From the Principal’s Desk
Later this afternoon, students, parents and guardians will be able to access comprehensive semester one reports on Compass School Manager.

Over the past week I have read countless reports that detail the varied work that our students are completing day in, day out. I have been impressed by the high level of commitment that has been demonstrated and the corresponding high level of performance across a range of studies.

Once again there is a direct correlation between students’ attendance in class and the level of performance in their chosen studies. High levels of attendance more often than not equates to high levels of performance.

Congratulations to all students on reaching the half way mark of the year and I look forward to your continued improvement over the last half of the year.

Breakfast
For term 3, students will be able to get a free breakfast at the school canteen between 8:00 and 8:40am. Students will be able to select two items from a wide range of healthy options. We understand that many of our students skip breakfast in a rush to catch trains to get to school. It is hoped that this initiative will set them up for a more productive morning in class.

I sincerely hope that all members of the Swinburne Senior community have a great break and I look forward to seeing everyone back and well rested on Monday 11 July.

Michael O’Brien
Principal

Assistant Principal’s News
June has been a busy period for students. They have just completed their mid-year practice exams for the all the English’s and the VCAA General Achievement Test (the GAT). I congratulate all students for the manner in which they approached these exams. Semester one reports will be uploaded on Compass and available to parents at the end of term, Friday 24 June.

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 from tertiary institutions.

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 19 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 10 August from 3:30pm-8:00pm. Appointments will be made through Compass School Manager.

Approving student absences
Many families are using the option of explaining their child’s absences online using Compass, which can be done in advance or retrospectively. Please continue to provide the College with explanations for student absences, either by emailing through Compass or contacting their child’s Mentor.

I wish you all a safe term break.

Robert Lewkowicz
Assistant Principal

Adobe Youth Voices Program
As part of the Australian Teachers of Media international conference to be held in Melbourne during the holidays, a selection of video works from Victorian schools will be shown on the big screen at Federation Square. We congratulate Lucien Perry, Pollyanna Redding and Spencer Griffiths on being chosen. The works were produced as part of the Adobe Youth Voices Program last year.
Jo Flack
*Media Teacher*

**From the Year 12 Manager’s Office**

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 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 Manager*

**Musicians At Play**

Over the last two Tuesday evenings of the term students undertaking a music study produced remarkable performances. Congratulations to the performers, the VET Technical Production students and our wonderful team of music teachers.
Outside-In Zine
Swinburne students have always been creative and we are looking for interested people to help produce this year’s OUTSIDE-IN STUDENT ZINE. The title Outside-In has been taken from a former Swinburne student publication in the 1990s. We are looking to launch this year’s publication in late 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, please 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.

Please see Joel Guye for further information.

Swinburne Senior Secondary College
Outside-In Zine
A student publication for students

We are looking for Contributors!

DO YOU WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN PUBLISHING THE ZINE?

Did you just write an awesome imaginative piece for English or Literature?

Have you got any of your own creative works that you would like to get published?

Are you an artist, musician, cartoonist or poet who would like to promote their works, gigs and/or exhibitions?

Please email Joel Guye at guye.joel.d@edumail.vic.gov.au if you're interested.

Reflection and Feedback
The last weeks of the semester have been tough for everyone. It is an unfortunate fact of life that there is no way around this, the courses must be taught before they can be assessed and for all involved-students, teachers and families this has meant a period of intense effort. How students coped with this pressure, in part, determined their outcomes and now after all work has been completed and Semester Two work begins to ramp up, it is important to pause and reflect on successes and failures in work practices. We want students to build on the factors that led to success and put strategies in place to avoid making the same mistakes next semester.

John Hattie, Professor of Education and Director of the Melbourne Education Research Institute at the University of Melbourne, on whose research the college bases its approach to teaching and learning, provides a neat set of guidelines that can help students organise themselves to achieve their goals in each semester. Termed the ‘three feedback questions’, this tool can be used in every class throughout the semester but can also be useful in helping students organise themselves to complete work smarter in the future.

For each subject students ask themselves:
1. Where am I going? What are my goals?
2. How am I going? What progress is being made towards the goal?
3. Where to next? What activities need to be undertaken to make better progress?

The answers to the feedback questions help students to see the place of individual tasks within the bigger picture of the unit and the progress that has already been made. Their answer to each and in particular to question three allows students to set out a plan for completing their workload in an organised manner.

Once students have a sense of where they have been, what needs to be done and how long each task will take they should create a daily planner for term three with specific homework listed for each period of study. When they have completed each planned hour or a task is complete students should reward themselves with the pleasure of crossing it off the list. Over the semester the list will certainly grow but then, by methodically working
through it, the list it will become shorter and students will come to value this organised approach.

There will be some long weeks in term three, SATs and assessment tasks for Year 12 will all be completed by the September holidays and this can be, at times, overwhelming for some. Our advice is to use the July holidays to get ahead and take the pressure off. Sometimes students take false comfort in catastrophising their situation. Such behaviour is not helpful. Family members can help their young person by grounding them in reality. Yes the workload is large but it is achievable and there is certainty in the satisfaction they will have knowing they got through it.

In the meantime, students and their families should enjoy the term break, do a bit of work, relax and reward themselves. It has been a long term.

Jo Flack
School Improvement Manager

Off To Barwon Prison
On Wednesday 15 June, Hugh Glenn took his Year 11 and 12 Legal Studies students on the annual Barwon Prison excursion. Students entered the prison’s visitor centre and had the opportunity to speak with two inmates on the day.

The students challenged the inmates, asking probing questions about their crimes and life within the prison. All students behaved maturely and gained valuable insights into Victoria’s legal system. It was a great day.

Why We’ll Never Escape the American Dream: how it came to simultaneously shape a nation

If you’ve ever seen a Norman Rockwell painting, you’ll easily be able to identify it as the personification of the American Dream—the driving force that beats our American hearts. Rockwell’s nostalgic paintings depict a sugar-sweet world of white picket fences, fanciful milkshake bars and the loving nuclear family. In 2016, many may dismiss Rockwell’s work as an idyllic memory of the past—a hark back to simpler times yet the American Dream, in its current form, is not so easy to escape as it pervades every level of American society.

Created in a post-World War II 1950s America, the American Dream was the commendable idea that if you work hard and play by the rules you can make a better life for yourself and your family. Perhaps the greatest literary testament to the unattainability of the American Dream is the desolate and babbling Willy Loman, from the 1949 classic Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller. Somewhere along the way, the American Dream became inextricably linked to material items. Thus, in Willy’s eyes happiness was equivalent to wealth and popularity. Willy, unwittingly, was part of the problem that a consumerist era had created for the American Dream. Loman lived a paradoxical existence selling items he could never afford; a characteristic so deeply embedded in the American Psyche that it prevails to this day.

In the late 1900s, the American Dream became a marketing technique used by media developers and the government. Suddenly, with the rise of Hollywood, the American Dream became synonymous with fame and fortune, instead of the promise of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness that shaped a nation. When people began linking happiness to material gain the American Dream came to represent a new set of American values carefully constructed by the government, corporations and the media that to this day remain unescapable.

The American Dream encouraged people to want, to strive for better, without warning that it is attainable for only a select few. In 2011, three years after the Global Financial Crisis that rocked the world, a CNN poll found that 63% of those surveyed considered the American Dream to be unachievable. “We, as Americans, have been raised to believe that anything is possible” Dr. Clark Danphry, a historian at Brown University states, arguing that “we are constantly seeing, in the media, a construction of what we should strive for, whether it’s a fancy car, larger home, better body, we can never escape the reality that has been created for us.” Perhaps this is why so many Americans (a whopping 78% have been affected by depression in the last two years) are so unhappy. “When the American Dream first rose to prominence, it established this idea that anyone who can work, can work” economist Kelly Sutton says. “But nowadays, work is incredibly difficult to find, with 6.7 million Americans working part time, but wanting more.” It’s work that simply isn’t there.

This has made it significantly harder for individuals to pay off their debts. When asked, people aged 18-30 said, “I had to take out so many loans so I could go to a good university, to get a good job and have a better life. But now I’m here and my debt is crushing me and I work as a bartender.” This just goes to show the everlasting and cyclical nature of the American Dream and the values it
The American Dream is so deeply embedded in American society that the traditional ideals it established are still what Americans strive for despite crushing debt getting in the way.

When Willy Loman takes his own life, he was escaping his failures, escaping the reality of a dream he never quite achieved. Ironically, the final payment on his mortgage was made shortly after his death. What Willy failed to realise was that the American Dream represents opportunity for each but within the constraints of one’s own abilities. Through parental influence and societal expectations, each generation has expected more than their predecessors, without recognising what is necessary to achieve the seemingly within reach goals established by the American Dream.

It is clear now that the American Dream morphs to fit the current hopes and desires of American society. It’s why Apple debuts a new iPhone each year, or why the Kardashians have become America’s new “first family”, emblazoned on billboards and popping up in our newsfeeds daily. What is less apparent is if it is possible to escape the consumerist reality the American Dream has come to represent and the institutions that have capitalised on an unattainable aspiration. Perhaps this was the purpose of the American Dream all along; to trap Americans in a cycle of overwhelming debt and the simultaneous desire for more. Can we ever really escape the American Dream and all that it represents? I doubt it. Maybe the real question we should ask ourselves is, will we continue to delude ourselves with a reality so heavily influenced by others, or will we come to represent the America our forefathers envisioned; a nation of liberty and justice for all?

You can decide for yourself. I have an iPhone to buy.

Vera Boylen
Year 12

Noises Off A Great Success
This year’s school production, “Noises Off” was a great success playing to packed audiences over the three nights.

Congratulations to Mark Bailey and his talented students in Theatre Studies on producing such a high quality show.

The play season was well supported by our VCAL students who ran the Box Office and Candy Bar.

Fun Day
Check out the images from our annual Fun Day on Friday 24 June. Congratulations to the SRC for their magnificent organization. A considerable sum of money was raised for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre.