

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

On the 25 April Australia commemorated all those that had served and died in all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping on ANZAC Day. During that week we held an assembly here at school, organised by our student leaders, we observed a minutes silence in memory of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and invited a guest speaker from the Armed Forces to address our students to explain the significance of the day. At the end of the assembly, the students sang the national anthems of New Zealand and Australia, a special mention to Alofa Luatuanu'u for leading the singing of the anthems. I want to acknowledge how proud I am of our student leaders for organising and running the assembly, a special mention here for Logan Peck for his work on this event and I want to acknowledge the level of respect the whole student group displayed on the day.

From 2018 all Victorian government schools will have a mandated Student member category on their school council, this means that School Councils in Victorian schools will now have student representatives who have full voting rights. The Department of Education and Training has increased each schools constituting Order by two positions to allow for two student members to be elected to council. I congratulate Logan Peck year 12 and Alexandra Sipahutar year 11 on being elected to the School Council as our first voting student representatives.

Over the last three weeks the School Review has been taking place and Julie Myers, who is running the review has been conducting classroom observations, conducting focus group sessions with students and speaking to staff about the school and how we go about teaching and learning. Julie will produce a report once the review concludes which will tell us how we have performed in our Strategic Plan over the period 2015 – 2018, the report will help us determine what the next Strategic Plan 2019 – 2022 will look like.

Students have been completing the annual Attitudes to School survey during May, the survey is important as it informs the school how students see the school in terms of their learning and how they feel at school. This information is presented back to the school in the form of a report, which we analyse to determine where our areas for improvement are. It is important that students take this survey seriously so that the information we get gives us a clear picture of student attitudes.

During weeks three, four and five of term two the year ten students have been participating in the Youth Mental Health First Aid program. Students learn the Youth MHFA Action Plan, as well as information about different types of mental health problems and mental health crisis situations in young people, and the relationship between thoughts, feelings and behaviours. Rather than focusing on specific mental illnesses, the course teaches participants to recognise when a friend is experiencing major changes in their thinking, feeling and behaviour, that are interfering with daily life and not going away as quickly as expected, as this may indicate the presence of a mental health problem.

PCSSC is proud of celebrating diversity and respectful relationships and we take a stand against discrimination in any form, on May the 17<sup>th</sup> we celebrated IDAHOT day, the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia. Student leaders organised a range of activities to make a stand against discrimination, such as handing out small pieces of rainbow ribbon and safety pins for students to wear on their uniforms, the significance is to demonstrate the acceptance and tolerance of LGBTIQ members in the community who may feel as though they are not accepted or tolerated.

Chris Mooney

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## 2018 Attitudes to School Survey

WE WANT OUR STUDENTS TO TELL US WHAT THEY THINK!

We value student voice as a means to improving student engagement, wellbeing and quality instruction and 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.

Students from Year 10 to 12 at our school will participate in the survey. Your child will complete the survey online during school hours using a purpose built secure online survey tool. It is important to note that we are not in any way "testing" your child. Your child has the right to refuse or withdraw from the survey at any point before, during, or after completion of the survey.

Your child will be provided with a unique login to complete the survey. The student login is an assigned identifier that may be used to link data for statistical and research purposes only. All responses to the survey are kept anonymous in the response file. Personal identification data will not be recorded in the survey response file. This ensures that the confidentiality of your child's responses is protected at all times.

This year the Attitudes to School survey will be conducted at our school over the period Monday 7 May to Friday 25 May. The survey only takes 20 minutes to complete and occurs during your child's class time.

The survey results will be reported back to the school before the end of term 2. All survey data that is made available in reports are for groups of students only so that no individual student can be identified. Data suppression rules are used for schools with low student numbers per year level.

Last year we used the survey results to plan:

- to embed a culture of active learning in the classroom, participation in wider school activities and thoughtful decision-making about successful pathways.
- to enhance the health, safety and wellbeing of every student.

If you would like more information, please speak to your child's teacher or visit: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/management/improvement/Pages/performsurveyat.aspx>

## Theatre Studies Excursion

The very dramatic students of Point Cook Senior's Theatre Studies class made their way into Carlton on a warm Sunday afternoon to be part of the audience of La Mama's production of 'Carmilla', a ghost story for the theatre.

Part of the curriculum for the Theatre Studies course is to view two professional productions per year and write analysis on those plays. We were lucky enough with La Mama that they also presented a Question and Answer session after the play. The students were able to hear from the writer, actors, lighting director and director about their work and vision for the production. The students asked questions and were able to clarify decisions made in costume, music, lighting and acting.

Later the director pulled me aside as we were leaving the theatre to compliment me on my students, "They have been the most focussed and attentive group to attend this production, and their attention to detail with their questions. They are a credit to your school!". I thanked her for comments, and realised how lucky we are to have such wonderful young people to work with at Point Cook Senior.

Miss Simpson





We know that students achieve their best at school in safe and supportive environments, where they are free from bullying and disruptive behavior.

At Point Cook Senior Secondary College we put a big emphasis on making sure we provide a great environment for our students, including one that is free from bullying.

Bullying is a serious issue for all of us. We know that it can happen anywhere, anytime, and can have devastating consequences. We also know that with the rise of social media, cyberbullying is an increasingly important issue. Where bullying was once confined to the playground, it can now occur online at any time of the day or night. Cyberbullying is just as harmful as face-to-face bullying, and online actions can have real life consequences.

The best way to tackle bullying and cyberbullying is for schools, students and parents to work together.

Point Cook Senior Secondary College is supporting the Victorian Government's Bully Stoppers campaign – which has just launched a new series of tools and resources for parents and students to support students in preventing cyberbullying and how to practice *Netiquette*. Available from 10 February, students in years 3 – 12 are encouraged to participate in an online quiz hosted on the Bully Stoppers website, where they will learn more about how to be good net citizens and go into the draw to win an iPad as well as other prizes for our school.

These resources, called *Bully Stoppers: Being Cool Online*, are available on the Bully Stoppers website, at [www.education.vic.gov.au/bullystoppers](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/bullystoppers)

I encourage you to learn more by visiting the website and sharing the commitment to stop bullying and cyberbullying in our school and local community.

## Respectful Relationships

So what's been happening...

Year 10, 11 and 12 have begun looking at Emotional Literacy in Advisory as a part of the Respectful Relationships program. Students have completed a number of activities that explore hidden and more complex emotions; within this students have developed their vocabulary and analysed different case studies.

Looking into Term 2 students will focus on understanding personal strengths and using these qualities to manage particular situations and ethical dilemmas; as well as looking at equity and equality.

The following Year 10 students will be attending a Student Forum on Monday 21 May: Iris Pavlidi, Aada Zaidi, Rashini Weragalage, Radhe Parasram, Isabella Foote and Codan Climo.

We will be having a 'Family Support Workshop' on Wednesday 20 June, where we will be looking at what is covered within Respectful Relationships program to develop students' resilience within the community and be exploring a variety of activities with the assistance of the student leaders. Please look for a notification in the upcoming newsletter or through the College's main communication system, 'Compass'.

The Respectful Relationships Lead Team

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## Intermediate Girls Volleyball

On Wednesday 2 May, 9 Year 10 Girls represented our school at the Western Metro Region Volleyball finals in Geelong. The girls have been training regularly and were eager and ready to go. The tournament consisted of two pools and we were in Pool A, playing 3 games against the other schools in our Pool. The girls won their first game 2-0 and their recently learnt skills were on display. The second game saw them drop one set but they again became victorious in the end winning 2-1. In their final Pool game, they carried on their winning confidence to yet again take victory against Melton SC. Winning all 3 games meant they were then in the ultimate Final decider against Maribyrnong Sports Academy playing for a spot in the state finals. All of the girls became a bit nervous but stuck together and had a suitable plan of attack. They unfortunately lost the final but not without challenging Maribyrnong on a number of occasions and some fantastic points were won. After watching the girls in the Division finals then watching again at Regionals their improvement was definitely evident. A thank you goes out to one of the parents, Mr. Kaisala, who helped trained the girls during the week, as well as the support shown by all the families on the day of the competition.



Brianna Bunworth

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## Swimming Success

Sophia Potter, a year 10 student at our school, has recently competed at a couple milestone events. Sophia is an excellent swimmer and competed at the School Sports Victoria State Championships on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April. Sophia achieved a Silver medal in the 50m freestyle and 200m Individual Medley, and a Bronze in the 50m Breaststroke. She had a great day and it's the best she's swam at SSV State Champs.

The week after Sophia travelled to Sydney where she competed in the Australian Age Swimming Championship. This is the championships she trains the whole year for and even to obtain the qualifying times to compete in the event is a huge achievement in itself. She competed in two events, the first being 100m breaststroke where she is now ranked 36<sup>th</sup> in Australia. Her second event was the 200m breaststroke where she started the race ranked 47<sup>th</sup> in Australia. After a great swim and a Personal Best time, she is now ranked 35<sup>th</sup> in Australia for this event.

The long hours and dedication that Sophia puts into her swimming is exceptional and her achievements so far are fantastic. The college wishes Sophia all the best for her future swimming endeavours. Well done.





## Senior Boys Basketball

The Point Cook Senior Boys basketball team emerged victorious in their bid to win the VCC Qualifier tournament in Division 2 at Eagle Stadium, Werribee on the 11th of May. The team had contributions from all players over the course of the day, en route to an undefeated run through Bacchus Marsh Grammar, Keilor Downs, and Kuranjang, before moving on to defeat Penola Catholic College in the final game, 39 - 28. The win guaranteed a qualifying spot in the VCC State Championship Tournament on 6 June.

Pictured from left to right: (Top Row) Sebastian Ririnui, Mechael Samson, Augustus Appleton, Nathan Ellis, Max Cunningham-Craggill, Mabiour Deng, Weet Mamour (Bottom Row) Bienfair Kago, Michael Roorcroft, Samuel Rajabu.



## Senior Badminton



Congratulations to the Senior Badminton teams Division winners - through to the regional finals

## Excursion to Cummins

On Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup> of May we went to Cummins Laverton to see the operations of an automotive business and to explore various roles. This excursion was an awesome experience. We were able to explore different career options, explore various workshops, and had an extensive tour of the positions, including a parts interpreter and heavy duty mechanic. We were inspired by the different women's stories including a woman with a PHD degree in anthropology that changed careers into automotive. It was great listening to their journey and how they ended up working in the industry and how much they enjoyed their role. I would definitely recommend this career to other girls. The women who work at Cummins really changed my perspective of the automotive business. It is so good to see trading businesses encouraging equal female employment.



Hannah Matthes and Christina Nuasavili

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## Point Cook Senior ANZAC Day Celebration

"In honour of ANZAC Day, Ms Spolestra helped students bake delicious Anzac Day biscuits. Traditionally these biscuits were home-made and sent to soldiers abroad, as the biscuits did not spoil easily."





## Point Cook Senior Past Student Updates

It all began as an uncertain passion for mathematics and leadership.

As a shy girl in Year 10 I was afraid to dream too big or to step out of my comfort zone. However, taking up challenging subjects and leadership roles in both Year 11 and 12 has opened up opportunities that I never would have imagined.

I remember sitting in Ms Dimech-Hill's (Careers Counsellor's) office at the end of Year 12 going through potential scholarships and sorting out my university course preferences. Even then, I was doubting my chances of being offered a scholarship or getting into my dream course. Yet here I am, granted the Mary Jane Lewis scholarship valued at \$10 000 a year and studying Bachelor of Civil Engineering and Business Management at RMIT University.



Coming from a financially disadvantaged family, the scholarship will be used to pay for my everyday fees however, I am planning to save most of the funds for future use. Receiving this scholarship has left a legacy in my family and has inspired me to exceed my expectations.

The transition from high school to university was an exciting yet confusing process as I was no longer in the comforts of familiar faces or a 9am-3pm schedule. It has been tough trying to keep myself motivated, as unlike high school, there is nobody reminding me to complete my work or telling me what to do. Through this I have come to realise that with the freedom I get in university, comes a

great amount of independence and responsibility. However, my experience so far has taught me that going to university is a choice made by myself and an expectation that I have set in order to strive for success. The past month at RMIT has been full of delight and gratitude. It has been an adventure meeting amazing people and presenting myself not of the reputation I held in high school but as a fresh version of 'me'. It made me realise that going into university really is a new chapter of my life, and whatever was holding me back is left in the past.

Despite the workload and responsibility, RMIT offers extensive resources and support for all students that are willing to seek out. I feel incredibly welcomed by both the staff and students as there is mutual respect within all university relationships. However, one thing I do miss about Point Cook Senior is the amazing connection that teachers had with their students; unfortunately this is something that I have not yet seen at university. Although it only has been a short period of time, I feel like I have grown so much and have come to appreciate the prolonged yet fruitful hardship I encountered throughout my journey at Point Cook Senior. The support that teachers at Point Cook Senior offered has directed me onto the path I am on today. They have played a major role in shaping a future engineer and I am forever grateful for everything that I was able to achieve because of them. Now, all I can hope for is greater success in the exciting life that lies ahead.

Grace Kim

Danesh was born overseas and has lived in Point Cook for over 10 years. He has had a passion for Real Estate since a young age.

Danesh realised his strengths were communicating with others and meeting new people. He has a wealthy knowledge regarding the community. Danesh's confidence is what keeps him going, his reflection upon others shows him meeting with each client differently. Growing up in the west, he has seen the community grow in Point Cook as one of the fastest growing suburbs in the Melbourne.

Danesh has spent the last 12 months at Ray White Point Cook, gaining an understanding of the Real Estate Industry before becoming a Sales agent to the Director Eyad Khudruj, whilst completing year 12 at Point Cook Senior Secondary College.

Growing up in the area, Danesh sees a vision of Point Cook 10 years from now. 'nothing strikes me more than seeing this community better and have a strong local market'.

With Danesh's positive mindset and passion, he will continue to better his knowledge within the Real Estate Industry. Call Danesh on 0420771019 for any Real Estate needs that you have.

<http://raywhitepointcook.com.au/agents/danesh-bharucha/105211>



## Breakfast Club - All Welcome

**Where:** Room 312

**When:** Fridays

**Time :** 8.00am - 8.30am

Our Breakfast Program has now been running for 8 years. We have been beneficial in supporting those students in need and also developing relationships between staff and students. The program also improves student wellbeing, supporting their outcomes. Everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy a free breakfast and a fun and enjoyable environment to start their school day.



Point Cook Senior Secondary College would also like to sincerely thank the YPA Estate Agent Point Cook for their support towards our Breakfast Program.







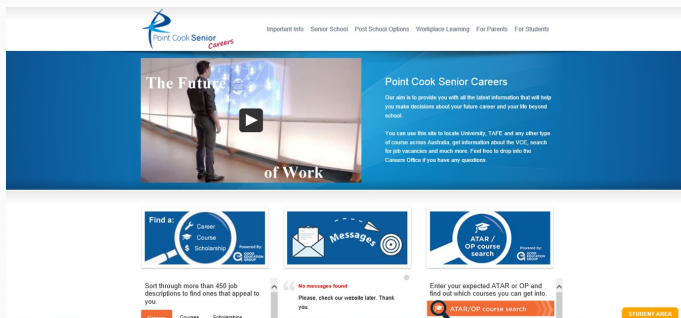
## Point Cook Senior Careers website

<http://pointcookseniorcareers.com/>

This is a free resource for students, parents and teachers at Point Cook Senior. On this website students can access extensive resources and links which provide information to explore many career options and hundreds of University and TAFE courses. Students can also access work experience information, apply for a tax file number, access past Year 12 exams and complete a Career Interest Test, Career Action Plan and resume. This website is currently being used in all Advisory classes at the college to assist students with their individual career development and goal setting.

We recommend students and parents/guardians explore this excellent resource together. This website will assist to open up dialog with students about their career interests and provide extensive information on how they can achieve their goals.

Mary Dimech



## VCAL

On Monday morning in week 2, year 11 VCAL PDS students battled for the title of 'Masterchef' in an epic battle of skill, stamina and a little bit of creative flair. From racing around Coles, to calculating budgets, to the classic Masterchef smear and sob story, students were able to showcase their cooking, presentation and storytelling skills to convince the judges that they deserved the title. A big thank you to Mr Sleep, Mr Flannery and Jessica for being our critical judges, and a HUGE congratulations to Noah, Hunter, and Alek on their win with medium rare steak, home cooked chips and coleslaw! Take a peek at all the wonderful dishes they cooked up! Yum!

AHU



## 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](http://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>

## Point Cook Senior Secondary College

Remember me

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

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.



### **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.

### **Volunteer needed to help out at the college**

An Invitation to Parents/Guardians. If you have time to volunteer in our College Library for few hours during the week, please phone Julie on 9395 9271. All volunteers will need to obtain a "working with children's check". The school can assist you with this process.

### **CUBBY HOUSES FOR SALE**



Two cubby houses cost \$600 each.  
 Built by Building and Construction students,  
 dismantled and packed ready to collect.  
 If interested please call Julie George  
 on 9395 9271

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

#### **Term 2:**

**25 May** – Division Cross Country

**29 May** – Girls Football & Boys Netball

**30 May** – Science Fair

**4 May - 7 Jun** – Year 10 & Year 11 Revision Week

**8 - 15 Jun** – Year 10 & Year 11 Mid-Year Exam

**11 Jun** – Queens Birthday Public Holiday

**13 Jun** – GAT all students enrolled in Unit 3 & 4

**18 Jun** – Report Writing Day

**20 Jun** – Intermediate Interschool Sports

**29 Jun** – Term 2 Ends

**16 Jul** – Term 3 Commences

**25 Jul** – Y10 into Y11 Parent Information Evening

**1 Aug** – Year 10 Course Confirmation Day

**1 Aug** – Y11 into Y12 Parent Information Evening

**3 Aug** – Y10 into Y11 Course Selection Forms Due

**8 Aug** – Y9 into Y10 Open Night

**10 Aug** – Y11 into Y12 Course Selection Forms Due

**14 Aug** – Y12 VTAC Parent Information Evening

**15 Aug** – AVID/STAMP/AFL Programs Info Evening

**23 Aug** – Curriculum Day

**24 Aug** – Y9 into Y10 Course Selection Forms Due

**17 - 21 Sep** – Year 12 Practice Exams