



Thomastown Secondary College

NEWSLETTER

TERM 3 2022

IN THIS ISSUE

- Astronomy Night
- Print A Car Challenge
- Year 10 Work Experience
- GOALS Program
- English Report
- I Belong
- Year 12 Formal
- School Fundraising

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Term 3 Commences 3 Oct

Year 12 Fantasy Dress 14 Oct

VCE English Exam 26 Oct

Public Holiday 1 Nov

Curriculum Day 21 Nov

Last Day of School 20 Dec

College Principal's Report



This term has been very busy however being able to plan with a reasonable level of confidence that our programs will run without significant impact from Covid has been a refreshing change. It has reduced stress levels for students and staff and having students with us is certainly more enjoyable and more effective. Being able to meet with families again has also been critical. From the beginning of 2022 we made a deliberate decision to minimise student contact with large gatherings hoping to minimise the cases of Covid for students, staff and of course unavoidable spreading it to families. In the lead up to winter we avoided camps, public transport, and large events with other schools. Students still participated in inter-

school sport competition, travelled to the city for activities which supported specific aspects of their learning and obviously continued with activities run wholly within the school.

These precautions appear to have been very worthwhile. Overall, our absence rate due to covid related illness has been quite low. Families have been quick to notify us of any cases and students have been kept home the appropriate time. Now as we move towards the warmer months, we have commenced our unit excursions, cultural activities and are now gauging interest in a study camp for year 10 students entering VCE. We are hopeful that these positive trends continue through Term 4.

Reducing student exposure to public transport and large crowds has not stopped staff providing a range of wonderful learning activities here at the school and this newsletter is full of stories describing the opportunities made available to students. These include the Eagle Nest Theatre Company visiting the College in July perform-

ing for students in years 9 and 10 students and again in August for VCE students. The Australian Business Community Network moved a number of programs online allowing their corporate mentors to continue supporting our students further build their confidence while increasing their knowledge of a wide range of work environments. This online environment was used also by our Steam Club to connect students with the Quantum Victoria Math and Science Speciality Centre.

Of course, there is no digital replacement for the College formal, Astronomy Night, or Work Experience. This is the first time since 2019 we have been able to hold the Yr.12 formal during the school year and students appreciated the opportunity to enjoy the relaxed atmosphere. The work experience program ran very smoothly with extensive support from Home Group teachers and parents. Even in these difficult times, where businesses are more reluctant to be involved in Work Experience programs, all our students' found placements. Our astronomy night was well

“The changes deliver a higher-quality curriculum and better workplace experiences – leading to further study, training at TAFE, or work.”

Principal’s report continued.....

attended and no doubt the recent photographs from the James Webb telescope have increased students’ curiosity. You will also read about our students’ fundraising efforts, their facilitation of the Breakfast Program each morning, and the Junior Boys Table Tennis team proudly displaying their ribbon from the Whittlesea District Competition

What has also made the year rewarding is the feedback we receive when our students do go out into the community. I will share with you two recent responses. When two hundred Year 7&8 students visited Allendale Farm in Eltham as part of their investigation into environ-

mental sustainability the organisers were so impressed with the their students interest and behaviour, they left a long message on the school’s answering service congratulating them and requesting we pass the message onto students. Of course, we did, and it was played at a school assembly. The Australian Business Community Network forwarded the following email from their program manager after a recent face- to- face workshop. “It’s been great fun and I loved seeing some familiar faces, this time in real life. What a beautiful group of students and once more we had 100% attendance. That is fantastic. As a bit of a bonus, one more student is now in-

spired to think about a career in finance/ business. Thank you again for everything you do. It is a real privilege to work with Thomastown SC!”

While we would love to take the credit, we know that it is our families that deserve our thanks for the positive attitude and thirst for knowledge we see in our students every day. At the end of Term 3 I would just like to say thank you for your ongoing support. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Leonie White
Principal

SENIOR SECONDARY CERTIFICATE REFORM: COMMENCING 2023

Victoria has decided to phase out the current VCAL certificate and to introduce two new certificates

From 2023, enrolment options for Year 11 and 12 students will include:

- the Victorian Certificate of Education
- the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) Vocational Major
- the Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC).

A fully integrated VCE will be implemented from 2025.

Thomastown Secondary College for the past 10 years has integrated vocational subjects and workplace learning into the Certificate of Education. The College will continue to provide this comprehensive program and, as per DET directives, also offer the two new certificates. The current practice means that after extensive

career advice, counselling, and parent advice the senior timetable is constructed based on the choices of students. There will be no change in this process.

Further information about the two new certificates and a hyperlink to an information booklet on the College portal can be found below.

NEW: VCE VOCATIONAL MAJOR

The VCE Vocational Major is a 2-year vocational and applied learning program within the VCE. The program aims to equip students with the skills, knowledge, confidence, and agency needed to prepare for the world of work and further education and training.

The VCE Vocational Major will prepare students to transition successfully into apprenticeships, traineeships, further education and training, university, or directly into employment.

The VCE Vocational Major will support students to develop

both academic and practical skills. It employs a more diverse range of assessment strategies rather than exams, alleviating some of the pressure that students face when considering the VCE.

NEW: VPC VICTORIAN PATHWAYS CERTIFICATE

The VPC is an inclusive Year 11 and 12 certificate that will meet the needs of the minority of students not able or ready to complete a certificate at the VCE level.

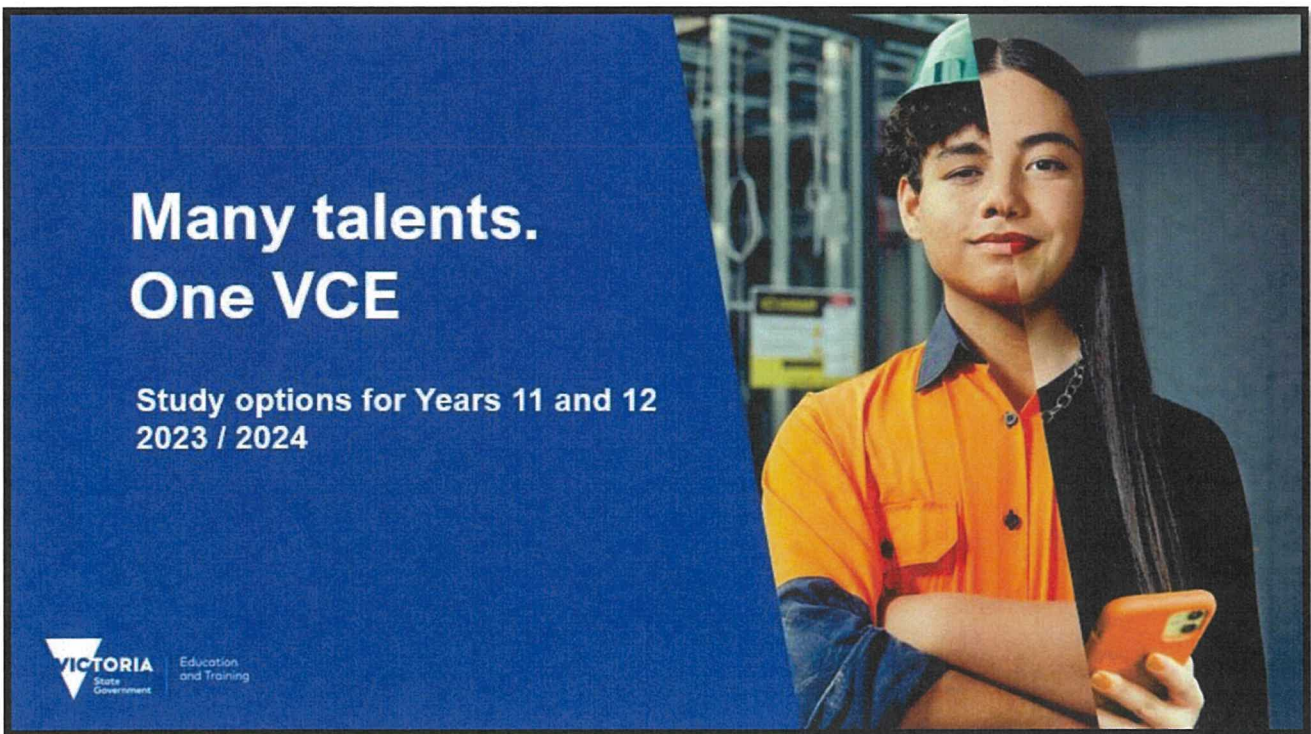
The VPC provides students with a standards-based certificate and will provide opportunities to progress to the VCE, including the VCE Vocational

Major. It will provide an enriched curriculum and excellent support for students to develop the skills, capabilities, and qualities for success in personal and civic life.

The VPC will replace Foundation VCAL from 2023.

The VPC will support students to transition to the VCE Vocational Major, entry level VET or employment.

The VPC has been developed to be flexible, without a mandated period in which a student must complete the certificate. This allows students to complete it at their own pace.



English Faculty

"Students were challenged to consider their interpretations of the 16th century classic tragedy and consider the great many timeless life lessons hidden within."

The Year 9 & 10 students are currently enjoying the study of Shakespeare's Macbeth.

This term, it isn't an unusual sight to see a student crossing the courtyard in an extravagant red cape or a golden crown upon their head!

Lively renditions of dramatic events of the play

spill from the classrooms as students take inspiration from the energetic performance by Eagles Nest Theatre Company in July.

Students were challenged to consider their interpretations of the 16th century classic tragedy and consider the great many timeless life lessons hidden within.

As we navigate a post-pandemic world, perhaps we may consider Macbeth's musings in accepting that life will play out, regardless the circumstances: "Come what come may, Time and the hour runs through the roughest day." [Act 1, Scene 3]



Year 12 English Incur- sion: The 7 Stages of Grieving & The Longest Memory

The Complete Works Theatre Company's performance in August, enriched the Year 12 English and EAL students' study of the play, The 7 Stages of Grieving & the novel, The Longest Memory.

The Unit 4 study focuses on an exploration of Australian and American histories of oppression of cultural minority groups.

The incursion included a workshop that promoted rich discussions of the central themes and concerns of both texts.

An incursion link to a video recording of the incursion is available to all students on their class Compass Resources and is a recommended resource for students pre-

paring for their VCAA English exam.



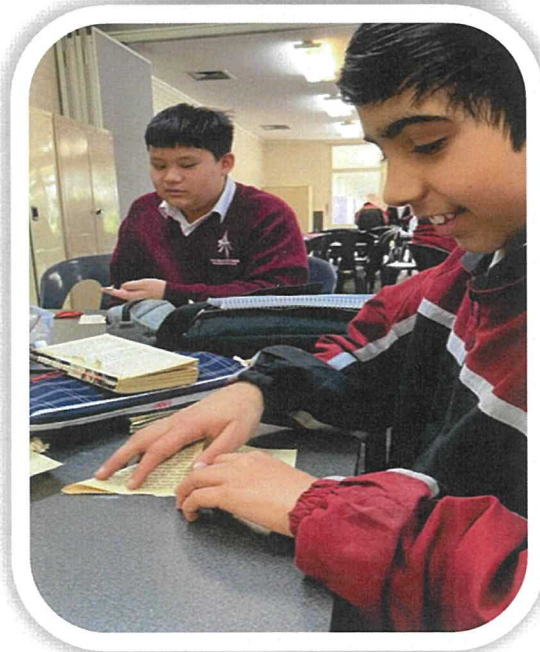
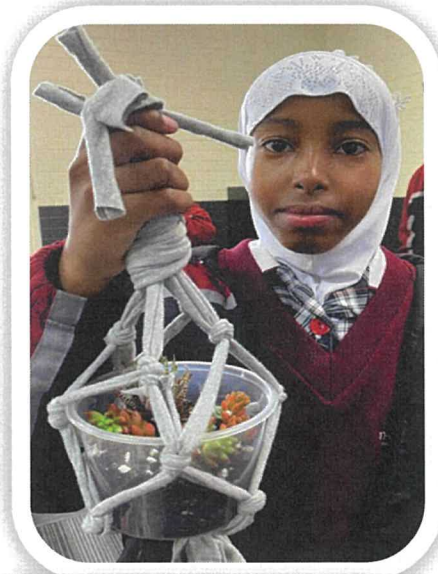
Junior City Link Program

The Year 7 & 8 City Link Program in Term 2 exposed students to adapting sustainable living practices in their everyday lives.

The program's curriculum provided students with knowledge and strategies for caring for the planet and encouraged their leadership in guiding proactive practices in their homes.

As part of the English study, students upcycled t-shirts and disposable plastic to create a potted plant from succulent garden clippings. They upcycled books to create posters and paper roses, and crafted poems from texts on the theme of 'sustainability'.

Kylie Vilella
Learning Specialist Teacher



Year 12 Formal

"The night was a success and one to remember for many years to come."

On the 15th of July, the Year 12 students came together to celebrate their last year at their formal at Ferraro Reception & Function Centre. The formal was a great opportunity for students to socialise outside of a school setting.

The night was full of glitz and glamour with Sanjai Vinayagamoorthi and Anabella Capaculovski awarded

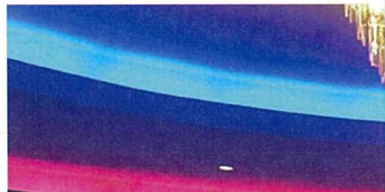
best dressed and Petar Dimovski and Isabella Abbas winning best dancers.

We ate and danced together and spent many hours making fond memories in the photobooth. The night was a success and one to remember for many years to come. Thank you to everyone who attended, also

many thanks to the forum members and teachers who worked tirelessly to ensure the night was a memorable event.

Jowil Andraws & Neha Alam

Year 12 Students



Year 10 Work Experience

Year 10 students were finally able to participate in work experience after a 2-year absence due to Covid restrictions.

Approximately 90 students were able to venture out to various workplaces and industries to provide them with valuable experience and insight to the expectations of what work environments are all about.

Students were asked to complete safety modules for their chosen industries before commencing and this

provided an essential understanding of safe work practices whilst applying these valuable skills within their workplace.

Some of the chosen industries included a range of retail services, office administration tasks and general hand on trade activities.

Students were asked to record their experiences in a daily log book / diary which formed part of their assessment task for this Unit of study.

Students were also asked to write acknowledgment letters to their supervisors and an evaluation survey undertaken early this term showed an overwhelming approval of the value of work experience and establishment of connections for possible future employment.

Many thanks to the parents and family members who assisted in finding placements for the Year 10 students.

Vince Fontana
Industry & Enterprise
Teacher

I Belong - RMIT

Students of the Year 10 cohort across Red, Blue and Gold took to the streets on Thursday 1st September for the "I Belong" Bachelor of Business leg of their Industry and Enterprise study.

Starting with an Entrepreneurial scope and finishing in Marketing, Thomastown Secondary's Year 10 students were exposed to the different career pathways and entry schemes that are available to them.

After a full day as an RMIT university student, Red unit's Manal highlighted her group's burger-making activity as "helpful" and noted

how it made her "think outside the box to get [her] product marketable".

Business Management teacher Katie was very happy with the way our students represented the school and expressed how great it was to "see all our students engaged and working together in a really positive way".

Heading into Term 4 the remaining students will follow in our RMIT footsteps for the courses Health & Sport, Bio-Medical and STEM.

Katie Villani & Kylie Richmond
Industry & Enterprise Teachers



GOALS Program

Goals is a year 9 mentoring program run by The Australian Business and Community Network (ABCN). The development of the ABCN mentoring programs was in response to an idea raised by the Department of Education and Training, and principals from high schools to provide opportunities for students to learn about different industries in Victoria's central business district (CBD).

Students are matched with mentors who work in a range of roles and businesses from member compa-

nies. Both student and mentor meet roughly once a month throughout Term 3 through ZOOM.

Each session focuses on a range of personal, educational and vocational choices. Students and mentors complete a range of activities including communication, strengths and weakness, goal setting and interview skills each session.

This year a group of 21 year 9 students from across the school were matched with mentors from the company Accenture.

Each session they are not only gaining more confidence communicating with their mentors over zoom but they are learning a range of skills such as managing a budget, how to prepare for an interview and how to communicate in a range of settings.

Deanna Tornatora
Program Co Ordinator

"The development of the ABCN mentoring programs was in response to an idea raised by the Department of Education and Training, and principals from high schools"



Interview to Impress

Interview 2 impress is a program that all Year 10 students participated in as part of their Industry and enterprise class. Students took part in this program online on Tuesday the 19th of July and a limited group of students had the opportunity to go to the city on the 2nd of August and meet up with their mentors in an Accenture's workshop, which is a business that works around

technology and management. This program has been designed to provide students with the practical skills needed to engage in employment options beyond school. The focus of this program is to allow students to experience realistic interview scenarios in a business environment. By pairing students with a mentor who provided them with direct and relevant feedback

based on their job interview experiences, it allowed students to recognise their mistakes and the workshop provided students with the confidence needed to undergo a successful job interview, as well as boosting our social skills.

Thank you to Deanna for organising this amazing opportunity.

Fatima Al Ghorabi
Student - Gold Unit



STEAM and the ARTS

“STEAM club is on every Tuesday lunchtime in the Science Department. All students are welcome to join.”

It was a massive day for the STEAM Club at TSC on Thursday with our entries for the quantum 3D printed car competition being submitted.

Two town planners from Whittlesea council gave a fascinating presentation to our year 9 STEAM classes.

Mara ran the years first Astronomy night for a full house of star gazing students.

Massive thanks to teachers Mara, Leonie, Hazemin and Julie for their individual roles in making this night a success.

This week was arts week and Jimi fired ahead with his plan for an end of year performance for local primary school students.

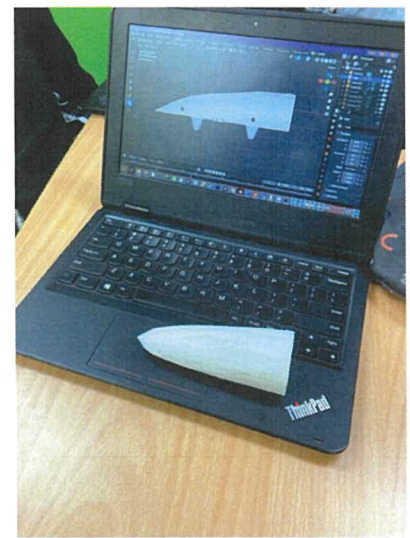
In art classes this week, Year 9 and 10 students gazed into the universe and contemplated the minuscule world up close, as they dove headfirst into the choice matrix.

With digital microscopes soon to take over the armoury expect to see some glorious microscopic pho-

tography, pixel art and James Webb telescope inspired universal art all around the school.

Thanks to Kylie, William, Samia and Jimi for their tireless work advocating for the arts and inspiring students in the arts.

Emma Fitzpatrick
Steam Club Coordinator



STEAM Club

Thomastown Secondary College participated in this year's 3D PrintACar Challenge, an annual competition run by the Quantum Victoria Maths and Science Specialty Centre.

Teams of 2 to 4 students from primary and secondary schools around the state design and build a miniature race car, using a 3D printer to produce all of the major parts.

The teams document their learning in a digital portfolio as they research the physics of car design and test their materials. The cars are then raced on a miniature race track using a wire for guidance and compressed gas cylinders for power.

This was our first year competing, and most students were new to 3D design and printing. All three of our teams were eager to succeed and worked non-stop for five weeks from the start of Term 3. They were among only 14 teams from 10 secondary schools who completed both car and portfolio in time for the Qualifying Race on Friday 18th August. We attended the race virtually and were impressed at just how fast our cars went!

Two of Thomastown's three teams will race again on Finals Day on 25th November, so the students are hard at work making modifications and a poster about their work.

Congratulations to all three teams – Go! Gold! Go! (Tina Bui, Leo El-Jarid, Irhanna Muhd Irwan, Jade Tchung), Cargo (Mohammed Daghistani, Zachariah Barnes, Flynn Rogan) and KAFA (Kyson Tran, Avina Sasikumar, Fatama Al-Maliki, Angelina Hoang) – for their outstanding efforts, and good luck to Cargo and KAFA in the finals.

Mara Rosenkrantz
Science Teacher



2022 Quantum Victoria PrintACar Challenge



Astronomy Night

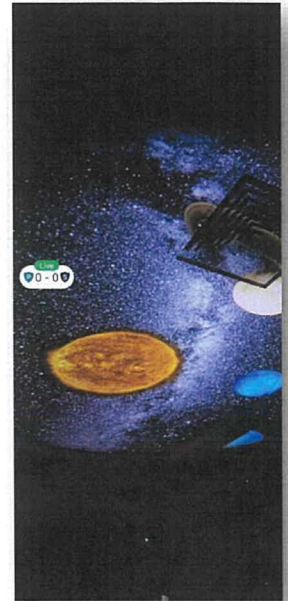
Astronomy Night took place on Thursday 11th August. Students were treated to pizza and drinks under a beautiful projection of the solar system on loan from teacher Jessica Watson.

After the sun set, they came outside to observe the moon up close through two telescopes.

The planet Saturn was visible in the sky just below the moon, and thanks to teacher Hazemin Catallo, students got a glimpse of it in the giant

telescope.

A second Astronomy Night takes place on Thursday 8th September to observe Saturn in more detail at its closest point to Earth as well as major stars Alpha Centauri, Altair, and Fomalhaut. Science teachers have updated the GPS positioning system on the big telescope for more precise guidance, so students can look forward to taking detailed photos of Saturn's beautiful rings.



Mara Rosenkranz
Science Teacher

"A second Astronomy Night takes place on Thursday 8th September to observe Saturn in more detail at its closest point to Earth as well as major stars Alpha Centauri, Altair, and Fomalhaut."



BOUNCE

On Thursday 25th of August, Blue Unit went on an excursion to Bounce.

Bounce is a place that creates and celebrates joy, fun and self-powered adrenaline. The experience allowed students to develop physical, social and emotional benefits and habits. It was a great opportunity for students to develop friendships while keeping healthy and active.

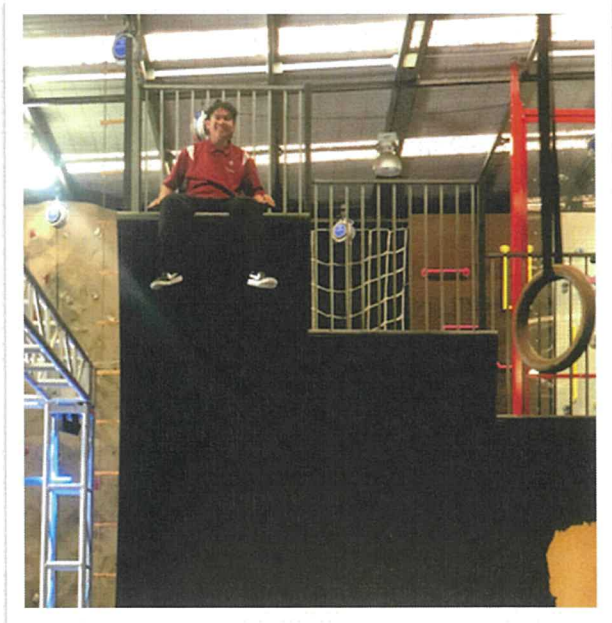
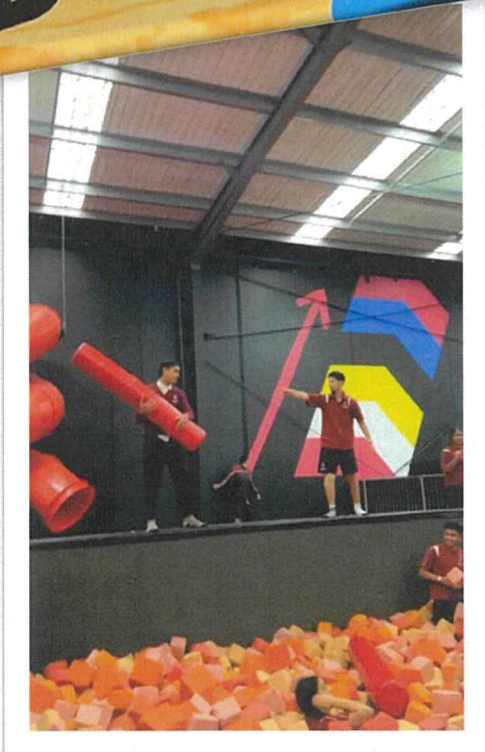
The excursion was organised by the Blue Unit Forum team

which consists of Nazif Ali, Zahra Alsmeyen, Michael Bartlett, Natalie Chea, Zaid Daghistani, Emma Faatele, Simona Ilievski, Angel Ori Mingi, Amanii Reslan, Navleen Sandhu, Aaren Tei Ona and Hillal Zaineh.

The students calculated the costs of the venue and busses, planned the day including organising play time and lunch time as well as coordinating roles of the teachers and forum students including as photography.

A big thanks to the Blue Unit teachers for their support as Forum plans for more exciting experiences in term 4.

Ivana Jovanovski
Blue Forum Coordinator



School Fundraising



“Our core belief is that all children deserve the best start in life, so for us, the child is the focus of everything we do.”

Dear Ivana,

Thank you so very much for your leadership in the journey with educating students about their community. We are very appreciative of the \$110 raised and you should know that it will go to areas of significant need, such as buying formula for babies.

Big Group Hug is a volunteer-driven, not-for-profit organisation that provides new and pre-loved material aid to help vulnerable families and children, aged from newborn to 16 years old.

Founded in 2014 by teacher, Angela Wood and successful business leader, Geraldine Camilleri; the organisation has CEO, Bernadene Voss at the helm.

Our core belief is that all children deserve the best start in life, so for us, the child is the focus of everything we do. Our team is made up of over 300 individuals/volunteers who are determined and committed to assisting every family who asks for help.

With our headquarters based in Bundoora and a secondary hub located in Airport West, we work closely with and receive requests for specific and essential items through Case Workers, Maternal and Child Health Nurses or other professionals across Melbourne.

Some of the basic necessities requested range from nappies, clothes, formula, and toys to nursery furniture, prams, car seats, and more. We pride ourselves on our compassionate, quick, and responsive nature, ensuring that we do everything we can to meet these needs, and in the process, try to protect every young child across Victoria from the adverse effects of disadvantage.

Big Group Hug is also known to be independent and resourceful, with a unique ability to coordinate and mobilise community support. Heeding the call, local businesses, and communities at large immediately spring into action and respond to the needs of young children, particularly vulnerable children, and their families. This only serves to prove that together, we can put the squeeze on childhood poverty.

We would welcome your fundraising efforts again. You are all super stars.

Thankyou

Bernadene Voss
(she/her)
Chief Executive Officer



UNICEF - Tonga Recovery Appeal

On Friday, the 12th of August, Red Unit Forum was finally able to hold a sausage sizzle fundraiser after two years of Covid-19 and online schooling.

In this fundraiser, students were encouraged to wear a sports jerseys representing any sporting code, player or sporting club of their choice. while donating a gold coin.

This donation was going towards the UNICEF's Kind in the Tongan community, for the terrible tsunami they experienced in January 2022.

With the help of the Red Unit Forum team, a delicious sausage sizzle was organise on the day with all

proceeds going to the charity. Not only did everyone get to enjoy a delicious lunch, the money that was raised was going to support a worthwhile charity. The days event raised \$371 in profit, and this was all going to charity!

We thank all students and teachers who participated or helped in this event. We also give a special thanks to each member from the Forum team who devoted their time into raising as much money as possible, knowing that all the money they made would go into a very important charity.

Each Forum member had a key role that made this

whole fundraiser possible; from organising the event, creating posters, arranging the stand, gathering condiments and bread, cutting up onions, using the grill to cook the sausages and onions, and assisting the cashiers.

It was a very successful event that pleased everyone and their stomachs! We aim to see more fundraising events like this happening throughout the year and raise more money to help and support those in need.

Nariman Younis
Red Forum Member

“Thousands of children have been affected by the disaster. UNICEF is working with partners to provide urgent support.”



Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club has been an integral part of Thomastown Secondary College. Breakfast is undeniably the most important meal of the day, to provide energy throughout the morning.

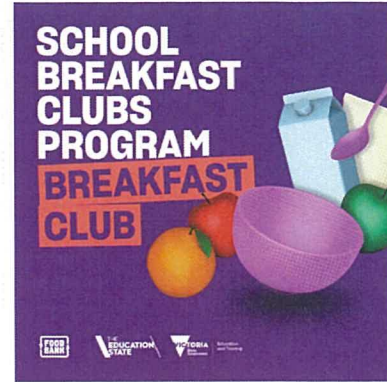
However, it is not always easy to have the nutritious meal we need before starting a school day.

Breakfast Club provides an opportunity to provide a meal for students, such as a sand-

wich, cereal, drinks and fruit.

In term 3, SRC and Forum students ran the breakfast club before school from 8pm in the main staffroom. In term 4 we will see the Breakfast Club return to its original location in the Theatre.

Students are encouraged to attend breakfast club for a bite before the beginning of the school day.



Junior Boys Table Tennis



Hussein YOUSSEF, Ali AL KHUDHARI, Ayden DIMKOPOULOS, Hassan YOUSSEF

Junior boys table tennis team competed in the first round of interschool sports on Wednesday 24th August.

The boys showed great skills against their neighbouring

school competitors. They also showed composure in the final against Epping SC and prevailed in the final.

They now move into the next round and are engaged in

more practice sessions at lunch where they continue to develop their game.

Michael Lane
Coach



TRADE UP TO TEACHING

Put your skills and experience to work as a teacher of Vocational Education and Training (VET) in northern Melbourne secondary schools. You'll help build the next generation of tradies while enjoying the benefits of moving into a full- or part-time career in the classroom.

It's time to trade up to teaching.

As a tradesperson, you'll be aware that there is a significant shortage of skilled, trained people in the trades, which has a significant impact on Australia's economic prosperity and business success.

The solution is to train more young people to pick up a trade in skills shortage areas, and that starts in secondary schools where Vocational Education and Training (VET) is offered to students. VET refers to enhanced senior school studies, which enables a secondary student to combine their VCE with vocational training.

WHAT'S INVOLVED

You could leverage your skills and experience to teach VET subjects as diverse as hair and beauty, building and construction, digital design, automotive preparation, electronic trades, plumbing and more!

You'll need to complete a TAE Certificate IV in Training & Assessment to teach in a school.

This, together with the required industry qualifications and experience would allow you to apply for positions in schools.

Employer schools would then assist you in getting Permission to Teach registration with the Victorian

Institute of Teaching, which will allow you to teach in your subject area at the school.

Note: Assistance may be available with payment for the TAE Course.

TO LEARN MORE

STEP 1. Visit nmvc.vic.edu.au/teach to hear from VET teachers working in NMVC member schools.

STEP 2. If you'd like to learn more please fill out the confidential **Expression of Interest form** online at nmvc.vic.edu.au/teach.

STEP 3. We'll be in touch to talk about what's next. This might include a phone call, school visit or invitation to an information session.

Note: The EOI is NOT a job application form. VET teachers in secondary schools are employed by schools, rather than the Northern Melbourne VET Cluster. Expressing your interest in becoming a VET teacher is a step on the career transition path that may lead you to the classroom.

ACT NOW!

There's never been a better time to **trade up to teaching**. We look forward to receiving your EOI and supporting you in your transition to a challenging and rewarding career in the education sector.

School Crossing Supervisor positions now available.

Enjoy the benefits of permanent part-time work!

There are so many great reasons to join the City of Whittlesea team as a Crossing Supervisor:

- Starting hourly rate of \$31.96 (work 40 weeks but be paid for 52 weeks a year)
- Work 15 hours per fortnight during school terms (Annualised salary paid 12.6hrs per fortnight)
- Paid public holidays that fall during school terms
- 10.5% superannuation and pro-rata sick leave
- Receive on-the-job training and uniform is provided
- Reduced price memberships available at Mill Park Leisure and Thomastown Recreation & Aquatic Centre
- Join the City of Whittlesea's active social club and attend organised events
- Health & Wellbeing Programs available

Apply now!

TO APPLY

Complete the application form on the reverse side of this flyer or online at www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/schoolcrossings

For further information please contact the School Crossing Team on 9217 2508 or email school.crossing@whittlesea.vic.gov.au



Apply to become a School Crossing Supervisor

Join the City of Whittlesea and make a difference in our community!

This very rewarding role helps the most vulnerable members of the community, our children. Assist school aged children and other pedestrians to cross the road at designated school crossings.

ABOUT YOU

To be considered for this job you need to:

- be medically fit
- have your own transport
- be of good character
- relate well to children and be able to talk to children's parents and teachers
- be available to work for 1.5 hours per day, generally between 8am-9am and 3pm-4pm on weekdays during school terms
- be able to obtain and retain a Working with Children Check (WWCC)
- be fully vaccinated against COVID-19

If this sounds like you, then you should definitely apply! Complete the application form below or online at www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/schoolcrossings



Please send your completed form to: City of Whittlesea, Locked Bag 1, Bundoora MDC VIC 3083

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Mobile:** _____

Email address: _____

Do you have any experience working with children? If yes, please provide details:

Why do you want to work as a school crossing supervisor?

What do you know about being a school crossing supervisor?

Referees: Please provide the names and phone numbers of two (2) referees (cannot be family or friends). Please state briefly, the relationship with each referee (for example, your last employer, a supervisor, involvement in a community group, voluntary work, etc).

Name: _____ **Name:** _____

Phone: _____ **Phone:** _____

Relationship: _____ **Relationship:** _____

If you have any further questions, please contact our School Crossing Team on 9217 2508.