

Semester 1 – Term 2, 1st May 2017

Important Dates

Junior Campus		Senior Campus	
9-11 May	NAPLAN Years 7 & 9	1-12 May	VU & RMIT Presentations to students
22 May	Athletics Carnival	3 May	Senior Soiree @ 6pm Drama Room
24 May	Year 7 Immunisations	22 May	Athletics Carnival
1 June	Junior Soiree	25 May	VCE Music Performance Evening

Next Newsletter: 17th May, 2017

College Principal's Report

Welcome to Term 2. Last week we honoured past and present Australian soldiers with our ANZAC commemorative assemblies at each campus. Congratulations to our students who organised the events and eloquently spoke in front of the large crowd. Our College Board President was in attendance as well as retired servicemen and local MP, Ms Natalie Suleyman. Each event was a very moving tribute and I thank the staff who assisted and supported the students who participated.



Junior Campus

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Deer Park, Victoria 3023
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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
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Our two Year 9 students, Thea San Jose and Kris Kokkinidis are currently in China with Mr Cordell, for the Victorian Young Leaders to China program.

This exciting six week program involves spending two weeks at a Beijing University attending language classes, Chinese studies and cultural activities, and four weeks at Yangzi High School in Nanjing where students attend classes and stay with host families.

Mr Cordell writes: "We are all having a great time in Beijing. Thea and Kristopher are participating in all activities and have mixed in well with the group. Our group is very harmonious with all students mixing well and all teachers with a common and consistent approach. They are also really good people to be around."



Mr Cordell, Thea and Kris arrive back in Melbourne on 2nd May. We look forward to hearing about their experiences when they return. A post program assembly will be held later in May and families are welcome to attend.



All families in our school community are invited to attend the Senior Music Soiree on Wednesday 3rd May in the Drama Room at the Senior Campus. It starts at 6pm and promises to be an entertaining evening with group and solo performances by our talented music students. Hope to see you there.



Unfortunately our Athletics Carnival was cancelled due to inclement weather. It will now be held on Monday 22nd May. Students will be transported by bus and will return to school by 3.03pm. It is always a great day and I encourage all students, whether participating or spectating, to come dressed in their House colours and support their peers on the day.

Cheers,

Genevieve Simson
College Principal

VUSC News

Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal

A huge thank you to all members of the school community for supporting the recent lucky ticket fundraising event for the Children's Hospital. We were able to donate the fantastic figure of \$635 to this year's Good Friday Appeal. Funds raised by the Good Friday Appeal are used to purchase the latest medical equipment, fund innovative research and provide specialist training for staff at The Royal Children's Hospital.

Your support will give children the best chance for a healthy start in life by ensuring the hospital continues to offer world-class care.

The winners were Kelly Doll, one of our friendly canteen staff members, and Peter Giles at the Junior Campus, and Sarah Epa from 10E and Timothy Ly from 12B at the Senior Campus.

We'd also like to thank the students who gave up their time on parent teacher conferences day to sell the tickets: Skye, Xrysian, Faith, Kelly and Mary at the Junior Campus and Bariskaan, Quidelis, Loro, Jamie, Kayla and Jess at the Senior Campus.

Jill Wooles and Rebecca Wilson

Brimbank Central Rotary Visit

Year 12 students Jenny Nguyen and Bamlak Halefom visited the Rotary Club of Brimbank Central on Wednesday April 19 to present their vocational plans to enter the medical field of study. They prepared a 20 minute presentation on their plans to raise funds to participate in a program called GAPMEDICS where they have interest in volunteering their time overseas in undeveloped countries supporting medical professionals 'hands on'- this will require the girls to raise funds to support their travel and accommodation costs.

Irrespective of whether the girls obtain placements in medicine after their Year 12 studies, they will commit to their goals of working in the medical field in some way. Their personal, heartfelt stories were well received; they also put a lot of time into preparing an engaging speech which they will present to other Rotary clubs in Melbourne. Well done girls - your plight is commendable!

Athena Vass

Youth Director at Brimbank Central Rotary Club

AVID Student Symposium

Senior AVID students (Years 10-11) with teachers Maria Panagiotidis and Athena Vass participated in a student symposium in Term 1, 2017. All Australian AVID schools were invited to bring students to Victoria University's City campus to attend an Advanced AVID symposium, which was set up to apply AVID classroom skills to problem solve real world sustainability scenarios in a high engagement, applied learning context.

Students were provided with readings tackling the issue of sustainability in our governments and in relation to the environment. They were challenged to work with students from other schools and year levels in a socratic seminar, and then to collaborate on and learn leadership skills for their future entrepreneurial endeavours.



Bamlak Halefom and Jenny Nguyen with Rotary President and VUSC Youth Worker, Michael Donnelly.



Mary Catherine Swanson, the founder of AVID, was available to speak to students through Skype - she answered excellent questions about what helped her achieve her success. VUSC students were commended for their active participation on the day, and their notable leadership whilst working in teams. Well done!



The 2017 Attitudes to Schools Survey

We want our students to tell us what they think

Our school is conducting a survey to find out what your child thinks of our school. The Attitudes to School survey is an annual student survey offered by the Department of Education and Training. The survey assists schools in gaining an understanding of students' perceptions and experience of school.

Our school will use the survey results to plan programs and activities to improve your child's schooling experience.

This year the Attitudes to School survey will be conducted at our school between Monday 22 May to Friday 23 June. The survey only takes 20-30 minutes to complete and occurs during your child's class time.

Students from all year levels at our school will participate in the survey. Your child will complete the survey online during school hours using a purpose built secure online survey tool.

A summary of the survey results will be reported back to the school in Term 3 in our school newsletter. Last year we used the survey results to plan new programs, activities and initiatives that came out of the 2016 survey.

The Department has updated the survey for 2017 to include important new measures that are known to influence student engagement and performance.

Students privacy is our priority

Your child will be provided with a unique login to complete the survey. The student login is an assigned identifier that may be used by the Department to combine data for research purposes only. Your child's privacy and the confidentiality of your child's survey responses will be protected at all times. No identifiable personal data is included in the survey response file. This survey is not a test and your child has the right to refuse or withdraw from the survey at any point before, during, or after completion.

Want to know more?

Please speak to your Campus Principal if you would like more information or see: [Attitudes to School Survey](#)

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 school's 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. Please find attached CSEF application form and return it to the General Office of either campus with the original (HCC) or (PCC). Please fill this form in as soon as possible.

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

GIO Cup

This year our Senior Rugby team has been accepted into the Tier 1 GIO Cup schoolboys rugby competition for the first time. This is the highest level for school rugby and demonstrates how capable our senior boys are and the depth of their skills and talents. This means that our team will be competing against the best school rugby teams in Australia and will travel interstate regularly to compete.



In preparation for the upcoming GIO Cup competition, VUSC travelled to Wagga Wagga (NSW) last Wednesday April 26 to play a trial match against a composite Wagga Selection team.

This turned out to be highly beneficial exercise as the team was able to work on their attacking and defensive structures as well as their ability to respond when put under pressure. In an evenly matched contest, VUSC was able to gain ascendancy in the first 20 minutes of the game racing to a 12nil lead with tries to Trent Toelau and Brandon Saena. However, this was short lived as Wagga clawed their way back into the match by scoring 3 tries in the 2nd stanza and thus lead 14-12. Thankfully, a late try from an individual effort by Trent Toelau put VUSC back in front 16-14 with one third to play.



In the 3rd stanza a more focused and composed VUSC team was able to dominant the final stages of the match and in the process come away with a convincing 26-18 win. It was during this period of play the team played with plenty of intensity and grit and out muscled the opposition. Coach Tony Adam was pleased with the way the team closed out the match and will be something they can build on going into the next match against Erindale College (Canberra School) on May 10 at Bruce Comben Reserve, Altona Meadows. This will be an extremely hard trial as Erindale College are a highly ranked schoolboy team and will be the ideal preparation leading into the GIO Cup. Well done boys!!!



Representative News

A number of VUSC students have been selected in or been involved in various representative teams over the past month. We congratulate them all for this personal achievement!

- **Rugby League** – Uala Salia, Nikau Williams, Trent Toelau, Brandon Saena, Giovanni Kubik, Chase Rye, Tevita Ofahengaue, Compton Fuatimau, Elvis Bernard
- **Rugby Union** – Haloti Fonua
- **AFL** – Sheyenne Love, Compton Fuatimau

Senior Boys Soccer

On Monday 24th April, the Senior Boys soccer team competed in their first soccer round robin for the year. They played two matches against Harvester and Taylors Lakes SC respectfully.

The boys played outstandingly well considering they hadn't played a match together since last year. The chemistry unfolded throughout the course of the day. Their effort, teamwork and skill did not reflect in the score and unfortunately the team lost both games. They were the better team in both matches but were unable to finish or track back on the counter attack. As part of the Soccer Development Program the team was lucky enough to have a National Premier League player (Oakleigh Canons) and Australian Futsal representative to be a part of the day.

The team took the direction and support and implemented it into their game style. Overall I am very pleased with the high standard of skill and effort the boys presented. I am looking forward to developing this team to greater successes.



Miss Rooks

U/18 Boys & U/18's Mixed Touch Teams

VUSC demonstrated their significant strength in touch by convincingly winning both competitions at the recently held Western division touch competition held in Altona. Containing a number of VIC reps in each team, VUSC were able to defeat some highly respectable opposition and thus progress to the finals. In the finals, the U/18 Boys defeated Ballarat Grammar 10 – 2 (right), whilst the U/18's Mixed defeated Aquinas College 8-4 (right, below).

The Mixed team will now play against all other divisional winners in a Finals Day held on Friday 5th May. The U/18's Boys will play in the final against Haileybury College before a Melbourne Storm Game at AAMI Park, which should be a fantastic experience.

Well done to all players!!

Upcoming Events

Whole School Carnivals

- Athletics – May 22

Rugby League

1. GIO CUP

- May 10 - trial match v Erindale College
- May 17 - v Westfields (1st Round GIO Cup)
- June 2 - v Hallam (2nd Round GIO Cup)

2. Local Rugby League Competitions

- May 5 – Mixed Touch Finals
- May 13 – 13 a-side Westside qualifier (Tier 2 players)
- May 18 – 9's Finals Day – Boys / Girls

Interschool Competitions

- May 2 – Intermediate Boys Soccer
- May 17 – Senior & Intermediate Boys / Girls Badminton, Netball

Term 2 Interschool Sport Timetable

Week	Date	Sport	Year Level	Location	Coach
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 29th May	AFL	SB	Keilor Park	GLE, NSW
7	Thurs 1st 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 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-Coordinators 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 – Miss Carlè Rooks

Athlete Development Program – Ms Rebecca Hogarth and Mr Tony Adam

Sports Academy Strength and Conditioning Coach – Mr Lee Maieron

Mr Tony Adam

Sport Program Development Manager

New Child Safe Standards

The Victorian Government has introduced new Child Safe Standards this year to manage the risk of child abuse for all children and ensure organisations fully comply with their responsibilities to report abuse.

As professionals who work with children, we play a vital role in protecting children from abuse by responding and reporting any incidents, disclosures or suspicions. We are often best placed to identify signs and behaviours that may indicate that a child has been subject to abuse, or that a school community member or a school staff member may be a perpetrator of abuse.

The seven Child Safe Standards are:

1. Strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety
2. A child safe policy or statement of commitment to child safety
3. A child safety code of conduct
4. Screening, supervision, training and other human resources practices that reduce the risk of child abuse
5. Procedures for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse
6. Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse
7. Strategies to promote child participation and empowerment

In addition to existing strategies and procedures, Victoria University Secondary College has these policies and documents in place to ensure we fully comply with all seven Child Safe Standards:

- Child Safety Code of Conduct – for staff
- Child Safety Policy and Child Protection Policy and Procedures – available on our website at:

<http://www.vusc.vic.edu.au/college/college-documents/>

Our Commitment to Child Safety is also included in the student planner.

PROTECT

Everyone has the right to be safe and be protected from abuse.

No one should behave in a way that makes you feel unsafe or afraid, including anyone in your family, anyone at school or anywhere else in the community.

Tell a teacher or any adult at your school if you feel unsafe.



It's everyone's responsibility.

Adults at school must listen and respond to concerns about child abuse.

If you suspect abuse of any child or young person, you have a responsibility to report it, even if you are not sure.

Further information & resources
www.education.vic.gov.au/protect



The language of Independence-building

By Michael Grose, Parenting Ideas

Independence-building is vitally important for parents. It's the pathway to children's competency, confidence and creativity, and the short cut to resilience and real learning.

Families always develop shared language around the values that have strong meaning for them. If resilience is a shared value then there invariably will be a strong set of words and phrases about resilience factors such coping, flexibility and perseverance.



Similarly, the values of independence and self-sufficiency are reflected in a family's proprietary language. In fact, it's through shared language that culture exists. If you are looking to building a culture of independence in your family then creating your proprietary language around independence is a great way to start. These following twelve examples of independence-building language, and the principles behind them, will help you create your own family's language.

"Never regularly do for a child the things a child can do for him or herself"

Goal: Independence

This is a philosophy that guides many teachers and parents today. In effect, this sentence means that wherever possible, we give children the skills and competencies to look after themselves physically and emotionally. It requires a great deal of patience, time and courage from parents and teachers as the sentence is easier to say than to put into practice. But it's a worthy guiding principle that leads to self-sufficiency in children.

"Is this something you can do?"

Goal: Self-help

Independence takes many forms but perhaps the most common is the development of self-help skills. The confidence, pride and, for most, sheer pleasure that kids doing the simple things for themselves such a toddler tying his shoelaces or a child making her own lunch is immeasurable. Yet it is so easily denied by well-meaning parents and adults who see it as their job to do everything for children. Independence begins at home with the development of self-help skills.

"Have you checked the help roster today?"

Goal: Contribution

A great way to develop a sense of independence is to give kids opportunities to help out at home. There is no need to overburden children with jobs, but a sensible allocation of chores according to their age and study requirements is not only a great help to you, but fantastic training for them. It also builds accountability and a work ethic, both highly valued characteristics for continuing success at school and later in life.

"Which of these two would you prefer?"

Goal: Decision-making

Parents as wise leaders need to call the shots on how the family life is conducted, including health and welfare issues such as appropriate bed and bath times. Some things are not up for negotiation. But there are areas where parents can rightfully hand autonomy to children and say, 'It's your call!' Choice of clothes, how they keep their bedroom, what they eat and who they play with are the types of decisions they can make. Naturally, this is age-related and you do need to have some influence on their choices.

"How can you make this happen?"

Goal: Problem-solving

Kids get used to bringing their problems to parents to solve. If you keep solving them, they'll keep bringing them. A problem-solving approach relies on asking good questions, which can be challenging if you are used to solving your child's problems. The first question when a child brings you a problem should be: 'Can you handle this on your own?'

Next should be, 'What do you want me to do to help you solve the problem?' These questions are not meant to deter children from coming to you; rather, to encourage and teach them to start working through their own concerns themselves.

"We rely on you to do this."

Goal: Reliability

Reliability is closely connected to responsibility and other aspects of independence. Every child over the age of five should do something that someone else relies on whether it's looking after a pet, clearing the meal table or emptying the garbage on a regular basis. Having others rely on you has its challenges and can be a learning curve. They'll inevitably forget to put the rubbish bins out on garbage night, meaning your bin will be overflowing for the next week. They'll need to be reminded about feeding the pet or clearing the table. Kids inevitably won't get things right, but that doesn't mean we should stop giving them responsibilities.

"What can you learn for next time?"

Goal: Self-sufficiency

Learning from mistakes is part of the independence-building process for children. Often adult impatience or unwillingness to put up with errors prevents us from giving kids the chance to do things for themselves or take real responsibilities. If independence is to be a major part of your family's culture then it's imperative that we help kids learn from their mistakes whether social, behavioural or just messing up while helping out at home.

"How do you feel about this?"

Goal: Emotional intelligence

An often over-looked aspect of independence is the ability to self-manage your emotional state. Emotional self-management starts with the recognition of how you feel about a particular event or action and then labelling that feeling. If possible prompt to identify their emotions before they act on them. You can also revisit events and ask children about the feelings that may have led to a certain behaviour such as hurting or yelling at a sibling.

"When you muck up, you make up."

Goal: Accountability

Kids of all ages will make mistakes. In fact, mucking up is part of the learning process. But kids will just repeat their mistakes unless they experience the consequences of their decisions. The use of behavioural consequences is a way of teaching children to take greater responsibility for their lives and to learn to make smarter choices.

"How will you fix this?"

Goal: Restoring relationships

Independent kids are usually socially-smart kids who don't operate in a bubble. They know that their behaviour impacts on others and they are mindful of the thoughts, feelings and behaviours of others. They also make amends or restore relationships when their behaviour impacts negatively on others. Relationship restoration is a lifelong skill and involves the following: swallowing your pride, making up, forgiving, giving something back, not holding a grudge and moving on.

"You need to do what's right, not what's easy."

Goal: Integrity

A sense of integrity is important for a child's independence because it's the basis of reasoned and socially focused self-control and self-management. The job of parents is to move their children from 'Me' to 'We'. They may get by without courage, endurance and grit but they won't get far socially without integrity.

"Let's find a way to make this happen."

Goal: Positive risk-taking

One of the ways to develop independence is to work with them to build their skills and abilities to safely navigate an ever-broadening environment outside of the relative safe confines of their home. Ideas include adults and kids doing things together such as catching public transport until they are ready to go it alone or with friends; and giving kids smaller freedoms that lead to bigger liberties such as allowing a young child to walk part of the way to school on their own and then extending the distance as they get more experience and feel more confident.

Independence-building is vitally important for parents. It's the pathway to children's competency, confidence and creativity, and the short cut to resilience and real learning. We've gradually retreated from this approach over recent generations much to our children's detriment. It's time to help kids reclaim their independence. Getting our language right is a good place to start as family change always begins with shared language.