



Issue number 19

3 December 2020

BUSY END OF YEAR AND LOTS OF INFORMATION FOR NEXT YEAR

This is absolutely the craziest time for schools. Finishing off programmes, reports, end of year activities, organising next year with an overlay of preparing for Christmas, and all undertaken with a high degree of 'COVID-fatigue'. What a busy time for staff and parents. I am sorry to add to your busyness with this long newsletter but I am sure you want to know some of the big things happening next year.

Staff Leaving

It is always a sad time to have people who are part of the team heading off to other things next year. And while we all know that this is part of life, it is never easy to say goodbye.

We have had some excellent contract staff filling in for maternity leave positions and other particular teaching needs. It has been an unusual year to do that task, and we cannot express enough thanks to each of these staff who worked tirelessly to deliver their teaching content particularly during the lockdown and periods of remote learning.

Contracts finishing at the end of 2020

Ms Carmelina Carpenter ("Miss Carmelina") (Plenty Kids ELC Educator)

Mr Josiah Garisto (Primary PE Teacher)

Ms Tanya Mathias (Secondary English Teacher)

Mr Joshua Griffin (Secondary Science Lab Assistant)

We also have a small number of long term staff who are moving onto the next phase of their lives. We want to acknowledge their many years of professionalism, dedication and service, of care for our students and for their input into our wider PVCC community. Their commitment goes well beyond this COVID year, some across many decades!, and we sincerely want to wish them all God's richest blessings in their future endeavours.

Full-time and Part-time staff leaving at the end of 2020

Mrs Sonia Goodacre (Secondary Head of Learning and Teaching) - moving to take up a similar but larger position at Hazelglen College

Mrs Jenny Gillie (Primary and Secondary Music Teacher) - moving to Melton Christian College as their Performing Arts Teacher

Mrs Maryanne Haddad (part-time ELC Administration) - spending more time with family

Mrs Barbara Aman ("Miss Barb") (part-time ELC Educator) - spending more time with family

Mrs Denise Robinson (part-time Canteen Manager) - retiring

Building Projects

Secondary Walkway and Outdoor Learning Project

Builders will begin work this year (Wednesday 9 December) and are aiming to finish early in Term 3 2021.

**Because we are Christ's Image Bearers, we:
Learn Courageously**

The college received funding from the government to remodel the entrance to the secondary section with covered walkways, outdoor learning spaces, more undercover areas and improve accessibility for low mobility students. We are grateful to receive money and be able to contribute to the rebuilding of the local economy.

We will be placing some demountables on campus so that we can move some of the classes away from the unavoidable noise. We are also negotiating with the builder to have the most disruptive activities during school holidays.

Yan Yean Road Upgrade

In our conversations with Major Roads Projects Victoria, it appears that we can expect work to start on Yan Yean Road toward the end of next year. At that time, Major Roads Projects will be taking some of the frontage of Plenty Valley Christian College and will replace our roundabout with traffic lights. This will mean some reconstruction of our parking area and wetlands area as well as our main services and boundary. The college will negotiate the timing of the work so that it will minimise disruption to parents.

Library Upgrade

As part of our Library upgrade, we are installing new windows before the end of the year. They will replace the present fading windows. This will allow students and community meetings to enjoy our beautiful view. The secondary library hub will continue to be upgraded over the next 12 months during school breaks.

Carpark

Please obey the directions in the carpark. Accidents happen when unexpected things happen. Students and cars do not expect cars to come out of carpark areas in the wrong direction. So for the safety of all, please follow the arrows.

Parking on the roads around the college

If you are one of those parents who avoids the entry and exit from Yan Yean Road of an afternoon by parking in surrounding streets, well done. Please remember that you are parked in front of people's homes. They should be able to easily access their properties and they deserve our respect.

No More Aerosols

Next year we will not be using aerosols at the college. We have a number of community members who have a severe reaction to aerosols that could result in hospitalisation. It is a small price to pay to use alternatives. This may affect some secondary students who will need to change to roll on or stick deodorants to keep themselves feeling fresh throughout the day.

Staff at school for Year 12 results

VCE results will be released to students and the college on Wednesday 30 December. This is much later than previous years due to the later start of exams. Mrs Madden, our Careers Practitioner, will come back to work on this day in case any students need to talk about options with her. Mrs McDonald and Mr Siatskas will also be onsite.

Last Day of School

Heads of Sub-Schools will communicate details regarding their section activities.

ELC – Next week is the last week of Plenty Kids sessions

Primary – Last Day Thursday 10 December

Middle Years – Last Day of lessons: Wednesday 9 December, Optional Activity Day: Thursday 10 December

Senior Years – Optional Activity Day (no classes): Friday 4 December,
Last day of Lessons Thursday 10 December

2021 Dedication Service

The Dedication Service next year will be held at 9:00am on Wednesday 27 January at Infinity Church 5/9 Danaher Drive, South Morang. This will be first of many opportunities in 2021 for our college community to come together to celebrate 40 years of PVCC. All members of the college community are welcome to join in dedicating to God our college, its staff and students and the year ahead. Our new Year 12 students will be in attendance before they leave for their camp.

2021 Fees

Some questions have been asked in regards to the annual fee increase, outlined in the latest Business Terms document. The Board has increased fees by 2.5% for next year. This is a very modest increase relative to the continually increasing costs of education. The Board also recognises that following COVID, some of our families are under varying degrees of financial pressure. So, the Board has removed the Parent Participation Levy. We have received advice that this program may create some inadvertent tax issues for families. We still want parents to be involved in the life of the college though. With this levy removed, on average, the nett increase to fees is about 1%. The Board continues to monitor the college's finances so that we are able to provide quality education with modest fee increases.

Primary PYP makes way for the Australian Curriculum and Transformation by Design across the whole college

This year Primary staff have been working on moving to the Australian Curriculum which is now a world class curriculum used in all Australian states and territories and some other countries. Secondary staff have also been ensuring that the curriculum we offer in secondary complies with this curriculum.

We are delivering that curriculum based on planning using a curriculum development tool called Transformation by Design (based on Learning by Design principals).

A paper entitled "Why are we Changing to Transformation by Design" is on page 5 of this newsletter to provide more information about this change.

Year 3 and Year 4

For a number of years now, the college has been running composite classes for our Year 3 & 4 cohorts. Next years' Year 3s and 4s will be moving to separate classes. With numbers growing in these and younger year levels we are moving to four classes – two classes of Year 3 students and two classes of Year 4s. We believe that the changes to the curriculum and the Transformation by Design approach is presently the best way to accommodate our students.

Feedback from Parent Survey Responses

As we reported in the last COVID update, the survey results were overwhelmingly positive, but we did ask what we could improve. There were a few themes that emerged from the wide range of suggestions.

Consistency in Curriculum and Delivery – consistency was a theme across a number of areas mentioned. We are aware of this and have been developing ways to improve both curriculum and delivery. The Transformation by Design approach encourages collaborative curriculum development which will naturally enhance consistent standards among staff. The Australian curriculum is quite specific about skills and knowledge. Teachers all complete a review each year and develop goals that they work on for the following year.

Consistency in Expectation of Student Behaviour and Discipline – over the last few years we have developed a number of Codes of Conduct for staff, parents and students. These provide guidance on the way we behave toward each other and the college. We have also introduced a Behaviour Management policy to guide us in dealing with breaches of the student code of conduct. Each of these takes some time for us to adjust to but we want to report to you that the process is underway. Staff will continue to be trained to pick up code of conduct breaches.

Carpark Traffic – where have I heard that before? I know that carparks of any school are problematic. Moving 800+ students out of the college, at the same time, on any day is a challenge. When you add the build-up of traffic already on Yan Yean Road, it slows the exit time which causes back ups in the school. We move 800 students out of the college in 20 minutes. That is pretty amazing, but we want to acknowledge that yes, it is still frustrating when you add in the overall time it takes to leave home early because of the traffic, drive to school in the traffic, the wait at school, then the wait in line to get out of the carpark. Teachers on crossing duty have been asked to give preference to cars and ask students to wait to reduce the stopping and starting. The great news is that when the Yan Yean Road upgrade is finished, we will have improved the design of our carparks and Yan Yean Road will be double lane and controlled by traffic lights. Might I suggest that, if you had been toying with the idea, now might be the time to consider utilising the marvellous bus service that the college operates through Panorama.

A Prayerful End

Please pray for our staff and students as we undertake our end of year activities and prepare to celebrate Jesus coming to earth as a baby so that He could reach out to us imperfect, headstrong and sinful humans. And through His death, 33 years later, cover our shortcomings and make it possible for us to have salvation and a relationship with the perfect and loving God.

John Metcalfe
Principal



WHY WE ARE CHANGING TO TRANSFORMATION BY DESIGN

In Stephen Covey's book, *7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, he outlines a strategy that is instrumental for education: begin with the end in mind. Plenty Valley Christian College's driving mission is to graduate students who build community, learn courageously, strive for excellence, actively steward, and nurture Godly character. These college values form our end point. We therefore need a curriculum model which helps us achieve this.

A decade ago, the college implemented the Inter-Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IB PYP). It is a well-respected approach that standardised a high-quality method of teaching across schools around the world. However, the driving mission of the PYP is to graduate students who are internationally minded. While this aim, and the associated values it promoted, are largely compatible with a Christian perspective, it does not encourage this way of thinking explicitly.

Australian Curriculum

Over the 2010s, the Australian Curriculum was extensively developed by leading local experts and has now become widely adopted throughout all states and territories. It is well respected and sets out a pathway of learning based on developmental standards that are rigorous and address many of the important issues that are special to our Australian context such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures, Australia's geography and history, and Australia's engagement with Asia.

Transformation by Design

Therefore, with the development of this national curriculum and the desire to teach through an explicitly Christian worldview, the college has decided to change our methodology to Transformation by Design (TbD). This is a method of planning, assessing, and teaching the Australian Curriculum within an explicitly Christian and biblical worldview. Our dedicated teachers have spent the last 12 months preparing to implement TbD in 2021. It also aligns our primary and secondary schools with a consistent approach to curriculum.

Transformation by Design is built upon the highly regarded *Understanding* by Design approach that uses a backwards planning method to design units. However, our mission requires that our graduates do more than *understand*; we want them to be able to apply what they learn and to play their part in *transforming* this world to be more just and caring and as God intended it to be.

Transformation by Design is built upon the Christian principles that God created and sustains all things (Col 1:15-20) and that we, in God's design, all bear His image full of worth and intelligence (Gen 1-2). We can be *transformed* by the renewing of our mind (Rom 12:2) because of Jesus' redemptive work on the cross (John 3:16-17). Therefore, in the study of all subjects and learning areas, we seek to uncover His handiwork and seek to make His kingdom here on Earth (Matt 6:10).

Developing a Plenty Valley Teaching Program

The Australian Curriculum provides us with the content that all Australian schools cover in each year level and TbD will give us a program design that will bring out planned Christian principles as we investigate that content.

We will continue to use the skills developed under the PYP and teach tailored transdisciplinary units using an inquiry approach to curriculum content alongside more skill-based and directive educational strategies.

Through Transformation by Design we are intentionally working to develop graduates that embody our college values and who are ready to embrace the good works that God has prepared in advance for them (Eph 2:10).

John Metcalfe
Principal



The poster features a purple header with a white crescent moon, a white star, and three white triangles forming a path. The text 'RELAY FOR LIFE' is in white, and 'Cancer Council' is in white with a yellow flower logo. A purple laurel wreath is on the right. The main text 'Relay for Life Fundraiser' is in teal. Below it, the date 'TUESDAY 8TH DECEMBER | LUNCHTIME' and prices are listed. A yellow starburst contains text about fundraising for St Vincent's. The bottom has a purple background with the text 'See you all there!' in yellow script.

RELAY FOR LIFE
Cancer Council

Relay for Life
Fundraiser

TUESDAY 8TH DECEMBER | LUNCHTIME

SAUSAGE SIZZLE PRICES:
SAUSAGE: \$2
DRINK: \$2
COMBO: \$3

WE WILL BE RAISING FUNDS FOR BOTH RELAY FOR LIFE AND THE ST VINCENTS AGED CARE FACILITY, TO PROVIDE THEM WITH SOME GIFTS DURING THE FESTIVE SEASON

See you all there!

Because we are Christ's Image Bearers, we:
Learn Courageously

2021 COLLEGE CAPTAINS

The 2021 College Captains have now been announced, and this week I sat down with both the Primary and Secondary captains in a couple of informal get-to-know-you interviews. Needless to say, all four students are absolutely delightful, and I have no doubt that the college is in very good hands for our 40th anniversary year. Together, these students are a wonderful combination of confident yet humble, humorous yet fully aware of the importance their roles carry. Please enjoy getting to know them, as I did!

Mardi Anderson

Head of Community Relations

Primary Captain, Esther N

How long have you been at PVCC? 6 years (since Prep)

What is your favourite TV show? I don't watch a lot of TV, I mainly watch Youtube. My favourite things to watch on Youtube are gaming videos. When I do watch TV, the show I like is Spirit Riding Free.

What is your favourite pizza topping? Hawaiian! If there's not pineapple on the pizza, I can't eat it!

What do you do in your spare time? I play on my iPad a lot! I practice my guitar, but only if I have to! I read a lot, especially if I have a good book (at the start of the year, my Mum bought me a book called 'His Princess' and I loved it!).

What are you doing over the summer holidays? I am SO excited for summer holidays! I've never been out of Victoria, so if restrictions are lifted, my parents and I are going to Qld for 2 weeks! We really want to go to Sea World.

What are you looking forward to most about 2021? I'm most looking forward to getting a puppy! I'm looking forward to being a captain in the 40th anniversary year. I'm also looking forward to hopefully finishing a story I've been writing for a very long time.

What is your deep hope for the students of PVCC? I hope that the Primary students don't get lost in peer pressure and school pressure, but that they find strength in God and His word.

Primary Captain, Savain N

How long have you been at PVCC? 6 years (since Prep)

What is your favourite TV show? I basically just watch whatever is on, but I really like The Investigators, and How to Train Your Dragon. I really don't mind though – I'll even watch Peppa Pig!

What is your favourite pizza topping? Probably ham and cheese! Sometimes salami, sometimes with pineapple too!

What do you do in your spare time? I practice music, write stories, read books, play with my dog - his name is Odin, he's a Weimaraner.

What are you doing over the summer holidays? We might go on a hiking trip through



Plenty Gorge. No big plans that I know of, but there is a very slim possibility that we might go to Sri Lanka!

What are you looking forward to most about 2021? I'm looking forward to making other people happy as the Primary Captain. It's good to see smiles! I'm confident about giving speeches and I'm looking forward to the extra events the school is planning.

What is your deep hope for the students of PVCC? My hope is that the students make their teachers happy and that they'd do really well in every subject, have fun with their friends and make fun memories.

Savain's twin brother, Evmin, has been elected as one of the 2021 Primary Vice Captains. When asked whether it was awkward at home, Savain said, "Well, as captain, I have bragging rights! But mum said that I have no authority over him."

Interesting fact: Savain's Year 6 Buddy when he was in Prep was none other than Inge T, the 2021 College Captain!

Secondary Captain, Inge T

How long have you been at PVCC? 7 years (since Year 5)

What is your favourite TV show? The Crown, hands down! I've been waiting for the Diana series for as long as I can remember!

What is your favourite pizza topping? Spinach and mushrooms

What do you do in your spare time? Run, hang out with friends, cook. I haven't had spare time in quite a while though!

What are you doing over the summer holidays? Lots of road trips and heading to Hamilton Island for a week. This trip has been postponed from April, to July, to September, and now finally we get to go!

What are you looking forward to most about 2021? Rebuilding the school morale after 2020. Making it fun! Having lots of fun with the broader school community and making school a fun environment to be in, not just academic focused. I want it to be fun to show up to school in the morning.

What is your deep hope for the students of PVCC? That we can be an integrative and supportive school community and celebrate one another in all areas.

What legacy would you like to leave? I would like to leave behind a school full of students who actively participate in events and have fun in the process while living in a Christ-centred manner.

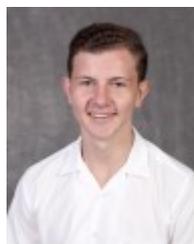
Secondary Captain, Marnus P

How long have you been at PVCC? 12 years (since Prep)

What is your favourite TV show? Suits - it's amazing! I've watched all 10 seasons over and over!

What is your favourite pizza topping? Margherita. Cheese all the way!

What do you do in your spare time? Hmmmmm. Get out and about with friends. Go to parks, picnics – COVID-normal picnics.



What are you doing over the summer holidays? Not going overseas! Haha! Going to the beach. A lot. Fingers crossed maybe a trip to Qld.

What are you looking forward to most about 2021? Celebrating our 40 years in a way that we can all connect, and even though we've missed out this year, I can't wait to get back to connection and relationships.

What is your deep hope for the students of PVCC? My hope for the kids at PVCC is to build relationships that are based on more than just school and academics, but are based on our love for one another, be able to overcome adversities and cling onto God through it all.

What legacy would you like to leave? It's a hard question to answer because there are so many things I'd love to see. Leaving behind a college full of people who are there for each other, supporting and encouraging each other, no matter what circumstances they are in. I also want to add, being able to put on events that encourage community and that celebrate the reason why we're here as a college: to build relationships with each other and with God.



Captains L-R: Holly T (vice), Inge T (captain), Marnus P (captain), Lucy H (vice)



Christian Ministry Team L-R: Abi W, Zach A, Eric B, Sam L



Senate L-R: Tamara H, Mariam D, Alanah M, Aaron S, Jacob Y, Mikayla C, Holly T, Inge T, Marnus P, Lucy H, Oliver S, Jonathan Y, Adelaide R, Sophie M, Nyah B

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Learn Courageously

ORIENTATION DAY

All primary students are invited to wear casual clothes on orientation day, Tuesday 8 December.

Students attending Year 7 Orientation are also welcome to wear casual clothes on both of the orientation days.

All other secondary students are expected to be in full school uniform.

REPORTS ON SEQTA

A reminder to families of Year 12 students and families leaving at the end of term, to download all the reports from Seqta.

This needs to be done before the last day of term, 10 December 2020. After this date you will not have access to your child's information on Seqta.

UNIFORM SHOP - UNI HILL STORE

Please visit the Bob Stewart website for the opening hours.
<http://www.bobstewart.com.au/store-info#store-uni-hill-store>

Families can now book appointments and get in early for next year:

<https://bookings.bobstewart.com.au/uni-hill-store/>

The uniform list and policy are available on the College web

ESTD **BOB STEWART** 1925
Our family serving you since 1925



RECEPTION HOLIDAY HOURS

The school office will close for the summer holidays on Friday 18 December 4pm and will reopen on Wednesday 13 January 2021 at 9:00am.

SECOND-HAND UNIFORM SALE

Tuesday 8 December, 3:45pm - 4:45pm, Primary Library

Card Sales only (no cash)

This will be your last opportunity to buy 2nd hand uniform this year. Range of sizes, reasonable prices.

Please contact Jessica Patterson for more details

jessica.patterson@pvcc.vic.edu.au

Friday
4 December
Year 6 Graduation

Friday
4 December
Years 10-11 Activity
Day

Monday
7 December
4yo Kinder
Orientation
Possum Group C

Tuesday
8 December
Orientation Day
Prep-Year 12 &
4yo Kinder
Wallaby Group C

Wednesday
9 December
Year 7 Orientation
Day #2

Thursday
10 December
3yo Kinder
Orientation Group C

Thursday
10 December
Years 7-9 Activities
Day

Thursday
10 December
Students Finish

Tuesday
15 December
Teaching Staff Finish

Friday
18 December
School Office Closes

SECONDARY SPORT

REBEL SPORT COMMUNITY GIVEBACK SCHEME



When you are doing your Christmas shopping at Rebel Sport please remember to mention PVCC at the checkout!

The College gains 5% of your purchase amount in Rebel's Community Giveback scheme.

This entitles us to select sporting gear from Rebel each quarter with the amount accumulated by PVCC families & friends purchasing which is a terrific way to source school sporting equipment.

Have a wonderful holiday break and a blessed Christmas and we look forward to much more sport in 2021!

Helen Padget
Head of Secondary Sport

2021 PRODUCTION

After the challenging and sometimes droll year that 2020 turned out to be, the production team were keen to select a musical that would provide an uplifting and colourful experience for performers and audience alike.

With the upcoming 40th anniversary following a 'Back to the 80's' theme, "Footloose" was an easy choice.

As flippant and light-hearted as the story may seem, "Footloose" provides our students an opportunity to explore characters and themes that are very relevant to the college community.

The characters such as Ariel, (who seeks to excel and pursue a tertiary education), Ren (who, despite his jovial and laidback attitude, has a keen sense of justice and a genuine care and respect for those around him), Ethel and Vi (who desperately seek to do what is best for their children, despite the difficult circumstances) and Reverend Moore (who however stern and prickly, is ultimately driven by a desire to serve God and protect and nurture his community).

Each reeling from tragedy and heart break they attempt to navigate the modern world, trying to find the balance between protection and freedom, right and wrong, new and old. The values and principles demonstrated by these characters ultimately bring this fictional community to a place of peace and healing.

We look forward to watching our students explore the values and principles in this production as they strengthen their confidence, develop new skills and build community.

Lucy Watson
Secondary Teacher - Drama

TERM DATES 2021

Term 1 Monday 1 February 2021 – Thursday 1 April 2021

Term 2 Monday 19 April 2021 – Friday 25 June 2021

Term 3 Monday 19 July 2021 – Friday 17 September 2021

Term 4 Monday 4 October 2021 – Thursday 9 December 2021



Summer Holiday Club bookings open on
Wednesday, 21st October 2020.

Non-stop action.
Morning to evening.
Extraordinary Summer
Holiday Programs.



Full day of
adventures
at HQ

Get hands-on and creative with a day designed around the children's interests, a project-based workshop and more!

- Neon light creations
- Obstacle courses & water games
- Karaoke party
- Vision board mapping
- Hip Hop dance party
- Indian culture & cooking day
- Heaps more!



Embark on
a journey

Join us on an adventure to visit some new and exciting places. This Summer your children could go to:

- The movies
- Trampoline parks
- Indoor Rock Climbing
- Laser Tag
- Tenpin Bowling
- Karate lessons
- Indoor Playgrounds

Please note: we will be following all public health advice, including any necessary cancellations of excursions, etc. We have scheduled lots of fun off-site adventures, but will keep families notified of any changes via email and our website.



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- Child Care Subsidy is available to reduce the cost for eligible families

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Bookings now open

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eligible families

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Whittlesea Christmas Carols
Join us for the **ONLINE PREMIERE 7:30pm Fri. 18th Dec**
Finding Hope 2020

Featuring the **Whittlesea Community**
Whittlesea Primary School - St. Mary's Parish Primary School Whittlesea
Plenty Valley Christian College - Whittlesea Township Community Choir
Whittlesea Community House Inc. - In conjunction with the City of Whittlesea
JOIN THE LOCALS of all ages! PRIZES to be won on the night *chat on YouTube

"Events in Whittlesea" Channel on YouTube

NEW HORIZONS CHURCH
In Partnership with Whittlesea Ministry Inc.

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