

HARVESTER'S LITERACY PROGRAM EXPANDS

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With a new year in full swing Harvester Technical College would like to formally welcome our new Literacy Specialist—Kristy Simmons on board. With an exciting new 'Repair Shop' Literacy program running students will be able to receive targeted and tailored tuition specific to student needs building on their overall core skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening.

Kristy Simmons brings with her a wealth of experience from her previous role in a specialist educational setting and looks forward to helping students "enjoy being in the classroom and having fun with their learning", says Kristy.

All staff and parents are encouraged to donate any second hand books, magazines, atlases and learning manuals to the school as part of our reading initiative aimed at encouraging students to read in and outside of the classroom.



SCHOOL SPORTS

Rugby Training!

Announcement: Harvester 's rugby cohort have kicked off with a flying start embarking on their weekly rugby training in preparation for their inter-school sports comp in Sunbury April 23rd. May the best team win!



CARPENTRY PROJECTS

Intermediate and Senior Carpentry students are demonstrating strong competency in their workshop classes as they churn out their first major project. As students continue to apply their knowledge of building practices and refine their skills using tools the carpentry teachers are proud to say students are working well. Turn to page 3!

VET PROGRAMS MOVE FULL STEAM AHEAD

Pi!

Engineering students are moving full steam ahead with their class projects. Check it out on page 6!



Technology staff- Nick Maxwell and Aaron Powter join forces at Harvester to contribute their skills to the Sunshine College Pi competition.



Principals Report

After a long hot summer, the College community has successfully settled in to the serious business of applied learning projects and core skills course work. We have now completed our new Engineering theory room as well as the new enclosed classrooms on the Western side of our original building. We still wait with great anticipation to take possession of the new Trade Training Centre (TTC) which should be ready to go by the beginning of Term 2. Our VET programs have been temporarily impacted upon by this delay with some students travelling to Kangan Institute at either Broadmeadows or Richmond to participate in either the Certificate II in Electrotechnology or Hairdressing. Other students for both Engineering and Carpentry have been using temporary workshops at HTC. In all cases, our students are to be congratulated for responding well to these arrangements and have cooperated very positively with staff during this challenging time.

Good news stories about our students are always very welcome. Recently we have had several visiting school and community groups through the College. They come to hear firsthand about our innovative approach to integrated VCAL and VET programs as well as to check out our new TTC. It is very pleasing, as a leader, to hear them remark on how well presented and engaged our students are when we visit class groups.

Also a couple of weeks ago, I was delighted to receive a visit from two of our graduates from last year who came back to thank the staff for their help and sometimes 'tough love' getting them through their programs. One of the boys had just successfully secured an apprenticeship as a Refrigeration Electrician and the other as a Commercial Carpenter. The looks of sheer delight and appreciation on their faces was priceless. These are the moments that fill us with pride and reassure us that the College is on the right track with our young people.

This is a good time to send out a quick reminder, as we approach the end of term, that Structured Workplace Learning (Work placement) is coming up in May. Students are primarily responsible for finding their own placement. Staff are supporting students to secure a workplace for this compulsory two week block but it is very important that students make the most of this opportunity. Almost all graduates who have made a successful transition to an apprenticeship have done so through a good work placement experience.

Finally, we are looking forward to reporting back to our Parent community at the up-coming Parent Teacher event on the 24-25th March. This will be our first opportunity to discuss student progress and early indications of what work needs to be done to promote success. I look forward to having contact with all our families during this time.

Mandy Patmore
Principal

CARPENTRY SAW HORSE PROJECT UNDERWAY!

Students in the Senior/Intermediate Carpentry program have been working tirelessly away to build their saw horse projects throughout term 1. Jayden Cross from Senior Carpentry says "building joints is challenging", but great for building the skills he needs to later apply for a carpentry related apprenticeship.



COLLEGE TRADE TRAINING CENTRE

Work is continuing on our new facilities and we are on track to be ready for use in Term 2. These workshops will allow us to deliver programs in Carpentry, Bricklaying, Plumbing, Engineering, Electro-technology and Hairdressing.



Safe and Responsible Behaviour on Public Transport

Safety at stations

- Before you begin your train journey, check timetables and any connecting train, tram or bus services.
- When waiting for the train, always stand behind the yellow line on the platform.
- Avoid running in and around the station, particularly when footpaths and platform surfaces are wet.
- Take care when using escalators and ensure clothing and bag straps do not get caught.
- Passengers in wheelchairs or travelling with prams and trolleys should use the lifts where available.
- Only cross train tracks at designated pedestrian crossings. Crossing at non-marked areas is dangerous and illegal.
- Rollerblading, skateboarding and bicycle riding is not permitted on the station platform.

Boarding and getting off trains

- Stand behind the yellow line until the train comes to a complete stop.
- Do not force the doors open or attempt to board when the train is leaving the platform.
- Allow other passengers to step off the train before you board.
- Drivers will assist passengers with special needs to board at the front carriage. Yellow or white markers on platforms indicate where the train will stop.
- If you are travelling with a pram or shopping trolley, board at the front carriage so that you're clearly visible to the driver.
- When boarding the train enter the pram first and lift the back in if the train isn't level with the platform. When exiting the train, step off first and then pull the pram towards you.
- Use the grab rails to steady yourself when boarding or alighting.
- Prepare to alight before reaching your destination station, but make sure you have something to hold onto.

Safety on board trains

- Once you're on board, take a seat or steady yourself by holding a grab rail if you are standing.
- Avoid moving between carriages whilst the train is moving.
- Passengers travelling with bicycles or surfboards are requested to avoid using peak hour trains where possible.
- After 7pm, travel in the front carriage so you are close to the driver.
- If there are other passengers on the train, sit near them, not by yourself.
- Carry a phone card, spare change or mobile phone.
- Make sure your luggage is stowed correctly and avoid blocking the aisle.
- Please offer your seat to elderly people, those with special needs and pregnant women.

THE ROCKY ROAD

I've been asleep for a while now, gee, how long has it been? Who! Is that really the time? What date is it? I feel like crap, no energy at all and I can't seem to stop scratching myself – arms, face, back I seem to be itchy everywhere. I don't know what to do, maybe I should.....Call my mate and see what happen last night. I thought that might have been a good Idea 1 call 2 calls 3 calls no answer...what happened? I looked over my shoulder and there he was, he was passed out next to me. Trent wake up... Trent? Oh shit, he wasn't passed out he was dead! What do I do! Then I thought about his family and his girlfriend, what am I going to say to them oh god! Ok, keep calm.

I grabbed his body and dug a hole I couldn't let anyone know what happened last night. I don't know if I can live with the guilt of burying my best mate, but I have to do it I can't go back in again.

Okay I have to get clean and get cleaned up no more drugs...But they look so good just sitting in my bed side table...How can I resist just one more hit and that's it, no more after this, this is it my final hit...

Little did I know the next few hours after my hit id be floating over my own body ascending to the skies. What are my parents going to think? What a coward and worthless life? I know that's what all of their friends where thinking as I watched all of them stand over my grave. The sheer disappointment I saw in my parent's eyes it was the worst feeling ever. None of my so called "friends" showed up just mum, dad and some of their friends.

No more pain, no more drugs, this is the end.

Foundation Literacy 2 student, Creative Writing Task

Personal Development Coordinator Terry Coombs explores risk taking behaviour with Foundation students by taking a hands on approach to sharing his knowledge and expertise in outdoor education and recreational mountaineering. Students had the opportunity to handle authentic mountaineering gear whilst exploring themes of adventure, risk and relationship building.



Calendar of Events



March

24 - 25 Parent Teacher Interviews

27 - 28 Carpentry 2 Kinglake Camp

April

2 - 3 Carpentry 1 Kinglake Camp

4 End of Term 1

22 Start of Term 2

25 ANZAC Day Holiday

May

5-16 Work Placement

June

6 End of Semester 1 Subjects

9 Queens Birthday

10 Start of Semester 2 Subjects

13 Student Free Day

25 Semester 1 Reports Distributed

27 End of Term 2

SPORTS NEWS:

The sports department at Harvester Technical College have launched into training for the 2014 intra-sport competition. With weekly training on a Wednesday morning 2 classes have joined forces to tear up the ladder of competitive sports this year!



VETiS TAKES OFF

Harvester's VETiS programs have kicked off to a flying start. Students enrolled in Engineering have launched into their first task designing metallic CNC folder covers with their own unique designs engraved into them. As the school continues to fill the workshop spaces with cutting edge machinery, students are able to develop their knowledge of engineering related software through hands on experience.

With Aaron Powter spearheading the Engineering program this year he says the first 3 weeks have seen students settle in very nicely.

Watch this space or more projects in the pipeline!

