**Principal's Report**

Welcome back to all families for 2017. A very special welcome to Year 7 students and their families joining us for the first time, and to the many new and returning families to the College across Years 8-12.

May I also extend a warm welcome to our new and returning staff:
- Ms Sarah-Jane Woodward – Assistant Principal
- Mr Bastiaan De Bondt – Teaching and Learning Leader
- Mr Steven Biggin – Maths / Science (Numeracy Coordinator)
- Ms Middlemast – Maths / Science
- Ms Marios – Science / Arts / Textiles
- Ms Jackie Smith – Social Worker
- Ms Colleen Filippa – Ecolinc

It has been extremely pleasing to see our students settle in to their studies so well over the past week and a half, and follow on from the work that they commenced during the Step-Up Program late last year. We have made several improvements and enhancements to the College and programs including the recarpeting of the entire Long Wing (classrooms and corridor) – and what a wonderful difference this makes! We are very appreciative of the respect and gratitude shown by our students. We have allocated a specific team of teachers to cover the English and Maths program at Years 7-10, with a specific emphasis on tracking student learning and ensuring a guaranteed and viable curriculum for all students.

We have high expectations of all of our staff and students to uphold our College Values. We continue to implement the School-Wide Positive Behaviour Program, and in collaboration with the College community we will revisit these values to ensure the best alignment with the future direction of Bacchus Marsh College. We will continue to focus on building the capacity of our teachers to provide the best learning opportunities and outcomes possible for our students. Please support us by encouraging your student/s to take responsibility for their learning, through establishing positive work habits, including being at school every day, punctual to class, and prepared with the necessary equipment for all classes – your support is greatly appreciated with this.

During Term 3 we will commence our $8 million Building Program, with the construction of a new STEM Centre (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and Year 9 Learning Community; a Materials Technology Centre; and an extension to Ecolinc, our state-wide centre for excellence. Once this first stage of work is complete we will move onto the refurbishment of existing facilities to cater for Food Technology, VCAL, and a Resource Centre (Library). Certainly, some exciting times ahead as we prepare for these state of the art learning facilities across our College.

Looking forward to a productive and successful year for all students!

**Dionne Fenton**

Principal

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The community of Bacchus Marsh College would like to acknowledge the Wathaurong People, the Traditional Owners of the land on which our school is set and pay our respects to their Elders both past and present.
China Tour 2017—Visit the Great Wall, Forbidden City, Shanghai Disneyland & more!

Following the success of our past three China Tours, in September, we will embark on our fourth China Tour. We are travelling to Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai and Nanjing, visiting some of the world’s most famous tourist sites, whilst enjoying hotel accommodation. We will endeavour to spend some time with our two sister schools in Tianjin and Nanjing. It is proposed that we would depart during the last week of Term 3 and return into the September school holiday period. The approximate cost would be in the vicinity of $3600 and would be confirmed prior to any commitment by families. This international tour presents a wonderful opportunity for interested students. Generally students from Years 8-12 have attended this tour, however, mature Year 7 students would be considered if there was genuine interest. Students in the senior year levels who may not have continued to study Chinese Language are still eligible to travel on this tour.

Thank you to all of the students who have returned an Expression of Interest Form already. The “Expression of Interest” period will remain open for February, so if students are interested in attending the China Tour in September 2017, we request that they complete an EOI Form which will be available from the front office, to be signed and returned before the end of February.

If you have any questions in relation to the tour, please contact Mr Zheng, Ms Wang, Ms Wales or Ms Fenton.

NETBOOKS – Reminder for all Year 7-12 students

Recent audits of student netbooks indicate that the overwhelmingly majority of our students have approved netbook devices in their possession that they are making use of for class and homework. Please be reminded that all new devices must be purchased from the approved panel (refer to Netbook Handbook – copies available through the office) through the JB Hi-Fi Portal – not through the stores, over the counter, or elsewhere. These are commercial devices specifically chosen for purpose, price and durability, and come imaged with access to a suite of programs that would be at a high cost for families purchasing software individually or separately. If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact the College for more information or support with these processes.

Personal goods and Student Accident Insurance

Private property brought to school by students is not insured and the Department of Education and Training (DET) does not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage. Furthermore, the Department does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and guardians are generally responsible for paying the cost of any medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. Reasonably low cost accident insurance policies are available from the commercial insurance sector.

Students with Medical Conditions

The DET requires all students diagnosed with asthma to have a current Asthma Management Plan lodged with the school on an annual basis. Students with asthma should always carry or have available at Sick Bay appropriate medication, for example, reliever puffers. The same applies for Anaphylaxis and other Medical Conditions.

Driving to School

As many of our senior students are beginning to reach driving age, it is timely to remind parents and students that the Department of Education has very specific rules governing the use of student cars. The rule states “Students are not permitted under any circumstances to transport other students in private cars in connection with any school program or function whether held during normal school hours or at other times” (School Policy and Advisory Guide). This includes not transporting other students to school. Please support us with implementing this for the safety of all students.
Information from Public Transport Victoria

Please note that Proof of Concession entitlement requires students to obtain a 2017 PTV School Student ID (previously named the Victorian Public Transport Student Concession Card) via online at www.ptv.vic.gov.au/tickets/fares/concession/students, PTV Call Centre 1800 800 007, or V/Line staffed stations and ticket agents – please note that school issued ID Cards are not accepted as entitlement to concession travel on public transport. For further information on the Student Pass, or Regional Transit Student Passes, Registration of myki, Fares, or other information, please refer to www.ptv.vic.gov.au and go to the student area under Tickets > Concessions > Students on the website. For information about non-myki Regional Transit Student Passes, visit http://ptv.vic.gov.au/tickets/regional-fares/ under the section ‘Student Concessions’.

Please also be advised that from 30 January 2017, the child age range for the Child myki will change to 5 to 18 years inclusive (up from 16 years previously). When in school uniform students won’t be asked proof of age. However, when not in school uniform, 17 and 18 year olds may be asked to verify their eligibility to travel on a Child myki. The PTV also strongly recommend that students register their myki online at ptv.vic.gov.au or by calling 1800 800 007.

School Council Elections

We would sincerely like to thank all of our School Councillors for their commitment and contribution to the College Community throughout the year. At this time of year, we ask for nominations from our staff and parent bodies. Three parent and two staff nominations are required.

All Government schools in Victoria have a School Council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a School Council is able to directly influence the quality of education that a school provides for its students.

There are 3 categories of membership on a School Council. The mandated elected parent category must make up more than one third of the Council; a mandated elected DET employee category must make up no more than one third of Council. An optional community member category is filled by Council who may appoint members because of their special skills, interests or experiences.

Nominations for council are now called for and close on Monday 20th February. If an election is required, ballot papers will be distributed with the ballot closing on Monday 6th March. If you would like to stand for Council and need more information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Dates to Remember:</th>
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<tr>
<td>13&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Feb</td>
<td>Nominations for Council open</td>
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<tr>
<td>20&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Feb</td>
<td>Nominations for Council close</td>
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<tr>
<td>22&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Feb</td>
<td>Council candidates displayed</td>
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<tr>
<td>6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Close of Council Ballot</td>
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Who do you contact?

**Year 7 & 8 Learning Community Team Contacts:**

**Learning Community Engagement Coordinators:**
- Year 7: Ms Jenni Rea
- Year 8: Ms Kim Warfe (Asst: Mr Glenn Melville)

**Transition Coordinator:** Ms Leighanne de Zoete-Spiero

**Learning Community Leader:** Mr Warwick Beynon

**Assistant Principal:** Mr Paul Rose

**Year 9 Learning Community Team Contacts:**

**Learning Community Engagement Coordinator:**
Ms Alex Brown

**Learning Community Leader:** Mr Brian Robbins

**Assistant Principal:** Mr Paul Rose

**Year 10-12 Learning Community Team Contacts:**

**Learning Community Engagement Coordinators:**
- Year 10: Mr Pat Stewart
- Year 11: Mr Delacy (Asst: Ms Jodie Waller)
- Year 12: Ms Kara Smith

**Student Welfare & Pathways Coordinator:** Ms Jodie Waller

**Learning Community Leader:** Mr Sarah Nagle

**Assistant Principal:** Ms Megan Taylor

**Teaching & Learning Leaders:** Ms Maya Watters & Mr Bastiaan De Bondt

**Literacy:** Ms Anne Carr / **Numeracy:** Mr Steven Biggin

**Teaching & Learning Coordinators:** Mr David Whittle & Ms Lois Castrignano

**Assessment & Reporting Coordinator:** Ms Maria Makris

**Social Worker:** Ms Jackie Smith

**Welfare Programs & Support:** Mr Brian Robbins

**Student Support:** Ms Karen Kick

**Instruments Music Coordinator:** Mr David Gaskell

**Sport Coordinator:** Mr Tom Perrett

**ICT Program Support:** Mr Martin Smith

**Koori Learning & EAL Coordinator:** Ms Julie Hamilton

**Bus Coordinator:** Mr Lu Arsovski

**Student Activities:** Ms Sonia Reid & Ms Melissa Smith

**Production Coordinator:** Mr Chris Doughty

**EBT Coordinators:** Mr Graham Hankin & Mr Daryl Carr

**College Operations:** Ms Asha Simon & Ms Sandya Suseel
School Photos.

School photos will be taken on the morning of Monday 13th February. Year 12 students can have their photo taken from 8:15 am so that their classes are not disturbed. Photo envelopes were distributed on Tuesday 7th February. These envelopes should be completed and brought to school on photo day to be given to the photographer. If you wish to have a family photo of your children there is an additional envelope that needs to be completed and this is available from the school office. Students are expected to wear correct school uniform (sport uniform if they have P.E. on Monday).

Paul Rose
Assistant Principal

COLLECTING STUDENTS FROM SCHOOL

When students are ill, injured or suffering from a medical condition during the school day they will be relocated to the Sick Bay by a staff member.

All parents/guardians are advised that if they are required to collect their ill or injured student they are to do so from Sick Bay (through front office), and that THEY WILL receive a call from the School. It is NOT necessary, nor the approved process, from their child on their mobile.

Students are also not to leave the school premises with anyone else other than their parent / guardian / emergency contact without parental/guardian consent. This must be made directly to the school office prior to the student being picked up.

If you need to collect your child from school during class time, you will need to give them a signed note with the date and time to be allowed to leave. Due to disruptions to classes, we are not able to page students except for during recess or lunch times.

Sarah-Jane Woodward
Assistant Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The WordFlyers online literacy program is now up and fully running in year 7 and 8. We recommend parents actively support their child’s learning by encouraging them to use the program at home for at least 30 minutes each week.

If you find that your child is struggling with basic grammar, punctuation, comprehension and spelling skills, the website includes a Review level where students can quickly learn skills they may have missed in earlier years of schooling.

Is it receive or receive? Do I use complement or compliment? Is it the dog’s bone or the dogs’ bone? WordFlyers explains the rules and provides plenty of practice for students to learn essential literacy skills that are a feature of the Australian Curriculum: English.

Paul Rose
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Reporting 2017

A warm welcome to new and returning families.

Reporting at BMC has had an upgrade and there are some exciting changes ahead.

We will be reporting to parents and providing feedback on student progress more frequently; this includes two interim reports and one full report each semester. We have moved from a heavy paper based system to an electronic system that will streamline the process in terms of ease of use and accessibility, for the whole school community.

Further information will be forwarded to parents/guardians shortly but our first information session will be held at the College on Wednesday March 1st from 6.00pm to 7.00 pm.

We look forward to seeing many parents there as we unveil the new reporting system.

Maria Makris
Assessment and Reporting Co-ordinator

Welcome

I am tremendously excited to be taking up the position of Assistant Principal at Bacchus Marsh College this year. I am coming to the College having worked in Teaching and Learning and Performance and Development Leadership roles at Staughton College. My position at Bacchus Marsh College will be focused around ensuring we have an engaging and consistent curriculum, and that students know how to be good learners. I am an English, Literature and Humanities teacher and am looking forward to working closely with my year eleven and twelve Literature students this year. I have already been made to feel so welcome by all of the staff and students, and I look forward to meeting many of you parents throughout the course of the year.

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Whole College Assembly

On Tuesday we had our first Whole College Assembly for 2017. It was wonderful to see all the College students in the gymnasium listening attentively and demonstrating our school values of pride and respect. During the Assembly we heard from Ms Fenton who welcomed all the students back as well as the new and returning teachers for this year.

We heard from our school captains who spoke about their recent experiences on the Year 12 camp. Our new Assistant Principal Ms Woodward introduced herself and talked about her new role in the College. Assistant Principal Mr Rose also spoke about the improvements students have made in the yard this year, again showing increased pride in our school.

Finally our Sports Coordinator Mr Perrett spoke about our upcoming Swimming Sports and Athletics days. Students are encouraged to sign up for events in the courtyard at lunchtimes. Overall it was a great start to the school year and the students are to be commended for their behaviour.

Ms Taylor
Assistant Principal

Use of Netbooks in the classroom

Students at BMC are required to have an approved netbook device in every single subject. Most of our curriculum and classroom resources are online e.g. Maths Pathways, Jacplus, Edmodo, Compass, etc. Teachers use several methods for delivering content to students through their individual netbooks in the classroom, as well as the more traditional ‘chalk and talk’. Having a netbook in class means that students can engage in various activities, work on content at their individual levels – giving them an opportunity to learn at their own pace, and receive instant feedback from teachers. Students can also expand and increase their knowledge by having the internet as a resource in class. Netbooks increase student engagement, and helps them focus on the target activity, as it brings in an element of hands-on learning that is stimulating. Students can use technology for presentation, class interaction, collaboration, and co-create with others, which are all critical skills to learn as they grow and enter into the workplace.

Swimming & Athletics Permission Forms

Permission forms for swimming and athletics sports are coming home to students this week. When students return them to school could they please return them to the Learning Community Coordinators’ Office.

Thank you.

Tom Perrett
School Sport Co-Ordinator

MOORABOOL DRUG INFORMATION FORUM

Bacchus Marsh Town Hall
Thursday 16th March 7pm – 9pm
Bungaree Community Centre
Thursday 23rd March 7pm – 9pm

The community forum will focus on youth specific issues in relation to substance use including:

* Ages and stages of development
* The young brain and substance use
* Strategies and supports services available

For more information email james.ross@police.vic.gov.au

FREE ADMISSION
Year 12 Camp—Federation University

Last week the year 12 students attended a school camp at Federation University in Ballarat. While on this camp, students had the opportunity to live like university students. We were given a tour of the university and were able to see the new facilities in the nursing, paramedicine and midwifery school. Each student was given a budget and had to cook meals for themselves as well as the teachers. Students also competed in an “Amazing Race” around Ballarat. In the evening students attended information sessions on wellbeing, effective studying techniques, VCAA requirements, VTAC processes and tips on how to survive and succeed in VCE. Overall, a fantastic time was had by both teachers and students, and we are better equipped as a team unit to face the challenges that lie ahead in year 12.

Many thanks to Jodie Waller, Sarah Nagle, Martin Smith, Jon Delacy and Kara Smith for their attendance at the camp, as well as all of the year 12 teachers at school who ran an alternative year 12 program.

Best wishes to all of the year 12’s for a positive, successful and fulfilling 2017.