



Principal's Report



Important Dates

- **Friday 2 June 2023**
Year 10 & 11 exams commence
- **Monday 5 June 2023**
Year 8 & 9 exams commence
- **Thursday 8 June 2023**
Exams conclude
- **Friday 9 June 2023**
Report writing day (student free)
- **Monday 12 June 2023**
King's Birthday public holiday
- **Wednesday 14 June 2023**
Later Years Information Evening (4-7pm)
- **Thursday 15 June 2023**
General Achievement Test (GAT)
- **Monday 19 June 2023**
Year 9 Urban Experience
Year 10 Work Experience
- **Friday 23 June 2023**
Last Day Term 2 - 2.25pm finish

College Absence Line:
9744 0500

A reminder to parents that when your student is absent to call the College Absence Line and leave the following information:

- ♦ Parent/Carer name
- ♦ Student name
- ♦ Home Group
- ♦ Reason: please give detail of absence
- ♦ Phone number

Dear Sunbury Downs College Community,

I would like to acknowledge and congratulate all students and staff for the way in which they have returned to school for Term 2.

Staffing Update

Recently the following staff have been appointed to positions advertised at the college.

- Acting Middle Years Leading Teacher (job share) Mr James Ross and Mr Jesse Morgan.
- Year Level Coordination Assistant – Year 7 Ms Courtney Thorn and Year 9 Mr Jack Merzel
- General Office/Finance officer – Ms Bianca Kerr
- Long Service Leave (Ms Christine Jajo) – Ms Lynne Compston and Ms Barbara Trigg
- School Nursing Program (Michelle Hartwell) – replacement is Ms Edwina Nagorcka (22 May)
- Ms Domenica Cutri—Italian classroom teacher



Principal's Report

ANZAC Day Assembly/Community Commemoration Services

On the first day of Term 2 Monday 24 April we held our 2023 ANZAC Day school assembly in the gymnasium. This is an important whole school event which acknowledges the sacrifices of others and pays our respect at this time which is important for us and the wider school community.

Our student leaders represented the College at the local community dawn and mid-morning commemorative services. I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to the parents of students who also attended/accompanied their children to these services.

COVID Safe Protocols

We are continuing to follow the advice of the Education Department and Department of Health. The health and wellbeing of our students, staff and wider community remains the highest priority. In recent days we have been notified of positive COVID cases in our school community, so we take this opportunity to remind staff and students to be vigilant.

Open Night/College Tours

On Monday 1 May the College held our 2023 Open Night, offering prospective parents and students the opportunity to visit, participate in tours and gather important information about the teaching and learning program offered by our great school. The format for the evening was amended to accommodate the large number of families who made bookings and registered for school tours. There were approximately 500 guests who attended this event, and we continue to take enquiries from families who were not able to attend. Following this night, additional tours were held during the next week for some families who could not make it on 1 May. The College continues to offer tours on Friday mornings at 9.30am and at other times as required. Appointments and registration are required, and this is being coordinated via the general office.

House Athletics Carnival – Thursday 11 May

What an amazing day! We were very fortunate to have great weather on the day of our House Athletics Carnival last week. All students who competed on the day are to be congratulated on their involvement and participation.

The final results were:

- 1st Jackson - 2541
- 2nd Aitken - 2207
- 3rd Mitchell - 2161
- 4th Evans - 1645

Congratulations to Jackson House on winning the House Athletics carnival in 2023!

Semester 1 Examination Period

The Semester 1 examination process for students in Years 8 - 11 will be conducted during the first 2 weeks of June.

- Years 10 and 11- Friday 2 June
- Years 8 and 9 - Monday 5 June

The VCE General Achievement Test is being conducted on Thursday 15 June 2023.



Principal's Report

Attitude to School Student Survey

The annual Attitude to School Student Survey commenced on Monday 22 May 2023 and will conclude Wednesday 31 May 2023. This is a state-wide activity that all schools are required to administer. The results will be received in Semester 2 and will provide feedback to the school from students about our current teaching and learning program, engagement of students within the school and student wellbeing. This informs our planning for the following year(s).

Minor Capital Works Program

The College has been notified that the minor capital works program which will enable the upgrading of the Middle Years and Later Years student toilet and amenities is currently going through the tender process. We will be notified by the VSBA when the successful builder has been decided and when the next steps will commence (startup meeting - builder, architect, VSBA and school meeting).

Regards,

Warwick Beynon
Principal



Mr Warwick Beynon | PRINCIPAL



Later Years

Our Later Years students have continued to work in a conscientious manner, and there have been many comments about their respectful behaviours, both within the College and in the community. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate these students once again for their attitude to their learning and the way in which they have conducted themselves.

Preparations for Work Experience are in full swing, with our Year 10 students and relevant school staff. This week-long activity commencing Monday 19 June and concluding Friday 23 June, will provide our students with innumerable benefits, including:

- an understanding of the work environment and what employers expect of their workers;
- an opportunity to explore possible career options;
- increased self-understanding, maturity, independence, and self-confidence;
- increased motivation to continue study and/or undertake further training;
- a better understanding of how the school curriculum can help prepare young people for work;
- an introduction to workplace recruitment practices;
- enhanced opportunities for part-time and casual employment;
- the opportunity to include the employer's work experience evaluation in future job and course applications;
- opportunities to develop work-related competencies and acquire skills, and the chance to 'try out' a workplace.

Those students who have yet to organise their work placement are to see Mel Hatch in the Careers Office, or via email: melanie.hatch@education.vic.gov.au. Mel is very willing to assist these students with any assistance that they may require.

The Year 11 and Year 12 students are currently preparing to undertake various assessment instruments. Parents/guardians are encouraged to assist with this process by monitoring the progress of their children, and ensuring appropriate study habits are occurring. Moreover, parents/guardians are also asked to check the attendance rates of their children, as a 90% attendance rate is expected of all students. Students who do not meet this threshold are at risk of not receiving relevant certificates. To assist with the progress of our Year 11 students, Year 11 Year Level Coordinator Ms Carew has instigated an initiative wherein each Tuesday and Thursday, Year 10 and Year 11 students can attend FLC D at lunchtimes and study in a supervised environment. All students attending can help themselves to complimentary hot drinks. In addition to this, Ms Carew also invited a guest speaker from Elevate Education to speak with our Year 11 students. This seminar was well-attended and provided our students with many valuable ideas to assist with their studies.



Riedwaan Nassiep | LATER YEARS MINI SCHOOL LEADER



Jo Rains | LATER YEARS MINI SCHOOL LEADER



Middle Years

As always, each Term is jam-packed with a range of activities happening for all students in the Middle Years.

In every newsletter we talk about how fast the year is going, how much has been achieved, and how proud we are of our College community. The way in which we have completed the first quarter of 2023 is no different.

Our Year 7 students generally made a positive start, making the transition to secondary school well, and they enjoyed their Year 7 Camp during week 8 immensely.

With so many success stories across Years 7 – 9 with students being recognised for their positive work habits, it can be easy to feel contented and not strive for further improvement. We would like to encourage all students to demonstrate their **Ambition** and to review their own results carefully. Students should then assess where they believe they would like to improve their Progress Report score and make a concerted effort to lift that score for each criterion by one.

Share these goals with your parents and teachers so that they can support you in achieving these goals, as ultimately positive work habits will set you in good stead for future studies and life beyond school.



James Ross | MIDDLE YEARS MINI SCHOOL LEADER (ACTING) **Jesse Morgan** | MIDDLE YEARS MINI SCHOOL LEADER (ACTING)



Athletics Carnival

On Thursday 11 May 2023 students were taken by bus to Melton Athletics Track for our school Athletics Carnival. Students participated in a range of track and field events. These events were organised and operated by the VET Sport & Recreation students who assisted staff. The day ended with the Year 12 students performing a lap of the track in costume as a cohort to signify their final House Athletic Sports. There was plenty of cheering and support from students across the four houses.

Results:

1. Jackson - 2541 points
2. Aitken - 2207 points
3. Mitchell - 2161 points
4. Evans - 1645 points

Individual Champions

Under 13 Female Champion	Ava Fox-Worn	Jackson
Under 13 Males Champion	Jack Bracken	Aitken
Under 14 Female Champion	Elenor Leviston	Mitchell
Under 14 Male Champion	Marino Marshall	Jackson
Under 15 Female Champion	Sahana Maini	Jackson
Under 15 Male Champion	Riveen Randeniya	Mitchell
Under 16 Female Champion	Kitty Sinfield	Evans
Under 16 Male Champion	Ashley Hennessy	Aitken
Under 21 Female Champion	Madina Noble	Mitchell
Under 21 Male Champion	Rumane Abeywardena	Jackson

Students are to be commended on their behaviour on the day. We thank all staff and students that were involved in a successful athletics carnival for 2023. Congratulations once again to Jackson House. Best of luck to all students that have made the interschool athletics team that will compete later this term.



Susan Aldridge | HOUSE COORDINATOR



Athletics Carnival





Athletics Carnival





Athletics Carnival





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“If you are going to get
anywhere in life, you have
to read a lot of books.”

ROALD DAHL

Now, let's dive a little deeper to better understand the advantages of reading.

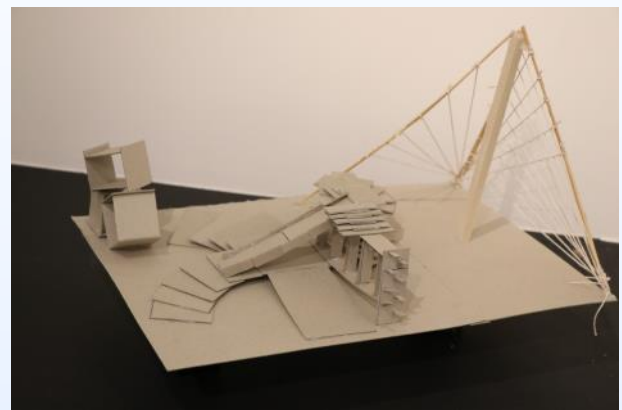
- Gain Valuable Knowledge. ...
- Exercise Your Brain. ...
- Improve Your Focus. ...
- Improve Your Memory. ...
- Enjoy Entertainment. ...
- Improve Your Ability to Empathize. ...
- Improve Your Communication Skills. ...
- Reduce Stress.



Meredith Martell | ERC MANAGER



Open Night



For Term 1, the Year 10 Visual Art students have undertaken an in-depth exploration into materials and art forms with a focus on the theme of Identity and Belonging.

Students explored the various techniques of watercolour painting, dry-point etching and creating soft sculptures by sewing. They focused on still life objects, figures and portraits of people in their lives that have shaped their sense of identity and belonging. Student's friends, family, childhood shows, their favourite books and plants formed the basis of a series of creatively constructed artworks. Portraying these significant objects and people offered a precious glimpse into each person's life.



Raneen Wardy | ART AND VISUAL COMMUNICATION DESIGN



Careers

Year 8 Career Action Plans

In week 3 the Year 8 students participated in a double session of early Career Planning to get them thinking about the world of work. They had the opportunity to explore the My Future website to research occupations, watch videos and learn about the skills and qualifications required for an occupation of their interest. The students then completed a Career Action Plan via their My Career Portfolio section of Compass. This is something that they will build on each year of their secondary schooling.

Year 9 Morrisby Profiling

Later this term the Year 9 students will be involved in Morrisby Profiling which is an online assessment tool that has been chosen by the Victorian Government for the My Career Insights Program. The students will complete a series of questions to ascertain their strengths, interests, motivations, skills, personality, and desires. The results of these questions will be presented to the student in a one-on-one session at the beginning of Term 3 where they will receive a report with in-depth information regarding career suggestions that are matched to the student. This is a wonderful tool for the students to use when preparing for their careers and for choosing subjects for their Year 11 and 12 years. Further information will be coming out shortly regarding the Morrisby Profiling program.

Year 10 Work Experience Program

Planning is underway to prepare our students for their Year 10 Work Experience placement which is held in week 9 of this term. Our students have been busy obtaining placements, and now we are busy preparing paperwork and resources to prepare our students for this wonderful opportunity to spend a week in the workforce. If you are yet to finalise a placement or have any questions, please contact Melanie Hatch, Work Experience Coordinator as soon as possible to discuss.

Resources for Year 10, 11 & 12 Students

- Myfuture.edu.au - career exploration website. This site has videos and in-depth information regarding labour market, and qualifications needed.
- VTAC.edu.au - Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre. This website has all of the University Courses available to students in Victoria – and many TAFE Courses also.
- University open days – Later Years students are encouraged to check out when the Universities are holding their open days. Most of the days are in July and August this year. This is a wonderful opportunity to chat to current students, experts in the field, and see the university at its best!



Jo Rains | LATER YEARS MINI-SCHOOL LEADER (ACTING)
& CAREERS ADVISOR



Melanie Hatch | CAREERS ADVISOR



English

Each Wednesday, the English teachers offer a school-wide lunchtime session to support students in their English studies. This might be used for students to catch up on due work; to practice key skills or consolidate new learning. As a domain teaching team, we highly recommend this program if your student has recently received a coursework letter, outlining missed work, or if your child needs support for upcoming assessment tasks. Students are invited to room 23 on Wednesday at lunch, once they have eaten their lunch. Bring work to complete, or work to seek feedback.

How to revise for an English exam or test:

A commonly heard retort among English students has been that 'you can't study for an English exam'. Examination time is nigh upon us. To assist student ambition in English in Semester One exams, students should be using the following study techniques to review their English semester, in conjunction with their subject specific revision sheets:

- Revise previous assessment tasks, and rewrite these according to the teacher's feedback and criteria
- Write practice pieces and seek feedback from peers and teachers
- Summarise key themes and concerns within texts studied
- Complete practice or previous year's exams for that subject or semester
- Create plans of essay questions, or write parts of essays including introductions and body paragraphs
- Compile and learn quote banks and how quotes could be used to answer essay questions
- Practice writing skills learnt in class by reviewing previously set classroom activities

I wish all students the best of luck in their examination preparations.



Katherine Jones | ENGLISH DOMAIN LEADER



Mathematics & Numeracy

Mathematics and Numeracy:



Mali Maroz of 9E took out one of only five \$200 prizes in the Australia-wide Talk Money challenge. Students were invited to present their ideas on how to earn-save-learn about money. Mali shares her thoughts on her amazing win below including describing how she saves her money which was her entry for the competition:

I am forever coming up with new business ideas, so I needed some way to organise my money. I had the idea to use tins from those wafer sticks, so I asked my parents and grandparents for some 'twirly whirly's' for Christmas (we have strange names for a few things). When Christmas came, I had two tins of the Rondoletti twirly whirly's. After a few months, I finished them (I'm surprised it took that long) and I used my two tins to separate my home/spending money (green tin = 'Go Money') from my business money (red/maroon tin). I also had the idea to start a business based on saving money, and I bought a few of those money cans that you can't open until it's full. When that business failed, I didn't want to use the cans, so I made my own with a glass jar, some paper, and tape. I taped the jar closed and added a layer of paper to make it stronger, and then I cut a slit in the top so I could actually put money inside, and I put in a little sticky note with the date I had started the savings jar on it. Then on March 20th, I got the email from Mrs Jackson saying 'It's Global Money Week! Your chance to win a \$200 Dymocks voucher.' and I was like "Uh, yes please!" because who doesn't love money and books? I'm a bit of a bookworm so I was really excited to see this opportunity. When I entered, I didn't expect to win anything because I had entered many competitions in the past and not won, but there was a little part of me that was wishing so hard that I would win.

Fast forward to Term 2, I come to school and am being congratulated by teachers. I was so confused, because I couldn't remember entering anything. Then I received an email from Mrs Jackson congratulating me and telling me that I had won the Talk Money competition and I was one of five in all of Australia to win. Then my mum printed off the voucher for me. Thinking back on it now, I am really lucky that I had read the email that had told me about the competition in the first place, and that I entered, *and then* to top it all off, I had won. Every now and then, I am congratulated by another teacher, but the happiness doesn't wear off. Thanks for reading :)"

Competitions:

Maths Olympiad – APSMO



56 students from Years 7 and 8 participated in the first maths Olympiad round. This competition promotes the application of problem-solving skills, with all students aiming to improve as they go through the rounds. Students will receive their scores shortly. Well done everyone!

Melbourne University



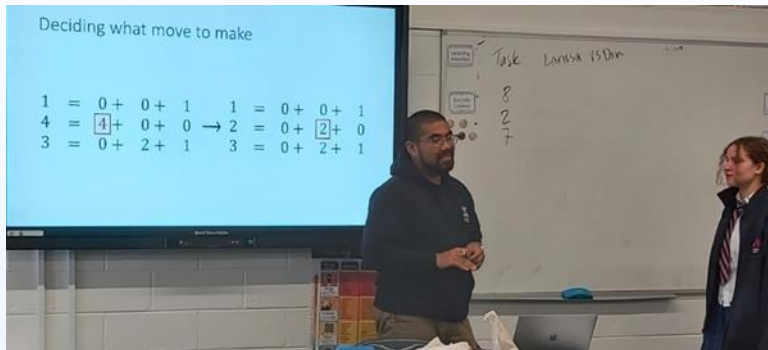
Three Year 8 students (Connor, Kingston and Ben from 8E) participated in the Melbourne University Schools Maths competition. They looked at 7 questions and were allowed 2 hours to develop their solutions and write them up logically. Results should be back mid-August. Well done boys!



Mathematics & Numeracy

Melbourne University – school of Maths and Statistics Incursion

How do you always win a game? Students were shown the Pebble Game and challenged to beat Domenic from Melbourne Uni. No-one could, but Larissa came close. She will receive a Melbourne Uni hoodie for her impressive achievements on the day. Students were shown how to always win by analysing moves using binary numbers. Game theory is a whole field of maths that can be explored at university, but our Year 8s are making an early start.



Afterschool Maths Homework Club: Mondays 3:30 – 4:30pm

Venue: Room 4A

Every Monday afternoon from 3:30pm to 4:30pm students have the opportunity to take part in the Maths Homework Club. All students, from Year 7 to 12, are invited to attend to gain valuable assistance with their class work, homework, exam preparation or anything related to Mathematics. Our Maths teachers are once again providing their services. There are no costs and no booking is required.



If you have any questions regarding mathematics or numeracy please contact us.

Lauren.Jackson@education.vic.gov.au

Himneet.kaur@education.vic.gov.au



Lauren Jackson | LEARNING SPECIALIST (NUMERACY)



Himneet Kaur | MATHEMATICS DOMAIN LEADER



Community News



**Sunbury
Downs
College**

Confidence to Achieve



LATER YEARS INFORMATION NIGHT **YEAR 10 into 11 2024** **WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE**

4.30pm - 6.00pm: Subject Showcase

6.00pm - 7.00pm: Presentation

Scan the QR
Code to RSVP



Discover the wide range of pathways offered that best suit student's interests, skills and abilities. We offer VCE (Victorian Certificate of Education) and VCE-VM (Victorian Certificate of Education - Vocational Major)

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