College Principal’s Report

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2015 - NOMINATIONS ARE IN!

The number of nominations received was less than the vacant Parent and DET positions and consequently a ballot is not required for any positions.

There are still three (3) Parent vacancies (2 year terms) and one (1) DET vacancy (1 year term). The Council meets twice a term on Tuesdays at 5:45pm commencing with a light meal. The meetings generally finish by 7:30pm and it is a great way to meet with staff, students and other parents and also to learn about the school.

Parent Members: Debi Nicholls
Vacancy – 2 year term
Vacancy – 2 year term
Vacancy – 2 year term

DET Nominations: David Maltby
Ryan Shaw
Vacancy – 1 year term

We welcome Ryan who is new to Council and thank him for being prepared to take on this important responsibility. We also thank Debi and David for nominating to stay on Council.

STANDING COMMITTEES

If you don’t want to join the School Council, but still want to contribute to the College’s future direction, please consider joining one of the School Council’s standing 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 standing committees are: Education; Student Engagement & Well Being; Resources; Community and Finance.

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

EVERY DAY COUNTS!

The school must be notified of reasons for absence. Refer to the tables below for Approved and Unapproved reasons for absence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APPROVED REASONS FOR ABSENCE</th>
<th>UNAPPROVED REASONS FOR ABSENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Illness</td>
<td>Driving lessons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funeral</td>
<td>Personal issues (without further explanation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job interview</td>
<td>Family commitments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical / dental appointments</td>
<td>Car or bike breakdowns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(which cannot be arranged out of class time)</td>
<td>Sleeping in or missing the bus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court appointments</td>
<td>SAC / SAT preparation or completion of work due in other subjects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court counselling</td>
<td>Part time work commitments or Centrelink appointments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College / State / National representation in sport</td>
<td>Supporting upset friends or timetable mix ups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licence testing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FROZEN BERRIES

As parents are aware there has been a Hepatitis A scare with Nanna’s and Creative Gourmet brand frozen mixed berries and raspberries. Parents are advised that Mill Park Secondary College do not use any of these berry products in their Canteen or their Food Technology classes.
IMPORTANT REMINDERS

CONTACT DETAILS
If you have moved home, changed phone numbers or e-mail addresses please contact the office on 9407 9700 (MYC) or 9409 8222 (SC) to notify us of the change. It is important that we have up to date records in the event that we need to contact you.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE
The Department does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and carers are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. Student accident insurance policies are available from some commercial insurers. These cover a range of medical expenses not covered by Medicare or private health insurance.

LEAVE VALUABLES AT HOME
The Department does not hold insurance nor does it accept responsibility for private property brought to school by students, staff and visitors. Personal property is often brought to school by students. This can include mobile phones, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. Students are discouraged from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school.

HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT PLAN – NEW LABELLING
As part of the Department’s Health and Safety Management Plan, new labelling will be installed at our school. The labels remind people to contact school reception prior to undertaking any works at the school, to ensure they have up-to-date information from the school’s asbestos register. Asbestos – which was used extensively in building materials in the past but is now banned – is considered safe unless damaged or in poor condition. The new labels form part of a comprehensive program to ensure Victorian government schools remain safe. Children’s safety is our number one priority. That is why we are taking this extra step as a precaution.

VAGO ADDITIONAL SCHOOL COSTS FOR FAMILIES REPORT
You may have read in the press that the Victorian Auditor-General has released a report on school costs for parents.

In response to the report's findings, the Minister for Education has asked the Department of Education and Training to review its parent payment policy.

As a result of any changes to the Department's policy, we will work with our School Council to update our own policy.

We don't expect any changes until later in 2015 and we will let you know well in advance.

The Department's parent payment policy is what we use to guide us in deciding what we will ask you to pay each year.

We review our own parent payment policy, in conjunction with our School Council on a yearly basis and notify you of any changes through our newsletter.

Our aim is to ensure our policy meets parents’ expectations, while also ensuring that all of our students are able to participate in the programs we offer.

Our policy sets out what we ask you to pay for to support your child's learning, such as books and stationery, and what we ask for optional extracurricular activities.

Our policy also sets out what we ask parents to make voluntary contributions to, and where these funds will be directed (for example, to assist with new building and grounds works, or purchasing library and sports equipment).

THREE BIG CHANGES TO THE VACCINE PROGRAM
In 2015 three major changes to the vaccine program will impact on parents of secondary school students:

1. The Whittlesea Council’s immunisation service may contact you about the secondary school vaccine program. Schools have been authorised to provide parent contact details to local councils for this purpose. Contact the General Offices on 9407 9700 (MYC) or 9409 8222 (SC) by 28 February 2015 if you do not want your contact details given to the Whittlesea Council.

2. In 2015 only, the vaccine that protects against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough will be offered to all students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. From 2016, this vaccine will be offered to Year 7 students only. This will provide earlier protection from these diseases.

3. The time-limited human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine program for Year 9 boys was completed in December 2014. HPV vaccine will continue to be offered to all students (both male and female) in Year 7 from 2015.

Parents are reminded that you need to return the signed vaccine consent form/s regardless of whether your child is being immunised at school.

To learn more about the changes, the diseases, the vaccines, or how you can prepare your child for vaccination go to www.immunehero.health.vic.gov.au

Trish Horner
Classes are well and truly in full swing at the Senior Campus. Many of our Year 11 and 12 students have already undertaken their first major assessment tasks (SAC’s) as part of their VCE. It’s also a great thing to see so many Year 10 students participating in Year 11 VCE classes. This is a great way for Year 10 students to extend themselves, get a real taste of the VCE and gain extra credit for their VCE.

AIM HIGH, WORK HARD, BE GOOD

In the last few weeks we have begun to hold year level assemblies for students to establish the aims, expectations and processes for the 2015 school year. One thing that I have spoken to all of the students about is a simple formula for success; to Aim High, Work Hard and Be Good. This is not just a motto, it is a guide for how students can achieve success in schooling and life.

Aim High is about every student in the school being aspirational. Students should always be thinking about their career goals, so that once they finish Year 12 they have a clear pathway to further training. Having a high aspiration or a goal they have to stretch for is very important.

Work Hard may sound pretty obvious, but it’s not. Success is built on hard work and effort. Work hard is all about adopting a growth mindset, knowing that learning and improvement is possible at any stage as long as you work hard. Students will need to work hard in all of their classes and at home to reach their goals.

Be Good is all about following the College values of Respect, Responsibility, Achievement and Enjoyment. It’s about being good to friends, fellow students, family and school staff. It’s about working cooperatively with all of the staff in the school, being on time and wearing the proper uniform.

These three things incorporate all of the main factors of being a successful student, and I would encourage parents and carers to talk to their students about these ideas.

LOOK AT OUR GRADUATES FLY!

In the last newsletter I promised to outline the success of our 2014 Year 12 cohort in more detail.

Our Pathways and Destination Data is great! We have seen an improvement yet again in our destination data. More of our students are applying through VTAC for University and TAFE places and more students are receiving offers. This is great news for our community, as we know how important Year 12 completion and University and TAFE qualifications are. Students who complete Year 12 on average earn significantly more money across their working life, and generally better quality of life than non-school graduates. University and TAFE graduates see an even bigger gain in wages and quality of life.
YEAR 11 ENGLISH

This week all Year 11 English students breathed a sigh of relief after completing their very first VCE English SAC; a 4-5 minute oral presentation about ‘Future Worlds’. Students responded to the prompt ‘The future holds many exciting promises’ and educated their audiences about an aspect of the future that interested them, linking this to a theme or idea present in one of the short stories in Ray Bradbury’s The Illustrated Man. The premise of The Illustrated Man, published in 1951, is the discovery of a wandering man whose entire body is a living canvas of exotic tattoos; tattoos that come alive in the evening and each tell a tale. The illustrated man is tormented by his ‘gift’, as his body also features a blank space where those who gaze upon him are able to see their future.

Students were required to link their topic to one or more of Bradbury’s stories. The broad range of subjects spoken on thoroughly impressed Year 11 teachers with the level of creativity and insight employed. Students spoke on issues as diverse as cloning, life on Mars, marriage in the 1950s to now, genetic engineering, and the potential benefits and pitfalls of artificial intelligence.

On behalf of the English faculty I wish to congratulate our Year 11 English students of 2015. We are incredibly pleased with the diligence and determination with which you approached this area of study and look forward to working with you to achieve great results throughout the remainder of the year.

Felicity Williams
Head of English

YEAR 10 MUSIC

Recently, Year 10 Music students were asked to write a statement about what music meant to them. Here are two of the responses.

Music is to me like a life line. I have never not played an instrument, which is why I show care for music and its structure. I think my feelings would be shared to those who play music both professionally and just for fun. I see music as a figure that has been shaped by its composer and bought to life by its performer. 

by Sarah Bux

To me music is an escape. It is creativity, talent and passion all combined in one. Music to me are the words of a friend at the press of a button. The right combination of melody, harmony, balance, beats and lyrics can make a person fall in love or cry like a baby. It can make your heart skip a beat. Music is pure emotion to me and my way of expressing feelings. To those who perform it, music means performance and soul. When you perform a song you are showcasing what time has been dedicated to perfect it. It means hard work paying off when a piece is performed. Similar to me, music to people who listen to it represents how they feel but also what kind of person they are. Obviously it varies from person to person but music resonates to listeners personally. It’s what they listen to, to escape, to find joy or find meaning.

by Natalie Williams

Ms Caico & Yr 11 Psych Class

YEAR 11 PSYCHOLOGY – LEARNING ABOUT STRATIFIED RANDOM SAMPLES

Today we combined our two favourite pass-times – eating chocolate and learning!
The task involved a ‘population’ of M & M’s that were going to undergo some complex psychological testing.

To make sure that our ‘sample’ of research ‘participants’ were in the same proportion as the original population, the ‘experimenters’ made specific calculations that helped with this process.

The students were able to clearly see how this somewhat complicated process is actually quite simple to understand when visualised through the use of concrete teaching aids – and who can say no to a handful of yummy participants (oops, I mean M & M’s).

Unfortunately, at the end of the experiment the participants were forced to undergo the traumatic experience of being eaten by the experimenters. Thus showing that our young psychologists are not yet ready to enter the field.

Wendy Nagel
Music Teacher

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Ms Caico & Yr 11 Psych Class
YEAR 7 CAMP

On Wednesday 18 February we waved goodbye to Year 7 students heading off on their first secondary school Orientation Camp. Once again it was great to see so many parents in attendance for this special occasion. Students and staff have been at Campaspe Downs on the outskirts of the Macedon Ranges for the last few days. I had the pleasure of visiting camp for a day and joining in the fun activities. Nothing but smiles all round. I look forward to hearing more details from staff and students when they return to classes next week. A full report of the camp will be in the next school newsletter.

HOMEWORK CLUB IS UP AND RUNNING AT BOTH CAMPUSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senior Campus</td>
<td>3:10pm – 4:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Years Campus</td>
<td>3:10pm – 4:00pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Home-work Club is held in the libraries each week after school.

All students welcome!

HOME STAY – ITALIAN LANGUAGE ASSISTANT

As in previous years, the Middle Years Languages Faculty will soon be welcoming an Italian Language Assistant from Italy. This person will require accommodation from Friday April 17 until Friday May 15 (4 weeks). If any families are interested in hosting our Italian visitor for part or all of that time please contact Philippa McIlroy on 9407 9700 or mcilroy.philippa.m@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Students and parents arrive at school with luggage in tow.
CHOOSE YOUR ATTITUDE AND WORK TOGETHER

Our staff and students have begun the year on an incredibly positive note. I have spoken with students and staff about the importance of recognising their own emotions and the emotions of others, with the view of maximising the positive and acknowledging but dealing with the negative in the most productive of ways. My premise is pretty simple - I have never seen a student, teacher, friend or family member who was upset, who was happy. While we all experience emotions that are negative from time to time, it is the way we deal with them that leads to happiness or continued pain. Why would you want to stay sad? I’ve never enjoyed it!

Combined with this positive mindset I have asked students to encourage each other, work together and work with their teachers. After all their teachers are here every day to help create their future and are the experts at hand, keen to help them to do their very best. It is great to see students encouraging each other to do the right thing and see teacher reports for improved effort and behaviour in classes.

In focus groups last year, students identified a desire for more recognition of the efforts most students make to do the right thing. To meet this need our Program and Learning Organisers and Year Level Coordinators have created the Homegroup Challenge. As part of this they have been making regular visits to classes to check on punctuality, equipment, uniform and diaries and awarding points for each student who is doing the right thing. The Homegroups at each year level will be given a reward at the end of term. Currently the points stand as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 7</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
<th>YEAR 8</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
<th>YEAR 9</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7AE</td>
<td>66</td>
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<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7BE</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>8BE</td>
<td>60</td>
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<td>8BR</td>
<td>77</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>9CW</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In order to keep building the connections between our College and the community, we are seeking parent volunteers who would like to be part of the Community Standing Committee. Our first task is to create a set of criteria around what we would like from a uniform supplier, with the view of establishing a new contract with the supplier who meets our community needs the best. If you are interested in joining the Community Standing Committee, please contact the College.

Our focus on attendance will continue throughout the year, and while there will always be a few unavoidable absences, our aim is to stay as close to 100% as possible and never slip below 90%. We are keen for families to work with us on addressing any issues that impact on attendance.

So far this Term, Year 7’s are leading the way on 96% with Year 8 on 90%. Parents of our Year 9’s keep in mind the importance of each day, as another stepping stone on the path to a bright future, because our Year 9 attendance is at 89%. It would be fantastic if our Middle Years Campus year levels could match or surpass the 97% achieved at Year 12.

Looking forward to more positivity and great teamwork. Well done!

Simon McRae
Assistant Principal
Middle Years Campus
Career decisions are some of the most important ones of your life, so getting help in making those decisions is vital. CareerNews is one source of information available to you.

CareerNews will be published fortnightly throughout the year, providing information about how to choose a career, about information sessions being held on various courses and careers, Open Days at institutions where you might want to study, career expos, insights into a number of careers, and where you can get help. Students who do their research during Year 10-12 usually find it easier to make some career decisions at the end of Year 12.

⇒ HOW CAN I CHOOSE A CAREER?
Many people say that basically they would like a career they enjoy, with the possibility of earning a reasonable income. So how do you choose that career? Firstly, keep in mind that there isn’t just one perfect job for you. There are several jobs that would suit you well, so you need to explore the possibilities.
First, think about what you enjoy doing. For example, is it sport-related, scientific, reading/writing-related, helping people, information technology-related?
What do you enjoy doing in your spare time? What subjects do you excel in at school?
How important is income?
Answering questions such as these will set you on a path to making some decisions. If you like science, what type of science do you prefer – physics, chemistry, biology? If you are creative, what is your speciality – music, drama, art, design? If it is geography, perhaps you could be interested in urban planning, mapping, or surveying. If it is health, perhaps it is nursing, nutrition or public health. If it is physics and maths, perhaps engineering.
Don’t look too far ahead – you are not deciding on a life-time career. You are likely to have several careers.

⇒ WHERE CAN I STUDY IN VICTORIA?
After completing Year 12, there are many options. If you are considering university, hoping to get a degree, these are the universities available in Victoria:
- Australian Catholic University (ACU) with campuses in Melbourne (Fitzroy) and Ballarat
- Deakin University with campuses in Burwood, Geelong and Warrnambool
- Federation University with campuses in Ballarat and Gippsland
- La Trobe University with campuses in Melbourne (Bundoora), Bendigo, Albury-Wodonga, Mildura and Shepparton
- Monash University with campuses in Melbourne (Clayton, Caulfield, Berwick, Parkville)
- RMIT University with campuses in Melbourne (City, Brunswick, Bundoora)
- Swinburne University has a campus in Melbourne (Hawthorn)
- University of Melbourne in Melbourne (Parkville, Burnley, Southbank, Werribee), Creswick, Dookie and Shepparton
- Victoria University is in Melbourne (City, Footscray, St Albans, Melton, Sunshine)
You can check out their facilities and courses by attending their Open Days, usually held on Sundays in August.

If you plan a VET course (pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship, certificate, diploma and a limited number of degrees), institutes offering courses in the Melbourne area are:
- Box Hill Institute
- Chisholm (Dandenong, Frankston, etc)
- Holmesglen (Moorabbin, Chadstone)
- Kangan (Broadmeadows, Richmond, etc)
- Melbourne Polytechnic (formerly NMIT) (Collingwood, Epping, Preston, Prahran, etc)
- RMIT (City, Brunswick)
- Swinburne (Hawthorn, Croydon, Wantirna)
- Victoria (Footscray, City)
- William Angliss (City) and several others.

There are also independent institutions offering degrees, diplomas and certificates. Examples are:
- Academy of Design (Port Melbourne)
- Australian Institute of Fitness (Bendigo, City, etc)
- Footscray City Films
- JMC (South Melbourne)

Independent colleges are full-fee paying institutions, whereas the government generally offers financial assistance to study at universities and VET providers like Box Hill Institute.

NOTE: The government will only fund courses of study that are at a higher level than what they have funded already. For example, if you have a bachelor’s degree, the government will not fund you to complete a VET diploma as it is at a lower level than the degree.
WHAT IS THE UNDERGRADUATE MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES ADMISSION TEST (UMAT)?
Results from this test are used as part of the selection process for some Australian and New Zealand university degrees. In Victoria the only university degree now requiring this test for Year 12 selection is Medicine at Monash (Clayton). However, some interstate and NZ universities also use it. Registrations for UMAT2015 are now open, and close at 5pm (AEST) on Friday 5 June. The test will take place on Wednesday 29 July 2015. The UMAT Information Booklet is available from the UMAT website: www.umat.acer.edu.au.

NOTES:
• Practice materials are available through the UMAT website and can only be completed online. There are currently four practice tests available: UMAT Practice Test 1, UMAT Practice Test 2, UMAT Practice Test 3 and Additional Practice Questions. UMAT Practice Test 1 will be included with the UMAT2015 registration. In addition, candidates will have access to some free preparation videos once registration to sit UMAT2015 is completed.
• Candidates with a disability or other health-related needs and who wish to apply for special testing conditions must do so by Friday 19 June. This includes candidates who have diabetes and require food during the test.
• Some tutorials and a quiz are now available on the UMAT website. Candidates should watch these tutorials and complete the quiz questions before registering for the test.

WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADMISSIONS TEST (ISAT)?
This a test used by Australian universities to assist their selection of international students for certain undergraduate and postgraduate courses. Courses include Monash University Medicine. It is delivered by Prometric; there are over 5000 Authorised Testing Centres around the world. You may select a test date and location convenient to you. Register at http://isat.acer.edu.au.

WHAT KIND OF ENGINEER ARE YOU?
Are you interested in engineering but not sure which type is the best fit for you? You can find out with the new RMIT online quiz at http://trueengineer.com.au.

AT MONASH’ SEMINAR SERIES
A great opportunity to find out about Monash degrees. More information in the next issue, but check out www.destination.monash/at-monash from Monday 16 Feb.

AVALON AIRSHOW – Students interested in a career in the aviation industry might wish to attend the Avalon Airshow. Among other things, you will be able to find out about RMIT’s flight training program, aerospace and mechanical engineering programs.
When: 24 Feb – 1 Mar, 2015;
Where: Avalon Airport;

VETERINARY NURSING ASSOCIATE DEGREE
Melbourne Polytechnic (formerly NMIT) (Epping) is offering a 2-year associate degree, the first para-professional veterinary nursing qualification in Australia. It is designed to produce highly skilled clinicians with exceptional levels of practical skill, knowledge and in depth understanding gained through an exploration of the academic underpinnings of the field. Graduate employment will include veterinary practices as veterinary nurses and practice managers and large organisations (veterinary pharmaceutical, veterinary nutrition com-panies and research facilities).
Prerequisites: Successful completion of VCE or recognised equivalent with a study score of at least 20 in any English and a study score of at least 20 in one of any Mathematics, Chemistry or Biology; OR successful completion of a Diploma course in Veterinary Nursing or a related area; OR at least two years of related industry experience.

ANU TUCKWELL SCHOLARSHIPS
The vision behind these Australian National University Scholarship is to help you make an impact on your community and the world by offering unique educational opportunities and personal experiences. The Scholarship allows you to study any discipline offered at ANU for up to five years. Information night:
When: 6-7.30pm, Wed 18 Feb;
Where: ANU House, 52 Collins St, Melbourne;
Enquiries: student.recruitment@anu.edu.au.
Register to attend: http://www.anu.edu.au/study/events/anu-tuckwell-scholarship-roadshow-melbourne

Compiled by: M.Walker
State Schools’ Relief has provided school uniform and footwear to students of families experiencing financial difficulties in Victorian State Schools since 1930. This tradition continues today, with requests for support nearly doubling in 2015. As such, the Department of Education and Training has now provided additional funding to ensure the most vulnerable students receive their essential school items.

Who can apply?
School principals and their welfare teams are best placed to assess and establish the level of student’s needs. All principals are encouraged to access SSR to support vulnerable families.

What is provided?
SSR provides school uniform items and footwear for children from their own supplies. Items are provided FREE OF CHARGE to families and are discreetly delivered to the school by courier within three working days, at no additional cost.

Should a uniform item be unavailable, SSR will pay a partial subsidy. SSR will also provide an email authorisation to the uniform supplier.

How do I apply?
Principals and delegates should visit the SSR website (www.ssr.net.au/schools), create a login for the school and apply online. For more information contact the SSR team on 9575 7900.

School fundraising
As a not-for-profit charity that relies on the generosity of others, SSR appreciates and encourages all fundraising efforts by schools to benefit this essential program for Victorian families.
ON HOT DAYS, NEVER LEAVE KIDS ALONE IN CARS. NO EXCEPTIONS. NO EXCUSES.

The temperature inside a parked car can double within minutes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION kidsafevic.com.au