ACTING PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

‘There are three things that return not: the spoken word, the spent arrow, and the lost opportunity!’ first cited in print in 1875, when it was called an Arab proverb. Umar/Omar (577-644) is frequently credited.

South Oakleigh College provides a wide variety of experiences for our students. There are opportunities to access multiple co-curricular activities such as joining different interest clubs, being a member of our student leadership groups, playing in a sporting team, contributing to cultural events or participating in the school production. Taking advantage of these events enables students to connect with one another, develop their social health and promote a sense of self-worth.

The importance of belonging plays an integral role in the wellbeing of all young people. Belonging to family, peer groups, school, sporting teams or a community provides a feeling of connectedness that enables us to share the experiences of others and grow from our own. With this in mind, I wish to congratulate all students who have taken advantage of our co-curricular program. I encourage others who have been considering joining a program to do so with confidence to also reap the positive rewards of being involved.

Curriculum Day
Monday August 22nd is a student-free curriculum day. All staff will participate in professional development as we embark on the second instalment of the Berry Street Positive Education Model. This model is a holistic approach which aims to improve student engagement and resilience based on research from the Positive Psychology movement.

Middle School Parent/Student/Teacher conferences
Middle School Parent/Student/Teacher conferences will be held on Wednesday August 31st from 4.00-7.00pm. Parents should make an appointment with their child’s teachers via Compass to ensure they do not miss the opportunity to discuss their progress and receive valuable feedback to support their child’s learning. To enhance these conversations, appointment times have been slightly increased. In respecting all families, we ask that parents adhere to their scheduled appointment times.

From 4.00pm on Thursday 25th August, parents and guardians can view interim reports via Compass and begin making appointments with teachers.
Welcome and Good Luck
On behalf of the College we would like to welcome Mr Tim Curtis who will join our Arts Department replacing Ms Renee Gross while on maternity leave. We wish Ms Gross all the best during this exciting time and look forward to welcoming her new bundle of joy to the South Oakleigh College community.

Mr Mark Picone
Acting Principal
Parents, students and teachers working together
During an average week only about twenty percent of a student’s time is at school, the other eighty percent being spent at home. Taking holidays into account, the percentage of time at school over a year drops to about fifteen percent. Consequently, what our students are doing at home and the importance of the relationship between parents and the school cannot be overstated.
I encourage all parents to:
- Ensure your child is doing set homework and/or revising classwork on a daily basis.
- Actively monitor your child’s curriculum through the online Compass program.
- If you have any concerns initiate contact with your child’s teachers via the email link on Compass.

School Production
Thursday 11th and Friday 12th August saw the public performances of the school production ‘High School Musical JR’. What a fantastic school production! Congratulations to all staff and students involved in ensuring this success.

Special congratulations to:
Mr Platenkamp—Director and Producer
Ms Downs—Assistant Director
Ms Close—Artistic Director
Ms O’Reilly—Costumes
Mr Prewett—Musical Director
Mr Sakellaris—Lighting & Sound
Ms Gross—Billboards
Ms Stamateletos—Publicity
Kaite Head (Year12 student)—Stage Manager

However, the greatest thanks and congratulations go to the students who were part of the cast and crew. It was evident that they loved what they were doing and they demonstrated great ability and confidence.

Thanks also to members of the school community who made up the audience and contributed to the atmosphere by packing out the theatre on both production nights.
Uniform
The College uniform is an important aspect of the South Oakleigh College identity and helps promote a sense of belonging. Members of the community and visitors alike continue to commend our students on the way that most are wearing their uniform; a demonstration of both self-respect and pride at being a member of the College.

Regretfully, some students continue to wear the incorrect uniform despite ongoing discussion about this. As already mentioned, parents and guardians play an important role in maintaining a culture of high expectations and I ask them to discuss grooming and uniform with their child to help maintain our standards. These discussions will help prepare your child for realistic workplace expectations.
VCE Units 3 and 4 Trial Exams – September Holidays

Unit 3 and 4 Trial Exams will be held during week one of the September holidays; from Monday 19 to Wednesday 21 September. These exams include material to satisfy outcomes for each subject and all students must attend to pass their subjects.

The timetable for these exams is:

**MONDAY 19th SEPTEMBER**

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**TUESDAY 20th SEPTEMBER**

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**WEDNESDAY 21st SEPTEMBER**

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Anyone unable to attend their scheduled exam must make an alternative time: 8:30am – 3:30pm Saturday 8, 15 or 22 October.
Implementation of this new exam procedure will improve students’ preparation for their final VCAA exams by providing them with almost three weeks of teaching following the holidays.

**Exam Preparation/Study Skills Sessions**

Exam Preparation/Study Skills Sessions have been scheduled over the next month to ensure students get the most from their final exam preparation and to maximize their final marks.

The first three sessions are for VCE Units 3 and 4 students (from both Years 11 and 12) with the final session being for all Year 11 and 12 students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Session 1</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Tues 9 Aug</td>
<td>Period 2</td>
<td>Units 3&amp;4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 2</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Thurs 18 Aug</td>
<td>Period 2</td>
<td>Units 3&amp;4</td>
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<td>Session 3</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Wed 24 Aug</td>
<td>Period 2</td>
<td>Units 3&amp;4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 4</td>
<td>Theatre</td>
<td>Fri 9 Sept</td>
<td>Period 4</td>
<td>All Year 11 and 12</td>
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The first session was delivered by staff member Mr Jared Dyson who related some of his personal experiences, including some interesting Facebook posts that he made when doing his VCE. Mr Dyson’s session was positively received as he discussed with students making use of subject study designs.

The second and third sessions will be delivered by staff members Ms Katie Morris and Mr Tom Sharp, with the fourth session being from master motivator Mr Darren Pereira from Success Integrated.
Middle School Report

‘The middle school years are the most critical period for the individual to synthesize a rational, positive, personal value system.’ James J. Fenwick.

During this time of rapid physical and emotional growth, the student experiences shifting and turbulent emotions that sometimes conflict with how they behave at school and at home. This emotional and physical rollercoaster may leave pupils feeling both high and low throughout the day. They tend to lack self-confidence so appear moody and introspective. Peer groups are important during this phase as students begin to question the world around them in their search for identity and a place to belong. The opinions of their peers can cause both joy and dismay. The middle school years can be the most formative period for students to create and establish a lifelong value system.

Parent/student/teacher conferences

In the coming weeks we will be conducting parent/student/teacher conferences for students in the middle school.

Below are some tips for parents to get the most from this opportunity:

- Ensure you make an appointment to speak with your child’s teachers.
- Make a list of any questions you have.
- Go with a calm, positive attitude.
- Take a friend or support person if necessary.
- Let the school know beforehand if you require an interpreter.
- Follow up with suggestions that are discussed at the interview.
- Contact the school any time of the year if you have concerns about your child.
Year 9 Camp

At the end of term 2, Year 9 students had the privilege of travelling to Camp Jungai nestled in the Rubicon Valley and surrounded by native bush, stunning mountain scenery and with a lake and river running through the property.

Students learnt about local bush tucker from an indigenous elder and tested their courage on the high ropes.

A focus of the camp was teamwork and students were encouraged to work together on a range of puzzles as well as participate in canoe polo.

**Student comments:**

- My favourite activity was canoeing. I managed not to fall in!
- The nature was engaging. Kept us going for a few hours.
- Canoeing was awesome!
- I think the camp was a bit short, only three days. Could we have a whole week next year?
- Perhaps banner painting could be spruced up?
- It had us on the go all day, a few more breaks just to get our breath back!!
SEAMS (Strengthening Engagement and Achievement in Maths and Science)

SEAMS aims to increase equitable participation and attainment in Science and Maths related disciplines in higher education. Both Monash and Melbourne Universities have allocated funds to assist students from less affluent schools improve their chances of realising their goal of studying at the University level. Students attend a summer camp in January before Term 1 and a winter Camp at Monash during the winter break prior to Term 3.

This year two Year 12 students, Dhvani Pandaya and Jatin Puri enjoyed their participation in SEAMS. Next year we hope more students, including Year 11 students, will make use of this opportunity to participate, thereby increasing their chance of gaining a place at either Monash University or The University of Melbourne.

Dhvani Pandaya (left) enjoyed her time at The University of Melbourne camp.
The University of Melbourne evening lectures in Physics

Four South Oakleigh College students: Ryan O’Shea from Year 11 and Prathik Balachandar, Dhruv Parikh and Shivang Patel from Year 8 attended a Physics lecture for VCE students at The University of Melbourne on Thursday 4th August. They heard Professor Lloyd Hollenberg deliver an inspiring talk, including demonstrations on the Physics of Sound and its application to understanding how musical instruments work. In particular, Professor Hollenberg explained how the didgeridoo produces sound and he used a didgeridoo from the Yolngu People of the Gove Peninsula in the Northern Territory. He also used a sound spectrum analyser and slow motion video of lip vibrations of the mouth of the player to demonstrate the way it produces sound.

The University of Melbourne's evening lectures on Physics, delivered by experts in their field of interest, are held every Thursday fortnight during term and are a wonderful free resource for VCE students as well as an opportunity for interested students in years 7 – 10 who would like to experience a university lecture. Before the lecture, we take the opportunity to walk around the university experiencing the neo-gothic architecture then check out the student facilities and enjoy a light meal in the student centre.

Thanks again to The University of Melbourne School of Physics, and especially to Associate Professors Max Thompson and Roger Rassool, for generously giving their time to organise these lectures to inspire secondary school students in Physics.

See Mr Ram for details about future lectures.
Skyline Education Foundation Australia Bursary program

South Oakleigh College is privileged to work with the Skyline Foundation in their support of high achieving VCE students. The Skyline Foundation provides VCE bursaries to select students to assist them successfully complete their VCE studies and to support them in their preparation for University studies. Melissa Claydon (SOC College Captain) was the recipient of this bursary in 2016. We look forward to a continued relationship with the Skyline Foundation and are thankful for their support of our students.

Participation in the Skyline Foundation

One of the proudest moments of my life was being selected for the Skyline Education Foundation Bursary Program. The Skyline Bursary Program provides intensive support for VCE students from disadvantaged backgrounds. The program, though, does more than provide financial support as it also provides a network of contacts that can be used throughout life.

A range of opportunities are offered throughout the Program. I have been involved with the annual Workshop Camps which run over a weekend in late February and with school holiday workshops with the CEAV (Career Education Association of Victoria).

More recently I was a speaker at the ICJ (International Commission of Jurists) community opening of the legal year on behalf of the Skyline Foundation where I gave a speech alongside fellow Skyline recipient and former college captain of South Oakleigh College, Mukul Relan, on the importance of immunisation in our society. The program is invaluable both financially and professionally and I’m confident that through the Alumni Committee this organisation will remain an important part of my life for many years.

Melissa Claydon – Year 12
Language Perfect World Championship Award Winner

In Japanese we use an online language learning tool called ‘Language Perfect’. This year we participated in The Language Perfect World Championship. I would like to congratulate Jerusha Buckland for winning the Gold Award and for being placed in the top 2% of 330,000 competitors from around the world.

It is not easy to get points in this challenging language game, with points awarded only when questions are answered correctly. Students are ranked with others in their class from around the world.

It is an excellent way to learn vocabulary and the site can be accessed through any device at anytime, anywhere. www.languageperfect.com  It is encouraging that more and more of our students are taking advantage of this language learning facility.

Jerusha Buckland
The Performance Arts team has done it again! On 11 and 12 August over thirty students pulled off another highly successful school production, an outstanding rendition of Disney’s *High School Musical JR*. It’s always both fun and exhausting leading up to a production, and this year our students came together in the true spirit of the story.

Some of the unforgettable moments included Chad (Liam Short) panicking to throw a basketball from half court and hitting a microphone stand, Jack Scoot (Leslie Chao) stealing the show with the spotlight with nothing to say and Troy Bolton (Olivia Graveson) dropping her balls when discovering her father might not be who he says he is. The individual memories and moments of greatness are too many to list.

As Director of the production I would like to say how proud I am of the cast and crew for their hard work in creating this fantastic show. I would like to make special acknowledgement to Kaite Head (Stage Manager) and Elijah Buckland (Actor) for their help in their last show at South Oakleigh College. We wish them luck in the future.

I would also like to recognise the amazing newly discovered talent from students who joined the production team for the first time. Their infectious energy makes me optimistic for plenty more incredible shows in the future.
Australian History Competition

In term two, several Year 8 and 10 students competed in the Australian History Competition. Each year this competition tests the historical skills and knowledge of over fifteen thousand students from across Australia.

South Oakleigh College performed exceptionally well, with a number of students achieving results placing them amongst the top history students in Australia.

Congratulations go to the following students:

**High Distinction – Top 10% of Australia**
- Mathew Vellamcheril (Year 8)

**Distinction – Top 20% of Australia**
- Prathik Balachandar (Year 8)
- Megan Robinson (Year 8)

**Credit – Top 30% of Australia**
- Andrew Leap (Year 8)
- Ethan Walker (Year 8)
- Aggelos Mavrogiannis (Year 10)

All 2017 Year 8 and Year 10 students are encouraged to participate in this competition. Please see Mr Dyson for more information.
News from RMIT University

- **Changes to Maths requirement for Bachelor of Environmental Science**
The mathematics prerequisites for the Bachelor of Environmental Science and the double degrees with Business (Management) and Environment and Society have changed from a VCE Units 3 and 4 study score of at least 20 in “Mathematical Methods” to “a Mathematics” (i.e. Further, Methods or Specialist).

- **New double degree: Chemical Engineering/Pharmaceutical Sciences**

  *Gain an end-to-end understanding of how pharmaceutical products are designed and developed as well as the process involved in their large scale production.*

  From Semester 1 2017, RMIT will be offering a four year double degree in **Chemical Engineering and Pharmaceutical Sciences**. As the pharmaceutical industry expands in Australia and world-wide, an understanding of the engineering process and other scientific fields involved in drug development and production will ensure students are well equipped to work across a range of roles. Students will gain a thorough understanding of the principles of chemical engineering and pharmaceutical sciences, allowing them to apply their knowledge to large scale production in the pharmaceutical industry.

  Students will need to complete at least twelve weeks of engineering industry experience allowing them to gain first-hand knowledge in an engineering environment under the supervision of a professional engineer. There are also opportunities for an overseas work placement of between six and twelve months which satisfies the work experience requirement. These placements are normally taken during a one-year break in the middle or at the end of the third year of the degree.

  Current Year 12 VCE prerequisites are: Units 3 and 4 – a study score of at least 20 in Chemistry and in Mathematical Methods (CAS) and a study score of at least 25 in any English (except EAL) or at least 30 in English (EAL).

  *Find out more at Chemical Engineering/Pharmaceutical Sciences*

- **Useful Links for Entry to Design Courses at RMIT**

Students considering applying for design courses that require submission of design exercises and attending of interviews as part of selection into those courses are encouraged to browse the following two links:

  - **Applying for Art and Design Courses**
  - **Art and Design Selection Interviews**

**Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)**

*The Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) is designed to equip students with technical expertise and management skills in an engineering field of their choice.* Of significance is that students complete common core units in their first year and then select their major.

*Find out more at Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)*
New Careers Website
South Oakleigh Secondary College has a new Careers Website. You can find this at www.southoakleighcollegecareers.com. Students are aware of this site and should have accessed it to complete their Skills and Ability Program as well as their Interest Test and Career Planner. Parents are welcome to register on the site and investigate the many resources available.

Year 12 News
• VTAC Applications - Applications for TAFE and university courses opened on the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) website on Monday 1 August 2016 at www.vtac.edu.au. Students are encouraged to use Course Searches as the primary source of course information. There are also VTAC videos about courses, SEAS, scholarships, offers and changing preferences at www.youtube.com/vtacmedia.

• Students can apply for up to eight courses and should place them in their order of preference. They will be offered a place for the highest course on their list for which they meet the requirements. Students should check the Selection Requirements for each course they are applying for. Many courses use only the ATAR for selection, however, a number have other requirements such as an audition, folio presentation, interview or additional forms/documents. Students will NOT be offered a place in these courses if they do not meet the selection requirements, regardless of their ATAR.

• Students have until 29 September for a ‘timely’ application. After that the $32.00 application fee will increase to $100.00.
Year 7 and Year 8 boys’ soccer.
Congratulations to the Year 7 and 8 boys’ soccer team who competed on Friday 5th August at the Eastern Metropolitan Sports Region Championships held in Bayswater.

In their pool of four teams South Oakleigh College got off to a great start in their first game, beating Melba College 2–0. The second round match against Yarra Hills Secondary College was a much tougher contest, losing 2–4. Needing to win their remaining round robin game to have any chance of progressing to the final, South Oakleigh came up against Forest Hill College. Unfortunately a 1–1 draw wasn't enough to secure a spot in the final.

I’m confident that had a little bit of luck gone our way, South Oakleigh would have been playing Rowville Secondary College in the final. Despite this, the boys played extremely well in all their games showing determination, team cohesion and above all, discipline. Well done!

Former college art teacher, Poppi O’Connor will be showcasing her talents at the Shirley Burke Theatre, Parkdale from 19th August – 17th September.

PRESENTED BY POPPI O’CONNOR
THURSDAY 18 AUGUST 2016
6-8 pm
GB Artspace
Shirley Burke Theatre
64 Parkers Road
Parkdale, VIC 3195
10 August – 17 September
Opening hours: Wed-Sat, 9am to 5pm | Sat, 12-5pm
A body of work inspired by atmospheric and emotional transitions.
The ‘Pokémon Go’ craze has swept the nation, infiltrating not only our screens, but our South Oakleigh College classrooms as well!

With thanks to the brainpower of Mr. Hem, the mathematics classes at SOC experienced ‘Poké-math’! Much like the game hypnotising mankind, ‘Poké-math’ challenged students (and curious staff) to locate specific Pokémon characters in hidden locations.

In pursuit of ‘Jigglypuff’ and ‘Pikachu’, students travelled across the SOC lands, searching far and wide. Guided by a school map, students drew on their knowledge of linear relations and co-ordinates to ‘catch ‘em all!’
SOUTH Oakleigh College students are brimming with excitement on the eve of their rendition of Disney play High School Musical.

More than 25 students between Years 7 and 12 have spent months rehearsing lines for the production.

Director Adam Platenkamp said the play dealt with the social pressures of high school life.

“The story of the play is a reflection of the madness of high school life and we hope that the power of meeting new people and stepping out of your social circle is shown,” Mr Platenkamp said.

He said students had grown in confidence during the rehearsals and were ready to step out on to stage next week.

The play tracks the journey of Troy Bolton and Gabriella Montez who meet at a party over a karaoke song.

They exchange numbers but discover they are from opposing social groups.

It will be performed on August 11 and 12, at 6pm, Christine Strachan Theatre, Bakers Rd, South Oakleigh.

Tickets: Students $5, Adults $10 and families $30. Visit trvbooking.com/206137

From left, Amy, Bianca and Reyanna in High School Musical.
Please Note: South Oakleigh College and DET do not endorse or accept responsibility for any products or services of any private advertisements.