



VUSC News Issue Thirteen

Dear Families,

It has been a very busy year for Victoria University Secondary College. It was the third year implementing our Strategic Plan and we continue to make significant inroads into establishing VUSC as a Professional Learning Community (PLC) with all teachers who teach the same subject meeting regularly and working collaboratively to improve student learning in their classes. Teachers have increased capacity to use student learning data to identify and close learning gaps. We have also continued our focus on improving student literacy, with our teachers focusing on Tier 2 vocabulary acquisition and the use of vocabulary in writing. We have been tracking students' progress using our VUSC Reading and Vocabulary continuum with great success.

Year 12 VCE Results

Congratulations to the VCE Class of 2019 on their excellent results, the hard work and dedication of both the students and teachers has meant we have maintained or improved upon most of our previous years' results. The school has improved its median and mean ATAR (Australian Tertiary Entrance Rank) results significantly by a 10%

increase from 2018. The school has also improved its mean study score of English to 31.03 (last year we had a mean English score of 29), a massive improvement from last year and a number of our subjects had mean study scores above 30.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Presentation Evening where we will announce our VUSC Dux for 2019 and celebrate the success of our Year 12's achievements.

STEAM Fair - Science, Technology, Art and Mathematics

Thank you to our families and staff who visited the STEAM Fair last week (see photos above and below) - an exhibition of exemplary student work in science, art and technology. A huge thank you to all of the students who contributed their work, time and effort into the STEAM Fair, including our music students who played for the visitors. Thank you also to our staff who assisted with the organisation of the day. It was an amazing event, congratulations to all and well done!



Orientation Day

On Tuesday 10 December we welcomed over 210 fresh new faces to the school for our Year 7 Orientation Day. These grade 6 students enjoyed lots of fun activities designed to make their transition to secondary schooling easier. We look forward to welcoming them all to our school community next year.

Presentation and Graduation Evening

Students and their families are invited to attend our annual Presentation and Graduation Evening at the Moonee Valley Racecourse on **Wednesday 18 December**. On this evening our graduating Year 12 students will be presented with their Certificates, and special achievement awards and scholarships are presented to students at all year levels. The evening will also feature solo and group musical and vocal performances by our students and staff.

Families are asked to be seated by 6.45pm for a 7pm start.

Parking: *All event parking will be in the free Centre car park, which can be accessed from Dean Street via gate 6, or Wilson Street via gate 7. Limited disabled car parking is available from Thomas Street, via gate 10 and then additional spots are available in the centre car park.*

Congratulations Miss White

Our school congratulates Miss White on her recent Netball Community Award for supporting boys and girls of all backgrounds and abilities to participate in netball! Well done Miss White!!

New Mobile Phone Policy

You may be aware that the Department of Education will require all government schools to implement a new Mobile Phone - Student Use Policy next year. The policy states that students who bring a mobile phone to school must have it

switched off and stored in their locker from the first bell to the last bell of the day. Families may ring the school office if they need a message given to their child. The College Board has approved the new policy which is attached below. Students and their parents will also be required to sign an agreement regarding computer, internet and mobile phone use at the beginning of next year.

Sports shorts



Abbey White was presented with her award by Australian Diamonds star Caitlin Thwaites. (Supplied)

Netball

Abbey White has scooped a 2019 Australia Post Netball Community Award. White, a Victoria University Secondary College Juniors Netball Club coach, was the Victorian winner of the award. The community award recognises individuals who go above and beyond to ensure that people of all backgrounds and abilities are welcome in netball. White established the Victoria University Secondary College club. "I've seen first-hand the way that netball has formed a more inclusive community because it has welcomed players of all abilities, boys, girls and people from various cultural backgrounds," White said.

Rowle

Year 12 Formal

On Thursday 21st November, the Year 12 students had the opportunity to celebrate the end of their secondary school journey at their Formal held at the Lakeside Reception Centre in Taylors Lakes. This was a great opportunity for the students to celebrate finishing their VCE or VCAL studies in a really fun, thoughtful and creative way. Groups of students organized different entertainment that was both humorous and reflective in regards to their secondary school journey. One group performed a couple of choreographed dance routines to the delight of the audience. Overall it was a wonderful way to celebrate together. Throughout the night students and staff danced to the music of the DJ and drums, posed for photos in the photo booth and were treated to a two-course meal. Congratulations to Dan Sullivan and his team for organizing this wonderful event.

Step Up Programs for 2020 Classes

Step up programs for Year 7 - 11 students were run in the final weeks of this year which provided students with the opportunity to experience their classes for 2020. This means that students have an idea of what to expect prior to starting in Term 1 next year. All programs were very successful in preparing students for the next steps in their secondary school journey and helping them to connect with their classes, subjects and teachers. Those in VCE next year will have some homework to complete over the break but will still have plenty of time to relax and recalibrate prior to starting next year.

Yearbooks

The 2019 Yearbook is now available. Students from Years 7 - 9 should have received their copy last week. Students in Year 12 will receive a yearbook at Presentation Evening. Year 10 and 11 students will be given a yearbook at the first assembly next term.

Looking Forward to 2020

2020 will again be a busy year for us. We will continue our focus on implementing the final year of our Strategic Plan with the key goal being Improving Student Learning Growth. While our enrolments continue to grow (next year we will have around 1050 students) we will continue to promote our successes and achievements to the wider community so that we remain the school of choice.

In Term 2 of 2020 we will undergo a school review prior to developing our new Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan sets our direction for the next 4 years (2021 to 2024) and includes our primary goal of improving student learning growth. A great deal of planning, organization and focus groups will take place before the review even commences. Stay tuned!

Please see the Important Dates in this newsletter and Compass for start dates for students in Term 1.

And finally....

I would like to thank our amazing staff, students and families for a fantastic year. Everyone has worked extremely hard to provide the very best education and support to our students and help them achieve their goals. Congratulations to our students who have achieved so much this year, in

their own personal journeys, their educational progress and their career pathways. I look forward to working with you all again in the New Year.

I would also like to acknowledge the generous support of our College Board throughout 2019. This year, parent, community and staff members were joined by four excellent student representatives, and this has provided even greater diversity and strength of voice to the school's governance. I would like to thank the Board for all their support and commitment to the continued growth and development of the college, and to always ensuring that it provides high quality education and opportunities to the young people of VUSC.

On behalf of all the staff at VUSC I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a safe and relaxing break.

Elaine Hazim
College Principal

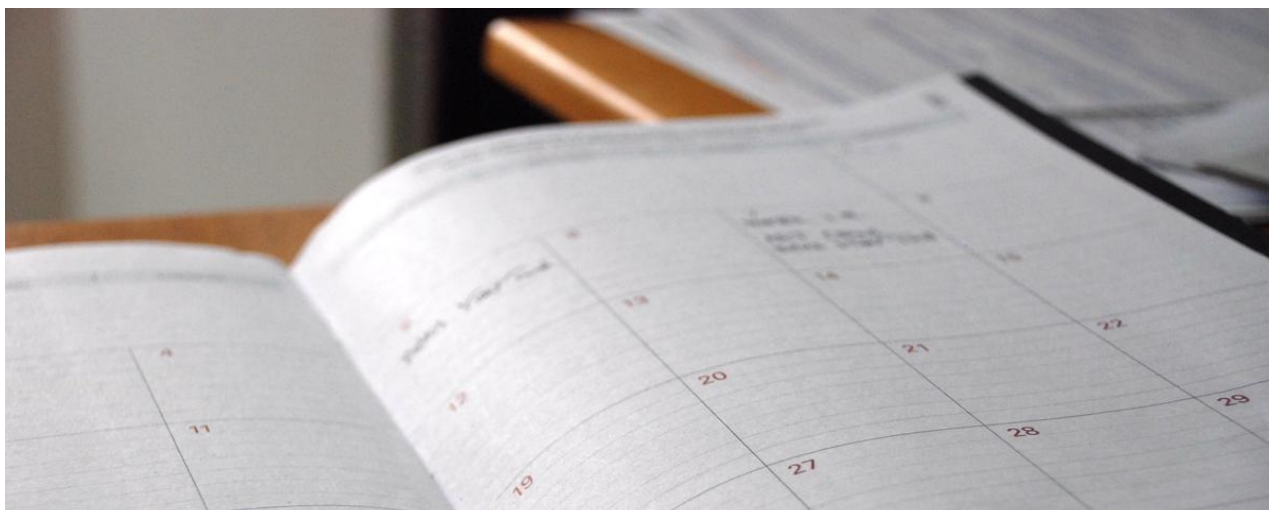
Child Safety

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

Year 7-9 End of Year Activities

Monday 16 - Wednesday 18 December

Presentation Evening and Year 12 Graduation

Wednesday 18 December - Moonee Valley Racecourse

Families are asked to be seated by 6.45pm for a 7pm start.

Parking: *All event parking will be in the free Centre car park, which can be accessed from Dean Street via gate 6, or Wilson Street via gate 7. Limited disabled car parking is available from Thomas Street, via gate 10 and then additional spots are available in the centre car park.*

School clean up day / Semester 2 reports published on Compass

Thursday 19 December

School closed

Friday 20 December

Textbooks collection from Campion - VUSC Junior Campus in C Block

Thursday 23 January 2020 from 10am-1pm

Staff Professional Development Day (no classes)

Tuesday 28 January 2020

Year 7, 11 and 12 students begin (VCE and VCAL)

Wednesday 29 January 2020

Year 8, 9 and 10 students begin

Thursday 30 January 2020

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



Buy and Sell Uniforms/Books

Buy and Sell Items on the Sustainable School Shop Website

Register on the Sustainable School Shop website at www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au to buy and sell items with other local families.

The school's booklists and uniform lists are loaded into the system to make the ad listing process easy, fast and accurate. Browse ads for free and list your items to sell for as little as \$1.50 each.

Uniforms and textbooks can be listed, as well as calculators, sports equipment, musical equipment, stationery and more. See the attached brochure for more information.



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/>.



Community News

Brimbank School Holidays Programs and Events DECEMBER 2019 - JANUARY 2020

The Parent Hub

Many parents worry about their kids and the world around bullying and keeping them safe.

The online world is opening up new experiences to them – some of them good, some of them challenging – and you want to know more about this world they dip into so that you have the knowledge to have the right conversations with your kids. There is a new site that has been launched called the **Parent Hub**.

This website has been designed as an educational site for parents looking to learn more about what kids are likely to see online. Topics that are covered are issues such as bullying, stranger danger, porn, respectful relationships, and more.

Videos, fact sheets and articles have been created so you can have the confidence to tackle any online issues your kids may bring to you. The site is endorsed by the Alannah and Madeline Foundation which is the same organization who helps support the eSmart initiative which is implemented at VUSC.

<https://parenthub.dollysdream.org.au/>

As the new year approaches let's take a moment to be grateful

Writing a "thank you" letter is an excellent way for children and young people to practice gratitude. Studies have found that writing a gratitude letter contributed to children's and

young people's awareness of positive social exchanges, increased their gratefulness, and improved well-being.

Cultivating gratitude is also an evidence-based positive psychology technique:

- people who keep gratitude journals or write gratitude letters to people they had never properly thanked, are reported to feel happier and have significantly better health
- gratitude may act as a stress buffer—people reportedly have lower well-being on days when they feel more [stressed](#) and worried than usual; gratitude might help alleviate these feelings.

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/au/blog/between-you-and-me/201903/do-gratitude-journals-really-work-4-new-gratitude-findings>

Some ideas for composing a gratitude letter might include:

To..., Thank you for being my..., I appreciate you because..., I think you are special because....., You are important to me because.... From....

Join the North Sunshine Eagles FC

NSEFC is a local Soccer club that will be playing out of Bon Thomas Reserve, Deer Park in 2020. At the moment they are looking for players for the 2020 season, both girls and boys.

Please see the attached flyers or contact Adam Demiri, North Sunshine Eagles FC

Mobile: 0408 103 005