



Point Cook Senior

# ***Term 4 Newsletter***

**MADE FOR THE COMMUNITY,  
BY THE STUDENTS**



**7th Edition**  
**16th December 2021**

address: Cnr Boardwalk Boulevard & Bergamot Drive, Point Cook, Vic, 3030  
postal: PO Box 6520, Point Cook, Vic, 3030



# Principal's Report

## Respect Effort Responsibility

**School Vision:** Every student will be supported through high quality teaching and learning practices in achieving successful outcomes and a pathway of their choice.

## Strive for Success – Attend Today Achieve Tomorrow

It is with a sense of déjà vu that I sit down to write this last column for the final 2021 newsletter. This year has again been punctuated with lockdowns and school closures due to positive cases of COVID-19 and PCSSC has been affected like many others schools across Victoria. Our school community, along with all the residents of Melbourne, have had to endure the longest lockdowns of any city in the world, and when the opportunity to return to onsite learning occurred, we were unfortunately closed down due to positive cases. The whole school community wishes those students and their families who had COVID-19 a swift recovery and return to health.

One of the great pleasures of working in a senior secondary college is working with and supporting our Year 10 students to develop over their three years here into young adults who leave us in Year 12 and who will be the future leaders in our community. A consequence of this pandemic has been the interruption to our usual calendar of student activities, sports and excursions.

Despite this, the student leaders have endeavoured to adapt and create some online activities to keep students engaged. I commend them for their efforts, they have demonstrated true leadership capability, their resilience and persistence throughout this year are traits that they will take with them into their adult lives.

I admire the determination and effort displayed by our Year 12 students in completing their VCE and VCAL certificates, they have overcome the obstacles of the last two years to achieve positive outcomes and in doing so have been role models for our Year 10 and 11 students, they have also helped their teachers remain positive throughout this time with their energy and spirit. They have left an enduring legacy in their three years at PCSSC.

Over the last two years I have used the words persistence, resilience and determination more than I have ever before, they have become the unofficial school motto, but they will define this generation of students. A generation of students whose education was disrupted by a pandemic, who had to adapt to remote and online learning, who had to remain engaged with their learning in virtual classrooms, interact with their teachers via a screen and maintain peer group contacts through social media.

They have achieved positive academic outcomes despite these challenges and they have been a part of historic changes to the way we deliver education. They will tell their children and grandchildren about their time as a student in a pandemic.



# Principal's Report

At the end of week four in Term 4 2021, the Year 10s and 11s returned to onsite learning and the Year 12 students started their exams. Despite the hardships and challenges our young people remain cheerful and optimistic, I am greeted with cheery hellos and smiles that can be seen around the edges of masks, the students tell me how happy they are to be back at school with their friends and teachers. This reinforces for me and I'm sure everyone who works in a school the important part we play in the lives of our students. School is a place of learning but it is also a place of social connection and support, a safe place to grow and develop supported by caring, supportive and professional adults, a place where students can begin the journey to realise their dreams.

I want to express my sincere thanks and respect for the teaching and support staff at PCSSC, without their continued effort we would not have achieved the outcomes we have. Their support and professionalism has been the reason we have managed to get through the last year. The staff at PCSSC genuinely care for and are concerned about the wellbeing of all our students, they have maintained contact through virtual classrooms and advisory sessions, called home to support students who may have started to disengage to encourage them to continue learning and ensure those that have fallen ill know we are here and thinking about them. The relationship built by the staff between the school and the community is the essential element that makes PCSSC a different place to teach and learn.

Thank you to all our parents and carers who have supported us with your positive messages and encouragement. I wish everyone in our school community a safe and healthy end to the year and I look forward to returning to normal routines in 2022.

- Christopher Mooney  
Principal

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# Community Updates



## SWPBS UPDATE



Congratulations and thank you to those students that signed up and completed the Physical Activity Challenge.



The winner of the 100 SWPBS points is:  
**Mina Dragovic of 11A.**

Runners up and receiving a reward of 20 SWPBS points each are:

Lilian Sandaver – 12A  
Luke Guastalegname – 12A  
Mahla Akbari – 12J  
Paris Luzaic – 12K  
Kathleen Paraha – 11D  
Jay Pareek – 10A  
Sofia Panganiban – 10E  
Crystal Brooking – 10H



- Mrs D'Lima



## CAREERS UPDATES

### Important VTAC Dates

**December 16** - ATAR Scores Released @ 7am  
**December 16-17** - PCSSC Change of Preference

Support:

16/12 @ 11am - 3:30pm

17/12 @ 9am - 2:30pm

**December 20** Change of Preferences Closes

**January 14 2022** Course Offers Released

### Employment Positions Available

**Dental Nurse Traineeship @ Werribee Dental Clinic**

Call Tracey on 9741 2666

**Plumbing Apprenticeship**

See Careers Office

**Waiting Staff @ Kesari Indian Restaurant Point Cook**

Call Namrata 0416167980

**Customer Service & Pizza Makers @ Pizza Party Hire**

Call Mark on 0422800286 or email at  
mark@pizzapartyhire.com.au

- Mrs Dimech-Hill

## THANK YOU

Radhe Parasram, a PCSSC ex-student joined the publication team at the beginning of 2020 while doing her Year 12. She initiated and designed a new look for the college's newsletter.

Over the last two years, Radhe had devoted her time to layout the college's newsletter.

On behalf of the college's community, we would like to thank Radhe for her dedications and contributions for the college. We also would like to wish her all the best with the next part of the journey.



- Mr Dang  
Publication Team

# Recognising Achievement

## KWONG LEE DOW SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Congratulations to Max Strange and Minjae Kim who have been awarded The Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program. The program is an academic enrichment program designed to support high achieving Victorian Year 11 and Year 12 from Melbourne University. Max and Minjae will get the exciting opportunity to experience university life and take part in a range of academic events and activities, facilities to help them achieve their best – plus get a head start on their future studies and career.

When they are finished their secondary studies, they could also be offered a guaranteed place in an undergraduate degree, financial assistance to move to Melbourne, and an overseas scholarship during their studies. They'll take part in a program of events and activities focused on expanding their academic and personal horizons. These include a welcome event, VCE revision lectures, personal development workshops, overnight adventures on campus, celebration events with family and more.

The program will give Max and Minjae the chance to get a taste of student life first-hand, as well as the opportunities to build strong peer networks that will support them throughout their final years of secondary school and during their transition to university. Since launching in 2007, the Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program has attracted over 9000 students from more than 500 participating schools. The program's inspiration and namesake is Professor Kwong Lee Dow OAM a former University of Melbourne Vice-Chancellor, distinguished scholar in education and an important contributor to curriculum reform internationally. He plays an active role in supporting our Young Scholars Program each year.

Minjae 'Raymond' Kim plans to study biomedicine at the University of Melbourne. He was born in South Korea and moved to Australia at the age of 4 residing in Sydney, he then moved to Melbourne at the age of 8. Raymond says 'I find English as the hardest subject as English is not my first language & Maths is the subject that I enjoy the most and is the best at.' During the weekdays after school, Minjae likes to rests and play games. Minjae also says "I have a bad habit of cramming my work at the last minute, but I hope to fix that in the near future I'm really looking forward to this experience and can't wait for the opportunity."

Max Strange is 17 years old and a triplet. His career interests are in maths, history and science, "so basically anything logic based" he says. "I excel at those types of subjects and even got an award from Wicked Problems which was run by John Monash and was part of an extracurricular activity. This helped me shape my future career path, and I decided to go down the math/science path." He excitedly said. Max is currently a Year 10 student leader and hopes to become a Year 11 student leader also.

Congratulations to both recipients of the Kwong Lee Dow Scholars Program.



# Recognising Achievement

## MAKING A CASE FOR A CAREER IN LAW

Congratulations to Alyona Lobas who has been recognised with a Virtual School Victoria (VSV) Award for her outstanding academic results in 2021. Alyona received an award for English Literature Units 1 & 2.

A huge congratulations to Alyona & the English KLA at school for supporting Alyona in her learning to achieve this result.

A very special mention goes to Miss Nicole Marie who supported the Literature students throughout the year.

The annual VSV Awards recognise the top-performing students in the state. This year, the VSV Awards Ceremony will be held as an all-virtual event on Tuesday 14th December.

The school community will receive more details in the coming weeks. The time of the ceremony is yet to be confirmed.

The entire PCSSC community is proud of Alyona, and would like to congratulate her on being the recipient of such a prestigious award. Well done.



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# VCAL Learning Journeys

Well done to all of our Year 12 VCAL students who have completed their 2021 Learning Journey. Year 12 students consolidated their learning and presented a Learning Journey that demonstrated their learned Employability Skills. Students completed a 15 minute presentation on 'Why I am employable'.

Students used examples & evidence from school and work placement & needed to demonstrate how they have developed & improved their employability skills and how they had applied them throughout the year eg: school, work, family, community etc.

Examples of employability skills that were covered:

- *Communication*
- *Teamwork*
- *Problem Solving*
- *Initiative & Enterprise*
- *Planning & Organising*
- *Self Management*
- *Learning*
- *Technology*
- *Resilience*

Students also identified their strengths and weaknesses and how they will improve on your weaknesses and continue to develop their strengths.

Year 12 VCAL students needed to provide evidence such as photos, videos, projects from class, certificates, references from employers, Resume & Cover Letter and anything else that they might include to demonstrate 'Why I am employable'.

Well done and it was great listening to so many presentations.

- Mr Flannery  
VCAL Coordinator



# Yr 11 VCAL Diverge Workshop

On Thursday November 11th, Year 11 VCAL students participated in a program called Diverge facilitated by REACH. Diverge is a program that aims for young people to feel more confident and excited to pursue a pathway post school.

The program, split into two 2-hour workshops, explored young people's values, supports and passions and invited in adult mentors to share their journey and experiences.

On the day, students developed a greater understanding of their passions and interest areas, considered how their interests can inform their future career, learnt to recognise the personal and external barriers to achieving goals and how to manage them, developed practical skills for engaging with professionals, learnt how to seek help in pursuing career goals.

Feedback received from the students was that the day was a great success and well done to Jhy-Bien Lawrence & Jeremiah Pelesa Tui for being excellent leaders and being invited to another workshop based around leadership.

- Mr Flannery  
VCAL Coordinator



Our new Year 11 VCAL cohort had their first VCAL Orientation day. The REACH Program came into school and ran an incursion focusing on social and emotional development. The courage and maturity shown in our new Year 11 VCAL cohort this morning was outstanding.

Learn more about REACH through their website: <https://www.reach.org.au/>

- Mr Noonan

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# VCAL PDS Garden Update

This Term marked the completion of our Intermediate Personal Development Skills VCAL project: The 2021 'Birds Nest' Garden. Located at the front of the school on the corner of Boardwalk Blvd & Bergamont Dr, this year's Garden Project build started in early Term 2. It endured 3 separate lockdowns, various restrictions and countless weather disruptions as we got pushed into working during winter.

Our Intermediate PDS students drew up designs, built their own donated wheelbarrows from Bunnings Hoppers Crossing & laboured hard in the construction of the garden. Thank you to everyone who was involved with this year's project!

Our hired landscaper Quentin Kirley and his team once again delivered. Thank you to Ben, Jeramiah & Sally. They helped teach the students many new Work-Related Skills during our prac classes.

The school also received a \$500 Grant Nursery Voucher from the Victorian Schools Garden Program (V.S.G.P). I'm excited to use this for some beautiful flower displays in the garden hopefully next year.

A student during their Year 11 VCAL Learning Journey Presentation on Tuesday said to me that he was grateful to be a part of such a hands-on Applied Learning Project, and that he feels like he has 'left a legacy and a mark on this school'.

- Mr Noonan & Ms Fisher



## GRANTS AWARDED FOR THE GARDEN

Some good news that our school was awarded with a \$1000 grant from the Victorian Schools Garden Programs for our 2020 Habitat Garden this week!

We applied for the grant in the Term 3 holidays this year which incorporated a written component and PowerPoint presentation addressing a criteria from the Victorian Schools Garden Program.

This garden has turned into one of the great highlights of our great VCAL program at Point Cook Senior with the amount of recognition and grants it has received (listed on next page).

## GRANTS AWARDED FOR THE GARDEN (cont')

- \$20,000 grant from the Australian Government.
- Two separate Bunnings Equipment donations valued at approximately \$4000 total.
- Published article in the Wyndham Star Newspaper
- \$500 grant from the Victorian Schools Garden Program to improve schools' green space
- \$1000 grant from the Victorian Schools Garden Program award for Greatest Improvement of Schools Green Space Award

I just wanted to give once again my thanks to everyone involved with this intermediate Habitat Garden Project. Quentin Kirley and his team, Oscar & Jeremiah. Bryce Flannery, Alison Mccelland. The Prin Class and Elise Fisher for doing an awesome job with this year's project also. Bunnings Warehouse Hoppers Crossing and of course the Intermediate Personal Development Skills students from 2021 & 2022 for making everything possible.

Have a look at the award certificate in the LRC!

- Mr Noonan



# WRS Orientation

In November senior WRS students completed 2 weeks of orientation including the exploration of Australian Occupational Health and Safety legislation through the collapse of the Westgate Bridge in 1970. Students learnt there were minimal training opportunities for trades people and poor occupational health and safety measures adopted which resulted in the death of 35 workers.

In groups, students were asked to design and devise a bridge with craft materials that could sustain between 50-100 kilos. Students used weights to test their bridges and VCAL teacher Mr Hutchison volunteered to stand on each bridge with the assigned weights.

Two groups successfully held over 100 kilos. Excellent engineering planning and teamwork was shown by all students. Students also designed their own board game- Snakes and Hazards, whereby the players needed to identify workplace hazards and implement safety measures.

- Ms Dimech-Hill



*"Senior WRS orientation was definitely a blast, we are all very excited for the New Year and planned excursions. It was great meeting our new teachers and new students. The activities were really engaging and I look forward to 2022."*

- Jhy 11F

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# THE BREAKFAST everyone is welcome CLUB

**Our Breakfast Program has been supporting students in need for 10 years now!**

Not only does our program provide students with a fulfilling breakfast to start their day with, but it also improves student wellbeing, supporting their outcomes.

**Everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy a free breakfast and a carefree environment to start their school day.**



**Join us and build positive relationships with staff and students!**

**where? Room 312**

**when? Fridays 8:00am - 8:30am**

# REMINDERS

## ATTENDANCE

Student attendance information is available on Compass, including the option to approve absences and input requests to leave early for an appointment.

### ***Late Arrival To School***

Students are requested to use the Compass card to sign in at the Compass 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 having parents enter approval on Compass or contacting the attendance office.

**Students are required to provide a medical certificate when absent from a VCE class or assessment**

***Attend Today,  
Achieve Tomorrow***



**Majority of our communication 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 updated 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:***

1. go to the College's homepage: [www.pointcooksenior.vic.edu.au](http://www.pointcooksenior.vic.edu.au)

2. click on the Compass Portal icon.

OR directly go to Compass login: [pointcooksenior-vic.compass.education/](http://pointcooksenior-vic.compass.education/)

**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 or see the 'Compass Help' page on the school website.



## Community health centres

Information, referral, counselling and support groups

**cohealth** 9377 7100  
(North/West/CBD) cohealth.org.au

**Djerriwarrh Health** 5367 2000  
(Bacchus Marsh, Melton djhs.org.au  
Caroline Springs)

**IPC Health** 9296 1200  
(Brimbank, ipchealth.com.au  
Wyndham, Hobsons Bay)

## Income support

Ring Centrelink on **136 150** and ask for an appointment with a social worker

## Emergency accommodation

Crisis Contact Centre **1800 627 727**

Yarra Community Housing **1800 825 955**

Melbourne Youth Support **9614 3688**

## Support for victims/survivors of sexual assault

WestCASA 9687 5811

CASA House 9635 3610

Victims of Crime 1800 819 817

## Support for men who want to change their behaviour

Men's Referral Service 1300 766 491

MensLine Australia 1300 789 978

LifeWorks 1300 543 396

## Other useful services

WIRE 1300 134 130

Kids HelpLine 1800 551 800

Parentline 13 22 89

Relationships Australia 8311 9222



**Women's Health West**

P 9689 9588

E info@whwest.org.au

W www.whwest.org.au

Current as at July 2016

# Life without family violence



**English**

## If you need an interpreter

First ring the Telephone Interpreter Service

**13 14 50** (24 hours)

## 24 HOUR

## EMERGENCY NUMBERS

**POLICE - 000**

**SAFE STEPS FAMILY VIOLENCE RESPONSE CENTRE**

**1800 015 188**

**SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS AND COUNSELLING LINE**

**1800 806 292**

## These services may be able to help you

### Family violence support services

**Women's Health West** provides information, counselling, crisis and court support for women and children affected by family violence

P: 9689 9588

W: whwest.org.au

### inTouch Multicultural Centre Against

**Family Violence** supports women from diverse backgrounds who are experiencing family violence

P: 1800 755 988

W: intouch.asn.au

### Elizabeth Morgan House Aboriginal

**Women's Services** provides support for Aboriginal women in relation to family violence

P: 9482 5744

W: emhaws.org.au

### Community legal services

communitylaw.org.au

Brimbank 8312 2000

Flemington/Kensington 9376 4355

Footscray 9689 8444

Melbourne 9328 1885

Melton 9747 5240

Moonee Valley 9376 7929

Werribee 9749 7720

### Magistrates courts

Broadmeadows 9221 8900

Melbourne 9628 7777

Sunshine 9300 6200

Werribee 9974 9300

### Other legal services

Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention & Legal Service

1800 105 303

Women's Legal Service 8622 0600

Court Network 1800 681 614

# RE-CYCLE YOUR CYCLE



## *Bicycle Donations Needed*

**DO YOU HAVE AN OLD,  
UNWANTED BICYCLE YOU  
NO LONGER NEED OR USE?**

Preserve the environment and donate it to the **West Metro Community Work Team's Fix the Cycle Program!**

In the program young offenders are taught to repair, refurbish and overhaul old and disused bikes. Once completed, **the bicycles are donated to community members who most benefit** from a sustainable method of free private transport, such as teenagers coming from disadvantaged backgrounds and refugee families who are newly settled in Australia.

**For donations contact  
the CW Team on:  
1300 389 518**







**Westmetro.communitywork  
@justice.vic.gov.au**





# Could \$500 help you with school costs?

Join Saver Plus and we'll match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to \$500 for school costs.

-  laptops & tablets
-  lessons & activities
-  uniforms & shoes
-  books & supplies
-  sports fees & gear
-  camps & excursions

To join Saver Plus, you must be at least 18 years or over, have a child at school or attend vocational education yourself, have regular income from paid employment (you or your partner), have a current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card and be in receipt of an eligible Commonwealth social security benefit, allowance or payment\*



\* many Centrelink payments are eligible, please contact your local Coordinator for more information.

Saver Plus is an initiative of the Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ, delivered in partnership with Berry Street, The Benevolent Society and The Smith Family and other local community agencies. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government Department of Social Services. Go to [www.dss.gov.au](http://www.dss.gov.au) for more information.

## Contact

your local Saver Plus Coordinator

## Phone or SMS

your name and postcode to 1300 610 355

## Email

WerribeeSP@thesmithfamily.com.au

## Online

[saverplus.org.au](http://saverplus.org.au)

Find us on Facebook 

