

Semester 1 – Term 1, 28th February 2017

Important Dates

Junior Campus		Senior Campus	
2 Mar	Year 7 Immunisations	3 Mar	School Photos catch up
3 Mar	School Photos catch up	13 Mar	Labour Day (no classes)
6 Mar	Open House	22 Mar	Year 12 Success Information
8-10 Mar	Year 7 Camp		Evening 6pm in Study Centre
10 Mar	Year 7 2018 Scholarship Applications close		
13 Mar	Labour Day (no classes)		

Next Newsletter: 21st March 2017

College Principal's Report

The swimming carnival held yesterday at St Albans Leisure Centre was a great example of our staff and students coming together to strengthen the community. The weather was very warm and our five house teams were very exuberant in their colours and support for their peers.

Congratulations to the students who competed and to our teachers for winning the staff vs students relay! A special thanks to Tony Adam, Abbey White and Lee Maieron who did an excellent job organising the day.



Our Year 7 Meet the Teachers evening held last week was very well attended, giving parents an opportunity to meet their child's new teachers. Thank you to the parents who also provided us with written feedback at the event. All of the parents who attended said they found the event informative and enjoyable, our staff were very helpful and staff conveyed clear information which was easily understood.

Junior Campus

88 Billingham Road,
Deer Park, Victoria 3023
P 03 9363 1155
F 03 9363 8681

Senior Campus

5A Jamieson Street,
St Albans, Victoria 3021
P 03 8312 0200
F 03 8312 0211

Trade Training Centre Cairnlea Campus

Ken Jordan Road
Cairnlea, Victoria 3023
P 03 8312 0200
F 03 8312 0211

Correspondence To

PO Box 83
St Albans Victoria 3021

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

This year we will be seeking parents' written feedback at all of our college and campus events. We welcome your input and suggestions, and encourage you to communicate with your child's teachers via Compass if you have any queries, concerns or feedback.

Our Year 7 students have settled in extremely well and it was lovely to hear some comments from them about how they are finding their new school. One of the Year 7 students has this to say about their experience of starting at our College: *"I like the people here, the teachers are really nice and they help you whenever you need it. The Cornell Notes are really helpful, the way they are set out and that we get to ask and answer questions. The Learning Intentions tell us what we're going to be learning about and that helps me too. I'm really looking forward to being in the school and achieving my best."*

Also one of our Year 10 students had this to say about his transition to our Senior Campus this year: *"I am very focused and motivated to learn and enjoying the opportunity to concentrate more on subjects that I really enjoy. There are lots of positive role models at this campus. The teachers expect me to do my very best, to work hard and they help me whenever I need it. I am more independent and mature in approaching my learning at the Senior Campus; already, I feel like I have a learning pathway and I'm working hard to achieve that. It's good, growing older and being given more responsibility to be part of what I'm learning and what I can do to plan for my future."*

Our **Open House** is coming up on Monday 6th March at the Junior Campus in C Block. There will be campus tours in the morning and an evening presentation with interactive tours, starting at 6pm.

Staff and students will be demonstrating classes during the evening including AVID, English, Maths, Music, Chinese, Science and Technology, Sports Academy and lots more. After the tours we will invite families to return to C Block for a light supper and to answer any questions. If you have a child in Grade 5 or 6 or know someone who does, we invite you to come along and see our College in action next Monday.

Scholarship applications for Year 7 entry in 2018 will close on Friday 10th March. Scholarships are available in Academic Excellence, Leadership and Community Contribution, Music Excellence and Sporting Excellence. Applications are available online at www.vusc.vic.edu.au and at the Junior Campus office.

Parents are reminded that if they are dropping off their child's lunch or anything else for their child during the day, they must come to the front office. Lunches are required to be healthy in keeping with the Department's Healthy Food Choices policy. A poster is attached to this newsletter for more information.

Our College Board election was held recently and I am pleased to announce the following parents and staff who have nominated to serve a two year term:

Gail Atkins – parent member
Tariq Sair – parent member
Angela Fazio – parent member
Elaine Hazim – DE&T member
Jim Dowie – DE&T member

I wish to thank these parents and staff for dedicating their time to support our College.

Cheers,

Genevieve Simson
College Principal

Victoria University Secondary College

Open House

Monday 6th March 2017

Morning Campus Tours	6:00pm Welcome and Information
9:15 – 9:40am	6:15pm Presentation by College Principal
9:45 – 10:10am	6:30pm Interactive Tours
10:15 – 10:40am	7:30pm Questions & Supper

Held in C Block at Junior Campus, Deer Park

Junior Campus P 03 9363 1155
88 Billingham Rd, Deer Park VIC 3023

Senior Campus P 03 8312 0200
5A Jamieson St, St Albans VIC 3021

Trade Training Centre P 03 8312 0200
43 Ken Jordan Rd, Cairnlea VIC 3023
www.vusc.vic.edu.au



Create The Future

Year 8 English

On Thursday 23rd February, Year 8 English students hosted a guest speaker, Bron, from the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre as part of their studies in persuasive language. Bron gave students an important insight into the work of the Resource Centre and the plight of Asylum Seekers both in Australia and overseas. When we saw the students in the presentation we couldn't resist taking a few photos to show you the way students at VUSC actively take notes.

If you look closely at the photos here you will see every Year 8 student actively thinking, summarising and engaging with the material in the guest presentation. You will also see that students are taking their notes in the Cornell format which allows them to review and revise the material at home. Even Ms Pegoraro (who teaches 8C and 8D – below left) can be seen taking careful notes! Several questions at the end of the presentation for Bron were direct evidence that students were engaged in the issues and curious to find out more.



Learning Tasks are now on Compass

Teachers have been working hard putting up all common assessment tasks on our school learning management system, Compass. This means that parents can now see any assessment task which will feature on semester reports on your child's Compass page, including the due date. Many teachers also track important homework or coursework dates on Compass. As due dates pass you'll be able to see whether the work teachers expected was 'received' or 'overdue'. Please act quickly if your child has any overdue work; details of the work to be completed are available on Compass and you can contact teachers through the system if you have any questions or concerns.

As all the important dates for the semester are now available, it would be a great idea to mark up a calendar of assessment tasks for your child which they could hang up in their bedroom or wherever they do their homework. This way you'll be able to see when they need to work on assignments or revise for tests.

If you are having difficulty accessing Compass or making sense of assessment information please contact the front office at the Senior or Junior Campus (for help with technical problems) or your child's classroom teacher (if you need more information about the learning tasks set for you child).

Please note that assessment tasks are not yet available for Year 7-9 Enhanced Literacy as we will be reorganising classes soon.

Dan Sullivan

Curriculum Leading Teacher / English Teacher

Bell Times for 2017

A reminder for parents and students that the following bell times are now in effect. Students will be dismissed each Wednesday at 2.08pm. School buses will run after school as normal. Class time will remain the same, ie. 4 x 72 minute periods. Break times will be reduced on Wednesdays for both teachers and students. Homework clubs and study groups will not run on Wednesdays.

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays

Home Group 8.50am – 9.00am
Period 1 9.00am – 10.12am
Period 2 10.12am – 11.24am
RECESS 11.24am – 11.49am
Period 3 11.49am – 1.01pm
LUNCH 1.01pm – 1.51pm
Period 4 1.51pm – 3.03pm
Students dismissed 3.03pm

Wednesdays

No Home Group
Period 1 8.50am – 10.02am
Period 2 10.02am – 11.14am
RECESS 11.14am – 11.44am
Period 3 11.44am – 12.56pm
Period 4 12.56pm – 2.08pm
Students dismissed 2.08pm

College buses will run as normal before school every day and after school from 2.08pm on Wednesdays and from 3.03pm on other days. The public buses run at the following times after school:

- Route 423 to St Albans Station, stops at VUSC Junior Campus Billingham Rd at 2.17pm
- Route 424 to St Albans Station, stops at Moffat St/Main Rd West at 2.48pm
- Route 425 to St Albans Station, stops at John St/Jamieson St at 2.26pm
- Route 425 to Watergardens Station, stops at John St/Jamieson St at 2.39pm

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

We now only have limited stock available 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 2017 booklists.

Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF)

To be eligible for the CSEF fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government school must be a holder of either a Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC).

The CSEF Payment amount for students in Secondary schools is \$225 per year.

The CSEF is paid directly to your child's school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child.

CSEF must be applied for every year. The CSEF application form is available at the office at each campus, on Compass and on our website at www.vusc.vic.edu.au. Please complete and return the form to the General Office of either campus as soon as possible with your health care/concession card.

Before School Supervision

Parents are reminded that students should not be brought to school before teachers are supervising the school grounds. Supervision begins at 8.30am. Students at the senior campus are welcome to study in the study centre as they arrive at school.

Sustainable School Shop

Buy and Sell Second Hand Items

www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au

- ✓ Uniforms
- ✓ Textbooks
- ✓ Calculators
- ✓ Musical instruments
- ✓ Sporting equipment

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.

Homework Club

Homework Club runs in the Resource Centre at the Junior Campus from 3.03pm until 3.45pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 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.

One on one help is available if students require assistance with a particular task. Additionally the library is open Monday-Friday mornings from 8.30am.



Sports Corner

HOT OFF THE PRESS!!

Congratulations to the Intermediate Boys Cricket team (combination of Junior and Senior Campus students) who have progressed to the final of the Keilor Division 10-over competition. Despite having many inexperienced players, the boys were able to overcome stern opposition and finish 2nd in the round robin stage of the competition. This is the first Keilor Division Competition for the 2017 sport calendar and it is great to see we are off to a flying start!!

Inter-School Sport Timetable

Note: Students who have signed up to represent the college in interschool sport competitions are asked to please read Compass or see your campus Sport Coordinator for more information about upcoming events.

Term 1, 2017

Week	Date	Sport	Year Level	Location	Coaches
5	Mon 1st March	Futsal	SB	Derrimut	TSQ
6	Wed 8th March	Rugby 9's	IBG SBG	Keilor Park Reserve	VUSC students, LMA, NSW
6	Fri 10th March	Keilor Division Swimming Carnival	Year 7-12	St Albans LC	LMA
7	Thurs 16 th March	Rugby League 9's	U/18's	Werribee	TAD, LMA
8	Wed 22 nd March	Tennis	SBG / IBG	Taylor Lakes	MHI, PGI
		Volleyball	SBG / IBG	Gilson / Copperfield	AWH, BSA
8	Thurs 23 rd March	Rugby League 9's	U/16's	Werribee	TAD, LMA
9	Thurs 30 th March	WMR Swimming	All	Geelong	SSV

Term 2, 2017

Week	Date	Sport	Year Level	Location	Coach
1	Fri 21 st April	VUSC Athletics Carnival	All	Keilor Park Reserve	All staff and SSV
2	Mon 24th April	Soccer	SB	Keilor Park / Green Gully	TSQ
3	Tues 2 nd May	Soccer	IB	Keilor Park / Green Gully	TSQ,
4	Tues 9 th May	Rugby League	U/18's	Werribee	TAD, LMA
5	Wed 17th May	Netball	SBG IBG	Altona	AWH, EPO
		Badminton	SBG IBG	Altona	DKE
5	Thurs 18th May	VUSC Cross Country	All	Junior Campus	PE Staff
5	Thurs 18th May	Soccer	IG	Keilor Park / Green Gully	CRO
6	Tues 23rd May	Badminton	8BG, 7BG	Altona BC	
		Netball	8BG, 7BG	Altona BC	
7	Mon 29 th May	AFL	SB	Keilor Park	GLE, NSW
7	Thurs 1 st June	AFL	8B	Keilor Park	PWO, PGI
7	Fri 2nd June	Keilor Division Cross Country	All	VUSC Junior Campus	AWH

Senior = Year 11/12

Intermediate = Year 9/10

Junior = Year 7/8

VUSC Athletics Carnival

The annual Athletics Carnival is coming up in the first week of Term 2 on **Friday 21st April**. This event is an important part of our College program, as it provides an opportunity for our College to come together to build relationships and to strengthen the student and staff relationships, while promoting a healthy and positive community.

The total cost for both the swimming and athletics carnivals is \$20, which includes transport fees, entry fee, awards, use of recreational activities, an icy-pole at the swimming carnival and a BBQ lunch at the athletics carnival. Information will be sent out later in the term.

Sports Academy Update

Our Sports Academy programs have commenced and are busy preparing our student 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).

VUSC Sports Academy Training Schedule – Senior Campus

	Monday		Tuesday	Wednesday		Thursday	Friday
Before School 7:30 – 8:30			Sports Academy Strength & Conditioning			Sports Academy Strength & Conditioning	
Period 1 9:00 – 10:12							
Period 2 10:12 – 11:24							
Period 3 11:49 – 1:03						VCAL Rugby Weights Training	
Lunch 1:03 – 1:51	Soccer DEV Skills TSQ		Sports Academy Strength & Conditioning				
Period 4 1:51 – 3:03			Sports Academy Strength & Conditioning	Rugby Conditioning 2:30 – 3:30	Sports Academy Strength & Conditioning 2:30 – 4:30	Rugby Academy Skills	
Period 5 3:15 – 5:00	Rugby Academy Skills	Sports Academy Strength & Conditioning	Sports Academy Strength & Conditioning	Rugby Weights 3:30 – 4:30		Sports Academy Strength & Conditioning	Sports Academy Strength & Conditioning

VUSC Sports Academy Programs:

- Rugby League Academy (Year 7 -12)
- Soccer Development Program (Year 7-12)
- Netball Development Program (Year 7-8)
- Athlete Development Program (Year 7-12)
- Sport Leadership Program (Year 9-12)

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:

Senior Campus Sport Coordinator – Mr Tony Adam

Junior Campus Sport Coordinator – Mr Lee Maieron

Rugby Coordinator – Mr Tony Adam

Netball Coordinator – Ms Abbey White

Soccer Coordinator – Mr Tony Squeo

Athlete Development Program – Ms Rebecca Hogarth and Mr Tony Adam

Sports Academy Strength and Conditioning Coach – Mr Lee Maieron

Lastly, we look forward to the continued support and dedication of our student coaches and helpers.

Mr Tony Adam

Sport Program Development Manager

Why it's more important than ever to foster positive relationships in children and young people

By Michael Grose, Parenting Ideas

We live in interesting times. The Donald Trump Presidency has changed the political landscape in many ways, but particularly the way politics is waged and how the major political players treat each other.

Mr. Trump's way of dealing with people could best be described as direct and combative and, at worst, bullying and badgering. Gone are the conventions in international relationships of keeping up civil appearances in public despite what may have happened between parties in private. As he showed recently following a telephone conversation with Mr. Turnbull, Australia's Prime Minister, Mr. Trump has few qualms about tweeting his disapproval to the world if a private conversation doesn't go according to his plan.



In recent weeks there's been major concern expressed right around the world about how Mr. Trump 'does politics' – particularly his treatment of those with whom he disagrees. This high level of public protest should be applauded by parents and teachers as the tone of public discourse can easily trickle down into schools and families. At a time when peer-to-peer bullying and disrespectful relationships are ongoing issues in many schools, parents and teachers need to be more mindful than ever of the importance of promoting positive relationships based on respect, fairness and tolerance. Here are three practical ways to foster positive relationships among children and young people.

1. Instil integrity in children and young people

Do what's right. Not what's easy. I heard my wife Sue say this to our children often when social circumstances presented them with a moral dilemma. Times such as when they agreed to visit a friend's house only to get a better offer elsewhere; when they'd hurt a sibling's feelings and they took the easy option of staying out of their way rather than approaching them to make an apology; and when they'd tell a small lie to excuse themselves from a party or school event that they were expected to attend.

'Do what's right' is an integrity statement. It's a declaration of character that's central to children developing respectful relationships with their peers. Every parent wants to raise kids to be fine young people. But to do this we need to instil in kids more than just skills, attitudes and positive behaviours. We need to provide a compass to help them navigate the myriad of decisions they make every day as children and as teenagers. Integrity sits at the top of that compass.

2. Walk the walk

The concern about children and young people being witness to disrespectful, combative behaviours in public figures is that these behaviours soon feel normal. The same principle, of course, applies with adults closer to home. If parents, coaches or teachers harangue, harass or bully others then these behaviours become normalised and in effect, give kids permission to act in the same ways. It's a matter of, *If Mum or Dad can do it, then I can too!* Conversely, when adults treat each other, children and young people fairly; display a willingness to listen and talk things through; and show a propensity to compromise we are teaching the next generation the basics of respectful and positive relationships.

3. Talk the talk

Families develop their own proprietary language around the behaviours and attributes that are valued including integrity, respect, fairness, tolerance and other values that underpin strong positive relationships. Take the time to reflect on common statements you already use that reflect relationships based on respect and fairness. Write them down. Develop them into repeatable phrases such as, 'Everyone deserves a fair go. Let's talk through our disagreements. Ask before you jump to conclusions', to make them memorable. Positive relationships are taught through actions, but reinforced by common language.

At a time when the way many prominent public figures treat others can leave a fair-minded person shaking his or her head in dismay it's worth remembering that through our own fair and tolerant treatment of others we can positively impact how children and teenagers treat others.

Breakout

Practical ways to promote respectful relationships at home:

1. Show your willingness to listen to kids and talk through their relationship problems.
2. Expect kids of all ages to use manners. Good manners are respect in action.
3. Talk about how good friends act and treat each other. Conversations about friendly behaviours should also involve how their behaviours make others feel.
4. Differentiate between a friendship and a clique with young people. A clique is restrictive and can make a young person feel bad, while a friendship group is inclusive and feels good.
5. Respectfully and tactfully question displays of intolerance and challenge bullying behaviour. Be mindful that children and young people are learning how to behave civilly so they need guidance and direction, which sometimes involves challenge.