VIEWBANK CALENDAR

November
24  2015 Timetable commences
    Middle Years House Captains Announced
    ICT Meeting 5.30pm
    Buildings & Grounds Meeting 6.00pm
    Finance Meeting 6.30pm
26  College Council Meeting 6.30pm
27  Year 6 into Year 7 (2015) Information Evening

December
1   Report Writing Day—Student Free Day
2   VCE Studio Arts Excursion: Jean Paul Gaultier
3   Volunteers Recognition Evening 6pm
4   Year 7 & 9 (2014) Immunisations
    Second Hand Book Sale 5.30pm - 6.30pm
5   Booklist due back to school
    Year 11 Awards Assembly
    Year 10 Awards Assembly
6   Second Hand Uniform Shop 10am - 12pm
7   Peer Support Training

School Term Dates 2014
Monday 1st December - Curriculum Day

School Term Dates 2015
Friday 30th January - Years 7, 10, 11 and 12 begin
Monday 2nd February - Years 8 and 9 begin

Term 1:  30th January - 27th March
Term 2:  13th April - 26th June
Term 3:  13th July - 18th September
Term 4:  5th October - 18th December

STUDENT ABSENCES

Please be advised that Student absences
are to be reported to
Attendance Officer at
absences@viewbank.vic.edu.au
not viewbank.co@edumail.vic.gov.au
or by accessing Compass by clicking on the
following link

Principal’s Report

The first day of the new scholastic year:
We are fast approaching a historic day for Viewbank College; the official beginning of the new scholastic year on Monday 24th November, 2014. It is a big undertaking to change processes and certainly, our teachers are working very hard to be in readiness to begin their new classes. However, I detect amongst students and staff a degree of excitement. For VCE classes Units 1 & 2, 3 & 4 this in fact enables students a dedicated two week start up to their courses, giving teachers and students valuable time to counter some of the interruptions of a busy Term 1. Next year, Term 1 is only 8 weeks in length so it is vital that we focus all students quickly this side of Christmas.

On Monday, assemblies of no more than 30 minutes for each Year Level will mark the beginning of the year and then it will be into classes. During this early start-up, students are not required to have their textbooks but are required to bring stationary materials and calculators.
Students will retain their 2014 locker. They will be issued with lockers on their first day next year after lockers have been cleaned over the vacation period and in some cases, painted out. There is a bank of new lockers on order so one level will enjoy completely new lockers in the new year.

Currently, there are two site areas fenced off and earthmoving is being carried out to level these areas in readiness for the relocatables that will be moved in the near future. Already we know these are coming with split cycle systems but we are allocating resources towards carpets, painting and blinds. We want students who have classes in these rooms to enjoy a pleasant environment.

**Parent Payments for Fee Paying Electives:**
Thank you to all the parents who have responded so readily towards making their Parent Payments for Electives and even, their College General Payments for 2015. The College General Charges are the funds that ensure that we can carpet, paint and resource the College adequately so we are very grateful for the parents who are paying everything up front straight away. A few parents did not receive from their child a printout of electives and were surprised that recently, they had statements for elective payments due. It is evident that their children must not have brought home the printout of electives. I have written to those parents this week to explain that fee attached electives must be finalized or a child will be given a non-fee paying course of their choice.

**Benefits of Mindfulness:**
This year the Banyule/Nillumbik Combined Principals’ Conference focused on Mindfulness as an approach to managing in an ever-demanding world and enhancing good mental health. Subsequent to this, the staff of the College, engaged in professional learning on mindfulness towards their own health and well-being.

Mindfulness is increasingly being explored in educational settings to equip students with valuable practices that assist them to develop:
- a better focus and the power of concentration
- an increased sense of calm thus decreasing stress and anxiety
- overall enhanced health
- an improved impulse control along with skillful responses to difficult emotions
- an increased self-awareness
- an increased empathy and understanding of others
- natural conflict resolution skills

Mindfulness requires self-discipline and learning the techniques. It is about teaching yourself to switch from your normal mode of functioning to enhance present moment awareness and self-observation. Kabat-Zinn* has defined Mindfulness as “paying attention in a particular way; on purpose, in the present moment and non-judgementally”. With Mindfulness the purpose is to utilise effective ways to observe your thoughts and reactions thus creating extra space in your mind. Mindfulness helps you to maximise your own performance with new self-insights. (Kabat-Zinn, J. (1994). Wherever You Go, There You are: Mindfulness Meditation in Everyday Life (pp. 2). New York: Hyperion.)

Mindfulness has been researched and found to be highly effective for stress, anxiety, depression as well as many other medical ailments. Mindfulness teaches a person how to relax when things get too busy.

In this College, each level has a special health and well-being overlay program to compliment the greater curriculum. Next year, Year 9 Level Well-Being Leader, Ms Lisa-Marie O’Connor and Assistant,
Ms Jessica Budge will work with a team of Year 9 teacher volunteers to develop a Mindfulness Program for the Year 9s.

**Mobile Phone Policy:**
A recent article in the Education supplement, The Age newspaper on Monday, November 3rd, 2014, titled, “The distracted generation switches on”, focussed on how students find the VCE exams quite challenging from the point of view that they are expected to be wholly focussed on the exam and they do not have the usual electronic distractions that they are used to. “...for this generation of distracted students, the three hours they are spending in each of their final exams will be among the longest times many will have been disconnected from technology and social media during waking hours for years.” In fact, at no time are any of these devices permitted in any VCE exam or for the internal exams held by the College. This year, 3 students had phones in their pockets as they sat down in their VCE exams and this resulted in immediate confiscation, an investigation re cheating and then a report to VCAA which resulted in a warning, in the case of a student who had not been mindful about bringing a phone into the room.

Interestingly, the above article examines how learning is affected by device distraction for “the first generation never to know life without it”. Increasingly the College has been concerned that students are unable to manage their mobile devices including mobile phone, iPods, cameras and headphones. There has been an erosion of the learning environment and generally the good order of the College through inappropriate usage and confrontational behaviour when students have been sanctioned.

Students are disadvantaged in their learning by a range of electronic distractions and certainly, we see earphones and mobiles to be a threat to a student’s capacity to fully concentrate on the learning challenges of the classroom. If we are considering the need for developing mindfulness then the constant distraction of hand held devices and earphones are counterproductive. Cited in the same article, Brad Felstead, former teacher and Director of Felstead Education, a specialist in student study and wellness for the past 25 years, is quoted as being concerned that students are spending less time studying overall as they switch from a variety of electronic distractions at home. He writes, “It increased stress levels and anxiety chemicals in the brain, which is having to respond to lots of low-level threats on a frequent basis, therefore lowering brain function.... It is like driving a car in six lanes of traffic, lots of red lights: it excites the nervous system because you need to focus. Compare this to driving in the country”.

It is however, important to make a distinction between these devices and the laptops that will come in next year. The computers are very much the tool of the classroom and their usage will be governed by the demands of the learning tasks.

On Monday, 24th the College is implementing an agreed Mobile Device Policy that was featured in yesterday’s newsfeed and has been posted on the College website. I need all students and parents to carefully read this policy. No longer will students be permitted to take mobile devices, including mobile phones, iPods, Cameras, headphones and battery chargers to classes. Students who bring such devices to the College do so at their own risk and they are not to be in class. As per the previous policy, the College will take no responsibility for such hand-held devices.

The policy is clear. Students and parents need to understand the consequences if a child has their mobile phone in class.

**1:1 Personal Learning Devices:**
We thank parents for their prompt payments for the laptops at Years 7 and 10 for 2015. It is amazing! This means that those orders are being processed and students will have access to computers by the second week of February. For those still intending to purchase a device, Round One has finished. Round Two is now open and the College has managed to keep the cost the same for Round Two. However once Round Two closes on Friday, 12th December, in time for the second lot of orders to be pro-
cessed, we cannot guarantee price stability as fluctuations of the dollar could mean, the devices may be a little more expensive.

Now that parents of Years 7 and 10 have received a letter regarding ‘Learning Fields’ and the booklist, I hope it is apparent that significant savings on the learning resources or ‘booklist’ will offset some of the start-up costs for the laptops. These savings should continue for the following two years and be almost cost neutral against the purchases of the laptops. We are very excited by the 2015 implementation and we thank parents for their support.

**University of Melbourne - Kwong Lee Dow Scholarship:**

Congratulations to Isobel Beasley who has just been accepted into the Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars which is the University of Melbourne's very prestigious academic enrichment program for high-achieving students. As there were over 1900 applicants from Year 10 students across Victoria and the border regions, it is a highly competitive process. The Young Scholars Program will afford successful applicants the opportunity to mix with peers and future leaders in a program that supports and enhance their secondary studies. Excitingly, students in the program, will have opportunities to interact with the University of Melbourne’s community. Current Viewbank College students who are the recipients of this program, are departing students Connie Papadreou and Simone Eckardt of Year 12, as well as Aimee Cook and Max Drezga-Kleiminger of Year 11.

I would particularly, like students in the 2015 Year 10 cohort to watch for a newsletter next year, advertising the **Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program** and apply. Viewbank College students have been very competitive.

Again, a very big congratulations goes to Isobel Beasley and we wish her lots of challenges in her academic pursuits!

**‘HONDO IN CONCERT - ONE NIGHT ONLY!’ - This Coming Sunday:**

This Sunday evening, Andrew Hondromatidis and friends are performing at the Banyule Theatre at 7:30pm. This is a one act show of approximately 90 minutes in length without an interval. Andrew will be performing with a 10 piece LIVE band, 3 backing vocalists and an opening support act who is our very own Jade Ingvarson-Favretto. The concert involves quite a few Viewbank College students, both past and present, in various roles:

- Patrick Schnur - Cello, Paul Kascamanidis - Electric Guitar, Chelsea Tsaparis - Backing Vocalist, Emily Jackson - Backing Vocalist, Lucy Ross - Backing Vocalist, Sam Mulligan - Stage/ Tech Assistant and Jessica Brown - Sound.

Andrew is hoping to get to the West End in London to try his luck in musical theatre and this is a fund-raising concert. This will be a night of quality music with songs from musical theatre, to jazz, to pop. There is something for everyone and certainly, something for a family night out. Tickets are $15 for children under 18 years, $20 for adults.

If you have Sunday evening free and are looking for a chance to unwind to some fantastic music please book through [trybooking.com/FZNL](http://trybooking.com/FZNL). Andrew has given lots to the College and it would be good if we could give a little back.

**Reminder - Second Hand Book Sale:**

The Second Hand Book Sale will take place in the C Block classrooms on Thursday, 4th December, between 5.30pm and 6.30pm. Please remember that most of the book sales occur in the first half hour. We urge buyers and sellers to check carefully the booklists for 2015, to ensure that the correct books are being sold. Those purchasing need to make sure that what is being purchased is the required edition on the booklist. It is a case of buyers beware. While the College happily provides a venue for the book
sale, the College takes no responsibility for transactions. However, staff will be on hand to assist parents with enquiries or clarification. Please return your completed booklist to the College by Friday 5th, December.

Don't forget to book for this year’s Junior Production, “Attack of the Zombies' which will be staged on Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th of December at the Banyule Theatre.
To book click on the following link  http://www.trybooking.com/GCVU  It’s going to be fun!

Judith Craze
Principal
“Caring for Excellence”

Senior School News

Key Dates
Friday December 5 – Years 10 & 11 Awards Assembly and final day.

Years 10 & 11 Exams
Are now finished and the students are to be commended on the way in which they have approached their examinations. Students will need to see their subject teachers for the results and it is important that students take the opportunity to reflect on their performance and identify areas for improvement.

Units 3 & 4 Exams
Years 11 and 12 students who completed a Units 3 & 4 subject this year will receive their results through the VCE Results and ATAR Service on Monday December 15. The VCAA and VTAC offer students a range of options for accessing results including internet, SMS and mail. The internet service is available from Monday 15th December to Friday 19th December at www.resultsandatar.vic.edu.au.

Students may register to get results by SMS by sending a text message to 19 787 888.

All details for obtaining VCAA and VTAC results are to be found in the 2014 VCAA Navigator booklet.

Once these results have been obtained, students may be in a position to consider changing their VTAC preferences. Mr Pitt and Mrs Vafeas-Walsham will be available to support students in making these important decisions. A phone call or email to make an appointment time is strongly recommended.

2015 Start-Up
On Monday November 24, the College will move to the 2015 timetable and classes will begin in earnest.
Planning has taken place to ensure that during these two weeks students will engage in meaningful tasks and productive learning time, aligned with 2015 curriculum expectations. We understand that students will not have their textbooks during this time. To compensate, teachers have created booklets and/or reference materials and these will be made available to students on the first day. Students are required to bring pens, pencils, binder book in which to write and a calculator for Maths.

Any work, including assessments, will count towards the student’s Semester 1, Unit 1 or Unit 3 report and must be taken seriously. Attendance during the Start-Up weeks is compulsory. Please be aware that the Attendance Policy will apply from November 24th and students will need to provide medical certificates for absence.

Students and parents also need to be aware that a new mobile devices policy will take effect from Monday. The policy clearly states that, “Mobile devices are **not to be brought to class**... If a mobile device is confiscated, it will need to be collected from an Assistant Principal on the first offence. Subsequently, a parent/guardian of the student will be required to collect the mobile device. Repeated breaches of this policy may lead to suspension from the College.”

The policy reflects the College’s stance that mobile devices create distractions, are a hindrance in the classroom and do little to promote ‘mindfulness’ during learning. The full policy can be viewed in the Newsletter and on the College website.

Students are reminded that they can view their new timetables at any time by logging onto Compass using their student username and password from Friday afternoon. The final Awards Assembly for the current Years 10 and 11 cohorts will take place on Friday December 5 during Periods 3 and 4 in the gymnasium. Students will be dismissed at the conclusion of the assembly.

Please contact me, preferably via email, should you have any queries.

*We look forward to celebrating the Class of 2014’s graduation at The Centre Ivanhoe tonight from 7:00pm.*

Sue Calder  
Senior Years Leader  
9091 3870  
calder.susan.s@edumail.vic.gov.au

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**Library News**

**LIBRARY BOOKS**  
Could all overdue library books please be returned to the library as soon as possible in order for us to carry out our yearly stocktake. Any books not returned by December 1st will be invoiced to parents. If a book is lost or misplaced please chat to your friendly library staff!
Middle School News

On Monday November 24, the College will move to the 2015 timetable and classes will begin in earnest.

Planning has taken place to ensure that during the remaining weeks of Term 4, students across all year levels will engage in meaningful tasks and productive learning time, aligned with 2015 subject expectations.

We understand that students will not have their textbooks during this time. To compensate, teachers may have created booklets and/or reference materials and these will be made available to students when required. Students are required to bring writing equipment, calculator and a binder book for each subject in order to complete the necessary work determined by the teacher.

Any work, including assessments, will count towards the student’s Semester 1 report and must be taken seriously. The School Work Submission Policy will still apply to all Middle Years cohorts during this time.

Students and parents also need to be aware that a new mobile devices policy will take effect from Monday November 24. The policy clearly states that, “Mobile devices are not to be brought to class.... If a mobile device is confiscated, it will need to be collected from an Assistant Principal on the first offence. Subsequently, a parent/guardian of the student will be required to collect the mobile device. Repeated breaches of this policy may lead to suspension from the College.”

The policy reflects the College’s stance that mobile devices create distractions, are a hindrance in the classroom and do little to promote ‘mindfulness’ during learning.

The full policy can be viewed in the Newsletter and on the College website.

Students and parents are reminded that they can view their new timetables at any time by logging into Compass using their student username and password from Friday afternoon. This will also assist with knowing when to bring sports uniforms for Health and PE classes.

The final Awards Assembly for the current Years 9 students will take place on Friday December 12 during periods 1 & 2. This will be followed by finalising the Reduce the Risk Program during periods 3 & 4 and a BBQ lunch. Students will be dismissed at the conclusion of the BBQ.

The final Awards Assembly for the current Year 7 and 8 students will take place on Thursday December 18 during periods 1 & 2. Students will be dismissed at the conclusion of this assembly at approximately 11am.

Please contact me, preferably by email, should you have any queries.

Kate Butler
Middle Years Leader
butler.kate.j@edumail.vic.gov.au
9091 3839
Year 8 News

Advance Notice:

Luna Park for the Year 8 Students

As part of the end of year program on Tuesday the 16th December, the year eights will be going to Luna Park. The cost of the program will be $33.00 and this will include entrance to the park and the bus ride to and from St Kilda. Students will have unlimited access to ten exciting rides and can either bring their own lunch or take advantage of the numerous food outlets. Permission forms are now online via Compass and the due date for payment is the 11th December.

Margot Schmidt
Assistant Year 8 Well-Being Leader

Sport News

Congratulations to the Year 7 boys baseball team who won the district final on Thursday and now progress through to the Northern Zone Final at the start of 2015.

Mark Eagling
Director of Sport
Sport@viewbank.vic.edu.au
Science News

Reporting by 8 E/A Science class

Rosetta – a 10 year mission to land on a comet.

The mission for the Rosetta to land on the comet started a long time ago. The initially launch took place in March 2004, and the Rosetta has been orbiting ever since. The machine has spent so much time in orbit as comets move faster than planets, and the Rosetta has slowly gradually had to build up speed. It has orbited different planets, each time gaining slightly more speed until it gathered enough to propel into the comets orbit on the 6th of August 2014. The Rosetta has been chasing it around its orbit, catching up to it and finally after 10 years of work, the Rosetta landed on the comet on November 12th 2014.

WHY? The Rosetta mission’s prime objective is to help scientists and the people on Earth develop a more in depth understanding of our solar system, its evolution and how it shapes our world. Comets are made up of predominately ice, which is hypothesised to be the original source of water on Earth. In the early stages of the solar system, cometary impacts were much more common than today, so it is important for scientists to take up opportunities like this to increase and expand our knowledge the development of Earth and solar system.

What happened this week?

The Rosetta’s epic journey to land on the comet 67P, or Churyumov-Gerasimenko, reached a remarkable stage. On 7:03PM our time on Wednesday night, the Rosetta separated from the Philae, and it was confirmed at 7:03PM that the Philae had started descending towards the huge comet. It took seven hours to descend, as it was confirmed at 3:03AM that it had landed on the comet, but not without some trouble. When the Philae tried to land on the comet, the anchoring harpoons failed to work, as the probe bounced off the surface. The gravitational pull of the comet caused the Philae to soar one kilometre into space, as it took two hours for the probe to come back down. It then bounced again, until it landed on a shadow of a cliff on the comet, lying on its side. The Philae will not receive the six or seven hours of sunlight it needs, instead only receiving one and a half because of its landing spot. When its battery life of sixty hours runs out, it will hibernate. The Philae can’t move because of its risky landing spot. The Rosetta’s amazing story added another extraordinary chapter, as this week’s events interested the whole science world.

ASTRONOMY EXPERTS and ENTHUSIASTS

In 2015, a new ASTRONOMY Science elective for Year 9 students will be running for the first time.

Any members of the college community with an interest and/or expertise in any aspect of Astronomy are encouraged to contact John Patterson (Science Domain Leader) on 9091 3856 or email: jipatterson@viewbank.vic.edu.au with a view towards enriching this exciting new program at the College.

John Patterson
Science Domain Leader
Music News

Jazz Band primary school tour
The details for the annual Jazz Band tour are as follows:

When: Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd December.
Time: 9 – 3.10pm each day.
Who: All members of the Jazz Band.
Dress: Full school uniform, including blazers.
What to bring: Own instrument, money for lunch or own food and drink.
Transport: Bus

Students will travel by bus to perform at a number of local primary schools.
Consent must be given on Compass by Friday 28 November for students to attend.

2015 enrolments
Instrumental music re-enrolment forms for lessons and ensemble participation in 2015 are now due. Forms have been emailed to relevant families and are also available from the music office. All forms should be returned to the music office.

String workshop at Blackburn High School
This annual string workshop, which is held at Blackburn High School, is an excellent opportunity for students to spend three days playing music and developing their skills under the tuition of specialist teachers. It is also a great way to meet students from other schools. Please note that the workshop is not run by Viewbank College staff but is run by other Department of Education staff. The details are as follows:

When: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday December 1, 2 and 3.
The workshop culminates in a concert at Mullauna Secondary College in Mitcham on Wednesday 3 December at 7.30pm.

Where: Blackburn High School
60 Springfield Road
Blackburn 3130

Who: All string students from grade 1 AMEB level or equivalent are welcome to apply.

Transport: Students would need to be able to make their own way to and from the workshop.
Cost: $60
Application forms are available from the music office and are due by 17th November. Applications may be accepted after this date if there are any places left. Completed forms should then be sent directly to Blackburn High School.

Important dates to note:

Thursday 27 November Senior strings performance at Grade 6 information evening: school gym 7.15 – 7.45pm. Arrival time: 7pm.
Tuesday and Wednesday 2&3 December Jazz Band primary school tour.
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 1st, 2nd & 3rd December String workshop at Blackburn High School – all string students from grade 1 AMEB level or equivalent are welcome to apply. Details above.

Sarah Williams
Director of Music
williams.sarah.b@edumail.vic.gov.au
8458 2841
Junior Production News

Viewbank College Presents:

![Attack of the Zombies!](image)

**TICKETS NOW ON SALE**

Tickets are now on sale for our 2014 Junior Production of **Attack of the Zombies**

Dates and Times as follows:

- Wednesday 10th December  7.30pm
- Thursday 11th December  7.30pm

**Ticket Prices:**  All tickets are $10.00

(***Please note that there is a booking fee of 30 cents per seat***)

Click on the following link to book: [http://www.trybooking.com/GCVU](http://www.trybooking.com/GCVU)

**Trybooking**

Viewbank College Junior Production of Attack of the Zombies is managed by "Trybooking". Trybooking is an online system that has been designed to look after event ticketing.

You can/will:
- Purchase tickets 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- View and select your preferred seating
- Be automatically provided with a booking confirmation, receipt and ticket via the email

Trybooking is simple to book tickets, just click on the link provided, select event, select your seats, confirm quantity of seats (adults and/or children/students), complete booking details and credit card details and then process.

All bookings are to be paid for by credit card (Mastercard or Visa) and incur a 30 cent booking fee per seat.

Any enquiries regarding the production, please contact David Henning or Amanda Watson on 9458 2811.

Any ticketing enquiries please contact Deanne in the General Office on 9458 2811.
Community News

HONDO IN CONCERT
ONE NIGHT ONLY!
A singer ‘...Of fantastic voice’
- Herald Sun
‘...an actor gifted with “presence” and fine movement’
- The Barefoot Review

Sunday November 23 - 7:30pm
Banyule Theatre Complex
Buckingham Drive, Heidelberg

Under 18 years - $15
18+ years - $20

Book your tickets at trybooking.com/FZNL

#hondoinconcert
@hondros
@AndrewHondo

Watsonia Heights Girls get together and bring a friend
30th November 2014

ALL Girls Teams in Under 10, 11, 12, 14 and 16’s

9:00am Start – Under 11’s and below
10:15am Start – Under 12 and 14’s
11:30am Start – Under 16’s

Bring runners and shin pads!
Qualified coach running sessions

Where: RMIT Bundoorra - McKimmies Rd Bundoorra - Ref – Map 9-KY
Why: For current players and new players to ‘Have a kick’

Contact: Chris McLaren
phone: 0408 290876
email: info@whgc.org.au or more info at www.whgc.org.au

Eltham Primary School FETE
SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2014

“Electoral Day”
10:00am to 3:00pm
Dalton Street, Eltham

“VOTE” at our School then stay a while

Rides
Face Painting
Photo Booth
Craft Activities
Opry Fort
Bucket Challenge
Guess How Many Jelly Beans
Stall Holders

Cold Drinks
Sausage in Bread
Gourmet Burgers
Vegetarian Burgers
Egg and Bacon Rolls
Muffin, Cupcakes & Cookies
Snow Cones
Popcorn
Fairy Floss

We look forward to seeing you