PRINCIPAL’S SAY

Something Special Has Begun

Every year our students write and perform an original play. It is part of our commitment to innovation and creativity.

This year’s play, The Confession, was built around a famous local murder. Set in 1949 it centres around the question of who killed Bethany Morgan. At one level, it simply explores the events of the evening leading up to the murder - at another level it explores big themes around authority and community that are still relevant today.

It seemed fitting that this historic drama was performed for the first time at the Bay Street campus, a building that has a great sense of history as well.

It was a fabulous performance from our students and a tribute to the growing professionalism of our drama team. In particular, I would like to thank Holly Pritchard, Head of Drama, for her role in leading the development of the play.

This was the year that saw our extension and enrichment activities reach maturity. We now have a full range of events across the Liberal, Performing and Visual Arts. These events are anchored by some signature community based events that invite our community to experience the creative talents of our students.
To celebrate the Liberal Arts we created a weeklong festival titled “Artists, Poets, Creatives.” It featured keynote presentations from leading Australian authors such as John Marsden and Alice Pung as well as artist in residence Liam Pieper. The highlight was the publication of original student works and the passionate way in which our students embraced this festival, both in the reading of their works and in their commitment to the festival.

The Annual Vaudeville Show is another signature piece for the performing arts. Held before a packed audience at the state theatre it is a night of breathtaking variety. Our students perform clever and original acts across dance, drama, and music.

The Annual Art Show remains the highlight of our enrichment calendar. This event has grown to be an institution for our community. A weeklong event, it celebrates both student and community based art. For the first time we held the event in our Bay Street campus and the raw, stripped back feel of the building added to the ambience of the show. Once again, the creativity of our students was on full display across the week.

We have now established our reputation as a school dedicated to the arts, with a further commitment to producing creative and original work. It speaks to our motto to “Lead Create and Inspire” and the signature events build our connection to our community.

Of course, we are also proud of the wonderful achievement of our foundation students. This year they delivered outstanding VCE results which I have no doubt you have seen reported in the media. To establish ourselves amongst the top 20 percent of all schools in the state was an impressive start in our quest to be one of the top performing schools.

It is proof that our commitment to a partnership of learning, between parents teachers and students really works. As we stated in our first newsletter in 2011, something special has begun!

Finally, I want to thank you all for your support this year, a year in which we established our reputation as a school. I hope you have a safe and relaxing break and we are looking forward to working together again in 2017.

-Steve Cook
Foundation Principal
Year 12 Presentation Evening

On November 23rd we were thrilled to hold our inaugural Presentation Evening at the St Kilda Town Hall, in celebration of our graduating class of 2016. This evening was a first for the College, an opportunity to formally recognize the academic achievements of our Foundation students, as well as a chance to celebrate our past six years together.

As the evening unfolded one common theme emerged; that APC has indeed become something very special. Highlights and recollections of the past six years brought tears and laughter, and it was with both joy and sadness that we bid farewell to our Foundation students.
Presentation Evening is a significant milestone for the College, and for those of us who have been here from the beginning, this evening was particularly momentous. Our Foundation students have shaped who we are, have embodied our values, and set a standard for future students to follow. We could not be more proud of the people they have become or the way in which they have represented us.

As our first Year 12s embark on their lives beyond APC we wish them all the very best. We will follow their futures with great care and interest.

-Anne Stout

APC is most grateful to the City of Port Phillip for their support of our Presentation Evening.
School Production - The Confession

Six months ago, the Year 10 Theatre Studies class set out to devise an original full length play to be staged in November at the new Bay Street Campus. The play invited the audience back to 1949 and took them through the events of a fateful evening, when the suburb of Albert Park witnessed a shocking crime. The play left the audience to come to their own conclusion as to who did kill Bethany Morgan. Over three months, the group of 20 students brainstormed, researched, collaborated and improvised before breaking into small groups to write the play scene by scene.

The play explored a range of questions such as: are authority figures always moral and upstanding citizens? If not, what consequence does it have for a community? What moral and ethical dilemmas do a jury face when they decide if someone is guilty or not guilty? Is it fair to ask twelve people to make such an important decision?

The students used a range of theatrical conventions to explore these ideas, including employing the ensemble who represent the community to peer through the venetian blinds, eagerly observing the night unfold. The cast used direct address to encourage the audience to consider their personal views on the topics raised in the show. Finally, the use of minimal set and props reminded the audience that these themes and ideas exist not only on stage within the play, but remain topics relevant to the world in which the audience resides.
The students performed exceptionally on the evening, with the months of intensive rehearsal and character development well and truly paid off. A highlight for many of the audience members, was scene 12 and ¼ starring Oscar Pearce and Oliver Kalicin, playing two journalists arguing over the guilt of the defendant. Also mentioned was the powerful scene of the three jurors, Charlie Morris, Simon Leenders and Mackenzie Selleck, sharing their inner thoughts with the audience. Many audience members noted the professionalism in which the whole cast and crew brought to the evening, presenting an impressive student devised production.

As the set and lighting were bumped out of Bay Street the days following, there is no denying that the magic of the evening has lingered for much longer.

Congratulations to our 2017 School Captains!

We would like to congratulate our newly appointed 2017 School Captains:

Ellen Waite and Alexander Scott

They will be supported by our 2017 Vice Captains:

Stephanie Bakas and Oliver Marks
Land and Water Camp

Late in November the two classes of Land and Water students embarked on their end of year experiential camp. This gave students the opportunity to put their skills learnt during excursions into practice in a challenging environment with their peers. Despite the poor weather, the students had a fantastic time participating in a number of activities from whitewater kayaking, rock climbing, abseiling, caving and completing the ‘Challenge Valley’ adventure course.

Students were challenged both physically and mentally and were exposed to new experiences that pushed them outside of their comfort zones. In addition to the adventure activities, to add to the camping experience students prepared and cooked their own meals on camp stoves. The meals produced were of outstanding quality and this was a credit to their planning and preparation prior to camp. Overall the camp was a great success and I wish to thank all of the students for making it such an enjoyable time.
This semester every Year 9 Game And Website Design student was looking forward to our school excursion to 2016’s PAX; Melbourne’s ‘Penny Arcade Expo’. It is the Southern Hemisphere’s largest entertainment gaming convention. To put it mildly we just couldn’t wait. When the day finally came, it did not disappoint.

Arriving at PAX was like walking into a whole new world where it felt out of the ordinary to be ordinary. Students were allowed to wander free in the exhibition halls, everyone had a chance to explore, learn and importantly, to find their own fun.

A majority of us stayed in the main area, where some of the newest and hottest video games were waiting to be played. A select few were lucky enough to win cool prizes on the show floor - from computer hardware to bits of gaming furniture. There were also some enterprising students who entered tournaments, with one even going up against a professional e-sport athlete.

For those who perused through the indie area, dozens of independent developers showed off the games they had been working on for years, demonstrating that a career in gaming didn’t have to be bankrolled by a large company; it could be funded by determination alone.

Away from the main area were a few rooms in which featured discussion panels, where people got to meet and ask questions to members of the gaming industry. In particular Major Nelson (Microsoft and Xbox) gave a talk about what it’s like to help run one of the biggest companies in the world. Some of the cosplay on display showed true dedication to fans’ love of gaming culture. PAX was a place which welcomed everyone to be themselves and share their interests; it was a place where ‘nerds’ were the coolest people around.

The excursion ended with students leaving with a good helping of valuable knowledge about the gaming and tech industry. Overall, it was a wonderful experience which helped Game and Website students delve deeper into the world of gaming and its career opportunities. A big thanks to Mr Senz for organising the excursion, and also to Mr Howard for his help on the day. Game over.

Corey Lay & Shae Demetriou, Year 9 Game & Web Design students
Year 11 Study Camp

Over a two day period, the Year 11 cohort attended a Study Camp as part of the Year 11 orientation into Year 12. The study camp was held at ACMI at Federation Square where we met with staff from APC and a range of different guest speakers.

On the first day, students were informed of what’s to come when entering Year 12 by Mr Cook and Ms Stout. Next, a spokesperson from an organisation called YGAP came to talk to students about other people who have successfully made a change to some of the world’s most poverty stricken places. He shared incredible stories of individuals who turned their lives around and helped others, or those who wanted to make a difference from their life experiences.

In the second half of the day, students were greeted by a spokesperson from Elevate Education to talk about stress management in Year 12: keeping healthy mentally and physically; keeping a regular study routine; how to best perform in the end-of-year 12 examinations. He enlightened students about the do’s and don’ts of studying, effective ways to study, and advice on achieving success.

On the second day of Study Camp, three Year 12 students shared with the Year 11s their wisdom and experiences dealing with the heavy workload of VCE. Then Ms Campbell and Ms Stewart spoke to the group about the support networks in place for students and the ins and outs of the VCE curriculum. This was followed by a lecture by Elevate Education titled ‘Ace Your Exams’. The session included valuable information about exam preparation as well as exam room skills. Although this was information a majority of us knew, thanks to our great teachers at Albert Park College, this was good refresher and reminded of important study habits.

After our designated lunchtime we all regrouped and were briefed on our final challenge for the camp which was an Amazing Race. Much like the TV show, we were placed into teams where we would then solve puzzles and challenges in order to complete the race through the city, leaving the team with the best time as the winner. The race took us to locations such as the Yarra, Degraves street, Bourke Street Mall, Treasury Gardens and Federation Square. Overall, I feel as though this experience has prepared our Year 11s for our upcoming journey through Year 12. We would like to thank Ms Campbell and the Senior Team for organising such a fantastic experience. The Camp was very beneficial and insightful about what to expect next year!

Oliver Marks and Stephanie Bakas - 2017 School Vice Captains
Great Victorian Bike Ride

From Halls Gap to Geelong, the 9 day - 546km ride was quite an experience. With an average of about 70km a day, the GVBR was definitely challenging, but also rewarding. From my experience of the first day I can say two things; don’t stay up until 3am the morning before, and definitely don’t forget to bring a helmet like I did...

Upon arrival, bikes and bags were collected and tents were set up at the campsite. Eventually, everyone had gone to sleep and was ready for the first day of riding. At 5am on the morning of the second day (the first day of riding), the campsite woke at 5am and quickly packed up, ate breakfast and most people were ready to leave at around 7am for the 72km ahead of them. The first 2 days of riding weren’t too special, although there were a few medium sized hills and some great views for pictures.

The 100km day came next and many people, including myself, were definitely anxious about it. Waking at 5am and leaving at around 7am had now become routine and soon the 100km day had started. Surprisingly, it was a lot easier than I first suspected, as much of it was downhill with a few smaller hills scattered throughout. Although this day seemed to take forever, the thought of climbing Lavers Hill the following day made the 100km seem easy.

Lavers Hill was a very, very big hill, but really, it wasn’t as hard as I expected it to be. It included about 500m of ascent in total, although the day had a lot more than that. After the climb to the top of Lavers had been completed, we got to enjoy some nice downhill and flat for a while... then came more hills. The countless kilometers of up and down and up and down were what killed me. All that could be done was to say “shut up legs!” and keep riding. The idea of a rest day the next day was what pushed many people over the final hills.

The rest day, a day that we could relax and do nothing was more than welcome. Finally, we could have a sleep in. The town and beach of Apollo bay were popular attractions for the thousands of people present. During this day, the 5-day riders left and the 3-day riders arrived, giving the campsite a whole new feel.
On day 7, for 83km from Skenes Creek to Lorne, we had the whole great ocean road to ourselves. No cars, only riders. This was an amazing experience as it gave a whole different feel to the road. The final 2 days were an easy 53 and 62 kilometres respectively, although a shorter 42km option was available for the last day.

For the final 5km of the GVBR, the APC group all rode together in a sea of yellow, arriving to a cheering crowd of family and friends. The Great Vic was truly a rewarding experience and I will definitely be looking forward to it in 2017.

Conor Segeth

APC Rowing 2016

We have had a very successful start to the 2016/17 season of Albert Park College Rowing! The rowing squad has attended several regattas this term and come away with FIVE wins.

We kicked off at the Carey Regatta in November winning our first ever gold medal for Albert Park College with the Year 9 crew of Jasmine Gregory, Annabelle Probert, Leila Ordonez and Emily Gaudry (Yr 8) and coxed by Mia Case. Our next wins came from the combined Year 9/10 crew of Jasmine Gregory, Ciara Sullivan, Leila Ordonez, Kate Mckenna and coxed by Sophie Koo who won the D Grade Quad and U17 Quad at the Carrum Regatta. Rounding out the wins for the season was Lucy De Gleria Cade winning the U15 single scull at the Carrum Regatta and a week later winning the Year 8 single scull at the Sacred Heart Regatta. All the girls crews, including our new year 8’s, had some great races this year - well done on a fantastic start to the season!

It was also great to see the boys squad hit the water for the first time. It will be very exciting to see what Term 1 racing season holds for them and well done on your first races this year.

I would like to say a huge thank you to Jasmine Gregory for being our inaugural Captain of Boats for 2016. Jasmine is always such a positive and helpful person to have around. Well done Jasmine on leading the way amongst your peers!

Congratulations to Ciara Sullivan, who has been voted our 2017 Captain of Boats.
Multicultural Day

On Friday, the 2nd of December, we celebrated our fifth ‘Multicultural Day’ here at APC. Every year, students and staff celebrate the different cultures that exist here in Melbourne and around the world, by inviting students, families, teachers and the community to be involved.

The past four years have all been very successful and this year was no exception. We had numerous cultures and countries represented on the day, particularly India, Italy, Japan, Colombia, Afghanistan and France. This year we had activities like African and Japanese drumming, Bollywood Dancing, Karate, Tai Chi, Yoga, French, Italian and Colombian Cooking. Students also learnt The Haka and played Kabadi amongst lots of other activities. We also ate French crepes and Italian Pizza at lunchtime. One class even got to go to DOC Pizza, which was a wonderful experience.

Thanks again to everyone who made the day possible, especially to our organiser Mr Wallace Smith!

Royal Melbourne Hospital Work Experience

Year 10 work experience gave me the opportunity to explore a field I’m interested in: the field of medicine. During the mid-year school holidays, I accepted a work experience placement at The Royal Melbourne Hospital in the Neurosurgery Department. I got to communicate to several patients and doctors during ward rounds, observe a doctor in a clinic, shadow a physiotherapist, and observe several neurosurgeons operate on their patients brain and spinal cord in theatre. Being only metres away from a neurosurgeon removing half a person’s skull in front of me made me realise that I’d like to pursue a career in a surgical field. In addition to watching surgeries in theatre, I got to spend a day in the clinic with a doctor, watching him and his patients talk about the outcome of their tumour removal. Seeing the doctors and surgeons care so much about their patients, and being so welcoming towards me really inspired me. I’m grateful that I had the opportunity to use my work experience placement within a field that I was interested in, because doing so inspired me to accomplish what I need to in further studies, in order to reach my goal.

By Annalisha Andrews Year 10
Year 7 Mind and Body Day

Wrapped up in their coats waiting to go to the Queen Victoria Market for the ‘Mind and Body Day’ stood the Year 7 cohort. They were anticipating a day of boredom and tiredness but by the end would decide that the 4am wake up call had been worthwhile.

Everyone met in the gym, lined up in groups and then walked to the tram; after waiting for the people who had slept through their alarms. Many were surprised about how busy the city was at 6am. We got to look at the nearby CBD in a way we had never done before. The Queen Victoria Market was waiting for us, smelling of fresh vegetables, luxurious cheeses and of course, fish guts.

In groups of 2-5 we set off on a scavenger hunt that took us all throughout the market. Many historical places were destinations on the hunt. It took us past the original graveyard wall, a mural for John Batman and got us to compare the age and uses of the dairy building to the meat section. The fruit and vegetable area was a treasure trove of answers to our hunt. We located fruit and vegetables that we hadn’t heard of before and many that shared the first letter of our name. Everyone enjoyed the scavenger hunt and the majority wished they could do it again.

Back at school, students took part in two gentle activities; the first Tai Chi and the second Yoga. All the Year 7’s had the chance to get in touch with their subconscious mind and find inner peace after the fun but frantic treasure hunt. Thank you to the professional Tai Chi and Yoga instructors who guided us through the activities. We then saw an informational presentation on how to keep our growing bodies healthy. Our guest presenter told us about which and how much of the foods available should be eaten as well as sleep and hydration needs.

Everyone went home thoroughly exhausted and willing to get the correct amount of sleep needed to function properly. I would recommend this whole experience to next cohort of Year 7s and would like to tell them that this event should not be underestimated. I hope that all the future students will have just as much fun as I did on the ‘Mind and Body Day’.

Melisand Box - Year 7
Year 7 and Year 8 Camp Snapshot

The 2016 Year 7 and 8 Camps were a great success, have a look at how they went!
APC Future Directions

In Term 3 parents, students and staff were invited to participate in a series of forums that asked for their views regarding the future directions of Albert Park College. Each forum was asked a series of questions that canvassed their thoughts on the present and future of the College. All groups identified College growth as an important issue, alongside the need to develop a well-defined pathway for planned and structured growth across the College whilst maintaining our culture and values.

These thoughts will inform our forthcoming Annual Implementation Plan and our new Strategic Plan. We thank all of those who participated in these events and appreciate your ongoing feedback and interest in Albert Park College.

Parent Forum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Dominant Theme/Response</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q1. Why did you send your child to APC?</td>
<td>- Philosophy and vision of school&lt;br&gt;- Culture / values of school&lt;br&gt;- Local and community focus&lt;br&gt;- SEAL / academic focus&lt;br&gt;- Positive reputation / recommendation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q2. Has APC lived up to your expectations?</td>
<td>- Teachers - high standard, caring, professional&lt;br&gt;- Would like more space (outdoor)&lt;br&gt;- Innovative, lots of programs and initiatives (extra curricular, IB)&lt;br&gt;- Disappointed by Year 9 campus delay&lt;br&gt;- Admin support and communication very good</td>
</tr>
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<td>Q3. Where would you like APC to head in the future?</td>
<td>- Expand to another campus&lt;br&gt;- More outdoor space (ie to promote sports)&lt;br&gt;- Maintain culture, feel as the school grows&lt;br&gt;- Internationalisation - continue to expand international programs such as IB, languages, exchanges&lt;br&gt;- Designated Year 12 space</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q4. Is there anything else you would like to tell us?</td>
<td>- As above, expand to use gasworks, more space/ another campus&lt;br&gt;- More activity / senior sport&lt;br&gt;- Parking / drop off zone&lt;br&gt;- Use of ipads in recess/lunchtimes</td>
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Student Forum

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<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Dominant Theme/Response</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q1. What do you like about APC?</td>
<td>- Student/teacher relationships&lt;br&gt;- Open Plan Layout&lt;br&gt;- Diverse curriculum&lt;br&gt;- Extracurricular activities&lt;br&gt;- Culture&lt;br&gt;- Focus on Arts and Environment&lt;br&gt;- Elective choice&lt;br&gt;- Community involvement&lt;br&gt;- Technology use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q2. What do we do well as a school?</td>
<td>- Extracurricular activities&lt;br&gt;- Range of learning opportunities&lt;br&gt;- Acceptance of others&lt;br&gt;- Use of technology/Portal&lt;br&gt;- Support system for struggling students&lt;br&gt;- Arts program&lt;br&gt;- Community involvement&lt;br&gt;- Music&lt;br&gt;- Student Voice</td>
</tr>
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<td>Q3. What could we improve?</td>
<td>- Uniform consistency&lt;br&gt;- Senior study area&lt;br&gt;- Senior Years privileges&lt;br&gt;- More languages&lt;br&gt;- School café lines&lt;br&gt;- Minimise student emails – sent to relevant students not all&lt;br&gt;- Senior common room&lt;br&gt;- Air conditioning&lt;br&gt;- Outside space</td>
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<td>Q4. What would you like us to think about for the future?</td>
<td>- Senior common room&lt;br&gt;- Study space</td>
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Welcome Picnic

The APC families’ Welcome Picnic will be held in Term 1 of next year at Gasworks Park just across from the school and is a great chance for new families and students to get to know other and for current students and families to catch up after the summer break. All welcome.

Save the date: **Wednesday 8 February 2017**
Contact: John Dynon at excelljdynon@hotmail.com

APC Families Hikes

Also coming up in Term 1 these overnight one parent/one child hikes are usually held in March or April. Brave the elements, hike during the day and camp at night under the stars with experienced parents/teachers to guide the way.

Date to be advised.
Contact: jameswallacesmith@albertparkcollege.vic.edu.au

### Staff Forum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Given what we set out to achieve, how did we go?</th>
<th>What did we do well?</th>
<th>What needs to be improved? (evidence required)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Q1. What do we teach?</strong></td>
<td>• Guaranteed Curriculum&lt;br&gt;• Curriculum design and planning&lt;br&gt;• Reflection and collaboration&lt;br&gt;• Collegiate time for planning&lt;br&gt;• Team teaching&lt;br&gt;• Backwards by design</td>
<td>• Welcoming teaching and learning environment&lt;br&gt;• Sharing and collaboration culture&lt;br&gt;• Guaranteed Curriculum&lt;br&gt;• Use of technology&lt;br&gt;• Positive culture</td>
<td>• Multiple areas of improvement raised – at times very subject specific&lt;br&gt;• The value of learning in small group situations rather that the 50 student model</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Q2. How do we know students are learning?</strong></td>
<td>• Formative and summative assessment&lt;br&gt;• Engagement&lt;br&gt;• Data&lt;br&gt;• Teaching and learning strategies employed</td>
<td>• Use of rubrics&lt;br&gt;• Constructive and directed feedback</td>
<td>Using whole school data effectively&lt;br&gt;• Analysis of assessment post feedback&lt;br&gt;• Continuous reporting system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Q3. Are our resources used to support student outcomes?</strong></td>
<td>• Portal&lt;br&gt;• ICT</td>
<td>• Use of innovative technologies&lt;br&gt;• Connections with community&lt;br&gt;• ITC&lt;br&gt;• Use of external venues and experiences in the community</td>
<td>Utilizing limited space and storage effectively&lt;br&gt;• Resourcing rooms appropriately&lt;br&gt;• Effective team teaching&lt;br&gt;• Physical shared spaces of different classes decreases learning&lt;br&gt;• Use of learning centres&lt;br&gt;• Continual improvement of portal</td>
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### APC Families News

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**Lead Create Inspire**
French News

De Vinci et la France

The French department is thrilled that, for the first time in APC history, a number of students have produced their artistic response to their big question for the Da Vinci project in French. This makes perfect sense to us as Léonard De Vinci (as he is known in French) spent the last years of his life living and working in France, thanks to an invitation from King Francis I.

The Bay St Arts Hub French teachers, Madame Deal, Madame Ryan and Monsieur Boureau would like to commend the Year 9 students who have submitted some outstanding work and we hope you will get a chance to enjoy all of their work at the Da Vinci exhibition. Here is a sneak preview from one young artist, Freya O’Donnell. Incroyable!

Berthe Mouchette Awards Ceremony

On 22 November Leon Fricker (Year 11) was invited to the St Kilda Town Hall to receive his award for 3rd place in the Berthe Mouchette competition. The director of the Alliance Française explained that this year the competition attracted over 12,000 entrants, which makes Leon’s award an incredible feat. Félicitations!

Victorian School of Languages Award

A significant number of students at Albert Park College study languages in addition to French, such as Mandarin via face-to-face classes at a range of centres across Melbourne and via distance education through the Victorian School of Languages. All of these students should be commended for their dedication and the mature approach they show towards independent study.

Special mention must be made of India Fulcher, who in Year 7 at APC and who has been studying Mandarin via distance education this year in addition to her French studies. She has just been awarded a prestigious VSL Academic Award for 2017 for her excellence in Mandarin.

Poetry by Freya O’Donnell - Year 9 French

Cette planète n’est pas de sortie d’urgence
Cela a duré trop longtemps,
Destruction.
Élimination.
Mort.
Qu’est ce qui va se passer ensuite?
Qu’est ce qui va changer?
Où allons-nous aller?

Cela a duré trop longtemps,
Égoïsme.
Ignorance.
Mort.
Nous avons passé notre vie à changer,
Mais pas dans le bon sens.
C’est tout pour de l’argent.

Quel est le problème avec les gens?
Ne se rendant-ils pas compte?
Notre planète n’a pas de sorties d’urgence.

Nous n’avons nulle part où aller.
Nous nous tuons.
C’est notre faute,
Nous avons échoué.
Et maintenant il n’y a que la mort.

Poetry by Freya O’Donnell - Year 9 French
STEM News

University of Melbourne STEM Project - Understanding the Importance of Data

During Terms 3 & 4 Dene Morris, Billy Sheppard and I participated in a STEM Project with two University of Melbourne Masters’ students, Katherine and Eric. In the 20 hours we spent together, we worked closely to develop and investigate a question regarding the life threatening genetic disease Cystic Fibrosis.

Our mentors, with backgrounds in both Geology and Computer Science, assisted us to develop a website that would provide future researchers with information regarding the research prompt we developed; “To investigate the correlation between a health care system’s quality and Cystic Fibrosis prevalence.”

In early weeks of the investigation, we developed a Composite Health Care Index - taking inspiration from similar work by the World Health Organisation. We ranked countries health care systems accordingly to the following variables:

1. The improvement in the lives of the population since their health care system was implemented
2. The responsiveness of the system to its population’s needs.
3. The health care system’s availability to all members of society, disregarding economic status.

We then collected data regarding Cystic Fibrosis cases in certain countries and adjusted them to population size. Upon comparison to our Composite Index scores for the same countries, we saw a correlation between large quantities of Cystic Fibrosis cases and well developed Health Care systems.

Although the data came as a surprise, we investigated further and drew the conclusion that it was due to the vastly increased life expectancy in industrialised countries who could invest in better technology to support patients.

We found the project extended our research based skills and our ability to analyse and evaluate data. All of us found the project challenging and worthwhile and much appreciated the support of the Masters students involved.

Lucas Fern - Year 10 Student
News from the Music Department

Lunchtime Concert

On Monday October 24, The APC Senior Jazz Ensemble and Big Band played a lunchtime concert in front of the amphitheatre to a large crowd of students and staff. The concert was a farewell and celebration for our Year 12 musicians, some of whom have been involved in APC ensembles since the beginning of Year 7. It was great to see such a big audience of students supporting our musicians, and hopefully a performance to farewell graduating Year 12s will become an annual tradition. Thanks to Harry Cook, Nick Yates & Dean Gourley for organising the concert, and to everyone who performed and listened!

YoWo Music

On Sunday November 27th, APC student Asha West performed as part of YoWo Music’s Debut EP Launch at the Bella Union. Yowo Music is a contemporary music program aimed at high school aged girls interested in pursuing music. Each program lasts one semester, with weekly workshops every Sunday morning held in East Brunswick. As part of the program this semester, Asha had the opportunity to record her original song “Aliens” at Rolling Stock Studio with the girls in her band. The song now features on the Yowo EP which is available for purchase through BandCamp. YoWo applications for Semester One 2017 are now open and APC students enrolled in the Instrumental Music Program are encouraged to apply!

Songwriting Award

Lily Ward, the Junior Music Captain has recently been awarded the prestigious National Songwriting Competition award.

Not only did Lily win first place for the Years 7-8 category of the ACMF’s National Songwriting Competition, she has also been awarded Overall Winner of the 2016 National Songwriting Competition!

Lily’s song was selected by the highly esteemed panel of judges whose job was made very difficult because of the high standard of the entries this year. Not only does Lily win a bluetooth speaker, but also a significant cash prize! Lily’s piece and more information can be found here.

Congratulations Lily!

New Music

Recent Year 12 graduate and Music Captain, Hayley Trinca has an album coming out soon! Anyone interested in following Hayley and her music can listen here or here.