**MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

Hello for the last time in 2015.

Congratulations everyone for having made it to the end of 2015. I do hope that you all have had a pleasant, rewarding and academically successful year. May I also wish our entire Erindale community our best wishes for a most enjoyable festive season. To all our graduating Year 12 students, on behalf of all of us, congratulations on finally getting to this point in your life!

The achievement of an ACT Senior Secondary Certificate is a wonderful accomplishment and having this credential sets you on a firm foundation for continuing success. Recent research is showing that you are now likely to prosper by a factor of three in terms of employment options always being available and financial earnings always being rewarding. Since it is often these two factors that contribute to our sense of self worth; to our prosperity; to our capacity to participate in life fruitfully; and to be happy; then the value of having a such a certificate cannot be overstated. So, all year 12, we wish that your dreams come true and that your life after Erindale is a long, healthy, successful and happy one.

For those of you in Years 10 and 11, please stay safe over these holidays and we look forward to seeing your smiling face returning in February next year for what will be another exciting year of schooling. For all Year 11 students, it is really now that you should be finalising your short-term plans for when you graduate, so that you can transition smoothly to study, work and life after college. Hopefully you have selected courses for 2016 that you have been very good at and that you enjoy, as this will help establish a great platform for your success.

Our Year 10 students enter ‘real’ college next year so hopefully you have selected wisely the subjects that will enable you to excel. I am certain that you have had a fabulous preparation for college success by completing your Year 10 at Erindale College.

Looking towards 2016, we have several International Students studying with us for their ACT Senior Secondary Certificate. These students have been undergoing a transition period this term and will be engaging in fulltime academic programs next year. These students come from a diverse range of cities in China and they are a very important group as they will lead the way for others from overseas countries who want to taste success in an Australian senior secondary setting. We look forward to enrolling many more such young people as they will help us learn more what being a ‘global citizen’ is all about.

Our Cambridge International Education program is expanding in 2016 also.

(cont’d page 2)
Students studying for the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) have commenced their preparations ready to sit the examinations next November or in July 2017. The advanced students have enrolled in ‘AS’ and ‘A’ Levels ready to sit their international examinations in 2017. We wish these students every success as they engage with a curriculum that is internationally benchmarked through the Cambridge International Examinations.

Importantly, Wanniassa Hills Primary School has joined us as a Cambridge International School. The Principal announced their successful application and inspection outcome just two weeks ago and we congratulate the school community of WHPS on becoming the first public primary school in Australia to join the Cambridge family of international schools. We can now look forward to offering students a Kindergarten to Year 12 pathway in this challenging program.

It is important we celebrate many things at this time of year so I would like to take this opportunity to thank others beyond the student body who have contributed to the success of the Erindale Education and Recreation Complex. To the members of the College Board, especially Paul Styles the Board Chair; the members of our P&C and their President, Chris Hangar; the executive staff of the college and the teachers and administration staff; the Library staff and the management and staff of the Active Leisure Centre; a HUGE thank you. It is through your efforts that we continue to build an exciting and enriching future for the people who use this place.

Year 12 students will formally graduate on 16th December and this moment will mark the finish of school education and the start of the rest of their lives. We all believe that they will go confidently into that future and that they will contribute worthily to our collective wellbeing. There exists many challenges that they will soon confront and it is beholden of them to undertake leadership roles that ensure a world that is better than the one they now know. We at Erindale College, hope that we have assisted each one in gathering the knowledge, skills, understandings and sensitivities that will let you achieve this outcome. Don’t forget to rejoice in the achievements of the past year and think positively about the coming New Year and what you can do to be the very best you can be. Just remember, as Frank Lloyd Wright (famous American Architect from the early 1900s) said

“The thing always happens that you really believe in;
and the belief in a thing makes it happen.”

Cheers Michael
As you may be aware, earlier this year, the Minister for Education established an Expert Panel to review how ACT schools respond to students with complex needs and challenging behaviour.

On Wednesday 18 November, the Minister for Education released the report of the Expert Panel Review and the Government response to that report.

The Education and Training Directorate invites parents to attend a forum to learn more about the contents of the report, how the Government has responded to the 50 recommendations made by the Expert Panel and what this means for students in ACT schools.

Please see below for dates and times of parent forums. There is no need to book, just come along.

1. **Wednesday 9 December 2015 9-10 am**
   Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning, Fremantle Drive, Stirling

2. **Wednesday 9 December 2015 4:30-5:30pm**
   Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning, Fremantle Drive, Stirling

3. **Thursday 10 December 2015 4-5pm**
   UC High School Kaleen, Baldwin Dr, Kaleen

4. **Friday 11 December 2015 10-11am**
   UC High School Kaleen, Baldwin Dr, Kaleen


If you are unable to attend any of these dates and you would like to discuss the report, please contact the Director for Families and Students by telephone on 6207 3723 or by email familiesandstudents@act.gov.au.
Talented Sports Program Presentation 2015

Year 10 Sportstar
Turi Hides
Hockey

Female Sportstar
Georgia Baff Year 12
Snowboarding

Male Sportstar
Jackson Frew Year 11
Mountain Biking

Team of the Year 2015
Rugby League

Pierre de Coubertin Award
Ben Pratt—Wrestling

TSP Best All Rounder
Kristy Martens

Active Leisure Centre Commitment Award
Angus Shaw

TSP Academic Excellence Award
Zach Burton

Australian Representatives Honour Roll

Sian Ahern
Mountain Biking

Isaac Dean
Martial Arts

Ethan French
Oztag

Brad Inglis
Baseball

Josh McGovern
Baseball

Ben Pratt
Wrestling

Georgina Baff
Snow Boarding

Benjamin Floros
Indoor Cricket

Jackson Frew
Mountain Biking

Kyle Johnson
Softball

Dimitri Morogiannis
Tennis

Lealofi Sauluma
Oztag (Samoa)
**Year 10 Excellence Awards 2015**

Congratulations to the Year 10 students who were involved in the ACT Excellence Awards in Public Education.

These awards recognise Outstanding Achievements in the High School Years.

**Monique White** received the award for a Successful Learner.

**Jane Spooner** received the award for a Confident and Creative Individual.

**Callum Shaw** received the award for an Active and Informed Citizen.

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**A First for Erindale College Students**

A visit to the Canberra Islamic Centre

*Valuing Difference...*

During week 4 of term, psychology students from year 11 studying the unit on ‘Attitudes & Prejudice’ visited the Canberra Islamic Centre located in Monash. A mosque is planned for the site in coming years.

Students were lucky enough to have a special sitting with Imam Adama Konda to hear about Islamic culture and religious practices and to discuss topical issues facing Australia today. The class was then invited to observe the weekly prayer service in the main hall with about 350 local Muslims participating in the hour long service. Year 11 psychology and sociology student Kellie Benson said the visit was “thought provoking” and Charissa Paniora said “it was such an amazing experience”. Ruvimbo Matsika reiterated this positive sentiment when she said “it was an incredible experience and the Imam was very welcoming”.


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**Exceptional hospitality students...**

The Erindale Hospitality Catering team has been cooking up a storm over the past few weeks including canape catering for the Minister of Education and Teacher Quality Institute, a three course sit down dinner for The Canberra Maths Association, a Melbourne Cup buffet luncheon, morning teas for the year 10 Transition days, all day catering for Tuggeranong Network Executive meetings, morning tea for the Australian Secondary Principals Association and a celebratory lunch for the 2015 TSP presentations. All the students involved have represented the school to an exceptional standard and the feedback we have received has been outstanding. I am extremely proud of all the students work this semester.

**Meg Lennard – Erindale College Hospitality**
**Erindale College students attend question time in the House of Representatives**

A selected group of Erindale College Sociology students got to visit Parliament House on Remembrance Day this year and attend Question Time in the House of Representatives.

The lucky students were: Kellie Benson, Sarah Marshall, Ruvimbo Matsika, Charissa Paniora (in year 11), and Tamyka Blewitt and Rachel Ackland (in year 12).

It was a great day to be “in the house” with students attending an official Remembrance Day ceremony in the morning after completing a tour of the building.

In the afternoon, Erindale College students were front row to experience question time in the public gallery. Students were able to view at close hand the political debates about very topical issues facing Australians. They also got to observe how the House of Representatives works as well as some pretty rowdy behaviour by our politicians.

**Geoff Taylor**

**Behavioural Sciences**

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**Royal Shakespeare Company’s Henry V**

On Saturday 21st of November, Cambridge Literature students went to see a live screening of The Royal Shakespeare Company’s *Henry V* at the Palace Electric Cinemas in New Acton. This was an excellent opportunity for students to see a Shakespeare play as it was originally intended, on stage! This experience has furthered the students understanding of this play, and will no doubt help them in their Cambridge examinations next year.

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**History of the Capital**

On the 19th of November, our Cambridge and International students journeyed to Lake Burley Griffin to learn more about the history of the nation’s capital. The weather was warm and sunny, allowing the students to see some of Canberra’s finest landmarks and breathtaking views. This was a first time visit for our International Students, who were particularly enthusiastic about the history of Canberra as well the baby ducklings and rabbits found in and around the foreshores of the lake.

**Amy Smith**

**English/History**
ABC Canbera—Friday on My Mind Panel

School formals have evolved into a major event for teenagers in Year 10 and Year 12. Gone are the home-made dresses and school hall venue.

Now designer dresses, professional make-up and red carpet arrivals are considered normal.

ABC Radio host Philip Clark was joined by Erindale College teacher Daniel Hawke, who is the organizer of the Year 12 formal for Erindale College, and Year 12 student Georgie Evans, and on the phone from Sydney, Elliot Kleiner from business, Prom Night Events.

You can hear the discussion on soundcloud at: https://soundcloud.com/666abccanberra/friday-on-my-mind-panel-what-happens-at-a-modern-day-school-formal-fomm

Thanks to Georgie and Daniel.

Futsal Nationals

Kate Thornton, Lucy Rowland, Zach Burton, Cristina Esposito, Chloe Willis, Shannon Esposito, Niki Krajacic, Karly Arranz, Ollie Anderson, Sophie Evans, Cassy Cook-Saad

Congratulations to the squad for making the semi-finals in the Australasian Futsal Competition in Queensland. In the round games we had 2 wins, 2 losses and a draw. This allowed us to scrape into the semi-finals against the top team. In very hot and humid conditions we matched it on the court with the champions, narrowly losing in a fantastic game.

I was very impressed with the level of futsal from our whole team. A special mention must go to Lucy Rowland, Zach Burton and Cristina Esposito who were outstanding all weekend.

Congratulations to Kate Thornton who was named in the All-Star Team (best 5 players from competition). She had an amazing tournament. The squad was a pleasure to take away and played some fantastic futsal.

Thanks to Tracy Costigan for joining us.

Tracey Marris
Futsal Coach

ACT Athletics Championships

Results included:
Taylah Bordiuk won the U17G 800m and the 1500m.
Kristy Martens won the U18/19G 100m and finished 2nd in the 200m.
Callum Knight won the U17B 3000m as well as finishing 2nd in the 100m.
Courtney Leary won the U18/19G Long Jump and finished 3rd in the Triple Jump and the 100m.
Sean Hancock finished 2nd in the U16B 3000m and 4th in the 1500m.
Brandon Bardsley finished 5th in the U17B 800m.

Congratulations to each of these students.

Mark Armstrong
Talented Sports Co-ordinator
Dates to Remember

* 16 December Year 12 Breakfast
* 16 December Year 10 and Year 12 Graduation
* 1 February Term 1 2016 begins