



VUSC News

Issue 3 · 30 Apr 2021

Create the Future

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Principal's Message

Dear Families,

Welcome back students, staff and families for Term 2.

Introducing our 2021 School Council

I am pleased to introduce to you our College Board for 2021, following the welcoming of new members and the election of office bearers at the March meeting:

Mrs Ellen Arnott, President

Mrs Annette Lawrence, Vice President

Ms Ishani Senevirathna, Treasurer

Parent Members: Annette Lawrence, Ishani Senevirathna, David Lawrence, Angela Fazio, Kim Bhatti, Tupuna Ngaue.

Student Members: Danita Caruso (Year 12) and Minh Nhat Nguyen (Year 7).

Community Members: Ellen Arnott, Brooke Moncur (Year 12), Jenny Kanteler.

Staff Members: Elaine Hazim, James Dowie, Sue Atzarakis, Glenn Leyland, Liz Pocklington, Brylee McNamara.

We look forward to working with parents, students, and staff on school council, and thank them for being so generous with their time and expertise.

On Friday 23rd 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. Our College Board President was in attendance as well as the local MP, Dr Daniel Mulino. Each event was a very moving tribute and I thank the staff who assisted and supported the students who participated.

The Importance of School Attendance

Research over many years consistently indicates that there is a direct correlation between high attendance at school and high academic achievement. In 2015 the Department of Education amended its policy regarding Exemption from Attendance at School. Under the revised policy, an exemption can only be applied for: Exceptional circumstances, Employment in the entertainment industry, Participation in an elite sporting event, Participation in an elite arts program. In accordance with this policy, family holidays, reunions, student part-time employment and other social activities requiring extended leave DO NOT qualify for an attendance exemption. Parents are requested to support the school by organising family holidays and overseas trips during school vacation times. Please note that any absence from school is to be explained to the school's Attendance Officer, Trish Rae.

The student absence hotline is 8312 0243 or email absence@vusc.vic.edu.au.

Congratulations Zamzam and Jordan!

This week I was very proud to present Year 11 students Zamzam Ahmed and Jordan Zammit with framed certificates and badges from ABCN in recognition of their scholarship awards. This prestigious scholarship provides significant funding support for the next three years as well as a business mentor each. Well done Zamzam and Jordan!

Breakfast Club

A reminder that Breakfast Club is running this term and all students are welcome to attend:

Junior Campus - every Monday mornings in front of the SWB office from 8.30-8.45am



Senior Campus - in room A9 Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8.30-8.45am.

New School

Construction of our new school at Cairnlea is progressing well. I have attached some photos below or feel free to take a look at the site on the corner of Furlong Rd and Ken Jordan Rd, Cairnlea.



Finally

As the cold weather has begun, please make sure that your child has the warm winter uniform – jumper, blazer, long pants, winter skirt, and long sleeve shirts.

Please note that hoodies and other non-uniform tops, any scarves apart from the school scarf, and other non-uniform items must not be worn at school, or on the way to or from school.

We greatly appreciate your support in ensuring that your child is in full uniform. If you need assistance with this, please contact your child's Year Level Coordinator.

A reminder that students will be busy preparing for NAPLAN and mid year exams which are coming up this term. **Wednesday 5th May is a student free day** for staff professional development. The campus offices will be open but teachers will be working on critical reading and writing strategies to improve outcomes for our students.

Enjoy the rest of the term.

Elaine Hazim

College Principal

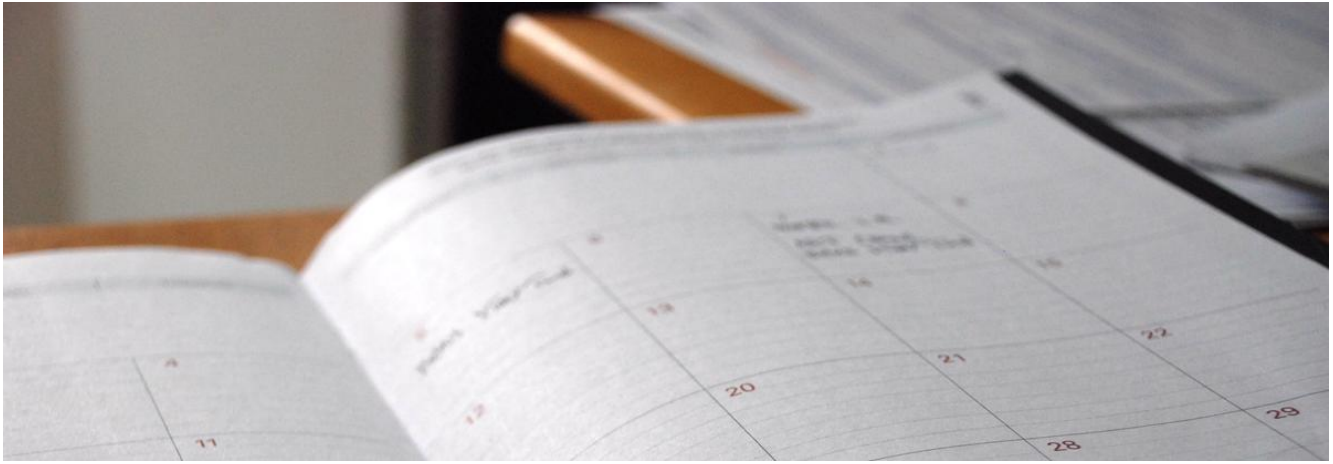
Child Safety at VUSC

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

Staff Professional Development day (student free day)

Wednesday 5th May

The College Board has approved this day as a student free day to allow for staff professional development in critical reading and writing strategies to improve student outcomes.

NAPLAN Year 7 and Year 9

11th - 13th May

Multicultural Day - dress up for a gold coin donation

Friday 21st May

Year 10 Immunisations

Tuesday 1st June

Junior Music Soiree 6.00pm in the Gym

Thursday 3rd June

Year 10 & 11 Exams begin

Thursday 3rd June

Year 7 - 9 Exams begin

Friday 4th June

Year 12 GAT (no Year 10 or 11 classes)

Wednesday 9th June

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



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 17th - 28th May. 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. We use survey results to inform school practices and programs.

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.



Bullying. No Way! Day

Bullying. No Way! Day - Monday 22 March.

National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence

On Monday 22nd March the school participated in 'Bullying. No Way! Day'. We are so proud of how the school rallied together to raise awareness for such an important issue.

Thank you to our students and staff for hosting activities at both campuses during the day, preparing the BBQ lunch for everyone and entertaining us with musical performances.

Here are some photos of the day!



Visit the **Bullying. No Way!** website (www.bullyingnoway.gov.au) for practical advice and information to help students, parents, teachers and other members of the school community to work together against bullying.

Bullying – what can you do?

If it happens in person:

- ignore them
- tell them to stop and then walk away
- pretend you don't care
- go somewhere safe
- get support from your friends.

If it happens online:

- avoid responding to the bullying
- block and report anyone who is bullying online
- protect yourself online – use privacy settings and keep records.

If you see someone being bullied:

- leave negative online conversations – don't join in
- support others being bullied.

If it doesn't stop:

- talk to an adult (parent, teacher) who can help stop the bullying
- keep asking for support until the bullying stops.

Free apps



Take a Stand Together provides tips and advice about bullying for young people.



The Allen Adventure is an interactive story for children to help develop social skills.



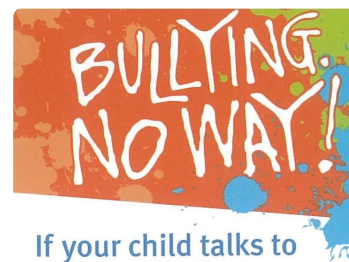
Need help?

Kids Helpline www.kidshelp.com.au
1800 551 800

headspace www.headspace.org.au
1800 650 890

Online bullying www.esafety.gov.au

www.bullyingnoway.gov.au



If your child talks to you about bullying:

1. **Listen** calmly and get the full story.
2. **Reassure** your child that they are not to blame.
3. **Ask** your child what they want to do about it and how you can help.
4. **Visit** www.bullyingnoway.gov.au to find some strategies.
5. **Contact** the school.
6. **Check in** regularly with your child.



Student works and school events

JUNIOR CAMPUS: Incursion - Brainstorm Productions

Dear Parents/Carers,

Please note that on **Tuesday 4th May**, Brainstorm Productions will be coming to the Junior Campus to perform their show, FLIPSIDE. This is a live performance that challenges high school students to reflect on cyber bullying, online safety and values and responsible use of technology. The performance is followed by a Q&A.

LOCATION: Junior Campus, school gym

COST: Gold coin entry to attend

TIMES: Year 9 – period 1 Year 8 – period 3 Year 7 – period 4

Please log in to the Compass parent portal to approve your child's attendance by **Thursday, 29th April, 2021. All students in year 7, 8 and 9 should attend this event.** For further

information on the show, please visit the

website: <https://www.brainstormproductions.edu.au/high-school-programs/the-flipside/> or

email Simone Fallon – simone.fallon@education.vic.gov.au

Ms Fallon

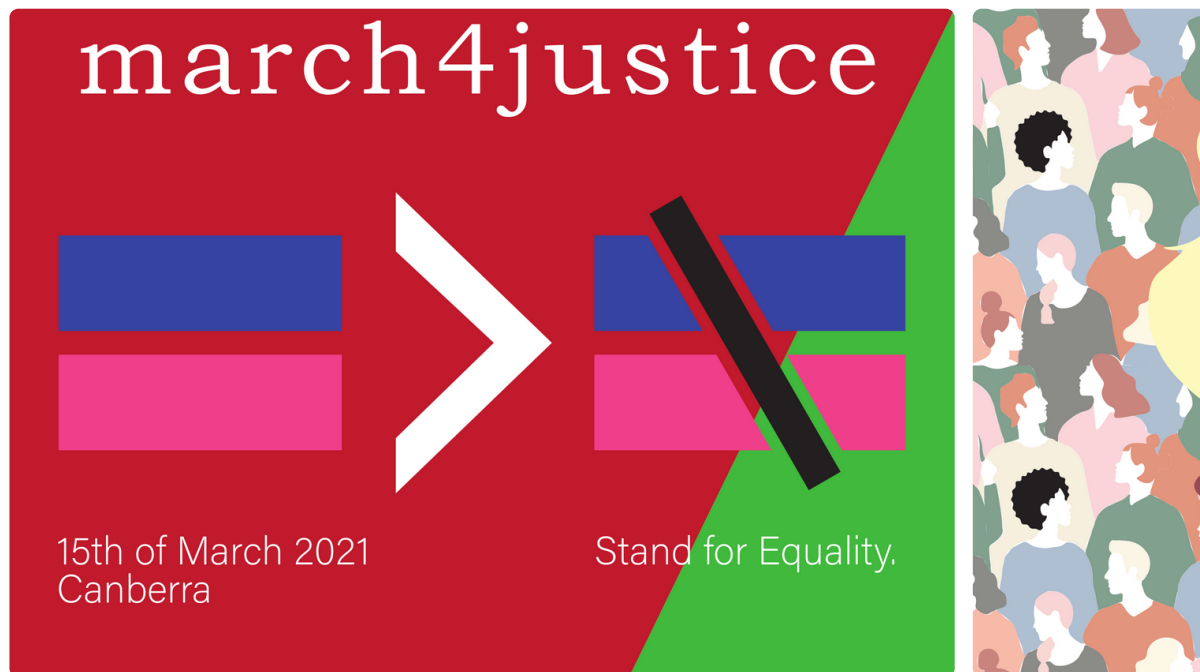
Year 12 Visual Communication Design

The Year 12 VCD class recently completed a task to design a poster for democracy without representing a politician or political party.

The themes students researched were:

- Democracy in Myanmar
- Women's march for justice
- Racism in the Asian community
- Gender Equality

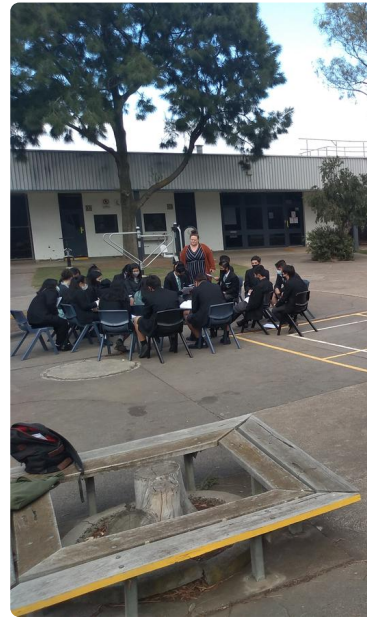
Well done to the students for their amazing work!



Deep Learning Program

The VUSC Deep Learning Program runs in Years 9 and 10 to provide academically ready with greater depth, challenge, extension in certain subjects. Pictured here are our 50 Year 9 students across the two Deep Learning classes in Year 9. They are participating in a Socratic Seminar which is a collaborative discussion in which students apply critical thinking skills to a text they are studying by developing and sharing questions and discussing their ideas within a group context. This allows students to develop new perspectives and build collaboratively on one another's ideas.

Chris Troy, Enrichment Leader



9G Literature Circles

Thanks to Ms Howard for these photos of 9G students enjoying the sunshine and focusing on their reading as part of the school's Literature Circles program.



DEBATING TEAM: THANK YOU FOR THE SUPPORT

Thank you to parents and guardians who have shown support for the Debating Team. In Term 1, students had a wonderful time competing and showcased their enthusiasm, professionalism and knowledge. We would love to see your continued support for the

second round happening on Wednesday 5th May. An information letter outlining further details will be given to students to pass on next week.

Many thanks,
Khoi Nguyen
Debating Coordinator



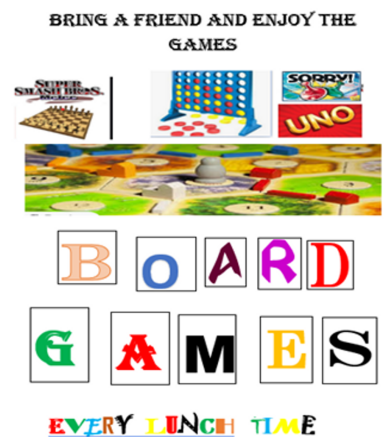
Board Games every lunch time!

As part of our student engagement programs, students are welcome to join the Board Games club every day at lunchtime. There is a variety of board games for students to choose from and any suggestions are welcome!

Junior Campus - Room G10

Senior Campus - Room A2

All welcome!



7A Being an Archaeologist for a Day

On a sunny Thursday afternoon in Term 1, 7A became Archaeologists for a day after studying it in their Humanities class. Many artefacts were discovered including small bones, old buttons, plastic items, straws, old nails etc. These artefacts were then studied and hypothesis discussed. The students really enjoyed this "outside of the classroom" activity.

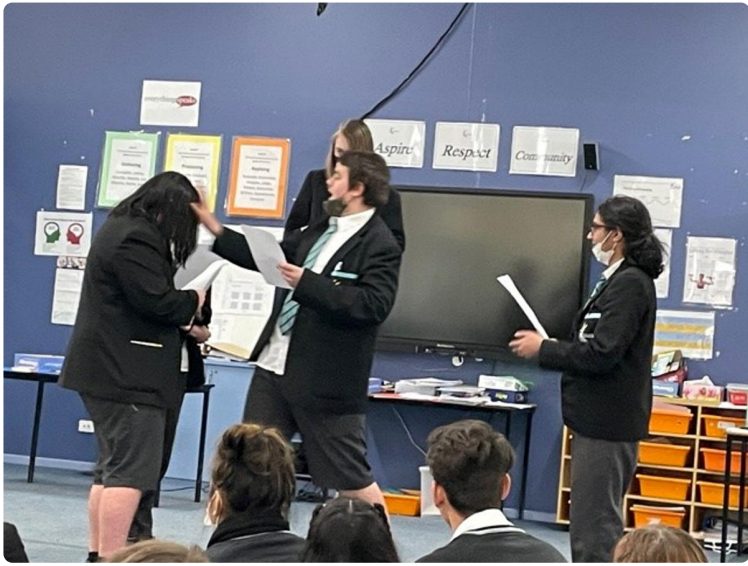
Ms Baka
Humanities Teacher



Much Ado About Nothing

This term Year 10 students participated in Western Edge Youth Arts' performance workshops on their current Shakespearian text *Much Ado About Nothing*. Students acted out several scenes within the play, as well as discussing lines and their meaning in contemporary language. The students gained a greater understanding of the text and enjoyed some drama and relationship-building games. Thank you to Mr Goodwin and the English team for organising this amazing opportunity for all of their English students and staff.

Miss Orford
English Teacher





11/12 Extended Investigation Excursion

VCE Extended Investigation is a subject where students are able to set their own course to research within their own field of interest.

It allows students freedom and independence in their learning while at the same time preparing them for the rigours of university life beyond secondary school. In March, both Year 11 and Year 12 Extended Investigation students spent a day in the city to participate in a range of experiences.

Based at the Kathleen Syme Library in Carlton, students first viewed the VCE Season of Excellence Extended Investigation Top Talks event, listening to four of the top performers from across the state share with the audience about their research in 2020, with topics varying from physics, to attitudes toward vaccines in rural communities, to representation of gender within film.

Students then met with VUSC alumni Steven Ho (class of 2018) on campus at the University of Melbourne where Steven is currently studying his Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Literature and History. Steven shared about his experiences transitioning from VCE into university life.

Following this, students then met with Caleb Tong who works for the University of Melbourne, who provided our students with advice regarding life in first year uni, and answered students' questions. In the afternoon, students were fortunate to participate in a workshop with Professor Sue Martin from La Trobe university, who has considerable experience over many years overseeing Ph.D students in their research topics.

Professor Martin shared about her experiences as a researcher and as a research supervisor. She then listened to the research questions of all students in the room and spent time providing advice through a Q & A session. Overall, the day provided students with many opportunities to think about how to direct their own research as well as their life in tertiary education in the years to come.

Mr Troy

Extended Investigation Teacher





Brimbank Library Mural Project

The Brimbank Council along with some local artists recently invited VUSC students to participate in a mural design project for the Deer Park Library. This project is an initiative to reconnect the library with local students.

The Brimbank Council expressed their hope that the students' and artists' creative expression would begin to weave together this relationship and reclaim a safe space.

Congratulations to the following students who participated in this project with the support of Mr Eugenio. Brimbank Council were extremely happy with the finished product!

Thu Nguyen 9B

Talia Huynh 9B

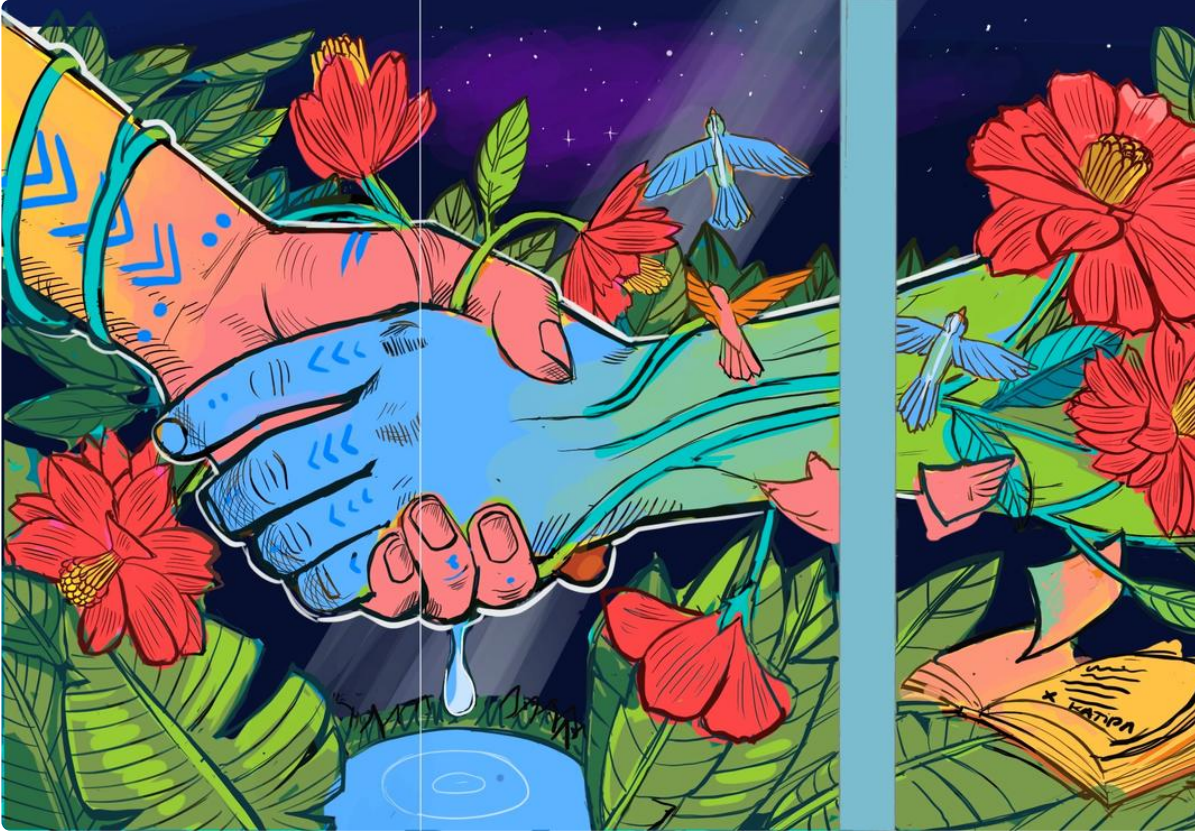
Kamila Nasyrebova 9D

Rebecca Mastaky 9G

Bilal Qalib 9G

The students created a vision statement behind their design:

"We want to decrease the distance and bring back the spread of positivity. A painting to reunite our community and encourage to continue to grow as a family that welcomes different cultures. Creating togetherness by inviting light and hope. And ultimately, inspiring the public to get lost in their imaginations by reading books".





Wellbeing and Community News

From the Student Wellbeing Team

Hello everyone,

This term we welcomed Bronwyn Anderson to our College. Bronwyn will be based at our Deer Park campus every Thursday and Friday as part of the Department's Secondary School Nursing Program. The aim of this program is to:

- play a key role in reducing negative health outcomes and risk-taking behaviours among young people, including drug and alcohol abuse, tobacco smoking, eating disorders, obesity, depression, suicide and injuries
- focus on prevention of ill health and problem behaviours by ensuring coordination between the school and community-based health and support services
- support the school community in addressing contemporary health and social issues facing young people and their families
- provide appropriate primary health care through professional clinical nursing, including assessment, care, referral and support
- establish collaborative working relationships between primary and secondary school nurses to assist young people in their transition to secondary school.

At VUSC, the staff are well and truly aware that the COVID pandemic has shone a light on the ongoing decline in young people's mental health.

Resilience is an attribute that we all need to foster and maintain. Resilience is important for several reasons; it enables us to develop mechanisms for protection against experiences that could be overwhelming, helps us to maintain balance in our lives during difficult or stressful periods, and can also protect us from the development of some mental health difficulties and issues.

Please know that at VUSC, staff are observing and monitoring your child's wellbeing and encouraging and supporting students to have a growth and resilient mindset. We have strong, established partnerships with a number of external support services to enable and support this, including: our regional Student Support Service Officers, Brimbank Youth, Headspace, La Mana Pasifika, Charis Mentoring, the Alannah and Madeleine Foundation and School Focused Youth Services.

We are so appreciative of the trust you place in us, and our partnerships with you are a privilege. Please continue to liaise with your child's teachers, their Year Level Coordinators and the Principal Team if you have any concerns about your child.

Youth Workers (Harry at Junior Campus T: 9363 1155 and Peter at Senior Campus T:8312 0200) are available for students to talk with before and after school, during recess and lunchtimes also.

Resilience – What? Why? How?

Resiliency helps kids navigate the inevitable trials, triumphs and tribulations of childhood and adolescence. Resilient kids become resilient adults, able to survive and thrive in the face of life's unavoidable stressors.

WHY?

Resilient kids have a sense they can figure out what they need to do and can handle what is "thrown at them" with a sense of confidence.

HOW?

- Normalise your child's nervousness/disappointment/frustration and help them how to figure it out – think about what does and doesn't work, model and teach specific skills e.g. problem-solving, communicating, positively managing their emotions.

- Discuss and promote the 7 Essential Building Blocks of Resilience (Competence, Confidence, Connection, Character, Contribution, Coping and Control). Perhaps discuss one of these building blocks each week as a family, and share successes in how you used these and how individually and collectively, you can build on/apply them even further.
- The Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority (VCAA) put together an evidence-based framework about the skills children and young people need to be taught to develop the skills they need to be resilient. You can read more about that here (self-awareness and management: development of resilience).

For example students in years 7 and 8, might be encouraged to:

- Assess their personal strengths using feedback from peers, teachers and others and prioritise areas for improvement.
- Reflect on their effectiveness in working independently by identifying enablers and barriers to achieving goals.
- Discuss the range of strategies that could be used to cope with difficult tasks or changing situations.
- At VUSC skills and strategies to develop resiliency and a resilient mindset are discussed and modelled in a variety of teaching and learning contexts, conversations with staff, as well as explicitly taught, through our Respectful Relationships curriculum.

Some articles and resources that may be of interest:

10 Tips for Creating Resilient Families

<https://theparentswebsite.com.au/ten-tips-for-creating-resilient-families/>

10 Tips For Raising Resilient Kids

<https://psychcentral.com/lib/10-tips-for-raising-resilient-kids#3>

Building resilience in Children

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

Essential Building Blocks of Resilience

http://www.fosteringresilience.com/7cs_parents.php

Gail Inniss

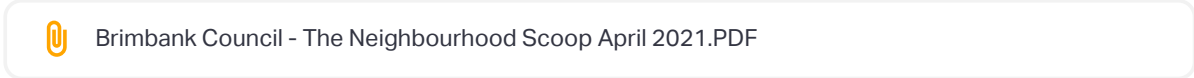
Student Wellbeing Manager

VCE Tutoring Available

Tommy Le is a past VUSC student who is available to tutor VCE students in Mathematical Methods and Physics. Tommy can be contacted on mobile 0414 051 716 or via email at tommyle48@hotmail.com.

Brimbank Council - programs and events in Term 2

Please see the flyer below for more information about the programs and events on offer in Brimbank this term.



St Albans Football Club is looking for players

Due to a generous sponsorship, St Albans Football Club is able to offer youths born between 2005 and 2007 the opportunity to play AFL football for a local team within Brimbank Council covering costs such as membership fees and game day apparel. They are a family oriented club focusing on inclusion and development.

Please call 0417 525 511 or email stalbandsfootyclub@gmail.com for more details.



AFL/AFLW Mentoring Program

Ladder Step Up Online is an online group mentoring program that builds young people's competency across key life domains.


This pilot program is delivered weekly to young people who are looking to set themselves up for future independence. Key program areas include goal setting, independent living skills, health and wellbeing and employment planning.

AFL and AFLW players engage in the program which will run in weeks 6-10 this term. For more information please visit ladder.org.au and see the attached flyer.

 Step Up Schools flyer.pdf

Do you want to have a say in your local library?

On Friday 7 May, from 3-5pm, a special Chill n Chat event will be running for 12-25 year olds in front of Sunshine Marketplace (301 Hampshire Road). It will be a chance for young people to tell us what they want to see at their local library, while enjoying live music and roving entertainment. There will also be a number of food vouchers available for those who have their say on the library.

 Brimbank Libraries events flyer.PDF

Shaping Brimbank

Brimbank City Council are currently undertaking consultation on three key documents: The Council Vision 2040, the Council Plan 2021-2025 and the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

Two workshops will be held in the coming weeks to capture community input into these documents before they are drafted. Once drafted, they will again be available for public exhibition. These workshops are:

Monday 10 May, 6-8pm Deer Park Hall - 50 Station Road, Deer Park

Wednesday 12 May, 6-8pm Brimbank Learning Futures (VISY) - 80B Harvester Road, Sunshine

Please register for these workshops, access pre-reading materials, and find more information about the process here: <https://yoursay.brimbank.vic.gov.au/shapingbrimbank>.

A yellow banner with the text 'SHAPING BRIMBANK' in large, 3D-style letters. 'SHAPING' is in blue, and 'BRIMBANK' is in white with blue outlines. To the right is the 'Your Say' logo (a blue speech bubble) and the Brimbank City Council logo (a blue square with a white wave and the text 'Brimbank City Council'). Below the main text is a dark blue button with white text that says 'Let's shape Brimbank together'.

SHAPING
BRIMBANK

Your Say

Brimbank City Council

Let's shape Brimbank together

Have your say and help shape the Community Vision 2040, the 2021-2025 Council Plan, and the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

Attend a community workshop or visit yoursay.brimbank.vic.gov.au/shapingbrimbank to give us your feedback by **Sunday 16 May**.

 **131 450**
Local call costs apply






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 \$39.

 [Teaching consent to children and teenagers.pdf](#)

 [Managing anxiety before it becomes a problem.pdf](#)

 [Young people we need to talk.pdf](#)

 [Establishing digital boundaries for the screen generation.pdf](#)



That's leadership thinking.pdf



Supporting boys in upper primary school.pdf



Webinar Voucher 23 June - Connecting with Teenage Daughters.pdf



Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund Applications

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps eligible families to cover the costs of school excursions, camps and sporting activities for their child.

Applications for 2021 close on 25th June (end of Term 2).

If you have a valid means-tested concession card, such as a Veterans Affairs Gold Card, Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible. There is also a special consideration category for asylum seeker and refugee families.

Payment amounts this year are \$225 for eligible secondary school students . Payments are made direct to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions and sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

If you applied for CSEF through our school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year, unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

If you would like to apply for the first time, please visit the school office with your concession card and ask for an application form. The concession card must list your child's name.

You can find out more about the program and eligibility, on the Department of Education and Training's [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund web page](#).

Check with the school office if you are unsure, and please return completed forms to the school office as soon as possible.