NEIL HALL-OAKLEY

Neil Hall-Oakley of Year 8 was a very likeable larrikin to use a truly Australian expression. He was full of energy; a bit cheeky at times and generally had a zest for life. Unfortunately, it would seem he had an underlying health issue and he died suddenly last Thursday after school. We know of no external contributing factors despite some of the speculation that occurs while people seek an explanation for something so surprising.

Students and staff received counselling as they struggled to come to terms with this loss. The school has been in touch with Neil’s family and offered our support at this difficult time. Students expressed their thoughts on posters and these were delivered to his family last Friday and I’m sure they will provide comfort.

Students paused and reflected on how they had interacted with Neil at times, including acknowledging some teasing of him and from him. Some felt regret after Neil had passed. I would encourage all members of our school community to take this opportunity to consider what they say to each other and reflect on how they would feel if it was the last thing they could say to that person. To always be kind to each other, to not say or do hurtful things in the name of play, to treat others as you want to be treated. This could be a lasting legacy that celebrates Neil’s time at our school. He will be missed by many. Our thoughts are with his family at this difficult time.

PARENT TEACHER NIGHT BOOKINGS

The Online bookings for the Parent Teacher Night which will be held on Wednesday, 19th September 3.00pm - 8.00pm are now available to be made over the internet using the school website. The Online booking system opened for parents to access from midday on Tuesday 11th September and will close at 12 noon on Wednesday 19th September. If you do not have access to a computer connected to the internet, your child will be able to make bookings on your behalf using the computers at school.

MALAYSIA TRIP AND THE WORLD CHALLENGE EXPEDITION

We would like to wish all the students and teachers who are leaving this weekend for the Malaysia Trip and the World Challenge Expedition all the best for a wonderful experience and best wishes. Thank you to the teachers who organised the trips, Tammy Van Rossum for the Malaysia trip and Andrew Barker and Gerri Ryder for the World Challenge Expedition. We look forward to hearing the reports from the trips next Term.

Sue Peddlesden, Adele Duffy, Kathie Toth & Paul Thorne

PODCASTING – COMMUNICATION OF SCIENCE IDEAS

Recently we had the opportunity to work with Tim and Jen from Monash University who presented a session and a glimpse into Podcasting. They gave us a demonstration of how to interview over the radio and shortly after this we formed groups of three people and performed our own interviews of Podcasting.

It was interesting to learn how our voice recording looked and how important it was to have structure to the interview. This experience provided us with new opportunities to assess students’ understanding of scientific concepts.

Ms S Singh

More Jobs at Fountain Gate Shopping Centre
Schnitz is opening a new restaurant at Westfield Fountain Gate on 23rd September, 2012. They are looking to hire up to 35 part-time or casual hospitality workers which provides a fantastic opportunity for local students and jobseekers. No experience required for these roles and full training is provided.

The working hours may include night and weekend work with late night trading hours. Send your resume (including two referees) with a covering letter to:
westfieldproject@pvs.com.au or schnitzfountaingate@gmail.com (mention the Westfield Project in your email)

RSPCA Holiday Programs
Are you interested in working with animals in the future? Please book now for the following programs at www.rspcavic.org/services/education/holiday-programs

Vet Day – Wednesday 3rd October (for 15-20yo)
$100 (includes 12 month RSPCA membership)

Animal Attendant for a day – Wednesday 26th September (13-18 yo) $100 (includes 12 month RSPCA membership).

Both programs are at the RSPCA East Burwood Shelter, 3 Burwood Highway.

Also think about applying for the VET in Schools program Cert II Animal Studies while completing Year 10, 11 or 12. http://www.rspcavic.org/services/education/certificate-ii-in-animal-studies

Year 9 Students
I have been visiting each Year 9 Humanities class to talk about the Year 10 Work Experience Program at Gleneagles. The Work Experience dates are 17th to 21st June 2013. This is a compulsory program and students will spend one week in a workplace of their choice (related to their future career).

Year 9 students can also apply for a Tax File number. Pick up a form from the Careers office. Students may start working part-time once they reach 15 years old.

Ms Chris Wood, Careers Co-ordinator