

sevenoaks newsletter

Connect 4 Harmony

On Wednesday March 19, Aboriginal painting, origami, bocce, African drumming, braiding and Polish dancing were just some of the many activities on the timetable at the College. Classes were suspended and students took part in our annual Harmony Day. The day was organised as part of the Office of Multicultural Interests' Harmony Week.



knowledge and we share and embrace our peaceful, caring and inclusive campus. Harmony Day is one of the most important days of the year."

The event commenced with 14 workshops from four major regions of the world: Australasia, Europe, the Americas and Africa. Afterwards



Event Organiser and College Librarian, Natasha Georgiou, stated that Harmony Day *"is not only beneficial for our own community but also the wider community. It promotes peace, tolerance and acceptance amongst different cultures. I feel proud about the students and their contribution"* .

there was an international food fair and a multicultural concert. More than 20% of the College's population was actively involved in the organisation of the day.



College Principal Dr Kath Partridge, explained the importance of this event to the College. *"Sevenoaks is a culturally rich and diverse community, with students from over 40 different cultures and many different faiths. We celebrate a wealth of cultural*



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STUDENT GUILD

Congratulations to our recently elected Student Guild.

Year 11

Samuel Town
Rhiannon Ieraci
Brendon Sutton
Blake Bailey
Nur Azman
Talitha Newson
Kifah Maffaji

Year 12

Naomi Rees (*Head Girl*)
Jamie Sullivan (*Head Boy*)
Amelia Bruce
Dylan Pereniki
Tiffany Taggart
Joe-Lene Kinsella
Jamie Coughlan



P & C COMMITTEE

Parents, citizens and community representatives will meet for our first P&C get together this **Wednesday 2 April at 6.00pm** in the College Board Room (meetings usually run for 45 minutes). Please come along and spend time learning about Sevenoaks. Help with some fundraising and support our fantastic College and its initiatives for our children.

SPORTS PEOPLE WANTED

Netball, Basketball (men's and women's), Volleyball (men's and women's), AFL, Soccer, men's and women's, Cross Country, Orienteering, Rugby Union (joint venture with Thornlie Senior High School)

Please see Ms Whiting or Mr Lynch to sign-up or go to the Student Services Office.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL *Dr Kath Partridge*

Every year students at the College participate in Harmony Day, a time when we celebrate the diversity of our College population. Harmony Day is a special event for us because we have the opportunity to share cultural experiences, knowledge, art, food

and traditions.

This year our festival was especially successful with all students participating in workshops designed to share an aspect of a particular culture. Student dance performances are always a highlight and this year was no different with many groups, including 'No Limits' and Saskia Gout's brilliant dance students performing for us.

Congratulations to all students, parents and staff who helped to make this event a highlight of the college calendar. A very special thanks to Natasha Georgiou who coordinated this festival and also to Scott Tetley, Saskia Gout, Robyn Veen, Kate Deklerk, Kirstie Cusens, Trish Gray, Joan Reimers and Jennet Hanson.

Parents should be interested to know that recently under the direction of the Director General of the Department of Education and Training, Ms Sharyn O'Neill, a framework for future decision making - 'Classroom First Strategy' has been released for government schools.

The essential goal of the 'Classroom First Strategy' is to ensure that the public school system is a strong, robust, quality education system. The three main areas of focus for this strategy include ensuring every school is a good school; every teacher is an effective teacher and every student is a successful student.

From my perspective, the key elements of this strategy that Sevenoaks continues to address include:

- a focus on student achievement (success for all)
- quality teaching; context specific programs and flexibility to resource and deliver suitable programs for all students,
- support for staff including high quality professional learning,
- College accountability, community and parent confidence in our College.

Following on from this new focus; it is very pleasing to report to parents that the latest data from the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA 2006) identifies Western Australian students as particularly high achievers. PISA is a triennial survey of the knowledge and skills of 15 year olds and involved more than 400 000 students from 57 countries that make up to 90% of the world economy, and included 14 000 students from Australia.

Western Australia's achievements are worth noting; third behind the ACT and Finland (1st) in Science; sixth behind Canada, ACT, China Hong Kong, Finland and Korea (1st) in Reading and sixth behind ACT, Korea, China Hong Kong, Finland and Chinese Taipei (1st) in Mathematics. Overall this is an outstanding achievement for WA and highlights the contribution that Western Australian teachers continue to make to student's lives, delivering amongst the best results in the world.

I look forward to seeing parents and guardians at our Interim Report Evening on Wednesday 2 April, 3.00pm – 6.00pm. Our first P&C meeting will be held at 6.00pm in the College Board Room on this same night.

EMPLOYERS VISIT SEVENOAKS FOR BREAKFAST

Over 30 employers attended an inaugural Employers Breakfast on March 14th in the College Library. They were treated to a spread of pastries, platters of fruit, sandwiches, juices and fresh coffee from our hospitality students.

The purpose of the breakfast was to say thank you for hosting our Industry Access & SWL students. Many employers came from across the Perth Metro area to see the College first hand. Mrs Brenda Earl, event organiser & College Careers and Industry Access SWL Coordinator said the breakfast was a success and judging by the feedback from employers it was well received.



Hamish Dobie (Foodbank Manager) and Kath Murray (Teacher)



Krystal Giddings & Emma McGilvray

Mrs Earl said a highlight for her was seeing the two hospitality students preparing coffees after having only learnt the machine the day before. She said they were so positive and had such a 'can do attitude' and should be commended for their contribution to the morning.

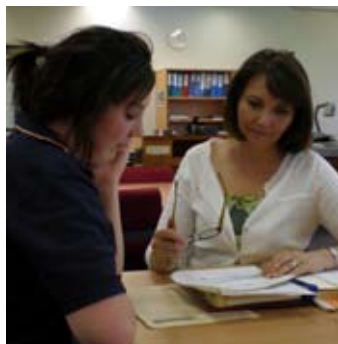
Employers represented many diverse industries ranging from retail, construction, administration, mining, and hospitality through to transport and logistics.

INTERIM REPORTS

Student Interim Reports can be collected from the College reception area by parents and guardians between **3.00pm to 6.00pm this Wednesday the 2 April**. Teachers will be available during this time to meet with and speak to parents and students.

Interim Reports provide parents with information about how students are progressing and achieving. They also detail whether or not a student has been attending the College appropriately.

At Sevenoaks, because of our flexible timetable and young adult ethos, students do have the flexibility to study or recreate between zones. Students should attend every lesson as detailed on their timetable.



Students cannot collect their own Interim Report on Wednesday. If parents cannot attend the College to pick up their child's report it will be mailed home. Canning Skills students and their parents (Alison Wong, Wayne Stalder and Jo Bates) have already had their meetings. Fast Track students and their parents (Phred Attwood and Paul Gray) can collect their report during Wednesday (as detailed in a note sent home to parents).

COLLEGE BALL UPDATE

On **Thursday 10 April** an amazing transformation will take place. Students will shower, do their hair, nails, make up and dress up all in the name of the **COLLEGE BALL!** Starting at **7.00pm** students will arrive at the **Novotel Langley** in Perth in all sorts of limos, fire trucks and hummers to star on the **Red Carpet** entrance. The paparazzi will of course be there to snap some exclusive pictures! After a scrumptious buffet meal, students will dance the night away before midnight finish time – time of the pumpkin!

Students of Sevenoaks have a fine reputation of excellent behaviour and manners at past College Balls and we expect the same this year. All students and parents/guardians should now have returned the permission slips outlining student behaviour along with their \$75.00 payment. See you all there on the **Red Carpet!**

CAREERS & EMPLOYMENT EXPO

Friday April 4 - Perth Convention Centre

The event is compulsory for all Yr 11 & 12 Industry Access students and Yr 11 SWL students. Other students have been invited.

The bus will be leaving the College at **8:45am sharp** and returning by 12pm.

For more information: <http://www.eocexpo.com.au/>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TERM 2

WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
May 1	28 School Development Day <i>No students attend</i>	29	30 <i>College Assembly ANZAC & Attendance Rewards presented</i>	1	2
2	5	6	7	8	9
3	12 <i>Learning Environment surveys</i>	13 <i>Learning Environment surveys</i>	14 Learning Environment surveys	15 <i>Learning Environment surveys</i>	16 <i>Learning Environment surveys</i>
4	19 <i>Learning Environment surveys</i>	20 <i>Learning Environment surveys</i>	21	22 <i>Full Staff Meeting</i>	23
5	26 Y11 &12 SWL EXAMS	27 Y11 &12 SWL EXAMS	28 Y11 &12 SWL EXAMS	29 Y11 &12 SWL EXAMS	30 School Development Day <i>No students attend</i>
June 6	2 FOUNDATION DAY <i>No students attend</i>	3 Y11 &12 SWL EXAMS	4 Y11 &12 SWL EXAMS	5 Y11 &12 SWL EXAMS	6 Y11 &12 SWL EXAMS
7	9	10	11 <i>Yr 11 Tourism Field Trip</i> <i>UWA Presentation (B Earl) Zone 3</i>	12 <i>GAT TEST (Y12 Students)</i>	13
8	16	17	18 <i>Yr 12 Tourism Feild Trip</i> <i>ECU Presentation (B Earl) Zone 3</i>	19 <i>Full Staff Meeting</i>	20 <i>End of Semester 1 for CoS</i> <i>Careers Expo Yr 12</i>
9	23 <i>Semester 2 commences for CoS</i>	24	25 <i>Notre Dame Presentation (B Earl) Zone 3</i>	26	27
July 10	30	1	2 Parent Report Evening Semester One Reports	3	4