



Dandenong High School Newsletter
Dandenong Campus
22nd June 2007
Principal: Mr Martin Culkin

Principal's Article

The end of the second term of the school year is nearly upon us. Students across the school have been subject to assessments in their subjects. School reports will be provided by mail to all families at the end of the term - next week. For students at Years 7 - 10, this will be the first time that families see the new Victorian Essential Learning Reports. These reports have been constructed and completed within government guidelines and these are being implemented in all schools.

VCE students have now commenced the new semester. In real terms the year for VCE is quite short. The need for excellent organisation and effective use of time is of paramount importance. There is an expectation that VCE students will spend significant time during the school vacation studying and revising their work.

Families may have read the "On Track" data that was published in the daily newspapers this week. From the material presented it is clear that students from the Dandenong Campus have been placed well in their chosen field. The data shows that the school is performing well in providing meaningful pathways for students. A very pleasing aspect is the very small number of students from 2006 who are still seeking employment.

The Interim School Council meets on a monthly basis and is the guiding group for the development of the new school arrangements. This Council manages the whole school finances and takes a leading role in the development of curriculum and other arrangements for the future. One of its key committees is the Futures Committee. This committee met recently to discuss things such as uniform, motto, logo, house names etc. There will be a consultative process during the next six months as a course is set to provide an agreed position for the future.

The Dandenong Education Precinct Project is progressing well with further design work continuing. We expect detailed design material to be completed by August 2007. We also expect that tenders will be called for the first stage later this year. It is expected that building works will commence early in 2008. The first stage is likely to be the building of three of the seven Schools within Schools and work on renovation of the Library. It is pleasing to note the great attention in design and building will be paid to the environment and to comfort levels for students and staff in the various buildings. Further information will be available to all sections of the school community during term 3. In the meantime groups of teachers are working on various components of design. Whole school teacher and non teacher meetings are also taking place. If any member of the school community would like a look at the initial plans for the building, this can be arranged through the General Office.

Transition arrangements for each of the three campuses for Year 7 students will remain the same in 2008 as they have in 2007. Healthy numbers have indicated a preference for Dandenong High School once again for 2008. It is likely that an intake of 250 plus Year 7 students will happen.

Martin Culkin
PRINCIPAL

Term 2 ends 2.30pm on Friday 29th June 2007
Term 3 commences normal school time on Monday 16th July 2007

Absenteeism from school

There is a legal requirement for all school age students to attend school and for schools to keep records of student attendance.

We ask parents to ring the school on 97920561 **after 9.30am** on the day (or the day before) of a student absence. Students are required to bring a note from their parents/guardian excusing their absence on the day they return to school. Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

We understand that there will be times such as illness or circumstances where a student will be unable to attend school. However, continual absenteeism and irregular attendance can affect the student long after leaving school. A student's absence from school can significantly limit their learning opportunities and achievement levels. If your child is absent only 20 days a year, it means that by the end of their school life they will have missed more than a year of school. It is vitally important that you insist on regular school attendance and where necessary seek help and support in making sure your child attends school regularly.

Should you have any concerns in relation to your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Year Level Coordinator for advice and support.

THE VICTORIAN ESSENTIAL LEARNING STANDARDS

Introduction

The Victorian Essential Learning Standards [also known as VELS or the 'Standards'] outline expected statewide standards for students from Prep to Year 10 in Victorian schools. They describe what is essential for students to learn and understand during their time at school. The Standards are used in schools to plan student's learning, assess student progress and report to parents. The Semester 1 reports, 2007 for Years 7-10 will be VELS based.

How are the Standards organised?

The Victorian Essential Learning Standards are presented in three main strands or areas. They are:

- **Physical, Personal and Social Learning:** Health and Physical Education; Interpersonal Development; Personal Learning and Civics and Citizenship
- **Discipline-based Learning:** English; Science; Mathematics; The Humanities; Languages and The Arts
- **Interdisciplinary Learning:** other essential skills that apply across curriculum areas, Communication, Design, Creativity and Technology; Information and Communications Technology; Thinking Processes

All these areas have usually been taught in schools, but they have not always been linked closely with traditional subject areas. Bringing them together emphasises their value and relevance in student learning.

How do the Standards match the year levels?

The levels of the Standards relate to year levels in the following way:

Victorian Essential Learning Standards Levels	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
Year Levels	End of Prep	End of Year 2	End of Year 4	End of Year 6	End of Year 8	End of Year 10

How are the Standards used for reporting?

Reports for parents will show student achievement against the Standards. The report card's A to E scale will tell you how your child is progressing against the expected standard. For example a 'C' rating means your child is at the expected standard.

The reporting scale is:

- A Well above the expected standard at this time of year
- B Above the standard at this time of year
- C At the standard expected at this time of year
- D Below the standard expected at this time of year
- E Well below the standard expected at this time of year

Immunisations

The City of Greater Dandenong's Immunisation Department recently visited our school on 19 June and vaccinated those students in Years 7,10,11 & 12 whose parents gave consent for the following:

- Chickenpox [Yr 7]
- Human Papillomavirus [HPV] [Yrs 7,10,11 & 12] vaccines

If your child was absent from school on this date, please be advised that you will be receiving a letter from the City of Greater Dandenong outlining a suggested catch-up session for your child to attend.

If you have any further queries, please contact the Immunisation Department at the City of Greater Dandenong on [03] 9238 1477.

FROM THE CAREERS DESK

OPEN DAYS.

This is a timely reminder to parents and students that Open Days for tertiary institutions will be upon us again early in term 3. I encourage all students, in particular Year 12 students, to visit the institutions for which they intend to apply. Much information about courses, facilities and resources can be gained from the visits. A full list of open day dates will be available soon.

MONASH UNIVERSITY.

Monash recently announced that they will use the GAT results for selection to their courses if the students Enter Score falls in the Middle Band. We as a school have continually stressed to students to do their best in the GAT. The GAT is also a good indicator on how a student will perform in their studies. Our students also did a practice GAT prior to the actual GAT. Parents of Year 12 students might ask their son or daughter what they achieved on this practice GAT!!

VTAC GUIDE.

All Year 12 students will be receiving a complimentary VTAC guide as part of their Managed Individual Pathways Program that began in Year 10. All aspects for Tertiary applications will be covered in the fortnightly careers sessions. Parents who would like to get involved with their student, be on the lookout for this guide early term 3.

MOTIVATIONAL SEMINAR.

By the time you read this newsletter, Year 12 students will have taken part in a Motivational seminar "ACHIEVE YOUR BEST". The program is run by Darren Pereira of Success Integrated. In the past, students have said this is a worthwhile session as it stimulates them to achieve their best.

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY.

I recently went to a seminar to Melbourne Uni to hear first hand about their new Melbourne Model. In a nutshell, there will be six new designer degrees phased in over the next few years. In each degree, students will have to complete 25% of studies from another discipline. Our Year 12 students will be well versed on these changes and how it might affect them.

MIPs (Managed Individual Pathways)

This Government initiative has been operating since 2001. At Dandenong HS, part of the MIPs program involves Interviewing all Year 10 students on an individual basis by our project officers Margot Renouf and Mary Harrison. Students are assessed about career choices and given a wide range of materials that they can use for further career pathway options. Choosing a career is not an easy option for many students. The MIPs program compliments all the good work carried out in Year 10 Consumer Education classes. Look for the pack when your students have been assessed.

SPORT NEWS

There has been a lot of news within the sporting fields this term. So far we have had success in many teams such as:

SENIOR GIRLS VOLLEYBALL



The students played the STATE FINALS at MSAC on the 18th May 2007. The students won all of their games bar one, which meant that they played in a head to head semi final to win their way through to the grand final. This is the first time the girls have ever played at the State level - so to actually get through to the Semi Final was a tremendous effort. The girls lost in the semi final - however they fought hard throughout and showed a real pride in the school with the way they conducted themselves.

It was a tremendous effort by all. For many it was the last time they will play volleyball for the school as they complete Year 12 at the end of the year so I am sure they are glad to have played so well.

WINNERS OF DISTRICT SPORT SO FAR



- Year 7 Boys Soccer** - Coached by Mr Mowbray
- Intermediate Boys and Girls Badminton** - Coached by Mr Bond
- Year 7 Girls Soccer** - Coached by Mrs Hayes
- Year 8 Girls Soccer** - coached by Miss Burgess

INTERMEDIATE BOYS RUGBY LEAGUE



The Intermediate boys from Doveton, Cleeland, and Dandenong High School are all combining again to play in the Rugby League competition for the Intermediate level, which is run by the Melbourne Storm. The boys have the opportunity of playing the curtain raiser game for Melbourne Storm if they win their way through to the State Finals. The first match is to be held on June the 27th. We wish them all luck as this is an amazing opportunity for all.

RUGBY LEAGUE - BE A PLAYER FOR A DAY

3 lucky students from Dandenong High School (all campuses - 1 from each) have been offered a place in the Melbourne Storm's holiday program. The students nominated get to be a **STORM PLAYER FOR A DAY**. On this day they attend training sessions with the players, have a BBQ lunch with the players, and basically get to rub shoulders with the best of the best. The student nominated and attending from Dandenong High School - Dandenong Campus - is Ray Ertl from Year 9. This is a huge privilege to be able to participate in such an event. We wish him luck and congratulations!

PIERRE DE COUBERTIN AWARD 2007

Each year a Year 12 student from ALL schools around the state are nominated to receive the Pierre De Coubertin Award. This award goes to a student who displays great sportsmanship, is heavily involved in the sporting program at school, and holds themselves in relation to the Olympic Motto. This year the award nominee is STACEY AVERY from Year 12. Congratulations Stacey.

ROCK EISTEDDFOD - FALLEN HEROES

The production of Fallen Heroes - Dandenong High Schools Rock Eisteddfod Challenge Entry, is now complete! The students have been working VERY hard on ALL days of the week rehearsing to get the piece finished. While it still needs to be cleaned up at least the main bulk is done and now the nitty gritty rehearsals begin! Fun and games for ALL!

Props and costumes are well underway, as is the planning for fundraising events which is being done by the Fundraising Committee. The Committee, made up of parents, students, and staff from Dandenong High School, meet once a fortnight to plan and discuss events which can be held during school time and outside of school time to raise money, as well as to involve and make contact with local businesses.

We are asking for:

ANY PARENTS OR FRIENDS OF DANDENONG HIGH SCHOOL THAT HAVE CONNECTIONS TO LOCAL BUSINESSES TO PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING GOODS OR SERVICES TO THE DANDENONG HIGH SCHOOL ROCK EISTEDDFOD CHALLENGE.

We need as much support as we can get to make sure that our first ever entry is a success and that we have adequate funding to make sure our props, costumes etc are all amazing!

In return your business would be advertised on our promotional material such as T shirts, billboards, and thanked on stage during the heats at Vodafone Arena.

HEAT DATE is MONDAY AUGUST 6th 2007 at VODAFONE ARENA. Doors open at 7.00pm

T Shirts to support the students will also be made up and information about this will be given at a later date.

Ticketing information - Ticket information has now been handed out to all schools participating

Tickets are on sale from **Miss Burgess in G10 (contact the school) for \$20.00 each.**

There is NO concession. All tickets are the same cost. This price has been subsidised by the school as ticket prices are actually \$30.00. Tickets **WILL NOT** be handed out before money is paid.

We have 220 seats allocated and **NEED** to sell **ALL TICKETS!** Tickets **WILL NOT BE SOLD ON THE DOOR at VODAFONE ARENA**

How to communicate better with your teenager

Adolescence is a time of huge change and turmoil. Here are some tips for keeping lines of communication open with the teenager in your life.

- Speak to your teenager as an adult, not as a child. Treat your teen with the respect you would give another adult.
 - Make the most of informal opportunities to talk - whether it's cooking or bike-riding. Doing something together gives you a chance to relax together and enjoy one another's company.
 - Listen more and talk less. This may take some conscious effort on your part, but it will pay off.
 - Don't insist that your teen shares your beliefs or values. Allow your teen to voice opinions with out fear of being put down.
 - Don't assume you know what your teen is thinking. Check out your assumptions by asking and reflecting back what you hear. This way your teen is more likely to feel listened to and understood.
 - Don't assume your teen is a mind-reader either. Speak up and ask for what you want or need.
 - Ask questions that don't just require a yes/no response eg. 'How did school go?'
 - Look for opportunities for praise rather than only paying attention to bad behaviour.
 - Listen rather than rushing in with your own opinion or advice.
 - Be a good role model when it comes to communication.
 - Help them define problems and options and talk through solutions.
 - Avoid ultimatums or confrontations. Try to negotiate solutions.
 - Try to make time to spend alone with your teenager without other children around.
- Show your interest. If possible, stop what you're doing to listen. Use interested body language and eye contact.

Reference: Health Break, May 2007, Department of Human Services.