



# PARKDALE SECONDARY COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Fortnightly Newsletter - Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020

## Principal's Report – David Russell

We have reached the end of Term Three and I know that many of our students are looking forward to closing the lid on the laptop, turning the screen off and having a well-earned break. I know the staff are and I'm sure that parents will also appreciate the chance to not be concerned with how the remote and flexible learning environment is working for their child(ren). Although we are still limited in our capacity to move about and socialise, it is an opportunity to relax and recharge.

Looking ahead to Term Four, as previously advised, the following arrangements are in place:

### **Week One – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October**

Remote learning and flexible learning for all students. The **GAT** will be run **onsite** on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October** for relevant students. Please see details of the arrangements for the GAT in this newsletter. These will also be sent individually to all GAT students.

### **Week Two – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October onwards**

Onsite face to face classes for all VCE/VCAL including Year 10 VCAL students.

Year 7-10 students continue with remote and flexible learning. This will continue until we receive advice from the DET. They are following the advice of the Chief Health Officer.

### **Parent Teacher Interviews**

The second round of interviews were completed last Wednesday and presented a new challenge. Unbeknown to us WebEx scheduled an update of the platform of which the advice from the DET arrived after hours the night before. Sometimes these updates are minor and very little difference is noticed – think of some of the iPhone updates. This update was the other kind where major changes happen. Staff logged in to Webex that morning to find a completely different interface screen with buttons and functions moved around, the background we had provided and installed which gave a conformity to the interview and was a privacy measure for the teachers had disappeared and for some staff – including myself you could not get into WebEx at all. In fact you had to completely download the app and start again. As you could imagine there was a fair amount of scrambling going on and the IT staff did an amazing job in getting everyone up and running by 9.30am. I apologise to those parents who were affected by this but the circumstances were beyond our control.

### **Thank You**

Above all I thank the Parkdale Secondary College community for their patience understanding and support of our students and staff as we have navigated our way through the environment we are currently in. Looking at the positives there has been the opportunity to learn and implement new initiatives both in and out of the classroom. As an example I for one could not have foreseen the move to total virtual parent/teacher interviews. We would all have liked not to have been placed in the situation that has forced us into these changes but with adversity comes opportunity which we have seen in action in the last six months.

Take care, be safe and be strong

**David Russell**  
Principal

## IMPORTANT DATES - TERM 3- 2020

<b>September</b>	
<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	Term Three Ends
<b>October</b>	
<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	Year 12 GAT
<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	Onsite Learning Returns for VCE/VCAL including Year 10 VCAL students

### Junior School Report

I hope many of you were able to attend parent teacher interviews last week. The comments from parents and teachers were very positive, and most people were able to navigate the Webex platform used to conduct the meetings. The feedback provided will enable students to set goals for Term Four.

I would like to acknowledge the following **Year 9** students who received an academic award at the Year 9 Assembly today. They have demonstrated excellence in their academic endeavours in Semester One.

Samuel Bearup	
Emma Downward	
Yianni Balatsas	Tara Dando
Callum Bruce	Bianca Danzo
Jasmine Pole	Nicholas Farr
Jason Butel	Amarlie Pike
Dylan Gillespie	Marli Sherriff
Aleka Nemtsov	Eleni Tsingelis
Nicholas	Lilly Goffin
Constantopoulos	Paige Holt
Damian Figurek	Annabelle Jenner
Adeline Kong	Hannah Johnson
Zali Logan	Nicolas Katiforis
Zoe McCurdy	Elly Proestaki
Kyle Yong	Lucy Evans
Pareese Zissis	Temika Hubbard
Ruby Conabere	Arya Kanani
	Samuel Mortaruolo

I hope everyone has a well-earned and relaxing break.

**June Sainsbery**  
**Assistant Principal – Junior School & Wellbeing**

'Challenging' seems to be the theme of the year and while Term Three has been challenging in many ways, Term Four will bring more challenges with it. All students should take some time to rest and recharge during the break after an arduous Term Three. Having said that, our year 12 VCE students enter their final push to complete their secondary schooling. This break for them is an opportunity to recharge a little, but also to invest time in preparing for the upcoming VCE exams by ensuring they have organised study notes, completing past and practice exams, rereading important texts and completing general revision tasks. The drive to complete this work is not easy to tap into, but maintaining a focus on your goals for the rest of this and beyond and a recognition that the short-term hard work will pay dividends in the long-term will help.

### General Achievement Test (GAT)

The GAT will be sat October 7<sup>th</sup> 2020. This is a test of general knowledge and skills in these broad areas:

- written communication
- mathematics, science and technology
- humanities, the arts and social sciences.

All students enrolled in one or more VCE or scored VCE VET Unit 3 and 4 sequences must sit the GAT. GAT results:

- do not count directly towards a student's VCE results
- help check that school-based and external assessments have been accurately assessed
- contribute to statistical moderation of school-based assessment results
- help calculate Derived Examination Scores
- determine scores in school-based assessment, external assessment and if a derived examination score is required due to illness, accident and trauma.

The GAT will hold more significance this year in ensuring equity of results across the state due to the disruptions of COVID19. VCAA guidance on completing the GAT can be found here:

<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/assessment/vce-assessment/general-achievement-test/Pages/Index.aspx>

Mrs White, a teacher with invaluable experience in VCE English, has developed school-based resources to assist in students preparing for the GAT. These have been distributed through VCE Program and are available on Compass. **All students sitting the GAT must invest time in going over these resources** to give them the best possible opportunity to do their best at this important test.

Due to current restrictions The GAT will be held across three venues at the college, the Senior Centre, W-Wing and the Library. All student must be temperature checked prior to entering school buildings and sit in assigned seats. We will email students on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October with specific instructions on entering the school and how to find their allocated seat. On that day, students will need to arrive at school by 9:15am for a prompt 10:00am start time.

### Final day of year 12 classes

Planning around end-of-school activities are ongoing and will be communicated early in Term Four. Uncertainty around levels of restrictions means a number of contingency plans are underway. The final day of year 12 classes can be confirmed as Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October.

### Year 10/11 Semester 2 Exams

At this stage it is the intention to run exams for students in Year 10 and 11. These will run differently this year than in previous years, and arrangements will be shared with students in Term Four. Year 10 exams will be dependent on the return to school date of these students, and again, this will be confirmed as information comes to hand.

**Semester One Academic Awards**

It was a pleasure to be able to send out Academic Awards to year 10-12 students who achieved consistently high results across their subjects. Traditionally we host a high-achievers breakfast and present awards to students during year level assemblies, with remote learning we have been unable to do this.

Congratulations to the following students who received these awards for Semester One.

Year 12	
LAY SALAS	Lenina
SARKAR	Saniya
D'MONTE	Caitlin
LEPAIR	Eden
MATTHEWS	Angelique
WITCHELL	Tessa
ANKIC	Aleksa
BUTLER	Ethan
FRANCIS	Brooke
GALJAR	Hayley
KRISTIANSSON	Jesper
RAVINDRAN	Vijay
SEDDON	Erika
WELSH	Kayla

Year 11	
SINCLAIR	Madison
BUTEL	Mailey
FRANKS	Maddison
KARROUM	Mya
MACFARLANE	Brodie
MCCONACHY	Brae
NANCARROW	Aaron
ZHOU	Racheal
BAYHAN	Sara
BOTERA	Joshua
CURTIS	Samuel
DAVIS	Shelby
HENDERSON	Courtney
KEATINGE	Brooke
KING	Gabrielle
MACDONALD	Austin
REEVE	Dylan
SFRANTZIS-HALLAK	Louay
SHERRIFF	Anna
STEWART	Ethan

Year 10	
Charlee	Harvey
Caitlin	Logan
Jacquelyn	Ly
Aliya	Windsor
Lamees	Bou Karroum
Ella	O'Connor
Steph	Petrovic
Emily	Woodcock
Cameron	Bach
Samantha	Butel
Georgia	Clancy
Lucy	Heath
Olivia	Kuntha
Meg	Vatnsdal
Jack	McCurdy

**Michael Tuck**  
**Assistant Principal- Senior School**



<https://www.ssv.vic.edu.au/Pages/SSVVirtualTrackandField.aspx>

All Victorian students are welcome to take part in this great opportunity. There are several ways you can be involved. SSV is not looking for the best performance; we are looking for students to give it a try.

By taking part in this great event, you will not only **score points for your school**, but you will also be **improving yourself every time you try**. There is nothing better than self-improvement and personal bests.

The events included in the SSV Virtual Track and Field program include:

- Sprint - 60m, 100m, 200m, 400m
- Run/Walk - 800m, 1500m
- Standing Long Jump
- Standing Triple Jump
- Tennis Ball Shot Put
- Modified Heptathlon - 100m Sprint, Standing Long Jump, Tennis ball Shot Put, 800m Run (in that order)

Go to the SSV Virtual Track and Field website for more details about how to set up and record results for each event by clicking

<https://www.ssv.vic.edu.au/Pages/SSVVirtualTrackandField.aspx>

Once you have completed your event(s) and recorded your result(s), click on <https://form.jotform.com/201958028380053> to enter your results online and score points for **Parkdale Secondary College**.

**Vanessa Leslie**  
**Carnivals Coordinator**

## Parent Association

### PARENTS ASSOCIATION NEWS

**Hi everyone,**

Hoping everyone is doing okay. It's been a really rough year and many I know are feeling at best fatigued. This month was R U OK? Day, and I encourage everyone to have important conversations about wellbeing.... yours and others. For more information visit <https://www.ruok.org.au/>  
For help and resources visit <https://www.ruok.org.au/findhelp>

Our Parkdale Secondary College Parents Association usually meets each month to connect with other parents, be updated on what's happening around the school and share valuable family input/feedback to school leadership.

Unfortunately due to Covid Pandemic restrictions we are unable to meet as normal. This year has been disappointing from a PA perspective – I especially feel for our members who are in their first or last year at Parkdale and were looking forward to the sense of connection we feel when we get together and increased understanding of high school life. In comparison to what is important right now it is very minor I know, but I just wanted to acknowledge that us being unable to get together this year does feel like (another) 'pandemic' loss. Parents have been doing a very tough job. I know the community feel at PSC is strong and I look forward to working hard after it's over to reconnect and rebuild in PA.

## Parent Association Continued

Hopefully we see continued progression in easing steps and we can have a physical meeting and all the students return in Term Four.

Parent interviews by Webex goes down as another new experience! I thought they were done so well and was grateful for the opportunity to 'see' the teachers – hopefully they worked well for you all too. I so appreciate the efforts made by our PSC team this year under such difficult conditions.

### **NEED TO BUY OR SELL BOOKS AND UNIFORMS?**

**Sustainable School Shop could be your answer!** This excellent service is where College families can buy and sell second-hand uniforms and books. It has up to date booklist information and is easy to navigate. Click here to register and start buying or selling... [www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au](http://www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au)  
Here is the Introduction Letter and User Guide...

[http://www.parkdalesc.vic.edu.au/index.php?option=com\\_zoo&view=item&layout=item&Itemid=122](http://www.parkdalesc.vic.edu.au/index.php?option=com_zoo&view=item&layout=item&Itemid=122)

### **RITCHIES COMMUNITY BENEFITS**

Please remember to keep supporting our Ritchies Community Benefit Program. This helps us provide fruit in the Senior Centre for students staying back to study. Link your community benefit card/tag to Parkdale Secondary College at ANY Ritchies in Victoria, NSW or Queensland.

Wishing you and your families the best – stay safe and well. And happy holidays.

Cheers,

**Nicole Moffat**

[nmoffat@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nmoffat@optusnet.com.au)

## Wellbeing



**be you** Mental Health Services and Support

<b>Beyond Blue</b> 24/7 mental health support service 1300 22 4636 <a href="http://beyondblue.org.au">beyondblue.org.au</a>	<b>headspace</b> Online support and counselling to young people aged 12 to 25 1800 650 890 (Open 1am daily) For webchat, visit: <a href="http://headspace.org.au/headspace">headspace.org.au/headspace</a>	<b>Kids Helpline</b> 24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services for children and young people aged 5 to 25 1800 55 1800 <a href="http://kidshelpline.com.au">kidshelpline.com.au</a>	<b>1800RESPECT</b> 24/7 support for people impacted by sexual assault, domestic violence and abuse 1800 737 732 <a href="http://1800respect.org.au">1800respect.org.au</a>
<b>Lifeline</b> 24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services 13 11 14 <a href="http://lifeline.org.au">lifeline.org.au</a>	<b>Suicide Call Back</b> 24/7 crisis support and counselling service for people affected by suicide 1300 659 467 <a href="http://suicidecallbackservice.org.au">suicidecallbackservice.org.au</a>	<b>Mensline</b> 24/7 counselling service for men 1300 78 99 78 <a href="http://mensline.org.au">mensline.org.au</a>	<b>QLife</b> LGBTI peer support and referral 1800 184 527 (Open 10pm daily) <a href="http://qlife.org.au">qlife.org.au</a> (online chat 3pm-12am daily)

If you are concerned about someone at risk of immediate harm, call 000 or go to your nearest hospital emergency department.

NSW delivery partners:    Supported by:



Jake Phin  
Wellbeing Coordinator