Year 9 Careers Excursion to Bendigo

Recently we were lucky enough to take 94 students to Bendigo to visit Bendigo Kangan Institute and LaTrobe University. It was a great chance for the students to see what opportunities are available in Bendigo post-school. All students were able to experience trade based subjects at Bendigo Kangan Institute, and engage in some hands on learning in Building Construction, Electrical, Horticulture, Hair and Beauty, Hospitality and Painting and Decorating.

We also visited LaTrobe University, where the students participated in an amazing race around the campus. This was a great exercise as they were able to work in teams to find their way around the university grounds. They then heard firsthand from a current third year student about university life and what they will need to do over the next three years to prepare themselves. The main message was to make sure they start to attend open days and visit universities to ensure they get the best information as it is always changing.

Corey Frost – Applied Learning Leading Teacher

Courage to Care

On the 2nd and 3rd of August, Year Seven and Year Eleven students were fortunate enough to attend a presentation called ‘Courage to Care’.

This program was brought to Swan Hill by the B’nai B’rith organisation to educate students on the inherent dangers of prejudice and hate. It is a program that promotes diversity and respect, and not being a bystander.

On Tuesday 2nd August, the Year Sevens and their teachers attended the Courage to Care exhibit at the Swan Hill Club.

The students were shown a short film backgrounding the persecution that Jewish people have suffered throughout history. Then we were introduced to a survivor of the Holocaust, Sarah, who told us of her experiences.

She was born in 1926 and was thirteen when Germany became a very dangerous place for herself and her family. Her mother and father sent her away to work in a factory where she posed as a Polish immigrant.

She spoke to the Year Sevens about how hard it had been to conceal her identity, how she had to remember what lies she had told and who she had told them to.

In time, she sent out three postcards to old family friends. She was desperate for news of her family.

One of the recipients of these cards betrayed Sarah and she was taken into custody by the Gestapo.

Sarah told the Year Sevens how she was made to stand facing a wall for hours on end, her hands cuffed and large imposing men asking her many questions. She lied again and managed to save her own life. She fled as soon as she was released and managed to evade the Gestapo and live out her days.

After this incredible talk, the students were shown a short film at the Swan Hill Club. It was an emotional recount that had an impact on all our students.

The afternoon session viewed a videoed story of a survivor, and the horrors he had faced were forced to endure. Like the Year Sevens, students met with volunteers to find out more about the Holocaust. Sarah, who told us of her experiences, was a survivor and the horrors he and his family were forced to endure. Like the Year Sevens, they were a receptive and respectful audience.

Ms Campbell and Ms de Munk

MMLEN – Structured Workplace Learning

The MMLEN has launched a Structured Workplace Learning Portal. This portal helps VET students to find work placements with employers across Victoria.

VET students and parents can use this portal to:

- Find current Structured Workplace Learning opportunities and School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships (SBAT'S) offered by employers across Victoria.
- Explore careers
- To investigate this service further go to www.workplacements.education.vic.gov.au or speak with your careers teacher or the MMLEN on 5032 9360.

Student trying their hand at building and construction.

Parent Teacher Interviews

We are now halfway through the term and it is an important stage of the year for all of us to carefully check the progress of students. This year we have introduced ongoing assessment of students and we have been encouraging parents to regularly log in to the DayMap portal to view the feedback on assessment tasks as well as attendance. Another way that we ensure progress is through Parent Teacher interviews. This term they will take place on Wednesday, 24 August. I would encourage all parents to bring students along to the interviews so that they can have a discussion with teachers about what has been going well and what strategies can be followed to ensure that students continue to progress.

Julie Robertson - Principal