



VUSC News

Issue 10 · 27 Oct 2020

Create the Future

In this issue



Principal's Message



Safe Practices at school drop off an...



Important Dates



Wellbeing and Community News



1st Prize! Innovation Nation



Parenting Ideas



Principal's Message

Dear Families,

It's fantastic to see all of our students back at school, we have really missed you all! Thank you to our students, families and staff for their extraordinary efforts and resilience this year; it has been a difficult year for everyone. I personally visited each class on Monday to welcome back our Year 8, 9 and 10 students, and it was terrific to see everyone's smiling faces again.

This term our staff will be focusing on supporting students' transition back to onsite learning and providing extra assistance where needed to maximise their learning this year and prepare them for 2021. Of course we are also doing everything we can to keep everyone safe, with continuous cleaning throughout each day and hand sanitisers in each classroom and office. Parents are reminded to please make an appointment prior to visiting the office.

A reminder that the school will be closed next week on **Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd November**. Students should use their time at home to complete any outstanding work and/or revise for VCE exams.

Congratulations to Mrs Clarkson and her husband on the birth of their beautiful baby girl, Bonnie Clarkson. Bonnie entered our world gracefully on Tuesday 6th October weighing 3.28kg. Both mum and Bonnie are doing very well.

Students and staff are currently in the process of electing **College Captains and Junior Campus Captains for 2021**. Thank you to the students who have applied to be leaders of our school community and student voice representatives. We look forward to announcing the new Captains later in the year.

ABCN Accelerate Scholarship Program

I am delighted to announce that Year 10 students Zamzam Ahmed and Jordan Zammit have both been awarded an ABCN Accelerate Scholarship!



The ABCN Accelerate Scholarship program is a three-year program that targets exceptional students who are facing economic, family or social challenges that impact on their study or capacity to achieve their desired tertiary pathways and ultimate career goals.

The Scholarship entitles these two students to \$7000 distributed over three years - \$2,000 in Year 11, \$2,000 in Year 12 and \$3,000 in their first year of further education or training. The scholarship funds can be used to cover any fees or costs associated with education.

Greg George, Regional Manager at ABCN phoned and informed me that they were overwhelmed with the high quality and number of applications they received this year. They place great emphasis on the robustness of students' applications and the selection process to ensure they are welcoming the most worthy and well-suited young scholars into the program.

The students will also receive a dedicated mentor who is a corporate professional from ABCN's network of member companies. Their mentor's role is to assist them in planning, understanding the world of work and helping them prepare for their final years of school and first year of study or work.

Without exception, the students who apply for this program stand out for the disadvantage they have had to face at such a young age. Well done and congratulations to Zamzam and

Jordan, we are very proud of you!

Parent Opinion Survey

WE WANT OUR PARENTS TO TELL US WHAT THEY 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 that is conducted amongst all parents. It is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of parents' perceptions of school climate, student behaviour, student engagement and experiences of remote and flexible learning. Our school will use the survey results to help inform and direct future school planning and improvement strategies.

Further information about accessing the survey is contained in the News Feed on your Compass Parent Portal. All parents will be invited to participate in this year's survey. All responses to the survey are anonymous. This year, the Parent Opinion Survey will be conducted from **Monday 12th October to Friday 13th November.**

The survey will be conducted **online**, only takes **20 minutes** to complete, and can be accessed at any convenient time within the fieldwork period on desktop 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.

Year 12 Scholarships

A reminder to parents and students that Scholarships are now available for Year 12 students planning to undertake tertiary studies in 2021, and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students planning on completing years 11 and 12. These are offered via the Department of Education and Training. Students must apply online by 28th February 2021. For more information on how to apply, visit the [student scholarships web page](#) or download the factsheet below.

 [2020-21 Year 12 Student Scholarships Factsheet.pdf](#)

VCE Exams and Consideration of Educational Disadvantage

On behalf of staff and the College Board, I would like to wish our VCE students all the very best for their exams this term. Year 12 exams begin on Monday 9 November and Year 11 exams begin on Wednesday 11 November. I encourage all VCE students to make this year count by studying hard and doing their absolute best to finish the year as well as they can.

The VCAA will be using the new Consideration of Educational Disadvantage process, as announced by Minister Merlino recently, when assessing each Year 12 VCE student this year and calculating ATARs. This process will take into account each student's circumstances as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19) lockdowns and remote learning. This includes health and wellbeing challenges, financial stress, extra home responsibilities and family stresses. The VCAA will consider all information provided so that each student's final VCE and VET study results are fair and reliable.

Year 12 Graduation

We are currently planning the Year 12 Graduation which will look a little different this year. The Graduation will take place at school in week 10, after exams have finished. Stay tuned for more details.

School Review

Our school review is underway and will be completed in the next two weeks. The review process takes place every four years at each school and is undertaken so as to ensure all schools are adhering to, and following, the directives provided by the Department of Education.

Over the coming weeks the School Improvement Team will meet to discuss and collaboratively form our strategic plan for the next four years (2021 to 2024).

The school review will be completed with the assistance of the following people:

- Julie Myers from the National Curriculum Services (Reviewer)
- Charles Branciforte, DET Senior Education Improvement Leader
- Ellen Arnott, VUSC School Council President
- Kay Peddle, Pascoe Vale Girls College Principal - Challenge Partner
- Danny Dedes, Taylors Lakes Secondary College Principal - Challenge Partner

Together with our School Improvement Team on Thursday 29th October, the panel will validate our school's performance over the past four years. This process will involve analysing school data, meeting with student focus groups and visiting classrooms.

On the Fieldwork Day on Thursday 5th November, Julie, Charles, Kay and Danny will conduct classroom observations and meet with teachers from both the Junior and Senior Campuses.

Our final day of review will occur on Monday 9th November, where all the data analysis, classroom observations and findings will inform our next four year strategic plan. Once complete, the strategic plan will be published on our website for the school community to read.

Elaine Hazim
College Principal

Child Safety at VUSC

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

Last day Year 12 VCE classes and Year 11 and 12 VCAL classes

Friday 30 October

Student home study day - school closed

Monday 2 November

Students should use this time at home to complete learning tasks and assessments and prepare for their exams.

Melbourne Cup Public Holiday - school closed

Tuesday 3 November

Year 11-12 VCAL Step Up begins

Wednesday 4 November

Year 12 VCE Exams begin

Monday 9 November

Last day Year 11 VCE classes / revision

Last day VET Year 1

Tuesday 10 November

Year 11 VCE Exams begin

Wednesday 11 November

Year 10 Immunisations

Thursday 19 November

Year 11-12 VCE Step Up begins

Year 10-11 VCE and VCAL Step Up begins

Year 7, 8 and 9 Step Up programs begin (Year 9 students to go to Senior Campus for Step Up)

Monday 23 November

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



1st Prize! Innovation Nation

It is our great pleasure to announce to our school community the success of a group of Year 10 students who have taken part in a program called Innovation Nation run by FYA (Foundation for Young Australians) - **they have come first!**

Twelve secondary schools from Victoria & New South Wales participated. The students attended a series of social entrepreneurship workshops and had professional mentors guiding them, as well as Mr Anderson.

The program started late January and students have spent many hours developing a video & an extensive business report for their social enterprise called ACTVSM. Their enterprise is designed to stimulate conversation about racism & to ultimately stop it in our community. They plan to design & print t-shirts with messages to achieve this goal. They have won a total of \$2,500.00 to develop their idea. Our Year 10's presentations really stood out from other schools & they represented our school extremely well.

Congratulations to Alai Maiava 10C, Noel Mangulabnan 10B, Toimata Tamati 10B & Siniva Maiava 10B! We are very proud of you!

Please support our students by purchasing their T-shirts when they are available.

Mrs Emirler

Community Engagement Coordinator



Safe Practices at school drop off and pick up

A message from Victoria Police

It has come to our attention with school returning that many parents and carers are taking serious risks and driving in an unacceptable manner, putting themselves and others in danger.

Already this term we have seen numerous near misses involving Brimbank children nearly being struck by vehicles as well as a number of collisions. It is imperative that children are dropped off and collected from school in a safe and legal manner.

Some of the things we are seeing are things including: dropping off and picking up children whilst stationary at a school crossing, parking illegally, performing u-turns in front of oncoming traffic and blocking private driveways. All of this behaviour and more is unacceptable.

We are asking all road users to take greater care in and around school zones. If you are dropping off or collecting children please leave yourself adequate time to find a park and safely attend to your children.

Over the coming weeks Police will be patrolling school zones and will show a zero tolerance to any offending. Please for the welfare of everyone, take care.

Listed below are some common offences and their penalties which police will be targeting:

Offence	Penalty	Demerit Points
Speeding	\$207 - \$826	1-3 points & up to 12 months loss of licence
Fail to give way to pedestrian	\$289	3 points
Fail to stop and remain stationary at children's crossing	\$413	3 points
Parking Offences	\$33 - \$165	-
Use mobile phone whilst driving	\$496	4 points
Seat belt offences	\$330 - \$372	3 points



Wellbeing and Community News

From the Wellbeing Team

How to get your child's learning mojo back [or how to keep it going]

I (along with over 100 other parents and educators) recently attended an evening webinar facilitated by psychologist Dr Andrew Fuller.

Compassion, love, hope and **connectedness** he said are the four most *powerful ingredients* that we have, to support children and young people to continue to manage the implications of following COVID protocols to keep us all healthy and safe.

Rebuilding connections: Dr Fuller acknowledged that whilst some (not all) students are thrilled about their return to on-site learning, they may still be feeling worried and cautious about reconnecting with teachers and peers. For parents, he suggests keeping up the family conversations that have been happening during “lockdown” and “delicately” and persistently, monitor the lessening of screen time.

The 2x10 Strategy: This strategy was presented for teachers at another webinar I recently attended and might be something that families adopt/adapt at home to maintain and strengthen family connections.

The 2×10 strategy is simple: spend 2 minutes per day for 10 days in a row talking with a student/young person about anything she or he wants to talk

about: <https://thecornerstoneforteachers.com/the-2x10-strategy-a-miraculous-solution-for-behavior-issues/>

Learning Strengths and maintaining a Resilient Mindset

In any context, knowing, using and reflecting on our personal learning strengths is a cornerstone of our learning mojo, given that everyone's brain processes information differently, and is as unique to an individual as their fingerprint.

When young people understand their pattern of learning strengths and use this knowledge, Dr Fuller reports that there is increased academic self-efficacy and more engagement in learning, all contributing to a student's level of self-belief that (with a resilient mindset) that they can do well <https://mylearningstrengths.com/>

Maintaining a Resilient Mindset (rather than having an anxious or avoidant mindset)

A resilient mindset, is one in which people *young and old* can approach challenges with greater confidence; with the ability to adapt and *bounce back* when things don't go as planned. Knowing, using and reflecting on our learning strengths, is one thing that helps to establish a resilient mindset.

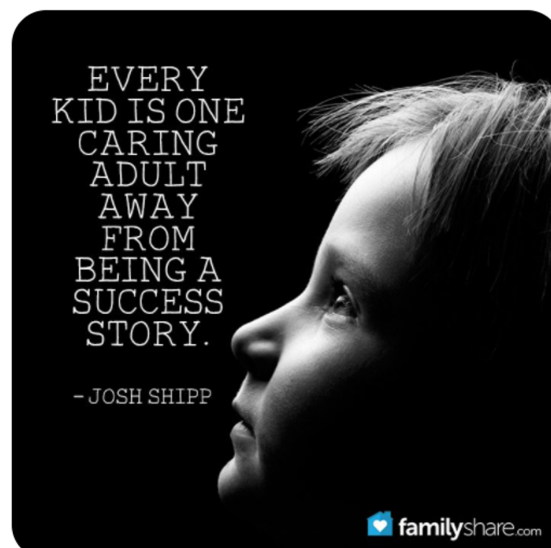
Whilst there are many characteristics of a person with a resilient mindset written about (facing challenges, being committed to work, setting and monitoring realistic goals), a resilient mindset is also influenced by relationships.

Resilience requires relationships

Every kid is one caring adult away from being a success story.

Anyone in the life of a child can make a difference – family, teachers, coaches – by:

1. Increasing their exposure to people who care about them
2. Letting them know that it's okay to ask for help
3. Building their executive functioning (working memory, flexible thinking and self-control) including:



- establishing routines;
- modelling healthy social behaviour;
- creating and maintaining supportive reliable relationships around them;
- providing opportunities for their own social connections;
- encouraging opportunities for creative interests and pursuits;
- *bringing back* the board games - good for impulse control (taking turns), planning, working memory, and mental flexibility (the ability to shift thoughts to an alternative, better pattern of thought if the situation requires)
- playing memory games

4. Encourage a regular mindfulness practice

Mindfulness creates structural and functional changes in the brain that support healthy and calming responses to manage stress, and to positively impact decision-making and responsible and safe behaviour.

5. Exercise

6. Build feelings of self-worth and competence

7. Nurture optimism

8. Teach children and young people how to reframe their thoughts

9. Model resiliency

FINAL WORD:

A recent message to the students from Mr Dowie on their return to on-site learning:

*"Enjoy engaging once again socially and intellectually with your peers and teachers. And **recognise that it may take a little time to re-adjust** for some of you. Whenever it's challenging, **take it a day at a time and plan to do just a couple of things better tomorrow than you did today.**"*

References:


<https://theparentswebsite.com.au/andrew-fuller-webinar-how-to-get-your-childs-learning-mojo-back/>

<https://www.heysigmund.com/building-resilience-children/>

Charis Mentoring Homework Club

Charis Mentoring is running an after school homework club for all Pasifika students in the Brimbank area. Please see the flyer attached below.

Students can register here: <https://forms.gle/oG8aNB3cz1z6ambB7>

 Pasifika Excel Homework Club flyer.pdf

Maths Tutoring Available

Tommy Le , who was a student at our school last year and is now at Melbourne University is available as a Math Methods and Physics tutor after hours and can be contacted on 0414051716 or on email Tommyle48@hotmail.com.



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 view articles published regularly on this page and access free webinar vouchers valued at \$37.



Free webinar voucher - Parenting like a cat and dog 11 November 2020.pdf



A flexible approach to raising kids.pdf



Parenting in challenging times.pdf



Wellbeing strategies for parents.pdf



Help kids tap into their inner resources.pdf



A topic you can't ignore.pdf