From the Principal

The learning that occurs each day is of utmost importance but we need to remember that attending school is an experience that goes beyond the four walls of the classroom. Our student data tells us that they feel strongly connected to the college, to their peers and teachers and are highly motivated. We nurture this by providing a range of experiences beyond the classroom, that allow students to interact between year levels, to lead and to challenge.

The past fortnight has been a time where students have been involved in activities that enhance their learning experience. The Year 7 camp is an opportunity for students to bond as a year level, connect with their home group teacher and support team while participating in a range of challenging activities that encourage teamwork, risk taking in a safe and supportive environment and cooperation. I spent two days with the Year 7 students and was delighted in the way they were participating and encouraging each other to have a go.

The Year 11 leaders that attended the camp were impressive, stepping up to the role of mentor to the Year 7 students. This is a role they will continue throughout the year as they ensure our younger students feel settled and a part of Diamond Valley College. I thank them for taking time out from their VCE studies to support the Year 7’s.

We have a very eager group of students in Year 9 who are supporting our primary schools by umpiring a range of sports. This provides them with an opportunity to show leadership within the community and promote our college.

The school is abuzz with planning for the Sweeney Todd production later in the year. When I take tours students, particularly in the senior classes, are able to discuss the designs and production process needed to ensure that costumes and set designs are in place for the production. The access to a real client makes their class work a real life experience.

The selection process will be underway shortly for a term three placement at the School for Student Leadership. We are fortunate to again have an allocation, where five students in Year 9 will participate in a nine week residential leadership program based at Gnurad Gundidj in Glenormiston. Students will attend an information session explaining the program and application process, whilst parents are encouraged to look at the web site at http://www.gnurad-gundidj.vic.edu.au/ to learn more about this unique opportunity.

We have students organising a range of activities which will be a lot of fun for those involved, while the skill development for those involved in the organisation is invaluable. We will soon have new flagpoles at the front of the school thanks to the work of last year’s School for Student Leadership team. We have a DVC FReeZA committee who are working with Nillumbik Council on youth events within the college. Our Interact Club is gearing up to concentrate on their community and international awareness programs and plans are underway for how we can be involved in the Diamond Creek Town Fair in September.

So if your child says nothing much is happening at school, challenge them to get involved. They only have to join others who are doing so much.

Allison Bennett
Principal
IMPORTANT

A NEW BUS APPLICATION MUST BE COMPLETED EVERY YEAR
HAVE YOU DONE YOURS?

PLEASE NOTE TERM 2 FEES ARE NOW DUE.

Dear Parent/Guardian/Student,

It is important that Parents and students understand the importance of advising the college of any change to bus travel in advance for legal and safety reasons. Should your child wish to travel on a different bus a note **MUST** be provided by you stating that you give approval. This note should be given to the Bus co-ordinator the day prior to travel. Permission is granted provided there is sufficient seating on the requested bus. Should prior permission not be sought, or there is insufficient seating, your child will not be allowed travel and you will need to make alternative arrangements.

A large number of students are continuing to travel without their bus passes.
It is a condition of travel that all students using the Diamond Valley College Bus Network complete an Application to Travel form every year and carry a valid pass with them at all times. If you have not completed an Application to Travel 2017 or have not paid the appropriate fee your child will not receive a valid pass. Students detected without their pass on more than three occasions will be given an afterschool detention, this will continue throughout the school year. Parents will need to make alternative arrangements for their child to be collected after the detention. Students who have not completed an Application to Travel 2017 are unable to access the College Bus Network.

Please ensure your child has a valid bus pass with them at **ALL** times.

IMPORTANT COLLEGE DATES

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<tr>
<th>Term 1 2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 March</td>
<td>Labour Day Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 March</td>
<td>Athletics Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 March</td>
<td>Last Day Term 1</td>
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<td>18 Apr</td>
<td>First Day Term 2 (Tuesday)</td>
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FOR SALE

SECOND HAND UNIFORM

Diamond Valley College Dress Size 10A - $45.00
As new condition
Call Robyn Greenall 0430 123 598

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION

Notice of School Council Election and Call for Nominations

Diamond Valley College is still seeking nominations for two parent member vacancies.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the General Office at the school or downloaded from the College Website and must be lodged as soon as possible.
Adventure Resort, Phillip Island, the name says it all. A resort built for adventure and fun. This exciting location is exactly where the Year 7’s held their camp experience, where I, amongst many others, had the wonderful chance to do incredible things. One of those incredible things was the GIANT swing where those daring enough went 18 meters high in the air than left to do a gut-wrenching drop. I was absolutely petrified because I could barely go five meters in the air. But I did about half way and felt very proud. The most memorable adventure I had on camp was surfing. I felt like I was gliding through the water and it was the most wonderful feeling. The beach was absolutely beautiful and it was that same beach that we all got to create sand sculptures, full of seaweed, sea shells and of course sand. Camp was amazing and I will never forget it.

Zara Stephenson

Phillip Island Adventure Camp was by far the most enjoyable camp I have ever experienced. There were so many wonderful activities to take part in such as the Giant Swing, High Ropes, Surfing, Team Rescue and the Twin Flying Fox. The camp food was divine. I made new friendships and got to know people better as I was in a cabin with some of my really great friends and some new people. My favorite activity was surfing as the coaches made the process easy to understand. We were in the water for two hours and it was the best two hours of camp. We watched a very interesting and powerful movie call Cool Runnings. It was hilarious. Overall Camp was amazing and brought everyone together.

Lahni Franks

On Wednesday 1 March, the Year 7’s went on camp to the Phillip Island Adventure Resort. It took about two hours to get there and it felt really long. When we got to camp we unloaded our luggage near the cabin area. Then we found out our groups and cabin numbers, my cabin was cabin 7. After that we had an assembly and got to know all of the camp rules and supervisors. After the assembly we had our first activity which was the giant swing. The giant swing was kind of scary but really fun. It was scary because I watched the ground get further away with every pull. I went three meters from the top. It was fun because when we went down really suddenly and my stomach just dropped. Next we had a snack before our next activity which was high ropes. When we did high ropes it was fun at first, but then it got scary with the big log because I thought I would fall off, but then it was fine because on of the supervisors helped me. After that activity we had dinner, we ate pasta and for dessert we had chocolate mousse. Then we went to our cabins and relaxed for a bit and then had a sand picture context. Ours was a sting ray, we worked in home groups.

Izzy Marshall-Bennett

Camp was good I loved the giant swing, flying fox and high ropes. The food there was good. I loved the cabin I was in and I loved the pool.

Cooper Collins

I though camp a really fun, I made some new friends. My favourite thing was going to the beach and doing activities and also going to the beach while everyone was surfing because I couldn't so I just swam.

Shannon Carstairs

Camp was so much fun! My Favourite activities at camp were surfing and the giant swing. I also enjoyed free time because we got to go in the pool!

Janaya Jones

I liked making new friends, going to the beach and doing the sand activities

Mikayla Canning

My Favourite part of camp was when we went surfing down at Smiths Beach. I liked all of the instructors because they were cool. I also liked that I was in a cabin with some people that I didn't know from primary school and now I am really close to.

Ryan Sizeland

On camp I enjoyed doing all the activities and going in a cabin with my mates.

Fletcher Clayton

Camp was great. The flying fox was my favourite part but I think for some people it was the lollies!

Guy Braeden

I had so much fun at camp!! Some of my highlights were:

• I really enjoyed surfing as it brought back memories to when I had surfed before, I felt like I was flowing through the waves and I could conquer the world!
• I also enjoyed the Giant Swing as I was flying through the air at various speeds. I was first to go and I went 2 times and right at the end I got to have a 3rd shot. I loved the fact that you had to brace yourself to pull the rope to actually swing.

Tiana Richmond

My favourite part about camp was surfing I love getting up on them big wavers It was great. I also love the giant swing I went all the way up. I like going in the pool before tea and staying in a cabin with my friends.

Joshua Homewood
YEAR 7 CAMP
THE DESIGN BRIEF:
- To sew a simple drawstring bag that will hold a variety of sanitary and hygiene items for women who live in isolated villages in Nepal. The bags will be donated by my classes and hand delivered by the members of the ‘Sewing for Nepal’ group of women.

IN PREPARATION:
- The drawstring bag will display students’ sewing skills and will be donated to the ‘Sewing for Nepal’ group.
- Students listened to a guest speaker, Rene Robinson (grandparent) of a current student who is an active member of the group mentioned above.
- Students were encouraged to eat plain rice with their fingers while listening to the speaker and while viewing a documentary of the ‘Seven Women’ group. (Rene explained that plain rice is often eaten this way and without condiments. No salt or sauce!)
- This project tests students’ practical skills but especially develops their understanding and empathy for other cultures and especially marginalized women in Nepal.

During the past week, students in the Year 8 Textiles classes had a glimpse of life for girls and women in small villages in Nepal. Females from these villages are extremely poor and often illiterate. Students were exposed to the positive impact the ‘Seven women’ group and ‘Sewing for Nepal’ group have had on the local women.

Stories of a local woman: “My name is Kumari Pariyar. I’m 20 years old. At the age of 11 my father couldn’t support me to continue my schooling. Girls are not considered as important as boys, so my brothers got an education while I helped the women in the village to grow rice, collect firewood, cook and care for the cows. When I was 15 my father was pressuring me to get married so I left my village and family home to find work. I stayed with my sister and brother-in-law in Kathmandu and worked in a factory. I stayed there for four years but the salary and conditions were not good. I tried to find other work but it was difficult with my lack of education. Then I saw an ad for a shop assistant with local women…I feel happy because I like working with other young women. I feel comfortable here and I get a good salary. Now that I can support myself financially, I want to get an education. I’m currently attending school……..my parents are still pushing to arrange a marriage for me but I want to finish my schooling”

In our classes, we welcomed Rene Robinson, an active member of the ‘Sewing for Nepal’ group. Women in parts of Nepal are forced to segregate themselves when they have their menstruation as they are seen as ‘unclean’. As Nepal does not have landfill, they are not allowed to throw away normal sanitary pads. The ‘Sewing for Nepal’ group have designed pads that can be washed and reused.

The group is made up of Aussie volunteers who tirelessly make sanitary pads and drawstring bags and fill them with hand towels, soap, undies, etc. While you read this article, Rene is in Nepal, delivering last year’s wonderful drawstring bags filled with important items for the women in these isolated villages. Sewing skills are demonstrated and shared with the local women as well.

The ‘Seven women’ group focuses on literacy and education. Students were astounded to discover that most women had never learned to read or write and did not know how to hold a pencil. One woman in the documentary commented that she felt lost in the city of Kathmandu. She could not read and follow street signs. Education and training others (to teach reading and writing) has empowered the women from these villages. As one woman said, ‘Before, I felt like I was in the dark. Now I feel like I am in the light. Even though I now am old (58 years) I feel like I am growing younger because I am being educated’.

By the end of the semester, I will be proud to hand over 65 drawstring bags that the Year 8 Textiles students have made.

The ‘Sewing for Nepal’ workshop has run for the last few years for a full day at Diamond Valley College. It takes place in the Textiles room during the September school holidays. It would be lovely to welcome more volunteers. Alternatively, you can donate soap, face washers or...
ITALIAN

STUDENT EXCHANGE

Currently Keenan Carr is in Italy on a Student Exchange and living in Avellino, which is in the south of Italy. This is what he has said about his current experience;

“I am very good, I am enjoying my exchange experience and making lots of new friends. I'm fitting in very well with everyone around me. I've started playing basketball with my host brother every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday. I have travelled to a place called Asissi which is a five hour drive from Avellino up into the mountains. I am learning so much Italian.”

STUDY TOUR OF ITALY

I am very excited as we will be meeting up with the 2016 Language Assistant Ilaria Rotili in Rome, on the March 28. This will provide the students especially the senior students an opportunity to practice their oral skills with Ilaria.

The time is approaching for the Study tour of Italy where there is less than 21 days until we leave on the 26th March. We just can’t believe it.

ROSE MARASCO
Each year, students from the junior and senior school surprise us with their creativity, skill and sheer fun-filled attitude. The colour, design of costumes and imaginative and wacky ways that they are worn brings a smile to everyone’s faces. Most importantly, just for wearing a costume gives students points for their house. The highlight of each carnival is the fashion parade. Each year gets better. “You have to be in it to win it” “Being in a costume all day is so much fun. You can lose yourself in your character.”

There were fantastic costumes worn by students who entered the ‘FREE STYLE FASHION PARADE’ at the Swimming Carnival this year. I would like to thank ALL students who got into the spirit of the day and made a fabulous effort putting together their costumes, making their costumes and those who successfully strutted down the concrete catwalk during the fashion parade displaying their character’s personality. Congratulations to those who paraded in their costumes and maintained that persona throughout the day as well as competing in events.

Students were firstly selected by their unusual and eye-catching costumes throughout the morning. Each student received instant points for their house. Students who then participated in the Fashion Parade competed for the First, Second or Third & Encouragement awards. Points were allocated to the winning Houses. Congratulations to the winners and to all who entertained us throughout the day.

FREE STYLE FASHION - SWIMMING CARNIVAL

FIRST PLACE: PIRATES:
Sarah Garvan Bass House
Sarah McEwan Bass House
Keely Thomas Wilson House
Emma Goldspink Wilson House
Ebony Hall Hubbard House
Brooke Dimech Hubbard
Holly Fitzsimans Hubbard House

SECOND PLACE: HARRY POTTER PALS
Elizabeth Steel Bass House
Eliza Howard Peers House
Cassie Dunn Wilson House
Holly Jackson Hubbard House
Kyle Newell Peers House
Braidyn Withers Hubbard House
Meghan Guy Peers House
Anastasia Selkriag Bass House
Jess Sheldon Peers House
Pippa Hillier Hubbard House
Flik Williams Peers House

THIRD PLACE: CURIOUS GEORGE

I would like to thank Jo Poulter and Selena Braine who assisted me on the day and in helping choose the winners during the Fashion parade.

The libretto and scripts for Sweeney Todd have arrived and auditions for the roles begin next week. Meanwhile Mark Ellul has been busy with his tech class ordering wood and designing the construction element and building sets for the show, which is in August (17th-19th). Once the cast (leads, understudies and company) is organized, a rehearsal schedule will be promulgated through Compass. Students who are successful in gaining lead roles will need to put plenty of time into their rehearsals at home and at school. It is vital that students commit fully to the show as the music of Stephen Sondheim is quite demanding and will take a lot of ‘putting together.’ Support from home will go a long way to help students achieve this. It is a challenge but we have witnessed the successful performances of Oliver, The Wizard of Oz and The Winslow Boy over the last three years and I have every confidence in the quality of our students who commit to such activities. I look forward to the next few months of hard work and a rewarding production.

Gary Nicholls

On Saturday, 25 February, the AEV (Art Education Victoria) hosted KickStArt at the NGV International (National Gallery of Victoria). Two Year 12 Art students, Meg Guy and Izzy Steel, along with their teacher Selina Braine, attended the program to help kick start ideas for folios and artworks.

The program had three students that were selected for Top Arts 2017 giving presentations about their artworks, concept, themes and their process in their folios, along with tips to help deal with time management in class and presentation of final artworks. The VCAA State Reviewer for Art, Rachael Miller, went through the new Art study design to give students clarity on what they are getting assessed on in their folios. Also, a Deakin University professor talked to us about the opportunities that studying Fine Arts have for our careers and future. The curator of Top Arts, Ingrid Rhule, also talked about the opportunities open in the Visual Arts Industries and Top Arts overall.

The KickStArt program was very valuable for both teachers and students undertaking VCE Art. It was worth the time outside of school to help understand how to achieve the best folio and artworks we can make this year.

Izzy Steel & Meg Guy

In other news, Year 7 Art classes have been learning about colour theory and are in the beginning stages of learning acrylic painting techniques to apply to their Landscape and ‘My country’ paintings.

Year 10 Art and Digital Design classes are multi-tasking at the moment, working on a range of practical tasks, folio documentation and research assignments all due towards the end of term 1.

Our Year 9 Visual Communication Design class has taken on the design brief to produce the publicity posters for the school musical performance of ‘Sweeny Todd’.

Jo Poulter
**MATHS SUPPORT**

### EXTRA MATHS SUPPORT AT DVC

‘Maths Help’ is a support program staffed on a voluntary basis by the College’s Mathematics Teachers to enable students to obtain extra help with their maths work. This is offered in addition to the regular ‘out of class’ assistance that teachers provide.

The sessions are offered so that students have further opportunity to ask about difficult questions and to clarify aspects of classwork they have not understood.

To get the best out of ‘Maths Help’, students should come along with specific questions to ask, e.g. “Could you help me with Question 4 of Exercise 3.4?” or “I am having difficulty multiplying fractions, could you go over the steps again?”

'Maths Help' sessions run in B3 after school Mondays until 4pm, and Friday lunchtimes.

This program will start on Monday 13 February.

'Maths Mate Skill Builders' - If your child is having difficulty with, or would like more practice at a particular maths skill, the Maths Mate Skill Builders are a very useful resource. These are booklets of worksheets, available to be downloaded in pdf form from the College Intranet, and can be found in the Maths Folder. Each worksheet begins with some instruction and examples followed by practice questions. Answers are located at the back of the book for checking. Scrolling through to page (vii) you will find the contents section, where each skill is listed. Skill Builders also contain a Glossary of important mathematical facts and concepts.

For any further information regarding these programs, please contact the Mathematics Domain Leader, Glenys Kidd, or your child's Mathematics Teacher.