THE PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Newsletter – 4th term, 2014

End of year newsletters are sometimes used by organisations to boast about their achievements. When I go through our list of successes this year I can’t help but take the opportunity to do such a thing. And why not.

Back in January we had on our “to do” list the following tasks.

- Open the new Cafe Education campus
- Increase enrolments from 56 to 70 students
- Complete the schools strategic plan
- Apply for registration to become an RTO (Registered Training Organisation)
- Purchase a permanent site for the school

It was an ambitious agenda that would take much larger schools several years to complete, but I can report that the first three tasks are complete, the fourth very advanced, and the last perhaps only weeks away. Cafe education is now six months old and has really established itself as the focus for our older students, enabling 6 students to complete Certificates II & 8 students Certificates III in Retail as part of their VCAL course. It has been warmly welcomed by the local community as the place to meet, eat and chat. A big thanks to Catrina, Emma and Simone for all the time and energy they have contributed over the year.

The Cafe and also acquiring an extra room at the Box Hill Campus has meant we can accommodate extra students, and with enrolments now sitting at around 70 students for the next 12 months we will be a much more secure school.

The Strategic Plan for the school was finally approved by the School Council in September, and we now have a plan that outlines the path ahead for the next five years.

In May the School Council decided the learning outcomes of the Pathways students could be better delivered if we were registered as an RTO, where we could design and implement the program without relying on an outside agency. The process for registration is very time consuming, with complex compliance regulations the equivalent of a free trade agreement between two major industrial nations. However, Daniel Handler and Graeme Bird have taken this on, and I am confident we will be successful by the middle of next year.

Finally, the big one....a permanent home. I was hoping in this newsletter I could report we have ticked that box, but at the time of writing we are at the point where the valuations are in and we are about to enter the “haggling” phase with the Catholic Archdiocese. If there is any news I can assure people it will be posted on the school’s website immediately. Watch this space!

Staff

Mitch Musilin, the English and elective teacher at Box Hill, returned to the school at the start of the year after moving his family to Darwin at the end of 2009. He brought his passion for special education as well as considerable curriculum expertise, and has made a great contribution to the school. Sadly for us but happily for his family, he has decided that the attraction of the north is too great and so he will be moving back there next year. Thanks Mitch.
Principal’s report con’t….

His place will be taken by Gwen De Lacy, who this year has worked as a CRT and teaching assistant at both campuses. She also worked briefly at Berengarra as a drama/English teacher back in 1999 before family commitments took precedence. Welcome back Gwen!

School Survey
A big thanks to all students, staff, Council members, parents, and caregivers, for taking part in the LEAD online school survey. The participation rate was over 90% for the first three groups and 60% for the last, well above the average for all schools in the Independent sector. The survey results will be sent out in February and they will provide us with useful information when we plan for the years ahead.

Finally.....
To everyone in the school community I wish you all the best for the holidays and I will look forward to catching up in the New Year. Time for a break..............................

Pete

THINGS TO DO......................

I am sure you will appreciate that our records must be kept up to date. Especially emergency contacts and medical details.

For ongoing students, please ensure all details that have changed are handed in to the office. All details are kept strictly confidential.

Thank you and best wishes for Christmas and the new year,

Warm regards..........Janb

CRIBB FURNITURE

Help..........

The Cribb is in desperate need of new (old) couches.

We are hoping that anyone reading this, and is in the process of replacing their lounge furniture, might be able to donate them to us. We would truly love you to think about donating it to the school. Students enjoy sitting around on the couches at break time and lunch time.

Thank you in anticipation, from

All the students at Berengarra
THINGS TO DO....

2015 - 1ST TERM DATES
Staff return—Wed 28th January
Parent/student meeting, staff will phone you—29th & 30th January
Students return Box Hill—2nd February
Students finish—27th March at 12.30 p.m.

2015 - 2ND TERM DATES
Staff return—Monday 13th April
Students return—Tuesday 14th April
Students finish—Friday 19th June at 12.30—3 week break
Staff conference—July 6th—10th July inclusive

2015 - 3RD TERM DATES
Staff return - June 13th
Parent Teacher meetings - June 14th
Students return - July 15th
End of term 3 - 18th September

2015 - 4TH TERM DATES
Staff return - October 5th
Students return - October 6th
Students finish - December 4th
Parent/Teacher interviews - December, 7th—9th
Staff finish - December 11th
The music elective has been extremely successful with all the students that decided to have a go at the music elective.

Paul, Liv, Dylan, Flame and Alana learnt to play the Djembe (African Drum) with step by step instructions. They all managed to display a great beat.

We went through the basic technique of BASE and TONE and each student had the opportunity to put together a drum pattern and to work on the rhythm.

These skills were later put to a song chosen by the student and performed at the end of the elective. Flame and Alana displayed beautiful vocals which added a wonderful dimension to the elective.

THE PHOTO

Here is a picture of Paul, Alana, Flame and Okan (on guitar) performing a song. Each student worked very hard throughout the elective and I look forward to a continuation of the music program.

Best wishes

Okan.
MILL VALLEY RANCH 2014

On the 19\textsuperscript{th} November 2014, we headed off for a school camp at Mill Valley Ranch, a youth camp mostly run by volunteers. It was a 50 minute drive along the Monash Freeway when we finally arrived at Tynong North and were greeted by camp staff.

We were given a tour of the camp and its facilities and received information on our activities for the day. After that we had lunch, and went to unpack our bags. Our first activities started at approximately 2:00pm on Wednesday, We were divided into our groups, and headed off to our activities. The first activity for my group was canoeing. At first it was hard to steer the canoes but over the session it became easier. Overall, it was a very enjoyable activity.

Our next activity was horse riding, we were taught how to ride and steer the horses and the staff were very kind and helpful. The horse riding was my favourite activity out of all the activities that we did at camp.

Dinner was Sheppard’s Pie and it was very well prepared and a tasty meal that we all enjoyed. After dinner, we went on a bushwalk around the camp property and started to wind down for the night. Bedtime was approximately 10:15. Some of didn’t actually get to sleep until well after midnight though.

On Thursday, we woke up and had breakfast in the dining hall, and started our activities for the day. The first thing we did was archery. We all learned how to shoot the arrow and all enjoyed it very much. After archery, we did some more horse riding and also did an obstacle course. We had Chicken Kiev’s for dinner, and played a game of cricket before going to bed.

On Friday, Breakfast at 8:00 again; followed by a demonstration by one of the staff explaining how she trains the horses and process they go through to allow the general public to ride the horses.

At 1:00 we finally headed back to school, all tired but satisfied from all the fun we had at camp. The staff at Mill Valley Ranch were caring, professional and prepared the activities exceptionally well. Everyone at the Berengarra School had a great time, and we are looking forward to returning there in 2015.

By Jack.B

Jack L
**BERENGARRA CUP DAY - 2014**

Ham and cheese croissants with bubbly juice for breakfast. Many thanks to Sharyn and Lyn.

**Fashions on the field.** First prize to Ryhs, Second prize to Alex and third prize to Jordan.

**The horses are on the track.** 1st James & Kayn. 2nd Jack, B and Byron, 3rd Connor & Lucy.

The Berengarra Cup was held during the spring racing carnival.

Students and staff dressed up for the occasion in their fancy outfits.

Their were many wonderful hats, some of which were created in the Art room. Thanks to Anne and Fran they came up a treat.

The whole school went down to the park where students took part in fun races as well as the annual Berengarra Cup race.

We had judges for fashions on the field, the three legged race and the rolling race. Julio did a fine job with the loud hailer. Pete managed a 20 cent betting ring.

After the races we all enjoyed an afternoon of chicken sandwiches, scones with jam, cream and strawberries. Cup cakes were a special favourite. Thank you to Sharyn and Lyn for organising our luscious goodies.

Trophies were given to the winners. Fashions on the field winners were Rhys, Alex and Jordan.

The cup race was won by Kayn and James, 2nd were Jack and Byron. 3rd were the very competitive team of Connor and Lucy.

The three legged race was won by Byron and Lucy, they showed wonderful co-ordination by skipping the course together. 2nd place, Justin and Okan, with Noah and Adam coming in 3rd.

The very difficult race was won by Peter M. He did a great job, rolling in a straight line, as we saw with some contestants, which is very difficult to achieve. Some students went around in circles not knowing where they were going. Everyone laughed and it was all taken in good humour.
The Falling Star

In London

It was 9 o’clock in the morning and everyone was going to work or taking their kids to school. At 12 o’clock a meteor was sighted coming down to land in the water. People went to the railing to take a better look. I approached a person and asked a question “did you see the meteor land?” and he said “it looked really small but I heard a sound coming from it.

I said “what was it?”

He said “eeeeeeeeeuh”.

I heard a shout, and someone said “look”. We all saw something moving in the river heading for the docks. I ran over and saw the object coming up the ladder and started to climb out of the water. I got my camera ready for a picture and observed it was a small guy. I put the pieces together and realised that this guy was the meteor and his name was Mini Me.
MAN V’S WILD

Kayn and James

This photo was taken at Williamstown Beach for our Tuesday water sport elective during term Three.

This big Snapper was found on the beach as we were swimming and playing with the group. What a great picture, unfortunately we didn’t catch it.

Unfortunately we didn’t catch it.

Julio and Connor with “the catch of the day”...!!!!!!!!!

A MESSAGE TO ALL WHO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER BY MAIL........

For all the supporters of Berengarra that receive our newsletter, please be advised that we are wanting to get all recipients on to our Email listing. This would save us many dollars in postage. Stationery and handling. If you have an email address would you please email the school and advise. We are marching into the 21st century at a great rate.

Time to update ! !

Thankyou and best wishes from JanB

“DA CRIBB”

Da Cribb is a place to share stories, connect with others, and to get away from the hustle and bustle of the school yard. Over the past 6 months I have had the privilege of looking after Da Cribb during recess and lunch. Seeing the students laugh and have fun during their breaks has been wonderful. It has given me a chance to get to know the kids, and seen each individual’s personality come out. Next year we will miss some of the kid’s that are leaving that have made Da Cribb their sanctuary. I hope next year it will be a place where friendships are made, and student’s continue to VISIT

Damian Di Manno
School Counsellor
Here is Lucy having fun at the brand new Clip 'n Climb climbing centre in Richmond. The visually exciting arena immediately challenges you to fun up! There's 33 climbing challenges PLUS 2 extra, amp it up experiences - the Leap of Faith and Vertical Drop Slide. Every climb is equipped with the 'trublu autobelay' making it safe and easy to climb free of a belay buddy.

Cam, Alex and Taylor take on 'Rockin' Okan' in a friendly basketball game down at Box Hill Gardens. The students at Berengarra are given the opportunity to try out many different sporting facilities within the Box Hill area. This specific sporting area provides members of the public free use of a full sized basketball court, running track and two table tennis tables.
FROM THE ART ROOM WITH ANNE AND FRAN

This year in the art room we have been as busy as and during term 4.

We have seen the completion of t-shirts, clay figures, plaster masks and balsa wood cars.

T-shirt—screen printed by Jordan

The students have worked extremely hard to get their work finished, especially with the camp and other activities taking up some of their class time.

The t-shirt elective achieved some fantastic results. Wear them with pride.

During the year the students have experimented with many mediums and materials and I have been very pleased with their efforts. As always I am greatly appreciative of my co-worker Fran. She offers many different thoughts and ideas when helping our children. A big thank you to all the students and staff who have helped during the year and have a wonderful Christmas and holiday break. Stay safe and for those returning see you next year.

Anne

Adam, a picture of concentration.
GOODIES FROM THE KITCHEN

Hello from Sharyn - Food Technology teacher.

A new teacher always creates some “ups and downs” and this term has involved many of those, for staff and students! For the core subject, food technology students have enjoyed preparing, cooking and eating a wide variety of recipes such as choc chip cookies, sausage rolls, berry and white choc chip muffins, pizza, chocolate cupcakes, chicken fillet burgers with a milkshake, spaghetti Bolognese and Xmas cookies. By being involved in cooking students gain many skills that are transferable to life outside school such as organisation, knowledge of healthy cooking, experience using various tools and equipment, following written instructions and working together in a team. Well done to everyone for adjusting to the changes, I am looking forward to cooking with you all next year.

Another favourite was chocolate and vanilla cup cakes.

This term students have really enjoyed baking and decorating vanilla and chocolate cupcakes. We have practised various decorating techniques and the highlight was certainly the Cake Pops we created. The students really enjoyed the “rolling, dipping and sprinkling” that was involved and the results were really impressive.

Best wishes to you all.

MASTER CHEF’S IN THE KITCHEN

Teaya, Sharyn One of the many tasks for students to make this term were “cake pops”. Very much a favourite.

This involved the making of butter icing, mixing it with pre-prepared cake and rolling the mixture into a small ball, placing the ball on a pop stick, dipping them into melted white and milk chocolate and finished decorating with coloured cake decorating treats.

Alana’s were so yummy

Connie is a great cook

River is very proud of his achievements I can personally vouch for the appearance and taste. I was a lucky recipient. They were FANTASTIC.
BRILLIANT BERENGARRA ..................... the year that was... 2014
THE CLASS OF 2014—
Taylor Vandenberg, Alex Coffman, Connor de Boer, Edward McNamara, Will & Jordan (hiding)
Jack Bennett, James Michalas,
Paul Davies, Ben Shears, Jack Lowrie, Rhys Quinn-Jones, Kayn Milward, Ben Verde, Cam Bolger, Sara Davis, Connie Hulsen,
Emma Hodson,(youth worker placement) Noah Poole, Alana Fisicaro, Bradley Radford-Lazzara, Teaya Chacksfield, Adam Zoethout Jake Sadler, Byron Finney, Riley Dimech, Will Jacod.
INSERT: Ansel Ngan, Alyssa Dimitriou, Spencer Killen, Lucy Gleeson.


STAFF -
Mitch, Anne, Okan, Pete, Graeme, Justin,, Jan, Lyn, Cheryl, Bec, Gwen, Fran, Julio.

ABSENT - Sharyn, Ros. Damian
Message from ‘da boss’

It is hard to believe that another year is coming to a close and 2014, like the past 4 years has been one of progress and huge changes.

We have consolidated the VCAL/sbat program, continued to engage the young people in our care and had some activities that have made school interesting. The one thing I would like to highlight is we have finally opened Café Ed., the extension to our social enterprise Cafeducation.

17 years ago when I started at Berengarra I had a pipedream that the school could have a venture that could support young people into work as well as an integral part of our program. With the support of some great staff this ‘dream’ has become a reality and whilst my original idea was based upon a farm and animals, a coffee shop is still an exciting alternative.

If anyone believed that when we started the Pathways Program 4 years ago, on the mezzanine floor in JCC, that we would have opened a venture that trains 24 young people each year to achieve Certificate 2 and 3, to support them with 300 hours of paid employment, to give them the confidence to take that next step, BUT above all for them to realise that they have great skills, .....that they have a lot to offer, .....that they are good people and they are capable of achieving something with their schooling.

They may have thought that I was dreaming and that it was not possible or could not be done. Guess what it is and the Café is proof of what can be done.

I wish you all a happy Christmas and a safe new year. For those students that are re-turning, have a good break and we look forward to seeing you in 2015.

For those that are moving on to new adventures, best wishes to you all, and please keep in touch.

Regards.....Graeme Barwise and staff.