



# Pyramid Hill College

10th October, 2017

## Diary

### October

- 9,10,11 Yr 234 Sovereign Hill camp
- 12 LMR Aths Bendigo
- 13 Bugs Blitz Yr F-8
- 16 Foundation transition 9-11 am
- 17 Health Expo Yr 9/10/  
Dental Van (note change)  
School Council
- 18 Walk to School
- 19 T20Blast—Year 5/6
- 20 Little Learners
- 26 Yr 9/10 Science Boort
- 28 Fiesta

### November

- 1 NCD Bowls/Shooting
- 3 House Athletics Sports
- 7 Melbourne Cup Day holiday
- 13-17 Year 5/6 Canberra

**Thursday,  
12th October**

**Immunising for  
Year 10 students  
At the College**

**Friday 13th October**

**Bugs Blitz**

**At Terrick Terrick  
National Park**

**Check what you need  
to bring and wear**

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## Principal's News

Welcome back to term four. We hope that all students had a great holiday break! This term sees Rebecca Nunn taking over the F/1 classroom from Kiralee Pascoe who is on Maternity Leave. We welcome Mrs Joy Colvin, who will be job sharing with June Smith in the Office. Marty Halliday is on leave for the first four weeks of term.

### INTERIM REPORTS

On the last day of term Interim Reports were distributed to students. Should you wish to discuss any aspect of the report with a staff member, please contact us at the College.

### YEAR 2, 3 AND 4 CAMP

Early Monday morning, our cohort of year 2, 3 and 4 students assembled for their Sovereign Hill Camp. Throughout the duration of the camp students will learn about life in the 'Gold Rush' era as well as a visit to the Ballarat Wildlife Park. They will participate in a number of practical activities including panning for gold and a tour of the Red Mine. At the time of writing this students had a good night's sleep and were excited about the activities ahead on day two.



### LMR ATHLETICS

On Thursday, the following students will represent the College in the LMR Athletics to be held at LUBAC in Bendigo:

- Kaide: Discus and Shot Put
- Jorja: Javelin
- Gad: Javelin
- Fionne: 1500m
- Ed: Discus

Students will travel by Community Bus to this event, departing at 8.30am.

### BUGS BLITZ

Students from Foundation to Year Eight will participate in the Bugs Blitz activities on Friday at the Terrick Terrick National Park. Students will do a number of activities throughout the day which will include:

- Bone trails
- Bug Search
- Wildlife Painting
- Park exploration with a Park Ranger
- Learning about Native Bees

Students will need to take:

- Lunch and Snacks
- Water (a couple of drink bottles)
- Old Clothes (no singlets).
- Gators will be worn on legs
- Hat and wear Sturdy Footwear

### LODDON HEALTH EXPO

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October students in year nine and ten will participate in the Loddon Youth Health Expo to be held in Boort. Please refer to today's note for all of the information about the day. Students may wear Casual clothes to this event.

Sean McCann, Assistant Principal

## Year 10 Students—Anh Do

On the first Sunday of the school holidays, the majority of our Year 10 students ventured to Bendigo to see Anh Do's 'The Happiest Refugee' live! As this text was studied in class, it was the perfect finale to our unit. We were lucky to have acquired seats to this sold out show and had prime position, five rows from the front!

The content was excellent; not only did he talk about the material in his book, but he added extra information to further allow us into his world as a refugee in Australia.

The overwhelming feeling from the students at the conclusion of the show was that Anh's delivery was magical, inspirational and heartfelt.

Not only was he funny but he was also sincere and passionate about his life, and whilst we laughed, there were also moments of sadness and reflection.

Anh truly proved to be the 'happiest refugee' and as usual, our students made best use of the unique experience to hear from the man himself, how he transitioned from refugee to true blue Aussie.



## Chaplain's Chat

Hello Everyone in our school community!

This term in chaplaincy we are running some great programs to help our students connect with each other, and feel good about themselves.

Tuesday mornings the Year 5/6 class are participating in a weekly program called 'Fantastic Friendship' that has a positive message and sets a weekly 'challenge' for the students. This week's challenge was called 'secret friend'. Each student received another from the class that they were challenged to do 3 random acts of kindness for. Next week they all find out who their 'secret friend' for the week was. This activity is based around the idea that we can do kind deeds without expecting anything in return, to 'spread kindness' around to others in our community!

Wednesday lunchtimes in the gym we're running 2 handball/downball interactive competitions (a junior and senior comp) for all interested students. Some students will be refereeing, while others competing, to gain points towards a Grand Prix of a \$10 local voucher.

Friday lunchtimes from Years 5 and up, we will be running a 'drama club' program where interested students can practise skills such as improvisation, spontaneous reactions, dramatic speaking, monologues, and small sections of plays.

Hope you all had a refreshing break!

**Melanie Symes,**  
Chaplain



**Term 4—Week 1**  
**7 Wednesday**  
**Lunchtimes in**  
**the Gym!**

## Year 7-10 News

### 9/10 Work Placement

I would like to congratulate all of our Year 9/10 students who took advantage of being able to undertake a formal work placement. From the employer point of view the placements and conduct was all exceptional. As always our employers were delighted to have such mature and well-mannered students. From the student point of view, the responses to their week of work were very insightful. A few of which I will put here anonymously:

'I improved many skills, such as my communication and teamwork, and I enjoyed it so much. I would like to go back!'

'I enjoyed working in my workplace, learning how to handle money, cooking, serving people, and how to close the shop at the end of the night. It definitely opened my eyes to what happens in the hospitality industry.'

'Interacting with customers was a highlight for me.'

'I really enjoyed this experience and have been asked to go back in summer, so I am very keen for that to happen.'

'Next time, I want to organise a hands-on job, rather than sitting down all day.'

'I had so much fun and learnt so much dissecting a foetus, ovaries etc, that I really want to hold a scalpel in the future and help animals get better.'

'My job was very repetitive, but it was good being forced to wake up earlier, and being made to get off my phone!'

'I liked that my employer answered all my questions. I didn't like that there were no chairs to sit on while I was working.'

'It was tiring, but awesome.'

'It was great and really hands-on. I think I might have found my future in the dentistry field.'

### Taxes and Running a Small Business

Tomorrow all of the Year 9/10 students will be taking advantage of a workshop being run by Sunraysia TAFE. Whilst not everyone will run their own business, there is a high chance they will and Taxation is unavoidable, so it will be good to hear all about record keeping for this purpose. The Neighbourhood House is also putting on lunch so it should be a good day out.

### Health Expo

Next Tuesday all Year 9/10 students will be going to Boort for the annual Youth Health Expo. Notes for this day will be sent home this week.

### Uniform

Please be mindful of the uniform requirements put in place by our College Council. We are seeing a lot more students wearing sneakers and weekend shoes to school which are not safe and most probably not at all satisfactory for growing feet!

Mrs L Talbot  
7-10 Neighbourhood Leader



Early Learners'  
Program  
@ PHC

Inviting all 0-5 year olds  
and carers to come along  
and join in the fun  
NOW on Friday,  
20th October

(due to Bugs Blitz on the 13th)

Come and explore  
**"The World of Art"**  
Pyramid Hill College from  
**11.15—12.15**

A snack and drink will be  
provided.

This is a Pyramid Hill College  
Community Program

There is no charge

A poster for the Drama Club. At the top, a yellow banner reads 'Calling all Pyramid Hill Students from Years 5 to 10!'. Below this, the text 'DRAMA CLUB' is written in large, blue, outlined letters. Underneath, 'FRIDAYS' is written in large, orange, outlined letters. A yellow box contains the time '1:20—1:50PM'. A red banner with white text says 'Term 4'. The background features silhouettes of people in various dramatic poses, some holding props, and stage lights.

### Breakfast Club

**Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays**  
**8.30 in the BER**

**All welcome**

### Homework Night

Every Monday

3.30—4.30

(Healthy Snack included)

Teacher assistance available

All students from Years 5-10 welcome

## Kids need to fail more if they are to succeed

Traditionally, schools and, in recent years, parents have excelled at celebrating student success. “Top marks”, “Dux of the school” and “Perfect score!” are the types of aspirations that teachers and parents have for kids.

But to many students academic success means “Don’t stuff it up!”, “No mistakes please!” and “You’ve got to get it right!”

It’s been widely reported that Australian kids are anxious, perfectionistic and risk averse. They just don’t feel comfortable with failure. And who could blame them? We’ve hidden failure and disappointment from them for far too long. In recent years there’s been a common perception that failure damages people. Unfortunately, this is to the detriment of young people’s future success.

Failure is an integral part of learning anything significant, challenging or worthwhile. Resilient learners realise that they don’t always get things right the first or even second time but with effort and practice they will master skills, find solutions and gain the knowledge they need to succeed.

As reported in *The Age*, (failure, if handled properly, provides kids with the feedback they need to help them achieve excellence. Yes, kids need positive feedback too ... but only when it’s deserved. When we tell a child everything is wonderful when, in fact, his work is mediocre at best, we give him a false sense of achievement.

### Failure takes bravery

I’ve long been a fan of encouragement. What I mean by that is parents and teachers focusing their comments on the processes (effort, contribution, improvement) of what kids do rather than the outcomes. Encouragement places the locus of control onto the child, which is essential for resilience. That doesn’t mean that we avoid giving a child feedback if their work or behaviour isn’t up to scratch. By all means, we should inform kids when they need to lift their game, but this feedback needs to be provided respectfully and with sensitivity if we want it to be taken on board.

The real strength of encouragement is hidden in its French derivative, the verb *coure*: ‘to give heart’. Encouraging teachers and parents to somehow find a way to give their kids the courage to be imperfect. It takes a brave soul to make a mistake sometimes, particularly when others may be watching.

### Failure needs a supportive environment

It’s all very well to encourage kids to have a go but they won’t stretch themselves unless mistakes are truly accepted by the people that matter to them. A child won’t speak up in class when he’s unsure of the answer if he knows his classmates will laugh at his errors. Similarly, if kids are to take more learning and social risks they need to know that mistakes and stuff ups won’t be thrown back in

their faces at home by parents or siblings.

### Five simple ways to encourage kids to fail and celebrate errors

1. **Model failure:** Next time you break a plate when emptying the dishwasher, avoid negative language (“What a klutz!”) or catastrophizing (“This is the worst thing ever!”). It’s a plate. Stuff happens.
2. **Tell stories of failure:** We tend to be nostalgic of the past and tell kids of the good stuff when we talk about our childhoods. But kids love to hear the warts’n’all stories of the difficulties you faced and stuff-ups you made as a kid. It makes you more human and also gives them permission to do the same.
3. **Encourage them:** Develop a vocabulary around effort, improvement, contribution and enjoyment. Be your child’s cheerleader but don’t avoid giving feedback when necessary.
4. **Tell and show kids how to improve:** Feedback is always best when it has a teaching focus. So next time you pick up a child on their poor schoolwork or untidy bedroom, make sure you remind them how to do it right.
5. **Provide the time to fail and get it right:** Modern teachers and parents are time poor. Crowded curricula and busy lifestyles make us less tolerant of failure. But as anyone who has taught a young child to do up his or her shoelaces will know, some things can’t be rushed. Time and patience can be your best assets when helping kids to handle learning challenges.

Failure doesn’t sit comfortably with many of us, but it’s an essential element to success. The idea of a school setting aside a week to encourage their students to fail more may challenge our perceptions of the education process. But it’s a very timely, very smart idea that should be adopted and adapted by schools and families everywhere.