Principal’s Update

Book Launch – The Authorship

This Wednesday we held Gladstone Park’s first ever book launch. The book titled The Authorship, a compilation of works from students in years 7 -12, was officially launched in the library. We had many of the published authors available for book signing as well as some selected readings. All in all it was a fantastic night and one I hope will be repeated in the future. We have such amazing talent within our student body and it is always great to celebrate their achievements. Thanks go to all the students involved and to the English faculty, in particular Ms Sarah Cleeland and Ms Aimee Tropeano, for this great initiative.

Year 12 Graduation

Our Year 12 Graduation took place on Monday night at The Celebrity Room at Mooney Valley Racecourse. It was a fantastic night as we celebrated the completion of secondary schooling for our graduating class of 2014. Can I say the dresses and suits the students wore were just stunning. Many of our students were unrecognizable, they looked so sophisticated. Congratulations to all of our year 12’s for completing their VCE and making it through the gruelling exam period in one piece. We were all very proud of you all. I look forward to finding out your results and your tertiary placements in the coming months. Enjoy a well-earned break.

Year 8 Camp

Last week a small group of year 8 students went to Ace Hi Ranch for the annual horse riding camp. They had perfect weather and all had a fantastic time. Thank you to the teachers involved and to the student for their exemplary behaviour on the camp. There are pictures of the fun and games further on in this newsletter.
Year 12 Graduation

The Year 12 Graduation Ceremony was held at Moonee Valley on 25 November. Staff, Year 12 graduates and their parents enjoyed the evening of congratulation and celebration for the Year 12 cohort who have successfully completed secondary schooling. On behalf of the students, the 2014 school captains reflected on their time at Gladstone Park Secondary College with interesting and amusing reflections and anecdotes.

The graduates were individually presented to Mrs Gutterson, College Principal, and Ms Zagorski, Senior School Principal, to receive their graduation medals. Ms Gutterson commended the students for their hard work and contributions to the college over the six years that they have spent at the school. The graduates leave the school with best wishes for every future success from everyone at Gladstone Park Secondary College.

Individual awards were presented to students who had excelled in the Key Learning Areas and VCAL- Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning. An award was also given for overall Academic Excellence. Award winners for the Key Learning Areas were:

- Digital Media Award - Kosta Tsourdalakis
- English Award - Mario Masino
- Health and Physical Education Award - Shezlie Malelang
- The John Landy Humanities Award – Shenea Borg
- Languages other than English- Italian- Award - Isabella Scordamaglia
- Mathematics Award - Adam Barresi
- Performing Arts Award - Tahlia De Ieso
- The Leanne Myslinski Science Award - Tishan Paranhewage and Jeremy Siaw
- Technology Award - Matthew Weston
- VCAL Award - Erryn Thomas
- Arts Award - Natalie Marazita

The Award winner for Academic Excellence was Adam Barresi.

After the formal proceedings and a delicious meal, there was music and dancing to end the evening.

Judy Nicoll and Sarina Meusburger, Year 12 Coordinators
Year 12 Graduation
Year 12 Graduation
The Author Ship - Book Launch

*The Author Ship* launched at the school library on Wednesday 26th November. Mrs Gutterson officially launched the anthology of student writing, and contributors were available for author signings. Minoli Fernando, Cara Lofts and Scarlette Do each read an excerpt from their published story. Copies are still available for purchase; pick yours up at the school library for $5.

Editor’s Note.

Great creative writing can often be found in English classrooms. Unfortunately, as it is “just schoolwork”, any brilliant piece of writing is eventually thrown in the bin, or sucked up a vacuum cleaner, or lost in the back of a school locker, or found drifting like a tumbleweed across an empty quadrangle, or marking the page of a science textbook, or left to be deleted from a school computer. As if it is nothing.

It is *not* nothing.

*The Author Ship* was created to oppose this culture. It was created as an opportunity to not just be a student of English, but be a writer. A proper, fully published, recognized and congratulated writer.

The work presented in this issue shows what clever, intuitive young people are capable of when they put pen to paper. It represents independence of thought and memories that have become defining stories. When the concessions on our time inhibit our ability to stop and notice the sheer genius and beauty that arises from creative minds, *The Author Ship* provides us with just that. Intelligence on paper. Beauty in words.

We hope you enjoy this inaugural edition of *The Author Ship*.

*Regards,*

*The Editor.*
VCAL

Future VCAL Students Volunteering Excursion To FareShare

On Tuesday the 25th and Wednesday the 26th of November a group of current Year 10 students attended a volunteering excursion to the FareShare kitchens in Abbotsford. FareShare are a not for profit community organisation that rescues surplus, quality food, cooks nutritious meals and distributes them to over 200 charities throughout Victoria. Gladstone Park Secondary College has forged an invaluable relationship with this organisation through our VCAL program. This enables our VCAL students to participate in visits to the FareShare kitchens where the students prepare, cook and pack meals ready to be distributed to charities such as soup vans, homeless shelters and food banks. The students learn the value of giving back to the community through the volunteering program. They also gain an awareness that within our community there are many needy recipients of FareShare’s nutritious meals every day. The students that attended this particular excursion have been accepted into the VCAL program for next year and will now be able to take their first hand knowledge with them. This will assist them in producing VCAL projects that include food drives and further excursions to assist in the FareShare kitchen.
Year 8 Camp

On the 12th of November, 2014, a group of year 8 students, left for a 3-day camp at Ace Hi Ranch. We were all involved in various activities such as horse-riding, archery, giant swing and the flying fox. Before we could ride on any trails we had to learn the basics. The people who worked there showed us how to behave around the horses and how to ride at the walk and trot. Soon after, we were split up in two groups and set off to our first activity, for us, we did Archery first.

Next we had horse riding. We went on a 1hr 45min trail ride. There were a range of horses to cater for our riding capabilities, from tiny ponies to a huge 17.1 hand thoroughbred! The horses were well behaved and lovely to ride. After our ride both groups met in the dining area which was in a chapel to have dinner. Our night-time activity was held in the ‘rec’ hall, this night was a fun trivia night.

The next morning after breakfast we split into our two groups. One group went on a 3hr beach ride and our group went to the Giant Swing and the Flying Fox. Not everyone went to the top of the Giant swing yet we all still had fun, even the teachers! The Flying Fox was next on our activities list, two people went at a time and some people raced each other to see who was faster. After the flying fox we had lunch and then we went to meet our horse we would have for the 3hr beach ride. As soon as we met our horse we got on and off we went. The beach ride was extremely fun. Some of the horses were afraid of the waves at the beach.

That night-activity was Red Faces, and Mrs Hoy drove down to judge the competition! The acts were really good and some were very funny.

On our final day there, we had a gymkhana, which are races and games on horseback. It was tonnes of fun, with points rewarded for each win as well as various extras such as your team song or funny comments.

Overall, everyone really enjoyed the camp and wished it had lasted longer. We would definitely recommend this camp to all others who had the privilege to attend!

By Chelsea and Carly from 8K. J
Year 8 Camp
Year 8 Camp
Year 8 Camp
Robin Hood Program—Term 4

Robin Hood is a group and team who learn about the wider community and learn to appreciate the value of volunteer work, team work, social interaction and verbal communication and helping others. This term in The Robin Hood Program, we learnt about animals. We had our learning day on Wednesday November 19th. We learnt about the many things it takes to be a responsible pet owner. We also talked about what they would need such as vaccinations, training, de-sexing etc. We had a couple of visitors from teachers and class mates that came along to have some fun, Ms Kostic’s puppy, Logan who was very energetic, Ms Muesburger’s dog Roxy who is very playful, a bird called lily who loves bright colours, and a blue tongued lizard called Lollies who loves to take long naps. We expressed our opinions on the responsibilities such as what you need be a pet owner. One of the practical activities was we took a test that would estimate whether we would be an appropriate pet owner. We took Roxy for a walk which was really fun, the bird flew out of its cage and the lizard just didn’t seem to like its box so it was strolling in the classroom the whole time. It was one of the most eye opening days of the year, we knew of many of the responsibilities but some of them were new.

On Monday November 24th we travelled to Werribee zoo for our excursion. As soon as we arrived we had an hour of freedom. Weroamed the zoo going from the gorillas who were quite aggressive to the monkeys who were swinging from each vine and chasing one another. We observed many animals such as the gorillas, cheetahs, hippos (which were very lazy), African wild dogs, meerkats who were hiding in their bolt holes, lions and vervet monkeys. A very nice lady came along to tell us a bit about the gorillas such as what is threatening them, who is threatening them and what we can do. She explained to us the many different groups of people which were causing them to become critically endangered, such as the farmers taking their food source resulting in their numbers dropping. We also talked about how tourists don’t know they are spreading diseases and buying merchandise which is made from gorilla remains, for example necklaces which are made from gorilla bones. We spoke about how the coltan miners ruin their habitats by digging it up and who were the worst group of people who were causing the harm. Our experience on the safari ride was out of this world, despite the rain it was breathtaking having animals an arm length away from us was astonishing. There were zebras, giraffes, rhinos and dears. It was a bumpy ride but very fun. Going up the hill and observing an amazing view of the land didn’t seem believable. When we got off the safari bus we got to have another hour of freedom where we could go to the gift shop or café and even though it was raining it was a prodigious day, having a stroll around the zoo soaking wet having the time of our lives. It was the best day in a lifetime none of us will forget it and we only have two people to thank Mrs Spanos and Ms Kostic, thank you very much for an amazing experience!

By Elise Gravina & Maha Abbouchi
Year 12 Career Agenda – 2014/15

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 15/12/14</td>
<td>VCE results and ATAR distributed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 22/12/14</td>
<td>VTAC Change of Preference close</td>
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<tr>
<td>2pm Monday 19/01/15</td>
<td>Round 1 VTAC offers online</td>
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RSPCA Career Discovery Day
Thursday 4th December
http://www.rspcavic.org/services/education/secondary-education/animal-career-discovery-day

Lewis Scholarships
http://www.lewisscholarships.org.au/
Applications close 12/12

University of Melbourne
Summer school - January 2015
http://umsu.unimelb.edu.au/jump-in/summerschool/

Strathmore Rotary Club
Politician’s Forum for VCE students
For more details contact
Frank Mills on 0418 323 746

Uniform Sale
Dear Schools, parents and students,

We have now been in our new store for over six months and the feedback from parents has been fantastic. As everything is going so well, we have decided to have 20% off store wide til the end of November 2014.

Top School Wear Pty Ltd
137 Military Road,
Avondale Heights VIC 3034
Phone: (03) 9331 1066
Fac: (03) 9337 8349
PARENT BULLETIN 28th November 2014

2014 Important Dates

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<td>Monday 1st—5th December</td>
<td>Year 12 2015 Orientation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 1st December</td>
<td>Year 10 2015 Course Confirmation</td>
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<td>Tuesday 2nd December</td>
<td>Year 9 Party Safe</td>
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<td>Wednesday 3rd December</td>
<td>Year 8A,B,D,E &amp; F Lygon St Excursion</td>
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<td>Friday 5th December</td>
<td>Peer Mediation Training</td>
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<td>Year 8G, H, I &amp; K Lygon St Excursion</td>
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<td>Friday 5th December</td>
<td>Year 9 Locker Clean Out</td>
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<td>Monday 8th &amp; Tuesday 9th December</td>
<td>Year 9 Careers Program</td>
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<td>Tuesday 9th December</td>
<td>Year 7 2015 Orientation</td>
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<td>Wednesday 10th to Friday 12th December</td>
<td>Year 9 Surf Camp</td>
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<td>Wednesday 10th December</td>
<td>Year 11 2015 Orientation</td>
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<td>Thursday 11th December</td>
<td>Year 7 &amp; 8 Awards Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 15th December</td>
<td>Year 9, 10 &amp; 11 Awards Night</td>
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Office Hours

Monday—Thursday
8:15am to 4:15pm

Friday
8:15am to 4:00pm

The office is CLOSED during all school holiday periods

All upcoming dates can also be found on our Website:
www.gladstoneparksc.vic.edu.au

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR DETAILS?

Please immediately notify the College of any changes to your address or contact details.

-Thank You-

ATTENTION YEAR 11 & YEAR 12 PARENTS

Parents are reminded that where a Year11 or Year 12 student is absent from school due to a family holiday, this will be considered an unapproved absence.

VCE and VCAL have attendance requirements which must be met in order for a student to pass.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Parents are reminded that the school does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents/guardians are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs.

Reasonably low cost accident insurance policies are available from commercial insurers should you require one.