From the Principal’s Desk

Having now reached the mid-point of this term, it is clear that for our Year 12 students, the finishing line is in sight. As you may gather from other articles in this newsletter, the next five weeks of this term are incredibly important for all students.

For students enrolled in VCE Unit 4 studies there is the realization that they are entering into the final stages of their coursework. This can mean that students feel some sense of relief and achievement that their formal secondary schooling is coming to an end. More importantly they should be thinking about pulling everything that they have learned throughout the year together and in many ways, becoming experts in their particular studies.

Making good use of their time over the next weeks will be incredibly important as students move into the revision period where they will be expected to show that they have learnt how to learn. Teachers will be devoting a significant amount of time to working with their students to prepare them for the upcoming external examinations in November. It is a great time for students to make the decision to attend on Wednesdays in order to maximize the access to their teachers’ expertise.

Personally speaking, I am really looking forward to seeing just how far our Year 12 students have come this year. I understand that we have a wonderful group of highly talented young people and I expect them to perform well in their examinations. Just how well will depend on the commitment that is made by each student to producing their very best.

Michael O’Brien
Principal

Assistant Principal’s News

Semester two is well underway with students completing many SACs (School Assessed Coursework) and for the folio subjects, substantial work on their SATs (School Assessed Task).

The Parent Teacher Interviews that were held last week, offered an opportunity for teachers to meet with parents and take account of where students are at and how well this aligns with their further study aspirations moving forward.

Tracy McCallam, our Pathways/Careers Advisor, has been working hard looking at 2017 pathways for our students, including applications through VTAC for university degrees and TAFE diploma courses. The Careers Expo late last semester was a successful event where a number of university staff attended and outlined course programs and requirements for entry.

Everyone dressed to impress at this year’s school formal with over 420 students attending at Leonda by the River. This event was a great success. We had photo booths, great music and lots of dancing. I would like to thank everyone who participated to make the evening such a memorable one.

All photographs taken on the night are accessible on the Happy Medium website. www.happymedium.com.au or through the colleges website.

Robert Lewkowicz
Assistant Principal

From the Year 12 Manager’s Office

Term 3 is flying by. For many Year 12 Students they are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel as their Unit 4 studies start to begin their final Outcomes. This is a time where students cannot afford to be complacent. This is a time when students should be pushing themselves to the finish line.

I have been thoroughly impressed with the work ethic of many of our Year 12 Students. The students who are on top of their studies are attending consistently and utilising coursework to challenge their thinking and skills. However, there are some students who are not reaching their full potential at this stage. I would like these particular students to reflect on their practices and make the necessary changes to their approaches to their school work to ensure that they can achieve personal success before the end of the school year. Some students are putting their VCE or VCAL at risk because they are making the wrong choices and not applying themselves in the right manner.

I look forward to seeing the many hours of hard work that our students put into their studies showcased in their upcoming SACs and Assessments. I can’t wait to see all the work on display at our annual Arts Show. I recommend all members of the Swinburne Senior Secondary College community to attend the event, or
view the students’ work at our Open Day on Sunday 16 October.

I wish everybody the best of luck for the rest of Term 3.

Joel Guye
Year 12 Manager

**Swinburne Wellbeing Sessions**

Throughout semester two the welfare department in conjunction with the Boroondara youth network has been putting on a variety of wellbeing sessions. These sessions have run both at lunchtime and during some class times. The sessions are being run by Kate Wilde, an experienced youth worker with extensive mental health training. Topics covered include: managing exam stress, avoiding avoidance, positive relationships and working through conflict. Students are treated to a small afternoon tea in these sessions. Sessions are free for students to attend and places are strictly limited.

The wellbeing sessions have been well received by the student body and are increasing in popularity. If students are interested in participating in future sessions, then they can get in contact with Elizabeth or Marcus in welfare to sign up. Don’t miss out on this amazing opportunity!

*Marcus Laging and Elizabeth Reardon*
Welfare Managers

**NGV’s ‘200 Years of Australian Fashion’**

Year 11 Fashion and Textiles students attended the NGV exhibition of ‘200 years of Australian Fashion’ earlier this term. This was a wonderful extensive exhibition at Federation square, set up to celebrate AUSTRALIAN STYLE through the last 200 years.

It was a great opportunity to see just how far our Australian Fashion culture had grown. From Colonial Sydney, a simple empire line dress of a teenager from 1805 to the more contemporary wearable designers like Ellery, students were taken on a journey through the decades.

Music and layout set the scene of each decade and from all accounts it was thoroughly enjoyed. The chatter on the way back to class was contagious and full of renewed passion for fashion and textiles.

Hopefully students will now use this to draw inspiration for future folios and artworks.

*Amanda Nunn*
Fashion and Textiles Teacher

**As the going gets tough, perseverance is the key**

With only a few weeks until the September holidays the workload is building up in all classes. The pressure is on to meet deadlines and prepare for assessment. At times like this young people can begin to doubt themselves and worry about whether they are up to the task. The good news, to use a sporting analogy, is that although the game can be tough as we move through the third quarter and head towards the finals, everyone here at Swinburne is on the same team, teachers and students are all going for personal bests. Over the next few weeks as teachers continue to develop knowledge and skills we also act as coaches, trainers, therapists and cheerleaders as we prepare our students to shine.

We know that every student is different and that what motivates one may not work for another. Students notice that teachers employ different techniques for each student, carefully assessing students’ form in terms of preferred approaches to work and the type of learning, revision and consolidation of skills that best suits each individual. Some respond best to drill and repetition, others need structured notes whilst many enjoy the challenge of practice exam questions or a creative approach where they are take the opportunity to
synthesise and apply knowledge across different areas of study or even different subjects. What is important is that students know that teachers will do everything to find the key to each student’s learning. But while teachers are on the team, they are not the players, our job is to send students on to the field match ready. What is it that students need to know as they train?

Research tells us that the greatest attribute that students can employ at this time is perseverance. Yes, it can be tough and the game does not always go according to plan but perseverance will develop skills to see it through. The importance of deliberate practice cannot be underestimated. As the slogan says, just do it. And do it again, and do it until it can be done without thought then add the next level of complexity and do it again. Expertise in anything is a process.

Angela Duckworth, author of the highly acclaimed text ‘Grit’ explains the process in this highly engaging podcast: http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/bigideas/thepower-of-grit-why-hard-work-is-more-important-than-talent/7641876

And just in case you think that all a young person needs is grit, be aware that we all possess grit at different levels. You may like to test yours by doing Duckworth’s grit test online: http://angeladuckworth.com/grit-scale/ The results serve as a point of reflection rather than anything else but this reflection can be helpful in preparing your young person for their personal best.

Over the next few weeks some students will find themselves flagging. It is the parents’ role to cut those half time oranges and provide the sustenance they need to gather the energy to finish the game in the best possible form. If you have any questions about how to help your young person, ask his or her mentor.

Jo Flack
School Improvement Manager

My USB Finance Academy Experience

During the first week of this term, I along with 49 other students from Victoria, New South Wales and the ACT were lucky enough to attend the UBS Finance Academy for 2016. The UBS Finance Academy is run by the Union Bank of Switzerland and is a five day, fully paid program which focuses on finance, life as a corporate businessman and also presentation skills.

The application process wasn’t too lengthy, but it outlined basically how the week would run and how I would benefit from attending. Finding out I was going was really exciting although I didn’t really know what to expect at the same time. By the end of it, I was so glad I applied for it.

The majority of our time was spent at Chifley Tower, which is where UBS is located in Sydney’s CBD. Throughout the course of the week, a lot of different workshops were conducted in regards to Finance and also Personal Learning. It was great to see how many different areas you could excel in within the industry of Finance.

A highlight of my week was visiting Stone and Chalk – a small business incubator. Stone and Chalk is essentially a place where start-up entrepreneurs can work out of and receive expert advice and networking opportunities. For me it was extremely rewarding hearing the stories of these entrepreneurs and seeing what motivated them to chase down their goals.

The academy also allowed us to see the cultural side of Sydney, including the Sydney Harbour Bridge and a visit to the New South Wales Art Gallery, where we met with the CFO Mr John Wicks. Alongside cultural experiences, a lot of friendships were made throughout the week with plenty of like-minded people. For me, this was one of the most rewarding outcomes of the whole trip.

I would like to thank Gita for giving me the opportunity to apply.

Jackson Simpson Nicholson
Year 11
Castles Made of Sand

The wind bit at his skin as he stood outside in the aftermath of the argument. “Rose, please!” No answer. Suddenly self-conscious, he looked around. Could the neighbours hear? There was no sign of anyone on the neatly mown lawns, or peering through the windows of the uniform, blocky houses. Everything looked the same as it always did. The houses stretched like mirror images of each other, down the street and round the corner. Not a blade of grass was out of place.

And yet… The clouds seemed to rush along in the darkening sky, late for an appointment. The wind buffeted him angrily, making it hard to stay upright in his drunken state. It whistled hollowly along the deserted street. He felt deflated. All the life had left him.

He began to wander down to the beach. Something told him this was the end. They wouldn’t be the same again. That thought was too much to bear. They had been through too much to end it like this.

He remembered that day at the beach. A bit like this one. Wind caressing their skin. Waves breaking in a calmly consistent manner against the shore. It had been just after the attempt. They had gone together to talk about their relationship, cast in a new pall by the incident. Rose’s chair had made tracks in the sand. They had sat, drawing pictures in the sand with sticks, and she had told him everything. How the kids at school had tormented her for years. “Retard Rose,” they had called her. They had laughed. She had retorted with a smile, the way she tucked her hair bookishly behind her ear. He heard her voice, singing Nick Drake as she got ready for work, or laughing at one of his terrible jokes. He remembered the time they had raced down his driveway. He had let her win, and he well remembered her knowing smile as he had feigned defeat. That had been one of his happiest moments.

His throat was constricting now, and it wasn’t just that he was holding his breath. He felt, suddenly, more alive than ever. He began to fight his way to the surface. For a moment, he thought it was too late. Just as he couldn’t hold his breath in any longer, his head broke the water. He breathed in the air in great gasps, and began to swim towards land. He reached the edge of the beach, and leapt up onto the footpath. He began to notice how different everything looked. He could see small differences in all the houses—an oddly coloured brick here, a flower garden there. Their formerly drab facades now burst with personality.

Reaching his own house, he felt a swell of anxious affection. He wanted to wrap his arms around it, and stay there forever. He turned the door handle and rushed inside. Everything was dark. Rose must have gone to bed. He went to the kitchen. The slab he kept in the fridge was still there. He stood looking at it for a while. He felt the cold light of the moon shine through the window. Seaweed brushed his leg.

He and Rose, roles reversed now. What would she think when they found him the next morning? Would she be upset? Their life together flashed before him. He saw her smile, the way she tucked her hair bookishly behind her ear. He heard her voice, singing Nick Drake as she got ready for work, or laughing at one of his terrible jokes. He remembered the time they had raced down his driveway. He had let her win, and he well remembered her knowing smile as he had feigned defeat. That had been one of his happiest moments.

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Castles Made of Sand

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The tide was getting higher. He was up to his waist now. He waited impatiently for the water to rise over his head, to take him away from the pain. Then, all at once he was under. The cold light of the moon shone through the water. Seaweed brushed his leg.

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Ishan Morris-Gray

Year 12 Literature
BusinessChef Challenge 2016

Given the MasterChef fever, Year 12 Business Management students cooked off against each other in teams to learn Operations Management practically with BusinessChef 2016. Their brief was to plan, organise, lead and control an operation of preparing 3 serves of either an entrée, mains or dessert 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. Well done to all of them—they showed great teamwork, efficient transformation processes, and delicious output. Their inputs were also mostly within budget so they maintained good cost control. I did see a few Plan B’s kick in but that shows creativity and adaptability to change.

The judges Fifi Rousseau, Ian Penn, Mark Parkes, Danni Bunker, Hugh Glenn and Belinda Alexandrovics 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. The winners in the first batch were "Churro balls with ice cream" by Tess Amy (the creative one according to one judge), Khoder Abdulrahman (man in the middle) and Teagan Woodgate (Team Leader)—a team that had to improvise as they went along as everything did not go as per plan!

The winners in the second team were the dramatic "Melting balls"—(more like wrecking balls as they burst balloons to unravel their dish!) by Rhys Nicolaou (the theatrical one), Max Anderson (Team leader) and Naomi Moseshvili (the quiet worker).

This was an experiment to try and get students to understand operations management concepts practically.

Gita Menon
Business Management Teacher