



# PARKDALE SECONDARY COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Fortnightly Newsletter - Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020

## **Vale James Patrick (Jim) Murrphy**

18 March 1945 – 1 June 2020



Jim began his teaching career in 1964, attending Melbourne Teachers' College as a 'student in training'. He joined Parkdale Secondary College in 1974, after teaching at Moorleigh, Hadfield and Lyndale High Schools. In 1982 he was promoted to 'Senior Teacher' and in 1989 became Vice Principal at Parkdale, a position he held until 2000. Jim continued to teach part-time at Parkdale until retiring in 2007.

I am most fortunate to have taught with Jim Murrphy at Parkdale Secondary College for many years. Jim was the heart and soul of Parkdale Secondary College, particularly when we all knew it as Parky High. He was an amiable man, always cheerful and encouraging. His students loved him, particularly his typing classes in the early days. Those girls are all well into their fifties now, and they will be sad to lose their "Uncle Jimbo."

When I came to Parkdale High School in 1977, Jim was the dominant personality in the staffroom. His laughter and his stories drew us all to him. He had a quick wit and he made people comfortable. Jim made it clear that this was a happy place to work. His mischievous sense of humour always suggested to me, that he may have been a bit of a scallywag in his own schooldays. He seemed to reserve a special empathy for those who strayed, and I never saw him speak angrily to a child. Jim's way was to listen, forgive and ask for greater effort. These days, a Year Level Co-ordinator must jump all manner of hoops to deal with recalcitrant rascals. As a Year 9 co-ordinator, Jim liked to visit troubled lads on their own turf. On one famous occasion when Jim visited the home of a regular absconder, hoping to win him over, the boy fled and jumped the back fence. Jimbo jumped over after him. Just for a chat. The boy was at school the next day.

It was natural that I would enjoy Jim's company. He was a dyed-in-the-wool North Melbourne man, and his eyes would light up and his voice would assume a growling determination when he offered his predictions for the weekend's footy. I am a Tiger fan and more than once we met at the MCG when our teams clashed during the eighties. Jim had the best of those meetings. He was happy, as long as his team played with grit and courage and a dash of magic. Not surprisingly, Schimma, the Krakoeur brothers and King Carey were his favourites. Jim placed determined effort and loyalty at the top of his list of qualities that were non-negotiable. A strong unionist, Jim impressed upon us the importance of standing up for ourselves, and doing everything we could to advance the cause of public education, and the interests of Parky High in particular.

For many years, our school felt like a family. We all knew each other by name. We knew every student. The staff would regularly hold social gatherings at someone's home at the start of the year to share a glass and swap yarns.

Jim was so proud of his own family and their achievements, which he willingly shared with anyone and everyone. When his son Martin followed him not only into a career in Education, but also joined him as a fellow teacher at Parkdale, it was the pinnacle for Jim.

Jim thrived as a mentor and he had genuine admiration for so many students, often expressing his astonishment at their achievements. He coined the phrase, "Parky Champions", a title he bestowed on students like Margit Lindgaard, who was the star of his Girls Cricket Team. He would laugh with delight when returning to school after his girls had won again, and Margit had skittled their opposition with the new ball, then hammered their bowlers all over the park. When Jim became Deputy Principal, he handed the reins over to me and eagerly sought me out after matches, to learn how his champions had played. Jim's champions included anybody exhibiting good character and striving to contribute to the school's betterment. Students could depend on his interest in them. Jim went out of his way to attend school plays I staged, and he always made sure that I understood the pleasure he had felt, watching the students' performances.

As a Deputy Principal, Jim may well have saved Parky's life. In the dark days of school closures in the 80's, our student numbers dropped alarmingly, and we saw nearby schools at Beaumaris and Bonbeach disappear. There was a strong feeling that we were in a precarious position. It was Jim's job to monitor our numbers, and his creative work at census time prompted apocryphal stories that may well have concealed a concern we never fully appreciated. The only time I saw Jim angry was in a staff meeting and he was furious. He considered that the views of some staff members underestimated the severity of the school's position. The school was very important to Jim. He regularly organised weekend working bees after marshalling parental support. I know that there were many other occasions when he was at school in his own time, attending to maintenance or just making sure that all was well.

Jim never changed throughout his career, whatever role he was asked to play. Life is to be enjoyed and we should never take ourselves so seriously that we lose our sense of fun. It is so often the little things that special people leave as their legacy. Jim had his own style, a genuine and genial friend whose delightful turn of phrase was always accompanied by a mischievous twinkle in his eye. He stuck his head around the door to our little staffroom in the N Corridor, late one Friday afternoon, chiding us for still lingering on the premises.

Jim will be mourned by all who knew him and by the many Parky students fortunate to have studied under his guidance.

He was above all, the most decent of men.

Vale Jimbo.

**Andrew Mullett**

## Principal's Report – David Russell

### Return to Face to Face Learning

Today, Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June, we welcomed back our Year 7-10 students. They joined with our Year 11-12 students who returned to onsite learning on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May.

Firstly, I congratulate our senior students for the way they have returned. They have shown a very mature approach to the changes that have been put in place. We are now looking to the Year 7-10 students to do the same. These changes primarily relate to the non-use of lockers, the social distancing in classrooms, changes to movement patterns in corridors and buildings and personal hygiene practices. These will be explained to Year 7-10 students and we ask that parents reinforce these changes with your children.

A significant change that commenced with the Year 11-12 was the staggered dismissal time. This has been introduced to even out the flow of students leaving at the end of the day. The dismissal times for students have been advised in earlier communications.

A new change to the daily program that will commence on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June is the staggered lunch break to reduce the number of students in the yard at one time. Until further notice Year 10-12 students will have their lunch break during the normal period 4 time, they will then have period 4 during the normal lunch break. The year 7-9 students will continue with the normal timetable. This decision as to who changed was based on the timetable. Year 10-12 students do not have double periods across periods 3 and 4. Their classes are discrete periods in this timeslot whereas Year 7-9 can have double periods in this time, in particular electives including arts, technology, PE, etc.

## Principal's Report Continued

I remind all students and parents that social distancing in the yard and at recess and lunchtime is very much the responsibility of the individual student. This responsibility then extends to travelling to and from school whether that be walking, riding or catching the bus.

I also ask all parents to only come on to school grounds if an appointment has been made prior. These will be very limited at this time. If your child(ren) forget(s) to bring an item to school we respectfully ask that you not bring it to the school for them.

All of the changes are in place until further notice. They will be reviewed on a regular basis and adjusted. Changes may also be made if restrictions are revised by Chief Medical Officer and the DET. Again I take this opportunity to thank all parents for their support of the college and its staff through this isolation period. I look forward to your continued support with the steps we have implemented for the return of students to onsite learning.

**David Russell**  
Principal

## IMPORTANT DATES - TERM 2 - 2020

<b>June</b>	
<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	Year 7, 8, 9, 10 & 10 (VCAL) Commence
<b>26<sup>th</sup></b>	Term Two Finishes

## Junior School Report

I would like to welcome back all our Junior School students to on-site learning – we are very pleased to see you all back at school. I hope that you are getting used to doing things a little bit differently – following the signs that indicate entry and exit points around the school, social distancing and practicing good hygiene. You also need to ensure you are well organized before leaving home and you have all the items you need for each day in your school bag.

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May, Year 8 students participated in a remote Wellbeing Day. One highlight of this day was the webinar hosted by Brett Lee. The focus was cyber safety and the key messages from the session included:

- The internet is public and permanent
- How to protect your personal details online
- People you know only via the internet are actually strangers
- There are rules that must be followed when you access the internet
- Make sure you have a trusted adult you can talk to if you have an online problem

The student session was followed in the evening with a parent webinar. This session not only reiterated the messages that were given to students but included useful tips for parents and explored the role of the esafety commission. Five principles for parents include:

- Set clear rules and boundaries
- You make the final decisions
- Use management controls
- Stay up to date with their usage
- Communicate with your kids

## Junior School Report Continued

Another interesting point made, was the idea that when your kids go out in the physical world as parents you insist on knowing where they are going, who they will be with, what time they will be home, etc. Should this apply to the cyber world?

Further information and resources can be found at:

<https://www.internetsafeeducation.com>

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/>

**National Reconciliation Week (27/5 – 3/6)** is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia. All Junior school students participated in a range of activities to mark this important event.

The Year 9 students had the opportunity to view the documentary 'In My Blood It Runs'. A moving film that explores many complex themes. At the conclusion of the film the students were asked to provide feedback about issues that are important to them. I was impressed by the maturity, depth and passion of their responses. This will assist the Year 9 team to prepare for upcoming seminar days in the CONNECT program.

The Parkdale community was saddened to hear the news of the passing of Jim Murrphy. Jim was a staff member at Parkdale Secondary from 1974 to 2007, and Assistant Principal for eleven years. He was a remarkable man who will be sorely missed. I know many of our current parents who attended Parkdale Secondary will remember him fondly.

**June Sainsbery**

**Assistant Principal- Junior School & Wellbeing**

## Senior School Report

It's great to have the 'buzz' back in the senior centre with the return to school of our year 11 and 12 students. Students have settled back in nicely and we have been very happy with the respect and care on display. This week we welcome back all our year 10 students, and we're looking forward to a degree of routine returning to school life.

While our focus has been on the return to face-to-face teaching and learning, we are also planning some important upcoming processes. Course counselling for 2021 will be taking place in our usual timeframes, which means that the beginning of Term Three will have much time devoted to information sharing, discussions and counselling. At this stage our usual information nights will not be occurring at the college. We are working through logistics, but this information will be provided via an online video platform to ensure all students and parents can access this. Handbooks will be provided as usual and we foresee the individual student counselling will still occur. The possibility of parent/carer attendance to these sessions will be dependent on advice closer to the time. Students will be provided with further information in the coming weeks. It is important for students to start thinking about the subjects they may like to study next year and having conversations at home and at school about this.

Over the past two weeks a number of students have had their bikes confiscated for riding to school without a helmet. If your child rides to school, please remind them that it is necessary to wear a helmet (and the strap needs to be done up, just sitting on your head is a pointless exercise). I've personally attended three accidents in the past 18 months involving our students on bikes. Luckily, on all three occasions, these students were wearing helmets and while shocked, bruised and cut, were able to walk away from it. I urge all students to take their own safety seriously.

**Michael Tuck**

**Assistant Principal- Senior School**

### Assessment & Reporting

As a result of the remote learning period, there have been some modifications to reporting for Term Two.

#### **TEMPORARY REPORTING CHANGES FOR TERM TWO ONLY**

Continuous reporting (CATs, VCE Areas of Study & VCAL Assessment Tasks), completed predominately during remote learning, will not include individual assessment of the 5Ps - Participation, Preparation, Probity, Punctuality & Purpose. Instead teachers will include in their feedback, a written comment on how your child engaged with remote learning.

Semester One exams for Year 10 & VCE Unit 1 students have been cancelled, therefore there will be no reporting of exam scores or for Unit 1 students the Parkdale Study Score.

End of Semester One reports will be uploaded to Compass on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July. This date has been extended to allow finalisation of assessment once all students have returned to school for Term Two.

#### **CONTINUOUS REPORTING CHANGES - ONGOING**

The continuous reporting model ensures students and parents receive valuable feedback from teachers within three weeks of the end of each assessment task. Students are then able to reflect on their learning and make improvements before the next assessment task. This year we have made the following amendments to how achievement and learning behaviours are reported. These changes have come about as a result of feedback from students, teachers and parents.

#### **Learning Behaviours (5PS – Participation, Preparation, Probity, Punctuality & Purpose)**

Teachers will now assess your child's learning behaviours based on the following scale:

- Meets expectation
- Partially meets expectation
- Does not meet expectation
- Not Assessed

#### **Teacher Feedback**

Teachers will provide one written comment on your child's achievement and areas for improvement.

#### **YEAR 7-10 Achievement level for CATs**

Teachers will no longer use the PSC 1-7 grading range, but will instead use a written descriptor to communicate your child's level of achievement.

- Well above the expected achievement standard
- Above the expected achievement standard
- At the higher end of the expected achievement standard
- At the expected achievement standard
- At the lower end of the expected achievement standard
- Below the expected achievement standard
- Well below the expected achievement standard

#### **VCE ASSESSMENT**

Teachers will report student achievement for each VCE Area of Study in their subject. This includes:

- Satisfactory/Non satisfactory grade for each Area of Study
- Numerical score for each Outcome in the Area of Study

### VCAL ASSESSMENT

There are no modifications to continuous reporting for VCAL

### END OF SEMESTER REPORTING CHANGES - ONGOING

#### **Year 7-10 students will receive a report communicating:**

- Victorian Curriculum Achievement Standard for each subject and the general capabilities
- Achievement level for each subject based CAT

#### **VCE students will receive a report communicating:**

- Satisfactory/Non-satisfactory for VCE Unit
- Satisfactory/Non-satisfactory for each Area of Study

#### **VCAL students will receive a report communicating:**

- Satisfactory/Non-satisfactory for VCAL Unit
- Satisfactory/Non-satisfactory for each VCAL Assessment Task

Please note, Teacher written feedback and Learning behaviours will no longer be included in the Semester report. Parents & Carers are reminded they should be accessing this feedback via Compass Learning Tasks throughout the semester. The end of semester report is provided as a summary of achievement only.

### PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Term Two Parent/Teacher interviews have been postponed until later in the year. We are awaiting further directives from the Victorian Government before we are able to make a decision regarding the timing and format of interviews.

Parents will be notified as soon as a decision has been made.

Please contact your child's teacher via email if you have any immediate concerns regarding their progress.

**Melissa Treverton**  
**Assistant Principal**

## Welcome To The Library At Parkdale Secondary College

### **Covid-19 Compliant Library Services Term Two**

Dear Parents,

The Library is open to support student learning needs, understandably there will be changes made to make the Library Covid-19 safe.

Students will be able to borrow books from the Library through our new click and collect program. Which is explained below

Using the Click and Collect Library System

- Students search the library catalogue and reserve the book of choice
- Library staff will have the book ready for students to collect from a collection point in the library
- All returns are to go through chute by library exit door only

As books are returned they will be sanitized and quarantined before being place back on shelves. Student will not be able to go into the library shelves.

Change to Library Hours

## Welcome To The Library At Parkdale Secondary College Continued

The Library will only be open for classes and is closed to students before school, lunchtime and after school Reading Rewards Program

This will run as normal, however, the seating area has been altered to allow for greater social distancing. Students will be required to be ready to read with a book or eBook downloaded.

Student will not be allowed to go to the shelves or borrow or renew during this lesson.

All loans will for the time being for a six week period.

Thanks to parents and students for their understanding at this difficult time for all of us.

Until then happy reading from the Library Team here at Parkdale Secondary College.

**Sue Flavin- Teacher**

**Pauline White- Teacher**

## National Careers Week

### National Careers Week – Winners

National Careers Week aims to celebrate careers, career development and to promote the economic, social and personal benefits of career development. To celebrate, the Pathways team had a series of activities and competitions for students across all year levels to participate in.

Below is a list of winners along with Summer's winning photo Congratulations! Please see Ms Della Fortuna in the senior centre for your prizes.

Well done to everyone that participated.

### Photography Competition

1<sup>st</sup>- Summer Bailey Year 8

2<sup>nd</sup> - Martin Petranov Year 7

3<sup>rd</sup>- Jemma Holt Year 7

### Careers Grids:

**11/12:** 1<sup>st</sup> Maddy Melton - Year 12

2<sup>nd</sup> Lauren Butcher – Year 11

**9/10:** 1<sup>st</sup> Georgia Clancy – Year 10

2<sup>nd</sup> Millie Asker – Year 10

**7/8:** 1<sup>st</sup> Jordyn Erasmus - Year 7

2<sup>nd</sup> Katelyn Emmanouil - Year 7

### Summer Bailey's winning photo below



**Laura Della Fortuna**

**Careers Adviser**