DATES TO REMEMBER

March
25th - WMR Primary Swimming Carnival (Kardinia Park, Geelong)
27th - WMR Secondary Swimming Carnival (Kardinia Park, Geelong)
 - Year 8 Government Excursion (Parliament House)
28th - Year 6 Summer Sport (Saltwater Coast Sports Club and Altona Stadium)
 - Year 9 Big Issue Classroom Excursion
31st - School Photo Day

April
4th - Prep-Year 2 Easter Parade (9-10am) Gym
 - Term 1 Concludes 3pm Finish

Principal News

What a fantastic week of learning we have just experienced with our Cultural Diversity program this week. There is a lot more information later in this Newsletter and on the next PCCTV regarding the activities however I would like to acknowledge the leadership of the program by Jenny Hayes and Jeff Wilson along with their Cultural diversity team. Their planning and organisation ensured a wonderful week of learning opportunities for all of our students.

The result of the recent College Council election has been declared with the successful candidates being Kylie Brealey and Marcus Galbraith. I would like to congratulate Kylie and Marcus and thank Richa Dubey and Tavae Dono for putting themselves forward as candidates. We held the first meeting of our new Council on Wednesday 19th March to elect the 2014 office bearers. I can announce that our new Council President is Kylie Brealey and Vice President Marcus Galbraith. I look forward to working closely with Kylie, Marcus and the whole Council to continue to provide great educational opportunities for our community.

I am taking two weeks leave at the end of this Term. Frank Vetere will be acting Principal during my absence.

Assistant Principals’ News

P-4 COMMUNITY

What an amazing week we have had in the P-4 community! It has been wonderful to see so many of our students and teachers embracing the concept of cultural diversity through the broad range of experiences on offer. We have had Leprechauns and Irish dancers, Gelati vans and pizza making, Martial Arts and African Drummers, Chinese dancing and lantern making, Gamelan playing and Becak riding and much more. Add to the mix the festivals from all corners of the globe which students have been learning about and the dazzling aroma of speciality lunches, you can be certain that the College has been buzzing with excitement.

Our College photographers have been hard at work so keep your eyes on the website for when the photos start to appear. The vivid colours, enthusiastic engagement and beaming smiles are not to be missed. A huge thank you should go to the organizing committee led by Mrs Hayes and Mr Wilson and to staff and students for ensuring the week will be remembered for a long time.

P-2 Easter Hat Parade

Families are invited to attend the P-2 Easter Hat Parade. The parade will take place on Friday 4th April in the College gym starting at 9.00. (Unfortunately Easter Bunny will not be visiting the College this year.)
Assistant Principals’ News Continued...

Years 1-4 Parent Teacher Interviews and Prep Open Afternoon

Interviews for parents of Years 1 - 4 will take place on Wednesday 23rd April. If you have not returned your appointment slip please do so on Monday to ensure a time can be allocated.

Prep parents will not being attending interviews as they have already taken place at the end of February, however an Open afternoon will be held in Prep homerooms on the same evening between 3.15 and 4.30. This is an opportunity for you to view and celebrate the learning that has taken place in your child’s first term at school.

Premier’s Reading Challenge

This year students will have the opportunity to participate in the Premier’s Reading Challenge. Please keep an eye out for further information in year level communications. In the meantime please feel free to visit the website to find out more about the challenge. www.education.vic.gov.au/prc

Teacher Communication

Parents are reminded that teachers are unavailable to discuss concerns during school hours as it disrupts student learning. If you have a matter that you wish to discuss please advise the teacher at drop off or pick up so as to arrange a mutually acceptable time.

Yard Incidents

At PCC we believe the social and emotional development of our students is just as important as their academic development. We are fortunate that as a school with over 1300 students we do not have anywhere near the number or severity of inappropriate playground disputes that you may come to expect in a school of this size. This is largely due to our core belief that ‘Nobody has the right to physically or emotionally hurt another’ which is the principle we hold students accountable to both within and beyond the classroom. We are yet to find an example of an action that cannot be justified by this belief and along with our College values it forms the basis of all discussions when our students make incorrect behavioural choices.

In the media the term ‘Bullying’ is heard quite frequently and we are very proud of the fact that this extremely undesirable and potentially damaging behaviour is not prevalent within the College. We are however, hearing this term raised by both parents and students more frequently and after investigating allegations find these incidents are usually centred around disagreements resulting in inappropriate responses, which while unpleasant or distressing, should not be described as Bullying. These incidents, when brought to the attention of teachers at the time of occurrence, can be resolved quickly and in accordance with our College disciplinary procedures.

For the record, Bullying is described as ‘repeated verbal, physical, social or psychological aggressive behaviour by a person or group directed towards a less powerful person or group that is intended to cause harm, distress or fear.’ It can take the form of verbal or written abuse, violence, sexual harassment, discrimination or cyberbullying and is a serious problem in society. Any known bullying episodes will be dealt with severely at the College.

Bullying is NOT mutual conflict such as disagreements, or single episode acts of nastiness or physical aggression.

As part of the home school partnership we ask that you support us by promoting our College values through conversations with your child.

If you have any concerns about incidents that have happened at school we would recommend the following course of action;

Discuss the incident with your child. Ask questions that will give you the whole story, not just their side. (there are usually two sides to every story!)

If you have concerns about how the incident has been dealt with raise the topic with your child’s teacher, they are the ones most likely to be able to clarify any questions you may have, follow up on anything that needs to be addressed and clarify the resolution.

If the matter is more serious and you need to take it further, please contact the appropriate Assistant Principal.
**Administration**

**Year 9 Pathways**

A last reminder regarding Year 9 Pathways please ensure all Pathways for Semester 1 are paid for prior to the end of term or your child will be removed from their Pathway class commencing term 2.

**School Photos**

A reminder to all families that school photos will be taken on Monday 31st March. Every student should have received an individual envelope. Family Envelopes and individual student envelopes are available from the office if required.

**LOTE NEWS**

**Cultural Diversity Week**

During this week students and staff have been celebrating our cultural diversity. The aim was to help students ‘see the world through the eyes of others.’ The week began with a vast array of events and activities across the College. Between the Sudanese Rappers, Irish, Chinese and Bollywood dancing, Green dress up day, a Gelati Van, Martial Arts and Spanish games the school was a vibrant and exciting place to be.

The rest of the week followed with a Year 8 visit to the Chinese museum and Year 6 to a mosque, temple and church. We also had an Indonesian incursion which included music, dance and martial arts, a French performance and a Japanese experience, African drumming and an Irish Harpist and band. There was plenty of cooking and tasting including pizza making, fairy bread, crepes, pancakes, Japanese and Spanish food. A highlight for our community was the fantastic parent lesson on Thursday evening learning how to cook Mediterranean food. We had a Gelati Van visit and a chance to try Polish donuts from a restaurant in St Kilda. Our “Lunch in a Box” experience was a unique opportunity for students to try some new cuisine and was well supported with over 80% of students partaking. Some students even learned how to use chopsticks for the first time.

Students learned how to do Yoga, had their hands painted with Indian Henna paint, made Carnivale masks, Aboriginal art works and other brilliant craft activities from around the world. Some of our Year 9 students created a spray painted mural celebrating our College cultural diversity to be permanently displayed in the Agora.

In specialist classes students participated in a range of games, sports and art activities from other cultures. A Korean choir made up of students in our College performed and taught some children’s songs to several classes with the help of some of our Korean parents. Many of our students recorded greetings in their language to be shared with other classes. We also had several other parents join us to run some of the activities.

The College has been decorated with amazing samples of student work displaying our interest and enthusiasm for all of the cultures we have been learning about. A door decorating competition is taking place with all classes endeavouring to display the products of their learning. A special prize will be allocated to the best door/window display. Please take the time to look at these displays which will stay up until the last week of term.

Our Year 9 Photography Pathway students have been hard at work all week capturing the many and varied events across the College. The “King of Culture” and his band of interviewers have been travelling around the College all week interviewing students and finding out what they are learning. PCC TV this semester will be largely devoted to reporting on Cultural Diversity Week so make sure you find an opportunity to share this with your children. Also look for us in the Werribee Leader Newspaper.

Our Learning Intention for Cultural Diversity week was to heighten students’ awareness, understanding and acceptance of the different cultural groups we have in the Point Cook community. When looking around the College and talking to the students I am sure that we have achieved our aim and highlighted all the wonderful diversity in our College, country and the wider world.

Please see attached Cultural Diversity Week photos at the end of the Newsletter.
The Cultural Diversity team would like to thank all of our parent volunteers, the local restaurants and the wider community organisations for their help in making this one of our best ever events. I would also like to thank the Multicultural Commission of Victoria for their financial support.

Personally I would like to thank all the Cultural Diversity team members, college teaching staff and Leadership for their fantastic support and enthusiasm for this event.

Below is a list of the local community restaurants that supported our week. Please help support our local businesses.

**Master Shifu Japanese Restaurant** - Shop G06, 47-57 Tom Roberts Pde, Point Cook

**Dumplings, Noodles and Rice** - Shop 1, 47-57 Tom Roberts Pde, Point Cook

**Hot House Pizza** - IGA Boardwalk Central Shopping Centre, Point Cook

**Silverchord Noodle** - 48 Tom Roberts Pde, Point Cook

**Tacos Panchos** - 448 Main St. Point Cook Town Centre

**Nyonya House** - SU 36, Sanctuary Lakes Shopping Centre, Point Cook

**Vivetere Restaurant and Café Bar** - Shop 129 Murnong St., Point Cook Town Centre

We would also like to thank Ravi Paruthi from Indian Big Bazaar on Tom Roberts Pde for giving us a discount on the Henna hand paint.

Jenny Hayes – Cultural Diversity Team Leader

Jeff Wilson - Cultural Diversity Team Leader

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**PE NEWS**

**SCHOOL SPORT VICTORIA STATE TEAM TRIALS**

Coming up next week are the College’s trials for this year’s SSV State Sport teams. Each year students in years 5 and 6 are invited to tryout for the various teams. Students who are successfully selected will then move to a District Trial which will be run in the last week of Term 1. Listed below are the sports and dates that they will be run.

- **Monday 24th March** – AFL
- **Tuesday 25th March** – Netball (Girls only)
- **Wednesday 26th March** – Basketball
- **Thursday 27th March** – Soccer

All trials will be run at lunchtime. Any interested students are to meet the PE staff outside the gym. Students must wear appropriate footwear and PE sports uniform. All other equipment will be supplied.

**SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY TRIALS**

The College cross country trials will be held at school on **THURSDAY 3rd APRIL.** Students in years 3-9 are invited to take part in these during sessions 1 and 2. Students will run at the age group distance:

- **9:00am:** 9/10 Boys and Girls – 2km
- **9:30am:** 11 Boys and Girls – 3km
- **10:00am:** 12/13 Boys and Girls – 3km
- **10:30am:** 14 Boys and Girls – 3km
- **11:00am:** 15/16 Boys and Girls – 3km

All times are approximate and will vary depending on number of participants.

All interested students need to bring appropriate footwear and running clothing, as well as any asthma medication and a water bottle on the day. Students will then be called over the PA during the morning to participate in the trial. Students will then be selected to represent the college at the District Cross Country event held in early Term 2.

If you have any further questions please come and see one of the PE staff.
PRIMARY - DIVISIONAL SWIM CARNIVAL

Congratulations to the following Primary Swimmers who competed last week at the Divisional Swim Carnival.

Sophia Potter  Claire Newcombe
Eileen Li      Chantelle Auld
Shania Ring    Ashley Siketa
Ellie Ierodiaconou  Mani Miller
Kianna Comben  Maddy Wallace
Izia Kalos     Sharie Yong
Riley Yurkowski Andrew Van Berkel
Flyn Trembath  Harrison Aubrey
Piyush Karkera Anton Jacobson
Dylan Lee      Christopher Kikidis
Brayden Sivil

These students represented the Point Cook District in the Hobsons Bay Division Swim Carnival at Werribee Outdoor Pool. There were lots of personal bests on the day and the competition was fierce!!!!! Congratulations to Sophia Potter who came first in her 11 Girls Freestyle & 11 Girls Breaststroke earning her a place in the Regional Swim Carnival next week. Good luck Sophia!

The Point Cook Scramble

Last Thursday 80 enthusiastic students from year 9 participated in the Point Cook Scramble. This event saw students form small groups and travel independently around Point Cook searching for various pieces of information and meeting teachers at designated stopping points.

The students used public transport to move from place to place and were extremely responsible and courteous throughout the day. This event has provided all year 9 students with the skills and independence needed to participate in The Melbourne Experience later in the year.

FUNDRAISING

Easter Raffle

Monday March 24th – Wednesday April 2nd

As part of the College’s Fund raising efforts we will be running an Easter Raffle this term. We would appreciate it if all families could donate an item for our hampers. All donations can be placed in the Easter Hamper box at the office. All donations, tickets and money due Wednesday April 2nd.

Out of Uniform Day—Friday April 4th (Gold coin donation for the Good Friday Appeal)

SUBWAY FUN LUNCH

Friday March 28th — orders due Friday March 21st
**Outside School Hours Care**

Point Cook Primary School is proud to partner with YMCA Children’s Services to provide Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) for your children. OSHC is a great solution for busy families and provides children with opportunities to grow and continue to learn in a fun and safe environment.

Children experience exciting activities each day whilst meeting new friends and having fun! Some of the activities available to children include:

- Sports, ball games and team games
- Art and craft activities
- Cooking
- Creative and expressive arts such as drama, singing and dancing
- Board games and puzzles
- Homework time
- Gardening and re-cycling

**Before School Care**
Before School Care operates from 6.45 – 8.45am. Your child will be given a nutritious breakfast including: cereal, toast, milo, milk, fruit juice and fruit.

**After School Care**
After School Care operates from 3 – 6.30pm. After a busy day at school, the kids can re-fuel on a nutritious and delicious afternoon snack which always includes a seasonal fruit platter, as well as other favourite foods including pasta, nachos, sandwiches and more.

**Ask about School Holiday Programs**
YMCA runs local School Holiday Programs. Bookings open 5 weeks prior to the start of the holidays, so make sure you pick up a brochure to see what’s on or visit the YMCA Children’s Services website (www.childrensservices.ymca.org.au) for more information.

**Enrolment**
In order to commence care, families must first enrol into the program. You can enrol online at www.childrensservices.com.au, or you can pick up an enrolment form from the School office or OSHC.

Enrolling online will give you access to online bookings and cancellations for before and after school care, as well as school holiday program.

**Contact details**
For bookings and information please call Point Cook PS OSHC on 9395 8222 or email: pointcook@ymca.org.au.

For account enquiries please contact the YMCA Children’s Services office on: 8371 0500 or email: childrensservices.vic@ymca.org.au.

**Fee assistance**
YMCA is an approved child care provider and you can test your eligibility for the following Government benefits: Child Care Benefit (CCB), Child Care Rebate (CCR) and Jobs, Education and Training (JET) Child Care Fees Assistance. To see if you’re eligible for a reduction in fees, please contact Centrelink on 13 61 50.

**Cancellation Policy**
Cancellations must be made in writing or online with one week’s notice. Normal fees apply if these requirements are not met. Your assistance with this enables YMCA to remain compliant within the boundaries of their licence, child to staff ratios and to provide the best possible care to the children attending.

**Helping the community**
YMCA Open Doors (http://www.victoria.ymca.org.au/support/how-to-support-the-ymca/donate.html) provides opportunities for people who are doing it tough to become healthier, happier and better connected to their community. OSHC proactively raises money each year for Open Doors, to help local families participate in programs.
Loyalty Program

SERVICE: Trade pricing on all parts & service procedures on any vehicle excluding all capped priced service plans.

SALES: When any Peter Davey Motor Company vehicle is purchased, customer will be given a $250 voucher that can be used for any purpose within the dealership, i.e.: Service, parts, car care and accessories. A further $200 will be donated to Point Cook P9 College for every vehicle purchased.