



VUSC News Issue Five

Welcome to Term 2

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the VUSC community.

My name is Elaine Hazim and I have been appointed as the College Principal of VUSC. I look forward to this new opportunity and feel very privileged and honoured to be in this position.

Having served as Acting College Principal since August 2018 and with six years' experience as a Campus Principal, I bring depth and a range of experience to the position and believe that maintaining stability, confidence and the current momentum of leadership as we consolidate the College onto one site in the near future, is vital.

I also bring to the position a knowledge base and desire to continue to implement improvement measures to ensure that the College is not only an excellent provider of education, but has high performing teams of staff working to ensure that the strategic vision is achieved.

I hold a passion and belief in the College as a school of excellence and my interest in this position is further fuelled by my experience in educational leadership. In recent years,

I have been fortunate to have a variety of portfolios that I have overseen and led.

I understand the importance of professional role modelling and work to physically demonstrate the school vision and values statements on a daily basis. I ensure that all staff in my team is similarly committed to developing a positive learning environment where the College values are promoted, modelled and encouraged. Aspiring to Achieve, Strengthening the Community and Respecting Yourself and Others are all values reflected within my work practice.

I am very passionate about education and I look forward to collaborating with you to provide our students with a rigorous, engaging and high-quality school experience. As a parent of two boys, I recognize the importance of a strong home-school connection. Parents are every child's first teacher and I believe that by working together, we can ensure your child's social, emotional, and academic needs are met.

The relationship between home and the school plays a very important part in a child's education. We cannot overestimate the critical role parents play in successful learning. Parents contribute much to their child's development and are among the most important influences on the way in

which the child approaches learning. Teachers are responsible for the more formal aspects of children's learning, and successful teaching builds on the home experiences of the child. This is most effective where there is an active partnership between parents and the school.

Two-way communication is a critical factor in the partnership between parents and the school. Where partnership exists, it is easier for parents to feel confident about the teaching and learning taking place in the classroom and to solve problems.

I know the context of the school and its operations and I want to continue to build a strong partnership with the wider school community. With my move into the College Principal role, I have moved Ms Atzarakis to the Senior Campus and Mr Leyland to the Junior Campus as Campus Principals. Mr Dowie who oversees Professional Learning Communities will travel between the two campuses and work at both sites.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve our school community in this role! Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas you would like to share.

Elaine Hazim
College Principal



Important Dates

Tuesday 7 May

Year 10 Immunisations

Spare immunisation forms are available at the office. Please return your form to the office even if not being immunised.

Wednesday 8 May

Senior Music Soiree – Drama Room 6pm

All welcome

Friday 10 May

Staff Professional Development Day (no classes)

This is a student free day as approved by the College Board.

Tuesday 14 – Thursday 16 May

Year 7 and 9 NAPLAN testing

Friday 24 May

Athletics Carnival – all students

Please return permission form and payment to office by Friday 10 May.

Wednesday 29 May

Year 7-9 Student Success Evening – Junior Campus 6-7pm

Students have received information regarding this event. All families are encouraged to attend.

To view a full calendar, please click [here](#).



Year 7-9 Student Success Evening

Student Success Evening

Wednesday 29 May at 6.00pm - C Block, Junior Campus

The aim of the Student Success Evening is to provide families of Year 7 – 9 students with strategies and advice to effectively support students with their learning at home.

All students and their families are invited to attend this one hour session. All participants will receive a 'Student Success Pack' with lots of information and a light supper will be provided.

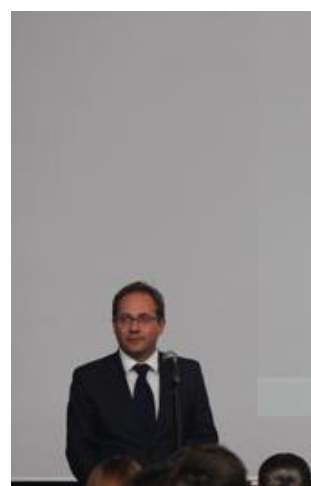
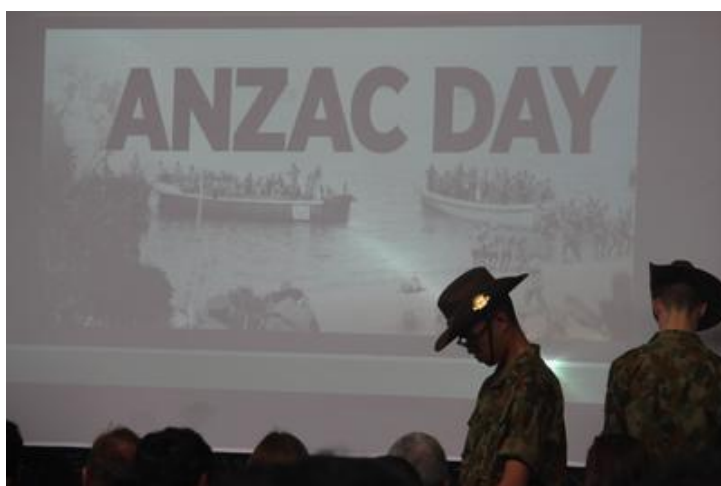
The attached flyer and a letter to parents was distributed to all students recently. Please RSVP for catering purposes.



ANZAC Tributes

On Wednesday 24 April we honoured the ANZACs.

Last week we honoured past and present Australian and New Zealand 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, as well as our amazing vocalists and music students and staff who performed at both assemblies. College Board members were in attendance as well as army cadets and ALP member, Mr Daniel Mulino. Each event was a very moving tribute and we thank the staff who assisted and supported the students who participated.





Why Every Day Counts and it's not OK to be late

We have recently been reminding our school community why every day counts.

This also applies to being late to school. It is crucial that children and students develop habits of regular attendance at an early age.

Poor patterns of attendance place students at risk of not achieving their educational, social and psychological potential and are disadvantaged in the quality of choices they are able to make in later life situations.

When students arrive late to school their learning can be affected.

Students who are late:

- miss out on organisation time - getting their books from their lockers or asking teachers questions
- miss out on hearing what's happening and the learning intention for their first class

- are often unsure about what they have to do in the lesson
- find learning becomes disjointed and difficult
- are failing to take responsibility for their learning
- disrupt other students when they arrive
- miss out on reconnecting with classmates and forming positive social relationships before school
- develop the lifelong habit of being late – bosses are less supportive than schools.

Parents are reminded that all students arriving late to school must sign in at the Compass Kiosk at the front office. Students are automatically issued a detention for late arrival to class.

If you are experiencing difficulty in getting your child to school on time, please discuss the matter with your child's Coordinator.



Western Chances

Congratulations to the students who received a Western Chances Scholarship recently!

Western Chances gives young people in Melbourne's west the chance to fulfil their potential and overcome barriers to success by providing scholarships, opportunity programs and ongoing support.

Their scholarships support talented and motivated students who may not otherwise have an opportunity to pursue their education dreams.



Student Attitudes Survey

We want our students to tell us what they think.

This term we are 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 to assist 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 29 April to Friday 7 June. The survey only takes 20-30 minutes to complete and occurs during your child's class time.

Students from all year levels 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. Last year we used the survey results to plan new programs, activities and initiatives.

Student's privacy is our priority. Your child is 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.

Please speak to your Campus Principal if you would like more information.



Premier's Reading Challenge

Premier's Reading Challenge 2019

Well done to the five Junior Campus students who have already completed the 2019 Premier's Reading Challenge. The challenge runs from late February until early September and requires students to read 15 novels.

Please touch base with your child and see how they are progressing with the challenge, as all Junior Campus students have been registered to participate.

This [link](#) will provide more information about the PRC. If you need further details please feel free to contact Mr Gallagher in the library.



STEM Innovate Program

As part of our school's ongoing partnership with the Australian Business and Community Network (ABCN), a number of Year 7 and 8 students have an amazing opportunity to participate in the STEM Innovate Program this term.

The Innovate Program helps students to build confidence and learning in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths as well as their understanding and knowledge of STEM careers.

Structured sessions over the course the term will involve small groups of students working with two mentors and a facilitator guiding the participants throughout. Program activities will illustrate the practical applications of maths, engineering and design, the use of scientific knowledge to assist with problem solving and innovation, and raise awareness of the wide-variety of STEM-related employment options available.

We look forward to the students sharing their experiences and learning from the program!



Parenting Ideas

Our school is a Parenting Ideas School

Parenting Ideas was founded by Michael Grose, author of nine parenting books and parenting educator to over 1500 Australian schools.

Parenting Ideas features up-to-date research, timely advice and inspiration, providing parenting strategies on everything from sibling rivalry, teen health and creating resilience in kids, for children of all ages.

Parents and guardians can access the [Parenting Ideas Blog](#) or view articles published regularly in our newsletter. The Blog is also available on our website at <http://www.vusc.vic.edu.au/college/parent-support/>.