From the Principal - Angelique den Brinker

Compass - Parents will be receiving a letter in the post with a username and password to our new online student administration system called Compass. The new online system will assist families in communicating with the school and knowing how their children are progressing at school. Parents will be able to go online and see information about events at the school, their child’s timetable, school reports and be able to send messages to the school. Communication is essential and in our school community where the students travel in from all over Melbourne it is essential that we have a range of communication strategies and in particular move into online systems that will enable many more parents to engage with the school. I hope that you will find this new system valuable and contact us with your feedback. Over time will be rolling out new components of the system to improve our communication with families and linking us together in our goal of improving the outcomes for all our students.

Deaf Youth Rocks - I would like to acknowledge the work of Irene Holub in gaining funding and organising the Deaf Youth Rocks event at VCD this Sunday. It is for all secondary aged students and we hope to see as many of our students there as possible. These events are important as they develop connectedness and promote wellbeing. I hope that parents will encourage their secondary students to attend and enjoy the BBQ and the many events and activities on offer.

First Aid Mental Health - On Tuesday the 5th and 12th May all staff will be training in First Aid for Mental Health. We all know that many young people (one in four) will have at one stage an issue with mental health. As teachers working on a daily basis with young people it is essential we have the skills to be able to implement preventative strategies as well as the skills to recognise symptoms of mental health and be able to know what is available for our students. In recognition of this we have allocated two of our curriculum days so that all staff can be trained. Students will not be required at school on these days. Our last curriculum day for 2015 will be on the 2nd November.

Reminder - some parents have not returned their information booklets for this year. The information we get from these booklets provides the school with the latest family information. If you need another booklet to fill out please call the office. Thank you.
Primary

Every Monday the middle and senior groups in the Primary school work in the Productive Garden and are learning to make some delicious recipes from fruits and vegetables. Students are learning to grow and care for the plants and about the different growing cycles.

*If we have any ‘green fingered’ parents who are available to work in the productive garden for an hour we would be extremely appreciative!*

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Middle Years

**Term 1 Sport – Middle Year** Beachside School competitions

Middle Year boys had baseball games on 11\textsuperscript{th} March. They had to play against strong baseball teams from other schools. The boys played very well in those games, unfortunately our VCD team lost their games. Girls had softball games on 27\textsuperscript{th} February. Girls played very well, losing some games and winning others. The Beachside Swimming competition was held on 10\textsuperscript{th} March. Peter, Rhys, Ian, Jerome and Dylan represented VCD. Ian and Jerome received a bronze ribbon for 50m freestyle and breaststroke. Well done boys!

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Senior Years

**ANZAC DAY**

On Friday April 24th 2015, a group of Senior Years students are going to Camp Gallipoli at the Melbourne Show Grounds. Our group will experience World War I conditions, how they slept at night in Gallipoli. At the Melbourne Show Grounds, our group will watch a special film and participate in the concert throughout the evening. Early in the morning on Saturday 25th April, we will wake up at dawn to see the ANZAC flame. We will participate in the Dawn Service, remembering the ANZAC soldiers that never returned from Gallipoli. After breakfast we will pack up and return home.
School Wide Positive Behaviours

Our School Wide Positive Behaviour Program is so far an enormous success. Students look forward to our weekly assemblies when they are presented with certificates for showing positive behaviours related to our five VCD values of;

PRIDE
RESPECT
RESPONSIBILITY
RESILIENCE
LEARNING

One of the key aims of this program is to prepare our students for life in the world and to help them become strong individuals who leave school being confident to make their way in the world and be able to live happy, healthy and successful lives where their deafness is not a barrier. In order to do this successfully; we need parents to be on board with the school in helping their children to develop the above values and to become independent and confident. You can do this at home by ensuring your deaf child has the same responsibilities as their brothers and sisters. Allowing your child to participate in Deaf and hearing community events such as sporting activities, clubs and other activities will enhance their confidence and their ability to communicate with hearing members of the community. Training your deaf child to use public transport along with their hearing brothers and sisters is a great way to develop confidence, problem solving and resilience.

Above all; we encourage you to praise your child at home when you see them using the above VCD values; just as we do at school. Making the link between home and school goes a long way toward developing the “life” skills of the students at the school.

Angela Maclean
Student Well-Being

School Awards - Next Monday at assembly we will commence our awards for term 2. Each week we have an award for a primary and secondary student who is drawn from all students who have received raffle tickets during the week. Students receive a raffle ticket anywhere in the school by a teacher for displaying our school values. The prize is a voucher from the café. Students look forward to the raffle draw each week.

Teacher / Class Awards – Each week a certificate is given from each class to a student in recognition of excellence in one or more of our school values. Students who receive awards are listed in the newsletter each fortnight.

Student Representative Council

SCHOOL CAPTAINS, DEPUTY SCHOOL CAPTAINS AND SRC REPRESENTATIVES

School Captains - Ian Cleasby and Paula Aparejado
Vice Captains - Jerome Barbalace and Emily Addicoat
SRC Representatives are: Primary Issaq Jamdar, Year 7 Dilpreet Kaur, and Mohammad Elhawli Year 8 Mutjaba Al-Attaby, Year 9 Jessiah Collard, Year 10 Ali Buhsoodi, Senior Years Adam Lambrianadis, Miles Robinson and Ian Cleasby.

Meeting this week for SRC at 12.50 pm in the Library. At this meeting we will be discussing the upcoming visit of the Secretary of Education Ms Gill Callister and her meeting with our SRC.
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