

Semester 2 – Term 4, 1st December 2016

Important Dates

Junior Campus		Senior Campus	
30 Nov–1 Dec	Year 7-9 Exams	5–9 Dec	Year 8 2017 Step Up Program
6 Dec	Year 7 2017 Orientation Day	5–9 Dec	Year 9 2017 Step Up Program
12–13 Dec	Year 7-9 Exam Feedback	5–9 Dec	Year 10 2017 Step Up Program
14-16 Dec	Year 7-9 Summer Activities	12 Dec	VCE/VCAL Results Available
19 Dec	Report Collection Day	19 Dec	Report Collection Day
31 Jan 2017	Year 7 Students start	31 Jan 2017	Year 12 VCE & VCAL Students start
1 Feb 2017	Year 8 & 9 Students start	1 Feb 2017	Year 10 & 11 Students start

Next Newsletter: Term 1, 2017

College Principal's Report

Our school review is now complete and we will receive the reviewer's report before the end of term. Both the reviewer and the Senior Education Improvement Leader from DE&T were very complimentary and impressed with our students, our programs and our successes over the last four years. Early next year I will share the contents of her report with our school community and outline our goals for the next four years.

Our students have been very busy with exams and Step Up programs which will give them a head start for next year. On Tuesday 6th December we will welcome over 170 Grade 6 students for their Year 7 Orientation Day during the day and in the evening we look forward to celebrating the achievements of our sports and rugby students at the Sports Academy Dinner.

Presentation Night is coming up on Wednesday 14th December at the brand new Australian Events Centre at Essendon Fields. On this night our Year 12 students will graduate and students from both the Junior and Senior Campuses will receive awards and scholarships for outstanding efforts and achievements throughout the year. We looking forward to seeing you there. I congratulate all the students on their fantastic efforts this year and wish our Year 12 students every success in their future endeavours. More details of the event will be provided to families next week.



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Senior Campus

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Trade Training Centre Cairnlea Campus

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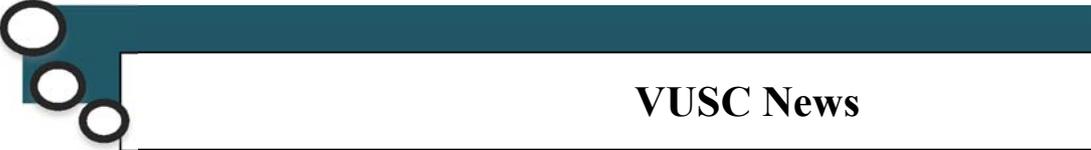
Reports will be available for parents to download on Compass on Monday 19th December. If parents require assistance to download reports, the Junior and Senior Campuses will be open and teachers will be available to assist.

Following the departure of Amanda Mullins we advertised for an Assistant Principal to join our team. I am pleased to announce that Brooke Greig was appointed to the position amid a very strong field of candidates. I congratulate Brooke and wish her all the best for her new role at the College.

On behalf of the College Board I'd like to thank all of our parents and carers for their support and commitment this year. I'd like to wish all families a Happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year. School resumes on Tuesday 31st January for Year 7 and 12 students and Wednesday 1st February for all other students. Enjoy the holidays.

Cheers,

Genevieve Simson
College Principal



VUSC News

ESSENTIAL / OPTIONAL ITEMS

The 2017 Essential / Optional items lists are now available from the General Office at both campuses. On receipt of deposit (or payment in full) students will receive their College Diary.

All students have received a copy of the College Essential / Optional items list. Spare copies are available at the office.

FREE STATIONERY

All students paying Essential / Optional items and Electives in full by the due date (see Essential / Optional items lists for due dates) will receive the FREE stationery pack to the value of \$41.50. All stationery listed on the 2017 booklist under the heading STATIONERY is included in the FREE pack.

VTAC DATES

Just a reminder for Year 12 students:

VCE results and ATAR	12 December (7am)
Round 1 offers	18 January 2017
Round 2 offers	7 February 2017

The Careers team will be available from 12-15 December to assist with Change of Preference procedures. Tertiary institutions also offer advice during this period. The advice from VTAC is to always accept a first round offer. Accepting a first round offer does NOT stop you from getting additional offers higher up on your preference list. It should be noted that the vast majority of offers occur in round one.

DET Student Scholarships 2017

Students in Years 4 – 12 are invited to apply for student scholarships administered by the Department of Education and Training. The scholarships are now open and range in value from \$300 to \$2580. Applicants will be required to submit their 2016 end-of-year results, which must be verified by their Principal.

Many of the scholarships identify financial need as an eligibility criterion. Students on Youth Allowance, or whose parents/guardians hold a Health Care Card, a Low Income Health Care Card or a Pensioner Concession Card, meet this criterion.

Students must lodge their application online by **1st February 2017**. To apply or obtain more information, please visit <https://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/scholarships/default.aspx>.

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eSmart – a community of schools committed to teaching the smart, safe and responsible use of online technology

Since we received our eSmart status last term, our school's commitment to being an eSmart School continues and we would like to share

information with you about a new online resource for parents recently launched by The Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner. This resource provides guidance and strategies to inform you in how to keep your children safe online.

A link to the resource can be found here: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/education-resources/iparent>



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.

Sports Corner

Robbie Kearns Shield Winners

On Tuesday 15 November, VUSC U/14 team participated in the Robbie Kearns Shield 9 a side VIC finals day at Elwood.

Finishing top of Pool A at the completion of the round robin phase of the competition, VUSC played off against Hume Central in the semi-final. After a tense 20-20 half time score line, our boys managed some strong defence for the final two minutes of the game to hold the Hume at bay. The result was a four point (one try) victory.

The state final was a local Western Derby against Braybrook. After a tense semi-final, the boys from VUSC weren't leaving this one to chance. On the back of some inspirational leadership from captain, Compton Fuatimau, the game was put to rest early in the first half through great ball control and greater application of intensity and attitude. The result played out a 32-16 win for VUSC with the second half being enjoyed and celebrated as all state titles should. Compton Fuatimau was named Most Valuable Player for the day. Well done boys!!

Matthew Mallach



VUSC Presents the Sports Academy Celebration Dinner

When: Tuesday 6th December, 2016

Time: 6:30pm – 10:00pm

Location: Deer Park Club, 780 Ballarat Rd, Deer Park

Earning the right

By Michael Grose, Parentingideas Club

Earning the right and not assuming a sense of entitlement is a life lesson parents, teachers and coaches must instil in children.

On talk-back radio recently I heard a caller tell a timely story about how as a child she was lucky enough to receive riding lessons from a renowned horse expert.

He had one condition. She had to earn the right to be taught to ride a horse. That meant she had to muck out the stables; brush and feed the horse; look after the gear and do everything else required to look after a horse. Only when she'd proved herself could she earn the right to ride a horse under his tutelage.



This caller said this powerful lesson shaped her entire life. It taught that there were no entitlements in life; to work hard and value her achievements. She never took anything for granted.

Contrast this with the extraordinary sense of entitlement of Australian tennis players Nick Kyrgios and Bernard Tomic who routinely treat the public, players and the game that serves them well, with utter disdain. Their attitude of entitlement is mind-boggling, not to say embarrassing to reasonable-minded, hard-working people.

Our kids should earn the right

The talk-back caller's earning the right story is a fabulous lesson for all parents and teachers. If we want to raise a generation to appreciate what they have, then we shouldn't give children or young people everything on a platter. In an era of small families, child pester power and relative affluence it's tempting to simply give kids what they want.

"Dad, can I have a...?"

"Sure!"

The Rolling Stones were right four decades ago when they sang, "You can't always get what you want!" Those words form a great child-rearing lesson. That is, just because you can provide something for your kids, doesn't mean that you do.

They need to earn the right to have something by saving, working for or simply waiting until they are old enough to appreciate it.

Similarly, kids don't automatically have a right to greater freedoms such as going out at night; those rights need to be earned by proving they are trustworthy.

Also, kids who think they are entitled to use a part of the house such as a living room without cleaning up mess are acting with a false sense of entitlement.

In fact, there are no entitlements, only rights. And rights are earned by being responsible.

A child has a right to use the living room but they also have a responsibility to clean up a rather than leave it a pigsty. A night banished to their room is a reminder that spending time in the living room is not an entitlement. It's a right that comes with conditions.

Earning the right! A simple phrase with so much complexity.

I suspect it's a phrase that neither Nick Kyrgios or Bernard Tomic heard much when they were growing up. Maybe their parents thought their prodigious talents excused them from having conditions placed upon them. If so, they did them no favours as good manners, gratitude and graciousness appear to be lacking in their social repertoires.

It usually takes a parent, teacher or coach to remind kids that they have to earn the right to have things, to do things and ultimately to be respected. That's a lesson that stays for life.

Digital social skills

By Catherine Gerhardt (for Parentingideas Club)

Just as we teach children social skills for real life, there are important social skills for the digital world. As they travel through new social situations, including online, it is imperative that parents teach children to follow a few basic rules.

The internet is a portal into some of the most amazing places, and just like any new place we visit, we are likely to make a few social stumbles.

If travelling the world, every culture you visit would have its own social nuances that you are likely to have to work your way around. It would be easy to misunderstand what others say or take offence to something that was not intended.

Young people, at the best of times, are still learning social rules and developing their critical thinking skills around collective interactions. Well-meaning personalities can make all kinds of mistakes when they enter this new online culture.

As parents we want to do whatever it takes to minimise the mistakes our children make online. **Netiquette** is a set of general guidelines for cyberspace behaviour. Here are some basic principles parents can use to help children solve their own 'netiquette' dilemmas.

Be kind

Remember the human behind every screen. Every user is an independent person with individual thoughts and feelings. It can be easy to misunderstand another person's intentions or even be rude to others when you are not interacting with them in person and given the grace of viewing facial expressions and emotions. Perhaps the best mantra we can go back to as parents is the golden rule of "Treat others how you would like to be treated." Developing empathy and trying to see that comment, post or photo from many different perspectives takes practice. How would you feel if someone said that to you? Treating others with respect is paramount. Yes, there may be times when you might have to stick up for yourself, however it needs to be done in a responsible and respectful way.

If you wouldn't do it there, don't do it here

Social standards apply to both online and offline spaces, and standards of online behaviour should be consistent with real life expectations. As parents we put many rules and expectations in place as to how we expect our children to behave in a public place. I know I expect my children to show respect, use their manners, help others out, practice kind language, etc. Online is the biggest public place your child will ever find themselves, which is all the more reason to work on exceeding those standards of behaviour.

Respect privacy

With the world wide web being a public place, privacy is paramount. Learning how to protect personal information and the importance of looking at a website's privacy policy can help develop skills around internet privacy. Asking for permission before creating accounts and downloading files, strategies for identifying scams and limiting the type of information kids give about themselves or others can help set a strong foundation for their digital lives. Children do not always appreciate that they may be putting their information in jeopardy, because the warning signs are not always obvious. Respecting other people's right to privacy is also crucial; don't tell other people's stories, spread rumours or give away personal details without permission.

Develop their internal filter

Parents may feel that they have some control over their child's use of technology and many use programs and apps that allow for monitoring and filtering content. Despite the best intentions, there are times when filters are re-set, not set up correctly or not even in place – for example when your child goes to their friend's house, gets online and no safety mechanisms have been established. What this means is that we need to help our children develop their internal filter, as this is the one they will always have and may need to rely on. Research is clear that the best way to teach morals and ethics is through example.



Teach them to do the right thing

Parents can nurture moral principles that will guide their children to stand up for their beliefs and act right even without us. Know what you stand for so that your child knows. Parents with clearly identified moral convictions are more likely to raise children that do the right thing. Pursue opportunities to look for moral issues and talk about them as they come up: from TV shows and news events to situations at home, school, and friends. Discuss with your child how you feel about the issue and why.

Be upstanding

There will be times online when your child will have to be brave and stand up for others, when they will have to go against social pressure to do what is right. When someone they know is being deliberately upset or harassed by another person, expect your child to move from bystander to upstander, because this is the right thing to do. In most cases many people contribute to the cyberbullying. Many know about the situation, but choose not to get involved. Encourage your child to stand up, speak up and act up against online abuse. They can support the target by letting them know they are there and provide empathy. Encourage your child to report what is happening to a trusted adult; someone who they believe will listen and has the skills, desire, and authority to help.

THINK

Using the THINK rule can go a long way in practicing digital social skills. It is a checklist of questions that children must go through before they post or comment online. Is it **T**True? Is it **H**elpful? Is it **I**nspiring? Is it **N**ecessary? Is it **K**ind? Created to emphasise care online, it applies to real world engagement as well.

Technology is moving forward quickly, and it continues to evolve at an unprecedented pace. Taking the time to impart digital social skills at an early age is vital for our children as they move from playground friends to social media and gaming friendships.

These simple rules apply all along the developmental spectrum. They also give us a clear understanding of what we can do as parents, to help our children manage a positive digital reputation.

Tips for parents

1. Practice makes perfect – keep reinforcing positive digital social skills and a strong foundation will be laid
2. Coach about privacy in a public place
3. Follow the social code of good people
4. Manners are necessary
5. Complimentary conduct is proper
6. We are free to follow group rules. We are not free to hurt others
7. Encourage the THINK rules

Catherine Gerhart, is a dedicated advocate of critical thinking skills in children and young people. As a parent of school aged children she understands the commitments and challenges parents face ensuring they provide the right information to young people in a way that empowers them to develop their personal and social capabilities. Catherine is a certified training provider through the Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner.