

## Semester 2 – Term 3, 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2017

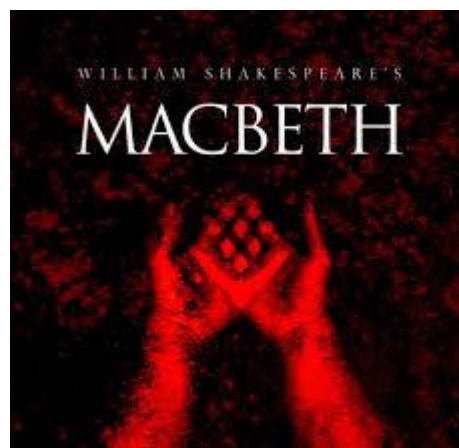
### Important Dates

Junior Campus		Senior Campus	
28 August	Staff PD Day (no classes)	25 August	Year 10-12 Immunisations
5 September	Annual Concert 6.30pm	28 August	Staff PD Day (no classes)
12 September	Year 7 2018 Information Evening	13-14 Sept	School Production - Macbeth

Next Newsletter: 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2017

### College Principal's Report

Our upcoming school production '*Macbeth*' promises to be a performance to remember. Adapted for our students by our drama teacher, Ms Casey Nicholls, and in conjunction with Western Edge Youth Arts, '*Macbeth*' is a tale of ambition, a desire for power and tragic consequences. The play will be held in the Senior Campus Drama Room on 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm. Tickets will be available soon for purchase.



Our sister school relationship continues to strengthen with 11 students and four teachers having the opportunity to visit China once again. The tour will depart on 19<sup>th</sup> September and will visit Beijing, Nanjing and Shanghai for two weeks, including a four day stay at our sister school in Yangzhou. Students from Year 7 to 10 will be representing our College and they are very much looking forward to the trip. We wish them a fantastic adventure and look forward to hearing about their experiences when they return next term.

Once again I have applied for our students to participate in the *Victorian Young Leaders to China* program for March/April 2018. This is the program that has supported our students to study in China for 6 weeks over the last five years. We will call for expressions of interest from Year 8 Chinese students in Term 4 once we are advised whether our application has been successful.

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Next Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August our staff will be participating in a professional development day with international education consultant, Jane Pollock. We will continue with our focus on teacher development and improving student achievement which is one of the goals in our strategic plan. There will be no classes held on this day.

Another focus in our strategic plan is improving parent input and engagement. If you have attended one of our college events this year you would have been asked to complete a parent survey about the event. We welcome parents' input and suggestions and have asked several parents in our community to complete the Parent Opinion Survey to assist us. This survey is sent to a random selection of parents each year. If you have received a letter please complete the survey as soon as possible.

All families are invited to attend our **Annual Music Concert** on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September, with students from both campuses performing. The concert will be held in the Activity Centre at the Junior Campus at 6.30pm. I invite our school community to support our talented students and come along for a fantastic evening of musical entertainment. Some of our students will also be performing in this year's **Network Concert**, which will be held next week on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August at 6.00pm, at the Quin Auditorium, Caroline Chisolm College, Braybrook. Our College Honours Band will be performing, as well as two solo items from the Junior Campus: Sky Papa - voice, and Franz Justice and Franz Wisdom - Guitar and Bass. Well done to all of these students for Aspiring to Achieve, and Strengthening our Community! These concerts are a culmination of the hard work and dedication of Performing Arts teachers and students within our community.

Our parent information evening for Year 7 students commencing next year will be on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September at the Junior Campus. Parents should have received their information pack in the mail. Please ensure you attend even if you already have other children at the college as our staff will have important information for parents on the night.

I will be away on long service leave from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August until the end of term. Ms Hazim will be acting College Principal in my absence. I look forward to being back at the start of Term 4.

Cheers,

*Genevieve Simson*  
College Principal

## VUSC News

### Chinese Museum Excursion

The year elevens and year tens had an excursion to the Chinese Museum to learn more about China's history and culture. The weather was not the greatest as it was really rainy but luckily we got to stay inside for most of the time. We learnt about the traditional Chinese paintings and inventions made by the Chinese people and their journey to Australia. What I found most interesting was seeing the Millennium Dragon which requires eight people to carry it and is used for Melbourne's Chinese New Year Parade. **Lisa Nguyen 10A**

On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> of August, our Chinese teachers, Ms Yang and Mr Ding lead our year 10 and 11 classmates and those studying Chinese language to visit the Chinese Museum. At the museum, I saw the display of famous four Chinese inventions such as paper making, black powder, Compass and block printing on the second floor. I also learned the most famous Chinese philosophy in Chinese history, the Confucius.



He plays an important role on teaching philosophy about human beliefs and behaviours. Even now, people still study Confucius. I learned a lot of Chinese culture through the visit. *Alex Wen 10C*

On the 21/8/2017, the combined year 10 and 11 Chinese classes went to Melbourne Central's Chinatown to visit the Chinese Museum. Despite the cold weather, everyone was still able to enjoy the day, furthering and deepening their appreciation for the Chinese Culture. In particular, everyone was deeply fascinated by the unique layout of the museum, and absolutely adored the items on display (such as the Chinese water paintings.) Overall, it was an amazing day!  
*Steven Ho 11A*



## PARENT OPINION SURVEY 2017

**We're conducting a survey to find out what you think of our school.**

The Parent Opinion Survey is completed annually by the Department of Education and Training and is conducted amongst a sample of randomly selected parents at every school in Victoria. This year, about 30 per cent of parents will be invited to participate. All responses to the survey are anonymous.

The survey helps our school gain an understanding of how you view our school climate, student engagement, and relationships. Our school will use the results to inform school planning and improvement strategies.

The survey will be conducted online by ORIMA Research Pty Ltd and only takes 15 minutes to complete. It can be accessed from Monday 7th August to Sunday 27th August.

The survey is available in English, Arabic, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Chin (Hakha) and Hindi.

Results will be sent back to our school at the end of September.

For more information, see: [Parent Opinion Survey](#)

### 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. 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 14 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.

### **Learning to Drive: A new approach**

Parents are often the main teachers and supervisors of their sons and daughters when it comes to teaching them to drive but we may not always feel that we are properly qualified to do that. Sometimes in our anxiety for their safety and our own we effectively 'take control' of the driving lesson and tell the learner driver where to go, what to do and when to do it. Perhaps these factors explain why the time of learning to drive is extremely safe but the probability of an accident literally skyrockets in the twelve months after the learner has gained their P plates and goes solo.



The Australian Government's Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development has developed a new approach to driver training, **keys2drive**, which provides a free driving lesson to address this skyrocketing of the risk of an accident after a learner driver has gained their licence. **keys2drive** is a revolutionary approach to learning road safety and the free driving lesson is an opportunity for the learner driver, driving instructor and parent/supervisor to learn it together.

The free lesson goes for 60 minutes, during which the **keys2drive** accredited driving instructor will explain the keys2drive learning approach – 'Find Your Own Way' – and offer examples of how it can be used when learning to drive. The remaining lesson time includes a practical demonstration of these skills being used and taught and you will be driving.

The **keys2drive** free lesson is not intended to replace normal driving lessons rather, it should complement them by empowering learner drivers to 'Find Their Own Way' to becoming safer drivers.

**Learner drivers** will receive training in the best ways to practice, helping them gain the confidence they need to prepare for safe P plate driving and beyond. **Parents/supervisors** will come away with tools to help their learner drivers achieve a good foundation for lifelong safe driving.

Register for the free lesson on [keys2drive.com.au](https://keys2drive.com.au) or alternatively have your son or daughter drop by the Youth Worker's office to collect the business card of one of the accredited driving instructors and then contact them directly.

**Michael Donnelly**

*Youth Worker, Senior Campus*

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### **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

### Rugby League Winners!

A huge congratulations to our under 14 Rugby League team who won the **Cameron Smith Shield** this week! It was a great effort for the boys to win all their games on the day against some stiff competition and come home with the State Championship. Well done boys! Thank you to Mr Adam and Mr Maieron for their dedication and support to help these students achieve such an incredible goal.

### Sports Leadership & Coaching

Several of our Sports Leadership and VET Sport & Recreation students have had opportunities to lead and assist with coaching clinics and sporting events at our local primary schools this term. This gives the students a chance to practice what they've learnt and further develop their skills in leadership and coaching. Recently we received some excellent feedback from Stevensville Primary School about our Year 9 Sports Leadership and Coaching students:



"On behalf of Stevensville Primary School i would like to express our sincere gratitude for allowing your Year 9 Leadership Group attend our School Athletics Gala day on Friday 11th August 2017.

The students arrived on time, assisted with the set up of the day, were assigned their events and took their job very seriously and showed control and professionalism throughout the day.

I had instructed our teachers to relinquish some control over to the VUSC students and was very pleased that the students stepped up and handled the control with ease. Knowing that we can rely on your students and work together to help build their skills and confidence is very rewarding from my side.

Thank you all so much for allowing this to happen and I look forward to working with the Year 9 Leadership team and their teacher Brendan Saker at VUSC again in the near future."

**Congratulations to our Sports students for Aspiring to Achieve and Strengthening our Community!!**

### Applications for Sports Academy 2018

Applications are now open for entry in the following Sports Academy programs in 2018:

- **Rugby League Academy**
- **Athlete Development Program**
- **Sport Leadership Program**

Students must complete a Sports Academy Application Form which is available at the general office or from Mr Adam. **Applications close Friday 1st September.** Please see one of the Sports Academy staff if you have any questions.

## Interschool Sports Timetable

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### Term 3, 2017

Week	Date	Sport	Year Level	Location	Coach
7	Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> August	Table Tennis	8BG, 7BG	St Albans Secondary College	TBC
		Basketball	8BG, 7BG	Altona Sports Centre	WDI, PWO
8	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	Keilor Division Athletics	All	Keilor Park	SSV
10	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	Hockey	7BG 8BG IBG	TBC	TBC

### Sport-Coordination and Sports Academy Staff

If students and parent would like further information about the College Interschool 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

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## The agony and ecstasy of teenage peer groups

By Michael Grose, Parenting Ideas



***Young people generally want to fit into their various social groups so peer approval is a significant driver for their behaviour. For a young person, resisting peer influence can mean isolation or instant ostracism so it sometimes takes great strength of will to refuse to follow the crowd.***

Having a group of friends is one of the most important parts of being an adolescent. It is how teenagers learn to get on in the world of their own age group and to gradually become independent. It is important for parents to understand the value of peer groups for young people and also to remember that peers can be positive influences.

### **Positive peers**

Peer groups can give young people a sense of belonging, which gives them an increased sense of self-confidence. These groups also provide safe testing grounds for attitudes and values outside their family at a time when young people are trying to define their identity. By and large, peers can be very supportive of each other. However, they can also be judgemental and can be the cause of heartache when conflict or alienation occurs.

## **Unwanted peer pressure**

While the increased influence of peers is a normal part of a young person's development, they can sometimes use some help to resist any pressure to conform that is placed on them. The following ideas may assist you to help young people resist unwanted peer pressure:

### **1. Talk about peer influence with your young person**

Be open and frank about the subject. Call peer pressure out for what it is: unwanted pressure to conform to the views or behaviours of others. Let him or her know that while much of the influence of their friends is positive, some is definitely not in their best interests.

### **2. Help young people say 'no' while still saving face and status among their friends**

Ask them how they would refuse an offer of a cigarette, an illegal substance or an invitation to behave in a way that they felt uncomfortable with. How could they say no? What words could they use? How could they react if they were pestered? How can they refuse and still be 'cool' and accepted by others? Be upfront with them – after all, their peers will be.

### **3. Be the scapegoat that they need**

Many young people in the 11 to 14 age group are frequently pressured by early maturers to act older than they are. They are often asked to go to places or behave in ways that make them feel unsafe or uncomfortable. In these situations, kids need a scapegoat and that should be you. Allow them to blame you for not letting them do something they don't feel comfortable with but can't admit to.

### **4. Go easy on praise**

Parents who use praise like a nervous tic are setting their kids up to be susceptible to peer pressure. When we continually praise kids for their good behaviour, good marks at school and good performance in any of their leisure activities we are inadvertently making their sense of self-esteem dependent on the approval of others. Peers replace parents as the source of approval in adolescence.

### **5. Teach your young person to shrug**

Sometimes an attitude of nonchalance is a young person's best friend, particularly when a peer makes a snide remark about their choice of clothes, their appearance or their friend. An 'I-don't-care-what-you-think' attitude conveyed with a shrug of the shoulders and a 'whatever' look may be the best weapon to use against such unwanted peer pressure.

## **Peers and parents**

Belonging to a peer group is a significant stepping stone away from their family for most teenagers. While friends can never replace family, they help young people start the transition from being a compliant member of their family to eventually starting a family of their own in adulthood. Peers can have their own code of conduct, their own set of rules and their own expectations which maybe different to those experienced in the family. So what's a parent to do? Embrace their young person's friends. Here's how:

- Make them welcome in your home. Take an interest in them and get to know them.
- Set some house rules regarding what's acceptable in your house, but don't be too heavy handed as you want your home to be a welcoming place for young people.
- Provide space and privacy for your teenager and their friends in your home.
- Keep some food available and encourage them to make their own snacks and clean up their own mess.
- Be firm about your views on acceptable videos, alcohol use and sexual activities at home.

## **Disapproval of friends**

It is common for parents to disapprove of their young person's choice of friends, due to those friends' behaviour or poor reputation, or the adverse influence they may have. This is a testing issue for many parents as it very often means they need to trust their young person's judgement. Criticising a young person's choice of friends is like criticising them personally so parents need to be careful how they handle these issues.

## **Finally.....**

Peer groups are generally a positive influence but it is natural to have concerns about a young person's choice of peers. Get to know your children's friends and make your home a teenager friendly place. Give your young person some skills to recognise and resist adverse peer pressure and display your trust in his or her ability to make smart choices.