

Thomastown Secondary College

Principal's Report

by Leonie White

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2024. I hope you were able to find some time over the vacation to spend with your family, although I know many of you are working long hours. We hope you enjoy this snapshot of not only what is happening at the College at the moment, but of the many activities and special events that happened in the last few weeks of 2023.

We ended that year on a very positive note and commenced 2024 in much the same way. Parents and staff joined with our graduating class of 2023 students where families and students relaxed and enjoyed the evening after another stressful final year. Our young people work so hard to achieve their goals, it was a pleasure seeing the pride on faces of family and friends.

You will also read about the special awards presented on the night. We know now that 99% of students who applied for a tertiary position received a Round 1 offer. While the majority are heading off to university there are a number of students either continuing their TAFE studies begun during VCE or starting a new TAFE qualification for the first time in 2024. My congratulations go out to each and every one, including the families who provided essential support in what is recognised as one of the most challenging years of study.

We have welcomed new staff and said farewell to Andy Hills who is retiring and Melek, Serena and Katie who have taken up positions in schools closer to home. We welcome Cathie Avraam to Blue Unit. She is getting to know everyone and will no doubt meet you on the first report night. There has been some staff movement within the college. Every three or four years a small number of staff are moved to a new unit allowing students to experience different teaching styles and staff to take up new roles. The movement between VCE and 7-10 ensures all staff stay familiar with the curriculum at every level.



This issue:

Year 12 Graduation
2023 Graduating class
Pathways
School Fundraisers
STEAM club Print-A-
Car Challenge
Pathways and Careers
Programs and
Excursions
The Arts
Breakfast Club
Navigating COMPASS

Announcements,
Events, and Updates



Principal's Report Continued...

In this newsletter we aim to illustrate the range of experiences available to students, both here at the college, and through our links with various community organisations. We are committed to providing every student with real life experiences as we know that these reinforces the importance of the academic study while clearly illustrates the relevance of their learning beyond the classroom. We hope you enjoy it and welcome any question you may have.

We are now in the process of holding our elections for the school council for 2024, 2025, and we are looking for up to 3 parents interested in participating in planning for the college.

The timeline for elections has been posted at the college but is also included in this newsletter. Nomination forms are available from the college. If you are interested, please contact the main office and a form can be sent home to you.

School council meets the minimum of eight times a year, but there will be subcommittees for finance, buildings, grounds and curriculum. Members of school council are expected to be involved in at least one subcommittee.

If you have questions or wish to know more about your role, please contact me on the College number.

Regards,
Leonie



YOUR VOTE
MATTERS

2024

Notice of election and call for nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the school council of
Thomastown Secondary College
Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4.00pm on
Tuesday 10th of March 2024
The ballot will close at 4.00pm on
Tuesday 17th of March 2024

Following the closing of nominations, a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school.

The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

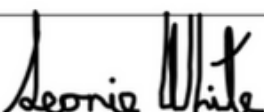
Membership category	
Parent Member	
Term of office	Year
From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in	2024
to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in	2026
Number of positions:	3

Membership category	
School employee	
Term of office	Year
From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in	2024
to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in	2026
Number of positions:	1

Membership category	
Student Member	
Term of office	Year
From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in	2024
to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in	2026
Number of positions:	2

Following the closing of nominations, a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school.

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Principal signature


Year 12 Graduation

On the 30th November the Graduation ceremony for the 2023 year 12 cohort took place at the Grand Ballroom Meadowbank Estate, Campbellfield. Friends and family were all in attendance to see the year 12 students receive their VCE certificates with over 250 guests filling the ballroom. In addition to the VCE certificates there were speeches made by our principal Leonie White, the VCE Unit leader Emil Atanasov and former student Jason Farrugia from the class of 1992, giving valuable advice to the graduates. Congratulations to all of the graduates and their families on the successful completion of their secondary studies.

There were also prestigious awards given to the following students:

Melbourne University Principal's scholarship: Melani Murdjevaska

Long Tan ADF Leadership award: Jessica Joleska

Future Innovator's Award: Ali Al Maliki

Ampol All-Rounder Award: Manpreet Kaur

Alumni Inspiration Award male: Michele Peluso

Alumni Inspiration Award female: Lagi Faatale

Principal's Award: Yasemin El Zoobi

Sporting Excellence Award: Elizabeth El Jarid



Class of 2023 Pathways

The class of 2023 had a very successful year academically. All of the graduates have found a pathway in which they can continue to excel and pursue their dreams. Of the fifty-three students who applied for courses through VTAC, fifty-two of them received an offer at a University or a TAFE. In a further breakdown of the offers we found that forty-one of the places were at a University while eleven were at a TAFE. Thirty of these students received their very first preference.

We are extremely proud of the class of 2023 and wish them all the very best in their future pursuits. They are always welcome back to visit Thomastown Secondary College to see their proud teachers.

By Sophie Gazeas & Emil Atanasov



Thomastown Secondary College Class of 2023 Destinations and VTAC Outcomes



99%
of all TSC
Students who
applied to VTAC
received a
Tertiary offer



Universities and TAFES

RMIT University	26
La Trobe	11
Victoria University	2
Swinburne	1
Melbourne Polytechnic	1
Monash University	2
Deakin University	4
University of Melbourne	1
Federation University	1
Australian Catholic University	3



YEAR 12 CAMP

During week 2 of Term 1, the graduating class of 2024 had the opportunity to gather and enjoy our last year together at Camp Candle bark. We took many risks together, laughed together, tested our limits, built new friendships, and learnt many life lessons. The camp was jam-packed with fun adventures such as archery, canoeing, swimming, sunset watching and star gazing. Upon our arrival we were given an inspirational and motivational speech by our school councillor, Michelle, on how to prepare for the year 12 journey ahead of us.

Through Camp we were essentially gaining knowledge as to how to build resilience and perseverance in year 12. Year 12 is the most essential academic year of all our lives, which can also be the most challenging so pushing yourself from the beginning of the year can make the crazy exam period a little less overwhelming for us as we have already pushed our limits. Sophie, our careers counsellor, also gave us tips on year twelve exams, university courses and many other helpful tips for once we have graduated. The rest of the camp was filled with humorous and memorable moments with peers and teachers that we will all cherish and hold dear to our hearts for the rest of our lives. Overall, it was a great experience that helped bond us together to create a united year 12 cohort.

By Zainab Karem



Thai Tran from Red Unit The Paper Crane Champion!

Thai Tran, year 9 from Red unit has been on a mission this year. At the start of 2023 he made one paper crane. He was then challenged by the staff and students to make 1000 paper cranes before term 4 finished.

He was inspired from the story of Sadako Sasaki, a Japanese girl who became a victim of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

During Sadako's stay in the hospital, her best friend, Chizuko, came to visit her. Chizuko brought some origami (folding paper) and told Sadako of a legend. She explained that the crane, a sacred bird in Japan, lives for a hundred years, and if a sick person folds 1,000 paper cranes, then that person would soon get well. After hearing the legend, Sadako decided to fold 1,000 cranes and pray that she would get well again.

Although Sadako knew she would not survive, she folded well over 1,000 cranes and continued to be strong for the sake of her family. In October 1955, with her family standing by her bed, she died.

Thai has folded 1000 cranes and they are all displayed in the front office foyer. Not only has he been making paper cranes but he has also been making a whole range of other animals including cats, penguins, fish, lions and tigers.

I encourage all students to head to the front office where Thai's work is on display.

By Deanna Tornatora



Pathways & Careers Programs

Minter Ellison ABCN GOALS program

By Sachin Sakthivel and Shehani Wijesinghe

On July 18th, a group of Year 9 students went to Melbourne CBD to take part in a 4-day program called the ABCN program. The ABCN program was hosted by mentors from Minter Ellison which gave students an opportunity to discuss their future goals that they wished to achieve with workers from the law firm. This gave a chance for students to understand the many possibilities and opportunities that Melbourne has to offer for their future, and this program helped them to break down their goals into small steps for them to complete during this program. Two sessions were taken at the Minter Ellison building, and two were undertaken at Thomastown Secondary via Zoom meetings.

During the first session of the program, students visited the Minter Ellison building where they were debriefed. The first session was about students stepping out of their comfort zone. By stepping outside their comfort zones, students built their confidence and developed positive relationships with new people, which is a skill that will help them in all aspects of life.

The second session took place on August 9th in school where the students joined a Zoom meeting. From there students and mentors were split into small groups called the breakout rooms where they could interact with others and their mentors and talk about whether they achieved their goals or not, and what were the difficulties blocking them along the way.

The third session took place on the 24th of August. Students once again had a meeting at school on Zoom. The students and mentors talked a bit about how people would spend their money and whether it was a worthwhile expenditure. Students were also given an activity which involved investigating whether specific items are worth buying now or later. All the students and mentors completed this task and found out that some things are worth buying and others were not.

The 4th session was held back in the Minter Ellison offices on the 1st of September. Students finalised their goals and had to reflect on the program.



Pathways & Careers Programs

ABCN End Of Year Event

On Tuesday 14th November, Luca, Minas, Pele and Haere from Jimi Lundy's music class performed at the ABCN end of year event held at Hall & Wilcox. The Australian Business and Community Network (ABCN) is a purpose-led, not-for-profit organisation that brings businesses and schools together. Thomastown has been lucky enough to be partnered with ABCN for many years now as they run multiple programs with our students around leadership, mentoring, goal setting and confidence building.

The music students performed two sets throughout the night, providing a nice atmosphere for the employees of ABCN, Hall & Wilcox and many other businesses partnered with ABCN.

Our college principal, Leonie White presented on the night and spoke about the impact ABCN has had on our students. Over the years more than 2000 students have participated in over 60 programs, many now encouraging their peers to sign up to programs when they come up.

By Deanna Tornatora

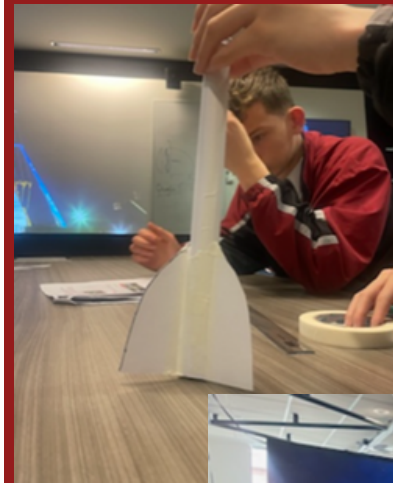


Pathways & Careers Programs

iBelong 2023 excursions to RMIT University

Thomastown Secondary College was invited to participate in 6 excursions focusing on post-secondary study options in Health and Biomedicine, STEAM, Business, PE, Nursing and Art.

The program's objective was for students to gain deeper understanding of the study and pathways options available and what it would be like to study at a university level. Students had the opportunity to gain greater insight regarding the skills required to transform successfully to tertiary education and learn more about the services and support available for SNAP students at RMIT.



Pathways & Careers Programs

Mindflight7 See your future- Career Taster

In term 4, our year 9 students got to utilize cutting edge Virtual Reality technology to experience an extensive collection of over 40 immersive and interactive VR experiences centered around various career and trade related scenarios. Students engaged in immersive hands on experiences and in-depth discussions on the essential skills required for a diverse range of careers.

The program also emphasises fostering a comprehensive understanding of fixed and growth mindsets in the context of career choices, enabling students to apply this knowledge to their future endeavours. From training simulations to virtual workplace visits, the platform stimulates personal and professional growth, allowing students to develop new skills and interests.

We look forward to incorporating this style of learning in our Careers education in 2024 as the feedback from our students and staff was very positive.



Psychology Excursion

by Deanna Tornatora

On Tuesday the 31st of October the two year 11 Psychology classes went on an excursion to the National Gallery Victoria. They looked at several artworks and applied their knowledge about pictorial depth cues and gestalt principles to analyse the paintings and photographs. The classes enjoyed the excursion with the different activities they participated in and hope the future year 11s get to have the same experience.



STEAM Club

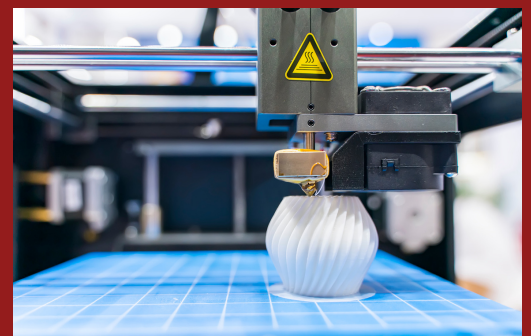
Print-A-Car Finals

by Chantelle Bakersmith

On Friday 17th November Team Spanish Inquisition, Minas Pazinas, Sienna Ritevski and Flynn Rogan, set off for the finals of the Quantum Print-A-Car challenge. This was the end of a project that had taken almost a whole year of preparation, from designing and redesigning, to adjusting and preparing the portfolio that documented every step of the way. Their hard work paid off: they won the title of “Best Portfolio,” an incredible achievement in light of the strict guidelines and criteria.

Student reflection: Spanish Inquisition by Minas Pazinas

“It was one of the most fun activities I've done in a while. Everything from the arrival till our departure. We were able to showcase our hard work to the other schools, and they respectively, and admire the effort that was put in towards this competition. By looking at the other schools' work, we were able to learn about their design process and get inspiration for future designs. The race itself was an emotional rollercoaster as we watched the cars compete against each other, having some good times but also some bad times. My favourite part was the fact that you could test your reaction time by releasing the car yourself when the lights went off. Even though I believe we could have done better, I was super pleased with our outcome and I felt over the moon when it was announced that our hard work paid off and we won the award for best portfolio (for secondary education). Overall, it was an experience that I would encourage anyone to take part in as it is not just about designing cars, but rather to put your mind to work towards creating the most efficient and effective car design possible, to put your artistic flare towards creating illustrations that will represent the car and the team, and if you are a perfectionist or high achiever like me, create an elegantly designed portfolio showing your creative process. But most importantly, working with other people as a team to achieve the same goal; give it your best and have fun.”



STEAM Club

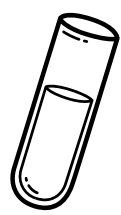
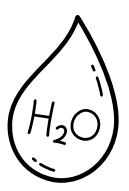
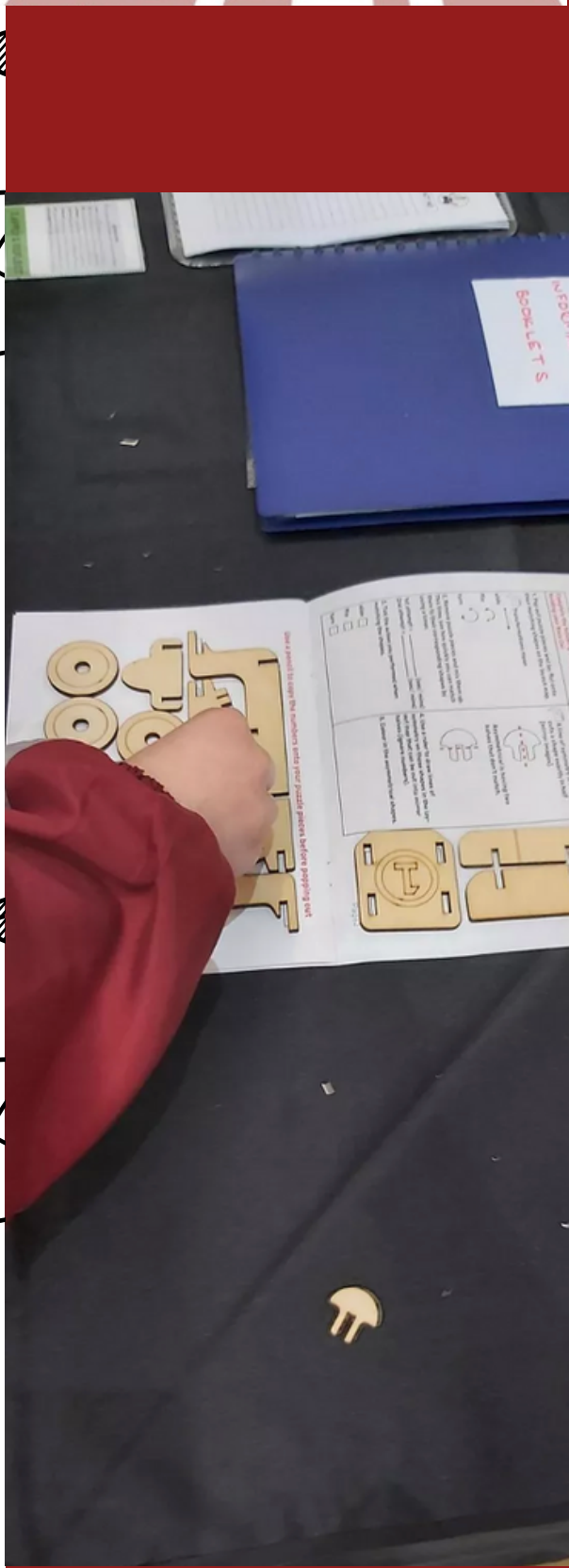
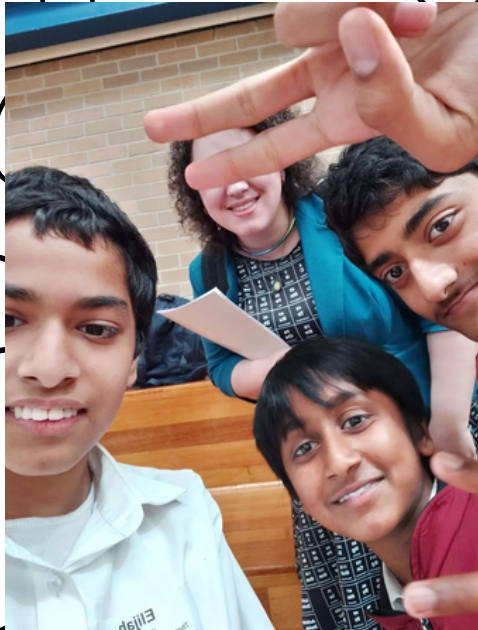
by Mara Rosenkrantz

It Takes a Spark! EDU STEM Conference

STEAM Lab is a once-weekly lunchtime club open to all students interested in extra training and activities related to science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. This year regular club attendees were invited to attend a statewide conference that took place Friday the 17th of November at John Paul College in Frankston. Thomastown Secondary College was one of many schools presenting a workshop at this event to explain the beautiful periodic table display project created by 2022 VCD and Chemistry students. Our presentation was well received by students and teachers from other schools interested in the power of learning through designing for an audience.

Meanwhile, ten TSC students attended a variety of lectures and workshops on STEM education and opportunities. Year 7 student Mohit Mohit said it “was the greatest excursion I have ever taken part in, the activities were amazing especially the Artificial Intelligence Class as this class taught me the sensors of the heat/touch effect that some devices use”. Fellow Year 7 Naveen Sakthivel said, “My favourite activity of the day was when the 2 keynote speakers spoke about their pathways and what jobs you might come across doing that degree... there are now machines to do surgery for doctors. It’s amazing how machines can act and how they are programmed to help and assist”. The conference was not limited to robotics but included all sorts of creative challenges in science, as Year 9 student Thai Tran “learnt how scientists know how many dolphins are in Port Phillip Bay.” One keynote speaker showed all the techniques and technologies used to revitalise the Phillip Island penguin population. All of the attendees agreed that the conference “really ‘sparked’ new ideas and ways of thinking” and came back full of inspiration for next year. We will be recruiting teammates for competitions in car racing and video game design, so interested students should keep an ear out for club announcements next year!



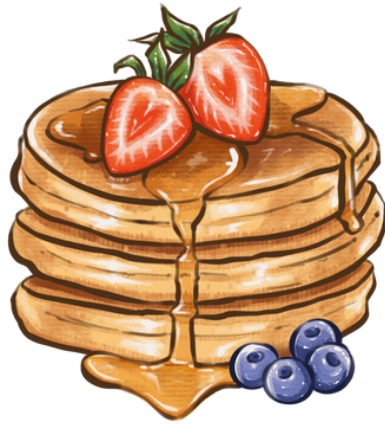


Breakfast Club

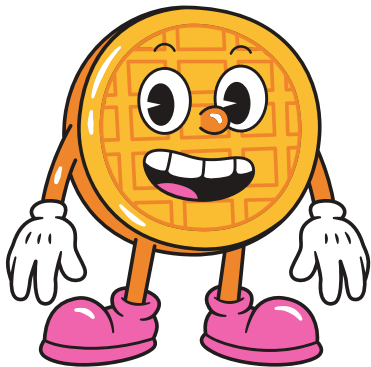
By Connie Mihalas

What a better way to finish the year, than having pancakes that left a smile on our face from ear to ear.

Have a safe break everyone and looking forward to seeing you all in 2024!



breakfast



Food Drive

By Connie Mihalas

Thank you to everyone who donated to our food drive recently. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of our families. All food collected has been donated to a very worthy organisation, Hayden's Helping Hands.

Hayden's Helping Hands was established to provide for the relief and alleviation of poverty, distress, misfortune and disadvantage suffered by people experiencing homelessness in Australia. Hayden 15, and his sister Stephanie 13, were inspired to start this organisation, after seeing the homeless people in the USA during a family holiday in 2014.

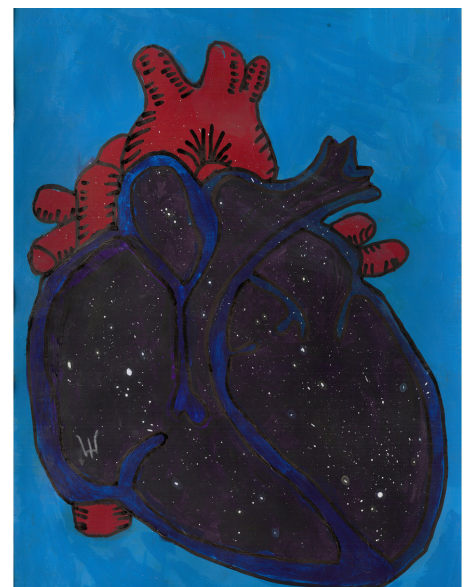
Thank you to Julie George from Blue Unit for initiating our Food Drive.





by Emma Fitzpatrick and April Choi

In mid art, students used style and aesthetics to convey meaning in a heart themed artwork. Students were asked to reflect on what matters to them and to represent their feelings using imagery, words, hidden messages and colour symbolism.



Year 7 & 8 Craft

By Sue Gray

PAINT BRUSHES made by NATURE

Making marks

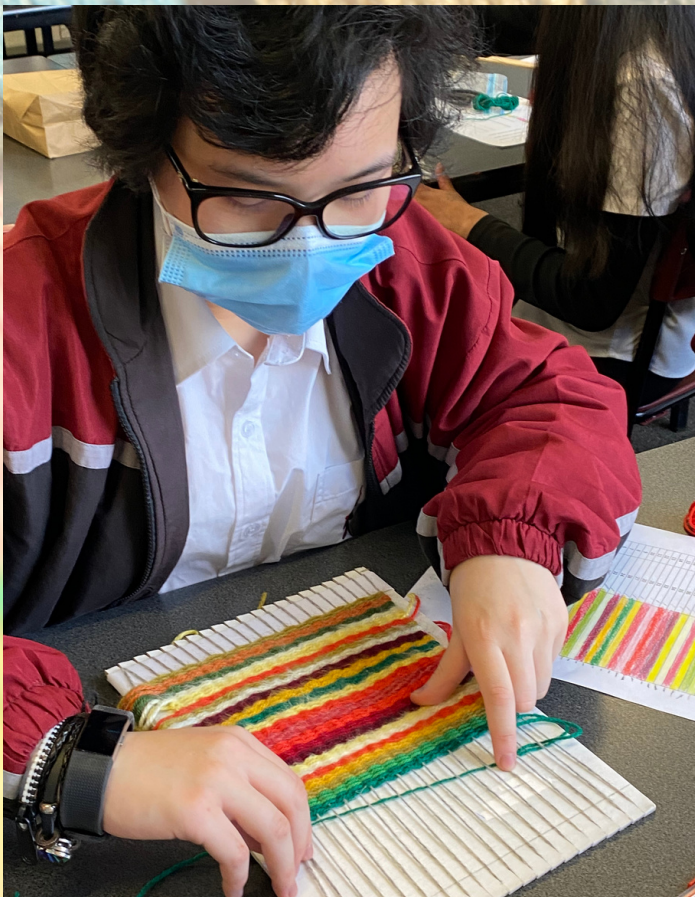
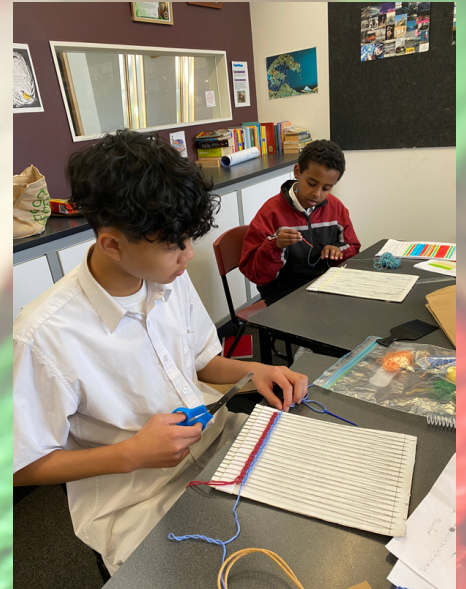
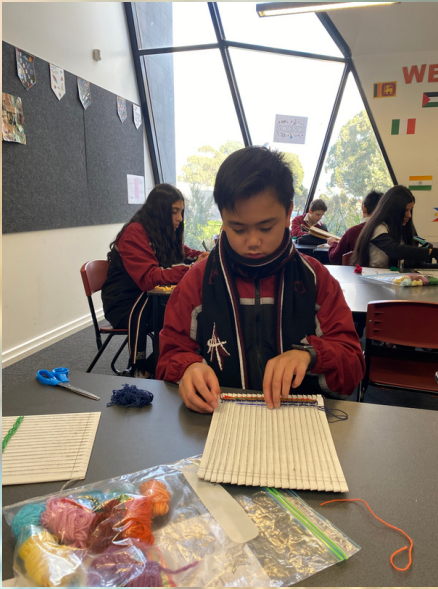


- Shells
- Driftwood
- Sticks
- Feathers
- Wool
- Grasses
- Cotton
- Twine
- Flowers
- Seedpods
- Seaweed
- Raffia
- Leaves



Year 7 & 8 Craft Student Art Examples Cont.

Weaving Weather Data



Year 7 & 8 Craft Student Art Examples Cont.

Papier mâché



BLUE UNIT EXCURSION

BARRY ROAD PARK EXCURSION

For our term 4 Blue Unit excursion, we went on a nice walk to Whittlesea Public Gardens -Barry road park. As a unit, we all walked in a single file line and were all respectful to everyone who walked past us. Most people brought drinks and snacks to sit and eat with their friends. We had a sausage sizzle made by our teachers Tony and Labrini and our PE teacher Ricky organised some sports equipment for us to use. We enjoyed playing cricket and baseball and even the teachers got involved. Everyone had a great time with their friends, laughing and playing on the playground. It was a great experience with no costs which made it affordable and easier for the students' families. We thank Ivana- our Forum teacher, the other teachers for taking us on this excursion. We are really appreciative of this memorable day.

By Melissa, Deyana and Raneem
Blue Unit Students



False Eyelashes and Acrylic Nail Ban

It is becoming prevalent that students are attending school with excessively long false eyelashes and dangerously long acrylic nail extensions. These are raising concerns around safety and are obstructing positive learning in the classroom. Going into Term 4 students will not be permitted to wear false lashes and overly long acrylic nails. There will be consequences for students that break this updated school uniform policy.



THESE LASHES ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE



NAILS LENGTH/STYLE THAT ARE ACCEPTABLE:



NAILS LENGTH/STYLE THAT ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE:



Mobile Phone Ban

From Term 1, 2020 there was a new mobile phone policy for all government schools. Phones brought to school must be switched off and stored securely during the school day.

The aim of this policy is to provide:

- a safe environment to learn without inappropriate mobile phone use (including cyberbullying) or distractions
- greater opportunities for social interaction and physical activity during recess and lunchtimes.



Vaping Ban

In Victoria, a person must not smoke or use e-cigarettes on school premises or within 4 metres of any pedestrian access point to school premises.

The purpose of this policy is to support public health objectives and ensure there is no smoking or use of e-cigarettes (commonly known as 'vaping') on school premises (buildings and grounds).

In Victoria it is illegal for any person aged 18 or over to obtain, possess or use nicotine e-cigarettes, or e-cigarette cartridges containing nicotine, or nicotine liquids for use in a vaporiser, without a prescription. It is illegal to sell e-cigarettes to, or buy e-cigarettes for, any person aged under 18 years whether or not the e-cigarettes contain nicotine. Whilst it is not unlawful for a person to possess or use e-cigarettes that do not contain nicotine, it is unlawful to use them on school premises or within 4 metres of a school entrance.

At Thomastown Secondary College, Vape detectors have been installed to combat the issue around vaping in students restrooms.



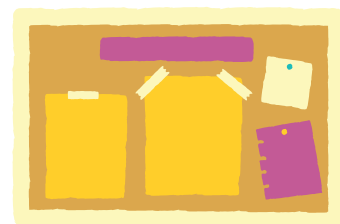
**- NO -
SMOKING**



**- NO -
VAPING**



General Announcements



Restricted Areas

Units please remind your students that they are not to be in the following areas at any time during the school day:

Staff car park

The side of the ECA next to the staff car park, including the concrete steps that lead up to the back doors of the ECA.

Behind the ECA next to the primary school fence.

Behind the Language Centre next to the primary school fence.

Anywhere along the primary school fence.

No phones in canteen

Students are reminded that phones may not be used to pay for food at the canteen.

Phones must be stored in lockers at all times.

Homework club

Homework Club runs from 3.30pm to 4.30pm every Wednesday and Thursday. Consent forms can be picked up from Sue in Gold Unit and Sandra in VCE Unit.

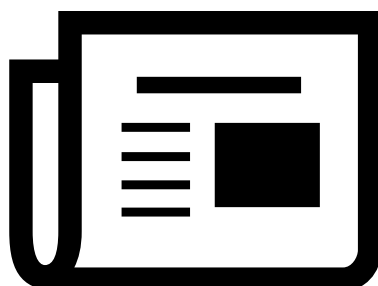
ECA open after school for all Juniors and Mids

The ECA is open to play whatever activity you want on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays after school for Junior and Mid students only. Please see Unit Leaders or Clint in Red Unit for a permission form.

VCE English tutoring with Lynette

English tutoring will be available in the library on Tuesday afternoons 2.30- 4.30pm.

Just drop in or make a booking with Lynette if you would like an individual or a small group tutorial session.



KEY DATES

School photo's 25th of March

Last day of term 28th of March

Return to school from holidays 15th of April





THOMASTOWN ON-CAMPUS UNIFORM STORE

BELEZA TRADING HOURS 2024

TERM 1

JANUARY	Tues 24th 10am - 3pm	Wed 25th 10am - 3pm	Fri 27th 10am - 3pm	Tues 31st 10am - 3pm
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FEBRUARY	Tues 7th 1pm - 4pm	Tues 14th 1pm - 4pm	Tues 21st 1pm - 4pm	Tues 28th 1pm - 4pm
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MARCH	Tues 7th 1pm - 4pm	Tues 14th 1pm - 4pm	Tues 21st 1pm - 4pm	Tues 28th 1pm - 4pm
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APRIL	Tues 4th 1pm - 4pm
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TERM 2

MAY	Tues 2nd 1pm - 4pm	Tues 16th 1pm - 4pm	Tues 30th 1pm - 4pm	
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JUNE	Tues 13th 1pm - 4pm
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TERM 3

JULY	Tues 11th 1pm - 4pm	Tues 25th 1pm - 4pm		
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AUGUST	Tues 8th 1pm - 4pm	Tues 22nd 1pm - 4pm		
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SEPTEMBER	Tues 5th 1pm - 4pm			
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TERM 4

OCTOBER	Tues 3rd 1pm - 4pm	Tues 10th 1pm - 4pm	Tues 17th 1pm - 4pm	Tues 24th 1pm - 4pm
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OCTOBER	Tues 31st 1pm - 4pm
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NOVEMBER	Tues 14th 1pm - 4pm	Tues 21st 1pm - 4pm	Tues 28th 1pm - 4pm	
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DECEMBER	Tues 5th 1pm - 4pm	Tues 12th 8.30am - 10.00 am 2.30pm -	Tues 19th 1pm - 4pm	
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