

Elizabeth College
inspired resourceful learners

ELIZABETH COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER

TERM 3 2014



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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

"Take chances, make mistakes. That's how you grow. Pain nourishes your courage. You have to fail in order to practice being brave."

Mary Tyler Moore

Newsletters can only capture a brief snapshot of all that takes place in college life, and our August newsletter is no exception. Activities such as visiting speakers, UTAS days, productions, celebrations of achievements and study tours all make up the fabric of our experiences, but it is the day to day focus on learning and preparing for futures that remains fundamental in our work.

Resilience, optimism and perseverance are qualities each student needs to find within themselves as they progress through the rest of the year. At Elizabeth College we stress the importance of using midyear assessment and exam feedback as an opportunity to reflect on what they are doing well and how they can improve their standard across all subjects.

As I write, students are receiving awards and feedback on their midyear exams and assessments. I was speaking to a student this morning who said he was disappointed with the awards he had received, so he was on his way to meet with one of his teachers to review his assignments and to gain further information

on how he needs to undertake tasks differently. This is exactly the sort of approach we need young people to take; an approach that will allow them to achieve success in life. The above quote from Mary Tyler Moore says it all – *mistakes are the way to build courage*.

In Home Group over the coming weeks, teachers will be having important conversations with Year 11s about enrolment for next year and discussing future directions with Year 12 students. We hope that you are part of the conversations that take place and that you feel comfortable to approach the college if you have any queries.

Dr Dianne Purnell

Principal

CELEBRATING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Our Undercroft was recently filled with students who have worked hard to achieve high standards in their studies; some who are heading towards vocational pathways and others who wish to enrol at university. Home Group teachers and students gathered together over a long table of fresh food and took a moment to celebrate a pause in the challenging journey through college. Dianne Purnell, our principal, spoke to those gathered about how parents and teachers appreciate their efforts and how extra time invested in studies makes all the difference when achieving personal goals.



CIE LA VIE PERFORMANCE

On the 21st May Elizabeth College Dance students performed a matinée and evening performance of *Cie la vie* in the Elizabeth College Theatre. There was a range of pieces; one whole group piece was inspired by James Bond, and another piece used chalk as a playful prop to make an impression when they danced.

I loved the choreography that they came up with – so fresh and new ... AND original!!! Worked brilliantly! All students were 'in the moment' and really looked like they knew their moves and worked well together.

Karen Clark, dance reviewer.



COMEDY MASTER SHARES HIS CRAFT

Bill Hicks once said that comedy can, "take a light into the darkened corners of people's minds". If this is true, then students at Elizabeth College ended Term Two on high beam.

Around one hundred and fifty English students spent a hilarious and practical morning with genuine Australian comedy legend Tim Ferguson. In two sessions, Tim took the mystique out of making people laugh, working with students to explore the basic techniques of comedy writing.

"I thought Tim provided a great insight into the craft of comedy," commented Huon Collidge, one of our keen English students. Both teachers and students were inspired and left the sessions discussing ways to use their new skills. Best known as a member of the Doug Anthony Allstars, Tim writes and produces comedy as well as teaching comedy writing at RMIT University. He spent the week on a tour of Tasmanian schools, organised by the Tasmanian Association for Teachers of English.

MUSOS IN RESIDENCE

Recently, two Contemporary Music students from Elizabeth College were selected to be involved in the Australasian Performing Right Association (APRA) "Musos in Residence" program. Kate Loader and Jonathan Dieckfoss were involved in two days of intensive song writing workshops with industry experts from APRA. The mentors were: Ilan Kidron – song writer/ lead singer of the The Potbelleez and Robert Conley – song writer/producer for Ricky Martin, Celine Dion, Darren Hayes, Axle Whitehead, Savage Garden, KISS, Destiny's Child...to name a few. This opportunity reflects the strong nature of the Elizabeth College Contemporary Music program and demonstrates the high level of talent we have here at EC. Well done Kate and Jonathan!



UTAS ICT DAY FOR OUR STUDENTS

A group of Elizabeth College Computer Science students visited the UTAS to attend a range of workshops run by the School of Engineering and ICT. Students participated in four workshops which were mostly 'hands on' and conducted by lecturers, current UTAS students and post graduates. The sessions were informative and gave our students an insight into the courses and the career pathways possible from these courses.

Some students worked with a 2D physics engine to explore physics-based game-play in a simple Angry Birds-like game. They learnt the importance of maths and physics in modern computer games. Others explored robotics and the challenges and opportunities of BIG DATA and took part in presentations where questions were posed about why students might want to study at university, why we need new ideas and where they come from. Discussions encouraged students to think critically in a world that continues to be transformed by new technologies, applications and services.



'Banksy' by Carnage NYC, <http://flic.kr/p/h4nXvW>.
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LAMA'S VISIT

Recently our Studies of Religion 3 class was visited by the Tibetan Buddhist Lama Tsewang Lhakpa. He led us in a guided group meditation for ten minutes, and we were then given the opportunity to ask him questions about interesting Buddhist concepts such as Nirvana. The Lama answered our many questions with humour and honesty. An important life lesson we took away with us was that all the stress and suffering we feel is within us, is something only we possess. Ultimately, if we wish to improve our lives, only we have the power to change the way we perceive the negatives. The Lama's visit was a tangible experience of a living religion through the eyes of one of its adherents. (Kara Kollo-Hay)



ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE COMPETITION

French students took part in the Alliance Française Competition held on 8 August. In this competition, students needed to demonstrate skills in listening, reading and speaking in French as well as reciting a poem by heart.



VANUATU LIBRARY MADE HISTORY!!!

Our sister school relationship with Vanuatu has made history! Twelve Elizabeth College students and two teachers (Dana Gerke and Adam Direen) went on a study tour to Vanuatu to present them with a library. It was built overnight, so they now call it the miracle library!!! All of the students helped unpack the books and placed them on the shelves.

Ndúi – Ndúi Primary School Headmaster Mr Raynold Vira said, "Words of thanks would not be enough for what Elizabeth College has done for our school."

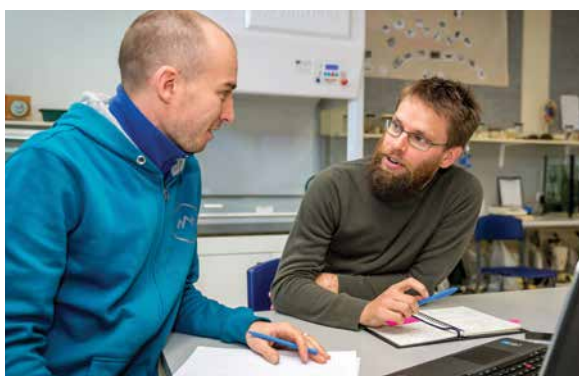
Genevieve Stather, one of the students who went on the trip said, "I am so proud of the work everyone put in, organising, planning and building the library and our relationship with the community."

Two hundred students and the whole community now benefit from having the library. Next year they are hoping to get a solar panel, computer access and a deck around the library!



TEACHERS SHARING IDEAS AT ELIZABETH COLLEGE

Teachers at Elizabeth College believe in the importance of learning from each other. Over the last two years teachers have paired up with a colleague to visit each other's classrooms and exchange valuable feedback. Recently at one of our staff meetings Luke Yates and John Schuringa inspired us all by their enthusiasm for teaching and for sharing their professional learning through this initiative.



HAPPY NEW (FINANCIAL) YEAR!

Thanks to the Institute of Chartered Accountants, the Accounting 3C class had the opportunity to celebrate the end of the financial year.

With party hats and giveaways, students spent the lesson learning how to apply the bank reconciliation process. Each year, accountants throughout Australia must complete this task and students enjoyed the fun approach to developing their professional knowledge.

NEW TEACHERS AT EC

Shannon Badcock has joined our teaching staff this year. She is teaching English Literature and Foundation English and has also worked in our library to support students with their learning. Shannon brings a rich experience to the college, having grown up on a sheep farm, lived in Japan, trained and taught in Canada and is an award winning book reviewing blogger at giraffedays.com.

Damian Stolp is another one of our new teachers this year. He is teaching Art Production/Mixed Media, along with Work Matters and Student Services. Damian comes to us with a background in Support Teaching at EdZone. He has worked in primary schools and in community based work. Damian's passion is painting and he lives with an artist and two very creative daughters.



Shannon Badcock



Damian Stolp

2014 TASMANIAN CHINESE SPEAKING COMPETITION

The 2014 Tasmanian Chinese Speaking Competition was held recently: Chinese students participated in the categories of poetry, conversation, speech and cultural performance. Our students participated in the Conversation category. Lily Barnett and Kirsten Munday received first and second places in this category. Irene Legg from Ogilvie High School and Annie Chessells from The Friends School won the first and second places in the category of Speech and Performance. They represented Tasmanian Chinese students and competed at the next level in Melbourne on the 23rd of May 2014 and received first and third places.

JAPAN TOUR 2014

From Hobart to Hong Kong to Kyoto to Hiroshima and back again, a great adventure was had by all on the 2014 Elizabeth College Japan Tour. The sights, sounds, smells and tastes of Japan have formed many great memories. However, the time spent with new friends will always bring back the broadest smiles. The tour was a great opportunity for cross cultural exchange, and students and staff thoroughly enjoyed staying with their respective Japanese host families. After living daily life in Hiroshima, it was especially hard to say goodbye and board the always on time Shinkansen (bullet train) to begin the journey back home.



PRIZE NIGHT – PHOTOGRAPHS

We held a hugely successful Prize Night in April this year. To view photos from the night, go to <http://education.tas.edu.au/academy/elizabeth>





FOCUS ON NUTRITIOUS EATING

In Food for You, the focus is on learning to prepare healthy and nutritious meals. Kebabs, wraps, fruit smoothies, vegetable burgers, lasagne and a roast chicken dinner with all the trimmings, have been on the menu so far.

Students learn about a wide range of ingredients and create dishes in line with Australian Dietary Guidelines. Skills are tested as students begin to modify favourite recipes using the knowledge that they have gained.

ACE YOUR EXAMS!!!!

In preparation for the end of year assessments, Elizabeth College is offering a session on how to succeed in exams. The session is run by Elevate and two other sessions run by Elizabeth College this year were voted 99% fantastic by students!

When: Wednesday 15 Oct 2014

Time: 10:30 - 11:30 AM

Where: Elizabeth College Undercroft

The cost is \$6 per student.

If interested, students can pay \$6 to the office by Wednesday 1 October.

<https://education.tas.edu.au/academy/elizabeth/Documents/Motivation%20Tips.pdf>

SECRET

When you look out
across the bridges
across the twinkling cityscapes
Do you see the jewel-like campfire
the light of ancient children?

Do you see the encircling corroboree,
and do you hear
with gentle whispers, crackling, snaps
the hum and melody and yell,
the song and lengthening yarn of ours?

Do you hear the words that flow,
the ripple like the creek?
High above the rainclouds rumbling,
mighty, throwing down their weight
upon the thirsty ground.

The desert night, cold and black,
the scrubland burnt, tamed and wild
the arc of the stars above the night,
the reddish earth,
the ash and smoke of dawn,
the dusk,
the break of day and toil,
and running, dragging, fleeting in time.

Distances appearing empty
Secrets outspread
Fine dust in my palm
Skin black against the sun
Cool water, invisible stars
Aching heat, shy billabongs
Baking sweet, like wild honey
My feet bare and worn like
Tough kids, elders, work and walk
And bites
And warning calls and birds and sinew and fire
And bliss and rain,
Sweet rain
A kiss from the sky

By Veronica Douglas
(excerpt)



HAIR

Our Dramatic Production this year was HAIR. We performed to packed houses and the demand was so great, the Drama Department organised extra performances. Quality acting, quality set and costumes – all etched in our memories for years to come!

