

Semester 1 – Term 2, 15th June 2016

Term Two Important Dates

| Junior Campus | | Senior Campus | |
|---------------|---|---------------|--|
| 22 June | Semester 1 Reports available on Compass | 17 June | Year 10 Beacon Polish Day – Parliament House |
| 23 June | Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences | 22 June | Semester 1 Reports available on Compass |
| 24 June | Last Day Term 2 | 23 June | Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences |
| 11 July | First Day Term 3 | 24 June | Last Day Term 2 |
| | | 11 July | First Day Term 3 |

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College Principal's Report

The last few weeks have been very hectic for students and teachers alike with students studying and sitting exams and teachers marking exams and writing reports. I was pleased to see students taking their exams very seriously and doing their best to achieve highly. I'm looking forward to seeing as many parents as possible at Parent / Student / Teacher Interviews on Thursday 23rd June between 1pm - 7pm.

Congratulations to Tiui Misi and Uala Salia (right) on being selected to join the Victorian Schoolboys Rugby side. Their performance at the Combined Affiliated States Carnival (VIC, SA, WA, NT) in South Australia last weekend ensured them the place in the CAS team, which will compete in the Australia Schoolboys Championships in July. Well done boys and well done to Mr Tony Adam for coaching and supporting the boys.



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Sport is featuring highly for students at the moment with the Soccer Academy organising for instructors from one of England's biggest clubs to come to the school and coach students. Two instructors from Arsenal Soccer Schools visited the school last week to give instruction to students in years 7, 8 and 9 who are in the Soccer Development Program. Students found this very engaging and worthwhile. Thanks to Mr Rocco Giovanelli for organising the event.

The senior choir will perform to members of Brimbank Rotary in The Atrium at the Taylors Lakes Hotel on Wednesday June 15. They have been invited to join members for dinner along with their Music teachers and Campus Principal. Rotary has set up a scholarship which will support the choir and created a partnership with ARCARE in Sydenham as their community scholarship. Students in the choir recently performed at the Aged Care Facility in Sydenham which was very well received by the residents. It's great to see students contributing to the community in this way. Thanks to Mr Vikas and Ms Orford for taking and training the students and thanks very much to Athena Vass and the Brimbank Rotary Club for supporting our students so well.

On July 25th 12 students and 2 teachers from our Chinese sister school will be visiting us for the week. Last year their visit was a great success, with students very much enjoying mixing with their Chinese counterparts in classes and in the yard. Thank you to all the families who have offered to house them during their stay. I know it will be great fun and a real learning experience for all involved.

Course Counselling for 2017 for all Year 9 and 10 students will begin on Wednesday 20th July with the Later Years Expo and Student Showcase. The evening starts at 6.00pm in the Drama room at the Senior Campus. The Expo is an essential opportunity for students to explore subjects they may like to undertake in 2017, speak to teachers about what they involve and possible career pathways they may lead to. Please ensure you put this date in your diaries as it is essential that all students and their families attend.

We have recently developed a partnership with Orica who supplied our Science department with equipment for students to learn about solar and wind power. As an extension of this partnership, 20 Orica volunteers came to the school to help out with repairs, maintenance and gardening, as well as meeting with senior students at each campus and speaking to them about careers in Engineering. We very much appreciate this assistance and want to thank Orica for their continuing support.

Edrolo is a new computer program the college has recently purchased to assist Year 11 and 12 VCE students with their studies. It allows students to gain extra information about their subjects, provides them with practice exam questions and many videos explaining the concepts and ideas discussed in classes. Edrolo has been most successful with students who say it is very valuable in helping to deepen their understanding of their subjects. This year we are trialling Edrolo to gauge its usefulness to students, so we'd welcome your feedback. Please tell your student's teachers when you see them at Parent / Teacher interviews whether you think it has been useful for your child.



Photos above: Orica volunteers working hard

At the start of Term 3 I will be taking three weeks' long service leave. Ms Elaine Hazim will be Acting College Principal in my absence. I am most grateful to parents and community members for the consistent support you show to me personally and to the school. Please extend the same support to Ms Hazim. Semester 2 classes begin on Tuesday 14th June and Term 2 ends on June 24th. Enjoy the holiday break.

Cheers,

Genevieve Simson

eBooks

The College is currently subscribing to Wheelers Books **ePlatformOne** which gives us access to 1200 eBooks online. **ePlatformOne** enables students to borrow at any time using computers, tablets and/or mobile phones with the downloadable app. It is possible to customise the eBook display e.g. change font size; adjust contrast, letter spacing, line spacing and colour and can assist specific visual challenges like dyslexia. There are also highlighting and add notes features to further assist the reader.

The 1200 selected eBooks are available to students and staff members by logging on using their Student/Staff ID (e.g. JEF1010) and Password: VUSC1234.

Each online loan is for 1 week and 6 days and can be monitored by the Library staff as per BiblioTech, our Library Management System (LMS). The only difference is that there won't be any overdue books as each loan is automatically returned after the loan time. If students or staff are unable to finish the book in the timeframe, the usual reloan or reservation can be done.

Year 10 Scholarships – Available Now

The College is pleased to offer Year 10 Scholarships to Year 9 students and families for entry in 2017. Scholarships are available in Academic Excellence and Music Excellence for students who display outstanding work ethic and achievement in their studies and/or instrumental music. Scholarships are valued at \$450 per year and may be extended for a second year for students who uphold the College's vision and values. Funds are redeemable against essential items, books and elective costs. Application forms are now available at each campus office or on the website and close **Friday 5th August 2016**.

Young Leaders Program at Trinity College, University of Melbourne

Congratulations to Cheylee Fiddler Y10, Jenny Nguyen Y11 and Jennifer Nguyen Y11 who were nominated for and successful in gaining a scholarship to this one-week residential program during the school holidays in July of this year.

This program offers students aged between 14 and 17 the opportunity to broaden their outlook on learning and study, practice leadership skills and consider their future directions. Each year more than 300 students from all around the world participate in these fun and life-changing residential programs, designed to inspire, increase confidence and guide students on a pathway to tertiary education.

Jennifer and Jenny will participate in the Arts major stream of the program and Cheylee is going to participate in the Social Justice stream. Well done girls!!

Congratulations again to the students and thanks to the staff at the college who supported them in the application process, in particular the teachers who provided supporting statements for their scholarship applications: Mr Bertagnolio, Ms Bonanno and Ms Yaremko.

The girls are looking forward to socialising with the international students during the program and believe that the program will enhance their leadership skills and support them in their ongoing studies and employment opportunities. Their advice to other students is to get involved in community activities and events and explore the opportunities and the connections that the school has.

Ms Gail Inniss
Student Wellbeing Manager

DID YOU KNOW.....

Early musical training has a lasting, positive effect

Older adults who took music lessons as children but haven't actively played an instrument in decades have a faster brain response to a speech sound than individuals who never played an instrument, according to a study appearing in *The Journal of Neuroscience*. The finding suggests early musical training has a lasting, positive effect on how the brain processes sound.

As people grow older, they often experience changes in the brain that compromise hearing. For instance, the brains of older adults show a slower response to fast-changing sounds, which is important for interpreting speech. However, previous studies show such age-related declines are not inevitable: recent studies of musicians suggest lifelong musical training may offset these and other cognitive declines.

HOMEWORK CLUB

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.

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 Compass. Funds are held at the college for your child's use and may be used for sporting activities, camps, excursions or sports uniform.

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

Inter-School Sport Timetable

| Term 2, 2016 | | | | | |
|--------------|---------------------------|--------------------|------------|----------|-------|
| Week | Date | Sport | Year Level | Location | Coach |
| 11 | Tue 21 st June | WMR Netball Champs | 7G 8G | TBC | AWH |

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.

Rugby League - June Report

VRL U/18 Presentation Dinner

Congratulations to Tiui Misi for winning the best forward category at the recently held VRL U/18 team Junior Reps Presentation Dinner at AAMI Park. Tiui was acknowledged and rewarded for his outstanding contribution to the team, in both attack and defence, and for his leadership qualities as captain of the team. Well done Tiui!!

CAS Selection - Tiui Misi & Uala Salia

Congratulations to both boys for their selection in the Combined Affiliated State team to play in the Australian Schoolboy championship in Brisbane in early July. Playing for Victoria U/18 team, Tiui and Uala were able to demonstrate their vast array of skills and contribute strongly to the overall team performance. Victoria won the competition by winning all 3 games. Richard Sisifa also played at the carnival and was very unlucky to miss selection in the CAS team. The boys have openly acknowledged the support and assistance they have received from their teachers and as members of the VUSC Sports Academy.



L-R: Tiui Misi, Uala Salia and Richard Sisifa



GIO Trophy - Victorian Final

On Wednesday 15th June our Senior Boys Rugby League Team participated in the GIO Trophy state final against Hallam Secondary College at Wolves AJ Davis reserve. In a thrilling game that flowed from end to end and had multiple lead changes, unfortunately VUSC were unable to sustain a late charge and were beaten on the bell by a late Hallam try. Despite the disappointment of the loss, the team is determined to learn from the game to ensure they are at their peak for the important trip to Cootamundra in July where they will be the Victorian representative in the Country Cup. Well done boys!

Final Score: Hallam 34 v VUSC 28

Rugby League Academy Information Evening

We welcome and invite any interested families and students to attend our Rugby League Academy Information night on Wednesday 17th August commencing at 6.15pm and finishing at 8pm. This night will enable you and your son to gain an understanding of the program structure, expectations and fees that are applicable. If you are interested in attending the information night please contact the Senior Campus to register your interest on 8312 0200.

Sports Academy Update

Our Sports Academy programs have been busy preparing our students athletes physically and mentally for their sports. Our compulsory early morning training sessions on Tuesday and Thursday at our Junior Campus have been buzzing with excitement, some mornings have been cold due to a 7:15am start, but that hasn't broken our student athletes' spirits. We thank our student athletes who continue to commit to their personal gains and the program.

As our Sports Academy program grows and student demand and interest increases, we have now been able to gather further support from our community partners by welcoming our sport technical support staff to the academy team/programs.

Training

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, water bottle, change of clothes, and runners (Football boots for outdoor sessions).



LATER YEARS EXPO & STUDENT SHOWCASE



Location: VUSC Senior Campus
GYM/DRAMA ROOM

Wednesday 20TH July 2016

PROGRAM

Later Years Expo

6pm-7:30pm

**Information session for year 10 parents and
students 6:00-6:15pm**

**Information session for year 9 parents and
students 6:15-6:30pm**

★ LIGHT REFRESHMENTS ★

Student Showcase

7:30pm-9:00pm