

Semester 1 – Term 2, 12th April 2016

Term Two Important Dates

Junior Campus		Senior Campus	
11-15 Apr	Dental Checks	18-22 Apr	Dental Checks
18 Apr	Campus Assembly p2	18 Mar	Campus Assembly p3
22 Apr	ANZAC Commemoration	22 Apr	ANZAC Commemoration
25 Apr	ANZAC Day (no classes)	25 Apr	ANZAC Day (no classes)
26 Apr	Staff Professional Development Day (no classes)	26 Apr	Staff Professional Development Day (no classes)

Next Newsletter: 2nd May, 2016

College Principal's Report

Welcome back to Term 2. Towards the end of Term 1 we established a new partnership with Orica. Many of you will be familiar with Orica as one of its main sites is situated in Deer Park and its parent company, ICI, helped establish the suburb of Deer Park many years ago. Recently Orica donated \$5000 worth of Science equipment to the school and as we were Orica's 500th school partnership, we held a celebration at the Junior Campus Science Centre. The Chief Scientist of Australia (right) and the Lead Scientist in Victoria were both present and very much enjoyed seeing our students at work creating solar and wind power with the new equipment. Have a look at the video of the event on our website or on Youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tCFUfUEiEgs>.



On Friday 22nd April the Senior Campus will be hosting Ms Natalie Suleyman MP as the key note speaker at our ANZAC Day assembly. Year 10 students studying the ANZACs as part of their History course are organising the event, together with the SRC leaders. Every year we celebrate the ANZAC spirit so that students recognise its importance to Australia and understand the sacrifices others have made to enable our freedom. The assembly starts at 12.15pm and parents are most welcome to attend.

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Trade Training Centre Cairnlea Campus

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The Year 9 students and Mrs Pardew who are spending 6 weeks in China have been keeping in regular contact since they left. They are finding the experience most rewarding and a huge learning curve. Here is a description from them about their experiences:

VUSC: Victorian Young Leaders in China Program

Bulletin from Beijing and Shanghai

It's hard to believe our time away is already half gone! So much has happened, so many amazing experiences have unfolded since we caught our flight on the 19th March. We all miss home and friends badly but none of us want to miss out on what's happening here either. It's exciting and very tiring!

As well as gaining an understanding of the amazing differences in geography, history, politics, lifestyles and education between Australia and China, we've found that teenagers the world over seem to be able to connect and communicate, no matter what. Our 'buddies' here have been brilliant...so much help and so much fun! They're helping us to understand things and to 'soak up' the Chinese language we are learning, so we can use it confidently in the street with strangers. It's a real thrill to be understood when you make a purchase in a shop, using a whole new language!

We thought Beijing was brilliant; working hard on our Chinese classes and study sessions at the **Beijing Foreign Studies University**, while we also saw amazing sights including the Temple of Heaven, The Summer Palace, Beijing Museum, Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden Palace, the Art Precinct, of course, the amazing Great Wall and the Olympics setting with the famous 'Bird's Nest' and 'Ice-Cube'. We even travelled on the subway to go shopping, scary to think about it but it all went well. We got used to the dry warmth and hay-fever of Beijing. However, our flight to Shanghai brought some rain and refreshed us before our arrival at the **Shanghai Industry and Commerce School of Foreign Languages**.

This school is exciting with many differences from our own school. We now live in dormitories (four flights of stairs!), sharing a room that has a toilet and shower, so it's simple but comfortable. We are expected to make our beds, sweep, clear off shelves and do our hand washing regularly. Our rooms are given a score each day by a 'Dorm Co-ordinator'. We all try to get the top possible score of 9.5...and we *did, by the second day!* We have to spend from 8.00am after breakfast until 8.30pm at our classroom (up five flights of stairs!), except for a lunch and dinner break. In our evening study after dinner, we have a light supper before we finish and return to our dorms at 8.30, for lights out by 9.30pm. It's tiring and pressured, with homework from classes to complete but we can tell we are learning a lot!

Shanghai and Beijing are similar in the way we have lots of classes with some breaks for interesting outings and sights. So far, in Shanghai, we've walked the famous shopping mall of Nanjing Road in a massive, public holiday crowd and walked the landmark sky-scape of 'the Bund'. The Shanghai Museum had fascinating exhibits and we've been thrilled to be able to compare the Beijing and Shanghai acrobatics shows, both ending with a mesmerising act of eight motorbikes inside a big metal mesh ball, going round and round, without crashing! We had a great time having a go at being part of the dragon dance yesterday and we've joined in cultural dances and songs in class. We had a master of Calligraphy teach us too. It's now Friday afternoon and we have more study time after dinner before we have an early start to take off for a weekend away at the picturesque area of Hangzhou...more photos to share! At the end of next week's work, we are all excited to be going on our first 'Buddy' visit for all of Saturday. I bet it'll be fun!

Lisa Nguyen, 9A says:

"The first three weeks have been very tiring but also very exciting. Classes have been longer than back home, some were fun and very interactive using language games and some physical exercises like Tai Chi. My goal for this trip was to make many friends and so far I have achieved it! The Great Wall was very hard to climb... the steps were up to my knees...#shortgirlproblems. Probably my most favourite part in Beijing was the Summer Palace because the scenery was really pretty but the hayfever kind of spoiled it. The most difficult bit was parting with the Marcellin College and St. Joseph's boys because we got to know them so well (mind you there were only 7 girls and 30 boys!!). During the two weeks we met some really friendly volunteers, business graduates who do extra work to help their English speaking skills to help them get future jobs. They were great fun. At the current moment I've found this first week of high school in Shanghai more challenging than the university classes I took in Beijing.

We've been climbing up so many stairs. There are no elevators to our class so we have to climb up 5 flights of stairs and 4 flights of stairs to our dorms. I'll be fitter and stronger when I get home!

Lisa Buahn 9E, says:

"This experience so far has been the best thing that has happened to me. The first two weeks in Beijing and the first week in Shanghai has been amazing; new friends, more confidence and an experience that money can't buy. It's my once in a lifetime opportunity.

Although there were highs and lows the highs were better than the lows because there were people always there for you. I can't wait to see what comes next!"



Lisa Nguyen at the Great Wall



(From left to right) Volunteers: Luna, Carrie and Echo

Sisi Ti Shi Says:

My three weeks in China, in Beijing and Shanghai have been amazing and incredible, thanks to the teachers and volunteers here, (and our school for letting me come.) The food, locals, events, culture, people and the historical buildings have blown my mind. It's such a great honour and pleasure to be part of this experience. I couldn't ask for more. We've gone through ups and downs in the past weeks but we've really grown and that's what's special about this experience. Right now, we're working through our films and projects with our buddies and I'm enjoying every single bit of it. P.S. I've learned so much already.



Lisa Nguyen, Lisa Buhan, Sisi Ti Shi and Maryann Toeke, ready for the farewell to Beijing ceremony at the Confucius Centre.



Our arrival in Shanghai, on the 'Bund' with new buddies and students from Doncaster and Box Hill Secondary Colleges.

Maryann Toeke 9B says:

These last few weeks in Beijing and Shanghai have been a big change for me and everyone else. I've made so many friends and met a lot of people. There's a lot to experience in China, beautiful things everywhere, like gardens, buildings, shops and more. The school is really different from ours in Australia. I've learnt so much Chinese and I'm really proud to be here. When we were in Beijing we had a bigger group of mostly boys and we all got along so well but they've now gone to Nanjing and we have our own smaller group who we're now getting to know. I think I'm now going really well, the first two weeks were really hard. I love it in Shanghai, I just wish I didn't have to be away from my friends. At first some of the food was really hard for me but now I love the food and I've never eaten so much. As well, I like the way the school has clubs that we can join so I'm joining the singing and music or dancing club. I liked it too when we had singing and dancing in class for Culture studies and I like that we stay in our one room. I'm liking having some of their culture in me. It makes me feel stronger and it's interesting. Xie xie. (Thankyou).



VUSC News

WESTERN CHANCES SCHOLARSHIPS

Western Chances is an organisation that has provided scholarships to students in Melbourne's west for several years. The scholarships support talented and motivated students who may not otherwise have an opportunity to pursue their education and dreams. Western Chances have supported many VUSC students over the years. Recently a ceremony was held to congratulate students who received scholarships last year.



A former VUSC student, Tom Bogusiak, was a recipient of a Western Chances scholarship for many years and last year completed his Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical and Electronic) with Honours at RMIT. Tom is featured on the Western Chances website at www.westernchances.org.au and recently presented their Program Manager, Anne Connors with a stainless steel miniature of his robotic hand invention which he organised to be 3D printed by a company in New York. We congratulate Tom on his achievements and hard work!



MATHSONLINE SUBSCRIPTION

A letter was sent to parents recently to inform you of an offer from Mathsonline which is a company that produces pre-recorded online Mathematics video lessons based on the Australian Curriculum from early Primary School through to Year 12. This is a form of additional support outside of the classroom for students to access.

A subscription to this site normally costs \$197 per year. However, the College has been able to negotiate a special arrangement where students can have access to the video lessons until 28/2/17 for only \$15. Under this offer, it is the video lessons only that the students have access to.

IMPORTANT – please note - This offer is dependent upon a minimum of 50 students registering.

Please complete the form at the bottom of the letter and return it to the front office by Friday 22nd April if you would like your child to be registered for this offer. Further log in and payment details will be provided on our confirmed acceptance into this program.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES

Homework Club is offered in the Resource Centre at the Junior Campus from 3.03pm until 3.45pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. This is an excellent opportunity for students to revise their work for the day. AVID research shows that if students do not continually revise they lose most of the learnt material within a few weeks.

The Homework Club can be a valuable vehicle to improve reading ability. Library staff will help students find a suitable book and then individually conference with them to improve fluency, comprehension and inferencing skills. Staff will also model the “read aloud strategy” to demonstrate what good readers do.

Additionally the library will be open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 8.30am.

PICK UP AND DROP OFF

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

FREE STATIONERY OFFER

We only have limited stock left of the FREE Stationery packs. When you pay Essential / Optional and Electives in full, you will receive the pack for FREE. The Pack is valued at \$45 and includes all items listed under Stationery on the 2016 booklists.

SCHOOL BUSES

Parents and students are advised that all VUSC school buses are now fitted with Closed Circuit Television Systems (CCTV). The cameras will monitor outside the front of the bus as well as inside the bus.

CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUNDING

All students who are listed on a family Health Care card, have their own Health Care card or are living out of home qualify for this funding. Applications forms are available at the General Offices and on our website. Funds are held at the college for your child's use and may be used for sporting activities, camps, excursions or sports uniform.

Teen Time

By Michael Grose, Parentingideas Club

'The younger the child, the more they need their parents' has been traditional wisdom for some time. Many parents respond to this mantra by spending as much time as they can with babies and toddlers, then ramping up their careers as their kids move into school age. The older the children, the less time is put aside for them appears be the current practice.

A child's development is full of twists, turns and reversals so that a 10-year-old who is beginning to experience the confusion that can come with early adolescence has a far greater need of her parents than she did at eight.

The age between 10 and 14 is a particularly needy time. Friendships become complex and the challenges of school can overwhelm children at this stage. They benefit a lot from late afternoon and evening chats with a parent. Mornings are too rushed for the types of conversations they need.

While parenting toddlers can be physically tiring, responding to the mental and emotional demands of teenage children is equally if not more exhausting. If you come home totally fried by the demands of work, the last thing you want to engage in is mind games with a tricky but needy teenager. You've got to be fit and focused (on them) to parent teens well!

Minimise Being Home Alone

Late afternoon is a recognised danger zone for adolescence. Toddlers stay in long daycare and primary-aged kids use after-school care or are happy to be picked up by others. However, for teenagers who are testing their independence this is a tricky time.

Teens who are left to their own devices are more prone to engage in risk-taking behaviours, lose themselves online or in some cases become addicted to computer games. The world is trickier than when we grew up. Cyber-bullying, self-harm and depression are now part of the adolescent landscape.

Teenagers still need supervision, whether it's through structured activities such as sports training or after-school or holiday programs. They also need parents who check up on them, make sure homework is completed and ensure that they have fulfilled their family obligations including completing their chore list.

Join the West Melbourne Schools Orchestra

This new ensemble aims to provide young musicians in West Melbourne a place to play good music and socialise with other like-minded students outside of the school environment. We will be having an open rehearsal for new players on April 18th. Students are encouraged to come along and see if this ensemble is something they would enjoy. Rehearsals will be every Monday night from 7 – 9 at Footscray City College. The Musical Director for this ensemble is Jenny Going. New players should fill in an application form on our website at: www.wmsorchestra.com or email our manager Ashleigh at: joinus@wmsorchestra.com

Victoria University Secondary College has a new WEBSITE!

Log on to www.vusc.vic.edu.au to visit our new website and read about the latest news, college events, curriculum programs and extra-curricular activities, and much more!

There is also a quick link to Compass to easily access the Parent Portal.



Sports Corner

VUSC Dominate Divisional Volleyball Championships

Congratulations to all students and staff involved in the Keilor Divisional Senior and Intermediate Volleyball Championship. We had six teams compete and four of them made the divisional final game.

Results:

Intermediate Boys - Runners up

Intermediate Girls - Runners up

Senior Boys - Runners up

Senior Girls - Divisional Champions

Our Senior Girls will go onto represent our College at the Regional Championships in Geelong next term on Monday 2nd May. Well done to all of our students for Aspiring to Achieve, Strengthening our Community and Respecting Ourselves and Others!



Inter-School Sport Timetable

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.

Term 2, 2016

Week	Date	Sport	Year Level	Location	Coach
2	Mon 18th April	Soccer	SB	Keilor Park / Green Gully	RGI
2	Fri 22nd April	Soccer	SG	Keilor Park / Green Gully	RGI
3	Tue 26th April	Soccer	IB	Keilor Park / Green Gully	TSQ, RGI

4	Wed 4th May	Netball	SBG IBG	Altona	
		Badminton	SBG IBG	Altona	
4	Fri 6th May	Netball	7BG 8BG	Altona	
		Badminton	7BG 8BG	Altona	
5	Mon 9th May	Golf	8BG 7BG	Sunshine Golf Course	RGI
6	Thur 19th May	Soccer	IG	Keilor Park / Green Gully	TSQ, RGI
6	Mon 23rd May	AFL	SB/IB	Keilor / Marbi	
7	Thur 26th May	AFL	7B 8B	Keilor Park	
7	Fri 27th May	Cross Country	All	VUSC	DMA, RGI, SQU
8	Tue 31st May	Soccer	8G	Keilor Park	TSQ
8	Thur 2nd June	Soccer	8B	Keilor Park	TSQ
9	Tue 7th June	Soccer	7G	Keilor Park	TSQ
9	Fri 10th June	Soccer	7B	Keilor Park	TSQ

Training:

Our Sports Academy programs have been busy preparing our students athletes physically and mentally for their sports. Our compulsory training sessions have been buzzing with excitement!!! We thank our student athletes who continue to commit to their personal gains and the program.

NOTE: Training is COMPULSORY for all student athletes (please let your coach know if you cannot make training).

Students MUST have the following items with them to participate in training sessions:

- Fitness Centre (FC) Waiver Form completed and handed into the Strength and Conditioning Coach,
- A towel,
- A water bottle,
- A change of clothes, and
- Runners (Football boots for outdoor sessions).

Sport-Coordination and Sports Academy Staff

If students and parent would like further information about the College Inter-School Sport Program, please contact the below staff members:

VUSC Senior Campus Sport Coordinator – Mr. Steven Quinn

VUSC Junior Campus Sport Coordinator – Mr. Rocco Giovanniello

VUSC Rugby Coordinator – Mr. Tony Adam

VUSC Rugby Union Females Coach – Ms Casey Nicholls

VUSC Soccer Coordinator – Mr. Rocco Giovanniello and Mr. Tony Squeo

VUSC Athlete Development Program – Mr. Marshall and Ms. Hogarth

Sports Academy Strength and Conditioning Coach – Mr. Matt Mallach

JOIN A SPORTING CLUB!!!

Any Student interested in joining a sporting team outside of school, please see Mr. Marshall or your HPE Teacher for further information. Lastly, we look forward to the continued support and dedication of our student coaches and helpers. Students, who are interested in coaching a College sporting team, need to see Mr. Marshall for further information or your campus sport coordinator.

Sporting quote of the Month: “Never say never because limits, like fears, are often just an illusion.” (Michael Jordan).

Mr Dale Marshall

Sport, Health and PE Leader
