



MEDIA INFORMATION

20 July 2009

PLC Personal Project takes education beyond the classroom

What would the world be like if George Bush was not elected to the US Presidency in 2000?

What would a graffiti-proof bus stop look like and how would it benefit the local community?

What are the mechanical skills required to recondition an old Volkswagen Kombi?

These are some of the questions asked by three students as they embarked on a year-long project integral to their studies at Presbyterian Ladies' College.

160 Year 9 PLC students were involved in their individual Personal Projects, which they commenced last year. The students are now in Year 10.

The Personal Project, part of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme, consists of three stages – the design of the project itself, a 4000 word report and the final exhibition.

“This is a challenging and rigorous project that the students do in their own time,” PLC Deputy Principal Kim Edwards said.

“The Personal Project is the one opportunity for individuals to be involved in the design, delivery and evaluation of a project over an extended period of time. It is about stepping aside and allowing the students to take control of their learning from start to finish.”

PLC student Christina Robson, who created a graffiti proof bus shelter in Claremont, said of her project, “I really enjoyed doing something selfless for the community. It gave me a better understanding of community service and the experience taught me about how one person can achieve something noteworthy within their community.”

An exhibition of students' individual projects will be launched at PLC on Monday 27 July 2009 at 7.00pm and will be open at the school until Sunday 2 August.

Other student projects include:

- creating a range of moisturisers from natural ingredients
- creating a bedroom feature wall inspired by Jackson Pollock's painting 'Blue Poles'
- designing an outdoor room for children with heart problems and donating the plans to Princess Margaret Hospital
- creating a set of rubber wrist bands to raise awareness of leukaemia
- creating tea towels and selling them to raise funds for the North Cottesloe Surf Lifesaving Club

Further information on the International Baccalaureate:

PLC is one of several schools in WA with the International Baccalaureate (IB) as part of its curriculum. Currently the school has the Primary Years Programme (PYP) and Middle Years Programme (MYP) with plans to introduce the IB Diploma in 2011.

IB courses focus on the development of the whole child - the heart as well as the mind.

The Year 9/10 Personal Project falls within the MYP, which encourages students to recognise relationships between school subjects and the world outside. It encourages students to consider multiple perspectives with the aim of promoting intercultural awareness so as to foster tolerance, respect and empathy.

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Year 10 PLC students are available for photographs and interviews

For further media information please contact Chloe Rothery Community Relations Coordinator 9424 647, crothery@plc.wa.edu.au