



VUSC News Issue Nine

New School Buildings

The Principal team and staff have been meeting with the architects each week this term to work on the plans for the new school buildings at Cairnlea. I am excited to announce that building is due to commence in early 2020.

Student Attitude Survey Results

Late last term, all students from Years 7 – 12 completed the annual Student Attitudes to School Survey and the results have arrived at the school. Feedback from students indicate that they feel safe, supported by their teachers and the school, and are motivated to do their best. In the coming weeks, with the additional comparative data, we will provide detailed feedback to the students and outline how we will celebrate the things we are doing well and address any areas identified as needing improvement.

Parent Opinion Survey

Thank you very much to those parents who completed the Parent Opinion Survey recently. Responses are collated by the Department and the information is then provided back to the school in Term 4. The results are extremely important to us - we analyse them carefully. This information is used in a variety of ways to inform planning for 2020.

Upcoming China Tour in September

17 students from Years 7 - 11 and 3 teachers from our school have the chance of a lifetime – the opportunity to go to China for 3 weeks from the 10th – 26th September to learn more about the Chinese culture and education. While students are in China they will learn about the country and complete a unit of work which will compare schooling and education in China with Australian schooling. Students will collect photos of Ancient Chinese culture and modern Chinese life. Students will be required to share their learning with other students in the school.

Professional Learning Communities (PLC) Visit to VUSC

On Wednesday 31st July, VUSC hosted the PLC Link School State Wide Forum at our Trade Training Centre. Over 50 leaders from different schools were excited to do some 'Learning Walks' in our classrooms at both campuses to observe students working in collaboration, vocabulary instruction, numeracy strategies, and the classroom environment. The visitors then observed some Professional Learning Teams (PLT) meetings in action. I would like to commend the student leaders who did an excellent job leading some of the groups around the school.

The feedback we received from our visitors reiterated that VUSC teachers continue to demonstrate that they are among the very best. The whole school made me extremely proud. Teachers work extremely hard to get the best results for our students. It's always pleasing to have Department heads and other school leaders see what great work we do to support our students at all levels and to provide supportive and rigorous instructions for all learners.

A huge thank you goes to our wonderful Junior and Senior students, Brendan Tuckerman, Glenn Leyland, Andrew Cordell and Ellen Arnott for being such wonderful tour guides and helping out when needed. Thank you also goes to Jim Dowie and Brendan Tuckerman who both did a sensational job organising this massive day.

New Year 9 Curriculum

I am 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. 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).

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. 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 Pathway which offers increased specialisation in their preferred area. Primarily, students have more choice.

The Deep Learning Pathway is an 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, being part of an extension Mathematical Methods class and having 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.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Mr Leyland who was appointed to the Campus Principal position recently advertised at our school. Mr Leyland is based at the Junior Campus and leads our Year 7-9 staff and students.

Congratulations to one of our College Captains, Akon Chol was recently awarded the prestigious Trinity Young Leaders Scholarship for 2020 which provides him with a residential place at Trinity College, part of the University of Melbourne. Akon was one of only 16 students to receive the scholarship. Akon was invited to attend the Valedictory Dinner where he gave an outstanding speech and received a standing ovation from the 150 people present. Well done Akon!

In addition, Akon was lucky enough to attend an AFL game for the first time which was organised by Western Chances and meet the players and coach!



Congratulations also to Patience Pyne in Year 12 who was recently one of only 25 students in Victoria to receive the Betty Amsden Youth Scholarship in Performing Arts!

Patience was nominated by Mr Polizzi and Penny Harpham of Western Edge Youth Arts for her dedication to the college production, helping Year 10 drama students in her spare time and participating in performances outside of school.

Patience will be participating in a free week-long intensive course at MTC (Melbourne Theatre Company) in the school holidays. This course consists of intensive, practical workshops, extending her expressive skills and helping her to learn how to contribute as a member of an ensemble, as well as evening excursions to the theatre at no cost. Well done Patience!



Elaine Hazim
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

Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 August
College Theatre Production 7.00pm
Senior Campus Drama Room

Tuesday 10 September
Year 7 2020 Information Evening 6.30pm
Junior Campus

Students and their families who have enrolled in Year 7 for 2020 are invited to attend the Year 7 Information Evening at 6.30pm to receive vital information regarding their enrolment at the College and the upcoming Orientation Day in December.

10 - 26 September
Victorian Schools Visit to Jiangsu Province, China
17 students and 3 teachers will depart for China on 10 September for a cultural and immersion tour where they will visit our sister school, the High School Affiliated to Yangzhou University.

Thursday 19 September
Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews
Parent teacher interviews will be held at each campus from 1.00pm to 4.30pm and 5.30pm to 7.00pm. Bookings via the Compass parent portal will be opened closer to the date. We encourage all parents to make appointments to discuss their child's progress with their teachers. Students are required to attend with their parents as there are no scheduled classes.

Friday 20 September
Last day of Term 3

Monday 7 October
Term 4 begins

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



College Production

Orpheus and Eurydice

"This is not the first time something like this has happened around here..."

Orpheus is the coolest guy in school, with a musical talent sent from the gods. Eurydice is his prize for being so great. Wait, what?

First told thousands of years ago, the Ancient Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice is one of male power, heroism and heartbreak. But what about the other characters in the story? What kind of world was Eurydice living in to be seen as a trophy wife, an object to possess, a beautiful flower to be picked, contained, owned? And is it really so different to our world now?

An original production featuring song, dance and even a bit of rugby that explores the slippery slope between pride and privilege, holding on and letting go and possession."

Shows start 7.00pm

Wednesday 28 August and Thursday 29 August

Senior Campus Drama Room

Tickets are now available at the office. Come along and support our talented students!

Proudly supported by Western Edge Youth Arts, VUSC, The Kimberley Foundation, Newsboys Foundation and the Victorian State Government.



'Humans on Mars' Symposium

Recently all Year 7 – 9 AVID students completed a narrative task as part of their preparation for the 'Humans on Mars' Symposium.

Congratulations to Crislin Rosete and Matilda Prelec in Year 8 whose narratives were outstanding and are featured below!

Trapped in Longing Crislin Rosete 8A

12/03/2099

When I first stepped out of my spaceship, the wind made the silk coral dirt dance around me. My chestnut eyes widened at the sight of the circular buildings that were planted everywhere. The ice homes were larger in person compared to their blueprints. The sandy sky surrounded me and the passengers. All of us were in awe of the two beautiful moons in the sky. None of us knew about the civilisation or government system that was already set up.

Yours truly,

August

20/03/2099

When I was younger, being an astronaut was my lifetime dream; people would say I was ambitious. I knew that I might never get to that point, but ever since I've been living on Mars, I've been pining to go back. Remembering my past life never fails to make my eyes water. Every hour and minute of each day, I long to go back to Earth. I long for the sweet air and the savoury dirt. I long for the

bustling cities and the quiet countryside. I long for the short walks and long drives. None of those things exist on Mars. Mars had always been a dream for me, but now that I'm here, it feels like a nightmare.

Yours truly,

August

In another time, I knew hope.

It's now lost among the stars, planets and galaxies.

The first time my feet touched the dry orange dirt; I had hope.

I hoped that Mars would be different, but no.

We're still the same.

Matilda Prelec 8a

I breathe in and out, in and out, my breaths getting faster and faster. I'm not ready for this, I shouldn't be going, and I shouldn't be here. I am not okay with this. I'm panting. I'm breathing so fast barely any air is coming in to my system.

We're moving faster and faster, my ears are blocked. "This is it, we're about to enter that atmosphere!" Williams shouts over the deafening rumble of the engines. I close my eyes and try to calm myself, the sound of the engines rattling my bones. It feels like an hour goes past. I'm so scared, even though it's only been a few minutes. I hear a dull thud and the whole ship jumps.

Everyone frees themselves from their safety belts and gets ready to leave. I'm glued to my seat, breathing in and out, my heart beat going through the

roof. "Fray!" Williams shouts "Get moving!" I close my eyes and shake my head. Williams comes forward and forces me to stand and shoves my helmet on my head. Once everybody is ready the door opens and the ramp slowly lowers to the ground. We've been training for this for months, we know what to do. It still doesn't make it any easier. I can barely breathe, my mind is telling me no but my body isn't corresponding, it's moving me forwards.

When I walk through those doors I am surrounded by a red, barren desert. Even walking on this planet feels different. This is insane, this isn't right, everything feels wrong. "Head for the dome to your left!" Williams instructs us. I turn to my left and look into the distance at what appears to be a small dome.

We walk and walk and walk, and I can't help but feel sick, my breathing is unsteady and I can feel my heart beating in my throat. As we get closer the dome gets larger and larger, though I still can't clearly see what's inside. Oh God, I don't want to be here, this place feels wrong. I can feel the cold through my thick suit. I've just gotten here and I already want to go home.

My breathing is picking up pace again. I feel dizzy. I'm so scared my body is trembling. We have to live together, close and compact. We can't leave. I begin to feel very, very light headed. My vision starts to spot and I start to stumble, everything goes sideways and it goes black.



Year 10 Studio Art

Congratulations to the Year 10 Studio Arts students who collaborated on this awesome mural!





Sports Update

Senior Boys Netball

Well done to our senior boys netball team who played exceptionally well recently. They won their first game and drew their second game. Unfortunately on percentage they didn't make it through but their efforts are to be commended. All boys conducted themselves very professionally and demonstrated the College values 'Respect ourselves and others' and 'Strengthening the community'. Even the umpires commented on how polite the students were. Well done boys!
Miss White

Year 9 Girls Futsal Team





Sister School Visit to VUSC

In the second week of this term we welcomed a week long visit from our sister school in China, the High School Affiliated to Yangzhou University. The 20 visiting students and 3 teachers spent time in classes at both our Junior and Senior campuses, as well as a Welcome Reception at Government House. The visit gave them a chance to see what education in Australia is like and to practice their English.

The farewell assembly was held at the Junior Campus, where our visiting students and teachers were presented with gifts and certificates, as well as a commemoration plaque to take back to their school in China. One of the Chinese teachers did a thank you speech, and the Chinese students did some amazing performances – singing and a

traditional Chinese dance. I would like to thank our host families for generously volunteering to host the students and our student buddies who accompanied the students to their classes.



Community News

Financial Capability Workshops

Good Shepherd and Brimbank City Council are presenting a number of Financial Capability workshops in August and September. Please see the flyer attached.

Sunshine Lantern Festival

Sunday 15th September 11am - 8pm

The Sunshine Lantern Festival is a free community event that takes place in the busy Sunshine shopping precinct along Hampshire Road, Sunshine on Sunday 15th September 2019, 11am to 8pm. It is our 10-year anniversary and we will be celebrating with a huge day of family fun, live entertainment, rides, street performers, animals, music, dancing, food of many nations, magical Lion and Dragon Dancing, a Lantern Parade to celebrate the full moon and ending with spectacular fireworks.

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



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.