The conclusion of a year has a bittersweet flavour to it. For some students it is the conclusion of their secondary education and their departure from the next part of their education journey. For some parents it is the conclusion of their formal relationship with the school and some staff will be moving on to new challenges. In April next year I will have been Principal at Bright P-12 College for 10 years. Reflecting on that time I see the college has made significant steps in providing quality education for all students.

The college continues to develop. At the beginning of 2013 we will have moved to becoming an educational facility that caters for children from 0-18. The completion of the Early Learning Centre is a key element of that development and will be a genuine benefit to the community. The forward thinking of College Council has led to this development. Instead of using Building Education Revolution funding ($2.1 million) to build more facilities around P-12 Council agreed to approach the Shire with the idea of building an Early Learning Centre. This decision has provided the community with a magnificent facility that will provide a catalyst for further economic development of Bright & District.

The refurbishment of the trade area and the creation of a Hair & Beauty salon and the construction of an Outdoor Learning Centre provides our students with state of the art facilities where they can engage in programs that previously were not available.

After reflecting on the Self-Evaluation of 2011, this year College Council agreed to form a Marketing & Promotions Committee. That committee has developed a number of strategies to further positively promote our college but the first piece of work it completed was to identify the seven points of difference our college had with other schools. This provided a great starting point of reflection for me. I would like to share them with you:

1. Curriculum

Under the curriculum area we have developed outstanding P-6 specialist programs in Art, Music, Japanese, ITC and Sport. We also run a comprehensive reading recovery program for Year 1 students. Our Literacy and numeracy data based on the 2012 NAPLAN is above the national benchmark at Year 3, 5 & 7. This is due to the dedication of our staff and the programs we have put into place to ensure growth in all of our students. In recent times we have had students arrive from Argentina, Burma & Sri Lanka and we have been able to support these students through an excellent ESL program.

Our VCE, VCAL & VET programs offer a wide range of choice for our students. In 2012 we offered VCE Indigenous Studies at Year 11 and will offer it at Years 11 & 12 in 2013. We will be one of the only schools in Victoria providing that subject. Our median VCE study score stands in very good stead when measured against government and independent schools in our region.

Our VET programs are supported through our status as a registered training organisation. We have also expanded our offerings through the partnership with Marian College and Myrtleford P-12. All these programs are supported and made possible through dedicated and committed teaching & non-teaching staff.

2. Student Leadership

We believe that providing opportunities for students to build leadership skills and resilience is important. At Year 9 our students have opportunities through the School for Student Leadership (Marlo, Dinner Plain & Gormand Guindji) & the Wadeye program. We also support grade 5/6 students in attending the Somers Leadership camp at Bogong as well as attending Leadership Seminars in Melbourne and Wodonga.

Many of our students become members of the Alpine Shire Youth Council with other winning awards in areas of community, arts, sports and academia.

3. School Partnership

Our school has received recognition from the state government due to the development of a partnership with Myrtleford P-12 & Maroona College in sharing VCE & VET programs. This means that students can access subjects that they may not have been able to previously without leaving the area.

We have also forged an important partnership with the Alpine Shire. This began with the setup of the Dinner Plain Annex and has now developed with the construction of the Early Learning Centre and further through the signing of an MOU which opens up the use of Shire facilities to students.

4. Community Relationship

Our relationships with community organisations such as the RSL, BUMs, Bendigo Bank, IGA and Alpine Health continue to grow. This year students who attended the Leadership School raised $4500 for medical equipment for Bright hospital.

5. Programs / Extra Curricula

Programs such as Wadeye (Nth Territory), Bad Aibling (Germany), Gamagori (Japan), Apollo Bay, Snow Sport Program (one of the biggest school snowsport programs in Victoria), and more recently the sailing camp provide opportunities for our students that many students in more expensive independent schools may not be able to access.

6. Arts / Culture

Our College has built an outstanding Arts program with a developing music program that is celebrated through community performances and college soirees. Each year our Art, Visual Communication & Design and Design Technology students produce some outstanding work. These are celebrated at the annual Art Exhibition that is presented in partnership with Bright Art Gallery. Also our students and staff now perform with Alpine Actors. Students are also working with Alpine Community Radio.

7. Grounds / Environment

Our grounds and facilities are second to none in the region. Since 2003 we have had building upgrades valuing close to $10 million. These include new primary classrooms, specialist secondary classrooms and of course a new Early Learning Centre. Our grounds man Steve Jenvey has the grounds looking magnificent and makes it a pleasure for our students, staff and families to walk through.

Our college continues to provide wide and diverse services to the community including a growing annexe at Dinner Plain which includes three facilities catering for in excess of 80 students from P-12 each winter season. Our stadium is used extensively by the community each weekday evening and we offer Outside Hours School Care & Vacation Care services.

The achievements of our college should be celebrated by our community. The seven areas I have outlined can become tools that each College community member can use in conversations they have with new arrivals to the area or those local people who may not have a clear picture on what we do.

Thankyou and farewell to our staff who are leaving at end of 2012.

Bianca Winslade whose contribution as a P-6 classroom teacher has been considerable.

Georgie Matters who has been with us this year replacing Fran Waterman.

Peter Stratton who is leaving at end of 2012.

Arlene Zozula who has over many years delivered our Outside School Hours Care and Vacation Care service.

Ayaka Sato for your work this year in the Japanese classes. You have made a valuable contribution to our Japanese program on many levels.

Andrew Dohrmann. Andrew you have made a valuable contribution to Bright P-12 College over the years, and in particular with your leadership of Years 9/10. I wish you all the best in your new Leadership position at Wodonga Senior Secondary College.

Geoff Wilkin who has taught Chemistry to VCE students. I thank you for your dedication and commitment to our students and wish you all the best for the future.

Peter Stratton who has been on contract this year teaching various subjects from Year 10 Careers and Civics to Chemistry. You have demonstrated high quality classroom teaching skills and we wish you all the best for the future. Peter will retain his 0.4 Retention position with the local schools.

Oli Wiens who has been with us this year on exchange from Germany. Oli you have enthusiastically embraced your time at Bright P-12 College and I wish you all the best for the future.

Mary Iaria who has been teaching Hairdressing this year, you took on a mighty challenge and succeeded. Well done and all the best with the salon.

John Pryor
Principal
February

In 2012 we welcomed 25 new Prep students:

Back, from left: Brandon Paech, Sebastian Friend, Billy Michie, Kyle Freeman, Zac Campbell, Ava McKee, James Grant, Harry Mapley, Jay Hall, Ryley Gillham, Mackenzie Lynch and Krista Brandon

Front, from left: Ryan Alexander, Fearghus Jones, Yannick Paulsen, Saskia Heuperman, Charlotte Kelly, Alison Ciolli, Laura Feltrin, Cydney Kozuharoff, Chloe Pasquinelli, Neve Filippi, Talia Thompson, Tom Gray and Leroy Anehagen.

Sincere thanks to the Bright Observer for this lovely photo.

Year 12 student Jake Bray Butler was busy over the holiday period. In January he was invited to Canberra to be part of the Rotary national Youth Science Forum, and on Australia Day he was awarded the Bright & District Youth Achiever. In February he was voted Alpine Shire's Youth mayor.

Congratulations Jake, a fantastic recognition of your commitment to success and your community.

The Year 11 and 12 study retreats were held in February. Such events provide an invaluable occasion for foregrounding in students’ minds the importance of Years 11 and 12 and the need for diligence in their studies.

Jake Bray-Butler is pictured with Alpine Shire Deputy Mayor Narda Cain.
Congratulations to Year 9 students Bella Losch Hickey, Felix Blazek, Jack Dalbosco, Alex Shem, Isabella Bartlett and Indy Wickes, who attended the Leadership School at Marlo in Term 1 2012.

The Schools for Student Leadership offer a unique residential education experience for Year 9 students. The curriculum focuses on personal development and team learning projects sourced from students’ home regions. Snowy River Campus is near the mouth of the Snowy River at Marlo in east Gippsland.

The Leadership Schools provide wonderful opportunities for our Year 9 students to spend a term developing key skills such as resilience, leadership skills, teamwork, tolerance and empathy. Last term we had eight students at Marlo. Graham Gales does a great job supporting those students. The Principal of the Leadership Schools Mark Reeves complimented our students on their motivation and achievements over the term.

John Pryor

The students were fortunate enough to hear some guest speakers from a variety of walks of life.

In November, Bright College had a visit from Barry Heard, author of the books ‘Well Done, Those Men’ and ‘TAG’. Mr Heard spoke to the Marlo students in Term 1 about his experiences as a soldier in Vietnam. Three of the students who attended Marlo in term 1 - Jack Dalbosco and Bryce Carnes (pictured) and Alex Shem - had been so impressed with him in term 1 at Marlo that they went along and listened to him again. Alex and Bryce took along other family members as well. Mr Heard remembered meeting them at Marlo and had a chat with them after his talk.

New Arrivals from Wadeye

We welcomed two new students from our friends from the far north and one returning: Jules Nganbe, Wagon Dumoo and Donatus Narndu, pictured with mentor Justin Crawley and Paul Kintharri.

The partnership that Bright P-12 College has with the Wadeye community offers a great opportunity for students from both places to grow and understand each other’s culture.

Our students and staff have developed programs to support literacy for Wadeye primary students. This has involved reading with young indigenous students and the provision of books. The Stevia program is centred on diabetes prevention and has involved students growing stevia plants and developing information for Wadeye families on the use of Stevia and the reduction of sugar use.

The relationship is strong and has been recognised locally, regionally and across the state as a great model in building understanding.
February

Congratulations to all the students who stepped forward to nominate for leadership positions. At special college assemblies our community listened to the speeches of both the junior and senior candidates with great enjoyment and admiration for their composure in front of their peers and teachers.

Congratulations to our chosen student leaders for 2012 (pictured on the next page).

Year 1/2W reflection on the story “And to think that I saw it on Mulberry Street!”.
Student Leadership

2012 College Captains

Senior College Captains
Eleisha Young and Joshua Kusch

Deputy College Captains
Ellie Packham and Will Perry

Junior College Captains
Emma Allemand and Max Gray

Deputy Junior College Captains
Rhys Gribble and Charlie Crawley

2012 House Captains

Senior College:
BUCKLAND
Drew Carrigg & Kayla Harris
Vice  Kieren Jamieson & Georgie Aquilina
Jnr Vice  Sean Lawless & Grace Jordan

KIEWA
Josh Kusch & Shannen Cooper
Vice  Bernard Zonta/Nathan Hollow & Erin Graves
Jnr Vice  Liam Packham & Brianna Thomas

OVENS
Sam Buckley & Samantha Young
Vice  Ryan Kupferle & Vanessa Twaits
Jnr Vice  Harrison Dalbosco & Maddy Hough

Junior College
BUCKLAND
Jedda McIntosh & Ned Crawley
Vice:  Teagan Atherstone & Callum Grant

KIEWA
Sophie Morris & Callan Mantyvinta
Vice:  Zoe Kemp & William Shem

OVENS
Rhys Gribble & Harry Young
Vice:  Kimberly Farmer & Darcy Cheliew

Back Row:
Charlie Crawley, Will Perry, Ellie Packham and Rhys Gribble

Front Row:
Max Gray, Joshua Kusch, Principal John Pryor, Eleisha Young and Emma Allemand
February

Secondary Interhouse
Swimming Carnival
Close to 160 Yr. 7-12 students made the journey over to the Mt. Beauty swimming pool to compete at the annual **Interhouse Swimming** event; with perfect weather, students sporting their house colours and keen support from parents, it made for a terrific atmosphere.

The day ran efficiently, with secondary staff filling the roles of marshalls, timekeepers, judges and recorders; giving students a terrific opportunity to show their ability in the pool, each House having their standout performers on the day.

Catherine Vey (13yr female champion), Josh Dalbosco (15yr male champion) and Brodie Brain (16yr male champion) were standouts for the ‘Golden’ team. The Ovens team, led by their passionate teaching staff, were passionate all day and the cheers from their supporters rang out through the hills of Mt Beauty.

Lachlan Hofbauer (13yr male champion), Gen Taberner (14yr female champion), Max Brotto (14yr male champion) and Miranda Williams (16yr female champion) gave the red house a fighting chance and when it came to the relays were within sight of an upset victory.

But it was the “Buckland Wave” including standout efforts from of Grace Jordan (15yr female champion), Roisin Pryor (20yr female champion), Roisin Pryor (20yr female champion) and Darcy Martin (20yr male champion) that helped to guide the blue team to victory on the day.

Ryan Kent, Senior Sports Coordinator.

On Wednesday 7th of March, 28 students travelled down to the Albury swimming centre to compete in the **Ovens and Mitta district swimming** championships. Accompanying the students at the carnival was a swag of parent supporters and dedicated teachers who helped to ensure the smooth running of the day.

With 5 late withdrawals on the morning the students’ steely resolve was tested. Some quick creative thinking from Mrs Crawley and a number of dedicated students putting their hands up to fill events helped to ensure the team arrived at Albury focused and ready to swim.

The day went swimmingly with all competitors representing the College with pride. The level of competition was high. All day swimmers were putting their hands up to fill events outside their age groups and preferred strokes.

As the day came to a close there was no denying a super team effort in **Finishing 2nd overall** (11 schools) in what was the Colleges best result at an Ovens and Mitta swimming event in over 10 years.

**Age group champions** on the day were: Max Brotto 14yr Male, Jack English 15yr Male.

13 competitors qualified to swim at the **Hume Region swimming** championships. All competitors represented themselves and the College with pride on the day enjoying the challenge of swimming against some quality swimmers.

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**Highlights from the two carnivals:**

- Roisin Pryor – ‘The Smiling Swimmer’
- Brodie ‘Have a go’ Brain
- Tom ‘200 metres is a long way’ Crawley
- Max and Jack Winnalot
- Jed ‘Steven Bradbury’ Pryor
- Eric ‘Why are you making me swim against Josh Fagan’ English
- The entire team, in what was a great start to the sporting year.

Ryan Kent, Senior Sports Coordinator
Primary Swimming

The *Interhouse* swimming carnival in late February was held over two days due to rain. Thank you to all the students who came very enthusiastically dressed in their house colours on both days!

Our age champions for the Interhouse carnival were:

- 10 y.o. girl: Nicola Smith
- 10 y.o. boy: Christian Stadelmann
- 11 y.o. girl: Grace Taberner
- 11 y.o. boy: Daniel Neville
- 12 y.o. girl: Alison Williams
- 12 y.o. boy: Alex Seys

The *Zone* Swimming finally went ahead on Monday 5th March after being postponed due to flood waters and the following students qualified for the Regional Swimming Sports in Shepparton on March 14.

- Daniel Neville (Freestyle, Breaststroke)
- Nicola Smith (Freestyle, Freestyle Relay Team)
- Christian Stadelmann (Freestyle, Butterfly, Freestyle Relay Team)
- Adam Hurst (Freestyle, Breaststroke, Freestyle Relay Team)
- Alex Seys (Backstroke, Butterfly, Freestyle Relay Team, Medley Relay)
- Tessa Conn (Freestyle, Butterfly, Freestyle Relay Team)
- Callan Mantyvirta (Backstroke, Freestyle Relay Team, Medley Relay)
- Callum Grant (Backstroke, Freestyle Relay Team)
- Devon Turner (Backstroke)

- Grace Taberner (Breaststroke)
- Charlie Crawley (Freestyle Relay Team)
- Lily Ricardi (Freestyle Relay Team)
- Marco Vear (Freestyle Relay Team)
- William Webb (Freestyle Relay)

Our primary swimmers performed in an outstanding manner at the *Regional* swimming at Shepparton.

Congratulations to *Christian Stadelmann* for comfortably qualifying for the 10 yr. Freestyle State Final in Melbourne on March 29th. He also placed 4th in the Butterfly Final. *Alex Seys* also had an impressive swim in the Butterfly Final placing 2nd with a personal best time. He also swam a personal best time in the Backstroke Final, placing 4th. *Callum Grant* was very close to a podium finish in the 11 yr Backstroke Final, placing 4th overall. *Tessa Conn* (finishing 1st in her Butterfly Heat) and *Adam Hurst* (finishing 6th in the Breaststroke Heat) did make it to the final, however they were unfortunately disqualified due to false starts; even “Thorpey” has been guilty of this.

And then there were the four petite “powerhouse” swimmers, *Lily Ricardi, Nicola Smith, Tessa Conn* and *Gemma Drohan* (Porepunkah) who convincingly won the 10 yr Freestyle Relay Final by ¼ of a lap, gaining entrance to the State Final in Melbourne.

The Alpine Cluster had another five relay teams who competed exceptionally well on the day. The results are as follows:

- **Boys 10yrs Freestyle Relay**: Place 5th William Webb, Marco Vear, Oliver English (Wandiligong), Christian Stadelmann
- **Boys 11yrs Freestyle Relay**: Place 2nd Daniel Neville, Adam Hurst, Callum Grant, Christian Stadelmann
- **Girls 12/13yrs Freestyle Relay**: Place 3rd Kate Armstrong, Amy Drohan, Jordan Parmesan, Alison Williams
- **Boys 12/13yrs Freestyle Relay**: Place 4th Charlie Crawley, Callan Mantyvirta, Aaron Gungl (Wandiligong), Alex Seys
- **Medley Boys/Mixed**: Place 2nd Alison Williams, Alex Seys, Callan Mantyvirta, Aaron Gungl
On Friday 16th March students from Years 5 & 6 participated in Cybersmart Hero. Cybersmart Hero is an interactive online activity that teaches children about cyberbullying in a protected environment.

The students played the role of a bystander who becomes aware of a cyberbullying problem at school. Through this activity students became familiar with the issues related to cyberbullying.

Cybersmart Hero is a story about a small friendship group at a school in regional Australia. Students take on the role of the main character, Hero, and follow events both in and out of school over the course of a few days.

Students ultimately become concerned about the welfare of a fellow student, who is the subject of some targeted bullying through electronic media such as texts, emails, chat rooms and social networking.

As the scenario unfolds, the students are required to discuss the issues and make decisions about the responsible course of action.

Students were assisted throughout this activity by guides such as classroom teachers, online moderators and police officers. This was an ACMA cyber(smart:) initiative and part of our becoming eSmart journey.

Jenny Young

SEED

By Devon Turner and Zoe Kemp

On March 8 the Year Fives walked down to the Bright Footy Oval for S.E.E.D (School Environment Education Day).

When we arrived, there were students from other schools there: St Mary’s, Porepunkah, Wandiligong, Harrietville, Falls Creek, Tawonga and Frayne College. We were sorted into groups and introduced to the group leaders. Our group leader was Carolyn (Caz). We introduced ourselves to the group then Caz showed us the water bug activity and we got to work on the bugs. We had to find as many species as we could. We found some marsh fly larvae, mosquito larvae and lots more but we forgot the names. We used tweezers, plastic spoons, magnifying glasses and pipettes. Then we had a break.

After the break we walked over to our next activity which was called the ‘web of life’. In the ‘web of life’ one of the students was the sun, and the rest of us were plants or animals. Devon was a Swamp Rat and Zoe was a Manna Gum.

After the web of life we went to the Park Rangers’ activity. The ladies introduced themselves and then they talked about the bush and how we can prevent the bush being damaged. We played a game about protecting native animals. After that, we named some animals. Zoe named the Fairy Wren and Devon named the Red Fox.

Our last activity was Wastewise. We learnt how to correctly sort rubbish and food scraps into the appropriate bins.

We thought the day was great fun and we learnt a lot. We would especially like to thank Giv Cavedon for making time to come along and help us at SEED.
March

Year 8 Camp
Bogong Outdoor Education Centre