College Principal’s Report

SEMESTER 1 REPORTS ARE IN THE PIPELINE
Staff have been very busy writing the Semester 1 Reports which will be available on the last day of term. It is very important that you take time to discuss the reports with your children and do not hesitate to contact the College if you have any queries.

YEAR 10 STUDENTS WORK EXPERIENCE
During the last week of this term Year 10 students will undertake work experience. It is a very exciting time for the students and I thank Belinda Mahoney for her work in facilitating this very important experience for the students. Year 10 students will receive their Semester 1 reports at the beginning of Term 3.

CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF) – APPLICATIONS CLOSE END OF TERM
The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) applications close on Friday 24 June (last day of Term 2). Families holding a valid means-tested concession card are eligible to apply. A special consideration category also exists. Eligible families need to apply for the CSEF at their child’s school by Friday 24 June; parents/guardians must present their concession card to be photocopied when submitting the form. A payment of $125 for primary school students and $225 for secondary school students will be paid directly to the school to be used towards camps, sports and excursion costs for the benefit of the student.

PREPARATION FOR 2017
A timeline has been established for 2017 planning with respect to subject selection and staffing. This incorporates a thorough approach to pathways planning with an aim to improve the capacity of all staff to understand pathways options and support each student in creating their future. Parent’s are also invited to access information and advice. Important dates are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Year 10 to VCE Pathways Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yr 9 Parent Pathways Interviews</td>
<td>Wednesday 27 July</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please add these very important dates to your diary. We look forward to seeing you this coming term.

SUBJECT SELECTION GOES ONLINE
This year students will complete their subject selections online. Each student will be provided with a Webcode to complete their selections. The online forms have the added advantage that they eliminate errors by not accepting the form until all requirements have been satisfied. It is very important that after completing the form students must then print the confirmation form which requires a parent signature. This signed form then needs to be handed in to the student’s Homegroup/Pastoral teacher. Year 9 and 10 students will be able to complete their Webform at their Pathway interview. More information will be provided shortly. Please contact the General Office if you require assistance or further information. It is vital that all forms are submitted by the dates listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Year 11 (Yr 12 2017)</td>
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<td>Year 8 (Yr 9 2017)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Friday 29 July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 10 (Yr 11 2017)</td>
<td>Friday 29 July</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Current Year 7 students do not need to complete a subject selection form.

Please also add these very important dates to your diary.

As we head towards the school holidays I wish everyone a relaxing, warm and safe term break.

Trish Horner
EVERY DAY COUNTS-ATTENDANCE

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day — missing school puts them behind.

Across the Semester our attendance has been pleasing. It is great to see a rise in attendance percentage for Year 8 and 9 students in Term 2 and fantastic to see the Year 9 figure up above 90%.

While the slight decline in percentages for all other Year Levels may have coincided with the cold and flu season we know attendance below 90% does cause significant impacts.

What we can do

- Consider school hours when planning appointments and family events.
- Genuine sickness may cause absence, yet many ailments can be managed over a school day. Make sure students don’t miss days if they can attend school.
- A “day off” sounds like a treat, but it adds to the impact of absence and puts students behind. Caringly deny requests for a day off.
- Communicate known absences dates with the school.
- SENTRAL allows for contact with class teachers or the Home Group teacher in order to follow up on missed classwork.
- Planned absences of 5 or more days - provide details of dates to the school well in advance so a Student Absence Learning Plan can be organised. A Principal will meet with parent/guardian to discuss the plan.
- Contact the Year Level Engagement Team to work on any issues of truancy.

YEAR 9 INCURSION WITH WHITTLESEA YOUTH SERVICES

Over four weeks we did an incursion with about 10 Year 9 students. It was run by Sally and Jasmine who are Youth Workers at Whittlesea Youth Services. Miss McIlroy and Mrs Magdalani helped us out too. We chose the topic of bullying for our activities and presentation. We discussed the different aspects of bullying; effects of bullying and the different ways that people are targeted online and in person.

On Monday last week we had a BBQ and a DJ during lunchtime. We made puzzles and badges to include in our presentation and give out to people on the day. The badges included slogans on them like “you’re not alone” and “don’t give up” to show our support of people who had been bullied and encourage them to seek help.

Sally and Jasmine were very nice and they helped and supported us to create our presentation based on the ideas we came up with. They provided us with all the materials we needed.

During the lunchtime activities there were many students who took part, from all year levels. We felt proud of our achievements and excited to have organised this event. We would love to do something similar again.

We as a community should come together and try to stop all kinds of bullying. It is important that each of us takes a stand individually and we do not allow this type of behaviour to occur.

by Shontal Lucas-Eyre and Effie Haldezos 9AR
"What type of Careers might Languages lead to?"

Knowledge of a foreign language, whether studied formally or picked up informally, can lead to exciting career opportunities that those without an extra language have less chances of accessing.

**Philippa McIlroy, LOTE Domain Leader**
HELPING YOUR CHILD TO BE AN EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR

One of the five learning outcomes in the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework and the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia is that children are effective communicators.

Children communicate with others from birth.

Effective communication doesn't always need words. And it's much more than being able to talk, read and write.

Babies use gestures and sounds to communicate. They smile, cry and touch to tell you they are contented, distressed or curious. They understand much more than they can say in words.

Toddlers and older children might communicate with you through behaviour – hitting and biting are often ways of communicating frustration. Children can also use art, music, dance and dressing up to communicate how they feel, what they think and who they are.

Some young children will be exposed to two languages, either through family or their early childhood education and care setting.

Children can be effective communicators in any language.

Children who don’t use words can also be effective communicators. They might use signing (for example, using a language programme such as Makaton or Auslan), drawing, modelling, painting, a computer program or picture cards to express how they feel and what they want.

How can I help my child to be an effective communicator?

Try hard to understand what your child is trying to communicate, and respond as best you can. How does your child communicate that they are tired or hungry? How do they let you know if they want or don’t want physical contact?

Talk with babies, even before they can understand what you say. Chat to your child about what you are doing and watch them babble back at you!

Sing lullabies and nursery rhymes with your child. Rhyme and rhythm help your child to build language skills.

As children get older they will develop the skills to write simple texts to convey ideas, messages, feelings and information. As they grow they can typically link ideas in a variety of ways and plan art works that communicate ideas, concepts, observations, feelings and experiences.

Model effective communication yourself; especially a willingness to talk with your child and to listen to what they say. Having two-way conversations with your child teaches them the importance of listening and responding. Try to ask questions that don’t require just a yes/no response. Do this often.

Read books with your child and play games with the words and sounds.

If your child is interested in letters and written words, create posters, signs and simple books (using a computer or by hand). Ask your child to tell you what to write in a text message, letter or email. Help them type their name. Play games by finding letters on the keyboard.

Tell your child stories and encourage them to tell you stories. These can be told in your home language as well as (or in place of) English.

Give your child different opportunities and materials to express their ideas and interests through drawing, painting, building and making music. These are all ways of communicating.

Give your child dress ups to encourage role playing. This encourages talking, listening, imagination and thinking skills as they act out a new role.

If you are concerned about any aspect of your child’s communication, speak to your child’s maternal and child health nurse, early childhood professional or doctor.

Related links

Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia

Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework for all Children from Birth to Eight Years (2009)

You may also like to read

- Helping your child to have a strong sense of identity
- Helping your child to connect and contribute to the world
- Helping your child to have a strong sense of wellbeing
- Helping your child be a confident and involved learner
NATIONAL DEBATING REPRESENTATIVE

Congratulations to year 12 student Natasha Bay who represented the state of Victoria in the prestigious National Schools Debating Competition in Sydney at the end of May this year. She is the first student from the City of Whittlesea, and the Northern Metropolitan Region in general, to be selected for the Victorian State Team in its 20 year history. Natasha has participated in the debating program at Mill Park Secondary College since year 7.

After returning from the Nationals Natasha said: “Attending the National Schools Debating Championships was an amazing experience. It allowed me to learn so much about debating and improve my skills, as well as connect with other passionate debaters from all around Australia.”

Thanks to Ms Sonia Loudon for her support.

PATHWAYS AND SUBJECT SELECTIONS

Subject Selections

Our subject selections and pathways events for 2017 are well underway. Early next term students moving into years 10, 11 and 12 will need to finalise their subject and program selections. This year subject selection will be undertaken online. Full information and instruction packs, logins and passwords will be sent home to assist families with this process very soon. Families who need support or don’t have access to the internet at home will be able to complete subject selection at school on one of our counselling days, or via the front office at the Senior Campus.

Visit from The Lakes P – 9 Students

This week at the Senior Campus we have welcomed approximately 75 Year 9 students from The Lakes P-9 School South Morang. The aim of the day was for students to familiarise themselves with the Campus, find out about our learning programs, meet staff and students and take home information about the Campus. Students undertook tours of the Campus, and a range of teachers discussed programs, subjects and opportunities with them.

For further help or information about any aspect of pathways and subject selection, please contact Josie Vickers, Jayne Mitchell, Belinda Mahony, or Pathways Leader, Shaun Isbister.

Reports

Teachers are presently putting the finishing touches on semester based reports, which will be distributed on the last day of school. In order to get the most out of the school reports, parents/carers should read reports with their children and discuss the grades, comments and areas for improvement. Look for high points in the reports and set some goals for second semester based around the feedback provided.

For year 12 students, these reports will be the last written reports that they receive in their schooling, as at the end of year 12 they will receive their VCE or VCAL certificates. Parents should ensure that students are ready to return for term 3 on Monday 11 July.

SCHOOL PRODUCTION - "LEGALLY BLONDE"

Tickets are selling fast!

Term 3 Week 2 - Wednesday 20 July,
Thursday 21 July and Friday 22 July.

Bookings can be made via
https://www.trybooking.com/LJND
or the General Office at both Campuses

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **Monday 20 - Friday 24 June** - Yr 10 Work Experience
- **Friday 24 June** - Reports distributed
- **Friday 24 June** - Last day of term 2
- **Monday 11 July** - First day of term 3
- **Wednesday 13 July** - Year 10 to VCE Pathways Night
- **Friday 15 July** - Year 11 (Yr 12 2017) Subject Selection forms due
- **Wednesday 20 July** - Yr 10 Parent Pathways Interview
- **Friday 22 July** - Year 8 (Yr 9 2017) Subject Selection forms due
- **Wednesday 27 July** - Yr 9 Parent Pathways Interview
- **Friday 29 July** - Year 9 (Yr 10 2017) Subject Selection forms due
- **Friday 29 July** - Year 10 (Yr 11 2017) Subject Selection forms due
- **Monday 1 August** - VTAC Information Night
REMINISERS:
- ‘INSIDE MONASH’: Business & Economics - June 15; See www.monash.edu/inside-monash
- EXPERIENCE LA TROBE – See: www.latrobe.edu.au/study
- EXPLORE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY – 14 July @ Austin; Apply: keely.zenner@austin.org.au
- VCE HOLIDAY LECTURES AT MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY – Literature, Australian History and History Revolutions. Bookings: Book Now
- DESIGN EVENTS AT SWINBURNE – 5-8 July, Hawthorn; $160; Register: Register now.
- RMIT – FOLIO PREPARATION COURSES – Information: Call 9925 8111 or click here.
- LA TROBE’S ASPIRE PROGRAM - applications open; Info: www.latrobe.edu.au/aspire

1. EXPERIENCE RMIT – Would you like to learn more about studying at RMIT? The RMIT ‘Experience Days’ Event program is now available, giving Year 10 – 12 students the opportunity to attend free events and engage in workshops in business, science, social impact, health and medical sciences, engineering, marketing and communications, property and project management and design, and experience life on campus. Go to: www.rmit.edu.au/experiencedays, then to Event Program for more information and to book. The experience days are in the holidays.

2. WHERE CAN I STUDY PHYSIOOTHERAPY? Physiotherapy is a popular choice of career, with many aspiring physiotherapists hoping to become sports physiotherapists. The reality is of course, that many physiotherapists work in other settings such as hospitals, community health centres, in mental health, and in rehabilitation, often with elderly patients. In Victoria, physiotherapy is taught at La Trobe, Melbourne and Monash universities, and, from 2017, at Australian Catholic University (ACU) in Ballarat. The ATAR required for entry to physiotherapy is very high due to the popularity of the course, and to the fact that places are limited. La Trobe uses the ATAR for selection, Monash uses the ATAR and an interview, while at Melbourne, as with many of their degrees, physiotherapy is studied as a post-graduate degree. Applicants for Melbourne must have completed an undergraduate degree with human anatomy and human physiology subjects. The aim of ACU offering physiotherapy in Ballarat is to help tackle the shortage of healthcare professionals in the Ballarat region by offering local training opportunities for up to 50 students. Purpose-built facilities will be available on campus and there will be access to laboratories, hospitals and health services in the region. Prerequisites for the ACU course are: Units 3 and 4 – a minimum study score of 30 in English (EAL) or 25 in any other English, and a minimum study score of 25 in one of Biology, Chemistry or Physics.

3. LA TROBE UNIVERSITY NEWS
- WHAT IS THE ASPIRE GENERATION? As noted previously, La Trobe university offers the Aspire Early Admissions Program for Year 12’s applying for La Trobe (applications are now open, and close 31 August at www.latrobe.edu.au/aspire). In addition, La Trobe is promoting the ambition of the next generation to come together and solve pressing issues facing our global communities. So La Trobe is launching the Aspire Generation for Year 12-12 students. This is a community of young people connected by their aspiration to make a difference through community service and leadership. The Aspire Generation will be empowered to drive change through community engagement, volunteerism and leadership opportunities. (eg La Trobe’s recent partnership with Orange Sky Laundry underpins the ongoing commitment to driving social change). Students in years 10-12 can register their interest online via the Aspire Generation page.
- SPRING INTO THE GREAT OUTDOORS IN THE HOLIDAYS! This is early notice of an experience of a lifetime. Find out what it is like to be an Outdoor and Environmental Education student at La Trobe university in the September School Holiday Program. When: 26-30 September, 2016; Where: Either canoeing on the Murray River OR bushwalking and climbing at Kooyonga State Park; Cost: $100 (including
food/equipment). The trips will begin and end at La Trobe’s Bendigo campus; [sign up now.]

- **WOMEN IN ENGINEERING** - Sample what to expect if you study Engineering at La Trobe at [Women in Engineering](#). In workshops you will try engineering in an interactive and fun way. **When/Where:** Melbourne Campus: Tues 12 July, 9.30am – 3pm; Bendigo: Thurs 14 July, 9.30am – 3pm; Register: Blanca Van Meeuwen, b.vanmeeuwen@latrobe.edu.au by Tuesday 5 July.

4. **ARE YOU INTERESTED IN AUSTRALIAN POLITICS AND PUBLIC POLICY?** If yes, why not apply for the [John Button Prize](#). The University of Melbourne’s School of Government is offering a $2,500 prize to a Year 10-12 student who successfully expresses their ideas about Australian politics and public policy. The subject might be Australia’s population, climate change, reconciliation with Indigenous Australians, water, asylum seekers, education, health, or the state of the Arts (these are just a guide). The judges want to see clear thinking, enlivened by a sense of passion, about Australia’s future. Please [apply online](#) through the Faculty of Arts web page. More details on the John Button School Prize can be found on the School of Government [website](#). John Button was a Victorian Senator of 19 years and Federal Minister for Industry and Commerce from 1983-93. Applications close on Fri 24 June 2016. Info: [artsprizes.info@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:artsprizes.info@unimelb.edu.au).

5. **RMIT NEWS** – RMIT is a provider of both higher education and VET courses. The main campus is located in the City, but there are also campuses at Bundoorra and Brunswick.

- **SCIENCE IN THE CITY LAB TOURS** – Are you curious about science? You are invited to visit the state-of-the-art laboratories to learn more about courses, research and training facilities available. **When:** 9am-12pm, 4-7 July; **Register:** via [RMIT website](#).

- **MEDICAL LABORATORY VISITS** – RMIT in collaboration with research laboratories is giving year 10-12 students the chance to visit medical laboratories across Melbourne and regional Victoria. If you are interested in finding out more about being a medical scientist you are encouraged to attend. **When:** 9am-5pm, 4-8 July; **Bookings and information:** [www.rmit.edu.au/events/all-events/tours/2016/june/medical-laboratory-visits](http://www.rmit.edu.au/events/all-events/tours/2016/june/medical-laboratory-visits/)

- **NEW DOUBLE DEGREE IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING AND PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES** – This course will be on offer in 2017 across the City and Bundoorra campuses. As the pharmaceutical industry expands in Australia and world-wide, your understanding of the engineering process and other scientific fields involved in drug development and production, will ensure you’re well equipped to work across a range of roles. For information: [http://www.rmit.edu.au/study-with-us/levels-of-study/undergraduate-study/honours-degrees/bh122/#pageid=overview](http://www.rmit.edu.au/study-with-us/levels-of-study/undergraduate-study/honours-degrees/bh122/#pageid=overview).

6. **COMPUTER GAMES BOOT CAMP COMING** – The Faculty of Information Technology at Monash University invites Years 9-12 students to this annual event. It is an interactive event for students to engage with like-minded people and find out what their career could look like after completing studies with this Faculty. Learn about areas like graphic design, 3D animation, software development, web design, multimedia development, data science and cyber-security. **When:** 2-5 July; **Where:** Monash University, Clayton Campus; **Register:** [https://cgbc.monash.edu/#register](https://cgbc.monash.edu/#register); **Cost:** Free; **Info:** 9905 5845.

7. **AUSTRALIAN JOBS 2016** – In 2016 the Australian labour market is markedly different from that experienced in past decades. The Federal Government’s Department of Employment has a publication called ‘Australian Jobs’, presenting an overview of the current labour market and highlights the major changes which have occurred. It is useful for those exploring careers and those wanting a better understanding of the labour market. See: [www.employment.gov.au/skill-shortages](http://www.employment.gov.au/skill-shortages).

Compiled by: m.walker
Introduction to further education
Information sessions for parents and carers

What is RMIT’s Schools Network Access Program (SNAP)
You are receiving this invitation because you have a child enrolled at one of RMIT’s Schools Network Access Program (SNAP) partner schools.
SNAP is a partnership with over 200 schools throughout metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria, designed to increase students’ access to further education.

Students attending SNAP schools receive priority access to RMIT courses after they complete Year 12.
The SNAP team at RMIT also offers a range of programs and resources for secondary students, teachers and parents to encourage students to consider further education – whether at RMIT, or another university or TAFE.

What will the information sessions cover?
RMIT staff and students will deliver a number of short presentations covering:
— university and TAFE: what are they, how are they different, and what are the benefits of each?
— career and study goals: strategies and resources for you and your child
— starting out at university and TAFE: expectations vs. reality
— it’s not just about study: what other services and opportunities are available to university and TAFE students?

You will also have the chance to speak with staff and students after the session, and ask any further questions you may have.

Where and when?
Tuesday 28 June (RMIT City campus)
6.30 - 8 pm

Wednesday 29 June (RMIT City campus)
10.30 am - 12 pm

Thursday 30 June (RMIT Bundoora campus)
6.30 - 8 pm

Who should attend?
If you have a child in Years 9-12 who is considering attending TAFE or university in the future, we invite you to attend.
If your child is the first family member to be considering further education, or if you would like an introduction to the Australian university and TAFE system, we hope you will find this session especially valuable.

How do I register?
— visit https://rmitisingevents.eventbrite.com.au
— select the information session you wish to attend
— click ‘register’ and provide your details.

You will receive an email confirmation immediately after registering.
Your child or children are also welcome to attend.

Need more information?
Equity and Diversity
RMIT University
Email: SNAP@rmit.edu.au
Tel: +61 3 9925 3181
WHAT IS THE VCAL?
The Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) is a hands-on option for Year 11 and 12 students.

The VCAL gives you practical work-related experience, as well as literacy and numeracy skills and the opportunity to build personal skills that are important for life and work. Like the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE), the VCAL is a recognised senior secondary qualification.

Students who do the VCAL are likely to be interested in going on to training at a Technical and Further Education (TAFE) institute, starting an apprenticeship, or getting a job after completing school. However, if you start your VCAL and then decide the VCE is the right option for you after all, it won’t be too late to change your mind.

The VCAL’s flexibility enables you to undertake a study program that suits your interests and learning needs. Fully accredited modules and units are selected for the following four compulsory strands: Literacy and Numeracy Skills; Work Related Skills; Industry Specific Skills; and Personal Development Skills.

If you successfully complete your VCAL, you will receive a certificate and a Statement of Results that details the areas of study you have completed.

Why would I choose to do the VCAL?

While the VCE is a good option for students who would like to go on to further education at university, you might feel that this is not the right option for you.

The VCAL is an accredited senior secondary qualification undertaken in Years 11 and 12. The VCAL is based on hands-on learning, also known as applied learning.

If you choose to do the VCAL, you will gain practical experience and employability skills, as well as the skills you will need to go on to further training in the workplace or at TAFE.

ARE THERE ANY ENTRY REQUIREMENTS?
No. You begin the VCAL at a level suitable to your capabilities. Your teacher or careers counselor will be able to help you decide which level is most suitable for you. There is, however, an application process detailed below.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE ME TO COMPLETE THE VCAL?
The VCAL has been developed for Year 11 and 12 students. You can get a VCAL certificate and Statement of Results when you successfully complete your VCAL program for the level you have chosen. Many students complete a VCAL level in one year.

WHAT DO I GET AFTER SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING THE VCAL?
If you successfully complete your VCAL program, you will receive a VCAL certificate at either the Foundation, Intermediate or Senior level, depending on the VCAL level you chose to complete. You will also get a Statement of Results listing all VCAL, VCE and Vocational Education and Training (VET) units.

HOW CAN I APPLY FOR A PLACE IN THE VCAL?
There are a limited number of places available in the VCAL program. Interested students can find out more about the VCAL program on the College website or by clicking here.

Students must fully complete and submit the ‘VCAL Expression of Interest’ form in order to be considered for a place in the VCAL program. Interviews will also be conducted to assess each applicant’s suitability to the program.

KEY DATES:
Friday 3 June: VCAL applications open. VCAL Expression of Interest form can be collected from the General Office.
Friday 24 June: VCAL applications due. This is the final date to submit your VCAL Expression of Interest form.
Monday 11 – Friday 15 July: VCAL interview times allocated to applicants and interviews held.
Mill Park Secondary College presents

**LEGALLY BLONDE**

the musical

I 6 SHOWS ONLY

music and lyrics by
Laurence O’Keefe and Neil Benjamin

by arrangement with Hal Leonard Australia Pty Ltd
Exclusive agent for Music Theatre International (NY)

book by
Heather Hach
based on the novel by Amanda Brown and the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer film

By arrangement with Hal Leonard Australia Pty Ltd
Exclusive agent for Music Theatre International (NY)

20, 21, 22 JULY

WED THU FRI

10:00AM & 7:30PM

PLENTY RANGES ARTS & CONVENTION CENTRE
35 FERRES BOULEVARD, SOUTH MORANG

**TICKETS**

www.legallyblondempsc.weebly.com

or

Senior Office 9409 8222
MYC Office 9407 9700