

**Ashwood College Ranks Highly in Latest Student Attitudes to School Survey**

The 2009 ‘Student Attitudes to School’ survey was released to all schools by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) on Friday, 7 August. This survey, completed in early Term 2, provided students with an opportunity to comment on wellbeing, teaching and learning and student relationships.

The students have overwhelmingly given the school a resounding endorsement with all categories showing an improvement from 2008. The survey also showed Ashwood College scoring commendably against the state benchmarks with most categories ranking well above the state mean. The school is in the top 20% of the state for Teacher Effectiveness, Teacher Empathy and Classroom Behaviour. The questions for these categories were:

Teacher Effectiveness: My teachers:

- ◆ Are easy to understand
- ◆ Put a lot of energy into teaching our class
- ◆ Explain how we can get more information
- ◆ Are well prepared
- ◆ This school is preparing students well for their future.

Teacher Empathy: My teachers:

- ◆ Listen to what I have to say
- ◆ Really want to help me learn
- ◆ Provide help and support when it is needed
- ◆ Are good at helping students with problems
- ◆ Explain things to me clearly
- ◆ Help me to do my best
- ◆ Understand how I learn

Classroom Behaviour: The extent to which other students are **NOT** disruptive in class:

- ◆ It’s often hard to learn in class, because some students are really disruptive
- ◆ It’s often hard to listen to the teacher in class, because other students are misbehaving
- ◆ The behaviour of some students in class makes it hard for me to do my work.

The improvement in the Classroom Behaviour category was one of the most significant improvements on previous years. Other significant areas of improvement were in the categories of Teacher Effectiveness, Teacher Empathy, Stimulating Learning and School Connectedness.

These excellent results reflect the significant time all staff and coordinators put into student attendance, retention, engagement and wellbeing.

**Staff Survey Results**

The latest staff survey results also indicate that the College continues to score overall in the top 25% of state secondary schools in all categories and in the top 5% for the supportive leadership, role clarity and professional interaction categories.

*Kerrie Croft—Principal*

**Working Bee—Thank You**

Many thanks to Simon Lindenmayer, the Westmore family, the Shiels family, the Holmes family, Charlie Jeong, David Wood, Joan Quinlan, and also to the following staff: Anna Kukuruzovic, Dale Wain , Bryan Walsh and Peter Forbes who all braved the elements on Sunday.

*Tony Kuc—Assistant Principal*

**Diary Dates:**

<b>Friday</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>August</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>August</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>August</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>August</b>

<b>Year 10 2010 Course Selection Interviews with Parents</b>
<b>Go Melbourne Begins - 9C &amp; 9D</b>
<b>Year 8 &amp; 9 2010 Information Night</b>
<b>Go Melbourne Begins - 9E &amp; 9F</b>

## Year 10 Report

Year 10 students are back in the swing of things in Term 3. Term 2 finished in a flurry of activity, with the successful completion of exams, followed by Work Experience. Preparation for examinations is especially important, as all students will be undertaking them in all subjects at the end of the school year. This is also the time of year when students should be consolidating their knowledge, revising work and ensuring that they are up to date with all subjects. Parents can assist by encouraging students to manage their time to include study along with other activities.

Many students were probably quite relieved to finally get to their work experience after the stress of the exams. Glowing reports have been given, once again, by the employers who have taken on the Year 10 students. A number of students spoke at our last school assembly about their experiences, giving quite a diverse range of reports. Some students found that the job was quite different to their expectations; others realised that they had found a niche they could explore further.

This week, Year 10s have been undertaking initial course selection for 2010. The Parent Information Evening has been followed up by a day where students have been counselled in regard to subjects that will lead them into future courses or areas of employment. If parents have concerns regarding course selection, please contact the school so that problems can be 'ironed' out.

I would also ask for your cooperation in ensuring that full school uniform is worn both to and from school. We are proud of our school and positive representation in the community reinforces that pride.

**Sandra Baker - Year 10 Coordinator**

### State Cross Country Championships

CONGRATULATIONS to Chynea Lang who participated admirably in the State Cross Country Championships held at Bundoora on Friday 24 July. Chynea came equal 16th out of 91 competitors in the 14 Year Girls. A fantastic effort - well done Chynea!

## Ashwood Students and ZONTA

Zonta International is a global organisation of executives and professionals working together to advance the status of women worldwide through service and advocacy. Zonta aims to:

- ◆ improve the legal, political, economic, health, educational and professional status of women through service and advocacy;
- ◆ work for the advancement of understanding, goodwill and peace through a world fellowship of executives in business and the professions;
- ◆ promote justice and universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- ◆ be united internationally to foster high ethical standards, implement service programs, and provide mutual support and fellowship for members who serve their communities, their nations and the world.

Ashwood College students recently held a barbeque in an ongoing effort to raise \$1000.00 for ZONTA to help eliminate infant deaths in developing countries through the provision of birthing kits.

A big thank you to Coles at Chadstone Shopping Centre for their kind donation of sausages and bread. Their ongoing support of this worthwhile cause is wonderful. There will be another barbeque day in upcoming weeks.

**Jo Henriksen—Student Engagement & Wellbeing**

### **Ashwords is going Electronic!!**

Commencing Term 4, *Ashwords* will no longer be printed for distribution. The school will email parents with the link to our website where *Ashwords* can be read or downloaded.

If you have not provided the school with your email address please do so via the 'update student details' link on the website or by emailing Ashwood College on: **ashwood.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au**

A limited number of printed copies will be available for collection at the General Office.

**Year 9 Ski Trip 2009**

It was an early start on Wednesday 29 July, but parents and students arrived at school by 5.30 am for the much anticipated annual ski trip to Mt Buller. Over the three days the 29 students had maximum time on the slopes, participating in skiing/snowboarding lessons, free time on the slopes and night skiing/snowboarding on Wednesday night. They also enjoyed meals at various places as well as nutritious home cooked meals at the VSL Ski Club we were staying in. The weather was the typical overcast/cloudy we expect at Mt. Buller but that did not dampen the spirits of the students and maybe one day they might return to Mt. Buller and actually see some of the beautiful scenery that surrounded them. In the very last hour on the mountain, the students were excited to experience snow falling. By Friday evening the students had all improved their skills and confidence on the slopes and riding the chairlifts. It was a weary group that returned home with bruises and sore muscles but a group that had enjoyed a great three days.

A big thank you for the assistance of the Ashwood College staff - Shane Duggan, Linsey Boddy and student teacher Troy Diaz. Enjoy the photos taken on the slopes.

*Melissa Worth - Ski Trip Coordinator*

**China Trip Information Evening - Wednesday 2 September at 7.00 pm**

We need a minimum of **10 people** for the trip to go ahead. **All Ashwood College community members are welcome to join the trip.**

In previous years we have had mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, cousins and even aunties and uncles join us, as well as teachers and their family members. So, as you can see, it is a terrific opportunity to take advantage of for any Ashwood College community member with an interest in experiencing the wonders of China and its people.

Come along to the Information Evening on Wednesday 2 September at 7.00 pm, and find out all the details. Any queries can be answered and a full itinerary will be available. Just follow the signage at the General Office.



*Fiona Morris  
Chinese Teacher, LOTE Coordinator*

**Year 9 Go Melbourne**

**Go Melbourne** is about to commence for **9C and 9D**. Students will be attending the Urban City Program during Week 7, starting on **Monday 24 August**.



**9E and 9F** will be starting their Go Melbourne City Program during Week 8, starting on **August 31**. The students will be in the City from Monday – Thursday and then at school on the Friday to complete their projects. There will be final information coming home in the next week. Please note that all students **will need access to a mobile phone** that has credit available.

If any Year 9 students have not paid or returned their signed forms, they must do so ASAP to the General Office. If you have any questions, please contact Dale Wain at school or email on: [wain.dale.1@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:wain.dale.1@edumail.vic.gov.au)

**English Week - 10-14 August 2009**

English Week was celebrated at the College this week with book quizzes, word games and a short story competition. Most students enjoyed the challenge of sorting through anagrams, code breaker crossword puzzles and graded crosswords. Word games like these help us develop our logic and deductive reasoning skills and as a bonus, they are FUN to do!

The short story competition across Years 7-10 provided students with the opportunity to hone their creative writing and editing skills with a word limit of exactly 50 words. There were a variety of entries ranging from the witty and humorous, to the empathetic and poignant. The year level winners will be announced next week after English staff have met to consider all entries.

Already we are planning for 2010 by expanding our activities to involve guest speakers, performances and readings by groups of enthusiastic College students.

*Margaret Szabo - English Coordinator*

**Parents & Friends**

The next meeting of Parents & Friends will be advertised on the website, please stay tuned.

**Upcoming Events / Dates for Parents & Friends**

<b>EVENT/ DATE</b>
<b>School Production Raffles</b> August 17 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup>
<b>P&amp;F Meeting, PAC Foyer</b> Thursday September 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 7.30 pm
<b>Trivia Night, PAC Ashwood College</b> Saturday September 5 <sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm
<b>P&amp;F Meeting, PAC Foyer</b> Thursday September 17 <sup>th</sup> 7.30pm
<b>Bunnings BBQ, Nottingham Bunnings</b> Sunday November 1 <sup>st</sup> 8 am – 5 pm
<b>Market and Music Festival, Ashwood College</b> Saturday November 7 <sup>th</sup>

**Billy G's Gourmet Cookie and Biscuit Dough**

A reminder that the cookie dough will be delivered to school on **Monday 24 August** and can be collected from the canteen after school.

Please make sure students have a strong fabric carry bag (a green bag is ideal) for orders of 1-3 tubs. The tubs each weigh 1.3kg and plastic bags rip easily. For orders of four tubs or more, please arrange for students to be collected by car as these orders will be packed in boxes and are too heavy and difficult to be carried home.

There are still a few tubs of cookie dough available. If you would like to purchase one or more tubs, please contact Lyn on 0402 241 556 to check availability of flavours.

Thank you to all who have supported this fundraiser as it has raised over \$1000 for the school and students.

*Annamaree Ranten and Lyn Hancock*

**Trivia Night - 5 September 2009**

The Parents & Friends Committee is seeking donations that can be raffled or auctioned at our two upcoming fundraisers; the inaugural Ashwood College Trivia Night/Silent Auction evening and the second Annual Gas Light Market.

The fundraisers are to raise money to contribute to the purchase and installation of permanent outdoor shade structures surrounding the canteen area and towards the air-conditioning fund. We have a target of \$5,000 and we sincerely hope you are able to assist our fundraising by contributing an item or service from you or your business.

Some examples of donations in the past are as follows: accommodation, wine, food, cosmetics/hair cuts, jewellery, gift vouchers, music/CDs, movie passes, massage/beauty treatments and local restaurants/pub meal vouchers.

Please contact Dale Wain on 9807 1333 or [wain.dale.l@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:wain.dale.l@edumail.vic.gov.au). Donations can also be left at the General Office.

**Trivia Night/ Silent Auction Tickets**

The Trivia Night is approaching very quickly and therefore we need families to purchase their tickets ASAP. Please fill in the reply form and place it in an envelope with the \$15.00 per person and have your child hand it into the General Office. We need to know our final numbers by **29 AUGUST**. It is open to all parents, friends and family (adults) and our VCE students. We have Mr. Joe Murphy (ex drama teacher) running the evening. Remember, we need your help to make this night a success so that we can purchase additional resources for your children to be used at school. If you have any questions, please call Dale Wain on 9807 1333 or email [wain.dale.1@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:wain.dale.1@edumail.vic.gov.au)

We are looking forward to a great evening.

*Dale Wain - Family & Friends Coordinator*

**Boys Intermediate Table Tennis**

On Thursday 13 August the Intermediate Boys Table Tennis team headed to the Dandenong Table Tennis Centre for Inter-school Competition. The boys started strongly in Round 1 with Joel Creek of the A team winning his rubber against his Brentwood opponent as did Joel Mattiske of the B team. Despite some close doubles games (particularly the pairing of Joel Creek and Matthew Gebert) Brentwood were victorious. Round 2 saw both A and B teams competing against Glen Waverley and despite some epic games Glen Waverley proved too strong. Good efforts in this round came from Dennis Wong, Jamie McNamara, Tim Wood and Sachin Siriwardena.

The improvement through the day was evident and in the third round the boys played some fantastic

table tennis to hand out an old fashioned thumping to Wheelers Hill, winning five rubbers to one. Stand-out performances in this round came from Nathan Ly-Lu and Jason Wu both in singles and in their doubles pairings.

Congratulations to all players who made the side and to those who tried out.

*John Sheehan - Table Tennis Coach*

**Year 11 Outdoor Education - Victorian Mountain Biking Orienteering Championship**

Last Friday six Year 11 Outdoor Education students competed in the Victorian Mountain Biking Orienteering Championships at the You Yangs Regional Park. It was the first time we had entered competitors and our students did Ashwood proud. Combining the skills of navigation and mountain biking, the students competently rode parts of the course for the two hour event. Our Senior Girls team of Mel and Nadia came fourth in their division with 350 points. An excellent effort considering they were only 10 points (1 flag) away from 2nd or 3rd place!! The Senior boys pairs of Matthew and Seb just pipped Zin and Aaron at the finish line and both pairs came in on 270 points coming 8th and 9th respectively in their division. A great day was had by all and now the students know what to expect, they are looking forward to competing next year at Lysterfield Park. Well done team!

*Ms Melissa Worth - Year 11 OES Teacher*

**Year 9 and 10 Girls Basketball**

The girls ventured to Dandenong for a huge day of basketball. After the first game, it became clear that we were up against some pretty stiff competition, playing against sides of very high standards and some extremely polished teams.

We tried many combinations in defence and offence; the girls giving 100% every game. With plenty of girls we rotated the bench, everyone getting in and having a go. The girls showed aggression and fight for the ball, but unfortunately coming up against teams of such a high standard, it wasn't enough to get up.

To the girls' credit, they never gave up all day, and showed excellent sportsmanship supporting each other and cheering each other on. Felicity Hogg lead the team, encouragingly, introducing new plays and teaching the girls new things.

Well done girls. Your behaviour and attitude represented the school exceedingly well.

*Melissa Worth - Sports Coordinator*

**Intermediate Boys Squash**

Thursday 13 August, Beau Connick, Josh Kessler, Frank Loi and Sam Loi headed to Bounce Squash and Fitness Centre to compete in the Interschool Squash Competition. Ashwood had four players compared to some teams that had at least 10 each. We had one win against Highvale, which was Frank Loi. Josh and Sam were competitive and had great spirit throughout their games and Beau had a lot of three setters.

All in all it was great and ..... very, very sweaty !

*Josh Kessler - Year Ten Student*

**Year 9 & 10 Boys Basketball**

After many solid training sessions leading up to the Round Robin, the Intermediate Boys A and B Basketball teams were pumped and ready to take on the other schools. Unfortunately, we went in with a few niggling injuries and we lost one player at the last minute but we still had two very good sides.

The Boys A Team played six games over the day. They convincingly won two games and the other four games were absolute nail biters!! We only lost by a few points to Mt. Waverley in their last game when we had no subs, and they ended up winning the competition. The skills and team encouragement shown by the boys were excellent. Hopefully with a fully fit team next year they will give a few more teams a shake.



The Boys B Team played solidly all day, winning a few of the matches but coming up against some persistent and skilled opposition. They even forfeited one of their players to the A team for the last few games. Their persistence and some of the running plays was excellent throughout the day.

Neither team gave up and gave 100% until the last siren.

A fantastic effort by both teams, well done!

*Melissa Worth*

*Sport Coordinator – Boys Basketball Coach*

 <b>ASHWOOD NETBALL CLUB</b> 
Ashwood Netball Club is desperately looking for players to play in the Spring Competition on Saturday mornings. If you would like more information please contact Tania on 0402 825 495 or 9807-5495.