From the Principal’s Desk

It’s hard to believe that Semester One has passed us by and we’re settling into the last half of the academic year. Looking around the school over the past few days it has become obvious that everyone is looking forward to an extended break.

Students have realised that senior education courses are indeed a marathon and that you have to develop a mindset to cope with the seemingly unending work demands. I would expect that parents and guardians will also appreciate the opportunity over the next two weeks to spend time with their children without the pressures of school. This time could also be used to reflect over the past six months and celebrate all of the achievements of their son/daughter.

There has been a great deal happening around the school over the past month or so with many events being highlighted in this edition.

I would like to congratulate all of our students for the mature manner in which they have conducted themselves and hope that they enjoy reading their semester one reports. These reports will be published on Compass School Manager on Friday 26 June.

Congratulations to Marcus Laging for being nominated as an Outstanding Monash Mentor for his mentoring efforts with one of Monash University’s pre-service teachers in 2014.

The award was presented to Marcus in March this year in front of an audience of approximately 120 final year Bachelor of Education students who were about to commence their first major teaching placement in schools. Hearing about the calibre and qualities of the Outstanding Monash Mentors gave them confidence as they embarked on that experience.

Marcus is pictured receiving the award with Professor John Loughran, Dean of the Faculty of Education.

The SRC conducted a highly successful Fun Day on the last day of term. It was a great way to celebrate the last semester of work.

The Faculty of Education at Monash University acknowledged the critical role played by Outstanding Monash Mentors in supporting their pre-service teachers and thereby sustaining the teaching profession itself.
Assistant Principal’s News

June has been a busy period for students as they have just completed their mid-year practice exams for the all the English studies and the VCAA General Achievement Test (GAT). I would like to congratulate them in the way they approached these exams. Semester One reports will be uploaded on Compass School Manager and available to parents at the End of Term.

We are at the time of the year where students should be accessing Compass School Manager for daily news feeds regarding different events, workshops and guest speakers. Year 12 students should be accessing university websites regarding scholarships and open days. There is a broad range of scholarships which cover academic achievement. It is worth applying for as many as possible as each year there are quite a few not taken up.

The annual School Formal at Leonda by the Yarra, 2 Wallen Road Hawthorn, is fast approaching on Tuesday 21 July. The start time is 7.00 pm, so students are advised to arrive on time.

A reminder to all that Parent-Teacher interviews will take place on Wednesday 12 August from 3:30 to 8:00pm. Appointments are made through Compass School Manager.

Many families are taking the opportunity of explaining their child’s absences online using Compass. This can be done in advance or retrospectively. Please continue to provide the College with explanations for students absences by using Compass, emailing or contacting their child’s Mentor.

Rob Lewkowicz
Assistant Principal

Swinburne Music

Music students have been busy practising, rehearsing, and performing at lunchtime concerts in preparation of our Term 2 Music Nights, with the final night held at Dizzy’s Jazz Club on Tuesday 23 June.

This year’s cohort has really blown us away with the high level of musicality shown. It was great to see so many family, friends, students, and staff attending the performance nights and I would like to thank you all for the support. I would also like to thank our instrumental staff for working so well with students in their individual lessons; Greg Macmillan, Fiona Rocke, Kein Jenkin, Ainsley Finn, Anna Paddick, and Owen Downie.

For students moving into Unit 4 Performance and/or Investigation, exams kick off at the beginning of October, so enjoy the Term 2 break and be ready for a busy Term 3!

I would also like to congratulate Year 12 student Jemma Paraskevas who has been selected to train and perform in Europe with the Vocal Art Studios (VAS)! Jemma is a vocalist and will be training at The Institute in London. She will take part in a private workshop and mentoring session with Richard Beck, perform at St Paul’s Academy and at Euro Disneyland, once they reach Paris for the second week of their trip.

See you all after the break.

Nick Taylor
Music Coordinator

From the Year 12 Manager’s Desk

It’s been a very busy time for Year 12 Students as Unit 3 has come to a close. I would like to congratulate all the students who have worked steadily throughout Semester One to ensure that they not only satisfied the Outcomes for their chosen subjects, but also for staying focused on their goals. As Unit 3 closes, Unit 4 opens a door to new opportunities and challenges that students must face.

Year 12 Students should begin to hone their skills in the second semester as the end of year examinations draw closer. I look forward to seeing the students in the Visual Arts demonstrate their talents in their final artworks. I am excited to see our Design students produce their products.
after the design process that has taken place in Unit 3. I can’t wait to read some of our English and Literature students’ creative written pieces.

Year 12 Students should take some time in the mid-year holidays to reflect on their achievements so far. I hope students use the holiday break as a good opportunity to rest from the daily grind of Year 12 and also as a time to reflect on the key skills that they need to improve on for Unit 4. Have a great break!

Joel Guye
Year 12 Student Manager

Outside-In Zine Committee

Swinburne students have always been creative and a group of writers, artists and designers have decided to produce a student publication. The establishment of the Outside-In Zine Committee took place at the first meeting held on Wednesday 17 June.

The title Outside-In has been taken from a former Swinburne student publication in the 1990s. The team is looking to launch their first publication in late August in Term 3. Any student who is keen to be a member of the Committee, or would like to submit some of their work for publication should keep an eye out for posters and flyers next term.

The Zine is hoping to showcase Swinburne artists, poets, writers, reviewers and anyone else who would like to get their work published.

Mindfulness Workshop at SSSC

In term 3, renowned mental health practitioner Linda Howie will be administering a series of Mindfulness workshops at Swinburne Senior Secondary College. Running during lunchtimes over the course of five weeks, students will get the chance to learn simple techniques to help them manage emotions and improve concentration and performance. The workshops are free but places are strictly limited to 15 students, so please contact your mentor ASAP to register interest in the workshop.

Marcus Laging
Assistant Welfare Manager

Business Chef Challenge 2015

Year 12 Business Management students cooked off against each other in teams to learn Operations Management practically. Their brief was to plan, organise, lead and control an operation of preparing 3 serves of either an entrée, mains or desert of their choice within a double period for a panel of judges. The planning was done prior to the event where they prepared a materials requirement plan, chose an Operations Manager, assigned individual roles and sourced their materials.

On the day, they organised themselves into a workflow and focussed on producing the output to a satisfactory standard. The judges Michael O Brien, Robert Lewkowicz, Gail Bailey, Mike McKenzie, Marcus Laging and Viv Hogan were an enthusiastic bunch and seemed to enjoy the experience as they requested doggie packs for the staffroom! The winners were awarded movie tickets and a wooden spoon.

Team MJS with Jacob Jensen, Sacha Allen and Maddi Cammock and their multi layered Danish desert in a glass-“Abelskiver” in one class and Team Gordon Ramsay with Serena Hines, Ellie Phillips, Bec Garita and Richard Stevens and their “Pork dumplings in Asian style broth “ in another class were declared the Business Chef 2015 winners. This was an experiment to try and get students to understand operations management concepts practically.

Gita Menon
Business Management Teacher
Work-Related Skills Structured Workplace Learning Placements 2015
This year the VCAL Work Related Skills students successfully completed their Structured Workplace Learning placements.


In Yakult, the factory management took us on a tour to see the various stages of their production process from plastic bottle moulding to the fully automated assembly line filling, labelling, capping and packing 350,000 bottles in a shift.

The students got a chance to see a fully automated production line controlled by a computerised control panel and the productivity of three workers on the shop floor controlling the filling and labelling of 350,000 bottles a day. They saw a video on Yakult’s operations from production to distribution. Students learnt about the Japanese patent on the lactobacillus strain of bacteria that is an input into the health drink and sampled two varieties of the drink, the light version and the normal one.

While visiting the quality control lab, they had a preview of the stringent quality procedures adopted by Yakult to ensure their drink was up to international standards.

At Swisse, students met with the HR Manager who explained how they offer flexible work practices to their employees in the form of flexi time, mediation sessions, working from home and multi skilling so people could job share and rotate amongst roles. The organisation is focussed on the health and wellbeing of their employees as they want them to “celebrate life everyday”, which is their motto.

The VCAL staff would like to thank the following for their wonderful support: IMVC Lisa White & Siobhan McCuskey, Gail Bailey and parents.

Belinda Alexandrovics and Leroy Appleton
VCAL Work Related Skills Teachers

Industry and Enterprise and Business Management students interact with industry
In the month of May, Business Management and Industry and Enterprise students went to the Yakult factory and the Swisse Head Office to see operations management, quality flexibility and workplace learning in action.
Business Management students also understood the value of being socially responsible and ethical in their operations when Annalise De Mel, from Oxfam Australia, visited the classroom to explain the concept of fairtrade sourcing.

These excursions and incursions are part of the Business Management and Industry and Enterprise study unit where students complete a research task based on an organisation they profile.

Gita Menon
Industry and Enterprise Teacher

Careers Expo
A fantastic response to our annual Careers Expo resulted in over 200 people attending on Thursday 18 June. Thank you to our team of Careers and Pathways Advisors, Tracy McCallum, Emily Barnes, Annelyn Bolle and Jackie Love for organizing the event. Twenty seven tertiary institutions operated a stand at the event.

Back to Kinder
On Tuesday the 23rd of June, our year 11 English class visited Renown Kindergarten in South Yarra. We were greeted by Dr. Karen Grubb, who reassured us that the children were just as nervous as we were. The environment, though familiar, felt incredible foreign. Karen introduced us to the 4-5 year old “Wombat” group and we all waited to be paired up with a child. The pairings were at the child’s discretion; it was quite awkward and nerve-racking – and humorous –to have children barely taller than knee-height picking and choosing from a group of out-of-place teenagers. One by one, however, each child paired themselves up with a Swinburne student and our research task began.

The purpose of this excursion was to study the unique child language acquisition process that we have been studying this term. By visiting the kinder we were given a remarkable first-hand opportunity to observe real-time language acquisition in children of that age group. The data we obtained is to be transcribed and analysed to develop our understanding of the vocabulary and grammar of the age group we interacted with.

Overall, this excursion was an incredible experience. Most of us felt quite nostalgic about our childhoods, and I think in the end having the time to indulge in childhood play was both educational and therapeutic.

By Zac Peters
Photos by SSSC English Language teacher Meiki Apted