



PARKDALE SECONDARY COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Fortnightly Newsletter - Tuesday 4th August 2020

Principal's Report – David Russell

When I started to write this report on Friday last week, little did I know how much I was going to have to delete, edit and add. The announcements over the weekend have changed the school landscape, let alone our way of life, yet again.

We are all currently wondering where this COVID-19 crisis is going, concerned about the care and health of loved ones and ourselves and how long will it be before a new 'normal' is reached. Together, with us all doing our share of the steps we are asked to implement in our daily lives, we will come through this.

If we reflect on our college values they are an effective way of looking at how and what we need to do to cope.

Respect – yourself, teachers, parents. We are all feeling under the pump. No one has been through this before, everyone copes differently and on different levels. Please be aware of this when communicating with people. The wearing of face coverings by the onsite students has been fantastic and their adherence to this and social distancing, sanitising and shows your respect to others.

This roles into showing **Empathy** for people and your **Integrity** as a person that does what is right and in the best interests of the community. Please don't be "Karen" from Narre Warren at Bunnings.

These times are definitely testing your **Resilience**. You have all shown your capacity to confront the challenges and continue moving forward and I am sure you will continue to do so.

And I know that our Year 12 students are nervous about where this is all going and how it may affect their results and **Aspirations** for the future. This has been a topic of discussion at many levels both school based here at Parkdale and at higher levels of education. The authorities are continuing to monitor the situation and plan for possible events. Please be assured that all is being done to level the playing field and enable you to complete your studies.

Through adversity comes strength. We will all get through this. Stay focused, be positive and support each other and above all take care and be safe.

On-site supervision during remote learning

The criteria for students that can attend on-site, where they are not able to be supervised at home and no other arrangements can be made, has changed as follows:

- children whose parents are permitted workers.
- vulnerable children including:
 - children in out of home care
 - children known to child protection and other agencies
 - children the school identifies as vulnerable
- children with a disability who also fit one of the above two categories

Principal's Report Continued

If you feel there are '**circumstances as listed above**' that would require your child/children to be supervised on school premises, please complete the attached application form and send it to the school's email address parkdale.sc@education.vic.gov.au with the heading "On site Application Form".

Please note that circumstances may vary between the primary and secondary school sector given the age of students involved.

The clear message from the Government and the Education Department is that if students **CAN** learn from home, they **MUST** learn from home. Please include in your application specific days/times. The school leadership team will consider all applications on a case by case basis and respond as soon as possible.

The process to apply for this will remain unchanged.

A new application form will be required each week. The application must be received by Thursday 3.00pm of the preceding week so the necessary staffing arrangements can be put into place. Therefore, the application form for week five, commencing Monday 10th August, needs to be received by 3.00pm Thursday 6th August. This process will then continue each week until normal classes resume. There have been a number of instances over the past weeks where the form has not been submitted by the required time. We have accepted these but this **WILL NOT** continue in this phase of remote learning. The timeline is in place so that appropriate staffing levels can be arranged for the following week. Now that we are working towards there being no staff on-site there is no room for adjustment on the run.

Refunds

Parents would have recently received statements from the administration team and details for the refunds we are applying for various activities.

Please note that following DET advice refunds will not be made for subject levies. These levies are paid to deliver curriculum which has continued during remote learning. Whilst curriculum has been delivered differently, costs have been incurred differently to support offsite and online learning i.e. rather than classroom materials being used, there have been additional costs incurred by schools for printing, postage and online learning platform subscriptions.

Please also note that some refunds will be dependent on whether the college has already incurred costs for events, activities or have contractual arrangements in place.

At this time we are only looking at the refunds for the activities/events that are indicated. Please do not enquire re other matters at this time. This is a very complex situation involving multiple transactions with students across all year levels.

I thank you for your understanding and patience.

Temperature Checks and Face Coverings

I take this opportunity to congratulate our staff and students for the approach they have taken to both the temperature check and the wearing of appropriate face coverings when on-site. Please continue to follow the face covering protocols whilst on remote learning when out in the community for permitted activities.

Take care, stay safe and stay strong.

David Russel
Principal

Senior School Report

I continue to marvel at how resilient our students have been throughout this time. Through significant uncertainty, our Year 11 and 12 students have continued with their studies and maintained a positive outlook while at school. I'd like to pass on my sincere thanks and congratulations to our students for this and the way they adapted to new routines and processes. While we are a long way from finished, we will all continue to work hard to support our students.

2021 course selection has occurred for current Year 10 and 11 students. We are lucky this process was able to be completed prior to the period of remote learning beginning. 2021 Year 9 students have been able to make selections online and we are working through processes to enter this data and send confirmation to students.

Further information around the teaching and learning process, including the sitting of assessment tasks, will be sent shortly. As we receive information from the VCAA and VTAC, we will communicate this to parents and students.

As always, if you have any concerns at all, please contact the appropriate student management team.

Michael Tuck

Assistant Principal- Senior School

VCAL

VCAL Virtual Expo



The VCAL students have been hard at work on their Big Projects!

The Big Project allows VCAL students to pursue a hands-on 'passion project', while also working towards VCAL Learning Outcomes across the curriculum. Each semester, students work independently to plan, design, research, and create their own projects, which are presented to parents, staff and students at our VCAL Expo evenings.

Due to restrictions on gatherings at this time, students developed their filmmaking skills and created videos of their work so it could be presented remotely. Of these, we have selected a sample of exemplary videos from Year 11 and 12 VCAL students, documenting the steps they took to complete their Semester One Big Projects. These videos have been showcased in our **VCAL Virtual Expo**, which can be viewed here <https://spark.adobe.com/page/rFgCxoYwlgY1N/>

Thank you to all VCAL parents and staff for their support of students throughout this process, and congratulations to our students for the resilience they have shown in the face of adversity. I'm sure you all join me in the hope that we can resume our regular Expo evenings again in the near future.

Amy Palfreyman

VCAL Coordinator

READING REWARDS DURING REMOTE LEARNING



Our students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be continuing on with their Reading Rewards during this period of remote learning. Reading is an essential underpinning skill for all learning areas so we want to make sure that our students get the opportunity to continue to develop and practise this skill. Their reading sessions appear on their Compass timetable.

YEAR 7 & 8

Once a fortnight when the students have a reading session during their English period they are asked to complete a brief reading blog comment. It is not intended to be an onerous task at all and at a maximum we suggest the kids spending 15 minutes on writing their blog comment. The blogs are designed to have the students reflect on a key textual feature (key plot event, character, setting, conflict and ideas) and support the study of texts that they do through English classes.

When the students login to do their blog comment they are provided with a model of a comment and a guide to how to put together an effective blog post. Once they have completed their post we will check them and make visible (publish) a selection of those that do a really good job of reflecting on a key feature. Students whose posts are published will also receive an email to let them know their post is published and to give them positive feedback.

Once they have written their blog comment they return to reading their books for the remainder of the period.

YEAR 9

Year 9 students have a period of reading during an English class once a fortnight. The aim is to have them read for the entire period so that they continue to develop those skills of sustained focus and concentration. Students are best able to do this when they are reading a book that is Just Right for them.

Our library webpage has an eBook platform on it and we are continuing to build that collection so that our students have a wide range of materials to choose from.

We look forward to seeing all our students back onsite as soon as is possible and hope everyone remains well during this difficult time.

Pauline White and Suzanne Flavin (Librarians)

TALKING TECHNOLOGY

Did you know the learning area of Technology covers subjects such as; Food, Textiles, Woodwork, Metal work, Systems engineering, Computing , Data Analytics and Software. It's a really diverse learning area and one which leads to a very diverse range of careers. If you or your student is in year 8, 9,10 or 11 now is a time to start thinking about whether one of these subject would be valuable for you to study in 2021.

Is Technology a subject for you

- Do you enjoy practical hands-on activities.
- Are you enthusiastic about innovation and creating.
- Do you work well both independently and in groups.
- Do you enjoy Freedom and space in the classroom.
- You get a “buzz” out of problem solving.
- You are considering a career in a related field.

Here are a few stories from Semester Two Technology Subjects.

Food Studies

Unit 4 Food Studies students making pasta (attempting social distancing and before mask wearing was a thing)

Unit 2 Food Studies Students making profiteroles for Bastille day, exploring primary production of wheat and dairy and looking into the Ethics of food production.

Unit 2 Food studies students cooked up these delicious healthy scrolls, maybe you'd like to try them?

Ingredients: 1 cup wholemeal SR flour, 200g (3/4 cup) yoghurt, 2 tabs tom paste, 1/2 teas oregano, 1/2 red onion finely diced, 1/3 red/green capsicum, 3/4 cup spinach and 1 cup grated tasty cheese.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 190C and line a baking tray with baking paper.
2. In a large bowl, combine flour and Greek yoghurt until it comes together to form a ball. If the dough is too sticky, add a little extra flour.



Technology Continued

3. Tip dough out on to a lightly floured surface and knead for 5 minutes or until dough feels soft and stretchy.
4. Using a floured rolling pin, roll dough out to a rectangle (approximately 30 x 20 cms).
5. Spread tomato paste over the dough, top with oregano, baby spinach, capsicum, red onion and grated cheese.
6. Roll the dough up as tightly as possible horizontally, so that you end up with a long sausage shape.
7. Slice in to 16 pieces and arrange on the baking tray, cut side up, approximately 2 cms apart.
8. Bake for 10-15 minutes or until lightly golden

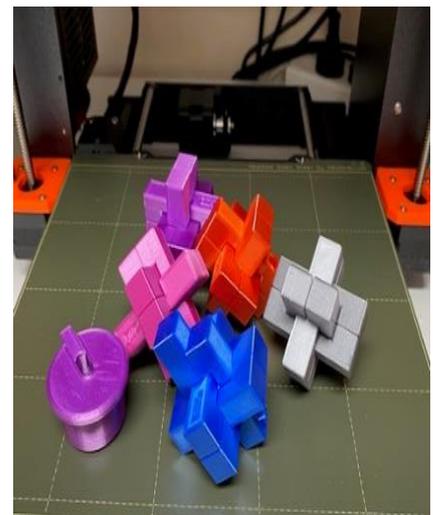


Systems Engineering is a new subject on offer at Parkdale Secondary College in 2021 and to enhance the learning activities in a number of technology subjects our school has purchased some new 3D printers.

For more information about this subject read the VCE VCAL course handbook, see Mr Woodley, Mr MacCurtain or Mr Bolton.

Product design –Wood The Unit 2 and 4 Product design students have been busy creating their folios and products.

We have been very impressed with some of the folio work completed so far. One of the exciting challenges has been to use the three D printer to create a puzzle, see pictured here.



Technology Continued

News from year 7 Digi Tech

The year 7 DigiTech students have just successfully completed the first ever semester of the **Computer Science in Schools program** at Parkdale Secondary. The students gained an introductory understanding of programming using the Python programming language and experienced success in coding small programs and completing exercises.

They had lots of fun and gained confidence with programming and an appreciation of the relevance it has in their lives. The DigiTech teachers are looking forward to working with CS in Schools in Semester Two and sharing this exciting program with the rest of the year 7 students. Mr Loxham

Textiles

This Semester we are enjoying our wonderful new textiles room T07, the new Portable has been set up as a Textiles specific workspace and is bright and airy with a wonderful store room. The Unit 2 product design textiles students have already begun working in the new space and are working as a team to investigate FASHIONS FROM 2000 and plan to create their own 2020 influenced garment.



Gabrielle Skaltsis
Technology LAM

Parents Association

Hi everyone,

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. It's very relaxed and all are welcome whether you can make it to one meeting or all!

Unfortunately due to Covid Pandemic restrictions we are unable to meet as normal. This unfortunately is extended to our next scheduled meeting on August 12th.

If you would like to join the Association, please complete the form available from the office, website or it was in your enrolment packs. 😊

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

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

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.

Nicole Moffat

nmoffat@optusnet.com.au



FREE ONLINE ZOOM SESSION
TUESDAY 11 AUGUST
7pm-8pm

Kingston Youth Services are excited to welcome guest speaker Andrew Fuller to present at our upcoming online parent information night.

Andrew Fuller is a clinical psychologist who works with many schools and communities in Australia and internationally, specialising in the wellbeing of young people and their families. He is a Fellow of the Department of Psychiatry and the Department of Learning and Educational Development at the University of Melbourne.

Topics covered:

- How to support mental health and wellbeing in young people
 - How to help a young person who worries
- What to do when they are sad and when to be concerned if it is something more
- Helping year 11 and 12 students regroup during Covid 19

Registrations are essential

- This event is for the City of Kingston community – live, work or study.
- Targeted for parents/carers of children aged 12-25.
- Questions? Courtney McGill 1300 369 436 courtney.mcgill@kingston.vic.gov.au
- **Register online: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/free-online-parent-information-night-andrew-fuller-tickets-113843896158>**