

VUSC News Issue Eight

Welcome to Term 3

It's a pleasure to welcome you back to Term 3. Semester 2 commenced for all our students in Years 7 to 12. In order to support all students to successfully complete the semester and year, both the Middle and Later Years Engagement Leaders along with the Year Level Coordinators have been assisting students who have been identified as needing additional support and encouragement. It was great to see the amazing support from parents attending the parent teacher interviews, eager to support students and our staff, in our quest to provide the best possible outcomes for our students.

A reminder to all families that Compass is our primary way for communicating with home.

All student reports are available on Compass. We would like you to access these reports and discuss them with your child or children. If you have any questions or concerns about reports please feel free to contact your child's Year Level Coordinator. You can also update your contact details on Compass or call the office if you have changed address or phone number.

A special welcome to the new students and families

who have joined Victoria University Secondary College this term. We hope you enjoy your time at our school, that you form strong friendships, and that you feel supported to achieve your goals and dreams.

We also extend a **warm welcome to new staff** who have joined our college this term: Mr James Finnigan who is replacing Mr Andrew Cordell whilst he travels to the United

Arab Emirates on a teaching contract for the next two years. Ms Angela Nasr takes over from Ms Luba Uwarow who has taken Long Service Leave. Mr Brendan Tuckerman is Acting Assistant Principal this term. Mr Tuckerman is taking over from Mr Dowie as he will be working for a term in the Department as the Professional Learning Communities Manager.

Last week we welcomed 20 students and 3 teachers from our Chinese Sister School.

During the week, they integrated and mixed with our students and attended classes at both campuses, learning about our education system and the Australian culture. A farewell assembly for our sister school was held on Friday 26th July in the Junior Campus Gymnasium which was a very successful event. Thank you again to our host families and staff for making this experience a very memorable one for our sister school.

Course Counselling

Over the next few weeks students in years 8 to 11 will participate in a comprehensive career program, culminating in their choice of subjects for next year. It is important that much care and thought is given to this process so that students are completing the correct prerequisites for future tertiary courses. This information also informs our timetabling and staffing for 2020. Parents are able to support their children by using the Careers website. The link for this website is : vusecondarycollegecareers.com.

Later Years Expo tonight

Our Year 10 students will be preparing to select their courses and subjects for either VCAL or VCE in 2020. Preparing students to make these significant choices commenced much earlier in the year with all Year 10's completing a career assessment and planning assignment. Prior to course counselling day, parents of Year 9 and 10 students are strongly encouraged to attend the **Later Years Expo in the Senior Campus Gym/Drama Room**. This evening will provide a great opportunity for parents and students to learn about the courses available, pathway opportunities, our Promotion Policy, VET and work placement, and the achievements of past students.



Last term our College Board presented a **Certificate of Recognition of Service to School Council** to Emily and Dylan Smith, in honour of their late mum Julie who served on our school council for 15 years (left).

Our school also presented a commemorative plaque to Mr Lawicki and Mrs Uwarow who were honoured by the Department recently for their respective 50 years and 45 years of service to teaching! Congratulations to these teachers who have dedicated their lives to educating young people (pictured below).

Year 12 Mid-Year Examinations and Reports

In the last week of Term 2 the Year 12 VCE students sat mid-year practice examinations for each of their subjects. This was organised to assist students to prepare for final VCE exams by providing practice in similar conditions experienced at the end of the year. It will enhance the development of the most effective exam techniques, assist students to refine summaries and to identify areas requiring further consolidation. Research suggests the more of this sort of practice students complete, the better prepared they will be when the time comes to sit the actual final examinations. We wish all our Year 12 students well in this final semester of their Secondary School journey.



Jacaranda Payment Portal Closure

The Jacaranda e-books portal is now closed and will not accept any orders. Instead parents/guardians who wish to purchase JacPLUS (Jacaranda) resources will need to contact their customer service team on 1800 522 758 to make payment. After payment is made, Jacaranda will arrange for their JacPLUS accounts to be setup (within 24hrs).

Student Voice

Eliciting the views and opinions of students at the College is an important part of our school ethos. Last term 95% of students completed the Student Attitudes to School Survey which is an important tool for our school. The school uses this data to help inform our strategic direction and ensure the work that we are doing supports our students. Some of the key highlights from this data indicate that students feel supported and very satisfied with the quality of teaching and learning. Another important aspect of our approach to student feedback involves regularly working with random groups of students in every year level in student forums. Students provide input into all aspects of our College, from our Instructional Model LIFT to the support they receive in the classroom. The student forums and surveys are also further enhanced by a robust student representative council.

Congratulations to Akon Chol, one of our College Captains,

who attended the Trinity Young Leaders program recently and was named as Valedictorian of the Week! Akon attended the Valedictory Dinner and gave an outstanding speech. Well done Akol!



Elaine Hazim
College Principal

Child Safety

Victoria University Secondary College is a child safe organisation committed to protecting students from all forms of abuse.

Our College has stringent protocols in place and endeavours at all times to be fully compliant with the Child Safe Standards set out under Ministerial Order 870. Our College has the following documents and policies in place to achieve compliance with the Standards. All of these documents are available for downloading on our website or contact the school for a copy.

1. Commitment to Child Safety
2. Child Safety Policy
3. Child Safety Code of Conduct
4. Child Protection Policy and Procedures



Important Dates

Monday 29 July

Later Years Expo - Senior Campus Drama Room and Gym

Year 9 Session commences 5pm, Year 10 Session commences 6pm

Monday 29 July

Rugby League Academy Information Sessions - Senior Campus Drama Room

Year 9 students 5.45pm; Year 10 & 11 students 6.45pm

Monday 30 July

Year 10 AVID Model United Nations Conference

Trade Training Centre

Thursday 1 August

Year 10 Course Counselling sessions for 2020

There are no scheduled classes for Year 10 students on this day.

Friday 2 August

Year 9 Course Counselling sessions for 2020

Wednesday 7 August - Friday 9 August

Year 9 Camp, The Summit

Wednesday 21 August

Annual Concert 6.00pm - 8.00pm

Brimbank Salvation Army Church, Sydenham

Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 August

College Theatre Production 7.00pm

Senior Campus Drama Room

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



New Year 9 Curriculum

Curriculum News for 2020

We are excited to announce a new and improved Year 9 Curriculum! From 2020 our students will have access to more electives, an inquiry learning subject and a greater focus on real world engagement.

With student voice and agency at its core, this curriculum was developed by a dedicated team of teachers in consultation with a student focus group. In conducting this review our team focused on our school's vision for our students to be educated and enabled to Create the Future: their own future, their communities' future and the global future. Our ultimate aim was to build a curriculum that would provide students with opportunities to engage in deep learning – learning that 'situates the learner as someone who acts upon the world, thereby transforming her or himself and the world itself' (Fullan et al. 2018).

Our unique Inquiry Learning subject is designed to ensure that our Year 9 students engage in real world learning and research projects in their passion areas, anything from robot design to resolving climate change or the history of poetry to video game development! In addition to this, students will have another elective block filled with new and exciting electives from the Arts, Science and Physical Education learning areas. For our academically ready students we have designed a Deep Learning program which offers increased specialisation in their preferred area (see details under Deep Learning – Opportunities for Extension). Primarily, students now have more choice!

Students will build a close working relationship with their Team 9 teaching team made up of an Inquiry Learning teacher and a specialised Physical Education and Health teacher. This team will support students as they build strong and positive relationships with others, enhance their health and wellbeing and begin to consider their career pathway options in our interconnected global

world. Fundamentally, this unique Year 9 program is designed to ensure that our students at VUSC grow into lifelong learners and develop their capacity for critical and creative thinking and ethical, intercultural, and personal and social capabilities.

Deep Learning – Opportunity for Extension for Year 9 and 10 Students

The Deep Learning Pathway is an exciting new extension program that is designed to allow academically ready students to specialise their learning in certain subject areas, gaining access to a rigorous curriculum that includes challenging content and inquiry-based learning.

Students can specialise in the areas of English and Humanities, taking an extension English class, Literature, and 12 months of their chosen Humanities, either History or Economics & Legal Studies. Students can also specialise in the areas of Mathematics and Sciences, be part of an extension Mathematical Methods class and have additional periods of Science where they undertake inquiry-based learning. Some students are able to specialise in all areas.

Students in Year 10 are able to apply to take advanced placement in a Unit 1 & 2 VCE subject. These students may also take Introduction to Extended Investigation, which is an inquiry-based learning unit where students are able to pursue academic research in a field of their interest.

Entry Requirements:

- English and Humanities pathway: average of B or above in English and/or Literature.
- STEM pathway: average of a B or above in Maths and Science.
- 90% Attendance in the most recent Semester.
- Demonstrated college school values Aspiring to Achieve, Strengthening the Community and Respecting Ourselves and Others.

Students wishing to participate in the Deep Learning Pathway option should collect an application form from the front office at their campus.

Rose Nuttall

Curriculum Leader



Later Years Expo & Course Counselling

Later Years Expo and Course Counselling Year 9 and 10 Students

Monday 29 July

Year 9 Information Session begins 5.00pm

Year 10 Information Session begins 6.00pm

Venue: Drama Room and Gymnasium, Senior Campus

A light supper will be provided.

Teachers will be on hand to answer questions about all the Year 11 and 12 subjects on offer to help students make decisions about their chosen career path and course of study. A presentation by Leading Teachers and Principals will provide all you need to know about the VCE, VCAL, VET options, subject selections, traineeships, apprenticeships, tertiary education, ATAR scores and more.

Families will receive an appointment to attend a course counselling session with their child this term to select subjects for 2020.



Year 10 Scholarships

Applications are available for entry in Year 10 2020

Scholarships valued at \$450 are available in the following categories:

- Academic Excellence
- Music Excellence
- Rugby League Academy - entry at Year 10 or Year 11

Please see the attached brochures or our website [here](#). **Applications will open in Term 3 and close Friday 23 August 2019.**

Come to our Later Years Expo on Monday 29 July at the Senior Campus to learn about the numerous pathway options and subjects available.

Scholarship applications will be available at the Campus offices and Later Years Expo evening.



Join our Rugby League Academy in 2020

Scholarships Available for 2020

Year 9 and Year 10 students who are interested in joining our Rugby League Academy in 2020 are invited to attend the Rugby League Academy Information Evening on:

Monday 29 July 2019

Drama Room, Senior Campus St Albans

Year 9 Students Session: 5.45pm

Year 10 and 11 Students Session: 6.45pm

Students outside VUSC are welcome to attend. Meet our expert coaches and learn about how they provide students with specialised and individual support in skill development and strength and conditioning in order to compete at the elite level. Current and past Academy students will also be in attendance.

Rugby League Academy Scholarships will be available for entry in Year 10 or Year 11 next year. Please see the brochure below or speak to Mr Tony Adam at the Senior Campus. Applications open in Term 3 and will close Friday 23 August 2019.

Our Senior Team currently competes in the NRL Schoolboy Cup - a Tier 1 competition with only 18 teams Australia wide. For more information about our Rugby League Academy, click [here](#).



Junior Music Soiree

On Tuesday 25th June, Year 7-9 students performed at the VUSC Junior Music Soiree.

This was a culmination of all the work of the music students and teachers for semester one, 2019. The students performed a wide variety of genres of music, with composers ranging from Puccini to Billie Eilish!

I would like to commend all staff and students on a fantastic evening of music-making and thank them for their hard work leading up to this event.

Miss Miranda Orford
Head of Music





STEM Innovate Program

Students from Year 7 and 8 attended four days in the city recently as part of the ABCN - STEM Innovate program.

Students participated in problem-solving activities collaborating with industry workers.

Students were surveyed during the program to determine the effectiveness of the program. (Note the rating scale is a 1 – 7 measure with 1 being lowest through to 7 being highest rating – ie 5 – 7 is agree to strongly agree.) These results demonstrate that overall the students gained a lot from the program.

Rating Area	Before Innovate Rating 5-7	After Innovate Rating 5-7
I am interested in STEM subjects	55%	100%
I would like to continue to study STEM subjects in the future	65%	90%
I am aware of the different types of STEM-related careers	55%	100%

I understand the link between school subjects and STEM careers	65%	100%
I understand appropriate workplace behaviour	89%	100%
I am able to think of creative solutions to problems	52%	85%
I am able to work effectively as part of a team	46%	85%
I can communicate my ideas to others	68%	80%

Student Comments –

- *I learnt the education requirements for their job and the work ethics that is required in a workplace. This helps me to think about my future*
- *I loved it especially the engineer and maths sessions*
- *I learnt that solving problems is not easy and also I enjoyed it.*
- *It was so fun*
- *It's really, really fun*

- *I would recommend it because it's a great way to learn how to collaborate and communicate with others, it can also help you learn new skills you can use as well as great memories.*
- *I would recommend this for my peers to get to know other people and to get their minds thinking about the future.*
- *How to share my ideas and speak more confidently*
- *This program has opened my mind to the different possibilities in the future.*
- *A new learning experience. Mentors were all very nice and helped a lot*

Mentor Comments –

- *Very worthwhile*
- *Definitely worthwhile participating in the opportunity to help students. Very bright students.*
- *It has been enjoyable and very satisfying in seeing the growth from the students*
- *Helped me re- establish some thoughts and challenges about being in high school again and how an experience like this can really influence, it certainly would have influenced me positively.*
- *The programs is well run, very organized and the activities are very interesting*
- *I have learnt a lot from the students and learnt how to guide them. Working with different kids with different personality, learn to treat each individual differently*

- *It has been really rewarding to spend time with people from a different generation and from different backgrounds. It took me out of my comfort zone, but in a good way.*
- *Give it a go, really enjoyable and provides another experience than dealing with your own kids and how to communicate with them.*
- *Strongly encourage and go for it! Developed presentation skills, partnerships and enabled STEM awareness.*

Thank you to the Australian Business and Community Network (ABCN) for their organisation of this program.

Alison Ryan

STEM Leader





Debating Success

Two big wins in debating!

Congratulations to our A grade (Year 12) team, including Benjamin Mariano, Suben Joshi, and Meynard Rabino who defeated Braybrook College recently, and our B grade team (Year 11), including Dayna Gornall Rundell, Chantel Moncur, and Cassandra Davidson who defeated Islamic College of Melbourne.

Well done to the students for their efforts!!

Mr Troy

Debating Coordinator



Dream Big: Read!

Top tips to create a reader-friendly home

A child's success as a reader begins much earlier than their first day of school. A love of reading begins in the home.

Here are some tips for you to share with parents on encouraging reading at home.

Create a special reading space

Creating an inviting space to read at home can be easy, fun and cost effective. Pick a quiet corner in your home, the cosier the better. Fill the nook with blankets, pillows and good lighting. Let the kids help decorate it, it can be a fun family activity.

Read in front of your kids

Lead by example. It's very important for children to see adults reading.

Pick up a book when you can. Talk to your children about something interesting you've read. Actions speak louder than words.

Make a wish list

Encourage your children to update their reading wish list often.

Having a list handy can be helpful when family and friends need some gift inspiration. Also, it will help decrease the amount of unwanted and unused books in your house.

Host a book swap party

Have your friends and family around to bring their used books or unwanted presents for a book swap party. This is a great way to save money on new reading material for your little ones.

It's also an easy way to shift books out of your home to make way for new ones!

Diversify the reading material

Try to include as much seasonal and diverse reading material as possible.

Broaden your child's horizons with books based on different cultures. It's also a good idea to try have books or magazines based on topics they're learning in school.

Finish the Premier's Reading Challenge

The Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) encourages children and students to read at least 15 books over the year and record their efforts online.

Students at VUSC are recording the number of books in their reading journals—ask your child to show you how many books they have read so far.

Kelvin Gallagher

Junior School Librarian



Parent Opinion Survey

PARENTS - TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

Our school is conducting a survey to find out what parents think of our school.

The Parent Opinion Survey is an annual survey offered by the Department of Education and Training which our school will use to make our school even better.

We want as many parents as possible to tell us what they think about how we are doing. All responses to the survey are anonymous. This year the Parent Opinion Survey will be conducted from Monday 22 July to Sunday 11 August.

The survey will be conducted online, only takes 10-15 minutes to complete, and can be accessed at any convenient time until Sunday 11 August on computers, laptops, tablets or smartphones. The online survey will be available in a range of languages other than English. These include: Arabic, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Chin (hakha), Hindi, Japanese, Somali, Turkish, Punjabi and Greek.

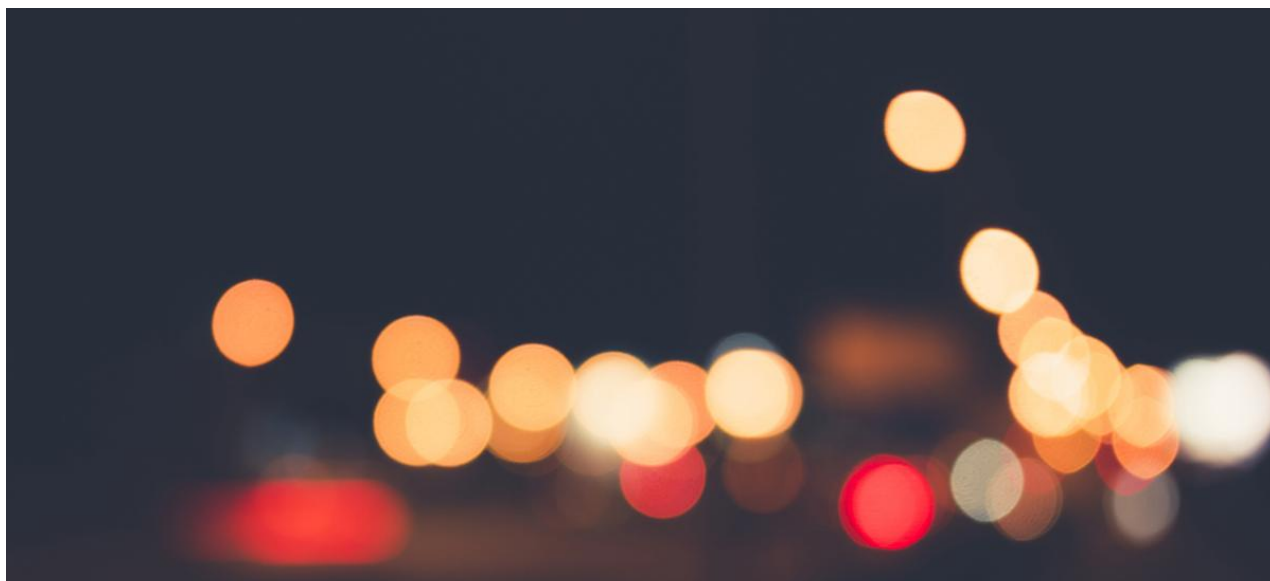
You will receive an email and a letter with details of how to complete the survey. If you do not receive this or have any questions, please contact us.

The survey results will be reported back to the school at the end of September. The school uses the results to plan for a better education for your child.

We thank you in advance for your feedback.

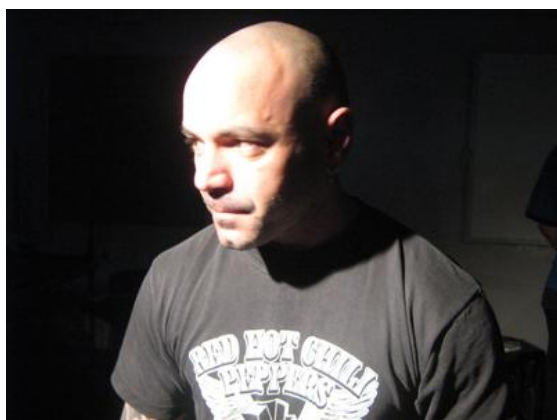
Brendan Tuckerman

Acting Assistant Principal



Vale Christos Siamas

Christos Siamas
1970 - 2019
Rest in Peace



Tributes to celebrate his life will be held at the Annual Concert - Wednesday 21 August 6.00pm at the Brimbank Salvation Army Church Sydenham, and the Presentation Evening on Wednesday 18 December. All families are welcome to attend.



Community News

Come and Try Days -
Sunshine Baseball
Club

SUNSHINE BASEBALL CLUB
BARCLAY RESERVE - TALMAGE ST - SUNSHINE

**BOYS AND GIRLS - COME AND TRY
BASEBALL**



Join in on the fun of playing baseball,
no experience necessary, just the desire
to learn a new sport and to have FUN !!

AUGUST 11TH/18TH/25TH
2.PM TO 4.PM ON EACH DAY

TEE BALL ~ AGES 4 - 6
ROOKIE BALL ~ AGES 6 - 8
BASEBALL ~ AGES 8 - 17

COME TO EITHER 1, OR ALL 3 OPEN DAYS
FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE AND HANDOUTS
PHONE GAVIN: 0419 874 135
EMAIL: sbcjuniors@outlook.com

Glow Youth invite you
to their local event on
9th September -
details below:

09
-
09
-
19

FREE ENTRY

WIN A PS4
3 VULE STREET
ST ALBANS 9021

**YOUTH
80's
LAUNCH**

PS4 GIVEAWAY - TONNES OF PRIZES
GUEST RAPPER | ALEESHA
FREE FOOD & DRINKS

6 PM
DOORS
OPEN

AGES 12-18

CALL THOM FOR MORE INFO 0423 132 215

Sunshine Hospital
Needs Volunteers!

WE NEED YOUR
SUPPORT - Sunshine
Hospital is seeking

volunteers to assist their
patients and staff in the
following roles: helping
people find their way
around the hospital,
gardening, meal time
support and fundraising.
We are also seeking
volunteers who could
assist with supporting our
community in the
Emergency department. All
training, uniform and car
parking is supplied. If you
have 3 or 4 hours per week
that you can offer, please
contact
volunteer@wh.org.au or
call 8395 9092 - we would
love to hear from you.