Welcome back to everyone who is part of the South Oakleigh College Community. I extend an especially warm welcome to all families who have joined the College for the first time this year, in particular the Year 7's (Class of 2020). My sincere wish for all students is that your experience during your time at the College is not only a positive one but also a time where you will achieve great success in all endeavours and pursuits.

We have enjoyed a very smooth start to the new school year. With many enthusiastic students ready for the challenges ahead, already starting to attend Homework Club and asking for assistance from their teachers. It is a pleasure to walk amongst the student body and see so many bright and enthusiastic faces keen and eager to learn. Best wishes to everyone for year ahead.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the outstanding achievements of the class of 2014. In particular congratulations to:

- Te Huy Tran (DUX) Engineering - Honours, Monash University
- Erin Deverell – Arts/VisualArts – Monash University
- Huyen Nguyen – Pharmacy – Honours, Monash University
- Amanda Davarinos – Science, University of Melbourne
- Isabella Ferrer – Music Theatre, Federation University
- Nicole Kacanas – Arts, Monash University

We are pleased with all our students as they transition from secondary college to tertiary studies and wish them all well.

New Staff
We welcome many talented new teachers into the school this year and look forward to the contribution they will make to the learning of our students and the College. Our new staff have settled in very well and report that they feel very comfortable among such a friendly group of students and colleagues.

Let me introduce you to:
- Peta Close – Arts and Technology
- Jared Dyson – Humanities
- Wilfred Lee - Science and Maths
- Amanda Main – PE and English
- Louise O’Neill - PE/Health and Science
- Adam Platenkamp – Drama and English
We would also like to welcome back from leave Michelle Mascaro, who has returned to support the College as VET coordinator, as well as contributing in other administrative aspects of the College.

**Year 12 Retreat**
Last week our Year 12 students participated in the Annual Year 12 Retreat held at the Oakleigh Municipal Centre. This is a very important event in preparation of our students. It is critical that we establish a strong culture of aspiration and support that will serve the students and their teachers well as they embark on the significant challenges of negotiating the demanding Year 12 program.
I personally enjoyed spending the morning with our students as we established this Year’s motto for them of “If it is to be. It is up to me”. It is about working together and I encourage and support to the class of 2015 to reach their potential.

**School Council and AGM**
The College is seeking nominations for TWO parent vacancies on the 2015 College Council. Parents wishing to nominate can collect the appropriate nomination form from reception from Monday 16th February.
The results of the School Council election will be announced at the Annual General Meeting of the Council which will be held on Tuesday 17th March at 6.00pm in the Conference Room of the Administration Area. The AGM is an open meeting of the College Council and parents are welcome to attend, please send your rsvp to keystone.zoe.z@edumail.vic.gov.au

**Staff Professional Learning**
As mentioned in the Compass Newsfeed one of our main priorities this year is to review the current curriculum to ensure that we are working towards providing our students the best possible learning outcomes in line with AusVELS and the National Curriculum Standards.

The appointment of Christine Melki-Wegner as Data/Pedagogy Leader and Louise O’Neill as Curriculum Leader is one of the ways that we are looking to support all our Learning Areas as we head towards the desired result, that of improving student learning outcomes and providing successful outcomes for all students.

Another way to do this is to provide staff with meeting time to work together and audit and map the curriculum as is required. In order to do this the College will dismiss students at 2.30pm fortnightly on alternative Wednesdays and Thursdays. Teachers will adjust their teaching and the students learning accordingly so that students are not disadvantaged in any way. The school bell times have been rescheduled to ensure that minimum impact is made on any class.

This process began this week with all students dismissed at 2.30pm on Thursday 12 February. This will next occur again on Wednesday, February 25th. A full outline of the dates for Semester 1 can been seen under Mr Mark Picone (Assistant Principal’s) report. I thank you for your support in this as I believe this will allow our teachers to build their capacity and that of our students.

**Helen Koziaris**
**Principal**
South Oakleigh Secondary College

School Council Election 2015 - Information for Parents & DET Employees

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?

For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent category - more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) 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 DET 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. DET 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.

DET 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.

Contact the principal for further information.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

It has been a very exciting beginning to 2015. Our new Year 7’s have settled in well, quickly making the transition from Primary School into Secondary School, making friends and establishing positive relationships with their teachers. Although the beginning of entering a new environment can be a daunting time for all, our Year 7’s (and their parents) can take comfort in knowing that they will be carefully guided by our mature Peer Support leaders as well as be supported by all members of our College community.

Along with our Year 7 students, a warm welcome must be extended to all new students from years 8 – 12 who have joined our College. We wish you the best of luck in your academic pursuits and look forward to your contribution to South Oakleigh College. As with all our students, our doors are open for support and to share your successes.

Further to this, we understand that beginning a new school can also be a daunting time for parents! I’d like to take this opportunity to welcome all families into our College and wish to express our open doors and lines of communication to all.
**Professional Learning Early Dismissal**

Teachers will be working hard to strengthen our curriculum in line with the National Curriculum Standards. In order to do this, teaching staff require quality time to achieve the desired result. Listed below are dates in which students will be dismissed at 2:30pm. Teachers will adjust their teaching and the students learning accordingly so that students are not disadvantaged in any way.

**Dates for Early Dismissal in Semester 1:**

**February**
Thursday 12th and Wednesday 25th

**March**
Thursday 12th and Wednesday 25th

**April**
Thursday 16th

**May**
Wednesday 6th, Thursday 14th, Wednesday 27th

**June**
Thursday 11th and Wednesday 24th

**Adjusted Bell Times for 2:30pm Dismissal**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period 1</th>
<th>8:45am</th>
<th>Period 2</th>
<th>9:30am</th>
<th>Recess</th>
<th>10:15am</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Period 3</td>
<td>10:40am</td>
<td>Period 4</td>
<td>11:25am</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>12:10pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 5</td>
<td>1:00pm</td>
<td>Period 6</td>
<td>1:45pm</td>
<td>Dismissal</td>
<td>2:30pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please keep yourself up to date with events and activities through this newsletter and by checking our Compass School Manager site.

The Year 12 students headed off to their Retreat for their Orientation Program and all other year levels started with a brief assembly and then straight off to classes. Thank you to the non-teaching staff for all the behind the scenes work that you do to ensure that the facilities and resources are ready for the start of the year.

In 2015 we will continue to focus on developing passionate learners, critical thinkers and capable and confident global citizens. A new school year presents a time of opportunity and optimism for our students; a time to set goals and be excited about their prospects in 2015. In assemblies in the first week of school we have reminded our students of their community responsibilities and how lucky we are to be at such a great school. In 2015 our aim is to further promote this sense of optimism and pride in ourselves and each other. At every opportunity we look for ways to improve our practices and ensure each and every student has their best school year to date.

Mr Tony Katsianos  
Assistant Principal

Mr Mark Picone  
Assistant Principal
REPORT FROM THE ENGLISH / EAL LEARNING AREA

Throughout the year students will be offered numerous opportunities to extend their skills and challenge themselves through participating in enrichment activities in the area of English. This includes formal examination type competitions run by the University of New South Wales.

Students will also participate in class and House 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 10 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 towards the Year 7 and 8 Reading Room Program.

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

How to help your child get off to a great start in 2015:

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, including the Academic Vocabulary book. They also require the stationery and folder listed. Otherwise, it makes it very difficult for students to be well organised and 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. They will be listed in class resources on Compass. The school will use a consistent approach to the teaching of key terms that is reflected in the vocabulary workbooks.


Advice for New Year 7 Students by Year 8 Experts: Making the most of Secondary School

Thank you to Ms Downs for the following words of wisdom provided by last year’s Year 7 students to help our new cohort settle into secondary school life.

As part of last year’s Head Start program, our 2015 Year 8 students reflected on their first year at the college. The students considered their audience (new students to the school) and the purpose of their writing (to inform and advise). They were encouraged to employ literary techniques and a wide vocabulary in order to make their writing engaging and inspiring. By Ms Sara Downs

Are you wondering what it’s like to be in high school? Are you scared about the transition? Well you shouldn’t be. My first year at South Oakleigh has been exciting, exhilarating and excellent. When you first arrive at high school, you will feel anxious, curious but most of all nervous. That’s okay as everyone feels the same; you’re not the only one. If you want to conquer the school year and become FABULOUS, then simply follow these few steps and you’ll be on the road to success.

The first tip is to learn how to be organised. By being organised, I mean bringing all your books to class, maintaining a clean locker (not the easiest thing, take it from me) and above all else paying attention in class at ALL TIMES!! An important tip that I believe everyone would recommend, is DON’T procrastinate (believe me, we’ve all done it). Delaying any homework that you should be doing only sets you back further and it gets harder to get back on track. By completing and handing in your homework, you are one step closer to being so organised that people will be asking you for help when cleaning lockers!
The environment around you is important, the more positive it is, the better experiences you will have. Being yourself and treating others with respect is important, it is a life skill; a skill everyone should have. Not only will it help in school, but also it will help in your everyday life. Being yourself lets people see the real you and that can help your self-esteem. Respect means you should treat people how you would want to be treated. These are skills you will need, remember that!

Being genuine is a key tool to navigating high school experiences. A really good way to understand new people is to sit with different people in class because it’s fun when everyone gets along and you never know when you are going to find your next best friend.

By Elizabeth Demosthenous

Our last pit stop is certainly not our journey’s end but, quite possibly just the start. Choices. You will be faced with a certainly overwhelming amount of these in your first year of secondary college. You will have millions of opportunities thrown your way. Of these opportunities, include chances that could broaden your view of the world or change your aspect of thinking, potentially changing your life.

Here is a short taste testing of some of the finest choices on your menu this year: Student Representative Council (and Polykala training), the Swimming Carnival, House Athletics, Cross Country, testing yourself at an instrument that is foreign to you, trying new electives and many more! You will discover talents that you didn’t even know you held within you.

The most important thing you must remember when you are faced with the challenge of choosing whether to throw yourself into a new field or take a chance, is to not let others change your mind or influence you in the wrong way. You want to have a crack at the trumpet, you go girl (or guy), no matter what your best mate says. You want to get involved in that awesome fundraiser, don’t hold back. You want to try your legs at cross country, run like the wind bullseye! It’s your time, your chance to open yourself to all these new things that you have never seen before, and may never see again. As Nike say “Just do it.” Even if you absolutely hate it, you have learnt a lesson somewhere along the way, even if you learn that you hate piano, you have still discovered a part of you that would be still under blankets if you hadn’t tried it. Remove those blankets. Try new things. Explore yourself. By Bianca Ciaverella

Before I started at South Oakleigh Secondary College, I thought high school was going to be impossible. But it was quite the opposite. It was a piece of cake. Some of the best parts of the year include camp, making new friends, and the choice of subjects.

The year 7 camp was a good way to experience new things and to make new friends. My
experience of camp was fun and exciting. At the beginning of the year I didn’t know that many people, but after camp I had a lot of friends. For me, the best thing about camp were the activities. My favourite activity was the climbing wall. I had to face one of my ultimate fears. Heights. But I took on the challenge and made it all the way to the top. Camp for me was one of the best parts of the whole year. **By Lachlan Wilkin**

South Oakleigh Secondary College is a great school to attend. It gives opportunities to all students to improve their skills and learn new things. The school has three important values that each student is following: Respect, responsibility and resilience. Teachers help students as well as teach them important and useful things. The school cares about all students’ wellbeing and makes sure that everyone is feeling comfortable and welcome in the school. South Oakleigh Secondary College gives opportunities to students to explore their talents and strengthen their weaknesses. **By Despina Kirketsou**

All members of the English/EAL team are looking forward to a very productive year. **Chris Melki-Wegner  English/EAL Learning Area Leader**

**VCE Study Skills Program**

A successful initiative that began in 2013 is again being offered this year. All Year 12 students are expected to attend a Study Skills session every Wednesday in order to maximise their results. The program is run by Skye Melki-Wegner, our Writer in Residence, who is well qualified in this area, having gained the Australian Students’ Prize, a Premier’s Award and perfect study scores in four VCE subjects, as well as First Class Honours in Law at Monash University.

We are thrilled that our Year 12 students aspire to achieve highly and will aided by this program designed to improve organisational skills, study habits and exam techniques. Many of our high achievers over the last two years have cited the Study Skills program as facilitating their success.

Some comments from previous participants include: * “Skye’s teaching methods are really effective as we know that she has been through what we are going through and she understands what we need to do to succeed…”* “Skye is very enthusiastic and she knows how to motivate us.”* “The sessions were very motivational and informative.” * “Skye has an amazing ability to keep us interested by effectively using the time to engage us and keep us contributing by asking questions, and giving us the opportunity to try out new study techniques.”

The program will be held in the Library, Period 4 every Wednesday.

**Chris Melki-Wegner**

**Enrichment Program Leader**
REPORT FROM THE MATHS LEARNING AREA

At South Oakleigh College, students are encouraged to appreciate the importance of maths in everyday life and how studying maths can be rewarding in any career pathway. Students will consolidate their understanding and skills by participating in hands-on learning activities.

Mathletics is a website with online activities that support the mathematics curriculum and all Year 7-10 students have an account. Students from Years 7 to 12 have the opportunity to participate in the New South Wales Mathematics Competition in August. Please encourage your child to participate.

Parents can support their child by ensuring that they have the listed textbook, calculator and stationary.

Lily Vrettos
Maths Domain Leader

REPORT FROM THE SCIENCE LEARNING AREA

1. Free Evening Lectures in Physics at the University of Melbourne.
Absolutely fantastic opportunity for students from Year 8 through 12, to be inspired by Physicists who are experts in the field. Focussed on enriching VCE students but over the past few years, our junior students have enjoyed them very much. The lessons start at 6pm for 1 hour. There are refreshments at 5:45pm for the students as they arrive.

The first lesson will be by Associate Professor Roger Rassool, one of the most dynamic and entertaining lecturers in the world. He will be talking about Motion.

Our Year 11 and 12 students make their own way to the venue at the University of Melbourne: the Laby theatre in the Physics building.

Some of the teachers, Mr Ram, Mr Hem and Mr Denver, are available to take junior school students in their cars. One of the advantages for the junior students is that by coming to a few of the lectures through the year, they gain a familiarity with the University of Melbourne environment and gain an interest in getting there after they leave secondary school. We take them around the University grounds and take them to the student centre for a meal, and then to the Laby Lecture Theatre.

Contact Mr Ram via Compass sending him an email, if you would like a parent permission slip for your student to travel by car, both to the lecture and to be returned home to the student's front door.
2. Excursion to meet Nobel Prize winning geneticist, Sir Paul Nurse.
On Tuesday 10th March, a bus will be taking students during period 6 to attend an inspiring presentation by Sir Paul Nurse, who won the Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine in 2001, for his research into understanding how cells divide. He wants to meet students to inspire them with his interest in Science. There is no cost. The bus will return to school at 5:45pm. Please send Mr Ram an email via Compass if you would like your child to participate.

3. SEAMS (Strengthening Engagement and Achievement in Maths and Science).
During the January holidays four of our students experienced “living-in” at University campuses and gained a head start in Maths Methods and either Biology, Chemistry or Physics. Year 12 students Alexia Stathopoulou, and Paul Argent participated in the Monash University SEAMS Summer Camp, while Year 11 students, Yvonne Davarinos and Harsh Modi participated in the University of Melbourne Summer Camp. The camps were "cost free" over 3 days and included lessons, practical classes, motivational talks and social time, getting to know students from schools from all over the State of Victoria. There will be a follow-up Winter Camp in the July holidays, where the Years 11s and 12s swap Universities to gain an experience of both Universities environments. The photo is of Alexia and Paul at the SEAMS Monash Summer Camp.

Students going into Years 11 and 12 next year can apply for joining SEAMS later this year in November.

4. Scientists in Schools Program.
Ph.D student, Yakindra Timilsena from RMIT will be partnering Mr Ram, inspiring students in learning Chemistry. We wish our scientist in schools partner from last year, immunologist Dr Catherine Kennedy and her family well, as she has taken maternity leave.

5. Emerging Science Victoria: Year 10 Science student enrichment has begun for five students enrolled in an online program 'Emerging Science Victoria' where students from around Victoria hook into lessons on Astrophysics and Quantum Physics. There first lesson was on the origin of the Universe beginning with 'The Big Bang' and the expanding Universe. Well done to Leslie Chao, Ryan O'Shea, George Varkos, Mitchell Wilikin and Jason Winn.

Frank de la Rambelya
Physics/Science Teacher
SEAMS (Strengthening Engagement and Achievement in Mathematics and Science)

Aims to increase equitable participation and attainment of students in science and mathematics related disciplines in higher education.

This is a program that creates new opportunities for students to experience a challenging and deeply engaging attainment in mathematics and science to boost access and achieve their goals for their future dreams. Even the name gives you an urge to find out what exactly this program can support you in maths and science which are my favourite subjects.

This Monash Uni Clayton campus gave me an opportunity to meet new people and make new friends who share the same interest in maths and Science to understand how the lectures take place in the university, and to live the life of a Uni Student.

I really enjoyed these days at the SEAMS Camp and I feel privileged to have been chosen from my school “South Oakleigh College” to attend this program having the chance to enhance my education.

Students from the Monash University gave us a tour around the Campus giving us an insight as to what these premises can offer when studying science at the university, and also we got to use the top of the range best laboratories in Australia when we had science activities.

I learnt a lot in these three days and feel a lot more confident about my studies as this program has given me an upper hand and advantage providing knowledge for academic excellence.

I can’t wait to attend at the University of Melbourne SEAMS which is held during the winter.

By Alexia Stathopoulou

Seams, was an unforgettable experience.

The education camp, situated at Melbourne University had various things to offer us. For three days we were entertained by people from three categories; mentors, teachers and guest speakers. They all had put in a lot of effort to make this program successful. Each of them contributed greatly for the success of the camp:

The mentors and the tutors we had for our camp were students that are currently at Melbourne University, who had gone through the same situations and difficulties as students go through in VCE. They each shared their own ways of how they tackled the difficulties that they encountered and how they got over it.

The teachers for our maths and chemistry sessions, also had contributed greatly for making a success out of it. Every day we would have maths and chemistry sessions in which we would learn new things about the oncoming year’s course by doing theoretical and practical activities. This sessions were great source of knowledge. The next were the guest speakers, remarkable people. These group consisted of scientists, researchers, lectures, professors and many others. Each being an expert of their own field. These people gave us inspiration to work harder and be like them one day.
The 80 or so year 11 students had come from all over Victoria. During the three days we had formed great bonds with each other and gained a wealth of knowledge. The camp was an opportunity of lifetime, which couldn’t have been attained by us without the support of the teachers at South Oakleigh College.

By Harsh Modi

The ConocoPhillips Science Experience

I was fortunate to have been granted the permission to participate in an event called “The ConocoPhillips Science Experience” at Monash University in Clayton from the Tuesday 13th – Thursday 15th January.

On the first day of the event, everyone participating was waiting outside the new Green Chemical Futures building. Once we were allowed in, everyone went to a registration area to collect name tags, and to find out which of the 10 groups we were assigned to. My group was called Monkeys, and there were about 12 people in it.

Our first activity was and egg drop challenge. Each group was given twenty plastic straws, approximately one metre of masking tape, and, of course, an egg. Unfortunately the Monkeys’ egg did not survive the fall, but on the positive side, not many others did either. After the egg drop, all the groups walked to a lecture theatre to see a magic show, called “Dr. Chris’ Not-Magic Show”. There we witnessed many experiments that contained liquid nitrogen, dry ice (solid carbon dioxide), and so called “self inflating balloons”, but I knew it was just the expansion of the air due to the rise in temperature. Some to the experiments did not quite go to plan, such as trying to get a balloon that is in liquid nitrogen out using tongs; the tongs got stuck to the balloon.

After lunch, the science rotation activities began, and we were officially the first group of people to use the rooms in the Green Chemical Futures building. These subjects included mathematics, geography, biology, and aerodynamics.

On Wednesday every group went on separate tours of the University’s science facilities. While on tour, we made some paper planes and some spectroscopes. There were also quite a few dead bodies that had been donated to the University for Science. At the end of the day there was a disco, which I did not attend.

On the last day, during a lecture about sources of water and nutrients on Mars, we found out that Mars could be used as a cat litter farm, since a lot of its surface is made of the same substance. At the end of Thursday, there was a comedic science show that contained a character whose name is “Bond, Double Bond”, and there were some small balloons filled with hydrogen, which they...
made explode, and a large balloon which didn’t explode as violently, because it was just filled with normal air. At the end, every participant received a certificate of participation and a booklet with information on joining the Young Scientists of Australia.

Overall it was a great experience and everyone loved it. We even came to the conclusion that pretty much everyone who attended would be classified as a nerd, which probably everyone there would take as a compliment.

By Mitchell Wilkin

A special thank you must be extend to the Rotary Club of Huntingdale, whose ongoing support makes experiences like this possible.

SENIOR SCHOOL REPORT

On behalf of the Senior Team, Ms Carmody Yr 10, Ms Tilbey Yr 11 and myself, Mr Denver Yr 12, I would like to welcome back all students and their families for the 2015 school year. We are very proud of our students and their achievements to date, community, sporting and academic.

Thus, rightly so, expectations for the 2015 senior group are high……very high.

From our viewpoint, the year has commenced extremely well. The senior students have returned from their holidays keen to learn, giving 110% effort and performing very well on early assessment. Our Year 12 students have just returned from the two day Year 12 Retreat at the Monash Seminar & Training Centre. Opening address speaker, Mr. John Roodenburg, delivered a powerful message - “If it is to be, it’s up to me”

In other words, whatever our ability or motivation, level of success depends on attitude.

Over the two days, students participated in a number of sessions dealing with Study Skills, Health & Welfare and Career Pathways.

All we ask is that all senior students always give their best effort.

A new initiative for 2015 is the Yr 12 Mentor Program

All Year 12 students have been partnered up with a member staff who will mentor them. Research shows a high correlation between student achievement and mentoring.

We have also made a few changes to the Wednesday periods 4, 5 & 6 arrangements. Previously, when not required at school, most senior students had gone home to study.

In 2015 ALL Year 12 students are to attend STUDY SKILLS SESIONS held period 4 every Wednesday in the Library.

Also, in 2015 all Units 3&4 students will be required to attend SACs, when scheduled, in the LIBRARY during periods 5&6

Hopefully, these changes will promote better use of class time on Wednesdays and more efficient study habits.

Ian Denver
Senior School Leader
THE GREEK REPORT

On 10th December last year, our school participated in the Human Rights Celebration organized by Monash Multicultural Settlement Services Network and the team at MYFS.

I had asked Yvonne Davarinos and Georgina Kazis to prepare a speech on ‘What Human Rights means to them’, to present in the public speaking forum provided.

The Human Rights Day was a success and our students represented South Oakleigh College in the best possible way. Students from Glen Waverley, Wellington were also there. It was a great opportunity for Yvonne and Georgina to have seen different styles of public speaking and oral presentations. They were totally involved and immersed in the whole experience. I was very moved by their passionate and sincere speeches and their public speaking manner and confidence.

On behalf of Annette, the College and myself I congratulate them for a job well done.

Phyllis Dimakakos
LOTE Coordinator

BEING SUNSMART

The hot sun is back upon us and it is very important that we protect ourselves from harmful UV rays. All students are encouraged to bring sunscreen and a hat to wear outdoors. Students are permitted to bring a water bottle to class to help them stay well-hydrated.
**YEAR 7 NEWS**

A big welcome to all our new Year 7 students and their families.

2015 is shaping up to be a year full of inquisitive little minds and sharp intellects. It is encouraging to see everyone in uniform and eager to complete tasks in the classrooms and for homework. Most students are equipped with the correct text books and supplies, while the few remaining are waiting for their orders from Campion Books.

At the end of this month the Year 7 cohort will be bused to Marysville for our annual Year 7 Camp. Accompanying the students will be a number of teachers and a big group of peer support leaders.

A reminder that we welcome all new students to the homework club every Tuesday in IT2 and IT3 from 3.30 – 4.30pm.

Mrs Kalouda Pelitidis
Year 7 – 9 sub-school Leader

We would appreciate if all Instrumental Music Lessons (year 8 – 12) of $240-00, could be paid for at the start of the year.

Visitor’s Policy
All visitors are required to report to the administration office prior to undertaking any activity within the school. Located in the administration office is a ‘kiosk’ linked to Compass. The ‘kiosk’ will issue the visitor with a pass which they must keep at all times with in the school. Visitors are required to report to the administration office at the end of their visit to sign out at the ‘kiosk.’
Welcome to our new students to the college. I hope everyone has had a restful break and ready for another year. Below you will find information about the importance of applying early to obtain a tax file number tax file number and particularly for our year 12 students, information about the UMAT IN 2015

### Tax File Numbers

Any student will need a tax file number if he/she starts work (part-time and full-time) and all students planning on a tertiary education require one when they start. Importantly, current Year 12 students are reminded that they cannot enrol in a CSP (Commonwealth Support Place) course at university without a Tax File Number, so it is worthwhile getting an application submitted early!

Students must now apply for a TFN online and have their identity verified through an interview at a participating Australia Post office.

To apply and also to find out about participating Post Offices, visit [Apply for a TFN](#).

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### UMAT2015

Year 12 students are to please note that applications to sit the UMAT2015 are now open and registrations close on **Friday 5 June 2015 at 5.00pm** sharp! The UMAT2015 will be held on **Wednesday 29 July 2015**, and the results will be available late September 2015.

Students should also note that results from UMAT2015 can only be used for undergraduate medicine or health science courses beginning in 2016 but not 2017. Students should not register for UMAT2015 unless they are planning to apply for a course commencing in 2016 and they meet the eligibility criteria specified in the UMAT2015 Information Booklet.

**For more information, and/or to apply visit [UMAT2015](#)** or call (03) 8508 7643.

**Year 11 students may not sit the UMAT2015 and should they do so, their results will be cancelled and they may not be allowed to sit the UMAT again.**

Students sitting the UMAT should note that candidates who do not possess a current passport, driver’s licence or learner’s permit are strongly recommended to apply for an Australian Keypass or Australian Proof of Age Card as soon as possible as no other forms of ID will be accepted. Candidates without correct identification will not be permitted to sit UMAT2015 and will be turned away.

**The UMAT is required for the following courses:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Courses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bond University</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Darwin University</td>
<td>Clinical Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flinders University</td>
<td>Clinical Sciences/Medicine</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Vision Sciences</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Bronwyn Cullinan  
Careers and Pathway Leader  

**WELLBEING**  
Happy New Year, ALL!  
Welcome back and hello to all our new students and their parents/guardians.

My name is ANNETTE FORD. My role is that of Student Wellbeing Coordinator.  
I teach Year 7 Literacy and Year 7 Humanities, the remainder of my time is spent supporting students, parents/guardians and teachers in ‘education!’

If a young person is unhappy or struggling, feeling lost or isolated, confused or bewildered, then they are going to struggle to engage in their learning in the classroom or at home.

I am available to all members of the school community when difficulties occur that might affect a student’s educational outcome.
Please make contact if you are concerned about your child; if issues have arisen at home or at school which you think might impact upon their social, emotional or academic development, so that we can support you and your child. I am at school Monday through to Thursday.

We have a chaplain, Simon Clarke, and an adolescent health nurse, Debbie Dennison. The wellbeing team provides a range of supportive, preventative programmes such as ‘The Breakfast Club’ (the SRC does most of the hard work!), No Limits – a self-exploration programme, Wellfest – a week of wellbeing activities for the whole school in August and many other programmes as the need arises.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.
Bye for now.

Annette Ford
Welfare Coordinator

Three big changes to the vaccine program:

In 2015 three major changes to the vaccine program will impact on parents of secondary school students:

1. The Monash Council’s immunisation service may contact you about the secondary school vaccine program. Schools have been authorised to provide parent contact details to local councils for this purpose. Contact the school on 9579 2322 or through the Compass Portal by 28 February 2015 if you do not want your contact details given to the Monash Council.

2. In 2015 only, the vaccine that protects against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough will be offered to all students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. From 2016, this vaccine will be offered to Year 7 students only. This will provide earlier protection from these diseases.

3. The time-limited human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine program for Year 9 boys was completed in December 2014. HPV vaccine will continue to be offered to all students (both male and female) in Year 7 from 2015.

Look out for the vaccine consent form/s coming home from school with your child. You need to read, complete and return the form/s regardless of whether your child is being immunised at school.

To learn more about the changes, the diseases, the vaccines, or how you can prepare your child for vaccination go to immunehero.health.vic.gov.au
STUDENT WELLBEING LOCAL EVENTS.

B.A.M

Glen Eira Youth Services is running a free program specifically for young females aged 14 to 25 years of age. B.A.M (Body and Mind), is a girls only self-defence and emotional-awareness program focused on re-engaging young females into their social contexts through learning basic self-defence techniques and group discussion about a range of topics. The program runs on Wednesdays from 4.30pm to 5.45pm for eight consecutive weeks throughout school terms.

The program aims to equip participants with basic knowledge of self-defence techniques as well as build up skills around communication, conflict resolution and decision-making through group discussions. No prior knowledge of martial arts is required; all participants need to inform program facilitator and Glen Eira Youth Services worker of any injuries prior to program commencement.

For more information or to book a spot in the program, please contact Tanya at Youth Services on 9524 3676.

Young Artists Call Out

Glen Eira City Council Youth Services and the Youth Leadership Team are hosting the annual Youth Art Expo.

The Expo will be held at the Glen Eira Town Hall Auditorium on Thursday 16 April 2015 from 5pm – 8.30pm.

We are currently looking for aspiring young artists to enter their work into the competition. All entries to the expo will be in the running to win prizes in either the junior section (10 – 15 years old) or the senior section (16 -25 years old).

Young artists who wish to enter the competition need to complete a registration pack. The pack includes indemnity forms with terms and conditions, photo consent and questions for the information sheet to be displayed alongside the artwork.

Art works can be submitted at Youth Information Centre 86 Robert Street Bentleigh.

The closing date for artwork submission is Friday 10 April 2014 at 4.30pm.

Additional entry packs are available through Council website www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/youth or by contacting Youth Services bcross@gleneira.vic.gov.au or 9524 6376.
East Bentleigh Soccer Club

Season 2015

Information & Registration Days
Saturday 14th February
Sunday 15th February
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Bailey Reserve Club Rooms
East Boundary Road, East Bentleigh
(Next to GESAC)

All Welcome!!

Under 5 to Senior Men & Women

Club Committee will be present to answer questions
Further information at www.eastbentleighsc.com
Or email information@eastbentleighsc.com

“AUSTRALIA’S NO.1 COACHING COLLEGE”

James An College

Primary & Secondary / VCE / Scholarship / Selective Specialists

From Year 1 to Year 12 Classes are available on Saturday and Weekday afternoon.

Hurry!!

$50 Discount

For any new students who enrol before 15/ Feb/2015

“2016 Scholarships & 2016 Selective School Trial Tests”

Open for current Year 5 & 7 Students.

★ Free Assessment Test available for all new students ★

JAC Chadstone Tel. 9568 6776 Address: Level 1, 660 Warrigal Rd Chadstone VIC 3148
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