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# Thomastown Secondary College

TERM 2 2019

## College Principals Report



As adults, most of us remember the last two weeks of Term 2 as a time when students looked forward to the vacation and spending time with family and friends. It's known as the flu season, it's cold, exams and Naplan have soaked up student energy, and with reports already completed, students can see this as a time to wind down and maybe disengage.

The scene at the College over the past two weeks has presented a stark contrast to this image. We constantly remind all of our students how important hands-on learning is in reinforcing the knowledge they gain in the classroom. What we have seen in these two weeks is a constant stream of these examples.

Our Year 10 students are of course completely involved in the world of work, completing their work experience commitment. Their placements range from Kindergartens to hospitals, from Law Courts to Motor Mechanic Workshops and everything in between. Because we encourage our students to start looking for a placement whilst in Year 9 these students are engaging in some exceptional opportunities.

Our Year 9 students are taking part in an in-depth study of potential career pathways, exploring some current situations and also being prompted to reflect on their own values, beliefs and behaviours, the critical elements that will shape the adult they become.

Year 7 and Year 8 students are being immersed in the world when all of their curriculum learning is being explored through actions. I couldn't resist joining them to test my drone manoeuvring skills. Needless to say they remain very much at the evolving stage.

While spending a day at the Zoo may not appear connected to career education, Year 9 students were tasked with providing pictorial evidence of as many career employment possibilities as they could find within the Zoo complex.

Hopefully they can recognise that knowledge is everywhere, acquiring that knowledge can be both relaxing and enjoyable and that there is an extensive range of employment opportunities in all big enterprises. Other examples we discussed about were Local Government, Large Commercial Firms, Universities and Department Stores.

Our commitment to provide these experiences for our students is not limited to these two weeks. Distinct cohorts of students are exposed to real work environments on a regular basis either through teacher directed projects or through our partnerships with Australian Business Community Network (ABCN), Latrobe University, Ecolink, RMIT, The University of Melbourne and The City of Whittlesea.

## College Principals Report Continued.....

**"ChildSafe"**

**It is essential that all members of our community understand the laws designed to keep our young people safe.**

**This week all staff undertook professional development in this area exploring recent changes and taking the opportunity to ask questions.**

**All staff are directed to speak to myself or Snezana Klimovksi if they have any concerns about the safety of our students.**

**If you have any concerns I encourage you to do the same.**

**Leonie White"**

Recently ABCN asked me to explain why the College Valued these opportunities so highly and to describe the advantages we see flowing on to the young people involved.

Below is a copy of the interview included in the ABCN newsletter to partner schools and businesses.

I hope you enjoy it and I welcome your feedback.

Have a wonderful two weeks with your great children.

**Leonie White  
Principal**

## Teachers (and students) get schooled on real life



Working with devoted principals and teachers is at the heart of the work we do at ABCN. Leonie White is one such educator, and here she shares her insights on how our programs have impacted her students.

Leonie has been the principal at Thomastown Secondary College in Victoria since 2006, after beginning her teaching career at the College in 1977. She has been involved with ABCN since programs first began in Melbourne in 2007. She believes the experiences that connect young people with the corporate world align with fundamental Thomastown principles. "Our students are encouraged to set high expectations for themselves in all areas of their learning," she says. "We continue to increase leadership opportunities where exposure to both the corporate and commercial environments is offered at each year level."

Leonie has strong views on the power of language to influence how her students are perceived, including by themselves: "We ban the word disadvantaged. This sort of labelling does nothing to build morale or identify opportunities. Instead we celebrate the richness of our diversity. We have such rich cultural diversity from which we can learn and share."

We asked Leonie what students get out of their ABCN experience.

**You've been involved with ABCN for a long time. What do you feel is unique about our programs?**

*I am always looking for opportunities for our students to have appropriate experiences in the real world. The disadvantage most teachers like me have is that we never left school. So, while we have a range of experiences outside of school which we can talk about, what students really need is the opportunity to learn side-by-side from someone currently in the real world. It is only by doing this that students build a specific set of competencies developed through real-life experience.*

**Why choose ABCN over other partnerships?**

*We have reached the point where we will access every program that ABCN can offer us. We have students at every year level involved at some stage. From our Year 7 and 8 students working with mentors from Energy Australia developing their interests in STEM, to our senior girls listening to the ways successful women managed their careers.*

*The reason we do this is because the programs work. The staff are professional. The communication is clear and timely, and ABCN understands and respects that schools have a whole other life to organise. The mentors and trainers are real people who choose to be involved. More often than not the adults enjoy the programs as much, if not more, than the students and students feel that. Young people have an in-built radar that senses insincerity. And finally, while the programs are all targeted at disadvantaged schools it never feels like charity.*

**What do students gain from meeting a corporate mentor?**

*Someone has recognised their potential. They have the opportunity to work with someone they never dreamed they would, and to visit their workplace and ask them questions about the work they do and the challenges they face. How many of us had those doors opened at 12 or 14 years of age?*

**Have ABCN programs led to better student outcomes?**

*The statistics are very clear. The better the education, the greater the choice of employment, the healthier the individual, the longer the life. So, we strive for this. In 2018, 91.2% of our students who applied for a tertiary place received a first-round offer and 78% of all offers were for universities. Students are not only motivated to achieve, they do.*

Thomastown Secondary College is one of almost 200 schools nationwide that ABCN works with to inspire students of all ages to achieve more in their school life and beyond. It's thanks to the support of these great educators, along with our member companies and mentors, who make it all possible.

At Thomastown Secondary College, students are supported to strive for Individual Excellence in all aspects of their studies and in the way they carry themselves within their school community.

They are curious, creative and enthusiastic about their learning. They are encouraged to be respectful, to work collaboratively and to accept responsibility for themselves.

Teachers at Thomastown have a deep knowledge of each of their students, their particular strengths, interests and needs. Students, parents and teachers work together to promote the full development of the child.

## Go4IT Work Experience Program - Inspiring Young Women into STEM

The Tata Consultancy Services Go4IT Women in STEM program is a week long program designed to complement the school curriculum. It's targeted at young women in years 10 and 11 and it aims to inspire them to aspire to a career in technology. Go4IT has been recognised as leading the field globally. The Go4IT program was awarded the 2016 Global CSR Platinum Award for Women's Empowerment. This program is run in partnership with TCS clients such as Westpac and AGL, government bodies such as the CSIRO and not-for-profits including the Australian Business and Community Network. The program has four areas of focus:

1. Provide insight into the technology industry, Tata Consultancy Services and the application of technology in business with the aim to broaden student's perspectives of IT.
2. Challenge gender stereotypes by showcasing women in STEM as role models
3. Build technical skills through coding but also the application of technology to solve business problems
4. Enhance confidence and employability skills

Two students from Red Unit, Trinity Luu and Hao Thai, participated in the week-long work experience program from May 20-24 at Tata Consulting Services in the Melbourne CBD.

The sessions were run in small groups to create a safe space in which to dismantle stereotypes about IT and gender. During the week they had the opportunity to:

- Meet senior executives in the IT industry from TCS and our clients
- Be mentored by IT professionals in technical coding skills and employability skills
- Work in small groups to find a solution to a technology problem and pitch it to senior IT professionals.

Congratulations to both students on successfully completing a challenging program. All reports from the program coordinators highlighted our student's exceptional leadership and teamwork qualities.



# SAVE THE DATE

Thomastown Secondary College presents...



Reflections, is visually designed by the Creative Director and Music Coordinator, Jimi Lundy in collaboration with staff and students of Thomastown Secondary College. This production transforms the school's gymnasium into a mysterious and magical world of surround sound, dance, song and illusions. Beyond its doors, over 400 hundred chairs, a massive stage and giant LED screens awaits our audiences. The anticipation is over. If you missed this opportunity to attend Thomastown Secondary College's unique and spectacular performance last year, ensure you become part of our next creative journey in 2019. Support your school, your child and our students. Purchase your tickets today.

**WED: 31<sup>st</sup> July & THU: 1<sup>st</sup> August. 7pm - 8.30pm**

**Adult \$20 Child \$10**

**In the School's Gymnasium. Contact the reception desk on 94650844.**

# College Activities

**"Highlights of the day included playing arcade games and laser tag against teachers and spending a whole day cultivating our friendship bonds with one another."**

On the 10th of May, Gold Unit went on an excursion to Crown Casino where we played arcade games, laser tag and bowling. As Unit Forum representatives we had much to organise beforehand to ensure the Unit could have a special day in each other's company and also talk to teachers in a different environment. We called Crown weeks earlier to organise a catering service, figured out numbers and payment issues, especially with the bus company.

On the day, we were able to enjoy parts of the city,

have fun with our friends and create treasured memories during the different activities. We have had a lot of positive feedback from both students and staff; many said they had an amazing day. However, we would have appreciated if the laser tag battle course was a bit bigger to fit the amount of students who were engaged for the activity.

Highlights of the day included playing arcade games and laser tag against teachers and spending a whole day cultivating our friendship bonds with one another. Not only did we cultivate the bonds between

friends, but built a better relationship with our teachers. One of the funniest moment of the day was when Ronald Brown, who drove the mini bus, could not start the bus on the journey home and had to ask for a jump start from the tradies leaving the car park.

We would like to thank all students who brought in their forms and payments so that we could enjoy this wonderful day. I would also like to thank all the teachers who supervised and ensured everyone's safety.

## Gold Unit Forum

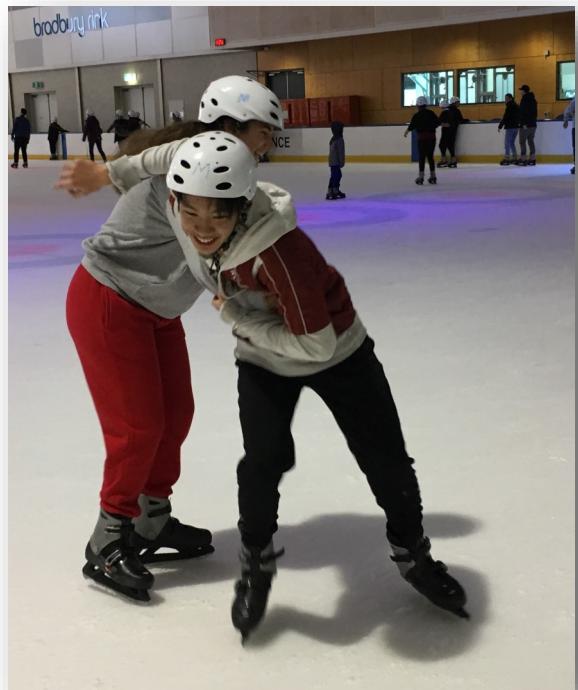


For Red Unit excursion this Semester, the student forum leaders decided to organize a trip to go ice-skating. The event took place in O'Brien Icehouse in Docklands on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June. The students were very eager to start skating but little did they know how hard it was. Some students picked it up quickly and others fell to the ground. Mostly, we accepted the challenges. We had some nice instructors from the Centre that were willing to

teach us the fundamentals of skating, from how to fall safely, keeping our balance and how to move forwards, left and right. All students also supported each other and it was a great way of growing together as a team. Everyone enjoyed themselves, including the teachers, some of whom skated. After 1 hour, the Unit made their way to Harbor town to enjoy some lunch. When everyone was full from eating Nandos, KFC, Subway,

etc, Red Unit finally left Docklands and returned to school. What an experience!

***John Dao (Red Unit student forum representative)***



***"All students supported each other and it was a great way of growing together as a team."***

# VCE Studio Art - NGV

**"NGV—  
Melbourne's  
annual  
'Season of  
Excellence,  
Top Arts  
2019' art  
exhibition."**

VCE Studio Art year 11 and 12 students were invited to attend an art excursion to Melbourne's annual 'Season of Excellence, Top Arts 2019 art exhibition.'

This exhibition presents outstanding work by students who have completed Art or Studio Art studies in the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) the previous school year and provides insight into young people's ideas, thinking and creative practices.

Hosted at The Ian Potter Centre: National Gallery of Victoria in Federation

Square, the exhibition showcases, 'young artists' exploration of some of the greatest concerns of contemporary times, and their creative celebration of humanity and the world.

Students from throughout metropolitan and regional Victoria included in Top Arts 2018 explored topics including gender identity, community, consumerism and the immersive experience of sporting arenas.'

Our students at Thomastown Secondary College, look forward to this exhibition every year as they have the opportunity to

view the preselected sketchbooks that give insights into students' ideas and working practices and provide inspiration for audiences of all ages.

**Lena Torikov &**

**Samia Townsend**

**VCE Studio Art teachers**



# Multicultural Day Exhibition

Multicultural Day is celebrated by all at Thomastown Secondary College. Students are encouraged to share their talents in full national costume and dance in front of an applauding audience. The celebrations continue with a display in the school's very own gallery. This year twelve different countries were represented through costumes and artefacts from all over the world.



On the 13th of May at Thomastown Secondary College, Multicultural Day was a major success in actively creating a celebratory exchange between the many cultures in the school and the local community. Current students, past students, teachers and the local community gathered together to recognize, as well as celebrate, the diverse cultures, unity, friendship and support that is valued by all of the College. This gives our students the opportunity to interact with cultures from around the world and build appreciation of other people's beliefs and lifestyles.

The Principal, Leonie White spoke briefly to the crowd acknowledging the traditional land owners and our Indigenous community. This was fol-

lowed by 12 different, charming performances: opening with the Flag Parade then Samoan Dance, Vietnamese Dance, Bollywood Dance, Traditional Vietnamese Instrument, Tongan Haka, Samoan Clap Dance, Cambodian Dance, Haka Dance, Taualuga/Taupoi Dance, African Dance, Cook Island Dance, K-Pop Dance and finally the Arabic Dance

Many thanks to all parents, friends and past students who attended and those students and staff members who participated in this wonderful event. A special thanks to Jimi for organising the Music, Emil for being an MC and to Keti for being in charge of photography.

A very special thanks to Deanna, Delia, Julie D, Shefali, in assisting in the Multicultural day preparations.

Also many thanks to Lena for organising the Multicultural Art Exhibition that added colour and joy to our day and contributed to the overall success of this important event.

Thanks to our Parents and past students who came and celebrated with us on Multicultural Day.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who brought a platter of food to share at the end of the day or who made an encouraging comment to our wonderful student performers.

**Magda Georgy**  
**Multicultural Day Coordinator**

# TSC MULTICULTURAL DAY

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# Winter Sports Report

**"A special mention to Clementine Utumapu for having the highest accrued points for her age group, and David Sokolevski coming second in his age group."**

Winter sport has seen a very busy time for those competing for Thomastown Secondary College this year. We have had success across varying sports and increase in participation from last year. Term 2 sports started with our Whittlesea Division Cross-Country team competing on a mild autumn day. Once the day was completed we had 3 students advancing to the Northern Metro Region stage, Mohamed Al Khudry winning the boys 17-20yr 5km race with Ali Al Husseini and David Sokolevski placing 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> respectively in the boys 16yr 5km race.

With Badminton increasing in popularity at Thomastown Secondary College and the time invested by our Red unit teacher Silvio, we are really starting to see positive results. In the senior competition we have had both the senior boys and senior girls progress through to represent our division. Congratulations to Nive Manoharan, Kavi Parameshwaran, Junior Chan Sau, Vijith Vinayamoorthi in the boys team and Devika Chheang, MeyHung Ly, Cecilia Tran, Michelle Ha in the girls team. Commendable results from both our Year 9/10 team and Year 8 girls team who placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in their competitions.

On a wet and cold day the Intermediate Boys Soccer and the Intermediate girls Soccer were able to compete at the same venue at Mill Park Secondary to attempt to get through to the regional round of competition. Thomastown Intermediate Boys had a hard fought draw against Epping Secondary College which meant they needed to accrue a favourable goal difference to progress. With a goal difference of +18 to Eppings +17, they booked their spot at the regional competition.

The girls had a tough day with limited opportunity to practice, they went down in a 2 team competition to a strong Epping side, they quickly turned their support to the boys team who were competing on the adjacent field. Two days later our Senior Boys team were winning their way to a successful outing. However, through an admirable act of sportsmanship by Angelo Sfakianakis, saw a goal taken from the team, the senior boys went down by 1 goal to finish the competition in 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

Sending a team of 30 students to represent our school to the Whittlesea Division Athletics, we were hopeful of having a contingent of students to represent the school in our region and then onto the state track and field meeting. Everyone who

participated did really well, with the following students progressing to the region competition Mohamed Al Khudry Triple Jump and 400m run, Junior Chan Sau Shot Put, Arda Sensoy Discus, Angelo Sfakianakis 100m, David Sokolevski for 100m and 200m, Bianca Talevski for 3km, Paula Jnr Tupou for Discus, Clementine Utumapu for Javelin, Mustafa Yehia for triple jump and 1500m run.

A special mention to Clementine Utumapu for having the highest accrued points for her age group, and David Sokolevski coming second in his age group.

**Ricky Johnson  
Sports Coordinator**



## 9/10 Badminton

The Boys and Girls Intermediate Badminton Team played a series of matches against schools in the Whittlesea Sports District at Darebin Sports Centre on Tuesday May 28. The boys team won two of its three matches while the girls team won only one match for the day. Both teams performed exceptionally well and represented our school to extremely high standards demonstrating excellent sporting behaviour whilst, at the same time, competing assertively in their games. It was a great effort by all of the players. Congratulations!!



Jason Singh, Gurvir Singh, Abinhav Nund, Daniel Huynh, Sri Srikumar



Mary Sagaga , Mariam Alwan, Michelle Du, Rhylie Fitu

# STEAM Club

**"STEAM Club  
runs every  
Thursday  
afterschool  
between 4pm—  
6pm  
All students  
welcome.  
See Shefali in  
Gold Unit for  
permission forms."**

This semester, TSC has launched its very first after school STEAM club. Students have been developing their skills in science, technology, engineering, art, and maths to complete their set project for this semester. Their first challenge has been to create a birds-eye view of our solar system, to scale, within specific size limitations. The team will then need to 3-D print each of the planets onto their measured base and find a way to assemble each component of their solar system. Finally, students

will need to construct our sun. They have calculated that in order to remain within ratio, the sun will have to be 4metres in diameter. This is definitely going to be a site to see!

The project is still underway and we are hoping to complete it by the end of next term.

We'll keep you all updated on our progress so you can come and view our final model.

***Shefali Sharma***

***STEAM Club Coordinator***





*It is not too late to have your flu shot and Council are still offering FREE flu vaccine for all children up until the age of 18 years. The vaccine is available at all public sessions and no appointments are necessary. Check out their website to find a convenient session for you to attend. [www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/immunisation](http://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/immunisation)*



## 2019 School Council

### School Council Parent Representative - Can you help?

As students complete Year 12 we often lose our parent representatives to School Council. Parent representatives play a vital role in ensuring all parents have a voice in the important decision making processes. Some parents see this role as very daunting but it is certainly not. While it is a role that requires the highest levels of integrity our Council meetings are warm and friendly, designed to make all members feel relaxed and able to participate fully. Our Student representatives are active members and two additional students attend to keep informed on changes and participate in decision making.

If you are interested and want to discuss this further please drop in for a chat. Training is available for new members. Council meets twice a term on a Monday night at 5.45pm but can be moved to accommodate all members.

Nominations (either by another parent or by self-nominations) can be made at any time when there are vacancies. Currently there are vacancies.

Forms are available at the main office.

Please give this serious consideration as we need your input.

# REFLECTIONS

BEEFECIAMS

A NEW CHAPTER

A NEW CHAPTER

# TICKETS ON SALE NOW

31 JULY & 1 AUGUST

7-8.30PM

contact the office TODAY 94650844

ADULT \$20 CHILD \$10