**Dates to Remember**

**February**
- **Monday 17**
  Interschool Sports  
  Senior  
- **Wednesday 19**
  Swimming Carnival  
  Oakleigh Recreation Centre  
- **Thursday 20**
  Script to Screen Excursion  
  to ACMI  
- **Tuesday 25**
  All school Photo Day  
- **Wednesday 26 – Friday 28**
  Year 7 Camp – Marysville  
- **Thursday 27**
  VET Music Excursion

**Principal's Report**

**Welcome**

I warmly welcome everyone back after the summer break. We have had a remarkably smooth start to the year. Students have been able to view their 2014 schedule on our Learning Management System, *Compass* during the holidays and classes have begun well with teachers clearly outlining learning expectations in each classroom. It is worth recognising that holidays are dangerous to student achievement! Research shows that learning slows or even goes backwards over a long holiday period. It is important therefore that we move quickly back into an active learning mindset.

It is also tremendously important that students have *all the necessary books and learning materials* for their classes from the start of the year. Teachers will be contacting you if they have a concern about this. If you need clarification or support to help provide these materials, please contact your child's Year Level Coordinator who will be able to assist you. Students and parents are reminded that all students are expected to have both a Student Planner ($12) and Vocabulary Booklet ($5). These can be purchased from the office.

We have a whole-school focus on Vocabulary for 2014, employing a particular learning approach that we expect to significantly improve student learning across the curriculum. Words are packets of knowledge that privilege those who are familiar with them and boost background academic knowledge.

**Congratulations**

On behalf of the school community I want to heartily congratulate our Class of 2013 who have performed especially impressively in their Year 12 studies. School Captain Scott Murray lead by example with an ATAR score of 98.50 and has accepted a place to study a Bachelor of Commerce at the University of Melbourne. Other students to do especially well included, Burcu Dogan - Bachelor of Science University of Melbourne; Ankus Malhotr - Bachelor of Science University of Melbourne; Anmo Malhotr – Bachelor of Arts University of Melbourne; Karli Garret - Bachelor of Health Science and Business Monash University; and Jingham Zhang – Bachelor of Business Monash University.

We commend these students on their dedication, hard work and perseverance and wish them the very best in their future studies.
Compass
Please ensure that you are able to access Compass. You can contact the office for assistance or our IT Leader Hatsu Watanabe at watanabe.hatsuho.h@edumail.vic.gov.au
You will need an email address to fully utilise the features of Compass. Please also take this opportunity at the start of the year to ensure your family’s contact details are absolutely accurate and current – this can also be done through Compass or by contacting the office.

2014 Year Level Coordinators
Y7 Mr Mark Picone   Y8 Mr Arnie Ioannidis   Y9 Ms Andrea Carmody
Y10 Mr Tony Katsianos   Y11 Ms Kalouda Pelitidis   Y12 Mr Ian Denver

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2014
I would like to advise all members of the College community that the election information process is available from Compass. Please login to view important information on this process and relevant nomination forms. Your involvement as a community member is greatly valued.
Enquiries can be directed to me by calling me on 9579 2322 or by emailing the school email: south.oakleigh.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Appendix A: School Council Elections – Information for Parents
School Council Elections 2014
What is a school council and what does it do?
All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within statewide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.
Who is on the school council?

- A mandated elected Parent category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.

- A mandated elected DEECD employee category – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

- An optional Community member category – members are coopted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.
Why is Parent membership so important?
Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.
Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?
The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.
In view of this, you might seriously consider
• standing for election as a member of the school council
• encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?
No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?
The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister.
If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.
DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work are eligible to nominate for parent membership of the school council at that school.
Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.
Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember
• Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
• Consider standing for election to council this year
• Be sure to vote in the elections.

Trevor C. Smith
Principal
The Learning Curve Planner

How to use the South Oakleigh College Student Planner

South Oakleigh College students use the Learning Curve Planner as an organizing and learning tool to support them on a daily basis in areas such as homework, time management, goal setting and lots more. The Learning Curve Planner provides both students and parents with a wealth of information to support student learning at South Oakleigh College. All students will use the Planner on a daily basis and parents are encouraged to communicate with the college via the Planner as well as reviewing their student’s program and discussing relevant topics covered in the Planner.

The Learning Curve provides Parent Focus Articles designed to support students in their learning and focus throughout the year, thus providing parents with a further opportunity to become engaged in their child’s learning. Parents can familiarise themselves with the Learning Curve at the following website: http://learningcurveplanner.com.au/home.html

Our first Parent focus article is on Home Study Timetable. Please read it to see how you can support your child.

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Parent Focus Article

WEEK 3

Middle – Home Learning Timetable
Senior – Home Study Timetable

Learning Goals - at the end of this week your child should have:
- An understanding of the difference between ‘something time’ and ‘nothing time’ and building their self awareness of where their time goes and the ability to manage it.
- A completed Home Learning/ Study Timetable containing their musts, options and required number of home learning/ study sessions and a photocopy of it on the fridge at home to enable their Team to assist their efforts.
- A proactive attitude to use the weekly Habits of Mind and Thinking Tools to strive, thrive and flourish in their living, learning and thinking.

Value for Life – Self Discipline
Identify three positive behaviours which show Self Discipline at home, then at school and then in the community.
Student Drop Off Areas
A reminder to drop off your children in safe area to avoid any mishaps.
Students are not to be dropped off at the car park entrance or near the disabled parking bay. Parents are asked not to block the thoroughfare or drop your child in the middle of the car park as this does block passage and cars do bank up. All students are required to be dropped off at the bottom of the car park. The car park has a clearly labelled ENTRY and EXIT and for the safety of all students and members of the school community please adhere to these requirements.

Personal Goods Brought to School at Owner’s Risk
Personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include mobile phones, calculators, iPods, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not hold insurance, nor does it accept responsibility for private property brought to school by students, staff or visitors.

Meeting with a teacher, Coordinator or Team Leader
If you would like to have a meeting with a teacher, Coordinator or Team Leader, please contact the General Office and you will be put through to them or an appointment will be made for you at a suitable and convenient time. Coordinators and Team Leaders all have teaching duties, so hoping for a meeting by turning up unannounced is difficult.
Uniform
The uniform requirements for the College are explained in the SOC Student Planner. Parents and guardians are encouraged to read these requirements and support the uniform policy. If a student cannot attend on any day in full school uniform, a note from home is expected so that a uniform pass can be provided for that day. The School’s policy on foot wear, jewellery and piercings involves sound public health and safety considerations. It is most important that students come to school appropriately dressed.

Water bottles in class
Students are encouraged to carry water bottles to class on warm days. They are also asked to act responsibly and understand that in some classrooms (where there is electrical equipment, for instance) the teacher may need to alter this arrangement for safety reasons.

Lockers
Locker use is essential and is a privilege. Students must use a lock on their locker – for both their personal security and for the protection of the locker. Lockers missing locks will be wired closed and students will be required to purchase a lock from the General Office. Students are only permitted to be at their lockers before and immediately after school, and at recess and lunchtime. They should not be at their lockers during class time.

General Office hours
The General Office is open from 8.00 am to 4.30pm Monday to Thursday and 8.00 am to 4.00pm Friday.

Newsletter distribution
In an effort to be kinder to our environment, we will only be printing the first newsletter. Newsletters are made available on our website every three weeks and a link will be emailed to parents. If you do not have internet access or prefer a hard copy, please contact the College and we will provide your child with a printed copy. Our website address is: www.sosc.vic.edu.au

School Injuries and Insurance
Parents and guardians are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. Most medical costs will be refundable by Medicare. If you are a member of an ambulance or health insurance fund, you may also be able to claim transport or other expenses from the fund. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not hold accident insurance for school students.

Please do not hesitate to contact our College Assistant Principal if you have any queries concerning the above matters.

Helen Koziaris
Assistant Principal
Report from the English and EAL Domain

Throughout the year students will be offered numerous opportunities to extend their skills and challenge themselves through participating in extension activities in the area of English. This includes formal examination type competitions run by the University of New South Wales. Our students have attained outstanding results in these competitions, including one Year 12 student receiving a medal for the top result in Victoria in 2012.

Students will also participate in class debates and be inspired by guest speakers and performances.

Our Enrichment Program will also include Writing Workshops for talented writers.

Students in years 7 to 9 will be encouraged to enter the Victorian Premier’s Reading Challenge by English and EAL Teachers and Library Staff. This Challenge promotes reading for both pleasure and leisure. Students are encouraged to read 15 novels, with at least ten from a recommended list. We will monitor books read and our library manager, Kay Wilson, will facilitate students’ online registration necessary for the awarding of certificates. Novels read will also be credited to the Year 7 and 8 Reading Room Program.

Parental support in encouraging students to embrace these opportunities would be greatly appreciated.

How to help your child get off to a great start:

Books: It is essential that all students from Year 7 to 12 have the set novels and text books specified on the booklist for their English and EAL classes. They also require the stationery and folder listed, as well as a reliable USB for computer work. Otherwise, it makes it very difficult for students to keep up to date with their work, both within and out of the classroom.

Homework: To help students make a productive start to the year, please encourage them to set up a good homework regime. It is the key to keeping up to date, cementing their learning and extending their understanding. Please encourage regular Wider Reading as it is the key to improving a student’s vocabulary, spelling and grasp of good writing techniques.
**Academic Vocabulary Program**

At South Oakleigh College we recognize the importance of vocabulary in developing academic background knowledge to enhance learning. Therefore, we have initiated a school wide vocabulary program. We consider that it is so important that every subject from Year 7 to 12 will include the explicit instruction of key vocabulary terms. This approach is supported by sound educational research suggesting that students can improve their academic performance by, for example from the 50th percentile to the 83rd percentile*. Our approach draws from Robert Marzano’s research and that of other respected educational researchers. Simply put, the more words you understand about the topic, the more you are able to think, talk and write about it.

Every subject teacher will provide lists of the vocabulary drawn from the topics being studied. The school will use a consistent approach to the teaching of key terms that is reflected in the vocabulary workbooks.


All members of the English/EAL team are looking forward to a very productive year.

**Chris Melki-Wegner**  
English/EAL Domain Leader

**Report from the Maths Domain**

At South Oakleigh College, we encourage students to develop their understanding and enjoyment of Maths through the use of hands-on learning activities to supplement the text book. Students will also be using Mathletics to consolidate their skills. Students from Year 7 to 12 will have the opportunity to participate in University of New South Wales Mathematics Competition later in the year. Impressive results have been achieved by our students, including last year when one of our Year 8 students received the medal for the top result in Victoria.

**Being Prepared**

Once again, please ensure that your child has the required text book, calculator and stationery listed on the booklist to enable them to make a positive and productive start to the school year.
Maths Extension Project

This year we will again be running a special Enhancement Program to further extend and challenge high achieving students to fully utilise their skills and talents in the area of Mathematics. The aim is to cater for students that have displayed high level skills and aptitude in the area of Maths and provide them with the opportunity to work with like-minded peers.

Students will be selected on the basis of testing and teacher recommendation. This program will focus on creative problem solving strategies and lateral thinking skills. By helping students consolidate these skills, it will enhance their understanding and hopefully further inspire a passion for Maths.

Chris Melki-Wegner
Maths Domain Leader

WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE

In order to make normally boring exam revision more exciting at the end of last year, Year 8 maths students had an opportunity to take part in a game of “Who Wants to be a Millionaire?”

A few days prior to the event the students were given the topics that they had covered during the semester which they needed to revise. They were told to come equipped with the skills to play the game. As it was similar to the real life television show, the students were very interested in participating.

All students revised well and came prepared on the day. The rules were introduced and the students were given coloured cards to put up when they had worked out the answer.

The class was a hive of activity. The students read each question that was on the screen and worked out answers on paper diligently. Then they were quick to put up the card that represented their choice of answer.

There was a healthy rivalry between students as well as peer coaching. Students worked in harmony and taught each other the answers after the correct response was acknowledged for each question. There was more than one millionaire!

A wonderful time was had by all students and a successful outcome was achieved as a productive revision lesson came to a conclusion.

R. Dayawansa
Year 8 Maths Teacher
WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONARE?
WELCOME TO GREEK

With the year already in full swing, I would like to welcome all students who are in Beginners and Advanced classes experiencing and learning the Greek language and culture. I would also like to welcome Kathey Zinelis, this year’s Language Assistant from Greece. Kathey is a qualified teacher from Greece who has also been very involved in various European Student Programs. We are looking forward to her support in our Greek language program.

A very warm welcome to our YR7 Greek class of 24 students, 7 of which are advanced and 17 are beginners.

This year will be even better with more enrichment activities and excursions. We will be participating in this year’s 25th March National Day Celebrations which will be on Sunday 23rd March. Students of Greek will be required to meet in the city for our school march to the Shrine amongst other Greek schools from the Greek Community.

I would like to wish our Year 12 students in Greek all the best in their studies this year.

P. Dimakakos

LOTE – Greek
Swimming Carnival

Come one come all to the annual SOC House Swimming Carnival.

When – Wednesday 19th February
Where – Oakleigh Recreation Centre
What – Age group races in all swimming strokes, staff v student relays, beach party and splash and dash for participation points
Come dressed in your house colours with bathers and a towel ready to compete and enjoy our beach party.

**Please Note

1) All students must arrive at school to catch buses from the college. Students are no longer permitted to make their own way to the pool.
2) Students can be dismissed from the pool at the end of the day. Students must have written permission from a guardian and this should be presented to a staff member on the day.

Term 1 Interschool Sport – Baseball/Softball, Cricket & Volleyball
Seniors – Monday 17th February
Intermediates – Friday 14th March
Junior – Tuesday 1st April
Students need to check the Sport Calendar in their locker areas or in the gym foyer for sport sign up and training days.
A SUDANESE student who learnt to hunt with a spear as a boy has taken home the School Sport Victoria state athletics gold medal in the 14 years boys javelin.

Thuch Kuot is in Year 8 at South Oakleigh College, and won the competition with a throw of 38.5m. Thuch, 14, used to hunt deer with his friends before migrating to Australia. "We had to group up and go for a hunt together with all the spears," he said. Thuch was happy to have won gold. He lives with his aunt in Melbourne, and she called his mother and two younger brothers in Sudan to share the news. The college’s sport co-ordinator Courtney Macleod said Thuch was too humble to understand the significance of the gold medal. "The entire school community got around him and congratulated him," she said. "I really just believe that he does not understand how unique it is and how uncommon it is for students to win this kind of award." Ms Macleod said Thuch first picked up a javelin at a school carnival two years ago.
Year 11 Students

Welcome to 2014

At times school can become stressful, tedious and monotonous, especially as the year drags on. It is easy to put off things that need to be done or to find excuses to avoid certain milestones in life. What a lot of us lack in life is a certain level of motivation. Motivation is our willingness to change things.

If you wish to succeed in VCE you have to start NOW! TODAY...

1. Revise your lessons every day.
2. Complete your homework by the DUE date
3. Form a study group
4. Attend homework classes
5. Take advantage of the enormous knowledge and generosity of your teachers
6. Learn to enjoy your time at school.

Have a great year!
Mrs Pelitidis

VET Hairdressing and Retail, Make-up and Skincare

Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

Students commenced class on Wednesday 5th February. We have refreshed our room with new posters on our wall. We have added more work stations and computers for the students use. We have an interesting year planned, so watch this space for photos and updates throughout the year.

Regards
VET Trainer,
Mrs Pradolin
SAVE TIME @ LUNCH TIME, ORDER ONLINE!
Use our online system to make the ordering of lunches easier and more convenient.

How Does It Work?
Go to www.flexischools.com.au and click “Register Now” in the Login Box. Then enter your student’s name, school and class, and add funds (say $50.00) into a prepaid account. You can log in to the website at any time to place orders, typically up until just before school starts. As purchases are made, the funds are taken from your prepaid account. The account can be topped up again in the same way, or set to automatically to be topped up by credit card when the balance falls below a preset minimum. Each order is sent automatically to the canteen, where an easy to read label is produced with the student’s name, class and order details. At lunchtime students can simply pick up their order without the need for cash.

Features
- Order at a time convenient to you (in the morning, night before, or weeks in advance!)
- No searching for cash required (It’s already paid online)
- Teach your child healthy eating in a fun way
- Order from home or work

It's So Easy
1. Go to www.flexischools.com.au
2. Click “Register Now” to create an account
3. Top-up Your balance
4. Start ordering immediately

To View a Demonstration
Go to the www.flexischools.com.au website and in the “find Your School” box, enter a few letters of our school name and click the name when it appears.

What Does It Cost?
The online menu is the same price as the usual menu. However, there is a small fee for the online orders to help pay for the labels and the website system. So why not order your next lunch online!!!!

What Payment Method Can I Use?
Flexischools accepts payment via Visa, Mastercard and bank transfer. To perform a bank transfer to your Flexischools account, click “Top-up Account” when logged into the Flexischools website and select “Bank Transfer”; you will be given your unique EFT code. You can then make a transfer via your bank’s internet facility or at your branch.
What can parents and carers do to help their child’s asthma at school?

- If your child is self-managing their asthma, or capable of taking their asthma medication independently, ensure that your child is always carrying their reliever medication (*e.g.* Ventolin, Asmol, Airomir and Bricanyl) as well as a spacer while at school.
- Ensure that you have provided your child’s school/preschool with an updated Asthma Action Plan.
- Ensure that your child knows how to recognise early symptoms of an asthma attack and check to make sure they are using their reliever medication properly.
- Ensure your child will seek help from school/preschool staff if they experience asthma symptoms.
- Ensure that your child’s asthma is being well managed and that their medication and management is reviewed annually by your GP (this is a good opportunity to also update the Asthma Action Plan required by your child’s school/preschool).

**Respiratory experts talk to parents about asthma**

Ever wondered what the experts would say about a cure for asthma? Or how to get your teenager to take their medication? If you want to find out the answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about children and asthma, watch The Asthma Foundation’s new video series – available from [http://forum.asthma.org.au/](http://forum.asthma.org.au/)
EMA Applications must be completed and handed in at the office by the 28th February.

TERM DATES: 2014

Term 1: 28 January (school teachers start) to 4 April *

Term 2: 22 April to 27 June**

Term 3: 14 July to 19 September

Term 4: 6 October to 19 December

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT AUTHORITY - Parents wishing to make monthly credit card payments to the school can obtain the authority from the office.

Locks may be purchased at the office for $10.
**Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA):**

**Eligibility criteria:** You must hold a valid Health Care Card or Pension Card.

**How to Apply:** Please complete the attached EMA form and return EMA form to front office (please bring your health Care Card with you so that we can make a copy of it).

**Closing Date:** Please return on or before **28 February 2014**

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided by the Victorian Government to lower-income families to help with education-related costs.

If you have a child under 16, and you hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible to receive the EMA. The allowance is paid in two instalments, one in March and one in August.

The payment is intended to assist with education-related costs such as; uniforms, excursions, textbooks, and stationery. You can elect to have your EMA paid in one of the following ways:

- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your own nominated bank account;
- Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses;
  - Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

In 2014, the annual EMA amount per student is:

- **$300** for year 7 students
- **$250** for students in year 8 – until age 16*.

* A pro-rata amount is payable for students turning 16 in 2014.


Please note: South Oakleigh College and The DEECD do not endorse or accept the responsibility for any of the products or services of any private advertisements.