

Montmorency Secondary College NEWSLETTER

Para Road Montmorency VIC 3094
P 9422 1500 E montmorency.sc@education.vic.gov.au www.montysc.vic.edu.au



MONTMORENCY
SECONDARY COLLEGE

17th September, 2021

A MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Carers, Students and Staff,

Since our last newsletter in August, we continue to find ourselves in the remote and flexible learning environment and we eagerly await to be notified of news with regards to the arrangements for Term 4. The Department of Education regularly provides us with templated update letters, regarding COVID-19 and arrangements for student learning, which we forward onto our families as we continue to keep them informed of the most recent guidelines. Although, we are yet to be informed about what the arrangements are for a return to on-site learning next term, we will advise you as soon as we know more.

The most recent lockdowns have brought with them many challenges in supporting the mental health of students and staff. Despite these challenges, our community has continued to demonstrate resilience and teamwork in supporting each other through this journey. Personally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support during Term 3 in my role as Acting Principal. I chose not to apply for the substantive Principal position; however, we look forward to working closely with the new Principal and continuing to put the educational and welfare needs of our students, staff and College families foremost. I would like to thank Sonia Culcasi, who has taken on the role of Acting Assistant Principal this term, for her dedication and hard work. It has been wonderful having her work alongside Mark Lohrey, Lisa Ball and myself as part of our team.

Recently, we completed the rigorous process of electing our four College Captains for 2022. In this current COVID-19 climate, our students rose to the challenge of submitting an application and attending an interview. We are proud to announce that, from a field of many strong applicants vying for one of the four positions, the following students were the successful candidates: Harry Kayll, Shae Krukowitch, Grace Papagianis and Louise Van Putten. Congratulations to these successful students, our College Captains for 2022.



Harry Kayll



Shae Krukowitch



Grace Papagianis



Louise van Putten

In many ways, Term 3 has proven to be challenging for everyone but it has been most difficult for our students, who have now been dealing with lockdowns for almost 18 months, particularly our Year 12 students, who have been affected by COVID-19 restrictions for almost the entirety of their VCE. The Victorian Government is aiming for all final year students to be vaccinated by the time they sit their end-of-year exams.

The Year 12 GAT, that was originally scheduled to occur on the 9th June, has been postponed on three occasions due to COVID-19 restrictions. The GAT is now scheduled to take place on Tuesday 5th October 2021.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL Cont...

We continue to find innovative ways in which to keep our students connected and engaged remotely. Students within the SRC, led by next year's College Captains, together with Kim Faulkner, Hayley Davies and Karen Giles have been working extremely hard behind the scenes to come up with fun activities and programs to engage students during remote learning. It has been wonderful to see the daily activities and competitions that our students and staff have been involved in and posting images of those activities on the Google Classroom platform, such as the 'Monty's Mindfulness Mission', which began on Monday 30th August. Furthermore, the Whole School Trivia afternoon on Wednesday 1st September provided students with an opportunity to actively be involved in a fun and engaging activity.



Trivia Prize for Participants

It was so pleasing to see just over 180 students who connected remotely to participate in this afternoon of trivia. Additionally, the *Just Dance* activity, held on Wednesday 25 August for Year 7 and 8 students had 140 Year 7 students and 180 Year 8 students connect remotely to join the Dance Karaoke. It was wonderful to see students and staff having a lot of fun, enjoying physical activity and laughing. A big thank you to Jayden Stenton for his constant help and ICT support.



The SRC have assembled and posted *Mindfulness* packs to all students from Year 7-12. Packs at each year level were slightly different, but all included positive messages, mindful activities, and ideas. A special treat that was also included in the Mindfulness packs was a cookie with the message, "You Are Amazing", which was made and packed by Food Assistants, Grace Bertoncini, Heather Bielski and Leora Levacic.

Even though we had to cancel our House Trivia for 2021 due to Covid-19, we are pleased to inform you that our generous College community raised \$1,842.50 as a donation to the Peter MacCallum Cancer Foundation, an organisation that is close to the heart of our former Principal, Mr Allan Robinson, and the donation will be made in memory of Pamela Anderson, wife of long-standing former staff member Graham (Ando) Anderson.



Emma Bell 7G

The annual *Arts Alive* exhibition will continue this year, running in a similar format to last year. The Arts and Technology faculty are providing members of the wider Monty community an opportunity to participate in an online showcase around the theme 'inspiration'. Submission of work is in digital format only and is due by the 15th of October, after which the Arts & Technology staff will be selecting the final shortlisted applicants. Thank you to Claire Mooney, Arts & Technology Leader, who, with the support of other faculty members, has organised this excellent event.



Tahlia Plunkett 9C



Emma Cooper 7F



Sophie Nihll 7F



Rhianyn Camilleri 10B

I would like to finish by expressing a very big thank you to the whole College community for its outstanding work in keeping our students engaged and connected to their learning in the remote learning environment. These are such unprecedented times, and despite this, people have continued to support one another, showing resilience, care and commitment across the board. It has been difficult, we know; but very much appreciated.

With kindest regards,

Clara Di Biase
Acting Principal