



PARKDALE SECONDARY COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Fortnightly Newsletter - Monday 11th November 2019

Principal's Report – David Russell

Final Examinations

The Year 12 students are now over half way through the examination period and there are a number of students who have completed their final examinations. This includes those who have sat an oral and/or performance assessment prior to the commencement of the main written examination period in music performance, languages, and theatre studies. This week Year 11 and Year 10 students start their internal examinations. This gives these students great practice at sitting this type of assessment in preparation for Year 12. Of course we are looking forward to the Year 12 results which will be released on Thursday December 12th.

COMPASS - Attendance

As parents would be aware, we use Compass to keep a record of student attendance. As part of this process parents are given login access to record reasons for absence and lateness for their child(ren). Recently, while we have been tracking attendance it has been discovered that some students have their Parent's login details. They have been using these to update their attendance on Compass and excusing themselves for the day, or part thereof, so they can be absent from school without being questioned. I remind parents that it is their responsibility for approval of school attendance and should not be completed by the student.

Please check that your login details are secure. If you are unsure, or have given them to your child, we ask that you change your password and not share this with your children.

Planning for 2020

We have currently advertised for a number of teaching positions for 2020 and we are hoping to attract a field of excellent candidates to complete our staffing. I hope to announce all new staffing appointments for 2020 in the next newsletter.

Year 9 Holocaust Service

Ms Natalie Baker, Learning Area Manager – Humanities organized a wonderful service for all Year 9 students on Thursday 7th November to recognize the atrocities of the Holocaust. Guests included Holocaust survivors and the local member of parliament, Tim Richardson. Many Year 9 students played a role in the service as speakers and performing musical items. At the conclusion I had many compliments from the guests, on the service itself, but also of the respectful way the Year 9 conducted themselves. My thanks to all involved.

Buses

A reminder to student that they need to 'tap on' when they board the bus. It is an interesting conversation I have with the PTV and bus companies when they talk about the figures they have for patronage and what I physically see each day. This bus service is not free. It only exists because we say there is a need. Those students not 'tapping on' are actually jeopardising the provision of the services we have.

David Russell
Principal

IMPORTANT DATES - TERM 4 - 2019

November	
11th	Year 10 & 11 Exams Commence
11th-15th	Year 10 & 11 VCAL Work Experience
20th	Year 10 Formal (7pm Start)
21st	Curriculum Day
22nd	Whole School Transition Day
25th	Rollover 2020 Classes Commence
28th	World Challenge (returning 19 th December)
December	
6th	Last Day Year 11 & 12 Scheduled Classes 2020
10th	Year 7 Orientation Day 2020, Alternative Program Running
13th	Last Day Year 8, 9 & 10 Scheduled Classes 2020

Junior School

Year 8 students have the opportunity to apply for a Junior School Captain position for 2020. This had been discussed at assemblies and students have been encouraged to apply. Ten students attended a lunch time leadership session to talk about the application process and to discuss what leadership means and looks like. Over the next few weeks, interested students will participate in an interview and deliver a presentation at a Junior School Assembly.

Year 9 students attended a Holocaust Service on Thursday 7th November. This was an incredibly moving service, involving poetry, music, film clips and stories. We were privileged to have a Holocaust survivor attend. The students engaged in the service in a very respectful manner, and I am sure their knowledge and understanding has been enhanced. Year 9 students will participate in our Koorie Day on Wednesday 13th November. This is another opportunity that students have to deepen their understanding of aboriginal culture.

UNIFORM POLICY – NEW FOR 2020

All parents and students should familiarise themselves with the changes to the uniform policy that will come into effect from the beginning of 2020. Both the current and new policies can be found on Compass under the 'people' icon (community), 'school documentation' then 'policies'. 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.

June Sainsbery
Assistant Principal- Junior School

Year 11 VCAL

We are very proud of our Year 11 VCAL students who joined us before 6.30am to prepare and serve a lovely breakfast to thank the employers and community members who have supported VCAL again this year. This was a big commitment on the student (and staff!) part and I'd like to especially thank Caz and Katrina for their support in the lead up and during the morning's proceedings and to Dusty for arranging access and the BBQ. Caz also managed to organise sponsorship of the event by Chobani which was an added (yummy!) bonus!

We are a lucky community to have such support for our students and hope that this can be an annual fixture on the calendar as a mark of thanks to those who join us in creating a village to raise our students.



Tracey Seach
VCAL Coordinator

Year 11 VCAL

On Thursday 31st October, the 2019 year 11 VCAL students attended the FarShare kitchens to volunteer with the cooking of meals for people who are experiencing food insecurity.

FareShare rescues surplus food and cooks free, nutritious meals for Victorians doing it tough. They are now also sending meals to Tasmania. They operate Australia's largest charity kitchen from Melbourne. With the help of 850 regular volunteers, FareShare cooks 5,000 meals a day for charities such as soup vans, homeless shelters, women's shelters and community food banks.

The VCAL students worked in commercial kitchens and helped prepare, on one day alone, 1,174 quiches and contributed to 2,500 meals, an amazing effort.

The students also organized a rice and pasta drive. We would like to thank all of the Parkdale Community that made a donation, the parents, teacher and students. FareShare were very grateful for all the food that they received.

The VCAL students should be very proud of their efforts and their contribution to helping those in need.





Katrina Amon
Year 11 VCAL PDS teacher

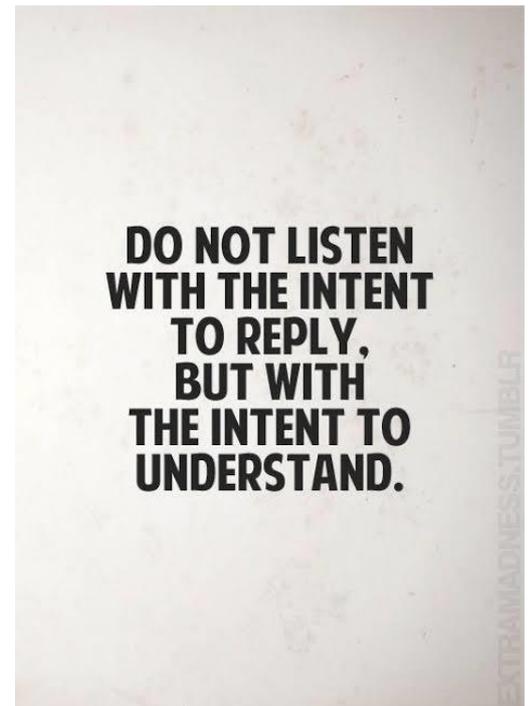
Wellbeing

Chilln' with the Chap Listening or Lecturing?

“But dad! You never listen to me!” Sound familiar? If so, you probably have a teenager in your house. Teenagers often complain that parents don’t listen—and sometimes they’re right! As parents, it’s easy to think we’re engaging in conversation when we’re really just talking at our kids. When your teen wants to talk, turn off the TV and then give them your full attention. Stay focused on what they’re saying, and try not to interrupt. Instead of rendering a quick opinion, ask questions and try to discern all the facts. It takes more time and energy to talk through an issue before making a decision, but our kids deserve that from us. You may find that many of their requests aren’t as unreasonable as you might have first thought.

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

Susan Parkin (Chaplain)



PARENTS ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Hi everyone,

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 13th November at 7.00pm in the College Staff Room. We will be looking for some policy feedback and ideas for 2020 so the more voices the better, we'd love to see you if you can make it 😊

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

DO YOU HAVE UNIFORMS YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE?

You can leave them at the office! Our College wellbeing team will gratefully accept clean items in good order.

DO YOU HAVE BOOKS NOT ON BOOKLISTS YOU'D LIKE TO DONATE?

We are starting a new initiative, supporting GAT Foundation... a hard-working Melbourne charity who distributes and rehomes books throughout the Philippines - to promote sustainability, empower individuals and relieve poverty through education. More information can be found at www.gatfoundation.org.au Look out for a collection box at the front office where you can leave your text-books. They must be in good condition and published in 2014 to 2019 (6 years or less) Please do not leave books that don't meet these requirements or else PFA will be stuck with them!

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.

For this to continue we need your support!! Link your community benefit card/tag to Parkdale Secondary College at ANY Ritchies in Victoria, NSW or Queensland.

Meeting dates for your diary:

November 13th

December 4th – Christmas breakup

Cheers,

Nicole Moffat- PA President

nmoffat@optusnet.com.au

Welcome to Your Library at Parkdale Secondary College

News from the Library – Information Literacy in the Library

Over the last month Pauline White and I have been working with all Year 7 and 9 classes as students have been researching a variety of topics for English informative talks. The Library's role in teaching students the information literacy skills needed to navigate through this information rich age is ever growing and becoming increasingly important. We explicitly teach information literacy skills in the context of research tasks and we expect our students, over time, to become critical information users.

Initially students are shown how to use the Library Webpage, where they can search our extensive print collection and access our excellent online resources. We begin in this way so as to expose our students to

Welcome to Your Library at Parkdale Secondary College Continued

quality information and to provide a bench mark from which they can become discerning information users. Students are taught about the publication process and authorship. Once the students have mastered the use of the Library's resources we teach them how to assess online resources looking at the relevance, appropriateness, detail, authority, currency and bias of the information.

The Library Website is an excellent source of quality information, and through it your son/daughter has 24/7 access to some of the world's most trusted information sources. Our Library Webpage offers students free access to the following online resources, please take the time to have a look for yourself.



Britannica School
World Book Encyclopaedia
The Health Reference Centre
Science Oline
Echo Online- media database
Gail Reference EBooks, Credo
Source- Your Research Partner
The Age- Digital Edition
Wheeler's Audio and EBooks

For Britannica School is a wonderful research tool

Pauline White and Sue Flavin
Teacher Librarians