

Legendary blues guitarist B. B. King once said, “The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you”. As we reflect on the 2010 school year, there have been so many wonderful learning experiences for our students. They can take these away with them and build upon them or reminisce about them in later years. In any case, these learning experiences will form the rich tapestry which represents who each of them is as an individual, and no one can ever take that away from them. As educators, to be a part of the formation of a young person is a great privilege and also a profoundly rewarding learning experience.

Each year has many highlights. This year, one of the high points was watching the construction of our new Gymnasium. The anticipation at the end of 2009 as the ground work began, turned into excitement as the community watched the huge structure take shape.

The Gymnasium was officially opened on 7th September by the Chair of the College Board, Mr Manny Stamatopoulos. This event, attended by the entire student body of the Campus as well as staff, parents, the College Board, Parents and Friends Association, representatives from Qanstruct and Haskell Architects and many local dignitaries, came about as the culmination of a great deal of work by many people over more than a year to bring this facility to fruition. Although he could not attend the official opening, the local Federal Member for Gorton, the Hon Brendan O’Connor, came to a special Middle School assembly in the Gymnasium later in the year. He was very impressed with our Gymnasium, which the College was able to construct as a result of the grant received from the Federal Government through the Building the Education Revolution initiative.

Our new Gymnasium, with its bold diagonal stripes, has made an enormous impact on this Campus aesthetically and has tremendously enhanced our physical education and sporting programs. Not only is it an iconic building gracing the Taylors Lakes Campus, but it is also a brilliantly functional facility that will benefit the entire College community and the broader community as well.

Every school year is all about the students and the experiences that they have. Our students have had a wonderful 2010. There have been so many highlights for them and it is always very heart warming to watch students enjoying their learning.

“  
The beautiful  
thing about  
learning is that  
no one can  
take it away  
from you

”  
B. B. King

The College has a strong Performing Arts culture and 2010 gave the students a number of opportunities to take centre stage. The College musical ‘Seussical’ gave students from across both Campuses from Year 7 to Year 12, the opportunity to showcase their singing, dancing and acting skills. It was a wonderfully entertaining series of performances by everyone involved, of which the students should be very proud.

With the cancellation of Rock Eisteddfod this year, the Year 9 students had the opportunity to get involved in the alternate VicMoves competition and did exceptionally well with their ‘I ♥ Melbourne’ piece. They certainly captured the essence of Melbourne especially with their stunning Flinders Street Station backdrop and the tram stage prop. It was an outstanding performance that won them many awards

The Year 5 and 6 musical this year was ‘Alice in Wonderland’. The Year 5 and 6 students from both Campuses put on a brilliant performance that entertained everyone who attended and showcased the singing, dancing and acting talents of the students in these year levels. These talents were on show as well in the students’ involvement in Wakakirri. Their adaptation of the Romeo and Juliet story portrayed by bumble bees, lady birds and ants was brilliant.

The youngest members of the Campus, the Junior School, had opportunities to put their performing arts skills on show as well. Their winter concert and Christmas concert were amazing. Every child and teacher in Junior School was involved in these concerts and given the enthusiasm shown by the students and especially the huge smiles on their faces, it was quite evident that they loved being involved in these experiences.

Learning takes place in many ways and through many different experiences. 2010 has been a very successful year for our students and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Overnewton community for their support and contribution to this success.

Gabe Alessandrini,  
Head of Taylors Lakes Campus

