

NEWSLETTER

VICTORIAN COLLEGE FOR THE DEAF

LEARNING | RESILIENCE | RESPECT | RESPONSIBILITY | PRIDE



What's in this issue?

Page 2 - From the Principal

Page 3 - Primary news

Page 4 - Senior news

Page 5 - Ablock news

Page 6 - From the library

Page 7 - Student & family wellbeing

Page 8 - Community news

IMPORTANT INFORMATION 18/02

- **Curriculum days** on Monday 28th February and Tuesday 1st of March, VCD will have two curriculum days to enable professional development for teachers in the area of numeracy. Students will not attend school on these days.
- **Senior years camp** our campers are off to Rubicon Thornton on Monday! Please ensure that students arrive on time to school with all of their camp belongings.



Middle years students have been flexing their skills on the cricket pitch.



PROTECT
Protecting children & young people
from abuse is our responsibility

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

By Marg Tope

School Council News

The 2021 School Council met for the last time this week. The focus of the meeting was approving financial business to set the college up for financial transactions for 2023.



Dates were set for the incoming school council of 2023 with the first meeting being Tuesday 15 March.

President, Mark Duncan thanked councillors for their time and commitment while on school council. We acknowledged and farewelled Ann Chua, mother of Ben who graduated last year, for her service to VCD as a school councillor and parent.

I would like to thank Mark Duncan for his leadership of council for 2022. Mark continues to be a great supporter and advocate for our college. The passion he brings to the role of President is infectious and admired by staff and councillors alike.

Parent and staff self-nominations are now open for the 2023 school council, closing Tuesday 22 February. No previous experience is required. Regular attendance at meetings is the only expectation. I would welcome a call from any parent/carer interested in learning more about the role of being a school councillor.

VCD Barbecue

Thank you to all families who attended our start-of-year barbecue. It was great to catch up with familiar faces and meet some new ones! Thank you as well to the staff and students who managed the sausage sizzle.

Marg



PRIMARY NEWS

Integrated Studies

We have been learning a lot about plants. We learnt about what four things a plant needs to live, different parts of a plant (roots, stem, leaves, flower) and the life cycle of a plant. This week, we planted marigold flower seeds into our own biodegradable pots. We are excited to watch them grow!



SENIOR NEWS

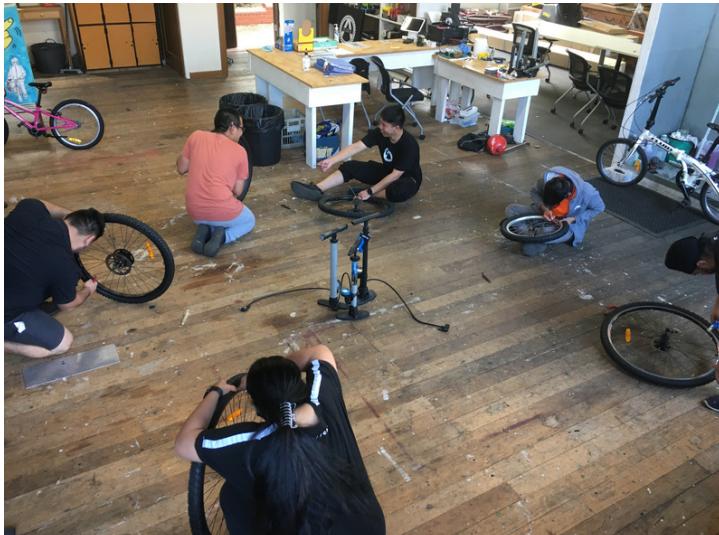
Collingwood Children's Farm received not one, but two visits from VCD students this week. On Wednesday, senior ASDAN students visited the farm for the first time. This will be their weekly work experience site for 2022.

On Friday, VCAL students participating in the Garden program visited the farm to learn more about the horticulture industry.



ABLOCK NEWS

Students at Ablock competing in the 'fastest tyre change' challenge. Well done Wisnu!!



FROM THE LIBRARY

victorian premiers' reading challenge



The Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge is back!

The Challenge is **opening soon in March** to all Victorian children for all students up to Year 10, in recognition of the importance of reading for literacy development. It is not a competition; but a personal challenge for children to read a set number of books by 16 September 2022.

Students from Prep to Year 2 are encouraged to read or 'experience' 30 books with their parents and teachers. Students from Year 3 to Year 10 are challenged to read 15 books.

All children who meet the Challenge will receive a **certificate of achievement** signed by the **Victorian Premier!**
Students can also earn **house points** for each book read!



TO REGISTER:

Students may visit me in the Library during Recess or Lunchtimes on Mondays or Tuesdays, **or**
Parents/Students may email me at natasha.ockenden@education.vic.gov.au.

To read the Premier's letter to parents, **view the booklist** and for more information about the Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge, visit: www.education.vic.gov.au/prc.



I hope you will consider participating in the challenge this year - it is a great opportunity to improve literacy skills!

Natasha Ockenden



STUDENT AND FAMILY WELLBEING

By Gene Reardon



Gene Reardon



Marnie Kerridge



Ash Battista



Elizabeth Reed

FRIENDSHIPS FOR LIFE

There is a lot of good work happening in the wellbeing space. This week many of our senior students started to focus on five practical ways to lift their own wellbeing. This includes how to develop a positive focus when students are faced with challenge, pressure, or difficulty. One thing that is so important to improving our wellbeing, is to learn how to develop healthy connections with other people. We know that school friendships can be long lasting and positively support wellbeing.

We also know that outside of school hours, our families can nurture healthy connections-enabling young family members to grow and explore their own culture and identity.

At VCD, students have an immediate community of peers, who know and understand the lived experience of deafness. Many cherished life-long friendships are formed at VCD. This has been a consistent part of the history of the Victorian College for the Deaf, and VCD friendships continue to be invaluable – they are gold.

This week at our school BBQ, one of our primary students, so proud of his family and friends, organized this gorgeous photo. Well done Hussien!

This part of the school newsletter will include links to articles and resources that parents, and caregivers may find useful. Our aim is to enrich our collaboration with our parent community to optimize student wellbeing. This week you may want to explore this useful resource on making childhood friendships: [click link](#)

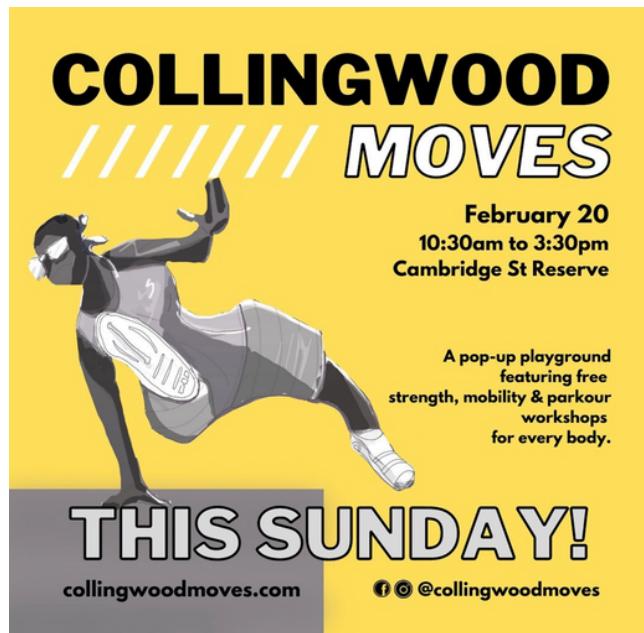


COMMUNITY NEWS

COLLINGWOOD MOVES

Collingwood Moves will have free workshops in fitness, mobility, strength and parkour, as well as the opportunity to chat with some qualified coaches about all things movement. There will be workshops tailored to people of all ages, and all levels of fitness, capacity and confidence. We'll have a mobile parkour playground, as well a mobile gym, set up, as well as a rest area and stretching/ mobility area.

We have Auslan interpreted sessions on the day (book in at www.collingwoodmoves.com/book-online):
 Strength and Fitness with Project Better: 12:00 - 12:20pm
 Parkour with Melbourne in Motion: 12:50 - 13:10
 Mobility and Stretching: 13:20 - 13:40



WERRIBEE ZOO VACCINATION HUB



Expression Australia in partnership with Deaf Vic and Victorian Government have networked closely with Werribee Zoo to have a children's vaccination hub on Sunday 27th of February for deaf and hard of hearing children and parents'. Auslan Interpreters will be available on the day.

Families can register for their child/ren as well as themselves to receive a COVID vaccination on the day. Once registered, families will receive free entry to Werribee Open Range zoo as well as a food voucher.

To participate, register your interest by 22nd February by filling in [this form](#). Once you are allocated a vaccination time, you will be contacted to confirm your place and further details.

HOUSE POINTS

We will be updating you throughout the year on how our two house teams, **PUNT** and **HIGH**, are travelling in the house points race. May the best team win!

Current tally

PUNT **HIGH**

103 (sport) and 92 (merit cards) 98 (sport) and 97 (merit cards)

195  **195**

ONSITE VISITORS



All visitors entering school buildings, including parents and carers, must be fully vaccinated and be able to provide proof of vaccination. People with a valid medical exemption must provide a proof of exemption letter. *Please note: all onsite VCD staff and contractors are fully vaccinated.*

For more information about vaccination requirements for visitors in schools, see:

- [DET policy COVID-19 Vaccinations – Visitors and Volunteers on School Sites](#)
- [VCD Visitors Policy](#)
- [VCD COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination - Information Collection and Storage Procedures](#)

COVID-19

At Victorian College for the Deaf, some Covid-19 procedures remain in place. For students, this means:

- Regular hand washing throughout the day at our designated hand washing stations.
- Masks on taxis and public transport
- Staying home if unwell and seeking medical advice as to whether a Covid-19 test is required.

CONTACT US

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