

Principal's Update



DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP IN OUR YOUNG PEOPLE THE ICE FACTOR PROGRAM

For this update I wanted to share with the school community the immense pride I have in one of our newest engagement and enrichment initiatives – The Ice Factor Program.

The original idea for the program began with a Year 11 student (Marko) approaching Mr Potter (Student Wellbeing Leader) to talk about a program he was involved in that teaches disengaged young people how to ice skate and ultimately participate in competitive ice hockey matches. Marko is a peer mentor for the program and has seen the difference it can make to the lives of young people at risk of being lost to the schooling system. Mr Potter initially said no. Marko persisted and gradually Mr Potter became convinced that the program could work well for a group of our Golden Grove High students.

Mr Potter is a very enthusiastic person and once he makes the decision to take action, things get done! Quickly he obtained support from school leaders for the program, identified potential students, contacted a local community organisation (the Lions Club) to secure sponsorship and received permission from families for their children to be released from school one day per week for all of Term 3 and 4 so they could participate in the program.

The program has been running for 6 weeks so far and already the impact on the students is significant and noticeable. With the support and encouragement of Mr Potter the students have:

- Committed to developing six core character strengths they will tap into during the program and whilst at school – gratitude, kindness, humility, self-regulation, bravery, social intelligence
- Established a 'Leadership Group' responsible for ensuring the team continually strives to enact the identified core strengths
- Raised money (currently sitting at \$475) for those less fortunate than they are through their participation in the "Walk a Mile in my Boots" fundraiser to show support for the homeless
- Made enormous progress in improving their ice skating skills
- Designed their team logo for their new Guernsey. The logo features:
 - ◆ the tree of belonging - to symbolise the connectedness they have to both the school and the team
 - ◆ the School Values - to represent the gratefulness the students feel for the opportunity they have been given
 - ◆ a shield - to represent the strength and protection they feel when they act as a team
 - ◆ crossed hockey sticks - to represent the new skills they are learning and the resilience and bravery being developed



Action from Week One.....





The students don't always get things right and occasionally they 'muck-up' back at school. When they do, they accept responsibility for what they did and the consequences of their actions. Importantly, the behaviour is also reported to the team's Leadership Group and they take responsibility for discussing how the behaviour is not in alignment with the team's core character strengths and they apply their own in-house sanctions. As Principal, I am so proud of these young men and women and so thankful for staff members like Tim Potter and students like Marko who persevered until someone really listened to what he was saying. I look forward to sharing the future developments of this team with you as the year progresses.

Peter Kuss
Principal

