



Victorian College for the Deaf

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3 September 2015 No: 13

CALENDAR EVENTS
Transition Program Grade 5 & 6 Activity Day 8 September 10 am to 2 pm
Family Auslan Classes Continue Sunday 6 and 13 10.30 am - 12 noon
Community Service Excursion Wednesday 9th September Afternoon
Finance Committee Meeting Thursday 17th September
School Council Meeting Thursday 17 September 5 - 7 pm
Compass Evening Parent Information Tuesday 15 September 6 pm
Mother Goose Every Friday during school term 10.30 am
Last Day of Term 3 Friday 18th September
Term 4 Commences Monday 5th October

Student Wellbeing

Recently I have been fortunate to hear from two professional experts in the field of deafness and disability regarding the importance of wellbeing and mental health of our students. Dr Barry Coughlan from Ireland and Dr Andy Cornes from England have been in Melbourne recently to speak with teachers and principals. Thank you to VDEI for bringing Dr Andy Cornes to Australia. Both spoke about the complexities facing young people today and the need for us to develop and implement a range of strategies to support our students. Developing a multi disciplinary approach was key. I first heard about a multi disciplinary approach in the 1980's and used this team approach with my students. I found it very useful as we were looking at all aspects of the student's life not just sections. It is a bit like a jigsaw puzzle. Unless you have all the pieces you wont complete the picture. Focussing just on education when other issues are at play such as emotional, social, economic, physical ect will not enable you to get to the causes and therefore develop solutions or strategies to improve the outcomes for the student. With everyone working together it just makes sense that a consistent common approach will achieve greater and improved outcomes.

Information for Parents

Bullying is a big issue in our society at present and must never be tolerated or condoned. However we need to define what bullying is and what it isn't. Some students are quick to label any anti-social behaviour as bullying. We need to develop good positive social skills for all our students. Please refer the website below from DE&T for more information and an understanding of how as school we address this issue.

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/health/Pages/bully.aspx>

Compass Evening for Parents - We are having an evening on Tuesday 15th of September at 6 pm to explain our new online student system Compass. Many of you will have logged on and introduced yourself to the system but you probably have questions you would like answered. Jeremy will be taking parents on the night through the system so that you can take advantage of all its features. A note will be send home and please let us know if you are coming. If you need parking please come to the boom gate and press the intercom. Let the person know you are here for a parent information evening and will be parking on school grounds. Please park on the asphalted roundabout.

Primary

Fathers' Day Celebration

This Friday 4th September



Breakfast for Dad with the Primary students at 8.30 am in the Café

Fathers' Day Stall - at School

Period 5 & 6 for Primary students to buy a present for Dad to give this Sunday.



Middle Years

Last Thursday we had the Secondary Deaf Sports day at MSAC. This yearly event is run by Deaf Children Australia and various other sporting organisations. Deaf students from all over the state and metropolitan Melbourne attended this great sporting day out. The sports on offer were, soccer, tennis, golf, table tennis, basketball, netball, squash and volleyball. It was great to see Deaf students making new friends and being reacquainted with old friends. Some of the sporting talent on display was impressive with some even representing Australia at the senior Deaf level. Talent scouts from various sports were also there identifying raw talent so that they can be nurtured, developed and supported to achieve their sporting potential. Selection into senior Deaf international sporting teams is always an option provided that skill, commitment and attitude are present. A big thank you to Peter Folan and Deaf Children Australia for organising a terrific day.



Senior Years

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Every Tuesday, Jerome, Ian, Matthew, David and recently Jarl participate in the Duke of Edinburgh award program. The Duke of Edinburgh award has four sections – New Skill, Service, Physical Activity and Adventurous Journey. During P1 and P2 we access the Wesley College weight room and pool and complete a training session as part of the physical activity section. Today we trained using the exercise bikes, the ergo rowing machines and completed a swim session in the pool. Our overall aim for the Physical Activity section is to participate in the Round the Bay in a Day 20 km bike ride in October. Our weekly training sessions include warm ups, rowing technique, endurance cycling and overall fitness in the pool.



School Wide Positive Behaviours

Catch your child doing something good!

Our School Wide Positive Behaviour program aims to "catch children doing something good". Each Monday, we give certificates to students for demonstrating our five school values; Learning, Pride, Responsibility, Resilience and Respect. Our aim is to allow students to see how it feels being praised; and we find they like it, so they repeat their positive behaviours. Try doing the same at home on a regular basis: you will be delighted with the results.

No matter how old your children are, your praise and encouragement will help them feel good about themselves. This boosts their self-esteem and confidence. Sometimes rewards can be useful too, especially if you want to encourage good behaviour.

Praise is when you tell your child what you like about her or her behaviour. It goes a long way towards helping your child feel good about themselves.

Descriptive praise is when you tell your child exactly what it is that you like. For example, 'I love the way you shared your Lego with your brother just now'. Descriptive praise is best for boosting self-esteem and building good behaviour – when children get praise for behaving well, they're likely to want to keep behaving well.

You can praise children of different ages for different things. You might praise a younger child for leaving the park when asked, or for having a go at tying his own shoelaces. You can praise teenagers for coming home at an agreed time, or for starting homework without being reminded.

SRC

Hearfor you.com.au

Auslan Program

Are you in High School student and want to meet other Deaf teenagers

JOIN US

Workshop 1: Sunday 13th September

Workshop 2: Sunday 18th October

Workshop 3: 1st November

Workshop 4: Sunday 29th November

Enrol at <http://hearforyou.com.au/progrqam/vic/vic-auslan/>



Parent Information

Victorian College for the Deaf



Parent Network Group



Welcome to Victorian College for the Deaf! The VCD Parent Network group aims to foster a sense of community as well as provide a setting for parents to meet, communicate and socialise. Previously we have held coffee mornings, helped with fundraising and supported new parents and families to VCD.

All are welcome to participate and we are always looking for new volunteers or ideas!

Family Auslan Classes

We are proud to be able to provide Family Auslan classes for the first time free of charge through generous sponsorship from VCD, VDEI- Victorian Deaf Education Institute and the family of Jaxon Wright. Classes are being run a trial basis this term on Sundays with two classes, 10-12 a.m. and 2-4 p.m.

The aim of the classes is to provide a safe learning environment for the entire family from siblings and parents of the Deaf child and extending in some cases to grandparents, aunts and uncles! Auslan at home can help with family communication and in turn strengthen family relationships.

Helpful Links

Aussie Deaf Kids- <http://www.aussiedeafkids.org.au/>

Better Start for children with Disability- <http://www.betterstart.net.au/>

Auslan Signbank- <http://www.auslan.org.au/>

Deaf Victoria- <http://www.deafvictoria.org.au/>

Articles on Deaf Education
<https://www.rit.edu/research/feature/november-2010/deaf-education-new-philosophy>

Techfinder- <http://techfinder.org.au/>

Upcoming Events

August 30

National Relay Service

12:30

Free information session. Learn how your Deaf child can benefit from the services offered by the NRS.

September 6

Conexu- New Techfinder Website

12:30

Dr. Phil Harper will walk us through different apps such as the Auslan app used by the Trade block Café. He will also debut the new techfinder website; an information hub for Deaf and hard of hearing services

Questions?

Contact Mai at
parentsgroup@vcd.vic.edu.au

Facebook Group-
VCD Parents/Carers
Community!

