

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



**Year 10 Creative Season
Congratulations MERAKI – Last
Thursday and Friday night**

Well done to our Year 10 dance students who created a very interesting and fun Year 10 Creative Season. This performance remains one of my favourite performances in dance, we can see the development of our dancers and benchmark their development. I am always pleasantly surprised by part of this show, and this year was

no exception. It showed our dancers to be well rounded, with good leadership both in terms of the works but the performances as well. I liked the way in which all students got to shine, with small showcasing and strengths used.

I want to pay credit to Amy Lim – Artistic Director, who burst out as a dancer and leader with enormous potential. We will watch her further development with interest. Congratulation to Assistant Directors Lily Sherlock and Dara Martin.

‘Cotton Club’ from Lily Sherlock was a strong start and the year 9 dancers came close to stealing the show, I personally liked ‘Absolute Jest’ and my thanks to Jarren Andraos and Jacob Cudden for this work. ‘Breathing In’ was incredible and I hope we see this piece again. Kudos to Amy Lim and Ziggy Debrincat. ‘Revoltin’ Children’ was fun, well done to Amy Lim and Nathan Pavey – and the year 7s – wow they came close to stealing the show with this one. I enjoyed all works, and can’t mention them all, but enjoyed ‘Belongil’ from Yuji Loo and Christy Tran as well. A nice goodbye from Christy who joins our Theatre Arts Program in 2017.

One thing comes out is how the year 10s were so generous in creating all these wonderful performance opportunities for the younger students. To let others shine is perhaps the hardest thing. I admire the year 10s for this. They should be very proud.

My thanks to all our lovely dance staff for your hard work and guidance of the students over the year, Tanya Mitford in particular who was the Producer of this show. I want to thank Daniel Holden and the technical support people. My thanks to the music students who gave us some great sounds. I thought the video based work amazing, so professional and perfect – I had to remind myself the students made this work – not a media company. This was seriously high quality work.

What a wonderful end to an amazing year in our dance program. Well done to all our dance staff and students. We had our Junior Social at Ascot House Receptions

Thursday night. This was such a fun evening, so much dancing, singing and love in the room. Our students work so hard and it is important to us that we have some key celebration. Thank you to Mr Wigg for organising such a successful event. This is his last social as Student Leadership Coordinator. He has done an incredible job over a number of years now and we appreciate all he has done. Mr Wigg will take on another leadership role in 2017 and Ms Townshend will support our student leaders.

Thank you to Ms Bland, Mrs Demasi, Ms Leviston, Mr Adam, Mr Crossley, Ms Robinson, Ms Olivia, Ms Servadei and Ms Perry for being with us and supporting the event. We all witnessed the students have a wonderful time.

This week has been Academic Activities Week. The children have done so many interesting things. Our thanks to Ms Ward and staff for developing and delivering such a fun program. I want to thank the parents and students who supported these activities. This was a well thought out and amazingly run program of high quality. We do not support early holidays for students when there is such good and productive learning and social things to do together—that we put so much effort into. Next week is excursions week.

There is still lots to do even though 2016 suddenly feels like it is disappearing. Keep up the final efforts to draw the year to a lovely close. But, we are not done yet!

Chookas to our Australian Ballet School students for their performances this weekend of Snow Queen at The Arts Centre. We are looking forward to the performances, it will be mazing I am sure. On Sunday night Acting Head of VCASS, Dance Mr McTaggart and I will be representing the school in Sydney at the Royal Academy of Dance Genee at the Sydney Opera House. I am excited to see all of the mazing young dancers perform. On Monday we will receive our Victorian Certificate of Education and ATAR results. We all ready know that many of our dancers, musicians and visual artists have received wonderful pre offers. Monday will complete this process and we will be available to our former students to support their tertiary and training planning.

Next week is the final newsletter for the year.

COLIN SIMPSON



DANCE

Congratulations to the all the dancers and staff involved in the Year 10 season. It is a favourite show of mine for both how joyful and exuberant it always is, as well as for what it represents in the growth of the students involved and the surprises it has in store.

It is with great pride and gratitude that I would like to acknowledge the whole dance team for the training and the support which has gone into the students, who demonstrated yet again how keen they are to shoulder the authority and responsibility of putting on a season.

The show was as diverse and individual as each of the students and the thrill and excitement was palpable as the curtain went up each night. Our junior dancers were fantastic in giving their all to the variety of styles and works the Year 10s provided. They were energetic, reliable and electric on stage...congratulations to them all.

The Year 10 students came up trumps after many months of worrying, planning, stress and creativity, leading with the level of energy and showmanship that we have come to expect. It was wonderful to hear Ms Mitford mentioning each choreographic team for what had stood out in their work, and crediting each of the students for their contributions.

Congratulations to them all and I look forward to their continued development in the Year 11 season!

Many of our students have now ended their training with us to begin breaks with their families, and this is an important part of recovery and wellbeing. I urge them all to prepare for a return to training at least 3 weeks before terms start. That means beginning with stretches and body conditioning exercises before building up to add daily class exercises, aerobic and strengthening activities in the two weeks before term. Try to keep active and fit in the holiday period, enjoying all the possibilities that summer offers in terms of sports and games. For those students able to continue with us, it is a pleasure to have you in class for the next week or so, providing an opportunity to keep dancing and to welcome our new students in the orientation days.

Currently Janne Blanche is away in Sydney with our four students competing in the Genee competition. Here is a snippet of what she had to say:

"Have arrived in Sydney where we have had a brilliant electrical storm and it is very humid! Just got back from visiting our four "Genees". They are very excited and having a ball - their words not mine!... They love Tim Harbour's solo which he has finished choreographing already. The competition is fierce, with some excellent kids from the UK. There are dancers from 12 countries including, the US and South Africa, and the main thing is they are having a great experience. The semi-finals start on Wednesday and go for 3 days. Tomorrow I'm catching up with other teachers - a great networking experience for me and the students..."

It is also time to look forward to 2017 when Mr Storey and Mr Harbour will be returning to VCASS after successful holiday and work breaks respectively, and we look forward to hearing

their news and having them back on the team.

We also have an exciting event in collaboration with Mr Sargeant and the Music School. You might be aware that they have a regular exchange to England with the Chetham School of Music, and next April we are sending two dancers to perform at the opening of the Chetham School's Performance Hall. Eden Kew and Lily Sherlock will perform a new duet choreographed by Johnathan Taylor and then go on to train for a week at the Hammond School before returning to Melbourne. They will dance to a movement of the *Sonata for Cello and Piano in D minor* by Debussy alongside VCASS musicians on exchange to Chetham and dancers from the Hammond School.

Over that same fortnight, we are going to be hosting Eve Lawson from the George Balanchine Trust who will be mounting *Serenade* on our students for our Malt-house Season. This is a signature work of one of the most influential artists in ballet, and a pivotal choreographer in American dance history. We are extremely grateful for the support for these projects and very excited to be sharing them with you next year, they will be challenging and exciting for us all.

**STEVEN MCTAGGART,
ACTING HEAD OF DANCE**

ACADEMIC

Lord Somers Junior School Camp - Important Dates

Another week closer to Christmas means another week closer to Junior School Camp! As promised, relevant permission and medical forms will be distributed to students this week, and will also be posted on Compass for all to access. These forms include: Parent Consent Form, Payment Form, Medical Information Form, Special Dietary Requirements Form, and a Water Based Activities Form.

Final payment and all camp forms are due to the office by Friday February 10th, 2017 (this is the second week back at school next year).

Please put this date in your calendar along with the camp dates (1st - 3rd of March 2017).

I am thoroughly looking forward to what promises to be an exciting and adventurous camp!

**NICK HEYNSBERGH,
CAMP COORDINATOR AND TEACHER OF VISUAL ARTS**

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