Principal’s Report

This week I was delighted to have been provisionally offered the role as College Principal, beginning Term 4. I am honoured to have been given the opportunity to work with such an amazing learning and local community. Patterson River has a history of providing a high quality, diverse secondary education and I am looking forward to leading the College into the future. I would personally like to thank parents, students and staff for their support and well wishes in relation to the appointment.

I intend to spend Term 4 consulting widely with the school community in order to develop a shared vision for the future direction of the College. The College is currently in the process of developing its next strategic plan with the Department of Education & Training, meaning that the timing of consultation could not come at a better time.

Watch out for a parent survey to come out at the beginning of next term. There will be two versions: long for those who would like extensive input and a short one for busy parents who would like some input on key questions.

Soiree

This week saw the 26th performance of the annual Musical Soiree which was held to a sold out audience. I was impressed with the quality of the performances across all musical groups, especially considering the large number of students who only just recently performed in Hairspray the Musical. Congratulations to all involved and a big thank you to all of the staff who helped to make the performance take place.

Vinnie’s Sleep Out

A number of VCAL and VCE students were recently involved in organising and attending a Vinnie’s Sleep Out, in which students slept overnight at school. Not only were the students able to experience an uncomfortable night away from their normal beds, they were also able to raise in excess of $1400 for a great cause.

Sport

Recently I had the pleasure of presenting medals to a large number of our students at the District Athletics Carnival. The college was represented by almost a hundred students and came away from the day winning the Intermediate and Senior Boys Titles.

We wish the students well who will continue to regional athletics.
Principal’s Report Continued......

Year 12 Finishing Soon
The end of Term 3 and early Term 4 sees both VCE and VCAL students attending their last formal classes at the College and are to be congratulated on their efforts. VCE students will be completing trial examinations at the college over the holidays. These exams will allow students to receive invaluable feedback from their teachers and allow the final three weeks to focus on revision in particular areas. Classes for VCE will conclude at the end of week three with exams beginning on the 26th October. Well done and good luck!

Community Connexions
This week brings to an end the involvement of Year 9 students in their community project. Students this year have been involved in a record number of different community organisations, providing a fantastic opportunity for students to develop their understanding of a community organisation and enhance their own workplace skills. I would like to thank all of the parents who assisted in hosting, organising and transporting students for this valuable program.

VCAL Fundraising
This year, a number of VCAL students have been involved in volunteering at a Rotary events, resulting in almost $2000 being donated to the College. I recently met with VCAL students to discuss how this money might be spent. Following a range of great ideas, we have decided to put the money towards setting up a café here at the school. The café will be run by VCAL students completing the subject Industry & Enterprise, giving them the opportunity to run all elements of the business. Keep posted for more information on this project.

Tree Works
The College recently had a tree audit conducted by an arborist and has received a report highlighting works that are required to a number of trees on the school grounds. Some of these works, particularly those that present a risk to staff and student safety will be addressed during the upcoming holidays.

Changes to Year 7 & 8 Curriculum
Following an extensive review of student engagement, achievement and timetabling at Years 7 & 8, the College will be implementing a number of minor changes at Year 7 & 8 in 2017. These include:

- Introducing a two period per week elective at Year 8. This elective will include subjects such as Excel Sport, STEM Robotics, Green Team, Horticulture and many more.
- Introduction of IT at Year 7
- Consistent use of the term ‘Mentor’ teacher across Years 7-10. Mentor teachers to be introduced at Years 8 &10.
- Food is removed from the Technology block and becomes Food & Nutrition
- Pastoral Care to be called ‘Learning for Me’ and introduced at Year 8 as ‘Learning for Now’
- Art and Technology subjects no longer run at the same time to allow greater flexibility in the timetable.
- Year 8 students to get ‘home’ classrooms
- Year 10 mentor teachers to be responsible for taking students through the course counselling process.

The changes will enable classes to have greater continuity of teachers and provide parents at Years 7-10 with a mentor teacher as a main point of contact.

Follow Up to Media Reports
As you would be aware, the College was recently named in media reports as one of the schools involved in a website hosting inappropriate sexualised images. There has been no indication of any students either past or present from our College being involved in the website. It appears that the school’s name was mentioned by an online user from another school.

Whilst I am glad that the site did not involve any of our students, the incident is a reminder of the ever increasing dangers of the online world in which we live. The incident has given cause for the college to reflect on its current practices and make recommendations for future initiatives to ensure that the members of our school community are safe and protective of their personal privacy.

Educational programs and curriculum relating to online environments is currently covered in the current curriculum and programs at Years 7-12. The College has a staged approach to ensure that the information and topics covered are age relevant. In recent weeks, the College has formed a partnership with the City of Kingston and surrounding schools to look at providing parent information sessions on a range of different topics in the College’s Performing Arts Centre. The schools are looking at developing shared resources that can be utilised by students, teachers and parents to support the information sessions and we are currently in process of confirming the first two sessions which will be about Cyber Safety and Sleep. Keep posted for further information in Term 4.

Daniel Dew  
Acting College Principal
WEAR IT PURPLE

On Friday 26th August staff and students at the college celebrated ‘Wear It Purple’ day 2016. Wear It Purple day is about supporting and showing young people that they can be proud of who they are. It’s about showing sexuality and gender diverse young people that they are not alone.

This was a very important day because a survey conducted by La Trobe University in 2012 showed that nearly half of gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans and intersex (GLBTI) people hide their sexuality or gender identity because they fear violence or discrimination, especially young people aged 16 to 24.

Many students enjoyed having their faces and hands painted with touches of purple during lunch time. It was wonderful to see members of the school community joining in.

Say What?! Dramatic Reading Competition
This year’s Litfest celebrations culminated in a dramatic reading competition entitled ‘Say What?!’

Competitors were challenged to choose a piece of literature – existing or original – and present it inside two minutes to an invite-only audience and a panel of guest judges.

We were initially overwhelmed with entries and decided to divide competitors into two categories - Junior and Senior. All competitors were wonderfully dramatic and blew staff away at our students’ talents! Congratulations to all competitors – especially Junior 1st place winner Kristene and Senior 1st place winner Brittany. We hope that Say What becomes a regular competition at PRSC that can showcase our students and their wonderful literary skills!
**End of Year Activities**

From **Wednesday 14th December to Friday 16th December** Year 7, 8 and 9 students (2016) will be participating in activities instead of usual classes.

An Information and sign up package will be given to students during the First week of Term 4.

Sign Up will **start Monday 17th October – Friday 21st October** at lunchtimes in S3

**Many activities are at no cost:**
Sports, Beach activities, Basketball, Indoor Soccer, DVD Movies, Barefoot Bowling, Dance, Jingle-bell Rock and Photo Shop.

**Some activities are at a minimal cost ($2 - $10):**
Queen Victoria Market Trip, Christmas Decorations, 1000 Steps at The Dandenongs, Mindfulness - Colouring/relaxation, Laser Cut Decorations, and Kayaking.

**An activity** you may like to start saving for now:
Gingerbread House and treats ($20), Swimming at PARC ($16), Strike Bowling and Laser Tag ($25), Mornington Peninsula Hot Springs ($30) and Moonlit Sanctuary and Cranbourne Botanical Gardens ($23), Movies at Frankston ($15). All of these activities have restricted numbers.

More detailed information will be posted on **Compass**. Booklets handed out during the **first week of Term 4**.

Wendy Smith, Julie Woodroffe & Jill Bailes
*End of Year Activity Coordinators*
On the 19th August 23 Students and 6 staff participated in the Vinnies School Sleepout to raise money to support those experiencing homelessness in our community by sleeping “rough” at the school. We kicked off the evening by having soup and bread for dinner and trying to find a vacant piece of carpet to set up our sleeping bags for the long, cold night.

More than 50% of those experiencing homelessness in Australia are under 25 years of age so our focus of the night was to raise awareness of issues facing youth from the Frankston and Mornington Peninsula region and we were lucky to have Steph from Fusion come and speak to us about some of the young people she is working with. Check out their website to get more information on the great work they are doing down in Mount Martha. [http://fusion.org.au/](http://fusion.org.au/)

It was lights out at 11pm and we all had a very uncomfortable sleep (or no sleep for some of us!) but woke to a hearty breakfast of pancakes, bacon and eggs and a very large coffee for the staff.

**Vinnies School Sleepout Cont.....**

In total the students raised over $1400 which will go a long way to support young people in our area who are experiencing homelessness.

I would like to thank the following staff for giving up their Friday night to support the students: Marcus Butler, Rohan Bevan, Rachel Crowe, Amanda Dickson and Barb Smith and hope you have all had the chance to visit a chiropractor.

Amy Joseph  
*Careers, Pathways and VET Coordinator*
Vinnies School Sleepout Cont.....
National Tree Planting Day

Friday the 29th of July was National Tree Planting Day. Students from Years 7, 8 and 9 took time out of class to plant local native trees around school, targeting areas in need of greater bio-diversity like the sand-dunes along the boundaries of the oval. All students involved had a great time. A big thank you to Mr Clark who organised the one hundred native plants to be sent to the school.

Nude Food/Rubbish Free Day

This term students from the Year 7 and 8 Green Teams have been organizing different events in an attempt to reduce the amount of waste and water that exists in the school. One group of Year 8s especially Kayla, Hailey, Lara and Alistair organised a Nude Food/Rubbish Free Day. We had a fair bit of success with Rubbish Free/Nude Food day with many parts of the school being rubbish free. However there were still a number of spaces that did have rubbish so we can definitely improve in this area for the future. Well done to the all the students and staff who made the extra effort to make the school a less wasteful place.

Water Saving Tip from the Year 7 Green Team:
Collect excess water from showers and baths in a bucket and use it to water your garden.
Sport Report

YEAR 7 BOYS BASKETBALL
Patterson River boys competed in the Northern Peninsula District Competition at Frankston Basketball Stadium. There were seven teams which meant the boys played six games of fourteen minute halves.

We won the first three games against Carrum Downs, Mt Erin and Monterey. After lunch we played against the three top teams, McClelland, Frankston and EMC who were the eventual winners.

The boys fought hard until the end. Overall we finished fourth. The boys were a pleasure to coach.

Ms Allan

Intermediate Girls Hockey
On Tuesday 6th September the Intermediate Girls Hockey team played at Monash University against Mt Erin and Frankston High School. Our first game against Mt Erin was a 0-0 draw. Our second game against Frankston was a 0-2 loss.

All the girls were a credit to the school in their sportsmanship and determination and a pleasure to take out for the day. Well done.

Ms Allan
Year 10 Outdoor Ed
Rock Climbing

Wednesday
7th September

Peninsula Waves VNL Championship netballers are conducting school holiday netball clinics at the Frankston District Netball Association.

WHEN: Friday, September 23 & Wednesday, September 28

- Full day clinic run by current VNL Waves players 9am to 3.30pm
- Tailored for age specific groups
- Prizes and giveaways
- Personalised certificate of Participation
- Have fun, learn new skills and make new friends.

COST: $60 per person.

For children aged 9-12 years and 12-15 years.

Places are limited for each day, so that a focused skills session can be delivered to participants.

Please book online: peninsulawaves.com.au

Community News
STATIONERY AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE
Where: in the LIBRARY

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LIMITED STOCK
4 Pens $2.00 ea
Glue sticks $2.00 ea
Locks $5.00 ea
USB 8GB

Ex Student News
A big congratulations to ex students Jaimee Lambert and Hannah Scott who played for the Western Bulldogs in the Woman’s AFL exhibition match that was televised on Channel 7 on Sat 4th September.

We wish the girls all the very best in the Woman’s National Draft next month.

Community News

TAKING YOUR FIRST WICKET

SUMMER IN AUSTRALIA MEANS CRICKET!
Cricket is a perfect way to have fun with friends, learn about teamwork and keep active in a competitive environment.

Club: Carrum Cricket Club
Address: Roy Dore Reserve
Graham Road, Carrum
Contact: John Mitchell
☎ 0420 770 966

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