



Sandringham College VCAL Parent & Student Newsletter

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

Volume 5



Some action shots of our VCAL students in Vis Com, Studio Arts, Outdoor and Enviro and Agricultural & Horticulture.

Important Dates

VCAL Celebration Day
(students & teachers)
October 18

Last day VCAL 12 classes
October 20

VCE/VCAL Sandringham
College
Graduation Night
October 31

End of Unit 2
November 11

Year 11-12 VCAL
Re-enrolment interviews
November 14-17

VCE Headstart
VCAL work program
November 21-29

VCAL Coordination Funding



The State government have announced that they will cease funding VCAL Coordination from 2012. Sandringham College is extremely disappointed with this decision and has raised this concern with the the Sandringham MLA. We remain committed to running a quality VCAL program, however we have not yet come to terms with how this 'funding cut' will impact on our program. Below is a response from the Victorian Applied Learning Association following the announcement from the Baillieu Government.

The Victorian Applied Learning Association (VALA) is extremely concerned about the implications of the Victorian government's announcement late last week to cut funding for VCAL coordination from 2012.

This coordination funding underpins the successful delivery of VCAL within schools and other education providers. Without such funding it is highly likely that a significant number of education providers may stop delivering VCAL due to the demanding and time consuming nature of VCAL delivery. Unlike VCE, VCAL curriculum is very flexible to allow it to be customised to the needs and interests of students. As such it needs to go beyond the use of textbooks in the way it is delivered. In addition, VCAL does not have a high percentage of externally set assessments. VCAL, by its hands on nature, requires extra student support systems, cross subject area planning and organisation, as well as the establishment and maintenance of community and work related links. All this requires coordination above and beyond normal teaching and assessment processes.

As VALA noted in its response to the *Review of VCAL Coordination Funding* 'VCAL Coordination is a complex role'. The VCAL curriculum encourages and, at times, requires, that students undertake projects and work in the community. VCAL Coordinators play a vital role in organising 'the applied learning activities that distinguish VCAL from other programs and enable engaging activities which promote retention'. Our response also acknowledges that the role of VCAL Coordinators needs to be revised and that VCAL providers need to be accountable for the use of the funding.

Due to the success of VCAL there has been a steady growth in the number of students enrolled in it. In 2003 there were 5,137 students enrolled in VCAL at 239 providers (VCAA, 2004). By 2010 there were 19,175 students enrolled in VCAL at 429 providers (VCAA, 2011). Despite the number of VCAL providers having plateaued (as stated in the memo of 18 August to schools), the number of students enrolled in VCAL continues to rise - the 2010 figures being 8.3% higher than in 2009.

The increase in student numbers would indicate that increased funding was required to coordinate VCAL. VALA accepts that increasing funding for VCAL Coordination may not at this time be possible but calls on the government to continue this funding at the current rate for 2012. Failure to do this would jeopardise the current successful delivery of VCAL. Furthermore, a range of alternative funding and support models for 2013 and beyond should be considered. VALA would be happy to contribute to the development of such alternative models.

Sandringham College and Youth Connect



Youth Connect have recently begun working with students in assisting with Work Placements as part of their Workplace Learning Program. The program is a Department of Education initiative to assist students in facilitating meaningful work placements for students in **Work Experience**, VET placements (**Structured Workplace Learning**) and **School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships**. Youth Connect has an online database of work placement opportunities that students can access by visiting www.youthconnect.com.au and registering for the Web portal. A workshop for VCAL students to use the web portal will be held on 16th of September. For parents who are involved in business that are interested in hosting students for work placement, please contact the Workplace Learning Coordinators at Youth Connect on 9557 6233 or wlc@youthconnect.com.au for more information.

Thanks so much

Kind Regards,

Merrie Ditchburn

Workplace Learning Program Coordinator

Ground Floor, 261 Centre Road, Bentleigh VIC 3204

Phone 03 9557 6233 | **Fax** 03 9557 6244 | **Mobile** 0402 830 203

m.ditchburn@youthconnect.com.au

www.youthconnect.com.au

Any VCAL student not employed or currently in a work placement is expected to attend the Workshop on September 16 | 1.30-1.15 in room 32.



Sandringham College

August 16th

Dear Parent or Guardian,

A group of Year 11 students have planned a **VCAL Celebration Day** (as their Community Project in Work Skills) on Tuesday October 18 to acknowledge the many achievements of individual students and group projects undertaken:

- Be the coach – coaching junior campus teams
- Community projects: food stalls, jewellery sale.
- Personal movies made by Year 11 Literacy
- Adopt a grandparent at Fern hill hostel for the aged
- Viscom – Public Art Murals

On **Tuesday 18th October** students will make their own way to **Galactic Circus/M9 Laser Skirmish & Kinpin Bowling at the Crown Complex at Southbank**. We have chosen the same venue again this year, after exploring some other options, as it meets our needs and the students enjoy the experience. Students must meet at **9.30am** so will need to make allowances for this in their travel plans. Students will participate in some activities followed by some finger food and an informal awards ceremony. They will be dismissed at about 2.00 and are not required back at school on that day. The cost is \$15.00 per student and should be paid to the Campus Office by **Thursday 8th September**

Yr 12 students who have completed all the course work can finish school on **October 20th**. Please note that many VET courses and some VCE subjects may continue past this date, so students will need to communicate with their teachers. Please mark **Monday October 31st** in your diary as **Yr 12 Graduation Night**. We hope to see all Yr 12 students and their parents at Graduation as it is a significant milestone in one's life and an important acknowledgement of 13 years of education.

Yr 11 students will finish classes on **November 11**, and if returning in 2012 will need to be available for a re-enrolment interview from Monday 14th - Thursday 17th November. It is our expectation that Yr 11 students will continue with part time work, community work or the VCE Head Start Program from November 21st -29th.

Both groups are about to look at **career pathways** for 2012 and beyond in their Work Skills class. Jeni Ritterman, the Careers Teacher is available for individual appointments for careers counselling. In addition to this we will offer further workshops to assist with job seeking and apprenticeships.

Please sign the attached permission form and return with money by **Thursday 8 September**.

Kind Regards

Ms Melinda Gall VCAL Coordinator and Student Manager 8599 0545	Ms Suzanne Reinhardt Acting Campus Principal 8599 0500
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