From the Founder

Hillary's Step
(Written with great respect and acknowledgement to Tenzeng Norgay and the many nameless Sherpas who have summited Everest over the years).

Our subject this week is a young man who was ‘too small’ to play sports. He preferred instead to read books. He grew up in a little known town called Tuakau in what was then perhaps the most isolated country on earth (New Zealand). He received reasonable grades at high school, but never excelled and was considered ‘very ordinary’ by his teachers. After he graduated, he became a bee keeper!

Over the next ten years however, Hillary also became interested in mountain climbing. After starting off on some of the smaller peaks in New Zealand, he set out around the world to climb progressively higher mountains until in 1953, he and his climbing partner Tenzing Norgay became the first people in history to summit Mount Everest.

In the lead up, Hillary was told he was crazy. To climb Everest meant death. Dozens had proven that in previous attempts. It was a risk he was willing to take. Since Hillary reached the top, almost three hundred people have died trying to follow in his footsteps. Perhaps ironically it is the term ‘footsteps’ that I wish to focus on today. By any standards, even today, Hillary’s achievement was monumental especially when you consider he made the climb without modern technology to assist him.

As time has progressed climbing Everest has become something only the very rich can afford to do. While in no way belittling the efforts of those who have made it, it is quite frightening to see the quarter of a million dollar price tag that now accompanies a summit attempt. Some climbers are all but carried up the mountain. Ropes, chains, camp sites and oxygen are set up in advance and then of course there are the ladders and the set up supports to carry climbers up Hillary’s Step.

It is this ‘ladder’ across the crucial last step that makes the difference. Both mentally and physically, as those who follow can now walk in the footsteps of another. What we must never forget, however, is that when they were first walked… they were the steps of a crazy person… a person who did not follow in the footsteps of others… a person who thankfully did not fit in with the rest.
**Term 3 Dates**

Term 3 commences: Tuesday 11th July  
Term 3 concludes: Thursday 15th September  
Camps: please be advised we are yet to confirm Term 3 camps. We will send out further information later in the term.

**Ching Turns 18**

This year Miss Ching turned 18. Ching celebrated her birthday at Lavers Hill with her classmates. Ching awoke to pancakes and presents waiting for her as well as a game of pass the parcel (enjoyed by all ages, staff included). She also had a special birthday dinner with her close friends at TGI Fridays. This was a chance for her friends to meet her family. It was a special time for Ching, not only to celebrate a milestone, but to be able to share it with both her close group of Australian friends and her family from Brunei. Ching gave a speech to say thank you and then all the guests and the TGI’s staff sang her a special Happy Birthday.
Term 2 Recap

Teenagers have grown up with access to a variety of forms of instant gratification: cell phones, internet, fast food and facebook are just a few. This makes it even more important (and difficult) to teach the benefits of hard work and applying yourself to complete a task. In Term 2 we continued to work on our building and maintenance projects. These projects are important opportunity for students to learn the value of working at something over a period of time, without instant feedback or gratification. It is also a chance to learn problem solving skills, teamwork and the concept of cause and effect.

As the project develops, students learn the impact of cutting corners as opposed to working carefully. They also have the opportunity to see their hard work pay off. For many students there is a great sense of satisfaction that comes from working through a problem, creating solutions, or simply putting in a hard days work. Of course as much as we all love some hard work, trips to Apollo Bay with the promise of fishing and hot chips is still a firm favourite. And even more exciting was finishing the term off with snow.

DECV

We have now commenced Semester 2 of DECV study. VCE students are in week 4 of their studies. Year 5-10 students are currently completing their introductory launch pad weeks and will commence their formal studies next week. If you have any questions regarding your child and their DECV subjects please contact Kate.
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...the winter wonderland

The Jon Carnegie School