vision that is Phoenix P-12 Community College. The College’s 21st Century mantra ... DREAM .... BELIEVE ..... SUCCEED; continues to evolve as a cornerstone of our vibrant school.

The concept of the Ballarat South Community Learning Precinct has seen a number of long term partnerships grow over the course of the last 12 months which has led to the following milestones being completed:

- An ever growing, self-sustainable business position being achieved by the Ballarat South Community Hub in its third full year of operation. The Ballarat South Community Hub as an active community partner has committed $100,000 to the development of the Phoenix P-12 Early Learning Centre; an outstanding projection of their commitment to support this learning initiative across the local community.
- The completion of the $10 million State Government funded 1st Stage of Phoenix P-12 Community College ...this building project saw two Learning Villages / Community Spaces and a Science Centre begin operation from June 2014 ...... ‘state-of-the-art’ facilities for our community. Construction of a further $8 million State Government initiative - Stage 2 College building strategy. It should be noted that Phoenix P-12 was the only school in the State to receive capital works funding in two consecutive State budgets. This project stage will see another two Learning Villages / Community Spaces come to fruition. A phenomenal outcome for all concerned.
- The Ballarat Health Services (BHS) and Phoenix P-12 Community College partnership that has seen a 70 year lease agreement formulated. As a result an $8 million Dental facility is being constructed to deliver general and specialist dental health services, plus radiography to the wider community. BHS will also operate a 20 chair dental training area with Latrobe University – Bendigo, as part of this project.
- The continued success of the BA@PHOENIX as a Tertiary Education model (University) that will be extended across five localities in Ballarat and Victoria in 2015; with Phoenix P-12 being a mentor school of best practice. This University Degree course is offered initially on a school based site by Federation University, and acts as a transitional platform to other University pathways of study.
- Ballarat Neighbourhood Learning Centre has further broadened the Adult training model being offered across Ballarat from the Phoenix site ... this actions the Precinct as a Prep => 90+ learning platform.
- The creation of a partnership with the Eureka Community Kindergarten Association to enable the construction of an innovative $2 million 21st Century ‘Early Learning’ facility on the Redan campus. A vision that will provide high level community access and support for this important learning age; birth to Kindergarten.

This is the first alliance of its type in Ballarat; one that combines the key factors in a community for highly effective Early Learning provision to a wide-ranging P-12 educational setting. A ground breaking venture that will transcend the 21st Century.

- A continued partnership of best practice developed between The Smith Family and Phoenix P-12 Community College to operate an integrated service model focused on skill and academic competencies. A strong union of provision.
- And finally, a commitment from the new Victorian State Government to fund Stage 3 of the Phoenix P-12 Community College Building Plan, a $10million developmental phase. An incredible endorsement from both sides of government in relation to the vision underpinning this community venture.

Annual College Presentation Night - 2014

We celebrated our amazing student achievements across 2014 at our annual Presentation Evening on Tuesday, 2nd December.

Congratulations to all students who achieved recognition on this night. Your individual and group accomplishments have been outstanding!!
Our special guest, Khoa Do (2005 Young Australian of the Year and internationally recognised Film Director), was inspirational with his message of overcoming adversity and following your dreams through commitment and dedication. He also emphasised the importance of family support in that journey. Khoa emphasised the need for us all to create our own future and be positive citizens, contributing to the community around us and grasping every opportunity where we can make a difference.

The night was a resounding success with over 550 people attending this College event. The broad array of achievements once again highlight the ability of our College staff to provide highly successful outcomes for our students. SENSATIONAL!!

Rowing Team success at Phoenix P-12 Community College
We Won!! We Won!!

The Phoenix P-12 Rowing teams had a very successful weekend in Hamilton. On the Saturday the girls squad made up of Mary Greed, Abby Simpson, Ally Dennis, Caitlin Ritchie and Holly Dawson came second in their Coxed eight and then won their Coxed four events. Tanner Norman rowed with other members of the rowing club (not from our school) but didn’t place on the Saturday.

The Sunday was a different regatta (Nestles Regatta) but at the same lake. The Phoenix girls crew this time won their Coxed eight event. Sensational! To add to this Tanner Norman, as part of another rowing team, won in the Coxed eight event. They were so pumped and excited. So proud ...Phoenix P-12 Community College strikes glory in Rowing!

We really need to thank Kelly Steegstra and Jen Atchison who have coached the girls, and Ben Davies who is the Boat Captain at Wendouree and has helped so much with organising and supplying equipment.

2014 Phoenix P-12 College Council

The final College Council meeting for 2014 was held on Monday, 8th December. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members for their valued contributions over the year, as we developed school policy and processes that shaped the future of Phoenix P-12 Community College.

The past 10 months has seen substantial progress in the transformation of the school as we put in place structures and strategies that support a dynamic 21st Century learning environment. Furthermore a series of far reaching community partnerships (Ballarat Health Services, Eureka Community Kindergarten Association, The Smith Family, Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre and Federation University Australia) have been advanced by the College Council during the year. These long term partnerships are outstanding and underpin the vision of the Ballarat South Community Learning Precinct.

Finally, a special thank you must be given to our School Council President, Mr Jarrod Page, for his continued work in the development of the Community Precinct model and support around all aspects of College life. This is a time consuming role and his efforts are greatly appreciated.

Korean Students’ Visitation Program - Billet families wanted!!

I am incredibly excited to announce we have formed a partnership with a series of Korean schools and will partake in a Student Visitation Program from late January 2015. This will target the Middle Years of schooling (Years 5 – 9) and will be focused on Leadership Development, Cultural Relations and Global Citizenship. Our initial student group will consist of 20 students and 3 staff for a 2½ week visit; the students and staff are billeted in pairs across each school community for this period.

♦ This student group is due on Thursday 29th January 2015, and will leave to return home to Korea on Tuesday 17th February 2015.

It should be noted each homestay family will be provided with $1,000 to support the cost associated with the 20 day visit. (Two students stay
in each home, at approximately $250 per student per week).
This partnership will also provide our students with the opportunity to partake in reciprocal two week visits to schools in Korea, and at this stage it appears we will be able to substantially subsidise this program. Another great outcome for Phoenix P-12 Community College in setting up an experience that puts our kids on the world platform as Global Ambassadors and Youth Leaders. SENSATIONAL! So exciting!!

If you are interested in billeting these students please call the College on 5329 3293.

SENIOR SCHOOL UPDATE

As the year comes to an end the Senior School team would like to thank all parents and guardians for their efforts to help us support your children.

The senior years can be very challenging and very rewarding but there is lots of pressure and kids can feel the strain. The support offered by our school community, including parents and guardians, helps them navigate difficult waters and I’m sure they appreciate it.

Year 12 results come out very soon and it’s important to make sure that once Year 12 students have their results that they seek advice from the Senior School team in choosing and changing course selections.

For Year 10 and 11 students it is incredibly important for them to complete set homework for 2015 and to be ready to start in February. Have a nice Christmas.

Mr Andrew Greed - Assistant Principal
Senior School

MIDDLE SCHOOL UPDATE

We have almost finished the year but we are not slowing down yet. We have a great group of students and staff heading to Queensland for the annual Middle School Camp. Their first adventure upon arrival is Wet ‘n’ Wild. Then they have a great host of other exciting things to do. We wish them all safe travels.

It was terrific to celebrate the achievements of so many of our students at the annual College Presentation Evening. This was truly a fitting end to a year of hard work. We wish our students who will be commencing their senior studies in 2015 all the very best.

UNIFORM NOTICE:

At the commencement of 2015 all students from Prep to Year 12 are expected to be in FULL College uniform. The period of transition has now concluded. Full Uniform Policy will be distributed in the report envelope.

Please note:

- College socks can be purchased at Crockers for a reduced price of three pairs for $15. It is expected all students will be wearing appropriate socks from the commencement of the school year.
- Crossing or tying the tab at the back of the College dress is not permitted under any circumstance.
- The hem length is not more than 5cm above the knee. Some girls will need to have their dress adjusted over the summer holidays.

Mrs. Karen Snibson - Assistant Principal
Middle School

FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

Welcome to all families who have joined the Phoenix P-12 Community College community - I am sure you have all enjoyed a visit to the College for Orientation Day and Information sessions. Please make sure you read the Newsletter each month to keep you informed about what is going on at the College.

VISITORS TO THE COLLEGE

Please remember to report to the General Office if you are visiting the College. For the safety of all students and staff, and to maintain our safe work and learning environment, we need to know who is in the school buildings and grounds at any time.

We have one entrance to the College, which is through the gates at the front of Hertford Street. This leads you directly to the General Office where you will be welcomed and assisted with your enquiries.

If you need to see staff or pick up your student, you will be asked to wait in the foyer whilst they are contacted and asked to come to meet you.

IMPORTANT - Help us keep our data accurate please.

Please contact the General Office if you have any changes to your family contacts, emergency contacts, employment or family guardianship changes. We need to have current data to make sure we can contact you if required.

If you have a new or recently changed email, please make sure you let us know. The monthly Newsletter and family accounts are now emailed out to families, along with other vital information regarding the education of your child(ren).

2014 is ending quickly.

FAMILY ACCOUNTS ARE NOW OVERDUE AND SHOULD BE PAID.

Family Statements were emailed (or posted) out again this week. A number of families have outstanding balances for Educational Costs in 2014. Please check your statement and make sure you pay the balance ASAP. With the end of the year fast approaching families who are leaving Phoenix P-12 Community College should make sure all costs are paid prior to exiting their children.

Thank you again to the many families who have either paid their accounts, or commenced Centrepay or BPAY payments directly into their account to pay costs gradually. This is a big way to get on top of your outstanding fees.
Please note that the College Magazine will be distributed with Student Reports as a USB Card next week. If you wish your child to receive a copy, please make sure you have paid the $12.00.

Planning your payments for 2015

The end of the year and holiday time is always an expensive time for everyone. NOW is a great time to start your financial plan for 2015 to help with your educational costs.

Please remember - 2015 there is NO EMA. You need to start thinking ahead and saving for the costs at the start of the year.

If you wish to pre-pay funds into your family account to help save money to cover the start of the year costs 2015, regular - automatic payments are a great way to build your account. BPAY, Direct Payment into the College Account or cash/cheque/EFT payments at the General Office are always welcome. Pre-paid amounts will remain in your family account and will be allocated to the new expenses in the new year.

If anyone would like to discuss their account or have questions around setting up regular instalments, please do not hesitate to contact me, Lorraine, at the College (5329 3293). It would be appreciated if you could please try to pay these accounts as soon as you can and have a fresh start for 2015. 2015 costs will be added to the accounts early January, when your next statement will be emailed.

BOOKLISTS 2015:

Ballarat Books will be supplying the Back to School booklists for students in Years 7 – 12, and Radmac Office Choice will be supplying the booklists for the Junior Campus.

Please be aware that full payment to Ballarat Books (Senior Campus – January 22nd) and Radmac (Junior Campus) will be required when you pick up your book list package – so plan ahead.

Have a lovely Christmas everyone, and a safe and happy holiday period.

Ms. Lorraine Hayes
Business Manager

SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL SHOP

BUY and SELL
Second-hand Textbooks
Second-hand Uniforms

Simply

- Register on the Sustainable School Shop website - www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au
- An annual subscription to this service has been kindly provided by Phoenix P-12 Community College.

SECOND-HAND TEXTBOOK AND UNIFORM TRADING SYSTEMS

- List Wanted and For Sale Ads (Browsers tell each other what they require and what they have to sell).
- The school’s book and uniform lists are loaded into the system to make the Ad listing process easy, fast and accurate.
- Assistance is provided to accurately price items.
- Our Ad Matching service shows you:
  - Exactly the right items to buy
  - Who has the most items you need
  - The cheapest items
- Buyers contact Sellers, and arrange where and when to transact.
- Excellent email and telephone helplines are provided: 1300 683 337

If you require assistance:
Mrs. Annette Bedford
Parent Liaison can assist on 5329 3210. 9.30am - 4.00pm daily.
November was a busy month for Phoenix College Singers. They were invited to perform a set of songs, with the theme of “unity” at the Ballarat Tree of Life Project Community Event. The singers involved were Ashleigh Sorrell, Holly Armstrong, Will Gibson, Brodie Kamp, John Smith, Olivia Tilders, Nikita Dibdin and Kellie Monger. Performance items were “Que Sera”, “I Am Australian”, “Imagine” and “We Are Family”. Students then had the opportunity to decorate the Tree of Life with messages of Hope, Peace and Goodwill and sample Multicultural Food and talk with students from other schools.

LIONS CLUB CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Also in November, Phoenix College Singers were invited to perform for the Lions Club of Sebastopol & District 2014 Community Christmas Concert. The singers involved were Olivia Mulholland, Danielle Moon, Lachlan Eades, Kellie Monger, Will Gibson, Riley Bain and Kalan Christofferson. They performed three Christmas songs and the Phoenix College Band performed a set of songs to a full family audience in the Ballarat South Community Hub.

DELACOMBE CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Saturday 6th December, members from Phoenix College Singers and Phoenix College Band also performed a set of songs at the Delacombe Christmas Party. As part of the evening all invited school choirs performed together “Santa Claus Is Coming To Town” and “We Wish You A Merry Christmas”, before Santa arrived. A fun family evening for all involved.
PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

This year our Prep, Grade 1, 2 and 3 students participated in the Premier’s Reading Challenge. With a newly renovated Library, hundreds of new books and participating in many reading activities in both the classroom and the Library, the love of reading continues to grow strongly each year amongst our students.

Pictured above are Prep and Grade 1 students from Redan Campus enjoying the book they were awarded for participating in the Challenge.

Mr Mark Macnamara
Library Manager

YEAR 8 SOLAR CAR CHALLENGE

Students have been building and racing model solar cars in Year 8 Science. The sun managed to shine for the critical 15 minutes of the race! Well done to the “fastest”, “greatest distance on one capacitor’s charge” and “most pleasing” cars!

Year 7 Science
Race Around the Zoo

In November Year 7 students travelled to the Melbourne Zoo as part of the Science Program. They were provided with Melbourne Zoo passports and walked around the Zoo to various stations to complete the activities provided in their passports.

The theme of the day was “How do Scientists classify animals?” Students worked really effectively in teams to achieve an understanding of animal classification. The teams who completed the tasks first are pictured below. All students should be congratulated on the great team work and positive behaviour that was shown on the day.

Students in photo from left to right: Tahlia Wells, Christopher Jaruga, Jacob Gamble, Jayden Harvey, Matthew Graham, Christopher Jowett, Mitchell Collins, Ryan Mooney and William Amos.

Our students in Borneo having an awesome time.
CHINESE NEWS
Towards the end of this year, our Year 7 Chinese students have further discovered famous Chinese cultural items. They have designed their own Beijing Opera mask/make-up for different dramatic characters. They have enjoyed tasting Chinese tea, brush painting their names in Chinese and decorating lanterns. They have also developed their paper cutting and cooking skills. Best wishes to this group of students for their future learning! Keep up the good work!

圣诞快乐sheng dan kuai le (Merry Christmas to all.)
Ms Yu
Chinese Teacher

TEAM ‘MOMENTUM’ STATE CHAMPIONS
This year five students worked with dedication in the Development Class, with a team named ‘Momentum’. All team members represented themselves and the College with professionalism.
They won the following awards:
- Fastest Car
- Best Innovation
- Best Pit Display
- Best Marketing
- State Champion (Development Class)
The team will now compete in the National Final in Melbourne at the F1 Grand Prix at Albert Park in March 2015.
We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped these students and the F1 in Schools Program at our school.

Pictured above: Mr Christof Muller, Hudson Sharp, Manning Worsley, Jordan Blake, Laura Middlin and William Bassett.

Mrs Deanne Joosten from Phoenix P-12 Community College has won an award for "Innovative Curriculum for VCE Drama and Theatre Studies" for her work teaching "Virtual" VCE Drama over four schools and 800km using video conferencing. Congratulations!!!
Secondary School Vaccine Program

Transfer of contact information to local council

Dear Parent/Carer,

The secondary school vaccine program helps ensure students and communities are protected from diseases such as diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, human papillomavirus and chicken pox.

Local councils deliver the program and schools distribute the vaccine consent forms.

Recently the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009 were amended to authorise schools to release parent and student information to local councils so that councils can follow up with parents after the consent forms have been distributed.

This means that we will provide your local council with your contact details and a local council representative may contact you with vaccine program information. If you do not wish for your details to be provided to your local council, please advise me in writing before close of business 27 February 2015.

If you are unable to contact me by the above date you will need to contact the officer responsible for the vaccine program at your local council in the event that you have queries about your contact details.

Every day immunisation saves lives and makes it possible for Victorians to live free from the illness and the disability caused by many infectious diseases. All Victorian secondary students can receive these vaccines for free through the school-based program.

The next step will be to return the student’s vaccine consent forms to the school. Without returning a consent form, a student may miss the opportunity to be vaccinated. It is important the consent forms are completed and returned to the school, regardless of whether you agree that the student will be vaccinated or not as part of the school-based program.

For further information please go to the following links:

http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/contact/Pages/complainschool.aspx

From your Executive Principal, Mr Scott Dellar

Phoenix P-12 Community College
Hertford St
SEBASTOPOL VIC 3356
General Office
03 5329 3293
Help your child beat the brain slump these holidays

Summer holidays are a great time to get your child reading for relaxation.

Most children are pleased to have a break from the rigours of school work over the summer holidays, but many will not open a book again until the beginning of the next school year. Not only does this make it difficult to get back into the swing of study when the time arises, it also means a valuable opportunity is missed. And that is the opportunity to discover the joy of reading for pleasure.

Reading for pleasure is a wonderful way for your child to escape and unwind. It's also a great way to keep their brain active.

Studies have shown that children who stop reading over the school holidays experience something American researchers call the "summer slide" - a term used to refer to students' learning losses over the summer break.

Researchers used the analogy of a 'tap' to provide some insight into their findings, saying that while children are at school there is a flow of information, and all children have the same opportunities to learn.

When they are not at school however, that 'tap' is turned off unless there is some active engagement with books or other resources. Children whose 'tap' stays on throughout the summer holidays return to school with an advantage over those whose 'tap' may have been turned off for the past two months.

Over time, that advantage accumulates, and becomes a reason why some children are more successful at school than others.

Success aside, there is a world of enjoyment waiting to be discovered inside the pages of picture books and novels. Books are perfect for the sofa, the back lawn and the beach – all the places your child is most likely to be lounging these school holidays.

The Department has even compiled book lists for children of different ages – making it easy to find something for your pre-schooler, Preppy, eight-year-old or teenager.

The book lists, which are refreshed every year by reading experts to include popular new releases, form part of the Premier’s Reading Challenge – an annual event that inspires young people of all ages to read more books.

So while their textbooks may be closed for the summer, their brains certainly shouldn’t be. Make sure your children have a ready supply of books that appeal to their age and interests these school holidays, and help them discover the joy of reading for fun.

To download a copy of the Premier’s Reading Challenge booklists visit:

In October Year 8 students attended the “Fact or Fiction Science Show” at Federation University. Students from Ballarat High School, Bacchus Marsh College, Mount Clear College and Ballarat Christian College also attended.

During the show three scientists from ANSTO in Canberra answered the question as to whether science fiction topics such as light sabres, teleportation, time travel, hover boards, telekinesis and invisibility cloaks were fact, fiction or possibly might be a reality soon.

It was a fun show and great to learn about how the advancements in science and technology can shape the future.
2014 CALENDAR
DECEMBER
15th  Redan Campus Community Celebration in the BSCH Tuppen Drive 6.30pm - 8.00pm
15th  Activity Week Program
16th  Activity Week Program
17th  Activity Week Program
18th  Activity Week Program
SEBASTOPOL CAMPUS
NO FORMAL CLASSES ON THIS DAY
Reports available from Mrs. Annette Bedford 9.30am - 4.30pm only
Students/Parents can collect.
*Reports not collected will be kept for collection in the new year.
19th  Last day of Term 4. No formal classes, students who attend will be supervised until 2.30pm.

JANUARY 2015
28th  Start of Term 1
29th  SEBASTOPOL CAMPUS
      All Year 7 - 12 students return
      REDAN CAMPUS
      Student Testing Days
30th  REDAN CAMPUS
      Student Testing Days

FEBRUARY
2nd  Prep - Grade 6 First Day of Term 1
4th  PREPS - No School
      Every Wednesday in February - Prep students will have a day off.

RECIPE BOOKS FOR SALE
Made by Years 11 and 12 VCAL students. $10 each, available for purchase from the General Office Sebastopol Campus.
Recipe books contain over 160 pages of student selected recipes, as well as student profiles and photo collages. A great gift to give at Christmas time. Please support our VCAL Program and future camps.
Faye Kricak
VCAL

Christmas is a special time when families and friends come together to celebrate the season. Unfortunately, thieves view the season a little differently. For them, it is a time of opportunity to steal from your home and vehicles for cash, credit cards, and all the new gifts of small electronics, jewellery and easily sold valuables. Victoria Police urge you to be on guard and to take all necessary precautions to safeguard your homes and vehicles during these holidays.

- Thieves look for clues around homes like piled up newspapers, or advertising flyers hanging out of letter boxes. Ask a neighbour to keep the front of your home clean of papers and debris if going away.
- Don’t hide spare keys under rocks, in flowerpots, or above door ledges. Instead give the spare key to a trusted neighbour.
- Thieves prefer to enter through unlocked doors or windows. Sliding windows that are not secure can be seen from distance.
- Don’t advertise any trips away from your home on online social networking sites. Broadcasting your absences lets people know that your house is vulnerable. Make sure that your children are doing the same and that they are careful about discussing plans with friends.
- Don’t pile up empty boxes from appliances etc. on the street for the garbage man. Thieves appreciate knowing that you have expensive gifts inside for them to steal.

Ensure that you properly secure your vehicles and home adequately. Lock it, Remove it or Lose it.
Help Yourself Ballarat – Don’t Invite Crime! As always, remember - If you see something, say something and contact ‘000’ for immediate police response or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333000 if you have information relating to a crime. www.helpyourself.vic.gov.au