



# PARKDALE SECONDARY COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Fortnightly Newsletter - Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019

## Principal's Report – David Russell

Another very busy two weeks have passed since the last newsletter. The pace never seems to let up as we move from one event to the next whilst always having the normal academic program running. It is a reflection of the busy nature of the school with numerous opportunities to participate in extra curricular activities, coupled with the day to day learning in the classroom and planning has already commenced for the 2020 school year.

At the recent whole school assembly I asked how many students had reflected on their semester one results and had set themselves a new challenge for semester two. It is through setting challenges and then striving to achieve them that the greatest learning and gains are made.

As our new vision states, I am “challenging our school community to strive and achieve.”

### Nishi High School

Our sister school from Osaka Japan arrived on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July and departed on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July. I thank the families of Parkdale SC students who hosted the Nishi High School students and from the conversations at various activities, I know the Nishi students appreciated your hospitality and kindness during their stay. These events are not possible without the support of the school community. There is a full report on the visit in this newsletter. My thanks also to the Japanese teachers for their continued work with our sister school arrangement.

### Year 7 Camp

The Year 7 students finally got to camp in week two of the term, after the unfortunate cancellation of the camp in Term One because of the bushfires in Gippsland. And might I say they experienced the opposite weather conditions – cold across the week and with some rain on the Tuesday. I attended on the Tuesday and I couldn't have been more impressed and proud of the students. Despite the cold they actively participated in the activities outside with smiles on their faces and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I did not hear one negative comment from any of them. Another feather in their cap, so to speak, were the glowing comments from the camp staff. From the activity leaders to the kitchen staff, they were all full of praise for their manners and attitude.

A big thank you to Mr Rod Hemming, Mr Lucas Vogt, Ms Emily Payne and Ms Helen Bardolph in the organisation of the camp particularly after the first camp was cancelled and to the staff who attended across the week.

### Buses

We have again had the Authorised Officers checking that students are swiping on and off their MYKI card when travelling by bus to school. Students have been warned previously that they risk being fined if they do not do this. Unfortunately there have been a number of instances where infringement notices have been issued. As well as the financial penalty that is incurred the swiping on/off data is used to determine whether they need to keep the bus operating. I certainly don't want the services to cease.

### Course Counselling (Y9, 10 & 11 2020)

These sessions have been running over the past two weeks. These are important decisions and I thank the staff involved for their diligence and commitment to this important process. Numerous staff have been

present well after normal school hours to ensure that all students/parents have been able to talk through the selections and make informed decisions.

### **Student Attitude to School Survey**

These were undertaken by all students in Term Two. At the time of writing the results have just arrived in the school. The results will be shared with the school community through various forums. Student focus groups will be formed to further unpack the results.

### **Parent School Survey**

These are run annually by the Department of Education and the data collected is used by schools to inform their decision making. Parents are randomly selected to undertake the survey. As in the previous two years the survey is being completed electronically. Those parents selected to complete the survey will receive an email containing the link and login details from the school. The surveys are anonymous. The results are aggregated and then released to the school in October. The results will then be shared with the school community. I thank, in advance, those parents who are selected for completing the survey.

### **Student Uniform and Dress Code Policy**

This year College Council has undertaken a review of our student uniform and dress code policy. This process has now been completed and there are changes to the policy that will be implemented from the beginning of 2020.

As part of the review process, College Council sought feedback from students and parents in Year 7-10 (Year 11 students are entering their final year of school in 2020 and will not be significantly affected by the changes). Staff were also consulted for feedback.

Overall, the key elements of the feedback were:

- The school community places a high value on the wearing of a uniform and supports the implementation of a student uniform and dress code policy.
- Our current policy is non-discriminatory and includes a process to enable exemptions where appropriate/necessary.
- A significant proportion of the school community do not wish for the blazer to be a compulsory item.
- The school community would like more flexibility in the items.

As a result, the main changes are:

- The uniform items are not 'season specific'. Students can elect to wear the winter items in summer and summer items in winter – however combinations of summer and winter are not permitted.
- The blazer is now an 'optional outer garment'.
- The sports jacket is also an 'optional outer garment' that can be worn outside only (including to and from school).
- The streamlining of socks. One type of official college socks to be worn with shorts/dress/sport uniforms; and navy/black socks/tights to be worn with long pants/skirt.

The new policy has been approved by College Council and is now available on Compass under School Documentation/Policies/Uniform and Dress Code Policy 2020.

During Semester Two, Year Level Coordinators will address the changes with students in Year Level Assemblies and the new policy will take effect from the beginning of the 2020 school year.

I would like to thank the College Council sub-committee for undertaking this review.

**David Russell**  
**Principal**

## IMPORTANT DATES - TERM 3 - 2019

<b>August</b>	
<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	Mens Mental Health Night (7pm Start)
<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	VTAC & Careers Information Evening (5.30pm Start)
<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	Mid Year Music Concert (7pm Start)
<b>26<sup>th</sup></b>	Athletics Carnival (Dolomore Reserve)
<b>September</b>	
<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	Curriculum Day

### Junior School Report

#### YEAR 7

The feedback from Year 7 camp has been very positive. Students and staff enjoyed the beautiful setting near Kyneton. Although the weather was a little on the cool side, we were lucky to get very little rain. Students participated in a variety of outdoor activities that provided opportunities to challenge themselves and work in teams. Mr Mac's night walk was a highlight with students on the lookout to spot the 'Daylesford leopard'.

#### YEAR 8

Thanks to all who attended the information evening on Monday 29 July. Brooke Douglas, Year 9 Leader, gave an overview of the CONNECT program and information was provided about the Year 9 curriculum and elective selection process. The powerpoint from the evening has been put on the Compass newsfeed.

Students/families have now received their log in details for subject selection. The 'receipt' for elective selection needs to be printed, signed by parents and returned to Tutor teachers by Friday 9 August.

On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August Year 8s participated in a Wellbeing Day. Students attended a theatre performance that focused on positive relationships and online safety. Students were highly engaged in the performance and completed follow up activities and discussions in periods three and four, prior to students going to sport activities after lunch.

#### YEAR 9

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August all Year 9 students will participate in Course Counselling Day. On this day students do not have regular classes and are required to attend an appointment with one of the Year 9 team to discuss their pathway/subjects for Year 10. The course counselling interviews will be held in W1 and W2. Students need to bring their pink course counselling sheet (completed and signed) with them to the interview. If students are applying for Year 10\VCAL they must also bring along the 10\VCAL application form as well – these are available from Kelly in the Senior Centre front desk.

**June Sainsbery**

**Assistant Principal- Junior School**

### 2019 Parent Opinion Survey

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WE WANT OUR PARENTS TO TELL US WHAT THEY THINK!

Our school is conducting a survey to find out what parents think of our school. The Parent Opinion Survey is an annual survey offered by the Department of Education and Training that is conducted amongst **a sample of randomly selected parents**. It is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of parents' perceptions of school climate, student behaviour and student engagement. Our school will use the survey results to help inform and direct future school planning and improvement strategies.

**Approximately 30 per cent of parents have been randomly selected and will be invited to participate in this year's survey.**

All responses to the survey are anonymous. This year the Parent Opinion Survey will be conducted from **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July to Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August**.

The survey will be conducted **online**, only takes **10-15 minutes** to complete, and can be accessed at any convenient time within the fieldwork period on desktop computers, laptops, tablets or smartphones. The online survey will be available in a range of languages other than English. These include: Arabic, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Chin (hakha), Hindi, Japanese, Somali, Turkish, Punjabi and Greek.

The survey results will be reported back to the school at the end of September. We will report the survey results back to our School Improvement Team and School Council to ensure all future planning is undertaken with consideration of a parent voice.

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

## Welcome to Your Library at Parkdale Secondary College

### Helping your child select a 'Just Right' book

Our last few articles have outlined how reading is approached in the library at Parkdale and in the last newsletter we considered the link between reading and success in education and employment.

The important thing that I would like to focus on for this piece is supporting your child to become a successful reader. The truth is that most kids can and do read. If there has been a falling away in a reading habit it can often be due to the child not having that 'Just Right' to read.

A 'Just Right' book is one that suits the level the child is reading at, has features such as illustrations (paper colour and font size are also important considerations) and targets the interests or needs of the individual reader.

The best way to support your child to discover that 'Just Right' book is to talk with them about their reading interests. A trip to the book store can facilitate this conversation. Giving them time to browse and asking them questions about books that they look can get them reflecting on what their reading needs are. You can ask them:

- What do you think about the cover? Is there anything intriguing or interesting on it?
- Have you read the blurb? What does it tell you about what you might be about to read? Does that sort of story appeal to you?
- Is the book fiction or non-fiction? Do you prefer one over the other?
- Have you opened the book up to 'test drive' a page or two? Did you find words that were difficult? Were there too many of them on the page you sampled?

## Welcome to Your Library at Parkdale Secondary College Continued

- Does the layout of the book appeal to you? Does it have the sort of features you enjoy such as well spaced print or illustrations?

The questions are a way to create a conversation and, as mentioned, encourage the child to reflect on reading needs. Also, and quite powerfully, it is a way to flag your interest in them as readers. As humans when we know that the things we do are valued and acknowledged, we are more likely to continue on with them.



**Pauline White & Sue Flavin**  
Teacher Librarians

## Mid-Year Music Concert

### Mid-Year Music Concert.

Come one, come all! The Parkdale Secondary instrumental students are once again showcasing their talents in what is going to be an exciting night. The Mid-Year Music Concert brings all of our instrumental music students to perform in various bands and ensembles guaranteed to entertain you.

**When: August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019.**

**Time: 7pm.**

**Where: PSC Performing Arts Theatre. \$5 Entry.**



**Dimitri Willenberg**  
LAM Performing Arts

### Year 12 VCAL Fundraising

The **Year 12 PDS VCAL students** are working hard to organise their final task for Personal Development Skills. They have all researched a Not for Profit Organisation and have decided to, as a class, **support The RSPCA and Beyond Blue.**



For all creatures great and small.

The students will be running a number of **stalls on the Athletics Day, on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August.** They are doing a BBQ, drinks stall, cake/treat stall, House colour hairspray/face paint and a 'guess the number of lollies in the jar' competition. **On the day there will be no canteen at the sports ground so this will be the only way the students can purchase food.**

The class is offering a **\$5 deal**. This will include a **sausage, drink, selection from the cake/cookie stall and either a House colour hairspray/face paint or a guess in the 'guess the number of lollies in the jar' competition.** Obviously, the students will be able to purchase further items individually as well.

To help raise as much money as possible, we are asking our fantastic community to help out with the cake stall. **We are needing donations of pre-packaged cake mix to make cupcakes for the cake stall on the Athletics day. Coles and Woolies do a 75c plain brand packet mix (chocolate or vanilla), that we thought would be perfect. However, any brand of packaged mix would be greatly appreciated.** Please leave any donations at the front office before Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August.

We are also running a **collection drive for the RSPCA.** If you have any **old blankets or towels, newspapers, pet's toys or pet food, we have a collection point outside the front office.** Again, all contributions greatly appreciated and you have until Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August to bring in these goodies.

Thanks you for your continued support,  
Year 12 VCAL Students

**Kerri Fulton – Year 12 VCAL PDS teacher**

## Sports

### State Cross Country Championships

Parkdale Secondary College was proudly represented on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July in the School Sports Victoria State Cross Country Championships at Bundoora Park by four outstanding students, who displayed tremendous sportsmanship and competitiveness. Congratulations Billy, Liv, Dylan and Tristan for being State Cross Country finalists in 2019!!

Billy Jackson (12-13Years) - 47<sup>th</sup>

Liv McKie (14 Years) - 16<sup>th</sup>

Dylan Gillespie (14 Years) - 48<sup>th</sup>

Tristan Price (15 Years) - 21<sup>st</sup>

**Vanessa Leslie**

**Carnivals Coordinator**

### Chilln' with the Chap

#### Breaking a Bad Habit

Breaking a bad habit begins by recognising that you have a bad habit worth breaking!

None of us are perfect, but that shouldn't keep us from trying to be the best that we can be. And part of being the best you can be, is learning to recognise when change is in order.

Ask yourself, "Is this habit harmful to myself or those around me?" The most critical step in breaking a habit is acknowledging that it's bad. Then weigh up the consequences of not stopping. Calculate the real cost in terms of time, money or health.

Consider whether it's a habit that you really want to change. Being pressured by others is seldom enough motivation to carry us through a difficult task.

Finally, consider those who are grieved by your habit. How do your family and friends feel about it?

Admitting that you need to change is always the first step toward changing.

Thanks to:



<https://www.families.org.au>

#### ATTENTION ALL PARENTS

The Chaplaincy Support Committee are looking for interested parents or friends of the school, to be involved with their fundraising and support of the Chaplain. If this sounds like you, then please contact Susan [parkin.susan.e@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:parkin.susan.e@edumail.vic.gov.au) for more info.

Thank you,

**Susan Parkin (Chaplain)**

## Student Enhancement

### Student Enhancement Programs 2020.

#### Enrol Now!

Join one or more of our extra-curricular student enhancement programs in 2020. AEP Dance, Instrumental Music, AEP Music, ESP, STEP and WIN. For further information and to enrol now go to the Parkdale Secondary College web site and select "student enhancement". Don't miss out get in early!!!!

Our enhancement programs expose students to a wide range of vocational experiences and institutions including: professional dance instructors, musicians, authors, engineers, scientists, sporting professionals, restaurateurs, institutes and universities.

Programs

Tim

PARKDALE  
SECONDARY COLLEGE

AEP



STEP  
SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY  
ENGINEERING PATHWAY

W/N

Arts Enhancement Pathway (AEP)

- Dance
- Music

Elite Sports Pathway (ESP)

Instrumental Music

Science, Technology, Engineering Pathway (STEP)

Writing is Necessary (WIN)

Thompson  
Engagement/Enhancement Coordinator

Parents Association

**PARENTS ASSOCIATION UPDATE**

Hello everyone,

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 14th August at 7.00pm in the College Staff Room. We'd love to see you if you can make it 😊

**RITCHIES COMMUNITY BENEFITS**

PSC Parents' Association, while not a fundraising body, like to support the school community whenever we can. Thanks to the Ritchies Community Benefit Program we are able to fund a weekly fruit box in the Senior Centre for students to have a healthy snack while studying after school.

For this to continue we need your support!!

If you or your friends/family shop at ANY Ritchies in Victoria, NSW or Queensland and use a community benefit card/tag linked to Parkdale Secondary College, Ritchies donate money back to our school.

If you would like to support Parkdale SC and don't already have a CB card/tag please collect one next time you shop at any Ritchies store and nominate Parkdale Secondary College.

**UNIFORM SHOP**

The College is now using the online service Sustainable School Shop to enable parents to buy and sell second hand uniform items.

## Parents Association Continued

Click here to register and start buying or selling! [www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au](http://www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au)

Here is our current stock list..

[www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au/stocktake/parkdale-secondary-college](http://www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au/stocktake/parkdale-secondary-college)

Please see the Introduction Letter and User Guide for further information and guidance.

[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)

### **Meeting dates for your diary:**

August 14th                      September 11th

October 16th                    November 13th

December 4th – Christmas breakup

Cheers,

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

**Nicole Moffat**

**PA President**