



CAROLINE CHISHOLM COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Term 3 Week 2 Issue 11 2016



Faith Courage Tolerance

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Friends, Staff and Students of Caroline Chisholm College,

I think we do our children a disservice when we lead them to believe that success and failure are opposites, and that failure is something to be avoided at all costs. We have made the word 'fail' a dirty, four-letter word. Such thinking leads to either perfectionism, where children feel that nothing less than 100% is acceptable, or avoidance, because they are paralysed by the fear of not being good enough. Last year, the book *Fear of Failure* by Jessica Lahey described families where parents leap to their children's defence, ensuring they never have to experience what it is like to feel the consequences of failure. She also describes how the long term consequence of such a protective approach leads to young people not being able to cope with the natural and regular failures of adult life, in relationships or at work. Failure is **the most useful** step in learning. It is when we have to stop, re-evaluate and plan for improvement that we really grow - and that's what learning is all about. There is a huge difference between having high expectations about learning and achievement, with a focus on growth and improvement, compared to an obsession with marks and grades. Sometimes, school is to blame for this type of thinking, where we make the marks and the grades the goal, rather than the learning and the growth. It is true that not everyone can get straight A's, and it would be foolish to insist on this. However, EVERYONE can learn and grow and improve with support and effort. This is why learning how to learn is the most important lesson of all, and the one we most need for a fulfilling and positive life experience.



Following on from our very successful Homework Forum in Term 1, this evening has been arranged in response to parent requests and will help you support your daughter to:

- cope with assessment and exams
- understand assessment notifications
- plan for assessment and exams
- meet success criteria
- write essays in an 'academic style'
- use feedback to improve learning

7PM AUGUST 1
CAROLINE CHISHOLM LIBRARY
BRING A FRIEND!

Meet with the teachers and our counsellor and get the answers that will make a difference. Please RSVP to Robyn Wilson: rwilson2@parra.catholic.edu.au



Students at Caroline Chisholm College have ample opportunity to grow, and to fail and to improve. As we enter into Semester 2, our students have already received vital feedback in their assessment results and their reports. I hope each girl has taken the time to think about what she needs to focus on next to continue her growth and improvement. Our students in Year 12 are preparing for their Trial HSC exams, and I know you will join with me in wishing them well and praying for their success. The feedback from these Trial exams are so important as they ready themselves for the challenges of the HSC in October.

On the final day of last term the entire staff of the college gathered for professional development. I encourage you to read Mr Casni's report on the day, because it was quite revolutionary. We had some surprise educational experts come to work with our staff - it was the students! A number of students from Year 7, Year 9 and Year 10 took us through a powerful process of reflecting on what learning looks like from the other side of the classroom. Their refreshing, and sometimes challenging insights will illuminate some of the work we will be doing in the area of assessment and project based learning over the coming months. I am very grateful to the students who not only gave up the first day of their holidays, but also had the courage to speak with us so eloquently and courageously. I wish I could have captured the look on the teachers' faces when the students told them they had to do an assessment that was going to be marked - by the students!

The school term started with a staff retreat on Monday 18 July. **Fr Richard Healey** led a program based on the idea of intentional discipleship. His input challenged us, as Christian women and men, to evaluate how our relationship with Jesus shapes our lives, our relationships and our work at Caroline Chisholm College. It is a rare privilege to have time and space to sit with such important questions and I am grateful to Fr Richard for his gentle leadership of this day. This Friday, students in 7 - 10 will engage in their Reflection Days. This is their chance to reflect on the deeper and more significant parts of our relationships with God and with each other. Thank you to the many teachers and staff members who make these days so significant for our girls.

Over the holiday break we received the sad news that **Mr Marc Petit's** mother and **Mr Greg King's** father died. Both these long serving members of staff have been held close in our prayers and our friendship over these difficult days, and we offered Mass on our retreat for the repose of the souls of **Naree Petit** and **Paul King**. During this first week of term **Mrs Anne Tucker**, mother of **Maddie** in Year 10 passed away after a difficult illness. Our faith tells us that Mrs Tucker is now in the embrace of our loving God, and her family will be cared for by this community in every way we can. Please pray for all of those carrying the burden of grief that they may experience God's love through the care of the people around them.

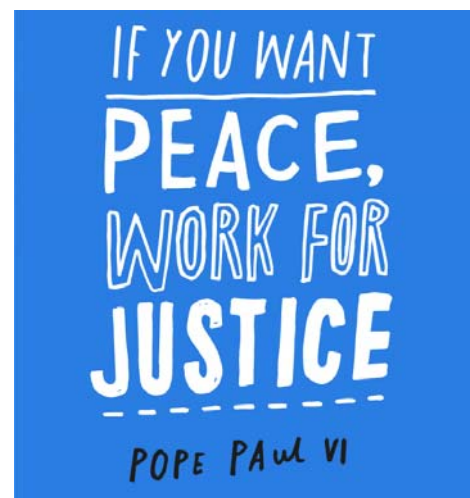
With all of the terrible news from around the world recently, attacks in France, Germany, Kabul and so many other places, we thought it may be useful to read some advice about how to speak with your children about tragedy and evil in the world. Our counsellor, **Miss Jacqui McCoy** has included in this newsletter some tips for helping young people make sense of these events, and how we can reassure them about their safety and well-being. If you are concerned about your daughter's reactions to world events, please feel free to contact Jacqui at the college. Now, as ever, we must pray for peace in the hearts of all people.

A prayer for peace in our communities

Gracious God,
We pray for peace in our communities this day.
We commit to you all who work for peace and an end to tensions,
And those who work to uphold law and justice.
We pray for an end to fear,
Change the hearts of those who profit from fear and division.

We pray for comfort and support to those who suffer.
For calm in our streets and cities,
That people may go about their lives in safety and peace.
In your mercy, hear our prayers,
now and always.

Amen



Mr Greg Elliott
Principal



FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Use of Opal cards

All students are reminded that they are required to use their Opal cards and tap on and off each time they use a school bus. This is a very small thing to do in return for free travel and students need to be doing this automatically. Bus drivers should not have to remind them to get cards out and use them. To replace a lost Opal card, go to opal.com.au and follow the links.

Blazers

Generally, I have been pleased with the way students have been wearing their uniform at the start of this term. Students are reminded that it is still compulsory to wear the college blazer to and from school each day (other than sport uniform days) for the rest of this term or until otherwise advised.

“Doing the Right Thing Awards”

Students who help with clean up and litter are eligible for a “Doing the Right Thing Award”. Congratulations to **Holly Munday** (7 Gilmore), **Taranpreet Kaur** (7 Macarthur) and **Alyssa Youngman** (7 Macarthur) who receive vouchers for the canteen for being the students drawn from the box. All students who put in award slips will have points credited to their house.

Appreciation of Honesty

Students at Caroline Chisholm College regularly display outstanding honesty in returning items they find on the college grounds. Often these can be of quite substantial value. Students handing in found items receive a certificate of appreciation. I would like to congratulate the following students who have handing items in over the last fortnight: **Holly Munday** (7 Gilmore), **Emily Forbes** (7 Kenny) and **Amber Payne** (8 Jackson).

Mr Greg King - Assistant Principal

DIARY DATES

Year 7 Items, Year 8 Items, Year 9 Items, Year 10 Items, Year 11 Items and Year 12 Items, Whole School Items

Friday 29 July	Year 12 Study Day Years 7-10 Reflection Day Year 11 Christian Churches Excursion	Wednesday 3 August	HSC Trial Examinations VET Work Placement - Year 11 Year 8 Subject selection presentations
Monday 1 August	HSC Trial Examinations Year 8 Subject selection presentations VET Work Placement - Year 11 Parent Forum - Library at 7.00pm	Thursday 4 August	Toyko Junshin Farewell HSC Trial Examinations Japanese Exchange student leave VET Work Placement - Year 11
Tuesday 2 August	HSC Trial Examinations ICAS English VET Work Placement - Year 11 Year 8 Subject Selection presentations	Friday 5 August	VET Work Placement - Year 11
		Monday 8 August	HSC Trial Examinations
		Tuesday 9 August	HSC Trial Examinations Subject Selection for Year 11 (2017)



FROM THE LEADER OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

At the present time the media seems to be filled with stories of violence, terrorism, despair and suffering. It is very easy to get caught up in this cycle of negativity which generates feelings of depression and fear. It is important to always find ways to look at the more positive aspects of life, the things which fill most of our days ... the love of our family and friends, the beauty of nature, the excitement of a newborn baby, the generosity of strangers.

In the midst of the terror attack in Nice recently a story came out about an Australian mother, who rushed to the assistance of a young American girl hurt in the street, a victim of the shooting. This stranger rushed to her side, administered care and first aid, went with her to the hospital and visited her most days during her stay there. It is a shame that acts of kindness such as these are not made more of in our news and in the media. This true Good Samaritan's actions, no doubt, would be mirrored in the actions of many people all over the world every day.

Let us always be people who try to see the positive side of life, who celebrate the many gifts we have been given. In Religion classes for the month of July we have been praying the following prayer, reminding us that it is our actions and attitudes which can make a difference in the lives of others and ourselves.

Bless This Day

This day is full of beauty and adventure,
help me Lord to be fully alive to it all.
During this day, may I become a more thoughtful person,
a more prayerful person, a more generous and kindly person.
Help me not to be turned in on myself but
to be sensitive and helpful to others.
Let me do nothing today that will hurt anyone,
but let me help at least a little,
to make life more pleasant for those I meet.
When night comes, may I look back on this day without regrets;
and may nobody be unhappy because of anything
I have said or done or failed to do.
Lord God, bless this day for me and all of us.
Make it a day in which we grow a little more like your
Son, and gentle as Mary His Mother.
Amen

World Youth Day

Our three pilgrims have reached Poland after participating in an immersion experience in the Phillipines, helping with the building of local schools, teaching English in classes within the school and just becoming aware of the lives of many of the poor in our world. We continue to pray for them as they continue on their spiritual journey which culminates this weekend with Mass in Krawow, Poland. Students and all who are keen to link to the WYD experience are warmly welcome to attend a World Youth Day function on Sunday night 31st July from 6pm. It will be a local celebration of World Youth Day including streaming from the crowd and Pope Francis at the huge Mass in Krakow.

Bishop Vincent will lead us in a WYD Mass at Our Lady Queen of Peace, Old Prospect Rd, Greystanes, at 6pm, from where we will process to the continuing event there on-site in the hall.

There will be hot food, a talented band, testimony from the bishop and the story from past pilgrims, pieces of international video from our pilgrims speaking to the Greystanes gathering, celebration, a special reflective moment, socialising and live cross-over for parts of the Krakow Mass.





Catholic Youth Parramatta invites you



with **BISHOP VINCENT**
SUNDAY 31ST JULY 6PM MASS

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE PARISH, GREYSTANES

Followed by hot food with Polish and Filipino extras, live stream to Krakow, music, catch up with pilgrims in Poland, witness from pilgrims past.

RSVP Monday 25th July to Fr Paul Roberts
connect@ifm.org.au

(Please include the number of family and friends joining you)

thatmoment.com

Your young people and all who are keen to link to the WYD experience are warmly welcome.

You can find a printable flyer attached to this message or also at <http://parrawyd.org/insync/>

Kindly make sure to RSVP as shown in the flyer to help estimate numbers and food.

Reflection Days and Church Visit

On **Friday 29th July, 2016** Year **7, 8, 9** and **10** students will be participating in a reflection day. This is an opportunity for them to explore their relationships with their peers, their family and their God. They are best able to do this by 'retreating', taking time out from routines and busy schedules to reflect upon their spiritual journey. This is a **COMPULSORY** school activity.

Year 11 students will go to Homeroom as usual and then travel to ImagineNations Christian Church in Penrith. They will return to the college for lunch and in the afternoon will visit Padre Pio Parish at Glenmore Park. This excursion is connected to the outcomes covered in both Studies of Religion courses and the Catholic Studies course and is therefore **compulsory**. Students are required to **wear their full school uniform** including blazers.

A letter was emailed home earlier this week providing details on the reflection days and excursion.

Ms Bernadette Murray - Leader of Religious Education

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



This is an amazing achievement for Ashleigh.

Here is the story in the Penrith Gazette

<http://www.penrithcitygazette.com.au/story/3966515/state-reserve-champs/?cs=1877>

Congratulations to **Ashleigh Jones** from Year 11 who was selected at representative level for Penrith District Netball Association in the Under 21s State Championship team. The team placed second, which is an amazing achievement over the three days and particularly for Ashleigh as she is one of the younger players in the team.



SCHOOL FEE NOTICE



The Broken Bay Diocese recently announced significant increases to their school fees in some schools which were widely broadcast in the media recently. **Please note that these increases do not affect our Diocese or school.** We expect that any school fee increases for Catholic schools in the Parramatta Diocese next year will be moderate and in line with previous years. If you have any concerns about the payment of school fees at any time please contact **Mrs Wendy Slaughter** who can confidentially assist you.



FROM THE LEADER OF INNOVATION & LEARNING

“Deep Learning @ CCC” – Staff Professional Development Day

On Friday 1 July, we invited ten Educational Experts to lead us in a professional learning day focused on creating Deep Learning opportunities for students at our college. I am sure our colleagues believed that the core focus would be on listening to Mr Elliott and me speak to them about current research and data and to give them some time to evaluate current teaching and learning projects at the college. To their surprise we had ten of our current Caroline Chisholm students enter as the Educational Experts, who in total have almost **100 years of educational experience** – first hand!

We asked our **Year 7 Experts**, consisting of **Zoe Cona, Montannah Harris, Layla Hawli and Kalessha Short**, to **invent a school** where students:



- *Couldn't wait to come and learn*
- *Would feel like they were growing their brains*
- *Would be really respected as learners*
- *Would see their learning as part of the real world*
- *Could make a difference in their community*
- *Would look forward to demonstrating how much they have learned*
- *Would see teachers as guides and coaches – not just experts*
- *Would lose track of time because they are so focused and having fun*

After weeks of preparation and secret meetings, the team came up with **CEI College** – CREATIVE EDUCATIONAL IMAGINATIVE COLLEGE as the perfect school in their eyes, which would meet the needs of all learners. Our students presented us with a school where teachers had robots to assist them, where everything the students did or produced was considered “assessment”, and where counselling, food and housing would be made available to anyone who needed it. Furthermore, **the experts challenged us to think back to a time when learning was so much fun that we lost track of time because we were so engaged** to really try and hone in on the importance of creating deep and engaging lessons accessible to all.

Following this amazing presentation, where **we as the teachers were now the students**, entered the team from “**Operation Pineapple**” including **Chloe Cunningham, Siobhan McDowall and Breah Sands** from Year 9 and **Ashlin Biju, Nicola Frugtniet and Claudine Rule** from Year 10. Here is their reflection about the task they were presented with:



“Operation Pineapple” – Team Reflection

Operation Pineapple: 6 girls, 72 teachers, 1 top-secret mission. On Friday the 1st of July, six brave students faced the teachers on a staff development day. It was an interesting turn of events: the students had become the teachers, and the teachers became the students! From the very beginning our brief was to bring an understanding to the teachers of how students receive learning at Caroline Chisholm. We presented our outlook on learning in the form of a Prezi that collated our opinions and suggestions together in order for us to discuss and reflect on current strategies that may or may not actually be working within the classroom. What was most exciting about this opportunity was being able to express our ideas and thoughts in a comfortable and accepting environment and being able to express our actual feelings towards learning.

The energy and collaboration we shared fuelled us with inspiration and determination to continue this movement of improving learning and teaching in the future.

Overall the day was filled with positive energy and great interaction amongst the staff and students. Teachers had the opportunity to ask the experts questions and it was an amazing chance for us as a teaching staff to think about how the students in our care see learning and teaching at Caroline Chisholm at the present.

Feedback from the staff ...

“The Year 7 students delivered an engaging presentation and it was obvious that they put a lot of effort into it. They got me thinking about some of the fun learning experiences I've had over the years. I was very impressed at how brave they were when faced with a room full of teachers.” (Mrs Toth)



"I am so proud of the students for getting up and presenting to us in the professional way that they did. Please note that I noticed your effort to dress professionally, prepare such an interactive presentation and that you were so well prepared while you spoke to us. For such a daunting task, you are all superstars! Thank you for taking time on your day off to spend it with us ... and teach us a thing or two!" (Mrs McKee)

"I appreciated the effort that you invested into the marking of the "As-stressment" task that you set us. Overall, you were brave and I appreciated your willingness to engage in the day with good humour." (Mr Clerke)

"I especially enjoyed the process of creation of assignments and the marking of our work - that really helped to put you girls in our position. Seeing it from your end reminded me of what it was like to be a student - something I have forgotten. This experience really helped to remember why I became a teacher." (Mr Sutton)

On behalf of all our staff I would like to thank our ten Educational Experts for their **enthusiasm and professionalism** in preparing and delivering their presentations. It is always daunting to stand up in front of an audience and deliver. For these young ladies to stand up in front of the people who teach them everyday was **extremely courageous**, and I congratulate them on their outstanding work.

The next step forward for us as a college in relation to Learning and Teaching will be the Parent Forum on Monday 1 August at 7.00pm where we will hear what parents have to say about Senior Assessment Tasks. Following this, a committee of teachers will be formed to evaluate and review our current assessment practices at the college. We look forward to sharing the work of this committee with you and anticipate significant involvement from students and parents too.

An exciting time ahead for Learning and Teaching @ CCC!

Year 12 Trial HSC Exams

Our Year 12 students will commence their Trial HSC Examinations this coming **Monday 1 August**. It is important that all students use any free time in their timetable and the scheduled study day this Friday to revise diligently and prepare to the best of their ability.

A few reminders about exam procedures:

- All morning exams commence at 8.30am.
- All afternoon exams commence at 12.30pm.
- Students need to be at school at least 20 minutes before the listed starting time of all exams.
- Full school uniform is to be worn (not sport uniform).
- If students are sick or some other serious misadventure occurs, they **MUST** call the school and inform Miss White of the absence. A doctor's certificate or other documentation proving misadventure will need to be brought in on the day they return. A Year 9-12 Assessment Appeal Form (which is located on the College website under [Learning and Teaching](#)) must also be completed. Not submitting this documentation on the day of return will result in a zero mark being awarded.
- No mobile phones or other technological devices are permitted in the exam room. If students bring their phone they must secure it in their locker or at the front office.

We wish every student all the very best as they prepare and complete these important final school based assessments.

Year 11 (2017) Subject Interviews

All Year 10 students and their parents will be involved with the Subject Selection Interviews to discuss final subject choices for 2017 on **Monday 8 August**. An email containing information about the day and how to book an interview time has been sent out and I thank all parents/carers who have been able to make a booking already.

This will be an opportunity for you and your daughter to discuss their future pathway with an experienced member of staff so that the best possible subject choices are made.

Subject selection lines will be distributed to all Year 10 students this week. Please bring this completed form with you to the interviews so we can discuss your final choices with you.

We look forward to seeing everyone there.

Mr Stephen Casni - Leader of Innovation & Learning

**FROM THE SCHOOL COUNSELLOR****HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE TO MANAGE DISTRESS IN THE WAKE OF CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE IN THE MEDIA**

As the accessibility of information increases, we are continually exposed to coverage of national and international terrorist attacks, violence and war in real time via newspapers, news websites and social media. This means we are exposed to more of the challenges faced in different countries around the world; however, it also has the potential to create unease and anxiety for young people. It is also important to be mindful that some young people are more vulnerable to the impact of potentially traumatic events, for example, individuals who may have already been directly exposed to conflict, war and terrorism.

The conversations we have about these events in families, in schools and the broader community is important in helping young people to place these events in their appropriate context, make sense of an often complicated issue and broaden their understanding of the world. Above all, conversation allows us to model to them how to cope with frightening events and manage difficult feelings in helpful ways.

Listed below are some strategies and resources available to parents and carers in helping their children to manage distress in the aftermath of aggressive acts of violence and terrorism.

Responding to young people based on observation:

- Monitor young people for any observable changes in their behaviour that may be related to underlying distress. For example, changes in appetite, sleeping patterns, mood and concentration. Allow your observations to determine the appropriate level of intervention.
- Remain mindful of young people who may have an underlying vulnerability – for example, those who have or are prone to anxiety or repetitive thought patterns (for example, repeatedly thinking about and focussing on a traumatic incident).

Talking with young people:

- Create an emotionally safe time and place for young people to ask questions. It is important that in generating this environment, parents and carers are adequately prepared for a range of questions.
- Young people are influenced by the responses of those around them. The responses of parents and carers to these potentially traumatic events is key and provides an opportunity to model to young people that emotions, fears and anxiety can be managed in healthy and proactive ways.
- Inquire about what a young person may already know – this provides a baseline to work from. It also allows any clear misconceptions to be identified and talked through.
- Encourage the young person to ask questions. It is important that they feel no question is silly.
- Explain the event as it occurred (based in fact) and keep language relatively neutral. Also talk to young people about what happens after a crisis. For example, mentioning the police, emergency staff and volunteers who provide support, care and counselling to all those affected.
- Acknowledge the young person's thoughts and feelings. Let them understand that these are normal and to be expected in the face of events that can threaten people's sense of safety.

Other useful strategies:

- Encourage young people to maintain a normal and regular routine (for example, school, sporting commitments, part-time/casual work and seeing friends and family).
- Young people can self-soothe themselves through difficult emotions. Strategies include deep breathing, distraction (for example, listening to music) and grounding themselves in the present, by altering their attention from inside their head (for example, anxious thoughts) to their environment (for example, what can be heard, seen, felt in that present moment?).
- Create hope and encourage young people to take action in constructive ways by working with their school or non-for profit organisations in their community to make a positive difference in the world.
- If you have utilised these strategies and have ongoing concerns for your daughter regarding a potentially traumatic event, making a referral to the school counsellor can be a good starting point to obtaining further support. A referral can be made by your daughter themselves via the online student referral system or you can refer them by contacting

your daughter's year leader. It is always advised that your daughter is made aware of your desire to refer them to the school counsellor before making a referral.

Information for further reading:

- **Australian Psychological Society: Guidelines for talking with children about terrorism**
<https://www.psychology.org.au/psychology-topics/talking-to-children-about-terrorism/>
- **Australian Psychological Society: Guidelines for helping children deal with frightening events and media coverage**
http://www.psychology.org.au/publications/tip_sheets/children/
- **Australian Psychological Society: Coping with traumatic public events**
<http://www.psychology.org.au/Assets/Files/Coping-with-traumatic-events-sydney-seige.pdf>

ARRIVAL OF OUR SISTER SCHOOL EXCHANGE STUDENTS

Thursday 21st July was very exciting for many members of our school community as this was the day our sister school exchange students arrived from Tokyo Junshin Catholic Girls High School.

Sixteen students, accompanied by their teacher, Hiroko Mita, and a tour guide, arrived at school at the end of Period 6. They were welcomed by Mr Elliott at the front of the College and also by a group of enthusiastic Year 8 students yelling, "konnichiwa" from the windows of N5!

The students went home with their hosts from Caroline Chisholm College and returned to school on Friday where they participated in ESL lessons. They introduced themselves at year assemblies. In the afternoon, they all enjoyed learning bush dancing with Year 7 and playing lots of fun games.

Students have had a great first weekend with their host families.

This weekend, my host sister, Ginka, and I have spent time playing games (she loves Uno!!) and going to the zoo. It was great to be able to spend time at the zoo with her, as we spoke about the differences between Australian and Japanese zoos, seeing as Australian zoos are much bigger. So far it has been a great time with many more fun things planned.

Alison Lucantonio, Year 11

With my Japanese exchange student, Mayumi, I have done many things, and she has experienced many Aussie things. She has tried Vegemite, Tim Tams, and Australian BBQ and Shapes, which she thoroughly enjoyed. She has also experienced her first game of netball, her first dance class and her first Australian grocery shop. On Sunday, we caught the ferry to the zoo, with Haruka and Zoe where we encountered many Australian animals. We have had a great time!

Charlotte Williams, Year 8

College students will have many opportunities to interact with our guests over the next two weeks. I'd like to thank the families of the following students who have generously opened their homes to host the students and tour guide: **Nourien Tanaz, Ammaleah Astruc, Emily Farrell, Bailey Mitchell, Mia Papapavlou, Zara Reynolds, Amelia & Madeline Vella, Grace Morrissey, Milinda Ranathanga, Zoe Walther, Charlotte Williams, Rachael Harlock, Angel Jojo, Hannah McCrorie, Savannah Carroll, Alison Lucantonio and Eliza Vickers.** In addition, thanks to Mrs Cathy Moran, Caroline Chisholm College Business Manager, who is hosting Mita Sensei.

Mrs Wendy Merriman - Leader of Learning Lote



2016 JAPANESE DAY



Each year, Caroline Chisholm College holds a Japanese Day especially for Year 8 students to re-connect with learning about Japan and its culture. Students get to experience a variety of activities and experiences and this year was no exception.

Thursday 21st July, started with an unusual presentation – a group of Year 8 students presented a play of the traditional Japanese folk story, *Tsuru no ongaeshi* (The Returning Crane). **Emma Christmas, Emma Cooney and Kirsten Gearin** learnt the dialogue in Japanese. They were also assisted by members of the Year 8 Drama Club, **Caela Vernon-Wright, Claudia Fava, Katamara Vukic, Liana De Oliva, Abby Drinkwalter and Holly McLaughlin**. It was challenging for them to perform in front of their peers but they did a great job in bringing to life this traditional folk story.



Following the drama performance, the girls all experienced something unique when a traditional Japanese dancer emerged from behind the curtains in the PC. We were fortunate to have Penrith local, **Risa Koek**, perform *Nihonbuyo*. Risa has been learning the traditional Japanese dance form since she was three years old. Students and teachers enjoyed this highly evocative dance. They also appreciated her elaborate costume and make up.

For the rest of the day, students rotated through a variety of activities including workshops in Japanese *taiko* (drumming), origami and *shodo* (calligraphy). In addition, they played with traditional Japanese toys and enjoyed an interactive quiz game. Many teachers and students also enjoyed sushi for lunch and taking funny photos in the Japanese “photo booth” on the COLA.



Japanese Day was an exciting opportunity for the Year 8 students to reflect back and learn more about the Japanese culture. It was fun and interesting to explore and experience the different Japanese activities, available on the day. It's not everyday we get to experience a traditional Japanese dance, practise calligraphy and use Taiko drums. All the Year 8 girls seemed to thoroughly enjoy the day, we would like to thank everyone involved in organising the day for us.

Jade O'Hara

Merriman Sensei - Leader of Learning LoTE

