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SECONDARY COLLEGE
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From the Principal's Desk



The conclusion of the 2023 academic year is almost upon us, which we will mark with Award Ceremonies recognising effort and excellence, and celebration days for students. Then will begin an End of Year Program with an emphasis on fun and connections between students. We have tried to plan activities students have requested or would enjoy.

Congratulations!

There have been many highlights this year. Most recently, we farewelled the graduating Class of 2023 at their Valedictory dinner. It was a wonderful night and exemplified how amazing this Class of 2023 has been over their time at UYSC. We sincerely congratulate our students on completing their time with us, wish them well with their results and more importantly, their future endeavours.

The school production this year seemed to take the quality of performance to another level. All staff and students involved should be immensely proud. Not long after, our instrumental students put on their end of year concert, which again was the highest quality I have seen in my time at the College.

Highlights

We have been fortunate to have new buildings completed (which are beautiful and lovely to be in), however the 'small' things have been my biggest highlights. The school pride and camaraderie of staff and students at Swimming and Athletics Days, and more recently, the number of students playing disc golf each lunchtime. It is amazing to see students active, having fun and showing respect! Overall, my greatest highlight this year is the 'vibe' of this wonderful place. It is the way students speak to each other and treat each other. It is the positive interactions between the staff and the students. It is the fact that after 8 years as the principal of this school, I still love my job, the College, and the people in it.

Please note that **Tuesday 19th December** will be the final day of the school year for students. Return for next year - **Tuesday January 30th** Years 7, 11 & 12 and **Wednesday January 31st** for Years 8, 9, and 10.

To our families who are travelling during a well deserved break over the Christmas period, we wish you safe travels. To all our families and students, we wish you quality family time and a safe break. We look forward to seeing you in 2024.

Scott Tully | Principal



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2023!

Key Dates

Monday 20th November to Friday 1st December
Unit 3 & 4 Orientation

Monday 27th November to Friday 1st December
Unit 1 & 2 Orientation

Wednesday 6th December to Tuesday 19th December
End of Year Program

Monday 11th December
VCE Results and ATAR Released

Tuesday 12th December
Grade 6 Orientation Day

Tuesday 19th December
Last Day of School
(3.05pm Finish)

Monday 29th January 2024
UYSC Office Opens

Tuesday 30th January
First Day Term 1
Year 7, VCE and VCE VM

Wednesday 31st January
First Day of Term 1
Years 8, 9 and 10

Friday 2nd February
School Photos Day



Community Bank
Warburton and Yarra Junction
Bendigo Bank

SPOTLIGHT ON EXCELLENCE



For always being organised and ready to learn. Helping her peers in class and being a positive and motivated learner.

BLAZE HAGEN



For responsibility when completing STEAM research and tasks to a high standard.

LUCY PRITCHARD



For responsibility when completing STEAM research and tasks to a high standard.

XAVIER VEENKER



For demonstrating fantastic leadership skills and supporting her peers in all aspects of schooling, especially during Model UN.

MARLEY PERRY



For helping to organise practical activities in a teacher's absence.

AUSTIN RAYNER



For consistent application and focus in his Year 12 subjects both 2023, and in 2024 Orientation classes.

LUKE TIMONEY



Unit 2 Geography Fieldwork



On the 19th of October the Year 11 VCE Geography class went into Melbourne's CBD to conduct fieldwork and data collection for our study of 'tourism'. We got to Flinders St Station around 9:15 am and started our journey to Federation Square. Each group split up and went their separate ways, seeing locations such as the Queen Victoria Market, State Library, Old Melbourne Gaol, South Wharf DFO and Treasury Gardens.

We all got the full city experience, finding our way on public transport, seeing how different city life is, and seeing how different people interact with each other. Thanks Ms Finn for booking us a banquet in Chinatown for lunch. We ordered so much food and it was all delicious, and the staff were so lovely to accommodate us. On the way home we went to Hosier Lane and into Culture Kings.

Finally we headed back to Flinders St Station where we almost missed the train, but thankfully we all made it just in time!

Big thank you to Ms Finn for organising this day for us, and thank you to Ms White who came along with us.

Hannah Darwall Year 11



Unit 2 Geography - Tourism Unit



To finish our unit on 'Tourism', we decided to throw a banquet of food from all over the world. Each student nominated a country and a food that originated from their chosen country. We had carrots from Afghanistan, fairy bread from Australia, nachos from Mexico, bruschetta from Italy, strawberries from France, and Tzatziki dip from Greece, just to name a few. We set up our banquet with flags to mark each country and we were also able to try some of our exchange student Rico's smørrebrød from his country Denmark.

Amanda Finn | Geography



2024 Food Studies



Our 2024 Food Studies students have commenced coursework in Orientation Week. They have investigated gut health, producing a Prebiotic and Probiotic salad bowl. Ingredients selected all support a healthy digestive system. Off to a great start, well done everyone.

Julie Cross-Gunn | Food Studies



Proud Recipients of the 2023 Prestigious Ian De La Rue Youth Initiative Award

Cooper Allum and Marley Perry were announced as joint winners of this year's award. This \$1,000 Award is presented in the spirit of the late Ian De La Rue OAM, first Chairman of the Warburton Community Bank 1999-2005 and a member of the Steering Committee that founded our Community Bank.

"We are pleased to have not just one but two extraordinary recipients this year who exemplify all that the Award stands for and congratulate and thank Cooper and Marley for their contribution to the community at such a young age. They are clearly destined for great things and we wish them the very best in whatever they pursue!"

Space-X-plore Tour

12 day STEM focused tour departing early DEC 2024:

- Astronaut training and Mars Base 1 experience at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Orlando, Florida
- STEM program onboard the aircraft carrier USS Hornet
- Walk across the Golden Gate Bridge to explore the science behind its construction
- Visit The Exploratorium, with hundreds of hands-on science exhibits
- Physics of Rollercoasters program at Knott's Berry Farm
- Hollywood tour, Universal Studios, Sea World and Disneyland!

\$10,495 AUD departing Melbourne, and includes: international and domestic fares, transfers, accommodation, admission to attractions, daily breakfasts and some meals, and comprehensive travel insurance

Global Learning Expeditions

INFORMATION EVENING
Early Term 1

Scan QR code to register interest



Year 10 Mock Interviews

On the 3rd of November, Year 10 students participated in Mock Interviews. All of the students interviewed well, which made choosing the successful candidates a very difficult process!

Health - Charli Vandersluis

Education - Ella Dainter-Bevis

Admin - Emily Brown

IT - Ben Hall

Apprenticeships - Nicola Sykes

Hospitality - Darcie Ball

Animals and Environment - Madelyn Wray

And well done to our 28 highly recommended candidates!



Year 10 Leadership Clean Up Lilydale Lake



Students have been studying the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the areas of Climate Action and Life on Land. After discussion and planning, on Friday 3rd of November, the Year 10 Leadership class travelled to Lilydale Lake with gloves and heavy bags to do a thorough clean up of the area. I was happy to see the level of commitment they brought to the task.

They wanted to make a difference, and left the area spotless, which included fishing wet plastics and dirty cans out of the reeds. The students went through the bushes to collect rubbish from areas that had been ignored. We ended up collecting 4 large bags of rubbish. Joel Pratt also found a tiger snake, but we left that alone! The students gained real awareness of the personal pride that you get from selfless acts. Many of the public congratulated them on their efforts, one person even demanded that they accept \$30 to buy some ice cream.

Mitchell Gray Leadership



Basketball Skills Clinic and Match Play



Brad from Crossover Basketball came and shared his expertise with 60 Year 7 - 10 students. He ran three basketball coaching clinics that allowed students to execute new skills and develop existing skills. Students then finished with match play. It was awesome to see everyone enjoying the sport they love. **Amanda Finn | Year 8 Leader**




It was nice that we got to work on our skills and stuff like that. I would enjoy this to happen again in Year 9.


Arlo Haynes Year 8



Morning with a Geneticist

 Students in Year 9, 10 and 11 were treated to a genetics incursion on Friday 10th November. Students heard a talk from a geneticist, where they were able to ask questions about what types of jobs are available in the genetics field. They also participated in a practical activity involving *Drosophila* - the Common Fruit Fly. Students used the knowledge from their classes to determine what mutations these flies had.

Julianne Kannangara | Science

 On Friday the 10th of November, me and a dozen or so other Year 10 students participated in a science incursion with a practicing geneticist. During the incursion to demonstrate how different pairings of alleles can affect the phenotype of an animal, we were tasked with examining the different types of wings present on fruit flies. Getting to meet someone who worked in that field was extremely helpful to everyone as considering professions in science can be very daunting. Overall it was a really good experience which I was lucky to be a part of.

Arlen Anderson Year 10



Building Report



The final stage of the building program is almost complete! The female toilets and Year 10 locker room will be complete in the coming weeks and the landscaping of the area is beginning to take shape. All works are due for completion at the end of the year and will be ready to use in January 2024.

Additionally I would like to thank everyone who made a contribution to the Buildings and Grounds Fund through the payment of school fees in 2023. We have been waiting for the Capital Works project to be completed and will purchase outdoor furniture to complement the landscaping in this area.

I look forward to sharing this with you in 2024!

Michael Schultz | Assistant Principal





Year 12 Valedictory 2023



Good evening family, friends, teachers, and, of course, the graduating class of 2023.

Today, our high school journey has come to a hopefully fulfilling end, and we each stand on the starting line of a new chapter in our lives. But now it is time for us to reflect on the past 6 years, and reminisce on the many memories made over that time. We forged friendships that will last a lifetime, and with these people, created some of the best experiences of our lives. Whether it was a camp, an excursion, or just a regular period 5 on a Thursday, we will look back on these days fondly, and be thankful for the experiences we were lucky enough to have with our friends and peers.

Today is also a day of celebration. We each have our victories and achievements gained over these years. Many of us have tackled our exams head-on and survived, whilst others have worked hard to achieve their certificate. Some of us have dedicated hours to study thoroughly for a sac, and now get to see it all pay off, whilst others had pushed themselves at interschool sports and went on to compete in higher levels. Even small victories, like making it through a period of English, deserve to be recognised.

Now I would like to express on behalf of the cohort, immense gratitude to our phenomenal teachers. They have guided us through these past years and have dedicated countless hours preparing classes, providing resources, and enabling us to become the people we are today. On top of that, they are awesome, kind-hearted people who care for every single student. Thank you for everything you have done for us. Now, a well-deserved thank you to all the parents and caregivers of the students, for supporting your child during their high school careers, allowing them to flourish into the young adults you see today. And lastly, I would like to thank my fellow graduates. We pushed each other to be the best version of ourselves and have made lasting memories for those around us.

It is now time for us to look forward to the future. Each of us will walk our separate paths, and who knows where we will end up. So let's dream big, follow our passions and grab life by the horns. I wish you all the best in your future endeavours, you've got this.

Congratulations, Class of 2023! Our journey has been amazing, but the best is yet to come! Thank you.

Jarred Harvey Year 12 Valedictorian



CLASS OF 2023!



Christmas Craft at Lunchtime in the Library!





YRTS Maths Excursion



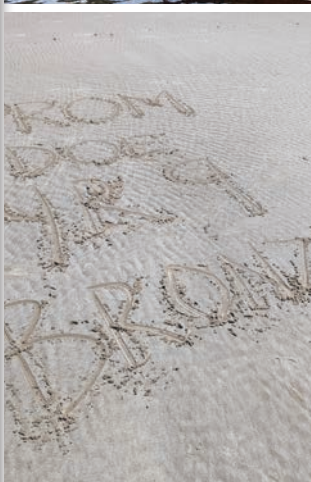
The financial excursion at the Tech School was really fun and informative. First we got to play a farming game in which we built up

our farms as well as learning about making good financial choices. I think this activity taught me a lot about using money wisely and to include budgets while spending.

After that we got to create a restaurant with the ingredients we got from our farm. This taught us about bartering and trying to gain a profit, which is a very important thing to learn about in retail especially.

Finally we got to code a robot. We had to make it go around obstacles by giving it instructions on an iPad. I found it fun trying to figure out what all the different commands meant and did, and there was a lot of trial and error. Overall the Tech School excursion was very educational and taught us about many life skills that we will need in the future.

Joe Archer Year 7



Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh - Wilsons Promontory Adventure



The Duke of Edinburgh students worked towards creating and designing their adventurous journey. Starting with our trip preparations in Term 3, they developed the skills to plan for a safe and sustainable outdoor adventure.

On the 8th of November the students embarked on their trip. On this warm and sunny Wednesday we began our journey at Tidal River in Wilsons Promontory National Park. The students walked out to Little Oberon Bay, taking in the magnificent turquoise blue waters and unbelievable white sand beaches along the way. The walk was rewarded with a swim in Normans beach.

On Day two, the students enjoyed a stand-up paddle boarding session, paddling up Tidal River and learning the skills of manoeuvring the board, finishing with a swim in the river. Students also enjoyed an impressive walk to the top of Mount Bishop, taking in the breathtaking views across the southern end of Wilsons Prom. Finally, finishing with a hike across to Squeaky beach, where the students admired the large granite coast line and beautiful beaches.

Day three, the students finished their journey with a walk to the top of Mount Oberon, taking in some final views of the Prom before heading back to school.

Well done to all of the students that participated in the adventurous journey, they developed their skills over the trip and began to understand the foundations of an outdoor adventure. A big thank you to Olivia Hall and Aidan Tsoumbakos for their support on this trip.

Ben Blattman | Duke of Edinburgh Leader



Year 9 Taste of Outdoor Education - Mount Buffalo Camp



On Tuesday 14th November we made our way to North East Victoria and into the Victorian Alpine Region. After a quick pizza pitstop in Bright, we ventured up to Mount Buffalo's Lake Catani to set up camp. After a chilly night, where temps dropped to 2 degrees, we set off on a bush walk. Our journey took us to a number of awesome granite rock features, including the Monolith and Og Gog Magog, where we had lunch. After a long day of walking we enjoyed a dip in the lake to cool off. We finished the day watching the sunset from The Horn, where we watched birds fly around eating the bogong moths as they came out from the rocks. With tired legs, we were happy to crawl into our tents. The next morning we were greeted with more sunny weather for our rock climbing adventure day. We met our guides and spent the morning refining our skills at the local climbing crags. This was the first time that we had experienced climbing on 'real' rock and we discovered it is a lot harder than in the rock gyms. After lunch, we drove out to The Cathedral and we split into two groups, a challenging group, and a not as challenging group. The challenge group began the ascent of The Cathedral which including squeezing through narrow cracks, climbing up rock faces and embracing our inner Spider-Man/Woman, before finally abseiling down to the bottom. The not as challenging group completed a steep abseil before coming to watch the rest of us descend.

Well done to everyone who participated in this camp. We faced many challenges and gained some valuable life experiences along the way. Big thanks to Mitch Gray and Aidan Tsoumbakos for their help and support on this camp.

Casey Wright | Outdoor Education



Transition Visits

Finn Wilson returned to his old primary school to chat to students about their transition next year. Well done Finn!

"A big thanks to Finn Wilson, a past student, for coming along to chat with Don Valley Primary School Year 6s about their upcoming transition to secondary school. Finn spoke about all the little and big worries they might have such as lockers, buses, timetables and friendship. He gave them some great insight and advice."



The World of Photosynthesis



Year 9 Students have been busy studying the natural environment. Students attended an excursion to the Royal Botanic Gardens - Cranbourne. They learnt about native vegetation and biomimicry. This was followed up with an incursion at UYSC, students investigated and compared various plant adaptations, then conducted a practical on phototropism. Thanks to Grass

Roots Sustainability and the Branch Out grant for providing students the opportunity to learn and experience hands-on activities in relation to the topic of ecosystems.

Marcus Cook | Innovation Learning Specialist



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