PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

As we approach the end of any term we like to reflect on what has taken place and prepare for a new term. We should never underestimate how busy schools are. On top of the classroom instruction that takes place there is another level of work to provide opportunities for students to participate in sport, VET Music rehearsals and Performances, Broadcasting Program. Auditions for the Production, homework club, writer’s workshops, leadership development and Harmony Day, camps and excursions just to name a few.

A significant amount of work goes into providing these opportunities for students and I would just like to thank, on your behalf, the teachers and support staff who devote their time and energy to organising these events and activities. This was brought home to me just this week as we prepare for our Open Night early next term. A video has been produced to showcase our school and talk about the transition from primary to secondary school. The video highlights the wide range of activities students have an opportunity to engage in which is a strong attraction for new families to the College.

Further into this newsletter you will be able to view a number of articles that highlight the achievements of our students. At every opportunity, both within South Oakleigh College and in the wider education community, I am proud to say what school I come from and the amazing group of young people who are at our school, and how their actions and behaviour can only lead me to believe that they will be future leaders of our community.

Once again our student leaders, including the College Captains and members of the Student Representative Council (SRC) had the opportunity to attend the GRIP Student Leadership Conference at the Melbourne Conference Centre on Wednesday 11th March. This unique student-centred event is held annually and focuses on developing student leaders as school leaders. The students participated in hands-on workshops building on their leadership and communication skills as well providing an opportunity to network with peers from other schools. The College strongly supports our student leaders attending this unique program as we recognize the important role they play within our College community. We look forward to all these students applying what they have learnt at the conference in their leadership position as confident, energised and inclusive young leaders.

The staff this term have actively worked in number of areas to look at ways to improve not only the academic progress of every student, which is paramount in our thinking, but also how to build student resilience and help them develop strategies around problem solving, negotiation and time management, skills that will ensure they have the skill set necessary for the 21st Century. We look forward to continuing this work next term.
Parent teacher interviews were conducted in the second last week of term. The night was an opportunity for a three way partnership to be established between parent, teacher and student. It is important that students follow up with teachers suggestions and work towards implementing these to improve their academic results and be the best they can be at all times. If parents were unable to be at the Parent Teacher interviews you may arrange to speak or see staff at a mutually convenient time to discuss your child’s progress.

Together we can make the difference.

I wish everyone a safe break and enjoy Easter with family and friends.

Helen Koziaris
College Principal

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS REPORT

Working Bee- Saturday 18th April
No Experience Necessary!

Many works have been completed in 2015 as we continue to make South Oakleigh College “the place to be” for all students. To continue on this path we invite all members of our College Community to help out in a Working Bee on Saturday 18th April from 10am to 4:30pm. We will be focusing on developing our gardens, general tidying and the Reserve. We understand that your time is valuable and many families may have commitments on a Saturday, however, we will appreciate any time you may be able to spend helping us. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Term One Reflection
As Term One comes to an end, it is important to acknowledge our Year 7 students who have made a smooth transition as valuable citizens into our College, and thank our Peer Support leaders and Staff for their guidance during this time. Furthermore, it is important to congratulate all of our students who have taken a mature approach to their studies and will take on the recommendations of their teachers to continue to improve in all subjects areas.

As in previous years, we have enjoyed a busy term with many activities taking place. Strong participation at our Swimming Carnival demonstrated the connectedness to our College community, the school spirit we share was evident through the strong representation of sporting teams in the Monash Division Interschool Sport competition, our student leaders actively engaged in leadership conferences, the celebration of Harmony Day promoted cultural diversity and several classes attended exciting excursions in a variety of subjects to help support learning beyond the classroom.

Although the approaching term break is a time to enjoy the company of family and friends and to reward ourselves with a hard earned rest, it is also important to consolidate the learning that has occurred in term one to best prepare ourselves for term two. Whether it is practicing our maths skills via Mathletics, reading year
level texts, revising study notes or completing projects, the development of a consistent routine will help us work towards achieving our learning goals.

A reminder to all student and parents that all students are expected to be wearing the Winter School Uniform in Term 2 as outlined in the student Planner and distributed during Parent Interviews. The Blazer and tie are compulsory items and are expected to be worn from 13th April 2015.

We look forward to seeing you all on the 13th April ready to start the Term prepared to do your best at all times.

Mr. Mark Picone

Mr. Anthony Katsianos

SENIOR SCHOOL REPORT

As Term 1 draws to a close I would like to congratulate all senior school students, parents and staff on the start made to the 2015 school year. The theme for this year, “High Expectations”, and for our Year 12’s “If it is to Be It’s Up to me” has resonated with all members of the school community and as you observe the response from our students, you can’t help but be proud.

The Senior students are resiliently rising to our expectations and finding that it is possible to aim high, work hard and have fun at the same time. This is no more evident than with the scheduled Wednesday afternoon SACs for Units 3&4 students. It is now common place to see students diligently working in groups around the school at recess and lunchtime preparing for SACs, reviewing notes and revising for the next lesson.

It was also pleasing to meet a number of parents at the recent Senior School Information evening held on Thursday 5th March, where we outlined a number of support mechanisms put in place to assist our students in developing a greater understanding of their work and challenge them to be the best they can be. One of these initiatives is EDROLO, an online VCE video resource, which students can use at home to revise and bolster their position. The school has negotiated a special reduced cost for 2015 as outlined on Compass and other communications. Initial feedback is positive and Unit 3&4 students and parents should ensure that they are on board with this initiative.

As term concludes, Year 10 and 11 students have reached an important fork in the road. As you are no doubt aware, South Oakleigh College offers a quite unique 3 year VCE program spanning Years 10, 11 and 12. During the 2015 Course Selection held in December 2014, Parents / Guardians and Students received the booklet SENIOR SCHOOL POLICY STATEMENT - 2015 RULES AND PROCEDURES
Parents / Guardians and Students signed an acknowledgement of receipt and understanding of the contents of this booklet.

In particular

I understand that if my son/daughter is
- a Year 10 student studying either a VCE Unit 1 or 2 subject
  or
- a Year 11 student studying either a VCE Unit 3 or 4 subject

then
- they will be considered a Pre VCE Unit 1 or 2 student, in the case of Year 10 or a Pre VCE Unit 3 or 4 student, in the case of Year 11

and that
- as a Pre VCE student, their Unit(s) will not count towards the VCE unless confirmed by the College

Studying Units 1&2 and /or Units 3&4 over two years should allow students to maximise their Study Scores and ATARS. Consequently, the Units 3&4 VCE Confirmation Process for Pre VCE Year 11 students will be as follows

Any Year 11 student who obtains SAC marks, in a given Unit 3&4 subject, equal to or greater than the median of the SAC scores obtained by the Year 12 students in that class will be confirmed as a VCE Units 3&4 student.

(These students may still elect to repeat the Unit 3&4 subject in 2016 without penalty)

All other Year 11 students studying Units 3 & 4 subjects will remain “Pre VCE Units 3&4” students for 2015. They will then repeat the subject as VCE Unit 3 & 4 subject in 2016.

The Units 1&2 VCE Confirmation for Pre VCE Year 10 students will be the same

Term 2 will be another very busy and important term!! With significant VCE events that will occur including:

GAT (General Achievement Test ) Wed 10 June (All students study a Unit 3 VCE or scored VET must sit the GAT)

Units 1 and 3 Trial Exams Tues 9 June to Fri 12 June

Year 10 Core subject exams

Finally, I ask all senior school parents / guardians to please ensure that they log into Compass every few days.

We rely heavily on you accessing Compass for all manner of things such as Student Reports, approving absences and receiving general information, such as the timing of the recent Senior School Information Evening.

If you cannot access Compass please contact the school office and should you have any questions relating to Senior School and the VCE, or would just like to chat about things, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school on 95792322.

Ian Denver
Senior School Leader
We have reached the end of term 1 and have seen a very successful start to 2015. This is just a quick reminder to ALL students in the Middle School that, like with anything else in life, if you put in the time and effort, if you set your mind to it and let your heart speak, if you stay enthusiastic, you can achieve anything!

Be Passionate!
Be Bold!
Dream Big!
Stay in the Game!
Learn to Fail!
Work Hard!

“You can Google for an answer. You can Google for a mate. You can Google for a career. But you can't Google to find what's in your heart, the passion that lifts you skyward”. – Plumeri.

Year 9 can be a confusing and challenging time as adolescents begin to undergo significant changes both physically and mentally. In aid of this I have asked the students to be more mindful and present in the moment when they move around the school and while at home. Our most recent assembly focused on respect and how we can show more respect as members of a family, a school and the wider community. The students responded in an eloquent and mature manner and highlighted the importance of acknowledging each other’s achievements as well focusing on what is valued rather than what is different about an individual.

Outside the classroom, Middle School students have participated enthusiastically in Interschool Sport, Harmony Day and the Production, numbers of students are also involved in the rehearsals for the whole school production of Pirates of Penzance which will be staged in Term 3.

At this stage in the year, students should have developed a regular homework routine. It is expected that Year 7 and 8 students should do 45-60 minutes of homework per day and Year 9 students 60 – 90 minutes. Homework may involve work or projects set in class, skills practice, and revision of key concepts for tests, research and wide reading. Parents can assist by:

- Providing an environment conducive to effective home study
- Helping their student to balance the amount of time spent completing homework with engagement in leisure or recreational activities
- Observing and acknowledging success
- Encouraging their child to set aside a regular daily session to revise and complete homework
- Checking Compass regularly
- Checking the planner weekly
- Communicating with the college where there is a concern
Some students have difficulty organising themselves or they may be having problems with some subjects could be attending Homework Club every Tuesday where staff are available to support your child.

We thank students for their positive start to the year and look forward to sharing more exciting educational experiences in 2015.

Kalouda Pelitidis
Middle School Leader

ENGLISH / EAL LEARNING AREA REPORT

UNSW English and Writing Competitions: Last chance to enter for 2015
The students in our college have the opportunity to take an extra challenge and participate in the prestigious UNSW English and Writing Competitions. ICAS (International Competitions and Assessment for Schools) provides an opportunity for all students in Years 7 to 12 to gain a measure of their own achievement in an external testing situation. It provides teachers, parents and students with comprehensive reporting of results. The tests are an excellent preparation for exams and the student report is useful for highlighting your child’s strengths and weaknesses.

All students receive a certificate and an individual student report indicating which questions they answered correctly and their score compared with the rest of the students tested. The certificate and individual student report are also suitable for your child to include in a portfolio of achievements.

Certificates are awarded for each year level as follows:
- High Distinction to the top 1% of entrants
- Distinction to the next 10% of entrants
- Credit to the next 25% of entrants
- Merit to the next 10% of entrants
- Participation to all remaining students.

A UNSW medal is awarded to the student with the highest score in each year level in the state.

The cost is $9.00 each for English and $19 for the Writing Competition with students in Years 7 to 12 eligible to enter.

Some parents chose to pre-pay for these Competitions with school fees, but if not, students may pay at the General Office at the very latest, the start of Term 2. If you are interested, please have your son/daughter request a notice from their English teacher, or see Ms. Melki.
**Making a Film that Counts**

A celebratory morning tea was recently held to celebrate the team work and creativity of a group of students who participated in the ‘Making a Film that Counts’ project in second semester last year. Students were presented with a copy of the DVD, as well as a certificate acknowledging their work.

The Enrichment Program was for high achieving Year 8 and 9 students to enable them to work with like-minded peers on an extra-curricular project. The project centered around using the TV studio’s facilities and equipment. Titled ‘Making a Film that Counts,’ students focused on an important social issue relevant to their age group.

*Some of the participants with their certificates and DVD with Skye and Aidan Prewett.*

They learnt about the process of creating a short film right from deciding on a concept, to writing screenplays, creating storyboards, rehearsing, acting, filming and post production (editing, music etc.) to create the finished product. The Program was run by our Writer in Residence, Skye Melki-Wegner. She was assisted by Aidan Prewett with the more technical aspects of the program. Congratulations to the following participants: Emma Parker, Anna Toropov, Imogen Coleman-Shortis, Dimitri Gahtidis, Nabil Rahman, Emily Krikis, Jerusha Buckland, Jason Winn and Ryan O’Shea.

**Harmony Day 2015** was celebrated on Monday 23rd March, acknowledging the diverse blend of cultural backgrounds amongst both students and staff. The day encouraged a feeling of ‘respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.’ Harmony Day coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. It is a day to celebrate Australia’s diversity – a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home.

Highlights of the day included a special assembly for students in Years 7 to 9. Ms Down’s Year 8/9 music class opened the assembly with a vocal and musical tribute to Nelson Mandela, noting that: Nelson Mandela was an inspirational leader. He was able to abolish apartheid in South Africa and move it towards being a more peaceful country. He once said, “Our children are the rock on which our future will be built, our greatest asset as a nation. They will be the leaders of our country, the creators of our national wealth, those who care for and protect our people.”

An SRC member, Imogen Coleman-Shortis, acted as MC at the assembly. Another SRC representative, Eujeane Lee of Year 8, spoke about the significance of Harmony Day and what it meant to her. Two members of staff recounted their journeys of immigration to Australia. Frank De La Rambelya and John Davis generously shared their powerful personal stories of hardship and racism, ultimately finding acceptance in Australia. (Mr Ram’s story is included in this newsletter)
Other highlights included cultural dancing performances. Terese Vella of Year 11 performed a beautiful solo dance taking us to the Pacific Islands. Ms Dimakakos’ 8/9 Greek class showcased the Greek Zeibekiko dance starring Dimitri Gahtidis and Dimitri Tsitsanis.

Finally, we ended the assembly with the message of Harmony Day reinforced as we watched a clip celebrating Australian unity, ‘We are One, We are Many.’

The canteen staff also embraced the spirit of the day with a scrumptious array of international cuisine for students and staff to enjoy.

Thank you to all performers and participants for making this a special day.

Chris Melki-Wegner on behalf of the Harmony Day Committee

**Year 9 Student Work to share**

We would like to share some work produced by our Year 9 students with the school community. 

*Thanks to Ms Dimakakos for providing these insights into being a teenager as her 9B class philosophised about the issues they face during this challenging stage of life:*

**Death** Family is one of the most important relationships in life. We all have a family member that we either admire or don’t like, but both have a place in our heart. Having to attend a funeral of a person you have spent the beginning of your life with can leave you empty. Help and support should be given to every teenager going through such a phase.

**Friendships** Teenagers usually have lots of friendships, very often with the wrong people. Most of us do what our friends do and ask because of peer pressure. Drinking and smoking are some of those issues.

**Sleep** Getting enough sleep as a teenager is difficult. Your body wants to stay awake at night but you need to get up early.

**Adult Opinions** Adults have biased opinions about teenagers, even if they don’t mean to. To most adults, teenagers are: hooligans, irresponsible idiots with no road sense, or drunken youngsters. This is not the full picture. Most teenagers exceed the expectations of parents and adults alike and do not get the credit they deserve.

**Isolation** One day she slides. She can feel herself fade; retreat into a dark corner where words continue to hurt her. She goes on for several more months. The tears and pain refuse to leave her....

**Parental Expectations** You know that feeling of complete and utter failure? That feeling when you know you’ve disappointed someone? Yeah, it sucks, when your parents expect you to be a 14 year old Picasso or Einstein. That punch in the gut when you know they wished you were better.

**Social Structure** It is probably the most challenging transition of life between being a teenager and becoming an adult.
Teenagers What is it like being a teenager? Sure, there’s a definition in the dictionary. What I have learnt so far is that we don’t know what we want and we certainly know nothing about anything.

Why Grow Up? Teenagers are always told to ‘grow up.’ Our whole lives we are told what to do and then to grow up. Why is growing up so fantastic when we can’t even live our own lives?

Generation Gap A small fight between a parent and their teenager is a usual occurrence. Parents treat their teenagers as kids and tell them what to do. There is certainly a generation gap.

Thank you to Mr Platenkamp for providing the following examples of student work from his Year 9C English class. Students were asked to create a short story based on the horror genre. They had to include the setting of an empty classroom and create tension in their writing.

Extract from “Remembrance of 13B” The classroom was pitch black and foggy. It was hard to see what was happening. There was always that one blackboard at the back of the classroom but now it had a light under it. Mr Thomas walked towards the board in fright and looked around at the only source of light. On the board written in bright red marker was, “You will be next Sir.”...By Valerie (Berenice) Lolive

Extract from “Horror Story” As I limped down the darkened hallway, blood dripping from my crippled leg, I could hear the hysterical laughter of the insane. The same sense of fear that had followed me throughout this whole ordeal came rushing back. The sense that they could be around any corner, only this time I wouldn’t be able to run.

Out of blind fear I burst into an empty classroom. To an outsider it would have appeared that the room had been abandoned for decades, when in reality it had only been a few hours. The room, once a centre for learning, was now a room of horrors... By Mitchell Powell

Chris Melki-Wegner
English EAL Learning Area Leader

Harmony Day

You know me as Mr Ram, but my real name is Mr de la Rambelya and although I cannot recall experiencing significant racism, my family ancestors have. I was born in Sourabaya Indonesia in 1947, when it was still a colony of Holland. Sourabaya was also the birthplace of my father and grandfather. My family name has changed spelling a number of times, having descended from French Huguenots. The Huguenots were Protestants who had fled religious persecutions by Catholics in France in the 16th Century, but found refuge in the Netherlands (Holland) whose King was ecumenical allowing freedom of religious belief. In the 18th Century one of my Huguenot ancestors gained employment in the Dutch East India Company in Sri Lanka and married into the local community. After the British expelled the Dutch from Sri Lanka, the family still working for the Company found refuge in Indonesia.

My father had married my mother in Sydney in 1946, less than a year after being released from a prisoner of war camp in Osaka Japan. He had survived three long years being a slave of the Japanese shipyards. The
Americans had saved his life and to the US he was always grateful. He was taken to Australia to get back to health and met my mother in Melbourne.

My mother’s father, Nasif was Lebanese and had come to Tasmania as a child, with his family having fled Lebanon as the Druze were ethnically cleansing Orthodox Christians in the 1880s. Nasif along with his brother Elias fought for Australia at Gallipoli. My mother’s background, on her mother’s side was from English and Jewish convicts sent to Tasmania in the 1840s. My mother’s aunts were all suffragettes who fought for equal rights with men. They all changed their names, taking on men’s names: I knew them as Aunty Sid, Aunty Max and Aunty Don.

In 1948 the Indonesian revolution against their Dutch oppressors was reaching fever pitch, so my parents decided to escape to Australia. Unfortunately my father and I were blocked by the ‘White Australia’ Policy, which prevented people with an Asian background from migrating to Australia. My father felt insulted and humiliated due to significant racist abuse by a local Australian Embassy official. In desperation, my mother wrote to her uncle in Melbourne. Uncle Tom was a trade union leader and personal friend of Arthur Calwell, the Minister for Immigration in the Chifley Labour Government. Calwell wrote to the embassy official in Indonesia to allow my parents back into Australia.

Fortunately we no longer have a White Australia Policy, but as you can see from my background it may not be surprising for you to know, that I do not support our Federal Government’s treatment of refugees seeking Asylum today. Due to migration of many peoples we now have a multicultural society and we should ensure that their cultures, along with the cultures of our first nation indigenous people are forever celebrated.

**SCIENCE LEARNING AREA REPORT**

On Thursday 5th March seventeen of our students had an excellent time at the evening lecture in Physics by Associate Professor Roger Rassool who gave a brilliant lecture focussing on key areas of Year 12 Physics. This was of great benefit to our Year 12 students and inspiring to the Year 8, 9 and 10 students who also attended. Thanks again to the University Of Melbourne School of Physics and especially to Associate Professor Max Thompson and Dr Roger Rassool, for generously giving their time to inspire secondary school students in Physics.
Excursion to meet Nobel Prize winning geneticist, Sir Paul Nurse

Students from Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 experienced a great speech from Sir Paul Nurse, who is the current President of the Royal Society, the oldest surviving society of scientists dating back to 1665. He shared his love of science and encouraged the students to never give up on achieving their goals. Sir Paul said "if you want to be a successful scientist, there is one thing you absolutely need and that is passion. You have to have a passion for wanting to know the answer to the question you are exploring. Without it you may give up along the way as there is a lot more perspiration than inspiration in making scientific discoveries. You also need to be intelligent, good at experiments, honest, self-critical and open-minded".

Sir Paul's passion was to find out how cells divide. He found the genes responsible for regulating the cell cycle by experimenting with yeast, which is a unicellular organism; and was able to confirm that the same genes are responsible for cell division in humans.

At the dinner afterwards, Rachel McNamara and Mukul Relan met Sir Paul as well as Graeme Clark, who discovered the bionic ear, and Melbourne's Sir Gustav Nossal, who made major discoveries about the Human Immune system at the University of Melbourne.

Frank de la Rambelya
Head of Science Learning Area
Maths is Sweet!

Year 9 maths students used M&Ms to improve their understanding of how data is represented in many different ways. The students worked in groups and separated the M&Ms that they were given, into groups according to their colour. Then they counted to see how many in each of the different colour groups. The data was then tabulated and percentages were calculated.

Then the students drew bar charts and pie charts to represent the percentage of different colours of M & Ms that were in each of the groups. The students learnt how to draw the graphs manually and also using the computers.

Everyone had fun during the activity. The students were engaged and worked co-operatively with each other. Each of the students had to produce an individual report outlining the aim, method, observations, results and a conclusion. The best part was that they all got to eat the M&Ms at the end.

An interesting conclusion was that all the groups had a significantly large percentage of blue M&Ms than any other colour.

R. Dayawansa
Maths Teacher
SPORT AT SOUTH OAKLEIGH COLLEGE

Sport at South Oakleigh is off to a flying start in 2015. Internally, Grevillea narrowly defeated arch-rival ACACIA at our College House Swimming Carnival. However, the proud House that ACACIA is, second place doesn’t sit comfortably with them and early discussions within their camp is that they are strategically planning their revenge in next term’s Athletics Carnival. They won’t have it their own way though, with new talent replacing experience in Banksia and Waratah, they will be breathing down their necks and challenging for victory.

A squad of 25 students represented South Oakleigh at the Monash Division Interschool Swimming Carnival. All students are to be congratulated for doing their best. A special congratulations must go to Year 7 students Treasure Newport and Aurelia Topolska who won their respective diving competitions as well as Anastasia Stavrinou (Year 12) who will represent South Oakleigh College and the Monash Division in the Eastern Metropolitan Region Swimming Carnival in the 50 metre back stroke event.

Volleyball continues to be a popular sport within the College and the Year 11’s & Year 12’s fielded several strong teams in the Monash Division Volleyball competition. The competition was fierce with both the Boys and Girl’s teams finishing just shy of playing off for the final. The leadership of the senior students was impressive and we look forward to them taking on some coaching roles for our younger teams throughout the course of the year.

Our Middle School sporting teams competed in Cricket and Volleyball. The Boys Cricket team battled valiantly throughout the day, being led by respected Captain Shaun Vapp. Some entertaining highlights from the team with the bat, ball and in the field would have even impressed Darren Lehmann!

A strong Girls Volleyball Team served, set and spiked their way into the 2015 Monash Division Final. As the competition heated up, our girls continued to be cool under pressure and played some terrific team-oriented Volleyball. Although having one hand on the cup and smelling victory, a couple of smart plays by the opposition saw us fall heartbreakingly short of taking out the match and coming home with the title. With a little luck, some strong training and the determination that was evident all day, our girls will be back in 2016 to challenge again and go one step better.

In Term 2, our Year 7’s and Year 8’s will have their opportunity to represent the College in both Summer and Winter sports. The talent and enthusiasm that has been on show during PE classes has us all excited about the future of sport at South Oakleigh.

Additionally to the Round-Robin Gala Days, our students also have the opportunity to represent the College in the Monash Division Cross Country Carnival, Girls Football and Boys Netball. All students are asked to regularly check Compass and the sport noticeboard for details of all events. Term 2 promises to be a very eventful term for Sport at South Oakleigh College.
THAT’S SOME ACHIEVEMENT!
Congratulations to all students who have competed in finals and grand finals for their summer sporting competitions. A special congratulations must go to Megan Robinson (Year 7C) who on Sunday completed the 15.5km “Run for the Kids” over hills, through the Burnley Tunnel and over the Bolte Bridge. We are proud of Megan’s achievements in raising awareness and fundraising for the Royal Children’s Good Friday Appeal. We must also recognise her outstanding running ability evident in her completion time of 1 hour and 28 minutes! Well done, Megan!

Congratulations to all those who represented the College in Term 1 and we look forward to your contribution in Term 2.

Chris Teazis
Sports Coordinator

LOTE LEARNING AREA
Japanese University Students’ visit
Visiting was a group of Japanese students from various universities in Japan who spent the morning lessons with us. These students are attending English lessons at Monash University, and their field trip to our school was between period 2 and period 3.
As they arrived, they were welcomed by a quick session tour of our school and were impressed with variety of courses that the school offers.

At recess, they enjoyed iconic Australian food, such as meat pies and lamingtons for the morning tea. South Oakleigh students also had a great opportunity to talk to and learn from them about lives in Japan. Our students were able to make use of what they have learned in class and conversed in Japanese with the University students.

The university students attended period 3 with our students in a Japanese class where they played Pictionary both in English and Japanese. Though it was only a short visit, South Oakleigh students showed warm hospitality and the Japanese students thoroughly enjoyed their interaction with our students.
THE GREEK REPORT

PONTIAN COMPETITION 2015
Jason and the Argonauts

A creative response to ‘The Argonaut Expedition” and the return of the ‘Golden Fleece’ from Colchis to Corinth. This year our 12 VCE English students decided to participate in the Pontian Competition as it extended their understanding of the backstory to the study of the Text MEDEA. The Artistic Response uses Pasta shapes to show how the Golden Fleece not only represented Gold and Power but may have also represented the quest for WHEAT. The pasta made from flour comes from wheat, reflecting the relevance of the theme. Of-course, this is relevant to PONTOS as the Argonaut Expedition involved Greek Colonies around the Black Sea five thousand years ago.

Thank you to Hayat Ahmed, Mukul Relan and Irene Giantsos who took an active interest in the project and completed it within one week.

Best wishes to all and I am confident we will continue to impress the judges with our symbolism and creativity.

Phyllis Dimakakos
Head of LOTE Learning Area

WELCOME EVENT FOR SOUTH OAKLEIGH COLLEGE
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE

The Victorian Government formally welcomed international school students to Victoria at the International School Student Welcome Event on the 11th of March, 2015.

His Excellency the Honourable Alex Chernov AC QC, Governor of Victoria and his wife, Mrs Chernov hosted over four hundred newly arrived international students at Victoria’s most prestigious residence, Government House. Year 10 International Students Sovira Chin from Cambodia, Duy Anh Pham from Vietnam and Zantong Qu from China represented South Oakleigh College at the event where they met the Governor of Victoria, the Education Minister of Victoria, the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Education. Our students also had the
opportunity to meet senior representatives of consulates and embassies and academics across the education sector, including some from Victoria’s top universities.

The Governor of Victoria, Alex Chernov and the Deputy Premier James Merlino, both voiced their appreciation for the unique and valuable contribution that international school students make to Victoria’s broader cultural community. “International students bring with them a great wealth of culture, language and new ideas to our classrooms and community and I can assure you that Victoria values each and every international school student” the Deputy Premier said.

As a school South Oakleigh College provides academic and welfare support for our International students so that they can achieve their goals in a productive learning environment. Sovira Chin stated that the event gave him the belief that he can thrive in his studies. Zantong Qu was amazed by the history of Government House and Duy Anh Pham felt at home meeting students who are of a similar background.

As a community we also benefit from learning about the unique cultures of our international students. Our international students contribute to a community that is rich, vibrant and diverse.

Arnie Ioannidis
International Student Coordinator

ART LEARNING AREA REPORT

I am delighted to be working here at South Oakleigh Secondary College as the Head of Arts. I have been an art teacher for nearly 10 years at several different schools and also worked in the theatre and puppetry industry for a long time prior to becoming a teacher. South Oakleigh has so much to offer in the arts and I have been busy discovering all the interesting things that occur throughout the year and very much looking forward to being involved in painting the sets and working backstage for the musical, which Mr Platenkamp and others have been busy auditioning students for.
All our classes have been very productive – the VCE Unit 3 class is working hard to get their folios underway, as it is a huge amount of work for them. We went to Melbourne University for a presentation about the structure of Unit 3 and 4 and to see some top work from last year, which was very informative, even though we managed to get completely drenched while waiting for a tram to get home, I guess this added to the experience of an artist where inspiration can come at any time and in any weather.

VCE Unit 1 and pre-VCE class have started researching artists and have commenced painting self-portraits. Year sevens have settled in well and there are three classes working hard at the 8/9 levels that have enthusiastically undertaken a variety of activities from carving rubber stamps to building clay columns. It is going to be a great year in the Art department and I am looking forward to seeing everyone’s progress.

Peta Close
Head of Art

**COLLEGE CAPTAIN’S REPORT**

On Wednesday we had a school assembly where we celebrated the diverse interests and abilities of the community and congratulated the success of students and staff at South Oakleigh College. It is our privilege to lead a group of students who are always ready to take a challenge and strive for the best at all times. It was a great honour for all the student leaders to receive badges and be appreciated by the school chaplain, Simon Clark. We are fortunate to have such a hardworking and diligent SRC team lead by Rachel McNamara. The SRC has conducted some great events over the past few years and we are looking forward to this year’s events.

Alongside some great leaders, we also have some students who showed outstanding effort and commitment to the school’s extracurricular activities including the Swimming Carnival and we congratulate those students who received certificates and have been selected to take part in the State Swimming Championships. Also a big round of applause to all the students who have attended the evening science events at The University of Melbourne. If you wish to take part in these events and get a taste of the University lifestyle, please see Mr Ram to find out how to get involved.

As discussed by Ms Mains next month is Active April so make sure you do balance your studies with some fitness to ensure a healthy lifestyle. On daily basis, you should already be doing at least 60 minutes of exercise; if you are not meeting the standard, now is the time to catch up. As well as being academically active, we encourage all students to be physically active as well.

Keep working hard and broaden your horizons by getting involved in activities and events around the school throughout the year. Have a safe and joyous break and we look forward to seeing you all next term.

Athina Pavlis and Mukul Relan
**What a journey - from Oakleigh South Primary School to South Oakleigh Secondary School**

**Where are we now??**

My name’s Rachel McNamara. I graduated from OSPS in 2009 (I cannot believe was 6 years ago.) Excuse my reminiscing but a lot has changed for me since then. Mr Mooney was my teacher, our production was Alice in Wonderland and it was the year of the Black Saturday bushfires. I’ve grown a lot in my 6 years at South Oakleigh. I started as a pimply, shy 12 year old and now I’m in my last year or schooling and am SRC president for the second year running. I also gained some confidence and lost most of the pimples. I’m deliriously excited to finish school and get on with my life.

Hi my name is Mukul Relan and I am a student in Year 12 at South Oakleigh College and am one of the College Captains. I am studying Mathematics, English and Science based subjects for my VCE. I believe the transition from primary school to secondary school was a very significant one for me because I got more independent and developed skills that have prepared me well for life. I am hoping to pursue my higher education at university next year in the field of Science/Engineering. One thing I have learned throughout my time at both primary and secondary schooling is that whenever you see an opportunity to improve yourself you must embrace it because it will provide a huge impact to your near future and will distinguish you from other students in the community.

Hi my name is Robin Maraviles! I am finishing my last year at South Oakleigh Secondary College and am currently having mixed emotions, as I know I will miss schooling but it would be very exciting to see what life holds outside of school. Only moving to Australia at the start of grade 6 was very overwhelming as I had to adapt to new surroundings. And to move to high school the next year… it was all very weird. Having Miss Wells as my Grade 6 teacher, you’d think I would be a maths genius, but throughout my years at high school, I figured my true arts.

My name is Irene Giantsos and I finished primary school in 2009. It seems like such a long time ago and yet again I still remember saying goodbye to everyone on the last day of school. Transitioning from primary school to high school is a very exciting and sometimes scary experience, but in the end, as cliché as it sounds, you sort of find yourself. Now that I’m in year 12 I feel confident that both primary school and high school has set me up for the future.
Family Support Group – Clayton

Family Drug Help at SHARC, as part of the Turning Point Inner East Partnership, is running a Family Support Group at Monashlink in Clayton.

This group started in January 2015 and from thereon every month on 3rd Tuesday night from 6.00 – 8.00 pm.

**Support Group from Tuesday March 10th from 6.00 – 8.00 pm, then monthly on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.**

- **Address:** MonashLink Community Health Service,
- **Level 1, 9–15 Cooke Street, Clayton VIC 3168**

The Family Support Group will provide ongoing support for local families. Each support group meeting will include an education component and an opportunity for sharing and mutual support. The Family Support Group will be an essential service in assisting local families affected by a loved one’s alcohol or drug use.

Please call our Helpline on **1300 660 068** if you would like to come along. All Welcome.
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<th>January</th>
<th>Civic Centre 10 - 12noon</th>
<th>MARC Centre 5:00pm - 7:00pm Bookings Required</th>
<th>Ashwood 10 - 12noon</th>
<th>Oakleigh 5:30 - 7:00pm Bookings Required</th>
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**PARENTING ADOLESCENTS 10 - 15 YEARS**

Parenting Adolescents is a program for parents of young people aged 10 -15 years of age. Over 5 weeks the program will cover a number of topics including:

- Understanding adolescent development
- Setting boundaries & limits
- Consequences
- Strategies to deal with adolescent behaviours
- Respectful communication
- Problem solving
- Anger
- Self care

In addition to these topic areas, the program will give parents the opportunity to share their experiences and learn from each other.

**When:**
1. 8, 15, 22, 29 May 2015

**Time:**
Friday's 10:00am - 12:30pm

**Where:**
Monash Youth and Family Services
14 Bagong Avenue,
Glen Waverley.

There is no fee but bookings are essential as places are limited. To book call Libby or Emily at MYFS on 9518 3900

**CREATIVE MINDFUL POSSIBILITIES FOR CHILDREN**

**A WORKSHOP TO INSPIRE ADULTS:**
Enabling teachers, parents, grandparents and health professionals to share the precious gift of mindfulness with children. The focus is the 10 core 'C's' of Jack's book 'Meditation Capsules: A Mindfulness Program for Children'.

**CONTENT:**
- Theoretical background to mindfulness and meditation
- Awareness of the body and breath and its importance for young bodies and minds
- Discovering the world within
- Observing feelings and thoughts
- Creative approaches to meditation

**DETAILS:**
SATURDAY 2 MAY 2015
8:45am Registration • 9am – 12pm Workshop
Kew Library • Phar Lap Room • Con Carra Road & Civic Drive Kew VIC
(Median Rail 4.5 DE)

**BOOKINGS & FEES:**
**Early Bird Rate:** $145.00 PAID BY MIDNIGHT 20 APRIL 215 $190 THEREAFTER.
Bookings via website: www.meditationcapsules.com

"These are non-refundable & early booking is encouraged as places are limited.

"There are only two lasting beacons we can hope to give our children:
One is roots, and the other wings." - Haddad Center

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**
JANET ETTREAL
PO Box 17, East Waverley, 3102 Australia
0403 527 616 • janet@meditationcapsules.com
**CAREER NEWS**

**RSPCA Short Courses** are designed to develop new skills for people dealing with animals; providing valuable access to industry experts and utilising quality resources and trainers. Programs are tailored for those wanting to enter the animal industry or already working within this field, as well as allowing participants to increase their skills with their own pets. More information about each program is at RSPCA Short Courses.

The RSPCA also offers a number of programs for students aged 15 – 18 years who are considering working in the animal industry or simply have a love of animals, and these programs run during school holidays. There is an upcoming Vet for a Day program that might interest some students.

**Date:** Tuesday 7 April 2015 **Time:** 9.30am – 3.00pm  **Find out more at** Youth Holiday Program

**Experience University Program**

If you are in year 11 or 12 you can experience what it is like to attend university by participating in the ‘Experience University Program”

This is an opportunity for students to spend a day at either LaTrobe University or University of Melbourne in the term one or term two school holiday period. This is a one day event that gives students the opportunity to listen to lectures on a variety of different areas and explore university facilities. Students will need to book a place online. This is a great opportunity for students to experience campus life.

ICHM holds a Career Week where students get to live on campus for one week and find out what it's like to study at the International College of Hotel Management (ICHM) and work in the world of international hospitality. The Career Week courses are held in July & September and places are strictly limited so book your spot soon!

Download more details regarding the Career Week at **ICHM Career Week Brochure** Visit **ICHM** for all other information!

**Bronwyn Cullinan**  
Careers and Pathway Leader
Please note: South Oakleigh College and DET do not endorse or accept the responsibility for any of the products or services of any private advertisements.