

## SEAL - A Different Pathway to Success

Sale College prides itself in catering for all types of students. One way in which this is achieved is through a Select Entry Accelerated Learning Program that is designed for students who learn at a faster rate than their peers.

Imagine running a 400metre race and being made to slow down at the finish so that everyone can cross the line at the same time. For some students, this is what it feels like at school if they are not able to work at their own pace, which just happens to be faster than others in their class. This is where the specialized SEAL program can help.

The school's government-endorsed SEAL Program was established in 1998. It provides for students with exceptional ability and enquiring minds who may be overlooked and unsatisfied in a regular class. It unites and challenges a group of 25 students who, with their ability and application, move more quickly through the first years of secondary school, completing four years in three. A review of SEAL schools in 2005 recognized the special place of these programs in secondary education and resulted in 10 more schools receiving accreditation across the state. Sale College is one of four SEAL schools in Gippsland, the others being in Trafalgar, Wonthaggi and Koo Wee Rup.

On the surface, the idea of racing through school and arriving at university at 16 would horrify most parents. This is **not** the aim of the program, and in reality very few students have taken this option. By compressing the curriculum however, less time is spent going over material and concepts that are already understood and there is more time for in-depth and broader investigation. These are important aspects in provision of education for gifted and talented students.

Around the school SEAL students don't appear any different from other students, but what they do in the classroom is!

At the program's completion, students have many options open to them, and are carefully counselled on their choices for VCE studies. Some students use the extra year for an overseas exchange or work experience. However the majority of students choose to complete VCE over three years, enabling exposure to a wider range of subjects including university enhancement. This provides the opportunity to gain a higher ENTER score and can also reduce the enormous pressure of Year 12. Students are rarely talented in just one area, and the continuation of interests such as music, sport, drama, art and leadership are important to their total development.

The program doesn't suit all bright students and is only one pathway to success.

It is rigorous, challenging and requires commitment. Sometimes the SEAL students lose sight of the "big picture", and perceive that they are the only students doing any work! There are many advantages for them however, and we have seen success in many forms apart from VCE scores and university placement.

The social and emotional needs of bright students are often different from their peers. For some of the SEAL students the class has provided a sanctuary where they are supported and valued for their differences. They are encouraged to think deeply and question without being ridiculed. Like-minded peers have been discovered for the first time, and these friendships can be of more long-term value than high marks. Specialist teachers can be sensitive to individual needs, encouraging broader thinking and keeping students engaged in schooling. There is also a flow-on effect to mainstream classes where these shared teachers utilise varied approaches to teaching and learning.

The availability of the SEAL program at Sale College thus fulfils some students' special needs and maximises the choice and opportunity for academic pathways through senior school and tertiary studies.

### Timeline for 2009:

Information evening: April 29<sup>th</sup>, 7pm.

SEAL Applications close- Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 4.00pm

SEAL Exam- Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 9.30am -12.30pm.

SEAL Interviews- By appointment, during term 2, from May 19<sup>th</sup>- June 5<sup>th</sup>

First round offers- Posted last week of term 2.



## Cowwarr Primary School

No. 1967

Church Street

Cowwarr. 3857

Telephone: (03) 5148 9271

Facsimile: (03) 5148 9422

Email: [cowwarr.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:cowwarr.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au)

Principal: Helen Hellenen

## Cowwarr Communicator

[www.cowwarrps.vic.edu.au](http://www.cowwarrps.vic.edu.au)

March 26th 2009

Issue 8

### Calendar

Koorie Cultural Day- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March

Term 1 holidays- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

Daylight Saving ends-Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2009

Rural Schools Cross Country (Lake Guthridge)- Tuesday May 5<sup>th</sup>

Zone Cross Country (Yarram) - Thursday May 20<sup>th</sup>

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Chris Ballard and Ruth O'Brien on being successful in applying and securing a recent Coles Junior Landcare Garden Grant of-\$1000. This money will be used for a bush garden and to further develop the vegetable garden and fruit trees.

### Active After School Care Program

Today is the **last day** of Active After School Care program. The program will begin again in term 2, week 2- Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> -Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009. Thanks to the teachers for supervising these activities.

### International Children's Book Week

As next Thursday is a day to celebrate the reading of books, we are asking the children to bring to school their favourite book to share. Parents are also invited to bring their favourite picture book, and stay at 9.00am to read with the children for half an hour.

### Parents Club

Thank you to parents- Debbie Iseppi, Ingrid Biram and Ruth O'Brien who served drinks at the Landcare meeting last week. \$200 was raised for the Parent Club.

### Daylight Saving

For your information-on Saturday/Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> April Daylight Saving begins.

### Parent Teacher Interviews

For parent/teacher interviews could parents please make contact with the relevant teacher to make a suitable appointment before the end of term. Thank you. I am really keen to have a chat with a parent of each of the Grade 5/6 children sometime before the end of term.

### Bike Ed

A great day on Wednesday with Bike Ed! Thank you to parents for transporting the bikes to school. We were overwhelmed by the response and are considering having the day again later in the year. It is always of benefit to embed the teaching of road rules. With this in mind we have invited the RACV Road safety program to be delivered later in the year. Thank you to Mark Biram for coming to school and demonstrating to the Grade 5/6 children how to fix a puncture. Enjoy the photographs.



### BBQ

From the Landcare Day there were some bread rolls left over. A BBQ will be held on Thursday for the children as an end of term activity. Parents are invited to come to school to share a BBQ lunch. Please complete the order forms at the end of this newsletter. Sausages and coleslaw will be \$1.00 each. Assistance with the BBQ would be appreciated. Please see Ingrid Biram if you can help.

### Koorie Cultural Day

Tomorrow Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2009 the children have been invited to attend a Koorie Cultural Day to celebrate the local Koorie culture in the Latrobe Valley. The children will be involved in traditional Koorie games, indigenous dance lessons, Koorie artwork, indigenous pottery painting and jewellery making. This will be held at the Town Common, Elgin Street, Morwell. The bus will leave at 9.00am returning in time for dismissal.

### Wilsons Promontory Camp 2009

The Grade 3-6 camp will take place at Wilsons Promontory this year from Monday- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> November 2009. The cost of the camp will be \$200.00. A deposit of \$40.00 per student is now due and should be paid by the end of term. Please see Barb Tomholt at the office. Thank you!

### Grade 6 Graduation

We still need photographs of the Grade 6 children since Grade Prep. It would be great if parents could send any along. They will be scanned and then returned to you. We plan to begin our Graduation boards next term. Thank you. To begin to raise money for their Graduation, the Grade 6 Leadership team is organizing a **'Guess the Number of Lollies in the jar' competition**. Guesses start tomorrow and will be 20cent a guess or 6 for \$1.00. See Bonnie Coleman.

### School Newsletter

If you would like a copy of the newsletter emailed to you could you please let Barb at the office know via email at [covwarr.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:covwarr.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au). The newsletter is also put on our website each week at [www.covwarrps.vic.edu.au](http://www.covwarrps.vic.edu.au)

### End of Term

School will be dismissed for the first term holidays on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2009 at 2.00pm. Term 2 will resume on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April. Children may wear casual clothes next Friday.

Enjoy your weekend!  
(Mrs) Helen Hellenen

## *Community News*

### Auskick 2009

Yes, it's that time of year already!

Auskick will commence the first Thursday of Term 2, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at Cowwarr Football Ground, 4.30pm for a 4.45pm start. Session goes to 6pm. Cost is \$50. If you register online at [www.aflauskick.com.au](http://www.aflauskick.com.au) by April 3<sup>rd</sup> you receive the NAB AFL Auskick Club Connect package (which simply means that you receive a Family Pass to AFL games that feature your team). All Auskickers receive the Auskick Pack – see posters at the shop for details of the Pack. Auskick runs for the whole term. Come along to find out details about our AFL grid match!

All children, Prep to Grade 6 are eligible to join. Please contact Tim and Jan on 51489060 for any enquiries/more details.

## **Do Your Kids Know What To Do In A Fire? KID SAFE/FIRE SAFE DAY**

*When: 19th April 2009*

*Where: Tyers Fire Station  
(Next to the Tyers Store)*

*Time: 3pm-5pm (bbq supplied)*

*An interactive and Fun Day to Help Them Feel Safe*

*For All Enquiries Phone: Sue on 51918483*



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### **BBQ Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Sausages @ \$1.00 each**

Name.....wants to order .....sausages

Name.....wants to order .....sausages

Name.....wants to order .....sausages