

## Semester 2 – Term 4, 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017

### Important Dates

Junior Campus		Senior Campus	
11–15 Dec	Y7 & Y8 Step Up Programs	11–15 Dec	Year 9 Step Up Program
18–20 Dec	Y7–9 Summer Activities	15 Dec	VCE/VCAL Results released
20 Dec	Presentation Night 7pm Essendon Fields	20 Dec	Presentation Night 7pm Essendon Fields
21 Dec	Semester 2 Reports published	21 Dec	Semester 2 Reports published
29 Jan	Staff Professional Development Day (no classes)	29 Jan	Staff Professional Development Day (no classes)
30 Jan	Year 7 students begin Term 1	30 Jan	Year 12 students begin Term 1
31 Jan	Year 8 & 9 students begin Term 1	31 Jan	Year 10 & 11 students begin Term 1

Next Newsletter: 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018

### College Principal's Report

As another year draws to a close I'd like to thank all families for the strong support you've given to your children's education throughout the year. I hope Compass has helped you to be more involved in your child's education. It has been great to see so many parents and guardians at each of our school functions. Your involvement is crucial to your child's success at school. The support you have shown teachers and the school has been very much appreciated. I wish all families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Presentation Night is on at The Australian Events Centre in Essendon Fields on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December. This is a very important evening in the school's calendar as it gives us an opportunity to celebrate a wide range of students' achievements throughout the year as well as farewelling the Year 12 Graduates. I look forward to seeing you there. Tickets are free and are available from each school office.



#### 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](mailto:victoria.university.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au)  
Web [www.vusc.vic.edu.au](http://www.vusc.vic.edu.au)

This year has been another very successful year for the college. We have continued to improve students' results and created a supportive learning environment for all students. Our student attitudes survey, conducted by the Education Department every year, shows that students have a strong connection to the school and in general find their lessons interesting and useful. Our staff opinion survey shows that staff have rated our college higher than other secondary teachers across the state. The parent opinion survey also rates us highly on every measure. Thank you for showing your appreciation of the work we do at the college.

Next year we are changing the timing of home group. The day will begin with the Period 1 class and home group will be just before recess. Students being punctual to school every day is essential. Please ensure that you make arrangements so that your child is always at school on time. Classes will begin at 8.50am every morning.

Next year there will be some new staff at the college. We have employed a Rugby Coach for the Junior Campus, Mr Wayne Adams. He will be teaching a Year 9 Rugby class as well as running training before or after school. This will prepare students for our senior Rugby Program. We have also employed Ms Rose Nuttall to teach English and Mr Robert Goodwin to teach English and be a Teaching and Learning Coach for staff. Ms Clare Mercadante and Ms Carolina Alashkar will be returning from leave. Welcome to these staff.

We will be farewelling Ms Lisa Parrish, who is retiring as an Art teacher, Ms Athena Vass, who will be taking up a new position at Buckley Park Secondary College and Mr Esmir Music who replaced Ms Camilleri when she retired. All the best for the future to you and thank you for your commitment to the students at VUSC.

I wish all families a relaxing break and an enjoyable holiday season. We look forward to seeing Year 7 and 12 students on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January and all other students on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018.

*Genevieve Simson*  
College Principal



## VUSC News

### **EDROLO for VCE Students**

Edrolo is an important resource that is provided by the school to all VCE students.

#### **What is Edrolo?**

Edrolo is a comprehensive, premium, interactive online video and exam simulation resource for the VCE, providing our students with the best opportunity to perform to their potential throughout the year. It is an extremely valuable investment for our teaching and learning culture. Past VCE students at our school have used Edrolo and found it to be a very helpful and useful resource. You can see Edrolo in action by visiting this link: [www.edrolo.com.au/parents/](http://www.edrolo.com.au/parents/)

#### **How do students use Edrolo?**

Edrolo is currently used by over 500 schools and 60,000 students. Created by outstanding teachers (including exam assessors and text book authors) and built in accordance with VCAA Study Designs, its curriculum-specific and engaging content will provide our students with a differentiated and targeted level of support as they prepare for their most important examinations.

#### **How will our students and teachers use Edrolo?**

We use Edrolo as a tool to further enhance what our teachers are doing day-to-day. Our teachers are provided with training on how best to utilise the resource, and you should expect them to guide students to make full use of Edrolo in a range of ways across the year, including:

- Holiday homework;
- Pre-class work;

- Post-class consolidation;
- Assessment preparation; and
- Exam revision.

Students will receive training on how to get the most out of Edrolo. It's an outstanding VCE resource, providing our students with the best opportunity to perform their best with the support of our teachers.

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## **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 \$49.65.

All stationery listed on the 2018 booklist under the heading STATIONERY is included in the FREE pack.

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### **ESSENTIAL / OPTIONAL ITEMS**

The 2018 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 Planner.

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

### **BOOKLISTS and E-BOOKS**

The booklists for students in years 7-10 in 2018 will include e-books instead of textbooks for core subjects. The College has negotiated a discounted price of \$120 with Jacaranda for the full suite of e-books. Teachers will train the students on how to use the e-books in class. Please ensure your child has a laptop computer ready for 2018 and they bring it with them to school every day.

Computers are available via the CentreCom portal at <https://eduportal.centrecom.com.au/Account/Signin> and use our school identification code *vusc8891*. Booklists for 2018 for all year levels are available at the office. Books may be collected from Campion at the Junior Campus in C-Block on **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January from 10am-3pm**. More information is available at the general office.

### **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. Forms are available at each campus office and must be returned to the General Office of either campus with the original HCC/PCC. **Applications must be received by 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018.**

## **VTAC DATES**

Just a reminder for Year 12 students:

VCE results and ATAR	15 December (7am)
Round 1 offers	16 January 2018

The Careers team will be available on 15 December and from 18-20 December to assist with Change of Preference procedures. Tertiary institutions also offer advice beginning on December 15. 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. Students should consult the VTAC website under "Latest News" for relevant information.

As per the letter distributed in October, Mr Bertagnolio will be available on 19 January between 10.30a.m.-2.30p.m. at the Senior Campus to answer any questions regarding first round offers.

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## **Student Wellbeing – Students' Feedback**

As the 2017 school year comes to an end, we asked some students to comment on their experiences of how they have been supported this year by our Student Wellbeing Team and their teachers and wanted to share these with you. Our college community persists in developing the self-belief and confidence of our young people to persevere with learning challenges and tasks, and to take initiative and act. Building and sustaining relationships plays a significant part in facilitating this.

Students responded with the following comments:

### ***Having teachers I can talk to and people in Student Wellbeing is helpful because...***

- They are always there for you and will support you in any way possible
- You can always talk to someone if something happens and everyone is very understanding
- I can talk about my problems and struggles to someone I trust
- It helps students get their feelings out, makes them feel comfortable around others and able to think about school work



### ***I really like the way I can ...***

- Get advice when I need it
- Always have someone to talk to
- Act myself and ask questions and feel happy and stress free
- Tell people my issues without worry
- Share how I feel without feeling strange or weird

We encourage all students to talk to someone they trust if they need help, advice or just someone to listen. Our college is committed to providing students with access to Student Wellbeing services in order to ensure that they are able to fulfil their potential in life and become positive and productive members of our local community. Students may access the Student Wellbeing Team through family, teacher, or self-referral where they will be able to meet with a range of professionals who are able to assist in ensuring that the student feels supported throughout their secondary schooling at the college. We thank you as parents and carers for entrusting us to support the wellbeing and education of your children; it is a privilege and responsibility that we never take for granted.

***Gail Inniss and the Wellbeing Team***

## DET Student Scholarships 2018

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 2017 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 **1<sup>st</sup> February 2018**. To apply or obtain more information, please visit <https://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/scholarships/default.aspx>.

## Semester 2 Reports

will be published on Compass

on

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December**

Contact the office if you require assistance.

As part of our Sun Protection  
Policy,

***SUNSCREEN***

is available for student use at the  
General Office throughout the year.

## Sports Corner

### New Junior Rugby Coach

The College is pleased to welcome **Wayne Adams** who will commence with us next year as the Junior Rugby Coach. Wayne has been coaching Rugby League at both school and club level since 1993 and holds a Level 3 High Performance Coach in Rugby League. He has coached Queensland Schoolboys teams and various district, regional and school teams for more than 20 years and was an Australian Selector for U15 Schoolboys in 2016-17. We welcome Wayne to our College with great excitement as he will be an enormous support to our aspiring Rugby League athletes.

### VUSC Tennis Open Tournament

Congratulations to the following students who won the boys and girls competitions in the VUSC Tennis Open Tournament recently:

**Haonhi Nguyen 7A, Joseph Thompson 7B**  
**Lloyd Miranda 8D, Christopher Richard, 9F, Alisha Akter 9E**

Well done to all the students and teachers who participated and made the tournament a fantastic event for Term 4. Congratulations also to Ms Chapman took out the women's competition and Ms Tran who was runner up.





This year we had over 60 students and 22 staff participate in the tennis competition. I am proud that students and teachers have embraced this sport in our school and the importance that physical activity plays in the work life balance. The research in sports sciences indicates the enjoyment of sport has significant positive outcomes by countering stress and facilitating positive psychological health. Events such as the Tennis Open Tournament provide opportunities to build relationships, break the daily grind, look forward to school, practice during your spare time and most importantly it promotes laughter and competition amongst staff and students.

In our last round of the quarter finals of our staff competition, we saw our 2016 winner Mr Ucler battle it out against a new entrant to the competition Mr Saker. Both started with some nerves but as the game progressed, both settled and the game was nothing less than exciting. Mr Saker equalised the game at 4-4 but then lost hold of the game to lose 6-4. This leaves us with four players left. On Thursday our semi finals matchups will be:

Mr Ulcer v Mr Dowie  
Mr Squeo v Mr Maieron

May the best player win!

**Mr Tony Squeo**  
**Tennis Australia Ambassador**



## Sustainable School Shop

Buy and Sell Second Hand Items

[www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au](http://www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au)

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

Brochures are available at the general office.

## **Brimbank Youth Services SHOWBAG PROGRAM**

What's in the showbag?

Double passes to:

- AMF Bowling or Laser Tag at Watergardens
- Sunshine Leisure Centre swim session, and
- Village Cinemas (Adult passes)

Cost: \$15 (\$4 for Centrelink card holders)

Vouchers are valid from 22 December 2017 to 28 January 2018

Show bags go on sale from December 22 at 3pm, until sold out.

Show Bags can be purchased from the following venues:

Deer Park Library 4 Neale Road, Deer Park. P: 9249 4660	Sydenham Library 1 Station Street, Taylors Lakes. P: 9249 4680
St Albans Library 71A Alfrieda Street, St Albans. P: 9249 4650	Sunshine Library 301 Hampshire Road, Sunshine. P: 9249 4640

If you would like more information about other activities being held during the September school holidays please go to <http://brimbankyouth.com/programs/whats-on-in-the-west/>



## **Could \$500 help you with high-school costs?**

**Join Saver Plus and we'll match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to \$500 for school costs.**

 laptops & tablets

 specialist subjects

 uniforms & shoes

 books & supplies

 sports fees & gear

 camps & excursions

To join Saver Plus, you must have a Centrelink Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, be at least 18 years old, have some regular income from work (you or your partner), and have a child at school or attend vocational education yourself.



**Contact**  
Vicky Millan  
your local Saver Plus  
Coordinator

**Phone**  
0419 607 295  
03 9312 0932

**Email**  
vicky.millan@thesmithfamily.  
com.au

**Web**  
[www.saverplus.org.au](http://www.saverplus.org.au)



Saver Plus is an initiative of the Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ, delivered in partnership with Berry Street, The Benevolent Society and The Smith Family and other local community agencies. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government Department of Social Services. Go to [www.dss.gov.au](http://www.dss.gov.au) for more information.