Welcome to the first International Students’ Newsletter for 2012. As you will see within, Term 1 has been an extremely busy one with many activities such as excursions, camps, community building retreats, parent/teacher interviews and Homestay meetings. This year we welcomed many new boys from various countries who have settled well into our school, please enjoy reading their profiles.
I wish the Newsletter Committee members a productive year and finally to all the International Students of 2012:
Best of Luck!

Mrs Emilia Fields
Director, International Student Program

The 2012 Newsletter Committee

Fransisko Henry Lojaya
Year 11 Avila

Jordan Marcus Pang
Year 11 Edith Stein

Jin Yang Tan
Year 11 Soreth

Christofer Gozali
Year 10 Corsini
New Student Profiles

CHAN, Pak Hei Mick Year 11 Brandsma

My name is Mick. I come from Hong Kong and I’m currently studying Year 11. I would like to try hard in the science subjects to get better marks. I like to travel anywhere to see different places and cultures. I decided to study in Australia so I’m enjoying studying at Whitefriars College. Everyone in this school is friendly and I’ve already made a few friends in the school.

KOBUYASHI, Goki Year 12 Corsini

My name is Goki Kobayashi. I’m doing Year 12 currently. I come from Japan. I came to Australia to become a more independent learner, to better my English and to study business. This year is going to be busy so I do need to work hard and I would also like to enjoy Australian life. These things are the main purposes for me this year.

I am getting used to life at Whitefriars College and I think this year is going to be successful for me. The reason is that teachers are good in this school. They sacrifice their time for the students by doing support classes and private studies. Aussie Students are friendly to International students. This is going to be a fantastic year!

I am very happy to be part of the Whitefriars Community. Wish me luck!

PENG, Zhiyi Year 9 Corsini

Hi. My name is Jacky Peng. I am 15 years old. I am in Year 9. I have my Dad, Mum and me in our family. I don’t have any brothers or sisters. I have been in Australia one and a half years. When I came to Australia on the first day I liked it here. My hobby is reading books. My favourite sports are basketball, badminton and table tennis. I came to Whitefriars College in Year 9. This is a great school. I have met many friends. I’m very happy and I can study many things. I study many subjects here. I like this school. I’m currently in the Bridging class. I like Australia’s food and people! Come to Australia. I want to enter a very good Australian University.

TAN, Jin Yang Year 11 Soreth

Hello I would like to introduce myself, I’m Jin Yang, but my teachers call me Jin. I am 17 years old currently doing Year 11. I am from Singapore. When I first arrived to Melbourne Airport, I walked out and felt the wonderful breeze. I told myself that “This is the type of weather I want to have every day!” My parents rented a car from the airport and we drove around the city to help me to familiarise myself with some places. After a long day of driving, my parents brought me to the homestay. It’s a FANTASTIC place, because the homestay is located right across the road from school! Mrs Fields then came by to see how things were going. After a while Jordan brought me to the school and I had a little tour around the school. Every day when I wake up and walk to school I could actually feel the peaceful environment and the fresh air around me. It is GREAT.

In School Mrs Fields and Ms Worthington helped me a lot when I needed help they did not hesitate to help me. They’re willing to spend their time just to get to know you better.

In my family, I am the only son, which is very important. I have 3 sisters, two older and one younger.

I would like to achieve good results yearly. When I graduate from Whitefriars College I want to go on to a good university.

WANG, Yanbo (Jack) Year 10 Mantua

My name is Jack Wang, I am 17 years old. I come from Shan Dong, China and I like to play Baseball which is the National game of the U.S.A. I now like living in Melbourne and I enjoy studying here at Whitefriars College. I want to study English. I do not like to study History in China but here I can choose to study the subjects I like. Here I am happy to study every day.
New Student Profiles

WANG, Yifan (Frank) Year 11 Corsini
My name is Yifan Wang. My English name is Frank. I’m 16 years old. I will study Year 11 at Whitefriars College.
My parents have a lot of friends who live in Melbourne, they ask me to study in Australia. I come from China, my hometown is Shanghai and it is an international and modern city. I have three family members my mother, father and me.
I like mathematics a lot and in my early years I have always received a prize for maths. I have studied English in China since I was 10 years old but I know that my grammar is not good. Studying in Australia will help this. Sometimes I am very lazy but now I study in Australia and my parents are spending plenty of money every year, I must study hard. I like to play basketball, football and badminton.
In China I don’t like to eat Chinese food but now I like to eat Chinese food after I have Australian food for a long time. There are a few International students at this College. I know it’s good for me to improve my English skills, this College will help me to study so that I can get into a good University.

XU, Chaohong Year 10 Trinity
I’m John and I’m 16 years old and I come from Shanghai China. I enrolled at Whitefriars College in February. Upon arrival I was greeted at the airport by Mrs Fields. She came to pick me up as I came to Australia without my friends. I will study in English and will continue to grow to be a good student. I like playing basketball with my friends. I would like to go on to a good university and graduate with a Master of Business Administration.

YANG, Jin Han (Young) Year 11 Brandsma
My name is Yang, Jinhan (Young). I come from Hangzhou, China. I’m 17 years old. I have lived in Melbourne about 4 months. I like to play sports such as Basketball, Swimming and Football. I also like to play models and I have won many games. I like mathematics very much. I hope I will have a great time in Melbourne and here at Whitefriars and I really like living and studying in Melbourne. I believe that I’ll work very hard during these two years.

2011 International VCE students
Where they are in 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commerce</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environments</td>
<td>Melbourne University</td>
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<td>Science</td>
<td>Deakin University</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Studies</td>
<td>Kansaigakuin University (Japan)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounting</td>
<td>Holmes Institute</td>
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<td>Business</td>
<td>Swinburne University of Technology</td>
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Term 1 Event

Year 12 Community Building Retreat

All year 12 Students attended a Community Building Retreat at ‘Camp Manyung’ in Mt Eliza during February 13-17 2012. The retreat provided an opportunity for each student to reflect on his personal and spiritual growth, and to strengthen and seal relationships among staff and students. Students undertook a number of House-based community building activities (as pictured below), looked at the demands of the year ahead, set personal goals, workshop study skills and consistent work habits and planned a balanced approach to the demands of the year ahead. Their time away, was intensive and demanding.

Year 7 Camp

PARK, Gun (Eddie) Year 7 Soreth

In the second week of school I headed to ‘Camp Manyung’ in Mount Eliza for the Year 7 camp. We did Vertical Challenge, Kayaking, High drop, Snorkel, High rope course, made rafts and went fishing. My favorite activity was fishing. I didn’t catch any fish but I learnt how to catch on. One of my class mates caught 2 fishes, I wondered why I can’t catch one, so I watched him but he don’t have any technical or skills. I just gave up.

After the first day of camp, all the guys in Soreth became good friends, we help and believe in each other. If there is someone who can’t do something, we encourage and help him to be successful.

When we left camp, everyone missed the camp. The Year 7 camp will remain as a great experience.

The camp was a good chance to make friends, communication with classmates and get to know each other. Nowadays I study well with friends. I appreciated the camp, it gave me confidence and a good relationship with my new mates.
Term 1 Event

Bridging Class Excursion

As the bell rang, we headed to the bus stop, where we got on a bus to go to Healesville Sanctuary. The ride was approximately an hour and a half long, this prompted a general fumbling among us as we sought to make ourselves comfortable in our seats. An hour and a half later, we got off the bus and begun the tour. When we reached the cage the first thing we saw was a small little round ball with spikes sticking out everywhere, it waddled around happily as it tried to find something to eat. When we turned around I found a koala sleeping on the branch just right behind me, quietly my phone camera went ‘click!’ leaving an imprint for me to look later on in my life. We enthusiastically turned around again finally bored of staring at a motionless koala which was not entertaining at all. To our delight we found that a second echidna had joined the one before and both of them were enthusiastically shuffling together occasionally bumping each other around.

After that we went on to see the reptile enclosure where we seemed to find it amusing to take turns to tap on each of the displays of the top 10 most dangerous snakes in the world. We were now rather eager to leave after trying to join in tapping the display only to have a tongue flickering at me causing me to understand that these snakes were awake and hungry. After that, we were no longer enthusiastic about being in a room with 10 of the world’s most deadly snakes who by the looks of it were still hungry.

We then went to the veterinary building where we got to see a kangaroo being treated and x-rayed after it was found alone, unconscious, and having a swollen head. We then went into a large enclosure where we could see the trees and plants without a panel of glass separating us from them and not excluding the fact we could see birds flying everywhere in the enclosure. We then went to the Bird Show where we saw birds flying around my classmates ‘oohed’ and ‘aahed’ in delight as some of the birds soared overhead nearly grazing their heads with their wings. However we sat back and looked at the shoe with a critical eye.

Very soon as we walked out we realized that we were headed to our last destination, a small theatre where we would be able to see some animals like lizards, harmless birds, and insects close-up with the added fact that we could touch them. This last stop did not disappoint as we got to touch many exotic animals which ranged from a strange lizard which we vaguely remember had the word ‘lizard’ in its name due to its flickering tongue which intrigued us. Its scales were hard and smooth compared to the frog’s skin which was soft and slimy. The final animal or insect which was too prickly for us to touch was rather funny as it swayed around on its hind legs as if it was about to fall. Finally we had to leave but we were allowed one more last venture into the park which was into the souvenir shop where one of my classmates came up holding a huge stuffed toy.

The last gift that topped off an otherwise flawless day was the ice-creams that Mrs Fields had bought to compensate us for the hot day we spent walking around in the park. After finishing we gave one to the bus driver who had driven us safely to and from the sanctuary and school. Overall an our exhausting and yet entertaining field trip.
The House System
by GOZALI, Christofer Year 10 Corsini

At Whitefriars College, we have a system called Houses. Each student is assigned to a House. We have eight houses named respectively: Avila, Brandsma, Corsini, Edith Stein, Lisieux, Mantua, Soreth and Trinity. Each house is led by a Head of House. They serve an important role in the system as they are in charge of their students’ welfare. The house system is similar to year level coordination which most schools have. The difference is in the pastoral care groups which have a mixture of year levels. Each House has points based on sports and academic activities. At the end of the year the House with most points will be selected as the winner.

An Interview with Mr Sykes, Head of Corsini House

Do you think the House system is better than a year level coordination and why?
Yes I do. It is good for the younger students to meet the older students in the House and it gives them a sense of belonging to a House.

How do you think the international students fit into the system? Are they having trouble fitting in?
They fit in like all students, but sometimes some of the international students find it a bit difficult because in events like sports day, it’s a completely new experience for them.

How do the international students contribute to your House?
Most of them are contributing like all other students, and all of their experience outside Australia.

What hopes do you have for the international students in the upcoming year? And how will you help them to realise these hopes?
I hope all the international students, especially the Year 12s, can overcome the cultural differences, and have regular meetings and work closely with their homestay parents and Mrs Fields and also study hard to achieve success.

Parents Visit to the College
On Tuesday 27th March Mrs Kobayashi mother of Goki Kobayashi, a Year 12 Japanese Student, came to visit the College to see the beautiful surrounds where her son is studying and to meet his teachers.

Term 1 Events

House Athletics Carnival
by Hongladaromp, Richie Year12 Soreth

The House Athletics carnival was set at the Doncaster Athletics Track at George Street Doncaster. It was a gloomy day, though it rained in the early morning it stopped as soon as the carnival started (which meant the carnival wouldn’t be cancelled). The students were very energetic during the events, full of joy and support for their houses. The Year 12 students were dressed as their house mascots. Everyone participated in the events, including the teachers. Thanks to all the student leaders and staff for helping to set up the carnival and making it run smoothly and successfully. Not everyone received a blue ribbon, but it was their effort that counted.

Staff Interview

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New Student Profiles

YIP, Maowen  Year 10 Edith Stein

My name is Maowen Yip, I am 15 years old. I am from Malaysia. Mrs Fields was the first person I saw when I came to Whitefriars, I then went into a room to be interviewed by 3 people Mrs Fields, Mr Crossan, and Mr Box. When I got accepted it prompted a wild flurry of activity in the household as we prepared to fly down to a house that we had bought last year. My sister was already in a boarding school in PLC, she was absolutely thrilled upon hearing about my entry into the college here. This meant that she would come stay with me and my mother who followed me down. My father had opted on staying in Malaysia to keep his clinics in Malaysia running.

The first day at school was rather confusing for me as everything in the school surprised me, the clean neat environment, kind teachers, and to top it all of state of art facilities that dazzled the eye. Well, I am not saying that Malaysian school is appalling but the facilities there are rather puny compared to the Australian facilities. The library was the facility that impressed me most as the books were all put in shelves and all the books were up to date with the latest books. The students were pretty kind and nice to me considering the fact that I was not very open to them as I was extremely nervous during my first day in school. In no time I was feeling like I belonged to the school, and let’s not forget the people who made this happen Mrs Fields, and the panel of teachers who interviewed me. Mrs Fields in particular was extremely enthusiastic in helping us fit in by taking us on a tour and helping us in everything we needed to know.

My targets here are numerous and to list them down would be tedious so I shall summarise them to three main points that I shall put all my effort into. Firstly, I plan to improve my studies and make use of the wonderful studying facilities laid out for me here. Secondly, I hope to improve my athletic ability here due to the emphasis the school also has on us having to involve ourselves in sport. The third and final one, is to find some friends who will help me and support in times that can be very trying.

ZHANG, Qizhi (Jeff)  Year 10 Edith Stein

My name is Zhang, Qizhi (Jeff). I am an International Student. I am from Shenzhen, China. I am 17 years old. I have been in Australia for 3 months. My family has 3 people, they are my Father, Mother and Me. I like to eat Chinese food. My Favourite sport is Basketball. My favourite subjects are Mathematics and Physical Education.

I live close to the College. Melbourne is a very beautiful city and everywhere is very clean. Whitefriars is a big and beautiful school. In this school I hope to improve my language (English) because I have not studied much English before but in Australia you must speak English. I hope to make good friends. I think I can enjoy my life in Australia.

Lunchtime Activity

Badminton at Whitefriars

by  YIP, Maowen  Year 10 Edith Stein

It was a wonderful Friday afternoon, and the lunch bell rang signaling the beginning of the process most of the students call ‘filling their stomachs’. Now I did not happen to have that aim in my mind due to the fact that a badminton event which was on in the Lower Gym. This event involved the local and international students. Now I was part of some of the new batch of international students who came from a wide range of countries, who were enthusiastically going to participate in the badminton event. As the lunchtime rush began, I galloped wildly to my lockers like a wild stallion as I had to meet a friend, get my lunch, change, and grab my bag which had my rackets in it. Now when we reached the Lower Gym we found that quite a few people had nobly sacrificed their lunch due to their early arrival to the event. Now as I got ready to play I watched all the players singing a few here and there as outstanding players. There were varying degrees of skill with some gliding on the court, some frantically scrambling around the court, and others just stomping around like elephants. As we played on the court more and more new arrivals came causing a bit of overcrowding, this led to the organiser whom I identified as Bryan Dinh making the decision to shuffle the players around so that everyone would get an equal time playing badminton. Now as the saying goes time flies when we have fun the bell rang after only what seemed like ten minutes. Some boys ran off to get to class on time, while here and there a few people tried to finish their matches and with a twinge of guilt I have to admit that I was one of them. Mr Freeman, Ms Bates reacted quickly calling everyone to get a picture before everyone ran off. As I changed I felt elated as I could see a potential badminton team formed here in Whitefriars. Grinning I walked briskly to my English class, because I wouldn’t want to get a detention due to my day dreaming about a potential badminton team here in Whitefriars.
An interview with the Principal Father Paul Cahill

Lojaya, Fransisko Year 11 Avila and Tan, Jin Yang Year 11 Soreth

Firstly, we would like to thank you to for giving us some of your time to talk about the International Student Program.

What do you think of the international Student Program and its benefit to the school?

The International Student Program is very important to the School as it brings students from other countries around the world, particularly students from different countries in Asia and it’s very important that local students experience the different cultures that the international students bring to our community. Our world today and tomorrow is a global world with advancement in many areas, including rapid communication made possible between different people in different cultures around the world and it’s important that we all understand and appreciate each other. International students help to bring the benefits of a global community to Whitefriars College, and we should promote better understanding between people from different cultures and help create business relationships between different countries in the future.

Has the International Student Program improved since the first time it was established, and in what ways?

Yes, it has grown since it first started in 1997 and our first students did their first bridging course at Mater Christi College in Belgrave, but since we have established our own bridging program which helps students settle into Whitefriars College and Melbourne. I believe that the program has improved by the ways in which our teaching in the bridging program has developed and it has also improved by the way in which International students get the opportunity to be involved in the different aspects of College life like involvement in sport, music, drama and some even in social service groups.

What is the effect it brings to the local students and the whole Whitefriars community?

With a bigger number of students now, there are more homestay parents involved in it, so that involves more people at Whitefriars.

What is the main objective of bringing the international students together with the local students at Whitefriars?

Two reasons, first it enables us to, I suppose, to have students in vacant places in Whitefriars, so it keeps our student numbers in Senior Years, 10, 11 and 12, and the second is, it helps local students experience the culture of students from different backgrounds.

Do you think our school could be a role model for other schools that have international students?

I think we have developed our program and our system and our structure. The program has been refined for years and we do help other schools to establish International student programs from our experience. So, I don’t want to say we would be a role model but we are happy to share our experiences and knowledge of running this program with other schools, and hopefully that would help.

Do you have any advice for the international students?

Study English, English, English, English. The better you understand English, the better you will perform in all your studies, and the other one is, to make sure you turn up for every class every day and do all the studies as you are supposed to do.

Visits to our Melbourne Agents

Mrs Emilia Fields Director, International Student Program at Whitefriars College has spent the last month visiting our Melbourne agents.

Cathy Yu and
Grant Huang
of Ozpathway
Students Service
Education and
Migration Service

Lenny
Goenawan
of Edlink +
ConneX

Ms Jessie Seo
and
Mr Chul Lee
Kokos
International

Staff of IDP Pty Ltd Melbourne