Reflection

At this time of year with a particularly bleak weather outlook that we have been experiencing we are mindful of the need to look after the needs of those close to us and ourselves; keeping warm, comfort food etc. However how much thought have we given to the needs of others in our community at a particularly trying time weather-wise?

Pope Francis in his encyclical Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel) has this to offer:

“...loving attentiveness is the beginning of a true concern for the person of the poor which inspires me effectively to seek their good. This entails appreciating the poor in their goodness, in their experiences of life, in their culture, and in their ways of living the faith.”

Therefore what does it mean for us to practice “loving attentiveness” in our lives at this time with the poor weather we have been experiencing? How can we do small things with great love?

Cambodia 2015

It was great to be able to welcome back our Cambodia Immersion team at Sydney airport last Saturday week. They arrived along with 15 other flights and made their way out to the terminal in one piece, tired, happy to be home but with an inner glow of excitement about all they’d experienced which I’m sure we’ll hear much about soon. On behalf of the whole College community I’d like to thank Mrs. Jess McInerney, Mr. Brett Cowan, Mr. Victor Varela-Leroy and Ms Megan Worner.

Parent Teacher Student Meetings

Next Thursday 23rd July we have Parent, Teacher, Student meetings from 8.00am to 6.00pm. You have received a letter with instructions for online bookings which gives you some control over bookings. Please ensure your daughter or son has already seen their half yearly report and had a chance to consider what goals they have set themselves for the term ahead. Everyone has the capacity to improve. To do that, they need to have a plan. Please make sure you make appointments and ensure you have your daughter or son with you to get the most out of the meetings for their academic growth.
Year 12

As we return from the Term 2 holidays it is important for Year 12 to start this term well in their preparation for the HSC Trials coming up as well as their ongoing preparation for the HSC later in the year. With upwards of 40% of assessment still to come in most subjects a solid preparation for the Trial examinations is critical.

At this point all should be putting in extra effort each day to be able to put their best foot forward. There is no substitute for hard work to ensure there is the necessary depth of knowledge as well as the necessary skills at their fingertips. If you want the best result you can achieve, you have to work for it.

A number of Year 12 students have taken up the offer of extra support on a Wednesday afternoon with the opportunity to utilise the library until 6.00pm. It was great to see Year 12 putting in the extra effort and I’d like to thank those staff who gave up their time to assist.

There are a significant number of Year 12’s who are completing major projects, both written and practical. It is important that an appropriate balance be struck with time across all subjects. It would be very unwise to harm most subjects by putting all the effort into one task at this time of year.

At this time of year many of us wonder how we can best support our daughters and sons. Food, water, minimize caffeine, 8-9 hours of sleep, doing our best to keep the stress level down in the house are good pointers to follow.

Staffing Changes Term 3- some additions from the last newsletter.

Mr Phil Mitchell- Acting Assistant Principal: Director of Community for Term 3 covering Mr Gerard Simms who is on Long Service Leave

Mrs Alexis Lawrence- Acting Director of Mission for Term 3 replacing Mr Phil Mitchell

Mr Gareth Logan- Acting KLA Coordinator- RE for Term 3 replacing Mrs Alexis Lawrence.

Mrs Jenny Philpot- 4 days per week in job share with Ms Kelly Byrne 1 day per week teaching 7-12 Food Tech and VET Hospitality.

Miss Jenny Hayes- continuing for the remainder of 2015

Mr Vincent Dessman- teaching 7-10 HSIE for the remainder of the year

Miss Zoe Pilipczyk- Teaching Year 7-10 Maths / Science for the remainder of the year.

Mr John Van Rijswijk- Teaching Science, RE and TAS Term 3

God Bless.

Chris Browne
College Principal.
Wellbeing Concerns

Wellbeing of our students is a priority in the lives and effective teaching and learning of our sons and daughters. It is important that we are kept informed of any concerns you may have with your son or daughter’s well-being at school or issues beyond that may affect them at school. Please contact your son/daughters year coordinator, in the first instance, to share the good and/or the difficulties that are going on in their lives so that we can celebrate as well as assist in those times.

Term 3

The students return and entry into school routine was very smooth. The student’s winter uniform was well presented on day 1 and we appreciate the effort the parents have taken to support the College with this endeavour.

Student Success

Millie Bolger has been selected to perform (violin) at the Sydney Opera House at the end of the month. She will be performing with both the Australian World Orchestra and the Australian Youth Orchestra under conductor Sir Simon Rattle as part of a program run through the Association of NSW Regional Conservatories and YRSM. It is a very rare opportunity.

Off to represent our country…

In the last week of Term 2 Mr Simms acknowledged our senior students who were off to Cambodia and we had two other year 12 students representing Australia overseas during the holidays. Gemma Flannery was part of the United Nations Youth Council Forum in Timor-Leste gathering to help developing countries and Tim Rees who was off to China to play goal ball for Australia. Cambodia was a tremendous success and we appreciate the funds raised by the staff, students and parents who contributed to this marvellous immersion project. In the next newsletter we hope we will have full reports of the journey made by Tim and Gemma. We are so pleased to see all back safe and sound.

Upcoming events:

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<td>22nd July</td>
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<td>21st July</td>
<td>Year 11 2016 Subject Selection starts at 7pm</td>
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<td>22nd July</td>
<td>Year 11 2016 Subject Selection Presentations period 2-6</td>
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<td>23rd July</td>
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Phillip Mitchell  
Acting Director of Community
Teaching and Learning News

Year 12
Year 12 should be continuing to prepare for their HSC Trial exams and are reminded that afternoon study will be available to Year 12 students only each Wednesday for the first 3 weeks of term 3. This will run from 3.20pm until approximately 6pm.

The Universities Admission Centre (UAC) opens soon for preferences on Wednesday August 5. Students can already search through the various courses offered and the Universities that offer them as a starting point. The website is: http://www.uac.edu.au/

On the last day of the Trial period Hennessy will be running a session regarding University entrances (including early entry) and students who have already registered by that time will be able to start entering their preferences.

Year 10
The Year 11 2016 Information Night will be held on TUESDAY 21 JULY, commencing at 7pm in the College Hall. On this night, information regarding the structure of the Preliminary and Higher School Certificate will be given to both parents and students. Information regarding the Year 10 Camp and the Cambodia Immersion Program 2016 will also be provided. More importantly students and parents will be shown how to enter selections online.

The following day, students will be engaged in listening to information about particular subjects offered for 2016. Selections will be due Monday 27th July by no later than 9pm when subject selections will close. As the following day is Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences, parents are welcome to make an appointment with me.

Subject Selection for Year 9/10 2016
Stage 5 Subject Selection and Information Evening will be Tuesday 4th August. As this year we move to online selection parents from Year 8 and 9 are invited to the Information Evening. Year 8 students will hear about all the different electives on offer during that day and be taken through how to select. Year 9 will have a meeting over one period to discuss their options and be informed how to select as well. Please use the opportunity of the Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences next week to discuss electives with various teachers.

Year 7-11
All students should take the opportunity to discuss their progress at the Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences next week. It is vital that students are invested in their own learning and explore what opportunities are offered at Hennessy so they achieve their goals.

SHARON HIBBERT | Acting Director of Teaching and Learning
Emme Williams - The experiences we had in Cambodia make us stronger, more grateful and more resilient beings. Knowing that we made a small difference to families and children's lives was such a great feeling and I cannot wait to go back.

Jonah Potts - The feeling of building a house for a family in need is one of the best moments of my life and I will treasure forever.

Hayden Rutter - Going on this trip is the best decision I have ever made. I saw the world from a different point of view and it made me realise how lucky I really am. I have formed relationships with people that I will never forget and it is an amazing feeling knowing that as a group, we have helped contribute to so many individuals lives.

Jordan Keefe – So much to absorb, we saw many realities on our trip but I am glad I saw them with this group of people. There is no one else I'd rather be with than our group that we experienced it with, truly an amazing group.

Alex Gamper - This experience has been brilliant and has showed all of us the hardships and poverty faced by so many people and it has truly changed our perspective of our lives and how fortunate we are.

Bridgette Penfold - Unforgettable, the harsh reality some people lived in and how humble and grateful they were with their life never ceased to amaze. It was a total wake up call to how truly lucky we are.

Tim Maloney - I would recommend it to anyone, I would go back tomorrow with no problems. It truly did open my eyes up and was a bit confronting but, the joy of seeing the happiness you bring to individuals is truly amazing.

Bridget Parkman – The most memorable culture shock about the vast desperation of people even young kids to just live each day. Something I will never forget.

Lucy Jones - An amazing experience and a big eye opener to how other people live something that I would recommend to others to experience.

Carly Considine - An incredible opportunity to see the harsh reality of the living conditions overseas, that will never be forgotten how fortunate we are.

Chelsea Anderson - A wonderful opportunity that enabled me to experience the Cambodian culture and living conditions of a third world country.

Jessica Crea - A remarkable educating experience which exposed us to the realities of how the world works, such an eye opener that I'll never forget, so many things learnt not just about the world but myself.

Josie Taylor - An unforgettable experience that I am so thankful and fortunate to have been a part of.
CAMBODIA IMMERSION 2015

Jess Lacey - An incredible experience that has changed my way of seeing the world as well as just being a whole heap of fun and so many things to learn and explore.

Sam Cullen - A once in a lifetime opportunity that puts the whole world into a new perspective.

James Vitnell - This trip was pretty amazing and gave us all a chance to experience something we wouldn't normally be able to, something that has changed the world for me.

Natasha Harrison - Cambodia was absolutely amazing and exposed us to a range of circumstances which has provided us with a better perspective on life.

Mikaylah Roberson - Words cannot describe how amazing this trip was! It's an experience that puts the world into a new perspective. I am so thankful to have been a part of this immersion.

Sean O'Hara – The trip has taught me so many things about the rest of the world and other people and has definitely affected and changed me. Thank you to all the teachers and all their hard work.

Austin Grace - An experience I will never forget, has really changed my perspective on life and overall the trip has shown me how lucky we are in Australia.

Kaleb Madden - A true life changing experience, most definitely an eye opener for myself and the others.

Bree Furner - This trip has been such an eye opening experience. Knowing that some of that the smallest things we did for the families we built houses for had such a great impact on their lives is just an amazing feeling, definitely a once in a life time opportunity.

Hamish Gledhill - The whole experience was immensely compelling and humbling. Being able to understand the hardship that people go through and seeing it first hand was definitely something that lets us understand how incredibly privileged we really are. On behalf of everyone I'd like to thank everyone involved in the organisation of giving us this incredible opportunity.

Tristan Langfield - This experience has been one of a kind, having the opportunity to actually work and help the people in Cambodia with building houses for them. Knowing that you have done something that the people will be very grateful for and this feeling will last a long time. This has also been a wonderful experience as we got to see such amazing temples experience the culture and it was defiantly one of a kind. The whole thing was an experience of a life time.
1St Orientation Day
Tuesday 21st July 2015

Please wear your school sports uniform.

Year 7-11 Parent – Teacher – Student Conferences

Thursday 23rd July
8.00am – 6.00pm


Please bring along your child’s Semester One academic report which will form the foundation for the conference discussions.

The College has set aside a whole day for the conferences and no classes have been scheduled for Years 7-11 (Year 12 will have classes as normal). The library will be available for student study on the day. All students are expected to attend their conferences in full school uniform with their parent(s)/guardian(s). Students who do not attend will be marked as absent and will require a note of explanation.

Parents/Guardians can book conference appointments online. Online bookings will open on Thursday 16th July at 7am.

Detailed information for parents regarding the conferences was sent home in a letter with the students on Wednesday and via the Skoolbag app.

If you require any assistance or further information please contact us at the College on 6382 1486.
I have just experienced two weeks as a delegate with the United Nations Youth Australia Pacific Project, visiting Timor Leste. I travelled with 11 other Australian students and facilitators from the UN Youth Australia team. Our aim being to explore sustainable development, we visited organisations that were aiming to provide futures for young people and sustainable economic development pathways.

SOLS (Science of Life) schools in Maliana, Dili, Bacau and Same, taught English, Maths and IT and life skills to youths to prepare them for work and sometimes for university in Dili. At each SOLS and at Encouragement House in Maliana, we taught English to very enthusiastic Timorese children who in turn taught us Tetum. The best part was that it was a mutual sharing which provided a wonderful connection and understanding between us. It is so amazing that the Timorese people have so little but are so generous and I value the hand made bracelet that Sophie from SOLs in Malian gave to me after three days in class together. The Maliana SOLS children also loved the English readers that Year 12 at Hennessy had raised money to purchase.

My favourite place was the Hâlico Orphanage an hour from Maliana. Here 200 children were cared for by five adults, attending open air school and living sustainably off their own gardens and livestock. We sang songs with them and they taught us Tetum songs including their Timor Leste Independence song.

Infrastructure is still very basic, with roads dusty and rocky making travelling in our Toyota troopies travelling very slow and bumpy. Although we saw many very wide rivers the water infrastructure is very basic and a key priority for development. Timor Leste is very mountainous and it is like an oasis – very untouched with beautiful pristine beaches, rainforests and waterfalls. I loved it.

We explored the very troubled and traumatic history of Timor Leste, visiting Santa Cruz Cemetery and the prison where many thousands of East Timorese were held in tiny cells, including one half filled with water. The brutality evident was heartbreaking and as one of the Leaders of Encouragement House said – It feels like just 10 hours ago”.

Timor made me honestly reflect upon the multitude of things we can take for granted: from clean water, showers, to rubbish collection, to our ability to go to school and everything in between. It made me realize that sustainable development should not be imposed but needs to come from a constructive and culturally sensitive approach.

We, as young people from Australia, are the future leaders who can create real change, especially with our nearest neighbours. It is a challenge for us all.

I highly recommend joining UN Youth Australia and becoming involved in their programs!

Gemma Flannery
Year 12
Hennessy Catholic College
United Nations Youth Australia Pacific Project

With my class at SOLS Maliana

At Encouragement House

Kindergarten at Encouragement House.
Elouera Special School

Night

Friday 31st July @ 6:30pm
Ex-services Club Cootamundra

Tickets $10.00
Tables of 8
BYO Basket Supper

Tickets available from Elouera Special School, Elouera Association and at the door.

Contact: Trisha McTavish 0403997420