VIEWBANK CALENDAR

March

9  Labour Day - Public Holiday
10  Intermediate Boys Cricket
    Friends of Viewbank (FOV) Meeting 7.30pm
11  House Athletic Carnival - Doncaster
12  Year 8 Study Skills (p1-4)
    Year 12 Public Speaking 3.10pm
    Japanese Exchange hosting to 8th
16  Senior Debating - Round 1
    VCE Music Soiree 7pm in Library
17  Year 7 Round Robin
    FOPAVA Meeting 7.30pm
    Year 11 Presentation Ball Information Evening
    7pm in Library
18  Education Committee Meeting 6.30pm
19  Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences (A-M)
20  Year 8 Public Speaking (p1&2)
23  Year 10 Resume Writing (p5&6)
    VCE Unit 1&2 Biology Excursion -
    Barwon Heads/Queenscliff
    ICT Meeting 5.30pm
    Buildings & Grounds Meeting 6.00pm
    Finance Meeting 6.30pm

School Term Dates 2015

Monday 9th March - Labour Day Public Holiday
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

COMPASS
login

Principal’s Report

Feedback to Parents:
This coming week is the beginning of feedback for parents and students with the Interim Reports available online from Friday, 13th March. Please use these brief reports as an opportunity to get an overview of how well your child has settled down after returning from holidays. Where teachers have indicated concern, I need for parents to ask their child how they see their learning to date and ask them why they think their teachers are concerned. Please use these reports as a basis for conversations at the upcoming Parent/Student/Teachers Conferences.

On Friday, 13th March parents will be able to access the online booking for Parent/Student/Teacher conferences on Compass. Please get in early if you need a certain time for appointments as bookings will fill up fast. Please remember that interviews are 5 minutes in duration. Parents need to create spaces between appointments to allow for movement between venues. We need parents
to adhere strictly to that timeframe. Should there be a need for a longer meeting with a particular teacher, then it may mean a phone call to set up a separate appointment.

The dates for interviews are:

- Surnames A-M: Thursday, 19th March
- Surnames N-Z: Tuesday, 24th March

Session 1 runs from 1.30pm until 5.00pm when teachers break for dinner.
Session 2 runs from 6.00 pm until conclusion of the evening at 8.30pm.

Students will not be required at school on either day except for an expectation that they accompany a parent to the conferences.

These are important three way discussions towards giving students every support to their learning.

**Viewbank College Acknowledged in Federal Parliament:**
Irrespective of political beliefs, this week it was pleasing to receive from Jenny Macklin a copy of her recent presentation to Parliament. The discussion was on bullying and particularly cyberbullying and Jenny Macklin chose a 2013 initiative between Viewbank College and Concord Special School. The project was set up for our then Year 9 students to work with Concord students to create short videos as a campaign against cyberbullying. Ross Purcell coordinated our students working closely with Mrs Pam Wright from Concord and their work is a credit to their creativity and their commitment of bringing two differing cohorts together on a special project. I have included the presentation to Parliament at the end of this newsletter.

**Year 7 Camp: ‘Best Ever!’:**
I think I have heard that quote before but it was lovely to hear teachers so excited about their first three days of camp. Beautifully behaved students, great weather, fun activities and nothing out of left field has made this such a positive experience for all. I am sure that we’ll hear almost the same reports for the final three days. Our Year 7s will have lots to tell but I advise some quiet time over this weekend to recuperate. Well done year 7s, teachers and a big thank you to Amanda Watson, Georgia Goonan and Kate Butler for their meticulous organization.

**Athletics Carnival:**
This Wednesday, 11th March, the Annual Athletics Carnival will be held at Rieschiecks Reserve in Doncaster. We hope to replicate the success of last week’s Swimming Carnival with maximum involvement, lots of House colour and hotly contested events. Every student is expected to attend and any student who is absent will need parent authorisation.

A reminder that students need good covering, sunscreen and hats. The staff do their best to ensure students are under cover when they aren’t competing but students need to responsibly prepare for the time in the sun when they are out waiting for events or are competing. I ask that no student wears thongs. We never allow students to wear thongs for safety reasons. Body paint is not permitted either. The bus companies do not want their buses damaged with it as it is very hard to remove. Wednesday is shaping up for another great day out for the College with lots of events, fashion on the field and House chants.

Judith Craze
Principal
“Caring for Excellence”
Assistant Principal Report

Next Meeting:  Tuesday 10th March, 2015 at 7.30pm

Our first fundraiser for the year is the bulb direct fundraising. If you are into gardening or want to brighten up the colours in your garden then there are plenty of bulbs to choose from.

The fundraising catalogue from Bulbs direct fundraising is available by going to the following site http://www.bulbsdirect.com.au/Fundraising/catalogues.htm or from the General Office.

Your order with payment is to be returned to the College General Office. We will run the fundraiser for three weeks and then send the orders in and hopefully we will have them back late March early April.

There are over 30 varieties of bulbs that you can order from.

Our next meeting is on the 10th March so come along to the Friends of Viewbank. We have a lot of fun and we would welcome any parents including our new parents to come along.

HOST FAMILIES for INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Maree Gaffney
Assistant Principal

Middle Years News

Students in Year 7, Year 8 or Year 9

If you would like to apply to become a Middle Years Student Council Representative member for your form group, please collect a nomination form from the Well-Being Leaders office, or print the nomination form attached to the newsletter. Fill in the required areas on the form and return it to your Well-Being Leader by 4pm Tuesday the 10th March. We are looking for students who are keen to advocate on behalf of their form group, gain leadership experience and attend some special Viewbank College events as a student representative. Those nominated will be chosen by class members in a ballot. Looking forward to potentially working with you in the future!

Kate Butler
Middle Years Leader

AFTER SCHOOL STUDY GROUPS

Mondays in G3 with Mr Papadakis
3.20pm - 5.00pm

Thursdays in C5 with Ms Morris & Ms Pastro
3.15pm - 5.00pm
International News

International Home Stay - Families Required

We have a small number of senior school International Students at Viewbank College. In July, five boys from China will arrive to start their schooling here.

If you are interested in providing home stay for a student (full board at $280 a week), or if you’d like to talk about the possibility, please contact:

Kaye Mackenzie  
International Student Coordinator  
on 9091 3877  
or by email Mackenzie.kaye.k@edumail.vic.gov.au

Art News

The Design Workshop

The college has organised a design workshop, which is specifically intended for all Unit Three and Four design students. The main purpose of the workshop is to further support student design, creative endeavours and the design folio!

*Times are every Thursday from 3.30pm to 4.30pm  
*Room J8  
*Staff Mr. Lee and Mr. Carlyon  
*Starts? This Thursday the 5th of March.

If you have any queries please contact Mr. Greg Lee or Mr. Leigh Carlyon.

Regards,  
Greg Lee  
Head of the Arts Domain,  
Viewbank College

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP
The Second Hand Uniform Shop will next open on:  
Saturday 2nd May, 2015  
10.00am to 12.00pm  
(Gymnasium Cloakroom)  
Doors do not open until 10am  
(Cash Only – No EFTPOS)

VIEWBANK COLLEGE UNIFORM SHOP
Open every Wednesday morning  
during school terms  
in R13  
Hours : 8.15am - 9.00am
House Athletics Carnival

Have you got your costumes ready for the House Athletics ?????

HOUSE ATHLETICS
WEDNESDAY 11th MARCH, 2015

The College will conduct its annual House Athletics Carnival on Wednesday 11th March at Rieschieks Reserve, George Street, Doncaster commencing at approximately 10.00am.

Please ensure your child/children bring sunscreen and other suitable sun protection, such as a hat, preferably in house colours, protective clothing and plenty of fluids for the day.

All students are expected to attend the Carnival and be aware of the following arrangements:

Students competing in the 1500 metre event must be at school at 8.00am ready to leave on the early bus at 8.15am.

Students will attend Form Assembly at 9.00am, ready to leave by bus to Doncaster by 9.15am.

All students are encouraged to wear their House colours to support their House.

At the conclusion of the day, approximately 2.15pm, students will board the buses in their Form Assemblies.

Programs for the day’s events will be available at the College Office early next week. Additional programs will be available through House Coordinators.

Parents are most welcome to attend the Carnival.

Please be advised that no body paint is to be worn ~ this is the bus company directive
LOTE Notes - German Exchange

The next round of the German Exchange spans 2015/2016. The program will start with the visit of the German group to Viewbank in September/October this year, followed by our trip to Germany in March/April 2016.

This program has run to the great benefit of our students for many years. For those looking to do German at the senior level in school, the trip brings a richness to their communication skills as well as real intercultural knowledge.

Similarly, the many families who have hosted a student for the visit report on it as a wonderful experience and how it brings contacts in Europe that extend well beyond school life.

We are now looking for expressions of interest for program participants. This can be either as a HOST family or as a traveller to Germany.

It is expected that those wishing to go to Germany are studying German in 2016, and that they will be able to host a student.

However, there are always more German students wishing to travel to Australia - so we would love to have host families on the books. You need to be able to speak English, and look after the student as a member of your family for the 4 or so weeks of the program (with a host sister/brother).

Later in Term 1 there will be an information evening, but until then, please grab an Expression of Interest form from Frau Fleming (C-Block staffroom) and let us know if you are interested.

Many thanks
Clare Fleming.

Pictures: German students involved in the Viewbank Supergeil Film Competition, 2014.

Canteen News

Canteen Volunteers for week of 9th March to 13th March

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<tr>
<th>Monday:</th>
<th>Labour Day Public Holiday</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday:</td>
<td>Help needed please!!</td>
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<td>Wednesday:</td>
<td>House Athletics Carnival</td>
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<td>Thursday:</td>
<td>Kim Graps</td>
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<td>Friday:</td>
<td>Kay Morey</td>
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Canteen Volunteers for week of 16th March - 20th March

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<tr>
<th>Monday:</th>
<th>Help Needed please</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday:</td>
<td>Caroline Robertson</td>
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<td>Wednesday:</td>
<td>Carolyn Brindley</td>
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<td>Thursday:</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher/Student Conf</td>
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<td>Friday:</td>
<td>Amanda Gagnon</td>
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Production News

College Production - Orchestra/Band

We are looking for interested students to play in “The Producers” orchestra/band.

Students can sign up on the Production notice board outside the music office.

Students should check with Mr van Gemert if they are of an appropriate standard for the ensemble. This ensemble aims to be inclusive as possible. Regular rehearsals are planned for Friday mornings (7.30am – 8.55am) in R6 starting 20th March. There will also be some mid-year holiday rehearsals (2nd week). Details will be issued on a separate rehearsal sheet. Performances 28/7/15 – 1/8/15

The orchestra/band consists of

Keyboard:

PIANOS (more than one player), KEYBOARDS – anything from single note parts to complex parts (many players)

Strings:

VIOLINS, CELLO, DOUBLE BASS, ELECTRIC BASS, HARP

Woodwind:

PICCOLO, FLUTES, ALTO FLUTE, Eb CLARINET, CLARINET, BASS CLARINET, CONTRABASS CLARINET, OBOE, ENGLISH HORN, BASSOON, ALTO SAXOPHONES, TENOR SAXOPHONES, BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Brass:

TRUMPETS, FRENCH HORN, TROMBONES

Percussion:

DRUM KIT, AUXILIARY PERCUSSION

There is a fee of $70 dollars to be involved in the Production orchestra. This covers administration costs and includes a production T-shirt and movie night.

Andrew van Gemert
“The Producer” Musical Director
vangemert.andrew.j1@edumail.vic.gov.au

Costume Drive

The Production Department are searching for clothing items to top up their costume collection. These items are made available for the annual College Production, Junior Production and Drama performance nights.

We are interested in any items that are no longer wanted that are in a wearable condition, era and fashion do not matter, the more obscure the better.

We are particularly interested in Suits and Party/Formal Style Dresses.

PLEASE NOTE: Items will not be returned!
Any items deemed “Not Useful” will be donated to charity.

Please Drop off any items to Banyule Theatre, Buckingham Drive Heidelberg 3084. Between the hours of 5:30pm – 6:00pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
(During Production Rehearsals)

PLEASE DO NOT DROP ITEMS AT THE SCHOOL

Any questions please contact theatre@viewbank.vic.edu.au
Ben Kalma – Chemistry and Mathematical Methods Tutoring

Hi there! Are you a year 11/12 student who would like a little extra support in Chemistry and/or Math Methods? I am an ex-Viewbank College student, now in my 3rd year at the University of Melbourne, studying a Bachelor of Science with a major in chemical engineering. I have recent experience tutoring at a summer school run by the university where I taught VCE students individually and as a class of up to 15.

- I will be taking on a limited number of students.
- Sessions will be run weekly for 1 hour. Additional sessions may be arranged if needed.
- I am open to group tutoring with multiple students.
- Though they are not my area of expertise, I may also be able to assist in physics and specialist mathematics.

If you are interested in organising a trial session or have any questions, please contact me via –

Ph: 0421923346
Email: kalma.ben@gmail.com
Middle Years Student Council Nomination Form

Please return this form to your Year Level Well-Being Leader by Tuesday 10th March

The Middle Years Student Council Representative team comprises a male and female from each Year 7 – 9 form group (English class). The Middle Years Student Council Representative holds a leadership position within the College and students are involved in consulting with the SRC representatives, Middle Years Captains and Middle Years House Leaders on matters that relate to improving the College.

I ................................................................. of form ....................... wish to nominate myself to be a Middle Years Student Council Representative for my form (English class) during 2015.

I understand that the duties and responsibilities include:

- Attend all Middle Years Student Council Representative meetings (to be held at least once a month)
- Represent your class members on issues relating to College life
- Advocate on behalf of your class members
- Demonstrate leadership and display the responsibility associated with this
- Actively collect ideas for College improvement and any issues raised by your fellow class members
- Help lead small groups of prospective parents and students around the College during the Year 7 Information Evening
- Attend the annual Community Forum Evening
- Be involved in the running of College events that pertain to your Year Level

Please provide a short written statement as to why you would like to be a Middle Years Student Council Representative for your form (English class), and how you are suited to contributing to College improvement.

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Signed: ...........................................................................................................
Commonwealth of Australia
Parliamentary Debates

House of Representatives
Proof
Bills

Enhancing Online Safety for Children Bill 2014, Enhancing Online Safety for Children (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2014

Second Reading

Speech

Monday, 23 February 2015

By Authority of the House of Representatives
Ms MACKLIN (Jagajaga) (13:18): Few thoughts concern the mind of parents more than the safety of their children. In recent years, we have seen shocking cases of cyber bullying make headlines across the country.

One terrible story is the case of Sheniz Erkan, a 14-year-old Melbourne girl. A week short of her 15th birthday, she took her own life—a beautiful young woman with her whole life ahead of her. The outpouring of grief that followed her death demonstrated the community's resolve to ensure that this heartbreaking loss of life should never happen again.

Her devastated family pleaded with parents to keep a closer eye on their children's internet use. But even the most vigilant parent cannot realistically monitor their child's every interaction on the internet. An estimated 90 per cent of 12- to 17-year-olds in Australia use social media—and I imagine that is an underestimate. A majority of Australian teenagers over the age of 14 use Facebook more than once a day. With the proliferation of smart phones and tablets, access to social media has never been easier. All this comes with a lot of risk.

Research by the Australian Communications and Media Authority indicates four per cent of eight- to nine-year-olds; 21 per cent of 14- to 15-year-olds; and 16 per cent of 16- to 17-year-olds reported being cyberbullied. And it is not just parents that are worried about the growth in cyberbullying. Internal emails from Twitter CEO, Dick Costolo, revealed that he had admitted to his staff that he is 'ashamed' and 'embarrassed' by how his company handled bullying and harassment among its users. He stated:

We suck at dealing with abuse and trolls on the platform and we've sucked at it for years. It's no secret and the rest of the world talks about it every day. We lose core user after core user by not addressing simple trolling issues that they face every day.

These very revealing emails capture the scale of the problem that we face. Not even one of the largest social media companies in the world has worked out how to deal with cyberbullying. Nonetheless that is the objective of the bill that we are talking about today.

The Enhancing Online Safety for Children Bill 2014, seeks to reduce the risk of our young people becoming victims of cyberbullying. Dr Judith Slocombe, Chief Executive of the Alannah and Madeline Foundation, a national charity protecting children from violence said:

There is no difference between someone who bullies online and one who bullies face-to-face. They are just different methods. They both can cause enormous harm.

There are laws in every state and territory which cover all forms of bullying. This bill backs up these laws for the digital age. It establishes a Children's e-Safety Commissioner and sets out its functions and powers. In practice, the establishment of the commissioner will mean a child or their parent will be able to complain to the commissioner if they have been the subject of cyberbullying. The commissioner may then investigate such a complaint.

The bill sets out an expectation that each social media service will comply with a set of basic online safety requirements. This includes minimum standards in a service provider's terms and conditions of use, a complaints scheme and a dedicated contact person. The establishment of a Children's e-Safety Commissioner is an important step in the right direction. Along with all members, I hope that the establishment of a dedicated Children's e-Safety Commissioner will lift the profile of cyberbullying. This will help to generate further the conversation in the Australian community about what to do. The primary role of the commissioner will be to resolve existing acts of cyberbullying, but we have to accept that cyberbullying is as much a social problem as a technological one. Bullying occurred long before the advent of the internet. The internet does enable the bully to remain anonymous and unaccountable for the torment they create. Preventing the bullying from occurring in the first place is vital to countering cyberbullying.
I am pleased to say in my electorate two local schools in particular have taken such an approach. Viewbank College, a secondary school, and Concord School are taking a positive and proactive approach to countering cyberbullying. Concord School is a special school for students with learning needs, while Viewbank is a large public secondary school with students from a diverse range of backgrounds. In 2013, the two schools established a cybersafety program that saw mainstream year 9 students from Viewbank and special education year 9 students from Concord come together to promote understanding and acceptance of difference.

The program was designed to help students develop strategies for dealing with issues arising from cyberbullying, sexting and unsafe content. I am told the project was very successful. Students from both schools engaged with the topic of cybersafety and enjoyed discussing issues, sharing ideas and collaborating with students from another school. Importantly, the program yielded results. Teachers noticed a change in attitude from the students participating in the program. Just to use one example, towards the end of the project in 2013, a student began to have some issues on Facebook. The student felt the issues were too difficult for her to handle alone. She drew on the skills she had learned in the program and collected evidence, saved it into a folder and discussed it with her mother. The child’s mother was very impressed with how her daughter handled the issue and contacted the school, where the issue was resolved.

I do want to especially commend Concord School and Viewbank secondary for their innovative and collaborative approach to tackling cyberbullying in the local community. I want to acknowledge the outstanding leadership of Judith Craze and Ross Purcell at Viewbank; Pam Wright, the e-learning coordinator at Concord; and Claire Park. Pam Wright, who conceived the program understood, that many of the special needs students at Concord had experienced bullying at mainstream schools. She understood that interactions between the two cohorts of students needed to be on a different level, so Pam came up with the idea of students working together to make short films about cyberbullying. The project culminated in a showcase evening of the students’ work, where the films were displayed.

Concord School also became the first special school in Australia to become a part of the Alannah and Madeline Foundation’s eSmart Schools cyberbullying program. This eSmart program helps establish important behavioural norms early in a child’s life. This includes things like asking someone for permission before taking a photo of them on a smart phone, asking the permission of an adult before purchasing items online and, perhaps most importantly of all, establishing a dialogue between child and parent about their online activity. Establishing this last norm is vital if a child is to share experiences of cyberbullying with their parents.

This approach serves to underline an important truth about cyberbullying: changing the attitudes of our young people so that cyberbullying is prevented from occurring in the first place and equipping students with the emotional skills to deal with the challenges of cyberbullying when it does occur is essential to any approach to this problem. It is also worth noting a success achieved by the eSmart program include that 80 per cent of school principals believe that eSmart Schools is effective in changing school culture in relation to cybersafety, technology use and bullying. The message from the report is clear: no one action or approach will do.

Many of the contributions by members of this bill have been very personal and I do want to recognise that there is much goodwill towards this initiative. We will certainly be supporting it. We were pleased, when we were in government, to establish a cybersafety plan in 2008 with funding of $125.8 million, which was committed to combating online risks and helping parents and educators to protect children from inappropriate material. I do support this bill because I know that parents in my electorate expect me to do everything that I can to help them protect their children. It is my hope that this bill will help children and their parents resolve matters of cyberbullying before any harm comes to them. I commend the bill to the House.