GOOD LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE IN CHILD SAFE SCHOOLS STATEMENT

At our last School Council Meeting we agreed our important commitments to our proud Child Safe environment. The child safe standards require schools that provide services for children to have strategies to embed in their school a culture of child safety, including through effective leadership arrangements.

Protecting children from abuse is everybody’s responsibility, and a school’s leadership is essential to instilling a child safety culture in a school.

This good leadership and governance commitment is a foundation statement for the work we do and improvements we will make in this area in the future. It is tabled at our School Council as a statement of this.

Leadership in a child safe environment

- Working with children can be very rewarding, and it brings additional responsibilities.

- We will act to protect children from abuse in our school, and build an environment where children feel respected, valued and encouraged to reach their full potential. This requires a culture of child safety to be embedded throughout our school so that child safety is part of everyone’s everyday thinking and practice. Such a culture is achieved through proactive leadership in demonstrating the values, attitudes and behaviours of a school.

- A child safe environment is the product of a range of strategies and initiatives. Our school should foster a culture of openness, inclusiveness and awareness. Children and adults should know what to do if they observe or are subject to abuse or inappropriate behaviour.

- All staff and volunteers should consider the safety of all children, and recognise the importance of cultural safety for Aboriginal children, cultural safety for children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and the safety of children with a disability.

For the purposes of these standards, abuse constitutes any act committed against a child involving:

- physical violence
- sexual offences
- serious emotional or psychological abuse
- serious neglect.

Governance in a child safe environment

- Leadership should take preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety issues. The safety and wellbeing of children in our school should be a paramount consideration when developing activities, policies and management practices.

Leadership responsibilities

- Leadership is responsible for embedding a culture of child safety in our school. Leadership need to take the lead in protecting children from abuse, and should be made aware of child abuse allegations and risks and take responsibility for ensuring an appropriate response.

We will ensure that all allegations of child abuse and child safety concerns are treated very seriously by our school. This includes complying with all legal requirements, including reporting suspicions of child abuse to police and/or child protection.

If any person reading this document believes a child is at immediate risk of abuse phone 000.

Parents can get support from Parentline Call 13 22 89
Children can get support from Kidshelpline Call 1800 55 1800

Adopted by the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School on Tuesday 17 August 2016. This will be revised in August 2018

Tonight is opening night of Dance Program Malthouse Season for 2016, Volante. We are really excited to share this beautiful work with you. I look forward to reviewing it next week. I hope you have shared in the excitement of the Instagram feed.

Next week sees performances by our Australian Ballet School and Music Program students. What a wonderful term we have had, and much excitement to come.

COLIN SIMPSON
MUSIC

Hampton Park Outreach Concert
On Wednesday September 7 all year 7 to 12 Music students travelled to Hampton Park to perform an outreach concert for the students of the Hampton Park Secondary College and River Gum Primary School. It was a fantastic performance opportunity which was beneficial on so many levels. We presented, Rhapsody in Blue, a work for Piano and orchestra featuring Sung Won Choi, some Choral Works and a Jazz item. Rhapsody and the Choral items will be presented next week at our MRC Concert. Sung Won was stunning! He played the concerto with so much poise and style. Rhapsody will be a fitting climax to MRC. The year 12 Jazz Group of Eva Reyn, Sonny Gerrard Brown, Jaya Pawarta, Yang Chen, Lucien Finch and Jordan Dearsley presented Softly, as in a morning sunrise. I want to congratulate all performers on a most impressive concert. The staff and students at Hampton Park were both impressed and appreciative.

Student Achievements
On Sunday 4th September the Preston Youth Concerto Competition Finals were held at the Preston Town Hall. Three current VCASS students and one former student were selected to perform. The finalists were: Clare Juan - Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 3, Mvt. 2 & 3, Hayley Witmore - Bottesini Double Bass Concerto No. 2 Mvt 1 & 2, Michael Nguyen - Chopin Piano Concerto No 1, Mvt 2, Charlotte Miles - Dvorak Cello Concerto, Mvt 1, Hannah Shin - Chopin Piano Concerto No. 2, Mvt. 1 and Enoch Fan - Paganini Violin Concerto No. 1 Mvt 1. Charlotte Miles and Clare Juan were adjudged joint winners of the competition. Congratulations to Clare. Clare was also the winner of the audience prize.

Special MRC Concert Rehearsal Sunday September 11:
All VCASS Music Students.
Please be reminded that, in preparation for next weeks MRC concert, there is one more weekend rehearsal commitment next Sunday. This date is on all COMPASS schedules. Attendance is compulsory.

VCASS extents their thanks to Australian Piano Warehouse, for the supply of the Yamaha grand piano for our Hampton park concert Wednesday.

MICHAEL SARGEANT,
HEAD OF MUSIC