STAYING ENGAGED

Earlier this term, I was privileged to be selected as one of forty principals from across Australia to attend a leadership development program called Leading Australia’s Schools. As part of this program, participants were asked to develop a ‘Challenge Project’ focussing on an important issue in their schools.

My project will focus on ‘Student Engagement’. In particular, those parts of the Marden Senior College environment that either enhance or detract from the level at which each of you is ‘engaged’ with your learning. While this may appear a fairly straightforward topic, it actually takes in a whole range of services we offer. The ways in which we conduct our classroom teaching, curriculum development, literacy and learning support, counselling and careers advice may all affect your level of engagement. So too will factors in the lives of individual students, such as subject interests, work and study aspirations and commitments beyond the school.

Researchers suggest that students who are engaged in their work are driven by goals which satisfy particular needs. The following quick quiz, based on these needs, will test your level of engagement:

1. Are you experiencing success in the studies you are doing at MSC?
2. Are you happy that the study you are doing is helping you fulfil a long-term goal?
3. Do you feel you have your studies under control and understand the work?
4. Do you feel like you are learning new things?
5. Does the study you are doing arouse your interest and curiosity?
6. Are you provided with opportunities to express your thoughts and opinions?

Do you feel that the relationships you have built at MSC (eg with teachers and other students) contribute positively to your success? If you answered ‘yes’ to all (or most) of these questions, you are probably a highly engaged learner and, therefore, likely to go on to successfully complete you studies.

During next term, I would like to explore the idea of ‘student engagement’ with you more fully. I will be asking a number of you to assist me in collecting data and information so that we can better understand the topic and put in place measures designed to improve levels of engagement for our students.

Chris Dolan

Important Dates

Term 3 College holidays  Monday 10 July - Friday 21 July
Start of term 3  Monday 24 July
Start of Trimester 3  Monday 21 August
End of Trimester Reports available  Friday 25 August
(in communication folders 600 block)
Geosciences Pathways Careers Night  Wednesday 26 July
(St Peter’s College Hall, 7 pm)
Big Half Day In celebration  Wednesday 23 August
In Focus - Hospitality

VISIT TO VILIS

On 2 May the Stage 1 Hospitality class visited Vilis bakery in order to increase their understanding of food hygiene, occupational health & safety, customer relations, and employment in the hospitality industry. An enthusiastic group of Sudanese students from the SACE Preparation program were invited to join the trip and they gained some first-hand experience of Australian industry and culture. Here are a few of their comments after the trip……

Abur: I want to visit again because I like the food
Zahara: It is a very clean place. The people are very friendly. The boss is very friendly too.
Garang: I need to go back to have more knowledge about how Vilis's works. I would like to make a company like that one day.
Everyone: Maybe Garang's dream will come true
Zahara: It was a good experience. We saw different things. I want to try some things I saw at home in my kitchen.
Mahboobah: I liked the food and the way they were working
Abiei: A really nice and clean place. I met my cousin there. He was rolling the dough to take to the bakery. I ate a delicious sausage roll.
Malong: I didn't go. I would like to visit because I have heard many nice things.

TAKING UP A TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Sudanese student Samuel Menu (pictured at right) is a Marden Senior College student who has shown a real interest in taking up the recently offered opportunity for Sudanese students to received training for the Hospitality industry.

Organised and run by the YouthJET organisation the course is being run at the SITE Academy at Hindmarsh Stadium. The course is providing Samuel with an introduction to the hospitality industry, focusing on essential skills. It's a very practical course that provides a good exposure to a range of areas in hospitality, like principles of hygiene and occupational health and safety.

Samuel will receive entry level for employment in the hospitality industry with an extra opportunity to undertake work experience shifts at the Sfera Group Properties.

Well done Samuel!
In Focus

FROM CLASSROOM TO CANBERRA
Lisa Matricciani
As a Legal Studies student at Marden Senior College in 2005 I developed an interest in the Australian Constitution. I was given an opportunity to attend a State Constitutional Convention at Parliament House in September where a number of guest speakers spoke about constitutional issues. Participants were invited to enter a competition which involved writing an essay on the Westminster constitutional conventions and I jumped at the opportunity as I had just spent many hours completing my major project for Legal Studies and this looked at the Westminster conventions in detail.

To my surprise I was selected to attend the National Schools Constitutional Convention in Canberra in March of this year. I was so excited as I had not been to Canberra before. A fully paid for trip (accommodation, food, tours) was something to look forward to. When in Canberra I was able to visit major attractions and for 3 days I got to experience the workings of parliament. This was a fantastic experience for me. There are many such opportunities there for the taking if you are prepared to put in some effort.

Profile
MANDY REGO

vibrant, energetic, lively, effervescent, dynamic
are all words that describe teacher Mandy Rego. Mandy has been at Marden Senior College for 8 years. In that time she has taught Tourism, ESL, Business Studies, Vocational Studies, Work Education, Computing Skills & Extension Studies.

Mandy coordinates the successful Stage 2 Vocational Studies B course for elite sports athletes, elite dancers and performing musicians; and also Stage 2 Extension Studies. Say hello to Mandy in the Maths office near the communication folders in 600 block.

A labour of LOVE

The following article & photo (written by Rebecca Gill) appeared in the UniSA student magazine in April 2006 ….. congratulations Maria!

If being an exceptional midwife is all in the experience - then Maria Viscione is set to become a star in her chosen field.

At two weeks into the Bachelor of Midwifery degree program at UniSA, new student Viscione already had her hands full … literally, with two-week-old twins. Jenna and Alex arrived on February 21 - a new brother and sister for her school-aged sons Christian, eight and Jai, six. And although all of the Viscione children are exceptionally well-behaved, and husband Paz provides enormous support - she still feels a slight twinge of apprehension about her looming human bioscience quiz.

But despite her responsibilities as a full-time mum, Viscione is excited about beginning her degree.

"UniSA is so flexible. I'm just going to start off slow - doing one course externally over the internet. When the boys are at school and the twins are asleep - that will be my study time."

Maria entered midwifery through the UniSA-PAL program at Marden Senior College - a preparation program for adult learners run in partnership with the University and state adult re-entry schools.

"I've been a beauty therapist for almost 20 years. I always wanted to study at uni - but was scared. The Marden PAL course taught me how to study at tertiary level, and gave me the confidence to pursue midwifery. It's going to be challenging, but my family is so encouraging. When I'm studying the boys pretend to study too. That's really sweet - except for when I open up my textbook and there's texta drawing all over an important diagram."

"Having a child is both a wonderful and emotional experience. Even though I wasn't a new mother this time around, I still felt vulnerable - and it was those encouraging words from the midwives that helped me in the first few days. I am really looking forward to being able to provide that support to other mothers."
Earlier this term a morning tea for students, parents and teachers in the VET Training Day program was held. Photos above show students proudly showing parents the Practice Firm and their technology skills.

Photos above at left show recent improvements to computer facilities and equipment in the Library and the Art Department. The photo above shows student Shannon Millison studying in the newly fitted out art room.

at right, Certificate III textiles students taking part in the dyeing workshop on 12 April
Around the College

Left & below show visiting students from East Adelaide Primary school engaged in a range of geology based activities as part of the Geosciences Pathway Project led by MSC teacher Len Altman.

Pictured at left is the Memorial Box display in the Library containing artifacts from Australia’s involvement in War - photographs, diaries, uniforms, documents & army hardware. You are able to handle the display using the gloves provided. Displays include: World War I (Term 1 weeks 9-11); Australia under Attack (Term 2, Wks 7-10); Our War in the Pacific (Term 3, Wks 4-7).

Pictured at right - 2 pieces from the Stage 1 Ephemeral Sculptures from found objects display and above Keri Curtis one of the artists.

At right a section of staff at the Child Protection training day held earlier this term.
Quite a bit has happened since the last newsletter, so let’s start with

**The Biggest Morning Tea**

Thank you everyone for supporting this event - to those who donated items for sale and to those who purchased. We raised over $175 for the Cancer Society. Great effort!

**Tree Planting in Our Patch**

Many of you joined SGA members in the tree planting in Our Patch on Wednesday 28 June (see more pictures on the next page). There was a great deal of fun had while planting just on 200 trees, so well done everyone. Trees planted last year, in Our Patch, are quite well advanced now.

**The Big Half Day In**

There is much excitement about this upcoming event - on Wednesday 23 August. **The Big Half Day In** celebrates our time at Marden Senior College with food stalls, music, games, career information and much more. It will be a fun day. We would also like to offer potential students a chance to come along, see and enjoy ‘the Marden experience’.

**Pamphlet Stands**

SGA has purchased a number of pamphlet stands to provide our new overseas students with important information - you will see them in the canteen area.

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The SGA is very much looking forward to opening the new SGA office at the beginning of Term 3. It will be located on the eastern wall in the canteen area (where the vending machines are currently).

It is envisaged that this new office will have someone there every day to help students and provide additional services. We would like to hear from you regarding ideas for services that can be provided from this office.

On the matter of improved services for students on campus, please let one of the SGA members know how we can improve student facilities and other services eg many students would like to see a phone in the canteen area. Please let us know how we can make student life better for you at Marden.
Annual Tree Planting in Our Patch

Each year MSC students from the Stage 1 Sustainable Futures and Stage 2 Geography classes and staff from the broader College community participate in a re-vegetation project along the River Torrens.

Trees used for the project are all grown from seeds collected locally to enhance biodiversity.

This is the 5th year of the project and significant changes are now noticeable in ‘Our Patch’.

Thanks to all who were involved this year.

Peter Allen
Coordinator of Our Patch program
Dyeing Workshop

On 12 April one of our Art rooms looked more like a mixture of chemical laboratory and a magician’s kitchen. Contained were lined up, water boiled and solutions and dyes mixed and applied to hundreds of metres of white cotton. Those working this magic wore expressions of extreme concentration, then delight as the colours began to emerge and finally anticipation of seeing the final magic of white fabric transformed into a rainbow of patterned inspiration for future textile art. Comments at the end of the day ranged from colourful and enlightening to hectic, exciting fun. Many thanks to our head magician/chemist, Pam Stringer, for all her efforts organizing this workshop.

Other News

MSC was pleased to welcome 4 student teachers from UniSA for a 6 week block from Term 2 week 2-week 8 - Richard Telfer & Anna Llyod (above) and Bernd Michaelsen & Lisa Klovekorn (below). We will be seeing more of Bernd in a curriculum & materials writing role for the Geosciences Pathway Project & also as a link to O’Halloran Hill TAFE where he is will also being working one day per week.

Coming Soon

The new web site for the Geoscience Pathway Project at www.geosciencepathways.net.au

see proposed front page below