



NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL NEWS

Winter Concert

On Monday night we enjoyed the splendid surroundings of the new Melbourne Recital Centre in South Melbourne at our Winter Concert. The centre boasts truly excellent acoustics, although it is a much smaller venue than we are used to at the Dallas Brookes. I was once again deeply impressed by the standard of the students' performances and their musicality. I would like to commend all the performers for their excellent work and thank them and the teachers who have worked so hard in rehearsals for their contribution to one of the great nights in the school calendar. I enjoyed the variety of the items presented and the verve that they exhibited and was especially thrilled by the Carmina Burana finale. **Congratulations** to the two **Directors of Music, Dr Anne Lierse and Ms Jane Elton-Brown** and the **ensemble conductors** on a splendid concert. I have received many email messages from parents and friends of the school expressing their appreciation of the night. For example:

“ Just a quick note to say how incredibly impressed we were at the collective depth of musical talent expressed at this concert. The seamless transitions between schools and musical forms indicated the amount of work which went into the night, and all are to be congratulated on a stunning success. “The Taste of Success” was certainly a highlight, but it must be impossible not to have the hairs on the back of your neck raised after the finale of Carmina Burana, a great night, with many thanks.”

Palladians Centenary

Last Tuesday night I was a guest at a dinner held at the Lyceum Club to celebrate the exact **100th anniversary of the first meeting of the school's female alumni organisation, now known as The Palladians.**

Louise Glanville, a former student who is now a prominent contributor to law reform through her work with the state government, spoke on the advances women have made in obtaining influential positions in the law over the last thirty years. There were former students of the school there from every decade from the 1930s in what was a very special celebration.

Student Achievement

Congratulations to **Rebecca Low 10I** and **Larissa Whitton 10I** who have been awarded scholarships for the **Department of Education Study Tour to Malaysia**. There will be 20 students from state schools across Victoria going during the Term 3 holidays.

Congratulations also to the **Senior Cross Country team** on winning the **Victorian Secondary Schools Championship**.

German Award

The Goethe-Institut has notified me that **Jacqueline Da Costa 10E** has been selected to receive one of three awards of a return airfare, insurance and spending money at a 3 week Goethe-Institut holiday course in January in Grainau, Germany. This is a tremendous opportunity for Jacqueline who impressed the selection panel very much with her language fluency.

Ms Jane Garvey



A very big thank you to those Year 11 and 10 Form Captains who did the ushering at the recent Premier's Awards. You did a superb job and presented a very positive image of our school to the public.



Debating and Public Speaking News

Debating and Public Speaking at Mac.Rob in 2009 has been going exceptionally well, following our proud tradition of excellence. We would like to thank all girls for continuing to participate and represent Mac.Rob so enthusiastically. In particular we would like to congratulate the following girls for their outstanding achievements:

Rishada Cassim and **Bebe D'Souza** of Year 12 for being selected to represent Victoria on the Victorian State Debating Team

Alice Kennedy and **Monique Langley Freeman** who won the State final of the United Nations Assembly. We wish them the very best in National Final to be held in Canberra this August.

Rishada Cassim who was placed 2nd in the VCAA Plain Speaking English Award, hosted by Mac.Rob on Friday 22 May

Caitlin McInnis of Year 12 and **Bridget Bourke** of Year 10 for going through to the finals of the Ern Ainger Public Speaking Award. Both girls performed exceptionally well with Caitlin placed 2nd overall.

Antonija Kurbalija and **Monique Langley Freeman** who were both given a special mention for their brilliant performances in the Bond Mooting Competition

All girls who represent Mac.Rob in the DAV School Competition, and to all those girls awarded 'Best Speaker' of their debates.

We continue to congratulate all our debaters and public speakers the best of luck!

Mayda Ziabari 12G

Ramyaa Muruganandah 12H

Debating and Public Speaking Co-Captains

WINTER CONCERT ON DVD

Thank you to all our performers for your terrific presentations!

Just so you can keep an audio / visual record of this marvellous Concert to pass on to your children – and grandchildren (it happens!)

Act now and order your DVD. Order forms are available from the Music Office and Music Staff.

And the price? Why, just \$25! What value!

Congratulations!



Jacqueline surrounded by her classmates at Federation Square

As mentioned in the Principal's News, Jacqueline Da Costa 10 E, has been awarded the Year 10 German Prize, a three-week study tour to Germany in January 2010. The award was presented last Friday by the German Consul General, Dr. Anne-Marie Schleich, at a special ceremony as part of the 'German Day Out' on Federation Square. The director of the Goethe Institut, Mr Torsten Schulz, made a particular mention of Jacqueline's outstanding performance at her selection interview.

Congratulations to Jacqueline on such a fantastic achievement, and we wish her a wonderful time in Deutschland!

Ms Gisela Paffenholz

EMA—New Applications Only

Applications for Education Maintenance Allowance are now available from **Mrs Baldock in the SWC Office.**

Please return the application by **Friday 7 August** with a photocopy of your Health Care Card. If you have already applied for EMA in Term 1 you do **not** need to reapply.

Visit from a former Mac.Rob student



Erin Polster (nee Waite) returned to Mac.Rob for the first time in many years last week, during a short visit to Australia. She attended a school assembly and was keen to see her old classrooms. Erin attended the school in the 1980s

and has been living and working in Germany for a number of years now. She manages the day-to-day activities of a standing federal commission for IT-Architecture and Standards for the Police Force there. It was also of interest to learn that she is married to a former Melbourne High student.

Erin was very impressed by the improvements she could see in the facilities at Mac.Rob. We were delighted that she retained fond memories of the school and that she thoroughly enjoyed her return visit.

INTERMEDIATE BADMINTON TEAM WIN NORTHERN ZONE COMPETITION.



The Intermediate Badminton team easily accounted for the other teams competing in the Northern Zone Competition. The team defeated Viewbank Secondary College and Reservoir District Secondary College, six games to zero. The team will play in the State Championships on Tuesday 18th August.

Parenting Help Line – Child Abuse Prevention Service

CAPS has been around for 36 years. They are Government funded. Their telephone service is available to everyone in the community. Due to the 'all-hours' nature of the service the telephone number is a great resource for parents, carers and anyone who deals with children and may need occasional or long-term support.

Parenting isn't always easy, so it's good to know that help is available! For free, confidential, 24 hour, parent and carer support call CAPS on 1800 688 009. CAPS support workers can help;

- If you are finding it hard to cope with your children.
- If you are having issues with the behaviour of your children.
- If you would like information about communicating with or disciplining your children.
- If you have concerns about the safety and welfare of a child you know.
- If you think you might harm a child.
- If you need clarification about what child abuse actually is.
- If you want to report abuse but don't know how.
- If you have any questions or need any information about child abuse.
- If you need help but don't know where to get it.
- Or if you just need someone to talk to!

You can find out more information at www.childabuseprevention.com.au or call 1800 688 009.

For assistance from the school please contact Gillian Baldock (SWC) – 9 864 7713



Ninety-six families from Mac.Rob are taking part in the Greenhouse Games school challenge, and taking steps to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

Don't forget to make your pledges from the action list, and report your actions from last week.

www.greenhousegames.vic.gov.au

Week 3 — Waste Theme: 'Waste Not, Want Not'

WHAT CAN I DO?

Reduce

- Buy products with minimal packaging or packaging made from recycled materials
- Bulk-buy products with a long shelf-life
- Avoid individually wrapped items
- Choose the concentrated or refillable products like juices and cleaning products.
- Use a basket, backpack, box or reusable shopping bag instead of plastic bags.
- Avoid packaging made of more than one material that can't be separated, e.g. plastic laminate on paper.

Reuse

- Reuse your plastic bags and look for products that can be reused many times.
- Choose durable and reusable items rather than disposable ones.
- Carry your own water bottle or reuse water bottles

Recycle

Smart Way 06 - Recycle household waste (You'll find the rest of SV's 10 Smart Ways in your GreenHouse Games welcome pack)

Items to put in your recycling bin:

- paper and cardboard
- glass bottles and jars
- plastic bottles*
- other plastics*
- aluminium cans and foil
- steel cans
- milk and juice cartons

*Recyclable plastic items will have a code number marked on the base. Code 1 and 2 are widely accepted, Code 3 items are also often accepted by councils and several councils also accept Code 4 to 7. Your local council can tell you what can be recycled in your area (see link at http://www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au/for_households_2828.html)

You can also recycle other household items such as computers, oil and paint through Detox your home. To find out more see http://www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au/for_households/dropoff_points.html

Interested parents are invited to attend this **free seminar**.

Please use the form below to register.



Australian Primary
Principals Association



Independent Primary
School Heads



Catholic Primary
Principals



Victorian
Principals
Association

Government Primary
Principals

Dr Ken Boston to visit Australia

We will only have one chance to get this right...

The **Australian Primary Principals Association** is delighted to announce that it is sponsoring Dr Ken Boston (former Chief Executive of Britain's Qualifications and Curriculum Authority) to visit Australia for a series of forums / meetings on national testing, league tables and the UK experience.

In a recent article, Dr Boston stated, *"The Government's approach to the key stage tests has sucked the oxygen from the classrooms of primary schools."*

"It is not the tests themselves so much as the high stakes attached to them, the archaic method of delivery and marking and the multitude of invalid uses to which the results are put. In all but those schools principled enough to resist the pressure upon them, the primary school curriculum has become a dry husk."

What lessons can we learn from the UK experience?

This is a must for all Educational Leaders.

Leonie Trimper
President
Australian Primary Principals Association

Dr Boston in Melbourne

Thursday 13 August - 9:30am - 11:30am

Champions Room, Moonee Valley Racecourse

Macpherson Street Moonee Ponds

(enter via Gate 1 for free parking available in the Members' car park)

Name/s: Position: (eg Principal/Assistant Principal)

School:

Contact Ph No: Email:

Cost: Nil - proudly supported by APPA

If cancellation is required, please allow 14 days notice to allow interested participants the opportunity to arrange commitments.

Complete and email to info@vpa.org.au or fax to 03 9326 9950

Forthcoming Events

Term 3 2009



Week 4:

Sunday 2 August - Wednesday 5 August

Adelaide Exchange

Thursday 6 August

Australasian Mathematics Competition Periods 1 & 2

Week 5:

Monday 10 August

Science Study Tour Meeting-Parents & participating students, 6.30 pm Theatre

Tuesday 11 August

Japanese Exchange students depart

Thursday 13 August

Friends of Music Meeting 6 pm—Function Room

French students from Paris depart

Friday 14 August

Indonesian Exchange students depart

Year 11 & 12 Alliance Francaise Competition, Periods 1 to 4

Week 6:

Tuesday 18 August

School Council Meeting 6.30 pm

Parents Association Meeting 7.30 pm

Wednesday 19 August

Physics Olympiad

House Drama

Friday 21 August

Year 11 Social

Week 7: HEALTH WEEK



Wednesday 26 August

Biology Olympiad

Thursday 27 August

Parent Teacher Interviews 2.30 pm—8 pm

Friday 28 August

Late Start to school—Students to arrive by 9.10 pm

Week 8:

Wednesday 2 September

Chemistry Olympiad

Friday 4 September

Winter Sleep Out—Gym