

From The Principal



I was honoured to attend the regional launch of the Murrung Program. This departmental initiative aims to not only close the gap of achievement for young Aboriginal children but also take them further, generating real and lasting success. This ten year plan is inspirational.

I believe all Australians should get behind this plan and celebrate our first peoples.

From the Department of Education and Training

Our Vision

Victoria will be a State where the rich and thriving culture, knowledge and experience of our First Nations peoples are celebrated by all Victorians; where our universal service systems are inclusive, responsive and respectful of Koorie people at every stage of their learning and development journey; and where every Koorie person achieves their potential, succeeds in life, and feels strong in their cultural identity.

"The Victorian Government, through the Department of Education and Training, has worked with the Victorian Koorie community to develop Marrung. The Government has listened and has heard. Marrung sets out a 10 year vision and identifies the significant actions its achievement. From this plan there will be some ground-breaking change."

Geraldine Atkinson
President
Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated

"Marrung is a long-term plan designed to achieve an aspirational vision to deliver the ambitious Education State targets and will underpin Victoria's strong and steadfast commitment to close the gap in educational outcomes between Koorie and non-Koorie Victorians."

The Hon James Merlino
Deputy Premier
Minister for Education

I believe it is useful for all of us to know of these efforts and the wonderful common good work that is being undertaken to address key issues holding back young Aboriginal Australians from achieving their potential.



Tonight is the graduation of the Class of 2016. I am honoured to be able to speak to these young people as they finish their formal secondary schooling and move on to the next phase of their life. This year I will be speaking more broadly about a life in the arts and offering them some of my personal insights. This is the first time I have done this. I will share the transcript of my comments with you next week.

I get reflective towards the end of the year and the Theatre Arts Program Year 11 End of Year Performances have given me much to think about. I had a powerful conversation Wednesday night with year 12 students Alec, Jasmin, Kim and Alessia after the Theatre Arts Program performances. Alec reflected on how he was leaving the school when the new program was starting and how he would like to have been in the school and watch it for longer. I reflected to them about several things, my great optimism in young people and the opportunities ahead. Last night I realised that the longstanding outstanding Academic, Dance and Music school, that was also now an outstanding Visual Arts school – just could easily be an outstanding school for acting, performance and theatre crafts. The three performances—SL*T, X-STACY and *A Property of the Clan* were all challenging works that explored the underbelly of Australian society. The content was challenging for the audience and the players, and the tears and strong emotion felt by the audience was palpable. This is full credit to our theatre students—our developing young actors—who took us with them on the performance journey but ultimately sold us the work. I was very proud of them and I want to thank them for the experience they created for us. My sincere thanks to Head of Theatre Arts Chris Button, teachers Goran Banyai, Tanya Mitford and Rachel Sztanski. At the start of the Visual Arts Program I asked in this newsletter—Do we have a VA Program and answered Hell Yeah. Do we have a Theatre Arts Program—HELL YEAH.

Congratulations to students Indyana Kippin and Audrey Witmore for being accepted into the Successful Class of 2018 Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program at The University of Melbourne.

COLIN SIMPSON

ACADEMIC

ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS, STAFF AND PARENTS!

VCASS is running a food drive to collect food for OzHarvest. Donate non-perishable food to OzHarvest.

You may wish to consider donating Christmas foods such as puddings, biscuits and other non-perishable foods that individuals and families could enjoy at Christmas.

About OzHarvest

OzHarvest is the first perishable food rescue organisation in Australia collecting quality excess food from commercial outlets and delivering it, direct and free of charge, to more than 800 charities providing much needed assistance to vulnerable men, women and children across Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Gold Coast, Melbourne, Newcastle and Perth as well as regional areas through their REAP food rescue programme.

OzHarvest is a leader in addressing food security and education through their innovative nutrition education sustenance training program NEST and hospitality training programme Nourish assisting vulnerable Australians and disadvantaged youth.

OzHarvest's vision is to Nourish Our Country and we do this under the pillars of Food Rescue, Education and Engagement. We are lean and mean and have a proven track record. They have delivered more than 40 million meals, rescued over 14 million kilos of food and donated it to over 800 agencies servicing people in need. They rely completely on donations from philanthropic businesses and individuals to keep our operations running.

A collection trolley is set up in the foyer.

From: Wednesday 16th November 2016
Until: 16th December 2016

End of year programme 2016

It's that time of year again where we are looking forward to the last few weeks of school. Staff have already begun designing an exciting educational alternate programme for your child for the final weeks of the school year. As I handed out the permission forms to students last week it was so pleasing to see them excited about the end of year programme.

In week 10 (5 Dec - 9 Dec) students will be involved in subject based activities, with some requiring materials that will require payment towards purchasing those materials. Dance, Gym and ABS will attend the programme during normal academic time. ABS will be able to attend normal academic classes on Tuesday 6th, Wednesday 7th and Friday 9th December 2016.

In week 11 (12 Dec - 16 Dec) students will be offered the opportunity to participate in internal activities and external excursions. VCASS dance students will be in dance training from 8-10 am from Monday to Thursday and will not have dance training the morning of Friday 16th December. ABS do not have training this week and are invited to attend the full programme. Due to training commitments gymnasts can attend external excursions only on Wednesday and Friday. Please note that there is a cap on the number of students who can attend Hard Rock on Friday 16th December. It's going to be a really fun last week of school!

Even though families have a few weeks to return their permission forms with payment to help us finalize excursion numbers it would be greatly appreciated if you could return the completed form as soon as possible to the front office. If your child does not attend an external excursion in week 11 there will be a range of activities organised at VCASS for them to participate in. If you are aware that your child will be absent from school in week 10 and/or 11 please fill in the relevant sections of the forms provided to your child. Thank you to those families who have already begun returning permission forms and made payments to the front office.

ADRIENNE WARD,
ACHIEVEMENT COORDINATOR
ASSISTANT HEAD OF ACADEMIC

ALSO, DID YOU KNOW?

- \$8-10 billion dollars of food goes to landfill every year in Australia, that's 4 million tonnes!
- 2.5 million Australians live under the poverty line
- 1 million Aussie kids do not have access to breakfast or dinner.



Nourishing Our Country
www.ozharvest.org
 Add us on Twitter, Instagram,
 Facebook @ozharvest

Wednesday 23 November 8.30-10am Premiers' Reading Challenge Event

Year 7 and 8 English teachers and the VCASS library have been encouraging student choice reading this year, as both an academic pursuit and also as a way for student to find enjoyment and relaxation in their busy lives.

We are having a celebration for all of the year 7 and 8 students, to formally recognise the achievements of those students completing and participating in the Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge 2016.

We have invited author Ellie Marney to discuss her novels, and students will be able to ask her questions about the writing process, as well as sharing reading recommendations with fellow students and teachers at a special morning tea.

<http://www.elliemarney.com/Every Breath>

Every Breath

2014 shortlisted Gold Inky Award, Ned Kelly Award, Davitt Award

2015 ALIA listed Top Ten most-borrowed YA books in Australian libraries

Every Word

2015 Davitt Award YA Winner

Every Move

2016 shortlisted Davitt Award

SARAH COLEMAN,

ENGLISH AND PHILOSOPHY TEACHER AND YEAR 10 COORDINATOR

Email: scoleman@vcass.vic.edu.au

MUSIC

Melbourne Chamber Orchestra

2017 Student/Parent Packages

Melbourne Chamber Orchestra is delighted to offer school-aged music students and their families the opportunity to hear Melbourne's best professional chamber musicians in some of Melbourne's most exciting concerts at an amazing price in 2017.

These special subscriptions are for school-aged student(s) and accompanying parent(s). Choose any three concerts from our 2017 season and be inspired by the sound of MCO. Conditions apply and allotment is limited.

Please note: this pricing can be extended to any adult accompanying a school-aged music student, including teachers. For student groups, custom pricing can be arranged through the MCO Office. For further details call Richard Jackson at MCO on (03) 9650 3365.

Three-concert packages

Students \$71 (less than \$24 per concert)

Parents \$142 (less than \$48 per concert)

JOSEPHINE VAINS,

Email: jlvains@yahoo.com.au

Final lunch concert for 2016

The final in the new series of lunch concerts launched this year will take place on Thursday November 24 at 11:50am in the recital room. These concerts have been very popular with staff, parents and students.

The junior students are currently preparing some fabulous repertoire for next week, many scheduling their own rehearsals and tutorials. Vocal ensembles, a harp trio, chamber music with strings, a wind quintet and a brass group will all feature next Thursday. Students joining the school in 2017 will also have a chance to attend the concert as it coincides with the orientation program running next week.

DR JULIE HASKELL,

MUSIC TEACHER

A Ring, a Helmet...and a pile of Gold!

Recently, thanks to the generosity of Opera Australia, a group of VCASS students attended a rehearsal of *Das Rheingold*, which is the first of four operas which make up "The Ring Cycle" by Richard Wagner. Directed by Neil Armfield this is a 21st century Australian production of a 19th century German work based on Norse mythology of the Viking Age. In the space of a single two-and-a-half hour span, Wagner immerses the audience in a mysterious, primordial world of gods, dwarfs, maidens and monsters. The struggle for power (the magic ring) and wealth (the stolen gold) in *Das Rheingold* alters the order of the universe and determines the course of the entire saga. For many students this was their first visit to the opera, and in true Wagnerian tradition there was a big orchestra, big voices, and a big stage. It was a very enjoyable night with some remarkable performances and staging. Now we all want to see how the story unfolds (over another 11 hours!).

For the full synopsis go to:

<https://opera.org.au/melbourne/ring-cycle/synopsis>

KIM BEISSEL,

MUSIC ADMINISTRATION



RAD**Kathleen Gorham Memorial Scholarship**

Thank you to all students who represented VCASS at the Kathleen Gorham Memorial Scholarships held at the Australian Ballet Centre last Sunday. Although not everybody can be an award winner, valuable performance experience is gained by attending these events and, of course, VCASS is kept in the public eye!

Congratulations to all the Finalists: Luca Deller, Kate Farley, Ethan Gusman, Charlie Morton, Tom Umseher, Ziggy Debrincat, Phoebe Walshe, Alexandra Miller, Lily Folpp, Laura Reuther, Olivia Castagna, Luke Dimattina and Holly Frick

Well done to the Award Winners: Kate Farley, Intermediate Encouragement Award, Tom Umseher, Intermediate Most Promising Award, Laura Reuther, Advanced 2/Solo Seal Most Promising Award, Holly Frick, Advanced 2/Solo Seal Encouragement Award, Olivia Castagna Advanced 2/Solo Seal Artistry Award and Luke Dimattina, Advanced 2/Solo Seal 1st Place. The Martin Rubenstein Prize was won by Tom Umseher – a well-deserved award for a great performance! (See photos)

Christmas Demonstration

The RAD and Cecchetti Christmas Demonstration is on Saturday November 26th at 1pm. Bookings are now open on TRYBOOKING.com. There is only the one performance so book early!

Christmas Hamper

Thank you to the families who have donated to our hampers. Donations for the Christmas hamper can be left at the Dance office.

Combined RAD and Cecchetti Rehearsals.

Saturday 19th November: 9.00 – 1.30
Intermediate, Advanced 1 and 2, please bring snacks as you should not leave the building during this rehearsal.
Attendance is important at this rehearsal as this is when we put together the show for the first time and teach the finale.
Missing students can not participate in the coda or finale!

Wednesday 23rd November: 5.45 – 7.15
Intermediate, Advanced 1 and 2 – Please note this change – Normal Intermediate and Advanced 1 classes will be held on Tuesday 22nd November.

Saturday 26th November: 9.00 – 12.00pm (Performance at 1pm) Warm Up and Dress Rehearsal

JANNE BLANCH,
RAD COORDINATOR

Email: blanch.janne.i@edumail.vic.gov.au

**CECCHETTI**

Congratulations to our VCASS Cecchetti students who were selected into the Victorian Cecchetti Scholars Programme. Originally initiated by the first Artistic Director of The Australian Ballet Company – Dame Peggy van Praagh, along with Mr. Athol Willoughby OAM – special classes are conducted by leading Australian dance professionals for selected Victorian students. All are chosen for their potential towards a pathway in dance.

This year's adjudicators were Marilyn Jones OBE and Colin Peasley OAM.

Bravo to the following:

Juniors: Laura Griffiths; Ryley Taylor
Seniors: Lily Minchenko, James McDonald, Min Reed, Blayke Sheehan, Dario Zanini-Sassani, Joshua Ballinger.

Bravo to our long standing scholars like Coco Wood who have represented VCASS with such honour and Tara Newberry who completed with success the Junior section.

Cecchetti and RAD Christmas

Demonstration rehearsal times and performance were posted in the last newsletter. I know my colleague, Miss Blanche, has posted again here under RAD information. We would love a few more Christmas gifts in the hamper and dance parents to assist our dance community on the day. We so appreciate parent support. Final reminder that applications for the Valrene Tweedie scholarship worth \$10,000 close 30th November - please see VCASS Community page or Cecchetti Ballet Australia website for details.

Look forward to announcing the Cecchetti Scholarships 2017 at the Christmas show.

ANNE BUTLER,
CECCHETTI COORDINATOR

Email: butler.anne.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

VICTORIAN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS SECONDARY SCHOOL

A LEADING VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT SCHOOL AND EDUCATOR AND TRAINER OF SECONDARY AGE GIFTED AND HARDWORKING THEATRE AND VISUAL ARTISTS, DANCERS AND MUSICIANS—THE ACADEMIC SCHOOL FOR THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET SCHOOL, GYMNASIUMS VICTORIA, AND NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CIRCUS ARTS—THANK YOU TO OUR FOLLOWING SPONSORS

A Musical Gathering

MELBOURNE BAROQUE ORCHESTRA FUNDRAISING CONCERT

Sunday November 27, 4 pm

Church of All Nations, Carlton

180 Palmerston St, Carlton VIC 3053



Join us for a generous feast of early music presented by local period-instrument performers to raise funds for the Melbourne Baroque Orchestra's 2017 concert series.

Tickets: \$25/15 concession

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/NRAM

Enquiries: 0428 435 333

Programme

The concert will feature ensembles of various sizes playing a colourful selection of baroque composers such as Gabrielli, Marin Marais, de Murcia, and Bach. It will also include a performance of Corelli's 'Christmas Concerto' for large string ensemble.

Established in 2015, the **Melbourne Baroque Orchestra** is a new period-instrument ensemble that aims to bring together local musicians in a regular series of concerts that will thrill audiences, develop local talent, promote emerging artists, and bring a new dimension to the early music life of Melbourne.

Melbourne needs a resident baroque orchestra! Please give generously to support our endeavours in 2017.

Donations gladly accepted.

The Melbourne Baroque Orchestra is a registered charity. Send cheques (payable to Melbourne Baroque Orchestra) to MBO Secretary Ms Lestideau, 45 Villamanta St, Geelong West, 3218, Victoria. Alternatively email Melbourne.Baroque.Orchestra@gmail.com for bank details.



Patron: Elizabeth Wallfisch

Follow us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/

MelbourneBaroqueOrchestra

RAD and Cecchetti END OF YEAR DEMONSTRATION 2016

Saturday 26th November at 1:00pm

@ VCASS Studio Theatre 57 Miles Street, Southbank

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM

Adults \$15 Concession \$10

