When the idea was first floated last year that we should consider having a separate boys and girls year 8 camp I was intrigued as to how this might pan out. A week ago I got to be part of the year 8 boys camp at Halls Gap and witnessed first hand just how successful the ‘Altitude project' has become.

The term ‘Altitude’ has been used to name this project as we want to lift the expectations and aspirations of our students, with a specific focus on years 7 and 8 as we pilot the project this year. My experience of walking at altitude in Nepal was one of extreme challenge and significant reward. When you do any sort of activity at altitude, everything becomes difficult as the air is literally thinned of oxygen. You need to demonstrate persistence and resilience in order to continue the journey and rely upon your friends for support. But when I reached the high point of my trek after 10 days of walking (5,416 metres above sea level), the view was stunning and the sense of achievement was overwhelming. I think it’s fair to say that the analogy holds true for what we are wanting our students to focus on – persistence, resilience and mutual respect in the face of challenge and hard work. Life experiences tell us that “your attitude determines your altitude”.

One of the memories that will stay with me from year 8 camp is the generous gratitude that the boys showed to one another over the course of the three days. There was a general sense of ‘team’ that manifested itself, with students congratulating one another when they achieved something extraordinary. I’ve said before that I want to lead a school where students build one another up. I left Halls Gap with an incredible sense of pride in the way that the boys supported one another through the various challenges thrown their way. I know that the year 8 girl’s camp had very similar stories to tell, as did both of the year 7 camps. The camp directors were astounded with how much our students had learnt about themselves in such a short period of time; this is high praise coming from people who host a lot of school groups over the course of the year.

Back in the school environment we are trying to lift our everyday expectations of all students by reporting on their progress in a more regular fashion. Every six weeks, all students will receive two scores in each of their subjects – ‘attitude and effort’ and ‘academic achievement’. The focus for Warrnambool College will always be on the attitude and effort that students bring to their personal learning, as we know that students will reach their academic capacity if they apply themselves fully. Just as for the Altitude project, we want our students to demonstrate persistence and resilience toward their learning and take ownership of the feedback provided by their teachers. The new reports do not include comments – these are provided in Compass as part of the ongoing assessment of Common Assessment Tasks (CATs – years 7-10) and School Assessed Coursework (SACs – VCE). Instead the reports will show a visual trend over time of how students are progressing.
The first set of reports will be published in Compass at the end of this week. Please do take a moment to log into Compass to check on your child’s progress in each subject and then book an appointment to see their classroom teachers during our parent teacher interviews on 22nd March. The teaching and learning cycle is a partnership between school and home and we know how much can be achieved when we all work together to set the bar high for our students. Much like the year 8 camp experiences of balancing on the high ropes course, or walking up Boronia Peak or running up a steep incline as part of boot camp, the challenge of high expectations allows us to learn about ourselves and to ‘be more’ tomorrow.

An explanation of Progress Reports at Warrnambool College in 2016

This year in response to parent feedback we are undertaking a significant shift in student reporting. We are increasing the frequency of reporting to parents, students and teachers about students’ academic achievement as well as their attitude and effort towards their learning. All Year 7 - 12 students will receive Six Student Progress Reports across the school year for each subject studied.

We hope that reporting on learning progress more frequently will give you (and your children) the opportunity to celebrate their strengths, develop learning plans for improvement and discuss issues as and when they arise.

As well as these reports, parent/teacher interview evenings are scheduled to follow some of the reporting cycles. We encourage you to attend these evenings to have a conversation with your students’ teachers about their learning progress.

There are two components to each Progress Report

**Achievement Score:** The dot indicates the students’ achievement score for that subject at that time. Teachers will make an on balance judgement about each student’s achievement, based on a portfolio of evidence collected during the reporting cycle. This is based on rubrics for junior and senior years.

**Attitude and Effort Score:** The bar indicates your students’ score for attitude and effort in that subject. This is based on a universal rubric for all subjects and year levels.

Written feedback for CATs (years 7 – 10) and SACs (years 11 – 12) will be available via Compass Learning Tasks or as handwritten feedback on certain tasks. At the end of each semester, VCE subjects will also receive a Satisfactory “S” or Unsatisfactory “N” score for each subject. As a school community we pay close attention to all student’s Attitude and Effort scores, as we believe that individual student academic success is directly dependent on these attributes. We believe that increasing the frequency of feedback of student progress will lead to a more constructive and positive learning environment for your student.

Parents/Guardians need to be aware that the scores are representative of a moment in time and do not reflect the position the student will end up at the end in the semester. At Warrnambool College we are more interested in trend and growth in student achievement over the semester than a single point in time. We appreciate that staff and students may take some time to adapt to these significant changes in reporting in 2016. Reports show the expected range of achievement and we have deliberately set the bar high at 60% - 80%.
Assistant Principal Report
Adam Matheson, David Clift, Emma Miller, Danny Finn

Athletics Sports

- What a fantastic day was had by all. There were plenty of records broken on the day but the most important record breaking event was the level of participation. We ordered 14 buses to transport our students to the venue but we needed to order more – the approx number of students at the athletics sports was well over 700. Well done to all students who participated and a special mention to the Flagstaff team who won the overall Athletics Cup for 2016. Thanks to the parents/grandparents and family friends who attended the carnival. You should be very proud of your children as it was a very hot day and the behaviour and enthusiasm of the students was excellent.

Out of Uniform Days

- The first of our House out of uniform days is happening next week – BELFAST 15th March supporting Oxfam. This is the sixth year of the House system and our students have done an amazing job raising money for their charities. During the past six years our school has raised over $80,000 for the House charities with further funds raised by our SLIC group to support local charities/organisations such as Food Share, WRAD and Standing Tall in Warrnambool.

Parent Teacher Interviews

- The first cycle of reports go live today for all students and parents. We will be conducting the first round of parent teacher interviews on the 22nd March (4.00 – 7.00pm). Families are required to book 5 minute time slots on Compass to speak to teachers about the first cycle of reports. It will be interesting to receive feedback on the new reporting format which focuses on ‘Attitude and Effort’ and ‘Academic Achievement’. The new format aims to provide students and families with an easy to read summary which can easily be compared across the reporting cycles.

- Families can book on Compass for the interviews as of next Tuesday 15th March.

Uniform

- Our uniform is based off student feedback. Our students wanted a uniform that offers flexibility, uniqueness but most of all a uniform that was comfortable. We have worked hard to research uniform options to meet the feedback from the students. We believe that students have a great range of uniform options to choose from (see website and student handbook). The new outer shell jackets have been a huge success with students and the Sporting Academy tops are certainly popular with the students.

Upcoming events/dates

- Year 10 work experience - our first Year 10 groups hit the work force next week – all the best for this wonderful experience that could change their lives.
- Year 7 Immunisations 21st March – all Year 7 students will have received a consent form for the immunisation program. Please return these forms to the Main Office asap. No consent means no needle.
- Inter School Athletics Sports – 22nd March – Brauerander Park. Feel free to come along and support our students as they compete against the best from the Warrnambool region.
- THURSDAY 24th March – LAST DAY OF TERM
  Finishing time – 2.30pm
  Students will be notified about the structure of the day closer to the date

Football socks and hats can be purchased through the main school office, while soft shell jackets can be purchased from the uniform. We invite students who would like to take an active voice in the future direction of uniform and policy to nominate to work on the engagement and wellbeing committee for 2016. Please see Mrs Miller to nominate for this role.

- We are asking all families to support our school to ensure your child is wearing WC uniform. There is no reason for a student to be wearing an alternative piece of clothing as their uniform. Tutors will be checking uniform for the remainder of this term and continuing these checks in Term 2.
Important Information

ABSENCES
Parents/Guardians are required to record all student absences via Compass.

To log into Compass to record the absence for your child directly, the link to this site is www.wblcoll.vic.jdlf.com.au or you can Google the Warrnambool College website and click on the Compass link.

If you have lost your log in details, please do not hesitate to contact the school office on 5564 4444.

It is a legal requirement for a note to be sent if your child is signing out of the College early. Alternatively, you may log on to Compass and approve the early depart before they need to leave. Unfortunately we cannot accept a text message sent to the student’s phone as permission, nor verbal permission. It can sometimes be very difficult to contact a parent to seek permission at the time the student is signing out if they don’t have prior permission. In this case we are not permitted, by law, to allow the student to leave the College.

WAVE Site
We have been in negotiations with DET (Department of Education and Training) regarding the relocation of our WAVE (Warrnambool Alternative VCAL Education) Campus to a new learning environment.

At present WAVE are staying at the 72 Henna St premises for at least first term. We are actively working on relocation options which we hope will be in the short term future.

In the meantime please refer any WAVE related queries to the usual WAVE contacts – ph: 5562 9279, address 72 Henna St.

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE
The DET (Department of Education and Training) provides financial support to some families to assist with the cost of transport to school. Assistance in the form of a conveyance allowance is available to students who live in rural and remote areas who do not have access to a free school bus service. The conveyance allowance is payable to parents of students who meet the following eligibility requirements:

♦ must be between 5-18 years of age
♦ Must travel 4.8km or more from where they live to either the nearest denominational school and not have access to a government school bus route or
♦ Must travel 4.8km or more to the nearest government school bus route.

Forms are available from the front office and should be submitted as soon as possible.

Please contact Karina Said on 5564 4444 for further information.

2015 Awards
Could parents please ensure that students who received a monetary award at the 2015 final assemblies, bank these cheques. This will enable the school to finalise the balance of accounts.

Bullants School Socks
Bullants School Socks can now be purchased at the front office for $10 a pair.
As the girls arrived at the gym on Monday morning there was a buzz in the air. 80 Year 8 girls had their bags packed and their lolly stash ready for 3 exciting days. This excitement carried over onto the buses with singing and laughing all the way to Halls Gap. On arriving at camp the girls waited to find out who they were sharing rooms with, because this makes all the difference to a camp experience. The first groups headed off for their afternoon of activities with one group tackling the high ropes course, another walking to mini golf to test their patience and the remaining two groups headed off to conquer Boronia Peak. After dinner and showers, the girls found their torches and we set off for a walk in the dark. We followed the path away from town and soon realised that the line along the middle of the path glowed in the dark. The girls then turned off their torches and wandered along the path under the light of the full moon, using their senses to guide them home in the dark.

Tuesday was hot, 39 degrees by 2pm, this meant we needed to change our plans. The afternoon involved, beading, hair braiding, loom bands and colouring, while those that were too hot took a dip in the pool. The most important thing to do on a hot day is to eat ice-cream and that’s what we did with a late afternoon stroll into town to the ice-creamery. One of the focuses of camp was to take time to reflect on our journey and on personal goals and achievements. On Tuesday night as the temperature hovered around 30 degrees, the girls walked to the Halls Gap primary school. With their journals in hand, they found a quiet spot to sit, relax and write. 80 girls sitting in silence writing as the moon came up was an impressive sight to see.

Wednesday was a busy day, as the sun came up, 10 noisy girls headed off to tackle the high ropes making up for time lost the day before. The other girls had rooms to pack and clean before breakfast at 8am. By 9am we were all heading off for our final activities on what was a beautiful morning, perfect for our 3 activities. The bus ride home was very quiet, pillows were a necessity item, as we got closer to home the rain got heavier and the temperature dropped. It was a speedy retreat for all on arrival, showers and bed calling, before we returned to school on Thursday for day 4 of camp, Altitude day.

Thursday morning saw the girls arrive at school for their Altitude Day. Many tired girls and staff should be commended for their effort in making it to school after 3 big days. In the morning session the girls got a good sense of their strengths and it was impressive to see that the top two strengths of the group were teamwork and gratitude, two qualities that many of our activities on camp had focused on. After recess the girls gave and received gratitude letters they had written while on camp, a small gesture but one that had a big impact on many girls. This was followed by a powerful women session, where the girls looked at what it means to be a girl/women and how to support each other. This session had lots of great discussions and the girls displayed great maturity in their ideas. The Zumba session after lunch was some of the best fun I’ve seen with a group of kids. The girls danced with their own styles and flair, zest and jazz. An amazing dance off had the girls “stepping up” to the challenge. We finished the day with many laughs and a few tears, a new sense of gratitude and awareness of each other was what we possessed as we said goodbye.
Deakin University Congress

Friday the 26th of February was a great day for our student leaders. Some SLIC (Student Leaders Innovative Committee) students had the opportunity to attend a congress based on Leadership. Many other schools around the district also attended the event. Students learnt how to solve a problem in our community through these steps: learn, connect and collaborate.

The SLIC students had to ensure that their new project was based around Health and Wellbeing. After having Matty Stewart discuss a few of the organisations to the SLIC students, they decided to base their 2016 project on the local organisation: STANDING TALL. Standing Tall is a non-governmental organisation which supports many of the students from Warrnambool College and Brauer College. Keep a look out and ask the SLIC students about the upcoming events to support Standing Tall.

Thank you Ruby McOrist, Caillin Moore, Tom O’Sullivan, Alexandra Twaddle, Nicholas Attrill, Tiffany Tracey, Grace Prigg and Sarah Forbes for attending such an inspiring and wonderful congress.

Year 9 and 10 SEAL students have the opportunity to begin the Duke of Edinburgh award. The award constitutes four elements: physical recreation, service, skill and two adventurous journey. We plan to complete the adventurous journeys towards the end of term three and the beginning of term four. Further information about the award and information about registration fees are available on the Compass news feed.
Some very talented and dedicated swimmers represented Warrnambool College at the WDSSSA swimming sports on Thursday February 25th, 2016. The weather conditions were typically Warrnambool – combining many conditions all into one day of swimming. Our College team swam in the rain and the sunshine and continued to swim to the best of their abilities on the day.

Outstanding results for the day, were the following age champions:

15 years boys Sebastian Good
16 years boys Rhys Kent
17 years girls Brittany Leach
17 years boys Blake Turner
20 years girls Eva Dixon

Records are hard to break and some still exist from long-past students such as Chelsea Maddock. However, on the last event of the day our senior boys claimed a record to put into the history books.

Record breaking freestyle relay Tom Buckley, Rhys Kent, Sebastian Good, Blake Turner.

Next round is on 23rd March in Ballarat where the competition will be fiercer, but once again our top swimmers will train hard for this occasion and achieve their best results possible.

Good luck and congratulations on representing Warrnambool College admirably.
YEAR 10 FOOD – DAIRY PROJECT

The Year 10 Food class have been busy over the last couple of weeks with planning and designing milk cartons and food products that have a focus on dairy ingredients. Recipes were tested with success and improvements made ready for the final production. A team of brave teachers took on the task of judging the students final products for quality and marketability. Overall the students did an amazing job of their foods with the final scoring being very tight. Thanks you to the staff for volunteering to act as judges.
Hitting the ground running.

Hands on learning 2016 has hit the ground running with a group of 20 students kicking off the program by reviving old trolleys to donate to Food Share. Working together with Food Share has enabled the students to undertake projects outside the confines of school and out into the community. The students, who have been working on these trolleys, helped strip back, repair and paint the trolleys that will be used to help carry supplies at Food Share.

Below is a link that will enable you to view the article and picture that was in The Standard.


The program is always looking to undertake projects outside of the school grounds, such as working with other schools and kindergartens and some of the local reserves.

As such, if you have an idea for a community based project that the team may be interested in, please call the school and speak with either Brenton Schintler, Bruce Miller or Leon Carey.

Our current group focus;
- Communication
- Helping others
- Encourage others
- Sharing idea with others
The public speaking year begins with Lions Youth of the Year Quest. Warrnambool College has competed for 2016 this year in Macarthur, Koroit and Warrnambool. I congratulate Gabrielle Good, Tom O’Sullivan, Caitlin Morden and William Bonney for all being involved in the initial Club Level 2016 round. Gabrielle Good was successful in the Warrnambool Lions Club round and she won both Warrnambool College and Warrnambool Lions on Sunday March 6th at regional level. It’s worth looking up Lions Youth of the Year Quest online so you can see the diverse range of student talent on display. Any students interested in being involved in the future should visit me in the Public Speaking office and I can outline the program. Being a participant in Lions Youth is a great addition to the resume of senior students.

Congratulations to Year 7 student, Johanna Jephcott of Logans House, who went to Bathurst to compete in the 2016 BMX National Championship from the 1st March – 6th March. The BMX National Championships are the pinnacle of Australia's domestic racing season and will feature riders aged 2 - 70 years, from every state and territory. Congratulations Johanna, we wish you all the best!

YOUTH ACHIEVER AWARDS

Warrnambool College was well represented at this year’s Youth Achiever Awards with a number of students being recognised for outstanding achievements in their chosen fields. Tobin Varley (former student) won the overall male award for Warrnambool City while other notable winners included Lucas Essenwanger for achievements in sport, and David Parkes who received this year’s Arts/Culture award. The College’s students were also a large part of the ceremony with Declan Primmer (former student) providing the Junior Warrnambool City Council Mayoral address, while Jess Benter, Aislinn Primmer and Tom O’Sullivan were also on hand to present awards.
Welcome to STS Student Exchange

High School students from all over the world dream about living and studying in Australia. The lucky ones arrive every year, in January or in July, for their student exchange program, thanks to the generosity of our volunteer host families. Many people experience a new country by travelling, others choose to be host parents or host siblings to an exchange student. Join them and experience cultural exchange in your own home! Every year we welcome students from Western Europe, Canada, South America and Thailand; they come here to attend one or two semesters at high school and live with a volunteer host family. By opening your heart and your home to an exchange student, your family will make a significant difference to the life of a young person eagerly waiting to come to our country.

WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE?

Your responsibility is to welcome the student as a member of your family and to provide the same care & support you give to your own children. We ask that you provide a bed and two to three meals a day. The student is expected to fully participate in the family’s daily life, including participating in the same chores you expect from your own children. The student is responsible for covering costs such as the school uniform and all other school equipment, transport to and from school, phone calls, Internet, toiletries, clothing and any other personal items, school trips and holiday trips if applicable. STS ensures that all students have comprehensive health, travel and personal liability insurance cover. STS also takes care of all school arrangements and provides local support to all students and their host families.

WHO CAN BE HOST PARENTS?

Our host families come from all walks of life. What they have in common is an interest in other cultures and a desire to share their family life. Your family can live in a house or in an apartment, in a city or in the countryside. Retired couples, single parents, couples with or without children, couples with primary school children and couples with teenagers are all welcome to apply. Please note that no payment or financial compensation can be provided to our volunteer host families, a common rule for registered student exchange organisations to ensure that selected families want to host the student for the cultural exchange experience only.

Semester and Year students are due to arrive July 2016.

Please direct enquires to Warrnambool College staff member, Judy Cavanough.
The College will be offering an opportunity for students and families to attend a performance of the famous Rodgers and Hammerstein musical 'The Sound of Music' during the Melbourne season at the Regent Theatre. This production is being described as 'a lavish family treat' and includes all the well known favourites such as: Edelweiss, Climb Ev'ry Mountain, Do-re-mi, Sixteen going on seventeen. Maria will be played by Amy Lehpamer and the Captain by Cameron Daddo.

**Performance date:** Thursday 19th of May at 7.30pm

**Departure time:** the coach will depart from the College at 1.30 pm

**Payment in full:** by the end of Term 1

If you have any questions relating to the trip please feel free to email or phone the College and speak to Assistant Principal Emma Miller.

Tickets are available for students and family members to attend. Ticket price includes A reserve seats to a night performance and coach transfer. There are 50 tickets reserved and these will be allocated to the first 50 students to pay $85 (total cost). Name and bookings can be made through the main College office. Year 10 students who will be on camp on the night of the 19th of May can pay a reduced fee to attend the performance.
Community Notices / Useful Information

Powercor Schools Incentive Program

Powercor Tour de Depot is returning to Warrnambool on Sunday 10 April 2016 and this year you have the chance to win up to $5,000 for your school!

This new initiative, designed especially for local schools, is a great opportunity for students and teachers to get involved in a fun community bike ride and festival, while raising much-needed funds for a local charity.

This year we are proud to be partnering with Standing Tall. Standing Tall is an early intervention, school-based mentoring program dedicated to identify students who are at risk of disengagement from the opportunities offered to them and potentially leaving school without a complete education.

Standing Tall is a unique program that aligns with Powercor’s values of succeeding together, being the best you can be, and being community minded.

Your school is invited to register, participate and fundraise as a team for Powercor Tour de Depot. The school that raises the most funds, or has the highest number of registered participants will win a prize pool of up to $5,000.

To participate in the Powercor Schools Incentive Program, all you need to do is register at http://bit.ly/1QAvnT.

One of the Tour de Depot team members will then be in touch to get your school set up and ready to fundraise!

This is your chance to get involved in the Powercor Tour de Depot, where together we can make a real difference in our community.

I CAN Teens Camp

Friday 15 – Sunday 17 April 2016

A camp for 14-18 year olds on the Autism Spectrum in Warrnambool and Surrounds

• Have Fun • Make new friends on the Spectrum • Say ‘I CAN’

DATE: Friday 15 – Sunday 17 April 2016
VENUE: Kangaroo小姐姐, Great Ocean Road, Princetown, Victoria
COST: $500
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: southwest.ican.net (by 18 March 2016)
CONTACT: southwest.ican.net with any questions

I CAN South West is the regional network of CAN Network, a national not-for-profit organisation founded on the principles of Autism Aspergers, Asperger’s Syndrome and Autism. For more information: southwest.ican.net

I CAN South West is the regional network of CAN Network – Australia’s first social enterprise founded by people with Autism. CAN South West is a Mercy partner in Warrnambool, Victoria.

A referral form MUST be completed to enrol in the program.

CHANGING GEARS

Need some support to get your learners? Living in the City of Warrnambool or Moyne Shire?

FREE 4 day program which includes the cost of your learners test.

Then Changing Gears is for YOU!

PROGRAM:

Monday 20 June - Wednesday 22 June -
Assisted study and activities to help you prepare to take your learners including: interactive activities & games, Pre - accredited training

Thursday 23 June -
Take the test (cost is included in the program)

When: Monday 20 June - Thursday 23 June
Where: Brophy (Time Sb) 
Bookings Essential, Limited Spaces
Closes June 2
Trudy McLeod: 56601495
John Keats: 56601183
Nicole Wood: nwood@warrnambool.vic.gov.au

*Please make sure that you have sufficient identification to sit the test!
**SICK BAY**

Any parents picking their child up from the sick bay will need to enter via the Russells Creek entrance and drive past the pool and follow the signs located on the school buildings. There is a short term car park near the new climbing tower. Please follow the signs to the location of the sick bay.

**Uniform Shop**

Normal Trading Hours:
- Tuesday & Thursday: 8.30am – 11am
- Saturday: 9.30am – 12noon

Contact Lorraine or Kerryn on
PH: 5561 1947 for any enquiries

Please note: the Uniform Shop has moved location.

The new location is at the front of the hall, just up from the main door.

**CSEF & State Schools Relief Uniform Initiative Forms**

Any parents who hold a health care card and who have not filled out a Camp, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) form for this year, please follow the link to print a form. Once completed, please drop it into the front office. http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/programs/health/csefapplicationform.pdf

State Schools Relief Uniform Initiative is only available to parents of students who are going into year 7 and hold a health care card. If you have not filled out one of these forms, they are available from the front office.