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Principal News

The last week saw much disruption to the school program with the public holiday on Monday and the Grand Prix at the end of the week. The Albert Park area is starting to get back to some sort of order this week although it will be a while before all the structures and closed streets are returned to normal.

On Thursday and Friday of Grand Prix week, staff were involved in a professional development conference planned by Assistant Principal, Marilyn Smith and Director of Professional Learning, Margaret Israel, along with the Heads of Faculty. In line with our new Strategic Plan, we are starting a review of our VCE provision and processes and this was the focus of Thursday with a complementary key note speaker on Friday, Dr Patricia Mclean, Director of Academic Enrichment Services at the University of Melbourne who spoke about supporting the learning of high ability students in both tertiary and secondary levels. There were some excellent workshops and a fascinating final keynote from Peter Congdon from Kmetrics Measurement, Analysis and Reporting who presented a detailed statistical analysis of our VCE results. A highlight of the two day conference was a dinner for all staff at which Jeremy Ludowyke, Principal of Melbourne High School was guest speaker. Jeremy spoke about selective schools and compared the strategic plans of our two schools.

My congratulations and thanks to Marilyn Smith and Margaret Israel for all the planning that went into making this such a successful conference.

We also had the Annual Reporting Meeting of School Council and the cooption meeting for the new council last week. I congratulate Ms Ruth Healy and Mr Shyam Das on their cooption to the two casual vacancies in the parent category and Year 11 student Antonia Kurbalija and Dr Helen Marshall on their cooption to the community category vacancies. Thank you to the parents who attended the Reporting meeting to receive the Annual Report and listen to us talk about our strategic plans and some of the issues council is dealing with.

Term 1 has been a short term of 8 weeks but Term 2 will be 12 weeks long. I encourage students to use the break to make sure they are up with all their course requirements and to also have a holiday in preparation for next term. I hope everybody has an enjoyable Easter break.

Jane Garvey

24th Japan Australia Relations Essay Competition

Each year the Japan Foundation along with the Consulate General of Japan organises this competition and it was the 24th Japan - Australia Relations Essay Competition last year. Over 1000 essays were sent to the Japanese embassy from Victoria. Selected essays from Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and New South Wales were then sent to the embassy of Japan in Canberra for national judging. The process took five months and the results were announced in December last year. The award ceremony was held on Wednesday, 5 March at The Consulate General's residence in Toorak. Congratulations to

Junior B: Highly Commended—
Kim Luong & Meghan Phu

Senior: Outstanding—Hannah Gould

Highly Commended—Saira Bhal & Keshinie Rasaratnam



Thank you to all the students who participated in this competition.

Mr Shunga Sawaki, LCSE Coordinator

Congratulations Stephanie!

Stephanie Choy of Year 10 has been selected as one of 20 students from government schools across Victoria for the Malaysia Study Tour Scholarship. She will travel to Malaysia during the school holidays, and spend ten days attending the Indonesian National School there, and being billeted by an Indonesian family. Well done, and good luck Stephanie!

Rebecca Kristanta
Year 9 Coordinator

Sport News

Intermediate Softball Team Wins Yarra District Competition

Intermediate teams competed in Yarra District competitions involving the sports of cricket, softball, tennis and volleyball. All of the teams experienced success in that they were able to win some matches, however, the softball team was the only team to earn the right to represent Yarra District in the Northern Zone competitions. The cricket team defeated Melbourne Girls' College but was defeated by University High School. The softball team played a match against Melbourne Girls' College and secured an easy win. The tennis teams were competitive to the end and lost to University High School in a closely contested final. Three volleyball teams represented the school and all secured creditable wins. The first team competed successfully until the final round of competition where they were defeated by Melbourne Girls' College, 2 sets to 1. Congratulations to all members of the teams for their efforts and thank you to Mr Mannix, Ms Lambert, Mr Stephenson and Ms Pride for coaching and managing the teams.

Lawn Bowls Team Competes Successfully at Northern Zone

Mac.Rob entered four teams in the Northern Zone competitions. Each of the teams experienced success by winning some of their matches. The coach, Mr Cam McMillan was impressed with the girls' team work and camaraderie. The first team reached the semi finals where they were defeated by Melbourne High School. Thank you to Ms Williams and Mrs Trenchard-Smith for managing the teams during training and competitions.

Senior Cricket Team

The senior cricket team defeated Diamond Valley Secondary College in the Metro Northern Zone final played at Fawkner Park. Mac.Rob batted first and scored 205 runs for the loss of three wickets.

Debra Loughnan 38 (retired), Ayanthi Weerasooriya—22, Amanda Jenkins—32, Akshita Sundaresh—26 not out and Rachel Poh—11 not out, all contributed to this challenging total. Diamond Valley Secondary College was soon in trouble with a devastating spell of pace bowling by Debra Loughnan, accurate bowling by Akshita Sundaresh, and keen fielding by all of the team, resulting in a regular fall of wickets. Diamond Valley was dismissed for 56 runs. The team will now play the winner of the country Northern Zone to determine who will play in the State Finals in October

Russell Webber
Sports Coordinator

Touch Football—State Championships, 7 March

Mac.Rob entered its first U/18 Open Girls team into the Victorian Schools Touch Championships on Friday, 7 March at Monash University Sports Grounds. Touch, a fast paced game of high participation levels in NSW and QLD, is slowly gaining momentum and interest in Victoria and is a fantastic sport to improve fitness levels and hand eye coordination.

Before the competition the team had not played a single game of Touch, however, their outstanding fitness levels and ball skills put them in good stead for the day. The girls played four round matches surprising themselves winning three and losing only one to Bendigo. Due to the large number of teams participating from all over Victoria and the length of the day, the Girls Plate Division (consisting of eight teams) didn't have any semi-finals but rather had a straight final between the two teams who finished on percentages at the top of the pool. The Mac.Rob girls were surprised to find themselves playing off in the grand final against Bendigo SE College. The final was a tight match which Bendigo won 3-2.

Given their 'newcomer to the sport' status the girls played outstanding touch and achieved well beyond their expectations for the day. They adapted well to the rules and showed what quick learners they are. Their defence (one of the hardest aspects of the sport to master) in the final was outstanding and they are to be commended for their fine performance. The convenors from Touch Vic were so impressed with the girls they awarded us the "Team of the Day" award which acknowledged sportsmanship, team spirit, effort and enjoying the game. The team did a 'player's player' vote at the conclusion of the competition where Amanda Jenkins of Year 11 was voted best and fairest for the day and was given the VicTouch backpack as her award. Congratulations to the following students who made up Mac.Rob Touch 2008—Amanda Jenkins (Yr 11), Claire McDermott (Yr 12), Hannah Bills (Yr 11), Harshi Singh (Yr 11), Vidhya Uddaiyar (Yr 11), Alex Marks (Yr 10), Rachel Tan (Yr 11), Miranda Hornung (Yr 11), Amy Barnett (Yr 12) and Ishara Fernando (Yr 10).

Tennis—Intermediate District Competition

The intermediate tennis team competed in the district competition on Thursday, 28 February at Royal Park Tennis Courts. The team consisted of—Ivy Nguyen (Yr 9), Alex Dudley (Yr 10), Olivia Wan (Yr 9), Candice Todd (Yr 9) and Alison Bird (Yr 9).

The day appeared to be washed out with torrential rain at 8:30am, but patience and sunshine prevailed with the girls finally taking the court at 11.00 a.m. to play their doubles matches. Mac.Rob won their first match against Melbourne Girls College 6-2, 6-1. We then went on to play University High in a close encounter which we lost 6-4, 4-3 (there was a time restriction on the match).

Congratulations to the team of girls who played excellent tennis on the day.

Ms Michelle Pride
Year 10 Coordinator

District Swimming Sports

On Thursday, 13 March the swimming team went to Brunswick Pool to compete in the District Swimming Sports. The girls, led by team captain Emily Megow, swam extremely well. The school fielded competitors in every event and every girl advanced through to the Zone finals.

Thanks to Ms Brown for her assistance on the day. Thanks also to Caitlin, Anna W, Emma, Yen, Tiffany, Eunice, Zoe, Tanya, Kayla, Catriona, Simone and Stephanie who helped with time keeping and recording. The day couldn't have run without their help!

The Zone swimming and diving competition will be held at Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre on Thursday, 10 April and I am looking forward to further success.

Senior team:	Intermediate team:
Emily Megow (Captain)	Tiffany Wang
Heloise Meighan	Alice Kennedy
Stephanie Dearaugo	Lucy Hodgkinson
Simone Hibbert	Anna Lieschke
Emma Kettle	Kayla Milana
Dorota Korab	Tanya Lupancu
Julia McGennissen	Catriona Nguyen-
Eunice Wong	Robertson
Anna Williams	Zoe Skeggs
Greta Leropoulos	
Caitlin McInnis	
Yen Nguyen	

Ms Bronwyn Moline
Teacher-in-charge

Plain Sailing for 10F

Year 10F students are taking sailing lessons over the last two weeks of this term and the first two weeks of next term. The Port Melbourne Yacht Club (PMYC) has been generous in supporting our students and have provided the instructor, the training yachts and the safety boat at a very low cost to the students. Wednesday, 12 March, saw the first group introduced to the basics of handling a Pacer before setting up their boats and getting out on the water for an exhilarating afternoon of sailing. We had capsizes, collisions and an enormous amount of fun. It was a tired, hungry, but very satisfied group that walked up Bay St to catch our bus back to Flinders St. Thanks to the PMYC, their organiser, Mr Ludovic Labat, and our instructor, Gaétan Luisi, for a great afternoon. Thanks also to Mr Campbell and Ms Contessa for supervising the session.



School Athletic Sports

These will be held on Wednesday, 9 April (first week Term 2) at Olympic Park. Students should make their own way to the venue to arrive by 8.30 a.m.

Students have been given information about public transport to Olympic Park. The Sports should conclude at approximately 1.00 p.m. when students will be dismissed. Please note that all students are expected to attend this event.

GIRLS!!!!!!

Don't forget that **Winter Uniform** should be worn from the beginning of Term 2.

Music Scholarships Commencing Term 2 2008

Mac.Rob Music Department is offering Music Scholarships for our current students to begin tuition at Mac.Rob in certain instruments.

The Scholarships cover the annual levy for music tuition in 2008.
Lessons will begin in Term 2 and continue throughout 2008.

Expressions of Interest should be made in person to the
Director of Music, Mrs J. Elton-Brown, by mail to her at 350 Kings Way Melbourne, 3004, or on email
elton-brown.jane.h@edumail.vic.gov.au

Instruments presently listed for Scholarship tuition are: French Horn, Double Bass,
Oboe or Bassoon, Trombone or Tuba.

ST KILDA TOWN HALL IS REOPENING

To welcome the St Kilda Town Hall back to Port Phillip as a community facility and the headquarters for council administration, the City of Port Phillip is holding a series of events during 27-30 March 2008. These are all free events, open to the public.

Official Opening Thursday 27 March 6pm-8.30pm * ceremonies * unveilings * entertainment by Mayhem Caberet * and The Hill puppetry & mime by Peepshow Inc.

Open Day Saturday 29 March 10.30am to 3.30pm * all doors open * entertainment on the town hall lawn stage * singers, dancers, poets, choirs * coffee food and face painting * guided tours * Carlisle Street trader discounts *

Youth Kulcha on the Town Hall Lawns Saturday 29 March 3pm-5pm * rap competition * professional graffers * dance crews *

Salsa the Night Away Saturday 29 March 7.30pm till late * bringing the tradition of dance back to the town hall * presented with Melbourne Salsa * Salsa Big Band * food & drinks for sale * learn to Salsa!

From Russia with Art Sunday 30 March 7pm-9pm * presented by Sputnik Russian Cultural and TV Association * the best in classical music *

With the return of expanded community spaces at the St Kilda Town Hall, including a new art gallery, community meeting rooms, an auditorium returned to its original size, plus a new Carlisle Street entrance and light and roomy foyer areas, it's worth joining in the celebrations.

The new office wing now accommodates over 400 council staff, and the town hall is now a new venue for hire, adding to Melbourne's sparkling events, dance and weddings calendar.

Details can be found at www.port Phillip.vic.gov.au/town_hall_open.html

If you'd like to book into a guided town hall tour on Saturday 29 March, go to www.port Phillip.vic.gov.au/port Phillip_walks.html

Enquiries: 9209 6777 or email vkrastin@port Phillip.vic.gov.au

School Tours for Prospective Students and Parents

Wednesday, 30 April	12.15 – 1.15pm	Tuesday, 13 May	11am – 12 noon
Friday, 30 May	2 – 3pm	Tuesday, 10 June	11am – 12 noon

(Bookings are essential for all School Tours (contact Registrar's office 9864 7755))

Information Nights for Prospective Students and Parents

Wednesday, 21 May 7pm—School Hall

Entrance Examination for Year 9, 2009

Saturday, 14 June Royal Exhibition Building Carlton 12.30-4pm

Entrance Examination for Years 10-12, 2009

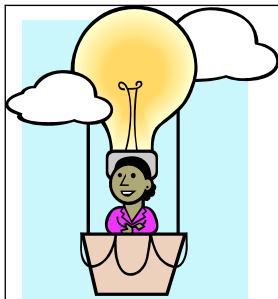
Friday, 6 June at The Mac.Robertson Girls' High School
Morning session: Year 10 Afternoon session: Years 11 & 12

Small Grants 2008 – A Parents’ Association Initiative

Dear brilliant Mac.Robians (Yes, students AND teachers) !!!

Did you want to organise on a Mac.Rob Activity? Can you think of one?

Here is your chance



- For Example
- Debating
 - Arts
 - Music
 - Sports
 - Community building
 - Cultural
 - (Insert your ideas here!!!)



to create and lead your own opportunity and take others with you on the journey!!!

Parents@Macro Small Grants support, through financial assistance, projects which –

1. Bring new experiences of learning – something you would like to do but isn't available yet.
2. Involve additional exploration of knowledge – e.g. through attending external events and conferences
3. Extend participation by students, teachers and parents
4. Will not become operational without this assistance

Please contact the General Office in term 2 for application forms and detailed criteria.
When you have completed your application:

1. Make a photocopy for your record
2. Lodge the original at the General Office
3. Make a note of the name and person who dates and signs your form.

***** THE NEWSLETTER GOES ELECTRONIC *****

Like all responsible organisations, Mac.Rob is being proactive and identifying ways to reduce waste and the unnecessary use of resources. By no longer producing paper copies of the Newsletter, we could save 3000 sheets of paper per week adding up to 120,000 sheets every year.

From May onwards we will discontinue our current practice of sending the Newsletter home with students every week. Instead members of the school community can access the Newsletter on the Mac.Rob website with a new copy available every Friday. If they wish, parents can opt to receive a weekly email to give them a reminder and link to the Newsletter. If they still require a paper copy, their daughter can pick one up from the General Office on Fridays.

At the beginning of next Term there will be a mail-out of various information to all parents, including Progress Reports and information about the forthcoming Parent Teacher interviews and an appointments booking sheet. In this envelope there will also be a Newsletter options sheet for parents to fill out and return. This will enable them to inform the school of their preferred way of accessing the Newsletter once it 'goes electronic'.

Forthcoming Events

Friday, 21 March	Good Friday.
Monday, 24 March to Friday, 4 April	Term 2 Holidays.
Sunday, 13 April (12.30a.m.)	Greece and Turkey Tour returns.
Monday, 7 April	Start of Term 2.
Tuesday, 8 April	Information Evening for 10A-E parents 6.30 p.m. in the Theatre.
Wednesday, 9 April	School Athletic Sports—Olympic Park Students dismissed at approx 1.00 p.m.
Thursday, 10 April	Information Evening for 10F-I parents 6.30 p.m. in the Theatre.
Wednesday, 16 April	House Chorals.
Friday, 18 April	Second round gardasil immunisation.
Tuesday, 22 April	Anzac Rehearsal—all Year 10 students Melbourne High (morning only).
Wednesday, 23 April	Parent/Teacher Interviews—Surnames Commencing from A - L, 2.30 - 8.00 p.m.
Thursday, 24 April	Anzac Service at the Shrine—all Year 10 students (morning only).
Friday, 25 April	Anzac Day—Public Holiday.
Thursday, 1 May	Parent/Teacher Interviews—Surnames Commencing from M - Z, 2.30 - 8.00 p.m.
Tuesday, 6 May	Curriculum Day—students not required to attend school.