Use of Technology

The use of mobile technology has been a great improvement in deaf people’s lives. It provides instant communication and access to the community. However for some of our students they are experimenting with their mobile devices that are not safe for them or others. The is happening particularly in upper primary and year 7. I would like to remind parents of the school rules around the use of mobile phones whilst the children are at school. All students who bring a phone to school up to Year 10 must hand their mobile phone to their homegroup teacher each day and it will be returned at the end of the day. Only years 11 and 2 will be allowed to have their mobile phones on them during the day.

If there is misuse of the mobile on school transport eg bus or taxi then students will not be able to bring their mobile phone to school for a period of time determined by the principal in consideration of the incident that occurred.

Cyber safety is all our concern and technology has the power to enhance people’s lives but if use incorrectly can often harm them. The school will be holding a parent cyber safety evening shortly and there will be details in the newsletter in the coming weeks.

1. School Council - Welcome to our new school council parent members Camilla Kruse. Karen Pearce, Ann Kei Chua and Nabil Boughdady. The new council meets on Thursday night to elect the office bearers for 2015. Graham Boal has agreed to stay on council as a community member for this year. I know we all appreciate his efforts over the years and his continued support.

2. Parent Information and Permission Forms - Thank you to those students and parents who have returned their updated student permission forms and information. If you have not returned your form please do so as soon as possible. We are current updating our system to reflect any changes.

3. Student Mental Health - we all know that mental health is an important topic for young people. This year the staff will be undertaking professional learning to assist with prevention, identification and responding to mental health issues. There will be more information in coming newsletters.

4. The last day of term 1 will finish at 3.10 pm as usual.
Primary

On Monday 16th March 2015, we were invited by Deaf Cricket Australia to attend their "Come and Try" for the kids in Doncaster. One of our Australian batsman, Usman Khawaja who made his debut in 2011 and played for Australia showed us some terrific skills. The students had a ball and we would like to say thank you to Deaf Cricket Australia for having us!

Ten Channel was there, the link can be found - http://tenplay.com.au/news/melbourne/2015/3/16/all-abilities-championship

Middle Years

This term in Science, middle years students have been studying Chemistry. We are learning about elements, compounds and chemical reactions. We have been doing some cool experiments such as creating Hydrogen, Oxygen, Carbon dioxide and testing for their presence. As always we have our safety glasses and laboratory coats on in all practical activities. We are learning how to represent chemical reactions using chemical symbols and formulas.

An example is 2H2 (g) + O2 (g) → 2H2O (g) where we burnt collected Hydrogen with Oxygen to create water vapour. It made a funny pop sound as it is quite an explosive reaction also creating heat in the process. A test for Carbon dioxide is to pass the gas through a solution of Calcium hydroxide, a cloudy solution (precipitate) appears indicating that CO2 is present.

We are also learning about the 4 signs that a chemical reaction has taken place: Heat, Light, Color change or precipitate are all signs that a chemical reaction has occurred. Chemistry is lots of fun!

Senior Years

As the term draws to a close, our VCE students are completing SACs (School Assessed Coursework). The marks they receive from these SACs contributes to each student’s final ATAR score. This year students are studying some or all of the following subjects; Physical Education, Health and Human Development, English, Further Mathematics and Auslan. We encourage parents to show an interest in the subjects their child is studying, ensuring they are doing homework regularly and that they have a suitable space in the home to do their studies. Parents can be of great assistance by testing them on memorising definitions they must know for their final exams. Students are making cue cards to improve their skills in this area.

Our VCAL/VET students are hard at work in their chosen pathways. Next week students will have a surprise visit in Hospitality and the Tradeblock Café from Emile; the deaf contestant in My Kitchen Rules. Keep an eye out for photos on our VCD Facebook page. It is pleasing to see some of our senior students acting as role model for the younger children; advising them on appropriate behaviour and supporting those who are feeling a bit "lost". The compassion and maturity of these older students reflects the strong bond our students share in this small school community. Students continue to receive recognition on their behaviour and achievement through our School Wide Positive Behaviour Program certificates at assembly each week.
School Wide Positive Behaviours

Our school values are;

Respect    Responsibility    Resilience    Learning    Pride

Awards—Raffle ticket

Raffle tickets are given out to the students by the teachers during the week for students who are displaying our school values, in the classroom, the yard and anywhere else in the school. All the raffle tickets one box for primary and one for secondary and put in a box. Then at assembly one ticket for primary and one for secondary is drawn out. They win a hot chocolate and cake from the café. It is another example of a positive approach taken to promote our values within the School wide Positive Behaviours framework.

Monday 16th March primary raffle ticket winner was Atharv

Monday 16th March secondary raffle ticket winner was Jamie

School Values - Respect

Respect is one of our five values. We promote respectful relationships between, students, teachers, families, and the community. We respect the school building, school equipment and the school’s reputation. In doing so this creates a positive school environment where all people are valued and our environment is cared for. Teaching respect enables students to learn empathy and to be a successful and active community member when they leave school.

RESPECT  Give respect Get respect

Student Representative Council

SCHOOL CAPTAINS, DEPUTY SCHOOL CAPTAINS AND SRC REPRESENTATIVES ANNOUNCED

School Captains, Deputy Captains and SRC representatives were announced at assembly on Monday. They are:

School Captains - Ian Cleasby and Paula Aparejado
Vice Captains - Jerome Barbalace and Emily Addicoat
SRC Representatives are : Primary Issaq Jamdar and Yvonne Nuygen, Year 7 Dilpreet Kaur, Year 8 Mutjaba Al-Attaby, Year 9 Jessiah Collard, Year 10 Ali Buhsoodi, Senior Years Adam Lambrianadis, Miles Robinson and Ian Cleasby.
Congratulations to those students on representing VCD and you fellow students.
VCD proudly supports the Deaf Youth Rocks Day for the National Youth Week 2015

**WHEN:**
Sunday 19th April 2015

**TIME:**
10am-3:30pm

**WHERE:**
Victorian College for the Deaf
597 St. Kilda Road
Melbourne

**COST:**
Free

Table tennis competition, skateboarding, dance, nailart, head massages, graffiti art, cooking, yoga, jewellery making, paper art, movies and meeting other young people and organisations that support youth.

Refreshments will be available for sale

**RSVP by April 15th**
Email: victorian.ds@edumail.vic.gov.au
For more information about the event please visit www.vcd.edu.au

This event is supported by the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments