Principal

Student Voice is an invaluable element of the Lavers' Hill Culture

Lavers Hill K-12 College is a unique school. Set in the beautiful Otway ranges, not too far from the Southern Ocean our College has 100 students from 3 years of age to 18. Student Voice is a key focus for our College, and figures highly in our recently developed Strategic Plan. In this article I have included examples of how student voice is developing and flourishing at the College.

Our College Captains lead the school assembly on a Monday morning and it is a delight to witness their confidence and ease in speaking too their fellow students. As staff we ensure that it is the students who report, reflect on, and celebrate, College achievements and experiences.

The senior students hold a ‘student voice forum’ each Wednesday morning. Facilitation is rotated and an agenda is developed to guide and focus discussions. These sessions are highly entertaining and we see many students gaining in confidence and sharing both their ideas and personalities. With 28 students from Year 9-12 involved it is a witty, relaxed, at times irreverent, and always memorable forum. Staff are welcome and it is a pleasure to hear from the students and to learn more of how they are thinking and what their concerns are. As teachers we engage, are succinct and aim to ‘ask’ much more than ‘tell’.

I think the capacity for our adults to be genuinely curious in regard to their students’ thoughts and feelings, and to seek to know more by asking timely questions, are key drivers of student voice at the College. As staff we are also reflecting on a how we provide effective and supportive feedback and how we can steer away blaming, commenting or judging. We are seeking to catch ourselves and stop if our words may disempower or quieten (silence) our students. Listening well and tuning into the students interests further underpins our focus on supporting students to develop and have a sense of ownership of their learning plans and how they best learn.

We are very fortunate too also have a strong Primary School leadership culture. Our Grade 5-6 leaders love to show visitors around the College, create events and projects, and to lead the end of the week assembly on a Friday afternoon. After presenting awards and sharing achievements from the week the leaders design and play games with our youngest students. At this time the older students gather waiting for the buses and watching the younger students with a great sense of support and acknowledgement. Parents are often here at this time and assemblies become an important community event that speaks worlds for how we believe our students ‘are at the centre’ of our College.

As the week began with student voice, led by the Senior School Captains, so too it ends as the Grade 6 Leaders wrap up the week with awards and achievements, and wish their friends ‘a great weekend’

Andrew Kohane
Student Voice in the Middle Years

Student voice in the ‘New Pedagogies for Deeper Learning’ is one driver for success. We live by the 6c’s; Collaboration, Communication, Critical Thinking, Creativity, Citizenship and Character and they all built around the students ‘having their say’. Middle Years students voices are heard in the development of units they will undertake. Their in-put into the development of the key questions that frame the unit allow them to direct their learning and their teachers to scaffold it for further success.

When units are up and running, students have further direct impact on how they will share their learning. Projects undertaken, connections to the outside world and invitations for our local community to come into the school all involve our students sharing their thoughts and make connections with others. Collaboration is important!

Within our Middle Years community, teachers have encouraged reflection. Students are encouraged to talk about themselves as learners and have developed learning plans that reflect this. They also share this with their parents. We are aware of the importance of student voice to the learner and create opportunities for reflection during lessons, at the end of lessons and units. Communication is all important too.

From Anne O’Sullivan

Reflection of Student Voice and its importance for Learning.

Upon arriving at Lavers Hill P-12 College as the new Assistant Principal I was immediately struck by the established culture of providing opportunities for students to become active participants in their education, including making decisions about what and how they learn and how their learning is assessed. The approach was to acknowledge the right of students to have a “voice” in their education and the school environment.

Research over many years including more recently the highly influential findings of John Hattie has shown that has shown conclusively the power of “student voice” in improving student outcomes. By encouraging and valuing the ideas, opinions and aspirations of students a culture is developed where they gain, autonomy, confidence and responsibility.

I have witnessed first-hand students developing these skills and actively engaging in their learning through individual learning projects that have real academic rigour and challenge.

When one looks at the skills required of 21st Century workplaces the connection between “student voice” and the individual skills of self-regulation, motivation, communication and co-operation become clear.

Lavers Hill P-12 College is modelling best practice in preparing students for the social and economic demands of our time. Gone are the days when each worker learnt a prescribed set of skills based on a fixed amount of knowledge and repeated these without very much change over a lifetime of work.

Our students have entered a digital technologies rich world where life-long learning is required to actively participate in a rapidly changing employment landscape. The skills they learn through the power of “student voice” will empower them to compete in an interconnected global environment.

From Tony Grayden
**Dates to remember:**

- Tuesday, 5th May to Thursday 7th May – Year 3 & 4 Camp to Sovereign Hill
- Thursday, 7th May - Canteen continues operation
- Thursday, 7th May – Indonesian Speaking Competition @ Torquay
- Thursday, 7th May – Mother’s Day Stall in school foyer 10.30 am to 11.15am If children wish to bring along a small amount of money to buy a little present for MUM
- Friday, 8th May – The Age Careers Expo – Yr 12
- Thursday, 21st May – Yr 7 Immunisations

---

**Primary News**

**TOUR DE CURE REPORTS**

On Thursday Tour De Cure came to our school. There were lots of cyclers. They came to raise money to cure cancer. They gave us a fantastic talk. SE

Tour De Cure came to our school to talk to use about cancer. We got a stack of stuff, there was a fridge magnet, a book and a drink bottle. The book was about Flipman and the villan was Pitman. There were about 50 to 100 cyclers. CE

The visitors who came gave us drink bottles. DP

I knew someone on the bike ride. MS

On Thursday Tour De Cure came to Lavers on the 31st of April Tour De Cure visited our school and they told us to be fit, bit happy and be healthy. They are riding to cure cancer. They have been riding for 22,000 km. There is a couple of hundred riders. They told us about Flipman and Pitman and we go bags. JC

The bike ride came to Lavers Hill P-12 College. Between 50-100 riders came. LH

The school gave $1,000 to the tour. All the bike riders where in the carpark. They gave us showbags. DC

All the little and big kids got a goody bag and there was a Flipman toy, a lot of stickers, a book, a drink bottle. They rode from Warrnambool and there was a girl called Heidi. There were over 185 people riding. RH
Yesterday the Tour De Cure came to our school. Everyone in the school was there. They gave us party bags. In the party bags there was a water bottle, a page of stickers, a toy and some magnets. EP

The people were riding bikes. JM

The bike riders rode bikes. IC

In the goodie bags there was a mini Flipman and a book, 3 magnets and a water bottle. The riders were really nice, like really nice! We also had a competition to be the loudest and the kids won! GT

On Thursday people came from Tour De Cure. They gave us a talk about a superman called Flipman. He is fit, healthy and happy. They rode from Adelaide and they are riding to Melbourne. They are raising money for people who have cancer. They gave all the children a fun pack, in it was a model of Flipman, a book, stickers, magnets and a drink bottle. We gave them $1,000 and I loved it! EB

Tour De Cure came, they told us all about cancer. We had a contest on who could be the loudest. When they finished Tour De Cure got $1,000. When they left we gave them a wave. We had a lot of fun! MH

On Thursday evening I had the privilege of representing Otway Health, along with Board President Denise Mc Lachlan, and Michelle Fillmore, our Nurse Unit Manager, to attend the dinner for Tour De Cure at the Apollo Bay Hotel. The experience was very overwhelming- to see a mass of Tour De Cure riders and their families who were riding or supporting the Adelaide to Melbourne signature ride for 2015. This event filled the Apollo Bay Hotel with people of all ages who were passionate about their ability and desire to support cancer research. Many riders did not know one another prior to Tour De Cure and other riders who were “guesties”- guest riders were privileged to ride with such an amazing organization. Having just come from our Turning Point Campus I was wearing my Lavers Hill P-12 College name badge. Many people spoke to me throughout the evening commenting on what a wonderful college we have, the welcome they received from our students and staff and how they were very touched by the interest and support shown by students.

Throughout the day’s ride there are nominations put forward and jersey awards presented each evening. These journey awards relate to the Tour De Cure values: focus, awareness, challenge, determination, teamwork, persistence. One rider who is currently undergoing cancer treatment spoke about ‘teamwork’. He rode 100 kms on that day and had ridden each of the days from Adelaide. His talk focused on having an ‘A’ TEAM and how we have multiple ‘A’ TEAMS in our lives. His question to us was “Who is in your ‘A’ Team” to support you in your life’s journey. His ‘A’ Team in his cancer journey was his family, his closest friends, his close work colleagues and the supporters in Tour De Cure.

Cancer research receives only 14% of the funds they require from government sources. Organisations like Tour De Cure help to make up the other 86%. Tour De Cure presented Otway Health with a cheque for $10,000 to upgrade our palliative care ward in Apollo Bay. This donation will support many families who have a loved one experiencing palliative care.

Denise Hooke- Otway Health Board member and Lavers Hill P-12 College teacher.
STUDENT OF THE WEEK AWARDS

John Jutajar for learning his lines for the performance and competing all his tasks in class!!

Darcy Pomorin – Being a great volunteer by helping with the rubbish bins and also helping Miss Ferrair while she was suffering from a sore foot.

Middle Years News

Last Friday students of 5-8 were working on their starting a business with parents who were experienced with businesses. They were helping us out with our businesses and gave us a quite few ideas. We will be selling food like donuts, dim-sims, Doritos, lollies, ice cream, apple and orange juice, cookies, slices and chocolate and services like car washing and technology help as our businesses.

When I interviewed some students about what they had learned, they said not to go buying everything that is expensive because if we sell them too cheap we’re not going to make much of a profit out of it. If we ask for donations from companies, we will make a bit more of a profit out of it.

The business owners who came to give advice were Ellen, Gwyneth, Dean, Kirsten, Monique and Sami. We would like to thank them very much for giving up their time and helping us.

By Jack Cowley Year 5

Informative visit from local expert

On Friday, we had Brian, a retired teacher come to talk to us about the Gallipoli campaign. He showed us a presentation and a video. They were both quite interesting and engaging. He was very helpful by answering all of the students’ and teachers' questions.

During the presentation he showed us some pictures of Gallipoli during and after the campaign. We were also shown many pictures of our local area. Some of those pictures were taken between the wars. At one stage it became a little emotional.

The video was of a local man who died last year, Stuart Marriner, aged 95. He spoke about his time in WWII in the video. The funniest part was when Stuart said in the video, during the war one of his mates showed him vehicle tracks, and in the middle was a spike connected to a mine. That's when Stuart thought he would live to ripe old age.

I personally enjoyed watching the presentation and video. I will now use a lot of this information for my project on WWI, like most other people in my class. I thought all the information fitted with the subject and Bryan's knowledge was not wasted.

Tom Gilbert
Year 5
Pre-School News

We have had a wonderful start to term two, with all the children excited to be back with their friends and teachers. All the children are settling into the program with each child offering their own unique touch to our wonderful kinder environment.

Last week the kinder children enjoyed attending our excursion to the hospital, Dentist for the Kinder Kapers program, to familiarise the children with some of the things to expect should they or someone they know is hospitalised, sick or just in need of a general check-up. All the children were eager to assist the nurse in fixing the chosen kinder patient and in doing so were introduced to many of the instruments and first aid that could be used in the hospital. All children had a ride in the dentist chair and were introduced to Mr Buzzy, Miss Sucks and the Teeth Tickler. We then enjoyed lunch and a play at the Pirate Park followed by a fantastic session at the Colac Library were shown around learnt about borrowing and returning, listened to some Pirate themed stories and made some pirate themed masterpieces.

We are filling our kinder days with joy, wonder and excitement, with a room full of children hungry for learning.
The Asia Education Foundation asked teachers this week, ‘Why learn languages?’ I have always loved learning languages; both for the mental challenge of studying a new language, and for the opportunities it has given me to travel, live and work in different places and communicate with all sorts of different people. I decided to pass this question on to my students, asking them about their own motivations for learning a language. Below are some of the students’ responses. I have left a blank poster with some sticky notes in the school foyer; it would be great if staff, parents and other visitors could add their own thoughts or experiences about the value of learning languages. I will collate the responses and send them on to the AEF to help with their research.

Ibu Sarah
Why learn a language?

Because it's fun and sometimes boring.
We do lots of activities, like play basketball and hopping ball.
- Tracy

So you can sing new songs
So you can visit new places.
- Josephine

Because it's good and I like learning. Because I like my teacher. I like learning Indonesian songs.
- Darcy

So when you go to that place you know how to speak that language
By Chloe

Because I like learning about Indonesia. I like Indonesian pictures.
- Hao

Why learn a language?

1. Because you might want to go to their country
2. You might want to go and see someone in a different country

Because you can play games.
- Zoey

You can buy stuff from other countries. So you meet new friends. You can tell your friends what you can tell your friends.
- Xavier

I want to learn Chinese so I can go to China.
- Lewis

When you grow up you might go to a different country.
- Dean

Because if you don't learn languages you don't know what anyone is saying except for your own kind.

1. Because you might want to go to their country
2. You might want to go and see someone in a different country

It's good to learn about the money in different places.

Because you might go to a different place and you won't understand the people there. Also, you might get a punishment and they speak a different language. The more languages you know, the more people you will know.

Because you can play games.

You can buy stuff from other countries. So you meet new friends. You can tell your friends what you can tell your friends.

When you grow up you might go to a different country.

Because if you don't learn languages you don't know what anyone is saying except for your own kind.
Healthy Living Research Project
The Prevention childhood obesity within Great South Coast study is an exciting study that is being conducted at your school. All Grade 2, 4 and 6 students at your school are being invited to participate. This study will examine influences on healthy weight and related behaviours (physical activity, sedentary behaviour, diet quality and quality of life) among children and adolescents across the Great South Coast region of Victoria.

Results of this study will provide information about effectiveness of current efforts to improve the health of Victorian children and adolescents. This information will be used by educators, policy makers, health service providers and researchers in future efforts to improve the health of Victorian children and adolescents.

We have had a report of Scabies within the school

Scabies Summary
Scabies is caused by small mites called Sarcoptes scabiei that burrow into the skin. The skin reacts to the mites, causing red itching bumps or blisters to form. If you develop scabies, your sexual partners and all members of your household should also be treated with a scabies cream or lotion.

Scabies is a skin infestation caused by very small mites called Sarcoptes scabiei. The mites burrow into the skin to lay their eggs. New insects hatch from the eggs and can be spread to other parts of the skin by scratching.

Scabies is spread by direct, prolonged physical contact including sexual activity. Scabies mites can survive away from humans for about 24–36 hours, so it is possible to get scabies from infected articles such as bed linen and clothing, although this is much less common. Scabies is common around the world and can affect anyone. Pets do not cause human scabies infections.

Symptoms of scabies
The main symptoms of scabies are:

- intense itching, typically worse at night and after a hot bath or shower
- visible burrows on the skin between the fingers and in skin creases such as armpits and genitals
- a bump or pimple-like rash, which is often difficult to see.
- small, clear, fluid-filled spots or lesions.

Usually, there is not much rash to be seen because the mites bury into the skin. In elderly people, the rash may appear more widespread. In children, areas such as the face, scalp, palms and soles of the feet are often affected.

The itch may last for two to three weeks
The itch may persist for two to three weeks after treatment, even if the scabies have been effectively treated. This is because the itch is caused by the body’s immune system responding to the mites and may take time to settle down. You can talk to your pharmacist about treatments available to help with the itch.

If symptoms persist for longer than two to three weeks, you should see your doctor for a review.

Infection times may vary
Symptoms usually develop two to four weeks after infection. However, people who have previously been exposed may develop symptoms within 24 to 48 hours, because the immune system takes less time to respond. Generally, a person is no longer infectious 24 hours after treatment.
Below is description I found of developmental ages and normal responses to loss which may be helpful to some at this point in time. Feel free to contact me at the school if you would like to discuss further.

😊 Marni

Grief and Children

Preschool To Age Nine
This age child usually sees death as temporary and reversible. Between ages of five and nine, children begin to see death more like adults but still believe it will never happen to them.

Age Nine To Eleven
Child begins to understand death can happen to them. Death is becoming more real. This age child may show keen interest in the cause of death, details of the funeral, and in the biological aspects of death.

Adolescents
The adolescent searches for the meaning of life, which includes death. "Why" questions will be asked, many of which have no concrete answers. Often, adolescents' emotional response to death will be very intense and issues of unresolved grief will emerge eg: separation, or loss of a loved one.

The Healing Process
A major part of the healing process is allowing oneself to experience the intense emotions associated with the pain of grief.
The emotions typically experienced are:
• Anger
• Guilt
• Sadness
JISLC- Johor International Student Leadership Conference

Last week I departed from Melbourne’s Tullamarine Airport at 12.05am Saturday morning to begin my journey to Malaysia. Including myself there was a total of 4 students; Jemma Walsh, Sarah Nash, Mitchell Poulton and myself, alongside our fabulous mentor and Rural Youth Ambassador Co-ordinator, Phil Brown.

The journey started officially when we made a safe and early morning arrival on the ground in Singapore at 8am, leaving most of us sleep deprived and time disorientated. We had to cross the border to reach our destination of Johor in Malaysia, which took more time than intended when we became caught in a traffic jam. We arrived at our hotel at approximately 11:00am, with the rest of the afternoon spent testing Malaysian food in the buffet and wandering the alley ways and streets. Anything that would help keeps us occupied and not fall asleep, we were determined to not let jet lag get the better of us!

The conference commenced on Sunday Night, with a beautiful welcoming ceremony and dinner. It included around 90 people who were involved in organising the event and those, like ourselves, who were going to be presenting within the next few days. Everyone involved in the event were no older than the age of 18, they were all magnificent, motivational and inspirational youth. There were no other western countries represented at the conference, so Australia had a big role to play and we were smothered with lots of love and affection.

Monday and Tuesday consisted of 2 very full days, with a total of 900 participants from 25 different countries who came together at the Johor conference to listen to the presentations and be involved in workshops. Mitchell and myself presented a 15-20 minute presentation on the topic ‘Passion in Learning’, which addressed the role and importance passion has in how we learn and how we develop. Not everyone came from an educational perspective. There was a variety of presentation topics ranging from feminism, youth entrepreneurs, technology, exchange students, nuclear weapons etc. It was fascinating to listen to the perspectives of individuals from a mixture of different backgrounds and countries and the issues they face in their communities.

Australia was invited to perform a ‘cultural skit’ on one of the nights, and we came from a humorous angle with an altered version of ‘Hey Ya’ by Outcast, changed to ‘Straya’, and incorporated our own dance moves around the lyrics riding blow up kangaroos. Everyone absolutely adored our moves, and we even topped it off by wearing the classic Australian white singlet and footy shorts/cricket pants. As an appreciation, we handed out our large blow up kangaroo’s to a few very special people who made a significant impact on our time spent there. Other countries performed cultural dances, much more graceful than ours and some sang and played musical instruments. It was a beautiful night, with lots of laughs and bonding, and Australia even ended the night with our spontaneous dance lesson to the Nut Bush!

The weather was a real challenge to get used to, with temperatures never dropping below 26 degrees, and thunder and lightning hitting every night around 5pm. Malaysia has only a time difference of 2 hours behind Australia, however the days certainly felt much longer with very few days to adjust before heading home.

We all made very close friends with a group of exchange students who have been living in various parts of Malaysia for 11 months, with 6 weeks to go before heading home; Muriel, Daisy, Roberta and Genua. The girls came from Italy, Belgium and Germany, and shared many of their personal stories with us, both horrifying and astonishing. It was a true honour to have crossed paths with them, and we all exchanged details to stay in touch.

The time spent in Malaysia was emotionally rewarding, challenging and eye opening in so many ways. We were exposed rapidly to different cultures, food, environment, and thrown in the deep end with questions left, right and centre. Everyone wanted to know all about Australia, as much as we wanted to know all about Malaysia and everywhere else. It’s very difficult to put into words what I learnt, and how it changed me, because I’m still trying to
come to terms with it all myself and convert everything I’ve seen and heard into a manageable explanation. It was frightening to hear stories of how some people have been treated, but beautiful to hear other stories of hope and determination. It doesn’t matter where you come from, what language you speak, what colour your skin is, or how you dress, each and every young person has a voice that deserves to be heard and challenged, because what I learned was when we were all put into the same room together, was that we all want the same thing. A positive change in the world where we can all be equal, enthused, passionate, safe and share our resources for the better. If a group of young people who knew each other for a total of less than 3 days can come to a respectful conclusion about change and be at harmony, than I have faith in the generation to come. The world has a lot to look forward to.

Jasmine Steen

YouTube links to presentation and our cultural skit:

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=I9YVYHnsSLg&feature=youtu.be

https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=oCZNR4xjpH8

Kangaroo’s we used in our cultural skit!

Jasmine and Sarah painting the mural

Malaysian Village
Jasmine, Sarah and Jemma
Closing ceremony dinner

Jasmine and Mitch’s Passion in Learning Presentation

Lego-land

Jasmine, Jemma, Sarah and Mitch
At Mini UN meeting