Principal’s Report

YEAR 12 – CLASS OF 2015

Congratulations to this group for continuing to provide excellent leadership throughout the College during this term.

This certainly is an important time of the year for these students as they prepare for the final examination and assessment period in early November. Initial revision sessions are already underway in many classes and we certainly wish them the best of luck in the preparation phase leading up to their exams, final portfolios or vocational assessments.

Enjoy the upcoming September/October break but make the study – preparation time count.

Go For It!

2016 Enrolments reminder – Prep at Phoenix P-12 Redan Campus

Prep enrolments for next year are filling quickly with over 35 confirmed enrolments. Please organise an enrolment meeting as soon as possible so final planning for 2016 classes can take place.

Contact the General Office on either the Redan or Sebastopol campus for an enrolment pack; support and assistance can be provided throughout the process.

Looking forward to you becoming a valued part of our Phoenix P-12 Community College family.

Book Week: What an Amazing celebration!!

Sebastopol and Redan campuses

What a sensational week of activities targeted at learning, and more specifically, reading and the power of the novel. A special dress up day for Book Week was a highlight where students from both campuses dressed up as their favourite book character. Some fantastic photos to view … enjoy.

Congratulations to all involved.

Building program update – Early Learning Centre facility construction underway!!

We are all systems go!!!!!

A contract with Arkit builders has been signed for a ‘Design and Construction’ Early Learning Centre facility in conjunction with Phoenix P-12 Community College.

This substantial project of capital works will 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.

As mentioned previously, this is the first alliance of its type in Ballarat… One that links all the key factors in a community for highly effective Early Learning provision to a wide-ranging P-12 educational setting … A ground breaking initiative that will transcend the 21st Century.

It continues to be a fantastic period to be part of the Phoenix P-12 journey … Amazing times!!

Regular updates as they come to hand, in relation to the progress of these new building works and facilities, will be made available on our website for your perusal. Our school and early learning community is very excited about the move to state-of-the-art facilities for our local families … Magic!

Multi Age Day - Literacy/Numeracy Week: Redan Campus

On Monday 31st August, we had a very successful Multi Age Day as part of our celebrations of Literacy/Numeracy Week on the Redan campus. Children worked extremely well in these cross age groups ranging from Prep to Grade 6. In this program children rotated around five activities throughout the day. Students operated across a series of reading, maths and learning events that developed skills and teamwork in these important areas of day-to-day life. A great way to focus on the learning of literacy and numeracy … Magic Stuff!!!

Time to take a break … and smell the roses!!

I am writing to inform the school community that I have decided to take a break and have resigned my position.
as Executive Principal of Phoenix P-12 Community College from the end of this term.
This brings about the mixed emotions of both sadness and excitement, as I leave a vibrant school and community that has been such a huge part of my professional life over the past four and half years; alongside the excitement that exists when contemplating a bit of a long overdue break ... with plenty of surf, sunshine and extended rides on my motorbikes on the agenda, as well as some quality catch up time with family and friends >>> the important stuff!!

Upon starting in April 2011 I mentioned to staff and students how thrilled I was to be here .... Almost 5 years on ... I can honestly say that feeling has only become more dominant ... I’m constantly now filled with PRIDE and a sense of ‘WOW’ about our $Million students and the remarkable staff who support our school.... And what they as groups and individuals ... achieve everyday!!

Nothing short of ......SENSATIONAL.

As a school community, we can be incredibly proud of the learning environment that has evolved over the last five years and the outstanding educational model that is Phoenix P-12 Community College. The amazing and diverse experiences that we offer our students are in many cases leading the State in their outcomes, and support to the highest degree all aspects of lifelong learning; providing the skill sets that will allow our kids to flourish in the world of the 21st century. EXCITING TIMES....

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the extraordinary efforts of the staff, parents and students who I have had the pleasure to work with over the past four and half years as Executive Principal of the College. Our educational achievements as a school are endless and are something that will continue to be acknowledged across our community for a significant time to come.

Finally, I would like to publically recognise the support and influence of my wife and daughter (Lynita and Leah), who have continued to ignite a belief ..... that is focused on making a difference in what we do as a professional and community member.

As I type this, I can’t help but smile with the thought of where to next .... in saying that, I hope to continue to support the College and precinct in their ongoing journey in some capacity and look forward to seeing you in the future as part of the extensive Phoenix P-12 family.

Can I take this opportunity to congratulate Karen Snibson who has been appointed through an extensive Regional Selection Process to the Acting Principal position of Phoenix P-12 Community College for Term 4. Well done; this will bring another strong perspective to the school as we continue to evolve the vision of the College.

Mr Scott Dellar
Executive Principal

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SENIOR SCHOOL REPORT

The end of the term is coming very quickly and we have numerous things happening at this time of the year. As the term ends the Year 12 students will be completing their coursework, competencies and preparing themselves for exams if applicable. This means they will be under a great deal of stress. Please contact House Managers, Teachers or Village Assistant Principals if your child needs support.

The Valedictory Dinner will be held on Wednesday, 21st October and all Year 12 students will be eligible for three tickets (including the student) at a cost of $60 each. This includes a three course meal. A letter will be sent to parents shortly detailing other key dates for Year 12. The very important selection process for next year’s senior students is well underway and students are reminded that they need to submit forms and begin to talk to teachers about the process. The process will proceed well into Term 4 and it is vital that students participate and understand the pathway they are proceeding down. We are focusing on uniform at the moment and some parents will be receiving letters home. If your child is consistently out of uniform it will affect their educational outcomes and we would appreciate your support by discussing this with them.

Mr Andrew Greed
SENIOR SCHOOL - Assistant Principal

MIDDLE SCHOOL UPDATE

The final two weeks of term are an important time for all students. Subject Selections have been finalised and we now begin the task of building the timetable. All students will still undergo a Subject Counselling Process in Term 4 to ensure that they will have learning programs that meet their needs and provide sufficient challenge and interest.

Success at school is underpinned by regular school attendance. Students should be at school every day. Where an absence is anticipated, such as in the case of a planned holiday or medical matter, parents should contact the appropriate House Manager to arrange for school work where appropriate. Parents should ensure that they contact the College to notify of a student absence; in the case of extended medical absence a medical certificate should be supplied.

Middle School Camp is approaching quickly. To ensure that students are fully prepared for camp they should attend all specified meetings. Parents who have questions should make contact with Kylie Mayne.

Karen Snibson
MIDDLE SCHOOL - Assistant Principal
Merv Lewis Public Speaking Shield

The Merv Lewis Public Speaking Program is for students in Years 10 and 11. Students undertake intensive training in Public Speaking in preparation for the final competition. Sanjay Sebastian of Year 11 was the ultimate winner with a high calibre presentation on Genetically Modified Foods. In August Sanjay was invited to present his speech at the Speakers Dinner for the Rotary Club of Ballarat South. Sanjay represented the College at an extremely high standard; the members of the Rotary club were highly complimentary of Sanjay’s presentation. The evening concluded with Sanjay being presented with the Perpetual Shield, which will be hung in the College foyer. Congratulations!!

Ms. Karen Snibson
Assistant Principal

Maths Competition

In August Phoenix P-12 Community College sent two teams down to compete in the Annual Deakin University Year 10 Maths Competition. Mr Butler, Ms Vincent and PST Ms Love supervised Emiley Cody, Ally Dennis, Mary Greed, Abby Simpson, Briella Fisher, Max Eastman, William Bassett, Duncan Brown, Liam Wood and Jordan Filipovski while they pitted their wits against 40 or so other teams from South-Western Victoria. There were round table quizzes, snap quizzes, solo quizzes and even a relay. While we didn’t come away with any prizes, it was very exciting to see us placed fifth at lunch time only to be ‘pipped’ at the end of the day by the private schools. Jordan Filipovski had a brilliant individual campaign finishing equal 12th overall and our Team 1 was the third placed Government School. Please have a look at the results in more detail at the link below http://www.deakin.edu.au/information-technology/about/news/results-are-in/27th-annual-maths-contest. The students acquitted themselves beautifully during the day and were great representatives of the College rising to a fun, challenging day.

Pat Butler
Extension Programs Coordinator - Maths

Boys, Blokes and Reading

In August the Learning Resource Centre hosted Delacombe Primary School for a Trivia Quiz as part of their Boys, Books, Blokes and Bytes reading program. The aim of the program is to bring boys together with the significant bloke in their life to develop a reading culture among the boys through a number of activities held at the Delacombe Primary School, Phoenix P-12 Community College and the Public Library. It is a wonderful opportunity for Phoenix P-12 Community College to showcase its resources and staff with a fun activity. Phoenix College students Jordan Alexander, Peter Horgan and Koby Scott attended with their brothers and father and were terrific representatives of the College.

Mark Macnamara
BOOK WEEK 2015 ROUND-UP

Before retracing our steps it is necessary to first thank our community sponsors for their prize donations; without local community support these events would not be as successful.

This year was the biggest Book Week Celebration we have ever had. More students and staff were involved in our Fashion Parade this year making it hard to award major prizes. For the first time in history we celebrated Primary and Senior Campus winners across several categories.

Toby Knight and Talahna Cook were deemed the best dressed across both campuses.

The LRC ran quizzes throughout the week, awarding prizes to primary and secondary participants. The Poetry Slam was a hard fought contest; the English Department battled LRC staff. The top prize was awarded to the English Department in front of a huge audience.

This year for the first time in Quidditch history teams from both primary and senior campuses competed. The Grade 6 students worked hard and provided some good entertainment. The senior game was fast, competitive and the crowd roared its appreciation. Scores were level with one minute to go. Gryffindor just got over the line.

It is fantastic that Phoenix P-12 Community College is developing its celebration of Book Week as a growing tradition of community involvement and the inclusion of students and staff across our whole school.

Mrs Jade Browning
English Extension Programs Coordinator

ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS WRITERS FESTIVAL EXPERIENCE

I was so excited to be going to Melbourne for the Writers Festival on Monday 24th August 2015, except for having to be at the train station by 8.00am! The train trip was fine though. Once we arrived in Melbourne we walked to the Immigration Museum and looked around for a while. Then we had a workshop with the talented author Alice Pung who spoke to us about identity, culture, family and belongingness.

After that we walked to Federation Square and ate our lunch. During lunch we were attacked by seagulls! One even tried to sit on Mrs Chadwick’s head!

We then went to a workshop with the amazing writer and illustrator of the ‘13-Storey Treehouse’, Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton. I loved how Andy and Terry made their performance seem natural and not planned. We were lucky enough to have time to get our books autographed by them both.

We walked back to the station to catch our train, which we all thought we were going to miss. We had a great day!

Thanks to the teachers for taking us.

Elizabeth Whitten-Bale
Year 7 Student
As part of the school’s commitment to providing the best possible pathways for its students, we have formed a partnership with Federation University to run the first year of its Bachelor of Arts program here at Phoenix. The University lecturers come to us here and run their classes in our classrooms. There are real advantages for our students in this.

- They can continue to learn in an environment that they know and feel comfortable in.
- They do not need an ATAR score to be considered for the course. Potential students just need to be interviewed to make sure that they are suited for the course.
- The course is delivered over two days that allows students to seek part time work and better balance their lives.
- Half a day a week is devoted to a tutorial run jointly by the school and the university and in that time slot students can get personalised help for their course work.

This is the third year that the course has run and this year we have 19 students. Half of these are our own Year 12 VCE and VCAL students from 2014. The remainder is made up of students from past years, mature age students and students from other schools.

The basic idea behind the course is to allow students to get the first year of a University course under their belt so that options for further learning can become available. At the end of a completed first year course, then entry to such courses as nursing, teaching, welfare and criminology become possible.

For many of our students, the idea of University was a new one and one that they had not taken seriously before and so this way of approaching tertiary study has lots of appeal.

The course is not free but in most cases students are able to access HECS that allows them to defer their payment until they are fully employed later in their careers.

As one of this year’s students puts it so well: “I never thought that I would be able to go to University and I didn’t just want to start a dead-end job. The course has shown me that with some help I can do the work and so think about what I might really like to do. I don’t know yet what that is but at least I am in a good space to go on to something worthwhile.”

The course is looking to interview prospective students for next year and is open to mature age students as well as recently graduated Phoenix students.

If you’d like to know please call: Rob Lewers at Phoenix P-12 Community College 5329 3217.

Science week was on 17th – 21st of August and was celebrated by a whole school Science Quiz during PCG.

Congratulations to Ms Quinn and 9P1 for taking out the Middle School prize, and Mr Butler and his Year 11’s for being the top scoring Senior class.

Science Week also marked the start of the Great Crystal Competition, where Year 7 students aimed to grow the biggest and best crystals.

Maddison Creed (7C1) and Lucienne Connell (7C2) took out the prizes for the largest single crystals.

Elizabeth Whitten-Bale (7C2) successfully grew two perfect hexagonal crystals.

Well done to all students who participated.

Caitlyn Anderson-Whitecross
Science Teacher

Recently the Phoenix John Monash Science students attended a day at Ecolinc exploring applications of Nanotechnology. Students had the opportunity to handle and experiment with materials that they had been learning about through their John Monash Science on-line lessons.

Sonia Kahanoff
Head of Science
Yes it was a Mega Day! Beginner and Intermediate Band members departed Phoenix P-12 Community College and headed for Horsham at 6:20am with anticipation. Our students workshopped with other Music students from Nhill, Edenhope, Horsham and Stawell Secondary Colleges. A huge 80 piece band was formed. WOW! What an awesome sound! The day was a huge success with lots of budding musicians playing their hearts out. The first hour was tough with lots of wrong notes and miss reading, but as the day progressed we developed into an inspiring band. The concert was very entertaining. The students did a quick survey in the bus on the way home and are looking forward to next years Mega Music Day!

John Netherway
Director of Music

Pictured left: Emily Ward

Pictured right: Rachel Shaw and Isla Edyvane

Pictured left: Samuel Shaw

Pictured above: Maggie Wheeler and Alicia Marchant.

FUNDRAISING SUPPORT
THANK YOU
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT
Our school community, through the organisation of fundraising by the Parents’ Club have raised a total of $898.80 for the Poltorasky Family, following their devastating house fire. The College Council has made a donation of $500 to the fund also.

These funds have been put towards some white goods which will be well used by the family. Thank you all for your support; what a great community spirit we are building!
The following Year 7 girls Jazz Newman, Peace Aziawor, Chloe Stratton, Taylah Dawson and Maggie Wheeler represented Phoenix P-12 Community College at the Greater Western Zones Badminton Competition held at the Ken Kay Badminton Stadium Wendouree. The girls were unsuccessful in their campaign but competed admirably against Ballarat High School, Horsham Secondary College and Mount Clear College. Congratulations Girls!!

Mr Whitelaw
Coach

THE GARY EBBELS TROPHY

Best Clubman – Matthew Boucher
Matt was our boundary umpire/goal umpire/runner throughout the season. He was always very organised and willing to assist in any way possible. He demonstrated our College values week in and week out.

Rookie of the Year – Thomas Trezise
Tom did play half of a game with the team last year before getting injured. Tom has played in a range of different positions for the College this season, demonstrating outstanding versatility. He was also one of our most consistent performers.

Coaches Award – Joshua Wells
Josh was our Captain this season and was also one of our most consistent performers polling in six out of our seven games. Like Tom, Josh had to play in a range of different positions and was one of the leaders of our team.

Runner Up Best and Fairest – Matthieu Brehaut
Matt had an outstanding season playing in the forward line and the midfield. He was leading the count up until the halfway point of the season before being overtaken. A fantastic effort from a Year 10 student playing Senior Boys Football.

Best and Fairest – Ashley Gray and Curtly Scott
Ashley spent the early part of our season holding down Centre Half-Back doing an excellent job of shutting down the opposition key forward. He was moved to the midfield in the latter half of the season where he showed his great skills in traffic.

Curtly was a fierce competitor and set the standard in terms of attacking the ball. Tackling was a key feature of Curtly’s game as he put pressure on the opposition any time he was near the ball.

Both Best and Fairest winners are Year 10 students which is a terrific achievement.

Mr Matthew Sharkey & Mr Drew Layton
Senior Football Coaches

Pictured above: Mr Matthew Sharkey, Matthieu Brehaut, Joshua Wells, Ashley Gray, Curtly Scott, Thomas Trezise, Mr Gary Ebbels and Matthew Boucher.
In August my class and some Year 7 students went to Mount Clear College to learn about Chinese culture. My favourite activity was the taste testing of Chinese snacks. The first thing we tasted was white rabbit. It was chewy, white and tasted like dream chocolate. The next thing we tried was sunflower seeds. They were salty and tasted like peanuts. They were black with yellow edge. Then we tasted Chinese Ice Tea. There was either herbal tea or lemon flavored ice tea. I tried the lemon flavored ice. Surprisingly it was sweet, not sour. After that we tried biscuits. They were thick and some sort of rectangle/circle shape. They were a chicken, cheesy flavor. Next we tried raw beans. They tasted bitter and salty at the same time. Finally we tasted pancakes with spring onion in them. They were crunchy, not soft. My favourite food was the white rabbit, although all of the food was good. I had a great day at Mount Clear College and I hope to go there again another day.

By Kayleigh Fraser 5S
My favourite activity was Chinese knotting. I liked Chinese knotting because it was complicated but it got easier at the end. The teacher gave us two strings, one long and one short. We had to weave and tie them. It was like weaving. My colours were sliver and pink. They looked like a platted bracelet.

By Patrick Boag 5S

Grade 5S and the Year 7’s went on a Chinese excursion to Mount Clear College. Over the expansion of the day we contributed to four activities. My favourite was Tai Chi. We started by learning the history of Tai Chi. We also learnt what to call our teacher, in Chinese, Lee Sanfeng. She then asked our names and we replied by saying “wo jiao Isla.” But our Sanfeng could see that we couldn’t wait to put on the Tai Chi uniforms.

After we put on our jackets and belt, we went through a PowerPoint which explained different criteria’s to performing Tai Chi properly; slow breathing, slow movement, relaxation and certain points of power on the body. Point of power was supported by a Chinese movie trailer using the method of Tai Chi. The girl won by applying pressure to certain points on the male body. Sanfeng Lee then taught us some moves. We started by bending our knees and then put our hands out straight. We then transitioned into holding a ‘fake’ watermelon. Sanfeng then asked us to cut the watermelon and extend our right arm and pretend to give it to our friend. We then did the same on the other side.

Following that, Sanfeng (our teacher) told us that the man on the screen was going to do the exact same routine, just repeated. We tried to follow along, if we lost track, we joined back in when we could. To finish off we got a picture of the group in our Tai Chi outfits. We were now trained Tai Chi masters (just joking!!)

By Isla Edyvane
2015 CALENDAR

September
18th  Last Day of Term 3
       Dismissal 2:30pm

21st-23rd  Unit 3 & 4 Practice Exams
           Sebastopol Campus

October
5th    First day of Term 4
6th    After School Program Starts
       (Years 6, 7 and 8)
       3.20pm - 4.30pm
       B60/Gym - Bring sports clothes
                   and runners (Grade 6
                   participants to wear sports
                   uniform this day to school)
11th   Family Portrait Shoot
       Advanced Life Studios
       Fundraiser
13th   After School Program
       (Years 6, 7 and 8)
       3.20pm - 4.30pm
       B60/Woodwork - Bring School
                   shoes and tie long hair back.
21st   Valedictory Dinner
       Ballarat and District Trotting
       Club
28th   Cabaret Evening
       6.30pm Ballarat Golf Club

Phoenix P-12 Community College invites you to:
A Professional Family Portrait Fundraiser Day
Please join us for a professionally posed Family Portrait shoot of your Family to raise funds.

When: Sunday 11th October
       Book a session from 9am!

Where: Phoenix P-12 Community College

What You Receive for $15
Plus get the chance to purchase extra poses, a variety of sizes, black and white prints and the digital copies to use on canvases and gifts.

Please contact the Senior Campus College on 5329 3293 to reserve your photography session before they're all gone!

4 Simple Rules
• Minimum of two generations in the Family Portrait.
• No person may appear in two separate fundraising Family Portraits (exception of separated couples).
• An adult family member appearing in the fundraising Family Portrait must be present to collect and view their family portraits (or able to make alternative arrangements).

REDAN CAMPUS - FOUNDATION TRANSITION DATES 2015

Wednesday, October 21st 9.00am - 11.00am
Favourite Teddy - Bring your favorite Teddy along!

Tuesday, December 8th 9.00am—1.00pm
Dress in Purple - Come dressed in the color purple for the morning. Everyone who attends will receive a special show bag to help get ready for school over the holidays.

***There will be a Morning Tea and Information Session for Parents/Caregivers of students.
       9.00am - 10.00am