FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I thought I would share my comments from our welcome to new families on Tuesday evening.

It is lovely to have you and your families with us tonight as you join our school community. Congratulations on your success through the audition and interview process and all the hard work you have put in leading up to this point of your lives.

I want to make a very special welcome to second year intake of the Theatre Arts Program students. You join with 350 other Specialist students, hardworking, gifted and talented students in our exciting new program – you take us to full strength. I also want to welcome the Gymnastic Victoria Girls who re-join us in 2017.

Our school was founded in 1978 to be a dance and music school because a tertiary institution, The Victorian College of the Arts, wanted that. Our vision since independence in 2009 has been to be an amazing school in the arts that is interested in creating viable arts careers in a student’s chosen field, or a tertiary course of their choice. Our school now includes the Visual Arts (2013) and Theatre Arts (2016). The Theatre Arts students join a program that completes my vision for our school. We know you will fit in very well in our school, but that an amazing experience awaits you. For each student regardless of your program we respect and understand the efforts you have put in so far. You already know the effort that is needed to be successful, over the next years we will see how far you can take it.

As a school we have judged the VCASS dance and music students to have a talent that may be able to be trained further, we auditioned over 350 people and about 60 students have gained entry.

As a school we have judged the VCASS visual arts students to have a talent that may be able to be developed further, we will have 36 people in that program in 2017.

As a school we have judged the VCASS Theatre Arts students to have a talent that may be able to be developed further, we have 32 people in that program next year.

As well as meeting the needs of VCASS students our school is also the academic provider to other highly gifted young people from the Australian Ballet School and Gymnasts Victoria. We have found that this affiliation with these organisations has suited the culture of our school and the students from all organisations work together well – creating a vibrant school community.

Our school is unique, offering opportunities to combine their specialist training needs with a high quality education from Year 7 through to Year 12. We offer our own certificate, the VCE and VET Certificates. When you leave here you can decide to pursue your Specialist pathway or follow an alternative academic pathway. This school is absolutely committed to both. Since 2014 we have been in the top schools in the state for VCE achievement. Students in our school have multiple options when they finish. Our Academic Program sits proudly next to our Arts Specialisms and we feel they complement each other more each year. You will certainly get the best of us in that area.

Our school has a very special culture, it is an artistic and caring community and we celebrate that in all we do. My personal vision is that as staff and students walk up the stairs each morning they feel excited to be here. That will give us an incredible advantage at the start of each day.

I think the term ‘high expectations and high care’ represents well our attitude. We have very high expectations of commitment from our students, not only to their specialist area but also to their academic studies. We are strongly of the view that it is important for our young artists to become broad and thinking performing artists who can take advantage of all the opportunities available and be adaptable learners over their lives. We offer a complete program and students are expected to aim for excellence in all parts of it. I am also of the view that the busier you are and the harder you work the more you achieve.

Our academic provision works because we believe in education but also know how to support specialist training, we understand the hours of work it requires and are there for you.

There is opportunity here that is unique; it is sitting here waiting for you to take advantage of it. What you take from it will be up to you but I hope you have a sense of that – this is the big thing in our school—welcome to our community.

COLIN SIMPSON
ACADEMIC

Ava Grimshaw-Hall becomes the story!

Usually when a teacher sets an assignment they have a fair idea what the finished product will look like.

Occasionally, though, you’re left with nothing to say but ‘Wow!’ with what students come up with.

That happened this week when year 11 Media students were asked to interview a media professional and write a Q and A about what they do.

When Ava Grimshaw-Hall, a Theatre Arts student, interviewed Dean Beck, a radio host at Joy FM, the station was so impressed by her enthusiasm and interest in the station they decided to turn her visit into a story of their own.

As you can see below, with their story on Ava’s visit on their website and podcast, Ava is now a media star in her own right.

The purpose of the assignment was to give students an insight into how media organisations run and a better idea of what media professionals do.

It’s fair to say Ava met the brief – and then some!

On assignment - Ava Grimshaw-Hall with Dean Beck

October 7, 2016 by Dean

Ava Grimshaw-Hall is a country girl who moved to Melbourne this year to study at the Victorian College of the Arts High School. One of Ava’s assignments was to conduct an interview with someone who works in the media to gain insight into the media industry and experience a media organisation in operation first hand.

Join Ava as she talks to JOY 94.9 Broadcast and Producer, Dean Beck who has been delivering three diverse radio programs each week, for over seven years. Discover how Australia’s only LGBTQI radio station operates as Dean takes Ava on a tour of the station. Then the tables turn on JOY 94.9’s most experienced interviewer when he becomes the guest and Ava asks the questions.


LEE CROSSLEY,
HEAD OF ENGLISH AND YEAR 11 MEDIA TEACHER

Parents & Friends News

What a pleasure it was to welcome so many excited new families at the New Family Information night on Tuesday. PFA committee members Christobel, Anna, Kevin and Janine were there offering a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit, answering questions and meeting the talented new students and their lovely parents. (Thanks to Janine Sheehan for donating the box of quality tea & coffee supplies.)

In November we will be holding a Champagne and Canapés party to thank the teaching and support staff and we’d like to see as many parents there as possible, both to show our appreciation and to contribute to the end-of-year party atmosphere. Year 12 families in particular will be interested in taking up this opportunity. Please keep an eye out on Compass for the notice and trybooking link.

The Facebook VCASS 2017 Year 7 Parents page is now up and running and we had 6 members before we even announced the page at the information night! You can also spread the word if you know of any new parents.

New parents in other year levels are also welcome to join our current pages for the relevant year, e.g.: VCASS 2016 Year 7 Parents is for parents of children entering year 8 in 2017.

We have a number of interesting projects in the pipeline and we always appreciate hearing your views at our meetings. Our next meeting will be on the 8th of November at 6.30pm in the mezzanine area of the Malthouse Theatre. You can get a $5 drink from the bar if you arrive before 6.30 and the kitchen is usually open for dinner, which you are welcome to consume at the meeting. Our friendly executive committee members are two Music and two Dance parents from three different year levels and we would love to see you there!

CHRISTOBEL SAY,
PRESIDENT OF PFA

Incorporating “What’s on”

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Philosophy Incursion with Dr Edwin Coleman

On Tuesday 4 October, retired University Philosophy Lecturer Dr Edwin Coleman gave a seminar and discussed Immanuel Kant's theory on Aesthetics ("what is considered 'beauty' in the Arts?") with students as part of the Unit 2 Philosophy Curriculum. Students created a Philosophy Journal entry and made the following reflections on the session:

“I found Dr Coleman’s seminar really interesting….My mind feels at its best when it is churning through this kind of philosophy, it’s quite exhilarating having your mind work this way.”

“I think this way of tracking arguments, of finding premises and where they link is really helpful. I think Kant is right in that a person's idea of ‘beauty’ cannot be expected to be shared with others if self-interest is involved.”

“Dr Coleman did a very good job of explaining through pulling the argument’s ideas sentence by sentence. I think Kant is intriguing and I’d love to get to know more about his writings and attempt to do the same breaking apart sentence by sentence!”

In addition to VCASS classes, Philosophy students have had two seminars this year from Dr Coleman as well as attending a Philosophy Conference with a variety of Philosophy experts and students have made great progress in expressing themselves logically, precisely and argumentatively!

**MS SARAH COLEMAN,**
**VCE PHILOSOPHY TEACHER**

Excursion announcement

Year 9 Humanities Excursion to Williamstown, Tuesday 25 October.
Please return permission forms and money to the office if you have not already done so.
Please ask Ms Richards, Ms Robinson, Ms Oliva or Mr Thorne for more information.

**MS ROSEMARY RICHARDS,**
**HUMANITIES COORDINATOR AND YEAR 9 TEACHER**

MUSIC

Melbourne Recital Centre presents

VCASS friend Caroline Almonte has invited students to take advantage of the Rush price of $15 for her upcoming duet concert.

**Virtuoso 2- ‘A Homage to my Ancestors’**
Matthew Fagan (Guitar) - Caroline Almonte (Piano)
BEETHOVEN – VIVALDI – RODRIGO - ALBENIZ

All students are always welcome to the student rush price of $15 immediately prior to the concert.

**Venue:** Melbourne Recital Centre - Salon
**Date:** Monday 7th November
**Time:** 6 pm (1hr no interval)
**Tickets:** $39/$29 Concession/ Student rush price of $15

**Online Direct link:**

**KIM BEISSEL,**
**MUSIC ADMIN**