

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

As this is our first newsletter for the term, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome those students and families who have joined us for this second half of the year. It is great to have you with us. Term 3 has also been marked with a number of staffing changes. Nick Portelli has joined us as an integration aide, and Stefan Grujic and Kuan Ng have fleshed out our ICT support team. As Suzie Letzing and then Jess D'Lima left us to begin families, we have been joined by Brianna Bunworth and Alison Harding, who have quickly become part of the Point Cook Senior family. Our sadness at Orié Olynyk's return to Canada has been balanced by the addition of Emily Rankine to our staff. As usual, we are blessed to have such committed and professional educators working and teaching at our school. Welcome, everyone.

July and August have been marked by a number of very important school community events. In particular, there have been many information evenings over the last four or so weeks – the parent information evenings for students going from year 10 into 11, students going from year 11 into 12, and for STAMP, AVID and the AFL Program. Additionally, on Wednesday 5 August we held our Open Night for Year 9 students and their parents, attended by well over 500 people. It was a great night with demonstrations of many of our programs in locations around the college, and with many of our current students showing or explaining how their classes operated and discussing our programs with the visitors. I was very proud of the excellent work of our students on the night.

These information evenings have been followed by a significant emphasis on course counselling and subject selection in advisory and, for our Year 10 students, during the course counselling day. Students have been asked to actively think about their future plans and about the programs and subjects that will help them access their preferred futures. It was great to see so many parents accompanying the students to the course counselling meetings as parent involvement in these important decisions is enormously valuable.

On the idea of parent involvement, the annual parent opinion surveys were recently posted to randomly selected parents from all year levels. I would like to thank those parents who took the time to complete and return the surveys. All opinions supplied were completely anonymous. We have now forwarded the completed surveys to an external company for collation. Once completed this data will be forwarded back to the school where it will play an important role for our future planning.

A few days ago, on Friday 14 August, we held our second curriculum day for the year. Our focus for professional learning is based on the

priorities set in our strategic plan. One aspect of our strategic plan is to continue to develop positive and proactive approaches to ensuring effective social and learning behaviours across the school. As part of this endeavour, Point Cook Senior has been exploring School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS), a framework that helps schools to plan and implement practices across the whole school, to improve educational and behavioural outcomes for all students. SWPBS involves a broad range of systemic and individualised strategies for achieving important social and learning outcomes. SWPBS was developed over 20 years ago, and is now internationally recognised. Staff and students have begun to explore what values and directions might underpin our SWPBS journey, and what key learning behaviours will be the most important in promoting student success. A key tenet of SWPBS is proactively naming, defining, teaching and promoting the desired learning behaviours.

As we approach September it is useful to be aware of some important events that occur towards the end of term. The parent/student/teacher interviews on the Thursday night and Friday of the last week of term and the year 12 practice exams held throughout that week are both terrific opportunities to reflect, acknowledge achievement and set goals for improvement. In particular, I am looking forward to seeing many, many of our students and their parents during the parent/student/teacher interviews. It doesn't matter how well a student is doing in his or her subject areas, there is always room for those "next steps"; and the opportunity for the students, their families and the teachers to reflect on and promote those next steps together is very important. This three-way partnership is so critical to each student's growth and development over his or her time at Point Cook Senior.

Darryn Kruse





Year 10 News

Term 3 has been quite busy for Year 10 students as they have all selected their pathways for 2016. All students have explored and investigated their pathway options in advisory this term. They have attended assemblies to introduce them to VCAL, the English options in VCE and VCAL as well as the Maths and Science options available to them in VCE and VCAL.

Students have used their initial work completed with Career Voyager to assist in scaffolding their decision making about the pathways for 2016. Advisory sessions have been dedicated to investigating and discussing future career or further education directions and what that means for pathway and subject selection for 2016.

A large number of Year 10 students and their parents attended an information night at the college on Wednesday 22 July, where the course counseling process was introduced and explained. Year 10 Students then had a Course Confirmation Day on Wednesday 29 July. On Course Confirmation Day students were accompanied by the parents/guardians to an appointment with one of their Advisory teachers to discuss their choice of pathway and subjects which were then entered into the college system and signed off by their Advisory teacher, parents/guardians and by the student themselves.

The course counseling process has been quite exciting for the students to be involved in as they are able to see some definite direction for all their years of education and find it very motivating to have more direction and a clear pathway for their remaining two years at Point Cook Senior.

As we progress through Term 3 the Year 10 students will continue to explore Anti-bullying and Resilience. They all attended a guest speaker session during the first week back this term. This session was a strong introduction to the importance of resilience to their mental health and wellbeing and also looked at the short-term and long-term impact of bullying. Advisory sessions throughout Term 3 will continue to explore this topic further.

Year 10 Students will also attend a forum on drug health that will be delivered by staff from Western Health towards the end of August. This forum will aim to educate students on a range of substances and how they impact on the functioning and efficiency of the human body as well as answer questions that students will submit prior to the forum.

Lastly, Year 10 Students have all received notification of the Year 10 Formal. The Formal will take place on 4 September on the Victoria Star, departing from Docklands. Formal dress is required for students to attend this event. Food and soft drink will be provided. This has been a successful event in the past and the Year 10 Advisory teachers are very much looking forward to another enjoyable occasion in which they are able to further develop their relationships with the students. If parents/guardians have any queries regarding the

formal please don't hesitate to contact Lyn McVay or Joel Crothers-Stomps at the college on 9395 9271.

In the holidays Ariana Eruera-Chase, a year 10 student, was awarded the Metro West District Top 14-year-old female. She also made the Georgia Youth Performance Squad, which recognises swimmers who meet swimming Victorian criteria.



Excursion to Hear José Ramos Horta

The excursion was certainly an exciting one. After all, it's not every day that you get to listen to a Nobel Peace Prize winner while sitting in the same room. José Ramos Horta gave a thought-provoking speech about conflict resolution around the world and the struggle for East Timorese independence. He spoke eloquently about his work with the United Nations, addressing difficult questions facing our world today such as 'Should we negotiate with terrorists?' and 'How do we protect civilians in conflict situations?' A major highlight for me was when after his speech came to a conclusion, I asked him for a signature. Now it stands framed in my room reminding me of when you want something, you must work towards it. Anyone who hasn't heard of Dr. Horta, I say, must research him and read about his incredible journey to gain independence for East Timor.

Aaron Simon
AVID student



Jewish Holocaust Centre Excursion

On Wednesday 15 July, a group of Year 11 English students visited the Holocaust Museum and Research Centre to add to their knowledge of the Holocaust and to deepen their understanding of the film text 'Schindler's List'. Situated in Elsternwick, the Centre is designed to educate about the Holocaust, and is dedicated to families who died in the Holocaust. There are many photographs, artefacts and a film made in Melbourne to introduce us to the statistics (including the fact that the equivalent of 60 MCGs of Jewish people were killed in the Holocaust) and the most special time was our meeting with Holocaust survivors. It is also a place to ask the questions, "How can one human being do this to another human being?", "How did this happen?". The central message of the museum is the idea we are all just human beings and our very passionate guide hoped we would take that away with us. Organised by Ms Foot, it was an excursion that not only enhanced our study of a text but also our thoughts about our humanity.

Ms Simpson





Victorian Tertiary Admission Centre (VTAC) TAFE & University applications are now open. Year 12 students - Are you ready?

On 3 August the VTAC Course Applications opened. In order for students to apply for University or TAFE courses in Victoria, students must register and make an application through VTAC.

In Advisory, students have been working with their teacher to investigate courses of interest to them and also attending career counselling appointments. During August, Advisory teachers and a school careers counsellor will guide students through the VTAC application process. Students will need to log in at home to pay the \$29 course application fee. Students who make a late course application will incur an additional fee.

It is important that students and parents are familiar with the VTAC course application process so that they can log in at home to finalise or amend their application.

The following information outlines the key dates and explains the VTAC Course Application Process.

VTAC Applications open: 3 August 2015 (\$29 course application fee due by November)

VTAC closes: 30 September 2015

Late Course Application: 30 September – 6 November (\$95 late processing fee, if students did not apply to VTAC by September 30 2015)

Very late course application fee: 6 November – 4 December (\$121 very late processing fee)

Students may also need to complete additional requirements such as a folio, audition or interview as part of their application. Students are recommended to read the additional requirements for each course they apply for and adhere to the due dates.

Students will have an opportunity to apply for Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS) from 3 August to 6 October (5pm) 2015. However, students are encouraged to apply for SEAS early as many categories will require supporting evidence, such as Centrelink documentation or a Statement of Support by a professional, to be submitted to VTAC by the required due date. There are four categories for consideration for SEAS:

- Category 1. Personal Information & Location
- Category 2. Difficult Circumstance
- Category 3. Disadvantaged Financial Background
- Category 4. Disability or Medical

Please contact Pathways Leader/Counsellor Mary Dimech or Team Leader Kate Kennedy for further information or support.

Rotary Model United Nations Assembly

Point Cook Senior Year 11 Students Mikaela Bourke and Mykalyn LaDuke attended the Rotary Model United Nations Assembly Conference from 29-31 May in Axedale, near Bendigo. We are so proud of the way they represented the school – they participated as Brazil so had to research that country as well as attend in national dress.

Mikaela had this to say about the assembly: "The Model United Nations Assembly 2015 was an unforgettable experience. It was really eye opening to hear everyone's opinions on global political topics, speaking on behalf of their country and on their own accord. This year I think I have come out more confident and with more friends, I'm very glad I got to partake in this experience."

Well done Mikaela and Mykalyn!

Clubs and Societies

There are lots of lunchtime clubs you can join – ask your advisory teacher for details

Botanical Society – Monday in Greenroom

Manga Club – Wednesday in 508

Photography Club – Thursdays in the 500s shared space

Run 'n' Rant – Wednesday Afternoon - relaxation and exercise for busy students!

Bicycle users group: Tuesday Lunchtime

Extracurricular Events Coming up

Masterchef competition – look out for posters for sign up details
Wednesday 19 August

Dress Like a Superhero Day

Fundraiser for Muscular Dystrophy support and Research – out of uniform if you dress like a superhero and bring a donation

Friday 4 September.

*Speak to Ms Newman about getting involved in any of these activities.

Laura Newman

Student Engagement Coordinator

VCE Media Teacher

Point Cook Senior Secondary College

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Congratulations to Leanne Lim

Leanne Lim, of year 11, was recently announced as the winner of the Victorian Education Department's "One Team, One Goal" arts competition which challenged students to creatively demonstrate their understanding of cultural diversity.

The competition received entries from hundreds of students across Victoria in the form of videos, visuals and radio commercials. Leanne won the secondary category with her unique drawing of two hands holding a football. The design, reproduced on the next page (together with Leanne's design statement), represents the power that sport has to tie people together regardless of their background. Leanne's award was announced and presented at a special ceremony held at the National Gallery of Victoria during the week leading up to the AFL multicultural round.

Leanne's prize includes: a certificate signed by the Deputy Premier; a \$2,500 grant for their school to support intercultural understanding activities; a football clinic for the school run by an AFL Multicultural Ambassador; 10 special edition One Team, One Goal footballs for the school; 50 tickets for use by the school at a Multicultural Round football game; work displayed in an online gallery on the competition website. Clearly, most of the prize ends up being for the benefit of the school and the school community. I know the many students who enjoyed free tickets to the Bulldogs v Port Adelaide AFL match during the multicultural round benefited from Leanne's success.

We are very proud of Leanne's achievement, of her talent, and of the intelligent and thoughtful perspective she has brought to the work.



College's Information Evening

It was a huge success as there was a huge turn up to our yearly information evening where potential students and their parents attended the formal information session followed by an opportunity to tour the college to meet our friendly staffs and students.





Design Statement

The design embodies the ability that sport possesses to tie people together, which is symbolised by the ribbon and the football. The act of overcoming discrimination is represented as the football and ribbon hold hierarchy over the colour of the arms reaching towards it. This accentuates the power of diversity and unity which emphasises Australia's strength elicited from multiculturalism.



Photography Club

Meeting every Thursday for the last three weeks, the Point Cook Senior Secondary Photography Club has officially begun. Students have begun taking photographs using their phone, iPad, SLR and/or their DSLR's. At Point Cook Senior Secondary Photography club, students are encouraged to take photos using whatever camera they have on them at the time. Members of the Photography Club have completed challenges such as "A day in the life of", "The Two Dozen Challenge", and a "Black & White Challenge". We meet in the 500s building every Thursday afternoon from 12.40pm and students only need to bring themselves to join.





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.

Point Cook
Community Bank® Branch



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.

STUDENT ABSENCES

Whenever students are absent from school parents can notify us via:

- Compass Parent Portal – Log in at <http://pointcooksenior.vic.jdlf.com.au/> or visit the Point Cook Senior website for a link. Once logged in parents can approve absences or set up an approval in advance.
- Email – send absence approvals to attendance@pointcooksenior.vic.edu.au (please note this email should come from the parent listed email address nominated on the students enrolment.
- Phone - 9395 5157

Late Arrivals – Students arriving late should sign in at the kiosk in the front office foyer and then head straight to class. This late arrival will still need to be approved by the college or a parent.

Early Leave – Students leaving early will need to sign out through the attendance officer in the LRC. Students are requested to provide written or verbal approval from parent / guardian prior to any early departure.

IMPORTANT DATES

Term 3:

21st Aug – Western Chances Scholarship Close

31st Aug – Hobsons Bay Division Athletics

2nd Sept – Hobsons Bay Division Intermediate Winter 2 Sports

1st - 4th Sept – Y12 Advisory PPP/SNAP/EAP Applications

7th Sept – Advisory SEAS Applications

8th Sept – Y12 Psychology Revision Lecture 3:15pm - 5:15pm

17th Sept – Western Region Athletics

14th - 18th Sept – Y12 Practice Exams

17th Sept – Western Region Athletics

18th Sept – VTAC/SEAS Applications due

18th Sept – Term 3 Ends

30th Sept – Y12 VTAC Applications Close

5th Oct – Term 4 Commences

15th Oct – College ART Exhibition

21st Oct – Y12s Celebration Day Whole School Assembly

28th Oct – Y12 Exams Commence - English Exam

30th Oct – Y12 Performance Exams Conclude

3rd Nov – Melbourne Cup Day

5th Nov – Science Fair

9th - 13th Nov – Y11 Revision Week

16th - 20th Nov – Y11 Exam Week

16th - 20th Nov – Y10 Revision Week

20th Nov – Y12 Exams Conclude

23rd - 27th Nov – Y10 Exam Week

Press Release

Date 27/7/15

Daniel Dunstone

TO COMPETE FOR SCHOOL SPORT VICTORIA TEAM VIC

Point Cook Senior College student Daniel Dunstone has been selected in the School Sport Victoria Team Vic 13-19 years Cross Country competing in the School Sport Australia, Australian Cross Country Championships to be held at the Moonee Valley Racecourse and Albert Park in Melbourne, Victoria from 28th to 31st August 2015.

It has been a great performance by Daniel following a selection process that began in June to make the final team. The team comprises students from all over Victoria.

Daniel competed in a series of competitions conducted by School Sport Victoria to gain selection in the School Sport Victoria State Team.

Many past School Sport Victoria team members have gone on to compete at national and international competitions including Olympic Games, World Championships and Commonwealth Games.

So here's hoping that Daniel and his Victorian teammates can achieve their personal goals at a national level to win the Australian title and that Daniel may be representing Australia in the years to come.

For further information:

Howard Louis

Cross Country Project Officer
School Sport Victoria
Department of Education & Training

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