Dear families

Wow! What a busy week it has been? I hope all our mothers, grandmothers and special people in our lives enjoyed their day of celebration last Sunday. Happy Mother’s Day! The high tea in the Early Years Centre was extremely well attended last Friday. It is days such as these that celebrate our small but growing community. I thank all our attendees for their support and for those family members who took time off work I hope you know how much it was appreciated by your little ones. It was lovely to walk through and watch our mums, aunts and grandmothers interacting with the children. I know they all thoroughly enjoyed the preparations and sharing their work and the afternoon tea with you all.

I would also like to acknowledge the members of the fundraising team for their efforts. The Mother’s Day stall was well stocked; there was a variety of quality items and prices to cater for all ages. The commitment you made for our students was much appreciated by the children and the staff.

The Early Years Centre staff also facilitated a book fair this week from Scholastic Australia. They had an enormous number of titles available for purchase. The demise of book shops means that many purchases are now made online. It was great this week to see the students browse the shelves and pick some favourite titles. Any proceeds from the fair will be used to purchase further resources.

Mrs Deb Hennesey has been working at the college over the last few weeks completing an audit of reading materials in classroom libraries. This is to ensure that we have resources available that are “just right” for students in each neighbourhood. We have purchased new books across the college to ensure their are up to date and that a variety of quality materials are available to our students. We aim to foster our community of readers. The support of our parent volunteers and Year 6 students who have worked alongside Deb has certainly assisted the process. Thank you all.

This week students in Year 3, 5, 7 & 9 participated in the annual Australia wide NAPLAN testing program. The students are to be congratulated on the enthusiastic way they embraced the testing regime and their ‘can do’ attitude. I know the Year 3 students were very confident following their first assessment on Tuesday morning. Thank you to Mrs Giles and Mrs Staunton who ensured there was breakfast available on each day and fruit for sustenance breaks. The results of these assessments will be made available later in the year providing a snapshot for families.

Mr Kelly and I attended the South Western Victorian regional conference this week at Etihad Stadium. The “Successful Schools” conference brought together local, national and international speakers with a focus on school improvement. We look forward to further researching our learnings and continuing to move forward with our vision that focuses on continual improvement of student learning outcomes.

Next Tuesday Tiana Year 8 and Sasha Year 7 will represent the college at the Wynspeak competition. This is a public speaking competition for secondary school students. Tiana is a seasoned candidate having entered the competition in 2014. The students will present a prepared speech on a topic they have chosen. They will then participate in a 2 minute impromptu speech. I congratulate both candidates on their efforts and look forward to seeing them both shine on Tuesday evening.

The gymnasium has been cordoned off as the maintenance program commences. The student leadership team were involved in a tour of the gym recently where the areas to be developed were discussed. Once the works are finished we will be setting up a gym for our middle years students on the mezzanine level which will be secure. The fundraising committee will purchase some initial equipment for student use. Mr Dadswell who is our physical education teacher and strength and conditioning coach will work with the fundraising team and student leaders to develop a priority list of equipment.

We have also isolated two areas in the yard where the asphalt has deteriorated. I am in discussions with the Department of Education, Infrastructure branch in regards to these areas and some cracking that has occurred in the Middle Years learning centre. They will work towards a solution for us.

Wishing all our families a warm weekend as it looks like Winter is approaching with haste.
On Monday 4th May, Year 5/6 went on an excursion to the Immigration Museum in the city. Below are a couple of photos for you to have a look at. Luckily, the weather was fine and we were able to take the students to the park, before heading to the museum. Students were issued with a museum Passport to guide them through the galleries. This helped them develop an understanding of the history and experience of immigration to Victoria and Australia and appreciate what immigration has brought to this country. They completed the activities from the Passport in each gallery space. A great day was had by all.

Our current topic for Inquiry is Chemical Changes. After our Year 5 students completed their first two NAPLAN tests on Tuesday, they joined up with the Year 6’s and became budding scientists! Making observations of chemical changes and describing what happens when different materials were mixed together were our focus. Students observed the chemical reaction between vinegar (an acid) and sodium bicarbonate (a base). They observed how bubbles of carbon dioxide gas, produced by this reaction, caused popcorn kernels to float and sink in water. Then they worked in small groups to blow soap bubbles, and observe the bubble float on an invisible layer of carbon dioxide inside a soft drink bottle. It was great to see all the students engaged in their learning and creating their own investigations.

Year 5/6 Team
Mrs Taylor and Mrs Penry
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May 2015
FREE KIDS ARTS WORKSHOPS
Saturday 16 May, 11am to 2pm

Would you like to get creative with your kids? Join us for some FREE family fun with Little Art Big Art at Woods Street Arts Space. Come along and create a beautiful artwork with your children. Light refreshments will be provided at this no cost. Event held at Woods Street Arts Space, 44 Woods Street, Laverton, 3028. Bookings via arts@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au or 9932 2001.

Little Art Big Art

Little Art Big Art specializes in fun, colorful and creative art classes for little to big artists. Run by local artist and primary school teacher, Rachael Morris who believes that art is about being a free creative soul and encourages her students to imagine, create, celebrate!

Suitable for children aged 0 to 12 years but all age groups welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

www.facebook.com/woodsstreetarts
Presented by Hobsons Bay City Council and Woods Street Arts Space.
MAY TO JULY 2015
Keen to try something new or just get together with like minded people?
A diverse range of workshops and programs are on offer at Woods Street Arts Space led by our team of knowledgeable and friendly facilitators.
You can pick up a hard copy of our program booklet at Woods Street Arts Space or download it from www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

Kids Pottery Course
Classes are an ideal environment for children to explore their creativity while learning the craft of ceramics. Suitable for children aged 8 to 11 years. Materials provided.
May 6, 13, 20, 27, Wednesdays 4.45pm to 5.45pm
Cost: $125 for 6 week course
Bookings: Essential
Contact: Karen Steinberger 0417 539 343 or karenmsteinberger@gmail.com

Art Sauce for Kids
Join Rachael from Little Art Big Art for a family friendly, hands on creative art session. Suitable for families and kids aged 3 to 12 years. Children must be accompanied by a parent or adult carer.
Saturday 16 May, 11am to 2pm
Cost: FREE
Bookings: Preferred
Contact: Arts and Culture 9932 2001 or arts@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

CAPACITY Session
CAPACITY is a scheme offered to artists and small arts groups in the western region of Melbourne. CAPACITY provides free training to artists through mentoring and professional development opportunities and the sharing of ideas and resources.
Specific session information will be available closer to the date.
Saturday 30 May, 12pm to 4pm
Cost: FREE
Bookings: Essential
Contact: Arts and Culture 9932 2001 or arts@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

Woods Street residents
These projects currently operate out of Woods Street Art Space on a regular basis. Both are aimed at engaging local young people with the creative arts and social enterprise.

Mesh Mash Print Collective
Be part of a series of FREE creative workshops to develop, design and produce a range of T-shirts, stickers, posters and other printed products.
Mesh Mash screen print studio invites 14 to 20 year olds living in the west to join to collaborate with guest artists and print! No experience necessary, everyone is welcome.
Cost: FREE
Contact: 0419 160 067 or mini@minigraft.com
Please call or email to confirm dates

Street SmART Workshops
Join Street SmART and special guests for a series of workshops exploring spray paint as a medium for young people aged 15-25 in a managed environment. Workshops contribute to the planning and delivery of temporary arts projects across Hobsons Bay.
Cost: FREE
Bookings: not required
Contact: Street SmART 0423 069 303 or streetsmartonline@gmail.com
Please call or email to confirm dates

Body Works Life Drawing
Join Leonie Kervin in a casual, relaxed environment.
Thursdays 7pm to 9pm, May 17, June 21
Cost: $20 or $18 concession
Contact: Leonie Kervin 0410 261 403 or leoniekervin@gmail.com

Screen Printing
Learn a new Screen Printing skill each week to add to your creative portfolio. Elise Robert's course aims to build knowledge and refine techniques through consensus based learning. Learn skills from basic Paper Stencils and with experiments working with different substrates to create a range of exciting results.

Screen Printing

Woods Street Arts Space is managed by Hobsons Bay City Council
PO Box 21, Altona VIC 3018
NR5: 133 677 / quote 03 9932 1000

f www.facebook.com/woodsstreetarts