

## **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

October and November have been very busy months for our students and for our school community. We have had several opportunities to share our students' achievements in the Arts in particular, and I have been very proud of the variety and depth of these achievements.

On Friday 7 and Saturday 8 October, our wonderful Theatre Studies students staged their musical – a series of performances of 'The Little Mermaid Jnr'. It was a fabulous production with excellent performances, both acting and singing, including some wonderful elements of comic genius on the part of the students (and, I suspect, their teacher). The costuming, makeup, setting, lighting and stagecraft were all extremely well done, and all developed by our students.

A week later, we held our annual Arts/Technology Exhibition, showcasing our students' work in Photography, Fashion and Textiles, Wood Technology, Studio Arts, Visual Communication and Design, Food Technology and Drama, with awards for student achievement in most of these areas. The evening was beautifully catered by our Food Technology students, with some delicious food. This was followed on Friday 21 October by our senior students' Film Festival, showcasing some of the Year 11 and 12 Media work – with popcorn and drinks, and a wonderful family atmosphere. A great deal of time and effort went into both these evenings, and they were both highly successful due to the amazing quality of our students' artwork.

There have also been some exciting individual achievements by our students in both the Visual and Performing Arts, and you will read of successes in the Victorian State Schools Spectacular and in the ATOM National Photographic Awards as you read through this newsletter.

Of course, more generally, this is a period of a celebration of a range of achievements for our students – in particular, our Year 12 students. As they have finished the formal elements of their secondary education, they are no doubt enjoying the sense of completion and the contemplation of the ways they might make their place in the world beyond school. Our VCE students have come to the end of their final exams, and are starting to focus on their future directions. Our Senior VCAL students have finished their final projects and are similarly engaging in future pathways. Our Year 12s leave us with our very best wishes and very fond memories. I know they are now celebrating their efforts, and I am still savouring last week's valedictory dinner when our students, staff and parents got together to celebrate the year and reflect on the successes of the class of 2016. (There are some photos from the evening

in the pages to follow.) It has been a great joy to once again see the wonderful partnership between the teachers and students at Point Cook Senior in working through Year 12 this year. I would also like to acknowledge the parents and caregivers who have been part of this partnership, and recognise the enormous role they have played in supporting our young people through their final year of schooling.

Of course, our Year 10 and 11 students have just completed their exams. This was a very important opportunity. As well as taking this opportunity to consolidate their year's learning, our students were able to gain very important practice for the Year 12 exams that most of them will be sitting in the next year or two. Effective decision-making and time management in an exam situation is a skill in itself, and it is very useful for our young people to start developing this skill from Year 10 onwards. When they reach the high stakes exam process at Year 12, we want them to be ready.

Our Year 11 students have completed their 2017 orientation program, and our Year 10 students have now begun theirs. This program provides students with the opportunity to experience their chosen subjects, meet many of their teachers and gain an overview of the content and assessment requirements in each course. Students have the opportunity to commence the work and evaluate whether they have made the correct decisions for their subject choices. They receive study designs, texts and an essential introduction to their chosen studies. Our students not only commence their studies but are also provided with holiday tasks to complete for the start of next year. This will then set them up for a successful experience in their final senior years.

These last few weeks are an important time, as a lot of the groundwork for a successful 2017 has been laid for next year's Year 12s, and is being laid now for next year's Year 11s. I wish all our students the very best as they embark on these important endeavours.

As this is likely to be our last newsletter for the year, I would like to wish all our families a happy, healthy and safe Summer break, and I look forward to seeing all our students return on 31 January next year, ready for another year of learning and growth.

Darryn Kruse



## YEAR 12 ENGLISH EXAM REVISION LECTURE

Year 12 English students attended an exam revision lecture ran by Ross Huggard, a highly experienced English expert and exam assessment panel member. Mr Huggard presented a detailed overview of each exam section and offered some valuable tips to ensure exam success. Students also had the opportunity to ask him questions in regards to their own individual concerns. Thank you to all the students who attended and contributed to the discussion about the upcoming exam.

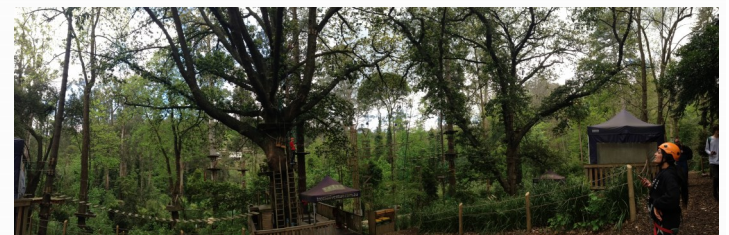


## VCAL Personal Development Skills

On 17 October our VCAL Personal Development Skills class travelled to Belgrave to Trees Adventure with Mr Flannery, Mr Bailey and Analia. As a class, we planned and organised the whole activity, right from researching the day to completing risk assessments. This allowed us to demonstrate competencies from Outcome 5 of Personal Development Skills.

We left school at 9am and the journey took over an hour and half. When we arrived, we were greeted by Emma who showed us how to use the personal protective equipment so we wouldn't fall off the course. We had to use state of the art harnesses from Germany and also wear helmets. We then had a quick practice on the beginner course, and once we proved we could use the equipment safely, we were allowed to complete either the blue, red or black courses. Most of us completed the red course with ease, but some didn't. With only 30 minutes to go, we attempted the black course, which was higher in difficulty. We all had a fantastic day, and we want to thank Mr Flannery for driving us there on the school bus.

Mohammed Sibahi and Eric Tsoukas



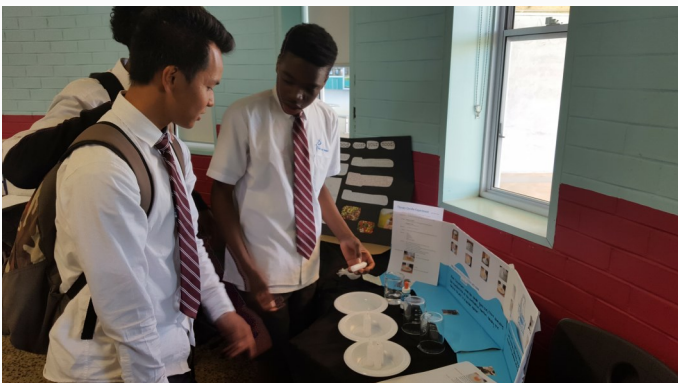


## SCIENCE FAIR

On 3 November the PCSSC Science department had our final event of the year, the Science Fair. There is always plenty to get involved with. There were many student displays and numerous science demonstrations. We had plenty of visitors stop by to show their support towards the hard work that students put into their displays. Three projects were the standouts. I would like to congratulate all of the students who tried their best to come up with an idea that challenged their way of looking at the world. Science is a wonderful area of study where you can question the world and figure out the answers yourself.



Our winners this semester thought through their ideas and showed understanding of scientific terminology as well as the scientific method. First place went to Archie Archie, Alina Arshad and Zahra Shahrar with their *Medicine* experiment. Second place went to Tyla Cater, Holly Aitken and Kyra Dos Santos for their *Shoes vs Agility* experiment. Third place went to Callum Farmer for his *Paper Plane* experiment.



Every Science Fair our principal also judges what he thinks to be a deserving project; due to their innovation, use of scientific method and recognition of possible improvements for the future, Tyla Cater, Holly Aitken and Kyra Dos Santos also won the Principal Choice award.



A special thank you must go out to Point Cook Town Centre's Grill'd and Schnitz, as well as our very own school canteen for their support and generous donations which went towards the prizes.

Congratulations to you all and thank you for such a wonderful finish to the year.

Ms Melissa Chapman, Science Learning Area Leader





## Australian Synchrotron Teacher Day

On 10 November 2016, Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) invited high school science teachers to visit the Australian Synchrotron at Monash University. I love science and am a serious physics enthusiast so could not pass up this opportunity.



### What is a Synchrotron?

A Synchrotron is a machine that accelerates charged particles such as electrons to extreme energy levels. What is amazing about this machine is that it uses electricity and magnets to focus the accelerated particle in a ring-shape, not perfectly circular. As the particle accelerates around it gives off radiation tangent to the ellipse. The emitted radiation follows down a 'beamline' at a range of EMR from infrared wavelengths to Gamma waves. This allows for a range of research to occur. Originally Synchrotrons were created to collide particles; however, the Australian Synchrotron accelerates the particle in such a way that it does not collide with other particles.

There were a number of lectures in the morning where research scientists explained what research they used the Synchrotron for. These are a few of the uses: infrared imaging, x-ray imaging, medical therapy, classifying chemical structures, imaging nano-scale structures in molecules or cells, analysing bonding structures or biological materials and semiconductors and many more.

There is a lot of information on the website and some interesting interactives on ANSTO's website as well. If you ever get the chance to go I would strongly advise that you do. It is very exciting to be there and very interesting to learn more about.



Ms M. Chapman  
Science Learning Area Leader





## Victorian State Schools Spectacular

Congratulations to Ainsley Turner for her selection and performance in the Victorian State Schools Spectacular held on Saturday 10 September. Ainsley played in the percussion and rhythm section of the orchestra, the section that keeps everyone in perfect time. Participation required rehearsals for one day of almost every weekend from March to September. Ainsley's instrument is jazz and contemporary piano which requires a lot of versatility. She has been playing for nine years. This year was Ainsley's second in the rhythm section of the 70 piece orchestra for the State Schools Spectacular. This year's theme was 'The Elements'. There was a cast of almost 3000 school students in an arena production at Hisense Arena. Song selection included Daft Punk, The Beatles and Wagner. The finale included a tribute to David Bowie in which Ainsley played the piano solo in "Life on Mars". Channel 7 will be broadcasting the show on the evening of Saturday 3 December. Congratulations on your wonderful achievement, Ainsley!



## Secondary Schools SRC Forum

On 6 September a few Point Cook Senior Secondary College students, accompanied by principal Darryn Kruse, travelled to Hoppers Crossing Secondary to attend the Secondary School SRC Forum run by our local federal member of parliament, Joanne Ryan. At the event Ms Ryan started an activity with the students where we wrote lists of important issues in society and then each ranked them in order of importance. Once the students decided together on how important each issue was, the students individually wrote and delivered a ninety seconds speech on the subjects previously discussed. The event taught us valuable lessons such as teamwork, voicing opinions and public speaking.

Louis Dobson





## Year 11 English

Sarah Plant won a writing competition with a poem she wrote inspired by work she undertook as part of her English SAC. The competition was organised by *Creative Write It* and the theme was *Faraway Short Story*.

The poem has been published in a book and Sarah has been invited to take part in a young writers workshop over the summer holidays.

### A 'Place' Far From My Own

She lives in a 'place' so faraway.  
A 'place' where love is exiled....

She is a wife deprived of sanity;  
From a man who thrives on profanity!

Her face resembles the turmoil of torture.  
The heartache of hopelessness,  
And the darkest depths of despair.

For she is a soul that has been restrained,  
And forced to endure pain.

A woman stripped of her name,  
And told she is to blame.

A victim of Domestic Violence...



Year 10 students at Queensland camp

## Year 10 Queensland Camp

On Tuesday 8 November 39 Year 10 students departed Melbourne for the sunny Gold Coast. Across four days we visited three Theme Parks: Wet 'n' Wild, Sea World and Movie World and had an absolute blast! Additionally, students had time to swim in the resort pool, play Ten Pin Bowling, dine at the famous Sizzlers, shop at Pacific Fair and go to the movies.

Highlights included Mr Flannery being beaten at Ten Pin Bowling by Shania Ween, Darryn Kruse on the Batman ride and the students singing concerts on every bus ride.

The camp gave staff and students an opportunity to get to know one another and interact in an out-of-school environment. Everyone enjoyed the weather, games and getting to know one another. In fact, it's hard to know who enjoyed the camp more – the students or the teachers.

The Year 10 students who attended should be commended for the way they represented the school. They were kind and courteous ambassadors for the school.

Queensland Camp was an experience to remember and we can't wait to reminisce our experiences when this cohort graduate in 2018!

### Kate Kennedy





## ATOM Photo Competition

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ETHAN ZAHORODNYJ – Winner of the 2016 ATOM Photo Competition – Senior Secondary Division.**

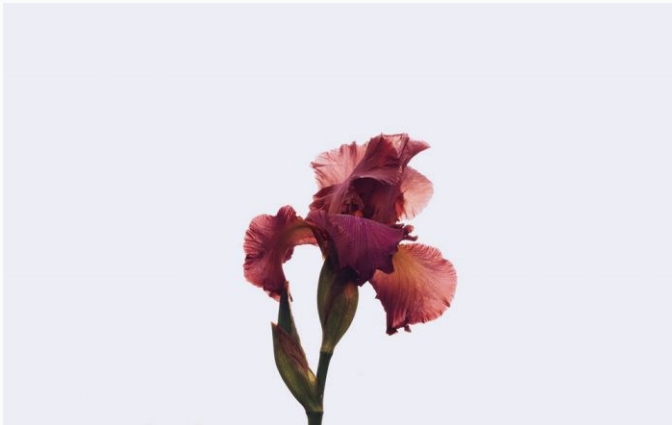
*Here is the written submission that accompanied the entry. Darryn Kruse, Nicole Marie, Laura Newman and Kelli Simpson were delighted to attend the awards with Ethan and his family on 26 October.*

### 'Home – A poem'

I felt at home.  
I felt at home, not within my own house  
But the surroundings of it.  
I felt at home with what I made  
Beautiful; with what felt like home.  
And even though you are not  
Home with me  
As we speak,  
I can only hope too  
You are in a place you can call  
Home

Ethan Zahorodnyj, 12 September 2016

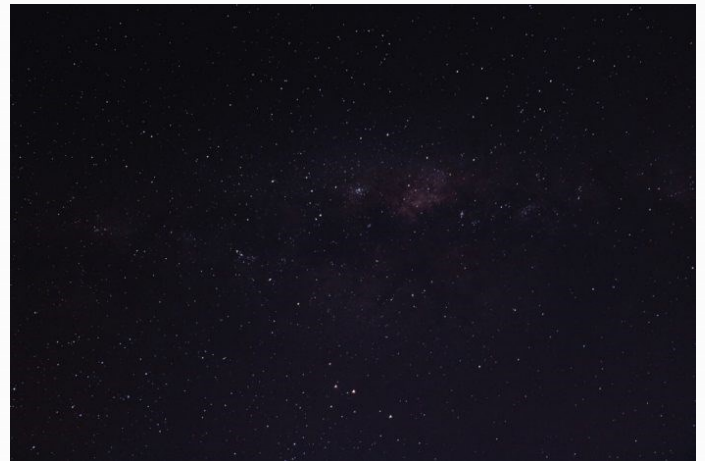
All my photos I took for this composition are ones I took or things I had in my home.



The flower: a dying flower in the backyard, symbolic of how nothing beautiful lasts forever. The flower is long dead now, but in its last few days it bloomed more beautifully than ever.



The street lamp: a lamp viewed from outside my bedroom window. What once used to never turn off for years gone dark after one night when the bulb just stopped working and the council changed it to LED. Whenever I was upset, I'd watch it from my bedroom window, as if it was lighting the road to help me along my way.



And the stars: out of all the known and unknown planets, star systems and suns, I have the privilege of living life right here. Right now.

(All photos were shot on Canon 760D and are my own and edited on Adobe Photoshop and VSCO cam.)



## Year 12 Valedictory - Class 2016

The subject awards were presented to Year 12 students at the Valedictory Dinner on 22 November 2016. The awards are given to the highest performing student in each subject. These awards are held in very high regard at Point Cook Senior. Recipients are to be commended for their hard work and academic success.







## Academic Awards 2016

Subject name	Student name
Accounting	Jennifer Bou
Biology	Zi Minn Goh
Business Management	Ashley Beeby
Chemistry	Vatsal Patel
Drama	Nathan Gilbert
English	Samantha Dizon
English as an Additional Language	Jet Yee Ho
English Language	Ashley Beeby
Food and Technology	Jing Fan Lim
Further Mathematics	Zi Minn Goh
Health and Human Development	Jet Yee Ho
History: Revolutions	Samantha Dizon
Informatics	Daniel Jakrzewski
Legal Studies	Jennifer Bou
Literacy Skills	Connor Costello





## Academic Awards 2016

Subject name	Student name
Literature	Leanne Lim
Mathematical Methods	Alexander Miers
Media	Ainsley Turner
Numeracy Skills	Connor Lakkis
Outdoor and Environmental Studies	Joshua Orchard
Personal Development Skills	Cole Close-Christian
Physical Education	Scott Brown
Physics	Vatsal Patel
Product Design and Technology – Textiles	Ainsley Turner
Product Design and Technology – Wood	Kosta Varvarousis
Psychology	Leanne Lim
Software Development	Dylan Bruce
Specialist Mathematics	Vatsal Patel
Studio Arts	Sabrina Zor
Theatre Studies	Maddison Brake
Visual Communication Design	Leanne Lim
Work Related Skills	Mikaela Bourke





## Academics Awards 2016

### Special Recognition Awards - for Excellence in Year 12 Accelerated Studies 2015

Students who achieved a 40+ Study score as published in the Herald Sun

**Ashley Beeby** - Outdoor and Environmental Studies



**James Thomas** - Further Mathematics



**Jennifer Bou** - Further Mathematics



### Caltex All-Rounder Award

Participant in and student organiser of College Bollywood Dance Competition – an overwhelming success.

Represented school in Basketball, Netball and Athletics.

Participated in School Athletics carnival – awarded Most Athletic (Girl)

Volunteers to teach younger members of the dance studio & works at Resilience Gymnastics. Active participant in local Dance group.

Congratulations to **Keely Warrack**





## 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.  
or directly go to Compass login



### Compass Portal

Click here to login to the Point Cook Senior  
Compass Portal

<https://pointcooksenior.vic.jdf.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**

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. We are currently seeking a new sponsor for this program.

### LUNCHTIME ACTIVITIES

Monday – Japanese Language Club in 603

Tuesday – Bicycle Users Group - 506

Wednesday – Student Leader Meeting – 505

Thursday – Botanical Society (gardening club) 400s Green Room

Friday – Graphic Design Club AND Newsletter Committee 508

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### Term 4:

**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