A message from an Executive Member – ‘It’s Important to Lead With Coherence’ (Michael Fullan and Joanne Quinn)

My name is Linda Mooseek and I am the Principal at Nullawarre and District Primary School. I am extremely proud to be an active member of the Warrnambool and District Network of Schools, that has such a long history of providing quality State education and which is so strongly supported by our local community.

On behalf of the Executive Team, I would like to welcome you to the fourth publication of the Warrnambool and District Network of Schools collaborative, high interest, and stimulating quarterly newsletter.

It is an exhilarating and exciting time to be involved in education, and the year to-date has certainly been a busy one. The Warrnambool and District Network of Schools has become renowned for its commitment to teaching and learning excellence and has been working with the government in helping to roll out best practice in line with the Education State.

The Principals within this network are engaged in a vibrant learning Community of Practice. This year we are focusing our learning around the key messages from Michael Fullan and Joanne Quinn – ‘Coherence: The Right Drivers in Actions for Schools, Districts, and Systems’. "Collaboration as an end in itself is a waste of time. Groups are powerful, which means they can be powerfully wrong”. As a network we are busy working through strategies and processes to ensure that we do get new Education State key elements and visions ‘Right!’ The key to success for this is:

- Communication between leaders, staff, and the community at large,
- A shared understanding of how it can contribute to the growth and learning of our students,
- A desire to step outside of our comfort zones and try something that research supports.

Fullan and Quinn write, "there is only one way to achieve greater coherence, and that is through purposeful action and interaction, working on capacity, clarity, precision of practice, transparency, monitoring of progress, and continuous correction."

The vision for the Education State is to build an education system that fosters excellence and improves outcomes for every child and young person in every community, regardless of background, circumstances
or postcode. The Education State is an aspiration that is motivating and inspiring all schools, teachers and community members within our network.

The Warrnambool Network of Schools is striving forward to ensure all schools are striving for excellence in academic achievement and promoting the development of the whole child through strong co-curriculum. We educate our students to be enthusiastic, curious learners who know and understand themselves as individuals and productive community members. We are proud of the fact that the students who attend our local Government Schools are resilient, numerate users of multiple literacies and socially competent.

Our schools are purpose built for learning and open to all the community. Our aim is to prepare students to meet the challenges of an ever-changing global society, where they will have the skills, values, understandings and courage to undertake a positive, productive and rewarding role in that world. Student achievement and student wellbeing are the fundamental pursuits of all network schools. We firmly believe that given sufficient support and challenge, all students will learn and succeed regardless of their disability or personal circumstances. So to find out more...contact one of our many local schools within the network. Details can be found on our website page (www.warrnamboolnetwork.com).

We wish all of the student leaders presenting their Community Projects at the Student Leaders Congress Celebration Night on Thursday July 14 all the best! Our network is proud to be leading this project as we strive to provide high-quality, relevant and challenging educational experiences for all our students. An appreciation must also be forwarded to Simon Perry and Daniel Watson for being the major drivers behind this fabulous leadership opportunity.

Enrollment Week for Foundation Children – 2017 has begun. We welcome you to contact your closest Government School so that you can learn more about your school or to arrange a visit. Our Government Schools ensure that ‘Every Child is given Every Opportunity to Shine!’

“Your children are not your children. They are the sons and daughters of Life’s longing for itself. They come through you but not from you, And though they are with you, yet they belong not to you. You may give them your love but not your thoughts. For they have their own thoughts. You may house their bodies but not their souls, For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.”

Kahlil Gibran

Kind Regards,

Linda Mooseek
Executive Team Member
Warrnambool and District Network of Schools
On Friday the 29th of April Warrnambool West Primary School celebrated our 50th Anniversary of Education. During the day our students ‘stepped back’ to 1966 and participated in several fun and educational activities that represented the era in which our school first opened. Playing Twister (invented in 1966) and heralding in the ‘space race’ by making water rockets, were a couple of favourites. Many students and staff were adorned in ‘garb’ from 1966. In the evening we opened our doors to our school community, past and present, and commemorated our 50th year. Our guests enjoyed a free BBQ dinner, Rock n Roll and Irish dancing, a Scotch Finger biscuit eating competition, fantastic school history displays, live 60’s music, free carnival rides and much more.

We all had an amazing time and revelled in sharing our memories of our fantastic school. We all now look forward to creating many more wonderful memories and continuing to provide an educational environment that is **safe, supportive and inclusive** for many years to come.

*During the day it was ‘back to 1966’ for our students (and our staff) as we celebrated our 50th year. We played popular games (knuckles, Twister and table top arcade games), made macaroni necklaces, wrote with chalk on chalk boards, tried to use traditional ink and nib pens, danced the Twist and the Mashed potato and made ‘water rockets’. We had quite a few ‘little groovers’ dress up for the occasion.*

1. Our current Principal and Barbara, the daughter of our ‘first Principal’.
2. ‘Vintage’, our staff Rock Band.
3. & 4. Fantastic school history displays.
5. Warrnambool Rock n Roll Dancers.
6. Retro Carnival attractions and rides.
8. KIWANIS and CLONTARF students assisted with our family BBQ.
9. One of our original Prep students cutting our cake with two of our current Prep students.
Positive People @ Jamo is a wellbeing framework that has been written for our school that explicitly teaches 34 areas of wellbeing over the school year. Our students, staff and school community are the core of the framework. Our students thoughts, feelings and personalities are the topics and the content that we cover. Building authentic relationships and allowing for meaningful conversations are the foundations of Positive People.

The Five ways to wellbeing model (as developed by the National Economics Foundation) are included in the overall structure; Connect, Be active, Take notice, Keep Learning, Give.

Sessions are based on this model and supported by positive psychology content (including values and life skills). Sessions are completed in a circle time manner, in triads, individually and also through homework tasks that involved our students loved ones.

Examples of wellbeing areas that make up our framework are— gratitude, building relationships, curiosity, random acts of kindness, inclusion, optimism, honesty, determination, dealing with disappointment, adapting to change, empathy, compassion and many more.

Our vision:
1. That each of our staff and students will have the skills to monitor and enhance their own wellbeing. So that they may flourish and reach their full potential. Wellbeing is available to all.
2. To have a concise framework that staff, students and the school community can relate to, and actively apply. (Wellbeing can be explicitly taught)
3. As a school community, value the long term importance of a healthy body and mind.
4. To involve parents, community in this framework. Through homework discussion tasks and information sessions

Why? The research?  Our overall aim is to reduce these statistics in our community!

- 14% of children and young people have experiences mental health problems. Only 25% of these young people access treatment (Sawyer, et al 2001)
- 26% of adolescents will experience significant mental health problems (AIHW, 2011)
- Suicide is the leading cause of death for 15-34 year olds, worldwide. (ABS, 2013)
- 75% of all mental health conditions start before the age of 25 (Kessler, et al. 2007)
- 38% of 15-17 year olds indicated that they were very or extremely concerned about coping with stress (Mission Australia, 2013)
- 45% of adults experience a mental illness in their lifetime.
- More Australians died from suicide last year than from road accidents. Leading cause of death of 15-44 year olds.

Helping shape happy humans who have the skills to take on the world!
**Feature School: Warrnambool East**

**BRIDGE SCHOOLS PROJECT**

Developing Partnerships | Building global relationships | Increasing intercultural understanding

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**First steps**

As part of an 18 month plan to establish our global partnership, selected classes in prep and 3/4 will be creating ‘Flat Travelers’ (paper cutouts of students’ faces attached to a drawing of themselves) for Erny and Elisabeth to take home to their students to give our students a virtual two week home stay which will be documented as a digital story. We will in turn receive our Indonesian partners Flat Travelers and provide the same experience.

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**Exciting beginnings**

This year at WEPS, we have begun to implement an Indonesian program into our curriculum. Part of our vision was to build partnerships within our community and eventually globally to help structure a long lasting and successful program. With this vision in mind, we applied to be part of the Indonesia-Australia BRIDGE schools partnerships, and we are thrilled to have been accepted and now engaged in this exciting opportunity. This involved two of our staff, Chelsea Aberline and Brianna Kavanagh, to partake in a four day professional development in Melbourne to build teacher capacity in Asia and Australia’s engagement with Asia and engage students in being an Asia Capable School.

The BRIDGE (Building Relations through Intercultural Dialogue and Growing Engagement) program, in conjunction with Asia Education Australia is in its ninth year of successfully establishing Australia-Indonesia school partnerships.

One of the most rewarding and beneficial aspects of the program is the opportunity to establish authentic global relationships between staff and students to support the development of our intercultural understanding and knowledge. As part of building relationships, we have warmly welcomed our guests, Erny Pianuang and Elisabeth Neot, from our new sister school in Kupang City, Timor, Indonesia. The vision of their home stay and school visit with two of our teachers is to build initial relationships, take part in creating and planning our school-school partnership, develop their intercultural understanding, build their ICT skills and knowledge and experience Australian education in action.

With this new connection and continual communication, WEPS are equipped with the tools and support to develop a whole school sustainable and engaging Indonesian program that will provide rich, authentic learning experiences.
Warrnambool Special Developmental School is a centre of excellence providing individualised programs for students with intellectual disability.

The school caters for children aged between 5 and 18 in a small group environment in line with the Victorian Department of Education Curriculum (the Victorian Curriculum). Each student has an Individual Learning Plan.

The school is divided into 4 sub-schools, (Junior Primary (P-2); Senior Primary (3-6); Junior Secondary (7-9); and Senior Secondary (10-12)). Each sub-school is led by a leading teacher. This leadership team, together with the principal and assistant principal, is fully supported by the staff team and the school community.

Students are well supported by teachers, therapists and teacher assistants. Classes are fully engaged in learning activities that are improving outcomes for individuals. Some of our students have dual enrolment at a mainstream school when this has been deemed beneficial for the student’s learning program.

The oldest students, who are deemed capable, undertake components of the Certificate in Work Education, as well as being involved in a comprehensive work experience program.
Woodford Primary School has been a hive of activity during the first half of the year. Some of the events and activities at the school have included:

Weekly Chinese Language lessons for all students involve a variety of fun learning. The students have enjoyed using the Chinese calligraphy brushes to write the characters. Later in the year a group of Woodford Students and Staff will be travelling to Shanghai to visit our sister school’s in Nanjing and Changchun.

The Junior school recently visited Tower Hill as part of their unit of work on Australia. They had a fun day bushwalking, boomerang throwing and painting. During their visit they learnt about local Aboriginal history.

Woodford Primary School has a strong focus on S.T.E.M (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) learning in its curriculum. Students in the senior grades are able to select elective subjects each term on a chosen STEM topic. Some of the topics in 2016 have included; Coding, Wearable Tech, Drones, Outdoor Adventurers and Robotics. In a recent survey completed by the students their Elective STEM lessons are a favourite for nearly all students.
Interschool Fun: Mini Makers in Action

Three Warrnambool Network Schools represented the Western Region at the Mini Maker Fair at Swinburne University, Wantirna Campus on March 15th and 16th. A bus-load of students and their teachers from Brauer College, Woodford Primary School and Woolsthorpe Primary School were invited to the event to share the work they have been doing to improve student learning outcomes using technology.

Two teachers from Brauer College, Delia Jenkins and Will King, have been working with digital technology over a number of years. Delia demonstrated their “Moat Boats Paddle Battle”, with vessels designed using 3D programs such as Tinkercad and Blender and powered by rubber bands. Students researched their design and then tested them in a moat constructed of plastic channels. Brauer College also ran a Sphero workshop where participants learnt how to program the Sphero robotic balls. Will King has been actively using location-based learning and gaming in education and demonstrated how Minecraft could be used in conjunction with little Bits to build devices that can interface between real worlds and virtual worlds.

At the Mini Maker Fair, Woolsthorpe Primary School teachers Sarah Daly (Year 5/6) and Laura Cumming (Year 4/5) together with their students, demonstrated drones and Dash and Dot robot programming. The students led “kids teaching kids” workshops to create a pathway and guide their robots through. This process of adapting the teacher’s lesson to a peer-led workshop and students developing their presentation skills has led to opportunities for teamwork and leadership. Sarah says “I am really proud of these students when they step up and adapt to the new environment and an unfamiliar audience. Students develop their confidence when they share their ideas and skills with their peers.”

Woodford Primary School was a participant in the “Science Specialist in Primary Schools” program in 2015. They received funding from the Victorian Government to provide specialist science teachers, professional learning for all staff, access to a variety of science events and a substantial budget to fund resources. Teacher Ben Logan (Year 5/6) and his students ran MakeyMakey workshops, with demonstrations of how to turn apples and bananas into game controllers.

If you are interested in professional learning to integrate science, technology, engineering and mathematics activities at your school, please contact Britt Gow at Hawkesdale P12 College. (03) 5560 7225 gow.britt.bg@edumail.vic.gov.au.
BioCATS* Geelong Football Club Excursion

On Thursday May 26th twenty eight Koorie students from Hamilton, Heywood, Port Fairy, Koroit, Warrnambool West, Warrnambool East, Cudgee, Warrnambool Special Developmental School, Colac and Elliminyt Primary Schools participated in an excursion to Simonds Stadium. Also twenty eight students from Bendigo Primary Schools attended the day.

Students got to do a range of science/sports based activities throughout the day. This will be an annual excursion for year 5/6 students.

It was a very enjoyable day for all that started at Flagstaff Hill, catching the bus at 7:30am and returning around 5:30pm.

Written by Warrnambool Koorie Engagement Support Officers.

* BioCATS is a partnership program between BioLAB and Geelong CATS to help students learn about the science and maths of football and career pathways in sport.

Thank you to Koorie Education, South Western Victoria Region, for permission to publish this article. This article was first published in Karratpeeteen (Message Stick) Indigenous Newsletter, June 2016, p.6.
Upcoming Events

Brauer College’s
Production of
Seussical Jr.

Music by
STEVEN FLAHERTY

Lyrics by
LYNN AHRENS

Book by LYNN AHRENS and STEPHEN FLAHERTY
Co-conceived by LYNN AHRENS, STEPHEN FLAHERTY and ERIC IDLE

Based on the works of DR. SEUSS
By arrangement with HAL LEONARD Australia Pty. Ltd. Exclusive agent for Music Theatre International NY

Brauer College, Anderson Theatre

School Performances
Wednesday 10th Aug 10am and 1.30pm
Thursday 11th August 10am and 1.30pm
Friday 12th August 1pm
Contact Paul McFadden
Ph: 5560 3812
Email: mcfadden.paul.r@edumail.vic.gov.au

Public Performances
August 11th and 12th—7.30pm
Adults $15
Concession $10
Tickets available from brauer.vic.edu.au
or the College Office

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Brauer College, Anderson Theatre
Friday August 19th, 7 pm
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- Ongoing support to your school via financial literacy programs
- Easy deposit via school pick up or in branch deposits

At South West Credit we believe healthy living and healthy finances go hand in hand and we want to help your children develop healthy savings habits for life.

Our Active Saver Account is a great savings account on its own offering a fantastic interest rate to boost your child’s account balance, however if your child is involved in the Healthy Moves Program at a participating local primary school, then they can be rewarded with up to $40 annually for taking part in the Healthy Moves Program!

TO FIND OUT MORE PHONE: (03) 5560 3900 OR VISIT WWW.SWCREDIT.COM.AU/ACTIVESAVER

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ATTENTION ALL BUSINESSES IN THE WARRNAMBOOL DISTRICT

Do you want to reach the local school market with your goods and services?

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST are being invited from businesses who wish to participate in BUSINESS SPONSOR PARTNERSHIP with the Warrnambool and District Network of Schools (made up of 19 primary and secondary government schools within the Warrnambool district). Various sponsor partnerships are available.

All funds raised go towards additional educational support services.

Please visit: www.warrnamboolnetwork.com for more information. Email your Expression of Interest to: grasmere.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au. Expressions of Interest must be made by 5 pm on Thursday June 30th 2016.

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Cudgee Primary School
Grasmere Primary School
Hawkesdale P-12 College
Koroit and District Primary School
Macarthur Primary School
Merrivale Primary School
Mortlake P-12 College
Nullawarre Primary School
Panmure Primary School
Port Fairy Consolidated School
Warrnambool College
Warrnambool Primary School
Warrnambool Special Development School
Warrnambool East Primary School
Warrnambool West Primary School
Woodford Primary School
Woolsthorpe Primary School

The Warrnambool and District Network of Schools newsletter is published in December, March, June and September.