

Friday December 10, 2021

Key Dates

- Monday December 13
Adventure Park
- December 14 - 15
Internal Activities
Years 7 - 9
- Tuesday February 1
Term 1, 2022
Commences

Principal's Report

Dear Parents and Carers,

What an 'interesting' year 2021 has turned out to be. Seven periods of remote and flexible learning certainly presented all school communities with challenges! But for Colac Secondary College, our learning programs continued and our students and staff adapted admirably to the constant change from onsite to online learning. And of course, as parents and carers of our young people, you played a crucial role in supporting your children to remain engaged in learning and connected to school while also facing considerable challenges of your own. For that, I offer my deepest appreciation and sincerest thanks to you all.

Today I have had the privilege of participating in my first Awards Ceremony at Colac Secondary College. The current COVID-19 operational guidelines meant that the event was restricted to students and staff only. Hopefully in 2022 we can get back to an open celebration for all community members.

Awards ceremonies are a vital part of college life. It's all too easy to get bogged down in the day-to-day operational matters of a school and forget to take the time to celebrate all the wonderful achievements of our learners. So today, we took time out to recognise all our students whose achievements were recognised with an award. Well done and congratulations to all the award winners on a spectacular effort during a very challenging year!

As we wind down 2021, we begin to focus and prepare for 2022. We will be starting the year with a new four year School Strategic Plan that will outline our goals, key improvement strategies and accountabilities that will guide us as we relentlessly pursue year-on-year improvement in teaching and learning, student wellbeing and school connectedness. We will be start the year with an expanded college Leadership Team, new leadership roles commencing and enhanced classroom supports for students. We will be supplying 'AVID folders' to all students to ensure they are 'ready to learn' and renewing our focus on contemporary teaching methods that are proven to have the greatest impact on student learning. It really is an exciting time for the entire Colac Secondary College community!

I'd like to thank you all for your ongoing support of your school this year. I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year. Enjoy the summer break with your children and I look forward to seeing everyone in 2022!

Take Care,
Shane Elevato
Executive Principal.

**ABSENCE
LINE**

5231 9888



Colac Secondary College acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Gulidjan Country, where we learn and teach.

The school pays respect to their Elders - past, present and emerging.

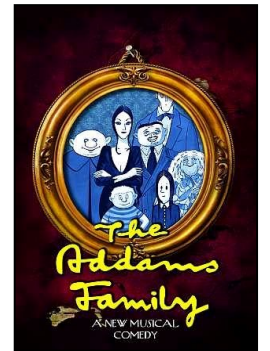
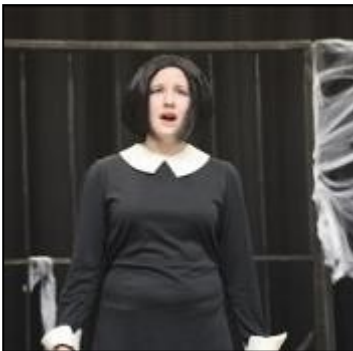


THE ADDAMS FAMILY

Finally, the cast and crew of *The Addams Family* were able to stage a 'mini' version of the show. It was a slightly shorter version with loads of entertainment, music and singing with an upbeat vibe!!

The show was filmed and we look forward to the release of the recording.

Well done everyone!



Year 10 Semi Formal

On Friday, November 26th, Year 10 students enjoyed their Semi Formal which was held at the Elliminyt Hall.



HANDS ON LEARNING

Hands on Learning at CSC – 2022 Intake - Year 8 and 9 students

CSC's Hands on Learning is seeking Expressions of Interest from students in Year 8 and 9 in 2022.

Hands on Learning is a project-based learning program that exists to offer an alternative to classroom-based learning and support student skill development through real-world experiences. At CSC, HoL runs for one full day per week with a small group of students. HoL has a focus on project planning, hands-on skills and community engagement, as well as social and emotional development, wellbeing, teamwork and positive engagement with school.

Students who are interested in building, furniture making, painting, artwork, landscaping and gardening, agriculture, wood or metalwork, animals or machinery may find their passion in Hands on Learning. Students who struggle in a classroom environment and enjoy being outside may find that HoL suits their learning needs. The program is assessed and reported on, and it supports students to develop a strong work ethic, communication and listening skills, a positive approach to peers and workmates, and the courage to have a go at new skills and take up challenges.

The HoL program is open to all students. Any student or parent who is interested in the program is invited and encouraged to contact Mr. Rieniets or Miles.

The 2022 HoL group will consist of up to 10 students of all genders, who will work with Mr. Rieniets, Miles and a member of CSC's Education Support staff. Expressions of Interest must be completed by students and parents/carers, and signed by a parent/carer. EOIs will be accepted until the end of Week 1 of Term 1. Student interviews and intake will take place at the start of Term 1; successful applicants will be notified in Week 2 and the 2022 HoL program will begin in Week 3 of Term 1 in 2022.

For more information or to access an Expression of Interest form, please contact Andrew Miles on Compass, or contact Miles by email at 09795170@colac-sc.vic.edu.au.

For more information about Hands on Learning check out the HoL website: www.handsonlearnng.com.au



Alpine School

Over the last 5 weeks, six Year 9 Students have been attending The School for Student Leadership – Alpine Campus.

On Friday the students presented their CLP (Community Learning Project) to staff, other students, visiting staff and visitors. Our students presented an excellent presentation on Insect Hotels which they will make and put up at the Barongarook Conservation Reserve next week. The Year 9 coordinator, Dean Felekos, represented the school and was overwhelmed with the work and growth our students have achieved. Well done and congratulations to Millie, Sarsha, Indigo, Ella, Joe and Nate. Watch out next year for year 9s to participate in this amazing program which will be at the Snowy River Campus in Marlo.



Year 9 Journalism Class

Thank you to students from the Journalism Class for their submissions to the newsletter this Semester.

Did you Know Christmas Edition by Mia and Anabel:

- * Christmas trees were first used by the Egyptians and the Romans
- * The most played Christmas song is "White Christmas" by Bing Crosby
- * The most popular Christmas gift is makeup and cosmetic items
- * There are 364 gifts in the famous song "The Twelve Days of Christmas"

Fun Facts by Leah:

- * Before 1913 parents could mail their kids to their grandparents through the postal service.
- * Dogs can detect cancer in their owner's body.
- * There are more stars in the Universe than grains of sand on all of the Earth's beaches.

The winners of Emily's and Tahlia's Christmas colouring competition are:

Rebecca Shepherd, Jasmine Jacques and Madi Brooks. The three lucky winners will each receive a \$10 Canteen voucher that can be collected from the student office in 2022.

Honourable mentions go to:

- *Regan Norman for her lovely rendition*
- *Paige Luke and Isabel Torrado Briand, CSC staff members who have displayed some amazing artistic flair with the colouring pencils*
- *Lexie, aged 7, who helped Nanna Kerrie sort the entries and provide some excellent colouring tips and examples.*

A big 'thank you' to Emily and Tahlia for organising the activity as part of their Year 9 Journalism elective.



**Happy
Holidays**

Early Start Christmas Cooking

Year 10 2022 classes have been doing a quick 2 week design unit based around either a Christmas Cake or a selection of Christmas treats presented in a festive hamper. New techniques have been introduced during these classes.

Merry Christmas everyone.



VCAL

Veggie and Indigenous plant garden

Year 11 VCAL students, Tahlia Sell, Tahlia Baily and Sarah Kemp have been working in the Food Tech Veggie and Indigenous garden over the last couple of weeks to clean and prepare the area for the summer season.

Students have been weeding, turning soil, adding fertiliser, planting and putting in mulch to help get the garden prepared for the Xmas break.



Fish Hotels

VCAL students have been heavily involved in collecting materials and building Fish Hotels for the Corangamite Catchment Area as part of their community based curriculum.

Keen fishing students are developing connections with local community groups to improve fish numbers around the district. Students are learning about the importance of vegetation in the rivers for fish and associated ecosystems. Next year students involved in the VCAL course will go on a Waterbug Blitz with Sophie Pryor from Ozfish to check the health of local rivers and lakes.

WELLBEING

WISHES....



CSC students have shown great resilience over the past two years, and we would like to congratulate them on their efforts in what has been a very difficult period in their education.

Likewise, parents and carers have also shown great support with their children. Lockdowns can be both challenging and positive for families.

Please enjoy this Christmas break with your families and take time to relax and recharge for what will be another busy year at CSC in 2022!

While many of us use the festive season to spend time celebrating and having fun with family and friends, eating a lot of food, opening up presents and adopting the 'jolly spirit', there are individuals who simply cannot contemplate this.

If you are around people you care about and you can have a laugh and enjoy each other's company... 'you've had a win'.

If you or your young person are in need of someone to talk to, for any reason, please contact an organisation listed below..

- Headspace Geelong 5222 6690
- Lifeline 131114
- Grief Line 1300 845 745
- Kids Helpline 1800 551 800
- Beyond Blue 1300 224 636
- Barwon Health Mental Health Triage 1300 094 187
- 1800RESPECT 1800 737 732

Breakfast Club for 2022....

The breakfast program will be back in 2022 with the start date confirmed at the beginning of next year. We cannot wait to again be providing all Year 7-12 students with a free and nutritious breakfast each week.

We would like to thank the Meriba Service Club for their volunteers each week. This has been a partnership that has spanned multiple years and we are grateful to the wonderful ladies who come in each week to assist us with the running of the Breakfast Program.

We also want to thank Woolworths Colac and Irrewarra Sourdough for their ongoing donations to this valuable program! We could not continue this program without the support from our local community.



A little more sparkle, a little less stress.
This Christmas, we wish you the very best.



Take Care and looking forward to seeing all your smiling faces again in Term 1, 2022!

Amy, Megan & Kate

Wellbeing TEAM



Careers Corner

With Frank Park, Careers Education

VET Pathways

As part of your senior schooling, you are now able to study courses that not only contribute towards your VCE, VCAL and ATAR (with certain restrictions), but also give you an industry recognised qualification when you complete that course. The courses are called Vocational Courses and can be studied at school or through another Registered Training Organisation such as TAFE. This means that if you choose to go to TAFE when you leave school, and continue your study in that same area, you will be deemed to have completed part of that TAFE course already (you did it while still at school!).

This is what you get from VET Nationally recognised qualification

VET is a national system with qualifications that are recognised and can lead to employment anywhere in Australia.

Technical skills

Develop technical skills through specialised training for a specific job or industry.

Employability skills

Develop non-technical skills that can be applied across different jobs and industries. Skills include: communication, teamwork, problem solving, initiative and enterprise, planning and organising, self-management, learning and technology.

Knowledge

Gain knowledge through specialised training to understand and perform specific workplace tasks.

Industry knowledge

Learn how an industry works – see the big picture and learn how to progress your career.

Employment opportunities

VET can lead to full-time, part-time or casual employment opportunities. This flexibility may allow you to follow multiple interests at the same time – like employment, education and volunteering.

Financial outcomes

Apprenticeships and traineeships allow you to earn an income as you train, study and work.

Once you receive a VET qualification you may be able to gain employment that can finance further studies – like a more advanced qualification.

Secure income

A VET qualification in an area with increasing job opportunities may provide you with a secure income.

Education pathways

VET can lead to TAFE or university

This is how VET is different

Here are the top five differences between a VCE VET program and a VCE study or a VCAL unit:

1. An extra qualification - You can gain a nationally recognised VET qualification while undertaking your VCE or VCAL. You receive the VET qualification from a Registered Training Organisation, such as a TAFE.
2. Connected to the workplace - VET qualifications give you industry exposure and experience in the workplace that reinforces your skills development. This connection also makes for a smooth transition between training and work.
3. Practical - VET can strengthen your education by giving you the opportunity to gain practical skills and knowledge that complement your VCE studies. For example, if you want to be an engineer and you are studying VCE Physics and VCE Mathematical Methods, you can develop practical skills, technical knowledge and industry insight by doing VCE VET Engineering.
4. Units of competency - Units of competency are the building blocks that make up a VET qualification. Each unit of competency includes specific skills and knowledge.
5. Competency based assessment - VET students are assessed as 'competent' or 'not yet competent' in each unit of competency. To be assessed as competent, you must show a consistent application of skills and knowledge to the standard required in the workplace. To make sure you are ready to begin your career or continue with further study, assessments take place in a real or simulated workplace environment

Debunking Myths around VET Pathways:

- University is the only pathway to a sustainable career
- Apprenticeships and traineeships don't offer the same financial opportunities as other pathways
- VET is too hard physically

As parents, how many times have you thought or heard these statements?

School-based Apprenticeships and Traineeships

A school-based apprenticeship or traineeship (SBAT) is an apprenticeship or traineeship undertaken by a student enrolled in a senior secondary program (VCE or VCAL). The student commences their Apprenticeship/Traineeship but in a Part-time capacity.

Regular school attendance is combined with at least one timetabled day per week spent on the job and one day per week in training during the normal school week.

An SBAT combines part-time, practical experience in the workplace with recognised, structured training from a Registered Training Organisation.

Students wishing to undertake a School Based Apprenticeship or Traineeship have to secure an employer, willing to participate in the program. The school can certainly assist with this.

A lot of School based Apprenticeship and Traineeship opportunities evolve from Year 10 Work Experience placement.

Colac Secondary College - Careers Website

We have a school Careers website, which we want our entire School Community to make use of.

You can find the site at: www.colaccareers.com

Or go to the Colac Secondary College Website, click Student Services, then Careers.

This site has a student portal and also one for parents as well

Students will be able to do things like:

- Career Personality Quiz
- Interest test
- Virtual Reality Work Experience
- Skills and Abilities Evaluation
- Work Values Evaluation
- Employability Skills Audit
- Entrepreneurship Quiz
- Career Action Plans
- Career Investigator
- Resume
- Cover Letter
- e-Portfolio
- Mock on-line Job Application
- Get/Record USI
- Personal Statement
- Workplace Safety Certificate



The system will save everything for you in your own Secure Account.

The site contains a huge amount of information and should be your first stop when you are looking for information on anything job, careers, university and TAFE related - plus there is so much more!

Go to the site now – the link is at the top of this page.

All this and more at your fingertips – please jump on and explore the site.

COLAC CITY BAND'S



75th

*Carols by
Candlelight*



Colac Memorial Square - Friday December 17th

Featuring CSC Vocal Students under the direction of Vocal Teacher Kayla Morgan.