College Principal’s Report

2014 Council Elections
The number of nominations received was equal to the vacant Parent positions and consequently a ballot was not required for the Parent positions. However, we had more nominations than vacant DEECD positions, so a staff ballot was held on Monday 3 March and the successful candidates were Renee Colbey and Eva Rivera.

Parent Members: Susan Allen
                Suzanne Mastropaolo
                Marius van Oord
                Kathy Filev

DEECD Members: Renee Colbey
                Eva Rivera

We welcome Kathy who is new to Council and thank her for being prepared to take on this important responsibility. We also thank Susan, Suzanne and Marius for nominating to stay on Council. We also congratulate Renee and Eva on their successful re-election.

Standing Committees
If you don’t wish to join the School Council, but would still like to contribute to the College’s future direction, please consider joining one of the School Council’s sub committees. Members meet twice a term on a Tuesday night and all recommendations made by the committees are taken to School Council. Being a member of a committee also enables greater understanding of how the school operates and how decisions are made.

The sub committees are:

- Education
- Student Engagement & Well Being
- Resources
- Community
- Finance

It is vitally important that we have parent input. If you are interested in joining one of the committees or have any questions, please contact Joanne Armarego on 9407 9700 or armarego.joanne.r@edumail.vic.gov.au.

What To Do When Something Goes Wrong
We all want to spring to our children’s defence when they are upset or life seems unfair. Before taking any action, it’s a good idea to sit down with them and let them tell you, without interruption, what has happened. Find out what has upset them. Ask them what they think would put things right. Children, like us, need the chance to unload to a sympathetic ear. Often children are prepared to fight their own battles and just want to vent. There’s nothing worse than charging into the fray and discovering your child has got over it and moved on.

Often, clearly thinking about events gets things into perspective or helps them see how they contributed to what happened. A good lesson for children is to learn which battles to choose. Life holds many irritations and we learn to take most of them in our stride. Erupting over minor incidents is no way to build sound relationships with classmates or teachers – or our own credibility.

Schools really appreciate parents who want to find solutions rather than lay blame, especially when you show them you understand they have to take into account the interests of all the children in their care and cannot be pushed into
punishing other children. Being familiar with the school and the other children helps you put together a more complete picture of what goes on at school. When you and your child’s teachers keep communications open, trusting and positive, your child is the one who will reap the benefits.

Mill Park Secondary College is committed to treating everyone with dignity and respect and encourages good communication between parents and the school. Teaching and learning works best when parents, caregivers and teachers talk to each other and work together to solve any problems. The partnership with parents is vital to us. We also really appreciate the feedback when something goes wrong. I have included the Concerns and Complaints Policy in this newsletter which outlines who to contact.

Every Day Counts—School Attendance
We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

Missing school can have a major impact on a child’s future — a student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By Year 10 they’ll have missed more than a year of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school — each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Coming to school every day is vital, but if for any reason your child must miss school, there are things we can do together to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

From 1 March 2014, new laws will mean that parents can be fined for not sending students to school without an acceptable reason.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

Safe Restraint of Children Travelling in Motor Vehicles
There are new National Guidelines for the Safe Restraint of Children Travelling in Motor Vehicles, which have been developed by Neuroscience Research Australia (NeuRA) and Kidsafe – The Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia.

Below is an easy 5 Step Test to assist parents to assess whether a child is ready to use an adult seatbelt. VicRoads recommends parents use the 5 Step Test to ensure their children’s safety at all times.
Going to school every day is the single most important part of a child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

**Why it’s important**

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

Students develop good habits by going to school every day – habits that are necessary to succeed after school, whether in the workplace or in further study.

Missing school can have a big impact on students academically and socially. It can affect their test results, including VCE, and, just as importantly, it can affect their relationships with other students, and lead to social isolation.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

**Getting in early**

It’s never too late to improve attendance – going to school more often can lead to better outcomes. Even at year 9, when attendance rates are lowest, going to school more often can make a big difference. Every day counts. Schools are there to help – if you’re having attendance issues with your child, speak to your school about ways to address those issues.

**What we can do**

The main reasons for absence are:

- **Sickness** – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they’re ill. It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

- **“Day off”** – Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

- **Truancy** – When students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy, the best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

While all absences are bad for academic performance, unexcused absences are a much stronger indicator of lower reading and maths achievement.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.

- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child’s school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your year level coordinator, principal or other relevant staff member know so you can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit: [www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx)
Attendance At School
Now that we are six weeks into the year, some parents will have received letters from the college requesting explanations for their students' absences from school.

The new government guidelines require written explanations for all student absences within five days of the student returning from the absence. If a student accrues five or more days of unexplained absence from school within one year, the college is required to notify the regional office and parents may be issued with an infringement notice.

I have attached a flyer from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (State Government) as advice to parents regarding attendance and ways to improve your child's attendance at school.

Catch Up Classes
If VCE or VCAL students find they have fallen behind in their course work or have missed a SAC due to absences and their classroom teacher is unable to get the them to catch up on these important tasks, they might find their names on the list to attend a Wednesday afternoon Catch Up Class. These will run from 1.24pm – 3.02pm and students will be allocated to the faculty area in which they have the outstanding work. Student attendance at these catch up classes is compulsory and they will be credited with attending these sessions in their attendance data.

The first of these official catch up classes will commence Wednesday March 12.

Parent Teacher Interviews
The end of term is approaching rapidly and students need to ensure that all work is up to date and completed to the best of their ability.

Parent/Teacher/Student interviews will be held on Wednesday March 26. The college will once again hold the interviews on the Senior Campus and will use the Parent Portal available on the school website to make the bookings. Families will receive a letter with their username and password required to make bookings. If you have changed address recently please contact the Middle Years office on 94079700, or the Senior Campus office on 9409 8222 to update this information.

Please note that the portal is not yet ready to access. An SMS message will be sent to all families when the portal has been activated. We expect this to be Monday March 24. Parents should also use the portal to print their child's report prior to the interviews taking place. The user name and password for this can be found on page two of your letter. If this is difficult please arrive at the senior campus early so that a copy can be printed at the general office.

Year 10 Work Experience Program
A reminder that all Year 10 students are required to participate in the Work Experience Program running in week 9 of Term 2 (16-20 June). This is a valuable experience and is designed to assist students to explore possible career options & pathways. Students are required to organise their own placement and it is highly recommended that you get a start on finding a place as quickly as possible as you will be competing against other students from other schools. For students who are intending to work in the Building & Construction industry, there may be a requirement for additional occupational health & safety training (White Card) which will incur a cost (if not already doing VET Building & Construction). Work Experience Arrangement Forms are due in by the last day of Term 1. All enquiries regarding work experience should be directed to Belinda Mahony, Work Experience Coordinator in the Careers Office.
Senior Campus Captains
At the recent Year 12 assembly the 2014 Captains were presented to the college. I would like to acknowledge and congratulate the following students on their successful applications to these highly esteemed positions in the college.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>STUDENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>College Captain</td>
<td>Bushra Mumin</td>
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<tr>
<td>College Captain</td>
<td>Krishna Batmesswaran</td>
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<tr>
<td>College Vice Captain</td>
<td>Natalie Pejoski</td>
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<tr>
<td>College Vice Captain</td>
<td>Jarrad Conron</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 11 Captain</td>
<td>Zaynah Ali</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 11 Captain</td>
<td>Reegan Quick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 10 Captain</td>
<td>Ebony Taylor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 10 Captain</td>
<td>Andrejan Jankoski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Captain</td>
<td>Emily Stambanis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics Captain</td>
<td>Anushka Sharma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science Captain</td>
<td>Marvad Ahad</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humanities Captain</td>
<td>Victor Colico</td>
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<tr>
<td>Performing Arts Captain</td>
<td>Gavin Turnbull</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visual Arts Captain</td>
<td>Margarita Papadopoulos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debating Captain</td>
<td>Sneha Sharma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library Captain</td>
<td>Lyndon Neville</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technology Captain</td>
<td>Danielle Marsic</td>
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<tr>
<td>VCAL/Careers Captain</td>
<td>Stephanie Wildner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Action Captain</td>
<td>Lauteshna Fruean Laga</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sports Captain</td>
<td>Anthea Karantzoulis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environment Captain</td>
<td>Benita Tonkin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eaglet House Captain</td>
<td>Jasmine Hallet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Redleap House Captain</td>
<td>Jessica Taylor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Studley House Captain</td>
<td>Brad Riley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whernside House Captain</td>
<td>Nicole Tamburini</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
First Year 11 Assembly for 2014

The first Year 11 assembly for the year ran smoothly and really set the tone for the year. The assembly began with an address, from one of the Year 11 Co-ordinators, which was filled with messages of optimism and hope for a fantastic school year to come. Immediately after, the newly appointed campus captains introduced themselves to the cohort which was followed by a short power-point listing this year’s subject captains. The campus captains ended their time with the Year 11’s by introducing the 2014 Year 11 Captains, Zaynah and Reegan.

Zaynah and Reegan’s public speaking skills were immediately tested by them having to give a short speech about themselves to their peers. As well as this they mentioned what they hope to achieve in the Student Representative Council (SRC). After their short speeches, Mr. Keating took over the microphone and finished off the assembly. Before dismissing the year level though he did have a presentation on resilience. To really consolidate the messages shown in his presentation the Year 11’s were lucky enough to have a current Year 12 student Anushka, who received excellent results in her time spent in Year 11. She gave advice on many things students will have to deal with such as time management skills, revision skills and how to deal with stress. After Anushka’s extremely informative talk the year level was dismissed and so ended the very first of many assemblies to come throughout the year.

Reegan Quick & Zaynah Ali
Year 11 Captains

First Year 12 Assembly for 2014

The Year 12 assembly took place on Friday 28 February. Ms Eastlake started the assembly by introducing the College Captains and awarding them with certificates recognising their role in the SRC. The Vice College Captains, Olivia and Jarrod, announced the subject, year level and house captains who were also awarded certificates. Mr. Campbell spoke about the importance of acknowledging hard working students and announced the new scheme where students can nominate other students to receive an award recognising their hard work. Bushra then spoke about the purpose of the SRC and what the plans are for the year, while Krishna spoke about the importance of Year 12 and how effort and time management are the keys to success. We were then joined by Matthew Sijmanoski, a former student who graduated last year. Matthew kindly shared his experience of Year 12 with the audience, giving valuable advice on how to attain success in Year 12. The assembly ended with Mr. Matheson (Year 12 PLO) reinstating the importance of the final year of secondary education. We hope that the Year 12s use their time wisely and reap the benefits of their hard work throughout the year.

By Haryharakrishna Batmesswaran and Bushra Mumin
College Captains

LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF!

As Abraham Lincoln said “The best way to predict the future is to create it”

Volunteer to host an international high school student in February 2014 through Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Help determine the future resilience, diversity and global awareness of your children and family.

Carefully selected students will arrive in July 2014 for one term, one or two semesters from France, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, and Spain. They will attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at our website www.scce.com.au, email scceaustralia@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship.

WEP Student Exchange – A Once-In-A-Lifetime Opportunity!

Find out More!
Request an information pack online or attend one of WEP’s online or group information sessions. Visit www.wep.org.au to find out more. Early Bird Specials are now available for programs commencing in 2015!

Web: www.wep.org.au
Phone: 03 9598 4733 / 1300 884 733 (cost of a local call)
Email info@wep.org.au

Northcote Town Hall
189 High Street, Northcote
25 March 7:30–9pm
Labour Day Holiday
Parents and carer’s please note that Monday, 10 March is a public holiday. Students are not required at school and parents/carers should make alternative arrangements for their care.

Parent Teacher Interviews
The end of term is approaching rapidly and students need to ensure that all work is up to date and completed to the best of their ability.

Parent/Teacher/Student interviews will be held on Wednesday 26 March. The college will once again hold the interviews on the Senior Campus and will use the Parent Portal available on the school website to make the bookings. Families will receive a letter with the username and password required to make bookings. If you have changed address recently please contact the Middle Years office on 94079700, or the Senior Campus office on 9409 8222. Please note that the portal is not yet ready to access. An SMS message will be sent to all families when the portal has been activated.

Parents should also use the portal to print their child’s report prior to the interviews taking place. The user name and password for this can be found on page two of your letter. If this is difficult please arrive at the senior campus early so that a copy can be printed at the general office.

Immunisation
Yr 7 students and Yr 9 boys will receive their HPV immunisation on Monday 31 March. Please return the immunisation form to the front office if you have not already done so. Note that the Chicken Pox immunisation will be held later in the year.

Visitors to School
A reminder to parents that while visitors are welcome to the school, we ask that all visitors report to the front office in order to ensure the safety and security of our students. Students who need to call home should do so via the front office.

Athletics Day
Our Annual College Athletics Carnival will be held on Thursday 3 April at the Meadowglen Athletics Track, 146 – 156 McDonald’s Rd, Epping. Students are required to make their own way to and from the track and will be dismissed at the conclusion of the event - approximately 2.30pm. Please note that this is a whole college activity and no classes will run back at either campus on the day. Students are encouraged to wear House colours with pride!

Safety First
In the interest of students’ safety, the staff car parks at each campus are FOR STAFF ONLY. Parents/guardians/friends dropping off or picking up students are asked to park their car in nearby streets and not in the Staff Car Park. There have been several near misses lately, being of great concern, with the congestion of cars and students leaving school grounds at the same time. Your cooperation in this is appreciated.

End of Term
The last day of term is Friday 4 April. Term two will begin on Tuesday 22 April.

FREE STUDENT EXCHANGE INFORMATION EVENING IN MELBOURNE
Hear from returned students, find out more about discounts and scholarships available and ask questions.

Thursday, 20th March - 7.30pm
Radisson on Flagstaff Gardens
380 William Street

Visit www.studentexchange.org.au or call 1300 135 331 for more information
Imagine ... superheroes opposing the forces of evil using superhuman strength, intelligence and cunning, courage and idealism!

Over the last two weeks the Year 7 students have enjoyed the “Superheroes” Library Orientation. In their Superhero groups they worked through ten stations, learning a lot about the library as they flew through the activities in groups or individually. Each station contained clues and puzzles to do with superheroes as well as questions relating to getting to know the library and its services. An igoogle quiz tested the students’ knowledge of the online World Book Encyclopedia. The students were encouraged to come to the library at recess and lunchtime to play table games, use the computers for research, read magazines and books and make new friends. The Year 7 students, teachers and library staff were active, excited and challenged but most of all, they had fun. Mr Spiros Tsetsos kindly donated the superhero mega-posters for the library’s decoration and he will volunteer his time to introduce and run in the library the “Comic Marvel” club. The feedback from teachers was extremely positive and encouraging. A message from a HomeGroup teacher “Hi Stella, Just an email to say thank you for 7BE’s Library Orientation. The students really enjoyed the session; the theme was great and engaging for the class. Activities were enjoyable and appropriate to the students’ ability levels. The presentation by you was enthusiastic and all students achieved during the lesson.”

Thanks again, Melanie Clark Physical Education Teacher
For the Library Staff

Stella Lambrou MYC Librarian
Year 9 SEAL Excursion – Holocaust Museum

9BR visited the Holocaust Museum on Friday 28 February, as part of the accelerated curriculum for English and Humanities. The students were incredibly moved by the presentation, documentary and collection of historical artefacts from World War 2, collected by Jewish Holocaust survivors and their families. As part of the schools program, the students had the opportunity to listen to a survivor of the death camp Auschwitz. This was a very emotional and significant learning experience about what can happen when racism is not challenged and one group of people are able to exert power over another. The students’ behaviour was noted by the guides who felt they demonstrated enormous respect, maturity and emotion given their younger years than older groups from other schools. Huge thanks to Ms Rebecca Miatke who assisted with supervision and to the students who made their teachers proud.

Mrs Leesa Mereos

Year 7 Charnwood Camp

This week Year 7 students went to camp at Charnwood Outdoor Education Centre, in north-east Victoria. After a few hours on the bus and a quick pit stop in Euroa, the Year 7 students arrived at Charnwood on Monday afternoon.

The students enjoyed all of the activities. These ranged from canoeing to rock climbing to organising where the students had to find things around the camp using a compass, a map and a walkie talkie.

Tania, Colin, John, Peta and Lachie, the staff at Charnwood, looked after us very well. They fed us pancakes, bacon and eggs, spaghetti Bolognese and lots of other tasty dishes. There was even a big birthday cake for Daniel Hawke from 7AW who turned 13 on Tuesday!

The teachers were very proud of the previously hidden qualities displayed by the students over the three days. Persistence, resilience and an adventurous spirit all shone through on the camp.

A big congratulations to Craig Ellis of 7AR who showed off his leadership skills on Wednesday by thanking the Auscamp staff on behalf of Mill Park Secondary College’s Year 7 cohort and all the teachers. Craig even kept everyone in line as they came up for seconds at lunchtime!

Mr Williams, Mrs Barnard, Mrs Magdalani, Mr Shaw, Miss Naidu and Miss Miatke all did a great job leading activities and making sure everyone was having a fun time. Mr Matthews was very helpful as First Aid attendant.

Thank you to all staff and students for their involvement in a very successful Year 7 camp!

Miss Philippa McIlroy
Reminder

‘At Monash’ seminars. Coming up (6.30-8.00pm):
Business and Economics; Nursing, Midwifery and Emergency Health; Science; Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy; IT; Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. See other dates and register: www.monash.edu/seminars. Info: 1800 MONASH.

1. MONASH UNIVERSITY NEWS -

   • ‘AT MONASH’ SERIES – More Seminar dates for your diary:
     ○ Arts (Humanities and Social Sciences), Tues 25 March (Clayton)
     ○ Design and Fine Art, Wed 26 Mar (Caulfield)
     ○ Teaching, Sport and Outdoor Recreation, Thurs 27 Mar (Peninsula)

   An opportunity to check out courses; more dates to follow. See: www.monash.edu/seminars

   • MONASH OFFERS – Monash has announced that offers of places made this year increased by 4.4% to 9749 on 2013 figures. This reflects the strong demand for Monash courses and underlines the university’s commitment to expanding higher education opportunities, said Vice-President Prof Edwina Cornish. The biggest increase has been in courses related to biomedical science, education, science, and business and economics.

   • INFORMATION FOR PARENTS – Monash has a site for those wishing to help children transition from school to uni: www.monash.edu/study/options/parents. It also looks at the reasons for studying at university, choosing courses, costs, and so on.

   • PHYSIOTHERAPY AT MONASH – As indicated in the last newsletter, the UMAT (domestic students) and the ISAT (international students) will no longer be required for students applying for the B. Physiotherapy for entry in 2015 and beyond. Applicants will still undertake an interview. Applicants will be ranked for interview eligibility based on the academic record (Year 12 equivalent studies or GPA) and demonstrated completion of prerequisite subjects. Applicants must be available for face-to-face interview at the designated time.

Info (after Feb 2014):


2. OPEN DAYS FOR 2014 – Attending Open Days at universities and TAFE’s is a great way of gaining information about courses, facilities, location, and generally considering whether you would like to study there. They are mostly held in August, however their dates are included here so that you can get them in your diary and treat them as a priority. They generally run from 10am till 4pm. You need to allow perhaps a couple of hours per visit.

   Sat 2 Aug – Monash University (Berwick & Peninsula campuses)
   Sun 3 Aug – Deakin ( Warnambool), Monash University (Caulfield, Clayton & Parkville), Swinburne Uni & TAFE
   Sun 10 Aug – Australian Catholic Uni (ACU) (Melbourne), Deakin (Geelong), RMIT Uni & TAFE (Bundoora, Brunswick, City)
   Sun 17 Aug – La Trobe Uni (Bendigo), University of Melbourne
   Sun 24 Aug - Box Hill Institute, Deakin Uni (Melbourne), La Trobe (Melbourne), Victoria Uni, William Angliss Institute
   Sun 31 Aug – ACU (Ballarat), Federation Uni (Ballarat & Gippsland)

3. VETERINARY SCIENCE & HOSPITAL OPEN DAY – Step behind the scenes at the University of Melbourne’s Veterinary Hospital. This Open Day is for the wider community and prospective students to tour the facilities, discover the range of animals, attend lectures, and see interactive displays and demonstrations. Speak to veterinary staff, current students or members of special interest groups. When: 10am-3pm, Sun 16 March; Where: 250 Princes Hwy, Werribee; Info: www.vet.unimelb.edu.au/openday.

4. INTERESTED IN PHYSICS? To coincide with International Women’s Day, the University of Melbourne’s School of Physics and the Laby Foundation are hosting a free public lecture. The speaker is Dr Alicia Oshlack who took a PhD in astrophysics and is head of the Murdoch Children’s research Institute. Hear about the growing field of bioinformatics and how studying physics led her there. When: 5.15pm, Thurs 6 March; Where: Hercus Theatre in the David Caro Building, cnr Tin Alley and Swanston St; Enquiries/reg’n:
Jacinta.den@unimelb.edu.au. Note: although the talk is to encourage young women to study physics, the lecture is open to all members of the public.

5. KEEPER FOR A DAY AND VET FOR A DAY – Thinking of a career involving animals? Then attend a Keeper or Vet day to find out the realities of these careers.

• Werribee Open Range Zoo’s ‘Keeper for Day’ program on 8, 10 and 14 April. Find out first hand from keepers, the skills and experience helpful in gaining a position as a zoo keeper. Who: 13-18yo; Cost: $103; Book: 9285 9406, www.zoo.org.au/werribee/whats-on/keeper-for-a-day

• Healesville Sanctuary’s Vet for a Day program on 8, 9, 10, 16 & 17 April. Work alongside vets on real life cases at Healesville Sanctuary’s vet hospital. Who: 15-18yo; Cost: $125; Book: 9285 9406 www.zoo.org.au/healesville/whats-on/keeper-for-a-day

• Healesville Sanctuary’s Keeper for a Day program on 8, 9, 15 & 16. Get close to precious and endangered animals; help the keepers, and learn about a very rewarding job. Who: 13-18yo; Cost: $103; Book: 9285 9406.

6. DEAKIN UNIVERSITY NEWS -

• CRIMINOLOGY AT DEAKIN (BURWOOD) – Those thinking of studying criminology at university will be interested to know that Deakin University now offers this major at the Burwood campus as well as at Geelong. Criminologists examine how those accused of crimes are brought to justice, reasons for crime, and how crime rates can be reduced.

Deakin now offers the following:

Bachelor of Criminology along with several double degrees with B. Criminology: Information Technology, Law, Psychological Science

NOTE: Criminology can also be studied at Federation (formerly Monash Gippsland campus), Monash, RMIT, Swinburne and Victoria Universities; it can also be studied in the Diploma of Justice at several TAFE institutes.

• STUDY SPANISH AT DEAKIN – New to Deakin in 2014, Spanish offers a unique opportunity to learn about the history and culture of the Spanish-speaking world, whilst equipping you with increasingly sought after language skills. Spanish is the official language of 21 countries, including Spain and the nations of Central and South America. After Chinese, it is the largest world language in terms of the number of native speakers. Thus, the study of Spanish can open doors to new experiences and interests not accessible without a knowledge of the language. It can be studied in the B. Arts, the B. International Studies, and the Diploma of Language.

• OPTOMETRY AT DEAKIN – Deakin’s B. Vision Science/Master of Optometry will be offered from this year as a combined course. Students wishing to study optometry will be able to apply for the combined course via the usual VTAC process. It is offered at the Geelong campus, providing students with purpose-built facilities. By taking advantage of the trimester system, this course makes it possible for students to obtain a professional optometry qualification in just three-and-a-half years. See: www.deakin.edu.au/study-at-deakin/find-a-course/optometry.

• CREATIVE ARTS AT DEAKIN – The School of Communication and Creative Arts and Education has outstanding creative and performing arts facilities, including animation labs, editing suites, sound studio, film screening rooms, wardrobe and costume department, green room and performance studios. Students may work collaboratively on major projects, developing project management, communication and collaboration skills required by creative artists and creative technologies industries. Students have access to the Deakin Broadcast Centre, a full high definition TV studio.

Photography students work in both digital and chemical formats, with access to high quality dark room facilities. Students also learn in the Motion Lab, Australia’s largest and most sophisticated optical motion capture facility. Info: www.deakin.edu.au/study-at-deakin/find-a-course/creative-arts.

• DEAKIN STUDENTS SAY – The new YouTube videos may help you satisfy your curiosity about what it is really like to study at Deakin. Get a student perspective on courses, overseas study, and work placement opportunities by visiting www.youtube.com/user/deakinuniversity.

Compiled by: m.walker
Mill Park Secondary College

Concerns and Complaints Policy

Preamble:
Mill Park Secondary College is committed to treating everyone with dignity and respect and encourages good communication between parents and the school.

Teaching and learning works best when parents, caregivers and teachers talk to each other and work together to solve any problems. The school's approach to handling concerns and complaints is based on our values of:

- providing a safe and supportive learning environment
- building relationships between students, caregivers and staff
- providing a safe working environment for staff.

Aims:
This policy aims to cover concerns and complaints about:

- general issues of student behaviour that are contrary to the school's code of conduct
- incidents of bullying or harassment in the classroom or the school yard
- learning programs, assessment and reporting of learning
- communication with parents
- school fees and payments
- general administrative issues

This policy does not cover matters for which there are existing rights of review or appeal, as detailed in the Victorian Schools Policy and Advisory Guide.

Implementation:
In the first instance, a complaint should be made to the school.

- The complainant should telephone, email or write to:
  - The student's Teacher or Home Group Teacher about learning issues and incidents that happened in their class or group.
  - The Year Level Coordinator if the matter is of a serious nature or if students from several classes are involved.
  - The Assistant Principal about issues relating to staff members or complex student issues.
  - The Campus Principal about issues relating to school policy, school management, staff members or very complex student issues.

All complaints will be noted and acted on promptly by the staff member who receives the complaint. The school will make every attempt to resolve a concern or complaint as quickly as possible. If your complaint involves many students and a range of issues, the school will need more time to investigate and resolve it. The outcome of the complaint will be communicated as soon as practically possible to the person making the complaint via either telephone call, meeting or in writing.

The school will determine whether a concern or complaint should be managed through the school's concerns and complaints process or through other complaints processes of the Department.

If a person with a concern or complaint is not satisfied with the outcome determined by the Assistant or Campus Principal, they should contact the College Principal.

If a person with a concern or complaint is not satisfied with the outcome determined by the school, they should contact the Northern Region Office.