From the Principal

Open Evening Thursday April 28th 7.00pm - 9.00pm
This year we will have our Open Night for prospective Year 7 students on Thursday April 28th. Current families are more than welcome to attend. Can I ask families to pass this ‘save the date’ to any members of our community that may be looking for a secondary school in 2017 and beyond.

Swimming Sports
We were fortunate to have perfect weather on Monday for our whole school Swimming Sports; warm but overcast. The students were amazing in their bright colours with the day turning into a big pool party around the serious swimming events. The behaviour of the students was faultless and the swimming events were all conducted with outstanding sportsmanship (including the teachers after winning the relay!).

School Council
A reminder school council nominations close Tuesday March 1st at 4:00pm. Nomination forms are available from the General Office or via Compass. The nomination box can be found at the General Office. We would love to have as many parents as possible contribute to the school. Being on School Council is one rewarding way.

Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences Tuesday 22nd March
Another ‘save the date’ is Parent/Teacher Conference Day on Tuesday March 22nd, between 1:00pm and 8:00pm. More information will be given to parents soon. Can I remind parents of the importance of Parent/Teacher Conferences. Not only is it a great way to meet your child’s teacher and put a name to a face, more importantly, it sends a clear message to your child that you value their education. Normal school classes will operate in the morning until 12:20pm at which time students will be dismissed so that staff can prepare for interviews.

Year 7 BBQ
Thanks to the families of Year 7 students that were able to attend the Year 7 BBQ. It was a great evening for students and parents to meet each other. Speeches were kept to a minimum so that families could enjoy a relaxed mingle with the staff. A special thanks to the VET Hospitality students for cooking the BBQ!
Tips on Talking!

The beginning of the school year is a new and exciting time! It is the perfect opportunity for parents to engage in some great conversations with their children. Our students have many different learning experiences throughout the day, focussing on different curriculum aspects and learning concepts. Yet, often when asked about their day, the response can be very broad:

“It was good”, “I played cricket”, “Not much happened”.

If we want specifics, we need to think of explicit questions about key aspects of the day:

“What books did you read/listen to today”? “Did you write a story today, what was it about?”
“How are you trying to improve your writing?”

In a broader sense, the links between school achievement and parents’ ability and propensity to engage in conversation with children from a young age is indisputable. The language stimulation they receive when they talk with parents is one factor. The language of firstborns is generally more extensive and richer than their siblings who spend less time in one-on-one situations with a parent. In many ways it is through conversations that children get a real sense of us and who we are. It is by talking with our children that we impart some of our knowledge, ideas, wisdom and thoughts as well as how we get a window into their world and how they think.

Getting conversations going with some children can be a massive challenge. Busy schedules, homes designed for individual enjoyment rather than group living, and kids that clam up, are some of the blockers to conversation that parents meet.

Here are five ideas from Michael Grose (Parent Educator) to help you get more conversation going in your family:

1. Turn off the TV (and other screens):
Most homes have a range of electronic screens that you compete with to get their attention. Don't be afraid to take control of those screens and create a little conversational space. Start with a screen-free day each week or screen-free hour each day if you are a home full of screen junkies.

2. Turn on the TV (and other screens):
If you can't beat them, join them. Some television programs provide great conversational fodder particularly for older children and teens. This can range from “Who’s going to win Australian Idol?”, “What happens to the winners of Australian Idol?” to “What is the point of Australian Idol?”

3. Have more mealtimes (with the TV off):
The family that eats together talks together…or they should. So make mealtimes special and insist that kids sit until everyone finishes rather than they eat all their peas. Avoid turning mealtimes into food fights that you can’t win.

4. Move more:
If sitting and chatting is not your child’s thing then try getting them up and moving. Boys will often talk when they walk or play so consider getting some action happening. When their hands are busy the tongues will often loosen up.

5. Try shoulder-to-shoulder parenting:
Sitting together in a car, washing dishes and playing a game can provide opportunities for talk. Take the eye contact out of the equation and you may find the talk just flows with some kids.

Every family has their own way of getting the talk happening. Figure out what works for you and make sure it happens.

Scott Tully | Principal
Year 12 News

Our final year of schooling has started with an exciting first few weeks. From our first SACs to our last Year Level Camp to RMIT in the city, Melbourne University and The Australian Academy of Design. We were opened up to some opportunities that weren’t so obvious prior to the camp. At the end of the night, bowling and laser tag were what really brought our year level together to conclude an enjoyable experience. Receiving our Year 12 jumpers was an unexpected surprise when they came so early in the year. For many it was a reality check that we are now the older students of the school. I don’t think we could have had a more exciting beginning. We have all settled into the lifestyles of Year 12 students and are continuing to work towards achieving our goals.

The other Captains and I plan to share with you, fortnightly, the experiences and events we face in this upcoming year to include you in our Year 12 journey.

I wish the best for all the Year 12s, fast tracking students and of course the rest of the school for 2016 and believe greatly in their ability to achieve in this exciting new year!

Good Luck!

Mary McIntosh | College Captain

I am very proud to be chosen to be one of Upper Yarra Secondary College's Captains for 2016. The Captains are close friends of mine so it makes the role even greater being able to work with them. They are Mary, Brooke, Tatum and Chloe. Our goal is to create a positive mindset towards school and we are looking forward to achieving that this year.

On the first day back there was a BBQ during lunchtime for the VCE and Year 7 students. We got to say welcome to the new Year 7 students and have a sausage sizzle with them. Seeing some of the new students, and how nervous they were, reminded me of when I was in their shoes. It is a bit daunting thinking about how fast high school has gone. I hope to make the most of this year with my fellow classmates, teachers and College Captains.

For the Year 12s it is tradition for us to have a short camp in the city at the start of the year, to learn and have fun. We learnt some of the possible pathways we could take after we finish school by visiting some of the different universities and TAFEs. After visiting the tertiary institutions we relaxed and went ten pin bowling in Melbourne Central. This was a blast and even our new Principal Mr Tully joined us. It was definitely a memorable camp.

The start to this year has been great and I can’t wait for the rest of it!

Tuew Mon Aphai | College Captain

Hi my name is Chloe Verkes and I am Vice Captain for 2016, along with Brooke Brown. With the College Captains we would like to achieve a positive attitude throughout the student body within and outside the school. We would like to make the new Year 7 students feel welcome and comfortable, and help make UYSC an even more positive place to be a student. These are just a few of the ideas we have for 2016. I am very excited to have been offered this role as College Vice Captain, and I can’t wait for the rest of the year at Upper Yarra Secondary College. Never be afraid to come and talk to the College Captains about any concerns.

JOIN a COMMUNITY of GLOBAL FRIENDSHIP

As Abraham Lincoln once wrote: “...the best way to predict the future is to create it.”

Volunteer to host an international high school student from France arriving into Australia in May 2016 through Southern Cross Cultural Exchange and prepare to be amazed at the way this unique and rewarding opportunity helps your family to become closer, to understand themselves better and see the world in a new light.

You’ll have fun learning about cultural differences and language.

Carefully selected students from France arrive in mid May for one term. With excellent English language skills, they will attend a local Secondary High School, arrive, with their own spending money and comprehensive health insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange.

To enquire about becoming a volunteer host family visit us at www.scce.com.au Email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501

UPPER YARRA SECONDARY COLLEGE
CAMBODIA TOUR 2016
INFORMATION EVENING
On Wednesday 2nd of March in the UYSC Library at 7pm, there will be a Parent and Student Information Evening for the 2016 Cambodia Tour.

Information will be made available re passports, immunisations, visa requirements, fundraising, volunteering and health and safety.

See you there.

Bronwen Foley | VCAL Leader

CAMBODIA INFORMATION EVENING
Wednesday 2nd March 7.00pm
UYSC Library
Instrumental Music Lessons

If there are any students interested but have not handed in a form, they can collect a form from the General Office or talk to me directly.

The Concert Band Instruments offered are:
- Trumpet
- French Horn
- Trombone
- Flute
- Clarinet
- Saxophone
- Drums/Percussion
- Tuba

The Contemporary Instruments offered are:
- Guitar, bass guitar, voice, viola, violin and piano.

All students are required to participate in a school ensemble.

Angus Norwood | Instrumental Music Coordinator

Lady Somers Camp

This year I was fortunate enough to have to the opportunity to attend Lady Somers Camp. I found out about this amazing camp through the school and thought it would be a great way to make new friends and even step out of my comfort zone. I was one of 101 girls selected to attend this camp and I could not have been more grateful. The school was generous enough to sponsor me which helped pay for some of cost of the camp. I was also sponsored by two other organisations.

Arriving at camp on the first day I was not sure what to expect, being very nervous and not knowing anyone made everything worse, but that all changed. The girls I met are definitely people I see as lifelong friends. The camp taught me leadership, teamwork and most importantly confidence. I highly recommend both Lady Somers Camp and Lord Somers Camp for all girls and boys. It is a once in a life time opportunity and you will no doubt have the best week of your life.

Alannah-Jane Kioulafas | Yr 12

At the end of last year I applied for the Lady Somers Camp for 2016 and I was one of the 1 in 100. Due to a UYSC generous donation, I was able to experience the most amazing week of my life. Lady Somers Camp has completely opened a whole new window to look at life. You are thrown into the unknown for a whole week with 20 other girls and we had to do a whole heap of challenges as a team while getting to know each other. I highly recommend for both boys and girls in Year 11 going into Year 12 to do this camp because it will change your whole perspective on life and I honestly wish I could go again. I am going to leave with a few quotes. “Never judge a book by its cover,” “Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game” and “You can do anything if you put your mind to it”

Emma Warne | Yr 12

Cricket News

The Intermediate Cricket Team competed at Lilydale Heights on Wednesday 17 February. Led by the ever reliable captaincy of Jack Bourke, we won one out of three games to finish 6th in the Yarra Valley Competition.

Highlights were Riley Foy taking three wickets in one over, Cooper Holmes taking an absolute screamer of a catch, Jarrod Woolley, Nedbi Macdonald and Harry Bray all getting over 25 and having to retire. The boys represented the school well and we all had a great day.

Shaun Ferris | Year 9 Leader

Year 9 News

Year 9 Captains

We are proud to announce the Year 9 Student Leadership Team for 2016. These 12 students will help to organise and run the many events that are happening in year 9 this year. The team is: Billie Mills, Riley Foy, Amy Knight, Jamiee Brabazon-Hooper, Grace Bray, Jamin Hamnett, Tianna Harding, Jarrad McDonald Jones, Jonathon Pitman, Jess Myers-Denton with Monique Lee and Max Geddes as Year Level Captains.

These students have stated that they would like to focus on team building within the year level, fundraising, improving school appearance and cleanliness and creating practical and fun excursions and incursion for all Year 9s.

Shaun Ferris | Year 9 Leader
Year 9 Spirit of ANZAC

On Tuesday, 23rd February students in Year 9 got the opportunity to go to Melbourne to see the World War 1 Exhibition called the ‘Spirit of ANZAC’ and to also visit the Shrine of Remembrance.

The day started off with all of the Year 9 students who were going to go to meet at the train station at 8.20am to start the busy day that we were about to in counter. After we arrived in Melbourne we got off the train and walked to the Convention Centre were the World War 1 Exhibition was held. All of us where given a device and headphones for when we entered the rooms where all the memorabilia was displayed. Every time we entered a different section of the exhibition the headphones will start doing sound effects and talk about the information relating to that certain section.

There was so many amazing items that were from World War 1, it was incredible. There was nearly a story for every piece in the exhibition. There was even a wall that said Anzac Day and it was made from sown flowers, it was beautiful. After we all exited from the building we were all filled with knowledge about World War 1.

After we stopped and had some lunch we then headed over to the Shrine of Remembrance. When we arrived we entered the building where we were all given a poppy to place in the wall with all the other Poppies, It was an experience for us all to be able to join in with that. In the shrine there was so much to look at and see there were things like diaries, medals, photos, uniforms, videos and much more. At the shrine we got to see an interesting sound and light show that showed how Australian soldiers travelled to Gallipoli.

We all had a great day and found it very interesting looking at an important part of Australian history.

Jamiee Brabazon-Hooper Yr 9

Purple Ribbons

Two years ago many of us lost a dearly loved friend. To mark her passing Amy and Hayley from Upper Yarra and Rhys and Chelsea from Lilydale High had an idea to make purple ribbons for people to wear to remember her.

It took Amy and Hayley two days to make the 250 ribbons. They made the ribbons purple because that was her favourite colour.

Hayley and Amy made a post on Facebook about the ribbons to get the message out. Their post had 70 shares. Even parents and students from around the valley were asking for ribbons to wear. Everyone who came and got a ribbon wore them for a week until the date of her passing. We just want to thank everyone so much for wearing the ribbons to remember her and it was so amazing to see the amount of people with them on.

Thank you heaps.

Hayley Theobald 8D Amy Knight 9A
Swimming Carnival 2016

On Monday 22nd February the College held their annual Swimming Carnival. The day was a great success with all students and staff getting into the spirit and showing great enthusiasm throughout the day.

Congratulations to all the students for the way they participated on the day and for making it a very enjoyable for all involved. I am pleased to announce the staff had another successful win in the Staff-Student Relay, maintaining their impressive record.

Results

The overall winning house of the day was DONNA!

The overall house results are as follows:

Donna - 584 points
Acheron - 444 points
Yuonga - 296 points
Yarra - 259 points

The age group champions are as follows:

13YR Female Champion: Ashlee Shotter
46.0 points in 5 events
13YR Male Champion: Liam O’Dea
47.0 points in 5 events
14YR Female Champion: Camryn Partel
50.0 points in 5 events
14YR Male Champion: Kai Jenkins
39.0 in 4 events
15YR Female Champion: Monique Lee
29.0 points in 3 events
15YR Male Champion: Declan O’Dea
38.0 points in 4 events
16YR Female Champion: Macy Dobson
49.0 points in 5 events
16YR Male Champion: Matthew Rowan
44.0 points in 5 events
17YR Female Champion: Rachael Lee
50.0 points in 5 events
17YR Male Champion: Nicholas Bickerton
49.0 points in 5 events
20YR Female Champion: Tatum Summers
44.0 points in 5 events
20YR Male Champion: Jayden Pettit
37.0 points in 4 events

Once again well done to the staff and students for making it a sensational day! The next whole school sports event will be the Athletics Carnival on Monday, May 2nd.

Kelly Simmons | Sports Coordinator
Photo Challenge #1
Self-portraits
For their first assignment the Year 9 and Year 10 photography class had to take an interesting self-portrait. It needed to be more than just a ‘selfie’ and give us some insight into their personalities.

There were some amazing images produced by all the students but Paris Jarvis and Madeline Bennett captured images which stood out and have been awarded the PHOTO OF THE WEEK for this task. Olivia Pert and Phoebe McCarrey also took fabulous images.

Photo Challenge #2
Portraits
This week the students had to capture a portrait of someone else. It could be a family member, friend or even their pet. The quality of their images was outstanding and I am very proud of the work they have all done.

However, there was one image that totally amazed me and that was a portrait by Rachel Tonkin of her Dad. It is beautifully composed and edited and she should be extremely proud of this image. It has won her the PHOTO OF THE WEEK.

Billie Mills, Vanessa Blakis, Brittany Smith, Paris Jarvis, Olivia Pert and Phoebe McCarrey also captured great images.

Photo of the Week (#1) Madeline Bennett
Photo of the Week (#1) Paris Jarvis
Photo of the Week (#2) Rachel Tonkin

Laura Molan | Photography
Why should my child know their addition facts?

It has been established by research, that knowing your basic addition facts enables your brain to use more of its thinking power to learn and understand new ideas. It is much like driving a car. There are a number of things you do automatically after you are an experienced driver that took all your powers of concentration when you were a learner.

Students who don’t know their addition facts are at a real disadvantage in maths classes as well as Geography, History, Art, Science, Design Technology or Food Technology, where being able to understand simple calculations is assumed.

How can parents help students learn their basic addition facts? What is it that students should know? Firstly, it is important for students to know their times tables up to 12 times 12 and addition facts with either number up to 12. That sounds like a lot of facts to remember. Let’s see if there are any shortcuts.

Addition Facts

There are 144 addition facts. Sounds frightening? Looks frightening?

The simplest addition strategy is to “count on”, that is, to start at one of the numbers and count on by the other number. E.g. for 6 plus 3, start at 6 and say “7, 8, 9” and 9 will be the answer. This will always work but can be slow, for example when adding 8 plus 9. It is much easier to know the answer by heart.

Are there any shortcuts, as there were for the times tables?

- We can probably “count on” for addends (things we are adding) up to about 3, without much bother, so let’s leave them off the memory list. That leaves 81 to remember.
- Anything added to itself is just being “doubled” which is taught very early at primary school, so we can probably cross them off our list. (However, they may need revising). This removes another 9 facts.
- Anything plus 10 is simple, being the number with a ten in front, so there goes another 16 facts.
- Anything plus 9 is just one less than the answer when adding 10, so there goes another 14 facts. Total to learn, so far is: 81 – (9 + 16 + 14) = 81 – 39 = 42
- You should notice that there is a line of symmetry in the table because 3 + 6 is the same as 6 + 3 = 9. This means that we have fewer facts to learn. Counting only the unique facts, this leaves 21 facts.

Are there some shortcuts with adding 11 or 12? Could this list be even shorter? You could try testing your son/daughter on this list (or all) of addition facts as part of a game on a long car trip. Maybe they could test you? Could you then relate these to subtraction facts?

4 + 5 = 4 + 8 = 5 + 6 = 5 + 11 = 6 + 8 = 7 + 8 = 8 + 11 =
4 + 6 = 4 + 11 = 5 + 7 = 5 + 12 = 6 + 11 = 7 + 11 = 8 + 12 =
4 + 7 = 4 + 12 = 5 + 8 = 6 + 7 = 6 + 12 = 7 + 12 = 11 + 12 =

Debbie Morrish | Numeracy Leader