Dear Parents/Guardians,

One term has been completed and the Easter break is already here! It has been an incredibly busy term at Mount Ridley College, and our students, teachers and support staff are all looking forward to the two week break. During the term we have had a huge range of activities occurring in and around the school community ranging from sporting events, to incursions and excursions and the many and varied learning achievements across our Neighbourhoods. I congratulate our community on their wonderful efforts and wish to especially acknowledge the hard work of our VCE and VCAL students who will be very pleased to be reminded that they are already one term down.

On Monday the 24th of March, we officially welcomed a group of students, their teacher and guides from Akatsuki, our Japanese Sister School. The students were buddied in homestay with Mount Ridley families who spoil them with Australian food and activities such as football and rugby matches, trips to the city and even the Melbourne Star Wheel. We thank our families who were involved in this fantastic opportunity. During the week, the Japanese students were involved in a range of exciting activities. It was incredibly rewarding to see how many different members of the college community volunteered to get involved. There were dance and cooking classes and an “Aussie Rules” football clinic! A petting zoo came to the Junior School, where the students were able to play with many different baby animals! There was even a two week old piglet! They taught the Junior School students how to make origami and they performed and presented at their assembly. During their time here, the Japanese students also participated in both Japanese and English classes at the College. Both the Japanese and Australian students got so much out of the week, and the friendships and bonds that they made will no doubt stay with them forever. Our students will have the opportunity to go to Japan in the near future to visit Akatsuki.

Harmony Day was another major event that was celebrated across the different Sub Schools of the College in the form of a tradition Community Day. It was touching to see so many of our students and staff wearing orange bandanas intended to symbolise cohesion and inclusion in Australia and promote a tolerant and culturally diverse society. The cultural diversity of our College was celebrated with a range of activities during this community day but topped off with an amazing school assembly which even had performances to showcase different nationalities including Samoan, Sri Lankan and Turkish. The College Captains Alex Ross and Fasihah Faisi introduced the Assembly and presented outstanding speeches about harmony and the acknowledgement of traditional owners of our land, The Wurrundjeri People. The students enjoyed a sausage sizzle lunch provided by the lovely Parents and Friends Association over some musical performances and overall everyone had a fantastic day!

Finally, in sporting news, we are extremely proud to announce that Chloe Abdilla, of Year 11 won bronze at the national championships, in swimming. We congratulate her on this outstanding achievement. Well done!

Can I please remind parents that we encourage students to arrive at school at 8.45am to be in the Neighbourhoods and ready for learning by 9.00am, and to have students picked up at appropriate pick up points at 3.20 in the afternoon.

Please have a very happy and safe Easter Mount Ridley College. We look forward to seeing the excitement of what Term Two will bring. See you all then!

Fiona Vale
Junior Sub School Principal
Chloe Abdilla learned to swim at the age of 5, and continued to improve her technique with weekly lessons at the State Swim School in Craigieburn. At the age of 8, Chloe competed in her very first competition at MSAC, where she swam the 50m Butterfly very successfully. Her swim instructor suggested that she move on and join a swimming club. Chloe joined the Aquajets Swimming Club in 2008 and has trained and competed with them since. At the end of Chloe’s first year at the Aquajets, she was awarded most improved swimmer at the club.

Chloe is very dedicated to her swimming. Her training schedule involves 5.00am wake ups for a 5.45am start every morning and then 3 evening training sessions per week. Chloe also takes a weekly class, teaching the nippers (5-12 yr olds) to swim and works with their development in the pool. Recently she completed a First Aid course concentrating on CPR and is now booked in to complete a swim teaching course next month. Each year, Chloe competes in over 30 swimming competitions, which requires her to travel to many different venues including Tasmania. Once a year, she also travels to Morwell, where she swims a 5km open water event in Hazelwood Pondage. Over the years Chloe has met many well-known Olympian swimmers, including Michael Klim, Andrew Lauterstien, Matthew Haappel (2012 paralympian) and her favourite Brooke Hanson.

Chloe enjoys swimming for a number of reasons. She enjoys competing each weekend, always trying to improve on her previous time. Swimming also enables Chloe to keep fit, physically and mentally. Most of all, Chloe always loves being with her swimming friends at the club. She has built a close relationship with the other swimmers, where they celebrate each other’s wins together and support one another with their challenges. The motivation and support these swimmers give each other enable them to achieve to the best of their ability.

Here is a small report from Chloe herself.

“On Friday 7th March I flew to Tasmania with my swimming club to swim in the State Championships. I swam a number of different events over 3 days. In all of my events, I swam personal best times and made finals in some. In one of my events I came third in Tasmania and received a bronze medal. Over all, the weekend was a lot of hard work but it all paid off. I had a lot of fun and can’t wait for next year.”

Chloe Abdilla 11D

**Special thank you to Mr Felix Abdilla for providing us with this information.**
AKATSUKI COLLEGE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Last week from the 22nd March until the 30th March Mount Ridley P-12 College was proud to host 17 students and one teacher from Akatsuki College in Japan for the second year in a row. Twenty students from MRC acted as ‘buddies’ and helpers during that time and were incredible ambassadors for our school.

The Akatsuki students were involved in a range of activities which showcased our College such as learning how to play AFL and other Australian sports, cooking scones, doing scavenger hunts, participating in English and Japanese classes as well as performing speeches and singing songs at two assemblies. They also performed a hip hop dance! MRC students learned a lot about Japanese culture from their buddies - grade 3/4 students in the Junior School were even taught how to make origami figures by our visitors.

On the last day both MRC buddies and their Japanese student visited a petting zoo where they really enjoyed playing with a wide variety of baby animals brought out especially for them. Overall it was a brilliant experience for all involved and both schools learned a lot from each other throughout the week. A special thanks goes to the teachers who helped out running the sessions: Mr Yoshikawa, Ms Casey, Mr Davies, Ms Chircop, Ms Bonaddio, Ms Muller and Mr Presser. Thank you!

Can’t wait for next year where the program will be bigger and better!

Marika Convey

Director of Languages and International Programs
Create your future
On the 28th March our College celebrated the idea of ‘Creating an Harmonious Future’ - A blend of our important 'Create your Future' principle, and Harmony Day itself - many schools across Australia celebrate a day of Harmony at this time of the year in recognition of the official day of the 21st March. Harmony Day is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home – from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world. By participating in Harmony Day activities, we can learn and understand how all Australians from diverse backgrounds equally belonging to this nation and enrich it.
OFFICE HOURS
The Main Administration Office
is open
Monday to Thursday:
8.15am to 5.00pm
Friday: 8:15am to 4:30pm

Create your future

EASTER FAMILY NIGHT

THURSDAY 10TH APRIL 6 UNTIL 8PM
COME ALONG AND SEE A GREAT MAGIC SHOW BY JIM THE MAGICAN, WHILE MAKING A EASTER GIFT.
WE WILL ALSO HAVE A SPECIAL APPEARANCE FROM THE EASTER BUNNY.
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL PLEASE PHONE THE BUNNINGS CRAIGIEBURN STORE ON 8338.3500

Why not try a karate class at:
Mt Riddley College School Gym, Hampton Road, Craigieburn
Mondays - 6.00pm to 7.00 pm – juniors (5-12)
Mondays - 7.00pm to 8.00 pm – seniors (13+)
During School Terms
Cost: $10.00 per class

Contact: Di Sampi Ed Reddick 0439 987825
DATES TO REMEMBER

22nd April  Term 2 commences for all students

25th April  ANZAC DAY—Students are not required at school on this day

1st May  Year 1-4 Incursion ‘Reading Authors Study”

6th and 7th May  Mother's Day Stall—Junior Campus 9.30am onwards

7th May  Information Session for 2015 Year 7 Students (Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start)

8th and 9th May  Mother’s Day Stall—Middle and Senior Campus 1.30pm onwards in the LRC

15th May  Second hand uniform stall. 9.30am in the Main Gymnasium.

21st May  Information Session for 2015 Prep Students (Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start)

28th May  Swimming Program for Years 1/2 commencing in the second week of Term

29th May  Melbourne City Experience. The Great Race. Years 9D, 9E & 9F

PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

DATES TO REMEMBER

Please note that the following dates have been allocated as future meeting dates for the Parents and Friends Association.

1st May 2014 at 2pm

22nd May 2014 at 2pm

12th June 2014 at 2pm