

PRINCIPAL'S OVERVIEW



Mr Glen McKeeman
Principal

Professional Learning Teams

Over recent years the focus of our work in Teaching and Learning has involved the teaching staff reviewing and documenting on line the content, scope and sequence and outcomes for the units that are taught throughout the College.

This year the continuation of this process has taken a focus on the actual art and methodologies of teaching. The teaching staff, through the introduction of Professional Learning Teams has worked collaboratively to consider the delivery of the curriculum to reflect upon and improve teaching practice. This focus has considered such aspects as enrichment and enhancement along with how we can include enhanced focus on teaching christianly.

The inclusion of enrichment and enhancement activities and strategies aims to engage talented students, whilst also providing higher standards of achievement for all students. This is occurring through a revised assessment and reporting structure and the introduction of assessment rubrics to support both students and staff to understand and cater for the differentiation that needs to occur in learning.

We are already seeing signs that this will have a positive impact on the educational outcomes for our students. I congratulate the Deputy Heads of Campus, Directors of Teaching and Learning and the leaders in each faculty area for the leadership and dedication they have shown in this process.

These leaders, together with the Heads of Campus are preparing for the implementation of a nationally focused Australian curriculum. As we consider the changes as part of this process I am confident that we will be well positioned for the changes that will

come as part of this new focus. I am grateful to Mr. John Rose for the excellent role that he is playing in co-ordinating this process.

Scholarship Program

This year for the first time Christian College offered General Excellence Scholarships for students entering Years 5 and 7 in 2011. The successful candidates were a combination of new and existing Christian College students. The calibre of these students was outstanding from both an academic and character perspective. This process has allowed us to acknowledge and reward highly performing students as well as offer places to students from families who may not have had the means to attend our College. Due to this success the scholarship program will be expanded to include Year 10 students, along with Year 5 and 7 in February each year from 2011.

Junior School Belmont Kindergarten to Year 4

The nurturing and loving environment at the Belmont Junior School commences in the 3 Year old Kindergarten program and flows through successfully to Year 4. The kinder program provides for structured and unstructured learning experiences that form the basis for future learning, including the all important aspects of social interaction with others outside the family environment.



This year the Junior School at Belmont (as well as the Junior School at Bellarine and Middle School students in Years 5 and 6) students were introduced to The Doorway Into Practical Literacy Program (DIPL). This daily spelling based literacy program introduces students to explicit spelling rules and teaches the application of these in the wider literacy program.

As usual, the Junior School students have enjoyed a wide range of special days, excursions, camps and other activities which enrich the learning experience and provide much fun for the students.

Bellarine Campus Years Prep to 9

A wonderful sense of community continues to be a feature of the Bellarine Campus in Drysdale. Having a combination of a Junior and Middle School on the same site provides many occasions for younger students to work alongside their older peers, whilst the older students experience leadership opportunities.

The Junior School at Bellarine (Years Prep to 4) has experienced the same successful introduction of the DIPL Program. I commend the staff from each of our campuses involved, for the dedication and commitment they have shown.

The Middle School at Bellarine (Years 5 to 9) enjoys strong links to the local community and environment. Students have many experiences in the local area participating with local organisations and in the outdoors. The successful expansion of the Year 8 Adventure Camp held at Skeltons ('Back Creek') was particularly pleasing. This program will now be introduced at the Highton Middle School in 2011.

Middle School Highton Years 5 to 9

The Middle School program at Highton and at Bellarine thrives on an engaging program that is offered to our students. The early introduction of an electives program from Year 5 that expands throughout the Middle School allows students to start selecting subjects of interest to them. As a result, greater engagement in the learning experiences is fostered.

As part of our focus on Teaching and Learning, an audit of the Middle School program was

commenced this year to consider future plans and needs for students in these formative years.



'Back Creek' Rural Studies Program Year 9

Strong participation and involvement in the farm program at Scotsburn continues to be a highlight for students during their final year of Middle School. Living as part of a rural community during the 5 weeks at Back Creek and working alongside others in work teams as part of the program provides invaluable experience for these students. The additional benefit of undertaking farming tasks, as well as domestic chores provides life changing challenges.

Senior School Years 10 to 12

The ongoing benefit of a new curriculum structure at the Senior School continues to benefit students during their final years. Greater opportunities to undertake VCE studies in Year 10 as well as pathways supporting advancement to Year 12 units have been a positive element of the revised structure. Equally the introduction of a most valuable VCE Pathways document provided for students and parents provides a great resource when considering subject choices and options in preparation for tertiary studies and future careers.

The strong academic focus is complimented by the variety of House based competitions that allow students to enjoy interests outside the classroom, including sporting, music, drama and food technology.

Year 12 Results 2010

Congratulations to our Year 12 students of 2010. Highlights include:

- 154 students successfully completed their VCE. (99% pass rate, 1 did not successfully complete due to personal circumstances)
- Dux: Christopher Pring ATAR 99.50.
- Other outstanding Results; Andrew Tiglias 97.95, Cameron Smith 96.5, Emily Watson 94.45, Julia Thurman 94.1.
- 5.8% of our students received an ATAR above 90
- 26% of our students received an ATAR above 80
- 86% of our students received an ATAR above 50 (compares with 50% nationally). Average ATAR for our school is 68 (compares with 50 nationally)
- 20% of our Year 12 students (excludes Year 11 students doing a Year 12 study) received a study score of 40+ in one or more studies. A Study Score of 40 or higher means the student is ranked in the top 8% of the cohort in the state.



Music

A highlight of the 2010 Music Program was the tour to Hawaii to participate in the Pan Pacific Schools Music festival. In addition to the wonderful cultural experience this tour provided performing alongside schools from all over the Pacific region, great exposure to a high level of musicianship and performance was obtained. I commend and thank the staff of the Music Faculty for their planning and commitment to ensure the success of such a tour.

The Music program caters for 650 Instrumental students across all orchestral and common popular

instruments. The College offers opportunities for students to participate in over 30 ensembles across the campuses from Prep to Year 12. The depth of this program is a feature of the Annual College Music Evening held at Costa Hall.

Once again this year the College musicians enjoyed amazing success at the Melbourne School's Band Festival and the Royal South Street Competitions in Ballarat.



Art, Technology and Design

An area of growth and expansion within the College program surrounds Art, Technology and Design. These burgeoning areas are becoming more popular as our society becomes increasingly aware of the visual nature of our world and our reliance upon visual literacy. Culminating at the Senior School Art, Technology and Design facility, 'Villa Paloma', students are provided with outstanding opportunities to experience working in creative, visual and technology based subjects. This facility also enables students looking for alternative pathways to tertiary studies practical subjects as part of completing their VCE. Students involved in this area of the College benefit greatly from the passion of their teachers, many of whom are talented artists or practitioners in their field.

A highlight of the year for students undertaking these subjects was the expanded Art Extravaganza held at 'Villa Paloma' featuring work completed from Kindergarten to Year 12. A short film festival held as part of this event showcased the multimedia talents of students from all campuses.

Camps and Tours

A wide range of camps experiences has been a feature of the year for students from Prep to Year

12. These range from overnight camps to international tours for senior students. This year key staff members commenced a review of the camping program to consider the features of the program and to develop greater consistency across campuses. A feature of this process to date will be the expansion of the Year 8 Skeltons Adventure Camp for Year 8 students at both Middle Schools in 2011. This will provide greater utilisation of the College farm facility as well as a good transition to the Year 9 Rural experience.

Tours to Japan, East Timor, Vietnam, Central Australia and Hawaii, as well as a number of local regions to participate in historical, cultural, coastal and alpine environments have all provided our students with memorable and valuable time away with their peers.



Sport

Sport continues to play a vital role in the culture and tone of our College. Much enthusiasm is evident at the major carnivals held at the campuses in swimming, athletics and cross country events. A range of other sporting opportunities were offered at House, Local, State and National Level. These include football, basketball, netball, soccer, tennis, equestrian, cricket and athletics.

At each Christian College campus the Sportsman and Sportswoman awards are presented to students who display excellence at House and Representative level.

Significant performances have been acknowledged in the Sport Report.

I am grateful to the many teachers, parents and assistants who provide hours committed to support

the large number of students involved throughout the College sporting program.

In Conclusion

Taking up the role of Principal of Christian College has been a most challenging and rewarding experience. The diversity of our existing academic program, together with the developments that have been implemented in the Teaching and Learning structure provide much excitement for the future. The quality and dedication of our teaching staff is a vital aspect of this process.

In closing I would like to thank the College Board and the Chief Executive Officer Mr. Daryl Riddle for having faith to appoint me to take up this responsibility. Additionally I am indebted to my Vice Principal Mrs. Gwen Prosser for her encouragement and support as well as my colleagues the Heads of Campus for the outstanding leadership and wisdom they provide at each campus and each week when we meet to discuss the College programs.

The heart of this College remains the wonderful students, staff and families who make up this community. In 2010 we have shared in great joy, many occasions to celebrate but also challenges, especially when members of our College family have faced hardship. This is where God's spirit has been ever present in demonstrating through others His love for us all.

'To God be the Glory'

Glen McKeeman
PRINCIPAL.

