

Wednesday 31st May, 2017 Issue No. 4

ACTING CAMPUS PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents, Guardians and extended families and friends,

Can you believe we are half way through term 2? It feels like we have only just begun. We have had a very busy term with NAPLAN, Year 9 Camp, Year 10 Work Experience, Federation University Outreach Day, The PACK extended hike and their weekly adventures and finally the PACK graduation last Friday.

Thank-you to Dan Guerin for organising the Year 9 camp. It sounds like the students were literally run off their feet with the many activities packed into 3 days. Activities such as going up to the Eureka Sky Deck, a tour of Etihad Stadium, a ride on the Melbourne Star, dinner in Lygon Street, going to a movie at IMAX and on the last day spending a few hours trying to problem solve their way out of the escape room. The three days sounded like fun and I hear that the students were very well behaved. You should be proud of your child and the way they behaved on the camp and respectfully represented themselves and our school.

All Year 10 Work Experience was highly organised by Sharon Hope and I thank her for the work she did to follow up with students. We had students working in Post Offices, with tradespeople, at Vet's, Sovereign Hill and in an array of retail outlets. There are more opportunities for students to do more work experience, if they are interested please make sure they see Sharon Hope to organise this.

Emma Brand and Chrissie Cowcher have completed another successful PACK program. The extended hike of 5 days was along the Great Ocean Walk starting in Marengo. Thank-you to Dave Allen for also attending the hike. The girls graduated last week with a day out to Lake Dewar Lodge in Myrning. They invited their parents to celebrate their achievements and also attempted the long flying fox across the gorge, where I hear they all ended upside down and flying backwards!

The next 5 weeks are also very busy. Our VCE students complete Unit 1 and 3 on June 16th and begin Units 2 and 4 on June 19th. Year 11's will be sitting their Unit 1 exams between June 8th and 16th. **The Year 11's will not be required to attend school during this time for their usual classes – they only need to attend for their exams.** Year 9 and 10 students will also be sitting exams for their core subjects during this time, and attending their usual classes. Please speak with your child(ren) about the importance of exams and especially preparation for exams.

The G.A.T. is on Wednesday June 14th. There will not be any scheduled VCE classes on this day. The teaching staff here at MRC have been doing some professional development on 'purposeful homework'. We have discussed the importance of homework and begun to create homework tasks that extend the students skill and knowledge on the topics they are focussing on in class. I have attached some tips for parents to support their child in completing homework and how you can help. This research comes from the Marzano Compendium. The Marzano Research Institute is an American based Education research initiative headed up by Bob Marzano. All staff at Ballarat Secondary College use this as a guide for professional development and our basis comes from the Art and Science of Teaching.

Please read over the tips and if you require more information or clarity then please get in touch with your Child's Head of House or their classroom teacher.

Please be aware that **June 6th is a Professional Learning Day for all staff here at Mount Rowan, this means that it is a student free day for all students.**

I hope the school term is going along well for all of you also.

Ms Seona Murnane
Mount Rowan Acting Campus
Principal



ACTING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

At the beginning of Term 3, Mount Rowan Campus will be implementing a Personal Electronic Device Policy at the campus. Mobile phones and music devices are items of technology that are used every day by adolescents, however we are finding that they are a distraction to student learning and we have decided that we need to have a consistent approach to their use. Attached to this newsletter is a copy of the policy that will be implemented at the beginning of Term 3. Please have a discussion with your child / children over the coming weeks about the policy and the consequences involved when students don't adhere to this policy. If you have any questions in regards to the policy, please contact me at school on 5336 7804.

PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

All Personal Electronic Devices are to be silent and invisible between 8:50 am and 3:10 pm. This includes recess/lunch.

Personal Electronic devices include iPods, phones, MP3 players, iPads and headphones.

Mount Rowan Campus Procedures

If a student is seen to have a personal electronic device the following will take place:

They are to be sent to the front office to hand their phone in.

At the office upon handing their phone in, they will receive a stamp in their diary that they will need to show to collect their phone. Their phone will be locked away for the duration of the day. They will also need to show this stamp to their classroom teacher upon returning to class.

Students can then collect their phone at the end of the day (after 3:10).

If a student refuses to hand their phone in at the office:

They are to be sent to the student services room (Head of House Office). They will receive an external suspension (will occur next day) for refusing to follow teacher instructions. The student will be required to hand in their phone. They will then be sent back to class and receive a yard clean up at lunch / recess.

If a student still refuses to hand in their phone they will receive an internal suspension for the duration of the day (or until they hand their phone in) and an external suspension the following day.

Nick Stephen
Acting Assistant Principal



HOMEWORK TIPS FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

The following tips are intended to help parents and guardians interact with their students about homework. If you have any questions or concerns about these expectations, please don't hesitate to ask!

1. **Establish** a physical structure regarding your student's homework. It is helpful for students to have a regular and consistent workspace that provides the necessary materials (such as pencils, paper, a dictionary, or a calculator) and a quiet environment.
2. **Monitor** your student's progress. Check to see if he or she is staying focused and attending to the homework or becoming frustrated with it.
3. **Emphasize** the importance of effort over immediate understanding. Stress that comprehension and proficiency are influenced by hard work rather than some innate skill or intelligence.
4. If your student is having difficulty with homework, try to help him or her work through it. Break the homework into smaller sections or parts, do a few problems or exercises with your student, or respond to his or her question about the homework or the content if you can.
5. When your student has finished the homework, help him or her reflect on it. Ask questions such as: What do you think you have learned? What are you still confused about? What questions do you still have? Encourage your student to bring these questions or confusions about the content to the teacher.
6. Finally, thank your student for his or her time and effort spent completing the homework!

GRIP NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CAMP 2017

Would you like to develop valuable leadership skills whilst having enormous fun during the July school holidays? Students in Year 10-12 are invited to participate in a National Leadership camp being held in Brisbane, hosted by the GRIP Leadership team. Teenagers from around Australia will be gathering for this 4-day camp from July 3-6. GRIP Leadership is well known for organising Australia's largest student leadership events and helping students reach their potential as a leader. Full details available at www.gripleadership.com.au/camp

CALENDAR

Friday 2nd June

CSEF applications close

Tuesday 6th June

Professional Learning Day—Student
Free Day

Thursday 8th June—Thursday 15th June

Exam Week Year 9/10/11

Monday 12th June

Queen's Birthday Public Holiday

Friday 30th June

Last day of Term 2 Dismissal 2.30pm

Monday 17th July

Term 3 Starts

Wednesday 2nd August

VCE/VET/VCAL Parent Info Night 6pm
Year 9/10/11

Wednesday 16th August

Parent, Teacher, Student
Conversations

Thursday 14th September

Professional Learning Day—Student
Free Day



VCE CO-ORDINATORS REPORT

YEAR 12 students will attend the **Tertiary Information Session (TIS)** at the Mt Helen Campus of Federation University on Wednesday, 28th June. This session provides an opportunity to look at the research and planning that students will need to undertake to apply for University, TAFE and Apprenticeships in Term 3 and beyond. A number of Victorian and Interstate providers will be available to talk to students about the choices open to them. Excursion forms will be distributed in the near future.

YEAR 10 students took part in their **Work Experience** week from 15th May. This was a wonderful opportunity for students to explore the world of work and make important connections with potential future employers. Students explored a range of opportunities in local businesses from Veterinary Clinics, Automotive, Health and Fitness Clubs, Post Office, Retail, Building and Construction, Pharmacy, Sovereign Hill, Hospitality, IT, Education to name a few. A number of staff visited students, or made calls to the employers, and the resounding feedback was that our students worked very hard and were excellent ambassadors for the Mount Rowan Campus. Some students have acquired casual employment as a result of their efforts. We would like to thank the local and Melbourne business community who supported our students in this rewarding experience.

Comments from students...

"A really good opportunity to find ongoing work, make professional connections and develop work related skills" - Charlene Duke

"I learnt a lot about the procedures in assembling and dismantling cars and the use of tools. It was good and I have new skills" - Mitch Burrell

"I enjoyed my work experience because I learned lots of techniques with my camera." – James Gray

"Work experience was fun, I learnt a lot of things." – Jayde Rawlings

"I liked working at the post office because it was very welcoming and there was never a dull day. There's nothing I didn't like." – Sonja Flynn-Cini

YEAR 10 students had the opportunity to explore future pathway options at the Discovery and Experience Day at Federation University on Thursday, 25th May. Students were exposed to a range of training and study options.

At the Fed Uni TAFE Campus students were able to walk around and talk to both students and teachers of the various disciplines offered on the campus. Students had their hair braided & sparkled, cooked pancakes, laid bricks, played with bread dough and graphics tablets, whilst experiencing the range of courses on offer.

At the Mount Helen Campus students were able to explore the University Campus and its facilities and get a real taste of the day to day life on campus. Current students were able to give first hand advice and talk about their own experiences of studying and living at the Fed Uni residence. Students could ask staff about the courses offered and how they could plan their studies to set them on the pathway to tertiary study. Once again our students were excellent ambassadors for our school asking insightful questions and making the most of the opportunities on the day.

Sharon Hope
VCE Co-Ordinator



EXAMS

The exam period for Semester 1 will be from Thursday June 8th through until Friday June 16th.

The timetable for exams for students in Years 9-11 is published in this newsletter.

Please note:

Year 11 VCE students are only required to attend for scheduled exams – there will be no Year 11 classes running from June 8 to June 16th. Students may remain at school for quiet study if required.

Year 12 classes proceed as usual during the exam period with the exception of Wednesday June 14th. All VCAL classes proceed as usual during the exam period and VCAL students do not complete the GAT.

Year 9 and 10 classes proceed as usual around the scheduled exams.

Year 7 and 8 exams are completed in normal class times.

Full attendance is expected for all exams.

Why do we have exams?

Exams provide a good “snapshot” of the learning that has occurred during the semester. They are not the only tool we use to assess student learning, but they are an important part of the mix.

All year 12 VCE studies have a written exam at the end of the year. Completing exams throughout the secondary years provides opportunities to practise exam techniques and become accustomed to this style of assessment in preparation for year 12.

Exams also assess all students under the same conditions, giving a certain level of ‘fairness’ to the assessment.

Exam rules

To ensure that all students have an equal opportunity to work effectively in exams, we have a set of expectations for all exams. These are included with the exam timetables in this newsletter.

Year 12 Exams and the GAT

All students completing a Unit 3-4 VCE subject are required to sit the General Achievement Test. Students involved have been to an information session about the GAT and have received their entry ticket and the regulations for the GAT. More information on the GAT can be found online

<http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Pages/vce/exams/gat/aboutgat.aspx>

Please note exam supervisors for the GAT are NOT Mount Rowan Staff and that the rules for conduct in exams are applied very strictly. As such, we recommend that students do not bring their phones to the exam venue at all – leave them at home or secure somewhere else.

Prior to the GAT, we will provide a light breakfast for students. Students will be advised of the details of this in the next week.

The GAT is conducted on Wednesday June 14th from 10am until 1.15pm in the Drama Room. Students should be ready to enter the exam room at 9.50.

The exam timetable for the end of year exams for year 12 VCE Subjects is now available online:

<http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/pages/vce/exams/timetable.aspx>

David Allen
Curriculum Leader



YEAR 9 & 10 EXAM TIMETABLE SEMESTER 1 2017

	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6
Thursday 8 th June			Year 10 English (11.30 – 12.45) Drama Centre	Year 10 English (11.30 – 12.45) Drama Centre		
Friday 9 th June	9A Science Room 18	9A Science Room 18	9B Maths Room 5	9B Maths Room 5	Year 10 Maths Drama Centre	Year 10 Maths Drama Centre
Monday 12 th June Queen's Birthday						
Tuesday 13 th June	Year 10 Sci Biology 18	Year 10 Sci Biology 18			9B Science Room 17	9B Science Room 17
Wednesday 14 th June	9A Maths Room 38	9A Maths Room 38				
Thursday 15 th June	Year 10 Sci CSI 17 9B Eng Room 6 9A Eng Room 39	Year 10 Sci CSI 17 9B Eng Room 6 9A Eng Room 39				
Friday 16 th June	Year 10 History Drama Centre	Year 10 History Drama Centre	9A & 9B Hum Drama Centre	9A & 9B Hum Drama Centre		