COLLEGE NEWS

Year 7 and 8 Reading Program

As all of our Year 7 and 8 students know, reading for at least 20 minutes per day should be a part of their everyday plan. This is separate from the reading required to complete homework tasks. Teachers have been checking planners to review how much our students are reading and encouraging them to do so, as well as helping them find suitable texts to read. We have been pleased to see that some students regularly read and others have started to read a little more, but we have the goal of ensuring all of our students improve their reading fluency and comprehension so we still have a bit of work to do.

What can parents do to help?

- Parents play a crucial role in developing regular reading habits in their children, which many studies show helps in all areas of their schooling and future.

Below are some suggestions that may help:

- Model good reading habits. If your children see you read they are more likely to;
- Talk about what you read.
- Develop a study plan with your children that includes time for reading.
- Regulate time spent on social media. A recent report in Herald-Sun (Christopher Bartick, ‘Unplug students to improve literacy levels’, 26/4/16) suggested that the 77% of teenagers spend more than two hours using electronic media for entertainment per day. Some of that time could be used for reading fiction and non-fiction texts.
- Ask your child questions about what they read (see below).

In recent weeks in our reading lessons, we have focused on the reading comprehension strategy of ‘Activating and Connecting’. To help reinforce this learning, parents could ask their children questions like these:

- Did you make any links to experiences you have had while reading the book? (This is a text-to-self connection)

Tennis Success

Recently, five teams travelled to Mildura to compete in the LMR Tennis Finals. All five teams represented the College exceptionally well by competing to the best of their ability and demonstrating perfect sportsmanship. The Year 8 boys showed a lot of determination to claim runners-up honours. The Intermediate girls finished on top of their division and have qualified for State Finals for a third consecutive year.

We wish them all the best today when they strive to become State champions.

Alpine School

On Thursday 12th May, Hannah Everett, Nathan McInerney, Tessa Myers and Sam Smith went to Swan Hill North Primary School to present to the Grade 5/6’s. This was the final part of completing their Victorian Leaders to China Community Leadership Project. They talked to the students about their experiences in China and then delivered a presentation about jobs in China. Each student spoke about a different aspect of the topic. The primary school students were incredibly engaged throughout the whole presentation, asking a range of questions about all sorts of things.

Tessa said of the experience, “I was thrilled that the students enjoyed it, and it was good to finally complete all requirements of the program. At the end of the session our teacher asked the students who would like to go – and they ALL put their hands up!”

The Victorian Leaders to China program is a part of the School for Student Leadership Camp, a government funded school that encourages Year 9 students to develop a range of leadership skills.