

**From The Acting Principal**



Next week at VCASS our junior students go to camp. This is a wonderful opportunity for them to get to know each other and the staff attending. At the same time our senior students will be attending our annual SHAW program which is made up of a range of health and wellbeing activities planned by our Head of Student Services Rosina Gannon. Detailed information of the SHAW program is included in this newsletter.

During the year we also plan to run a number of parent information sessions based on feedback we have received from families, and also general education about a range of issues that young people in our community today may be facing. To coincide with our SHAW program the school is hosting a community education session, an evening being run by Turning Point. Feel free to circulate the information below.

**Wednesday March the 1st from 6pm – 8pm, VCASS will be running a Drug Information night for parents.**

This program will be run by educators from Turning Point Alcohol & Drug Centre which was established in 1994 to provide leadership in the field of the alcohol and drug education.

<http://www.turningpoint.org.au>

*'Breakthrough: ice education for families' will cover a number of key issues of concern around drug use: "This program aims to provide an insight into what ice is, how it affects people and how to support family members into treatment. We will also provide people with practical approaches in caring for themselves, and other family members." The information provided can also be related to other types of drug use.*

**Prior to the commencement of the evening, from 5.00 pm onwards, the Parents and Friends Association will be offering refreshments in the Café. You are most welcome to arrive early for a cuppa and a chat!**

**Thanks to Christobel Say for organising this. It is greatly appreciated.**

Please feel free to bring other interested family members or friends to the event. Students over the age of 15 are welcome, however, the presenters would like to remind all

parents that students must be accompanied by a responsible adult who is able to debrief or discuss the content with them after the presentation. Looking forward to seeing you at the event.

If you wish to attend, I would appreciate it if you could RSVP; Attention to Head of Student Services: [victorianarts.ss@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:victorianarts.ss@edumail.vic.gov.au)

A reminder that during the week the school posted information on Compass about the school council election and the Parents and Friends Association AGM. For further information please see the Compass news feed or contact the school office.

**HILARY BLAND,  
ACTING PRINCIPAL**



## ACADEMIC

### Special Examination VCE

Students are encouraged to fill out a [Special Examination Arrangement form](#) if they have disabilities, illnesses or other circumstances that affect their ability to COMPLETE written or performance examinations.

These forms are available from the Head of VCE (Nicole Demasi). They take some time to complete (to collect the evidence) so you should get one as soon as possible if you wish to apply for this.

FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO VCASS BY FRIDAY 24th FEBRUARY 2017 SO THEY CAN BE FORWARDED TO THE VCAA

THE FOLLOWING ARRANGEMENTS MAY BE GRANTED:

- Extra reading or writing time
- Rest breaks
- Enlarged print
- Permission to use special technologies (computer etc)
- A reader, scribe or clarifier
- An alternative exam venue

This form can be applied for if you have:

1. Severe health impairment
2. Significant physical disability
3. Hearing impairment
4. Vision impairment
5. Learning disability
6. Severe language disorder

Please contact me on 8644 8618 if you have any questions.

**NICOLE DEMASI,**  
HEAD OF VCE

## CECCHETTI @ VCASS

Reminder: William Carse Young Performers Award, Sunday 26 February, 64 Sutton Street, North Melbourne. Registration is at 9.45 am. Set Cecchetti uniform please. Make sure you take a copy of your last examination certificate or report to be eligible. Open class format and improvisation. Adjudicators: Miss Reiko Hombo and Mr Athol Willoughby OAM

**ANNE BUTLER,**  
CECCHETTI@ VCASS COORDINATOR

## RAD @ VCASS

### RAD Showcase

This year's RAD Showcase will be held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March at the National Theatre. Ticket Sales have commenced and may be purchased directly from the RAD Victorian Panel. Forms for ticket purchase have been distributed to students this week. VCASS will be performing "Breathing In" a work choreographed by Amy Lim and Ziggy Debrincat for last year's Year 10 creative season and Milei Lee will perform her winning Dance Challenge solo from last year's Adeline Genee International Ballet Competition. See the lovely photo of Milei below with the competition judges!

### Autumn school and repertoire workshop

Autumn School will be held April 3 – 7<sup>th</sup> at Dance World. Enrolment forms for Autumn School will be distributed this Saturday. Please note that enrolments are made online through TryBooking. Entries close **March 20<sup>th</sup>**.

Autumn School may be attended by all students but especially by students entering the first examination session in June as preparation for their exam. Scholarships are awarded for each class. To be eligible students must attend ALL classes.

There will also be a Sleeping Beauty repertoire workshop on April 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> taught by former Australian Ballet Soloist, Melanie Murphy.

### Labour Day weekend

Please note that there will be no RAD classes on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March

**JANNE BLANCH,**  
RAD@VCASS COORDINATOR



**DANCE****Dance Performance and Rehearsal Policy****Rationale:**

The Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School provides a specialist dance program where performance is the ultimate goal of the training and education and a reward for all the hard work students undertake.

Performances and rehearsals at the VCA Secondary School are organized and operated as near as possible to replicate the structure and ethos of professional dance practice.

**Guidelines:**

1. Students are expected to behave professionally during rehearsals:
  - 1.1. Sitting is discouraged
  - 1.2. Active participation is encouraged
  - 1.3. Socialising is not permitted
  - 1.4. Practice is encouraged
2. Students may not participate in rehearsal without having attended training class on the day of rehearsal. This is a safety issue
3. Missing rehearsals in the final production week could possibly result in withdrawal from the performances – in this case the decision of the Head of Dance is final
4. Any extended absence from the rehearsal process may result in withdrawal from performances – in this case the decision of the Head of Dance is final
5. Choreographers are often industry people with industry expectations who have been hired to give our students key industry experience. They are typically not teachers. It is expected that students in rehearsals will actively support the choreographer or rehearsal director with full focus, attention and commitment. Any unprofessional behaviour during rehearsals may result in withdrawal from the process
6. Casting for performances offers equality of opportunity to the students in any given group, there is no equality of outcome – the choreographer decides which students are most suitable for the parts
7. Negotiations will not be entered into concerning casting decisions by choreographers with either students or parents. The Head of Dance is pleased to discuss the way any individual student is working at any time or at the formal Parent Teacher Interviews.
8. Casting decisions from one work do not influence casting in another work or in subsequent seasons
9. During performance seasons students must be in the theatre for the start of class, warm-up or the half hour call – whichever comes first. Failure to attend may result in withdrawal from the season. It is strongly advised to call and report any delays as soon as possible
10. During performance seasons all training classes are compulsory – later than normal finish times do not give individuals the right to make decisions about the next day. During performance seasons it is vital that all cast members are available from first class in case of additional rehearsals

11. Any unprofessional behaviour backstage during performance seasons may result in students being exited from the venue or other sanctions being taken – VCA Secondary students must exhibit student behaviour in line with the professional expectations of the course when in performance and rehearsal mode
12. During performances students may not mingle with the audience in the front of house in stage make up or costume; this is a normal professional theatre rule and will be strictly enforced
13. Meeting with family and friends during interval while still engaged in the performance is not allowed
14. The schools expectations about Theatre Etiquette and other typical theatre expectations will be communicated to families who are asked to support the school

**Status: Ratified by School Council 29 November, 2011**

**Responsibility: Head of Dance**

**VCAA Season of Excellence- Top Class Dance**

This Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February four of our VCASS year 12 dance students have been selected to perform at the Top Class Dance Performance as part of the VCAA's Season of Excellence at the Melbourne Rectal Centre. This exciting performance event showcases the very highest levels of achievement in VCE and VET Dance from 2016. In the morning performance at 10.30am, Holly Frick will present her Composition Solo and Isabelle Greenwood will perform both her Technique and Composition Solos. As part of the 2pm performance, Lily Folpp will present her Technique Solo and Laura Reuther her Composition Solo. These students have done an outstanding job in composing and performing these solos and we hope you will be able to support them by attending the 2016 Season of Excellence. Well done to Holly, Isabelle, Lily and Laura on your outstanding dance pieces.

**SELA KIEK-CALLAN,  
CONTEMPORARY AND VCE DANCE TEACHER**

**S.H.A.W.**

(Design by Celeste Mountjoy. Year 12 Visual Art)



Next week we will be holding the annual SHAW program on the 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> of March for all senior students. To those of you who are new to the school, SHAW (Senior Health and Wellbeing) is a program that offers VCASS students in Year 10 - 12 the opportunity to learn and participate in activities related to general wellbeing and functioning. We have booked a number of guest speakers and organisations to work with our students and look forward to the sessions. This is the third year of SHAW and the feedback received over the last two years has been valuable in shaping and cultivating a better program each year. All specialist classes will run as normal next week, but academic classes will not run on Wednesday afternoon, Thursday morning or Friday afternoon. At these times, students will be directed to SHAW events running for their year level.

**What's on offer for SHAW in 2017 :****BOOKINGS:**

- **Lorin Nicholson – ALL SENIORS**

*Keynote speaker for 2017 is Lorin Nicholson.*

<http://lorin.com.au>

With a professional speaking career delivering over 4,000 keynote addresses, to more than a million people around the globe, Lorin is arguably Australia's most prolific and pre-eminent motivational speaker. Lorin has the extraordinary ability to communicate, teach and connect people of all ages and executive status with success and higher achievement. With more than 40 years experience dealing with blindness, his approach to motivational speaking is unique, original and fresh.

- **Bully Zero – YEAR 10**

<http://bzaf.org.au/education-programs/>

Bully Zero Australia Foundation members are passionate about establishing a zero-tolerance culture of bullying and are committed to working tirelessly to empower, educate and prevent all forms of bullying on a National scale.

*'Student comments from 2016:*

*'Bully Zero was a lot more effective to me than any other bullying talk I've ever had. It was very emotional and made me think more.'*

*'Bully Zero was the most touching and valuable presentation I've ever seen - the speaker was truly passionate and everyone really listened and took in everything he said. I have never seen a presentation on bullying that actually sent across as strong a message as this one did.'*

- **Elevate Education**

<http://au.elevateeducation.com>

Each year, over 1400 Australian high schools choose Elevate Education for one key reason: each program actually works! Elevate's study skills seminars are designed to achieve behavioural change amongst students. It isn't enough that students simply understand what they need to do in their study. The challenge in any study skills program is getting students to use and apply the skills they learn. Elevate gets students using the skills from its seminars and workshops by using an integrated process that works.

**TIME MANAGEMENT Year 11**

**STUDY SENSEI Year 12**

*Student comments from 2016:*

*'Time Management was a really superb session that I feel like I got a lot out of. The speaker was amusing and interesting and kept the session interesting the whole time. I feel like the information he gave us was really useful as well.'*

*'Study Sensei was again very successful. In the past two years this has been a great course and I've taken heaps away from it.'*

*'Dan gave us a completely different view of VCE and it really helped me with my issue with homework and how to manage it around all my other activities and events during the week. I have a much more positive approach to VCE now, and I feel less stressed about it all.'*

*'Elevate education was amazing, and has allowed me to gain a motivated and smarter outlook on work.'*

- **Keys Please – YEAR 10**

<https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/safety-and-road-rules/driver-safety/young-and-new-drivers/keys-please-information-session>

Keys Please offers information and practical ideas for Year 10 students on how to use the learning to drive period, get 120 hours of practice and become safe drivers.

- **Bushwazee – YEAR 11**

Cyril Moran from Bushwazee will take the students through an afternoon of bush dancing! Just for the fun of it, as the student comments from last year attest -

*'Student comments from 2016:*

*'The bush dancing was great fun as well, lighthearted goofing around, it was really nice.'*

*'The bush dance with Felix really broke the ice, and I did feel as though we were a closer year level afterwards.'*

*'We assumed that everyone would be laughing and take it as a joke which would be fun, but it turned out that everyone was laughing and enjoying it but seriously taking part in the dance which is good for self confidence within the year.'*

- **Guest Alumni and Industry Professionals**

It has been of great interest and benefit to our VCE students to listen to the stories of our Alumni, or Industry professionals from their specialist arts area, and their journey through VCASS and beyond. There will also be time for students to ask questions about their future pathways and gain tips and guidance from those who have been there before.

Student comments from 2016:

*'I enjoyed the alumni speakers a lot, because it was such a good opportunity to hear about life in the arts outside of the safety of the school. They were also able to provide knowledge that they said they "wish they had known" earlier.'*

- **Family Planning Victoria**

<http://www.fpv.org.au>

Family Planning Victoria has a focus on reproductive and sexual health care, education and advocacy. Their vision is improved reproductive and sexual health and wellbeing for everyone in Victoria and beyond. Their purpose is to *'strengthen the primary care and community-based service system to deliver reproductive and sexual health services and support people to make decisions about their reproductive and sexual health and wellbeing that are right for them.'*

- **Year 11 - Sexual decision Making / Year 12 STIs and Contraception**

Student comments from 2016:

*'Family planning for year 12s was very informative and the speaker spoke extremely well and was able to connect with us.'*

- **Spin Chat – Paul Mariager YEAR 11**

<http://www.spinchat.org.au>

There is no cure for a spinal cord injury.

With high school students amongst those at highest risk of acquiring a spinal cord injury, SpinChat aims to convey to students that the only way to prevent a spinal cord injury is to minimise risk.

Student comments from 2016:

*'The SpinChat speaker Antonio was engaging, funny and showed us the serious consequences of risky behaviour while also teaching us how to interact with a person in a wheelchair without being rude. I thought both were important messages to take away from the talk.'*

- **Phil Owens – Year 11 and Year 12**

<http://www.thebiggergame.com.au>

Phil Owens will be running sessions for year 11 and 12 on the mindsets of success – including the strategies and skills that students and performers need to deliver on their potential. These highly interactive sessions will cover core principles of strategically developing thinking and skills that matter in study, performance and life.

- **YSAS (Youth Support and Advocacy service) – Year 11 / Year 12**

<http://www.ysas.org.au>

"At YSAS, we engage, support and strengthen highly vulnerable and high-risk young Victorians affected by, or at risk of being affected by, alcohol, drugs, mental health issues and social disconnection. We do this by developing non-judgemental, caring and respectful relationships with young people and their families and communities."

- **Fusion Martial Arts – Self Defence – Year 10**

<http://fusionma.com.au>

Con Lazos has been training clients since 1992 and at 41 years old he is a sign of health and vitality. With a Bachelor of Physical Education, Con has the knowledge and credentials to lead the personal training programs at FusionMA and has represented Australia in TaeKwondo and other martial arts.

Student /Parent comment from 2016:

*'I really enjoyed the self defence session because it was fun, interactive and relevant to all of the students.'*  
*'My child came home briefly and told me she'd learnt self defence that day and demonstrated a move she'd learnt. This indicates she was interested and enjoyed learning this. I asked her if she thought the project was good and she said "yes, really good".'*

- **SANE**

<https://www.sane.org>

SANE has been working with people who have mental illness for 30 years. This year we look forward to welcoming both Angela Gillespie and Tim Hillier who have knowledge of mental illness from varying perspectives, through work and personal experience. Tim and Angela will give an overview of mental ill-health and how prevention and early intervention can improve mental health and wellbeing. They will give students simple ways to ask their friends 'are you okay?' and tell them stories of hope and empower them to take action if they are suffering.

Tim Hillier is a SANE Speaker and has lived experience of OCD, anxiety and depression.

Angela Gillespie looks after 150 Speakers at SANE Australia

- **Warner Youth education – Year 10**

[www.warneryoutheducation.com.au/alcohol-education](http://www.warneryoutheducation.com.au/alcohol-education)

The consequences of underage binge drinking can be emotionally, socially and physically scarring. In Victoria one young person dies each week directly attributed to alcohol. Experimentation with alcohol can be common among young teens but it's not safe ... or legal. We need to equip them with the understanding, knowledge and strategies to help guide them in making informed decisions and taking sensible actions so they can have a good time without negative consequences. Highly experienced presenter Xavier Diaz has been providing preventative education to students for years and is highly knowledgeable and engaging.

- **Juggling Training with Jasper Foley – Year 10**

Juggling is the manipulation many objects at the same time, using one or many hands – sounds like life! Year 10 students will be guided through the basics of juggling with Jasper Foley – AND, get to keep the juggling balls for future practice.

## MUSIC

### Mozart Marathon

3MBS is pleased to be able to offer a special discount to the Mozart Marathon this Sunday for VCASS students and staff.

The promo code "WOLFGANG" will give you **\$15 tickets** to single sessions. Just go to the Hawthorn Arts Centre website to book tickets: <http://www.hawthornartscentre.com.au/event/3mbs-mozart-marathon-single-sessions/>



### Music news

Congratulations to all the music students for putting on such a fabulous performance last Wednesday evening at our Celebration Concert. It was incredible to hear the quality of sound produced by the combined senior and junior choirs after only a fortnight of rehearsals. A big thanks to our Choral Director, Dermot Tutty for all his hard work in preparing the choirs.

We also thank our award alumni students for returning to VCASS and performing so beautifully for us again: John Hopkins Award winner – **Jenna Choi**, Austral Salon Outstanding Soloist Award winner – **Leo Mares** and the Robert Salzer Voice Award winner – **Eva Reyne**. Trio de Picardie, our Austral Salon Chamber Festival winners made up of **Nathania Camargo, Clare Juan and Sammi Wu** also performed with great passion and polish.

At the end of the concert we announced our Phyllis McDonald Bequest for two pianists and the Robert Stolz Viennese Music Society for two string or woodwind students. These scholarships allow us to offer four students an additional 10 funded lessons per year.

We congratulate the 2017 recipients of these scholarships.

**Robert Stolz Scholarships: Ally Cho, Yr 12 violin and Nathania Camargo, Yr 12 violin**

**Phyllis McDonald Scholarships: Sammi Wu, Yr 12 and Rachel Shindang, Yr 9**

A reminder again about VCASS students performing in the VCE Season of Excellence. This Friday at **Top Class Sound**, compositions by alumni Jordan Dearsley and Leo Mares will be performed. On 22<sup>nd</sup> March the following students will be performing for **Top Class Music** - Eva Reyne, Sandra Ionescu, Kye Loh, Jessica Gilham, Rosemary Yang, Clare Juan, Nathania Camargo.

Another reminder about the forthcoming YR 11 CD Launch of **“So Far”** at Dizzy’s on 20<sup>th</sup> March. The launch features the original compositions recorded on the CD by last year’s Yr 10 music students. Details below.

Event: VCASS CD Launch of **“So Far”** Year 11 original compositions

Date: Monday 20 March, 2017

Venue: Dizzy’s Jazz Club (new location)

Address: 368 Bridge Rd, Richmond. Upstairs at Boheme Restaurant.

Concert: 7:00-9:00pm

Entry: \$15/\$10

Food and Drink will be available to purchase at the venue.

CDs available to purchase for \$10

Bookings via Trybooking:

<https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=262942>

**MARY JO KELLY,  
ACTING HEAD OF MUSIC**



## 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, GYMNAS-TICS VICTORIA, AND NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CIRCUS ARTS**—THANK YOU TO OUR FOLLOWING SPONSORS



# Classical Latin Grooves

Ziggy and Miles Johnston

21 March 2017

Classical Latin Grooves is an evening filled with energy and expression that takes you on a journey through the world of Argentinian tangos and Cuban and Brazilian classical music.

## Melbourne Recital Centre

Book tickets online at:

[www.melbournerecital.com.au/events/2017/classical-latin-grooves/](http://www.melbournerecital.com.au/events/2017/classical-latin-grooves/)

Like us on Facebook:  
[facebook.com/ziggyandmilesjohnston/](https://facebook.com/ziggyandmilesjohnston/)

Join our mailing list:  
[ziggyandmiles@gmail.com](mailto:ziggyandmiles@gmail.com)