School Captains’ Report

This term has been a very exciting one not only for us as school captains but also for whole school community. We have developed a vision for Maribyrnong College, ‘Leading from the back’ and ‘Creating a wake’ for future students. This journey began last year at the end of Term 4 at the student run Leader’s Retreat. It was a great opportunity to be with all leaders of Maribyrnong College and begin to set goals, a unified vision, and foster momentum running into 2015.

2015 kicked off strongly with the ‘Hawaiian themed’ Swimming Sports Carnival with record attendance and an exciting atmosphere. We decided this year that we needed to take a different spin on the event, so we introduced a jumping castle, a lounge pool where people not participating were able to relax on inflatable thongs and a party atmosphere with a DJ and music running all day. The Hawaiian beach theme motivated students to really dress up and get into the spirit of the day. At the end of the day, Waratah was crowned winners, with record number of junior swimmers raking in the most points. It was such a great day that there is now a great anticipation for Term 2’s Athletics Carnival.

At the whole school assembly we introduced a new and exciting award called the “Unsung Hero”. The award celebrates the unnoticed leadership, appreciation, respect, hard work, and initiative of all the students, teachers or of any one who is part of the family of Maribyrnong College. Additionally nominations are open to all students or teachers through our new school captains leadership email that we have developed to give more ‘voice’ to our school community. The email is marbyvoice@gmail.com and we encourage anyone to send us any suggestions, queries or concerns.

We look forward to the rest of 2015 and we are excited to see what we can leave behind for many years to come.

Your School Captains - Libby, JJ, Caleb and Maree
Lifesaving Victoria School Surf League Comp—Torquay

Our girls’ team placed 3rd overall against some much more experienced and fancied surf lifesaving athletes. Thank you to Miss Kerwin, the Huell Family & Altona SLSC for their help with this event.

Thanks to a long standing School Council member

Christine Messiakaris has devoted more than 12 years to supporting our College as a School Council member, 9 of those years as President. Christine has seen the College grow from an enrolment of 250 students to 1200 and was instrumental in the establishment of the Sports Academy, before the Stadium was even built.

She was a founding member of the ‘Sports Academy Advisory Board’ and has been a member of the board for more than 10 years. Christine was also a founding member of the Maribyrnong College Parents & Friends Association and volunteered many hours to help organise fundraising activities.

She sat on many interview panels as the Council President and assisted in the hiring of the current Principal, all current Assistant Principals and the Business Manager.

She was involved in many tender panels to determine the Canteen contractors, the Cleaning contractors and the Sport Academy Uniform suppliers.

This year, Christine decided not to re-nominate for a position on School Council and hang up her ever helpful boots instead.

On behalf of the whole College community and the School Council, we sincerely thank you for your commitment to Maribyrnong College Chris, your incredible dedication, support, friendship and positivity will always be remembered.

Library News

The library continues to be a buzzing place with students enjoying the new layout and gathering with their friends to study, play games and socialise. Just to remind everyone we are open from 8.15 am to 4.00 pm each day.

Our eBook collection (Overdrive) continues to grow in size and popularity. Maribyrnong College students have already read double the number of ebooks than for the same period last year. A total of 350 books have been downloaded!

Any student who would like to read an eBook and is not sure how to access it can see the library staff for help.

Premiers’ Reading Challenge

The Challenge is up and running once again … last year 96 students from different year levels participated in the Challenge. If you like reading and like to be challenged register at the library.

Junior Food Tech

Term 1 in the kitchen proved to be a productive time for 8C, with the great majority of students keen and eager to learn new cooking tips and techniques resulting in tasty savoury and sweet dishes. On some occasions, not all recipes went according to plan, and those instances were just as useful for the students to gain further insight and understanding of culinary skills, and how they might modify their methods in future trials.
Year 7 Camp
During the second week back the Year 7s went on camp to Lake Dewar. They took part in a wide variety of outdoor activities. These included a gorge walk, mountain boarding and stand up paddle boarding. A fantastic time was had by both staff and students.

Tahlia Fisher 7I
This years camp was awesome and fun. I don’t think anything should be changed. My favourite activity was the dual flying fox. I was nervous at first since I have a slight fear of heights but once I did it I kept having more turns. I also loved our meals. The first dinner we had was pasta and salad. It was delicious. We could choose spaghetti or creamy mushroom pasta. Yummmmm
There were many water activities such as stand up paddle boarding, kayaking and raft building. My favourite one out of those was stand up paddle boarding because I completed difficult tasks such as stepping over the rope while staying on your board. I really loved it!

Lucy French 7A
The camp was amazing! I was so impressed by all aspects of the camp. Ms Rossini wasn’t lying when she said it was a five star camp. I have made so many friends and loved all the teachers. The food blew me away as past camps the food has been either inedible or unenjoyable. I really enjoyed Ms Bramley’s meditation session on the footy oval as it was really relaxing and calming. I was most nervous about the flying fox but it ended up being my favourite.
SARIP

On Wednesday the 11th of February, the Year 11 VET Sport and Recreation classes attended a Sport and Recreation Industry Pathway (SARIP) ‘Big Day Out’ at Victoria University, Footscray Campus. The day involved a range of activities that were under the topic of sports science and included students from Maribyrnong, Essendon-Keilor and Manor Lake Colleges. The activities included the VO2 max test, kicking and throwing analysis and decision making labs. The VO2 max test involved only one person from each group as it is a complex test with lots of data monitoring to achieve the result. The test was run on treadmill with sophisticated sports science equipment attached to the runner to measure a range of data including heart and breathing rates in addition to oxygen consumption. The kicking and throwing analysis involved loading the video of each skill onto a computer program to be analysed by students frame by frame. The decision making practice involved team activities where sports decisions were made by performers under pressure. Overall the day was a success and everyone enjoyed their time at Victoria University.

Victorian School Sports Awards

The 2014 Victorian School Sport Awards were held at the MCG on March 10. Representatives from DET, including the Minister for Education The Hon James Merlino, acknowledged 55 students from primary and secondary schools for their outstanding sporting achievements.

Our students received their Award from Melissa Tapper (Paralympian), David Morris (Olympic Silver Medallist), David Rodan (retired AFL Player) and David Crawshay (Olympic Gold Medallist – Rowing).

We are proud to announce the following students as recipients of this award.
Jonah Koch (Cricket), Annabel Martin (Cricket), Maddy Goodsell (Table Tennis), Greg Polmans (Tennis), Jordan O’Doherty (Football), Giuliette Lugara (Tennis), Ryhan Thomas (Cross Country), Monique Conti (Basketball), Paul Tsapatolis (Basketball – nominated by Seabrook Primary School), Tyron Boorman (Year 12 2014) – received the ‘Outstanding Sporting Achievement’ Award.

Student Accident Insurance

Parents are reminded that the College and the Department of Education do NOT provide accident insurance for students whilst at school, on excursions, swimming, sporting programs or on camps.

Parents/carers are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including transport costs.

For your information: reasonably low cost accident insurance policies are available from commercial insurers.

Understanding the Brain

9G demonstrate their understanding of the human brain and its functions through playdough representations.
New International Students
This term Maribyrnong College has welcomed 9 new International Students; from left to right, Mai Le, Vivian Do, Thu Nguyen, Rishi Patel, Lee Tong, Ella Duzel, Thomas Nguyen, William Doan and Danny Dang.

International Student Welcome Event
Each year in March, the International Education Division of the DEECD holds a welcome event at Government House for new International Students. Schools hosting new International Students are invited to send a number of student representatives accompanied by a staff member. This year Danny Dang, Lee Tong and Mai Le attended the event, accompanied by Ms Cameron, the International Student Coordinator. They are pictured here with Mrs Chernov, wife of the Governor of Victoria, his Excellency the Honourable Alex Chernov.

International Student Badminton
On Thursday 5th March the International students participated in a Badminton social event in the Sports Stadium. Everyone enjoyed themselves and some of our students showed that they are quite talented in the sport. At the end of the tournament everyone enjoyed pizza for dinner. It was great to see our students enjoying each other’s company and having a great time.

Debating
The Maribyrnong College Debaters are off to a great start for 2015. We had our annual training night early in Term 1 on 17th February. Students from Years 8 to 12 were involved, with newcomers learning the basics and older debaters brushing up and sharing their skills. We also welcomed our new coach Ellie Jamonts, a previous national winner of the Plain English Speaker Awards, who will be working with our senior debaters.

Round One took place on Monday 16th of March with two teams winning their debates:
Our A Grade (Year 12) team of Tim Ma, David Le and Jonathan Ramnac defeated Lowther Hall on the topic “That we should permit fracking”.
Our B Grade (Year 11) team of Abdullah Mohammed, Farihya Adan and Lucy Bongiovanni defeated Overnewton College on the topic “That women should pay less tax.”

A commendation must go to our C Grade (Year 10) team of Danny Van, Ellen Polacsek and Abdul Mohammed, also our D Grade (Year 8/9) team of Rahda Butler, Leann Trandy and Hannah Joynt who all spoke well on the night, many of them for the first time, but were however defeated. Thankyou to Franklin Edyson, Piper Macleod, and Mignon Killian who spent their time preparing, yet due to a late forfeit were unable to compete.

Congratulations to all of our wonderful debaters for their outstanding efforts, and all the staff and parents who attended to make it a successful and enjoyable evening. We are now busily preparing for Round 2 at St Bernard’s College on Monday 20th April. We warmly invite all members of the school community to come and watch. Please contact Matthew Gabriel with any questions.
Harmony Day & The World’s Greatest Shave Fundraiser

Students came dressed in their craziest colours to help celebrate Harmony Day, symbolising that we may look different on the outside, but we are all the same on the inside.

This coincided with The Worlds Greatest Shave fundraiser. Mr Stevens and Mr Sam pledged to shave their heads if the school raised over $700.

Even before lunchtime we had raised over $1000!! So students were able to shave Mr Stevens and Mr Sam’s head, as well as two of our students; Mitchell Bonnici and Brodie Coots-Majer.

There were food stalls, music and the band even played. A great day was had by everyone and thanks to those who had their heads shaved and all the students who donated towards this great charity event.

Building update – Term 1

Spowers Architects have been contracted by the College to design our new entrance and buildings. The new Gordon St entrance is currently at the design-tender stage and I anticipate a successful contractor will be appointed by June. Works on the entrance are due to be undertaken in Term 3 this year.

A Building Sub-Committee comprising members of staff and the School Council met with the Architects on Wednesday March 25 for an engaging afternoon of discussions regarding the Stage 2 and 3 building projects. One possibility for a combined Administration/VCE/Art-technology complex is presented below. While only a preliminary design, it provides for an exciting and very progressive building that would harmonise with the Sports Academy complex and present a new “face” for Maribyrnong.