



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

Term 2, 2020 is like no other period of schooling that we have ever experienced in Victoria. In my 52 years in the Victorian Government teaching service it stands out as a model that has challenged students, staff, parents and guardians, and in fact our whole community, like no other. We have kept our College students and families informed about the 'Flexible and Remote Learning Model' that has been introduced for all Victorian schools and to which we have adhered to very closely. There have been updates and bulletins about restrictions, learning from home and also how our teachers are delivering the curriculum remotely. Our community has been bombarded with information on a daily basis so I have tried to only send out information when it is particularly relevant or new. In all of this, I have been extremely proud of the efforts and flexibility of our teachers, support staff and school leaders, who have worked so hard for our students and their current educational and welfare needs. I have also been extremely proud of the Montmorency Secondary College students and their parents and guardians and how they have responded to their schooling in the face of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) government restrictions which has kept them at home for their learning. I would also like to give a special acknowledgement to our teachers who have also had to 'home school' their own children at the same time as remotely teaching their classes. Hopefully, this situation will not go on and we will see a return to normal schooling in the not-too-distant future.

At this time in a normal school year we would have celebrated numerous events and activities undertaken by our students and school community. However, in 2020 this is very much scaled down to what we were able to achieve and participate in during Term 1. The COVID-19 pandemic situation has forced us to cancel and postpone a very large range of co-curricula programs, events, excursions, assemblies, parent-teacher interviews, inter-school sport, presentation balls, work experience and placements, school camps, expos and our three overseas school tours. At this point in time, we do not know when students and staff will return to the College. Current government advice suggests that schools in Victoria will remain closed at least until the end of Term 2.

However, there have been some highly significant events and outstanding achievements by our students before the flexible and remote learning model was in place.

From the 19th until the 28th February, we held three Year 7 three-day camps. Nine Year 7 classes, together with their Home Group teachers and Level Co-ordinators, attended the Angahook camp at Aireys Inlet and were involved in many team building and bonding activities, which included mountain bike riding, surfing and raft building. It also afforded students the opportunity to make friends with students from other Year 7 classes.

On Tuesday 3rd March, we held our annual and very informative and well-attended Mathematics Information Evening. This was led by Leading Teacher, Steve Horn, whose portfolio is Mathematics and Numeracy in the College. At this evening there were some very insightful presentations outlining support structures and the teaching and learning practices in Mathematics.

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Year 11 student, Tara Kinder, has been awarded an *Individual Sporting Blue Award* by School Sports Victoria for her outstanding achievements in swimming for 2019. Tara has consistently achieved a long list of medals in school, state, national and international swimming competition for a number of years now. I believe this is the first time a Montmorency student has achieved one of these awards, referred to as a 'bluey', and it is an absolute credit to Tara. The presentation ceremony was to be held on Friday the 20th February at the MCG, but due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the event was cancelled. In place of this, State School Victoria ran an on-line presentation which I viewed at the College with Tara, her mother and her Year 11 Mathematics class.

On Tuesday the 3rd March, I accompanied two of our College Captains, Sarah van Putten and Ania Bulenda, to Parliament House for a special promotion by the Leader Newspaper called, *Tomorrow's Leaders*. Sarah and Ania represented our College as 26 school captains from around the state met with the Premier, Daniel Andrews, and were interviewed as young leaders to share their dreams and aspirations for the future. Sarah and Ania were subsequently featured on the front page of the Diamond Valley Leader on Wednesday 25th March, 2020. Their interview and photograph was also featured on Page 4 and they certainly shone out as fine young leaders. Later in the newsletter we have included this article.

On Saturday 29th February and Sunday 1st March, we again fielded a large team of students and staff in the Diamond Valley *Relay for Life* event which raises a considerable amount of money that goes to cancer research. Leading Teacher, Kim Faulkner, has been the architect of our involvement for eleven years now and our team has raised over \$110,000. This year our team was organised by the wonderful efforts of senior leaders, Madi Downing, Bree Rushton and Emily Drysdale. This year's fundraising and community awareness efforts resulted in a ninth research award for the College. I was given the honour on behalf of our *Relay for Life* team to read 'the oath' at the closing ceremony and was also interviewed on Diamond Valley FM Radio about the fantastic effort over many years of Montmorency Secondary College for the '*Relay*'.

On Wednesday the 19th February, I attended an evening at the Arts Centre and National Gallery of Victoria for the La Trobe University Vice Chancellor's Dinner. Vice Chancellor, Professor John Dewar, gave an insightful presentation about some of the new directions and community funding models that La Trobe is embarking on. Many of the La Trobe staff were well aware of the achievements of some of our students who have gone to La Trobe.

The College's School Council elections for 2020 are now complete. Congratulations to Shane Penrose who has been re-elected for a two-year term as a parent representative on Council. Congratulations also to Kelly Rogel and Jenny Young, who have been elected as new parent representatives, also for a two-year term. Congratulations to John Davy and Mathew Dean, who have been re-elected as Department of Education & Training (teacher) representatives for the next two years. I am also pleased to announce that Year 12 student, Zach Byrne, was the successful student candidate who has also been elected to Council. Congratulations also to Shane Penrose for being appointed Council President for 2020, to Sue Tutera on being appointed Vice President and Michael Ray as Treasurer of Council. I would also like to acknowledge the outstanding work of retiring parent representatives, Meghan Uren and Nicola Rooks. They have been wonderful supporters of our College and have made a valuable contribution to our College governance for a number of years now. I would also like to acknowledge Year 10 student, Moses Kanakaraj, for his efforts whilst on Council.



Tara Kinder

Membership of our 2020 College Advisory Council is as follows:

Member Category	Member Name	Current Term Start Date	Current Term End Date	Office Held
Parent	Shane Penrose	24/03/2020	March 2022	President
Parent	Sue Tutera	19/03/2019	March 2021	Vice President
Parent	Michael Ray	19/03/2019	March 2021	Treasurer
Parent	Neal Topia	19/03/2019	March 2021	Parent Representative
Parent	Matthew Trounce	19/03/2019	March 2021	Parent Representative
Community	Phil Luchetta	20/03/2019	March 2021	Community Representative
Parent	Kelly Rogel	24/03/2020	March 2022	Parent Representative
Parent	Jenny Young	24/03/2020	March 2022	Parent Representative
DET	Allan Robinson			Principal
DET	Clara Di Biase	19/03/2019	March 2021	Teacher Representative
DET	Mark Lohrey	19/03/2019	March 2021	Teacher Representative
DET	Mathew Dean	24/03/2020	March 2022	Teacher Representative
DET	John Davy	24/03/2020	March 2022	Teacher Representative
Student	Clara Breese	19/03/2019	March 2021	Student Representative
Student	Zach Byrne	24/03/2020	March 2022	Student Representative

Regards,

Allan Robinson
Principal

MONTMORENCY SECONDARY COLLEGE

Sarah Van Putten, 17
Ania Bulenda, 17

Our applications for college captain were not filled out ignorantly. We knew what the position entailed and we were fully prepared to take on any challenges that it might present. We applied for the position to not only improve our leadership capabilities, but also to become better people and to assist us in becoming more confident for the future in the vast leadership world.

Our vision for the 2020 year is to encourage everyone to embrace their best selves and become more confident in their abilities.

Among our community, we aim to encourage those who are experiencing low mental health, and who are just not having a good day, to seek support and to embrace open communication with the recognition that they are not alone. We all experience



Ania Bulenda and Sarah Van Putten

mental health issues and it is important that we help each other. The message we wish to spread to young leaders and members of the wider community is to feel comfortable to seek help when you or others need it, and to feel confident in embracing your leadership capabilities as you can be a leader with or without a badge.

“ We aim to encourage those who are experiencing low mental health ... to seek support and to embrace open communication with the recognition that they are not alone.

*Article from
Diamond Valley Leader
March 25, 2020 (page 4)*

MUSIC NEWS

In these unprecedented times of change, we are heartened that music remains a joyful constant in our lives.

Instrumental Lessons

Instrumental lessons are continuing as usual, having been transformed into a new online format. Students are to check their weekly timetable as they usually would.



Live-streamed Music Concerts

There are numerous amazing concert available on-line. Go to concerts you would never have been able to afford. Have a front row ticket at a memorable concert from the amazing archives that are being made available for our listening pleasure. Support our wonderful Melbourne and international performers.

- **Arts Centre Melbourne's Big Night In** every Wed evening 7pm
- **MSO** (Melbourne Symphony Orchestra) on-line concerts
- **Classic FM**- live streaming classical concerts

- **THE SHOW MUST GO ON – Andrew Lloyd Webber**
A different full-length performance every Friday 7pm for 48 hours



- **Live-streamed concerts & Archived performances**
Lady Gaga, Yungblud, Keith Urban, Elton John, Metallica, and many more
https://www.officialcharts.com/chart-news/this-week-s-music-live-stream-concerts-you-don-t-want-to-miss__29165/

- **#TogetherAtHome**
Several musical acts, including Coldplay's Chris Martin, John Legend and Keith Urban, are sharing free "concerts" from home for fans amid the coronavirus quarantine. Martin was the first off the tread, dubbing his performance #TogetherAtHome
- **popular live stream concerts**
<https://www.bandsintown.com/c/melbourne-vic-australia>
- **Royal Albert Hall** – numerous concert available

Music makes sense when everything else is crazy.

"Music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without"
Confucius

Music can have a profound effect on mood, including confidence level or how relaxed you are. Corrina Thurston, How To Communicate Effectively

"I think music in itself is healing. It's an explosive expression of humanity" – Billy Joel

According to the World Health Organisation, depression affects more than 350 million people globally, of all ages. Musicians as prominent as Adele, Kendrick Lamar, Taylor Swift and Bruce Springsteen have spoken publicly about mental-health issues such as depression and anxiety, and all can attest to the power of music to help with such problems.

Leukaemia Foundation

**WORLD'S
GREATEST
SHAVE**

Over the past 10 years the Interact Club of Montmorency Secondary College has raised \$40,000 for the Leukaemia Foundation's cancer research program.

Despite the lock down caused by the virus we have so far had a very pleasing response close to our target of \$10,000, with some money still to come in. Congratulations to Adam Hunt for a fabulous effort. My total of \$450 is meagre by comparison.

Any student who has raised or still raising funds is encouraged to donate it via the College sponsorship page at the link below by 31st May, 2020. If this is not possible please drop the money off to the College Bursar. Thank you to all who contributed at this difficult time.

The College has a sponsorship page online at:

<http://my.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/montmorencysecondarycollege>

Let's support our students and help them achieve their goal for this important course.

For further information contact me via email ian.toohill@education.vic.gov.au or on mobile 0414 359 365.

FUNDRAISING TOTAL TO DATE: \$8,165.29

Adam Hunt joined the staff at Montmorency Secondary College this year as an Outdoor Education/PE teacher. On Friday 1st May, as part of our Shave for a Cure fundraising event, he was brave and shaved.. The cut off pony tails are getting sent to "sustainable salons" for use as wigs. As part of our team effort, Adam raised \$3,900.

"Was a great chance to raise some money for a fantastic cause and also provide some comic relief during this strange and stressful time! "



CYBERBULLYING

Since students are working remotely from home this term, it might be an excellent time to remind all parents and caregivers of the emotional impacts of Cyberbullying especially if one is on the receiving end of this unwanted attention. Please be vigilant and watch for any obvious changes when your children are using technology.

Cyberbullying is bullying using digital technologies including mobile phones, email and social media tools. Cyberbullying includes:

- **Pranking:** Repeated hang ups, anonymous, mocking or threatening phone calls.
- **Image sharing:** Forwarding or sharing unflattering or private images without permission.
- **Sexually explicit images:** People of any age, who forward or share images of a sexual nature of a person under 18 need to be aware that this is a criminal offence (child pornography) that may result in prosecution.
- **Text and email:** Sending insulting or threatening text messages or emails.
- **Personal online information:** Publishing online someone's private, personal or embarrassing information without permission, or spreading rumours online.
- **Identity theft:** Assuming someone's identity online and negatively representing them in a way that damages their reputation or relationships.
- **Hate sites:** Creating hate sites or implementing social exclusion campaigns on social networking sites.

It is also cyberbullying when a student, or students, uses technology to run a multi-step campaign to bully another student. For example, setting another student up to be assaulted, video-recording their humiliation, posting the video-recording online and then sending the website address to others.

Cyberbullying vs bullying, while cyberbullying is similar to bullying in some ways, there are also differences.

Differences:

- **Cyberbullying is invasive** It can be difficult to escape and is incredibly invasive. It is more likely to occur outside of school, including while at home, and can happen at any time.
- **Cyberbullying can involve a large audience** It can involve harmful material being widely and rapidly shared to a large audience, for example, rumors and images can be posted on public forums or sent to many people at once. This material can also continue to be available and harmful long after the cyberbullying has ceased.
- **Cyberbullies have a sense of anonymity** It can provide the bully with a sense of relative anonymity and distance from the target, so there is a lack of immediate feedback or consequences.

Similarities:

- **Power imbalance** The power imbalance between the 'bully' and 'target', the repetitive nature of the bullying behaviour and the intent to harm, humiliate, embarrass, ostracise, or isolate can occur in bullying and cyberbullying.
- **Types of behaviour** Types of behaviour including spreading rumours and making threats or insults, can occur in bullying and cyberbullying.
- **Reasons for behaving in a bullying way** People often engage in cyberbullying for the same reasons they engage in bullying.

Advice and safety

The Victorian Department of Education website has resources to help students, parents and schools to deal with cyberbullying. A range of cyberbullying advice sheets explain how to deal with cyberbullying and to learn about cyber safety, see: [cyberbullying advice sheets](#). Parents/Caregivers might also find this to be a helpful link:

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/key-issues/covid-19/advice-parents-carers>

If you have any issues or concerns regarding Cyberbullying, please do not hesitate to contact me or your child's Home Group teacher directly.

Sue Muir—Student Wellbeing Coordinator

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MONTMORENCY SECONDARY COLLEGE

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