PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parent Teacher Interviews will be held on Thursday 10 September at the Senior Campus. Shortly parents will receive a letter with details about making appointments via the Parent Portal. The interviews are very important in terms of our partnership with you to create our student’s futures.

Parents are reminded that classes are not run on this day and students are not required to attend however students are expected to attend the interviews with their parents. Here are some tips on making the most of the interviews.

What can you expect?

♦ A two-way conversation. Just as you want to learn about your child’s progress at school, we want to hear from you about how you think your child is doing. When teachers know about children’s talents, interests, needs and dreams, they are better able to help their learning.

♦ Emphasis on learning. The focus of the conference is your child’s learning. We want to discuss how well your child is doing and what we can do to support even better learning. Come prepared with any questions you would like to ask the teacher.

♦ Opportunities and challenges. Teachers will always try to give you positive feedback about your child and areas for improvement. You will know your child’s strengths and areas of difficulty. Together, you and the teacher can explore ways to help your child with challenges.

What will be talked about?

♦ Progress. How is your child coping? Is your child performing at the expected age and grade level? What are your child’s strengths? Where are the areas for improvement?

♦ Your thoughts. Let the teacher know how you feel about your child’s progress and abilities. Tell the teacher about anything you think needs extra attention.

♦ Learning at home. Ask what you can do at home to help your child learn.

Follow-up

♦ Talk with your child about the conference. Share with your child what you have learned. Show how you will be helping with learning at home. Pass on praise. Ask for your child’s views on how learning can be improved.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries. Parents focused on their children’s education also make a huge difference in a student’s achievement.

PREPARATIONS FOR 2016

Preparations for 2016 are well under way. Student subject selections have been collated and the units being run in 2016 are being determined. Of concern, however, are the students who have not submitted their subject selection forms. These forms are required urgently. Students and parents are encouraged to seek advice from our excellent Careers team should they have any questions.

CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

Parents and guardians are reminded to lodge their applications for the CSEF. Families holding a valid means-tested concession card are eligible to apply. A special consideration category also exists. Parents/guardians must present their concession card to be photocopied when submitting the form. A payment of $225.00 for secondary school students (in Years 7 to 12) will be paid directly to the school to be used towards camps, sports and excursion costs for the benefit of the student. The application form is available at the General Office at both Campuses.
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 early as early as possible.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please contact the school so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

TEENS AND TRANSITIONS

Whittlesea Youth Commitment are offering a free event led by Angie Wilcock, an Australian specialist and presenter on Middle Years and transitions in education. Angie specialises in delivering workshops to support successful adolescent transitions and middle years education. She focuses on identifying the impact of becoming an adolescent and the transition process on students and exploring how we can work with students and the community to ease the progress from primary to secondary school. Angie’s workshops will provide an opportunity to discuss current, successful practice as well as a range of strategies to suit the needs of your school community. Angie has been working with our staff. We are proud to host this workshop at the Middle Years Campus. The Program is targeted at parents of students in the Middle Years - Grades 5, 6, 7 and 8, however all parents are welcome.

Tuesday 15 September, 7:00pm - 8:30pm in the Library

Parents should RSVP by contacting Cathy Cranfield in the General Office on 9407 9700.

CARRY ON (VICTORIA) SECONDARY EDUCATION GRANT 2016

Are you ex Navy, Army or Air Force? Then Carry On (Victoria) may be able to help you with education costs if you meet the eligibility criteria.

If you have served in the Australian Defence Forces or Allied Forces and you wish to apply for a Secondary Education Grant for 2016, please telephone Carry On (Victoria) on 9629 2648 to establish eligibility and request an application form.

Carry On (Victoria) assists Secondary School students in Years 7-12 with grants for expenses such as fees, books, uniforms, excursions, etc. For those students going on to Tertiary Education a grant may also be available.

Children whose Parent/s or Legal Guardian/s have a need for financial assistance and comply with the eligibility criteria may apply. All grants are income tested and applications should be submitted by 29 October 2015.

Trish Horner
EXCURSIONS AND ACTIVITIES
I would like to thank the many teachers who have organised a wide variety of excursions and activities in recent weeks, in support of the educational outcomes. Just a sample of these include court visits for Year 11 Legal Studies students, theatre visits for Literature and Theatre Studies students, and soon we will have our Business Management students heading into town for the Amazing Marketing Race. Excursions like these help students to engage in practical learning in their subject areas, as well as providing an engaging and often exciting experience. They also take a lot of preparation from the staff involved, so I would ask parents and students to be mindful of this, and ensure that permission forms and payments (if required) are returned in as timely a fashion as possible.

HOMEWORK
What to do when your child says they don't have any homework.
A common frustration for parents is when their children tell them they don't have homework to do (even when you know they have!). Even so, there may be the odd occasion when your child doesn’t have any or much homework to do. Rest assured there is always something to do which can help your child get ahead in their schooling.

Number 1 - read and reread English novels - No matter which year level they are in, each year students will have between 3 and 4 set texts or novels to read throughout the year. Students should get in the habit of reading these texts in their own time as well as in class in order to understand the texts better. Multiple readings of a text will give students a far greater understanding of the themes, characters and ideas.

Number 2 - read for enjoyment - Regularly engaging in reading for enjoyment is invaluable for students in developing their reading, critical thinking and analytical skills. Novels, magazines and newspapers are a great way to develop in depth knowledge around favourite topics or hobbies, as well as broadening their understanding of the world. This will also allow students to engage in more in depth discussions of issues and news with friends and family.

Number 3 - revising and reviewing the days learning - A lot of parents ask how to help their children to revise for topic tests and exams. While there is a lot more to it than this, the best way to start is to read over and review their learning at the end of each day. Just the act of reviewing learning at the end of each day will help to consolidate learning, but an even better way is to review and write short summaries of the key ideas, content and theories presented.

Number 4 - practicing basic skills - Practicing basic skills like maths timetables once or twice a week can have a huge impact in students matches results. Even maths students in VCE require basic numeracy skills practice to enable them to perform at their best. Practicing these basic skills can have a big impact.

Build these strategies into your child’s regular homework routine

DEBATING
The Mill Park Secondary College A grade debating team, after winning their Watsonia Regional Division, faced MacRobertson Girls' High School in a state play-off on Wednesday night. The Mill Park SC debaters Reegan Quick, Tayla MacDonald and Marvad Ahad won the debate on the negative side of the topic ‘that we regret the emphasis on university education in developed countries’, where Marvad was also awarded best speaker. The team will go on to debate in the next round of state finals next week.

Sonia Loudon, Debating SC

SENIOR GIRLS NETBALL
On Wednesday 22 July, the Senior Girls Netball team competed in the Northern Metro Region Draw at Banyule Netball Stadium, Macleod. Mill Park won all three games (vs. Melbourne Girls 21-10, vs. Greensborough 24-10, vs. Gladstone Park 30-11) to advance into the final, which was against Viewbank. The Mill Park girls brought home the goods, winning by 15 points (35-20). The next competition is the State Final.

Why is Cinderella so bad at netball?
Because she has a pumpkin for a coach and she runs away from the ball.

Karen Arnold
I would like to acknowledge and thank Ms Melissa Barnard our Year 9 Programs & Learning Outcomes Leader for all her great work in organising three outstanding weeks of the Year 9 City School Program.

Last week the final group of classes spent the week travelling to and from the city and I was fortunate enough to spend one day with them. Student behaviour was excellent and they made us all proud with their commitment to giving things a go such as the indoor rock climbing.

Of course the three weeks would also not have been possible without the dedication of our amazing Year 9 teachers who also spent their days in the city (some of them multiple days) working with students at each of the sites visited and ensuring the program was such a success.

Cybersmart is a national cyber safety education program managed by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) as part of the Australian Government’s commitment to cyber safety. The program is specifically designed to meet the needs of children, young people, parents and teachers.
**SCHOLARSHIPS - Current Year 8 students**

Applications for current Year 8 students interested in applying for a school scholarship for 2015-2016 are open. There are 5 scholarships offered to current Year 8 students for Years 9 and 10, *Academic, Sporting, Music, Community and Leadership*. Students who excel in the relevant areas and demonstrate Mill Park Secondary College values are awarded with a scholarship for the duration of 2 years. If you have any questions please speak with Mrs. Colbey or Mrs. Barnard.

Scholarship recipients are presented at the Awards Night in December and receive some financial support from school. Any current Year 8 student interested should collect the relevant scholarship form from the front office, complete it and return it to the office by **Thursday 10 September**.

Good luck to all applicants.

Renee Colbey, Community Liaison

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**OPEN INVITATION TO PARENTS OF MIDDLE YEARS CAMPUS STUDENTS**

We are very excited to invite all Middle Years parents to an evening with Angie Wilcock who will present the *Teens and Transitions workshop* at the Middle Years Campus Library on **Tuesday 15 September at 7.00pm – 8.30pm**.

Angie is an educational consultant who specialises in successful adolescent transitions as well as the middle years of education. She works directly with parents to provide strategies to support children at home during years of 5 – 9 of schooling.

Angie’s workshops will provide an opportunity to discuss current, successful practice as well as a range of strategies to suit the needs of our parent community. There will be an opportunity to interact with Angie to ask lots of questions.

Parents are welcome to bring any number of guests to this exclusive free workshop. **To book seats please call Cathy Cranfield at the Middle Years Campus on 9407 9700.**

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**DON’T MISS OUT ON A FANTASTIC YEAR 8 CAMP!**

Come along with your Year 8 classmates to Waratah Beach Camp in December.  
- **Tuesday 8 - Friday 11 December**
- Approximate cost $385.00
- **Forms available at the General Office with $50.00 deposit.**

Philippa McIlroy, Year 8 Programs and Learning Outcomes Manager

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**Middle Years Campus Report**
LIBRARY NEWS

An exciting Book Week is coming up. “Books light up our world” is the theme for this year. Students and teachers are participating in a variety of activities during the week and in particular every lunchtime.

DEAR -- “Drop Everything And Read”

DEAR is a celebration of reading for all ages. Our school has embraced the program for a number of years with great success. A DEAR session consists of getting the whole school to stop, drop what they are doing and to read, for pleasure. Each morning during Book Week all students and teachers will participate in 20 minutes silent, sustained reading in Session 1.

Competitions, Trivia & Quizzes

- Contemporary Charades
- Letters and Numbers
- Play Kahoot! On big screen-for students
- Six Word Stories
- Book cover design
- Cupcake decorating
- Who Wants to be a Millionaire-Hot Seat - for teachers
- Staff dress up competition

Visiting author – James Phelan

James Phelan is an Australian author of science fiction and is currently focused on writing thrillers and YA novels including Fox Hunt, The Last 13 series for teens, and the Jed Walker and Lachlan Fox thrillers. He has also written short stories, and non-fiction. James was born in Melbourne and attended Eltham High School. He lives in Melbourne and travels extensively throughout the year, talking at schools, libraries, and literary festivals across the globe. He is passionate about promoting literacy, and providing young and reluctant readers with fun and entertaining stories to inspire a love for reading.

Year 7 students were lucky to meet the talented and inspirational author when he visited the Middle Years Campus on Thursday 20 August. James spoke to students and teachers about his exciting life and his writing career, he wrote his first novel in high school.

Stella Lambrou, Librarian
Reminders:
- PHARMACY OPEN HOUSE (Parkville) - 16 Aug; Info: http://destination.monash/pharm-open-house.
- RMIT SEPTEMBER HOLIDAY SHORT COURSES Music, Audio, Production, Lighting, Photography; Info: 9925 8111; enquiries@rmit.edu.au; www.shortcourses.rmit.edu.au.
- RMIT FLIGHT TRAINING @ Point Cook. Meet flight instructors; learn about careers; 10am-4pm, 23 Aug, RAAF Williams Base, Point Cook.

OPEN DAYS CONTINUE –
- Sun 16 Aug – Melbourne; Monash (Parkville – Pharmacy); La Trobe (Bendigo)
- Sun 23 Aug – Box Hill Institute; Deakin (Burwood); Victoria (Footscray)
- Sun 30 Aug – ACU (Ballarat); Federation (Ballarat & Gippsland)

YEAR 12 STUDENTS
- VTAC APPLICATIONS - Don’t forget to make a VTAC course application if you plan to study next year. Applications are now open, and close for timely applicants on 30 September (cost $29.00). If you apply after this date the cost rises considerably. Remember that you can change your application as many times as you wish at no extra charge, so you don’t have to get it ‘right’ the first time you apply. See: www.vtac.edu.au.
- You need to register as an applicant first; after that you can apply using the ID number VTAC supplies you with when you register. Also apply if you plan to take a year off from study in 2016. You are able to defer taking up the offer of your place for a year in many cases. You can apply for up to 12 courses, placing them in the order you most want them. You will be offered a place in the highest course in your list for which you meet the requirements (eg ATAR).
- NOTE: If you wish to apply for some Fine Arts specialisations at the University of Melbourne (VCA), applications close early (28 August). These specialisations are: animation, dance, film and television and screenwriting.

SPECIAL ENTRY ACCESS SCHEMES (SEAS) Many institutions offer alternative entry schemes that take into account short and long-term disadvantage. The Special Entry Access Schemes (SEAS) allow selection officers to grant special consideration for course entry to applicants (you must still complete any selection requirements for the course). These are the four SEAS categories:
- Personal information and location (all applicants are encouraged to apply for this Category as something in this category may apply to you)
- Difficult circumstances
- Disadvantaged financial background
- Disability or medical condition

NOTE: It is only possible to complete a SEAS application once you have completed a VTAC course application. There is a summary of institutions accepting SEAS categories on page 42 of the VTAC Guide. In many cases you will have to provide suitable evidence for your application for SEAS. The emphasis is on how you believe the matter you refer to in your SEAS application affected your results.

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE NEWS –
- WHICH DEGREE OFFERS MULTIPLE JOB OPPORTUNITES? Would you like a career that contributes to the national economy, where productivity growth is booming more than in any other industry sector? The University of Melbourne has consulted widely with industry, employers and graduates to develop the new Bachelor of Agriculture. Be empowered with general, technical and problem-solving skills to work in this growth area. You will study soil science, plant science and animal care, and learn to work in teams to improve animal production and welfare through to addressing climate change and food sustainability. There are MANY career opportunities available for graduates, and positions are often difficult to fill due to a shortage of applicants. NOTE: the B. Agriculture is a possible pathway into studying veterinary science at the University of Melbourne. Info: http://fvas.unimelb.edu.au.
- ELITE ATHLETES AND ARTISTIC PERFORMERS The university encourages international, national and state representation in sports and artistic performance and recognises the impact that training and participation may have on the ability to achieve admission into degrees. The Elite Athlete and Artistic Performers Entry Scheme provides for additional consideration to be given for entry into degrees by elite athletes and artistic performers who meet the prerequisites of the course and can demonstrate that their training, competition, performance and/or practice commitments have interfered with their previous studies. Students interested in applying for this scheme must apply for their degree through VTAC in the usual way, and go to: http://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au, then to Admissions and Applications and to High Achievers Programs.
- MUSIC AT MELBOURNE – Melbourne Conservatorium of Music (MCM) has the most comprehensive range of music courses in Australia, an offering enhanced next year by new specialisations as part of the Bachelor of Music. Students can already choose to specialise in Music Performance, Composition and Musicology/ Ethnomusicology but in 2016 they will have the option of Jazz & Improvisation or Interactive Composition as two new specialisations. These two specialisations currently sit within the BFA (Contemporary Music) at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) but will move across to the MCM. Info: http://mcm.unimelb.edu.au.
- OPEN DAY AT BURNLEY CAMPUS – find out about
horticultural courses (accredited and non-award), and learn about sustainable gardening and horticultural practice at Melbourne’s Burnley campus. When: 10am-4pm, Sat 5 September; Info: http://events.unimelb.edu.au/events/2332-burnley-open-day.

NEW BACHELOR OF ENGINEERING AT LA TROBE UNIVERSITY – La Trobe is introducing an innovative new B. Engineering (Honours) degree in 2016. Designed to meet the changing needs of industry and to boost graduates’ job prospects, the new degree is unique in Australia and follows international trends offering:

- **Multidisciplinary focus** covering robotics, electrical, manufacturing and mechanical engineering
- **Two common years**, followed by the choice of multidisciplinary engineering or civil engineering streams
- **Engineering-specific business units** – focus on developing commercially-minded engineers
- **Design units** – focus on developing engineers who have a holistic view of engineering projects and project management
- Six months **Work Integrated Learning** placement opportunity embedded into the degree, supported by a $10,000 scholarship – guaranteed for students at the Bendigo campus with limited places available for Melbourne (Bundoora) students.

Graduates will be prepared for new roles in emerging industries, will be well positioned for roles as engineers, project managers and engineering consultants in manufacturing, resources, infrastructure development, healthcare, consulting, and government sector.

TAKE A TOUR OF VICTORIA UNIVERSITY (VU) BY VIDEO – go on virtual tours of VU’s Footscray, Flinders St, Queen St, St Albans and Sunshine campuses completed using innovative Steadicam and ground-breaking drone technology. soar over Flemington Racecourse and Footscray Park, see a sport science lab in action, take a seat in a live moot court, step inside a construction site, explore an anatomy lab and more. See it on the Victoria University YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/VictoriaUniversity

AUTOMOTIVE MODERN APPRENTICE-SHIP PROGRAM – Vantage Automotive P/L is a provider of government funded vocational learning and outsourced services to major vehicle manufacturers with an extensive client list across Australia. Applications are now being sought from students interested in the motor industry as an automotive technician or parts advisor. For information: www.vantageautomotive.com or email reception@vantageautomotive.com or ph (02) 8014 8990. Successful applicants will be offered a job at a dealership near their home.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CIRCUS ARTS (NICA) – is accepting applications for auditions for its accredited courses for 2016. These are: Bachelor of Circus Arts, Certificate IV in Circus Arts and Certificate III in Circus Arts. More details: http://www.nica.com.au/

Compiled by: M. Walker