Principal’s Report

Firstly, I would like to welcome all new families to the college and welcome back all continuing families. It is great to have siblings, relatives and friends of current and former students enrolling as we commence to build a new history at Peter Lalor Vocational College. We encourage parents and guardians to be active participants by actively communicating with the college and participating in college community events.

We would like to welcome our new Assistant Principal, David McKay. David brings a wealth of experience in education and has previously been a Campus Principal at Malmsbury. His approach is very hands-on and he is committed to the development of both staff and students to ensure the best outcomes for young people.

Additionally, we welcome Ben Smith [Teacher] and three new Integration Aids: Steve Stokes, Joanne Newcombe and Angela Bartole. All of these staff will have a positive impact on our students through their passion for educating young people.

Excellent Start to the Year

It is always a pleasure to show visitors around the college knowing that our students demonstrate a mature and active approach to learning. Walking around the college this year the students are engaged in their work, actively participating and being respectful towards staff, visitors and each other. Much of this is attributed to the work of our teachers who have spent countless hours designing an applied learning program that continues to attract attention and interest of other applied learning educators around the state.

Student Numbers

We have had significant growth in previous years. This year the College will grow marginally and we will commence with 141 students. In each year level we have: Foundation (42 students), Intermediate (53 students) and Senior (46 students). Naturally, this will fluctuate slightly throughout the year.

School Council Elections and Annual General Meeting

We are calling for parents to join the school council. No special qualifications are required except an interest in your child’s education. All parents, guardians and community members are encouraged to nominate – see form attached to this newsletter.

3-Way Conference – 18 April 2016 (1.30pm-7.30pm)

Our parent teacher interviews are conducted as a ‘3-Way Conference’ where students give a presentation about their goals, the work they have completed to date and information about their VET program. This is a compulsory part of their course and is linked to their assessment of Literacy – Oracy Skills. You will be contacted closer to the date to book a time slot with your child’s teacher.

Accident Insurance

The Education Department does not provide personal accident insurance or ambulance cover for students. Parents and guardians of students, who do not have accident insurance / ambulance cover, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment, including the cost of ambulance attendance / transportation should the unfortunate need present.

Good Luck

I wish all students and their families the very best for the year ahead. I look forward to watching the students and college develop in the coming year.

Rod Sheehan - Principal

Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22 Feb</td>
<td>Parent BBQ 5.30-7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Mar</td>
<td>Labour Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 Mar</td>
<td>Last Day Term 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Apr</td>
<td>First Day Term 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Apr</td>
<td>3-way Conferences</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2016 Term Dates

- Term 1: 27 Jan to 24 Mar
- Term 2: 11 Apr to 24 Jun
- Term 3: 11 Jul to 16 Sept
- Term 4: 3 Oct to 20 Dec
Welcome to Foundation VCAL

At Peter Lalor Vocational College (PLVC) young people are empowered to make positive choices through relevant and engaging education programs that provide opportunities to explore academic, personal and vocational potential.

Students have made a personal choice to continue their education at the PLVC and achieve their senior secondary qualification. Our Foundation VCAL students will undertake a broad array of learning programs that will allow them to build social capacities and attain academic and vocational success.

We are excited about the year ahead and trust that students will enjoy their experience at PLVC and achieve the best possible outcomes.

Belinda Batty, Ben Smith & Peter Akbiyik

Foundation VCAL Teaching Team
INTERMEDIATE

The Intermediate level have had an extremely busy start to the year. All of our new students have been warmly welcomed by the ongoing students and everyone seems to have had a happy beginning.

The team have planned several excursions to enhance and extend the classroom academic activities based on the theme of War and Peace. On Tuesday 16th February we visited the Plenty Valley Regional Library in Lalor to kick start our Book Club program. We look forward to continually working with the Library throughout the year. On Thursday 18th February we will be attending the annual whole school picnic. On 23rd February will be visiting the Spirit of ANZAC exhibition as the RSL generously covered all admission costs for our students. We will also be visiting the National Gallery on 1st March. On 17th March students will be involved in several workshops at the Employment Opportunity Fair, and on the last day of term the students will visit the Shrine of Remembrance to participate in several educational opportunities and lay a wreath at the eternal flame.

In between all of those exciting excursions we have planned lots of exciting hands on classroom activities to stimulate learning, discussion and critical thinking. We actively invite parent participation and discussion. Please don’t hesitate to contact the team if you would like any further information or would like to join us on any of the fantastic excursions.

Melanie Brooks
Intermediate Coordinator.

Photos – Jacinta and George with completed origami peace cranes
Welcome to the new school year.

My name is Gabby Panozzo and I am the Senior Year Level Coordinator for 2016. With a background in Community Work and Youth Work, and in my third year at the school, I hope to be able to support all our students to make the most of their Senior Year at Peter Lalor Vocational College.

I work each weekday except Wednesdays, and if you would like to get in touch with me, I can be most easily reached on panozzo.gabrielle.f@edumail.vic.gov.au

I look forward to meeting all of you at some stage, hopefully at our upcoming school BBQ. It will be a great chance for parents and carers to meet the teaching team and our support staff. We can also show you around the learning spaces we are using for the year. Come and say hello to the spiny stick insects living in A5.

The other members of our Senior teaching team are Jamie Gray and Tracy Cooknell.

Jamie was part of the Senior team last year and is a wealth of information about the curriculum. Tracy joins the Senior team after a year with me at the Intermediate level in 2015, so like myself, already knows a lot of the students we are teaching this year.

The Senior VCAL year will require students to increase their self management and use of initiative. The expectation at this level is that students are the ‘drivers’ of their learning. This is in preparation for their entry into the workforce. The expectation is that students will arrive on time and prepared to work for class, they will make productive use of their time while there, and take advantage of the numerous and diverse opportunities to engage with their learning this year.

It has been a relaxed start to the year with students and teachers getting to know each other and the expectations for 2016. The remainder of term one will see the Senior students undertaking a unit on ‘Crime’. We will be supplementing our classroom activities with many excursions, applying a hands on approach to investigating and documenting some of our fascinating and dark history.

I will keep you updated with what we are working on, and ask that if you have any ideas or contacts that may add value to what we are offering, could you please get in touch. The more we can make the learning ‘real’ and interesting, the more fun we will have this year.

We will be sending information home regarding excursion permissions shortly, as well as information regarding the optional Senior Level Hoodie that will be available for purchase. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to get in touch.

Here’s to a great Senior Year.

Gabby Panozzo

Senior Coordinator
Appendix A: School Council Elections – Information for Parents

School Council Elections 2016

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within statewide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?

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

- A mandated elected Parent category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.
- A mandated elected DET employee category – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- An optional Community member category – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.
Schedule 4: Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of

PETER LALOR SECONDARY [VOCATIONAL] COLLEGE

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4.00 pm on

26 / 2 / 2016 (Insert date and year).

The ballot will close at 4.00 pm on

4 / 3 / 2016 (Insert date and year)

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY</th>
<th>TERM OF OFFICE</th>
<th>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 20...16...</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 20...16...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEECD employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 20...16...</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 20...16...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Principal
School Council Elections

Schedule 5A: Self-nomination Form for Parent Member Category

I wish to declare my candidacy for an elected position as a parent/guardian representative on the

............................................................................................................................................................................. school council.

Name:

.............................................................................................................................................................................

Residential address:

.............................................................................................................................................................................

Home telephone: .....................................................................................................................................................

Business telephone: ..................................................................................................................................................

Email:

.............................................................................................................................................................................

I am the parent/guardian of ................................................................................................................................., who is/are currently enrolled at this school.

I am an employee of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Yes / No (please circle)

I am prepared to serve as a Parent member of the above-named school council. I hereby declare that I am not an undischarged bankrupt and that I am not currently serving a sentence for an indictable offence.

Signature of Candidate ............................................................................................................................................ Date / /

You will be notified when your nomination has been received.

Personal information provided in this form is collected as part of the school council election nomination process. The information may be used to determine your eligibility as a candidate. Your personal information may be disclosed as a result of inspection prior to the commencement of voting or at any time up to one year from the declaration of the poll.

Your name will be included in a list of school council candidates and nominators (where applicable) posted in a prominent position at the school and for candidates, on a ballot paper (where applicable).

You can access your personal information by contacting the principal on... 94640122 …… ...

You may choose not to give some or all of the information requested; however, your nomination may not be accepted. If you have any queries about the school council nomination process, please contact the principal.