Principal’s Report

A Hard-Earned Break for Paul Ryan

Paul Ryan is currently on long service leave, enjoying a well-earned break. Paul has worked tirelessly to establish and maintain the school in the vocational format we see today. In his absence, I have had the privilege of filling the role as Acting Principal. This has been an enlightening experience that has allowed me to see the work of staff on a much deeper level. I would like to take this opportunity to formally acknowledge the work of the educational support staff for assisting me in the administration of the school during this time; their systems, processes, communication and interactions with the school community is exceptional, sometimes in incredibly challenging circumstances. Thank you to Jamie Gray who filled the role of Acting Assistant Principal and Melanie Brooks for filling the role of Acting Leading Teacher. Paul will return for the commencement of Semester 2.

Integrated Curriculum Review

It has arguably been one of the busiest years in the College’s history since moving to a vocational college with the introduction of the new integrated curriculum model. Our teachers have produced some amazing work this semester in designing, delivering, evaluating and revising this innovative program that we now offer to our students. These programs have included a dramatic increase in the amount of applied learning in the college, as well as more related excursions to connect the learning beyond the school. In addition, the college has established new partnerships, and cemented existing partnerships, within and outside the college.

A recent survey of students identified an incredibly positive attitude towards this new model. Of particular note, students believe the curriculum has allowed them to become stronger and more confident people, there is a feeling of safety both in the classroom and at school generally, and students have good relationships with their peers and staff in the college. All of the indicators school-wide shows an overwhelming success, particularly at this infant stage of the program.

Open Day / Information Evening - 29th July

We will be holding our Open Day and Information Evening for prospective students for enrolment in 2016. If you have friends or family interested in enrolling at the College please ask them to contact the school on 9464 0122 for further information.

Reports

Reports will be mailed with this school newsletter. Reports clearly detail whether your son/daughter is up-to-date and whether the work submitted is at the required standard. The VCAL outcomes achieved to date will also be detailed in the report with supporting teacher comments. Please bring this report with you to the 3-Way Conference.

3-Way Student Led Conferences

3-Way Conferences are scheduled on the 20th July (this is the second Monday after returning from holidays). It is essential that you make a time with your son/daughter’s teacher. These conferences not only allow information to be communicated on student progress, but provide a valuable learning tool for the student. Additionally, a successful school is one that has active engagement and interest from parents and this is a good way to easily connect with the school.

Rod Sheehan
Acting Principal

Dates to Remember

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On Thursday 28th May the Senior students as part of our Crime and Punishment unit went on an excursion to the Old Melbourne Gaol. The students participated in the Court Room Drama, on a culpable driving case. The students chose roles and played out the court scene as it happened. After this we participated in a tour of the Old Melbourne Gaol. It was a great day and our tour guide commented on how well our students engaged in the programs and actively asked questions. **Michelle Galea Senior VCAL Coordinator**

We went to the Old Magistrates Court and we did a role-play of a court case about culpable driving. It was about a group of teens who had just graduated High School. They were in two cars that stopped at a red light, revved their engines, took off and then wrapped themselves around a tree. (Leigh M)

The court scene re-enactment was a similar experience to what the actual court case was like. The people that had a role had to dress and act accordingly to their particular role. (Mahmoud J)

I put my hand up for the role of a lawyer. I had to wear a black robe and white court wig, which looked pretty weird. I was getting nervous before reading out my lines but once I started reading the nerves went away. It was a good experience for me because I would generally be scared to read out in front of class. At the Old Melbourne Gaol, I didn’t think about pronouncing a word wrong which was good and it showed that I’m getting more confident in speaking in front of others. (Nathan P)

Overall, I really enjoyed this excursion. I had more freedom than the previous excursion. I got a valuable experience from the re-enactment and I am glad that I went. (Curtis B)

I was super excited about the Old Melbourne Gaol excursion. I had been before but only when I was little so I was ecstatic to go. The gaol cells were small and claustrophobic and I wouldn’t have been able to survive in an environment like that. (Crystal B)

The audience had to decide the fate of the culpable driver. We ended up deciding that Kim would spend three years in a youth detention centre and that’s what was officially decided. (Alex K)

We took a lot away from the experience. There’s nothing cool about trying to do better than anyone else in a car race. It can just get you injured or killed. (Anthony C)
Old Melbourne Gaol Reflective Comments cont...

Travis Ducret: "I thought this excursion was very interesting. It was interesting to hear how people used to get punished in jail."

Stephanie Wojtala: "I learnt that the Old Melbourne Gaol had men and women mixed in cells at one point."

Michelle Yacoub: "I felt it was a good excursion and very educational. I am also happy I was not born or raised in those times."

James Dimitrievski: "We went into a court room and chose roles for a role play of a real case about a guy who was driving and killed his two mates, we all did good."

Taylor Phillips: "My favourite part of the day on our excursion to the Old Melbourne Gaol was the role play."

Joshua Pasara: "I thought it was interesting to learn that Ned Kelly did not say "Such is life" as his last words."

Bec Mundy: "The best part of the excursion was the role play."

Brayden Child: "I really enjoyed it and had fun learning about the history."
Senior students attended the Police Museum on Tuesday 9th June where they learnt about Law and Order - Past and Present. They heard about real life cases, Squizzy Taylor and the Russell St bombings (they have the actual car there!) just to name a few. After lunch students participated in a Forensics Science workshop where they broke up into groups and had to solve a real case. They had to look at a realistic model of a body that was found in a National Park and piece together their evidence. We all came back together as a group at the end and the groups presented what they had found and solved the case.
Camp – 15 Mile Creek

This term students participated in a five day leadership camp at Outdoor School, 15 Mile Creek. 15 Mile Creek is located 220kms northeast of Melbourne and is nestled in a scenic rural valley in the foothills of the Great Dividing Range.

Students participated in a range of outdoor activities including bushwalking, overnight camping and water sliding. Students were challenged to learn in teams, to solve problems and overcome obstacles while focusing on achieving common goals.

Belinda Batty and Ashleigh Finch
Foundation VCAL Teachers

“Going on camp was one of the best experiences of my life. Although I was nervous to try all the activities I pulled through and did them all and I do not regret anything. I also loved all the bonding I got to do with the other students. I recommend all students go on future school camps.” Michelle

“Nature is just a quiet place that makes you think better with its beautiful nature sounds and no man made noises. Climbing the mountain was hard but worth it to see the beautiful view. I’m glad I did it.” Jacob

“On the first day I was dreading it, no phone reception and no talking to loved ones. But by the second and third day I was having a blast! It was so cool to just get out and do things that you wouldn’t normally do. I loved forming strong bonds with each individual that came along too! Go to camp, it’ll be one of the best experiences of your life.” Crystal
Scope Young Ambassadors Program

This term Foundation VCAL students participated in the Scope Young Ambassadors program. The program focused on providing learning opportunities for students to learn about diversity in the community. Students developed a range of skills to:

- Understand disability and diversity in the community
- Successfully communicate with people who have a disability
- Be aware of some of the challenges faced by people with a disability
- Encourage students to see the person, not the disability

Students participated in a series of workshops and visited Highpoint Industries and South East Industries where they worked alongside people with a disability and practice newly developed skills in a supported working environment.

Belinda Batty
Foundation VCAL Teacher
VCAL & VET COURSES
YEARS 10, 11 & 12

29th JULY 2015
OPEN DAY TOURS
10:00am - 12:00pm
2:00pm - 4:00pm

INFORMATION NIGHT
7:00pm - 8:00pm

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NEW IN 2016
APPLIED FASHION & DESIGN TECHNOLOGY