WELCOME BACK! TERM 4 IS HERE

This is a very busy term where achievements are celebrated and numerous events are planned. Attached to this newsletter is a parent planner to put on your fridge so you don’t miss any important dates. Next week the Year 12 students finish their formal classes and a celebration is planned for Wednesday. The formal is on Thursday evening and then the students will commence their final preparations for their exams. I wish them all success in the final stage of their education at Mill Park Secondary College. All students will be doing either exams or tests in the coming weeks so I have included some tips for study in this newsletter.

WOW - WHAT A SHOW!!!  SONG AND DANCE 2015

Yet again another extraordinary production from Mill Park Secondary College!  Song & Dance 2015, packed with variety and talent, showcasing our amazing students. The team make it look easy but I know that pulling it all together takes both talent and thorough preparation and most importantly teamwork.

It was so rewarding to sit in a packed house and feel the support of the audience, particularly the students. I experienced goose bumps so many times as the performances were engaging. I beamed with pride to be a part of this community.

Thank you to the team – Wendy Nagel, Katie Weston, Abbie Jewell, John Collins, Vardis Rafiei, Serge De Leucio, Radha Claridge, Andrew Laveglia, Peter Simondson and Gina Palamara!  Also thanks to Sharon Polgar and Lisa D’angelica for the coordination of ticket sales.

ARTS FESTIVAL

A reminder that the Arts Festival will be held in Week 6, from Monday 9 November until Friday 13 November. Add this to your diary so you don’t miss another showstopper!

PREPARING FOR EXAMS

The best help you can give your child is by being encouraging, providing healthy refreshments and keeping the house quiet and peaceful. Well before exams, it is useful to sit down and agree on some ground-rules and strategies.

- **Be organised.** Have a revision timetable. Write down the dates and times of the exams. With your child, work out what needs to be done and by when, and draw up a timetable. Don’t let them leave the difficult subjects until the last minute.

- **Target specific topics** in the revision timetable, not whole subjects.

- **There is no correct revision method.** Find the way to revise that works best.

- **Make sure your child has a quiet space for revision.**

- **Help your children work out when they are at their brightest and most alert** - morning or evening – and adapt the revision timetable to suit them by placing their most challenging topics at their optimum times for study.
Most people have an energy low after lunch, so suggest that they go for a walk then or relax away from their books. The optimum time to revise is after a break.

Forty minutes is about as long as a child can concentrate in one stretch. The brain’s ability to concentrate drops after 35 to 40 minutes so it’s best to take a break at that point for five or ten minutes. The brain maximises beginnings and endings but not the middle, so this method effectively minimises that period. They can take a break for a drink and a snack like fruit or nuts. Be warned that if the break involves television or computer games, it can be hard to get started again.

Remind them that just staring at notes doesn’t mean anything is going in. They need to use strategies to ensure the material is being absorbed – writing it down, repeating it aloud, testing themselves.

Revise exam technique, using past papers. Every question should be attempted and the answer planned out before starting to write. Keep jotted notes to hand as a crib sheet.

Don’t interrupt revision if it is going well, even for a family outing. If there is an important event coming up, factor it into the revision timetable but even teenagers have to accept that sometimes they must miss out.

Accept that children who are worried about exams will tend to be grumpy. Remind them about stress-reduction techniques like exercise and calm breathing and make sure they are eating nutritious meals and drinking enough water. Reassure them that you value their efforts more than perfect results.

On the morning of an exam, avoid wishing them "good luck". Talk of luck can raise anxiety levels. School exams are not a lottery; they are an appraisal of information already learned. Instead, say: "I hope everything goes well."

SENTRAL
If parents require any changes to personal details on the Sentral system please contact the office.

Trish Horner

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Are you BYOD ready?

Mill Park Secondary College now allows students to bring their own devices to school for educational use within the classroom.

Our network provides every student with continual access to a broad range of licensed software and their network storage - anytime & anywhwere.*

Want to BYOD?
Linking your own device is simple. Just ask the General Office for a BYOD Expression of Interest Form or download a copy from the link below, complete the form and return it to the General Office. You will then be provided with a BYOD welcome pack that provides all the instructions you need to link your device with the school's wireless network.

No Device yet?
Not a problem. Mill Park Secondary College can put you in contact with a supplier of approved digital devices. Just see our website for more details...

www.millparksc.vic.edu.au/byod

* Depending on Wi-Fi access.
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Need ACCESS to Your Work 24/7?
CELEBRATION DAY
Wednesday 21 October is our Celebration Day for Year 12’s. This is a great day for Year 12 students and teachers to celebrate achievements across 13 years of school. It is a great tradition at the Campus for students to dress up in costume and participate in the breakfast, fashion parade and other activities in a safe and respectful manner. Students are reminded to make sure that their costumes are respectful and tolerant, and don’t have any racial, sexual, drug or alcohol related costumes. We want students to be creative, not offensive.

Students who choose to act in an inappropriate manner on Celebration Day either at school or off site may:

♦ Be sent home from school.
♦ Be prohibited from attending the Year 12 formal.
♦ Have their exams moved to a neighbouring school.

These expectations and consequences have been made very clear to Year 12 students across the year and especially in the last few weeks.

GRADUATION
The Graduation and Awards Ceremony for 2015 will once again be held at Moonee Valley Racecourse on Wednesday 16 December. Students have already been distributed flyers for the event, a copy is also attached to this newsletter. Just a reminder that following College traditions, Year 12 graduating students are required to wear formal/semi-formal black and white clothing for the evening. Year 11 and 10 students receiving awards should wear their full school uniform. Enquiries for the evening can be directed towards Graduation Coordinator Ms Karen Arnold or Carissa Strangis.

VCAA EXAMS
All Year 11 and 12 students undertaking Unit 3 and 4 exams have received their instructions and schedules. If parents have any questions regarding these, please contact Mr Geoff Ferris, VCE Coordinator.

ZUMBA INCURSION FOR DANCE STUDENTS
Year 9 & 10 Dance students were given the opportunity to take part in a Zumba lesson with a professional instructor. The lesson was heaps of fun and assisted in developing their repertoire, technique and stamina.

Abbie Jewell, Dance Teacher

NORTHERN METROPOLITAN REGION ATHLETICS
At the end of last term Mill Park Secondary College Senior Campus had a huge contingent of 16 students competing in the Northern Metropolitan Region Athletics. With just about every student finishing in the top three of their event it was an extremely successful day. We even had teachers from other schools in the region commenting on how well our students were doing. Mill Park finished 8th overall against well over 40 schools.

A special mention to the following students who made it through to the State Finals coming up in a few weeks: Emerson Shiel, Jack Rose, Joel Rowe, Larissa Cullen, Manda Mirt, Maighan Corps and Kyle Fitzgerald.

Awesome work!

Liam Oliver, Sport Coordinator
Mill Park Secondary College
Year 12 Graduation & Awards Ceremony

Wednesday 16 December 2015
Moonee Valley Racecourse (Celebrity Room)
Arrive 7.00pm
for 7.30pm start

All students must be in their assigned seats by 7.15pm
All graduating students will be presented with their VCE/VCAL & VET Certificates

Who will receive the award for the top Study Score in each subject?

Who will become the 2015 DUX of the College?

Dress Code:
Graduates - black & white semi-formal.
Family & friends – semi-formal

Graduates are encouraged to bring two family members with them to celebrate their achievements.
Please RSVP to Carissa Strangis on 9409 8221 before 1 December 2015
Venue details overleaf.
SONG & DANCE

Congratulations to all staff and students who put together a totally entertaining Song and Dance evening. As usual the standard of performance was very high and both the students and their instrumental music, vocal and dance teachers should be very proud.

INTERMEDIATE GIRLS BASKETBALL

On Thursday 15 October the Year 9 girls basketball team travelled to Coburg Basketball stadium to contest the Northern Metropolitan Regional Finals.

Despite a slow start against Melbourne Girls, the team went on to draw against Viewbank College and then went on to win against Roxburgh Park Secondary College.

It was a mighty effort by the girls as they were completing against teams made up of both Year 9 and 10 students.

David Maltby,
College Health / PE, Sport and Activities
This is the last CareerNews for 2015. All the best for the rest of the year, and best wishes to those of you who move into other forms of education in 2016, be it university, VET, an apprenticeship or traineeship, or into employment. Hopefully CareerNews has been of assistance to you.

1. YEAR 12 NEWS – Hopefully you have applied for a course through VTAC if you plan to commence tertiary study next year. You can still apply as a late applicant now, but it will cost $95.00, not $29.00.

- **CHANGE OF PREFERENCE (COP)** - Remember, you can change your application (preferences) as much as you like till 10 November, then again from 23 November till 23 noon on 21 December, 2015. VCE students will receive their results on Monday 14 December, so you will have a week to reconsider your VTAC application. Use this time to contact or visit tertiary institutions if you are uncertain, or contact me at school for advice.

- **OFFERS** of places at tertiary institutions commence on 18 January 2016, with more places on offer later on (there will be five ‘rounds’ of offers in total). You are advised to accept the first offer you receive as most likely it will be your only offer (around 80% of applicants will only receive one offer); however, accepting an offer does not mean you cannot receive another offer in a later round of offers.

- **WHERE CAN I GET ASSISTANCE DURING ‘CHANGE OF PREFERENCE’ WEEK?** The week after you receive your ATAR is generally known as Change of Preference (COP) week (Mon 14 – Mon 21 December). During this time tertiary institutions run information sessions, COP Expos, have phone assistance available and will assist you in any way they can. You can also obtain assistance at school.

These institutions are offering the following (check online for more details)

- **Australian Catholic University** – Expo and Information Sessions: 12noon-4pm, Tues 15 December (Melb) & 5-7pm, Wed 16 December (Ballarat); See: www.acu.edu.au/apply2016; COP Hotline: 1300 ASK ACU (1300 275 228)
- **Box Hill Institute** – Hotline: 1300 BOX HILL (1300 269 445)
- **Charles Sturt University** – Hotline: 1800334 733
- **Chisholm** – Hotline: 1300 244 746
- **Deakin University** – Information Evenings: 4-7pm, 15 December, Level 2, Building BC, Burwood campus; 4-7pm, 16 December, Geelong Waterfront campus; COP Hotline: 1300 DEGREE (1300 334 733); online chat visit www.choose.deakin.edu.au
- **Federation University** - Info Day: 11am-2pm, Wed 16 December (Mt Helen and Gippsland); Hotline: 1800 333 864
- **Holmesglen** – Hotline: 1300 693 888
- **Kangan** – Hotline: 13 8233
- **La Trobe University** – Hotline: 1300 135 045
- **Melbourne Polytechnic** – Hotline: 9269 1200
- **Monash University** – COP Expo: 3-7pm, Wed 16 December, Building H, Caulfield campus, 900 Dandenong Rd; Hotline: 1800 MONASH (1800 666 274); See: www.study.monash
- **RMIT University** – Hotline: 9925 2260; Visit Info Corner, 330 Swanston St, Melbourne (Cnr. La Trobe St)
- **Swinburne University** – Information session: 11am-4pm, Wed 16 December (Hawthorn); Hotline: 1300 275 794
- **University of Melbourne** – Course Info Day: 10am-2.30pm, Wed 16 December (on campus), Thurs 17 December Course Information Day (online) - Register at www.cop.unimelb.edu.au; COP Hotline: 13 MELB (13 6352), email 13MELB@unimelb.edu.au
- **Victoria University** – COP Expo: 4-7pm, Wed 16 Dec (Footscray Park); Hotline: 1300 VIC UNI (1300 842 864)
- **William Angliss** – Hotline: 1300 ANGLISS (1300 264 547)

2. UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE NEWS

- **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS** - can book 30-minute appointments to talk with University of Melbourne staff about study options, VTAC, and support services. They run 2-5pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Register: www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/international-yr12

- **GUARANTEED ENTRY INTO PROF-ESSIONAL ENTRY GRADUATE PROGRAMS** The University’s guaranteed entry pathways to graduate courses give students beginning an undergraduate degree the security of knowing that a place in a graduate course is reserved for them. For details see: www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/guaranteed-entry.
3. WHAT IF I DO NOT GET A HIGH ENOUGH ATAR TO GET INTO MY DESIRED COURSE?

Many pathways and programs exist which may assist you to get to where you want to go. Here are some suggestions:

- Complete a Diploma of Tertiary Studies at Monash University in either business (p. 350 of VTAC Guide), education (p. 362) or nursing (p. 381).
- Complete a course at Monash College in Art & design, Arts (Human Behaviour or Psychology streams), Business or Commerce, Engineering or Science; see pages 341-2 of VTAC Guide.
- Complete a course at Deakin College in Commerce, Computing, Engineering, Health Sciences, Management, Media and Communication or Science; pages 197-8 of VTAC Guide.
- Complete a Diploma at La Trobe Melbourne in biosciences, business, health sciences, IT or Mass Media Communications (p. 285-6).
- Complete a Tertiary Preparation Course at RMIT in engineering, media or science (p. 437).
- Consider studying a related university course with a lower ATAR; if you do well you MAY be able to transfer to your desired course later.
- Start with a VET (TAFE) course in a related field; two years of VET often equals one at university.
- Complete a Tertiary Studies Diploma at Melbourne Polytechnic (Preston) (p. 337).
- Complete a Diploma of Liberal Arts – a pathway into a range of degrees. Swinburne (p.451) and Victoria Uni (p. 523) have this Diploma.
- Consider a country/rural campus. ATAR’s are often lower, usually due to lower demand; most have accommodation (apply ASAP).
- For nursing consider first completing Division 2 at TAFE or a private provider; eg Box Hill (p. 172) or Swinburne (p. 478).
- ACU has certificate/diploma courses that can lead to degrees (through ACUcom) See: http://www.acu.edu.au/courses/2014/other_courses/vocational_education_training_vet/.
- Complete a Foundation Studies one year pathways course at Victoria Uni; See: www.vu.edu.au/courses/applying.

4. DOXA YOUTH FOUNDATION CADETSHIP PROGRAM – The Doxa Youth Foundation provides programs for young people to achieve their highest potential despite experiencing disadvantage. The Cadetship Program is a holistic initiative that provides young people with the resources, skills and experience to succeed in university and embark on a professional career. Applications are now open for 2016. More info: http://doxa.org.au/cadetship/applying-for-the-program/.

5. HEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS, INCLUDING THE PUGGY HUNTER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP - The Puggy Hunter scheme offers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health scholarships to encourage and assist undergraduate students in health related disciplines to complete their studies and join the health workforce. The Australian Government started the Scheme as a tribute to the late Dr Arnold ‘Puggy’ Hunter’s contribution to Indigenous Australians’ health. For information about this and other health scholarships: ph 1800 688 628, www.acn.edu.au/scholarships.

6. LA TROBE UNIVERSITY ENGINEERING NEWS - La Trobe has reviewed engineering courses for 2016 and as a result some existing courses will be phased out. They have been removed from VTAC and La Trobe will contact students who have included them in their VTAC preferences. Info: 1300 135 045.

7. AMBASSADOR PROGRAM AT MONASH - The Access Monash Ambassador program is an opportunity for students who want to make a difference. Year 12’s planning to study at Monash in 2016 can apply to be an ambassador. See: www.monash.edu.au/access/about-ama.html.

Compiled by: M. Walker

The FUTURE is full of all sorts of possibilities.....
ART & DESIGN EXHIBITION
MILL PARK SECONDARY COLLEGE
10 - 13 November 2015
Opening Tuesday 10 Nov 7.30 pm

VCE - 10
City of Whittlesea Great Hall 9 - 5pm Fri 9 - 11am
Ferres Blvd Sth Morang
Wed 11  Thu 12  Fri 13  NOV

Yr 7 - 9
Middle Years Campus Library 9 - 4pm
Moorhead Dve Mill Park

Artwork by Mar Jan Teen Cruz  Yr 12 Studio Arts