College Principal’s Report

OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH YOU TO SUPPORT STUDENTS ACHIEVING THEIR BEST

Parent Teacher Interviews will be held on Wednesday 26 March between 12.30 and 8pm. Appointments can be made and Term 1 interim reports can be printed through the parent portal. Please do not hesitate to contact the office if you are experiencing difficulty in accessing the portal.

We are keen to build and maintain positive relationships with the parents of our students, as parents are important partners in ensuring the best educational outcomes. We invite you to a conference with teachers and encourage you to share your thoughts on your child’s strengths and weaknesses. It is important that you talk to your child before the interview and find out any specific concerns that might exist. It is important that students also attend the interviews. We look forward to meeting with you.

MILL PARK SHOWCASE SHINES!

Our College Showcase was held on Monday 17 March. It was so successful under the leadership of Renee Colbey and a huge number of dedicated staff and students. I am very proud of the wonderful ambassadors our students were. The feedback from our visitors was very positive. Thank you to all who contributed.

BULLYSTOPPERS

There is a growing awareness, both in Australia and internationally, of the harmful impact bullying can have on all members of the school community. Bully Stoppers aims to strengthen prevention and empower everyone to make a stand and become a bully stopper, reducing incidents of bullying in all Victorian schools.

The National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence is on Friday 21 March 2014. At Mill Park Secondary College all Year 7’s and 10’s have been given a wristband which states ‘bullying no way! Let’s take a stand together’. Increased awareness is being achieved in a number of ways across all year levels.

Bullying is repeated verbal, physical, social or psychological aggressive behaviour by a person or group directed towards a less powerful person or group that is intended to cause harm, distress or fear. There are also some behaviours which, although they might be unpleasant or distressing, are not bullying:

- mutual conflict - which involves a disagreement, but not an imbalance of power. Unresolved mutual conflict can develop into bullying if one of the parties targets the other repeatedly in retaliation.
- single-episode acts of nastiness or physical aggression, or aggression directed towards many different people.
- social rejection or dislike is not bullying unless it involves deliberate and repeated attempts to cause distress, exclude or create dislike by others.

It is important to recognise bullying behaviours and make it clear they are unacceptable, but it is also important to try not to label students as 'a bully'. Most students don't want bullying to occur but often don't know what to do about it. It's important that all forms of bullying are taken seriously and that schools, parents and students work together to ensure that everyone understands that bullying is not acceptable - ever.

People in a bullying scenario may take on one of the following roles:

- a person who engages in bullying behaviour
- a target who is subjected to the bullying behaviour
- an assistant who assists the bullying behaviour and actively joins in
- a supporter who encourages and gives silent approval to the bullying, by smiling, laughing or making comments
- a silent bystander who sees or knows about someone being bullied but is passive and does nothing. This may be an adult bystander
- a defender who supports the student who is being bullied by intervening, getting teacher support or comforting them.
All adults, including teachers, school staff and parents, should model positive bystander behaviour and intervene if they observe bullying behaviour occurring between students. Standing by and doing nothing, or leaving students to ‘sort it out’ themselves, sends the message to the whole school community that the bullying behaviour is being condoned.

Young people are still learning and practicing social skills. Everyone has the capacity to change their behaviour but being given a label can stick and make these changes much harder.

If you think your child is being bullied stay calm and positive. Focus on identifying a solution with your child. A confident, positive and resilient appearance can stop bullying from continuing. You do not need to ask your child’s permission to talk to the school. Understandably, children who are being bullied are often fearful and worry that any action will worsen the problem. The solution is to make a parental decision to talk to the school. A consistent and co-operative approach by both the home and school is important. You can always let your child know later what actions you have taken. Let the school take responsibility for helping students who are bullying to change their ways.

Encourage your child to talk about what happened. If they want to try to deal with the bullying themselves, discuss these strategies and set a short period of time to see if they can resolve the situation. Tell your child that reporting the bullying is okay. Assure your child that it is not their fault.

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

If you would 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

**STAFF CAR PARK**

In the interest of students’ safety parents are reminded that the staff car park is FOR STAFF ONLY. Parents dropping off or picking up their children are asked to park their car in nearby streets and NOT in the Staff Car Park.

**TEXT BOOKS ARE ESSENTIAL**

Our commitment to education excellence is compromised by students who don’t yet have the required texts. We are aware of the financial strain of purchasing books; however, students require these books to reach their educational best. We suggest a possible solution of parents purchasing one text book per fortnight could alleviate the financial burden.

**REMEMBER - IMMUNISATIONS 2014**

Parents / Carers are reminded that the immunisation cards must be signed and returned to the school, even if your child is not having the immunisation. Thank you to the Year 7, 9 and 10 parents who have returned the cards, however, we still have quite a few students whose cards have not been returned.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Patients</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 31 March</td>
<td>Yr 7 Girls &amp; Boys (HPV1)</td>
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<td>Yr 9 Boys (HPV 1)</td>
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<td>Monday 16 June</td>
<td>Yr 7 Girls &amp; Boys (HPV2)</td>
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<td>Yr 9 Boys (HPV2)</td>
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<td>Monday 27 October</td>
<td>Yr 7 Girls &amp; Boys (HPV3)</td>
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<td>Yr 7 Girls &amp; Boys (Chickenpox)</td>
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<td>Yr 9 Boys (HPV3)</td>
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**END OF TERM**

The last day of term one is Friday April 4. Students will be dismissed at 12.35pm, but please be advised that normal classes will run from sessions 1 through to 4. All students are expected to attend all classes on this day.

Class parties and fun games are NOT part of the curriculum and teachers will not be conducting these activities despite what students may tell their parents.

Trish Horner
Student Leadership Team

In our last newsletter we acknowledged our Senior Campus student leadership team. We are pleased to provide the official school photos of these very important leaders.

Co-ordinator Awards

This year the student management team are acknowledging students at each year level with a Coordinator’s Award.

Students who received this award may be recognised for any or all of the following criteria:

- Their resilience to adversity and soldiering on with school regardless of personal circumstances
- Turning around poor performance from the previous year to successful performance this year
- Dramatically improving their attendance at school from the previous year

Congratulations to the following students who have been acknowledged so far:

Year 10 – Ashley Gioffre

Year 11 – Christine Bocevski

Year 11 – Hasfa Kamal

Year 12 – Yasmine Pranic

Year 12 – Shahin Kabi
Showcase Night
The college held a fantastic Showcase evening on Monday 17 March, with tours and displays for prospective students and their families. The night was well attended. Congratulations to the staff who contributed their time and effort to promote our wonderful school.

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.

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!

Chess Tournament News
On Tuesday 11 March, Mill Park Secondary College participated in the Darebin Tournament of Chess.

Both the Year 7 & 9 teams came in second in the Middle Years Division. The players from Year 9 are Roshan Nair, Jake Barto and Thomas Howe. Year 7 players are Ethan Dayag and Kristien Bocca.

A special mention to Roshan who received a High Distinction in this Chess Tournament and Nicholas Bega Year 10 who came third in the Open Secondary division. All players showed their enhancement of concentration, patience and perseverance.

Congratulations to all in achieving such an outstanding result.
Library News - ‘Book Review Tree’

Thanks to the students who have already contributed to our ‘Book Review Tree’. Each Year 7 student was asked to write a Book Report on a special leaf. Students included a rating out of 10 and whether or not they would recommend it to other students. When they’re all finished, they will be hung on our literacy tree and we will then share a photo of our tree (originally created by teacher Vanessa Molino) when all of the leaves are in place.

Here’s a few of the book reviews:

Student: Ritika Singh : 7BW

DORK DIARIES by Rachel Renee Russel

There is a student in high school. Her name is Nikki. She loves everything in the school, except the girl next to her locker ‘Mackenzie Hollister’. Nikki and Mackenzie both have a crush on the same boy ‘Brandon’. Chloe and Zoe are trying to help their best friend Nikki and would do anything to have Brandon as a friend.

Ritika recommends this book to other students and rates it 10/10.

Student: Stefani Giordano : 7BW

SUMMER’S DREAM by Cathy Cassidy

Summer has an obsession with dance. She is 13 years old and wants to become a professional ballet dancer. She really wants to get into a ballet school academy, but it gets out of control. She thinks she is overweight and doesn’t eat anything. Luckily her parents stop her and she makes it into the academy, but she turns it down because it’s too far away from home.

Stefani recommends this book to other students and rates it 10/10.

Sport News - Congratulations

Katalina Siburian 8AR recently completed in the Tasmanian State Swimming Championships over the Labour Day weekend. Katalina achieved a bronze medal for the 12-13 yr old 200m Breaststroke.

Congratulations on her fine achievement.

Darren Patterson
Sports Coordinator. MYC
Mill Park Secondary College  
CareerNews No3; 21.03.14

Reminders:

- Hear from students, graduates and staff at the ‘At Monash’ seminar series. Coming up (6.30-8.00pm): Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy; IT; Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences; Arts; Design and Fine Art; Teaching, Sport and Outdoor Recreation.

Dates of other seminars and to register: www.monash.edu/seminars. Info: 1800 MONASH.

- Keeper For a Day and Vet for a Day - Werribee Zoo and Healesville Sanctuary; Book: 9285 9406; April school holidays.

MORE ‘AT MONASH’ DATES –

Architecture (Caulfield) Tues 29 April; Interior Architecture (Caulfield) Wed 30 April; Psychology (Clayton) Thurs 1 May; Medicine and Biomedical Science (Clayton) Tues 6 May; Law (Clayton) Wed 7 May. More dates and book: www.monash.edu/seminars.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY (ACU) – ACU is a publicly funded university, open to all. It has campuses in Ballarat, Melbourne, Brisbane, Sydney and Canberra, with a new one in Adelaide. It has about 24,000 students and is recognised for its supportive and nurturing environment and close links with industry. This year, first preferences increased by 5.7% in Victoria, and 7.4% ACU wide.

ACU offerings are set to expand further with the introduction of new courses and facilities (eg expecting a Bachelor of Biomedical Science and a Bachelor of Early Childhood Education (Birth-5) at Melbourne campus in 2015). The Melbourne campus is to have renovations, and a new building is to be constructed on a vacant block at the corner of Victoria Parade and Brunswick Street, Fitzroy.

CHECK OUT LA TROBE UNIVERSITY IN THE HOLIDAYS – ‘Experience La Trobe’ takes place in April, June and July each year. The event is structured around discipline-based workshops. This is a great chance for future students to chat to La Trobe staff, to be a university student for a day, and to pick up course information. The first event for 2014 is on Friday 11 April (Melbourne campus). For details, other campus dates, and to book see: www.latrobe.edu.au/experience.

CHECK OUT THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE IN THE HOLIDAYS - ‘A Day at Melbourne’ will be of interest to anyone considering studying there; an opportunity to explore the Parkville campus and find out about study options. Hear from current students, find out about entry requirements, course structures and other opportunities (can include a tour of the Southbank campus, Victorian College of the Arts). When: 10am-3.30pm, Fri 11 April; Register: www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/events, or call 13 MELB for information.

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY (VU) NEWS –

- VU, with its main campus in Footscray, had an increase in the number of first preferences in the 2014 VTAC first round offers. Some highlights were the B. Sport and Exercise Science which had a Clearly-In ATAR of 75. VU, with its committed partners Western Bulldogs, Melbourne Vixens and the Australian Institute of Sport, ensure that students are exposed to elite practices; Osteopathy, Biomedical Science and Paramedics had Clearly-In ATARs between 75 and 80; Law had a Clearly-In ATAR of 80. VU is the only Australian Law School to offer Court Internships.

- SCHOLARSHIPS FOR EXCELLENCE – The inaugural VU Chancellor’s Scholarships for Excellence were awarded to fifty-four students from schools across the state who qualified for the new scholarship with an ATAR over 90. These high achievers will receive leadership training, individual mentoring by corporate leaders and internship opportunities. These new scholarships complement the university’s existing Achievement and Access Scholarships. See: www.vu.edu.au/scholarships.

- EVENT MANAGEMENT – VU’S Bachelor of Business (Event Management) graduates are highly sought after. The three year course helps students develop the skills to design, plan, create, implement, manage, and market events of all shapes and sizes. Extensive industry placements are an integral part of the program, giving valuable practical experience. The Tourism and Events industry is one of Australia’s largest employers with the demand for conference and event organisers expected to grow strongly. Enjoy a diverse career working with festivals, conferences, exhibitions, and community and sporting events.
UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA AT HOLMESGLEN INSTITUTE – Did you know that it is possible to obtain a University of Canberra degree, studying in Melbourne through Holmesglen Institute? For example, this year Holmesglen is offering the University of Canberra’s Bachelor of Interior Architecture. The program will give students the skills to plan, design, detail and supervise the construction of industrial, retail and residential building interiors. See: http://www.canberra.edu.au/melbourne.

CONSIDERING BECOMING A TEACHER? All Australian education ministers have agreed to national standards and procedures for accrediting initial teacher education programs. The Accreditation of Initial Education Programs in Australia: Standards and Procedures are currently being implemented by the Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) through the accreditation of initial teacher education programs. Included in the policy are requirements that relate to the entry standards for students commencing initial teacher education courses. One of these requirements is that students are in the top 30% of the population for literacy and numeracy achievement. Tertiary institutions that offer initial teacher education programs may still admit students who do not meet this standard at their discretion, but they must ensure that students meet the benchmark by the time they graduate. Further info: www.aitsl.edu.au/ite

SO YOU WANT TO BECOME AN ACCOUNTANT? Accountants analyse financial dealings of organisations, and give advice about meeting legal requirements and the keeping of financial records. Some specialise in certain areas such as auditors, investment analysts, cost accountants and taxation agents.

Accountants qualify by studying at university for a Bachelor of Business or a Bachelor of Commerce with a ‘major’ in accounting, or a Bachelor of Accounting. When selecting the degree you wish to study, it is important to check that it is possible to study for an accounting ‘major’ in that particular degree. Some universities require Units 3 & 4 Maths Methods as a prerequisite (Melbourne and Monash - Clayton campus), Monash (Caulfield and Peninsula campuses) requires any Maths, while other universities (eg ACU, Deakin, Swinburne, La Trobe, RMIT & VU) have no maths requirement. With some further study, graduates can qualify for entry to the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia (ICAA) CPA Australia or the Institute of Public Accountants (IPA).

Some universities offer scholarships to study accounting. For example, Monash University offers the Bachelor of Accounting with a $16,000 scholarship, industry placements, and mentoring. Swinburne University offers the Bachelor of Business (Vice-Chancellor’s Scholarship) where a major in accounting can be studied, and similarly in the Bachelor of Commerce (Chancellor’s Scholars Program) at the University of Melbourne. Some large accounting firms like KPMG and Ernst & Young offer traineeships to those wishing to qualify as accountants. These involve studying part-time and working at the accounting firm part-time. Valuable experience is gained while studying. Applications and interviews for the traineeships occur later in the year. It is also possible to study accounting at TAFE. However, these qualifications will qualify you to work as a bookkeeper or payroll clerk, for example, not as an accountant. TAFE qualifications can, of course, be upgraded to university qualifications, usually with credits for previous study undertaken. For more information see: www.cpaaustralia.com.au www.charteredaccountants.com.au/students; www.publicaccountants.org.au

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS – Many are available, and will be covered later. However, one requires an application by 21 March 2014, so is highlighted now. The Tuckwell Scholarship was recently launched at the Australian National University (ANU), and selects 25 recipients each year, awarding them $20,900pa (rising with inflation) for up to five years of their degree at ANU for expenses like accommodation and living costs, with scholars living on campus. In addition to receiving a world-class education recipients will grow as individuals, emerging as independent global citizens with the capacity to change the world. ANU is looking for suitable applicants Australia-wide. See: tuckwell.anu.edu.au

Compiled by: m.walker
Calling All Media Students, Creatives, Writers, Actors and Curious Minds

During Youth Week from Friday 4 April until Sunday 14 April, we're offering workshops in acting, script writing, special effects horror makeup, stop motion, filming, directing, stage combat and more.

The workshops are completely free, suitable for beginners and run by industry pros.

That's not all, we're also running the inaugural SHORT SHORTS film comp.

**SHORT SHORTS FILM COMP**

Cover yourself in glory! For the month of April, we're asking you to submit original short films for the opportunity to win excellent prizes, including a HD video camera and GoPro camera. In May, the winners will be announced at a public screening. Work solo or with a team. Use these workshops to brush up on your skills and create something hilarious, devastating, strange, heart-warming, horrifying or anything else you like. Under 6 minutes and rated PG or below? We want it.

Check out [shortshortsfilmfest.tumblr.com](http://shortshortsfilmfest.tumblr.com) for terms and conditions and the full workshop program.