

Semester 2 – Term 3, 10th August 2016

Term Three Important Dates

Junior Campus		Senior Campus	
29 Aug	Y7 RUOK Sessions	17 Aug	Rugby Academy Information Evening at 6.15pm
5 Sept	Y7 RUOK Sessions	26 Aug	Y11 Aspirations Workshop
6 Sept	Year 7 2017 Parent Information Evening	30 Aug	VCE Music Performance Evening, Drama Centre
9 Sept	RUOK Day activities	2 Sept	Multicultural Day activities

Next Newsletter: 31st August, 2016

College Principal's Report

Thank you to Ms Hazim for deputising for me while I was on long service leave recently. She did an excellent job during a very busy time and she managed the school with her usual efficiency and competence.

This year we are writing a new strategic plan to outline our goals and targets for the next four years. Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths will be a key focus for us in the new Strategic Plan. Maths has been a focus over the last four years and will continue to be. Science, Technology and Engineering will be a new focus for us. We have been working this year with Orica and the Science and Technology Education Leveraging Relevance (STELR) body to implement more engaging Science and Engineering teaching. We expect to further expand this in the years to come.

We have had a number of student successes in sport recently. Congratulations to Trevor Ssemakula in Year 12 for being selected to represent Victoria in the SSV Soccer championships in Perth. Congratulations also to the Senior Boys Rugby team who progressed to the GIO Schoolboys Cup semi-final in Dubbo on Wednesday 10th August. This is a national rugby league competition and our team are ranked 4th in this age group in Australia, out of 186 teams! Unfortunately the boys were narrowly defeated in the final minute after leading for the entire game, but they are to be commended for our highest ever achievement in rugby and for making us proud with their extraordinary efforts.

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Well done to the students and staff for such an outstanding achievement. The game will be televised on Foxtel Sports 1 later this month.

Genevieve Simson
College Principal



VUSC News

Chinese Sister School Visit 25th – 30th July

This year's Chinese Sister School visit to VUSC was extremely successful with the Chinese students and teachers commenting how much they enjoyed visiting our school and staying with our host families. 12 students and 2 teachers from the High School Attached to Yangzhou University, in the Jiangsu Province of China spent a week at VUSC to learn about our education.

Our sister school relationship is a fundamental part of the College's teaching and learning strategy for internationalising education, and we have continued to strengthen this relationship so that students are provided with the knowledge, skills and attributes required for a globalised world.

At the welcoming assembly at the Junior Campus, our students introduced the visitors and welcomed them to the College by performing a Chinese dance. At lunchtime our students sang to our visiting students and in return the Chinese students got up and did some impromptu Chinese karaoke!

The visiting students were in Year 10, 11 and 12 classes and took part in our learning program. The teachers visited classrooms to observe lessons and learn about education in Australia, but specifically at VUSC. They loved the staff vs students volleyball game that took place at lunchtime on Thursday.

Students were hosted by VUSC families and staff for 5 nights. The visiting teachers believed the home-stay experience was challenging yet valuable for their Jiangsu students. It provided their students with independence and the ability to communicate in English without any help.

Host families were active throughout the week taking our visiting students to a variety of activities around Melbourne to places such as Eureka Skydeck, go-karting, cinema, DFO, and one of our teachers, Andrew Cordell, took the two Chinese teachers to China Town to experience Chinese food in Australia.

It has been such a rewarding experience for both the students and the host families, and, the college is very grateful for the time and effort families dedicated to our visiting students. The students were coming to school happy and excited to share their experiences every morning.



At the farewell assembly at the Senior Campus the students and teachers were presented with gifts and certificates, as well as a commemoration plaque to take back to their school in China. Mr Zhao, the Chinese leader did a thank you speech, and commented on how friendly and well-mannered our students were and how much they enjoyed their stay with us. During the assembly, all the Chinese students got up and did some amazing performances – Tai Chi and a traditional Chinese dance, to the claps and cheers of the senior students, host families and teachers.

Saturday was a very sad day for our Chinese Sister School students and their host families when they said their goodbyes, and many tears were shed.

Thank you to everyone who assisted in making this year's Sister School visit such a memorable week!

Ms Hazim



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 reload or reservation can be done.

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.

National Asthma Week 1-7 September:

The theme for National Asthma Week 2016 is Become a Better Breather. National Asthma Week coincides with the beginning of spring and as pollens are a known trigger for asthma, this is an excellent time to ensure your child's asthma is well controlled. Sections of the Asthma Australia website that can help with asthma management include:



- Take the Asthma Control Test to see if you could make improvements to help your child become a better breather.
- Manage allergies often linked with asthma, including allergic rhinitis (hayfever).
- Did you know? 90% of people with asthma use their medications incorrectly.
- Check your child's technique to see if they are getting full benefit from their medication.

Regular review of your child's asthma with your GP and pharmacist will help them to become a better breather.

Need help with your child's asthma? Contact our Asthma Assist line on 1800 ASTHMA (1800 278 462) and talk to one of our friendly Asthma Health Professionals.



Sports Corner

Congratulations to our Senior Girls Basketball Team

Well done to our students who finished equal third overall recently at the WMR Senior Girls Basketball finals.

Game 1: 25-15 win vs Braybrook

Game 2: 15-35 loss vs Williamstown High

A great effort considering many other schools have basketball programs at their school. A big thanks to Mr Marshall for coaching the students.



RUGBY ACADEMY INFORMATION EVENING

SENIOR CAMPUS

WEDNESDAY 17TH AUGUST - 6.15PM

Has your child gone Pokemon Wild?

By Michael Grose, Parentingideas Club

While Pokemon Go is geared toward adults and teenagers it's taken off among primary aged children –even some pre school kids – as well. Both genders are playing the game, but a rough count among colleagues and friends indicates that it's boys more than girls that are hooked on the game.

Pokemon Go has plenty of psychological hooks to make boys love it. The roam and search nature of the game appeals to the hunter-gatherer that exists in most boys. There are plenty of things to collect which appeals to a boy's fundamental need to put order and control in his world. And the competitive element embedded in the game makes it almost irresistible to many boys who love nothing better than to better someone else.



How can we approach this craze?

Many parents have asked me how they should approach the Pokemon Go craze, particularly when their children are besotted by it. Start by accepting that Pokemon Go, like all fads, has captured your child's interest. It's hard to fight against or even stop your child from being involved in games that 'everyone is playing'.

That leads to two parenting requirements. First, find out all you can about the game so you know what you are up against. Ask your child to explain what it's all about. Figure out which parts of the game are age-appropriate and which parts are going to present you with headaches. Once kids are old enough to have their own phones and transportation, they're certainly old enough to play the game without help. Pokémon Go gives users plenty of chances to spend real money, so you probably will want to limit in-game purchases.

Lures, an aspect of the game, can present tricky situations for parents. A player can set out a lure to attract pokémon, but because these lures can be seen by any nearby player, you're not sure who they are attracting. Revisit those Stranger Danger lessons with your kids.

Second, you need to meld your existing family technology rules with the expectations and opportunities that Pokemon Go presents. These include, how much time children are allowed to spend on technology; consider what activities Pokemon Go takes kids away from (including homework); and be aware that's is not healthy for your child to be hooked on one activity at the expense of everything else.

Keep your Pokemon Go player safe

Pokemon Go gets kids outside roaming and exploring their neighbourhoods, which on the surface, is a good thing. However as one mum told me her son's Pokemon Go experience was leading them to a local quarry, which had some obvious risks attached. So if your kids are old enough to wander unsupervised some quick reminders of safety rules maybe in order, such as crossing a street with a phone in their pocket and only playing the game with kids their own age.

If you join in the craze then be prepared to drive your players around as many Pokemon stops are in interesting places such as parks, historical markers and other gathering spots. Different places have different Pokemon things to collect.....yes, it can get complicated, which is the intrinsic value of the craze.

So my advice for parents is to approach Pokemon Go positively and intelligently. Discover about it as much as your time, your current circumstances and your kids will allow. Join them if possible. Remember, it's a lot of fun; it does get kids exercising more than their thumbs and there are some great learnings (maths, nature and even history) built in to the game. On the other hand, ensure that kids keep a balance in their activities so that a fun craze doesn't become an absolute, all or nothing obsession-which can so easily happen with boys.