



FLYING FRUIT FLY CIRCUS GOES TO SYDNEY

While most students were enjoying the summer break a 12 WSSC students (including four graduates) spent all the holiday period rehearsing and then performing Circus Under My Bed at the Sydney Opera House. The two week season played to sell out houses and received glowing reviews. This wonderful experience, while demanding and tiring provided all with wonderful experience and has sparked a lot of interest from other venues.

The young performers of the Flying Fruit Fly Circus are local kids performing at an international level.

Review – Sydney Morning Herald

Circus Under My Bed

Studio, Sydney Opera House

Flying Fruit Fly Circus

January 17 until January 25

This delightful 55-minute show by the Flying Fruit Fly Circus in the Studio at the Sydney Opera House is easily one of the best circuses in town.

Performed by youngsters aged 10 to 19, with skills to rival, if not put to shame some of the adult performers working in assorted tents around Sydney this month, Circus Under My Bed tells the story of Celeste, a little girl about to move house, under pressure from her mum to pack up all her stuff. But Celeste is a dreamer and she can't find her favourite book. Enter a group of hugely talented performers who play a range of zany imaginary characters.

The gentle storyline makes this show a rich theatrical experience for children. Instead of presenting trick after trick for no reason, each circus act has meaning and nuance and the performers are able to show off their acting skills.

An impressive tumbling sequence is played as gambolling lambs being rounded up by a sheepdog; a plate-spinning routine is performed by a crazy chef with hungry children waiting to be served; a simple chair-stacking act is made serenely beautiful as we watch two young girls pile up rainbow coloured chairs to catch a floating balloon, just out of reach.

The most beautiful moment arrives when Celeste falls asleep and two acrobats dressed in unitards printed with words perform all of the stories she has ever read. As they stretch out their arms, the pages of books unfold from the inside of their elbows, more pages unfold from behind their knees. The costume is inspired. This is family circus at its very best. Great tricks, gorgeous costumes, lighting and music, lots of clever and original ideas and most of all, plenty of joyful surprises. Highly recommended

Elissa Blake (Sydney Morning Herald) tweets: CIRCUS UNDER MY BED at Sydney Opera House is show of the year so far! So many clever theatrical ideas and skills that put adult performers to shame!"

WSSC Cast

Deni Davidson, Ruben Ingwerson, Zac Johnson, Tom Keely, Jackson Manson, Jack Morris, Amie Patching, AJ Saltamacchia, Jordyn Smith, Imagen Stuart, Jarrod Takle & Sandy Tugwood

Don Gargon



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents,

By now you would have received the most important word about how the school year has begun – the informal reports given by your son or daughter. We hope those reports are positive. We also hope that you feel the school year has begun well. We are addressing a few “settling in” issues that occur at this time of the year in every school.

Overall we believe that classes began very smoothly. The Year 10 students have adjusted easily to their new surroundings and once again demonstrates the importance of a rigorous Head Start program. A critical part of the Year 12 program is the Leadership Days at LaTrobe University which will be held on Friday of this week. It is important for students to attend as they will be given a very clear insight on how to get the very best out of their last year of secondary school and how to prepare themselves now for whatever pathway they chose in 2015.

To help us get to know more about every student so we can assist them to be more successful, we look forward to meeting parents at the first Parent-Teacher Interview Night on Thursday 6th March. More information will be given to students to take home with suggested times for the interview. Your child's Graduate Program (GP) Teacher should be one of the first teachers you see on the night.

We would appreciate parent support in stressing to their children the importance of regular attendance and participation in class activities. We are concentrating on making sure students are in class. We will be contacting parents if students are not attending or missing classes.

I am often asked by parents:

How can I as a parent help my child do well at school?

Behind the children who do their best at school, work happily at their studies and are involved in school activities, are supportive parents who understand the importance of the home-school partnership. Older students may not seem as keen as younger children to see their parents at school, but they still need your support and help if they are to make the most of their abilities and do well at school.

You can help to make your child's school experience more productive if you:

- 1. PARTICIPATE** ... on College Council or associated sub committees, or if meetings are not your thing, school trips, sports days and events - or support those who are able to. Vote for your representatives thoughtfully. Log onto the schools web site www.wssc.vic.edu.au and view current Newsletters and information about what is happening at the College. Ask to see any notices from school and show your child you think school is an important part of family life
- 2. ATTEND** ... parent, student teacher interview days and evenings and school events. Make a note of questions you want to ask at meetings and make sure they are answered - hand them to the chairperson or principal in writing if you are too nervous to speak in front of a large gathering. Test what educational speakers have to say against the experiences you and your child have had.
- 3. REALISE**... that even though we are continuously improving, the perfect school for everyone probably does not exist. Most children can survive the occasional personality clash with a teacher or poor programme and this is when your support is most needed. Meet your child's principal, assistant principals or teachers so that if problems do arise, you are not appearing at the school only when things go wrong.
- 4. CO-OPERATE** ... with the school, teachers, other parents. Complain if you need to but try to avoid blaming every difficulty on the school. Sometimes children need to mature, work harder, get along better with others, learn to think for themselves, take responsibility for their own actions. The school should be providing challenges to extend your child. Sometimes your child may be taken outside their comfort zone.
- 5. TRUST** ... your own feelings about your child. If you are sure your child needs extra attention, help or stimulation, talk to your child's GP Team Teacher or Year Level Coordinator or one of the Principals. You are your child's best advocate and schools will listen to your concerns and try to put matters right.

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**Wednesday 5th
February 2014**

CALENDAR

Wed 5th & Thurs 6th Feb
Year 12 Wollongong Trip

Thurs 13th Feb
House Swimming Sports

Wed 5th March
School Photos

Mon 10th March
Labour Day Holiday

Tues 25th March
College Athletics

TERM DATES

Term 1 - 2014
29th January - 4th April

Term 2
22nd April - 27th June

Term 3
14th July - 19th September

Term 4
6th October - 19th December

COLLEGE FEES

Recently a statement was sent out to parents with the applicable College fees listed on it. Unfortunately, the statement did not include a notation that if you had paid Landmark directly for the listed items, to disregard the statement. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.

*John McVean
Business Manager*

6. **ACCEPT** ... that your child may not be academically superior if all the evidence points that way but that many average students go on to success and happiness. Do all you can to ensure that your child is making the most of the opportunities offered by the school.
7. **SUPPORT** ... the school by making sure your child attends regularly and punctually, has the right uniform and equipment, obeys school rules, supports the school Code of Conduct, pays on time for trips and services. Criticising teachers undermines their effectiveness and prevents children from taking responsibility for their learning and behaviour.
8. **REMEMBER** ... that education is more than training for a job - education helps our students learn to make sense of the world, to control their own lives, to develop their potential, to seek and use knowledge throughout their lifetime.

We strongly believe that all students benefit and are more successful when there is effective and regular three-way communication between parents, teachers and students. If you have any concerns about any aspects of your child's schooling, feel free to contact the teacher concerned, the Year Level Coordinator or one of the Principals. We welcome your interest.

Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews - Thursday 6th March

The first of four Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews for the year will be held on Thursday 6th March. Graduate Program teachers will be available at the below times, however, if you would like to speak with your child's subject teacher regarding a specific issue, you are welcome to do so.

To minimise waiting times we ask that you attend as follows:

Surnames A – E 4.00pm – 4.45pm
Surnames F – K 4.45pm – 5.30pm
Surnames L – P 5.30pm – 6.15pm
Surnames Q – Z 6.15pm – 7.30pm

If this arrangement is not convenient, you are of course welcome at any time during the evening.

*Vern Hilditch
Principal*

STUDY SKILLS TIP FOR FEBRUARY - SECONDARY SCHOOL SUCCESS

Every parent and teacher would like to see students achieving their personal academic best at school. Knowing how to work efficiently can help students navigate the mire of academic demands in secondary school in a stress-free way. Working through the units on www.studyskillshandbook.com.au throughout this year will help students build skills and learn techniques to become more effective learners. We encourage all students and parents to log into the site and browse the units to become familiar with the topics covered.

One of the recent handouts added to the site was for students starting secondary school (go to the More menu then Things to Print). However many of the lessons for students beginning high school are relevant for all secondary students. So here are the top five tips about making the most of your time at school this year and working efficiently at home.

1. INDEPENDENT LEARNING:

There are two types of work in secondary school. The compulsory work your teacher tells you to do, and independent learning that you are expected to do when you have no homework. You can print a handout on the Things to Print page that will give you examples of the types of things you are supposed to be doing for school when you have no homework.

2. WORK SMART:

If you want to still have a life, but get your schoolwork done (for most students this will be 1-2 hours per night) then you need to work smart. Keep your personal life and schoolwork separate. Don't do work in front of the TV, switch off your phone and Facebook. Work in half hour blocks and focus only on your schoolwork during that half hour block. If you are super busy with lots of activities then a great idea is to draw up a timetable for the week and allocate time for schoolwork over the week. You might like to visit these units on the site: Time Management Skills, Dealing with Distractions, Overcoming Procrastination.

3. BE ORGANISED AND PLAN:

Being organised makes your life easier! So have an organised space to work in, record homework in your diary, keep track of completed work and reschedule work not done. When you are told about a test or an assignment, plan the work out to be done over the available time. Make the most of your time in class, being organised and focused in the classroom means you will find it easier to complete your work and work on big things like assessments at home. Check out these units on the site: Home Study Environment, Organisation and Filing, Managing Workload, Using Classtime.

4. ASK FOR HELP EARLY:

If you don't understand something, ask for help. The sooner the better. If there isn't time in class see your teacher before or after class or during the break times. No-one expects you to do things on your own. One of the most important contributors to being successful academically is to ask for help often and early. See if your school offers extra support or has a homework help service. And don't forget family and friends, they might know more than you think! There is a unit on the site all about Asking for Help.

5. LEARN HOW TO STUDY PROPERLY:

If you still think that to study for a test you just read your book over and over, time to learn how smart people study! The main things to remember about study for a test are: Make study notes or summaries first (write down in point form what you need to learn), learn these notes not just by reading but by testing yourself on them and do as many different questions as you can as practise. You can learn more from these units: Summarising, Active Studying, Preparing for Exam Blocks, Test-Taking Techniques, Your Brain and Memory.

You may also like to check out all of the skills units and technology units. So learn more this year about how to improve your results and be more efficient and effective with your schoolwork by working through the units on www.studyskillshandbook.com.au.

*Vern Hilditch
Principal*

MUSIC NEWS

Instrumental Music students are gradually starting their Instrumental lessons. It is very pleasing to see so many students take advantage of this Co-Curricula program. Students interested in having lessons, should collect a form from myself in Staffroom 1 or the PAC or ask at the Main Office.

Senior students in the **Concert Band** are preparing for their first concerts –performing to the WMYC Year 7 students at Huon and Felltimmer campuses.

The Swing Band, Funk Band and Choir have commenced rehearsals.

The Band rehearsals are on Wednesday at lunchtime and after-school. The choir is on Thursday at lunchtime. All students are welcome in choir.

The Kools Skools recording project will be going full steam ahead again, this year. We are very grateful to Wodonga City Council for the generous financial support to enable our students compose and record original musical works at a professional studio in Melbourne. It is very exciting to announce that WSSC has again been successful in having a music student selected for the **VCAA Season of Excellence –Top Class.**

Our congratulations go to ex-Year 12 student Angus Johnson for a wonderful VCE in Music Performance and Music Investigation. It is also extremely unusual that a student is selected in concurrent years as has Angus Johnson.



Congratulations to Year 12 Musician Kristen Nichol for her selection as a major scholarship winner at the Murray Conservatorium for Alto saxophone.

Many music students are performing in bands outside school and there have been notable support act roles for these bands.

*Janet Turewicz
Music Coordinator*

WSSC SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

As part of the School Council election process, we have three retiring parent members and therefore are calling for nominations to fill these positions.

Nominations forms and information is available at the front office, on the College website or by contacting the Executive Officer, Vern Hilditch.

Nominations close on Monday 17th February 2014.

*John McVean
Business Manager*

CAREER NEWS

NEW RETAIL FASHION DESIGN SCHOLARSHIP

Australian retailer Forever New is partnering with RMIT to mentor design students through a new scholarship program. The scholarship includes \$20,000 towards tuition fees and design collection expenses, plus a 12-month employment offer in the design team at Forever New upon graduation. <http://www.forevernew.com.au/rmit-scholarship>.

UNITED WORLD COLLEGES (UWC) SCHOLARSHIPS

If you are in Years 11 or 12 and would like to complete your education at one of the 12 United World Colleges around the world, and would like to apply for a scholarship, please go to their website at www.uwc.org.au. An information session will be held on Sunday 16th February, 2.00-4.00pm, City Library, CAE Building, 235 Flinders Lane, Melbourne.

*Tamara Mason
Career & Post School Options*

Full Report on the Website



Commemoration of National Apology Day 2014

- Welcome to Country
- Flag Raising Ceremony
- Traditional Dancers
- Guest Speakers including members of the Stolen Generations
- Reading of the Apology Speech
- Presentation of the Apology Manuscript

Supported by:

- Wodonga Aboriginal Network
- Gateway Community Health
- Wodonga Senior Secondary College

For more information contact:
Sue Bell at WSSC- 60437500
Jenny Murray (KESO)- 0477324116

All students and families welcome

Wednesday 12th February 2014

Wodonga Senior Secondary College

'Galvin Hall'

69 Woodland Street Wodonga

Commencing at 10.45 am and concluding at 11.45 am