

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

August has been a very busy month, mostly because, as well as the ongoing core business of teaching and learning, we are deeply engaged in the process of planning for next year.

### Information Evenings

There have been many information evenings over the last four weeks – the parent information evenings for students going from year 10 into 11, students going from year 11 into 12, Year 12 VTAC applications, and for STAMP, AVID and the AFL Program. On Wednesday 3 August we held our Open Night for Year 9 students and their parents, attended by well over 600 people. It was a great night with demonstrations of many of our programs in locations around the college, and more than 100 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. Our two student speakers, Emily Godfrey and Maddie Lamb, did a wonderful job of describing their Year 10 experiences to an audience that had packed the gym to capacity. As a follow up, course counselling has occurred at each of our partner P-9 colleges (Alamanda College, Altona College, Carranballac College and Point Cook College) and at our own college, the entry tests for our STAMP (accelerated Science) program have occurred, and interviews for entry into our AVID program have just been completed.

### Course Counselling

Students have been in the process of planning for next year. Subject selection has occurred for all our current Year 10 and 11 students for their courses next year. It was wonderful to see so many parents attending the course counselling discussions, especially for our students moving from year 10 into year 11 next year, as the partnership between parents, students and teachers in making these decisions is extremely important and valuable. Although it is a fair way off, I would like to alert you that we actually start next year's Year 11 and 12 programs at the end of this year. Students get a taste of their new subjects, and orientation to the program, and a series of important tasks to complete over the long summer break, during this program. It is important that our students attend this program. Our current Year 11s will start their Year 12 orientation week on Monday 21 November and our current Year 10s will follow the week after, beginning their Year 11 orientation week on Monday 28 November.

### Curriculum Day

Our Curriculum Day focussed on the "prepare" stage of our instructional cycle, and linked this in to the curriculum documentation process through subject-based workshops. (A more detailed overview of this work appears later in this newsletter.) There is a great deal of new curriculum development work to be done this year, with many VCE study designs changing either this year or next, and with the introduction of the new Victorian Curriculum at Year 10 in 2017.

### Extra-Curricular Activities

There have been a number of recent additions to our extra-curricular program. The music practice room has been converted into a keyboard lab, which is available for students to use on Tuesdays. We have recently seen the addition of a creative writing group and a student publications group to the college offerings. Also, after many, many weeks of preparation, our Bollywood dance group had wonderful success at the High School Dance Competition held at Williamstown Town Hall on 24 July, coming second overall and winning the awards for best choreography and best costumes. The annual Year 10 Formal took place on Friday 19 August, on the Victoria Star as it cruised through Docklands and along the Yarra River. As is the case every year, this popular event was a big hit with all who participated.

### The Weeks Ahead

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



## Term 3 Curriculum Day

Friday 12 August saw the school's second Curriculum Day of 2016. The focus of our professional development was the PCSSC Learning Cycle – the instructional model that outlines our agreed approach to teaching and learning.

We specifically focused on the opening PREPARE stage of our model. During this stage of learning teachers assist students in understanding the specific emphasis of the learning that is about to occur, as well as provide clear guidance about what success looks like for that particular learning. This is an incredibly important action for creating an effective teaching and learning environment, supported by a substantial base of educational research. In fact, "classrooms where students understand the learning outcomes for daily lessons see performance rates 20% higher than those where learning outcomes are unclear." (Marzano, 2003, *What Works in Schools: Translating Research into Action*).

During the Curriculum Day we spent time as a staff exploring and discussing the research and theory associated with the PREPARE stage of our model, before using that research whilst planning in our specific subject areas.

It was a fantastic and productive day that continued the extensive professional development we are completing as a staff in working towards ensuring the most effective and engaging learning environments for our students.

How can families and support networks become involved? Talk to your children about their learning – ask what they specifically focused on in class and how that learning fits within the bigger picture of their unit or subject. Also, ask to look at the work they did in class and have a chat about how it aligns with the success criteria provided by their teacher for that learning. Celebrate their success and provide support and encouragement when needed.

If you have any questions about how you can further support your child with their learning, please contact me and I'd be happy to provide support and ideas.

Jules Damschke  
PCSSC Teaching & Learning Leader  
[damschke.jules.s@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:damschke.jules.s@edumail.vic.gov.au)

## Year 12 VTAC Information Excursion

On Friday 29 July, over 200 Year 12 students attended Deakin University Geelong Waterfront Campus for the Tertiary Information Service excursion. This event provided a 30 minute lecture about the Victorian Tertiary Admission Centre (VTAC) University/TAFE application process and an opportunity to hear from current university students.

The afternoon also provided an opportunity for all students to speak to Victorian university and TAFE representatives from over 20 institutions, including RMIT University, Deakin University, Victoria University, The University of Melbourne, Monash University, Swinburne University, Latrobe University, Federation University and Australian Catholic University. This was a great excursion as it provided valuable information for students to gather resources about their courses of interest and ask questions prior to commencing their VTAC applications throughout August.



Mary Dimech  
Careers/Pathways Leading Teacher



## High School Dance Competition 2016 Williamstown Town Hall.

The following students were awesome and after some hard work achieved awards in three areas, beating schools like Suzanne Cory High School and MacRobertson Girls High School (not that we're competitive or anything):

Sumati SUMANAM  
 Archie ARCHIE  
 Amira AZME  
 Jade KLAVER  
 Zakhi MEHTA  
 Kolina MEI  
 Kritika NAIKER  
 Kirsty BAKER  
 Amritpal BAJWA  
 Mark BALAS  
 Keely WARRACK  
 Shawn SIDHU  
 Srishti SRISHTI

These students were the team that represented us at the Bollywood themed competition and were awarded overall 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Best Choreography and Best Costumes. They worked hard and had to work on a short timeline with a very hard task-master who pushed them to find their best.

An awesome endeavour! Point Cook Senior is very proud of them! A big shout out to Ms Danielle Ryan who brought her professionalism to this event and we appreciate it; she came in for the final week of rehearsal and attended on the day assisting back stage with costume, hair and make-up.

Teachers, parents and friends came and cheered us on – thank you to you all.

Ms Simpson





## One Team, One Goal: Celebrating Diversity AFL Jumper Design Competition - Results

The Point Cook Senior Secondary College community would like to congratulate Year 11 Visual Communication Design students: **Justine Gallego (11I)**, on his shortlisted entry, and **Kristiana Sienna (11C)**, on her AFL Choice winning entry. These two students have brilliantly and creatively responded to the statewide AFL Jumper Design Competition.

As the winner of this prestigious competition, Kristina Sienna, and our school community have been awarded:

- a football clinic by an AFL Multicultural Ambassador
- tickets for use by their school at an AFL football game
- the display of their work on *One Team, One Goal* web page
- a certificate signed by the Deputy Premier and an AFL representative/s
- a One Team, One Goal footy jumper or One Team, One Goal Sherrin football

The '*One Team, One Goal: Celebrating Diversity Competition*', is a partnership between the Department of Education and Training and the Australian Football League, and was established in 2014 to give students the opportunity to appreciate and understand different cultures, and engage in respectful and positive discussions around diversity.

For further details see <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/support/Pages/otogwinners2016.aspx>

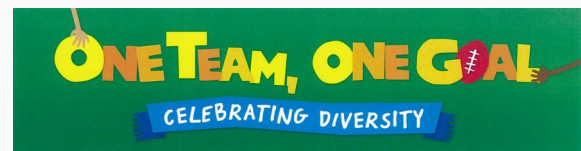


**Design a Victorian Footy Jumper**  
Your design should reflect Victoria's cultural diversity.



Name: *Kristiana Sienna* School: *Point Cook Senior Secondary*

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**Design a Victorian Footy Jumper**  
Your design should reflect Victoria's cultural diversity.



Name: *Kristiana Sienna* School: *Point Cook Senior Secondary*

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**Design a Victorian Footy Jumper**  
Your design should reflect Victoria's cultural diversity.



Name: *Justine Gallego* School: *Point Cook Senior*

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## An Exciting Event

Here at Point Cook Senior we are very happy to announce our upcoming 9<sup>th</sup> annual Art/Technology Exhibition. The exhibition will be held on Thursday 13 October and will commence at 6:00pm. Awards will be given to our most outstanding students in each of the Arts and Technology areas and the prestigious 'Principals Award' will also be awarded on the evening.

Every year our very talented students work toward this exhibition and it gives parents and friends an opportunity to see our students' achievements with the Arts areas. As always this exhibition will particularly focus on our Year 12 students' work but will also include the Year 11 and Year 10 pieces.

Please come and support our students. Food and refreshments will also be served. We look forward to meeting many parents on the evening.

Thank you for your support.  
Angela Comben  
Arts/Technology Key Learning Area Leader

### STUDENT ABSENCES

Parents are requested to login into the compass portal to approve student absences. This can be done from your phone or computer.

### LATE ARRIVAL & EARLY LEAVE

All students have been issued with an ID card - they must use this at the Kiosk located in the main reception upon arrival when late.

Parents can give prior permission by logging into compass. If you approve an absence on compass you are not required to provide a note.

A medical certificate is required if a student has missed a SAC.



## 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-student 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>

If you are having trouble accessing your account, click on the "**Can't access your account**" link 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

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.

Point Cook  
**Community Bank® Branch**  
 **Bendigo Bank**

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.



## **IMPORTANT DATES**

### **Term 3:**

**29 Aug** – Division Athletics

**15 Sept** – Western Region Athletics

**15 Sept** – Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews Evening  
 (4:00pm-8:00pm)

**16 Sept** – Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews Morning  
 (9:30am-1:00pm)

**16 Sept** – Term 3 Ends

**3 Oct** – Term 4 Commences

**19 Oct** – Year 12 Celebration Day

**26 Oct** – Year 12 Exams Commence

**1 Nov** – Melbourne Cup Day

**18 Nov** – Year 12 Exams Conclude

**14 - 18 Nov** – Year 11 Exam Week

**21 - 25 Nov** – Year 10 Exam Week

**21 - 25 Nov** – Year 11 into Year 12 Orientation Week

**28 Nov - 2 Dec** – Year 10 into Year 11 Orientation Week

**5 Dec - 6 Dec** – Year 9 into Year 10 Transition/Orientation

**20 Dec** – Term 4 Ends

POINT COOK SENIOR SECONDARY COLLEGE

# ART & TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITION 2016

FEATURING STUDENT WORKS...

- III PRODUCT DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY
- III VISUAL COMMUNICATION DESIGN
- III FOOD & TECHNOLOGY
- III PERFORMING ARTS
- III STUDIO ARTS
- III MEDIA

13<sup>TH</sup>

OCTOBER

6<sup>PM</sup>  
OPENING

 Point Cook Senior

[www.pointcooksenior.vic.edu.au](http://www.pointcooksenior.vic.edu.au)  
ph. 93959271

Dr Michael Carr-Gregg Presents...

# DEMYSTIFYING ADOLESCENTS

Sometimes do you wonder what's going on in the mind of your teenager? Would you like to have some tools to deal with your teenager and strengthen your relationship?

Wyndham City Youth Services is hosting a FREE Parent Information evening with one of Australia's highest profile psychologist, Dr Michael Carr-Gregg. He will be presenting to parents and the wider community during the Wyndham Community Learning Festival on the developmental psychology of adolescents and how to better understand and effectively communicate with young people.

**WHEN:** Tuesday 6th Sept 2016

**TIME:** 7pm- 8:30pm

**WHERE:** Wyndham Youth  
Resouce Centre,  
86 Derrimut Rd,  
Hoppers Crossing

**COST:** FREE

**Limited places available – bookings essential:**

ph: 8734 1355 or email:  
rosie.barbara@wyndham.vic.gov.au

Two attendess will be randomly selected to receive a free publication 'surviving adolescents' by Dr Michael Carr-Gregg



## ABOUT DR MICHAEL CARR- GREGG

Dr Michael Carr-Gregg has worked as an academic, researcher, and political lobbyist and is the author of nine books including the bestselling *Princess Bitch Face Syndrome*. Michael sits on the Board of Smiling Mind and is a Community Ambassador for Big Brothers Big Sisters and Playgroup Victoria.

Michael is a columnist for a number of publications including *Girlfriend Magazine* and the Australian Boarding Schools Association publication *LightsOut*. He is the resident parenting expert on Channel 7's Sunrise as well as psychologist for the Morning Show with Neil Mitchell on Radio 3AW.



**Youth  
Services**



<http://youth.wyndham.vic.gov.au>  
facebook/youthinwyndham