



Sandringham College VCAL Parent & Student Newsletter

Melinda Gall
VCAL Coordinator
8599 0545
Gall.melinda.m@edumail.vic.gov.au

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Sandringham VCAL 2010



Welcome to the 2010 school year– I'm sure it is going to be another rewarding and satisfying one for us all.

The objective of this newsletter is to communicate information to parents and students in the VCAL program and to share some of our successes along the way.

The majority of parents will receive this via email (for convenience and environmental reasons) in the future. If you **did not** receive a copy, can you **email me** on the address above so that I can add the correct address to my Contacts. For those who don't have an email account I can send a hard copy.

The enrolment interviews at the end of last year, where I met most parents/guardians has given me some insight into your child's personality, needs and goals. If there is any information that you think may improve your child's transition, then please forward that information to me. My contact details are on the top of this newsletter.

I work 0.8 which means most weeks I am not available on Friday. If you need to speak to someone urgently, about your child and are unable to contact me, then Vivian McElwee is the Student Management Leader and is contactable on 8599 0544



Celebration Day 2009



Baz's Boot Camp at Half Moon Bay before their run and bay swim

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Important things to note:

- The **school day begins** at **8.45** and it is an expectation that students are at school then. Please catch an earlier bus/train if necessary.
- If a student is legitimately **absent** it would be appreciated if parents could email me or phone. A written explanation or Dr certificate is requested within 5 working days.
- **Assemblies** are an important method of communication between the school and students and it is expected students attend.

Personal Development

Students selected two electives within the PD strand—one for each semester. All students have been placed in one of their preferred electives for Semester 1. I will consult with students later in the semester with regard to their elective for Semester 2.

PD is designed to develop communication, problem solving, leadership and team work and often revolves around community or personal interest based projects. Often the work done in PD is

a real highlight for VCAL students and in the past they have produced some incredible projects.

Electives and teachers are:

My Melbourne—Amal Isac
Healthy Me—Annette Vichie

Jeff's Shed—Jeff Miller
Baz's Boot Camp—Barry Oliver

The Beat—Kylie De Nise

IT Pete Hatigan & Suzanne Arnott—all Yr 11

Jeff Miller is on sick leave at the moment and Peter Wilson is taking the class in the short term. Peter is not a Trade teacher so is not qualified to run classes using the machinery in the work shop. The class are working on a practical project in the wood room, designing and making kites. At this stage it is not known how long Jeff will be away, but if there are any students who wish to change out of this elective for Semester 1, they need to see me within the next week.



Work Related Skills



Work Skills is an essential component of the VCAL course.

In **Yr 11**, students are required to attend a class every week where they develop some knowledge about work. Topics include OH&S, work place ethics and responsibilities, career pathways, and communication in the work place.



If a student has a part time job (including a part time apprenticeship) then they can organize with their employer to work on a Friday, or Wednesday. Some employers may not be able to accommodate this and may require the student to work over the weekend or even week nights. Students should inform me of who their employer is and keep some sort of record of their work over the calendar year (including the holidays)- pay slips, log (supplied in WRS).



It is desirable that each Yr 11 student will be **working part time in Semester 2** once they have developed and demonstrated some knowledge and skills. If part time

(paid) employment cannot be sourced then it might be a work placement (\$5 a day) to gain some experience.

- Yr 11 students are **not permitted** to undertake SWL (work placement in Semester 1)
- **No SWL can be undertaken until appropriate OH&S and paper work has been completed to cover the student/school/employer legally.**

Yr 12 students will progress through the WRS units individually, based on the units they did in 2009 and the work experience and history they have.

All Yr 12 students are time-tabled to attend Work Skills Session 3 on a Monday. Students have been divided into Group A (not working regularly) and Group B (working), and alternate weeks of atten-

dance. All students have a schedule of the semester and know which weeks they are required to attend. A copy of the schedule will be available on My Classes which can be accessed at home. This arrangement is due to time-tabling constraints around the fact that VCAL students are usually only at school 3 days a week.

- The priority will be to assist students without employment in their job skills and job seeking initially.
- All students will have to satisfy the outcomes of the WRS course to gain credit for the units-specific projects will be designed and delivered during class and in students own time.
- Students will need to liaise with Mel and be organized.

Melinda Gall teaches all WRS classes

VET & Careers

Jenny Marks is the VET Coordinator and any VET or ASBA queries should be directed to her.

Jenny's office is in the **Careers Room** with **Jeni Ritterman** who is the Careers teacher. Both are extremely informative and knowledgeable and students should get to know both these people.

Most VET courses conducted on campus (here at Sandringham) began in Week One.

Other students will have received notification from the TAFE institution as to the start date.

VCAL students must pass their VET to achieve their VCAL so it is important to solve any problems as soon as they may arise.

Jenny Marks

8599 0535

Marks.jenny.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

Jeni Ritterman

8599 0536

ritterman.jennifer.j@edumail.vic.gov.au



Literacy

As mentioned in Enrolment interviews, students do not need to purchase texts for Literacy. Parents/guardians were required to pay a \$60 levy and students would be supplied with all their materials for this unit.

Yr 11

Denise Cornish

Amal Isac

Barry Oliver

Yr 12

Amal Isac

Barry Oliver



Numeracy

As above, Students are supplied with materials. Students attend one session of Numeracy each week.

The Numeracy teacher is **Loyal Allaf**



VCE subject

This years VCE subjects that fit into the VCAL model are:

Agriculture & Horticulture –Lesley Parker

Health and Human Development—Abbie Tarranto

Physical Education– John Ferguson

Business Management– Janet Argeres & Deb Hanlon (who is on Long Service Leave in Term 1)

Visual Communication– Jules Wraight.

Next year students will have a different mix of subjects to elect from.

Year 12 students have been asked to consider a **second VCE subject**, as they have two less VCAL units on their timetable. Some students who work several shifts have elected not to undertake another unit, but most have taken the opportunity to broaden their experiences. It should be pointed out that VCAL students are doing Non-Scored VCE units, which means they are not required to sit the examinations. Students dropping a unit need to have their parent's permission to do so.



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