Hi everyone and welcome to another year.

We’ve started 2013 with only ten international students studying across the College but expect this number to increase through the year.

Of these students seven are from Vietnam, two from China and one from Hong Kong. Six of the students are living in Australia with relatives, three are with a family friend and one is with a local homestay family.

Our three year 12 girls have a busy year ahead of them and are working well so far. They all strive to have 100% attendance which is a great effort, because this means they’re not missing any course work and are certainly complying with their visa conditions. Two of the girls have part time jobs and work between 5 and 10 hours each week which is a good balance with their studies. While working gives them some spending money it has made a huge difference to their confidence and is helping with the further development of their English language. The three girls all hope to be nurses when they complete their studies.

There are no students in the English Language Centre this term so I am taking the opportunity to catch up with homestay families, updating handbooks and generally preparing for the rest of the year.

I thought this might be a good time to remind students and families about some of the regulations for international students and at the same time, inform new staff about the International Student Program at Mill Park.

I would like to remind students to leave valuable items at home as there is no insurance to cover private property brought to school by students, staff or visitors. This includes mobile phones, ipods, sporting equipment and cars. It is very upsetting if these are stolen, lost or broken and can be very costly to replace them. So unless you really need to, don’t bring them to school.

I would appreciate the support of parents and homestay families to encourage students to attend Homework Club each Thursday in the school Library. This is an opportunity for students to receive 1 on 1 help in subjects they are having difficulty with.

I’m available at any time if you have any questions or concerns or would like to discuss any aspect of the International Student Program in the College.

Till next time
Marilyn
Ms Geeta Philip.
Geeta has been a teacher at Mill Park for 7 years and teaches English as Another Language (EAL) to years 10, 11 and 12 at Senior Campus. Geeta has also taught in our English Language Centre

Ms Penny Gillard
Penny has been teaching English as Another Language (EAL) at Mill Park for 12 years.
She teaches years 7, 8 and 9 on the Middle Years Campus.

The Student Welfare Team

Therese Raulin is the College Welfare Coordinator and works across both Campuses

Louise Oteri is the Student Welfare Officer at Senior Campus

Rowena Pfeiffer is the Student Welfare Officer on the Middle Years Campus

The Student Welfare team are available to support our international students both practically and emotionally.

The Careers Team

Josie Vickers is the Careers Teacher at Mill Park and teaches in our English Language Centre.

Jayne Mitchell is the Careers Adviser assisting Josie.

Belinda Mahoney is part of the careers Team and coordinates the Work Experience Program.

The Careers Team support our international students with counselling about their subject selections, university courses and university visits.
Meet our students

My Tho VAN
Year 9

Long Truong
Year 10

Ka Ying Lam
Year 11

Suong Nguyen
Year 11

Han Lam
Year 11

Qian Chen
Year 11

Wenbo Zhan
Year 11

Kim Tran
Year 12

Duyen Tong
Year 12

Thanh Tran
Year 12

My Contact Details:

International students, their parents and homestay families can contact me at anytime.

At school:
8:15 - 4:30 
(03) 9409 8222

Or after hours:
Mobile: 0438 6810125 / 0448 980 419
Email: pridmore.marilyn.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

Parent visits

Some of our student’s parents are hoping to visit Australia later this year:

- Long Truong’s father
- My Tho Van’s mother
- Suong Nguyen’s father
- Ka Ying Lam’s mother and father

We wish these families good luck with their visa Applications and look forward to meeting them when they visit the school.
Mill Park Secondary College has its own English Language Centre based at the Senior Campus, where students from non-English speaking backgrounds complete a 21 week Intensive English Language Program, prior to commencing their studies.

Some of the many benefits for students studying at our English Language Centre rather than a private provider, are:

- The opportunity to form friendships with classmates.
- The ability to observe and participate in classes in which they have an interest.
- The opportunity to get to know the teachers who will be teaching them.
- Familiarity with the surroundings in which they will continue their studies.
- Very small classes with an individualized program.
- The strong focus on pastoral care
- The anxiety of commencing at a new school occurs only once.
- There is a greater expectation, and more opportunity for students to speak English.

Long Truong successfully in completed his Intensive English Language Program in 2012 and commenced Year 10 this year

Ms Philip's Year 10 EAL class
We have two of our girls celebrating birthdays on 15th April:

Thanh Tran is turning 19 and
Han Lam is going to be 17.

We hope you both have a very happy birthday girls.

From our Year 12’s

Kim works weekends as a waitress in a Chinese restaurant and spends all her free time studying. She says the time has gone so quickly since she started at Mill Park and she is already planning the clothes she will wear for the Year 12 end of year celebrations.

Thanh is a very talented nail artist and works between 5 and 10 hours each weeks as a nail technician. Thanh says she’s very excited to be in her last year of school and the time has gone so quickly.

Duyen saw her parents for the first time since coming to Australia from Vietnam three years ago. After spending three weeks with her family during the holidays, Duyen returned to school with a new found confidence to tackle her final year. ‘I am so happy,’ she said.

Bryllynn

Duyen

Ms Gillard’s Year 9 EAL class
Attendance and international students

It is a requirement that International students maintain an acceptable level of attendance. When attendance falls below 80% students are placed on a contract, reported to the International Education Division and the Department of Immigration. This can result in the student being sent back to their country.

To ensure international students are compliant with their visa:

- they are expected to be at school each day unless they are ill.
- If students see a doctor, they must ask for a Medical Certificate which they give to me on their return to school.
- please phone the school before 8.50 to advise of an absence.

9409 8222 Senior Campus
9407 9700 Middle Years Campus

Lateness

Students should be at school and in all classes, on time, each day.

Uniform

All students are expected to be in the correct school uniform each day. If there is a reason why this can’t happen, they need to bring a note with an explanation.

Reminder . . .

International students over 16 years of age are not eligible for concession fares on public transport. If you are caught, you will receive a fine.

Parent Teacher Interviews - 27th March

Parents guardians & homestay families are encouraged to take the opportunity to meet and speak with their child’s teachers.

Don’t hesitate to phone me if you have any queries about the on-line booking process or if you would like me to arrange an interpreter for your interviews.

Work Experience 24th - 28th June

Is held in the last week of Term 2 and students should be looking now to secure a placement in an area of interest.

Work Experience students are required to complete 4 Occupational Health and Safety Certificates.

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<th>Term Dates</th>
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Respect . Achievement . Responsibility . Enjoyment
ESOS REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

ESOS Framework

The Australian Government wants overseas students in Australia to have a safe, enjoyable and rewarding place to study. Australia’s laws promote quality education and consumer protection for overseas students. These laws are known as the ESOS Framework and they include Education Services for Overseas (ESOS) Act 2000 and the national Code 2007.

Student Visa Conditions

Under the ESOS Framework, international students on a student visa are responsible for upholding the conditions of their visa. You are responsible to read, understand and uphold all conditions on your visa.

Satisfactory Course Progress

Student visa condition 8202 requires you to maintain satisfactory academic progress in your studies so you are able to complete your course within the specified visa duration. MPSC is required to monitor your progress to ensure that you complete your studies within the specified time in your original CoE.

Students at risk of not meeting course requirements

MPSC has procedures in place to monitor student progress. If you have been identified to be at risk of not meeting course progress requirements, you will be required to attend a meeting to discuss your progress. At the meeting, it may be decided that an intervention strategy to assist your academic progress will be put in place.

Students who do not make satisfactory course progress.

If you have been assessed as not achieving satisfactory academic progress, you are in breach of your visa condition 8202. This requires that the International Division is notified, who will then contact DIAC.

Overseas Student health Cover

Australia has a special system of health cover for international students called Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) requires you to maintain OSHC while you are in Australia on a student visa.

Complaints and Disputes

1. If a parent or student is dissatisfied with any aspect of the school program, they should contact the International Student Coordinator.
2. If still not resolved to the satisfaction of the parents or student, the complaint should be forwarded in writing, to the school principal.
3. If the matter is still not resolved to the satisfaction of the parents or student, the complaint should be forwarded in writing to the General Manager, International Division.
A reminder to international students about safety when travelling on public transport.

Travelling on public transport should be a safe and comfortable experience. Security measures are in place to maximise the safety of travellers including: security officers, police, guards, good lighting and security cameras. But there are things you need to do.

**Buses and trams**

**Waiting for a bus:**
- Avoid isolated bus stops
- Stand away from the curb until the bus arrives
- Don’t open your purse or wallet while boarding the bus - have your money/card already in your hand
- At night, wait in well lit areas and near other people
- Check timetables so you are not waiting a long time

**Riding on the bus:**
- Sit as close to the bus driver as possible
- Be aware of the people around you. If someone bothers you, change seats and tell the driver
- Keep your purse/packages close by your side. Keep your wallet inside a front coat pocket
- Check your purse/wallet if someone is crowding or pushing you
- If you see any suspicious activity, inform the driver

**Trains**
The same safety tips apply when travelling by trains
Most suburban trains have security cameras installed or emergency alarms that will activate the cameras
Carriages nearest the drivers are always left open and lit
If you find yourself in a carriage on your own or with only one other person, move to another carriage with other people or closer to the driver.

Victorian Police Protective Services Officers (PSOs), Transit Safety Division officers and local police patrol trains and visit all stations. Some officers are in uniform, but many wear plain clothes. Remember, you may not see a uniform, but the person sitting next to you could be a police officer.

**Remember to always travel with friends on public transport at night.**
Equal Opportunity Act 2010

The Victorian Equal Opportunity Act 2010 has strengthened discrimination laws in Victoria by changing some key definitions, creating new responsibilities for the Commission and strengthening the Commission’s role in helping government, business and the community to identify and eliminate discrimination.

This is important to international students for a number of reasons – the people who have obligations under this Act are often the people that interact with international students – employers, accommodation providers, educational institutions, transport providers, health providers.

International students have the right to equality and to not be discriminated against in employment, in housing and health services. The types of issues raised with us by international students include being underpaid and verbally and physically abused at work, having poor conditions of work because of their colour, race, religion or because they come from overseas.

There are instances where international students being taken advantage of and discriminated against by health providers, migration agents, employers and real estate agents because of their race or colour or their ethnicity, their sex or their age. In most cases students were not aware that they could take action.

In Victoria we are committed to ensuring that international students feel welcome, valued and protected within our community.

I encourage you to understand the laws and your rights, and to use those laws if you are treated unfairly. The Commission strongly advocates for the rights of international students and recognises the important role you play, not only in our economy but also the rich diversity of skills and experience you bring to our community.

LINK:

The message of Harmony Day is *Everyone Belongs.*

**In 2013 the theme is: Many Stories – One Australia.**

Our Australian Story is diverse. We come from many countries around the world. We each make up the pages of the bigger Australia story we share today. From the Dreamtime to the Eureka to the Snowy River, from the outback to the city, in wartime and in peace, our stories may be heart wrenching but also inspirational.

**Viva Victoria Festival Sunday 24th March 2013**

Viva Victoria is a free one-day festival of spectacular musical and dance performances at Federation Square. This year Viva will be on Sunday 24 March 2013.

There is something for everyone at Viva Victoria!

You can sample delicious food from around the world, explore the cultural arts and crafts market, and there’s plenty of free kids activities and cultural workshops to entertain and inspire. Don’t miss out on the vibrant sights, sounds and tastes on offer, as we celebrate our multiculturalism.