

BROADENING OUR HORIZONS

The 2016 school year began in spectacular style with Keilor Campus expanding from 10 to 23 hectares with the acquisition of the land at our northern and eastern borders in January. This is a significant investment by the College and opens up a huge range of curricular and co-curricular opportunities for our students.



During Term 1, the development of an access pathway to this newly acquired parcel of land enabled use of the existing recreation hall and the very first activity held there was the Mother's Day stall. It is now regularly used for Physical Education and PMP programs but the main future use of this new land will gradually be revealed as our campus master plan unfolds.

As well as broadening our physical horizons, the College continues to explore opportunities to develop our students as global citizens. For many years, our students have had the opportunity to learn German and Indonesian languages and our CLIL Mandarin program is now also embedded in our Junior Schools.

How our program evolves will require careful planning, not just in the learning of language, but in terms of all of our Asian studies and how we might relate with China and its schools. The Overnewton CLIL Mandarin program has been very carefully developed and administered from the outset by two outstanding practitioners in Grace Wen (Taylors Lakes Campus) and Viola Chen (Keilor Campus). The Science program in Mandarin had no prior resources available and everything has been prepared from scratch – and those resources are first class. The integration of technology through the MacBook and iPad, along with the support of Science staff, such as our laboratory technician, have enabled the creation of a cutting edge program that other schools are highly interested in.

In 2016, the College undertook a significant change in how we provide feedback about student work to parents of Year 10 and 11 students. Traditionally feedback has been communicated to parents via the end of semester reports. The College is moving to a system where parents of all students will also be able to access information about student progress in a more dynamic and regular way. Parents can view results for key



assessments, as well as progress and participation indicators, without waiting until the end of semester. This is known as Continuous Reporting and is designed to complement end of semester reporting and parent teacher interviews by providing a more detailed and comprehensive picture to parents throughout the year.

As well as broadening the way that we provide feedback to families, we have continued to maintain a broad co-curricular program that has provided our students with the opportunity to shine. In particular, I enjoyed this year's production of *The Wizard of Oz* enormously. The music, singing and dancing was stunning and there was significantly more acting dialogue than most other school musicals. With respect to the four leads, the remarkable Chelsea Hawke was 'more Dorothy than Dorothy', Kade Hughes was more rubber than straw in his great portrayal of Scarecrow, Leo Di Stefano provided a very well oiled performance as Tinman and Edward Sieffert was a fiercely good Lion. A huge cast of supporting Senior School and Middle School students was enough to make this a spectacular production, but the involvement of the Junior School students as Munchkins put the icing on the cake. It was truly a production that included the whole College student body and the production team, led by Lynn Dahl and Halide La Rocca, the wonderful orchestra and the rest of the extensive crew should be very proud of themselves and the stunning students who contributed to the success of *The Wizard of Oz*.

