As you read this, there is less than five weeks of term to go for the 2015 Academic School Year. It seems amazing that Christmas and the summer break is fast approaching. Over the last fortnight the College has been busy with preparations for 2016. Next week the College will commence its new ‘Academic Year’ and once again it will enable our students to get a head start on 2016. In the majority of cases, students will follow the same timetable as day one next year and teachers will be the same. Students can now look forward to 2016 with a greater insight into the year’s study.

Students currently in Years 10 and 11 in 2015 will finish their Headstart program on Friday 4th December and the students currently in Years 7, 8, 9 will complete their Headstart programs on Friday 11th December. School work that has begun during Headstart is expected to be completed before the first school day of school in 2016. Students who are absent during this time will begin 2016 behind their peers.

The last week of school will see an alternative program put in place for the Middle School with the final day being the 17th December.

Exams for Years 7 -11 commenced on Monday 9th November; congratulations to all who have prepared themselves well throughout the school year and have given themselves the best opportunity to achieve excellent results.

Course Confirmation for students in Years 9-11 will be held on Thursday 19th and 20th of November to formally enroll into VCE subjects. All parents and students are reminded that they are expected to attend on one of these days from 12pm-7pm and meet with senior school leaders.

Last week our school leadership team had the privilege of interviewing candidates for the College Captain positions for 2016. The candidates had a series of questions that they had to respond to during their interview with the Principal Class. All responded in a confident manner and had clearly thought about how they would represent their peers if elected to a Leadership position.

The candidates delivered their campaign speeches to the Year 10 and Year 11 students and this was followed by a ballot that day. All candidates were very impressive. Equally impressive was the audience of students who eventually voted on the day.
I am happy to announce that our College Captains for 2016 are Melissa Claydon and Elijah Buckland. Our Vice Captains are Eirine Makantasis and Ben Cheng.

We all look forward to working with them next year and the College community wishes them all the best.

VCE results for our Year 12 students will not be known until Tuesday 15th December when the VCAA (Victorian Curriculum & Assessment Authority) forward scores to students. VCE certificates and formal documentation will be sent to the College for distribution.

To celebrate their 13 years of education and completion of examinations, the College will hold its Year 12 Graduation Ceremony on Wednesday 16th December in the Christine Strachan theatre. Students being acknowledged for their contribution to the College along with Award recipients will be formally invited to attend the evening.

South Oakleigh Secondary College has only a small amount of asbestos in the roof line at the top of our main building, which is checked regularly to ensure it remains in excellent condition. As part of the Department of Education and Training Health and Safety Management Plan, new labelling has been installed at our school. The labels remind contractors to contact school reception prior to undertaking any works at the school, to ensure they have up-to-date information from the school's asbestos register. Asbestos – which was used extensively in building materials in the past but is now banned – is considered safe unless damaged or in poor condition. The new labels form part of a comprehensive program to ensure Victorian government schools remain safe. Children’s safety is our number one priority. That is why we are taking this extra step as a precaution. The asbestos audit for South Oakleigh Secondary College took place in August.

High Expectations Respect Responsibility Resilience Teamwork
**EXAMINATIONS**
As I write this article, our 2015 Year 12’s (Class of 2015) and a number of our Year 11 students are about half way through sitting their externally set VCAA VCE Examinations. The manner in which they are conducting themselves and facing up to these examinations is in itself setting a very good example for our younger students. We look forward to seeing the results that they achieve.

**BELIEVE and ACHIEVE…..maybe a theme for 2016??**
Of course, all other students across the school have now also commenced internally set written end of year examinations which will play a major role in determining whether or not all of their 2016 subject selections will be able to be confirmed.

**COURSE CONFIRMATION DAYS**
Prospective 2016 Years 10, 11 and 12 students have already nominated subjects for 2016. Each student and a parent are required to attend COURSE CONFIRMATION between 12noon and 7pm on one of the following days

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<th>Thursday</th>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>20 Nov</td>
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On these days, final subject selections will be confirmed and subject fees paid.

With the Senior School Parent Briefing now being some time ago, it may be good idea to reacquaint oneself with the nature and scope of Senior School Studies at SOC.

**SENIOR SCHOOL STUDIES AT SOC**
At South Oakleigh College our Senior School students study the VCE (Victorian Certificate of Education) over three years, with access to VCE subjects commencing in Year 10.

**VCE**
The VCE is an internationally recognised qualification completed by most Australian school children. The VCAA (Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority) is responsible for implementation of the VCE. Further information about the VCE may be found at their website: [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au)

Information about the specific VCE subjects offered at SOC may be found in the Senior School Course Information booklet on the College website [www.sosc.vic.edu.au](http://www.sosc.vic.edu.au)

South Oakleigh SC offers an innovative course structure, which we call Pre-VCE, that is designed to allow students to complete VCE over three years. The structure provides the opportunity for students who are academically ready to be extended and complete (some) Unit 1 &2 courses whilst in Year 10. Subsequently, some Unit 3&4 courses may be completed in Year 11, whilst students will finish their VCE in year 12.
There are a number of benefits of the South Oakleigh senior course design.

- Those who are ready in a particular VCE subject have the chance to be truly challenged and extended, especially in an area of passion or interest.
- Students who may not yet be quite ready for advanced VCE studies have the opportunity to work in a VCE structure/context and be immersed in the specific material that they will experience the following year. This improves their chances of success and of achieving higher academic grades when they complete the formal Unit 1&2 or Unit 3&4 subject.
- Students may spread their VCE course load over three years. This allows them to concentrate on fewer subjects in each year, thereby maximising their achievement.
- Students who may undertake a subject at Introduction to VCE Study level have the opportunity to discover if this subject is one that they really want to pursue. It is our experience that students sometimes take on VCE subjects without full realisation of what the particular subject entails. Students now have the opportunity to review their course selection the following year in a more informed manner without prejudicing their VCE results.

Within the College Pre-VCE course structure, Year 10 students are permitted to study at most two Units 1 & 2 subjects and Year 11 students at most 2 Units 3&4 subjects.

**By the commencement of Term 2 2016, subject teachers either confirm whether or not each student is to remain at Pre-VCE status or be elevated to VCE status. Parents will be informed in writing of this decision.**

**Passing and obtaining the VCE**

In order to obtain the VCE a student must have obtained an “S” (satisfactory standard) in at least:

- 16 VCE Units
- 3 English or EAL Units
- 3 other Unit 3&4 subjects

**MODIFIED Senior School Certificate**

Where the Principal deems, having taken into consideration available advice and support, that a student will not be able to satisfy the requirements of the VCE, the Principal, at their discretion, may offer the student the opportunity to remain at the College and complete a Modified Senior School Certificate.

This strategy allows the student to participate in class with their peers and continue social engagement, and is more likely to eventuate in a positive outcome. In this case the school would issue a report the student’s individual achievement.

An integration support group within the school may advise the principal that formal enrolment in either a full or restricted VCE program is the most appropriate action. In either case, the Principal has the final say as to the most appropriate program for the student.

Please feel free to contact me at the school on 95792322 should you have any questions.
**What is Mindfulness?**

Mindfulness is a special way of paying attention and focusing on the task at hand. It can help you cope with everyday life and there are great benefits for mental wellbeing, your health and your academic life.

Sometimes we spend too much time worrying about past events that we forget to pay attention to the present. When you are mindful it helps you clear your head; slow down your thoughts; helps you to concentrate; helps you relax and helps you to cope with stress.

Mindfulness has emerged as an evidence-based tool to improve psychological health and to assist students in focussing in class. In the end it can help improve performance, reduce stress and give us satisfaction in work, school and life.

For more info visit - [http://mindfulnessforstudents.co.uk/](http://mindfulnessforstudents.co.uk/)

**Head Start Program**

**What is Head Start?**

The Head Start Program at South Oakleigh College is paving the way for an early start to 2016. It is a 3 week program for students in the Middle School, and 2 weeks for students in the Senior School to kick start the 2016 academic program.

We are committed to raising the aspirations of our students in order to make a smooth transition from one year to the next. During this time we will show our students what they need to emphasise and focus on to make 2016 a successful year. Head Start provides our students with an outline of the subjects and what is expected. This will enable them to begin in earnest on their first day in 2016.
Launch of the ‘Ten Tales’ Anthology

Earlier in the year a group of talented Year 7 and 8 students worked with our Writer in Residence, author Skye Melki-Wegner, in a Writing Workshop Extension Program. The Workshops were designed to extend and challenge students to improve their creative writing and peer editing skills. Students learnt about:

1. Structure and Plotting
2. Description and Senses
3. Tenses and Point of View
4. Figurative Language
5. Characterisation
6. Genres: Speculative Fiction
7. Fiction Set in Reality
8. Poetry
9. And ultimately the construction of an Anthology featuring their short stories and poetry.

A celebratory morning tea was held recently to launch a new ‘book.’ Skye presented participants in the program with a certificate and a copy of the Anthology containing their work. The Anthology has also been placed in the School Library.

Congratulations to the participants:

Year 7
Rasindu Samaranayake, Prathik Balachandar, Andrew Leap, Jade Short, Jim Staikos, Megan Robinson,

Year 8
Georgia Greco, Elizabeth Demosthenous, Reyanna Cuevas, Karla Chapman.
Here are some comments from participants in the workshops:

‘It was very exciting to work with an author and also to be able to create my own story and have it published in the Anthology.’ - Rasindu

‘It was such an amazing experience to work with Skye. She was so helpful and quite funny!’ - Elizabeth

‘It was an honour to work with Skye; she’s a lovely person and helped me a lot during this experience.’ - Reyanna

‘I enjoyed every minute that we had the Writing Workshop.’ - Megan

‘It was really fun to work with everyone and I really loved writing the stories.’ - Jade

‘My favourite part was being able to work with an actual author and being able to let my imagination run wild while learning some very important techniques for English classes. It’s been a great honour taking part in this program and working with Skye.’ - Andrew

‘It was fun and a great experience.’ - Jim

‘I learnt a lot about the writing world and that it’s not always easy to get your work out there. My favourite part was writing the poetry.’ - Georgia

“It was really fun and I learnt so many new things.” - Karla

What have our Year 8 Students been doing in English and EAL?

Here is a selection of Year 8 work that students have produced in English and EAL classes recently. Thank you to Ms. Downs for providing some examples of the creative use of ICT from her Accelerated Year 8 English class:

Gender Roles

‘Over the last term, Year 8 English students have been encouraged to consider how visual communication impacts on meaning. The layout of a page, the use of headings, the colour and even the images chosen all work to inform us as readers. The following examples were based on the idea of gender roles in society and how we might start to raise questions and prompt discussion in our community. ‘ - Ms Downs
Gender Roles Cont...

Women with full time jobs are only getting about 77% of what males will be earning, meaning it's much harder for women to make money.

Over 62 million girls have been denied an education all over the world.

Women only earn a tenth of the world's income.

Gender equality is not a women's issue. It is a human issue. We all are affected.

The average full-time weekly wage for a woman is 22.2% less than a man's.

Women are about half as likely to receive a pension which will only be about half the amount for men.

Gender equality is not a women's issue. It is a human issue. We all are affected.
Themes in the novel ‘HOLES’

Thank you to Mr. Ioannidis for providing these responses to the themes in the novel ‘Holes’ from his Year 8 students.

One of the best ways of dealing with hardship is developing resilience and confidence. Stanley doesn't have any self-confidence. A characteristic that helps him adjust to the horrendous conditions of Camp Green Lake is the fact he doesn't become easily depressed. Beneath the exterior lies a boy who is a fighter who learns to survive in extreme circumstances. Stanley slowly develops physical and personal strength. Stanley identifies the people who threaten him and while he tries not to get into trouble, he also stands up for his own rights and the rights of his friends. Stanley gradually develops the self-confidence, resilience and courage. He learns to fight for justice and shows his true character. By Ioanna-Maria Sampani 8B

At the end of the novel Stanley becomes a strong and very confident boy. He now has a strong relationship with all the boys. He knows who his real friends are. By trusting and relying on characters like Zero, he understands that he is not alone in this world but has people he can learn from in times of crisis. By Kyri Derzotis 8A

Stanley’s nickname was ‘Caveman’. I don’t think it suits him. Stanley received this name due to finding a fossil while digging his hole and Armpit said that it looked like a cave drawing. ‘Stanley looks like he belongs to a cave,’ were the harsh words that he was faced with. The title, ‘Caveman’ suggests someone who is rough and suggests that he is a savage. This is a totally deceptive impression of Stanley because in reality he is kind and considerate. He is a gentle soul who has real conviction. By Thanos Cheimaras 8A

In the story we discover that lizards don't like onion juice. Onions symbolize a positive and healing factor in the story. A set of coincidences results in both Stanley and Zero being at Camp Green Lake. This is so extraordinary that it appears as if the hand of fate pushed the Yelnats and Zeronis back together again. By Vasiliki Kottaki 8B

The novel is called ‘Holes’ due to the fact at Camp Green Lake, the characters have to dig a hole every day. The lake reminds Stanley of pictures of the moon because it’s full of holes everywhere. The holes symbolize the strenuous and extreme working conditions of the characters. By Andrianna Panagopoulou 8B

The whole story culminates around Stanley finding the case because he made his family rich, managed to take Zero in as a family member and solved Kissin’ Kate Barlow’s curse after Sam’s death. I very much enjoyed reading ‘Holes’ in class. The key themes include facing hardship, developing resilience and the bonds of friendship that can’t be broken. By Christina Varka 8A
Next year in Science:

1. Evening lectures in Physics at the University of Melbourne. These free lectures in Physics by experts in their fields are directed towards Secondary School Students and their teachers (parents are also welcome). They occur every fortnight during terms 1, 2 & 3. Our students have taken advantage of them in the past and they are on again next year. If students need transport, some teachers will be able to take up to 4 students in their cars and take them home afterwards. Speak to Mr Ram in early 2016.

2. VCE Physics students will be going to Luna Park for an excursion when studying the Physics of Motion at the beginning of the year (March), and then later in the year they will be going to the Australian Synchrotron in Clayton.

3. Mission to Mars excursion at the Victorian Space Science Education Centre in Strathmore, will be on again next year for the Year 8s.

4. We will host the International Master Class in Particle Physics again and invite students from other schools. This year was the first time the Master Class took place in an Australian school. The day ends with a link to the Large Hadron Collider (particle accelerator) Geneva, Switzerland, where scientists are trying to find the inner secrets of matter including answering the question "What is Dark Matter?"
ICAS 2015 MATHEMATICS

Competition Results

Students of South Oakleigh Secondary College participated in the annual International Competitions and Assessments for Schools, (ICAS). It is organised by the University of New South Wales (UNSW). Students across Australia and several countries throughout the world, participate in ICAS. ICAS provides an opportunity for all students to gain a measure of their own achievement in an external testing situation. The Mathematics Test assesses students' skills and knowledge in Algebra and Patterns, Chance and Data, Measures and Units, Number and Arithmetic and Space and Geometry.

High Distinctions: Ryan O’Shea and Mitchell Wilkin were in the top 1%(Both in Year 10)

Distinctions: Dhruv Parikh, Matthew Vellamdheril (Both in Year 7) and Mukul Relan (Year 12)

Credits: Megan Robinson, Andrew Leap, Aneesh Yellishetty, Rasindu Samaranayake, (All in Year 7), Josiah Walker, Declan O'Shea, Malik Karchnak (All in Year 8), Chau Ly (Year 10), Jatin Puri (Year 11) and Paul Argent (Year 12)

Merits: Hiyoshi Woods (Year 7) and Janish Khadalia (Year 8)

Congratulations to all the participants of the prestigious UNSW Mathematics Competition.
The teaching and learning of Greek Language and Culture at South Oakleigh College incorporates Greek Dancing into the Curriculum.

Students from YR 11 VCE Greek demonstrated the ‘Kallinitikos’ dance from Northern Greece-Thrace. ‘Kallinitikos’ is a dance done by groups of three people: a man in the middle and two women at his sides or a woman in the middle and 2 men at her sides.

The dance is named after the ‘kalines’, the bride’s girlfriends who do this dance as they escort her to church.

Thank You to the VCE Greek students for demonstrating the Kallinitikos dance.
Athan Gesos/Irene Makantasis/Chrysanthi Makantasis
CELEBRATION OF 'OHI' DAY.

Year 7, 8 and 9 students who have Greek ancestry attended the special tribute for the Commemoration of October 28, 1940 - "OHI" Day.

Kathey Zinelis who is a teacher seconded to our school by the Hellenic Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, edited and presented an interactive lecture and extensive tribute on significant events. She covered the rise of Nazism in Europe, the declaration of war on October 28, 1940 and the united "OHI" (NO) reply of the proud Greek people. During this time there was great suffering; a horrible period that saw the triple occupation of Greece. But the decisive resistance of the Greek patriots led to the axis of the defeat and the victory of the allied forces. She also reported on Greece's liberation from four-years of tyranny, the economic and demographic destruction and disrepair of infrastructure, the global recognition of the bravery of the Greek people which really highlighted the necessity of the creation of the international organisation United Nations to protect against expansionist ambitions of any would-be dictator in the future.

Through reflection and constructive dialogue students gave tribute to all those who fought and sacrificed themselves for the much longed freedom.
Queen Victoria Market

On the 29th of October 2015, the 8/9 Food Technology class went to the Queen Victoria Market. We had to find out the prices of different products in the market such as Meat, Fish, Fruit and Veg, Organics and Deli items. We found out that some store prices are lower than others and some are higher, some stores even gave you free samples to try before you buy, such as cheeses and sweets. We were able to buy our own lunch/snacks and drinks and were able to buy some things that we wanted from the market after we finished what we had to do. There are a lot of shops that sell the same things for different prices in the market which was helpful because we could find what we wanted for a cheaper price. The Market was full of smells such as scented candles, foods from different cultures, fish in the fish hall and flowers. All in all it was a fun day to go and explore the market and taste the food and buy something for ourselves.  

By Samantha & Ashlee
There are many websites that students can investigate to assist them with making decisions about future pathways. Below are two websites that explore a range of careers in a range of industries:

**Labour Market Information Portal**

The *Labour Market Information Portal* provides up-to-date information about our local labour market. It provides information at the national, State and regional level on:

- Unemployment and participation rates
- Employment by industry and occupation
- Centrelink and Job Services Australia customer populations

All data are presented with maps and can be viewed as charts or tables.

Visit [Labour Market](#)

**What's the Right Health Job for You?**

*Are you considering a career in the health industry but are undecided about the range of careers you may be suited to? Health Heroes and browse the various videos and numerous jobs in the health industry from acupuncturist to youth worker and many in-between!*

VTAC has once again made available the option of year 12 students to receive their results by SMS. Details on how to register to use this service is below:

**Accessing VCE Results via SMS**

Students must pre-register if they wish to receive their results by text message. To pre-register students will need to send a message to 19 787 888 with their VCE student number (just the eight digit number, not including the letter on the end) then a space and then their PIN (4 digits).

**Non-Year 12 students:** The PIN is the first four digits of their date of birth e.g. 21 November = 2111.

**Year 12 students:** The PIN is the first four digits of their date of birth e.g. 21 November = 2111 unless students changed their PIN online as was recommended.
This SMS will cost $1.10 max (incl. GST). Students must send this message from the mobile number they want the results delivered to. **Registrations open at 9.00am on Monday 9 November and will close at 12 midnight on Sunday 13 December** and the results and ATAR will then be sent to the registered mobile number at approximately 7.00am Monday 14 December 2015. **Students who will be overseas as this time should NOT register to have their results sent by SMS, but rather access them on the internet.**

Students encountering problems should please contact the helpline on 1800 501 083. Instructions on registering for SMS are also available on the VTAC website at [VTAC SMS](#).

Year 12 students who have paid their VTAC fees will receive a copy of their ATAR statement through the post commencing Tuesday 15 December 2015.

**Deakin University** has recently launched an Environmental Science blog, a great tool for students to explore what Environmental Science is and some of the issues affecting our environment.

**Deakin Environmental Science Blog**

Students interested in **Environmental Science** might like to visit Deakin’s new exciting blog [Deakin Environmental Science Blog](#).

**STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS 2015-16**

Students in Years 4 - 12 are invited to apply for student scholarships administered by the Department.

The scholarships open on Monday 16 November 2015 and range in value from $300 to $2,500.

Many of the scholarships identify financial need as an eligibility criteria. Students who are recipients of the Youth Allowance, or whose families are receiving Centrelink payments meet this criteria.

Applications for scholarships open on 16 November 2015 and close on 1 February 2016. Further information of complete list of scholarships are available from the General Office.
Poppies help students remember

PENCILS will go down and heads will bow for a minute during exams to reflect on Remembrance Day.

Students at South Oakleigh College will take time out of their busy and stressful exams as a mark of respect at 11am on November 11. But while the older students sweat it out in exam halls, those in Years 7 and 8 will sew poppies to lay in the garden at the front of the school. It’s all part of the annual services at the school run by history and literature teacher Jill Bryant.

Nearly every year for the past two decades she has organised the school’s Remembrance Day services and activities for students. Mrs Bryant researches two people from various wars for her annual address and shares their stories via the school’s PA system.

“I want people – staff and students – to realise that the people who fought and died in wars were real,” she said. “It makes it more tangible.”

Mrs Bryant also owns keepsakes from war eras. She said it was important for students to be able to feel, touch and see things from times of conflict to help understand the reality of war.

 COLLECTION OF SCHOOL TEXT BOOKS

This year we are providing families with a school collection option for school text books. This means that you don’t have to pay the delivery fee. All you need to do is complete the booklist and return it to the school by the 11th December 2015. The school will be open on the 21st January 2016 between 1:00PM – 5:00PM for you to collect your order and make payment by cash, credit card or eftpos. Orders not collected will not be held for you.
Want to play music, write songs or learn?

Music Jam/Song Writing... every Thursday LUNCHTIME

Come to the music room...every Thursday lunchtime to have a jam...learn to write songs...talk music...
ALL styles of music and instruments are welcome. Come along if you play an instrument or sing...or want to learn to play or write songs.

See Dylan (the Chaplain) for more info...
“The Cutting Edge”

In early November, SOC unveiled its new IT office designed to inspire our current and upcoming new students into the wonderful world of 21st century IT Technology.

A competition was organised for students to find an appropriate name for the new IT office. The winning entry “The Cutting Edge” was named by Ethan Delaney of Year 7C. Thank you Ethan for your winning entry and we hope you enjoy the $100 VISA gift card.

The Cutting Edge will house our 3D Printer, 3Doodler, 3D Scanner & newly ordered Laser Cutter. The new facilities in this room will compliment a variety of subjects offered in our curriculum enhancing the learning experience for our students.

Students and staff at the opening of the new IT office.

John Kovas and Justin Simmonds our IT Technicians were responsible for designing the room to motivate and stimulate our students. Thanks to Helen Koziaris for giving them her full support for the project.
Free Tennis at Clarinda Tennis Club
4 – 14 Crawford Road, Clarinda
Friday, 20th November
4pm – 7.30pm
Come along and have some fun!
Free Coaching, Cardio Tennis, Games & Prizes

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