

## Year 8 Snowy River Camp

*"Alone of all the races on earth, they seem to be free from the 'Grass is Greener on the other side of the fence' syndrome, and roundly proclaim that Australia is, in fact, the other side of that fence."*  
*Douglas Adams on Australia*



## From the Board Chair & the Head of Primary...



Recently, I had the pleasure of attending the National Board Chairs Conference hosted by Christian Education National (CEN) in Sydney, together with other board members and board chairs from across Australia.

The theme of the conference was 'Set the Sails for Godly Governance'. Gerry Beimers led us in Biblical reflections, discussing the

paradoxes in sailing and in Scripture. We were also informed by Anne Robinson and Peter Wilson of Prolegis Lawyers around tips for good governance and getting our executive employment contracts right, and thoughtfully engaged and encouraged with Scripture by Rod Thompson with whom we studied 2 Peter 3:10-14.

Kathy Pereira talked about the changing shape and culture of our world and navigating 'treacherous waters'. Yvonne Bradley posed challenging questions to a selected panel of four people assuming various school leadership roles and asked 'what would you do if....?' These scenarios served to reveal the very complex and multifaceted nature of problems that arise in school life. Our thinking was challenged about how we would deal with these issues if we were walking in the shoes of the school principal, business manager or enrolment officer.

We were treated to a session with Mock Court International hosted by Bruce Whitehead. It was a hypothetical, seriously fun, court reenactment with no prizes - only penalties! In a case where five participants were chosen - Court Officer, Judge, and three witnesses - the Contractor, Principal and Business Manager (me!). It was Inspector Smith vs Hazard County Grammar and Philippa McCracken (myself). I faced the witness stand and got grilled by the prosecutor for my responsibilities and duties (or failure thereof) in relation to an unreported incident by a contractor who had fallen from a roof

and was later admitted to hospital. We had a statement of facts to work from and an outline of our actions and negligence. We had to defend ourselves whilst being truthful to our oath. It was a fun event and an eye opener with the overarching message being that prevention is key, in addition to the value of life and safety, and the importance of implementation of control

measures to eliminate or mitigate risks to as low 'reasonably practicable'.

Well done to the CEN team on an informative and educational conference - Michelle Dempsey (National CEO of CEN) and Pam Lavery (State Executive Officer of CEN) et al. We enjoyed the opportunity to build relationship with board members from other states, discuss current hot topics, share ideas and resources and to be educated and entertained all at the same time!

Merryn Van Bremen

### COMING HOME THIS WEEK:

- CEN Christmas Card Competition award information (selected students only)
- Primary Maths Competition results (selected students only)
- Yr 6 Celebration note
- Yr 6 Fun Day, Casey

### Aquatic Centre

- Yr 8 Media excursion
- Yr 9-11 Indonesian excursion

### REMINDERS:

- Return 2018 Bus Request forms
- School banking tomorrow



This year, the primary school saw the introduction of student portfolios. Parents received the first installment at the end of Semester 1, and they will receive samples from the second semester at the end of the year.

These portfolios are collections of student activities, accomplishments and achievements to demonstrate growth over time. They contain work that is both works in progress as well as finished works. Each

piece of work is accompanied with a "tag". This "tag" describes the purpose of the task and often indicates the achievement level of the student. These tags provide useful feedback for students as they work towards the next step in the learning area.

Thank you to all the parents who participated in the recent survey about the introduction of this learning tool. The results show that this initiative has been helpful in celebrating the learning journey of students, while also providing feedback on areas that need further development. A comment that was repeated frequently throughout the survey, expressed how parents valued the opportunity to sit with their child and reflect on the learning that has taken place and how to support them with the next step. Using the portfolio as a focal point helps students reflect on their learning and identify areas of growth and improvement.

We will be making some changes to portfolio in 2018 as a result of the feedback we've received from the survey and look forward to partnering with you as we support and celebrate the learning of our children.

Sam Leonardis  
Head of Primary

**VRQA** - This year Mountain District Christian School had its regular 5-yearly review by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA). The VRQA has the responsibility of ensuring that all Victorian schools are meeting the minimum standards for the registration of a school. I am pleased to inform you that we have completed this process, fulfilling each of the requirements.

Jason Riding

## Parents please note...

A brief reminder to parents that fee invoices for next year (2018 fees) have been sent out. Please advise the office if you have not received any details. The early payment **discount of 8% is available on the tuition fees if paid by 8 December 2017**. The bus fees are not part of the early payment discount. Please return your payment plans including direct debit arrangements, bus forms and indicative working bee attendance by the end of November so that planning for next year can be finalised.

I also note that we have received payments from a Bendigo Bank account for fees without any reference details. If you have been making payments in this manner please contact the office so we can allocate the receipts against your account.

Ross Ingram  
Business Manager



### Medical Alert

Parents please note there has been a couple of instances of slapped-cheek (Parvovirus B19 or Fifth Disease) reported in the lower Primary section of the school.

Contact your health care provider should you have any concerns in regard to your family.



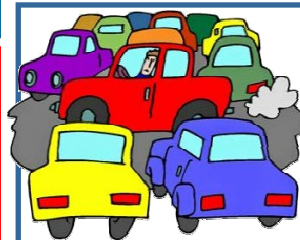
## M.D.C.S has talent!



As you all know, here at **M.D.C.S** we have some very talented kids, so on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November in the MPR during lunch we will be having a **Talent Contest!** The winner of the talent contest will win a prize. There will be a gold coin donation to get in and there will be food to purchase as well.

### \$2.00 for Sausages

All donations will be going to an event or something in our community. There will also be a few games in which you can win prizes. Hope to see u there!



### Car park pick up and drop off –

We have noticed that some students are playing in the carpark below the courts after having been collected by their parents. Please note that this area is not a play area and children should be getting into their cars. Families are welcome to play on the courts but we would remind you that they shouldn't be playing in the car park. I appreciate your support in this. - Jason Riding



### HAVE YOU CONSIDERED SCHOOL BANKING?

Has your child got a long wish list? Bike, game, CAR!?! We all know it's never too early for our kids to start learning about the benefits of budgeting and saving.

If you would like to open an account, forms are available from the office.

**FRIDAY IS SCHOOL BANKING DAY!**

Monbulk & District

**Community Bank® Branch**  **Bendigo Bank**

### SCHOOL CALENDAR

#### NOVEMBER

- 23rd - 24th 2018 VCE Retreat
- 27th - Secondary Assembly
  - VCE 2018 Unit 1 & 3 Commence
- 28th - Volunteers Afternoon Tea
- 29th - Prep 2018 Orientation #2

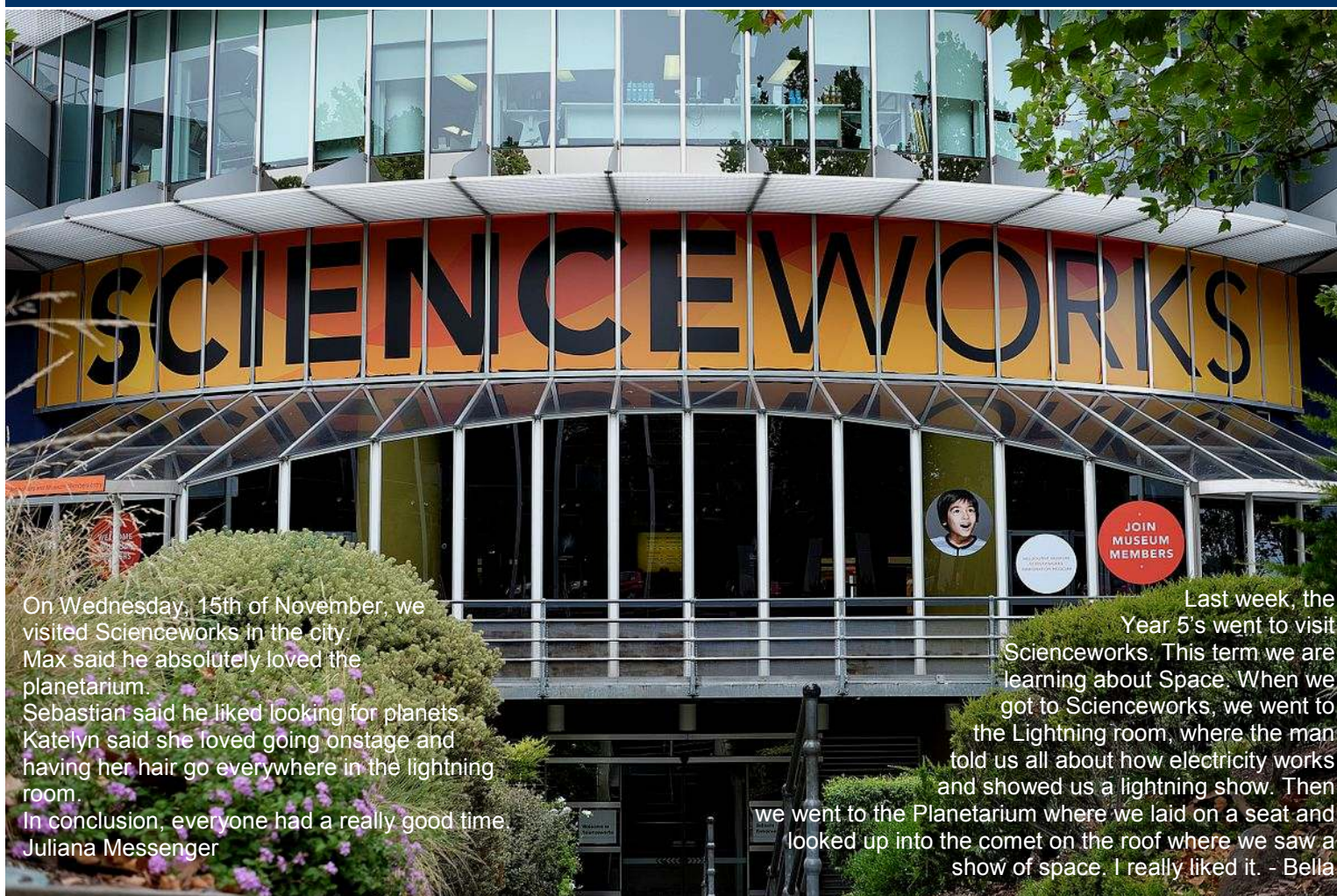
30th - Yr 6 Celebration

#### DECEMBER

- 1st - Year 6 Aquatic Excursion
- 4th - Primary Assembly
- 5th - Whole School Orientation
- 6th - Year 10 & 11 Last Day
- 10th - Year 10 BBQ







On Wednesday, 15th of November, we visited Scienceworks in the city. Max said he absolutely loved the planetarium. Sebastian said he liked looking for planets. Katelyn said she loved going onstage and having her hair go everywhere in the lightning room. In conclusion, everyone had a really good time. Juliana Messenger

Last week, the Year 5's went to visit Scienceworks. This term we are learning about Space. When we got to Scienceworks, we went to the Lightning room, where the man told us all about how electricity works and showed us a lightning show. Then we went to the Planetarium where we laid on a seat and looked up into the comet on the roof where we saw a show of space. I really liked it. - Bella

## Community News...

### Free Dental Care is not just for Health Care Card Holders. **each**

Children and youth who **attend public dental clinics** will **NOT incur out of pocket expenses** with the Child Dental Benefit Schedule

#### **NO FEES ~ YOU WILL BE BULK BILLED!**

On January 1<sup>st</sup> 2014, the government introduced the new **Child Dental Benefit Scheme**. Families who receive **Family Tax Benefit Part A** or a relevant Australian Government payment will receive a letter outlining their eligibility. It entitles all eligible **children aged 2-17 years old** to general dental care up to the **value of \$1000 over 2 years**.

**Our normal dental care** continues to operate for **all 0-12 year old children and eligible 13-17 year old youth at no cost**. (Youth must be a holder or dependant of a health care or pensioner concessioner card holder, in out-of-home care provided by Department of Human Services or in Custodial Care). Following their treatment, your child will be placed on our **patient recall system** and receive a reminder letter when their next appointment is due. Please do not hesitate to phone the reception staff at **EACH** on one of the numbers below if you require any further information about our dental services. EACH Oral Health Program: 9757 6200 & 9259 4900

Monbulk Cricket Club in conjunction with MADCOW presents

## MONBULK FUN RUN 10 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

### 2017 COLOUR RUN "Run to the G" 4km & 8km Run / Walk

Date: Sunday 26th November, 2017  
Place: Start / Finish - 'MCG' Monbulk Cricket Ground  
Time: 8 - 8.30am registration for a 9am start (sharp)  
Entry Fee: \$10 School Kids / \$20 Adult / \$40 Family

Face Painting Double Shot Coffee Van  
Rotary BBQ Monbulk Produce Market  
Belgrave Big Dreams Market

For more information email Kelly at [kellyyembellish@hotmail.com](mailto:kellyyembellish@hotmail.com) or register Online at [www.eventbrite.com.au](http://www.eventbrite.com.au)

Proceeds from Fun Run go to Monbulk Relief Fund and MADCOW Community Projects  
Proudly Sponsored By Monbulk & District Community Bank & Monbulk Produce Market





## Year 8 Snowy River Camp...





## Year 8 Snowy River Camp...

It was hard *not* to feel like we were on top of the world as we stood in awe of the majestic nature of God's creation after battling rain and wind to make it to the top of the bluff. Time and again the views remind us that we are not alone, that we are part of a bigger plan than ourselves and that this southern country really is the other side of that fence.

This year's Snowy River Camp again lived up to its reputation with unpredictable weather, dramatic scenery, spectacular skies, all the while giving us the opportunity to grow and stretch our city-bound legs and souls. Students, staff and parents spent three days immersing themselves in the history and landscape of the Howqua River and the surrounding mountains as a celebration of their studies of 'The Man from Snowy River'. The sense of community and family was strong, as was the freshly brewed coffee and the laughter. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all who helped make this camp such a wonderful success and time to remember.

