

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Its not often I get to write the Principal's message but with Darryn enjoying a very well earned break I want to welcome you to the last newsletter of term 1. I wish all members of our school community a happy and safe holidays and hope you get to spend some time with family and friends.

While it has been a short first term, it has also been busy and the students are definitely ready for a break and recharge. I would encourage all students to find some time to relax and enjoy themselves but keep in mind that it is also a great opportunity to catch up on any missed work, put some effort into study and revisit learning goals for term 2.

In a Senior Secondary setting there can be less opportunities for parents to be directly involved with a student's education but this Wednesday and Thursday (23 and 24 March) offer a great chance to do just that during the Parent Teacher Interviews. Staff are looking forward to meeting with as many student and parents as possible to discuss progress so far and outline plans to improve as we move further into the 2016 school year. For all details about the interviews, log into the Compass Parent Portal.

Recently the School Council met for the first time with our new 2016 members. We would like to welcome Jodi Peck, Annabelle Slocombe and Penny Renden to council and thanks them for their commitment to the school. We would also like to thank the outgoing council members, Michelle Tin and Valerie Miles for their dedication and efforts.

Over the term break there will be some development of the school grounds with a new section of artificial turf put down. We have selected a short blade style so that students can play ball games in the area and there will be some court markings to further encourage use of the area. We are looking forward to seeing a few more students getting active during recess and lunch. Keep an eye out in the next newsletter for some photos.

The school holidays provide a good opportunity for parents to ensure students are prepared for the upcoming cool and wet weather. Our school uniform includes jumpers and jackets that can be worn to keep warm and dry during these months so please ensure students are equipped with them. Hoodies and other non-school jumpers or jackets aren't part of the school uniform and shouldn't be worn unless it's a last option and is accompanied by a note from parents.

Shaun Sleep
Acting Principal
Point Cook Senior Secondary College

Orientation Program





Staff Professional Development Sharing of Reflective Strategies

One of the real strengths of Point Cook Senior is the wonderful sense of collegiality and collaboration that exists amongst the staff. This strength was on display last Tuesday afternoon as we had a professional development session in which teachers shared specific teaching strategies with their colleagues. The strategies were all **reflective tasks**; activities that allow the teacher to evaluate the success of the learning, whilst also empowering students to process and monitor their own understanding. Research has demonstrated that, "the value of reflection in learning lies in its ability to help learners to clarify their thoughts, to gain insights and to deepen their understanding of the information that they receive." (Higgs, J., (1988), *Developing Student Autonomy in Learning*, Kogan Page, Sydney)

This professional development is part of the college's ongoing creation and introduction of our instructional model – The PCSSC Learning Cycle. Further professional learning will continue over the next several years, as we strive to provide the highest-quality learning experience for our students.



Thank you very much to Bryce, Bruce, Kerry, Christine, Michelle, Kelli, Dani, Vanessa, Laura and Shane for presenting their reflective strategies, as well as Anna and Mel for their preparation.



Business Management

The Port of Melbourne Business Management excursion for Year 12 students was an eye opener to how our City's Port operates. Journeying to the Port's information facility beside the control tower, students learnt of the economical contributions that the Port provides to Victoria and the environmental considerations, which guide the Port's functions. Touring the government-funded business with Port Education Coordinator, Kristy Janin, the students gained information about the structure of the facility, its operation and its management to apply to their studies in Unit 3. The trip overall was a successful learning excursion, providing students of Business Management with a great insight to how the Port operates, relating to our studies. The students would like to thank Ms. Janin for her captivating presentation.



Ashley Beeby and Ethan Zahorodnyj, Year 12 Business Management students.

ATTENDANCE

Student attendance information is available on Compass, including the option to approve absences and input requests to leave early for an appointment. Students are required to provide a medical certificate when absent from a VCE class or assessment.

Late Arrival to School - Students are requested to use Compass card to sign in at Kiosk at the front of the school. Students who do not have cards can report to the attendance office.

Early Leave - Parent approval is required for any student requesting to leave early. This can be done either by parent entering approval on Compass or contacting the attendance office.

Year 11 English

As part of Year 11 English student's study of the play 'Cosi', Eagles Nest Theatre Company came out to the school on Monday March 11 for the morning. The company performed key scenes within the play and workshopped different interpretations with the students. Certain students volunteered to get up and put their dramatic skills to the test in taking on the personas of mental patients in the 1970s. Students were able to see scenes performed several times with different tones to help them understand how a scene could be interpreted in many different ways. A big thank you to the Eagles Nest Theatre Company for putting on such an engaging performance.





Physical Education

Last week 2 classes of year 11 VCE Physical Education students went on an excursion to the Victorian Institute of Sport. Students were taken on a tour of the facility by Alice Mc Namara who is an elite international rower and also a medical doctor. During the tour students were shown the state of the art training facilities including Olympic weight lifting area, VO2 max testing site, zero gravity trainer and other training and recovery areas. Students were spoken to about athlete nutrition, sport science, careers and different fitness and recovery regimes. PE students were each invited to complete workout puzzles, strength training and speed tests on the high tech equipment available at the centre.



International School Student Welcome Reception

Point Cook Senior along with over 40 other government schools who host international students were invited to attend the 2016 International School Student Welcome Reception held at Government House in Melbourne on March 3, 2016. At the annual welcome event; International students Kira Legenhausen and Shawn But along with International Student Coordinator Alan Hale were selected to represent Point Cook Senior. Kira, Shawn and Alan were introduced to and welcomed to Melbourne by several distinguished guests. Following formal welcomes and photographs with the Governor of Victoria Linda Dessau and Parliamentary Secretary Judith Graley students from Point Cook Senior along with over 300 international students in attendance were invited into the courtyard of Government House for refreshments and provided with the opportunity to explore behind the scenes access to one of Melbourne's most iconic buildings and landmarks. The welcome event provided a once in a lifetime opportunity for Shawn and Kira who admirably represented Point Cook Senior and our international student program.





Art, interaction and cats at the NGV!

On Monday the 29th February 19 Year 11 and 12 students joined Ms Marie and Ms Newman in attending the Andy Warhol and Ai Wei Aei exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria as part of the NGV's student night. The evening brought together secondary and tertiary students from all over Victoria to immerse themselves in more than 300 works from both artists, engage with interactive artworks and experiences, participate in art-making classes and listen to academic lectures and talks about the exhibition. Highlights for students included the cat gallery, the 'Forever Bicycles' installation, Andy Warhol's portraits and the "lego room" full of human rights quotations and slogans. Some students commented that they liked the interactive parts of the exhibition and that they enjoyed talking to other like-minded students they hadn't had the chance to speak to at school.

Cultural excursions like this will be organised each term and will be open to all students, regardless of learning area or year level. Ideas for future events include the Williamstown Literary Festival, visits to the theatre and Melbourne Writers Festival. If any students are interested, they can see Ms Marie in the 100s building.



PCSSC B.U.G.

Point Cook Senior Secondary College Bicycle Users Group will be starting up in Term 2 on Tuesday lunchtime in R506. Come along for some handy pointers on bike maintenance, security, setup, training or just where is good to ride. Starting week 1, see you there!

Me, myself & I

Images of horses cloud my mind, from dusk till dawn I dream of fields of green and horses of all colours and proportions

Maltesers, M&M's and milk chocolate are some of my secret indulgences

Ornaments of skulls, wolves and horses border my room; dream catchers ignite my thoughts of medieval creatures of the night

Ghosts of passed relatives visit me often to whisper and watch over me as I rest in my surrounds

Emptiness consumes my heart as I hear the faint cry of dogs whimpering in the chill of the night

Night walking encompasses my thoughts of worlds before ours, what lies beneath the earth and heavens above

Engaging with friends, family and loved ones on holidays and adventures is what I seek. Cruising the 7 seas and pursuing firsthand sights with sunsets from different time zones throughout the world.

By **Imogene Skehan** (Year 10)

The Jumbo Box of Chocolate Eggs Problem.

I bought a jumbo box of chocolate eggs for my husband last week. However, by the time we got home my kids and I had eaten $\frac{1}{4}$ of the eggs. As we were putting the groceries away, we ate $\frac{1}{2}$ of what was left. Then just before dinner we ate another $\frac{1}{6}$ of the remainder. There are now just 10 chocolate eggs left in the box. How many chocolates were in the box to begin with? *Try making a model, using a diagram or trial and error.*

Suggestions: Try making a model, using a diagram or trial and error.



The World's Greatest Shave

The World's Greatest Shave in support of the Leukaemia Foundation was held on Thursday 10 March at the college. Organised by Year 12 Student Leaders with much appreciated help from Ms Kelli Simpson on the microphone and Ms Alex Genovese wielding hairdressing clippers, the event raised over \$1000 for a very worthy cause. Well done to all those involved!



Compass Portal

Just a brief reminder that the majority of our communications with parents at PCSSC are made through the Compass Parent Portal. All parents have a portal account that provides access to reports, attendance information, absence requests and approvals, school photo ordering, teacher email contact, booking for parent-teacher interviews, calendar of events, excursion consent/permissions and news items to keep you update with what is going on.

If you are a CSEF (Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund) recipient, please contact the school before consenting to any event so that we can adjust the costing.

To access your account:

go to the College's homepage www.pointcooksenior.vic.edu.au and click on the Compass Portal icon.



Compass Portal

Click here to login to the Point Cook Senior Compass Portal

or directly go to Compass login

<https://pointcooksenior.vic.jdlf.com.au/Login.aspx>

If you are having trouble accessing your account, click on the "**Can't access your account**" and follow the prompts to access it using your username, email address or mobile number. If you need guidance on how to navigate the Compass Portal, please contact the school.

Point Cook Senior Secondary College

Sign in

Remember me

[Can't access your account?](#)



Breakfast Club

Where: Room 312

When: Fridays

Time : 8.00am – 8.30am

All welcome

Point Cook Senior Secondary College would also like to sincerely thank the Bendigo Bank for their ongoing support towards our Breakfast Program.



The Breakfast Program has been beneficial in supporting those students in need and also developing relationships between staff and students. It also improves student wellbeing, supporting them in improving their outcomes. It is with the support and generosity of the Bendigo Bank that this program continues to be successful.



The Jumbo Box of Chocolate Eggs Problem Solution: The full box had 32 chocolates.

IMPORTANT DATES

Term 2:

11 April – Term 2 Commence

25 April – ANZAC Day Public Holiday

26 April – Curriculum Day

11 May – Winter (1) Senior Sports

16 May – Division Cross Country

20 May – Winter (1) Intermediate Sports

27 May – College Athletics Day

30 May - 2June – Year 10 & Year 11 Revision Week

3 - 9 June – Year 10 & Year 11 Mid-Year Exam

8 June – GAT all students enrolled in Unit 3 & 4

9 June – Western Region Cross Country

10 June – Report Writing Day

13 June – Queens Birthday Public Holiday

14 - 20 June – Year 10 Work Experience Week

22 June – Girls AFL and BOYS Netball

24 June – Term 2 Ends

Term 3:

11 July – Term 3 Commence

12 July – Year 12 Biology Excursion

20 July – Year 10 into 11 Parent Information Evening

22 July – Course Counselling Year 10 into 11

25 July – Advisory/Orientation Program Day 3

27 July – Year 10 Course Confirmation Day - No Y10 Classes