



# Sandringham College VCAL Parent & Student Newsletter

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

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## Welcome to 2012



A very warm welcome to all VCAL students and parents to what I'm sure is going to be another fantastic year. Once again the program is full with five classes: three Senior (Yr 12) classes and two Intermediate classes (Yr 11). The VCAL teaching team have some great projects in mind for 2011 students and anticipate the students will initiate several others as they do every year!

Most students seem to have made a good start to the year, transitioning well into the senior campus and settling into their new classes. If you have any concerns about your son/daughter please contact me so that I am aware of them. We will send out Interim Reports to you towards the end of the term and invite you to attend our Parent-Student-Teacher Interviews on Monday March 26.

I have included some really **important** information for parents regarding **work placements** and the **process** you are required to follow to ensure your son/daughter is adequately covered by DEECD insurance in the workplace. Please read it carefully and call/email if you have questions. This has been explained it to all WRS classes by Jenny and Amal.

I produce a newsletter regularly with important VCAL information in it for you and your son/daughter. I give them one in program assembly and email the parents one. It is also uploaded to the College website on the VCAL section.

Melinda Gall  
VCAL Coordinator

## 2011 Graduates-Where Are they Now?

Sandringham College VCAL students spend time exploring various career pathways and are also encouraged to visit our well resourced Careers Room. Our graduating 2011 VCAL class has pursued a variety of interest areas which demonstrates the diversity of our student cohort. Some have chosen to continue their studies at TAFE in courses such as building, design, events, beauty and horticulture. Others decided to take a break from study to work and then perhaps to travel independently or in formal programs such Camp America.

A number of our students have taken up apprenticeships in building, plumbing, hospitality, electrical, automotive, panel beating and landscape gardening to name a few.

We are very proud of all our students as they embark on a new chapter in their lives.

Jeni Ritterman  
Careers Coordinator

VCAL Student 2011- Destinations



## Important Dates

School Photos  
Monday February 20

Parent Teacher Student  
Interviews  
Monday March 26

Labour Day Holiday  
Monday March 12

End of Term  
Friday March 30



## VCAL teachers 2012

Literacy	Yr 12	Amal Isac Melinda Gall Ryan Patterson
	Yr 11	Denise Cornish Amal Isac
Numeracy	Yr 11	Jonathon Roberts
Work Skills	Yr 12	Amal Isac
	Yr 11	Jenny Marks
Personal Development	Boot Camp	Abbie Tarranto
	Building Projects	Cony Vards
	The Beat	Bec Moore
	Food and Me	Annette Vichie
	ICT	Glen Seery
VET studies	Students do a variety of courses	Jenny Marks– VET Manager
VCE	Visual Communication and Design	Craig O'Shanessy
	Business Management	Glen Seery
	Agriculture and Horticulture	Lesley Parker
	Physical Education	Ilya Giannopoulou

If you have any concerns about these units or are having difficulty contacting teachers, send me an email and I will forward it on your behalf. My details are on the front of this newsletter.

## Work

VCAL students generally do not have classes timetabled on Friday allowing them to work on that day. Most students have part time jobs, and many VCAL students choose to pick up an extra shift on Friday. Some students however, may be required to work Wednesday, Thursday and Friday night for example. In this case, this student may have Friday as a personal day to catch up on sleep and other commitments. One group of Year 12 students who are not currently working have been timetabled to attend a Work Skills class on a Friday. When/if they secure work on a Friday, I will move them to another class.

Those students who do not have any work at this stage will be encouraged to seek work over the coming weeks. We will work on developing Resumes and Application letters in Work Skills, and learning about work places and Occupational Health and Safety. If you think your son/daughter is not ready to begin work yet, then please talk to me about your concerns- they need to be confident.

**For students who are ready to start work now, Fridays can initially be spent working on the Safe@work modules at home and in workshops at school. Once these are completed, students can dedicate Friday to job seeking.** I really appreciate parental support in this area in encouraging their son/daughter in this process. It can be daunting, but ultimately it is something we all have to do. At various stages throughout the year, we bring in external organisations to assist students with job seeking but sometimes it is simply a matter of perseverance. We will be asking students to identify 20 places they are willing to work and to prepare resumes for those workplaces. Students will then need to make contact and personally deliver the resume and letter. They will then need to follow up the next week, by re-visiting the workplace. The more practice they get at this, the more confident they become. A resume sent in the mail, and never followed up, will not secure a job.

Remember any part time/casual job or work placement is positive as it teaches essential work skills and can be a 'stepping stone'. It doesn't mean you'll be working there for the rest of your life!

### **Different types of work**

- Students can choose to work **part time or casual**. That is they are receiving an award wage (or higher). They usually receive a pay slip or there is an official record of them in the work place. They usually also receive a Group Certificate at the end of each financial year. VCAL students can start working part time or casual at any time and then let their Work Skills teacher (Yr11 Jenny, Yr12 Amal) know the details in class.
- Some students have a **School Based Apprenticeship**. They are employed by a group training company or an employer, doing an apprenticeship whilst doing their VCE or VCAL. Jenny Marks should know the details of this so that you receive the appropriate credit.
- Some students choose to do a **work placement**. In this situation the student is not actually an employee, but he or she is placed in the work place to learn elements of the job- to receive some training in that field. An organisation is only required to pay someone doing a work placement \$5.00 a day, and is exempt if it is a 'not for profit organisation'. Most students are able to see the incredible benefits a work placement can offer over the financial disincentive. Often a work placement can provide the students with experience, confidence and skills to better equip them for paid work in the future. Often the student can gain a Referee from work placement and sometimes it can lead to paid work and or an apprenticeship.

### **Please Remember**

**The essential thing to remember about a work placement is that as the student is not an employee they are not necessarily covered by Work Cover and need to complete Work Placement forms before they commence. The forms are available from Amal or Jenny. They must be filled in and **signed by the student, parent, and employer and then returned to the Work Skills teacher- Jenny or Amal before you can start work.****

**The other essential step in work placement is that students are to have satisfactorily completed the Safe@work tests and his/her teacher must sight the certificates. These have to be done each year.** If a student did the tests last year, he/she has to do the Review module and test and the Industry module and test. Students can do these at home if they are ready to start work placement now and are confident with the tests, however we will be running some Friday sessions at school to help student with these throughout the term.



## VET

Most VET studies have commenced now, so all VCAL students should be in their courses Wednesdays. Jenny Marks is the VET Manager (8599 0535) and is the person student should see if there are any problems concerning VET. Students can find Jenny Monday to Thursday in her office just off the Careers Room.

## 2011 VCAL Certificates and Reports

Any students who did not pick up their Yr 11 Report at the end of 2011 can collect them from the staffroom or from me.

## Some reminders!

- Students are reminded that **skateboards are not permitted on campus during the school day**. If ridden to school they should be placed in a locker for the day.
- **Students are not permitted to leave the campus at recess** unless they have no class Session 3 and they are going home.
- **Classes finish at 3.35** on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday (w1). Thursday (w2) finishes at 3.05.
- If a student is legitimately **absent**, the parent can phone or email me on the day of the absence or the student should bring either a explanatory note from his/her parent or medical certificate within five working days and leave it in the green 'Notes' box on my desk. The student should also try to catch up with all the teachers of classes missed that day.

## College Newsletter

The first College Newsletter of the year was posted home last week. If you did not receive one please let me know and I will arrange to email you a copy.