Congratulations everyone on making it to the end of Term 3, it has certainly been one of the most challenging times for our school community and we should be proud of all that we have achieved.

As I have said previously, COVID or not - planning for 2021 still goes on. It is an incredibly busy time for our leadership team as we shortlist and interview for a second Assistant Principal, the Junior and Senior Sub School Leader positions and a Numeracy Learning Specialist. These are key leadership roles that are going to support the continued growth of our College. It is very exciting to be able to build on our current leadership team.

It is also the time of year when there is a handover of our student leadership with the current College Captains finishing their tenure so that they can concentrate on their exams in Term 4. I want to thank and express my appreciation to Molly Crompton-Guard, Ainsley Cronin-Sporys, Sabine Hicks and Harvey Trippett. It has been a very different experience for them, as their leadership opportunities were hampered by remote learning. Having said that, they have done everything asked of them and worked with Rebecca Taylor and myself to support the students of the College. I remind you of the beautiful piece they contributed to my Principal's Report earlier in the year encouraging students to stay strong and positive. Thank you and I wish you well for the remainder of the year.

It is with pleasure that I announce that our new College Captains have been appointed. Nikola, Tom and Kate impressed the panel with their passion for the College, the role of College Captain and ideas for supporting our students as we navigate Term 4 and 2021. I look forward to working with them and watching their skills develop. Usually they would be presented at a full College assembly but this will not be possible in the foreseeable future. Instead, here is an introduction to our new leaders.

I am so excited to be one of the College Captains in 2021! It means so much to me that I have been chosen for this opportunity. I hope in the coming year I am able to make an influence and create some amazing ideas and projects to help our school thrive. I am really looking forward to starting this new experience.

Nikola Mannix

I am a passionate, hardworking critical thinker that is always there to help and support others. I was so excited when I heard I was appointed the role of 2021 College Captain. Diamond Valley College has given me an opportunity to go one step further when it comes to representing the College and to be a role model for all students. I’ve got a feeling that myself and the other two captains will work really well together and make the College a better place for everyone. Can’t wait to get started.

Tom Stewart
I have the privilege of being one of your College Captains next year for 2021. This opportunity means so much to me and I am excited to represent my school as a leader. This coming year I hope to achieve new obstacles and help support my fellow students in any way possible.

Kate Wilson

Lastly, I would like to wish you all a safe and relaxing holiday. For those of you who are not confined to metropolitan Melbourne, enjoy your new freedom and think of us still in lockdown. Encourage your children to do something nice for one of their friends who is not so lucky and will have limited opportunities over the holidays. Kindness is a wonderful thing during this time.

Take care and see you in Term 4.

Allison Bennett
Principal

Victorian Challenge and Enrichment Series:

Over the last two weeks I have been involved in three courses through the Victorian Challenge and Enrichment Series (VCES), one on 3D Decoys in the animal kingdom, one on Bioplastics, and one on Biomimicry.

3D decoys are cameras in the shape of the animal being filmed and we learnt how and why decoy cameras are used in the wild, and then we modeled a penguin decoy using Tinker cad. This inspired new ideas for me, such as how we could create something that could film and interact with other animals without actually being alive.

Bioplastics is a biodegradable plastic that is good for the environment and can be made using things such as seaweed. We all watched a video of a bioplastic being made and had the option to make it ourselves. Once it had cooled you had to put a bit of the bioplastic into four different solvents and record observations for up to an hour. One of the solvents used was hand sanitizer and I found it interesting that at first the bioplastic dissolved a bit but then hardened again.

Biomimicry is the use of nature for inspiration. In the course we had to come up with a design inspired by the golden barrel cactus, and mine was a desk tidy or pen holder as the spikes would hold things on the cactus. This was probably my favourite course as it had plenty of cool facts and ideas, like... Did you know that the Eiffel tower’s structure is inspired by the inside of our biggest bone, the femur, and was only supposed to be a temporary structure? There are plenty of everyday items or structures that were designed by nature, such as Velcro, and this course was a real eye opener for me.

Zoe Fitzpatrick (7.4)
Statement of Commitment

DVC is committed to Child Safety. We want children to be safe, happy and empowered. We support and respect children, as well as staff and volunteers.