From the Principal

Last week saw the close of nominations for vacant positions on College Council. As the number of nominations in all sectors did not exceed the number of vacancies, there was no need to hold an election. I wish to thank Jenny Thuys, Pam Stuart and Lee Williams for their continuation on council. It is reassuring to have their expertise at meetings when we have a number of new members.

Congratulations and thank you to the following Brent Barbera (DE&T), Campbell Duncan (student), Darcy Williams (student), Jodie Versteegen (parent), Kath Ball (parent) and Yvette Davidson (parent) who have accepted positions on Council. I’m sure they will bring new ideas and fresh views to our council meetings. I am particularly pleased to welcome Campbell and Darcy who have accepted the challenge of a position on Council whilst studying Year 12. Their time on Council will be until the end of term three at which time we will open the positions again for nominations with a 12 month tenure. To bring student voice to Council, where they have full input into decision making is a wonderful change to school governance.

At the recent Annual General Meeting the Annual Report was tabled and discussed. It included reports under the areas of achievement, engagement, wellbeing, finance and Framework for Improvement of Student Initiatives (FISO). It was pleasing to report on a range of successes from 2017 that included:

- Student achievement above state averages in literacy and numeracy
- Continued improvement in numeracy data at both Years 7 and Year 9
- Improved attendance data, with an overall reduction in absence by two days in most year levels
- Increased connections with community partners particularly in the areas of pathways and transitions
- A well-resourced wellbeing program that includes qualified social workers
- Very high completion rates at VCE (98%), VCAL (100 %) and VET (95%)
- A wide range of well supported camps, overseas trips, excursions and extra curricular activities

Of course there is always room for improvement and our current Annual Implementation Plan for 2018 already includes the following:

- Further improvement of absence data across all year levels
- Improved NAPLAN participation and achievement particularly at Year 9
- Enhanced student connectedness to school by increasing student voice and agency
- Building on the increased enrolments at Year 7 and intakes at Years 8 and 9 via the DVC Sports Academy
- Develop further community links that support opportunities for student engagement

It is an exciting time for Diamond Valley College as the building project nears completion, interest in our programs at Year 7 increase and we look to extend the wonderful range of programs that we offer all students. I value the input of our students and parents and encourage both to take up the opportunity of attending focus groups lead by staff and student leaders when they are offered throughout the year.

Allison Bennett
Principal

DVC BUILDING PROJECT

Respect  Excellence  Responsibility
New resources

As a recipient of a government DigiTech Startup grant, we have been able to obtain a range of devices to support the development of our Digital Technologies curriculum.

These include mBot robots, BBC micro:bit and Arduino microcontrollers, and Raspberry Pi single-board computers.

Code Club

This club has started up again for 2018, and is currently running in the electronics room (F6) on Monday lunchtimes. This is a great opportunity for students who wish to try out some of the new devices and learn how to program them.

Makerspace

As part of the library renovation, our new Makerspace is taking shape. Currently the timber framework has been built, and we look forward to being able to use this space in second semester when the project has been completed.

Richard Fox
eLearning Coordinator
fox.richard.r@edumail.vic.gov.au
9438 8242

E-LEARNING AT DVC IN 2018

To be able to deliver an effective teaching program at Diamond Valley College, we require students to bring a suitable device to allow access to online content. From 2018, a laptop is the preferred class of device. More information can be found on the College website at: http://www.dvallcoll.vic.edu.au/teaching-and-learning/byo-device-program/.

In 2017 we completed agreements to be able to provide a range of software and online services for students. These include the following:

Microsoft Office 365 – students can download and use the Office suite for use on up to 5 devices at school and home, at no cost. They are also able to use various collaborative tools such as OneNote.

Google Apps for Education – this gives students a Google account that can be used with online applications such as Google Docs, Google Sheets and other products.

Adobe Creative Cloud – applications in this software suite, including Photoshop, Illustrator and Dreamweaver are also available for students to install on their laptop.

Access to these requires students to use an eduPass user account provided by the Department. Students in Years 8 to 12 were issued with login instructions for this last year, and our new Year 7 intake last month. We expect more services to require the use of eduPass in the coming years.

Because some of these services allow students to share information online, there is a provision for parents to opt-out of these services if they are concerned about their child using them.

Richard Fox
eLearning Coordinator
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On Thursday March 15, 9.5 had the wonderful opportunity to eat Italian food and practice speaking in Italian. For starters we had a choice of salami, mortadella and formaggio (Italian provolone cheese) on pasta dura. Students would request what they would like in Italian and then enjoy the delicious food.

We then had a selection of grissini which you could dip in nutella. We were also treated to Balconi Trancetto Merenda (small Italian cake) and caremella, an amazing Italian lolly.

All students greatly benefitted from having the food and learning the language and culture of Italy.

Grazie Rosa!

Tess Purchase.

On Friday March 9 I invited 3 ex-students, Ebony Hall, Keely Thomas and Sarah Mcewan from the 2017 Year 12 Italian class to come to the current VCE class. All three students discussed and provided strategies and tips for the Italian oral exam for the students which occurs during October of this year. It was wonderful to hear about their adventures and positive experiences.

Rose Marasco
Italian Domaine Leader

YEAR 10 ITALIAN

Leading up to Year 10 Italian, you learn the basics to the Italian language; but it's in Year 10 that you really start to apply them to conversations and reading. So far this year we as a class have advanced in the language to the point we can have simple conversations with each other and are able to decipher paragraphs of information written completely in Italian. So far this year, our main focus has been conjugating verbs into past tense, and conversations about jobs. Learning the past tense is very useful when in conversation, because if you want to talk about a past event you will need to know simple conjugation, which is very easy to apply when learnt. We applied much of this when speaking of jobs, learning how to ask about employment, work hours, how much you get paid per hour, etc. This is only one simple unit of Italian, and already we have been able to apply this to our work. We still have the rest of the year to go, and I know we as a class will advance even further in our knowledge of the language. I recommend to all year levels to continue learning Italian.

Many people like to tell themselves that they don't need to know another language because they aren't willing to try, and go that extra mile to learn something so beneficial. I can tell you now, knowing another language is a very useful skill, no matter what others tell you. It is such a fun subject to do when you are willing to learn, you just have to ask yourself, are you willing to try?

Lauren Treloar
Art News

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you all to the Creative Minds Exhibition, which runs from March 22 until April 23 at the Eltham Library. This exhibition showcases excellence in Art and Studio Arts from the Nilumbik area from 2017. Montana Bahr and Elizabeth Steel will be representing DVC. The official opening is on this Saturday March 24 from 2pm to 4pm. Please see the invitation below for more details.

Selina Braine
The Arts Domain Leader 2018

Drama news

Shakespeare in the Gardens Excursion

Ay me, for aught that I could ever read,  
Could ever hear by tale or history,  
The course of true love never did run smooth.

This quote is taken from Shakespeare’s famous play ‘A Mid Summer Nights Dream’. A few weeks ago a group of students from Years 10, 11 and 12 Drama were transported into the wonderful and dreamlike world of Shakespeare's play about dreams, fairies, love and magic.

The play was performed on a beautiful night under the stars in the Royal Botanic Gardens. While sitting on the grass enjoying a picnic and having bats fly over the top, actors from the Australian Shakespeare Company performed an absolutely amazing production that lifted up the audience’s mood instantly. ‘A Mid Summer Nights Dream’ presented students with an amazing retelling of comedy at it’s finest, showing them how much fun Shakespeare can be.

The play revolves around four young lovers who run away into the forest where Puck, a naughty fairy causes problems by meddling with who each of them fall in love with. This issue is reflected in the King and Queen of fairies who also fight over love.

While this is happening, a group of hopeless actors gather in the forest to rehearse a play for the Duke’s wedding. This play within a play becomes the center of the final act and is absolutely hilarious. Puck was also very nice J
Check out these New Titles

Love and Gelato by Jenna Evans Welch
Lina is spending the summer in Tuscany, fulfilling her mother’s dying wish that she should get to know her father. With the help of her mother’s journal, Lina uncovers a magical world of secret romance, art and hidden bakeries. People come to Italy for love and gelato, someone tells her, but sometimes they discover much more.

Scythe by Neal Shusterman
Thou Shalt Kill
What if death was the only thing left to control?
In a perfect world, the only way to die is to be gleaned by a professional scythe. When Citra and Rowan are chosen to be apprentice scythes, they know they have no option but to learn the art of killing. However, the terrifying responsibility of choosing their victims is just the start. Corruption is the order of the day and Citra and Rowan need to stick together to fight it.

The Hazel Wood by Melissa Albert
Alice has spent most of her life on the road, always one step ahead of the strange bad luck biting at her heels. But when Alice’s grandmother, the reclusive author of a book of pitch-dark fairytales, dies alone on her isolated estate – the Hazel Wood – Alice discovers how bad her luck can really get. Her own mother is stolen away – by a figure who claims to come from the supernatural world where the fairytales are set. Alice’s only clue is the message left behind: STAY AWAY FROM THE HAZEL WOOD.
To rescue her mother, Alice must venture first to the Hazel Wood, then into the world where her grandmother’s tales begin…

The Sacrifice box by Martin Stewart
Sep, Arkle, Mark, Lamb and Hardley: five friends thrown together one summer. When they discover an ancient stone box in the forest, they make a sacrifice – something special, committed to the box forever. And they make a pact. Four years later, a series of strange and terrifying events take place. Someone broke the rules, and now everyone has to pay. But how much are they willing to sacrifice.

Visit from Danielle Green
Danielle Green visited the students at DVC this week to promote Premiers Readers Challenge. She spoke to the students about the challenge and her own love of books now and as she was growing up. The students were inspired by her stories. Ben Wilson received an award for having already read 65 books towards the challenge and his love of literature. Premiers Readers Challenge is offered to students from Years 7-10 and is strongly supported by the Library and its amazing fiction collection.

WELL DONE TOM

Year 11 Tom Cuthbert’s talent at cricket peaked the interest of talent scouts from the Northcote Cricket Club. His abilities saw him land a coveted spot at the Marcus Stoinis Cricket Academy over the summer months. Further to this amazing achievement, Tom was chosen by the Academy to have a Gray Nicolls bat made personally for him. This prize was given to only one participant; someone who displayed outstanding attitude, behavior and skill. Tom was able to visit the factory and receive his bat after it was made.

Well done Tom on this wonderful accomplishment!
Amanda Leveridge
Year 11 Coordinator
URGENT

SUSPENSION OF BUS TRAVEL

Dear Parent / Guardian,

The last week has been spent contacting parents regarding payment of bus fees and submission of Application to Travel forms. This is a common occurrence throughout the school year. Could all parents of students using the College Bus Network please read the following information.

It is a Department of Education requirement that all students using the College Bus Network complete a new Application to Travel form every year of travel while attending the College. These forms are called for via the newsletter and Compass email in July/August of the preceding year (e.g. we will call for 2019 in July/August this year) to allow anticipated loadings to be submitted to the Department. This form is required for both eligible and fare paying travellers and can be downloaded via the College website www.dvallcoll.vic.edu.au or from the General Office.

Fares for bus travel are determined by the Department of Education and are a flat rate regardless of the amount of trips per week/Term. These fares are required to be paid prior to travel (e.g. Term 2 should be paid before the end of Term 1). Fares can be paid by Term, Semester or Yearly with passes issued once payment is received. Payment can be made in person at the General Office, via phone or Direct Debit to the College Account.

It is important for you to read the newsletter and check your Compass emails as information is given on a regular basis. If you are not receiving emails, please contact Roz to ensure your details are correct.

If you have not completed an Application to Travel or have outstanding payment your child may no longer be able to travel via the College Bus Network.

If you are unsure or have any questions regarding the above information please feel free to contact Roz on 9438 1411.

SEW HAPPY CRAFT CLUB
Every Monday @ lunchtime in F2
For all those who are Creative, Crafty and love to work with Textiles
Work on your own project or catch up with your textiles work

ART CLUB
Every Wednesday @ 12:45pm in S3
Open to all year levels and all skill levels
PLEASE EAT YOUR LUNCH ON THE WAY

IMPORTANT COLLEGE DATES

TERM 1 2018
28 March Year 12 Parent/Teacher Interviews 4pm-7pm
29 March Last day Term 1 - 2.10 finish

TERM 2 2018
16 April First Day Term 2
19 April Year 7-11 Parent Teacher Interviews
23 April Year 7 Immunisations
24 April Year 12 Parent Information Evening
25 April Anzac Day Public Holiday
26 April Year 7 College Information Evening
27 April College Open Day
09 May Curriculum Day - No Students
NILLYMBIK POETRY AWARD

$200 FOR 12-LINES
NILLYMBIK EKPHRASIS POETRY AWARD
YOUTH PRIZE
(11-18 YEARS)

Entries close 30 April. To enter and information nillymbik.vic.gov.au/arts
COMMUNITY NOTICES

DIAMOND VALLEY SINGERS PRODUCTION OF

Diamond Valley Singers Production of Disney
Aladdin Jr.

Music by
Alan Menken
Lyrics by
Howard Ashman and Tim Rice
Book Adapted and Additional Lyrics by
Jim Luigs
Music Adapted and Arranged by
Brian Louiselle
Based on the Screenplay by
Ron Clements and John Musker
Ted Elliott and Terry Rossio

Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australia). All performance materials supplied by Hal Leonard Australia.

Directed by John Leahy and Rin Gallagher

Performances
Friday April 20, 8pm
Saturday April 21, 1pm & 6pm
Sunday April 22, 1pm
Friday April 27, 8pm
Saturday April 28, 1pm & 6pm
Sunday April 29, 1pm
Friday May 4, 8pm
Saturday May 5, 1pm & 6pm
Sunday May 6, 1pm

Tickets
$30 Adult
$25 Concession/60+ student
$20 Children under 18 years

Venue
Warrandyte High School Theatre
Alexander Road, Warrandyte

Enquiries 9439 7843

Bookings www.dvsingers.org

COMMUNITY NOTICES

IGNITING THE GENIUS WITHIN

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS FAIR

Interested in turning your wild ideas into a real product or service? Keen to make some profit from it?

FAIR DAY:
28TH APRIL, 1 – 4PM

Don’t delay apply now at www.yep.org.au
and download our project planning workbook to help you get started.

Young Entrepreneurs Program

0409 029 674 | info@yep.org.au

WRITERS WANTED
$1000 CASH & YOUR CHOICE OF

Write4Fun

THE COMPETITION

Enter a Write4Fun themed 2016 School Writing Competition. Students from across Australia are invited to use their writing skills and imagination to create a story or poem using the Write4Fun theme.

To enter Write4Fun, visit www.write4fun.com.au

THE BOOK

Write4Fun will compile the best entries from the 2016 School Writing Competition and publish them in a limited edition book.

THE RULES

1. Incorporate the Write4Fun theme into your story or poem.
2. Entries can be a maximum of 500 words.
3. The competition is open to anyone aged 13 or under.
4. Entries must be received by 20th March 2016.
5. Entries can be submitted via email to write4fun@write4fun.com.au

THE PRIZES

The competition will award:

1st Place: $1000 Cash and a choice of:
- PlayStation 4
- iPad 2
- Kindle Fire Tablet
- Xbox One

2nd Place: $300 Cash and a choice of:
- Kindle Fire Tablet
- Xbox One

3rd Place: $100 Cash and a choice of:
- Kindle Fire Tablet
- Xbox One

Entries will be judged by a panel of judges.

Write4Fun

www.write4fun.com.au

Write4Fun - Making writing fun!