

Montmorency Secondary College NEWSLETTER

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MONTMORENCY
SECONDARY COLLEGE

13 August, 2021 Newsletter No. 6

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear School Community,

At the start of Term 3, we found ourselves in the remote and flexible learning platform and faced some interruptions to the normal school program and this no doubt has had some effect on students, staff and families. Furthermore, this new Covid-19 lockdown 6 and the extension to the current lockdown, has crept up on us and taken many of us by surprise. It is important that our community spirit, patience and understanding are prevailing more than ever.

Having done this before, we feel encouraged that we have processes in place to support students and our school community once again through another Covid-19 Lockdown. Thank you for your continued support through these difficult times and we are reassured that our ability to continue to support and look out for one another is strong moving forward. It is imperative that we support our students and staff to cope with the many changes that they are currently facing. We have been very proud of the efforts of our teachers, support staff and school leaders on behalf of our students and their current educational and welfare needs. Hopefully, we will see some stability moving forward in on site learning in the not-too-distant future. Several programs have had to be cancelled or deferred and we will continue to reallocate dates for some programs as best we can. It is great to see the strength and determination of our students and staff during these difficult times.

As you know, at the end of Semester 1, Allan announced his impending retirement from the College. At the end of Term 2, students and staff had an opportunity to say a fitting farewell to Allan on his retirement and the whole school assembly provided an opportunity for both students and staff to celebrate Allan's outstanding leadership. Allan's commitment to State Education has been phenomenal. In a career spanning just over 50 years, in which he has been the Principal for 11 years, and Assistant Principal for 6 years, Allan has taken on numerous leadership and teaching roles within the College for 29 years. He is an exceptional highly respected leader, with an extreme passion for learning and unwavering care and commitment to students, staff, parents, and all members of our local community. We recognise his outstanding contribution to creating an inclusive school environment of true collaboration, trust, partnership and personal growth and will be missed, however, we look forward to his visits and continued involvement with our College community.



Allan Robinson

I am excited to be taking on the role as Acting Principal for Term 3 and together with Mark Lohrey, Assistant Principal and Sonia Culcasi, Acting Assistant Principal, we will be led by the Department of Education through the process of selecting a substantive Principal for the College moving forward for the start of Term 4 2021. Mark Lohrey, Lisa Ball and I have worked together for over 11 years in the leadership team, and together new acting Assistant Principal, Sonia Culcasi for Term 3, we will continue to serve the College to the best of our abilities.



Clara Di Biase
Acting Principal



Mark Lohrey
Assistant Principal



Sonia Culcasi
Acting Assistant Principal



Lisa Ball
Business Manager

FROM THE PRINCIPAL Cont...

On the 14th and 15th of July, our Year 7 & 8 students participated in an Engage Day that was led by Kim Faulkner (Student Engagement and Wellbeing Leader), the year 7 & 8 Year Level Leaders; Sonia Culcasi and Michelle Clarke and their teams. The engaging activities that were run on each of these days were led by our senior students within the SRC and a number of staff who teach at these year levels. It was wonderful to see the participation and enjoyment on the student's faces as they connected with one another in a climate where they haven't had much of an opportunity to do so. A big thank you to Kim Faulkner, Hayley Davies, Karen Giles and Sonia Culcasi and Michelle Clarke as Year Level Leaders for their commitment in ensuring that students were able to have such fun and engaging day.

Our students and staff have been busily preparing for the school production of Matilda. Once again, we are disappointed to have had to postpone our college production of Matilda due to the Covid-19 guidelines and restrictions. We are very keen to lock in alternative dates for the production and we are awaiting DET guidelines before confirming and informing everyone of new scheduled dates. Students involved in the production, together with staff, Jason Mill, Sharon Cooke, Mark Lohrey, Maddie McKinlay and Georgia Robinson have spent many hours during the holidays rehearsing and like all of us, are very hopeful that the COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines are going to enable us to go ahead as planned.

Several of our scheduled school based on-site events this Term have had to be postponed and run in an alternative format due to the existing Covid-19 guidelines and density limits, and we thank our parent/carer and student community for their patience and understanding. We have ensured that The Information Evening that was scheduled for Year 9 to 10 and the Year 10 to 11 Careers Expo on Thursday 22nd July 2021, were run in an alternative format; the information was pre-recorded and a link was sent out for families to view these presentations. We encourage parents to contact us should they need help or have further questions.

The Bridging/Challenge parent information night scheduled for 3rd August 2021 was postponed to Tuesday 10th August and delivered as a Webex presentation. This is for Year 7 and 8 students who have been invited to undertake Challenge and Bridging English, Mathematics and Science in 2022. We used the WebEx platform for the presentation and had positive feedback from parents saying it was informative and well attended. Thank you to Natalie Henry for coordinating the event and Caitlin Penrose representing the English department, Steve Horn representing the Maths faculty and Sonia Culcasi representing the Science faculty. A special thank you goes out to our students Ryan Lawrence, Oscar Miles, Hannah Mitrevski and Sophia Church who outlined their experiences within the Bridging & Challenge program and who spoke and presented so confidently during the presentation.

The Year 12 GAT that was scheduled to originally occur on 9th June, was postponed to the 29th of July, it was rescheduled to Thursday 12th August and again postponed. We are yet to be informed of the new date.

I would like to draw your attention to some of the wonderful work being done as staff are finding new and innovative ways to run programs. In the absence of being able to run international travel and a student language exchange program; our year 9 & 10 students studying Japanese connected remotely with their fellow students from our sister school in Japan at Takakura High school last week. Students were placed in break out groups enabling them to connect remotely and practice their Japanese/English skills. It was great to see students engaging with one another, introducing themselves, comparing current Covid situations and sharing the joy of the Olympics. A big thank you to Michelle Bijkersma for organising the event with the help of Mayumi Yokoe, Hamish Yule and Caitlin Hoad.

I would like to finish by saying a very big thank you to whole school community for the outstanding work that is being done in keeping our students engaged and connected to their learning in such difficult circumstances. We would like to reach out to parents and carers to ensure that you contact the College should you want to discuss concerns or have feedback.

Kindest regards,
Clara Di Biase
Acting Principal

Interact, VCAL and Monty Green Team: Edendale Farm Tree planting excursion

On Monday the 24th of May the Interact Club combined with the Monty Green Team and VCAL students went to Edendale farm to plant trees and learn about the ecosystem.

We learnt all about the indigenous past, climate change and ways we can help fight against it. We also had a go at propagating plants. We looked around the farm and saw how the plants were grown. For our first activity we took some cuttings of a plant and we planted them in a tray. They would go into the Greenhouse to be nurtured. Then with the help of Edendale farm staff we planted some already propagated plants. First we made a hole with Hamilton tree planters, then put the plant in, watered it, and hammered in the stakes with protectors around them to keep out the pests. Some students planted up to 7! It was a really fun and enjoyable day for everyone.

We got to see some of the cute farm animals as well like the chickens and the sheep.

Eric Watkins 9D



LANGUAGE NEWS

YEAR 12 FRENCH

'Last term in French, students have been looking at the differences between French regions. For example, did you know that France has more than 40 regional languages and that each region has its own cuisine? If you go to the south, you would be greeted to some 'Cannelés' and speak Occitan with locals, whereas in the east in Alsace, you would eat some 'Pain d'épices/ spice cake' and speak Alsacien.

Each student chose one French region and presented orally. We ended the Term by watching the movie 'Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis/Welcome to the Sticks' a comedy about a southern postman moving to the North of France. The laughs that were heard were a testimony to the comedic value of the film!'



Y12 students enjoying some French delicacies



A selection of Cannelés, Far Breton and Pain d'épices



Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis'

FRENCH LANGUAGE ASSISTANT—Megane Autin

French Assistant at Montmorency Secondary College and Montmorency South Primary School

I had been part of the language assistant program back in 2017 and had a great time. I wanted to experience that again and was glad to be contacted by Montmorency Secondary College to be part of the team one more time.

The team is great in sharing ideas, new strategies and tools in place. I contributed as well, for example by introducing Blooket in the classroom, targeted activities, etc. I feel like I'm gaining more experience, more knowledge on teaching, more confidence and a more positive personal mindset. Thank you for running the program again!

"Our language assistant is creative and engaging. Students love her. Teachers love her too. She brings more current language and practices in the classrooms, which young people can relate to. She has been involved in verlan with our senior students, who find this exciting to learn. Our language staff are aware of verlan but are not fluent in it - she is. She has also helped us cement a virtual exchange program with a high school in France and encourages students to communicate often in French, even outside the classroom, as she assists with the running of the French club at lunchtimes too.

Students oracy is improving faster with her assistance, and they are absorbing more current expressions. The main advantage of having a local native-speaking assistant is that she is able to understand where students are coming from in their thinking and this an invaluable asset when discussing cultural elements, as she is able to draw of parallels, similarities and differences by tapping into key cultural assumptions, and misconceptions. This is making a huge difference in a very positive way."

Marjory Creta-Ireland, Learning Specialist for Languages at Montmorency Secondary College

(This article appeared in the 2021 LNLAP newsletter - <https://spark.adobe.com/page/Qfap40ldWpkqD/>)



LANGUAGE NEWS

FILM EXCURSION TO ACMI

On Tuesday the 13th of July, our Year 10 French class took a trip to ACMI (Australian Centre for Moving Image) in Federation Square to participate in the workshop "Film it".

To begin with, our class was introduced to the concepts of genre, different film tropes, the stages of a narrative and to the different phases of film production, including pre-production, production and post-production as well as how to shoot a film using interesting camera angles and techniques. In small groups, we began to break down scripts given to us, by annotating and using storyboards to plan out the production of our film.

We were taught how to operate film equipment, including a camera, tripod and microphone before heading out into Federation Square to begin production on our films. We were given a short amount of time to create our films, shooting in various locations around Fed Square and along the Yarra River.

In what felt like no time, we were back inside beginning the post-production process. During this time, we learnt how to edit our films using the program FinalCutPro, inserting sound effects, transitions, music and cutting out our bloopers.

The staff at ACMI then taught us how to export our footage and we watched each groups' final film as a class.

Overall, this day was really enjoyable and beneficial for us, as we are now going to be using our new skills to create our own films throughout this semester. Huge thanks to the staff at ACMI for this experience and to Madame Luberto and Megan for accompanying us :)



Year 11 French Model UN Assembly on Climate Change

Our French class researched and represented an allocated country's interest at the Model UN assembly, giving our students an immersion experience while developing global citizenship skills. They collaborated with students from other schools in the very current issue of climate change from that country's perspective, presented a position statement, contributed to amendments and voting on resolutions, all in French.

"The recent Model UN excursion has created an interesting and beneficial opportunity for the Year 11 French class on Monday 19th July.

The opportunity allowed students to practice their French speaking skills, while also developing listening skills by listening to their fellow Model UN participants. Overall, the opportunity was helpful and brought awareness to our current problems with climate change.



MUSIC NEWS

You can't stop the music!!

As lockdowns appear....and appear again, our music staff continue to work their wonders with our students. The challenges are numerous, but music is being uploaded on google classroom, bands and lessons held online lessonsand fun had by all.

Pieces are still being prepared for performances this term, and although dates may alter, we anticipate that all will eventually go ahead.

- The **Soiree** planned at the end of Term 2 has been postponed to later this term.... a date will be set when we are able.
- The school has secured a wonderful **workshop with Melbourne Jazz** for the Intermediate Band and Senior Band at school on Friday 27th August. This will be a wonderful opportunity to have experts in the Jazz style pass on some tips and trick to our students.
- VCE Music Performance on Sep 6th



Photos courtesy of Ms Clark and the woodwind students



PERFORMING ARTS NEWS—MATILDA THE MUSICAL



MSC's 2021 school production of *Matilda the Musical* has been postponed but the cast, crew and band are still busy adding the finishing touches and ensuring costumes and sets are ready to go. This is a show you won't want to miss!

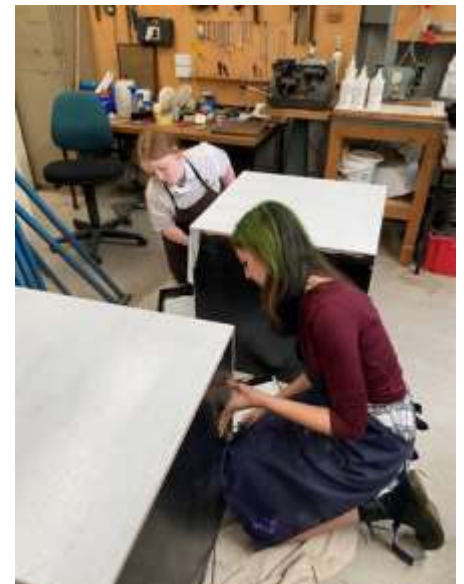
If you've already purchased tickets, please keep a close eye on the school website for updates regarding the current COVID-19 restrictions and our show dates. Updated show dates coming soon!



Set Painting Update

This year for the *Matilda* production at Montmorency Secondary College, Mrs Sipahi's Year 10 Art class had the opportunity to help paint the props. Carrying the boxes across the school to the shed was hard work. It was almost impossible to open the paint cans! Our class all took turns at trying to open them, but we couldn't, so Mrs Sipahi used a screw driver as she is super strong. We put on our art aprons and began to paint. The whole class talked and laughed the whole time - it was super fun! Overall, it was a really great experience and we bonded as a class. I can't wait to see the *Matilda* production come together.

Sena Nancarrow, Year 10



YEAR 8 CAMP

HORSING AROUND

As we got off the hot stuffy bus, the cool air was a nice change. We saw horses on the way to the campfire to figure out cabins and groups. We all put our bags into our cabins and had lunch. Then, we went into our groups to start our activities. Some people were with some unfamiliar faces, so we could make new friends.

First up was horse riding! The camp leader allocated you a horse. You would have this horse for the next two days, so you would really bond with your horse. The first day you would learn some basic skills such as walking and trotting; on the second day you would go on a trail ride.

On the first night we watched a movie, toasted marshmallows and watched a whip cracking display.

The second day, we did a commando course as well as an initiative course. Some were lucky enough to get to go paddle boating. On the second night, the pouring rain meant we did trivia.

Finally, we went into Echuca and went on a paddle steamer. We also visited a museum and had a guided tour around Echuca.

Overall, our camp experience was full of fun activities and was a good time to bond with friends!

Claire Pricina, Ella Adams, Catie Binos 8G



YEAR 8 ENGAGE DAY

ENGAGE, EXCITE AND ENJOY

The Year 8 Engage day was full of fun activities and great teamwork exercises.

It started off with a competitive three-legged race before a challenging egg drop activity. There then was a small break for a snack and some fresh air after pouring rain decided to clear.

After our break, we did some mindfulness activities such as yoga, breathing exercises and some meditative colouring sheets. The rain kept us inside for a fiercely contested trivia contest.

Then, lunch was provided by Subway and there were cookies of all flavours, along with platters of different types of sandwiches. As an added bonus, there was enough for seconds and even thirds!

To end the day we had a fun Just Dance session in which everyone was participating, even the teachers. Everyone had a chance to show off their moves and have a great time during our day.

Finn Taylor Nash and Jack Baillargeon 8B



YEAR 7 ENGAGE DAY

On Thursday the 15th of July, the entirety of year 7 went to Amberley Lodge, in Lower Plenty. We headed inside and were told the rules and our instructors and most of our wonderful teachers were there. There were a range of activities that we completed in our classes, including Just Dance, yoga, mindful colouring, cops & robbers, 'Not I Sir' and plenty more. Our day was full of activities and games for everyone. We had two breaks in between all of these activities, to catch our breath and see our friends and for lunch, we were given Subway.

Surveying some of my class, I found that everyone's favourite activity was Cops & Robbers. Mainly because of the amount of people slipping on the mud. We were split into two teams and one sat down on the chairs set out. The second team took turns running in and out of the chairs with various 'cops' chasing them. The second favourite was Just Dance, which ran for a double session instead of a single. We danced to a variety of songs and overall we had an amazing day.

I want to say thank you to our teachers, this wouldn't have been possible without them.

Madelene Vecchiarelli of 7C



NEPAL FUNDRAISING EVENING



HEIDELBERG GOLF CLUB -

THURSDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 6.15PM FOR 6.45PM

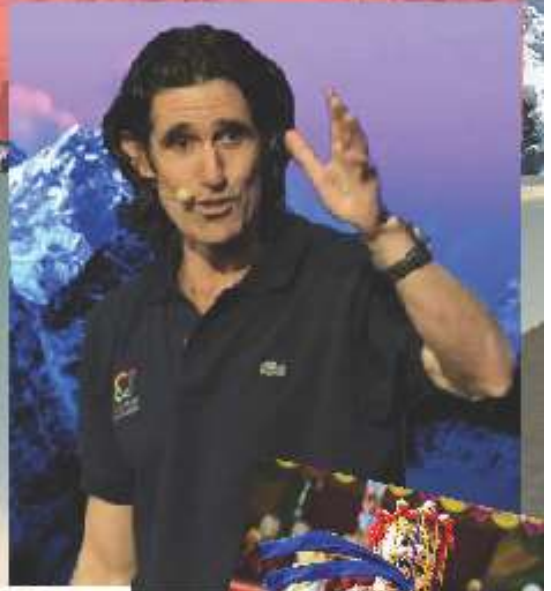


ExtraOrdinary Guest
Speaker

Mark 'Squiz'

Squirrell OAM

Commando –
Humanitarian Aid Worker
– Everest Summiteer



Join us for an absolutely brilliant evening of
Nepalese Culture Dancing Display & Entertainment
Nepalese Cuisine
Hamper Raffle

Silent and Live Auctions
Nepalese Artifacts and
Craft for sale



Dress:
Nepal/Indian Dress Style
(Prizes to be awarded)



\$65 per
person

Bookings via Try Booking. <http://www.trybooking.com/BSKSK>

CAREERS NEWS

Year 10 guide to VCE subject selection

for 2024 university entry

Montmorency
Secondary School

Year 11 & 12 Subject Selection 2022

All students and families have been emailed the relevant VTAC prerequisites and Year 10 guide to VCE subject selection. Student need to make sure they follow these guidelines before selecting subjects for 2022. Year 10 students are working on this in their Industry and Enterprise class in preparation for their careers interview on Monday 16th August. Year 11 students are welcome to make a careers appointment with me at any time: go to www.montmorency careers.com and book an appointment under 'For Students' if they wish to discuss subject selection and/or pathways.

Michael Weeding
Careers & Pathways

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SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY
OF TECHNOLOGY

What is the Early Entry Program?

<https://www.swinburne.edu.au/courses/planning-your-future/early-entry-program/>

Because we don't think a singular score or the state of the world should derail your life plans, we announced the first ever Swinburne Early Entry Program last year – an initiative that saw hundreds of Class of 2020 Year 12 students admitted into the course of their choice, no ATAR required.

Once again, we're making conditional offers into [select courses](#) based on an application and a recommendation from your school. If you're currently studying Year 12 and would like to be assessed on criteria outside of your ATAR, tell us how you think a Swinburne course could help you to make your mark on the world.

To be eligible and receive a full offer, you'll still need to complete Year 12 and meet the course prerequisites. But you won't have to sweat the ATAR you end up with.



Aspire – Early Admissions Program to La Trobe

Open 19th April – 17th September

At La Trobe, we believe there is more to being a good student than marks alone. The Aspire program rewards the skills and knowledge students gain from the positive impact they have made on their school or community through community service or volunteerism. Designed to give Year 12's the tools they

need to succeed at La Trobe and beyond, students accepted into the Aspire program will get:

- A taste of university life at La Trobe with special on-campus events before the year commences
- The chance to meet and connect with like-minded students
- Leadership opportunities, career development, networking, and industry mentoring
- VCE revision lectures for Year 12's in the September school holidays
- Access to La Trobe's extensive library and campus resources
- Induction into La Trobe's Enrichment Program to prepare for what is to come

Successful applicants also receive their **early conditional offer** in September for their chosen course along with minimum ATAR requirements. Many courses have a minimum ATAR of 55.00, but some professional degree programs have higher requirements. Up to 40 Aspire scholarships, worth \$5,000 per year for up to four years, will be awarded to leading eligible Aspire students.

The Minimum ATAR Table shows the minimum ATAR for some professional degree courses for entry through Aspire in 2022. Should an applicant's preferred course not be listed on this table, then the minimum ATAR is 50.00.



2021 Early Offer Scheme (New 2021)

Use your experience to secure an early spot in your dream course at RMIT

Are you a Year 12 who has experience being a leader, working with different people, showcasing your creativity or making an impact in the tech world?

It's 2021, which means it's time your hobbies, weekend projects and passions are considered alongside your ATAR. Through RMIT's Early Offer program, your life experience outside the classroom can count towards your dream associate or bachelor's degree, allowing you to be accepted on a lower ATAR and taking some of the pressure off your final year at high school.

It's part of RMIT's commitment to diversity and equitable learning, and it means you'll get your conditional uni offer in September.

OPEN DAYS & WEBINARS 2021

RMIT	29 August	Online Open day
Deakin University	15 August	Open Day Virtual
La Trobe University	Virtual Open Day— https://www.latrobe.edu.au	
Monash University	1 September	Get Ready to Apply Expo
University of Melbourne	22 August	Online Open Day https://study.unimelb.edu.au/openday
Federation University	15 August	Online Open Day https://www.federation.edu.au/openday
Defence Careers	21 August	Online ADFA Open day
William Angliss	14 August	Online Open Day
JMC Academy	21 August	Open Day – Melbourne
AIE	15 August	Online Open Day
Collarts	28 August	Open Day
AIT	Virtual Open Day—Revisit from April	

CAREERS NEWS

ACU Guarantee

Due to the overwhelming number of applications we received last year through ACU Guarantee, we are very excited to continue this early offer program in 2021.



Applications are now open

<https://www.acu.edu.au/study-at-acu/admission-pathways/acu-guarantee?>

How it works

ACU Guarantee completely removes the ATAR requirement for a student's desired course and makes an early conditional offer to successful applicants prior to sitting final exams. This alleviates common stresses and anxiety many students have about achieving their perfect score.

Instead, this program will consider a student's Year 11 results and a predicted selection rank will be generated by our admissions team when assessing applications. The offer is conditional on completing VCE exams and meeting the subject prerequisites for their preferred course.

Students may be concerned that their Year 11 results aren't the best due to COVID-19 impacts, however rest assured that all Year 12 students are in the same boat and this will be taken into account. Applications for this program are free of charge and available through the [ACU Guarantee portal](#), so we encourage all students to apply – they never know what offer could await them.

Once students begin an application, they can select two course preferences* and will be prompted to upload Year 11 results/reports (or the ACU Guarantee Supplementary Assessment form) as evidence of their achievements last year. They will also have the opportunity to provide up to three personal statements addressing different categories (maximum 200 words each) outlining personal circumstances and motivation for university study.

In addition to applying through the ACU Guarantee portal, students will also need to apply through VTAC. In Victoria, ACU can only finalise offers if students list the course as their highest eligible preference in their VTAC application. The good news is we will already have assessed their application so there is no waiting or worrying about whether they will get in. Students will be notified of their application outcome via email and offers will be made fortnightly.

Applications close midnight Friday 24 September.



Open Day 2021

Have your Year 12 students join us at our beautiful Parkville and Southbank campuses and experience Open Day on 15 August.

This year, Open Day will run a little differently due to COVIDSafe capacity restrictions. However, they can still expect to explore our spaces and enjoy a tailored event designed for students uncover their ideal course and major.

Registration for every attendee is mandatory and we recommend only bringing along one family member (and they'll need to register separately). Book-in for preferred sessions and build a personalised agenda to experience Melbourne. There'll be repeat sessions running throughout the day to find a time that suits.

We're giving our Melbourne Connect schools this early opportunity to register as Open Day is expected to book out, so get in quickly.

We look forward to seeing your students on campus to explore their future student life at Melbourne in 2022.

<https://study.unimelb.edu.au/openday>