

Semester 2 – Term 3, 9th September 2015

Term Three Important Dates

Junior Campus		Senior Campus	
9 September	Immunisations Day	11 September	R U OK Out of Uniform Day
9 September	TEAM 9 – City	17 September	Parent/Teacher Interviews
11 September	R U OK Out of Uniform Day	18 September	Last Day Term 3
16 September	TEAM 9 – City	5 October	First Day Term 4
17 September	Parent/Teacher Interviews		
18 September	Last Day Term 3		
5 October	First Day Term 4		

Next Newsletter: 7th October 2015

College Principal's Report

Congratulations to our students who have accomplished some fantastic achievements in the last week. Our music students performed magnificently at the Network Concert at the Clocktower Centre on Monday night and a huge congratulations to our Track and Field team for winning the Keilor Division Athletics competition for the second year in a row! Congratulations also to Lazar Trajcevski in Year 12 who featured in the local newspaper last week for painting a mural at the Brimbank Bicycle Education Centre. The mural was a project Lazar undertook as part of his Personal Development Skills VCAL subject. Lazar's drawings were submitted to Brimbank Council for approval before he did the painting. The mural will be seen from the roadway and be lit up at night. Well done Lazar! It is great to see so many of our students aspiring to achieve and obtaining excellent results. Well done also to our staff for supporting our students and helping them to achieve their goals.

We will be holding an opening ceremony for our Trade Training Centre on Monday 26th October. The Parliamentary Secretary for Education, Hon. Scott Ryan will be attending to officially open the new building. The ceremony will commence at 10am and all are welcome to attend.

Once again I have applied for our students to participate in the Victorian Young Leaders to China program for March/April 2016. This is the program that has supported our students to study in China for 6 weeks over the last three years. We will call for expressions of interest from Year 8 Chinese students once we are advised whether our application has been successful.

Senior Campus

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St Albans Victoria 3021

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F 03 8312 0211

Junior Campus

88 Billingham Road
Deer Park Victoria 3023

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F 03 9363 8681

Trade Training Centre – Cairnlea Campus

Ken Jordan Road
Cairnlea Victoria 3023

Correspondence To

PO Box 83
St Albans Victoria 3021

Email victoria.university.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au
Web www.vusc.vic.edu.au

To continue our focus on teacher development and improving student achievement, I have engaged a professional consultant, Jane Pollock, to work with us next year. Jane is the author of “Improving student learning one teacher at a time”. We also have an AVID consultant from the US with us this week to visit our AVID classes and measure our progress towards its implementation.

A reminder to parents that students must be wearing their summer uniform in Term 4. The College Board also recently approved for boys to wear their shorts during winter. Families may purchase uniform items at PSW in Westwood Drive, Deer Park or try the secondhand shop online at www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au.

Below is an article is from our Parentingideas Club membership which you may find interested to read. Our new website is currently under construction and will feature some great articles and tips on raising children during their adolescent years.

Cheers,
Genevieve Simson

Taking responsibility – the mark of true leadership

by Michael Grose

In the wake of questionable behaviours among some high profile sports people lately it's reasonable to examine the place of personal responsibility. Taking responsibility for your behaviour is the mark of true leadership. However shirking responsibility or shifting blame to others is a national sport in many western countries.

It's not my fault

“*It's not my fault*” can be heard in court rooms, political rallies and in sporting tribunals everywhere as blame for a transgression is shifted away from the individual and placed on a scapegoat. It's little wonder than some children are experts at shirking personal responsibility.



Lack of personal responsibility is shown when children find excuses or blame others for their misbehaviour. It's shown when siblings are blamed for starting fights, parents for children's school lateness and classmates for misbehaving at school. Anything or anyone but themselves to blame! “*It's not my turn*” is another way of shirking responsibility.

Most parents want their children to be responsible for their actions. Taking responsibility means that a child sees a problem and fixes it. A child who takes responsibility helps out regardless of how many times they have helped before or whether they caused a situation.

When a child complains that the toilet roll is empty then he or she can be invited to take responsibility for it. Similarly, if the bread bin is empty, the fire is out or the living room floor is a mess then the message should be that they ‘do something’ to rectify these situations. When a child is late for school, forgets to hand in homework or deliberately hurts a classmate, even though some teasing occurred, then he or she needs to shoulder the blame and take responsibility for their actions.

Sounds tough but this is the approach to take if we are to promote a true sense of responsibility, initiative and accountability.

In families, some children and young people can become adept at ducking their responsibilities. It's smart management to share the workload at home using rosters and other organisational strategies.

Don't tell me, fix it!

But in the myriad of informal situations around the house then it's useful to take the ‘don't tell me, fix it’ approach. Next time a child responds to your request for help with the classic line “but it's not my turn” I suggest that you look them straight in the eye and say, “You know, you may be right but isn't it lucky that you are so willing to help” and simply walk away. No buts, no arguments. You'll do so, knowing that your refusal to rescue your child is providing an opportunity for him to take some initiative and personal responsibility for a situation that may not have been to their making. But that's what leaders do!

Quick quiz

Does your child take responsibility?

Does he/she:

1. Usually help at home without being paid? Yes - 2 points No – 0 points
2. Take initiative and fix things or help even if he won't receive any recognition? Yes - 2 points No – 0 points
3. Blames others when things go wrong? Yes - 2 points No – 0 points
4. Own up straight away if he/she has done the wrong thing? Yes - 2 points No – 0 points
5. Start games and initiate activities at home or school? Yes - 2 points No – 0 points

Score: 10: Leadership material. What a child! 6-8: Knows about taking responsibility but needs a reminder.

0-4: Needs someone on his shoulder all the time! May benefit from being given more responsibility



VUSC News

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) - APPLICATIONS CLOSE 17TH SEPTEMBER, 2015

If you have a Health Care Card or similar or live out of home, you qualify for the \$225.00 payment for the Camps, Excursion and Sports Fund (CESF). Pick up the form from the General Office, return it signed with a copy of your current Health Care Card or letter from agency if you are living out of home. On approval the funds will go into your school family account ready for your use.

R U OK Day- Out of Uniform Day \$2 Donation – Friday 11th September 2015

R U OK Day is a very important day as it encourages people in our community to have a conversation about mental health. The day is dedicated to inspiring people to regularly ask each other if they are actually okay. It is extremely important for both students and staff members of the college to know that they have moral support within the school community. Each student and staff member is strongly encouraged to wear an accessory that is yellow to show the importance of the special day and the support it offers. So please join in and participate to show your support of this cause on the day.

Pick up and drop off

Could parents/guardians please refrain from parking in neighbours' driveways when dropping off and picking up students.

7E Chinese Museum Excursion

Ni Hao. On the 13th of August my classmates and I travelled by public transport to the Chinese Museum in Chinatown in the city. When we arrived we had a quick stop to a shopping centre nearby that had a lot of tiny looking restaurants. Most of us had lunch there. Then we entered the museum and had a guided tour. During our journey we made stops to observe the ancient items used in Australia by the Chinese when they arrived during the gold rush days. We also came across the time of foot binding. Chinese foot binding seemed a very cruel thing with the injuring of young girls feet that were folded over and remained bent forever. Foot binding was also known as 'lotus feet' and was the way of preventing further growth of the girls' feet. It was considered a sign of beauty to have small feet. In the tenth century foot binding was widely practiced.

Throughout the tour we discovered: early Australian History, information about the gold rush, Chinese Festivals, immigration, Chinese performing arts, language, well known immigrants and we walked along the huge dragon that is used for Chinese New Year and Moomba.

We highly recommend you visit this museum if you haven't yet. Thanks to Ms Wooles, Mr Ding, Mr Hewitt and Maxine for organising this excursion and for coming along with us.

Julia Malu and Alisha Aktar 7E



Senior Music at our Annual Music Concert

Commendations are due to our senior music students who performed at our annual music concert recently.

It was particularly entertaining to see the grand collaboration of the Year 10 and Year 9 concert bands perform a Jazz Arrangement of Watermelon Man from the VCE group prescribed list of works. The Year 10 Concert band also performed three other pieces from the VCE Prescribed list, 'St Thomas', 'Chameleon' and 'Senior Salsa'. Congratulations are due to Dashmir Demiri, Daniel Jezovita, Tangi Pulis, Luke Schembri and Anonh Vongprachanh for their excellent performances on the night.

A special mention is due to our VCE student Florence Leasiolagi-Mona for a stellar vocal performance of Stevie Wonder's 'Lately'. It brought tears to many an eye as it brought the house down with a roaring applause.

Finally congratulations with praise are due to our VCE students preparing for the external exams in October for performing at excellent standards. Nicole Brimblecombe performed Piazzolla Tango and John Dam performed Shadows.

You all made us very proud.

Ms. Stavropoulos

VET Payments for 2016

All VET Payments for 2016 are due now for students to secure a place in 2016.

VUSC In The News

Congratulations to Lazar who made the front page of last week's Star Weekly:

“Brimbank Bicycle Education Centre is always a hive of activity ... and not just for cyclists.

Victoria University Secondary College Year 12 student Lazar Trajcevski (pictured) designed and began painting a mural at the centre last Friday, as part of his Personal Development Skills studies.

His drawings, which were submitted and approved by Brimbank, will form the mural which will be seen from the roadway and also be lit up at night.

As well, VCAL students from Taylors Lakes Secondary College are spending 10 weeks down at the Keilor Downs cycling hub, working on tasks ranging from bike maintenance to upgrading the gardens.

Plans are also afoot for a Men's Shed at the centre, which could involve the refurbishment of a W-class tram.”



Careers News

Tax File Numbers

Any student will need a tax file number if he/she starts work (part-time and full-time) and all students planning on going on to tertiary education will require one when they start.

Importantly, current Year 12 students are reminded that they cannot enrol in a CSP (Commonwealth Support Place) course at university without a Tax File Number, so it is worthwhile getting an application submitted early!



Students must now apply for a TFN online and have their identity verified through an interview at a participating Australia Post office. **To apply and find out about participating Post Offices, visit Tax File Numbers at www.ato.gov.au or go to the link on the school's Careers Website (under Important Info).**

SCHOOL CAREERS WEBSITE

Our school's Careers website is an invaluable resource for students and parents to access. Students should have logged into the student secure area where there are many important resources including newsletters, resume builder, cover letter builder, practise on-line job application, career interests test etc. If students have not yet logged in, please see the Careers team for assistance.

Current Year 12 students in particular should be consulting current newsletters and open day information.

VTAC Dates

Timely course applications close	5pm, Wednesday 30 September 2015
SEAS applications close	5pm, Tuesday 6 October 2015
Scholarships applications close	5pm, Friday 16 October 2015
Change of preference closes	5pm, Friday 30 October 2015
Change of preference reopens	Monday, 23 November 2015
Release of ATARs	Monday, 14 December 2015
Change of preference closes	12pm, Monday 21 December 2015
Release of main round undergraduate offers	Monday, 18 January 2016
Release of second round undergraduate offers	Thursday, 4 February 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 our 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 (03) 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 our eligibility criteria may apply. All grants are income tested and **applications should be submitted by 29 October 2015.**

Sports Corner

Congratulations to our 2015 VUSC Track and Field Team for winning the Divisional Track and Field Championships for the second year in a row!

Our equation for success was: Effort + Commitment = Success.

Best wishes for all our student athletes who will now progress to the next level on Thursday 17th September at Aberfeldie Track and Field Centre.

Lastly, I would like to recognise our staff SHAPE Team for their support of our student athletes in helping them receive their true potential.



TERM 3					
Week	Date	Sport	Year Level	Location	Coaches
10	17 th Sep	WMR Athletics	All	Aberfeldie	RGI, SQU, DMA
TERM 4					
Week	Date	Sport	Year Level	Location	Coaches
1	9-Oct	Cricket	IB,IG, Y8	Fairburn Park	SFL, PGI, SQU
2	12-Oct	Junior Futsal	Y8 BG	Whitten Oval	RGI, TSQ
2	15-Oct	Junior Futsal	Y7 BG	Whitten Oval	RGI, TSQ
3	19-Oct	Tennis	Y7/8	Taylor's Lakes	RGI
3	20-Oct	State Track and Field	Dec-20	Lakeside Stadium	RGI, SQU
3	22-Oct	Baseball/Softball	Y7/8 Boys/Girls	Keilor Park	PGI, RHO
	OCT	Robbie Kearns	Y7/8 Boys/Girls	TBA	TAD, HPE
9	4-Dec	Lawn Bowls	Y7-9	Deer Park Bowls Club	RGI, SFL

Note: Students interested in representing the college in interschool sport competition are asked to please see your campus Sport Coordinator for more information or the Campus Coach.

AIS CAMP – DO NOT MISS THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR SCHOOL YEAR!!!!

Reminder that progressive payments need to be made to the Office for the Australian Institute of Sport Camp. If students/families are having any questions regarding the AIS camp, can you please contact your academy coach.

Note: Please also note that places to attend the camp have been limited to 20 students and staff, so as you could understand we have many students missing out on this fantastic opportunity. Therefore, to assist the college in preparing for the AIS Camp, we ask that a minimum of \$550 (or full payment) be paid to the General Office at your child's campus as soon as possible. This will help secure a spot on the camp. If you would like to organise a payment plan, please contact me on the details provided below.

Note: as bookings will be confirmed by the date provided, no refunds will be provided after this date.

Soccer

VUSC soccer development program played a friendly match against KDC last Tuesday. Our continued participation with KDC has proven to be a valuable partnership in developing student talent. Both teams came away with realistic learning experiences. Both teams played high level soccer and displayed clinical tactical objectives. It was a pleasure to watch the boys and girls from VUSC displaying such talent. Unfortunately on this occasion we didn't come away with a win but much was gained from the day.

Junior SDP Coach

Mr Squeo





We are pleased to introduce a new service for families called **Compass School Manager**. Compass will streamline communication between you and the school, and provide you with enhanced access to information about your child.

What can I use Compass for?

Compass includes many different features, including the ability to:

- Monitor your child’s attendance
- Enter approval for absences or lateness
- Update your family contact details
- View your child’s timetable and the school calendar
- Monitor your child’s homework and assessment tasks
- Book parent-teacher conferences

How do I access Compass?

Parents are able to login to Compass via the link located on the school website at www.vusc.vic.edu.au. Alternatively, families can login directly to Compass at <https://vusc.vic.idlf.com.au>. Compass can be accessed anywhere, anytime, on any device including your computer, tablet or other mobile device.

PARENT ONLY login information has been made available to families. Please contact the College if you have not received this information.

Parent Teacher Interviews

Term 3 parent teacher interviews will be held at each campus from 1pm to 7pm (with a 4.30pm – 5.30pm dinner break for staff) on Thursday, September 17.

Interviews can be booked with your child’s teachers using the Compass portal up until September 11. Login to Compass using your PARENT ONLY login details.

Welcome to the Victoria University Secondary College Portal

Compass



Use the links listed for each of your children to explore the portal. Please keep your mobile phone number and email address up to date (Tools > Update My Details). The school will use this to contact you regarding attendance, events, news and more.

My News

Student Name

- Profile (Attendance, Schedule, Reports)
- Add Parent Approval (Approved Absence/Late)
- View Academic Reports
- Book Parent Teacher Interviews

Student Photo

Book your parent teacher interviews here