



UPPER YARRA
SECONDARY COLLEGE
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From the Principal's Desk



2020 Reflections

In our final newsletter of the year, it is a good time to pause and reflect on the year we have all endured! There have been many lows this year; however, there have also been a number of highs too. The resilience demonstrated in our school community has been fantastic.

Year 12 students, in their final year of schooling, have completed their VCE or VCAL certificate under the most trying conditions in history – and I can confidently say they have managed to get through it well for the most part. Our Year 7-11 students have similarly endured awkward Google meets, Google hangouts with their teachers and large portions of the year learning to be self-reliant for their own education. There have obviously been mixed results with the success of students in Remote Learning!

2021 UYSC Upgrade

We are about to embark on our third building stage in almost as many years. When students return in 2021 the new STEAM Pavilion should be open and ready for students. Brand new Science classrooms, lockers (for Year 8!) and new toilets, something desperately overdue.

At the same time we are preparing for a renovation of the Technology wing and demolition late next year of the Science and E Block to be replaced by a beautiful outdoor garden and paths. We are designing a new canteen and under-cover seating for students to eat their lunch – especially in the cold of winter. Finally we will begin the design phase of the library refurbishment and renovation of the D block. Some very busy but exciting times ahead!

Key Dates

Monday 23rd November to
Friday 4th December
Year 12, 2021 Orientation

Monday 30th November to
Friday 4th December
Year 11, 2021 Orientation

Thursday 3rd December
Year 12 Valedictory Garden Party

Friday 4th December
Years 7-11 Celebration Day
Last Day for Borrowing/Returning
Library Books

Tuesday 8th December
Grade 6 Orientation Day
8.50am - 3.05pm

Thursday 17th December
Last Day of Term Four
3.05pm Finish



NAIDOC Week Celebration BBQ Nov 13

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

...recognising excellence.

RESPECT · RESPONSIBILITY · EXCELLENCE · RESILIENCE



For consistently completing work to a high standard in Literacy:

BEAU SPICER

Year 7



For being respectful, kind and considerate to other students and teachers:

EZRA JAMES

Year 8



For a great improvement in her work ethic and academic performance in Maths this term:

HAYLEY DUNSTAN

Year 9



For helping a peer in need and showing Respect and Responsibility:

PERRIN GRAHAM

Year 10



For a mature and focussed approach to Orientation:

PAIGE BURNS

Year 11

Thank You

On behalf of the school, we offer our sincere gratitude to the students, families and the broader community for their support of the College this year. Although it has been a difficult year, one positive I take is the pride I have in our students and families for getting through it with a minimum of fuss. I thank you for your good communication, public support of the College and your willingness to work together for the greater good of our students and the community.

I, of course, am equally proud of the staff at Upper Yarra for their continued determination and dedication to the students. I can confidently say they have gone above and beyond this year.

Please enjoy a well deserved break this festive season. Stay safe, we look forward to seeing each and every one of you next year.

Scott Tully | *Principal*

Senior VCAL



Graduation Lunch



As a part of Unit 2 Work Related Skills students were tasked with preparing a three-course dining experience for their last day of school. This required each of the three groups to take on a dish as well as other duties such as table setting, invitations, managing dietary requirements and clean-up.

Students were also required to complete a Food Safety course as a part of their preparation. I am happy to report a most delicious lunch was had last Friday: Caesar salad, chicken parmigiana, and fruit salad and ice cream. All dishes were made from scratch, even the ice cream!



Addressing Adolescent Issues

As a part of Unit 2 Personal Development Skills students were required to identify issues impacting on adolescents in our community. Issues identified included: Mental Health, L to P driver safety, and Young Women’s Health. As a part of their research each group organised a guest speaker to present to an appropriate group of students. This included a visit from Lilydale Police and members of the UYSC Mental Health and Wellbeing team.



Coffee Cart Handover

In 2019 the Year 12 VCAL class was responsible for starting a business which could then be handed over to the next year’s VCAL class for them to continue. The UYSC VCAL coffee machine has been a big hit with the staff and has been an engaging source of applied learning for the students. They have had to learn not only barista skills, but also learn how to order and manage supplies, maintain the equipment and manage finances.

Last week saw the official handover of the Coffee Cart to Year 11 VCAL, with many students being trained in the art of coffee making. Fortunately, there was no shortage of ‘product testers’. This endeavour is only possible with the ongoing support from Mr Gardiner and Miss Sloan, who work hard behind the scenes to ensure all students have the opportunity to learn new skills.

Bronwen Foley | VCAL

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STEAM Pavilion Building Update

The exterior is nearing completion!





Year 12 Exam Yoga and Relaxation



During the past few weeks whilst Year 12s have been completing our exams, Ms McKay has been holding various yoga sessions to aid the Year 12s during this stressful period. During these sessions we have participated in a range of yogic activities, as well as breathing exercises targeted towards developing a calm mental state. Through these sessions we have been able to take a step back and detach ourselves from the anxiety of our exams which has been extremely beneficial and allowed us to have a nice little break from the demands of Year 12.

Katyayani Sagar-Gordon | Year 12



Year 9/10 3D Art



The 3D Art students have been collecting inspiration to develop and design their own unique characters...who are now ready to come to life, in clay! To practice the new techniques, the students sculpt one facial feature (eyes), pass it to the right, sculpt a nose, pass it to the right and so on and so forth. Collaboratively, they formed a class set of eccentric and explorative faces!

Penny Hale | Year 9/10 Art



Year 9/10 Coaching SEPEP Unit (Sport Education in Physical Education Program)



Both the Year 9 and 10 coaching students have had the opportunity to participate in the SEPEP Unit since returning to school. The students have been able to be involved in the whole process of a sport including taking on the roles of coach, captain, umpire, score keeper, vote counter and time keeper. Students came together to choose a sport and determine the rules and game draw for the season. Year 10 students chose spikeball and Year 9 students chose rugby.

The Year 10s completed their last lesson of the SEPEP practical session this week. The final lesson included a Grand Final, which contained two very competitive teams who have improved dramatically over the lessons playing the sport.

Well done to all the coaching students. The learning they experienced provided an holistic approach to a specific sport's competition.

Ben Blattman | Health and Physical Education

Year 10 Leadership Community Project



Thank you to all staff for your amazing generosity in providing goods for our hampers. We also raised \$1100 from staff and the local community which will enable us to make up another 20 hampers. These hampers will go to the Redwood Centre and Benwerrin, as well as disadvantaged people in the community.

Mitch Gray | Year 10 Leadership



UYSC Environmental Council



Climate change is a defining issue of our time.

Climate change could be irreversible by 2030...

Light from the sun passes through the atmosphere and is absorbed by the earth's surface, warming it. Greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide act like a blanket trapping heat near the surface and raising the temperature. The main cause is burning fossil fuels like oil, gas and coal. When burnt, fossil fuels release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere causing the planet to heat up. But there are ways we can prevent this and save the planet.

You should learn more about the carbon emissions you cause, like if you drive cars consider using an electric car instead as an alternative. You should use renewable power such as solar panels. Also you should walk, cycle or take transit instead of driving and limit your travel. You could also reduce your food waste. You can also use more efficient light bulbs. And you could also reduce your water waste.

Did You Know That:

Indonesia is moving its capital city because it's sinking?

By mid-century 30%-50% of all species will be extinct?

Climate change will soon cause approximately 250,000 deaths per year?

Many leaders still aren't taking it seriously?

Do you want to help the environment?

Do you want to make change?

Then maybe join the Environmental Council!

Contact Ms. McGillicuddy at the Year 8 office or speak to Jerikai Jones in Year 8.

Jerikai Jones | Year 8



Year 7 Physical Education



Today I will learn about life-long physical activities.

Year 7 Yellow Health and Physical Education class learning about golf, enjoying the gorgeous sunshine and beautiful school grounds outside (and playing in the sandpit during a volleyball lesson).

Jessica White | Year 7 Health and Physical Education

UYSC Rain Gauge Update



Measurements taken from four different locations throughout the college since mid-November average at:



56 ml of rain

Tyler Reid | Year 7

Steve Listopad | Chaplain, Wellbeing Team



Your Library Books! Return. Renew. Borrow again for the holidays.

Last day for Library borrowing/returning is **Friday December 4th.**

Finished it? Return it. (Check around at home!)

Reading it? Renew it.

Want a book to read over the holidays? Borrow it.



littleBits with Yarra Ranges Tech



Students in Year 7 have taken part in a 'Design Thinking' project through the Yarra Ranges Tech School. Through virtual lessons delivered by the tech school teachers, students investigated ways to use technology to help farmers to grow and protect their crops.



Using 'littleBits' technology students designed machines to do a range of things such as promote plant growth, keep track of watering, cool plants and scare birds. Students then presented their ideas to their classmates and the staff at the tech school.

Thank you to Mr Cook for all his work organising the project.

Monique Rohr | Year 7 FLIP